

**Draft**

**Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area**

**0900 hours September 18, 2025 – 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)
Cory Mooers (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)	Jeff Ferguson (NOAA)
Jenny Lewis (City of Eureka)	Colin Campbell (Green Diamond)
Deputy Karl Norton (HCSO)	Kent Hulbert (HASA)
Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)	Kevin Cliborn (Chevron)
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	Jen Kalt (Humboldt Waterkeeper)
Jeff Dayton (Fish & Wildlife)	LT Abby Hamann USCG Sector San Francisco
Scott Miller (USCG)	LT Samantha Hu
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR)	Denise Guerra (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
CDR Krysia Pohl USCG Sector San Francisco	Noel Jones USCG Headquarters
John Smith	Tyler Felt – Emergency Operations, Trinidad Rancheria

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:** Reuben Macaspac swore in Deputy Karl Norton.

**2. Public Comment:** None

**3. Consent Calendar:**

- a. **Approve Meeting Minutes from July 17, 2025:**
  - All in Favor – Aye
  - Opposed – None
  - Unanimously approved

**4. USCG Reports:**

- a. **USCG Nuisance/Abatement Report:** Austin Heath reported that on July 22 there was a mystery sheen at Trinidad Harbor. On September 2 there was a mystery sheen at Woodley Island Marina. Both naturally dissipated. On July 25, commercial vessel, Miss Jessie, experienced a loss of steering and was grounded at approximately .5 nautical miles south of the entrance to Humboldt Bay. Insurance was activated on July 26. Approximately 1,275 gallons of fuel was pumped up onto the beach. On July 27, Miss Jessie was towed back into the ocean. On July 29, a small passenger vessel, Royal Seahawk, returned to port after a passenger experienced a medical emergency. On August 6, the commercial fishing vessel, Rita Maria, experienced a loose ray core filter discharging diesel into the bilge while the pump was activated, resulting in approximately 1 gallon of diesel discharging into Noyo Harbor. On August 14, there was a report that the commercial fishing vessel, Karolee, was found making way in the vicinity of Cape Mendocino, with no person on board. The vessel was located by the Coast Guard and towed back to Woodley Island. The formal investigation is still ongoing. It is assumed that the person fell overboard. On August 17, a single engine plane crashed approximately 100 yards offshore in Shelter Cover. The pilot was found deceased, and one passenger was taken to the hospital. No pollution was observed, and the plane was never found. There was no formal underwater search for the plane. There were 3 additional reports for loss of propulsion from commercial fishing vessels. Causes include failed head gasket, a failed starter and a thermostat. On August 26, there was an overturned aluminum vessel at Trinidad Harbor. The vessel was towed. No pollution was observed. On September 9, notification was received of a sunken vessel at Woodley Island Marina. Marina staff and the salvage company responded. An absorbent boom was placed around the vessel, and the vessel was raised and dewatered.

## 5. US Army Corps of Engineers Report: None

## 6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. **Trinidad Harbor:** Tyler Felt reported they had a 20-foot pleasure boat capsize. They were successfully able to tow it to shore and trailer it out. It was the maximum that they were able to handle. Tyler reported that during this incident, they realized that they need to build a closer relationship with the Harbor Safety Committee as they didn't have a lot of answers at their fingertips. He said that he is committed to coming to the Harbor Safety Committee Meetings and being part of the process.
- b. **Swearing in of Members:** Reuben Macaspac swore in Jennifer Kalt.
- c. **City of Eureka Public Marina:** Jenny Lewis reported they are in the process of getting a replenishing grant from the Oil Spill Prevention Response Team to restock the supplies that were used during the sinking of the vessel Italy earlier this year. They are doing the footwork for the SAVE grant through California Boating and Waterways. Jenny reported that they had demolished one vessel via the VTIP program. Jenny said they are on track to hopefully destroy about half a dozen more boats and working with the Harbor District to destroy as many boats at once to keep it cost-efficient. There is a new tenant at the Fisherman Terminal at the City of Eureka, Ashland Seafood. They missed their last dredge and want to warn boaters and visiting vessels to stay away from entering and exiting the marina during low and negative tides which will likely cause them to run aground. Jenny said they are preparing signage to K Dock and possibly at the laundry. They have also posted messages on their website.
- d. **Port of Humboldt Bay / Woodley Island Marina:** Cory Mooers repeated what Jenny Lewis said about the City of Eureka and the Harbor District working together to get rid of some derelict/abandoned boats. Cory said that the maintenance staff really stepped up when there was a partially sunken boat last week and that Zerlang and Zerlang came through up righting the boat. Chris Mikkelsen stated that it was extremely helpful that the boat owner was very responsible.

