

### Headlines:

USCG – Maritime Challenges Across the Arctic;  
FMC – petition for exemption;  
FMC – Commissioner Doyle to depart;  
Senate – NTSB authorization bill introduced;  
Senate – bill introduced re GPS backup system;  
Senate- bill introduced re ocean acidification;  
House – bill introduced re incidental discharges;  
Florida – bill introduced re pleasure vessel salvage;  
India – ECDIS familiarization; and  
Panama Canal – maximum draft for Neopanamax locks.

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## Bryant's Maritime News

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### **USCG – Maritime Challenges Across the Arctic**



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** summarizing the remarks of Coast Guard representatives at the Twelfth Annual Patuxent Defense Forum “Maritime Challenges Across the Arctic”. (12/15/17)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2017/12/15/12-15-2017-coast-guard-remarks-at-the-12th-annual-patuxent-defense-forum-maritime-challenges-across-the-arctic/>].

## FMC – petition for exemption



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a notice stating that it received a petition from SM Line Corporation for an exemption from the individual service contract amendments requirement due to its planned merger with Woobang E&E that will affect 769 service contracts. Comments on the petition must be received by 2 January 2018. **82 Fed. Reg. 60014** (12/18/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-18/pdf/2017-27135.pdf>].

## FMC – Commissioner Doyle to depart



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** stating that Commissioner William P. Doyle will be leaving the agency on 2 January 2018 to serve as Executive Director and CEO of the Dredging Contractors of America. (12/15/17) [[https://www.fmc.gov/doyle\\_leaving\\_fmc\\_to\\_serve\\_as\\_executive\\_director\\_ceo\\_of\\_dredging\\_contractors\\_of\\_america/](https://www.fmc.gov/doyle_leaving_fmc_to_serve_as_executive_director_ceo_of_dredging_contractors_of_america/)].

## Senate – NTSB authorization bill introduced



Senator Thune (R-SD) introduced the **National Transportation Safety Board Reauthorization Act** (S. 2202) to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the National Transportation Safety Board, and for other purposes. (12/6/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s2202is/pdf/BILLS-115s2202is.pdf>].

## Senate – bill introduced re GPS backup system



Senator Cruz (R-TX) introduced the **National Timing Resilience and Security Act of 2017** (S. 2220) to provide for the development, construction and operation of a backup to the Global Positioning System, and for other purposes. Senator Cruz issued a **press release** explaining the measure. (12/12/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s2220is/pdf/BILLS-115s2220is.pdf>].

## Senate – bill introduced re ocean acidification



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced a bill (S. 2229) to direct the Secretary of Commerce, acting through the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to conduct coastal community vulnerability assessments related to ocean acidification, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (12/14/17).

## House – bill introduced re incidental discharges



Representative Herrera Beutler (R-WA) introduced a bill (H.R. 4656) to extend a prohibition relating to permits for discharges incidental to the normal operation of certain vessels. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (12/14/17).

## Florida – bill introduced re pleasure vessel salvage



Florida Senator Young (R-18) introduced an **Act relating to the Salvage of Pleasure Vessels** (SB 664). Among other things, the bill, if enacted into law, would require salvors of pleasure vessels in Florida to provide a specified disclosure statement and salvage work estimate. (7/1/17) [<http://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2018/664/BillText/c1/PDF>]. *Note: This item was brought to my attention by my friend Joseph Frohnhoefer of **Sea Tow Services International**.*

## India – ECDIS familiarization



The Indian Directorate General of Shipping (DGS) issued a circular announcing revocation of the regulation requiring completion of training by the deck officers for the specific type ECDIS equipment carried on the ship. In lieu thereof, Companies are reminded that they remain responsible for ensuring that seafarers on their ships are familiarized with the installed equipment stipulated in the STCW Convention and the ISM Code. **Circ. 04-2017** (12/14/17) [[http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201712151243331057410dgs\\_cir\\_04of2017\\_nt.pdf](http://dgshipping.gov.in/WriteReadData/News/201712151243331057410dgs_cir_04of2017_nt.pdf)].

## Panama Canal – maximum draft for Neopanamax Locks



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued an advisory announcing that, effective immediately, the maximum allowable draft for vessels transiting the Neopanamax Locks has been increased to 14.33 m (47.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW). **Advisory 41-2017** (12/14/17) [<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2017/a-41-2017.pdf>].

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