

DRAFT

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

**0900 hours January 15, 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)	CPO Mark Hammerling (USCG MSD Hum Bay)
Captain John Powell (Humboldt Bar Pilots)	Jeff Ferguson (NOAA)
	CWO Scott Miller (USCG MSD Hum Bay)
Andrew Manning (Bar Pilot Apprentice)	Colin Campbell (Green Diamond)
Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)	Kent Hulbert (HASA)
LCDR Scott Bock (USCG Sector HB)	
Matt Kallenberg (Sause Bros) – via Zoom	MST1 Austin Heath (USCG MSD Hum Bay)
Nick Preston (Sause Bros)	Kevin Reed (USCG Sector SF)
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	Tyler Goss (USCG Sector Hum Bay)
Deputy Travis Rogers (HCSO)	Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)
Jeff Dayton (CDFW OSPR)	Jennie Lewis (City of Eureka)
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR)	Denise Guerra (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
Robert Booker – (California State Lands Commission)	

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:** Captain Leroy Zerlang informed everyone that on January 14th, we lost Genie Cancelliere at 94 years of age. She was known as the Coast Guard mom. Leroy acknowledged that Scott Humphrey, Chair of San Francisco Harbor Safety and Marine Exchange, was present.

2. Public Comment: Scott Humphrey mentioned what an honor it was to be present at the meeting. Scott Humphrey has been asked to coordinate a working group to develop a Harbor Safety Committee Best Practice around tsunami events. He said he would be honored and very pleased if our two Harbor Safety Committees could work together on that. In addition, the USCG offered a significant presence which was recognized and appreciated.

3. Consent Calendar: None

4. USCG Reports:

- a. **USCG Nuisance/Abatement Report:** Scott Miller reported that a 24-foot fishing vessel sunk partially at the pier. They were able to work with the owner to get the vessel refloated and removed from the water. Scott Miller also reported that a commercial fishing vessel in NOYO sunk at the pier. It was towed to a nearby boat ramp and removed. Leroy Zerlang commented on how much the Safety Committee appreciates having Scott Miller and his team here.

5. US Army Corps of Engineers Report: Chris Mikkelsen gave a dredging report on behalf of Peter Mull. The planning and coordination for the FY25 dredging cycle is progressing smoothly. Leroy Zerlang commented that we will need a survey.

6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. **Trinidad Harbor:** None
- b. **City of Eureka Public Marina:** Donald Wilkes reported that all the old wood pilings have been replaced with plastic pilings at the fishermen's terminal. The Del Norte pier is getting LED and battery powered lights. The

42nd annual fireworks paperwork has been submitted. The Humboldt Bay Fishermen's Association has rented and signed a contract with the City of Eureka to offload product at the old Coast Guard dock. Jennie Lewis reported that they appreciate all the letters of support in applying for the NOYO grant. Expecting to hear back by March.

- c. **Port of Humboldt Bay / Woodley Island Marina:** Cory Mooers reported that the commercial boats are busy and hoping for a good crab season. Chris Mikkelsen reported that things are well in the Port overall and that our relationships continue to grow with agencies.
 - i. **Bay Projects Update:** Leroy Zerlang reported that West Coast Contractors, after doing work at Hog Island dock, is pulling out of here and, at some point, moving back to the Chevron dock.

- 7. **OSPR Reports:** Reuben Macaspac reported that the memberships of Mr. Kent Hulbert, Deputy Travis Rogers and Deputy Phil Daastol are going to expire before the March meeting. Reuben thanked them for serving on the Committee. Reuben also reported that Bridget Nichols' position is still vacant and hopes to find a replacement soon. Kent Hulbert was appointed as Vice Chair last year and will be re-appointed as Vice Chair when he reapplies. Jeff Dayton thanked the Coast Guard for helping with the King Salmon sinker and working with the owner who took responsibility and got it out of the water. There are 2 or 3 other vessels in the same location that are not in good condition.

8. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA Report:** None
- b. **Local Law Enforcement Report:** Travis Rogers reported they had a couple of searches of possible people in the water. Leroy Zerlang thanked the Humboldt Bay Sheriff's Department for the fantastic job that they have done on the waterfront, water and peninsulas.
- c. **Coastal Commission Report:** None
- d. **Bar Pilot Report:** Captain Powell reported that they were able to get 2 ships out with a full load in a very small window in the dark.
 - i. **Apprentice Update:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that he received a letter of recommendation from Captain Powell to promote Andrew Manning to a Bar Pilot.
- e. **Tank Barge Report:** Ross McDonald reported that all things are good.
- f. **Dry Cargo Report:** Leroy Zerlang reported that Green Diamond is still our number one exporter here.
- g. **Tug Report:** Leroy Zerlang reported that everything is pretty much the same. Sause Bros Koos King is out getting repowered. Will be out for 6 months.
- h. **Tribal / Non-Profit Environmental Report:** None
- i. **Commercial Fishing Report:** Leroy Zerlang reported that crab season has started and is limited. They can only use 75% of their gear. May not be a very good year for product but sounds like it will be a very good year for price. Everyone is very happy with the City of Eureka on getting the Commercial Street Dock open.
- j. **Recreational Fishing / Boater Safety Report:** None

- 9. **Subcommittee Reports:** None

- 10. **Work Group Reports:** None

11. Old Business:

- a. **Buoys 9 & 10 Repair / Replacement Update:** USCG reported that Buoy 9 has been removed by direction of District 11, and reported that for the last 6 months they haven't had buoy tenders available to come up here and replace the buoys. Looking at working with some other Coast Guard Cutters in the Northwest to come down and give some help.
- b. **Fishermen's Terminal Update:** This was covered under "City of Eureka Public Marina".
- c. **Signage for No Wake Zone / 5 mph Speed Limit:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that we are looking for funding for signage.
- d. **Safety Signage for Kayak Launches:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that we are looking for funding for signage.
- e. **Appoint Working Group for Harbor Safety Plan Update:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that we updated our Safety Plan in late 2022 and that we do need to put a working group together. He would like to see the new Bar Pilot along with someone from the Coast Guard to work on this, if possible. As well as someone from the City

of Eureka and the tug world.

12. New Business:

- a. **Bar & Entrance Soundings – Recurrence of Surveys:** Leroy Zerlang reported that they haven't seen any problems but everything's moving around and strange things are showing on the beaches and inside the channel as well as strange things between 7 and where 9 should be. The shipping companies want the official sounding.

13. Action Items: None

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 hours.

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

Denise Guerra
Port of Humboldt Bay