

Headlines:

USCG – EPIRBs and false alerts;
MARAD – US Maritime Advisory System enhancements;
Antarctic – record low sea ice extent;
Hong Kong – eSeaGo application; and
Marshall Islands – fishing vessel aground.

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Bryant's Maritime News

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USCG – EPIRBs and false alerts



The US Coast Guard issued a **bulletin** stating that it responded to over 700 false EPIRB alerts in 2018. Everyone with an emergency position indicating radio beacon is urged to register their devices. The owners of registered EPIRBs can be contacted when an alert is received to ensure that the device was intentionally activated and not a false alert. (1/3/19)
[<http://mariners.coastguard.dodlive.mil/2019/01/03/1-3-2019-epirbs-and-false-alerts/>].

MARAD – US Maritime Advisory System enhancements



The Maritime Administration (MARAD) issued a **news release** stating that the US Maritime Advisory System will initiate a new type of US Maritime Alert to relay urgent maritime-related information from other USG sources or international regional maritime security reporting centers. (1/3/19) [].

Antarctic – record low sea ice extent



The National Snow and Ice Data Center (NSIDC) issued a **news release** stating that the extent of Antarctic sea ice on 1 January was 5.47 million square kilometers (2.11 million square miles), the lowest extent on this date in the satellite record. (1/3/19) [<https://nsidc.org/arcticseaicenews/>].

Hong Kong – eSeaGo application



The Hong Kong Marine Department issued a **news release** announcing availability of the eSeaGo application for smart phones. The application displays chart information for Hong Kong waters. (1/2/19) [<https://www.mardep.gov.hk/en/publication/pdf/pr190102.pdf>].

Marshall Islands – fishing vessel aground



The US Coast Guard issued a **news release** stating that a 308-foot commercial fishing vessel with 24 crew has grounded on Taka Atoll in the Republic of the Marshall Islands. There are no reports of injury or pollution. (1/2/19) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/225edc7>]. A **second news release** states that two fishing vessels and a Marshall Islands patrol vessel are enroute. (1/3/19) [<https://content.govdelivery.com/accounts/USDHSCG/bulletins/225f425>].

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