

Headlines:

Chesapeake Bay – multiple laser strikes;
USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage Rates;
US & Netherlands – humpback whale protected areas;
USCG & BSEE – Joint Activity Statement;
NTSB – wrong rudder command leads to allision;
Senate – bill introduced re coral reef ecosystems; and
Senate – bill introduced re passenger vessel safety.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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Chesapeake Bay – multiple laser strikes



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that multiple merchant vessels and one pilot boat transiting Chesapeake Bay during the past month have been struck by lasers. The strikes originated in the area between Brum Point and Cove Point, each lasting about 15 minutes. Such actions are dangerous to life, property, and the environment. The penalty for such actions is a maximum of 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$2,500. Anyone with information about these incidents is asked to contact the US Coast Guard.

(5/4/17)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/19804ae>].

USCG – Great Lakes Pilotage Rates



The US Coast Guard has extended, through 5 June, the period within which to submit comments on its proposed rulemaking for 'Great Lakes Pilotage Rates – 2017 Annual Review'. **82 Fed. Reg. 21195** (5/5/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-05-05/pdf/2017-09177.pdf>].

US & Netherlands – humpback whale protected areas



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that the United States and the Netherlands have signed an agreement adding a network of marine protected areas from New England to the Caribbean, providing refuge for North American humpback whales at both ends of their 3,000-mile annual migration. (5/4/17) [<http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/new-sister-sanctuary-agreement-protects-whales-from-new-england-to-caribbean>].

USCG & BSEE – Joint Activity Statement



The US Coast Guard and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued their **Joint Activity Statement 2016-2017**. The statement discusses joint inspections; shared resources; cross-training; and related matters. (5/4/16) [<https://www.uscg.mil/hq/cg5/cg522/cg5222/docs/USCG%20BSEE%20Summary%2005042017v2.pdf>].

NTSB – wrong rudder command leads to allision



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) posted the report of its investigation of the 29 October 2015 allision of a cargo vessel with a tier of moored empty tank barges while entering the Port of Corpus Christi. One barge crewman received non-life threatening injuries. Although no environmental damage was reported, the cargo vessel and the three tank barges sustained structural damage estimated at \$750,000. The probable cause of the collision was the pilot's rudder order in a direction opposite of which he intended. Contributing to the accident was the failure of the bridge team to identify the risk of collision and take appropriate action. **MAB 17-11** (4/20/17) [<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAB1711.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re coral reef ecosystems



Senator Hirono (D-HI) introduced the **Coral Reef Sustainability through Innovation Act of 2017** (S. 958) to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes. Senator Hirono issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (4/27/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s958is/pdf/BILLS-115s958is.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re passenger vessel safety



Senator Blumenthal (D-CT) introduced the **Cruise Passenger Protection Act** (S. 965) to improve passenger vessel security and safety, and for other purposes. Senator Blumenthal issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (4/27/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s965is/pdf/BILLS-115s965is.pdf>].

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