## 7. OSPR Reports:

- a. **Membership Update:** Reuben Macaspac reported that Captain Tim Petrusha was appointed primary member representing the Pilot Organization, replacing Captain John Powell whose term expired. Reuben said that Jennifer Kalt was appointed as the primary member representing the Nonprofit Environmental organization, replacing Adam Canter. Harrison Ibach was reappointed as the primary member representing the Commercial Fishing Operations and Captain Jake McMaster was reappointed as the alternate of Harrison Ibach. Deputy Karl Norton was appointed as the primary member representing the local law enforcement, replacing Deputy Travis Rogers. Captain Andrew Manning was appointed as the alternate member representing the Pilot Organization.
- b. **OSPR Regulation Update:** Reuben Macaspac reported that the State of California Office of Administrative Law issued a Notice of Approval of Regulatory Action in which 21 sections were amended, 4 sections were repealed and 1 section was adopted. Leroy Zerlang mentioned that Captain John Powell is retiring after 30 years here.

## 8. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA Report:** Jeff Ferguson reported that Buoy 9 went in and they got that on the ENC within a week or so.
- b. **Local Law Enforcement Report:** Deputy Karl Norton reported that they have been in the Bay weekly. They have a few speeders that they have contacted and had them slowed down. Deputy Norton also reported that they are in the process of getting a shallow water boat that can be used in flood situations, not in the Bay.
- c. **Coastal Commission Report:** Jonathan Bishop reported that the Coastal Commission was up in Fort Bragg last week and one of the topics discussed was the approval of the upgrades to the dock piles at the Chevron Industrial Dock there.
- d. **Bar Pilot Report:** Leroy Zerlang reported that our new pilot, Andrew Manning, is now licensed by the Fed and the State.
- e. **Tank Barge Report:** Ross McDonald reported that they are pumping tomorrow.
- f. **Dry Cargo Report:** Colin Campbell reported there is a barge departing Monday and headed for British Columbia. Colin Campbell said that there are some vessels coming in from Japan and 2 barges going to British Columbia. There will be a Japanese vessel in December and then 2 barges, British Columbia and 1 domestic at the Columbia River in December.
- g. **Tug Report:** Leroy Zerlang said they will be going in for repowering and he'll be in touch with Colin Campbell

and Billeter Marine.

- h. Tribal / Non-Profit Environmental Report:** Jennifer Kalt reported that about 2 dozen volunteers from the Humboldt Bay Aquatic Center and Hog Island Oyster Company went to Tuluwat Island to haul away approximately 402 pounds of trash. She thanked the Wiyot tribe for the privilege of going on the island. Jennifer Kalt also mentioned that the water trails map is now digitized and is on their website.
- i. Commercial Fishing Report:** Leroy Zerlang reported that it's not perfect out there, but there is tuna offshore. There have been phone calls for ice and cold storage. Attitudes are very high. Everyone's getting ready for crab season.
- j. Recreational Fishing / Boater Safety Report:** Kent Hulbert reported that the bay is wide open right now for California Halibut.

**9. Subcommittee Reports:** None

**10. Work Group Reports:**

- a. Harbor Safety Plan Update:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that we will reach out to everyone who has a chapter assignment and have a couple of one-hour workgroup focused meetings to help people with what they need if they're stuck. Jonathan Bishop reported that he has gone to San Francisco, LA/Long Beach, San Diego and Port Hueneme's Harbor Safety Plans and is working on modeling his chapter assignment after the other Harbor Safety Plans.

**11. Old Business:**

- a. Buys 9 & 10 Repair Status Update:** Leroy Zerlang reported that he is working with West Coast Contractors who are mobilizing their equipment to pull out number 9. Lt. Samantha Hu reported that the fixed aid light 9 structure is being pulled out of the water. The official aid for 9 is the floating aid buoy, which will stay. Jeff Ferguson reported that once the old 9 debris is out, he can remove that obstruction from the chart.
- b. Signage for No Wake Zone / 5 mph Speed Limit:** None
- c. Safety Signage for Kayak Launches:** None

**12. New Business:**

- a.** Leroy Zerlang and Chris Mikkelsen led a discussion on what is the priority during a tsunami warning. CDR Krysia Pohl reported that San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee has a tsunami working group that is working as a subcommittee underneath Harbor Safety and that might be something we might want to model in the Humboldt Bay Harbor Safety Committee.

**13. Action Items:**

- a. None**

**The meeting was adjourned at 09:53hours.**

**The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for November 20, 2025.**

Denise Guerra  
Port of Humboldt Bay