

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours Thursday November 17, 2011 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0900 hours.

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Gil Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Deputy Roy Reynolds (Local Law Enforcement)
Dr. Vanessa Metz (Coastal Commission)
Mr. Stephen Kullmann (Tribal/Environmental)
Mr. John "Hawk" Martin (Recreational Boater)
Capt. Tim Klassen (Recreational Boater)
Mr. Gerry Wheaton (NOAA-OCS)

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HC OES)
Mr. David Hull (Past Chair of HSC)
MST2 Boyce Meredith (USCG MSD HB)
PO2 Bryan Alexander (USCG MSD HB)
George Suchanek (USCG Group HB)
Ms. Julie Salminen (Pacific Affiliates)
Jon Gagnon (USCG Station HB)
Bill Gillespie (Eureka Fire Dept.)
Meagan Snyder (USCG Sector SF)
Rachel Wellman (USCG Sector SF)
Jim Pitkin (USCG Sector SF)
Chris Atkinson (USCG District 11)
Jeff Raimy (City of Eureka)
Troy Nicolini (NOAA-NWS)
Dale Unea (Samoa Fire)

1. **Introductions were made.**
2. **Members were sworn in.** Mr. Storm swore in Captain Tim Klassen as Alternate representing Recreational Boaters.
3. **Public Comment.** None
4. **Recognition of former Chair, David Hull, for his decade of Service to the Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area.** OSPR Liaison Al Storm presented Mr. David Hull with a plaque thanking him for his ten years of service on the Harbor Safety Committee.
5. **Appointment of new Chair to the Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area.** OSPR Liaison Al Storm read a letter from OSPR Administrator Scott Schaefer appointing Ms. Suzie Howser to Chair of the Committee for the next three years.
6. **Overview of 2011 West Coast Harbor Safety Committee Summit.** Mr. Hull gave an overview of the West Coast Summit held in Monterey, California October 25-26. Agenda highlights included the round table discussions, LA/LB Tanker/Tug Matrix, Planning for America's Cup, Low Sulfur Fuel Oil and Changes in Vessel Routing, Bunker Best Practices and the debris from the 2011 Tsunami.
7. **Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of September 15, 2011.** Captain Petrusha motioned to approve the minutes of September 15, 2011; Captain Groszmann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. **Consideration of sending letters regarding Buoy 46022.** Ms. Howser gave the committee an overview of the situation regarding NOAA Buoy 46022. The buoy has been offline since August 26, 2011 and has not been scheduled for repair. Last year when the buoy went offline, it was removed from the water and sent to the gulf coast for repairs. No back-up or replacement buoy was available. National Data Buoy Center (NDBC) feels the buoy may have been struck by a vessel and flooded. If this is the case, the buoy will again need to be removed from the water and sent to the gulf for repairs. With winter approaching and the commercial crab season about to commence, mariners transiting the north coast desperately need the information buoy 46022 provides. The closest operational buoys are at Pt. Arena and St. George.

The Scripps Institution of Oceanography just replaced the three Waverider buoys 46212, 46213 and 46244 in anticipation of winter. The mariners are fortunate to have these Waveriders in the area. A letter is being drafted up by Mr. Storm for Administrator Schaefer's signature thanking Scripps for their Waverider program.

The Committee agreed a letter needed to be sent to the Director of the NDBC explaining the need for buoy 46022 and have a copy of the letter sent to Congressman Thompson, Commander of District 11, Commander of District 13, Captain Stowe, OSPR Administrator and more. Ms. Howser will produce the letter and send it out as quickly as possible.

Captain Petrusha motioned to have the Committee Chair send a letter to NDBC and copied to others regarding the need for NOAA Buoy 46022; Captain Groszmann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

9. **Consideration of Meeting Schedule for 2012.** Meeting dates for the 2012 calendar year were discussed along with the option of keeping the meetings bi-monthly or change to quarterly. It was agreed to keep the meetings bi-monthly. Captain Petrusha motioned to set the meeting schedule as bi-monthly on the third Thursday of the month; Captain Groszmann seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

2012 Meeting dates:

January 19, 2012

March 15, 2012

May 17, 2012

July 19, 2012

September 20, 2012

November 15, 2012

10. Status/Updates

- a. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** Mr. Dayton reported a recreational vessel had gone aground on South Beach in Del Norte County. Also, a hay truck crossing the eel river bridge was involved in an accident. A small amount of fuel was discharged on to the river bar.

