

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours Thursday September 20, 2012 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0915 hours.

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser, Chair (Port Authority)
Capt. Tim Petrusa (Bar Pilot)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Deputy Phillip Daastol (Local Law Enforcement)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Mr. Gerry Wheaton (NOAA-OCS)
Mr. Hawk Martin (Rec Boating)
Capt. Tim Klassen (Rec Boating)
Mr. Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Comm) via telephone

Others Present:

Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Curtis Barthel (USCG)
CWO2 Billy Gartman (USCG)
Bryan Alexander (USCG)
Rustin Battermann (USCG)
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)
Chief Bill Gillespie (Humboldt Bay Fire)
LTJG Meagan Snyder (USCG) via telephone
Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison) via telephone

1. Introductions were made.

2. Swearing in of new members. Mr. Storm announced that there is one membership position expiring in January – Tribal/Environmental, Mr. Stephen Kullmann is currently the member.

3. Public Comment. None

4. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of July 19, 2012. Captain Petrusa motioned to approve the minutes of July 19, 2012; Deputy Daastol seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Status/Updates

a. Oil Spills/Accidents. Mr. Dayton reported that there was a paint release over by the Adorni Dock and a diesel release at the Woodley Island Marina. Abandoned vehicles have been left along rivers.

Mr. Alexander reported the Woodley Island Marina spill was along G-Dock and there was approximately 3 to 5 gallons of product. Most of the abandoned vehicles located along the river have been the result of a car theft. A few marine casualties have been reported from the Oregon border to Pt. Arena. One Noyo boat was a total loss.

Deputy Daastol asked how many recreational vessels were towed in this year. USCG did not have the numbers off hand but would provide the information at a later date.

b. Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris. LTJG Snyder reported that Japan is providing financial support to the United States to assist with the debris abatement from the March 11, 2011 tsunami. Approximately \$5 million is being allocated to the United States. LTJG Snyder will keep the committee up to date.

c. Boater Safety. Mr. Martin reported that the season was winding down.

Ms. Howser reported that the USCG Auxiliary will conduct one more Boating Safety Course on October 6th in the Woodley Island Marina conference room. Ms. Bev Noll will also conduct a Fisherman's Training Course in October.

d. **Navigational Aids.** USCG reported that all buoys are currently in operation.

Mr. Wheaton would like to remind the committee that Buoy 46022 requires a watch distance of at least ¼ of a mile. Ms. Howser will prepare signs to be posted at various locations around the bay

Capt. Powell reported that PORTS® is currently being installed. Discussion was held in regards to a grand opening to coincide with the next Harbor Safety meeting to be held in November.

e. **Ship Traffic.** Captain Petrusha reported that a log ship just departed Humboldt Bay and 2 more have been scheduled for next month.

California Redwood expects to receive their first chip ship by the end of the year.

A German cruise ship is tentatively scheduled for February 2013.

f. **Navigational Chart Changes.** Mr. Wheaton reported the Distances to Ports will no longer be printed. However the document will be available on the website at <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/distances-ports/distances.pdf>

There is a new format in regards to updates for the Coast Pilot. Beginning with US Coast Pilot Volume 1 and US Coast Pilot Volume 2, updates will be available via the website on a weekly basis. Additional volumes will be available as the year progresses. Please refer to the website for more information <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/nsd/cpupdates.htm> NOAA is in discussion with USCG regarding carriage requirements for vessels. Coast Pilot updates will no longer be printed in the Local Notice to Mariners. Capt. Groszmann asked about mariners who do not use computers and who continue to use the paper versions of the Coast Pilot. Capt. Powell asked if there was an application available from NOAA. Private enterprise usually provides applications for cellular phones. Mr. Wheaton will keep the committee up to date as discussion continues with the USCG.

6. **Potential Bay Projects.** PORTS® was discussed above. Dredging continues at the Chevron Dock. Sediment is barged to the Schneider Dock and offloaded into trucks for transport and disposal in the Redding area. West Coast Contractors is conducting the dredge work.

Mr. Raimey reported that the Eureka Public Marina participated in the Coastal Cleanup last Saturday.

New concrete signage will be placed along the curb at the two Eureka boat ramps.

7. **Reports/Presentations**

a. **USCG.** Mr. Barthel reported that recreational salmon season was over and the commercial salmon season was over as well.

No comments were received in regards to the Local Notice to Mariners and the US Coast Guard's proposal to discontinue the Cape Mendocino Light. Mr. Barthel is seeking comments from local fishermen who frequently transit the area.

b. **USACE.** No report.

c. **OES.** No report.

d. **CPB.** No report.

- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Dayton thanked everyone who signed up for the OSPR overview. Unfortunately, the overview was cancelled due to the Governors request that non essential travel be suspended.

Ms. Yvonne Addassi has been appointed as the Deputy Administrator for OSPR. The number 3 position is currently vacant.

OSPR has hired a new Environmental Scientist in Sacramento. This person will determine fish closures in the event of major oil spills and will also handle cultural and historical issues.

The Brown Pelican situation has been resolved. The Wildlife Care Center is still rehabilitating several dozen pelicans. There is a lot of pressure on Fish and Game to cite the Harbor Districts as responsible.

There are still issues with the ACP. Maps are old and do not contain information such as new structures or removed structures. OSPR is considering changing to air images. Mr. Wheaton suggested using nautical charts ENC data or ERMA® (Environmental Response Management Application).

Mr. Storm reported that due to the travel restrictions he is participating via conference call. The West Coast Harbor Safety Summit scheduled for October in conjunction with the California State Lands Commission Prevention First Conference has been cancelled. The Prevention First Conference will continue but with minimal OSPR attendance and some participation via webinar. The Harbor Safety Summit may be rescheduled after travel restrictions have been lifted.

OSPR is in receipt of the 2012 Harbor Safety Plan of the Humboldt Bay area and will send a letter of receipt to the Chair.

- f. **HC Sheriff.** Deputy Daastol reported that he is still on patrol. Deputy positions are being filled however, in the mean time projects have been put aside. The Sheriff's department is hoping in October to have two full time Deputies assigned to boating.

The Sheriff's Department is considering a flare training day. Details have yet to be worked out.

A vessel was abandoned in the Fields Landing area and abatement funds are being used to remove the vessel. East Ferry Road in the Ferndale area is a known dumping area for vehicles. This location is near the Eel River.

Mr. Martin and Deputy Daastol have been conducting community outreach in regards to unmarked canoes and kayaks. USCG and Sheriff's Deputies were dispatched to look for persons due to an unmarked kayak found in North Bay. Ms. Howser was asked by the Sheriff's department to make contact with local rental companies to inquire if any of their equipment and clients were overdue or missing. Pacific Outfitters and Humboats have marked equipment. Mr. Martin reported that the stickers used to identify equipment do stay on the kayaks and canoes; however permanent marking pens require frequent re-application. Use of paint pens will be tried.

- g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton reported Captain Gerd Glang, Director of NOAA's Office of Coast Survey has been promoted to the rank of Rear Admiral.
- h. **Coastal Commission.** Mr. Bishop reported that he had attended the San Diego Harbor Safety Committee meeting. Topics for San Diego included the bait barge relocation, potential bait projects, Platform Gail, an unannounced Exxon Mobile drill, use of dispersants and a seismic survey off Diablo Canyon utilizing a vessel over 300 GT. The Coast Commission is still seeking a Coastal Program Analyst for the Eureka area and will keep OSPR up to date.

- i. **Member Reports.** Mr. Martin reported that last Monday he pulled a woman out of the water. She was near the Woodley Island Marina breakwater to avoid the wake from a passing commercial vessel. The incoming current was strong and pushed her scull into the breakwater and dislodged the woman. She clung to the breakwater shouting for help when Mr. Martin heard her shouts and responded to assist the woman onto the dock. He noted that she was not wearing a lifejacket and was clothed in shorts and a t-shirt.

Mr. Martin was on the water with a group of kids near the Eureka waterfront when a commercial fishing vessel exited Woodley Island Marina at a high rate of speed causing a wake. Mr. Martin noted that this particular vessel does this all the time and asked that something be done. Deputy Daastol agreed to speak with the Captain of the vessel.

Ms. Howser inquired about the status of the tugs. Currently the tugs *HUMBOLDT* and *KOOS KING* are the only available tugs in port. Captain Groszmann reported that it has always been his personal policy not to leave port with one of the tugs when a ship is in town in case of emergencies. Ms. Howser asked that the committee be kept up to date on tugs status.

8. **Other –** No reports.

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

Meeting adjourned at 1040 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay