

**Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area
0900 hours Thursday March 18, 2010 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room**

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0906 hours.

Members Present:

Mr. David Hull (Port Authority)
Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Capt. Tim Klassen (Recreational Boater)
Mr. Hawk Martin (Recreational Boater)
Mr. Rich Trygar (Dry Cargo)
Ms. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission)
Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA)
Mr. Ken Bay (Commercial Fishing)
Mr. Dylan Gray (Environmental)

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HS-OES)
MST1 Matt Cunningham (USCG MSD Humboldt Bay)
Mr. David Ammerman (USACOE)
Mr. Scott Owen (USF&WS)
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)
Ms. Maggy Herbelin (USCG Aux)

1. Introductions were made.

2. Members sworn in. Mr. Dylan Gray (Environmental) and Mr. Ken Bay (Commercial Fishing) were sworn in by Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison).

3. Public comment. Ms. Herbelin (USCG Aux) reported that the Dock Walker Program would begin again and clean boating bags are now available. She will leave a couple boxes of bags with Ms. Howser (Port Authority) to distribute.

4. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of January 21, 2010. Capt. Petrusha (Bar Pilot) motioned to approve minutes of January 21, 2010; Capt. Klassen (Recreational Boater) seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Status/Updates

a. Federal Channel Maintenance. Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers dredge *Yaquina* would not be in Humboldt Bay this year as there was a lack of funding. However, the dredge *Essayons* is scheduled to arrive in Humboldt Bay approximately April 22nd. Mr. Hull also informed the committee that shoaling exists around the tip of the South Jetty and in areas of the Bar and Entrance Channels as well as the Buoy 5, 7 and 9 locations. Since *Yaquina* was tasked last year to concentrate on the shoaling problem at the Buoy 5 and 7 areas, the Eureka Inner Reach did not receive regular maintenance dredging. Woodley Island tenants have noticed the depth of the Inner Reach and have voiced concern regarding additional silt sloughing into the Woodley Island Marina. Mr. Hull will contact the US Army Corps of Engineers to see if the dredge *Yaquina* will be able to stop in for a few days to dredge the Inner Reach. Mr. Martin (Recreational Boater) asked that PSAs be issued if Inner Reach dredging does occur.

b. Oil Spills/Accidents. MST1 Cunningham (USCG) reported *F/V Flamingo* was taking on water and the crew was airlifted off the vessel. The *F/V Flamingo* did not sink and the Tug *Koos King* was sent to retrieve the vessel and tow her into Crescent City.

Mr. Larkin (HC-OES) gave a report regarding the predicted Tsunami event from the Chilean earthquake on February 27, 2010. This was the first time modeling was used from a southern earthquake. The Tsunami event in Humboldt Bay was not visible. Locally, all agencies kept in close communications with each other and

the response was appropriate for our area. Damage did occur in a few ports such a Ventura; similar to the Crescent City damage in 2006 and in Long Beach there was an 80 inch rise in sea level.

c. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Capt. Powell (Bar Pilot) reported that the Bar Pilots have continued to retrieve debris and mooring floats around the bay. Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) stated that COTP Gugg inquired about the snow pack and if the melt will force debris down the river systems into coastal waters.

d. **Boater Safety.** Mr. Martin (Recreational Boater) reported that a Kayak Safety Course is scheduled for this coming Sunday and that a travel writer from Horizon Air would be in town to do a story. USCG Auxiliary conducted a Boating Safety Class on March 6th and 7 people were in attendance. Another Boating Safety course is scheduled for May 1st. Mr. Martin reported that he and Dave Nakamura have been working on the Best Practices for Small Craft and should have something ready for the committee by the May meeting.

e. **Navigational Aids.** Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) displayed a British Admiralty Chart that shows Humboldt Bay and Coos Bay on the same chart. These charts do meet USCG requirements.

All Harbor Safety Committee Best Maritime Practices are being reviewed for consistency. Not all BMPs need to be included in the Coast Pilot. However, local conditions such as shoal areas and the small craft warning light should be included. All BMPs should have the same language.

