

APPROVED

**Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area
0900 hours Thursday January 19, 2012 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room**

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0902 hours.

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser (Port Authority)
Capt. Tim Petrusa (Bar Pilot)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Deputy Roy Reynolds (Local Law Enforcement)
Mr. Stephen Kullmann (Tribal/Environmental)
Mr. John "Hawk" Martin (Recreational Boater)
BMC Clare Linder (USCG ANT HB)
Mr. Gerry Wheaton (NOAA-OCS) via telephone

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HC OES)
LTJG Rachel Wellman (USCG Sector SF)
Lt. George Suchanek (USCG Group HB)
CWO4 Jo Wildman (USCG MSD HB)
MST3 Rustin Battermann (USCG MSD HB)
Mr. Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)

Ms. Howser announced that due to a lack of a quorum, the meeting will continue however, no voting will take place.

1. Introductions were made.

2. Members were sworn in. Mr. Storm announced that the only membership category up for appointment this year is the Coastal Commission position.

3. Public Comment. None

4. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of November 17, 2011. Ms. Howser asked attendees to review the minutes and suggest changes. Mr. Dayton asked that item 12 e, OSPR reports, be revised. He will send the exact wording to Ms. Howser via email.

5. Consideration of approval of revisions to Best Practices and Possible Mariner Actions for Small Craft regarding Tsunamis. Mr. Larkin provided an update on the Tsunami Best Practices for Small Craft. Discussion was held regarding structure of the best practices and what information should be included. Ms. Howser will email the DRAFT Best Practices to members. All members are asked to download the document and discuss with other mariners what they believe should be included.

Mr. Larkin also reported that the State of California is working on a tsunami brochure for recreational boaters. This is a DRAFT brochure and Mr. Larkin asked that Ms. Howser email the document to the members for their review.

It was agreed by all present that the Best Practices for Small Craft need to be finalized as soon as possible. At the next meeting on March 15, 2012, Ms. Howser will have the projector and laptop set up so that revisions may be made and the document finalized for member approval.

Also on the table is a copy of an email with the attachment from Mr. Lauer regarding DRAFT Precautionary Measures for Ships and Barges. Members are asked to review the document and provide comments.

6. Status/Updates

- a. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** Mr. Dayton reported that it has been relatively quiet along the north coast. A couple of vehicle accidents with small amounts of product. However, there are two significant spills in the State. One involves a generator on the UC Berkeley campus. A generator fuel supply tank overfilled a smaller tank and product was released into the basement area of Stanley Hall. An automatic sump pump in the basement then pumped the diesel fuel into a storm drain leading into Strawberry Creek which then fed into San Francisco Bay. LTJG Wellman reported that approximately 970 gallons of product was recovered.

Another incident in San Francisco Bay involves the decommissioned 205-foot former WWII Navy tug TIGER which sank while moored in Richmond. The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund is being used for the cleanup efforts. Approximately 1500 gallons of oil/water mixture has been recovered and it is unknown how much fuel remains on the vessel as the tug capacity is approximately 78,000 gallons. The sister tug LION which was moored next to the tug TIGER has been moved to another area to allow better access for cleanup operations. All product was removed from the tug LION as a protective measure. A coffer dam has been built around the tug TIGER and the vessel has been righted. Dewatering operations will commence to allow access for product removal.

For more information on both of these incidents please visit the Cal Spill Watch page.
<https://calspillwatch.dfg.ca.gov/>

- b. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** LTJG Wellman reported that an abatement fund was being used to assist in the towing and destruction of the 208-foot ferryboat SAN DIEGO. The vessel was previously moored about 5 miles north of Antioch and has now been towed to Mare Island.

Ms. Howser reported that the Harbor District has no funding available to assist with the destruction and removal of derelict commercial fishing vessels. Harbor District staff is slowly removing one vessel as time allows.

- c. **Boater Safety.** Mr. Martin reported that he had conducted a boating safety class for Humboldt State University researchers. He will also be teaching a swift water rescue class (aimed at river rescue) on February 25th. Mr. Martin inquired to HSU about conducting boating safety courses. As of now HSU is only conducting classes for HSU, not the general public.

Ms. Howser reported that she had sent an email to Mr. O'Connor in Crescent City regarding the schedule for USCG Auxiliary Safe Boating classes to be held in Eureka.

- d. **Navigational Aids.** BMC Linder reported that all Humboldt Bay aids are working properly.

Ms. Howser reported that the USCGC ASPEN was able to replace NOAA Buoy 46022 on January 11th. This could not have come at a better time as the commercial Dungeness crab fishermen were allowed to begin setting their gear on January 13th. The north coast is now in the midst of a winter storm and real time data from Buoy 46022 is once again providing much needed information for the mariners.

- e. **Ship Traffic.** Capt. Powell reported that the next ship is tentatively scheduled for February. It appears that log decks are currently stacked with enough logs to accommodate three ships.

Capt. Groszmann was unable to attend today's meeting as the fuel barge just entered the port and is preparing to dock at Chevron.

f. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Wheaton reported the new coast pilot is now available on line and through your chart and publication providers.

7. **Potential Bay Projects.** Ms. Howser provided the committee with an update on the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®) for Humboldt Bay. The agreement for the funding of the operations and maintenance is complete and the agreement for the purchase and installation of the equipment was just finalized at the last Board meeting. The Harbor District is waiting on one more agreement which is for the actual maintenance of the current meters.

8. Reports/Presentations

a. **USCG.** Lt. Suchanek reported that prior to opening crab season USCG Public Relations used the local media to put the word out regarding Operation Safe Crab. Vessel operators were encouraged to contact USCG for a free vessel inspection.

b. **USACE.** No report.

c. **OES.** Mr. Larkin reported that the next Operational Area Meeting will be February 2nd at 1330 in the Humboldt County Correctional Facilities conference room.

On February 9th there will be a communications exercise involving Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino Counties. All emergency communications equipment in the Humboldt County area will stage their vehicles and trailers in the Woodley Island Marina East Parking Lot, across from the National Weather Service office. A briefing will take place in the morning at the Humboldt County Office of Education on Myrtle Avenue and live radio tests will be conducted in the afternoon. All agencies with emergency communications are asked to participate.

The new controller for the tsunami siren at Woodley Island Marina has arrived and will be installed. The tsunami siren is currently being activated using a manual switch. The new controller will allow for automatic operations.

In the past two weeks, there has been significant progress on the tsunami evacuation maps for Humboldt County.

March 25-31 has been designated as National Tsunami Preparedness Week. On Wednesday, March 28th there will be a full public communications test involving activation of the Emergency Alert System.

On Saturday January 14th the community of King Salmon participated in a tsunami evacuation drill. The PG&G tsunami siren in King Salmon was activated for three minutes and residents left their homes and walked to Buhne Point; which at 65 feet is the highest point in the community. The week prior to the drill public meetings, information packets and media were used to inform and educate citizens of the drill.

d. **CPB.** No report.

e. **OSPR.**

Mr. Dayton reported the Area Contingency Plan has been updated and is available on the web. <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/> Del Norte, Humboldt and Mendocino counties are part of the San Francisco Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

A Sea Otter washed up on the beach by Gold Bluffs (Prairie Creek Redwoods State Park). The animal was reported to the Marine Mammal Stranding Network and taken to HSU to be examined by Professor Goley. The animal will be transferred to another facility for a full necropsy. Sea Otters have not been found on the north coast since they were hunted out in the 1800s. The otters you see locally are actually river otters.

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

Capt. Petrusha reported that the fireboat is currently under construction.

Capt. Petrusha reported that he and Mr. Larkin attended the Earthquake Clearinghouse meeting last Friday at the Wharfinger Building. This meeting was very informational and it is suggested that everyone take a look at what they offer. <http://www.eqclearinghouse.org/CA/>

- 9. **Other –** Ms. Howser reported that the Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC®) office is now located at the Best Western Bayshore Inn 3500 Broadway, Eureka, by Marie Callendar's. The office is only open on Wednesdays from 0830-1200 and then again from 1300-1630. All procedures remain the same. You will still need two forms of identification and will need to complete all the paperwork again. Cost is the same as when you first obtained your card unless you qualify for a reduced fee. To make an appointment for a new TWIC card or for renewal please call the TWIC help desk at [1-866-347-8942](tel:1-866-347-8942)

If the US Army Corps of Engineers sticks to their regular schedule, we should expect to see the survey vessel in Humboldt Bay sometime in February.

It was mentioned that the National Guard Bridge Unit was heading south on Highway 101 and that they may be leaving Humboldt Bay. It is unknown if this is for extended training or a permanent move.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, MARCH 15, 2012.](#)

Meeting adjourned at 1100 hours.
Respectfully submitted,
Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay