

## Headlines:

MERPAC – meeting on 20-22 March;  
MARAD – US-flag launch barges;  
St. Lawrence Seaway – proposed changes to Handbook;  
NOAA – COSPAS/SARSAT module;  
EU – operational cooperation with Albania;  
ReCAAP – January report; and  
Panama Canal – maximum allowable draft increased.

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# Bryant's Maritime News

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## **MERPAC – meeting on 20-22 March**



The Merchant Marine Personnel Advisory Committee (MERPAC), sponsored by the US Coast Guard, will meet on 20-22 March in New Orleans. Topics on the agenda include STCW implementation and fatigue mitigation and management. [83 Fed. Reg. 6205](#) (2/13/18)  
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-02-13/pdf/2018-02924.pdf>].

## **MARAD – US-flag launch barges**



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a notice stating that it is updating its list of US-flag launch barges. Additions, deletions, and comments should be submitted by 15 March. [83 Fed. Reg. 6309](#) (2/13/18)  
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-02-13/pdf/2018-02885.pdf>].

## St. Lawrence Seaway – proposed changes to Handbook



The Great Lakes-St. Lawrence Seaway System issued a **notice** announcing proposed changes to the Seaway Practices and Procedures. Comments must be received by 15 March. (2/12/18) [<http://www.greatlakes-seaway.com/en/pdf/SeawayHandbook2018Rev.pdf>].

## NOAA – COSPAS/SARSAT module



The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) issued a **news release** stating that the COSPAS/SARSAT module on its weather satellites aided in the rescue of 275 persons in 2017. (2/8/18) [<http://www.noaa.gov/media-release/noaa-satellites-aid-in-rescue-of-275-lives-in-2017>]. *Note: The satellites pick up alerts from EPIRBs and PLBs and transmit the location to ground facilities. Without an EPIRB or PLB, you are SOL.*

## EU – operational cooperation with Albania



The European Union (EU) issued a **press release** stating that the European Border and Coast Guard Agency has strengthened its operational cooperation with Albania. (2/12/18) [[http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release\\_IP-18-742\\_en.htm](http://europa.eu/rapid/press-release_IP-18-742_en.htm)].

## ReCAAP – January report



The ReCAAP Information Sharing Centre issued its **report** of incidents of piracy and armed robbery against ships in Asia in January 2018. Reports were received of five actual incidents and two attempted instances, down from a total of ten such incidents in January 2017. (2/12/18) [[http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core\\_Download&EntryId=614&PortalId=0&TabId=78](http://www.recaap.org/DesktopModules/Bring2mind/DMX/Download.aspx?Command=Core_Download&EntryId=614&PortalId=0&TabId=78)].

## Panama Canal – maximum allowable draft increased



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 15.2 meters (50.0 feet) Tropical Fresh Water (TFW). **Advisory 05-2018** (2/9/18)

[<https://www.pancanal.com/common/maritime/advisories/2018/a-05-2018.pdf>].

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