PO Alexander reported that the F/V ROSE MARIE had gone aground adjacent to the turning basin in south bay of Humboldt Bay but was safely afloat at the next high tide. No fuel was released.

Mr. Atkinson reported that training took place using equipment from the USCG small response trailer. Capt. Petrusha used the Harbor District pontoon boat and participated in the training and Pacific Strike team also participated using their small boat. The USCG Conex box located at Woodley Island Marina was inventoried and 1000 feet of boom was moved to the Redwood Dock facility and approximately 200 feet of boom that was damaged from previous use will be disposed. The Harbor District's OSPR Oil Spill Response Trailer also located at Woodley Island Marina was inventoried.

- b. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** No report.

- c. **Boater Safety.** No report.

- d. **Navigational Aids.** Capt. Petrusha reported that all Humboldt Bay aids are working and verified marker #5 in the Fields Landing Channel is a fixed aid.
- e. **Ship Traffic.** Capt. Petrusha reported that a ship is tentatively scheduled for December. Log decks are currently stacked with enough logs to accommodate at least one ship. Logging operations are slowing due to weather conditions.

California Redwood Company is currently working on their chip export dock.

- f. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Wheaton reported the new coast pilot will be available in December.

11. **Potential Bay Projects.** Ms. Howser report the Trinidad Pier reconstruction project continues and Crescent City dredging is complete.

12. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** No Report.
- b. **USACE.** No report.
- c. **OES.** Mr. Larkin reported that the next Operational Area Meeting will be December 1st at 1330 in the Humboldt County Correctional Facilities conference room.

The Tsunami siren at Woodley Island Marina is currently being modified for mechanical operation.

CalEMA has been working on the Cascadia Project and will have more interaction between Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties.

A communications training exercise will take place Feb 9th, 2012. Fire, law enforcement and medical will participate in a morning table top and a test will be conducted in the afternoon. Mr. Larkin hopes to work with the maritime community in this exercise.

The Harbor Safety Tsunami sub-committee has not met since September. A conference call will be set up in the next couple of weeks to review and maybe finalize the Best Practices and the Humboldt County Emergency Operations Plan.

- d. **CPB.** No report.
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Dayton reported that Renner Petroleum conducted a drill.

Chevron's Ephemeral Data Collection plan for Natural Resource Damage Assessment around Humboldt Bay is being revised. Sediment, water, vegetation and oyster data will be collected prior to a release in order to evaluate injury. OSPR has also been working on a project to segment Humboldt Bay and areas to the north and south of Humboldt Bay. The data is now in the hands of GIS staff in Sacramento. When complete, a direct link will be available on the OSPR website.

Mr. Storm reported that the West Coast Summit was a success.

AB 1112 was signed into law increasing the oil spill prevention and administration fee per barrel from \$0.05 to \$0.0650 per barrel. This increase in fees is only for three years and will end January 1, 2015.

Mr. Storm reported that the loss of propulsion incidents have shown a decline since the article written by Captain Jeff Cowen has been published in numerous maritime related magazines. Vessels are currently required to switch from bunker fuel to low sulfur fuel while within 24 miles of the California coast. The

article proposes that ships conduct a trial run within 45 days of entering California. Run main and auxiliary engines no less than four hours, operate main engine from the engine control room and operate main engine from engine side.

- f. **HC Sheriff.** No Report
- g. **NOAA.** No report.
- h. **Coastal Commission.** No Report
- i. **Member Reports.**

Mr. Martin reported that many kayakers are sport crabbing out of Trinidad.

- 13. **Other –** Mr. Hull reported the USACE budget is \$5.5 billion for all navigation projects. The Harbor District and the local dock owners met with the USACE regarding the Economic Assessment for Humboldt Bay. Marine Highway fund has \$520 million available and received \$14 billion worth of requests. Tiger IV grants will soon be available. Ask OSPR Administrator to ask Governor and Congress to support dredging of California ports.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, JANUARY 19, 2012.](#)

Meeting adjourned at 1110 hours.
Respectfully submitted,
Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay