

PUGET SOUND HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE
December 2, 2009

Chairman Bruce Reed called the meeting of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee (PSHSC) to order at 10:00 on December 2, 2009 in the Galaxy Room of Federal Center South.

Voting Members Present

Aquaculture	
Commercial Fishing	Leslie Hughes
Environmental Groups	Bill Anderson
Labor	
Native American	Fred Felleman
Passenger Vessel Industry	
Petroleum Shippers	Craig Lee
Puget Sound Pilots	Captain Frantz Coe
Public at Large	Theresa Connor
Public Ports	Tom Brown, Port of Tacoma
Recreational Boaters	David Scott
State Ferry System	
Steamship Lines	Mike Moore
Tug & Barge	Bruce Reed
Local Government	

Advisors Present:

NOAA	Gary Nelson
US Army Corps of Engineers	
USCG, Sector Seattle	Capt. Sue Englebert
US Dept. of Transportation – MARAD	
US Navy	
WA Dept of Ecology	Norm Davis
Marine Exchange	John Veentjer

Others Present:

LCDR Heather St.Pierre	USCG Sector Puget Sound
Mark Ashley	USCG VTS Puget Sound
Patrick Griffin	Shell
Ian Hanna	USCG Sector Puget Sound
Matt Denning	USCG Sector Puget Sound
Rich Berkowitz	Transportation Institute
George Clark	Penn Maritime
John Dwyer	USCG-Sector Seattle
Scott McCreery	B.P.
Pat McGarry	Manson Construction
Lon Cain	Transmarine Navigation
Nick Piro	Polar tankers
Jeff Shaw	Polar Tankers
Lynne Barre	NOAA
Cathleen Barry	NOAA
Kurt Brown	NOAA
Ken Hunting	WSF
Olivia Romano	COE
Marco Calvo	Norton Lilly Int'l
Lauren Springer	USCG
Rebecca McCann	USCG
Erin Roberts	USCG

Roll Call and Introductions

- ♦ Roll call taken and a quorum were present.

Safety Moment: Chair Reed spoke of ladder safety. Please use responsibly especially this time of year. Remember to take safety home as well as practice it at work, e.g., cleaning gutters, hanging lights.

Meeting Notes: There were no comments on the minutes of the October 7, 2009 meeting; thus they were approved and accepted.

Membership:Chair Reed – comments

- ♦ Chair Reed commented that the committee continues its outreach to bring in more stakeholders to the group.
- ♦ The environmental position has now been filled by Bill Anderson with Citizens for a Healthy Bay (www.healthybay.org), and the alternate is Scott Veirs.

Sector Seattle Report

USCG Sector Seattle Incident Report – LCDR Heather St. Pierre

- ♦ LCDR Heather St. Pierre covered highlights of the Sector's report; the report is posted on the website.
- ♦ A few items from the report were highlighted:
 - A VTS operator helped facilitate passing arrangements between several vessels inbound in the Strait of Juan de Fuca including a naval submarine and a foreign deep draft cargo ship with limited English speaking skills, thus averting a close quarter's situation.
 - The crew of container vessel in Tacoma discovered a fracture around the rudder stock; COTP order for tug assist to Victoria where repairs were to be made; repairs made and order lifted. This raised discussion regarding the tests certain equipment tests being allowed in the more protected waters of the Strait when the weather and seas outside are severe. Consensus was that vessels should slow down as necessary to conduct tests particularly those for the rudder so as to avoid unnecessary stresses. Allowing tests in the Strait should be avoided.
 - A discharge of an estimated 500 gallons of JP-5 from a Naval Vessel in Bremerton. A faulty fire main valve cross-connect on the starboard beam amidships. Thanks to double booming there was little if any discharge that escaped the predeployed containment.

Presentation: Kari Koski, Soundwatch/Whale Museum

By invitation, Ms Koski gave presentation regard the Soundwatch Education Program.

- ♦ The mission of the Soundwatch Education Program is to prevent vessel disturbance to killer whales and other marine wildlife in the Central Salish Sea (**Haro, Rosario and Georgia Straits region of Washington State and British Columbia, Canada**).
- ♦ Ms. Koski's presentation will be posted on the PSHSC web site. For more details see the Soundwatch web site at www.bewhalewise.org.

Presentation: Lynn Barre, NOAA -- Rulemaking regarding protection of Killer Whales in the Northwest.

By invitation, Ms Barre made a presentation regarding the proposed rulemaking to protect Killer Whales in the Northwest.

- ♦ Her presentation, which summarizes the proposed regulations, will be posted to the PSHSC web site. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking was published on July 29, 2009; it should be available at <http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/contentStreamer?objectId=09000064809fd5de&disposition=attachment&contentType=pdf>; or via <http://www.nwr.noaa.gov/Marine-Mammals/Whales-Dolphins-Porpoise/Killer-Whales/ESA-Status/Orca-Vessel-Regs.cfm>; or go to www.regulations.gov.
- ♦ The comment period has been extended to January 15, 2010. Comments can be made on the www.regulations.gov portal or to orca.plan@noaa.gov.
- ♦ There will be insufficient time to finalize these rules for the 2010 boating season, so the goal is to finalize prior to the 2011 boating season.

Standing Committee Reports:

- ♦ **Operations-Mike Moore:**
 - Air Emissions – The emission control area proposal by IMO is expected to be acted on in March 2010. The EPA rules, subject to a lawsuit, have to be out by December 17th; EPA is trying to sync

the rules with the emission control area so everything is consistent. Embedded in the rules are some comments about safety issues in regards to the steam vessels. One concern being watched in California rules is the fuel switching in the mains that has coincided with a spike in propulsion problems; efforts aimed at getting to the root cause of these problems. The Harbor Safety Committees in California are monitoring this very closely and also working with the Coast Guard. Puget Sound does not have these problems at this time as we don't have the fuel switching on the mains occurring until the vessels are moored.

- Ballast Water – Coast Guard has ballast water ruling out and comments are due December 4th.
- ◆ **Leslie Hughes:** There is a \$2622.00 balance in the account and all participation by members has been paid. Marine Exchange will present an invoice for services at the end of the year.

Harbor Safety Plan

- ◆ The Harbor Safety Plan on the website has been broken into 3 parts each under 200K to facilitate agents to sending the plan to vessels by email.
- ◆ John V noted that the next HSC Conference will be in New York, combined with the Area Maritime Security Committee Conference. The two Conferences will be overlapped. The likely dates are in May or early June 2010 (*now set for June 8 to 11, 2010*).

New Business: Capt. Englebert

- ◆ Capt Englebert presented a sample of a proposed “health of the port” self grading matrix for stakeholders as a measurement tool that will be useful when managing resiliency and recovery.
- ◆ The Cooperative Vessel Traffic Service between the U.S. and Canada which covers the traffic management of the shared waterways has been in existence for 30 years. The U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards are holding their Joint Coordinating Group meeting in Victoria followed by a 30 year anniversary celebration.

Comments:

- ◆ Rich Berkowitz mentioned that Bob Magee of TOTE has past away and will be remembered fondly.
- ◆ George Clark mentioned that on the NOAA website you can print out “Booklet Charts” that are very handy for reference but not for navigation: go to <http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/staff/BookletChart.html>.

Next Meeting: February 3rd, 2010, at Federal Center South

Respectively Submitted:
Nancy Allen, Recorder