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USCG – use of existing SMS to obtain initial COI;
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House – hearing on USCG program implementation; and
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March 8, 2018



Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – harmonization of MMC expiration dates



The US Coast Guard issued a policy letter providing US merchant mariners with guidance for requesting harmonization of expiration dates of merchant mariner credentials and mariner medical certificates. **CG-MMC Policy Letter 01-18** (2/28/18)

[<http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/5ps/MMC/CG-MMC-2%20Policies/CG-MMC%2001-18%20Harmonization.pdf?ver=2018-03-02-071916-180>].

USCG – use of existing SMS to obtain initial COI



The US Coast Guard issued Change 1 to its policy letter concerning use of existing safety management systems to obtain an initial Certificate of Inspection (COI) under 46 CFR Subchapter M (towing vessels). **CG-CVC Policy Letter 17-02 (CH-1)** (3/7/18)

[[http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/CG-5PC/CG-CVC/Policy%20Letters/2017/CG-CVC_pol17-02\(Ch1\).pdf](http://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/CG-5PC/CG-CVC/Policy%20Letters/2017/CG-CVC_pol17-02(Ch1).pdf)].

USCG – BWMS compliance date extensions



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** providing a closer look at NVIC 01-18 and BWMS compliance date extensions. (3/7/18)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/03/07/3-7-2018-a-closer-look-at-nvic-01-18-and-bwms-compliance-date-extensions/>].

USCG – ninth BWMS type approval request



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that it received an application for Ballast Water Management System (BWMS) type approval for the BALPURE BWMS. This is the ninth application received requesting such type approval. (3/7/18) [<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/03/07/3-7-2018-ninth-application-received-for-bwms-type-approval/>].

USCG – Benkert Awards for Environmental Excellence



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that the William M. Benkert Awards for Environmental Excellence were awarded on 2 March at a ceremony in New Orleans. (3/7/18)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/03/07/3-7-2018-rear-adm-nadeau-hosts-benkert-award-recipients-for-presentation-ceremony-in-new-orleans/>].

DOS – meeting on 2 April re MEPC 72



The Department of State (DOS) issued a notice stating that a meeting will be held on 2 April to prepare for the upcoming session of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 72). Topics on the agenda include ballast water management, air pollution and energy efficiency, and reduction of GHG emissions. **83 Fed. Reg. 9882** (3/8/18)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-03-08/pdf/2018-04686.pdf>].

NSIDC – polar sea ice at record low



The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) issued a **news release** stating that Arctic sea ice has set a record low in coverage and that Antarctic sea ice has reached its second lowest minimum on record. (3/6/18)
[<http://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/2018/03/a-warm-approach-to-the-equinox/>].

House – hearing on implementation of USCG programs



The Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation of the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure conducted a **hearing** on implementation of Coast Guard programs. Testimony was received from Rear Admiral Linda Fagan, USCG and Mr. Nathan Anderson, GAO. (3/7/18)
[<https://transportation.house.gov/calendar/eventsingle.aspx?EventID=402214>].

EC – Brexit Preparedness Notices on Maritime Transport



The Irish Department of Transport, Tourism, and Sport posted the EC **Brexit Preparedness Notices on Maritime Transport**. The notices address industrial products, seafarer certificates, and maritime transport. (3/6/18) [].

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