

Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

Meeting Summary

March 16, 2022

Committee Members Present:

Steve Catalano, CIRCAC – Primary
Shaylon Cochran, CIRCAC – Alternate
David Martin, