



# LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by  
California Oil Spill Prevention and  
Response Act of 1990

## MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND NINETEENTH MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 4 JUNE, 2008

The One Hundred and Nineteenth Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened in the main auditorium of the Port of Long Beach **Chairman Strong** called the Meeting to order at 10:53 a.m. The **Executive Secretary** determined that there was a quorum present, as listed below --

FOR THE PORT OF LONG BEACH  
Yvonne Allen

FOR THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES  
Capt. Jim Morgan

FOR THE LONG BEACH PILOT  
ORGANIZATION  
Capt. John Strong (JPS)

FOR THE TANKER OPERATORS  
Capt. Norman George  
(Crowley)

FOR THE LOS ANGELES PILOT  
ORGANIZATION  
Capt. John Betz

FOR THE MOORING MASTERS  
(Absent)

FOR TUG & BARGE OPERATORS  
Capt. Doug Houghton  
(Millennium)

FOR THE DRY CARGO CARRIERS  
(Absent)

FOR PLEASURE BOATERS  
Ms. Camille Daniels  
(Long Beach Yacht Club)

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR  
Mr. Benny Colangeli  
(IBU)

FOR THE CALIF. COASTAL COMM.  
Ms. Robin Blanchfield

FOR THE MARINE OIL TERMINALS  
Capt. Laura Kovary  
(BP)

FOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD  
SECTOR LA/LB  
Capt. Mark Hamilton  
(USCG)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS  
(SANTA MONICA BAY)  
Mr. Tom Ford

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS  
(LA/LB HARBOR REGION)  
Mr. Ray Hiemstra  
(O.C. Coast Keeper)

FOR THE CDF&G/OSPR  
Mr. Mike Coyne  
(OSPR HQ)

FOR PASSENGER FERRY  
OPERATORS  
Mr. Ray Lyman  
(Cat. Express)

FOR THE USACOE  
Mr. Jim Fields

FOR THE CALIF.  
STATE LANDS COMM.  
Mr. John Brown

FOR NOAA/NOS  
Mr. Gerry Wheaton

FOR THE U.S. NAVY  
Lt. James Foster  
(USN)

FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATORS  
(Absent)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY  
Capt. Dick McKenna (MX-SOCAL)

ALTERNATES, MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC,  
AND OTHER PARTIES (SEE ATTACHED LIST)

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**Chairman Strong** opened the meeting by welcoming everyone in attendance, thanking all for their interest and participation in the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee. He expressed the Committee's appreciation and thanks to the Port of Long Beach for making their facilities available for this gathering and for providing the snacks enjoyed by all.

**The Chairman** then advised the audience that they would be offered the opportunity to speak before this panel, after Item IV under "New Business" was announced. He also encouraged all present to be sure to "sign-up" on the attendance sheet located on the table just outside the meeting room. **The Chairman** explained that certain members of the LA/LB HSC panel were "non-voting" and therefore would not be participating in any "show of hands" vote called to determine a decision on any particular agenda or action item.

**ITEM I -- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Chairman Strong** called for approval of the minutes of the 118th Meeting.. *Mr. Ray Lyman moved, seconded by Capt. Laura Kovary, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 118th Meeting. Motion carried unanimously by a show of hands from voting members present.*

**ITEM II -- OLD BUSINESS:**

(A) Update on Vessel Traffic Activities:

**Chairman Strong** called for an update on VTS activities from **Executive Secretary McKenna**. There were three incidents since last meeting. Two were propulsion/material related, one a federal rules violation for fishing in the pilot operating area. Thus far this year, there have been nine incidents, eight of which have been propulsion/material related. He called attention to the SCCOOS website, [www.sccoos.ucsd.edu](http://www.sccoos.ucsd.edu), where significant offshore weather is available to the local mariner. There is also a link to this site at the Marine Exchange website, [www.mxsocial.org](http://www.mxsocial.org). Recommendations for improvement are solicited. He mentioned a handout provided by the Commercial Fishermen's Association to remind that the White Sea Bass Season opens June 14, and to request caution and cooperation along the Coast, particularly with towing operations. Another handout provided dealt with ship board accidents, provided by Maritime Lawyer **Geoff Gill**, expected to provide some further information during the comment period.

