



LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by
California Oil Spill Prevention and
Response Act of 1990

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHT-FIRST MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE Wednesday, 2 December 2020

The One Hundred and Eight-First Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened by video teleconference using “Zoom” Technology due to COVID-19 protocols preventing an in-person meeting. **Chairperson Strong** called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. **Executive Secretary Louttit** determined that a quorum was present as listed below:

FOR THE PORT OF LONG BEACH

Mr. Chu Man Kow

FOR THE PORT OF LOS ANGELES

Capt. Jay Dwyer
(LA Pilot Service)

FOR THE LONG BEACH PILOT ORGANIZATION

Capt. John Strong
(Jacobsen Pilot Service)

FOR THE TANKER OPERATORS

Mr. Dave Selga
(Chevron Shipping)

FOR THE LOS ANGELES PILOT ORGANIZATION

Capt. Jeff White

FOR THE OFF-SHORE TERMINALS' MOORING MASTERS

Capt. Thomas Osborne
(Chevron)

FOR TUG & BARGE OPERATORS

Brian Vartan
(Centerline)

FOR DRY CARGO VESSEL OPERATORS

Capt. Michael Jessner
(APL Maritime, Ltd.)

FOR PLEASURE BOAT OPERATORS

Capt. John Betz
(CBYC)

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR

Capt. Eric Morgan
(Sause)

FOR THE CALIFORNIA COASTAL COMMISSION

Mr. Jonathan Bishop

FOR MARINE OIL TERMINAL OPERATORS

Capt. Sean Merchant
(Valero)

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

Capt. Rebecca Ore, USCG

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

Vacant

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

Vacant

FOR THE CDF&W/OSPR

Mr. David Mighetto

FOR PASSENGER FERRY OPERATORS

Absent

FOR THE USACOE

Absent

c/o Marine Exchange of Southern California
P. O. Box 1949 • San Pedro • California 90733-1949
Telephone (310) 519-3134 • Fax (310) 241-0300
E-mail: Info@mxsocal.org

**FOR THE CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

Vacant

FOR THE NOAA/NOS

Mr. Jeffrey Ferguson

**FOR THE SHIP'S AGENT
ORGANIZATION**

Mr. John Stiles

**FOR COMMERCIAL
FISHING**

Mr. Daniel Strunk
(San Pedro Bait Company)

FOR THE U.S. NAVY

Absent

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Capt. J. Kipling (Kip) 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. The Committee thanks the Jacobsen Pilot Service for making their "Zoom" Technology account available for this gathering. **Executive Secretary Louttit** reviewed "Zoom" virtual meeting protocols, took attendance, and validated a quorum was present.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Mighetto combined his Report with his Action Item to swear in new members due to the virtual format.

1. **COVID-19 update:** OSPR offices remain mostly closed to the public and employees. Office staff are working from homes remotely, and staff are restricted from air travel and large meetings. All Harbor Safety Committee meetings are being held remotely. Field staff are required to limit exposure, which means less attendance at sites or drills. 70% of OSPR employees may not be allowed back to offices soon, or at all, due individual health risks per California Department of Health recommendations.
2. **Proposed OSPR Regulations.** Nothing significant to report. **Mr. Mighetto** looks forward to the ATB Proposed Rulemaking meeting later today.
3. **Announcement for open positions on the HSC:** The Marine Exchange distributed OSPR's Announcement Notice on 21 September 2020.

Mr. Mighetto announced the following appointments and reappointments to the LA/LB HSC:

Capt. John Dwyer was reappointed as Member representing the Port of LA.

Chief Tom Gazsi was reappointed as Alternate Member representing the Port of LA.

Capt. Jeffrey White was appointed as Member representing the Port of LA Pilot

Organization.

Capt. Joshua Knight was appointed as the Alternate member representing the Port of LA

Pilot Organization.

Capt. Michael Jessner was appointed as Member representing Dry Cargo Vessel Operators.

Capt. Jeff Cowan was appointed as Alternate Member representing Dry Cargo Vessel

Operators.

Mr. John Stiles was appointed as Member representing Ship's Agent Organizations.

Mr. Eric Bombard was appointed as Member representing Passenger Ferry Operators.

Mr. Matt Vaughn was appointed as Alternate member representing Passenger Ferry

Operators.

Mr. Daniel Strunk was reappointed as Member representing Commercial Fishing.

Oath of Office: Because we were not meeting in person, **Mr. Mighetto** had been instructed to administer the California Oath of Office via remote means. **Mr. Mighetto** read the California Oath of

Office to all appointees at once. **Capt. Dwyer, Chief Gazsi, Capt. White, Capt. Knight, Capt. Jessner, Mr. Stiles, Mr. Vaughn, Mr. Strunk, and Capt. Jacobsen** (reappointed at June Meeting), affirmed they had raised their right hand and responded in turn by saying "I do" to **Capt. Louttit** and **Ms. Joyce Kaplan** (MX Staff). All were present except **Capt. Cowan** and **Mr. Bombard**. **Mr. Mighetto** instructed all appointees to sign the oath document that was provided, scan it, and return it to **Ms. Michelle Kinnum**. Once **Mr. Mighetto** receives the signed oaths, he will have them recorded at the Secretary of State Office in Sacramento. Congratulations!

Mr. Mighetto and **Administrator Cullen** passed their deepest thanks to all members for the partnership and participation on the Committee.

Mr. Mighetto thanked the **Capt. Louttit** and **Ms. Kaplan**, and **Capt. Betz**, for the quality of the minutes from the HSC and HSC-SC-1 meetings.

ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

- (1) **Chairperson Strong** called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 180th Meeting on 7 October 2020. **Capt. Betz** made a motion, seconded by **Capt. Stirewalt**, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 180th Meeting on 7 October 2020. There were no comments, corrections, or discussion. The motion carried by a unanimous 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:** There were 3 incidents since the last Harbor Safety Committee Meeting on 7 October for a total of 12 incidents in 2020. For comparison, this is one more than as of this date last year (2019), so our neutral trend is good. The 1st incident of the period and 10th of the year was a General Cargo Ship 2.5 miles south of Long Beach Sea Buoy transiting from a Foxtrot Anchorage to Los Angeles with no pilot aboard that lost propulsion due to a #6 exhaust valve issue. The vessel regained propulsion and initially intended to return to anchorage. CG Sector LA/LB cleared the vessel to enter LA, which the vessel did safely and uneventfully. The 2nd incident of the period 11th incident of the year was a Jet Ski disabled by LA buoy #1. CG Sector LA/LB asked the VTS if we could see the Jet Ski. The VTS sighted the Jet Ski with binoculars and confirmed its position. The VTS made safety broadcasts on channel 14 and notified the LA Pilots. The Jet Ski regained propulsion and departed before assistance arrived. The 3rd incident of the period and 12th of the year was a tanker 2.5 miles south of the Long Beach Sea Buoy inbound Long Beach with pilot aboard that reported a main engine blower issue. CG Sector LA/LB authorized the vessel to proceed to a Bravo (inner) anchorage with 1 additional tug.
 - b. **Traffic Report:** **Capt. Louttit** referred to the handout that was sent with the read-ahead. New information since the last HSC meeting in October was highlighted in light blue.

Arrivals. There were 356 arrivals in October and 352 in November, which were the highest levels and a positive sign since May and June were the lowest arrival levels in the past 40 years since modern Marine Exchange records begin in 1980. For comparison, the average was 380 arrivals per month in 2018-2019. May and

June 2020 were the lowest arrivals in the past 40 years since modern Marine Exchange records begin in 1980.

