



LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by
California Oil Spill Prevention and
Response Act of 1990

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-THIRD MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE Wednesday, 7 April 2021

The One Hundred and Eighty-Third 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 Kow

**FOR THE PORT OF
LOS ANGELES**

Capt. Jay Dwyer
(LA Pilot Service)

**FOR THE LONG BEACH
PILOT ORGANIZATION**

Capt. John Strong
(JPS)

**FOR THE TANKER
OPERATORS**

Mr. Dave Selga
(Chevron)

**FOR THE LOS ANGELES
PILOT ORGANIZATION**

Capt. Joshua Knight

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

Absent

**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

Mr. Eric Bland
(IBU of the Pacific)

**FOR THE CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION**

Mr. Jonathan Bishop

**FOR MARINE OIL TERMINAL
OPERATORS**

Capt. Thomas Mackrell
(Marathon)

**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**

Mr. Erik Bombard
(Catalina Express)

FOR THE USACOE

Mr. Jim Fields

c/o Marine Exchange of Southern California
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**FOR THE CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION**
Vacant

FOR THE NOAA/NOS
Mr. Jeffrey Ferguson

**FOR THE SHIP'S AGENT
ORGANIZATION**
Mr. John Stiles
Norton Lilly

**FOR COMMERCIAL
FISHING**
Absent

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. **Chairperson Strong** and **Executive Secretary Louttit** reviewed "Zoom" virtual meeting protocols, took attendance, and validated a quorum was present.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Mighetto announced **Mr. Eric Bombard** was appointed as Member representing Passenger Ferry Operators at the December meeting but had not been available to take the oath.

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 **Mr. Bombard**. **Mr. Bombard** affirmed he had raised his right hand and responded "I do" to **Capt. Louttit** and **Ms. Joyce Kaplan** (MX Staff). **Mr. Mighetto** instructed **Mr. Bombard** to sign the oath documents that were provided, scan, and return them. When **Mr. Mighetto** receives the signed oath, he will have it recorded at the Secretary of State Office in Sacramento. Congratulations!

ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

- (1) **Chairperson Strong** called for a motion to approve the minutes of the 182nd Meeting on 3 February 2021. **Capt. Betz** made a motion, seconded by **Capt. Knight**, to accept and approve the Minutes of the 182nd Meeting on 3 February 2021. 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 was 1 incident since the last Harbor Safety Committee Meeting on 3 February, for a total of 3 incidents in 2020. The 3rd incident of 2021 was a container ship in the LA Turning Basin north of the Vincent Thomas Bridge outbound with pilot aboard that lost propulsion. The pilot started flat towing the vessel toward an outside anchorage. Propulsion was restored by closing a valve in the air start system and the vessel started proceeding to an outside anchorage under its own power. The vessel anchored in a contingency Golf Anchorage, the Coast Guard cleared the vessel, and the vessel proceeded to its next port of call.

- b. **Traffic Report: Capt. Louttit** referred to the handout that was sent with the read-aheads. New information since the last HSC meeting in February is highlighted in light blue.
 - i. **Arrivals:** There were 350 arrivals in January, 329 in February, and 373 in March. January and February continued the low levels we saw in 2020, but 373 in March is only 7 arrivals below what we considered “normal” based on 2018 and 2019 levels. The 2 big ship populations that are arriving at reduced levels are cruise ships and foreign tankers. For the 3-month period January to March 2020 period, 1052 arrivals are 88 below what we would consider “normal” based on 2018-2019 levels, and 76 fewer than the same 3-month period in 2020. In terms of arrival routes, 47% of vessels arrived from the North via the Santa Barbara Channel, 19% arrived from the West through the Naval Air Ranges, 32% arrived from the South such as the South America, Panama Canal, Mexico, and San Diego, and 3% from the Chevron Offshore Moorings in El Segundo. In terms of trends, arrivals from the North were up from 2020, from the West and South were down, and from Chevron in El Segundo were steady.
 - ii. **Departures:** Regarding departures, 36% of departures were to the North, 22% to the West, 40% to the South, and 2% to Chevron. The departure trends mirrored arrivals; departures to the North were down, to the West and South were up, and to Chevron in El Segundo were steady.
- c. **Comment on shipping backup:** Regarding the backup of ships at anchor, there were no issues during this period and the number of ships at anchor was down from the record levels reported last period, which were 60 total vessels at anchor on 28 January and 40 container ships at anchor on 1 February). This morning, there were 32 vessels at anchor of which 20 were container ships. Port Partners are doing a great job managing the situation.
- d. **Lost Anchor Flukes:** We had one unique situation this period where a container ship weighed anchor and reported its anchor flukes were not attached to the stock and remained on the bottom. Many thanks to all who worked the matter, especially the Los Angeles Port Police, who used their underwater vehicle to locate the flukes, take pictures, and determine they were not a hazard to surface navigation. The reported water depth is approximately 98 feet. The flukes are partially buried beneath the silt and protrude approximately 3 feet above the bottom. The GPS location is 33°39.136’N x 118°07.862’N. The fluke tips heading is approximately 123°. The Vessel Traffic Service can no longer use this anchorage, SF-10, because of the obstruction. Appropriate agencies are working on what might be done.
- e. **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. 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.

Electrical power will be connected during the next 6 weeks, which will require shutting down commercial electrical power to the Marine Exchange for approximately 3, 1-day periods, for the digging and electrical connection to be made. We plan to run on our emergency generator during these power shutdowns and there should not be an operational impact, but we will have appropriate parts of our business resumption plan activated in case the generator fails. We are happy to support the LA Port Police getting their new communications capability operational.

- 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.

- (2) Update on USCG Sector LA/LB and AMSC activities: **Capt. Ore** combined her Sector and AMSC Reports due to the virtual format:
 - a. The CG Sector LA/LB Incident Management Division Chief, **Lt. Cdr. Jay Hagwood**, was attending for the first time.
 - b. The WAMS (Waterways Analysis Management System) survey for San Pedro Bay is ongoing and comments may be made on-line until 15 May. **Lt. Cdr. Maria Wiener** is the Point of Contact.
 - c. The CG is doing a survey regarding the use of Notice to Mariners. The link is on the CG Navigation Center web site.
 - d. Several Maritime Information Security Bulletins (MSIB) were issued. MISB 01-21 relates to roving watch requirements aboard commercial vessels with overnight accommodations in wake of the Dive Boat Conception fire. MSIB 02-21 relates to COVID-19 safety requirements including seaports and wearing of masks. MSIB 04-21 relates to crew change matters for the well-being of seafarers and stems from IMO activity.
 - e. There were 3 fires aboard recreational vessels in marinas since January. The CG has been doing outreach to local marinas and handing out flyers to increase situational awareness. Poor maintenance and unattended electronics seem to be root causes.
 - f. After a lull for the past year, here has been an increase in marine event permit requests for regattas, film shoots, and fireworks displays.
 - g. The Port Coordination Team (PCT), which is an advisory body to the Captain of the Port, had an administrative meeting. The PCT was very effectively used at the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic as an information-sharing body but the PCT can be used for virtually any reason. This PCT meeting included a short table-top exercise led by the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach regarding tsunami response.
 - h. Regarding Cyber Security, there were an increase cyber-attacks and incidents across all sectors including the maritime environment such as phishing, Solar Winds, malware to K-Line, fictitious terminals and fraudulent firms, and even fraudulent Coast Guard e-mail.

- i. Regarding the Area Maritime Security Committee, there were several breaches of security including transients on trains.
- j. The U.S. Navy started their interagency port assessment work, which will update the last version of the document (2019). The CG Sector LA/LB point of contact is **Mr. Chris Hogan**.
- k. The Coast Guard is hiring Cyber Security Specialists nationwide. The CG Sector LA/LB point of contact is **Mr. Chris Regan** or see USA Jobs.
- l. The 2021 FEMA PSGP (Port Security Grant Program) started. Submissions were due to the AMSC FEMA PSGP Sub-Committee by 31 March and will be evaluated by the middle of May.

(3) Update on OSPR activities: **Mr. Mighetto** reported:

- a. **Mr. Mighetto** thanked the Marine Exchange for their excellent work.
- b. OSPR is still under COVID-19 restrictions, which have not yet been relaxed.
- c. **Mr. Jonathan Bishop** was reappointed to the LA/LB HSC but administering the oath of office is not necessary because Mr. Bishop is a member of several HSCs and has already taken the oath.
- d. The grant to fund the Marine Exchange as the Executive Secretary of the committee was completed.
- e. **Mr. Mighetto** solicited comments **Mr. Ted Mar** of OSPR. **Mr. Mar** stated that **OSPR Administrator Cullen** was attending the San Diego HSC meeting at this same time. **Mr. Mar** stated that **Mr. Bishop** is on 4 HSCs and thanked him for his service. **Mr. Bishop** said he looked forward to attending for another 3-year term.
- f. **Mr. Mighetto** thanked **Mrs. Joyce Kaplan** (Marine Exchange Office Manager) for her excellent support of the Committee.

(4) California State Lands Commission (CSCL) activities: The seat is vacant. **Mr. Beckwith** reported inspectors are in the field under continuing COVID-19 protocols. Travel restrictions continue and 75% of the workforce is telecommuting. The date to return to normal is unknown. **Mr. Dennis Scovill**, Assistant Division Chief and backup to the **Mr. Beckwith** attending the HSC, retired.

(5) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) activities: **Mr. Fields** reported that dredging work on the LA River Estuary by Curtin Maritime continues and should be complete within 1 month. Curtin will then start dredging the POLB approach channel when there is a weather window; there is a shoal on the west side of the channel. Work will take about 1 week. Work on the LA/LB Breakwater is complete and regular yearly inspections will commence. **Chairperson Strong** queried if the USACOE was involved in the construction at Naval Weapons Station Seal Beach. **Mr. Field** responded no; that work is being done by the US Navy. The new, small craft channel into Huntington is complete. **Capt. Louttit** thanked **Mr. Fields** for his expertise regarding the dropped anchor flukes briefed earlier.

- (6) Update on National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) activities: **Mr. Ferguson** reported that **Ms. Kaplan** had sent his report by e-mail, which included a PDF attachment regarding the following 2 items:
- a. Regarding the sunset of NOAA Raster Charts. The first chart to be discontinued is #18665 for Lake Tahoe because it is isolated and a good test case. The process that a notice is put into the Notice to Mariners, which starts a 6-month phase out period and all charts printed during this period will have an appropriate notice. ENC charts will continue, and mariners should transition to them. The sunset and phase out of NOAA Raster Charts should be complete in January 2025.
 - b. 2021 Voluntary Vessel Speed Reduction Zones were published for the period 15 May to 15 November 2021. NOAA analysis of AIS data from 2020 revealed 54% of vessels complied with the 10-knot voluntary speeds in both San Francisco and Southern California (Santa Barbara Channel). Thanks to all vessels who slowed down to help reduce whale strikes.
 - c. The U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System has a COVID-19 working group which encourages participation in their survey regarding COVID-19 impacts.

ITEM III - NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. S/C #1 (Navigation Safety) – **Capt. Betz** reported:
 - i. S/C #1 met twice since the last full HSC Meeting, once in February and once in March. S/C #1 will meet again today on this same Zoom call immediately after this meeting. The ATB Work Group meet today on this same Zoom call immediately after the S/C #1 meeting. **Max Rosenberg** and **Brian Vartan** co-chair that Work Group.
 - ii. The committee has continued its work with drafting a proposal for treatment of Articulated Tug Barge units under the LA/LB Tug Escort Regulations. This issue was referred to a Work Group for further action. A final draft is pretty close to ready to submit to the full committee for consideration and vote to approve. S/C #1 and the Work Group will be going over this final draft today and hopefully getting something to the full committee in the not-too-distant future.
- b. **Mr. Ed Washburn**, senior Vice President of Fleet Operations for Pasha Hawaii, introduced his team and delivered a brief on West Coast Clean Fuels new LNG Mobile Bunker Facility. The firm plans to bring 2 new and 1 repowered container ships to the Port of Long Beach at Pier A starting in the fall of 2021.

ITEM IV – PUBLIC COMMENTS

- (1) None.

ITEM V - ADJOURNMENT:

- (1) The next meeting will be 2 June 2021 at the 10:00 a.m., most likely by virtual means.
- (2) **Capt. Betz** made a motion to adjourn, seconded by **Capt. Dwyer**, and the meeting adjourned at 11:02 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

//signed//

Captain J. Kipling (Kip) Louttit
Executive Secretary
21 May 2021

HSC #183 Meeting Attendees 4-7-2021

Ed Washburn - Speaker	Ross Timmerman
Capt. John Strong - Chair	Sean Marchant
Capt. Rebecca Ore, USCG - COTP	Steve Duboyce
Cdr. Marshall Newberry, USCG	Thomas Mackrell
LCDR Maria Wiener, USCG	Travis James Vandervort
LCDR Jay Hagwood, USCG	William Mergenthaler
Ted Mar – OSPR	
David Mighetto - OSPR	
Brian Vartan	
Bryan Irish	
Chris Beckwith	
Chu Man Kow	
Dan Rowlands	
Dave Selga	
Elias Van Sickle	
Eric Morgan	
Erik Bland	
Erik Bombard	
Greg Roche	
JJ Kichner	
James Haussener	
Jay Dwyer	
Jeff Ferguson	
Jess Morten	
Jim Fields	
Joe Walsh	
John Betz	
Jon Victoria	
Jonathan Bishop	
Joshua Knight	
Joyce Kaplan	
Kevin McCloskey	
Kip Louttit	
Mat Spencer	
Matt Vaughn	
Max Rosenberg	
Mega Medina (Hepner)	
Mike Jessner	
Mirek Skvzypkowski	
Mohammed Craig	
Pace Rallis	
Pat Baranic	
Ramine Cromartie	
Randy Black	