

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area 0900 hours March 19, 2015 Woodley Island Marina Conference Room

Members Present:

Ms. Suzie Howser, Chair (Port Authority)
Capt. John Powell (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Tim Petrusha (Bar Pilot)
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Tug Operator)
Ms. Julie Salminen (Dry Cargo)
Mr. Casey Allen (Rec Boater)
Mr. Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)
Mr. Jeffrey Ferguson (NOAA OCS)
Mr. Billy Gartman (USCG MSD)
Mr. Curt Barthel (USCG Sector HB)

Others Present:

Mr. Reuben Macaspac (OSPR Liaison)
Mr. Jeff Dayton (OSPR)
Deputy Roy Reynolds (HC Sheriff)
Mr. Charlie Helms (Crescent City Harbor)
Mr. Grant Roden (Trinidad Rancheria)
Ms. Bridget Hand (HB Aquatic Center)
Mr. Travis Halling (USCG MSD)
Ms. Sarah J. Sapiano (USCGC ASPEN)
Ms. Dorie Lanni (HC OES)

Chair, Suzie Howser called the meeting to order at 0907 hours.

1. Introductions were made.

2. Swearing in of new members. Mr. Macaspac reported that Mr. Jonathan Bishop has been reappointed as member representing the California Coastal Commission effective today. Ms. Bridget Hand has submitted her application as alternate representing recreational boaters. Her appointment should be ready by the next meeting.

3. Public Comment. None.

4. Consideration of approval of minutes for the meeting of January 15, 2015. Capt. Powell made a motion to approve the minutes of January 15, 2015. Mr. Allen seconded the motion. Motion carried unanimously.

5. Status/Updates

a. Oil Spills/Accidents. Mr. Gartman reported that two enforcement actions are taking place regarding two navigational aids that were hit in Humboldt Bay. The person who hit #19 has been found however the damage to the Hookton light is still being investigated.

Mr. Dayton reported that three mystery sheens were reported in our area. A sheen was reported offshore and a recreational vessel sank in King Salmon. The vessel in King Salmon was supposed to be removed; however the vessel was still in the channel as of this Monday. The Harbor District may be removing the vessel from the water.

b. Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris. Mr. Gartman reported the USCG is compiling a database in regards to derelict vessels or vessels that may present a problem. A couple of owners have been contacted and they do want to remove their vessels. DFW Warden Zulliger and MST Halling are working on this project

The F/V CHRISTINE is constantly pumping and the USCG is keeping an eye on this situation.

A UTV flipped on a local beach and was recovered.

Mr. Dayton reported that Mr. Zulliger met with the Humboldt County Environmental Health to discuss the disposal of derelict vessels.

A potential source of Abatement funding may be the Wildlife Conservation Board –public improvements project.

Deputy Reynolds reported that the owner of the Fields Landing dock wants the vessel DENNIS GAYLE off his property. The vessel owner was contacted and said there is a pending law suit with property owner. Property owner needs to go through the legal process of eviction.

Mr. Zerlang added that the vessel 1091 owned by the Humboldt Bay Naval Air and Sea Museum is in a terrible state of disrepair. This vessel currently has fuel on board and should be looked at by the USCG and the DFW OSPR and added to their database.

- c. **Boater Safety.** Mr. Barthel reported that AMSEA classes are scheduled for Crescent City, Eureka and Fort Bragg.
- d. **Navigational Aids.** Mr. Barthel reported that Buoy 46022 is back on station. St. Georges Buoy 46027 and Pt. Arena Buoy 46014 are scheduled for May 2015.

Crescent City light has been converted to LED and USCG will be changing the Pt. Arena light as well.

In 2016 Hookton Channel #1 will be rebuilt as a tower and Humboldt Bay #19 will be rebuilt also

The WAMS survey is available and everyone is encouraged to fill out the survey and submit as soon as possible. Please pass the survey along to other user groups for distribution. Data will be collected for 30 days.

Ms. Sapiano reported that buoys #2, #5 and #9 will be moved for dredging activities. They have talked with the Pilots in regards to removing the PORTS® equipment from #2 and #9 prior to the ASPEN's arrival.

USCG is considering making the Buoy #2 move a permanent move. Further discussion will take place with the Pilots.

USCG was unable to find out what happened with Buoy 46022.

- e. **Ship Traffic.** Capt. Powell reported that there has not been any shipping activity. The Schneider Dock is almost ready for a log ship.

The lawsuit against the US Army Corps of Engineers dredge is finished and repairs to the dredge are currently underway. We hope to see the dredge in July.

Capt. Petrusha thanked everyone for the letter writing efforts in regards to dredging of Humboldt Bay. He will be attending a meeting in San Francisco next Wednesday to discuss Humboldt Bay dredging and shoal management with the US Army Corp of Engineers.

Mr. Zerlang asked to go back to item b. Abandoned Vehicles/Vessels/Debris for a brief discussion.

