



# LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by  
California Oil Spill Prevention and  
Response Act of 1990

## MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND SEVENTIETH MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE Wednesday, 6 June 2018

The One Hundred and Seventieth Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened at the Port of Los Angeles Administration Building. **Chairperson Strong** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. **Executive Secretary Kip Louttit** determined that a quorum was present as listed below:

**FOR THE PORT OF  
LONG BEACH**

Mr. Glenn Farren

**FOR THE PORT OF  
LOS ANGELES**

Deputy Chief Mike Graychik  
(LAPP) (non-voting Guest)

**FOR THE LONG BEACH  
PILOT ORGANIZATION**

Capt. John Strong  
(Jacobsen Pilot Service)

**FOR THE TANKER  
OPERATORS**

Absent

**FOR THE LOS ANGELES  
PILOT ORGANIZATION**

Capt Jeff White

**FOR THE OFF-SHORE  
TERMINALS' MOORING  
MASTERS**

Absent

**FOR TUG & BARGE  
OPERATORS**

Mr. Brian Vartan  
(West Oil Maritime Services)

**FOR DRY CARGO VESSEL  
OPERATORS**

Capt. Jeff Cowan

**FOR PLEASURE BOAT  
OPERATORS**

Mr. Rick Roberts

**FOR ORGANIZED LABOR**

Mr. Eric Morgan  
(Inland Boatman Union of Pacific  
& Sause)

**FOR THE CALIFORNIA  
COASTAL COMMISSION**

Jonathan Bishop

**FOR MARINE OIL TERMINAL  
OPERATORS**

Absent

**FOR U.S. COAST GUARD  
SECTOR LOS ANGELES and  
LONG BEACH**

Capt. Charlene Downey

**FOR THE NON-PROFIT  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
ORGANIZATIONS FOR  
SANTA MONICA BAY**

Vacant

**FOR THE NON-PROFIT  
ENVIRONMENTAL  
PROTECTION  
ORGANIZATIONS FOR LA/LB**

Absent

**FOR THE CDF&W/OSPR**

Mr. David Mighetto

**FOR PASSENGER FERRY  
OPERATORS**

Capt. Ray Lyman  
(Catalina Express)

**FOR THE USACOE**

Absent

**FOR THE CALIFORNIA  
STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

**FOR THE NOAA/NOS**

**FOR THE SHIP'S AGENT  
ORGANIZATION**

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Vacant

Mr. Jeff Ferguson

Absent

**FOR COMMERCIAL  
FISHING**

**FOR THE U.S. NAVY**

**EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Absent

Absent

Capt. J. Kipling Louttit  
(MX SoCal)

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

**Chairperson Strong** welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked all for their interest in and participation on the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee. He thanked the Port of Los Angeles for making their facilities available for this gathering.

**ACTION ITEMS:**

**Mr. Mighetto** stated that there would be no appointments this month.

**ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:**

- (1) **Chairperson Strong** called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 169th Meeting on 4 April 2018. **Capt. White** made a motion, seconded by **Capt. Lyman**, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 169th Meeting on 4 April 2018. There was no comment or discussion. The motion carried unanimously by a voice vote from voting members present.

**ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS:**

- (1) **Chairperson Strong** called for an update on Marine Exchange Vessel Traffic Service (VTS) activities from **Capt. Louttit**, who reported:

- a. **Incidents:**

- i. There were three incidents since the last HSC meeting in April, for a total of 7 incidents this calendar year, which is the same number as of this date last year. The first incident this period and 5<sup>th</sup> of the year was a suspicious package found attached to a container aboard a container ship moored in Los Angeles. The Coast Guard Captain of the Port established a safety zone while the VTS notified tug companies, pilots, and ferries of the situation. First responders determined the package contained tools and the safety zone was lifted. The 6<sup>th</sup> incident was a container ship inbound Long Beach before the pilot boarded that developed a fuel oil leak near an injector. The vessel stopped, conducted repairs, and proceeded into port. The 7<sup>th</sup> incident was a tanker that had a piping leak of sea water and oil into one of their compartments. The VTS worked with CG Sector Los Angeles Long Beach and the vessel was moved from a Golf Anchorage near Los Angeles to a Sierra Foxtrot Anchorage far from the harbors and 5 miles from shore.

- b. **Traffic Report:** **Capt. Louttit** referred to a handout and reported:

- i. **Arrivals.** There were 390 arrivals in April and 371 arrivals in May. Arrivals from the North (Santa Barbara Channel) were 142 in April and 168 in May, which was 36% and 45% respectively. 168 arrivals from the North in May was the most in both absolute numbers and percentage (45%) since I started reporting in 2013. Arrivals from the West (through Naval Air Ranges, also known as the Pacific Missile Test Range) were 100 in April and 81 in May, which was 26% and 22% respectively. Arrivals from the South (South America, Panama Canal, Mexico, and San Diego) were 137 in April and 113 in May, which was 35% and 30% respectively. The remainder were the 11 ships in April and 9 ships in May that arrived from the Chevron Offshore Terminal in El Segundo, which was 3% and 2% respectively.

- ii. **Departures.** There were 349 departures in April and 332 departures in May. Departures to the North were 157 in April and 154 in May, which was 45% and 46% respectively. Departures to the West were 65 in April and 58 in May, which was 19% and 17% respectively. The 58 departures to the West in May was the lowest in both absolute numbers and percentage (17%) since I started reporting in 2013. Departures to the South were 110 in April and 116 in May, which was 32% and 35% respectively. The remainder were the 17 tankers in April and 4 tankers in May that departed to the Chevron Offshore Terminal in El Segundo, which was 5% and 1% respectively. The 17 tankers that departed to El Segundo in April was the most in terms of both absolute numbers and percentage since I started tracking in 2013. The previous high was 12 tankers in one month several times. The Marine Exchange cannot explain these anomalies.
- iii. **Comments on ship count:** Ship count overall is down for the calendar year and for the month of May. For the 5-month period in 2018, 94 fewer ships arrived than in 2017. 371 ships arriving in May is 13 below the projection and 37 ships fewer than the 408 that arrived in May 2017. The reduction for the calendar year and month of May is primarily foreign tankers and car carriers. 888 container ships arrived during the 5-month period this calendar year, which was 10 more than the same period in 2017.

c. **2 Final Comments:**

- i. **Dynamic Under Keel Clearance Project:** The Project continues to be successful and is meeting its 3 goals of increasing safety, increasing efficiency, and reducing emissions associated with transporting oil into the Port of Long Beach. 4 tankers with drafts greater than the former draft limit of 65 feet safety entered Long Beach since the last HSC meeting in April. A total of 34 tankers have been brought in under the project during the past 13 months with drafts greater than 65 feet (8 at 66 feet, 11 at 67 feet, 11 at 68 feet, and 4 between 68 and 69 feet). The deepest so far is 68.9 feet. The first tanker at the limit of 69 feet per the Harbor Safety Plan is expected 19 June. There have been no issues and computer model predictions continue to be validated by the on-board motion sensor. The transits are daylight only with corresponding higher tide.
- ii. **Whales:** At the request of the National Marine Fisheries Service and the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary we continue to advise all inbound and outbound vessels there are whales in Southern California waters and vessels should take appropriate precautions.

(2) **Update on USCG Sector LA/LB Activities:** Capt. Downey reported:

- a. **Tank Vessel Megacore Philomena:** Assuming the legal disputes are not cleared, the current plan has the vessel potentially going to auction in July. The Coast Guard continues to make checks on the vessel to ensure it is in compliance and is safe, secure, and being manned appropriately.
- b. **4<sup>th</sup> of July:** Applications for permits are being received the Coast Guard. The applications will be reviewed and processed in the next few weeks.
- c. **Gerald Desmond Bridge Replacement:** Over-the-water work is not expected to start until September 2018. A Traffic Coordination Team consisting of the Coast Guard,

Port of Long Beach, Jacobsen Pilot Service, Long Beach Police and Fire Departments, contractors, and impacted port partners is being established to coordinate vessel movements and reduce impacts to the waterway during this phase of construction.