Cruise ships had the biggest drop. 239 cruise ships arrived in the April to November time frame in 2019, but zero this year. The last 3 months of each year usually have high cruise ship counts due to repositioning. In both October and November 2019 there were 37 cruise ship arrivals each month. This year, zero. In December 2019 there were 42 cruise ship arrivals but we expect none this year.

Regarding vessel routes, the trends that started in the spring with the arrival of COVID-19 have continued. Arrivals from the north went up and have steadied out in the high 50% range, and departures in the high 40% range. Arrivals from the west went down and steadied out in the mid-teens by percent. Departures to the west remain steady at about 20%. Arrivals from the south went down to the mid-20s by percent, and departures remain steady in the low 30s by percent. Arrivals and departures from and to Chevron in El Segundo are steady at 2 and 3 percent.

- c. **Comment on shipping:** There was a slight backup of half a dozen to a dozen container ships at anchor awaiting berth during the past month that rose to about 20 over the weekend. There are 17 total ships awaiting berth this morning of which 16 are container ships. There is a good flow of arrivals, departures, and shifts. There have been no issues and VTS protocols with the Coast Guard and pilots are sound and smooth. In contrast to the backup of tankers in March through May when COVID-19 started, which had tankers anchored for months, these container ships are only at anchor for a few days.
- d. **Final Comments:**
 - i. **COVID-19:** The Marine Exchange continues to work under our COVID-19 protocols with a mix of personnel working on-site and from home for the foreseeable future. We have had no COVID cases. Please let us know any issues in the spirit of continuous improvement.
 - ii. **Los Angeles Port Police Radio Tower:** Work continues on the Los Angeles Port Police's new 100' radio tower and communications hut. Marine Exchange operations have not been affected and are not expected to be affected while the work is being done. We are happy to support the LA Port Police improve communications in the south San Pedro area.
 - iii. **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 that there are whales in Southern California waters and vessels should take appropriate precautions.
 - iv. **MX VTS Tariff Increase:** We are going through the routine process to raise our Vessel Traffic Service tariff. This is the first increase for large vessels since 2015 and the first increase for local vessels since 2009.

- (2) **Update on USCG Sector LA/LB and AMSC activities:** **Capt. Ore** combined her Sector and AMSC Reports due to the virtual format:

- a. Thanks to all who have contributed to what is now the new normal and keeping the entire system and port complex moving. The Coast Guard is planning how to do business for the next 6 to 12 months with these protocols.
 - b. The Coast Guard plans to have a Lessons Learned and Best Practices Event regarding COVID-19 on 9 December.
 - c. The Department of Justice is handling the Dive Boat CONCEPTION case. There is no Coast Guard Sector LA/LB involvement. The Coast Guard Investigative Service is involved. The Sector will participate on initiatives evolving from the national level, such as more inspections of small passenger vessels and oversight requirements as these vessels are seen as high risk.
 - d. Marine Events are virtually non-existent. If you are aware of an event that should be permitted, please advise the Coast Guard so it can be properly handled.
 - e. Port Coordination Team (PCT) meetings have not been needed recently but the PCT remains a great body that can be convened at any time if needed for any sort of port disruption.
 - f. Coast Guard Cyber Protection Teams are available upon request and can evaluate your organization for cyber vulnerabilities, where organizations are being targeted, and give ideas for hardening. There is no cost.
 - g. **Capt. Ore** is trying to visit Coast Guard Auxiliarists. There are 1,200 in this area but all operational activities have been curtailed due to COVID-19. It is a challenge to remain connected with this valuable resource, but they are appreciated. **Capt. Ore** is trying to determine ways to recognize and use Auxiliarist.
 - h. The Coast Guard is continuing operations per its COVID-19 protocols and is managing its COVID-19 cases.
- (3) Update on OSPR activities: **Mr. Mighetto** had passed his report earlier in the meeting. **Chairperson Strong** invited comments from **Administrator Thomas Cullen**. **Administrator Cullen** thanked everyone for their good work and wished everyone a safe holiday season.
- (4) California State Lands Commission (CSCL) activities: The seat is vacant; no report.
- (5) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) activities: **Mr. Fields** was not present; no report.
- (6) Update on National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) activities: **Mr. Ferguson** reported:
- a. NOAA is one year into its 5-year plan to discontinue paper Raster charts. Critical corrections are still being made to Raster Charts that are in the Notice to Mariners, but shoreline and depth changes will not be made. ENC charts will continue to be updated so over time the 2 chart forms will diverge. ENC charts are therefore recommended as they will be more up to date. No charts have been discontinued yet. A flyer entitled "ENC-First Production Strategy" will be sent to the Committee.
 - b. The Vessel Speed Reduction Program in the Santa Barbara Channel and Western Approaches that was to end 15 November was extended until 15 December due to