- f. **Navigational Chart Changes.** None.

- 6. **Potential Bay Projects.** Capt. Zerlang reported the piling removal at Indian Island is currently schedule for April.

A committee was been formed to consider cold storage options. The Harbor District Executive Director and a Commissioner are on the committee.

7. Reports/Presentations

- a. **USCG.** Mr. Barthel reported the USCGC BARRACUDA will have a Change of Command.
- b. **USACE.** No report.
- c. **OES.** Ms. Lanni reported that there will be a live tsunami test on March 25th for Humboldt, Del Norte and Mendocino counties.
- d. **CPB.** No report.
- e. **OSPR.** Mr. Macaspac reported that he is currently waiting for funding approval for the reprinting of the Harbor Safety Brochure.

The West Coast Harbor Safety Summit is currently scheduled for October 21 and 22 in San Diego.

Mr. Dayton reported that the revisions for ACP 1 have been completed and should be available on-line sometime in April. A Chevron drill will take place April 16th with equipment deployment. September and October and being considered for the annual boom deployment.

- f. **HC Sheriff.** Deputy Reynolds reported a death in Humboldt Bay. The sailing vessel HALCYON which was anchored by the Samoa Channel had a crewman fall overboard during the night. His body was found by the owner/captain of the vessel upon his return.

A death was reported on the Eel River. A group of nine kayakers were transiting an area where a low water bridge crosses the river. A two person kayak overturned in the current next to a bridge pier and was trapped underwater. One occupant was able to break free. A Sheriff Search and Rescue team was able to recover the kayak and one deceased occupant.

A drowning was reported on Redwood Creek. Three men were on a rafting trip when they reached Redwood Falls, about 12 miles upriver from Orick. Two men exited the raft and safety lines were set up to help the third rafter navigate the falls with the boat. The boat and occupant made it safely down the falls, but one of the men working the safety lines was snared in one of the lines and pulled into the water. The other two men were able to locate the victim about 15 to 20 minutes later but he'd already drowned.

A body was found by oyster fishermen along the western shore of Indian Island. Capt Petrusha and the Port Authority boat were utilized to assist law enforcement with the recovery.

A boating accident was reported on the Trinity River at Sugar Bowl Falls. Four people attempted to navigate the falls and ended up in the water. All four persons made it out of the water however, they were on a cliff. One person was able to climb the cliff to get help. The three remaining people were unable to climb the cliff and were rescued by a CHP helicopter.

A 13 year old child was washed off the rocks in Shelter Cove. The father was able to rescue the child, however the father drowned.

Humboldt Bay Fire rescue personnel pulled an unresponsive woman out of Humboldt Bay at the Del Norte Street pier. No further information available at this time.

A scull capsized by the old Simpson Dock. An oyster skiff was in the area and was able to assist the person.

- g. **NOAA.** Mr. Ferguson reported that NOAA is getting ready to send out a notice in regards to membership on the Hydrographic Services Review Panel.

NOAA is expanding the size of the Gulf of the Farallones. This expansion will double the size of the marine sanctuary.

- h. **Coastal Commission.** Mr. Bishop reported that he has been re-appointed to the Harbor Safety Committee for a term of three years.

Mr. Bishop has been working with the paddlecraft work group to develop best management practices for Humboldt Bay. Mr. Barthel reported that the USCG Auxiliary is now involved with paddlecraft per Commandants orders out of Washington D.C.

OSPR/Chevron held technology workshops February 23-26 in Alameda.

- i. **Member Reports.**

Mr. Allen reported that the recreational Halibut season is tentative to begin May 1st and only be for two weeks at the beginning of each month through August. Prospects for a full recreational salmon season look good and rockfish bag limits are changing.

Capt. Zerlang reported that the MADAKET will be up and running soon.

8. **Other.**

Mr. Roden reported that the crab season was terrible and hopes for a good sport season. Kayak festival went well and they hope to expand into more eco tours. A surf contest is scheduled for April. The visitor count is up. Parking continues to be a big issue. The Rancheria is looking for someone with a captain's license who would like to help drive the water taxi.

Ms. Hand reported lots of activity at the Aquatic Center. A HSU sailing club is forming. HBAC is considering sailboat rentals to the public. The Department of Boating and Waterways is assisting with the purchase of an outrigger canoe. There is an increase in youth sailing and aquatics camps. Kayak tours. The Aquatic Center gives safety briefings for all of their classes and teach self rescue and assisted rescue skills.

Mr. Helms reported that funding to continue the pedestrian and bicycle trail is in place and is going to bid with a completion date before the end of summer. A SUP race is scheduled for May 16th. This is a 5 mile offshore race. The completion of the Harbor Reconstruction paperwork is being processed.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for [THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2015](#)

Meeting adjourned at approximately 1041 hours.

Respectfully submitted,

Suzie V. Howser, Port of Humboldt Bay