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USCG – change to Inland Navigation Rules;  
USCG – the role of SMSs;  
Cape Charles – anchorage ground proposals;  
USCG – TWIC reader requirement delay;  
USCG – policy re Polar Code qualifications;  
NTSB – fire on ro-ro passenger vessel;  
Senate – bill introduced re biometric card readers;  
Senate – bill introduced re coastwise endorsement;  
UK – intoxicated watchkeeping; and  
Marine News – vessel response plans.

June 22, 2018



# Bryant's Maritime News

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## **USCG – change to Inland Navigation Rules**



The USCG National Maritime Center (NMC) issued a **notice** reminding mariners of a recent change to the Inland Navigation Rules. The word 'danger' has been removed from Rule 34, aligning it with the 1972 COLREGS and alleviating potential ambiguity. (6/21/18)

[[https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2018/inland\\_navigation\\_rules\\_change\\_notice.pdf](https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Portals/9/NMC/pdfs/announcements/2018/inland_navigation_rules_change_notice.pdf)].

## USCG – the role of SMSs



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** discussing the role of safety management systems (SMSs). (6/21/18)  
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2018/06/21/6-21-2018-posidonia-2018-the-role-of-safety-management-systems-in-the-next-chapter-of-shipping/>].

## Cape Charles – anchorage ground proposals



The US Coast Guard proposes to establish a new deep-water anchorage ground and relocate an existing anchorage ground new Cape Charles on the Lower Chesapeake Bay. Public meeting will be held in Norfolk on 25 June and in Cape Charles on 10 July. Comments must be received by 17 July. **83 Fed. Reg. 29081** (6/22/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-22/pdf/2018-13439.pdf>].

## USCG – TWIC reader requirement delay



The US Coast Guard proposes to delay the effective date for TWIC reader requirements for certain maritime facilities. Comments must be received by 23 July. **83 Fed. Reg. 29067** (6/22/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-22/pdf/2018-13345.pdf>].

## USCG – policy re Polar Code qualifications



The US Coast Guard issued a notice stating that it seeks comments on CG-MMC Policy Letter 02-18 titled “Guidelines for Qualifications of Personnel for Issuing STCW Endorsements for Basic and Advanced Polar Code Operations”. The policy enters into effect immediately. Comments must be received by 20 September. **83 Fed. Reg. 29131** (6/22/18) [<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2018-06-22/pdf/2018-13465.pdf>].

## NTSB – fire on ro-ro passenger vessel



The National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) issued the report of its investigation of the 17 August 2016 fire that broke out in the main engine room of the roll-on/roll-off (Ro/Ro) passenger vessel *Caribbean Fantasy* 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 to the port of San Juan, Puerto Rico. 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 Baja Ferries' poor safety culture and 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. **MAR 18-01** (6/21/18)  
[<https://www.nts.gov/investigations/AccidentReports/Reports/MAR1801.pdf>].

### **Senate – bill introduced re biometric card readers**



Senator Sullivan (R-AK) introduced a bill (S. 3094) to restrict the department in which the Coast Guard is operating from implementing any rule requiring the use of biometric readers for biometric transportation security cards until after submission to Congress of the results of an assessment of the effectiveness of the transportation security card program. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/20/18).

### **Senate – bill introduced re coastwise endorsement**



Senator Whitehouse (D-RI) introduced a bill (S. 3096) to allow the Coast Guard to issue a certificate of documentation with a coastwise endorsement for the vessel OLIVER HAZARD PERRY, and for other purposes. Official text of the bill is not yet available. (6/20/18).

## UK – intoxicated watchkeeping



The UK Marine Accident Investigation Branch (MAIB) issued the report of its investigation of the 10 October 2017 grounding of the general cargo vessel Ruyter on the north shore of Rathlin Island when the master, who was the sole watchkeeper, left the bridge unattended. The bridge navigational watch alarm system, which could have alerted the chief officer to the fact that the bridge was unmanned, had been switched off. Consequently, no action was taken to correct a deviation from the ship's planned track. The master had been consuming alcohol prior to taking over the watch but the chief officer, who had previously warned the master against excessive consumption of alcohol, had been satisfied that the master was fit for watchkeeping duties. **Report 11-2018** (6/21/18)

[[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b27c3c9ed915d2cd5d01be9/MAIBInvReport11\\_2018.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/5b27c3c9ed915d2cd5d01be9/MAIBInvReport11_2018.pdf)].

## Marine News – vessel response plans



In the June 2018 edition of Marine News, you can find my article entitled **Vessel Response Plans**. The article discusses the roles of the vessel response plans (VRPs), oil spill response organizations (OSROs), and salvage and marine firefighting (SMFF) resource providers. (6/21/18) [<http://www.brymarconsulting.com/wp-content/uploads/Misc/MN180600.pdf>].

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