

PUGET SOUND HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE
October 7, 2009

This meeting was held in Building 9 at the NOAA complex on Sandpoint Way, Seattle, WA.

Chairman Bruce Reed called the meeting of the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee (PSHSC) to order at 10:00am and roll call was taken.

Voting Members Present

Aquaculture	
Commercial Fishing	Leslie Hughes
Environmental Groups	
Labor	
Native American	Fred Felleman
Passenger Vessel Industry	Steve Rochester
Petroleum Shippers	Ed Irish
Puget Sound Pilots	Captain Frantz Coe
Public at Large	Theresa Connor
Public Ports	Tom Brown (Tacoma)
Recreational Boaters	
State Ferry System	
Steamship Lines	Lon Cain
Tug & Barge	Bruce Reed
Local Government	

Advisors Present:

NOAA	Gary Nelson
US Army Corps of Engineers	Tom Szelest
USCG, Sector Seattle	CDR Len Tumbarello
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
John Lauber	Alternate Public-at-Large Member
Patrick Griffin	Shell
Scott Veirs	Beam Reach Marine Science
Ruth Yender	NOAA
Kathryn Simmons	NOAA
Ian Hanna	USCG Sector Puget Sound
Matt Denning	USCG Sector Puget Sound
Ted Buehner	NOAA NWS

Roll Call and Introductions

- ◆ Roll call taken and a quorum were present.

Safety Moment: Chair Reed noted that it is National Fire Prevention Week – October 4 to 10; talked about doing things around the office and at home to prevent, detect and react to fires -- checking batteries in smoke detectors, checking fire extinguishers and doing fire drills with office staff and family as applicable.

Meeting Notes: There were no comments on the minutes of the August 5, 2009 meeting; thus they were approved and accepted.

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.
- ◆ Mr. Felleman raised the following questions/concerns:
 - Regarding the sunken fishing vessel near Eagle Cove on San Juan Island - although response case is now closed (no visible oil), he has people telling him that there is still the smell of oil in the area. CG indicated that if it is reported, they will take another look.
 - Questioned communications issues in August 10 VTC. CG just reiterated what is written in report – Canadian fishing vessels in Canadian waters; small vessel was not identifiable.
 - Regarding Navy submarine traffic management concern on September 27 – concerned about practice of conducting operations in the TSS. As noted, the VTC directed submarine to clear TSS before conducting operations. Raised concern for lack of or difficult routine communications with Navy because the diversity of the fleet organization. CG responded that they are working with Navy routinely.
 - Lastly the tug incident on September 19 suggests better VTC coverage is needed in Bellingham Channel.

CDR Tumbarella:

Handed out a proposed matrix for use in measuring, recording and reporting on the “health of the port. Overall objective is to develop process and methodology for measuring the current operation health of the ports and services with Puget Sound maritime community. Each CG Sector has been directed to undertake this effort as part of the nationwide ramp up to the potential impact of the H1N1 pandemic. Ports and WSF have already received this request and draft matrix by which they can give quick feedback to the CG. Others in the port community will also be receiving the matrix and asked to provide feedback appropriate to their operations/services. Asking those in attendance at the PSHSC to review the draft matrix and provide feedback to help make it better. Mr. Tim Luper, the CG Sector's Port Recovery Planner is the point of contact.

Haro Strait traffic lanes

While waiting set up for weather presentation, Mr. Felleman made comment raising concern about shipping conflict with whales in Haro Strait, suggesting that the traffic lanes in Haro Strait should be revisited. This is a process that should be addressed by the Coast Guard's Waterways Analysis and Management System. Short discussion; no other action.

National Weather Service (NWS) Presentation – Mr. Ted Buehner

Power point presentation showing weather statistics with year to year comparison, El Nino vs La Nino and neither. This is an El Nino year and the winter here should be relatively mild.

Attendees were invited on a tour of the National Weather Service Center after the meeting and then to (no host) lunch in the NOAA cafeteria. Attendees not interested in the tour, having likely taken it last February when we held HSC meeting at NOAA, may go straight to lunch.

Standing Committee Reports:

- ◆ Admin/Budget: Leslie Hughes: Dues have been collected by all participating members, with exception of the Ports. John V is still working to identify best way for Ports to contribute the voluntary dues. Port of Seattle has paid the dues in the past, but John has approached WPPA to get other port involvement on the PSHSC and sharing of the dues. CG and DOE have each paid dues to help cover administration for the PSHSC. John is attempting to identify ways for other advisory members to also assist the HSC financially.
- ◆ Operations: CAPT Moore was at the Propeller Club Convention and alternate did not have any specific operations update.

Membership

Chair Reed reported that we are still looking for an environmental community representative for the HSC. Indicated that we had approached various environmental organizations, most recently Puget Sound Partnership seeking recommendations. In attendance at this meeting was Scott Viers, who was identified by Fred Felleman. Fred was asked to introduce Scott and then Scott spoke briefly of his background.

Harbor Safety Plan

John Veentjer reported that there have been no updates to the HSP since the last meeting. The Coast Guard had updated Anchoring SOC which were provided to the membership before the last meeting and then approved and incorporated into the HSP. The revised HSP is posted on the HSC website: www.pshsc.org.

Harbor Safety Committee Conference 2010

John 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.

Member/Advisor Reports

- ◆ Captain Coe (Puget Sound Pilots) reported on the Escort Tow Training being held for the pilots and escort towing vessel operators. They are using the facilities at PMI. They have held one training session already and have another one upcoming.
- ◆ Fred Felleman expressed continuing concern about lack of marking on or near Duntze Rock particularly from an outbound perspective. Questioned status of Coast Guard rulemaking regarding Puget Sound anchorages – CG responded that this is an ongoing effort. Also requested status on outbrief by the George Washington University team that conducted the Vessel Traffic Risk Assessment (VTRA).

Navy Puget Sound Kinetic Hydropower System (NPS-KHPS) Project – Mike McCallister

- ◆ Captain McCallister gave an update regarding this project (also covered in April 2009 minutes).
- ◆ The power point presentation was distributed to HSC members and advisors by email prior to this meeting and is posted on the HSC website.
- ◆ Navy is leaning the D11 site (as shown on the slides) offshore of Nodule Point on Marrowstone Island
- ◆ The Navy continues to seek comment regarding the placement of this the equipment so as to avoid or minimize impact of vessel traffic.

Next Meeting: December 2, 2009 at Federal Center South

Respectively Submitted:
John Veentjer, Recorder