



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 EIGHTH MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 3 February, 2010 (Rev-1)

The One Hundred and Twenty Eighth Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened in the main auditorium of the Port of Los Angeles. **Chairman Strong** called the Meeting to order at 2:02 p.m. The **Executive Secretary** determined that there was a quorum present, as listed below --

FOR THE PORT OF LONG BEACH
(Absent)

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. Capt. John Betz

FOR THE MOORING MASTERS
(Absent)

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

FOR THE DRY CARGO CARRIERS
Capt. Sam Jebanathan
(APL)

FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS
Mr. Tom Welch

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR
Mr. Benny Colangeli
(Absent)

FOR THE CALIF. COASTAL COMM.
(absent)

FOR THE MARINE OIL TERMINALS
Capt. Rob McCaughey
(Tesoro)

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)
Garry Brown

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

FOR PASSENGER FERRY
OPERATORS
Mr. Ray Lyman

FOR THE USACOE
Mr. Jim Fields

FOR THE CALIF.
STATE LANDS COMM.
Mr. Gary Gregory

FOR NOAA/NOS
Mr. Gerry Wheaton

FOR SHIP'S AGENTS
Ron Kelly
(Transmarine)

FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING OPERATORS
(Absent)

FOR THE U.S. NAVY
(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 Los Angeles for making their facilities available for this gathering.

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. He began the meeting requesting self introductions from the Committee and their Alternates.

Mr. Michael Coyne, (OSPR) swore in to their new terms, **Mr. Ray Lyman** and his Alternate, **Mr. Craig Tallman**, both of Catalina Express, as representatives of Ferry Operators.

ITEM I -- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Strong called for approval of the minutes of the 127th Meeting. **Mr. Ron Kelly moved, seconded by Capt. Bent Christiansen, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 127th 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 two incidents so far this year, both propulsion related, neither likely the result of distillate fuel. For all of CY 2009, there were thirty three incidents, fifteen of which were propulsion related, six occurring before the 1 July implementation of the distillate rule. VTS has no opinion on the cause of the remaining nine propulsion incidents. There were also four mechanical (steering, anchor), three SAR, six close quarters (commercial fishing, recreational) and one collision (recreational boater) incident.

McKenna gave a run down on January vessel traffic data in regards to the July implementation of the State's low sulfur fuel rules. Of the 375 arrivals for LALB, 16% used the Santa Barbara Channel. Western usage was 44.2%. Ships arriving from the south were 144, or 34%. There were 353 departures, 11.3% of which went via Santa Barbara Channel, 44.4% to the west and 38.5% to the South. Marine Exchange will endeavor to provide an update on how the East – West traffic lane situation is working out.

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

Capt. John Caplis, USCG commented:

- (1) The Coast Guard is encouraging the use of the fuel switching safety exemption when appropriate. This was noteworthy during the recent spate of heavy weather, when a broadcast was used to encourage this. Several ships did use the exemption.
- (2) The Holiday Season , with its ten boat parades, came off safely and successfully. He thanked all involved in the effort.
- (3) He reminded that, effective 8 February, the Coast Guard would cease transmitting all U.S. generated Loran (C) signals.

(4) There's going to be a Sub-Committee formed to discuss potential "harbors of safe refuge" for the Sector Area. The first meeting will be at Sector Headquarters, Feb 18, at 1330. Anyone from the Harbor Safety Committee is welcome to attend or participate.

(5) He gave a brief update on the morning's Area Maritime Security Committee, notably that the Fiscal 09 security grant projects have been set, that **Ms. Jill Taylor** of the Port of Los Angeles is heading up the Committee to determine the FY 10 projects, and that there will be a Port Protector Exercise conducted May 18-19 in conjunction with the State's Golden Guardian Exercise. Subsequently, on May 20, there will a Port Recovery table top exercise.

(C) Update on OSPR Activities:

Nothing to Report.

(D) Update on California State Lands Commission Activities:

Mr. Gary Gregory spoke:

(1) He introduced **Mr. Bob Chapman**, the new Supervisor of the Local Field Office, who will soon be **Mr. Gregory's** alternate.

(2) Prevention First 2010, State Lands' biennial Conference, will be celebrating its 20th anniversary this year, later than normal, October 19-20. Sponsorships and participation will be solicited.

