



LOS ANGELES/LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

Mandated by
California Oil Spill Prevention and
Response Act of 1990

MINUTES OF THE ONE HUNDRED and NINETY-SIXTH MEETING OF THE LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE Wednesday, 7 February 2024

The One Hundred and Ninety-Sixth Meeting of the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee was convened in person at the Los Angeles Administration Building with hybrid option. **Chairperson John Betz** called the meeting to order at 12:00 p.m. **Executive Secretary Louttit** determined a quorum was not present at the beginning of the meeting (short 1) but a quorum of 10 (need 9) was reached shortly thereafter, as listed below:

**FOR THE PORT OF
LONG BEACH**

Mr. Rafael Delgado

**FOR THE PORT OF
LOS ANGELES**

Capt. Jay Dwyer (LAP)

**FOR THE LONG BEACH
PILOT ORGANIZATION**

Capt. Simon Cail (JPS)

**FOR THE TANKER
OPERATORS**

Absent

**FOR THE LOS ANGELES
PILOT ORGANIZATION**

Capt. Jeff White
(LAP)

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

Absent

**FOR TUG & BARGE
OPERATORS**

Mr. Brian Vartan (West Oil)

**FOR DRY CARGO VESSEL
OPERATORS**

Absent (at sea)

**FOR RECREATIONAL
BOATING OPERATORS**

Capt. John Betz (CBYC)

FOR ORGANIZED LABOR

Mr Eric Morgan
(Sause)

**FOR THE CALIFORNIA
COASTAL COMMISSION**

Mr. Jonathan Bishop

**FOR MARINE OIL TERMINAL
OPERATORS**

Captain Thomas MacKrell
(Marathon)

**FOR COMMERCIAL
FISHING**

Mr. Daniel Strunk
San Pedro Bait Company

**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 CALIFORNIA
STATE LANDS COMMISSION**

Mr. Ferric Cabuhay

**FOR PASSENGER FERRY
OPERATORS**

Erik Bombard

**FOR THE SHIP'S AGENT
ORGANIZATION**

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 CDF&W/OSPR

Mr. Jon Victoria

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

Capt. Ryan Manning, USCG

FOR THE NOAA/NOS

Mr. Jeffrey Ferguson

FOR THE U.S. NAVY

Absent

FOR THE USACOE

Absent

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Capt. J. Kipling Louttit
(MX SoCal)

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

Chairperson Betz welcomed everyone in attendance and thanked all for their interest in and participation on the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee, and noted the meeting is open to any member of the public, meeting materials were distributed in advance and copies were at the door, the agenda was posted and distributed in advance, there will be a Public Comment period during the meeting, and reviewed location of emergency exits and rest rooms. Attendees were reminded to sign in. The Committee thanked the Port of Los Angeles for making their Administration Building available for the meeting. **Executive Secretary Louttit** reviewed hybrid meeting protocols. **Chairperson Betz** had all members and alternates introduce themselves.

ACTION ITEMS:

Mr. Victoria stated **Chief Thomas Gazsi** was reappointed as alternate member representing the Port of Los Angeles, **Capt. Thomas MacKrell** was reappointed as primary member representing the Marine Oil Terminal Operators, **Mr. Rafael Delgado** was appointed as alternate member representing the Port of Long Beach (switching from primary member), and **Mr. Darin Wright** was appointed representing the Port of Long Beach. **Mr. Victoria** administered the oath to **Mr. Delgado** and **Mr. Wright** in person and then to **Capt. MacKrell** virtually, and reminded the appointees to sign paperwork after the meeting. **Chief Gazsi** arrived later in the meeting and was sworn in separately. Congratulations were extended to all appointees.

A quorum was reached at this time.

ITEM I: APPROVAL OF MINUTES OF LAST MEETING:

- (1) **Chairperson Betz** made a motion to approve the minutes of the 195th meeting on 6 December 2023, seconded by **Mr. Delgado**. There were no comments, corrections, or discussion. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote of the voting members present.

ITEM II: OLD BUSINESS:

- (1) **Chairperson Betz** 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 HSC meeting in December for a total of 24 in 2023. For comparison, there were 30 incidents in 2022. The 1st incident of the period and 23rd of the 2023 was a tug assisting a vehicle ship colliding with the bow of the vehicle ship with pilot aboard in anchorage B-12. There was damage to the tug. The tug departed for its home dock and a replacement tug assisted the vehicle ship to its berth. The 2nd incident of the period and 24th and final incident of 2023 was a container ship in the Northern Traffic Lanes inbound the Port of Los Angeles with no pilot aboard that reported

an issue with its hydraulic system that limited the vessel to 12 knots. CG Sector LA/LB granted permission for the vessel to embark its pilot and proceed to its berth.

The 3rd incident of the period and 1st incident of 2024 was an articulated tug and barge (ATB) and tanker in adjacent anchorages B-10 and B-13 with no pilots aboard that collided while at anchor. The VTS overheard the Tanker calling the ATB on the radio with no response. The Tanker notified JPS (Jacobsen Pilot Service) that the ATB was very close. The VTS established comms with the ATB. The ATB established comms with JPS and said it was getting its engines online. JPS said they were sending a pilot. The ATB said it would not weigh anchor but would twist away from the tanker. Sector LA/LB notified the VTS the tanker reported a collision with the ATB.

- b. **Traffic Report:** **Capt. Louttit** referred to the handout that was sent with the read-aheads. New information since the last HSC meeting in December is color coded light blue. 4,366 vessels arrived in 2023, 320 fewer than in 2022 and 194 fewer than the 380 arrivals per month or 12.5 per day arrivals based on 2018 and 2019 levels before COVID we consider “normal” years. Most of the missing ships were container ships.

Arrival and departure routes followed the 2023 pattern of about 40% arriving from and departing to the North and South, 20% arriving from and departing to the West, and the remainder arriving from and departing to the Chevron Offshore Marine Terminal in El Segundo of about 2%.

c. **Final Comments:**

- i. **Capt. Louttit** summarized incidents in 2023. There were 24 Incidents in 2023, 6 fewer than the year before. 2 of the incidents were close quarters situations (a ship with Jet Skis and a tug and tow with a fishing vessel), and 1 collision of a ship with a fishing vessel could merit a look by Sub-Committee 1.

1. 13 of the 24 incidents were issues with propulsion, 6 fewer than 2022 and 4 fewer than 2021, but the spikes in 2021 and 2022 to 17 and 19 propulsion incidents respectively were attributed to the many extra ships in our waters above normal, such as when 114 ships of all types were anchored or loitering (drifting) within 25-40 miles of the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach during the COVID-19 backup October 2020 - November 2022. The 13 propulsion incidents in 2023 were broken down as follows: 10 resolved themselves, were repaired the ship’s crew, or were limited but not loss of propulsion, 1 was a loss of propulsion that required outside tugs to resolve (which were already alongside), and 2 were loss of or limited steering.

2. The remaining 11 incidents in 2023 were 1 search and rescue case, 1 inoperative anchor windlass, 2 close quarters (ship with Jet Skis, and tug and tow with fishing vessel), 2 collisions (ship and fishing vessel in fog, and ship with its assist tug), and 5 “other” incidents. The 1 search and rescue case was a tanker that found a sailing vessel with no people aboard. The 5 “other” incidents

were 2 ships with gyrocompass issues, 1 ship with inoperative AIS (Automatic Identification System (AIS)), and 2 ships with inoperative radar.

