

DRAFT

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours March 16, 2023 – Hybrid In-Person Meeting @ Woodley Island Marina Conference Room & Via ZOOM Video Conference Call

Attendees	
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Zerlang & Zerlang / Coos Bay Tug)	Peter Mull (USACOE) – via Zoom
Larry Oetker (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)	Pete Jackson (CA Redwood)
Chris Mikkelsen (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)	Mark Gregory (USCG Dist 11)
Rob Holmlund (Humboldt Bay Harbor District) via Zoom	Nick Preston (Sause Brothers) via Zoom
Amber Shehan (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)	CWO Adam Shilts (USCG MSD)
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR) – via Zoom	PO1 Andrew Kistner (USCG MSD)
Jeff Dayton (CDFW OSPR)	PE LCDR Alexandria Miller (USCG Sector SF) via Zoom
Richard Hernandez (CDFW OSPR)- via Zoom	Tim Petrusha (Humboldt Bay Bar Pilots)
Jeffrey Ferguson (NOAA) – via Zoom	Andrew Manning (Bar Pilot Apprentice)
Julie Moug (Figas Construction)	Eric Gurney (MSRC)
Ross McDonald (Sause Brothers)	Esekiel Valadez (MSRC)
Grant Roden (Trinidad Rancheria Harbor)	
Donald Wilkes (City of Eureka)	
Phil Daastol (HCSO)	
Daniel Rehse (CDFW)	
Jeff Ferguson (NOAA) – via Zoom	

Chair Leroy Zerlang called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

1. Committee and Meeting Attendee Introductions were made. Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Public Comment: None.

3. Comments by Chairperson: None.

4. USCG Reports:

- a. Nuisance Vessels / Unseaworthy Vessels / Sunken Vessels / Abandoned Vehicles / Vessels / Debris Abatement / Oil Spills / Accidents / Incidents:** Adam Shilts gave report on an Abandoned Vessel on 1/25 at the Mad River Slough. HCSO contacted owner and vessel was removed with no pollution. On 1/23 a mystery sheen was reported at Woodley Island Marina, no source located, nothing recoverable. On 1/30 a mystery sheen consisting of black, stringy patches of oil was reported at Woodley Island Marina, boom deployed. On 2/27 in Crescent City, an emergency generator from the Del Norte Sheriff's Department hose failed and leaked into Elk Creek. Once identified, a boom was deployed along with clean-up efforts. No wildlife impacts reported.

5. USCG Presentation:

Mr. Mark Gregory from District 11 gave a presentation on the Emergency Vessel Attachment & Towing System (EVATS). There is 1 unit available in California that can be mobilized within 12-24 hours via truck, cargo plane, or helicopter depending on distance to Vessel and location of the EVATS unit.

6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. Crescent City:** Leroy Zerlang gave report that there are issues with boat yard Fashion Blacksmith.
- b. Noyo Harbor:** Leroy Zerlang gave report that their boat yard has also failed.
- c. Trinidad Harbor:** Grant Roden gave report on crab season, will reach 1 million pounds by the end of the week. Low price for both fishermen and consumers. Limitations on trucking out of Trinidad to buyers. Salmon season cancelled. Stormwater retention project last phase pending permits for construction in Trinidad Harbor parking lot.
- d. City of Eureka Marina:** Donald Wilkes gave report, unofficial surveys pending from Tom Gast for dredging. SAVE 22 grant lien sale in process, derelict vessel Sunset pulled out of bay, will be destroyed.
- e. Port of Humboldt Bay:** Dredging to dispose at Hoods will go out to bid in May for dredging between July 15-October 15. Attempting to coordinate with the City of Eureka to reduce costs and obtain a combined bid. Eelgrass mitigation coordination with CalTrans to be able to proceed with dredging Fishermen's Channel. New terminal project, anticipating proceeding with the Notice to Proceed for CEQA documentation. Permits expected by July 2024. The HBHD Board of Commissioners agreed to enter into an agreement with the County of Humboldt and City of Eureka for the HBHD to lead marketing of cruise ships. An initial application has been submitted to FEMA for \$1.5 million to repair the Shelter Cove breakwater jetty that was damaged in recent storms and is a safety issue for vessels attempting to

launch. Spartina removal on Tuluwat Island will commence within the next 2-4 weeks. Cal Trans is funding the project, HBHD is administrating the project, and RCAA is contracted to perform the work. The Wiyot tribe will be monitoring the project. Draft restrictions have been issued by the Bar Pilots due to shoaling conditions.

7. US Army Corps of Engineers Report:

Peter Mull gave report that the Yquina is set to arrive late April scheduled for 14 days of work in mid-May on interior channels. Essayons is scheduled for early to mid-May arrival for 23 days of dredging on Bar and Entrance channel. 300,000 cubic yards in the Regional Hopper contract available for Sep-Oct timeframe. Permanent work window extension through November 30. The Coastal Commission is concerned about the spits and shoreline increase of sediment removal from littoral cell. Pursuing a pilot project in 2025 for a near-shore disposal site 1 mile long in 60-80 ft of water for sandy material coming from the Bar and Entrance Channels and will work with community for CEQA process.

Captain Petrusha voiced concern regarding the area between the inside end of the North Jetty and Buoy 10 in the transition area where the Bar goes from 48ft to 38 ft deep, and stated it needs looked at this dredge cycle because it is impeding towards center line of channel. Peter Mull answered this area has been included in the regional contract and could be handled by the smaller dredges, he acknowledged degrading conditions. Captain Petrusha also asked about Portland and SF working together to coordinate timely soundings.

Larry Oetker spoke about short-term and long-term strategies to manage dredging, channel modifications, and performing a 216 study of the channel. Peter Mull stated a 216-feasibility study of 3 years and \$3 million dollars target would be possible. Captain Zerlang commented that the Corona is exposed on the North Spit due to erosion after recent storms.

8. **OSPR Reports:** Reuben Macaspac swore in Captain Tim Petrusha as Alternate Member for Bar Pilots and Deputy Phil Dastool as Alternate Member for Local Law Enforcement. Jennifer Kalt to be sworn in as alternate for Tribal/Non-profit Environmental at the May meeting. He reported that Richard Hernandez is the current Acting Administrator for OSPR.

9. Work Group Reports

- a. **Tug Work Group: SB 414 Report.** Amber Shehan gave a brief update that the edits proposed at the November 2022 meeting will not be included in the final report that will be submitted to OSPR by the end of the month. Jonathan Bishop added the report allows for tug inventory changes to be documented in the current version of the Harbor Safety Plan.
- b. **Tug to Tank Barge Group:** Amber Shehan gave a brief update that a meeting will be scheduled for the Sub-Committee to finalize a report back to OSPR.

10. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA –** Jeff Ferguson gave a report on ENC Custom Chart availability, and that Chart 18622 was updated to last edition in March 2023, 6 months until it will be retired.
- b. **Local Law Enforcement:** Phil Dastool gave an update that HCSO has placed an order for a new patrol boat, completion expected mid-2024. Travis Rogers is at Boating Safety Officer training. Daniel Rehse mentioned crab season.
- c. **State Lands/Coastal Commission –** Jonathan Bishop gave report there is a new Executive Director, Dr. Kate Huckelbridge.
- d. **Bar Pilots –** Tim Petrusha gave a report that training is going well with the Bar Pilot Apprentices. He asked again about the Apprentices training with the Yquina. Andrew Manning has been training in Coos Bay to gain experience.
- e. **Tank Barge –** Ross McDonald reported, ship this week, and last week, normal schedule.
- f. **Dry Cargo –** Julie Moug had nothing to report. Pete Jackson reported a chip vessel bound for Japan at 85% capacity to manage draft. Expecting another vessel mid to late April depending on draft restrictions. Harbor barge to Columbia River in next 2 weeks. 8 ocean going vessels planned for this year, and 5-6 barges. Green Diamond dock repaired at Dolphin #3 finished in February, now being used.
- g. **Tug Operators –** Leroy Zerlang reported the Captain Leroy passed inspection, Koos King next. Julius Brusco scheduled for Bollard Pull Test. Renegade is here. Monterey Bay is closed to cruise ships; Schneider Dock has 5 confirmed cruise ships. 2-4 more ships possible. Discussion about keeping Bar and Entrance channel open. Captain Petrusha stressed the importance of keeping the infrastructure open.
- h. **Tribal:** Adam Canter reported on Spartina eradication to begin on Tuluwat Island. Tribe dock damaged in storm, HBHD assisted, seeking grant funds. Captain Zerlang advised the dock on their beach should be retrieved to preserve it.
- i. **Commercial Fishing –** Absent. Leroy Zerlang commented on the very low price of crab this year. Salmon season to be cancelled. Nominate Jake McMaster for alternate for membership. Crab Feed April 8th for

Fishermen's Wives Association. Larry Oetker gave update on funding request to repair Redwood Dock as an interim measure to support fishermen.

j. **Recreational Boater Safety** – Absent

k. **PORTS** – Absent.

11. Harbor Safety Plan Update: Amber Shehan presented highlights from the upcoming revision of the Harbor Safety Plan and Larry Oetker presented new maps of the Harbor Safety Plan Boundary and Federal Navigation Channels of Humboldt Bay. Plan to present to Committee for adoption at May meeting.

12. Approve Meeting Minutes from January 19, 2023.

Motion to approve by Julie Moug. Seconded by Pete Jackson. Voice vote called, approved unanimously.

AYES: Zerlang, Oetker, Moug, McDonald, Dastool, Petrusha, Canter

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Bishop

ABSENT: Hulbert, Ibach

13. New business:

a. Captain Zerlang asked for the next agenda to include the proposed City of Eureka / Cal Poly Housing Barge.

b. Captain Zerlang asked for the next agenda to discuss Pilotage for South Bay.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:47 hours.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for May 18, 2023.

Amber Shehan, Secretariat
Port of Humboldt Bay