Currently only NOAA buoys #46027 St. Georges and #46014 Pt. Arena are operational. NOAA Buoys #46002, 46006 and 46022 are all off line. Ms. Howser will contact the USCGC Aspen to check their NOAA buoy schedule in regards to reinstatement of #46022 Eel River. Local mariners are currently obtaining minimum data from the CDIP buoys.

f. **Ship Traffic.** Mr. Trygar (Dry Cargo) reported that PG&E finished the transfer of their equipment from the Schneider Dock to the Fields Landing Marine Terminal and then to the PG&E facility in King Salmon.

g. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) reported no new chart changes.

h. **TWIC.** MST1 Cunningham (USCG) reported that when Freshwater Tissue begins using their dock, all dock workers will need TWIC cards.

i. **Potential Bay Projects.** Mr. Hull (Port Authority) reported that there will be additional PG&E equipment arriving at the Fields Landing Marine Terminal, the Chevron maintenance dredging project is coming up, the Harbor District has begun the permitting process for the upland dredge disposal site. The US Army Corps of Engineer's dredge *Essayons* is due to arrive towards the end of the month, and the Shelter Cove breakwater project should be approved by Mid-April and the out to bid by the end of April. The project is due to begin in September after Labor Day.

6. Reports/Presentations

a. **USCG.** No report.

b. **USACOE.** Mr. Ammerman (USACOE) reported that a private land owner in King Salmon is scheduled to remove piles, the Trinidad Pier replacement project is scheduled for this year, and Col. Farrell should be here March 31st. There will be a change of command in July.

c. **CalEMA.** Mr. Larkin (HC-OES) reported that there is a new Tsunami/Earthquake brochure available. A communications test for Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties is scheduled for next Wednesday, March 24th. This test will utilize the Emergency Alert System, sirens, a loud hailer on a Citizen Air Patrol airplane from Oregon, and the reverse 9-1-1 system. Some agencies in Crescent City are planning a full scale evacuation and this will be Mendocino's first year to participate. State representatives will be around to

observe the exercise and Mr. Larkin encourages all local agencies to alert the public of the test and to participate and report their observations to the National Weather Service.

d. **CPB.** No report.

e. **OSPR.** Mr. Storm (OSPR) reported that two notices were being handed out. One is in regards to a workshop on bunkering to be held in Sacramento on April 7th. The other is in regards to the Tug Operator vacancy announcement. There are two other openings, Port Authority and Bar Pilot; however these do not require a vacancy notice.

f. **HC Sheriff.** No report

g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton (NOAA) reported that change in command is scheduled and Mr. David Kennedy will be taking over as Administrator for NOAA's Ocean Service.

h. **Coastal Commission.** Ms. Metz (Coastal Commission) reported no changes or updates.

i. **Member Reports.** Mr. Gray (Environmental) reported on the Indian Island bulkhead portion of the project is scheduled for this summer.

7. Other.

7a. Presentation by Pacific Gas and Electric Company regarding Wave Connect. Re-scheduled to next Harbor Safety meeting.

7b. Presentation regarding Humboldt Bay Watertrails Map. Mr. Hull (Port Authority) presented the Watertrails map for the committee's review. This map shows points of entry for non-motorized craft and lists numerous safety measures. The map is almost ready for print and will also be installed at all entry points.

Ms. Herbelin (USCG Aux) reported that the Humboldt Yacht club will be having an open house and swap meet on Sunday April 18th at the Wharfinger Building. The USCG Auxiliary has a robot named Coastie which is a mechanical robot in the shape of a boat used to teach children boating safety. This robot will be in the Rhododendron Parade and at the North Country Fair.

Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka) reported on the progress of the "C" Street Market and Fishermen's Terminal. Boat ramps inspections are scheduled for Mid May. Public Works will be installing approximately 300 tsunami signs within the City of Eureka.

Mr. Owens (USF&WS) reported that the Humboldt Bay National Wildlife Refuge is full of geese as their migration is well underway.

Mr. Klassen (Recreational Boater) reported on the MLPA process. Arrays should be ready by the end of the summer and we will not know the Boating or navigation restrictions until then.

Mr. Martin (Recreational Boater) reported on early beginning of recreational salmon season and that vessel inspections are continuing. Recreational Halibut season begins May 1st and rockfish on May 15th.

Capt. Groszmann (Tug Operator) reported on the F/V *Flamingo*. Due to poor weather conditions, a USCG C130 was utilized to locate the vessel and direct the Tug Koos King to its location. Once located by the *Koos King*, they found the engine was still running and it was on auto pilot. After transferring two crew members to the F/V *Flamingo*, they were able to get the vessel in tow and finally moor it safely in Crescent City.

Commercial Crab season is winding down and the Oregon Commercial Salmon season is tentatively scheduled to begin May 1st. California Commercial Salmon season is still up in the air.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company filed a draft application for the Wave Connect project off Humboldt Bay. PG&E representatives will be at the next Harbor Safety committee meeting to present their project.

The Humboldt Bay Symposium is scheduled for April 22-24 at the Wharfinger Building. The format will be the same as in 2008 with over 40 speakers slated for the event.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 20, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 1047 hours.

Respectfully submitted,
Suzie V. Howser
Port of Humboldt Bay