

Draft

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours May 28, 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)
Cory Mooers (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)	Denise Guerra (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
Jenny Lewis (City of Eureka Public Marina)	LCDR Scott Bock (USCG Sector Humboldt Bay)
Noel Jones (USCG Office of Waterways)	Kent Hubert (HASA)
Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)	Scott Miller (USCG MSD Sector Humboldt Bay)
Jeff Ferguson (NOAA)	Sylvia Van Royen (Humboldt Waterkeeper)
Nic Samonte (USCG Sector San Francisco)	LT Samantha Hu (USCG Southwest District Waterways)
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR)	Amalia Escalante (Chevron)
Pete Jackson (Green Diamond)	Tyler Felt (Emergency Operations, Trinidad Rancheria)
Kevin Reed (USCG Sector San Francisco)	Deputy Karl Norton (HCSO)
CDR Paul Jansen (USCG Sector San Francisco)	CWO Brian Dessler (USCG Sector San Francisco)
Rom Matthews (USCG Sector San Francisco)	

Chair Leroy Zerlang called the meeting to order at 0903 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 January 15, March 19, and May 28 meetings will be approved at the July 16, 2026, meeting.

4. USCG Reports:

- a. **USCG Nuisance/Abatement Report:** On March 18, the commercial fishing vessel Tortuga reported a loss of propulsion. It was determined to be a faulty fuel filter seal that got locked in. On March 28, the commercial fishing vessel Terry S was found partially submerged, discharging oil at the Eureka Public Marina. A boom and absorbent pads were deployed around the vessel. The boat was disassembled and destroyed. Fuel tanks and hazmat were separated, and all contents of the vessel were taken off scene. On May 8, the commercial fishing vessel Wildcat experienced a loss of steering and propulsion in the vicinity of Crescent City. It was believed that a foreign object, potentially a buoy, became lodged between the rudder and the hull that caused the incident.
- b. **USCG Pending Exercises Offered to the Port of Humboldt Bay:** LCDR Scott Bock gave a presentation with the goal being to make the connection between Humboldt Bay and Sector San Francisco to execute training and exercises in how to collaboratively respond to contingencies.
- c. **Buoy Relocation:** LT Samantha Hu reported that Alder is scheduled to come reposition aids 7, 8, 9 and 10, hopefully on June 2nd and 3rd. They will be moving these 4 buoys approximately 50 yards away from the channel to make room for the Manson dredge. They will then come back to reposition the buoys back on their assigned positions after July 15.

5. US Army Corps of Engineers Report: Dredge Yaquina: Completed ~14 days of dredging on May 8, removing ~84kcy from the North Bay and Eureka Channels, with disposal at HOODS. Dredge Essayons: Completed ~8.5 days of dredging on May 16, removing ~300kcy from the B&E, with disposal predominately at the nearshore demonstration site along the north spit. Dredge Bayport: Due to arrive on or about June 20 and is under contract for dredging 900kcy from the B&E channel, with disposal at HOODS. As is usual, the dredge is required on the Columbia River no later than July 10. Therefore, there is a

likelihood it will remobilize in the fall to complete the required dredged volume. USACE Surveys were completed over the Memorial Day weekend and should be available on our public webpage within a week or so.

6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. **Trinidad Harbor:** A pod of Orcas attacked a gray whale calf while the mother tried to protect it. There were a couple of school groups there that were able to witness this wildlife encounter.
- b. **City of Eureka Public Marina:** If the sample plan is accepted, dredging should be on track to start next week. The public launch ramp will be closed on June 2nd from 7:30am – noon, and the Samoa bridge ramp will be closed on June 3rd from 7:30am – noon. Access to the slips during negative tide is zero.
- c. **Port of Humboldt Bay / Woodley Island Marina:** Preparations are underway for the start of salmon season. Rob Holmlund gave a presentation on the Heavy Lift Marine Terminal.

7. OSPR Reports:

- a. **Membership Update:** A link has been posted on the Humboldt Harbor Safety Committee website for open positions.

8. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA Report:** There is a voluntary speed reduction zone offshore for whale protection. There will be an El Nino this winter, but the severity and impacts of it are still to be determined.
- b. **Local Law Enforcement Report:** The Kinetic Race was a success. Starting July 19, Sergeant Travis Rogers will be returning to Special Services.
- c. **Coastal Commission Report:** None
- d. **Bar Pilot Report:** There are 2 recent applicants.
- e. **Tank Barge Report:** None
- f. **Dry Cargo Report:** There is one full cargo ship coming to Green Diamond and the World Cruise Ship will be coming to Schneider Dock on June 11. The GT Persephone will be coming in on the 2nd, load up on the 3rd and 4th and possibly departing on the 6th. The next ships will most likely be in August, September, October and December.
- g. **Tug Report:** None
- h. **Tribal / Non-Profit Environmental Report:** None
- i. **Commercial Fishing Report:** The crab season was not very good. A lot of boats are gearing up for bottom fish, Black Cod and hook and line. The Salmon season is not as good as expected. There are a half dozen boats for sale on Humboldt Bay. A dockside sales facility, called Captain's Catch, recently opened on Woodley Island.
- j. **Recreational Fishing / Boater Safety Report:** People are looking forward to salmon season. There is a concern that people will take unnecessary risks to go out. It is encouraged to listen to NOAA. People are going out for Bay Halibut, but not many are being caught. The Madaket is up and running charters. The Charter boats have all been getting booked. The 4th of July is a go with the City of Eureka.

9. Subcommittee Reports: None

10. Work Group Reports

- a. **Harbor Safety Plan Update:** We are hoping to have an intern to work on the Harbor Safety Plan.

11. Unfinished Business: None

12. New Business: None

13. Action Items: None

The meeting was adjourned at 1000 hours.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for July 16, 2026.

