

Harbor Safety Committee

of the San Francisco Bay Region

*Mandated by the California Oil Spill
Prevention and Response Act of 1990*

Draft Minutes

Harbor Safety Committee of the San Francisco Bay Region

January 11, 2024

Richmond Maritime Safety & Security Center

756 West Gertrude Street, Richmond, California

Scott Humphrey (M), Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region (Marine Exchange), Chair of the Harbor Safety Committee (HSC); called the meeting to order at 10:00.

Marcus Freeling (A), Marine Exchange, confirmed the presence of a quorum of the HSC.

Committee members (M) and alternates (A) in attendance with a vote: **Cody Aichele-Rothman (A)** Bay Conservation and Development Commission; **Ben Eichenberg (M)**, San Francisco Baykeeper; **John Fadeeff (M)**, Chevron Shipping Co.; **Jeff Ferguson (M)**, NOAA; **Patrick Forrester (A)**, Port of San Francisco; **Jim Haussener (A)**, CMANC; **Capt. Tony Heeter (M)**, Blue and Gold Fleet; **Capt. Taylor Lam (M)**, United States Coast Guard; **Jeff Qualman (M)**, Norvic Shipping; **Capt. Paul Ruff (M)**, San Francisco Bar Pilots; **John Schneider (M)**, Marathon Petroleum; **Jessica Vargas (A)**, US Army Corps of Engineers; **Jeff Vine (M)**, Port of Stockton.

The meetings are always open to the public.

Approval of the Minutes-

A motion to accept the minutes of the November 9, 2023, meeting was made and seconded. The minutes were approved without dissent.

Comments by the Chair- Scott Humphrey

Welcomed the committee members and audience.

Coast Guard Report- Capt. Taylor Lam

- The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Summit was held successfully in November 2023. The event was safe and secure. The New Year's Eve fireworks SEAR event was also held successfully with increased public attendance.
- The USCG conducted Operation Safe Crab aimed at improving fishing vessel safety. Twenty-three vessel inspections were performed.

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- A cybersecurity incident was reported by the Port of Oakland. The incident had minimal impact but demonstrates the importance of preparedness. USCG Cyber Protection Teams are available to conduct cybersecurity assessments and assist with network hardening.
- Increased storm activity is predicted which can increase navigational risk. Waterway and vessel safety are priorities.
- USCG leadership changes will be taking place this summer. Capt. Jordan Balduenza will be taking over for Capt. Lam as Sector San Francisco Commander and COTP.
- LT William Harris read from the November- 2023 Prevention/Response Report (attached). The December report will be reviewed at the February HSC Meeting.

Army Corps of Engineers Report- Jessica Vargas

- Read from the US Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District Report (attached). FY23 dredging is still ongoing at Richmond inner Harbor and Redwood City Harbor. The FY24 dredge program will be released. Debris removal tonnage was below average for November and December. Work continues on the Oakland Harbor Turning Basins Widening Study and the Regional Dredge Material Management Plan. Surveys are posted and a channel condition report is included.
- The hopper dredge Essayons was in drydock for repairs and additional information will be provided.

Clearinghouse Report- Marcus Freeling (report attached)

OSPR Report- Mike Zamora

- Several new HSC members and alternates have been appointed to the committee and will be sworn in before the February HSC meeting: Paul Hendriks (A), Baydelta Maritime, will represent barge operators. Christie Coats (M), Port of Redwood City, will represent port authorities. Erin Pierson (M), Crowley, will represent tug operators. Laura Rosenberg (A), Foss Maritime, will represent tug operators. Terms end on December 19, 2026. Capt. Tony Heeter has been appointed as HSC Vice-Chair.
- A new HSC membership vacancy announcement will be distributed. Applications are welcome. Contact: michael.zamora@wildlife.ca.gov

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NOAA Report- Jeff Ferguson

- Read from the NOAA HSC Report for January 2024 (attached). All raster charts are scheduled for cancelation by the end of 2024. NOAA's Custom Chart Tool is available to convert ENC's into printable PDFs. Chart printing vendors are also available. The USCG is responsible for determining chart carriage requirements. The NWS reports that an El Nino Advisory has been issued. King tides are predicted this week and flooding is a concern in addition to coastal erosion.

State Lands Commission Report- Robert Booker (report attached)

- Scott Humphrey asked about ballast water testing procedures. Robert Booker advised that ships are boarded to check physical records and conduct ballast water inspections. A State Lands conference is being planned and details will be provided.

