

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours Thursday September 23, 2010 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0907 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)
Deputy Phil Daastol (Local Law Enforcement)
Dr. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission) by telephone
Mr. Stephen Kullmann (Tribe/Environmental)
Lt. Rob Starr (USCG Group HB)
Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA)

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HC OES)
Ms. Nancy Dean (NOAA-NWS)
LCDR Gus Bannan (USCG Sector SF)
LTJG Nick Lajoie (USCG Sector SF)
PO Jeremiah Wolf (USCG Station HB)
MST1 Matt Cunningham (USCG Group HB)
MST1 Mike Nosbaum (USCG Group HB)
PD John Prince (US Customs)
Dr. Carrie Pomeroy (CA SeaGrant)
Mr. Aaron Newman (F/V Maria Isabel)
Mr. Jose Montoya (HSU)

1. Introductions were made.

2. No members were sworn in. Mr. Storm reported that he had received an application by Mr. Aaron Newman in regards to membership on the Harbor Safety Committee representing Commercial Fishermen. No other applications have been received. Upcoming terms are Dry Cargo, in December; Recreational Boaters, in January and Tank Barge also in January.

Public comment. Mr. Hull introduced Dr. Carrie Pomeroy with California SeaGrant. Dr. Pomeroy briefed the committee on her activities in the Humboldt Bay Area. Her most recent project entitled "*California's North Coast Fishing Communities Historical Perspective and Recent Trends*" is now complete and the report may be found at <http://www-csgc.ucsd.edu/EXTENSION/ADVISORS/Pomeroy.html> Dr. Pomeroy is now working on "*Identification of Outer Continental Shelf Renewable Energy Space – Use Conflicts and Analysis of Potential Mitigation Measures*" which is funded by Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM). The objective is "to identify and characterize potential space and use conflicts that could result from renewable energy activities in the Outer Continental Shelf of the Atlantic and Pacific oceans". If the committee members wish to contact Dr. Pomeroy regarding her project, she may be reached at the following: office 831.459.4173, cell 831.359.6670, or via email: cpomeroy@ucsd.edu

3. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of July 15, 2010. Mr. Dayton recommended removal of this name from Item 9c as he was not in attendance and reference the section to the Area Committee meeting where the report was given. Deputy Daastol motioned to approve the minutes of July 15, 2010 as corrected; Captain Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

4. Consideration of Artificial Reef Project. Mr. Hull presented the history of the Artificial Reef Project for Humboldt Bay. This is a project that began decades ago around the time the Klamath Management Zone was developed. In the early 1990s, California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) worked with local recreational fishermen to chart an area for consideration and even dove on the considered site. At the time, the design was 6 mounds of quarry rock spaced in a one square mile area. Local organizations could not afford the cost associated with that project. Recently, Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA) asked the project be revived. David Hull and Adam Wagschal of the Harbor District have been working with HASA, California Ships to Reefs, DFG, State Lands and other agencies to bring this project to life. The Harbor District recently applied to State Lands for the tidelands lease and the project is moving forward. Because of the concentration of traffic associated with a recreational fishing reef, this item is being placed on the Harbor Safety Committee's radar for updates and possible future action.

5. **Consideration of Harbor Safety Plan Updates.** Ms. Howser reported that certain sections of the Harbor Safety Plan were in need of updating. The Governing Statutes and Regulations were the older version and needed to be replaced by the amended Governing Statutes and Regulations to be consistent with current OSPR regulations. Also, the Tank Vessel Escort Regulations for Humboldt Bay were not in the current plan. Discussion was held and Mr. Storm explained that it was a matter of housekeeping. Mr. Storm recommended the committee approve the replacement of the Governing Statutes and Regulations and the addition of the Tank Vessel Escort Regulations for Humboldt Bay. Deputy Daastol motioned to approve the changes and addition; Captain Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **Consideration of By-Law Changes.** Mr. Hull asked that this item be brought forward since it corresponded with the previous agenda item. Ms. Howser reported that the current By-Laws were inconsistent with the current Governing Statutes and Regulations. Discussion was held regarding certain additions and deletions. Mr. Storm explained the addition and deletions of key sections, and that these were changes to be consistent with the above agenda item. Discussion was held regarding membership categories. Ms. Howser recommended the Committee adopt the By-Law changes to be consistent with the current Governing Statutes and Regulations. Deputy Daastol motioned to approve the changes; Captain Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

6. **Status of Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center Floating Dock.** Mr. Hull reported that the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center would begin construction of their floating dock in October with the project completion date scheduled for November 15, 2010. This is the floating dock the Committee had reviewed a while back adding that encroachment issues into the navigation channel were a concern. With the Committee's assistance, dock plans were modified to minimize potential navigation issues. Mr. Wheaton stated that once the dock was complete, "as built" plans showing the exact footprint, photos, and GPS coordinates would be needed to add to the navigation chart.

