

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area 0900 hours September 19, 2013 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

The Harbor Safety Committee meeting was convened at 0905 hours.

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser, Chair (Port Authority)
Deputy Roy Reynolds (Local Law Enforcement)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Gilbert Groszmann (Tug Operator)
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Tug Operator)
Mr. Tim Nelson (Tribal/Environmental)
Mr. Aaron Newman (Commercial Fishing)
Mr. Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission) via phone
Mr. Casey Allen (Recreational Boater)
Mr. Wade Kriletich (Recreational Boater)
Mr. Gerry Wheaton (NOAA-OCS)
Capt. Gregory Stump (USCG COTP Sector SF)
Lt. Michelle Foster (USCG Sector HB)
CWO2 Billy Gartman (USCG MSD HB)

Others Present:

Mr. Al Storm (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jack Crider (Port Authority)
Mr. Jeff Raimy (City of Eureka)
Mr. Dan Larkin (HC OES)
Mr. Philip Wright (HB Aquatic Center)
Chief Kent Hulbert (HB Fire)
Mr. John Prince (US Customs)
CDR Jason Tama (USCG Sector SF)
CDR Tracy Phillips (USCG Sector SF)
CWO Curt Barthel (USCG Sector HB)
Ms. Holly Largent (USCG MSD HB)
Mr. John Giles (USCG Sector HB)
Mr. John Griffin (Private Citizen)

Chair, Suzie Howser called the meeting to order at 0905 hours.

1. Introductions were made.

2. Swearing in of new members. Mr. Storm congratulated and swore in Mr. Casey Allen as Member and Mr. Wade Kriletich as Alternate representing Recreational Boating. Mr. Storm reported that a vacancy notice has been posted in regards to the Commercial Fishing position vacancy in November. Tanker Operations currently held by Mr. Richard Lauer as member and Captain Jeff Hill as Alternate, and Dry Cargo currently held by Mr. Richard Trygar as member will be up this spring.

3. Public Comment. None

4. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of July 18, 2013. Mr. Kriletich asked that the word kayaking in item 13 be changed to paddle sports. Captain Groszmann motioned to approve the minutes for the meeting of July 18, 2013 as corrected. Captain Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Consideration and approval of sending a letter to Congressman Huffman regarding dredging. Discussion was held in regards to dredging in Humboldt Bay. The US Army Corps of Engineers' dredge YAQUINA was here for four days and conducted dredging operations in the vicinity of Buoy 9. The dredge returned to Humboldt Bay a couple weeks later and was able to dredge for another four days. Mr. Newman stated the area around Buoy 9 was difficult to transit last winter due to shoaling. Discussion was held regarding the safety issues and the need for the committee to be prepared to send the US Army Corps of Engineers and the Congressman a letter regarding emergency dredging should shoaling take place in Humboldt Bay and safe transit becomes an issue. Letters will be drafted and presented to the Committee at the next Harbor Safety meeting in November.

6. Consideration and approval of sending a letter to Congressman Huffman regarding Buoy 46022. Ms. Howser informed the Committee Members that Buoy 46022 has been experiencing problems. The National Data Buoy Center website states:

“Station 46022 is transmitting intermittently.

The NOAA National Buoy Center has deferred annual maintenance for buoys and C-MAN stations until further notice. We hope to resume maintenance of the coastal and offshore weather buoys and C-MAN network next year, pending adequate funding in FY 14.”

Ms. Howser referred to a letter that was sent in 2011 to the Mr. Helmut Portmann at the National Data Buoy Center in regards to the importance of Buoy 46022 and the need for repairs. The letter was courtesy copied to many others including the Congressman. Mr. Newman made a motion to send another letter to Mr. Portmann with courtesy copies to the same list as before regarding the need for Buoy 46022 and the request for repairs. Captain Petruscha seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

7. Consideration and approval of changing the Aids to Navigation recommendation in the Harbor Safety Plan. Mr. Storm and Ms. Howser discussed the need for a wording change in the action item listed in the recommendation for Aids to Navigation regarding the Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS®). The recommendation asks OSPR to fund PORTS® and the action recommends the Administrator identify long term Operations and Maintenance (O&M) funding for PORTS® and funding for capital costs. The Harbor District already secured the capital costs for implementation through a Port Security grant and received O&M funding through Chevron for five years. Discussion was held regarding the federalization of PORTS® and the language change. Captain Groszmann motioned to change the language to request operations and maintenance funding from the State of California and continue support for federalization of PORTS®. Captain Powell seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

8. Status/Updates

- a. **Oil Spills/Accidents.** CWO2 Gartman reported that a drum was found and thought to contain hazardous material. The ID number reported was not the ID number listed on the drum and the drum was found to be empty.

30 gallons of oil was washed into a storm drain after a spill.

F/V HEIDI docked in Fields Landing was taking on water. The owner could not be reached and a family member came down and pumped out the vessel. The vessel again took on water and the owner and family members were unresponsive. The USCG in a preventative action de-watered the vessel and pumped off 100 gallons of fuel. Local interested agencies were informed of the vessel's situation and that USCG would not prevent the vessel from sinking again as all fuel has been removed. Discussion took place regarding the Ms. Howser asked if the vessel owner has contacted USCG since the removal of fuel. CWO2 Gartman has had no contact from the owner. Ms. Howser asked if the vessel were to sink would it sink into the navigation channel. CWO2 Gartman replied there is the chance and the US Army Corps of Engineers would be notified. Ms. Howser asked if there was any way the USCG could list the vessel as derelict and remove the vessel from the water. CWO2 Garman stated that the USCG cannot do this.

F/V PENNY MIST was taking on water in Noyo and was hauled and repaired.

F/V MISS KELLEY II ran aground in Noyo Harbor.

F/V OSPREY II sank and was quickly raised in two hours.

F/V KELLEN A sank offshore from an unknown cause. Persons on board were rescued and directly attributed their survival to the drill conductor training they received.

- b. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Ms. Howser asked if the drum that was found was part of Tsunami related debris, it was not. The debris from the 2011 Tsunami may begin to show up on local

shores. As part of the Coast Clean Up day, the reporting form has been changed to include an area to report possible tsunami related debris.

Mr. Raimey reported that the S/V BAD FISH was towed in by the USCG to the Bonnie Gool Guest Dock. The owner of the vessel was found to have various drugs and drug paraphernalia on board. Eureka Police Department was called and the owner arrested. After 24 hours the vessel was considered abandoned and the City of Eureka towed the vessel to the Fields Landing Boat Yard. The City is pursuing a lien on the vessel.

Captain Zerlang reported that the old F/V CLUNY was being pulled out of the water for destruction. The F/V STEPHANIE is being restored.

- c. **Boater Safety.** Ms. Howser reported that AMSEA will be holding another drill conductor course for commercial fishermen the beginning of October.

Mr. Kriletich reported that he is working with Mr. Thom O'Connell USCG Auxiliary regarding boating safety courses.

- d. **Navigational Aids.** CWO Barthel asked if we would like to see Buoy 9 moved into the channel out of the shoal area. The Bar Pilots and Tug Operators asked that Buoy 9 remain in its current position.

In the Hookton channel, the USCG is proposing to go back to a tower instead of the buoy. Pilots and Tug Operators asked that the aid remain a buoy however they do request a larger buoy. USCG will look into this.

The USCG is reviewing all AToNs. More coastal aids will be discontinued.

Captain Powell reported that the PORTS® current meter in south bay is down for repairs. The meter was not reading correctly and has been sent back to Son Tek for re-calibration. The meter should be back in the next couple of weeks.

On a side note, Captain Petrusha reported that he and Captain Powell responded to a Pan-Pan issued by the USCG regarding an overturned rower with a person in the water north of Woodley Island. The Port Authority vessel was able to respond to the shallow location and the woman and the rowing scull were pulled out of the water. The woman was cold and a little scrapped up but refused medical treatment. She and her scull were returned to the Adorni Dock. The woman was not wearing a PFD. Deputy Reynolds noted that rowing sculls and racing shells are exempt from PFD requirements.

- e. **Ship Traffic.** Captain Powell reported that the SPINNAKER SW was due in port today heading to the Schneider Dock.

Captain Zerlang reported that another ship is due October 5th at the Schneider Dock.

California Redwood has said they do not anticipate any ships this year but maybe the first quarter of next year.

- f. **Navigational Chart Changes.** No changes.

- 9. **Potential Bay Projects.** Mr. Nelson reported that the Wiyot Tribe and the Harbor District still working together on a Marine Debris Abatement Grant to remove old floats from Humboldt Bay.

The Indian Island project is complete. Mr. Nelson thanked everyone for their assistance.