- d. **Fleet Week:** Plans are well underway. This will be the 3<sup>rd</sup> annual LA Fleet Week. Dates are 31 August – 3 September 2018 with vessels arriving earlier in the week. Large crowds, concentrations of vessels, and waterways restrictions can be expected. The Coast Guard currently expects a security zone similar to last year in the vicinity of the LA Cruise Ship Terminal and Battleship IOWA. There should be no impact to the Pier 46 area. More information will be forthcoming including security and safety zones, naval protection zones, and other items of importance.
- e. **Coast Guard Summer Transfer Season: Senior Chief Eady** departed the Aids to Navigation Team and **Chief Eugene Wright** is his relief. This is **Capt. Downey's** last HSC. **Capt. Monica Rochester** will assume command. The change of command and retirement ceremony is 22 June at 10:00AM and all are invited; invitations were sent. **Capt. Downey** expressed her thanks for the commitment and dedication of members of the Committee that contributed to the safety and security of the ports.

(3) Update on OSPR Activities:

- a. **Mr. Mighetto** introduced **Mr. Mike Zamora**, who has worked for OSPR for 13 years in Sacramento and recently moved into the Prevention Branch from the Preparedness Branch. **Mr. Zamora** will be the liaison to the San Francisco HSC and is visiting other HSCs in the State.
- b. **Escort Tug Inspection Program (ETIP): Mr. Mighetto** followed up on his remarks at a prior meeting. There was a great response from the tug companies, the database was updated, and **Mr. Mighetto** provided a copy dated 4 June 2018 to the Marine Exchange.
- c. **Harbor Safety Plan 2018: OSPR Administrator Tom Cullen** received updates to the 2018 Harbor Safety Plan for LA and LB Harbors for the period ending 30 June 2018. **Mr. Mighetto** read a letter dated 9 May from **OSPR Administrator Tom Cullen** to **Chairperson Strong** commending the committee for their work.
- d. **Open Positions on the LA/LB HSC:** OSPR is still accepting applications to fill vacant positions on the Committee. Please see the handout that was included with the agenda or contact **Mr. Mighetto**.

(4) Update on California State Lands Commission Activities: The seat is vacant but **Mr. Chris Beckwith** reported:

- a. **Prevention First Symposium.** The Prevention First Symposium will be 25-26 September in Long Beach at the Westin Hotel. Registration information is on the CA State Lands web site and there is a handout.

(5) Update on U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) Activities: **Mr. Fields** was absent; no report.

(6) Update on National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) activities: **Mr. Ferguson** reported:

- a. **Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies Program:** Per the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, this program is being restarted in 2018. This is a vessel speed

reduction incentive program for ships transiting the Santa Barbara Channel region. The 2017 season was from 1 July – 15 November. 11 shipping companies participated and slowed 143 transits, which reduced emissions and reduced risk of whale strikes. The 2018 vessel speed reduction incentive program will run 1 July – 15 November and the call for registration is going out soon to ocean carriers. This year will be a fleet-based approach and full details are coming soon.

- b. **Whales in the Santa Barbara Channel:** Whales have been spotted in and around the lanes of the Santa Barbara Channel, so the 2018 whale advisory and voluntary vessel speed reduction zones are going into effect and NOAA requests vessels transit at 10 knots or less from 15 June through probably 30 November.
- c. **Navigation Rules in Coast Pilot:** This transition is almost complete and there will be a new appendix in Coast Pilot 7 by the end of this month which will include the Navigation Rules.
- d. **NOAA Ship RAINIER:** It is looking more and more likely that the NOAA ship Rainier will have launches conducting survey operations in and around the ports of LA and LB later this summer and early fall. They will do a comparison with the 2013 survey to see how stable or dynamic the sea floor is. Contact **Mr. Ferguson** if you have any specific areas of concern or chart discrepancies you would like NOAA to address anywhere within a dozen miles of the ports.

(7) **Update on Area Maritime Security Committee:** **Capt. Downey** reported:

- a. **FEMA Priorities for 2018 Port Security Grant Program:** The priorities were released on or about 21 May. The AMSC Port-wide Stakeholder Port Security Grant Subcommittee is at work. Time is short to apply, about 20-21 June. **Capt. Downey** issued a precept for the program that gives further guidance for security grants. Please see a Coast Guard member for more information.

### **ITEM III - NEW BUSINESS:**

#### **(1) Sub-Committee Reports:**

- a. **S/C #1 (Navigation Safety)** – **Capt. John Betz** was absent but **Chairperson Strong** reported:
  - a. **Chairperson Strong** chaired a meeting in April. There was a near miss of a tug pushing a barge inbound near pier T-121 in Long Beach. A sport-fishing boat cut between the tug and barge and a tanker mooring at pier T-121. The propeller wash of the tugs assisting the ship pushed the sport-fishing boat toward the tug and barge, which avoided collision by going full astern. The tug operator had been trying to contact the sport-fishing boat on the radio. This incident was brought to the attention of Sub-Committee #1, Navigation Safety, and the Commercial Fishing representative to the committee, **Danny Strunk**, will contact Berth 55 Sport Fishing Landing to make sure all boats are aware of the importance of communicating with commercial traffic and be cognizant of prop wash of tugs holding ships alongside. Finally, there were discussions regarding discussions of the new Gerald Desmond Bridge and demolition of the West corner of Pier F that should start this week. There should be no disruption to waterway traffic by the demolition.
  - b. **Capt. Betz** chaired a meeting in May. The Harbor Safety Plan review was completed and sent to the Administrator. **Capt. Betz** did an outstanding job putting it all together. **Capt. Louttit** updated the Geographic Boundaries Chapter (chapter 1). There was a change to

the Communications Chapter (chapter 8) regarding reporting suspicious activities and emergencies in the ports. **LCDR Mahar, USCG** reported on new guidance for dead ship tows and lay berths.

- b. S/C #3 (Tug Utilization Group (TUG)) – **Mr. Andre Nault** was absent and no report.

**(2) Brief:**

- a. **Presentation on LNG 101. Ms. Alisa Praskovich** of Crowley LNG of Jacksonville, FL did a presentation on LNG in general and what Crowley was doing with respect to small scale LNG, LNG as a marine fuel, and LNG bunkering. There were questions and answers. There was discussion of potentially contacting the Port of Jacksonville to gain info and lessons-learned. There was discussion as to what might be the best forum to discuss LNG here, such as the possibility of developing an LNG Subcommittee to the LA/LB HSC.
- b. **Disagreement between Crane Mechanic and Line Handler: Capt. White (LA Pilots)** briefed a time when a disagreement between a crane mechanic and line handlers regarding the position of a crane and safety of the line handlers resulted in a ship being delayed more than 30 minutes. There is Crane Safety Report in the Harbor Safety Plan and **Capt. White** queried what happens to the reports. There was discussion regarding what sorts of matters are reportable on that Report and how to sort these matters out. **Chairperson Strong** commented that perhaps this matter should be referred to Sub-Committee-1 and/or the Pacific Maritime Association (PMA). **Capt. White** said he plans more follow-ups.

**ITEM IV – PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

**ITEM V - ADJOURNMENT:**

**Chairperson Strong** reviewed the accomplishments of the Committee during the past year including the update to the Communications Chapter of the HSP regarding safety and suspicious activity reporting and getting the U.S. Air Force to send chartlets of the hazardous areas associated rocket launches from Vandenberg Air Force Base. **Chairperson Strong** and **Mr. Mighetto** thanked **Capt. Downey** for her outstanding service in the Coast Guard and to the port complex as Captain of the Port and presented **Capt. Downey** with a Certificate of Appreciation. **Capt. Downey** thanked the Committee and her Staff for their great work and partnerships. **Chairperson Strong** welcomed **Capt. Rochester** and said the Committee looked forward to working with her as the new Captain of the Port.

The next HSC meeting will be at the Port of Long Beach Wednesday 3 October, 9:30 AM gathering and 10:00-11:00 AM meeting.

With no further business to discuss, **Chairperson Strong** adjourned the meeting at 10:49 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

//signed//

Capt. J. Kipling Louttit  
Executive Secretary

27 July 2018

LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

June 6, 2018

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June 6, 2018

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