7. **Status/Updates**

- a. **Federal Channel Maintenance.** Captain Powell reported that there is a barge in town working on the USCG Aids to Navigation. The contractor is unknown. Humboldt Bay Buoy 2 now has a red light.
- b. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** Mr. Dayton reported that two abandoned drums were found on Baker Beach. With the County of Humboldt's assistance the drums were removed and disposal will be handled properly.

A stolen Isuzu was found on the Eel River. Warden Zulliger reported that the vehicle identification (VIN) plates had been removed. Under the Clean Water Act, the USCG was able to have the vehicle removed from the river and the California Highway Patrol and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Department are looking further for additional VINs and ownership of the vehicle.

In the Fort Bragg area there was a 15-20 gallon spill by a commercial fishing vessel tied to the Abernathy dock. Owner of the vessel took responsibility and provided clean up. Also on the Abernathy property, Mendocino County arranged for a private company to conduct clean up operations. The company will begin in the next couple weeks and they will file a lien against the property to recover costs. Soil samples will be taken and more information regarding hazardous materials will be provided at a later date.

Two spills occurred in Humboldt Bay at the Woodley Island Marina. While maintenance staff was installing valves, product was inadvertently released into the water and then promptly cleaned up by Harbor District staff. Some equipment from the oil spill grant trailer was used in the process. On a side note, Half Moon Bay and Pillar Point used their oil spill grant trailers for miscellaneous spills within their facilities. There was also a spill in the Petaluma River caused by salvage operations of a tug.

- c. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Warden Zulliger is currently working on the abandoned Isuzu mentioned above.
- d. **Boater Safety.** Ms. Howser reported that the USCG auxiliary will be conducting a Boating Safety Course on Saturday, October 02, 2010 and this will be the last course for the year. Boating Safety courses will begin again in April 2011.

Mr. Hull reported that a local engineer was considering starting up a power squadron in Humboldt Bay.

- e. **Navigational Aids.** Mr. Hull reported that most Buoys were back on line. With help from Captain Martino, Congressman Thompson and others, arrangements were made for the buoy tenders *GEORGE COBB* and *MAPLE* to assume the duties of the *ASPEN*.

LCDR Bannan reported that this was the first time buoy tenders were used in an oil spill and that decontamination of the vessels is taking longer than anticipated. The *ASPEN* will return after it undergoes the decontamination process.

Captain Powell reported that there are two flashing red lights that can be seen by vessels when inside the bay. The flashing lights are at the west end of the Samoa Bridge at the intersection and can be confused for navigational aids. Ms. Howser contacted California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) on Monday and reported to the head of maintenance that the two flashing lights were visible to ship traffic in the bay. Caltrans will send their electrician to look into more shielding of the lights.

- f. **Ship Traffic.** Captain Powell reported that the *ECO VANGUARD* departed Fairhaven terminal September 17th with 3.5 million board feet of logs bound for China. The ship is expected to return in 40 – 45 days for another load.

PD Prince reported that the *WORLD* will return to Humboldt Bay in 2012. This is 644 foot cruise ship type vessel that was in port back in 2005.

SSA shipping agent Rich Trygar is currently working out of the Longview, Washington office.

- g. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Wheaton reported that USCG and NOS have an agreement that any changes in aids are updated on electronic versions of the navigation charts almost immediately.
- h. **TWIC.** MST1 Nosbaum reported that Lockheed Martin has assessed the local TWIC office and are aware of the local concerns regarding travel to Oakland to obtain or renew TWICs. No final decisions have been made and the TWIC office is currently open at the UPS store.
- i. **Potential Bay Projects.** Mr. Hull introduced Mr. Jose Montoya with Humboldt State University.

Mr. Montoya described the real time current monitoring equipment currently located in Humboldt Bay at the Fairhaven Terminal. This equipment monitors tidal activity and records data every minute. The system has been in place for 1 ½ years and is ready to transmit near real time. Mr. Montoya explained that even though the data is recorded every minute, the system will transmit the data every five minutes but with five minutes worth of data. This will become part of the CeNCOOS system and can be found at <http://cencoos.humboldt.edu/> or <http://www.cencoos.org/>

Ms. Dean reported that Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the National Weather Service are working together to create a “mini” PORTS system around Humboldt Bay. Ms. Dean also noted that Buoy 46002 may be back in operation next spring.

Mr. Hull reported that the Harbor District currently has a Port Security Grant for part of a PORTS system; however NOAA requires a five year maintenance funding commitment by the Harbor District. This amounts to approximately \$100,000 per year. The Harbor District is working with private industry to come up with the five year funding.

On the Harbor District agenda is a Grant for permit and design of the water trails. There are four locations needing improvements; three at current boat ramps and one location in Arcata. Mr. Dayton inquired if this would include buoys or fixed markers to indicate channels in North Bay. Mr. Hull reported that the Grant was only for the launch facility improvements and do not include navigation structures.

Mr. Hull reported that the Harbor District has been working on the permits for the old LP upland disposal site. The environmental document is now complete.

Woodley Island Marina installed a new vessel sewage pump out station through a Department of Boating and Waterways grant. The new station is located on the end tie of dock "D" and will be more accessible to boaters. The old station was previously located on the breakwater access and has been out of service for a few years.

After 11 years of permitting process, a pre-construction meeting was held in Shelter Cove regarding the breakwater reconstruction project. This project should start within a month or so and is to be completed by May 15, 2011. The footprint will remain generally the same as the existing breakwater. There will also be an improvement to the roadway providing a more friendly pedestrian access.

The marine highway system was finally designated. United States Maritime Administration (MARAD) granted \$7 million dollars to facilitate the marine highway system. The Humboldt Bay Harbor District, Port of Redwood City, the West Coast Corridor Coalition and MARAD will use a \$275,000 grant to conduct a west coast marine highway marketing analysis.

The Regional Stakeholders Group (RSG) has come up with a unified array regarding the Marine Life Protection Initiative. This has been a huge effort on the part of local users and the first time during the State's MLPAL process that there has been a unified proposal. All local agencies involved are now returning to their governing boards asking that resolutions be passed supporting the unified array.

8. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** LCDR Bannan reported that there has been a change of command at Sector San Francisco. Captain Cynthia Stowe has relieved Captain Paul Gugg as Captain of the Port. Mr. Hull will send a letter inviting the new Captain of the Port to attend the next Harbor Safety Meeting in November. Also Captain Jay Jewess is now the new Deputy Captain of the Port. A new MSD supervisor will be assigned to Humboldt Bay. CWO Haug has been reassigned to the Gulf. In the meantime LTJG Lajoie from Sector will be the supervisor.

PO Wolf reported that USCG Station Humboldt Bay will have an open house on October 23, 2011 from 1000 to 1500 hours. Booth space will be available for any agency who wishes to participate. There will be vessel exams by the USCG Auxiliary and a static display of a USCG Helicopter; weather permitting. For more information, you may call 707.443.2212 and ask for Petty Officer Jeremiah Wolf.

Sector San Francisco will conduct an ICS 300 training course around November 2-4, 2010 here in Humboldt Bay.

- b. **USACE.** No report.

- c. **CalEMA.** Mr. Larkin reported The Great California ShakeOut will take place October 21, 2010 at 1021hours. Everyone is encouraged to participate including government agencies and businesses. For more information and to register for participation, you may log on to www.shakeout.org

Currently there are five tsunami warning sirens working in Humboldt County. Five more are scheduled to be in place within the next few months. Locations of the new sirens include; Fairhaven, Manila, Trinidad, Big Lagoon and King Salmon. There is also enough money in the grant to include a siren at the Woodley Island Marina. These sirens will be fully linked to a one button operation. Currently, there is no set schedule for regular weekly or monthly testing of the sirens, only an annual test in March.

On Tuesday, September 28, 2010 there will be a table top preparation regarding the mass casualty exercise. The exercise scenario involves an 80 passenger airliner landing in the ocean. 80 people will actually be transported to local emergency facilities for treatment. The exercise is meant to include all local emergency responders and facilities. USCG will be the lead agency conducting the exercise and the table top will take place at USCG Group Humboldt Bay in McKinleyville. The actual exercise is scheduled for April of 2011.

California Maritime Academy would also like to re-schedule the Maritime Security Training course. Mr. Larkin would like the assistance of the Harbor Safety Committee to send out notices regarding registration.

- d. **CPB.** PD Prince reported that the *ECO VANGUARD* had no issues while it was in port and as stated above, should be back in 40-45 days. Private foreign vessels have been in and out this summer as they transit the coast.
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Storm reported that the Harbor Safety Summit will be held October 21, 2010 in San Pedro. All the chairs of the Harbor Safety Committees will be in attendance. If there are any issues the committee would like brought up at the Summit, you are encouraged to contact your chair.

The State continues to send people to the gulf. As far as relaxing the requirements regarding Worst Case Discharge and Maximum Most Probable Discharge response, the State will not waiver.

Mr. Dayton reported that the OSPR currently sends FRT and GIS people to the Gulf. On average there are four OSPR representatives in the gulf at any given time. Mr. Dayton will be in the Gulf the end of October.

Oil spill response strategies were discussed at the Redwood Marine Terminal on the Samoa Channel. An in-water exercise was conducted using rice hulls and lemons released at the Chevron dock to simulate a two barrel spill. The exercise was conducted on a flood tide and tracked up to North Bay. There are swift water challenges noted in the Samoa Channel and more exercises will be conducted.

- f. **HC Sheriff.** Deputy Daastol reported that the Sheriff 44 foot vessel was still out of the water; however, the vessel was now inside the building.

One of their top priorities of the Sheriff's Marine Division is to interface with Kayakers regarding marking of equipment. The HCSO and USCG have found unmanned and unmarked kayaks and canoes and it is unknown if the owner is safe or missing, consequently devoting numerous hours to unnecessary search and rescue. The HCSO will be visiting places like Costco, Pro Sports, etc. asking that they provide flyers to purchasers of these items to explain the need for marking their equipment. This will also be pushed at boating safety classes and with other paddling organizations.

The Sheriff's Office acquired a new jet boat and has also upgraded a couple of their vessels with FLIR and new chart plotters. North Bay tends to be a problem, especially at night, as there are no navigation aids. The new equipment will be a tremendous asset to their nighttime operations.

The County of Humboldt received a new satellite communications trailer. The trailer has the capability to create a WI-FI hot spot during emergencies. Narrow banding of radio communications has been mandated and the County is working on obtaining a grant to help change emergency radios to narrow band.

Boating safety brochures have been difficult to obtain, and Ms. Howser and Deputy Daastol have been working with other organizations to keep supplies on hand.

- g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton reported that he has been working with National Data Buoy Center to come up with a brochure regarding safe distances to keep from Buoys. The new mooring system requires boaters to maintain a greater distance from the buoys.
- h. **Coastal Commission.** Dr. Metz reported that the 26th Annual Coastal Cleanup Day will be Saturday, September 25, 2010. Grant applications are currently being accepted for the WHALE TAIL® grant program for fiscal year 2011/2012. All grant application must be postmarked no later than November 01, 2010. You may view the grant specifications and download the application on the Coastal Commission website at <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/publiced/plate/plgrant.html>
- i. **Member Reports.** Mr. Kullmann reported that the Wiyot Tribe is moving ahead with the construction work on Indian Island scheduled for early to mid October. Work will entail a bulkhead and sheet piling. Capping will not take place until next year.

Captain Groszmann reported that he was in Coos Bay recently and stopped to check on the repairs of the tug *KOOS KING*. As of his visit, the new engine is in the vessel but was not completely installed. No time frame has been given on when the tug *KOOS KING* will return to Humboldt Bay. In the mean time the tug *HUMBOLDT* has assumed the tug *KOOS KING*'s duties.

- j. **Other.** Ms. Howser inquired if Operation Safe Crab was scheduled for this year. USCG replied that it was and they would provide the committee with an actual start date.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for Thursday, November 18, 2010.

Meeting adjourned at 1111 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay