



LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by
California Oil Spill Prevention and
Response Act of 1990

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND THIRTY SIXTH MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE WEDNESDAY, 5 OCTOBER, 2011

The One Hundred and Thirty Sixth 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 1005 a.m. The **Executive Secretary** determined that there was a quorum present, as listed below --

FOR THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH

Mr. Ed Green

FOR THE
PORT OF LOS
ANGELES

Capt. John Holmes

FOR THE LONG BEACH PILOT
ORGANIZATION

Captain John Strong

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

Mr. Phillip Wright
(Zim)

FOR RECREATIONAL BOATERS

Ms. Camille Daniels

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR

Mr. Jeff Turkus
(SIU)

FOR THE CALIF. COASTAL COMM.

Ms. Robin Blanchfield

FOR THE MARINE OIL TERMINALS

Capt. Jimmy Eduljee
(Shell)

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

Captain Roger Laferriere
(USCG)

FOR ENVIRONMENTAL
(SANTA MONICA BAY)

Mr. Brian Meux
(Santa Monica Bay Keeper)

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

Capt. Ray Lyman
(Cat. Express.)

FOR THE USACOE

(Absent)

FOR THE CALIF. STATE LANDS
COMM.

Mr. Kevin Mercier

FOR NOAA/NOS

(Absent)

FOR SHIP'S AGENTS

Mr. Ron Kelly
(Transmarine)

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FOR COMMERCIAL FISHING
(Absent)

FOR U.S. NAVY
(Absent)

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Capt. Dick McKenna
(MX-SOCAL)

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

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. Mike Coyne then proceeded to swear in new and returning members of the Committee for their three year terms: **Capt. John Strong, representing Long Beach Pilots; Capt. Laura Kovary (BP) representing Tank Vessel Operators and Capt. Norman George (MTC), alternate Tank Vessel representative; Captain John Holmes, representing the Port of Los Angeles; Mr. Dave Selga (Chevron) representing Mooring Masters and Capt. Kenneth Graham, (Chevron) alternate Mooring Master representative; Mr. Ed Green, representing the Port of Long Beach; Mr. Jeff Turkus, (SIU) representing Organized Labor; and Mr. Garry Brown, (O.C. Coast Keeper) representing Environmental Protection Organizations.**

Mr. Coyne continued by indicating that **Captain Strong** has been selected as **Chairman** for another three years. He then read a letter from the **OSPR Administrator** commending him for his leadership during his previous years of service.

ITEM I -- APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Chairman Strong called for approval of the minutes of the 135th Meeting. *Mr. Ed Green moved, seconded by Capt Laura Kovary, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 135th 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 twelve incidents since last meeting, twenty thus far for the year. There were three navigation equipment incidents, one mechanical, (steering) seven propulsion, (one fuel switching related) and one SAR.

He also called attention to the new California Air Resources Board rule effective 1 December which will include new territorial limits on the use of bunker fuel. This may affect present traffic patterns.

An OSPR study on Loss of Propulsion incidents from the beginning of the year through September reveals that, of the 74 recorded incidents State wide, 29 occurred in LALB with 14 of those attributable to fuel switching.

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

Capt. Roger Laferriere, USCG commented:

(1) The National Harbor Safety/Port Security Conference which took place in Houston in June was attended by **Captain Jim Jenkins** and several other Sector members. The next Conference is scheduled for Pittsburg in September 2012.

(2) The refurbishment of Los Angeles Light is underway. Barring an undue amount of inclement weather, completion of the project is anticipated by 23 December of this year. The light will not be affected during the renovation.

(3) Waterways Management is currently receiving applications for Holiday boat parades. Last year there were 10 parades in the Sector with over 800 participants and 100,000 spectators. The Coast Guard emphasis will be heavily on safety.

(4) USCG is working closely with the Pacific Battleship Center and the Port of Los Angeles on the USS Iowa Project. All environmental, historical, fire and disability issues are being reviewed for applicability and compliance. The ship is expected here in late December – early January.