(3) He provided some interesting statistics: There were 6595 oil transfer operations in the terminals of California last year, for a total of 794 million barrels or 33.35 billion gallons. That represents 91.3 million gallons transferred per day. The most impressive statistic: total gallons spilled during these ops was only 124 gallons, or 6.4×10^{-10} percent of all oil transferred. He gave a big pat on the back to the industry for this impressive record.

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

No Comment.

(F) Update on NOAA/NOS:

Cdr. Gerry Wheaton informed that **Mr. Jack Dunnagin**, Director of the National Ocean Service (NOS) has retired and been replaced by **Mr. Dave Kennedy**.

(G) Update on the Area Maritime Security Committee:

As previously mentioned in **Capt. Caplis'** comments.

ITEM III – NEW BUSINESS:

(A) Subcommittee Reports:

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

The Sub Committee has met twice since the last full Committee meeting, most recently this morning before this meeting. **Mr. Gerry Wheaton** is undertaking a project whereby he will be collecting best practices from the State's HSCs, reconciling them for consistency, and entering them in the Coast Pilot as something to be used Statewide. The Sub Committee is undertaking a review of the Ports' Underkeel Clearance policy as it

presently appears in the Harbor Safety Plan. These will not be earthshaking changes, but they will not be ready for this year's Plan, partially to ensure that the end product is consistent with the San Francisco Plan. Finally, at the morning meeting today, the Navy Representative, **Captain Parisi** was pleased with the liaison efforts between the Test Range and VTS, commenting that there have been no test cancellations since joint procedures have been put in place. Next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, 3 March, at the Marine Exchange at 1000.

S/C # 2 (Planning & Outreach) – Capt. Christiansen, Chair– There will be a meeting next Wednesday, 10 February, at the Marine Exchange, to discuss the Cerritos Channel bridge replacement.

S/C # 3 (Tug Utilization Group; TUG) – Capt. Doug Houghton – Will meet next month at a date and time to be determined.

S/C # 4 (Recreational Boats & Commercial Fishing Vessels) -- Mr. Tom Welch, Alternate – Will look to update the Safe Boating Pamphlet to reflect the new traffic lane situation with hopes of getting it out by summer.

S/C # 5 (Port & Vessel Security; including LNG Vessels Risk Assessment) – Capt. John Strong, Chair – Nothing to report.

S/C # 6 (Avalon Anchorage Issues) – Mr. Ray Lyman, Chair – Has been looking into anchorage safety issues and the need for pilotage. Thus far, after several searches and discussions with industry representatives, there is no evidence of safety problems that would warrant a pilot requirement. He has yet to hear from some other sources. Once this is done, he will determine the requirement for a subcommittee meeting or will prepare a draft recommendation for the Committee to send to OSPR.

(B) Annual Review of the LA/LB Harbor Safety Plan for 2010:

Chairman Strong solicited comments for changes in the Harbor Safety Plan. None were forthcoming. The Contingency Routing section will require updates from both Ports and the Army Corps of Engineers. The Coast Guard will also need to supply the usual list of accidents, spills and near misses. All inputs were requested for the April meeting.

Other New Business:

Captain Caplis solicited any comments about experiences with the recent stormy weather encountered in the Port Complex. **Chairman Strong** expressed his appreciation for the Coast Guard's proactive stance in encouraging the use of the safety exemption for low sulfur fuel ops. He also related how internet technology was helpful in tracking strong storm cells, in one instance permitting them to delay a move for one hour until a severe front had passed. **Captain Caplis** expressed his appreciation to the Community for their obvious use of that extra margin of safety during the period of foul weather.

Captain Kovary announced that work is nearing completion on a joint Declaration of Inspection (DOI) that will be compatible across both Ports. The final piece is the introduction of codes from the Long Beach Fire Department. The one difference will be in the call out times required in each Port. This will result in a greater consistency of rules and more efficient coverage for this very important program. Also, progress is being made on the topic of emergency tow off wires or "fire wires". **Mr. Gregory** stated that State Lands is starting a regulatory project that will eliminate them as a requirement. The option will remain with the individual terminal.

ITEM IV – PUBLIC COMMENT: None.

ITEM V – MEETING SCHEDULE:

The next regular meeting for the LA/LB HSC will be held on the seventh of April, 2010, at the Port of Long Beach, commencement of proceedings at 10:00 a.m.

ITEM VI -- ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, **Chairman Strong** adjourned the 128th Harbor Safety Committee meeting at 2:31 p.m..

Respectfully submitted,

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

LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

February 3, 2010

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LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE
February 3, 2010

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