

Executive Summary 2019-2020

The Harbor Safety Committee continued its collaborative process to engage the maritime community in supporting navigation safety in the Bay.

During 2019-2020:

- NOAA advised that its Office of Coast Survey is beginning the five-year process of ending paper nautical chart production. Electronic Navigational Charts, or ENC charts (vector datasets), will replace paper and raster products. NOAA is working with the USCG regarding inspection requirements, as current inspections require paper maps used by the pilots/operators.
- The Dredge Work Group and the Navigation Work Group Worked with USACE and NOAA to achieve CATZOC A1 in Pinole Shoal Channel. This will allow ship planners to more accurately schedule cargo shipments.
- The Ferry work group reported that new service lines were opened in the past year, including service to Vallejo and to the new Chase Center in San Francisco.
- The Chair of the Prevention through People work group initiated the San Francisco Expired Boat Flare Recycling Program, the first in California. A number of Bay Area counties followed suit through their environmental divisions. Boat flares have not been an allowable recycled item and have been difficult for recreational boaters to dispose of. Environmental grants provided the funding to recycle and remove from the normal waste streams the hazardous products.
- The San Francisco Bay Area Harbor Safety Committee was the first HSC to move its meetings to an online platform to conduct regular business due to COVID-19. The April - July 2020 meetings were held via Zoom, which fostered expanded attendance.

The Committee also received a number of presentations related to a diverse range of topics including:

- Sector San Francisco's 2019 Marine Transportation System Recovery Plan, which outlines actions to reopen ports and sustain maritime transit in the event of an incident of significant impact to commercial maritime commerce. This new Plan replaces the 2014 Recovery Plan.
- A presentation provided by Sail Grand Prix's 2020 Regatta and Air Show, and work group planning efforts; however, the event was cancelled due to the pandemic.
- Cindy Murphy of OSPR outlined OSPR's Response Equipment Grant Program, which provides response equipment to any local government agency adjacent to waters of the state, and pre-stages response equipment to address immediate needs related to an oil spill response.
- There were two individual presentations on the use of drones in and around the Bay: Alex Spataru, from the ADEPT Group, described a plan to utilize unmanned aerial vehicles (drones) for enhanced monitoring of offshore vessel emissions for non-compliance with fuel regulations; and Cal Maritime gave a presentation on Maritime Application of Unmanned Aerial Systems utilizing drones for possible use in the Bay, including oil spill response and safety, marine research, commercial fishing, part and parcel delivery for anchored or offshore vessels, among other uses.

- Jessica Morten from NOAA informed the HSC about Protecting Blue Whales and Blue Skies in California's Natural Marine Sanctuaries, a partnership for cleaner air, safety for whales, and quieter oceans. Vessels can voluntarily reduce speeds, enroll in incentive programs, and observe traffic separation schemes to reduce the risk of ship strikes with protected marine mammals and address air emissions concerns.

See Appendix C for Work Group activities conducted over the previous year.