

APPROVED

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours May 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)	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)	Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)
Nick Preston (Sause Bros)	Harrison Ibach
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	Deputy Karl Norton
Sergeant Travis Rogers (HCSO)	LT Miranda Brumbaugh
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	LT Samantha Hu
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR)	Denise Guerra (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)

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:**

2. Public Comment: None

3. Consent Calendar: None

4. USCG Reports:

- a. **USCG Nuisance/Abatement Report:** Denise Guerra gave the report submitted the USCG MSD – Received a report of three 5 gallon jugs of what appeared to be petroleum on the shore of Mad River County Beach. Investigation concluded no impact to the water and no potential for waterway impact. They received a report from an anonymous source of Crescent City airport dumping large amounts of sludge onto Point St. George beach causing an increase in dead seals and fish. Cal OES verified no impact to environment or wildlife on scene. Investigation concluded and case closed. They received a report of the F/V WILDCAT having loss of propulsion 06NM north of Crescent City. STA HB assisted vessel in tow back to Brookings, OR. Cause was determined to be reduction gear failure causing hydraulic issues. They received a report of a 5x5 ft black oil sheen at Woodley Island Marina at C dock slips 11 and 13 from an unknown source. The Harbor District was able to quickly and efficiently clean up spill site with absorbent pads.

5. US Army Corps of Engineers Report: Peter Mull reported that there have been 2 weeks of dredging. The Essayons will be departing at the end of the month. The Bay Port will arrive after Essayons departure. Harrison Ibach reported that there is still a lot of crab gear in the corridors, but action is being taken to remove them.

6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. **Trinidad Harbor:** None
- b. **City of Eureka Public Marina:** There was a successful dredge last year. We were not granted money for derelict vessels.
- c. **Port of Humboldt Bay / Woodley Island Marina:** Cory Mooers reported that things are quiet and that sport

season is kicking off.

- i. **Bay Projects Update:** Chris Mikkelsen reported the Heavy Lift Marine Terminal project is continuing. There are White Papers and studies regarding biosecurity forthcoming, which may be of interest to our maritime and aquatic habitat users in particular.

7. OSPR Reports: Reuben Macaspac reported that there are no expiring memberships. There will be an OSPR workshop May 27-30.

8. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA Report:** Jeff Ferguson reported that there has been some downsizing, but their mission is the same.
- b. **Local Law Enforcement Report:** Sergeant Travis Rogers introduced Deputy Karl Norton, who will be replacing him after Sergeant Rogers' promotion. He said things will be getting busy with the upcoming Kinetic Sculpture Race and the 4th of July.
- c. **Coastal Commission Report:** Jonathan Bishop reported that he is available to assist with any and all questions for the Coastal Commission.
- d. **Bar Pilot Report:** Captain John Powell reported that on April 27, Eureka welcomed the Europa 2 (a German ship). It is the largest cruise ship to have ever come into Humboldt Bay. Captain Powell also reported that another Chip Ship was here from April 24 to 28 and then departed from Green Diamond. Chris Mikkelsen mentioned that the District is making some changes to ensure we are supporting our bar pilots.
 - i. **Apprentice Update:** Captain Powell reported that we are waiting for Andrew's license to get activated and that it is progressing.
- e. **Tank Barge Report:** Monterey Bay – Thursday. Morrow Bay – Saturday.
- f. **Dry Cargo Report:** Colin Campbell reported that on May 30 they would be moving wood chips via barge to British Columbia, but there is no vessel yet.
- g. **Tug Report:** Leroy Zerlang reported that Koos King is being repowered.
- h. **Tribal / Non-Profit Environmental Report:** None
- i. **Commercial Fishing Report:** Harrison Ibach said that crab season is winding down and that it was a good season with high prices. Additionally, the HFMA's operating offloading activities attracted a more diverse range of buyers, resulting in more competitive rates per pound for the local fleet.
- j. **Recreational Fishing / Boater Safety Report:** Kent Hulbert reported that 50% of fishermen don't read the charts. Samoa had a perch tournament with approximately 150 people. He said that Rockfish and Halibut season has opened. There will be a very limited Salmon season, which will be June 7-8, with a quota of 7,000.

9. Subcommittee Reports: None

10. Work Group Reports: None

11. Old Business:

- a. **Buoys 9 & 10 Repair / Replacement Update:** Leroy Zerlang reported that buoys 9 & 10 have been a problem for way too long. Buoys 6 & 17 weren't working, but were repaired quickly, and the cruise ship was able to depart at night. Leroy mentioned that there might not be any more night-time crossings. Leroy requested that we send a letter to the USCG on Harbor Safety Committee letterhead requesting urgency in their repair actions. Sergeant Travis Rogers made a motion, and Kent Hulbert second the motion, with a vote all in favor.
- b. **Signage for No Wake Zone / 5 mph Speed Limit:** Harbor District is allocating funds for the signage. It's on target for July.
- c. **Safety Signage for Kayak Launches:** Harbor District is allocating funds for the signage. It's on target for July.
- d. **Appoint Working Group for Harbor Safety Plan Update:** Jonathan Bishop mentioned that we have a solid framework for the Plan. Some areas need updating. Some recommendations are outdated, and some recommendations need to be added to the Plan. He would like to implement a Chapter Custodian Plan, similar to those used by Los Angeles and Long Beach.

12. New Business:

- a. **Future Updates on Port Development:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that the open session of the Board Meetings is the best place to go and ask questions. Ship traffic and tugs are areas of interest. There will be navigation simulations tentatively in August at the MITAGS facility in Baltimore, which we will prioritize for the Bar Pilots.

13. Action Items:

- a. **Bay-Wide Inventory of Abandoned / Derelict Boats and Plan of Action:** Chris Mikkelsen reported that we need a comprehensive list/inventory of all boats bay-wide. Abandoned/derelict vessels are a significant source of pollutants. The Harbor District, City of Eureka, will work collectively on cataloging and referring enforcement needs to the USCG and the Humboldt County Sheriff's Office.

The meeting was adjourned at 1057 hours.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for July 17, 2025.

Denise Guerra
Port of Humboldt Bay