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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – conditions of entry re FSM



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that conditions of entry will be imposed on vessels arriving from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), effective 5 September. Conditions of entry are intended to protect the United States from vessels arriving from countries that have been found to have deficient port anti-terrorism measures in place. **82 Fed. Reg. 39609** (8/21/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-21/pdf/2017-17652.pdf>].

USCG – vessel response plan submittal



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** containing information from the Office of Marine Environmental Protection's Vessel Response Plan staff regarding how the transition to Homeport 2.0 will impact the Vessel Response Plan Express feature, and recommendations for submitting VRPs during the transition period. (8/18/17)

[http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/08/18/8182017-vrp-express-and-transition-to-homeport-2-0/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3AMaritimeCommons+%28Maritime+Commons%29].

MERPAC – meeting on 14-15 September



The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 14-15 September in Seattle. **82 Fed. Reg. 39879** (8/22/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-22/pdf/2017-17693.pdf>].

MEDMAC – meeting on 12-13 September



The Merchant Mariner Medical Advisory Committee (MEDMAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 12-13 September in Seattle. **82 Fed. Reg. 39881** (8/22/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-22/pdf/2017-17694.pdf>].

USCG – NAVSAC members sought



The US Coast Guard seeks applications for membership on the Navigation Safety Advisory Council (NAVSAC). Applications should be submitted by 23 October. **82 Fed. Reg. 39880** (8/22/17) [].

USCG – ice-covered waters in Fifth District



The US Coast Guard promulgated a final rule establishing 11 safety zones on certain navigable waters of the Fifth Coast Guard District. The rule

enters into effect on 21 September and will be enforced when ice conditions in those safety zones creates safety concerns. **82 Fed. Reg. 39665** (8/22/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-22/pdf/2017-17748.pdf>].

USACE & EPA – waters of the United States



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) have extended, until 27 September, the period within which to submit comments on the proposed rule concerning waters of the United States. **82 Fed. Reg. 39712** (8/22/17) [].

HSRP – meeting on 11-13 September



The Hydrographic Services Review Panel (HSRP), sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet in Portsmouth, NH on 11-13. **82 Fed. Reg. 39985** (8/23/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-08-23/pdf/2017-17858.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced re cybersecurity standards



Senator Warner (D-VA) introduced the **Internet of Things (IoT) Cybersecurity Improvement Act of 2017** (S. 1691) to provide minimal cybersecurity operational standards for Internet-connected devices purchased by Federal agencies, and for other purposes. Senator Warner issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (8/1/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s1691is/pdf/BILLS-115s1691is.pdf>].

GAO – surge sealift logistics



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on actions needed to maintain viable surge sealift and combat logistics fleets. It noted that the readiness of these fleets has trended downward since 2012. It recommends that the Navy incorporate leading practices for capital planning in a comprehensive sealift recapitalization plan. **GAO-17-503** (8/22/17) [<http://www.gao.gov/assets/690/686733.pdf>].

Canada – Lancaster Sound marine conservation area



Parks Canada issued a [news release](#) stating that Canada, Nunavut, and Qikiqtani Inuit Association have agreed on a final boundary for the Tallurutiup Imanga/Lancaster Sound marine conservation area in the Northwest Passage. (8/14/17) [https://www.canada.ca/en/parks-canada/news/2017/08/tallurutiup_imangalancastersoundinhigharctictobecanadaslargestpr.html]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my good friend Louis Le Gendre of International Shipping & Logistics.*

Red Sea – recent incident



The UK Maritime Trade Operations (UKMTO) issued an advisory stating that, on 10 August, a merchant vessel sighted seven skiffs in the vicinity of Bab-el-Mandeb. Two skiffs closed to one cable and then withdrew. The vessel and crew are reported safe. Mariners are reminded to exercise caution whilst transiting this area. [UKMTO-IO #38](#) (8/10/17) [<https://www.ukmto.org/indian-ocean/recent-incidents>].

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