

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee (the Committee) expanded the initial thirteen areas targeted for study or comment under the statute to seventeen. We have added in the Appendices the policy for operation of the Catalina Federal Anchorages and guidelines for container vessel bunker barge safety. Last years chapters XVII, Inclement Weather, and XVIII, Restricted Visibility have been combined.

I. GEOGRAPHICAL BOUNDARIES

Delineates the area of concern and separates the various areas of coverage to avoid ambiguity.

II. GENERAL WEATHER, TIDES AND CURRENTS

Describes the conditions in the port areas. Describes Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (P.O.R.T.S.) with plans to review existing sensors and fund future requirements.

III. AIDS TO NAVIGATION

Lists all aids to navigation in the area of concern. Describes procedures and frequency for checking available water depths in both ports.

IV. ANCHORAGES

Gives guidelines for anchoring inside and outside the federal breakwaters as well as Catalina Island, with Standards of Care.

V. HARBOR DEPTHS, CHANNEL DESIGN AND PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION AND DREDGING

Describes both ports' current harbor depths and future expansion plans.

VI. CONTINGENCY ROUTING

Describes Contingency Procedures for vessel routing and traffic management.

VII. HISTORY OF VESSEL ACCIDENTS, SPILLS, AND NEAR MISSES

Provides a recap of the past year's incidents.

VIII. COMMUNICATION

Describes Principal Operating Channels, Business Operating Channels and equipment currently installed.

IX. BRIDGES

Summarizes current regulations and procedures relating to four harbor bridges. Also includes USCG Report of Delay at Drawbridge Form.

X. SMALL CRAFT

Describes Standards of Care for small recreational vessels and fishing boats affecting tankers and other commercial traffic, along with recommendations for educating, training and licensing small boat operators.

XI. VESSEL TRAFFIC SERVICE

Describes the Vessel Traffic Service (VTS), a joint venture of the Coast Guard and the Marine Exchange.

XII. TUG ESCORT/ASSIST FOR TANK VESSELS

Incorporates the state regulations for tank vessel escort in Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbors and provides an overview of operating procedures. Describes all ship escort/assist tugboats currently operating in the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbors and lists findings of the Committee.

XIII. PILOTAGE

Outlines the pilot training programs in both harbors and the El Segundo Marine Terminal.

XIV. UNDERKEEL CLEARANCE

Gives guidelines for varying minimum underkeel clearances for all vessels in different parts of the harbor and approaches during normal weather for POLA/POLB. Addresses regulations for tank vessels without double hulls (33 CFR 157.455).

XV. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

Outlines environmental impacts of POLA/POLB.

XVI. PLAN ENFORCEMENT

Summarizes Plan provisions requiring monitoring and/or enforcement, and lists enforcement authorities in the LA/LB Harbor area.

XVII. INCLEMENT WEATHER

This chapter addresses reduced visibility and high winds. Inclement weather requires that all mariners apply extra attention, particularly within port limits where maneuvering room is limited. This section is intended to provide clear guidance to mariners as to what is expected of them when navigating within the ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach Harbors during inclement weather. It also provides guidance for use in determining whether or not to commence a vessel transit and outlines minimum equivalent levels of safety to be used when transiting in reduced visibility. Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the Master of a vessel to commence a transit in reduced visibility, nor does this section replace compliance with COLREGS. It is recognized however, that under certain circumstances, vessels may safely transit in reduced visibility provided that equivalent safety levels are employed.