PORTS Report- Marcus Freeling

- The Southampton Shoal LB6, Oakland Inner Harbor LB4, and Oakland Outer Harbor LB3 buoy-mounted current meters are offline due to failing batteries. Service and redeployment are being coordinated. Wind sensors at the Richmond Point Potrero weather station were replaced and the station is back online. Data issues with the Amorco and Pier 17 visibility sensors are being addressed. The Amorco Current meter experienced an outage and service is in progress. Routine PORTS maintenance is ongoing.
- PORTS data is publicly available through NOAA's Tides and Currents website: <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports/index.html?port=sf>

Report on the CDIP Wave Buoy Program – Jim Behrens, UC San Diego

- Jim Behrens, UC San Diego, gave a presentation to the committee on the Coastal Data Information Program (CDIP). The program began in 1975 and now operates twenty-five Waverider buoys offshore California collecting wave data. Funding for the program is provided by USACE, the State of California, and the US Navy. CDIP is separate from NOAA's offshore buoy system, but data is shared. A CDIP buoy is located in the San Francisco Bar Channel. Wave data from the buoy is transmitted every thirty minutes and disseminated through NOAA SF PORTS. CDIP buoys measure wave energy, direction, and height. Ocean current and temperature data are also collected. Several record high waves were recorded in 2023. The data is used for wave model forecasting, coastal erosion research, and real time marine safety alerts. In Long Beach,

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CDIP data is provided to the Bar Pilots and Marine Exchange to inform ship navigation. Forecasts and alerts for hazardous seas are provided to Chevron to increase safety of their lightering operations. The California State Parks uses CDIP data for infrastructure exposure planning. El Nino conditions are associated with stronger storms and increased wave activity. More information is available at: www.cdip.ucsd.edu. Letters of support from stakeholders are requested to maintain CDIP funding. Contact: jb@cdip.ucsd.edu

- Capt. Paul Ruff advised that the SF Bar Pilots use CDIP data for navigational planning. Under keel clearance is critical for ships transiting the Main Ship Channel and CDIP data is beneficial, especially for outbound vessels. Scott Humphrey asked about additional uses of CDIP data. Jim Behrens advised that the USCG uses the data to aid Search and Rescue missions. The US Navy uses CDIP data for submarine navigation and the NWS integrates the data for forecasting/modeling. Scott Humphrey advised that a public webinar on CDIP would help stakeholders better understand the program and data collected.

Work Group Reports-

Tug Work Group- Nothing to report. Scott Humphrey advised that a new Work Group Chair will be appointed.

Navigation Work Group- Capt. Paul Ruff: Echo Buoy will not be physically replaced until late February or March due to the lack of a buoy tender. The buoy will continue to be displayed on AIS as a virtual ATON. The Oakland Outer Harbor ranges require maintenance and night work at the Port of Oakland could be impacted. Capt. Lam advised that the investigation is still ongoing into the November 4, 2023, incident involving a transiting ship encountering a swimming event. Investigation findings will be provided when complete and safety is paramount. USCG VTS event reporting procedures are being reviewed.

Ferry Operations Work Group- Capt. Tony Heeter: The Bay Ferry VI maritime security exercise and APEC were held successfully. The Work Group is reviewing ferry routing protocol, and a meeting will be scheduled to consider the issue. Participants are requested to attend. SF Bay Ferry is planning for fleet electrification in the coming years. A new diesel ferry will be arriving soon, but future ferries will be electric. The hydrogen fuel cell powered Sea Change ferry is making regulatory progress and is currently bunkering. There have been two recent reports of laser pointers being directed at ferry wheelhouses. Lasers can impair the ferry captain's vision and are a serious safety concern. Capt. Lam advised that laser incidents be reported to the USCG Command Center.

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Dredge Issues Work Group- Jim Haussener: A Work Group meeting will be scheduled.

PORTS Work Group- Potential upriver expansion of SF PORTS will be considered.

Prevention through People Work Group- Jim Haussener: No marina damage was reported from the recent storm. BAMO met in December with the next meeting to be held on March 7th.

Marine Mammal Work Group- Kathi George (A), The Marine Mammal Center: The Work Group met in December. Vessel Speed Reduction issues are being considered and proposals will be brought to the main HSC when ready. Work Group meetings will be held directly after regular HSC meetings starting in February.

Scott Humphrey advised of plans to transmit whale protection information through AIS. The Marine Exchange is acquiring AIS transceivers that are capable of transmitting AIS virtual ATONs. A recent trip was made to install an AIS receiver at the Port of Humboldt Bay. Humboldt Bay receives regular oil barge traffic and development of offshore wind is expected to increase vessel traffic in the future. AIS capability will allow for enhanced vessel tracking and monitoring of the region. Jim Haussener advised that regular Humboldt Bay dredging is critical.

Public Comment-

- Rom Matthews, USCG Marine Transportation System Recovery Coordinator, advised that an MTS Recovery Work Group meeting will be held on March 19th. A tabletop port reopening exercise will take place on May 16th. Stakeholders are welcome to participate. Marine firefighting of lithium battery fires is a critical issue. Scott Humphrey advised that maritime orientation seminars are planned. Capt. Ruff advised that foam containment of lithium fires is a priority and training is critical.
- Benita Margaronis, Propeller Club, advised that a meeting will be held at Scott's Seafood in Oakland on February 6th. The Propeller Club has joined social media sites to further engage on maritime issues. Contact: apmargaronis@gmail.com
- Charles Gerard, Port of Richmond, introduced himself to the committee as the new Port Director.

Old Business- None

New Business- None

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Next Meeting-

1000-1200, February 8, 2024
Port of San Francisco, Pier 1, Bay Side Conference Room
The Embarcadero, San Francisco, California

Adjournment-

A motion to adjourn the meeting was made and seconded. The motion passed without dissent and the meeting adjourned at 11:28.

Respectfully submitted: Marine Exchange of the San Francisco Bay Region