(B) Update on USCG Sector LA/LB Activities:

**Capt. Mark Hamilton, USCG** commented:

- (1) An advisory for foreign flagged vessels is in preparation in order to inform them what to expect in the way of security boarding. Input is being provided by various Coast Guard sectors, including our own. It has yet to be decided whether to release this information at the District or PACAREA level. The impact of boardings on facilities are recognized and are being addressed.
- (2) He reminded that **Port Protector 08** a live exercise, will be conducted June 25-26. Evacuation of several facilities will be featured, including a waterborne evacuation from Terminal Island. He extended his particular appreciation for the work of **Chairman Strong** and his ad hoc working group for their efforts in setting up the waterborne evacuation sites to be tested.
- (3) The Tall Ships are coming to the Port of Los Angeles August 15 – 18. Included will be the Coast Guard Cutter "Eagle", which will also visit August 1 – 4.
- (4) The Transportation Worker Identity Card (TWIC) requirement has been delayed until April 15, 2009. Locally, 23,000 have been enrolled and 9,000 have been issued cards.

(5) He introduced **Captain John Caplis** the new Deputy Sector Commander, arriving from Washington and **Lieutenant Commander John Hennigan** the new Waterways Management Officer, by way of an internal transfer. These changes bring the departure of himself and **Lieutenant Commander Peter Gooding**. **Chairman Strong** expressed his appreciation for both officers for their Contribution to the Committee.

(C) Update on OSPR Activities:

**Mr. Mike Coyne OSPR**, took the opportunity to swear in **Chairman Strong** and **Vice Chairman Betz** for an additional three year term, and **Mr. Benny Colangeli** as the Labor Representative.

(1) He called the Committee's attention to a number of Committee positions up for renewal or replacement in October. Positions include Tankers Operators, Port of Los Angeles, Offshore Terminal Mooring Masters, Dry Cargo Operators, Environmental Organizations and Commercial Fishing.

(2) The State Bureau of Audit, a branch of the Legislative arm, is conducting an extensive review of OSPR functions. Areas of interest include the Cosco Busan incident, conduct of drills and exercises as well as day to day operations. Results of the audit will be sent to the Legislature and will be used to validate OSPR's organizational role and responsibilities.

(D) Update on California State Lands Commission Activities:

**Mr. John Brown** provided the following:

(1) Since the last meeting, two tankers have been found with excess oxygen levels in their cargo tanks. One corrected the problem and was allowed to continue cargo operations. The other was sent to anchorage where the problem was eventually corrected.

(2) As a result of MOTEMS inspections, two berths in Los Angeles have had their alongside tonnage capacities reduced. Berth 164 has been reduced from 80K dead weight tons to 34 K deadweight tons. Berth 163 has been reduced from 105 K deadweight tons to 7K deadweight tons, barges only. Restrictions will remain in place until temporary repairs are made.

(E) Update on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers:

**Mr. Jim Fields** reported that there is currently no active dredging going on. The Long Beach/Golden shore project was completed about a month ago. Funding is pending for phase one of a Seal Beach project due to get underway in September. This also applies to a Long Beach Channel project.

(F) Update on NOAA/NOS:

Nothing to report.

(G) Update on the Area Maritime Security Committee:

**Captain Hamilton** reminded about the Port Evacuation Exercise to be conducted 25 – 26 June. He also indicated that Port evacuation plans have been sent to Area Maritime Security Executive Steering Committee members for comment. Thus far there has been very little input. This report is due to FEMA soon and a second solicitation effort will be made for comment.

**Chairman Strong** has been working with Port Police on evacuation plans. Several muster locations have been identified on the Long beach side. The next step will be to get tug companies involved, to seek assistance of the LA Pilots and to work with the ferries.