- ii. The VTS continues to only use about half of the anchorages outside the breakwater, which spaces out the ships at anchor for safety. The process to change the anchorage locations on the chart is in progress but takes time, and we look forward to the Coast Guard's update brief that will be delivered later in the meeting.
- iii. The VTS enacted heavy weather anchorage protocols several times during the period including twice in the past week. Per the LA/LB Harbor Safety Plan and the Coast Guard's Maritime Safety Information Bulletin, heavy weather protocols are enacted when wind is forecast or observed more than 35 knots. We stop anchoring vessels 48 hours in advance of the wind event, and vessels already anchored who choose to remain at anchor must have their 2nd anchor ready for letting go and their engine in immediate standby. There were a dozen loitering vessels during the high wind last week with no issues.
- iv. 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.
- v. A member asked if there was any oil discharge with any of the collisions; **Capt. Louttit** replied there was none.

(2) Update on USCG Sector LA/LB and AMSC activities: **Capt. Ryan Manning** combined his Sector and AMSC reports as follows:

- a. The AMSC originally scheduled for this morning was rescheduled to 28 February at the LAPD Harbor Division Building.
- b. **Capt. Stacey Crecy** will relieve **Capt. Manning** as Commander of CG Sector LA/LB and Captain of the Port (COTP) on 29 March. All HSC members are invited. **Capt. Crecy** will be relieved as Deputy Commander and Deputy COTP by **Capt. Jarod DeWitz**, a Kings Point Graduate, arriving in June or July, who is currently Commander of CG Marine Safety Unit Duluth, MN.
- c. Coast Guard District 11 in Alameda has the lead on Space Operations. **Cdr. McNamara** and **Lcdr. Kinsella** are local points of contact. A new firm, Talon Hypersonic Systems in the Mohave Desert, will start launching satellites from aircraft, which will land approximately 90 miles West of Point Conception. The first launch is scheduled for 12 February. Appropriate notices will be sent.
- d. The container ship *Horizon Reliance* came in last month, repowered with LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) and renamed as a Pasha ship, the *George II*.
- e. Thanks to all for working so well with the Sector regarding the 12 holiday events in the AOR. Thousands of boaters participated and there were no reported incidents.

- f. The Coast Guard Waterways Analysis Management Studies (WAMS) are a great way for maritime users to provide input and feedback to the Coast Guard. 2 WAMS were started already.
- g. The Coast Guard Sector LA/LB Prevention Department will host a number of Industry Days in April including the Domestic Vessel Branch and Port State Control, and Port Facilities Branch at a date to be determined later this spring.
- h. The ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach have “Standards of Care” approved by the Harbor Safety Committee and included in the Harbor Safety Plan regarding heavy weather, but the Coast Guard does not have “Safety Zone” authority for LA and LB it has for heavy weather in other ports such as Morro Bay, or for oversized cargo movements such as container cranes. Sector LA/LB must go through a complicated process in each of these cases that existing authority would simplify. A similar situation exists for lack of a “Security Zone” around the Coast Guard Base itself, which was illuminated by the case of divers off the Coast Guard Base near the moored cutters. **Capt. Manning** thanked **Capt. Kevin McCloskey** and the LA Port Police for their response to that situation. **Lcdr. Kinsella** is exploring getting the Sector LA/LB the appropriate authorities.
- i. **Capt. Manning** complimented **Capt. Joe Rock** (QMC, USCG, Retired), for taking action with his Foss Tug *Jamie Ann* to move a disabled recreational boat out of the way of an outbound large merchant ship.
- j. **Capt. Manning** thanked the Jacobsen Pilot Service and Marine Exchange for their proactive action to facilitate the CGC MIDGETT arriving to take bunkers while at anchor in Long Beach.
- k. **Capt. Manning** thanked the Committee for their partnership and how well everyone works together to get things done in port complex. **Chairperson Betz** commented how good relations are between the Coast Guard and the port community, thanked **Capt. Manning**, and said the Committee looks forward to working with **Capt. Crecy**.
- l. There was a question from a member regarding what the divers were doing; the answer was getting lobsters. **Capt. Manning** again thanked the LA Port Police, LA Police Department, and LA Sheriffs for responding with their divers, and to the LA Port Police for finding the vessel and the divers.

(3) Update on OSPR activities:

- a. **Mr. Victoria** welcomed **Mr. Cris Sogliusso**, Southern California Regional Director of the Inland Boatman’s Union of the Pacific, and **Freddy Saenz** and **Jeremiah Macaulay** of SoCal Ship Services.
- b. OSPR is updating its sensitive site regulations and will send advance notice to the Committee by e-mail from the Marine Exchange in advance of the formal rulemaking process.

(4) California State Lands Commission (CSCL) activities: **Ferric Cabuhay** reported 2023 figures by VTC. There were 2,664 total transfers and 794 total vessel monitors for a Total Transfer Percentage of 29.80%. Crude Oil and Product totals were 382,571,187 barrels. There were 0 reported oil spills in 2023 from Terminals, Vessels, or Facilities. There were 5,194 Qualified Voyages for Marine Invasive Species Inspections and 1,025 vessels

were inspected (20%), which is short of the goal of 1,299 inspections, for a shortfall of -273.5.

- (5) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) activities: Not present; no report.
- (6) Update on National Oceanic and Atmospheric (NOAA) activities: **Capt. Louttit** passed **Mr. Ferguson's** report:
- a. **Hydrographic Services Review Panel**: The HSRP is a federal advisory committee that provides NOAA with independent advice on improving the quality, efficiency, and usefulness of NOAA's navigation-related products, data, and services. There are two public meetings each year in different port regions at which public comments from stakeholders and partners are sought. Most of the meetings include a webinar capability to facilitate remote attendance. The next meeting will be in San Pedro at the Doubletree by Hilton, on March 5-7, 2024. Planners for the meeting may be reaching out to local stakeholders for participation on session panels and/or to provide site visits to the HSRP members, so they can better understand the relevant issues in the port. Pass input to **Mr. Ferguson** or me because I am scheduled to make a presentation to the HSRP with local input. This is a public meeting, and all interested parties are encouraged to attend. More information will be available here and the agenda will be posted soon: <https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/hsrp/panel.html>

If you have issues that you believe the HSRP should discuss, site visit ideas, or want to plan sidebar meetings, please contact **Mr. Ferguson** at jeffrey.ferguson@noaa.gov
 - b. **Production of Raster Charts is Ending**: NOAA is in the process of ending production of the raster chart products, including the traditional paper chart. The final charts will be canceled in December 2024. Coastal chart 18746, San Pedro Channel, is now in LAST EDITION status and will be cancelled on 31 July 2024. For users wanting a large format paper representation of the ENC for situational awareness or planning purposes, NOAA has the Custom Chart Tool that can convert the ENC data into a PDF that can be printed. The NOAA Custom Chart Tool is available here: <https://devgis.charttools.noaa.gov/pod/>
 - c. **NOAA's Marine Debris Program**: The NOAA Marine Debris Program released the United States Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide: A New National-Level Comprehensive Guide in collaboration with other federal agencies in December 2023. The Guide aims to improve preparedness for responding to marine debris after hurricanes and other disasters in coastal areas of the United States, including the Great Lakes and territories. The purpose of the Guide is to improve preparedness for response and recovery operations following any natural disaster or event that generates large amounts of marine debris in the United States. This Guide will complement the state-specific guides available on the NOAA Marine Debris Program Response page. More information is in **Mr. Ferguson's** written report, which will be sent to the Committee after the meeting.
- (7) **Chairperson Betz** queried whether there was any other old business: There was none.

ITEM III - NEW BUSINESS:

(1) Sub-Committee Reports:

- a. S/C #1 (Navigation Safety) – **Chairperson Betz** passed **Capt. McCaughey’s** report. The Subcommittee has been involved in several projects including:
 - i. **Mr. Rafael Delgado** of the Port of Long Beach has been working with the Sub-committee on developing and updating the protocols for tankship lightering inside the federal breakwater.
 - ii. A “deep dive” was taken by a Working Group regarding Appendix G of the LA/LB Harbor Safety Plan regarding assigning and monitoring anchorages at Catalina Island. Work is almost complete, and approval will likely be sought at the next Committee Meeting.
 - iii. The Sub-Committee has been discussing and giving input to the Coast Guard regarding the potential proposal to remove several outer harbor aids to navigation in Los Angeles Harbor.
 - iv. Routine work to update the Harbor Safety Plan continues and keep the Sub-Committee apprised of construction projects in the harbor.
 - v. The Sub-Committee will next meet this afternoon at the Marine Exchange approximately 30 minutes after this meeting adjourns.
 - b. **Capt. Louttit** briefed the proposal to create an Undersea Facilities seat on the HSC, suggested by the Marine Exchange and Amplify Energy and discussed at the October, November, December, and January meetings of Sub-Committee 1, and approved by Sub-Committee 1 on 3 January 2024. The suggestion for this seat stems from the out of court settlement reached following the 2021 Huntington Beach Oil Spill and associated anchor drags, and the Marine Exchange being sued. **Capt. Louttit** read the draft letter from the Committee to the Administrator of OSPR, who is the approval authority of proposed new seats on the Committee, per section 8670.23 of the Lempert, Keene, Seastrand Act.
 - i. **Chairperson Betz** commented if approved by the Committee, he would sign the letter and send it to OSPR, and that the decision to create the seat or not, and who to fill it with, completely rests with OSPR. **Chairperson Betz** also commented that seats have been created before, such as for agents.
 - ii. **Chairperson Betz** made a motion to approve the letter with subject line “Request to Create New and Additional Membership Position on the Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee Representing Subsea Facilities.” The motion was seconded by **Capt. Coynes**. There were no comments, corrections, or discussion. There was a question for OSPR as to who should fill the seat. **Mr. Victoria** answered that there was a lot of discussion on what entity would fill the seat, which got narrowed down to someone in the petroleum industry with pipeline experience, but the answer is to be determined. The motion carried by unanimous voice vote of the voting members present.
- (2) **LT Katie Clark** and **LTJG Ruby Sebastian**, USCG, delivered an update brief regarding proposed changes to the Foxtrot, Golf, and Sierra Foxtrot anchorages off Los Angeles and Long Beach, which follows from the Marine Exchange’s recommendation and requires a change to the (CFR) Code of Federal Regulations. The proposal spaces out the anchorages and provides greater distance to the undersea pipeline. **Chairperson Betz** queried how long it

may take to make the changes. **CDR William George** from CG District 11 in Alameda responded that it would hopefully be complete by the end of this year.

(3) **Dahlia Rifai** and **Julien Bellande** of Total Energies delivered brief regarding their proposal to do bunkering of LNG (Liquified Natural Gas) in the Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach by ship with LNG from Mexico. There were several questions and answers such as whether the slides would be sent out (**Capt. Louttit** said yes), size of the LNG bunkering ship, onboard firefighting capability, how long transfers would take, whether simultaneous cargo and LNG bunkering operations were anticipated, and whether there were other similar operations elsewhere in the United States. **Capt. Manning** commented that the Coast Guard would be involved in the answers to several of these questions. Total Energies will brief Sub-Committee 1 this afternoon.

(4) **Chairperson Betz** queried whether there were any other new business; there was none.

ITEM IV – PUBLIC COMMENTS

(1) **Chairperson Betz** queried whether there were any members of the public present in the room or attending virtually who wanted to ask a question or make public comment. There was none.