the presence of whales. All vessels over 300 gross tons are requested to transit at less than 10 knots to help avoid ship strikes to whales.

- c. The largest tidal range of the year, otherwise known as *King Tides*, will occur 13-15 December with the high 7 feet over mean low water and the low 1.5 feet under mean low water. Mariners are advised to use caution.

(7) Area Maritime Security Committee: **Capt. Ore** had nothing to add to her prior report.

(8) Other:

- a. **Mr. Strunk** queried **Capt. Ore** regarding her earlier comment regarding small passenger vessels being high risk. **Cdr. Newberry** will follow-up.
- b. **Capt. Morgan** queried **Capt. Ore** regarding the Cyber Protection Team. **Capt. Ore** will provide contact information.

ITEM III - NEW BUSINESS:

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

- a. S/C #1 (Navigation Safety) – **Capt. Betz** reported that the sub-committee has been meeting monthly and the primary activity is the Proposed ATB Rulemaking regarding tug escort regulations. The sub-committee will meet immediately following the HSC meeting. **Capt. Betz** advised members to disregard the “*draft*” watermark on the minutes from the November meeting; those are the final meeting minutes.
- (2) Presentation on the *Whale Safe: Data Insights to prevent whale-ship collisions*. **Ms. Morgan Visalli** delivered a presentation on this program in the Santa Barbara Channel, which is based at the University of California at Santa Barbara. The program collects data on whales with the intent of preventing whale and ship collisions. Questions and answers followed.
- (3) **Chairperson Strong** commented that many ships arriving lately were huge, but there have been no issues, and he was very proud of the harbor. **Capt. Dwyer** concurred.

ITEM IV – PUBLIC COMMENTS

- (1) None.

ITEM V - ADJOURNMENT:

- (1) **Capt. White** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Capt. Dwyer**, and the meeting adjourned at 10:51 a.m.
- (2) Sub-Committee 1 will start its meeting at 10:56 a.m.; the same Zoom line was left open.

Respectfully submitted,

//signed//

Captain J. Kipling (Kip) Louttit
Executive Secretary
20 January 2021

HSC #181 meeting attendees 12-2-2020 – Version 1

Capt. John Strong – Chair
Capt Rebecca Ore, USCG, COTP
Capt. Kristi Bernstein, USCG, Deputy COTP
Cdr. Marshall Newberry, USCG
Administrator Tom Cullen - OSPR
Ted Mar - OSPR
David Mighetto – OSPR
Morgan Visalli - guest speaker
John Betz
Brian Vartan
Carlos Cordon
Chu Kow
Danny Strunk
Dave Selga
Duncan McFarlane
Eric Morgan
James Benjamin
Jason Rendon
Jay Dwyer
Jeff Ferguson
Jeff White
Jessica Morton
John Stiles
Jon Victoria
Jonathan Bishop
Joshua Knight
Joyce Kaplan
Kari Meadow
Kevin McCloskey
Kip Louttit
Matt Vaughn
Max Rosenberg
Mike Jessner
Ryan Stirewalt
Sean Marchant
Steve Chesser
Thomas Mackrell
Thomas Osborne
Tom Gazsi
Tom Jacobsen