

Headlines:

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USCG – updated Subchapter M FAQs;
USCG – seeking supervisory program analyst;
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House – bill introduced re evacuation routes;
House – bill introduced re coral reef conservation;
House – bill introduced to mend OCSLA;
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Panama Canal – tonnage record; and
Wedding anniversary – 7 June 1968 + 50.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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NTSB – fire on ro-ro passenger vessel



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued a **synopsis** of its investigation of the 17 August 2016 fire that in the main engine room of the ro-ro passenger vessel Caribbean Fantasy just outside the port of San Juan, Puerto Rico. The fire was ignited when fuel spraying from a leaking flange came in contact with a hot surface on the port main propulsion engine. The fire could not be contained, so the master ordered the ship to be abandoned. US Coast Guard and other first responder vessels and aircraft, along with Good Samaritan vessels, helped transport all 511 passengers and crew into port. Several injuries, none life-threatening, occurred during firefighting and abandonment efforts. The

burning vessel drifted in the wind and grounded on the sandy bottom outside the port. Three days later, the vessel was towed into the harbor, where shore-based firefighters extinguished the last of the fire. The accident resulted in an estimated \$20 million in damage to the Caribbean Fantasy, which was eventually scrapped in lieu of repairs. The probable cause of the fire was the poor safety culture of the vessel operator (Baja Ferries) and its ineffective implementation of their safety management system on board the vessel, where poor maintenance practices led to an uncontained fuel spray from a blank flange at the end of the port main engine fuel supply line onto the hot exhaust manifold of the engine. Contributing to the rapid spread of the fire were fuel and lube oil quick closing valves that were intentionally blocked open, fixed firefighting systems that were ineffective, and a structural fire boundary that failed. Contributing to the fire and the prolonged abandonment effort was the failure of the Panama Maritime Authority and the recognized organization, RINA Services, to ensure Baja Ferries' safety management system was functional. (6/5/18)

[https://www.ntsb.gov/news/events/Documents/DCA16FM052-Abstract.pdf?utm_source=news&utm_medium=press%20release&utm_campaign=Caribbean%20Fantasy%20fire&utm_content=marine].

USCG – updated Subchapter M FAQs



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** with the updated Subchapter M frequently asked questions (FAQs). (6/6/18)

[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/06/6-6-2018-updated-subchapter-m-frequently-asked-questions-now-available/>].

USCG – seeking supervisory program analyst



The US Coast Guard posted a **notice** announcing that it seeks a qualified individual to fill the position of Chief of the Claims Division (GS-15) at the USCG National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC). Applications must be received by 14 June. (6/6/18)

[<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/501073800#overview>].

MARAD – seeking USMMA Superintendent



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) posted a **notice** stating that it seeks a qualified individual to fill the position of Superintendent of the US Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA). Applications must be received by 5 July. (6/5/18) [<https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/501522700#locations>].

FMC – NVOCC NRAs and NSAs to be simplified



The Federal Maritime Commission (FMC) issued a **news release** stating that the Commissioners voted to move forward with a final rule that simplifies requirements for using NVOCC Negotiated Rate Arrangements (NRAs) and NVOCC Service Arrangements (NSAs). (6/6/18)
[https://www.fmc.gov/commission_votes_to_expand_flexibility_in_nvocc_service_options_/].

OMB – TWIC reader requirements



The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) completed its review of the US Coast Guard proposed rule concerning delay of the effective date of the TWIC reader requirements. **RIN 1625-AC47** (6/5/18)
[<https://www.reginfo.gov/public/do/eoDetails?rrid=128005>].

House – bill introduced re WWII merchant mariners



Representative Garamendi (D-CA) introduced the **Merchant Mariners of World War II Congressional Gold Medal Act of 2018** (H.R. 5849) to award a Congressional Gold Medal, collectively, to the United States merchant mariners of World War II, in recognition of their dedicated and vital service during World War II. (5/18/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr5879ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr5879ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re evacuation routes



Representative Keating (D-MA) introduced the **Enhancing the Strength and Capability of America's Primary Evacuation Routes Act** (H.R. 5994) to direct the Secretary of Transportation to establish a grant program for projects to strengthen and protect vulnerable infrastructure used during mass evacuations, and for other purposes. (6/1/18)
[<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/BILLS-115hr5994ih/pdf/BILLS-115hr5994ih.pdf>].

House – bill introduced re coral reef conservation



Delegate Bordallo (D-GU) introduced a bill (H.R. 5996) to reauthorize and amend the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Delegate Bordallo issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (6/5/18)
[<https://bordallo.house.gov/media-center/press-releases/bordallo-reintroduces-coral-reef-conservation-bill>].

House – bill introduced to amend OCSLA



Representative McEachin (D-VA) introduced a bill (H.R. 6008) to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to withdraw the outer Continental Shelf in the Mid-Atlantic planning area from disposition, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available, but Representative McEachin issued a [press release](#) explaining the measure. (6/5/18)
[<https://mceachin.house.gov/media/press-releases/congressman-mceachin-introduces-bipartisan-defend-our-coast-act>].

GAO – Naval Shipbuilding



The Government Accountability Office (GAO) posted a report on Naval Shipbuilding that is subtitled 'Past Performance Provides Valuable Lessons for Future Investments'. [GAO-18-238SP](#) (6/6/18)
[<https://www.gao.gov/assets/700/692331.pdf>].

Panama Canal – tonnage record



The Panama Canal Authority (ACP) issued a [press release](#) stating that a total of 38.1 million tons (PC/UMS), carried by 1,231 vessels, transited the Canal during May 2018, a record amount. (6/5/18)
[<https://www.panacanal.com/eng/pr/press-releases/2018/06/05/pr652.html>].

Wedding anniversary – 7 June 1968 + 50



Fifty years ago today, I became the luckiest of men when the love of my life married me in a ceremony at the US Coast Guard Academy Memorial Chapel. I am even luckier today because she has continued to put up with me all these years. Most fortunate for me!

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