(5) The Coast Guard has opened its oil spill trust fund to assist in the survey of the SS Montebello, an oil tanker sunk by a Japanese submarine in the early stages of WWII. The operation will commence the week of 10 October and last from two to three weeks. The objective is to determine the amount of fuel aboard and the risk of leakage. This is a multi-agency effort. There is also political interest, as this is the culmination of a 15 year effort to have the operation conducted.

(6) He has signed off on the Port Complex Dispersal Plan and is appreciative of all the effort of those who have taken part in its development. This will be available for emergencies as well advance warning events. This will be a topic of discussion at this afternoon's Sub-Committee#1 meeting.

(C) Update on OSPR Activities:

Mr. Mike Coyne commented:

(1) He reminded both new and old members of the Committee that they have liability and Worker's Compensation coverage by the State of California when acting in a Harbor Safety capacity.

(2) From July to September of this year OSPR provided assistance in response to a 50K gallon oil spill in the Yellowstone River in Montana. Five members assisted in a developing mutual response program at no cost to California taxpayers. It is hoped that responders will gain more experience and professionalism by responding to these out of state emergencies.

(3) Loss of propulsion incidents have increased with the result of fuel switching. While OSPR supports the ARB effort to reduce air pollution, oil spill prevention must remain a concern. To that end, OSPR has promulgated to the shipping industry best practices for safely switching fuels.

(4) He expressed appreciation to the Coast Guard for taking the lead in funding the Montebello project.

(5) Assembly Bill 1112 has been passed by the legislature and is on the Governor's desk for signature. This bill will raise the tax on fuel being brought into the State and will stabilize funding for OSPR's requirement for increased monitoring of bunkering Operations.

(6) In lieu of developing its own bunker video, OSPR reached out to the BC States Task Force to endorse a single best practices video for all Pacific States and British Columbia. Funding issues are being worked out.

(7) On October 25 and 26 OSPR, in conjunction with BC States, will hold the first Regional Summit of all West Coast Harbor Safety Committees in Monterey.

(8) There will be a Clean Pacific Conference held in Long Beach from May 15-17. The key element of the Conference will be about prevention, although response will also be addressed.

(D) Update on California State Lands Commission Activities:

Mr. Kevin Mercier commented:

(1) He introduced **Mr. Don Hermanson** the new Division Chief for State Lands who provided a brief self introduction. He then introduced **Ms. Lynn Tekada** as the new Invasive Species Representative for State Lands.

(2) There is a new deadline on the comment period for the new biofouling regulation, which is November 21st.

(3) The State Lands Website contains a report on new technologies associated with invasive species.

(4) Due to a shortage of engineers, the MOTEMS audit program is experiencing a backlog. Terminals are requested to go ahead and initiate the projects required to update their facility based on what was found in the audit.

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

No Comments.

(F) Update on NOAA/NOS:

No Comments.

(G) Update on the Area Maritime Security Committee:

Capt. La Ferriere stated that a workshop was held in Port Hueneme on July 28 to develop an underwater terrorism preparedness plan. This is the first plan of its kind in that region. The plan was developed in conjunction with Coast Guard Headquarters where it is now under review.

The Law Enforcement field operations group met on August 3 for a threat reduction seminar in preparation for the tenth anniversary of the September 11 attacks. On that most recent date, over 150 personnel from 11 agencies participated in Operation Fallen Heroes, an operation which resulted in increased Maritime Domain awareness, improved interagency cooperation, increased boater safety for the Public as well as remembrance for those who lost their lives on 9/11. It's noteworthy that while these groups are on the water conducting security operations, they are also enforcing public safety. The operation was highly successful.

The Area Maritime Security Committee's Strategic Planning Sub Committee met on July 26 to discuss updating the Risk Management and Mitigation Plan and the Trade Resumption and Resiliency Plan. It's been three years since the last update. A contract has been awarded and the first draft of that plan is due this year.

The Area Maritime Security Committee will meet here at the Port of Los Angeles on 2 November 0930. The Public is invited to attend.

He recently signed off on the Maritime Operations Coordination Plan, a Department of Homeland Security coordinated Plan of all the Department's Agencies, primarily organized to combat the troubling increase of Panga Boat activity. These 25-30 recreational type boats emanating from Mexico are transporting illegal aliens and other contraband. They are landing at various places along the coast, as far north as Morro Bay. This is an issue of great concern and it is possible that the Maritime Industry may be approached to see how they may help attack this problem.

He then described the National Preparedness Response Exercise (NPREP) recently conducted in Ventura. Over 200 people and 30 different agencies participated. The Exercise started with a presentation on the Deepwater Horizon disaster, followed by various shore side equipment presentations. The simulated collision/spill exercised several state of the art capabilities such as a Common Operating Picture, ERMA, an Environmental Response Management Aid and a remotely piloted vehicle. Also the MTS Recovery Unit (MTSRU) was exercised for the first time. Whereas there was excellent participation, it was sadly evident that such a spill would be disastrous for the Channel Islands. Another question arose as to the disposition of the

ships involved. The Harbor of Safe Refuge plan was exercised through the MTSRU which was another valuable product of the Exercise.

ITEM III - New Business:

(A) Sub Committee Reports:

S/C # 1 (Navigation Safety) – Capt. Bent Christiansen

The Sub Committee has not met this summer. The Committee will meet at the Marine Exchange this afternoon at 1330.

S/C # 2 (Planning & Outreach) – Capt Christiansen

The Sub Committee last met in May. No meeting is planned for today.

S/C # 3 (Tug Utilization Group; TUG) – Captain Doug Houghton – Has met several times over the summer. They are working on two specific issues, bunkering best maritime practices and the tug escort matrix. It was hoped to bring the bunkering issue to a vote today because it was being developed in coordination with the San Francisco Harbor Safety Committee, which is due to meet next week. The vote however was recalled in order to give the Committee a little more time to study the proposal. **Chairman Strong** advised Committee members that the plan was available in their packets and asked members to be prepared to vote on this issue at the next meeting in December. **Mr. Coyne** took the opportunity to point out that this joint best practices effort with another port is breaking new ground, and as such delays can be expected. He commended Captain Houghton and his Committee for their effort and encouraged all to give the plan their careful review.

S/C # 4 (Recreational Boats & Commercial Fishing Vessels) – Ms. Camille Daniels – The Sub Committee will continue to participate in the S/C#1's deliberations on reduced visibility standards for recreational and fishing vessels.

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

ITEM IV – NEW BUSINESS:

Mike Coyne called the Committee's attention to the handout "Masters of Disaster", featuring the efforts of OSPR in their response efforts on the Yellowstone River.

A general discussion ensued concerning the prospects of emerging traffic patterns as new rules come into effect. The impacts of the ARB ruling effective 1 December, the new Environmental Control Area in 2014, the pending Port Access Route Study (PARS) can all have possibly conflicting motivations for ships on approach and departure. Close attention will be required as each of these initiatives come into play.

Chairman Strong reminded all to review the Harbor Safety Plan for currency and be prepared for comments at the next meeting.

Dave Selga announced that the Chevron Mooring Masters is working with Cabrillo Aquarium to develop a Mammal Avoidance training Program. **Captain Laferriere** commended that initiative and pointed out that actions such are of the variety that more than likely keep the Coast Guard from regulating.

ITEM V -- MEETING SCHEDULE:

The next regular meeting for the LA/LB HSC will be held on Wednesday, the seventh of December, 2011, at the Port of Long Beach at 1000.

ITEM VI -- ADJOURNMENT:

With no further business to discuss, **Chairman Strong** adjourned the 136th Harbor Safety Committee meeting at 1107 a.m..

Respectfully submitted,

Capt. R.B McKenna
Executive Secretary

LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

October 5, 2011

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