

DRAFT

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours July 17, 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)
Captain John Powell (Humboldt Bar Pilots)	Colin Campbell (Green Diamond)
Andrew Manning (Bar Pilot Apprentice)	Kent Hulbert (HASA)
Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)	Kevin Cliborn (Chevron)
Nick Preston (Sause Bros)	Harrison Ibach
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	Jen Kalt (Humboldt Waterkeeper)
Jeff Dayton (Fish & Wildlife)	LT Abby Hamann
Scott Miller (USCG)	LT Samantha Hu
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR)	Denise Guerra (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
Peter Mull (USACE)	

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

2. Public Comment: None

3. Consent Calendar:

- a. **Approve Meeting Minutes from May 15, 2025:**
Committee – Aye
Opposed – None
Unanimously approved.

4. USCG Reports:

- a. **USCG Nuisance/Abatement Report:** Mark Harmeling reported there have been a combination of pollution reports and rain casualties. One mile west of Mad River Beach, fishing vessel Sundown experienced loss of propulsion due to engine failure. 20 miles northwest of Eureka, the Pacific Ram experienced equipment failure and discharged approximately 20 gallons of oil into the water. On June 10th, dredge vessel Bay Port experienced a hydraulic failure. Master was unable to confirm any oil entering the water. On July 2nd, there was a police report of a 50 x50 yard rainbow sheen. By the time California OSPR went on scene, the sheen had dissipated. On July 14th, fishing vessel Tony Rae II collided with the submerged state marker number 9. There was damage to the hull impacting the fuel tank. Leroy Zerlang reported that on Saturday they were called out by Cory Mooers as the Wiyot tribe's dock broke loose at Tuluwat Island. It is now tied up at Woodley Island.

- 5. US Army Corps of Engineers Report:** Peter Mull reported that the Essayons dredged over 425,000 cubic yards and placed over 300,000 cubic yards in the new Nearshore Demonstration Project area along the North Spit. They partnered with US Geological Survey on monitoring the benthic impacts to crab. Will continue to work with the USGS team to evaluate the scientific findings there and hope to implement this again next year with the Essayons and hopefully have that area as a permanent alternative to just utilizing hoods. Bayport came in June 7th, shortly after the Essayons left, and departed on July 7th. They completed their full contract volume of 900,000 cubic yards. About to do a post-dredge survey that will be posted on our website. It was a good dredging season with the Equina in late April, and the Essayons and the Bayport combining for over 1.3 million cubic yards of dredge material out of the channel. Next year we anticipate coming in late April/May and doing the barn entrance with some sort of combination of the Essayons and the regional hopper dredge.

6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. **Trinidad Harbor:** None
- b. **City of Eureka Public Marina:** None
- c. **Port of Humboldt Bay / Woodley Island Marina** - none

7. OSPR Reports: Reuben Macaspac reported that 6 memberships will expire before the September 18th meeting. These memberships represent the Pilot organization, the commercial fishing operators and the nonprofit environmental organization. He hopes to have these positions filled as soon as possible. He has not received an application from Deputy Karl Norton yet.

8. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA Report:** Jeff Ferguson reported that NOAA is in the process of rescheming and re-gridding the ENC cells across the country. Most of the Great Lakes and the East and Gulf coast are done. They are now moving into California. Humboldt Bay ENC cells will be re-gridded in the next month or two. There should not a big impact to users as the information on the chart will remain the same.
- b. **Local Law Enforcement Report:** None
- c. **Coastal Commission Report:** None
- d. **Bar Pilot Report:** Captain John Powell reported on May 30th a small Canadian tug, Southpaw, came in. That same day, the Amex Tugger came in and went to Green Diamond, then departed on the 5th of June due to weather. The Sendai Spirit came in on June 13th and part of June 17th. Leroy Zerlang mentioned that Southpaw customs was a nightmare. Chris Mikkelsen mentioned that he would like Leroy Zerlang to draft a letter to the District, as a private operator in the port, and what he had to accomplish and pull off in order to get Southpaw out of the port and back into Canada. Leroy Zerlang introduced Kevin Cliborn who is the head operator at the Eureka Marine terminal.
- e. **Tank Barge Report:** None
- f. **Dry Cargo Report:** Colin Campbell reported that there are 7-8 barges left, and 7 of those will be going to Canada. Next year will be a larger year for barges from Canada. Should stay fairly consistent.
- g. **Tug Report:** Leroy Zerlang reported the tug, Gemini, will be here after the heavy shipping. Koos King should be back in the Fall.
- h. **Tribal / Non-Profit Environmental Report:** Jen Kalt reported that Humboldt Waterkeeper is working on an update to the water trail map to make it into a web map.
- i. **Commercial Fishing Report:** Harrison Ibach reported crab season ended June 18th. An entanglement with a humpback whale triggered the closure of the season. Some of the albacore fishermen have taken off to go north. There has been 2 Pacific halibut derbies. 2/3 of the quota has been caught. The ice plants have really been on the fritz, but currently working. There have been a lot of concerns from the fleet regarding the close encounters with Number 9. Tony Rae II was lucky it didn't sink when it hit Number 9. Tuna season is coming up and this summer we'll have Rockfish and Black Cod.
- j. **Recreational Fishing / Boater Safety Report:** Leroy Zerlang reported the Madaket and Dockside Market are doing great. 4th of July went off without a hitch.

9. Subcommittee Reports: None

10. Work Group Reports:

- a. **Harbor Safety Plan Update:** Denise Guerra did a roll call to confirm Chapter Custodians. Will bring Harbor Safety Plan Chapter Custodian List to Committee for Adoption on September 18, 2025. Jonathan Bishop mentioned that we send a short letter to the new OSPR administrator advising them that the Harbor Safety Committee has set up a custodian type review mimicking what San Diego and LA/Long Beach has done. Chris Mikkelsen stated that he has a draft letter on his desk for review. Chris Mikkelsen also mentioned that the Secretariat Grant has just been renewed. Our Board passed the resolution to accept the Grant at this past July meeting.

11. Old Business:

- a. **Buoys 9 & 10 Repair Status Update:** Leroy Zerlang reported that both Toni Rae II and the Manson Survey boat have hit Buoy 9. The owner of Toni Rae II is very upset and may try to go after the Coast Guard. Lt. Samantha Hu reported that the new Buoy 9 should be placed today, and the submerged piling should come out in the

next few months, and then 10 will be back in place. Leroy Zerlang mentioned that would eliminate our daytime only crossings. Chris Mikkelsen acknowledged the Coast Guard on how quickly they responded to the incident regarding Buoy 9.

- b. **Signage for No Wake Zone / 5 mph Speed Limit:** In production.
- c. **Safety Signage for Kayak Launches:** In production.

12. New Business:

- a. **None**

13. Action Items:

- a. **Bay-Wide Inventory of Abandoned / Derelict Boats and Plan of Action:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that Deputy Karl Norton is investigating 2 abandoned vessels down in King Salmon. Jenny Lewis has almost completed her inventory. Cory Mooers has almost completed his inventory. There is a sunken vessel to investigate in Fields Landing.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:03 hours.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for September 18, 2025.

Denise Guerra
Port of Humboldt Bay