

Draft

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours March 19, 2026 – Hybrid In-Person Meeting @ Woodley Island Marina Conference Room &

Via ZOOM Video Conference Call

Attendees	
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Zerlang & Zerlang / Coos Bay Tug)	Chris Mikkelsen (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
Jeremiah Winston (Global Diving and Salvage)	Denise Guerra (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
Jenny Lewis (City of Eureka Public Marina)	LCDR Scott Bock (Sector HB)
Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka Public Marina)	Peter Mull (USACOE)
Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)	Kevin Cliborn (Chevron)
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	Sylvia Van Royen (Humboldt Waterkeeper)
Jeff Dayton (Fish & Wildlife)	Jake McMaster (Commercial Fisherman)
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR)	Commander Jeannie Shea (USCG Sector San Francisco)
Captain Andrew Manning (Humboldt Bar Pilots)	

Chair Leroy Zerlang called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

1. Welcome / Call to Order

- a. **Committee and Meeting Attendee Introductions were made. Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call.**
- b. **Comments by Chairperson:** None
- c. **Swearing-in of Members:** None

2. Public Comment: None

3. Consent Calendar:

- a. As there was not a quorum, the minutes from the January 15, 2026, meeting will be approved at the May 21, 2026, meeting.

4. USCG Reports:

- a. **USCG Nuisance/Abatement Report:** From January 15th to today, notifications were received of the following marine casualties on commercial fishing vessels. There were 9. One experiencing a loss of propulsion. There was one vessel determined unfit for service due to sinking in Crescent City. There were 2 vessels experiencing crew member injuries beyond first aid, and one vessel experiencing a crew member death. On January 16, the fishing vessel, Flow, partially sank in the Crescent City Marina and was discharging diesel under the water. There was an estimated 100 gallons of diesel on board the vessel. A local diving company completed the lifting of the vessel on day 2 and the remaining fuel and oil were removed. On February 7th, a notification was received of a potential, intentional oil dumping into Crescent City Harbor from a commercial fishing vessel. The Fish and Game Warden in Crescent City is monitoring the situation. On February 19th, a notification was received of an approximately 100-foot mystery rainbow sheen in the vicinity of the Eureka Public Marina. On March 9th, there was an approximately 150-yard sheen from B Dock at Woodley Island Marina. A containment boom was placed around the vessel. It was later determined that the oil likely did not originate from the vessel.

5. US Army Corps of Engineers Report:

- a. Peter Mull reported that Manson was awarded the contract for dredging 600,000 cubic yards of the bar entrance channel. With the President’s budget, \$10.3 million, we will supplement that work with 300,000 cubic yards of the Essayons dredging. The Essayons is out of Hawaii dry dock and is slated to come to Humboldt around the first week of May for 8-9 days.

6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. **Trinidad Harbor:** None
- b. **City of Eureka Public Marina:** Jenny Lewis and Donald Wilkes reported that there were several mystery sheens that had a noticeable smell of diesel. The sources could not be found. There are no updates on

dredging. The perilous Plunge will take place on Saturday, March 21st.

- c. **Port of Humboldt Bay / Woodley Island Marina:** Chris Mikkelsen thanked the Coast Guard, Jeff and his team, CDFW OSPR, for their response and support with the sheens and spills that have happened recently. There will be upcoming dredging, and it was reported that the USACOE's communication with the port has been top notch. Chris Mikkelsen acknowledged that Captain Andrew Manning brought his first ship in solo. A life vest borrowing station opened on Woodley Island and there will be a ribbon-cutting ceremony. This project was done by the grandson of one of our longstanding tug pilots. The retirement of Troy Nicolini was recognized. Fiber core sampling is being done near Redwood Marine Terminal II in preparation for a sampling analysis plan to be developed for dredging.

7. OSPR Reports:

- a. **Membership Update:** A vacancy announcement will be posted for the Dry Cargo Vessel Operators membership.

8. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA Report:** None
- b. **Local Law Enforcement Report:** None
- c. **Coastal Commission Report:** Jonathan Bishop encouraged everyone to continue working on updates to the Harbor Safety Plan.
- d. **Bar Pilot Report:** Captain Leroy Zerlang officially welcomed Captain Andrew Manning as the newest Bar Pilot. Captain Manning reported that there is a chip ship in loading a full load of cargo bound for Japan. With the annual dredging, it was reported that they should be back up to full cargo loads in the next couple of months.
- e. **Tank Barge Report:** None
- f. **Dry Cargo Report:** Captain Leroy Zerlang reported that Zachary Griffin will be applying for Colin Campbell's position. It was also reported that Green Diamond has a chip ship in and expects to have 6-7 ships this year in addition to the domestic and Canadian barges.
- g. **Tug Report:** None
- h. **Tribal / Non-Profit Environmental Report:** Sylvia van Royen reported that a coastal outdoor lighting ordinance was approved by the Coastal Commission. The ordinance introduces limits on outdoor lighting, brightness and color temperature for properties within the county's coastal zone jurisdiction.
- i. **Commercial Fishing Report:** Jake McMaster reported that the crab season was bleak for most. The salmon season does not look good but there might be a salmon sport season. The Albacore fleet will take off in July.
- j. **Recreational Fishing / Boater Safety Report:** The Madaket is in dry dock and should be going back out in a week.

9. Subcommittee Reports: None

10. Work Group Reports:

- a. **Harbor Safety Plan Update:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that we have received comments from Environmental, Tribal and Navigation.

11. Unfinished Business: None

12. New Business: None

13. Action Items: None

The meeting was adjourned at 0940 hours.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for May 21, 2026.

Denise Guerra
Port of Humboldt Bay