

## Headlines:

USCG – proposed changes to PREP Guidelines;  
LMRWSAC – meeting on 9 January;  
Puerto Rico – vessel salvage operations;  
USCG – Operation Deep Freeze;  
FMC – schedule and witnesses for P4-16 hearings;  
Senate – bill introduced re ocean acidification;  
Denmark – digital shipping conference; and  
Winter/Summer solstice – 1628 UTC, 21 December 2017.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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*Note: This newsletter is one section of the **Bryant's Maritime Consulting** website. Visit the site for more extensive maritime regulatory information. Individual concerns may be addressed by retaining **Dennis Bryant** directly. Much of the highlighted text in this newsletter constitutes links to Internet sites providing more detailed information. Links on this page may be in PDF format. Comments on these postings are encouraged and may be made by email to the editor or by going to the blog page on the website and clicking the envelope that appears at the end of each posting. Be aware that the daily newsletter is a single posting, even though it contains a number of individual items. *The Ship of Theseus sails forever.**

## **USCG – proposed changes to PREP Guidelines**



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it seeks comments on proposed changes to the 2016 Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP) Guidelines. Proposed changes include a decrease in drill frequency; allowing RAC drills to be combined with QI drills; and requiring Qis and SMFF providers to be contacted as specified in the approved VRP. Comments must be received by 22 January 2018. **82 Fed. Reg. 60693** (12/22/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-22/pdf/2017-27602.pdf>].

## LMRWSAC – meeting on 9 January



The Lower Mississippi River Waterway Safety Advisory Committee (LMRWSAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 9 January in New Orleans. Topics on the agenda include the status of the Systematic Port Planning Act Item and USCG regulatory reform regulations. **82 Fed. Reg. 60755** (12/22/17) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2017-12-22/pdf/2017-27603.pdf>].

## Puerto Rico – vessel salvage operations

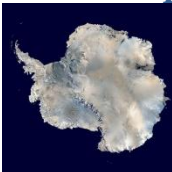


The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that vessel salvage operations in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria have accelerated. To date, response teams have identified 368 impacted vessels, with 166 of those cases closed. Teams have made contact with 199 owners and responded to 33 pollution reports. Pollution prevention specialists have dewatered 7,000 gallons of oily water mixture and collected four cubic yards of oily debris from vessels.

(12/20/17)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1cdb4af>].

## USCG – Operation Deep Freeze



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that USCGC Polar Star, the nation's only heavy polar icebreaker, departed Honolulu enroute the Antarctic to support Operation Deep Freeze. (12/21/17)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1cdeda3>].

## FMC – schedule and witnesses for P4-16 hearings



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** announcing that the hearings on the petition filed by the Coalition for Fair Port Practices (Petition P4-16) concerning detention, demurrage, and per diem charges are tentatively scheduled for 16 and 17 January 2018. The tentative witnesses for the six panels have also been announced. (12/20/17)

[[https://www.fmc.gov/tentative\\_schedule\\_witness\\_list\\_for\\_p4-16\\_hearings/](https://www.fmc.gov/tentative_schedule_witness_list_for_p4-16_hearings/)].

## Senate – bill introduced re ocean acidification



Senator Murkowski (R-AK) introduced the **Coastal Communities Ocean Acidification Act of 2017** (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. (12/14/17)  
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115s2229is/pdf/BILLS-115s2229is.pdf>].

## Denmark – digital shipping conference



The Danish Maritime Authority (DMA) issued a **news release** stating that it and the IALA will host an international conference on 24-26 January regarding digital shipping. (12/20/17)  
[<https://www.dma.dk/Presse/Nyheder/Sider/Cross-border-digitalisation.aspx>].

## Winter/Summer Solstice – 1628 UTC, 21 December 2017



There was a dull thud at 1628 UTC (Universal Coordinated Time) yesterday when the sun collided with the Tropic of Capricorn. In the past, we might have used Greenwich Mean Time or GMT, but that was so 20th Century. For those in the Northern Hemisphere, this was the longest night of the year – hopefully you slept well. For those in the Southern Hemisphere, this was the longest day of the year – hopefully you are pacing yourselves. For those in an alternate universe, carry on.

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