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North Carolina – loss of radio communication;
USCG – open lifeboat CIC;
USCG – TugSafe Lite;
USCG & NOAA – North Atlantic right whale protection;
USCG & BSEE – joint activity summary;
CMTS – Merchant Mariner Medical Certification webinar;
CMTS – Maritime Transportation Extreme Weather Report;
Texas – Matagorda Ship Channel; and
CBP – quarterly interest rates.

May 4, 2018



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Bryant's Maritime News



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North Carolina – loss of radio communication



The US Coast Guard issued a [news release](#) stating that it has lost radio communication capability within Sector North Carolina. It is urging mariners to

use extreme caution operating in the sector. A radio coverage plan is being developed in the event that repairs cannot be effected for an extended period. (5/3/18)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1edf442>].

USCG – open lifeboat CIC



The US Coast Guard issued a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) announcing a Concentrated Inspection Campaign (CIC), commencing immediately, for all US-flag vessels fitted with open lifeboats. **MSIB 04-18** (5/2/18)

[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/DCO%20Documents/5p/MSIB/2018/MSIB_004_18.pdf].

USCG – TugSafe Lite



The US Coast Guard posted **TugSafe Lite**, which allows an end-user to view the general towing vessel compliance guidance contained within the Inspected Towing Vessel Decision Aid (TugSafe) without having to generate a checklist for a specific vessel. TugSafe Lite is not intended to be used as a standalone tool for determining vessel compliance with Subchapter M. (5/3/18) [<https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Traveling-Inspector-Staff-CG-5P-TI/Towing-Vessel-National-Center-of-Expertise/TugSafe/>].

USCG & NOAA – North Atlantic right whale protection



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that it and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) are increasing focus this year on enforcement of the Atlantic Large Whale Take Reduction Plan to detect and deter illegally placed fishing gear and reduce the likelihood of fatal whale entanglements from occurring. (5/1/18)

[<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/1ed5545>].

USCG & BSEE – joint activity summary



The US Coast Guard and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) issued their **Joint Activity Summary 2017-**

2018. The summary highlights joint activities related to the offshore oil and gas industry. (5/1/18) [<https://www.bsee.gov/sites/bsee.gov/files/bsee-uscg-joint-summary-final-5-1-2018.pdf>].

CMTS – Merchant Mariner Medical Certification webinar



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) posted an audio recording of its recent **Merchant Mariner Medical Certification webinar**. During the webinar, the USCG National Maritime Center's (NMC) commanding officer Capt. Kirsten Martin and Chief of the Medical Evaluations Division Dr. Laura Torres-Reyes addressed the upcoming changes in the merchant mariner medical certification and answered questions from webinar participants. (5/2/18) [<https://www.cmts.gov/posts/d77ca898-93b8-4a15-b8d2-fd2909a326d1>].

CMTS – Maritime Transportation Extreme Weather Report



The Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS) posted the **Maritime Transportation Extreme Weather Task Force Report**. The report contains eight recommendations and two identified opportunities for improving industry response and policies regarding extreme weather events and preventing marine casualties for extreme weather events. (5/2/18) [https://www.cmts.gov/downloads/CMTS_Extreme_Weather_Report_Feb_2018.pdf].

Texas – Matagorda Ship Channel



The US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) issued a notice announcing release of the Draft Integrated Feasibility Report and Environmental Impact Statement (DIFR-EIS) for the Tentatively Selected Plan for the Matagorda Ship Channel Improvement Project. A public meeting will be held in Port Lavaca on 7 May. Comments must be submitted by 21 June. **83 Fed. Reg. 19737** (5/4/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-04/pdf/2018-09480.pdf>].

CBP – quarterly interest rates



The US Customs and Border Protection (CBP) issued a notice stating that, for the calendar quarter beginning 1 April, the interest rates for overpayments will be 4% for corporations and 5% for non-corporation. The

interest rate for underpayments will be 5% for both. [83 Fed. Reg. 19292](#) (5/4/18)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-05-02/pdf/2018-09287.pdf>].

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