

## APPROVED

### Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area 0900 hours September 18, 2014 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

#### Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser, Chair (Port Authority)  
Mr. Ross McDonald (Tank Barge)  
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Tug Operator)  
Mr. Tim Nelson (Tribal/Environmental)  
Mr. Casey Allen (Recreational Boater)  
Mr. Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)  
Ms. Julie Salminen (Dry Cargo) via telephone  
CWO Billy Gartman (USCG-Sector HB)  
Mr. Gerald Wheaton (NOAA-OCS)

#### Others Present:

Mr. Reuben Macaspac (OSPR Liaison)  
Mr. David Mighetto (OSPR)  
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)  
Mr. Jeff Raimey (City of Eureka)  
Mr. Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)  
Mr. Charlie Helms (Crescent City Harbor)  
Mr. Curt Barthel (USCG Sector HB)  
Mr. Travis Halling (USCG Sector HB)  
Mr. Kent Hulbert (HB Fire)

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

**1. Introductions were made.**

**2. Swearing in of new members.** Mr. Macaspac reported there were no new members. At Mr. Allen's suggestion, Ms. Howser spoke with Ms. Goldsworthy regarding membership as an alternate for Recreational Boating. There was some difficulty in the electronic submission of her application. Ms. Howser will contact Ms. Goldsworthy again.

**3. Public Comment.** None.

**4. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of May 15, 2014.** Correction to add Jonathan Bishop via telephone to the Members Present list. Mr. Wheaton made a motion to approve the minutes of May 15, 2014. Capt. Zerlang seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**5. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of July 17, 2014.** Correction to add the word "floating" in Section 10 Other, last paragraph. Capt. Zerlang made a motion to approve the minutes of July 17, 2014. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

**6. Status/Updates**

- a. Oil Spills/Accidents.** Mr. Gartman introduced Travis Halling from Corpus Christi as a new member of the Marine Safety Detachment. There were a couple of mystery sheens. An over flight was conducted off shore in regards to a reported spill. Sheen was spotted but no source was located. There was a vehicle on the Samoa beach but fortunately the vehicle insurance company removed the vehicle. Just over the weekend a small vessel sunk.

Mr. Allen reported that the 18 foot aluminum vessel called for help as it was sinking. One person was wearing a lifejacket the other was holding onto a throwable cushion. The two people were only in the water a couple of minutes before other vessels in the area were able to pull them from the water, however, both persons were unable to assist in their own rescue due to hypothermia. Both were transferred to a USCG vessel at the Eel River. The sinking took place around the False Cape area where numerous sport vessels were fishing.

Mr. Gartman also reported a small sailboat ran aground on the end of Indian Island. The vessel remained aground overnight with the new owners aboard. The vessel was free the next day.

- b. **Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris.** Mr. Nelson reported that the permitting is complete for the Marine Debris grant and they will begin removing floats when possible.
- c. **Boater Safety.** Mr. Barthel reported that Ms. Beverly Noll will be conducting another round of AMSEA classes in Crescent City and Eureka.

Ms. Howser reported that the Humboldt Area Saltwater Anglers (HASA) have been doing a great job in promoting safe boating by publishing articles in their newsletters.

- d. **Navigational Aids.** Mr. Barthel reported that buoy 46022 is back on line. The Waveriders stationed off the North Jetty and Cape Mendocino are also working. The USCGC ASPEN will be here next week to move buoys 2, 5 and 9 back into position. They will also be working on the HB Entrance buoy to replace the light.

Capt. Zerlang inquired why buoy 8 was not a junction buoy. Lighted Bell Buoy 8 is currently a "Q R BELL".

Mr. Ryan Finch is the new team leader at Aids to Navigation Humboldt Bay. All AToN questions, problems, etc., still go to Mr. Barthel.

Mr. Allen reported that Mr. Brian Garcia, National Weather Service, wrote an article for the HASA newsletter explaining that the marine forecasts were "off" due to the lack of buoy information.

- e. **Ship Traffic.** Capt. Zerlang reported that the OCEAN HOPE arrived July 22 and departed August 3 with a partial load of logs. Another ship is scheduled to arrive at the Schneider Dock on October 5<sup>th</sup> for a load of logs. A chip ship is tentatively scheduled for November. The CRIMSON POLARIS may be back. Schneider Dock is anticipating 3 to 4 ships before the end of the year. Channel conditions are being monitored as the USACE was not able to fund full dredging.

7. **Navigational Chart Changes.** None.

8. **Potential Bay Projects.** None

9. **Reports/Presentations**

a. **USCG.** No report.

b. **USACE.** No report.

c. **OES.** No report.

d. **CPB.** No report.

- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Macaspac introduced Mr. David Mighetto. Mr. Mighetto is new to OSPR and will be the OSPR Liaison to the San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee. Mr. Mighetto will be attending a few Harbor Safety Committee meetings in the State as part of his orientation. The OSPR Administrator has received a copy of the revised Harbor Safety Plan and has sent a letter addressed to Ms. Howser thanking the Committee for all the work performed during the past year. The West Coast Harbor Safety Summit is currently scheduled for October 28 in Napa, CA. This is a joint meeting with the Pacific States - British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. Harbor Safety Committees from Alaska, Canada, Washington, Oregon, California and Hawaii will be represented.

