

MINUTES – Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

9:00 a.m., Thursday September 17, 2009 Harbor District Conference Room

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 9:06 a.m.

Members present:

Ms. Suzie Howser (HBHRCD)
Capt. John Powell (Pilots)
Capt. Gil Groszmann (Tug Operators)
Capt. Bill Earls (Tug Operators)
Mr. Jon Mooney (Environmental)
Ms. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission)
Mr. Gerry Wheaton (National Ocean Survey)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (CA DFG)
LTC Don Davis (US ACE)

Others Present:

Ms. Nancy Dean (National Weather Service)
Mr. Ken Bay (Commercial Fishing)
Mr. Dave Ammerman (US ACE)
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)

Introductions conducted.

1.

- a. LTC Don Davis introduced himself; he represents Colonel Farrell from US ACE in San Francisco, and chief of the Hydro Survey. The Humboldt Bay Dredge Project for Humboldt Bay, Noyo Harbor, and Crescent City Harbor is coming up. He informed the committee that the ACE is going from a single to a multi beam system. They will be able to provide graphic pictures of Humboldt Bay. Portland District is already producing these multibeam pictures. A HSC member asked about the Zephyr, a private contract boat working for the ACE, and what it's doing in the Bay. LTC Davis will try to find out and let the HBHRCD know. He doesn't have any information about the Longterm Shoal Study. Steve Chesser and Dave Doke are project managers for this.

2. There were no members sworn in. Mr. Al Storm has asked for any applicants interested in filling the Environmental/Tribal and Labor chairs to contact him. This can be done through Ms. Howser or through the Department of Fish and Game/OSPR website. Also, the commercial fishing alternate representative will change by November.

3. Floor was opened to public comment – there were none.

4. Review of minutes of March 19, 2009 – Capt. John Powell motioned to accept the minutes with the following corrections:
 - change 'product lost' to 'product recovered' on page 2 status and updates section
 - change reference to San Diego Water District to Santa Clara Water District
 - Page 4 item 11 should be meeting to 'discuss' regulations not 'change' regulations
 - change 'j' to 'g' in congested in item 12

Capt. Gil Groszmann seconded the motion. All members voted aye.

5. Sport Salmon Season – the 2009 Sport Salmon season was a 10 day season. Ms. Nancy Dean from the National Weather Service conducted a pre-season web briefing with agencies 10 days before the opener. She also discussed the web page available to people during the season. The web page had basic information pertinent to local conditions with quick links and 5 day outlooks in text and map formats. This was developed to help fishermen unfamiliar with our local conditions make more informed decisions during the season. They have received feedback that non-local users appreciated the bar forecast and text page. Ms. Dean will keep the page operating for as long as she can. She is asking for support from the users to maintain this page. Also, she would like feedback as to whether or not this was helpful, or if there are other things people may want to see. Mr. Gerry Wheaton suggested that she show Dave Reynolds. Mr. John Powell suggested placing a written menu below the thumbnails. Mr. Wheaton thought the thumbnails could be placed along the top with the written menus along the side. Ms. Dean had approximately 800 hits on this page during the 10 day season. This page may be accessed through the NOAA website marine link to the one stop marine page. She may ask the HSC for support.

Ms. Howser reported that there were no major accidents during the season. She asked the pilots and boat skippers to broadcast any large ship movement on channel; 68. There are still people travelling out of the channel, without radios or GPS units, transiting on the wrong side of the channel, but there were no canoe/kayak problems. Fishing was poor. Six hundred fish were caught with 5,300 anglers participating. The fish were offshore in deep (300+ feet) water. The Eureka City boat basin added some porta-potties, dumpsters, and an extra patrol person, had no problems, and returned to their normal routine after the first few days.