**ITEM III – New Business:**

(A) Sub Committee Reports:

S/C # 1 (Navigation Safety) – Capt. John Betz:

This Sub Committee met in April. They did not meet in May. They are scheduled to be begin today at 1:30 p.m. at the offices of Millennium Maritime in Wilmington to discuss some on going issues. Unless there is an emergent need the Sub Committee will not meet this summer.

S/C # 2 (Planning & Outreach) – Capt. Christiansen, Chair– Nothing to report.

S/C # 3 (Tug Utilization Group; TUG) – Capt. Doug Houghton – the Tug Sub Committee has not met since the last HSC meeting. They are awaiting a report from Glostten on the most recent tug study.

S/C # 4 (Recreational Boats & Commercial Fishing Vessels) -- Ms. Camille Daniels Chair–Mr. Tom Welch reported on the recently conducted Small Vessel Security Conference held in Long Beach. This was one of five regional conferences held or to be held. Several members of the HSC attended, as well as a wide cross section of stake holders. The Coast Guard was looking for input on the present security posture, what could be done better, and how could small vessels contribute to Homeland Security as well as how to improve communications. There were two scenario driven seminars to stimulate points of view. A spot report has been promulgated. He called attention to the new Small Vessel Security Strategy available in both pamphlet and CD form.

S/C # 5 (Port & Vessel Security; including LNG Vessels Risk Assessment) – Capt. John Strong, Chair – No meetings held recently.

(B) Annual Review of the LA/LB Harbor Safety Plan for 2008:

(1) **Capt. Strong** called for a motion to all chapters not previously approved at the April meeting. A brief listing of chapters in question was announced. **Capt. Norman George moved to accept the updated Harbor Safety Plan for 2008. Seconded by Capt. Laura Kovary.** After some discussion, there was a stipulation that the Heavy Weather chapter was just a “place holder” and that more work is expected in the development of the Chapter. ***With that agreement, and acting on the motion, the updated Harbor Safety Plan for 2008 was unanimously approved.***

Other New Business:

**Chairman Strong** reported on the National Harbor Safety Committee. He was impressed with tremendous utility that AIS has brought to the Maritime Community, citing several examples in Puget Sound. He was also impressed with the very active fishing community in the Northwest and solicited a search for a dedicated fishing representative for the Committee. He was particularly interested in getting some of the fishing community aboard for ship rides with the pilots. He also noted an outreach program initiated by the BC States Task Force regarding oils spills and suggested that similar possibilities be discussed with the public affairs arm of OSPR. Finally, he noted the recent passing of **Orlando Amoroso**, our stalwart Fishing Representative, and the retirement of **Captain Jim Penney**, a 42 year employee of Crowley Maritime Services and a Tug Representative.

**ITEM IV -- QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM THE PUBLIC:**

**Mr. Geoffrey Gill** discussed the safety posture of the Maritime Industry, which he considers in need of improvement. He cited human factors and company postures as areas that, while often addressed, could use greater attention and discussion. He proposed, if there was interest, that he could hold a one day seminar which would consist of a morning session for operational aspects of safety and an afternoon that would be more aligned with the management and legal implications. The seminar would be no cost. **Executive Secretary McKenna** offered the Marine Exchange Conference Room if there were sufficient interest. **Mr. Gill** can be contacted at [ggill2@socal.rr.com](mailto:ggill2@socal.rr.com).

**ITEM V -- MEETING SCHEDULE:**

The next regular meeting for the LA/LB HSC will be held on the 1st of October 2008, at a place to be determined. The Committee will be dark for the summer, but will convene if necessary. The Secretariat will promulgate next year's notional schedule in late summer.

**ITEM VI -- ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss, **Chairman Strong** adjourned the 119<sup>th</sup> Harbor Safety Committee meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Capt. R.B McKenna  
Executive Secretary,  
LA/LB Harbor Safety Committee

Wednesday, June 4, 2008

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