Mr. Dayton reported that boom deployment took place on the McDaniel Slough and everything went perfectly. There will be minor adjustments to the ACP in the future. The ACP currently states use of 150

feet of boom. This will be adjusted to possibly 300 feet of boom. The ACP is currently in US Coast Guards hands waiting final approval and should be completed by the end of the year. The 2011 digital version is available on line at [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/san\\_francisco\\_plan.aspx](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/san_francisco_plan.aspx) The Yurok Tribe received a boom equipment grant for the Klamath River. People have noticed foam on the water in Humboldt Bay. This is just part of the squid boat operation.

- f. **HC Sheriff.** Ms. Howser reported that Deputy Brawner is on medical leave and the Humboldt County Sheriff has placed Deputy Roy Reynolds back on marine detail. It is unknown at this time if Deputy Reynolds will replace Deputy Brawner on the Harbor Safety Committee.
- g. **NOAA.** Mr. Wheaton reported that he will be retiring as of September 30, 2014. Mr. Jeff Ferguson will be taking his place. Mr. Ferguson is from Washington DC and will be relocating to the Santa Barbara area.
- h. **Coastal Commission.** Mr. Bishop introduced himself since this is the first meeting he has attended in person. He also reported that he attends most Harbor Safety Committee meetings in the state and relays information back and forth such as with Port Heuneme. Port Heuneme is currently exploring a PORTS system and is using information obtained from Humboldt Bay. Mr. Bishop also attended the boom deployment in the McDaniel Slough.
- i. **Member Reports.**

Mr. Allen reported he has researched the issue of canoes and kayaks online and also spoken with Ms. Elicia Goldsworthy at the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center. Ms. Goldsworthy is currently working on safety information for their organization. There is not much information available other than what other organizations have come up with for themselves.

Ms. Howser stated there is a placeholder in the Harbor Safety Plan for Best Maritime Practices (BMPs) for paddlecraft. Maybe this is a good time to begin a workgroup to research further and see what may be needed for Humboldt Bay. Canoes, Kayaks, and SUPs do not seem to realize that the larger vessels are restricted in their ability to navigate Humboldt Bay. Rule 9 exists but many paddlecraft are not aware of basic boating safety and rules of the road.

Mr. Bishop suggested speaking with Ms. Margo Brown at the San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee as the Prevention through People has information available.

Mr. Barthel reported that the rules regarding stand up paddlecraft (SUP) are difficult to interpret.

Mr. Helms reported that King County has an Ordinance that you must wear a lifejacket on a SUP. But this is an Ordinance only for that County.

Ms. Howser asked that a workgroup be formed regarding canoes, kayaks and stand up paddlecraft BMPs, and asked Mr. Allen if he would chair the group. Mr. Allen agreed. Ms. Howser suggested that Deputy Reynolds and Ms. Goldsworthy be included in the group and Mr. Bishop volunteer to be in the workgroup as well.

Capt. Zerlang reported that the Madaket has three more weeks left in the tour season. They have logged more than 16,000 passengers. The Maritime Museum is now the proud owner of the F/V STEPHANIE which they purchased from the City of Eureka. The Maritime Museum and USCG held a BBQ picnic at Sequoia Park on September 7. Turbulence netting is being installed at the Pacific Gas and Electric plant in King Salmon. A company in Coos Bay has inquired about commercial towing assist in the Humboldt Bay area.

Mr. Nelson reported that they have received a Bureau of Indian Affairs grant for invasive species. The grant will provide the Tribe with funding necessary for the removal of Spartina on Indian Island but only on Tribal owned land.

Mr. Gartman reported that the Coastal Cleanup will take place this weekend.

10. **Other.**

Mr. Helms reported there will be a celebration on Saturday, September 27 called Anchors Aweigh. This celebration is for the new Harbor Promenade and California Coastal Trail. All are welcome to attend.

Mr. Raimey reported that the squid fishery is going well. They are into their second week of operation and the vessels may stay for another few weeks. Approximately 140,000 tons of squid are being offloaded each night. The Waterfront Trail project is underway. The City of Eureka will be participating in the Coastal Cleanup.

Mr. Hulbert reported that yesterday's lightning caused one fire. Humboldt Bay Fire (HBF) has seen an increase in jumpers from the Samoa Bridge. There have been a few cooking fires in the brush area along the bay especially behind the Bayshore Mall and behind Blue Ox Mill. Transients are now on the Elk River spit and forming camps.

Mr. Raimey stated a site visit to the Elk River spit took place and discussions are being held on how to remove transients and their associated gear from the spit.

Mr. Hulbert also reported that HBF was called to a fire in the Fields Landing area. The fire was in a remote area near the bay not accessible by the fire trucks. The Fire Boat was used to provide water for hoses rather than the trucks laying out a tremendous amount of line to fight the fire. HBF seems to be fighting more wildland fires lately in regards to transient encampments. Mr. Hulbert expressed concern over the loss of a bar pilot and the ability of the Fire Boat to respond quickly.

Ms. Howser explained that Capt. John Powell is no longer an employee of the Harbor District. He is still a Bar Pilot just under his own business name. There are still two boat operators available. Capt. Tim Petrusha, Bar Pilot, and Mr. Alan Bobillot, Director of Maintenance will be operating the Fire Boat and Port Authority boat.

Mr. Bishop reported that the Prevention First conference will take place October 7 and 8 in Long Beach.

**The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014](#)**

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1025 hours.  
Respectfully submitted,  
Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay