

Executive Summary 2020-2021

The Harbor Safety Committee continued its collaborative process to engage the maritime community in supporting navigation safety in the Bay, including reviewing the locations of the Bay's Critical Maneuvering Areas to confirm their continued applicability.

Also during 2020-2021:

- The Harbor Safety Committee of the San Francisco Bay Region continued to hold its regular business meetings on an online platform due to COVID-19. The expanded attendance via Zoom has continued to hold steady.
- The Harbor Safety Committee submitted a comment letter to the City of Oakland on the Draft Environmental Impact Report for the proposed Oakland A's stadium project at Howard Terminal. The comment letter covered a number of concerns regarding the proposed stadium and associated development project which may potentially conflict with port operations and navigation safety issues.
- The Dredge Work Group formed a multiagency working group to establish a protocol for USACE to regularly provide to the HSC a Channel Condition Report.
- The Navigation Work Group, together with the Dredge Work Group, worked with the USACE to complete the Bulls Head Channel emergency dredging, and continues to work on the Pinole Shoal channel, which experiences a recurring loss of depth.
- The Ferry Work Group initiated an investigation through solicitation of commercial operators to determine if "ghost" AIS signals exist, an issue interfering with navigation equipment.
- The Prevention Through People Work Group continued the regional Boat Flare Program, which started at the San Francisco Marina and expanded to other counties through 2020. The program further supported boaters on safety, and as boating expands during Summer 2021, boat flare training and awareness will regain momentum and provide an option to use expired flares for practical experience training. The work group coordinated with the various Harbor Masters, USCG Auxiliaries, and various Yacht Clubs to regionally accomplish this activity.
- Bay Area Marina Operators, a subgroup of the Prevention Through People Work Group, provided a presentation on marina/harbor financing for harbor improvements, both via infrastructure and environmentally, with thanks to California Maritime Infrastructure Bank.

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

- Report on Berkeley Pier Bird Habitat Restoration Project, by Michael Anderson of OSPR. Compensatory damages received as a result of the 2007 Cosco Busan oil spill are being used for habitat restoration. The project includes the construction of bird roosting platforms on the old Berkeley Pier and will benefit brown pelicans, cormorants, gulls, and shoreline birds. Wind deflectors will also be installed to protect the birds, and a reduced speed buffer zone will be established. Once complete, the restoration is expected to last for 30 years.
- Report on a Port Efficiency Program, by Roland van Assche of PortXchange. To support a new port efficiency program developed at the Port of Rotterdam, PortXchange has

developed a web-based support tool for tracking vessels, providing notifications/warnings, and industry connections. Benefits include reduced turnaround and bunkering time. A six-month trial of the program is being conducted in Houston.

- Report on the Sea Change Hydrogen Fuel Cell Ferry, by Elias Van Sickle of Switch Maritime. Elias Van Sickle gave a presentation to the committee on an update to Sea Change, formerly called Water-Go-Round, a hydrogen fuel cell and lithium-ion battery ferry project. The Sea Change ferry is in the final stages of construction and is planned to be the first in a fleet of zero-emission passenger ferries.
- Report on Pioneer Canyon Deep Sea Footage by Jan Roletto of NOAA. A presentation to the committee on deep sea video footage taken in Pioneer Canyon off the California coast. The footage is from ROV surveys that took place October 2020, at depths of 800-1300 meters and includes numerous deep sea species of fish, octopi, sponges, squid, crabs, snails, and other invertebrates that were observed in habitat provided by coral often hundreds of years old, though not in great quantities. Additional dives and future research are planned.

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