6. Status/Updates

- a. Federal Channel Maintenance – the dredge did a good job on Hookton Channel. PG&E is considering how to transfer generators to their site. This is scheduled to occur on September 30 or October 1.
- b. Oil Spills/Accidents – Mr. Jeff Dayton reported that a boat sank at Trinidad on August 25, but there was no release. A sailboat went aground on the South Spit on July 22. The Tango sank on June 14. It was raised and hauled out to the haul out area. Ms. Howser reported that the HBHRCD had an orphan diesel spill on Labor Day, and a 32' sailboat went aground in Shelter Cove.
- c. Abandoned Vessel – Mr. Dayton hasn't been able to address this issue yet, however, the San Francisco area will have a meeting later this month. Mr. Dayton will not be able to participate in the debris abatement committee with this HSC. Ms. Howser reported that another float washed ashore at Stone Lagoon. The HBHRCD has two 45' vessels they will address through the Boating and Waterways program. This requires them to enter into the lien process. LTC Don Davis (USACE) asked how drift and debris are handled in our area. Ms. Howser explained that we do not have the resources to sweep the area and recover items. The HBHRCD will grab anything that floats into the harbor and will dispose of it. Mr. John Powell will remove navigational hazards too. LTC Davis suggested contacting the USACE. They are most likely willing to bring up a debris boat a few times a year. Ms. Howser noted that January and February are our big weather and tides season. Capt. Gil Groszman noted that the northern most dolphin on Fairhaven pier is gone. Mr. Wheaton noted that it could be an underwater obstruction. Also, it could be more effective if the debris boat could come up after major storms. LTC Davis stated that they need to put a set week on the calendar with the understanding that this can be flexible. The newest debris boat is a 45' pontoon. They also have a 46' conventional boat. They will need to have the HBHRCD designate a spot to leave debris and a place for the boat. This can be coordinated with the ACE. It has been very cost effective for the ACE to do disposal in San Francisco Bay, because they have access to an old shipyard. This makes it possible for the ACE to take care of the debris as they can get to it.
- d. Boater Safety – the USCG Auxiliary had scheduled a training class, but only a couple of people responded. Perhaps the auxiliarists can arrange a class to coincide with pre-season boat inspections.
- e. Navigational Aids – no problems.
- f. Ship traffic – Capt. Groszmann stated a barge will be in tomorrow. Capt. Powell noted that the PG&E ship still must determine which dock to use on September 30. He also noted that there hasn't been anyone lost on the bar since the ACE deepening project was completed. It has changed the hydrology of the bar. LTC Davis stated that the ACE is interested in helping the HBHRCD, and having an integrated package facilitates their abilities to help. Ms. Howser noted that Humboldt Bay is listed as an alternate port in the Port Security Plan.
- g. Port Security – this port has received approval and funding for port security for 2008. They are looking for a fire boat. Capt. Powell is working with the Eureka Fire District on specifications. The boat will be owned by the HBHRCD. The 2 pilots and Sheriff's Marine Patrol will operate the boat. Eureka Fire District personnel are designated as fire crew. It will take approximately 8 months from ordering to receive the boat. This harbor needs a shallow draft boat.

- h. TWIC – the local office has moved to Victoria Place strip mall in Eureka. The TWIC card is still not being accepted in airports. TWIC is being enforced in Aberdeen, WA. Kodiak, AK has hand held readers. These are not waterproof though. We don't have readers in this area yet.
- j. Potential Bay Projects – Mr. Ammerman reported that HSU Aquatic Center's dock permit is in process and going to consultation. Capt. Powell reported that they are removing pipeline at Humboldt Bay Forest Products Dock and preparing for the PG&E ships. Mr. Wheaton would like to know when the pipelines have been removed. Capt. Powell noted that the PG&E ship is coming from Scandinavia, and it is a 500' ship flagged by either Sweden or Holland.

Reports

- a. USCG – thanks for the salmon season support. There were only 15 SAR cases.
- b. ACE – the ACE received an emergency permit request from the sewage treatment facility at Elk River.
- c. OHS – none.
- d. CBP – none.
- e. OSPR – October 30 is the deadline for applications to fill the vacancies (Labor, Environmental) on the Harbor Safety Committee. Ms. Rouvier is leaving her position at Table Bluff Wiyot, and she will give Ms. Howser suggestions for replacements for her seat. The Harbor Safety Summit is scheduled for November 3. Please forward issues to the Mr. Hull, Ms. Howser, or Mr. Storm.
- f. HCSO – the sheriff's marine patrol counted 70 boats off Eureka Public Marina on the opening day of Salmon Season. They warned people to observe the no wake zone or face a \$1,000.00 fine. They terminated one vessel for not having navigation lights. The USCG reported counting 300 vessels on the water and had 5 SAR cases on opening day.
- g. NOAA – NRT 6 has been in the area. They were able to work on the north side of the North Jetty.
- h. Coastal Commission – the 25th annual Coastal Clean-up Day will occur. Traditionally, the NEC has coordinated this event.
- i. City of Eureka – Wednesday September 23 is the final full day to fuel boats at Englund Marine. They will refuel by appointment only Mondays, Wednesdays, and Fridays thereafter, until the fuel line has been replaced. This will last for approximately 6 weeks.

Meeting adjourned at 10:30 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda F. Broadman