



# LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by  
California Oil Spill Prevention and  
Response Act of 1990

## MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND TWENTY SECOND MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 4 February, 2009

The One Hundred and Twenty Second Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened in the main auditorium of the Port of Los Angeles Beach **Chairman Strong** called the Meeting to order at 2:07 p.m. The **Executive Secretary** determined that there was a quorum present, as listed below --

FOR THE PORT OF LONG BEACH

Mr. Steve Ruggerio

FOR THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES

Capt. Jim Morgan

FOR THE LONG BEACH PILOT  
ORGANIZATION

Capt. John Strong (JPS)

FOR THE TANKER OPERATORS

Capt. Laura Kovary  
(BP)

FOR THE LOS ANGELES PILOT  
ORGANIZATION

Capt. Bent Christiansen

FOR THE MOORING MASTERS

Mr. Dave Selga  
(Chevron)

FOR TUG & BARGE OPERATORS

Capt. Doug Houghton  
(Millennium)

FOR THE DRY CARGO CARRIERS

(Absent)

FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS

Ms. Camille Daniels

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR

Mr. Benny Colangeli (IUP)

FOR THE CALIF. COASTAL COMM.

(Absent)

FOR THE MARINE OIL TERMINALS

Capt. Rob McCaughey  
(Valero)

FOR THE U.S. COAST GUARD  
SECTOR LA/LB

Capt. John Caplis  
(USCG)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS  
(SANTA MONICA BAY)

(Absent)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS  
(LA/LB HARBOR REGION)

Mr. Garry Brown  
(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

(Absent)

FOR THE CALIF.  
STATE LANDS COMM..

Mr. John Brown

FOR NOAA/NOS

Mr. Gerry Wheaton

FOR THE U.S. NAVY

Lt. Jim 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 121st Meeting. ***Capt. Bent Christiansen moved, seconded by Capt. Doug Houghton, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 121<sup>st</sup> 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 thirty incidents for all of 2008, twenty of which were propulsion related. So far, for 2009, there has been one incident, not maritime related, having more to do with Vessel Traffic Center Security. He also mentioned an effort, currently underway, to install an additional AIS unit at Port San Luis.

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

**Capt. John Caplis, USCG** commented:

- (1) He indicated that the Sector will be embarked on a small vessel outreach program this summer. He mentioned a recent incident where a fishing vessel crowded a cruise ship in the channel, violating not only the rules of the road, but also the declared security zone.
- (2) Expect to see more Coast Guard activity in the local media. The intent will be to raise awareness of boating safety and to emphasize the level of local Coast Guard activity.
- (3) The LNG Woodside project has been suspended due to the recent decline in the natural gas market.
- (4) He expressed his appreciation for all of the cooperation in a recent container crane moved conducted in the Port of Los Angeles.
- (5) The Holiday boat parade season went well. There were an approximate dozen parades with no significant incidents.
- (6) The Coast Guard is soliciting inputs on a customer service questionnaire concerning the Vessel Traffic Service. The goal is to receive feedback to ensure continued satisfaction with vessel traffic operations. The questionnaire is available at the following website:  
<http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/vts2008/survey.aspx>.

(7) The Area Maritime Security Plan is due for its five-year update. To be included in the plan revisions will be a salvage plan. He introduced the Coast Guard representative, Mr. Chris Robinson, who will be responsible for the plan. Mr. Robinson indicated that he was one of 10 specialists throughout the Coast Guard at various sectors, who will be responsible not only for local salvage but for participation in the National MTS recovery plan. He will be seeking out partners for both the development of local plans and participation in any National recovery response issues. He cited the case of hurricane Katrina, whereby assets and cargo needed to be diverted to other ports, when the Port of New Orleans was shut down.

(C) Update on OSPR Activities:

**Mr. Mike Coyne OSPR**, made the following comments:

(1) He cited the Committee's December letter to the Administrator concerning the technology and pathologies used to develop the tug escort matrices. He called attention to the administrator's letter response, which is being disseminated at this meeting and which will be a part of the meetings minutes. He indicated that the Administrator was excited to address the tug escort issue with the new technologies that have become available, and that will provide a better program to prevent oil spills and to protect the environment. In response to a question by the Chairman, Mr. Coyne indicated that the administrator desires to vet the company which the committee chooses to conduct the matrix study.

(2) He advised that, due to the state's financial condition, OSPR will be on furlough the first and third Fridays of each month. This is expected to continue till June 2010. Provisions have been made for a standby team to respond to spill situations

(D) Update on California State Lands Commission Activities:

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

(1) The State Lands Commission is also working under the Friday furlough system. Where they normally cover 47 to 50% of oil transfer operations, the furlough is expected to reduce that coverage by approximately 10%.

(2) He expressed his appreciation for the response to the 22 January customer service presentation, which he considered to be one of the largest audiences yet.

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

No report.

(F) Update on NOAA/NOS:

**Cdr. Gerry Wheaton** made the report:

(1) Coast Pilot Seven, version 41, has just been promulgated. Mariners are reminded to review/update their Coast Pilot versions.

(2) There is no O M& N funding for the Physical Ocean Real Time System (PORTS) in the Federal budget for FY 09, and most likely FY 10.

(G) Update on the Area Maritime Security Committee:

**Chairman Strong** augmented the Coast Guard's previous comments concerning port recovery, suggesting increased industry participation in their recovery deliberations. He mentioned that while there is considerable agency participation, industry representation is often lacking to the detriment of recovery planning.

**ITEM III – New Business:**

(A) Subcommittee Reports:

S/C # 1 (Navigation Safety) – Capt. Bent Christiansen: This Sub Committee met this morning and discussed the safe transit brochure, which is now finalized. This will be promulgated on websites in a printable format. Small vessel outreach was another topic that was discussed. Printing of the outreach brochures remains to be a problem. There is consideration to turn the printing function over to the Marine Exchange, carrying it under their Secretariat contract. The inclement weather chapter to the Harbor Safety Plan was also reviewed and is considered ready for incorporation in the plan. The Sub Committee also reiterated their desire to have representation from the shipping agents on the Committee. The Chairman indicated that a letter would be submitted to the Administrator for agent representation on the Committee. There are continual reports of crab pots being located in the pilot boarding area. The Coast Guard is looking into this.

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

S/C # 3 (Tug Utilization Group; TUG) – Capt. Doug Houghton – The Sub Committee has not met recently. There is a meeting planned for 25 February.

S/C # 4 (Recreational Boats & Commercial Fishing Vessels) – Ms. Camille Daniels Chair– A PDF file has been received for the small boating pamphlet and will be passed to various recreational boating activities. There have been no commercial fishing representative applications submitted to date. **Chairman Strong** encouraged commercial fishermen in the audience to get their application in.

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:

**Capt. Strong** asked for any items of the Harbor Safety Plan, which may require updating. There being no other inputs, the only item outstanding is the new inclement weather chapter, which will be voted on during the April session. There is a remote possibility that the entire plan may be accepted at that session. **Captain Strong** called the Committee's attention to the National Harbor Safety Conference to be convened at Tampa, Florida in the late May timeframe. He indicated that he would be representing the Committee at that Conference. He invited any member who might be interested to submit a nomination of HSC LA /LB for Harbor Safety Committee of the Year. He emphasized that there is no requirement to do so

Other New Business:

**Captain Morgan** announced the selection of seven Banning High School students to the California Maritime Academy. This is the largest group of students from any high school to be selected, and is an outgrowth of industry support to this local high school.

**Captain McKenna** called the Committee's and audience's attention to recent Channel Islands Marine Sanctuary regulations regarding the discharge of gray water and untreated sewage in the Sanctuary areas. He

reminded operators that portions of both the inbound and outbound traffic lanes cross the boundaries of the Sanctuary areas.

**ITEM IV – Public Comment:**

**Dr. Fred Balitzer**, a Former Harbor Safety Committee Member, provided introductions for a team of representatives from Gambol Industries, a local ship repair activity. **Mr. John Bridwell**, the company vice president, made a presentation supporting the redevelopment of the presently unoccupied Southwest Marine repair facility. He pointed out the need for repair capability for ships under 600 feet in length and for the various barges, tugs and work boats around the port complex. He gave examples of how this redeveloped activity could enhance the complex's ability to handle emergent repairs, conduct maintenance more economically and assist in the improvement of air quality in the Port through conscientious use of modern repair techniques. He stated that once this facility is gone, that there will be little opportunity for a facility of this nature to be developed in the future, and that such an eventuality would be shortsighted for a port complex of this magnitude. Included in his plans would be two synchro lifts, one which could lift approximately 5000 tons and be used for barges and work boats. The other would be rated at 35 to 40,000 tons for ships as large as 600 feet in length. He also proposed an enhancement to the Port's present plan of using contaminated dredge spoil as fill for one slip by tapping it entirely for use as a workspace. He solicited industry input to the Port of Los Angeles to point out the need for this repair activity and its preservation while there is still time.

**Mr. Dan Strunk**, speaking for the bait fishing industry, complained that, in addition to the reduction of fishing opportunities throughout the harbor as a result of security considerations, his boat is often subject to boarding by the local security enforcement agencies. These interruptions have proven to be harmful to the conduct of his business. He solicited the Committee's assistance in developing some procedure by which he would be identifiable by a sign or signal as a non-threat. **Chairman Strong** took the opportunity to point out that this is the ideal venue to resolve this matter, and that moreover, it points out the need for participation by the commercial fishing industry in harbor safety deliberations. He encouraged **Mr. Strunk** to apply for membership to the Committee as the Commercial Fishing Representative.

**ITEM V – MEETING SCHEDULE:**

The next regular meeting for the LA/LB HSC will be held on the first of April, 2009, at the Port of Los Angeles, reception at 0930, commencement of proceedings at 1000.

**ITEM VI – ADJOURNMENT:**

With no further business to discuss, **Chairman Strong** adjourned the 122nd Harbor Safety Committee meeting at 2:58 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,

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