ITEM V - ADJOURNMENT:

- (1) **Mr. Victoria** swore in **Chief Thomas Gazsi** an alternate member of the Committee representing the Port of Los Angeles.
- (2) **Chairperson Betz** presented **Capt. Manning** with a Certificate of Appreciation from the Committee, co-signed by **Dr. Julie Yamamoto**, Acting Administrator of OSPR, and **Capt. Betz**, Chairperson of the LA/LB HSC. **Capt. Manning** said that this was his 3rd tour of duty in LA/LB and it was a delight and honor to serve all 3 times.
- (3) The next meeting of the HSC will be held in person with hybrid option Wednesday 3 February 2024 at 10:00am at the Port of Long Beach Harbor Maintenance Facility. Sub-Committee 1 will convene in 30 minutes at 2:00 p.m. today at the Marine Exchange.
- (4) **Capt. Coynes** made a motion to adjourn, which was seconded by **Ms. Dill**, and approved. The meeting adjourned at 1:38 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

//signed//

Captain J. Kipling (Kip) Louttit
Executive Secretary
26 March 2024

FEB

LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING #196, 7 January 2024

NAME	AGENCY	E-MAIL/PHONE (Not needed for members.)
JOHN BETZ	LA PILOTS / REC BOATS	
JAY OWYB	PORT OF L.A.	
BRIAN VARTAN	THE RICHES CENTERLINE	
Claudio Herra	CDFW OSPR	
Jos Victoria	CDFW / OSPR	
Morgan, Eric	Org. Labor	562-508-6735 eric.a.morgan@lacity.org
JAY W COOK Port Chaplain	Mission to Seafarers + Norwegian Seamen	jay.cook@mtsmail.org 424-933-9373
Kariand Dill	Sattchuk	
STACEY CREEY	USCG SECTOR LA-LB	stacey.l.creey@uscg.mil
Darwin Wright	POLB	darwin.wright@polb.com
William George, CDR	USCG	
Ruby Sebastian, LTJG	USCG	
Natie Clark, LT	USCG	
Robert Zamora	USCG	
RAFAEL DELGADO	POLB	rafael.delgado@polb.com 562-283-7756
Jens Bonhomme	Total Energies	FES 9151 7061
Dahlia Rifai	Total Energies	dahlia.rifai@totsa.com
Julien Bellande	Total Energies	julien-bellande@totsa.com
Joyce Kaplan	MXSOCAL	

FEB

LA/LB HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING #196, 7 January 2024

NAME	AGENCY	E-MAIL/PHONE (Not needed for members.)
JON PATTERSON	LAFD	jon.patterson@lacity.org
DAN COBOS	LA PORT POLICE	dcobos@PORTLA.ORG
Mark Connes	IPS	markconnes@InvernessPort.com
Tom Osborne	CHEVRON	thomas.osborne@chevron.com
Natasha Villa	PMSA	nvilla@pmsaship.com
Jeremiah Macaulay	SCSS	jmacaulay@ship-services.com
RYAN STIREWALT	CROWLEY	RYAN.STIREWALT@CROWLEY
Freddy Saenz	SCSS	fSaenz@ship-services.com
DANNY RODRIGUEZ	L.A. PORT POLICE (HAZMAT)	DRDRIGUEZ@PORT LA. ORG.
KEVIN MINIELLA	USCG	KEVIN.C.MINIELLA@USCG.MIL
William George	USCG	William.J.George@USCG.MIL
TIM MCNAMARA	USCG	timothy.p.mcnamara@USCG.MIL
Robert Zamora	USCG D11 Dpw	Robert.L.ZAMORA2@USCG.MIL
ERIK NEANDROSS	GNA	ERIKC.GLADSTEIN.ORG
Rudy DEMARQUAY	TotalEnergies	rudy.demarquay@totsea.com
Elsa Boutourlinsky	Total Energies	elsa.boutourlinsky@totsea.com
JOE SERRANO	TOTAL ENERGIES	JASEANID1232@GMAIL.COM

FEB
HSC #196 Virtual Attendees 7 JAN 2024

Bill Johns
Eric Caris
Erik Bombard
Ferric Cabuhay
Gustav Hein
Jeff Ortloff
Jeff White
Jeffrey Ferguson
Jonathan Bishop
Joyce Kaplan
Landon Scott
Pat Baranic
Ross Timmerman
Sanjeet Kamat
Thomas MacKrell