

Headlines:

USCG – El Faro report of investigation;
NSGAB – meeting on 16-17 October;
Senate – bill introduced to exempt Puerto Rico; and
Panama Canal – swapping of booking slots.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – El Faro report of investigation



The US Coast Guard released the **Report of Investigation (ROI)** into the loss of 33 mariners and the cargo ship El Faro on 1 October 2015 in the North Atlantic off the Bahamas during Hurricane Joaquin. The USCG Marine Board of Investigation (MBI) concluded that the primary cause of the casualty was the decision of the master to navigate the vessel too close to the path of the hurricane. Secondary factors included an ineffective safety management system within the operating company and failures by both the Coast Guard designated representative and the Coast Guard itself to provide effective oversight of the vessel's compliance with safety regulations. The ROI is not yet final and is being forwarded to Headquarters for consideration. (10/1/17)

[<https://media.defense.gov/2017/Oct/01/2001820187/-1/-1/o/FINAL%20PDF%20ROI%2024%20SEP%2017.PDF>].

NSGAB – meeting on 16-17 October



The National Sea Grant Advisory Board (NSGAB), sponsored by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), will meet in Savannah on 16-17 October. **82 Fed. Reg. 45811** (10/2/17)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-10-02/pdf/2017-21090.pdf>].

Senate – bill introduced to exempt Puerto Rico



Senator McCain (R-AZ) introduced a bill (S. 1894) to exempt Puerto Rico from the coastwise laws of the United States (commonly known as the “Jones Act”). Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Senator McCain issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (9/29/17)
[<https://www.mccain.senate.gov/public/index.cfm/press-releases?ID=DCD8C587-7B43-4FE7-B99D-36C819A1844D>].

Panama Canal – swapping of booking slots



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory concerning substitutions and swapping of booking slots between container vessels of alliance members. **Advisory 36-2017** (9/29/17)
[<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2017/a-36-2017.pdf>].

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