10. Reports/Presentations

a. **USCG.** CWO2 Gartman introduced Captain of the Port, Captain Gregory Stump, and welcomed him to Humboldt Bay.
Captain Stump reported that this was his first trip up to see the northern portion of the Area of Responsibility. He was in Crescent City yesterday and was heading back to San Francisco later today. He looks forward to returning to the north coast in the next few months.

b. **USACE.** No report.

c. **OES.** Mr. Larkin reported next week, Thursday September 26th at the Wharfinger building, CalEMA and Region 9 will present the Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake and Tsunami Response Plan. The 2014 Golden Guardian will be based on a Cascadia Subduction Zone Earthquake. If you have not registered for the Thursday presentation, it is recommended that you do so. Ms. Howser will send the information to the membership this afternoon.

The next operational area meeting will be held October 3rd beginning at 1330 at the HC jail.

The great Shakeout will be held October 17, 2013. To participate in the shakeout you may go to <http://www.shakeout.org/california/> It is recommended that all agencies participate in the Shakeout. Humboldt County has the highest participation percentage in the state.

October 23rd, CalOES will conduct a seminar at Humboldt State University to provide an in-depth look of the Cascadia Subduction Zone (CSZ) Earthquake and Tsunami Response Plan. This is all part of the preparations for the 2014 Golden Guardian exercise.

d. **CPB.** Mr. Prince reported the ship arriving today is coming directly from Japan.

e. **OSPR.** Mr. Storm reported that he was pleased to see a quorum present. Captain Cullen was unable to attend today's meeting due to a conflict in his schedule, but does intend on attending in the near future.

The Harbor Safety Summit will take place October 29 and 30th in Napa, CA. The Summit is open to the public. One item on the Administrator's agenda is a discussion regarding best achievable technology.

f. **HC Sheriff.** Deputy Reynolds reported there were was a drowning in the Shelter Cove area. The victim has not been identified.

g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton reported that Dr. Holly Bamford the Assistant Administrator for NOS, met with the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee.

h. **Coastal Commission.** Mr. Bishop reported on the video available titled "Oil Pollution Prevention". The video may be viewed at <http://www.dbw.parks.ca.gov/Environmental/CleanGreen/Default.aspx> Ms. Howser will resend the information to the membership.

A new guidance document is available regarding Oil Spill Prevention and Response for Oil and Gas Project Applications. This document may be viewed on the California Coastal Commission website at <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/index.html>

i. **Member Reports.** There were none.

11. **Other.** Mr. Crider reported to those in attendance that the Harbor District acquired the former pulp mill on the Samoa peninsula. The former pulp mill contains hazardous materials including approximately 4 million gallons of pulping liquors. The Harbor District did obtain a \$10 million insurance policy in case of an accident regarding the hazardous materials. The Environmental Protection Agency is assisting the Harbor District and Simpson in Tacoma is interested in possibly acquiring the Liquors. The best

possible movement of the Liquors is by barge. Mr. Crider will work with USCG regarding transportation of hazardous materials.

Captain Zerlang reported that sport boat wakes have been a huge issue this summer. Vessels coming out of the two marinas and boat ramps are not aware of the “no wake” zones.

Mr. Raimey reported that wakes are a threat to public safety. Vessel wakes, including the wake of a 47 foot motor life boat, have caused damage at the Eureka Public Marina.

Ms. Howser will re-distribute the “no wake” flyers to the membership and have some printed up, laminated and posted at various areas along the waterfront.

Mr. Allen offered to publish the no wake zones with the Humboldt Tuna Club.

Mr. Newman offered to remind the commercial fishing fleet of the no wake zone.

Captain Zerlang will issue a security call prior to hauling or launching a vessel at Z & Z Marine Railway to help curb wake activity in the area of the boat yard.

Captain Petrusha reported that he and Captain Powell responded to a “Pan-Pan” issued by the USCG on VHF channel 16 regarding an overturned rower in North Bay. The rower was in the water without a PFD and hanging on to the overturned scull. The rower and scull were taken aboard the Port Authority vessel and returned to the Adorni Dock. The rower did not want her name released.

Mr. Griffin asked why the USCG vessels do not use a siren when responding to a Search and Rescue. CWO Barthel explained that a siren is not a recognized sound on a vessel.

Lt. Foster explained that when a vessel is responding to a Search and Rescue call they will proceed as quickly as possible. Once the emergency has been cancelled, the vessels have standing orders to reduce their speed. She will contact Station Humboldt Bay to remind them of this action.

Mr. Kriletich reported that Paddlefest was a success. They had 182 kayaks on the bay and all participants wore PFDs.

Discussion was held in regards to the PFD exemption for rowing sculls and racing shells.

Mr. Raimey reminded the group about the Coastal Clean Up day this Saturday.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 2013](#).

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1107 hours.
Respectfully submitted,
Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay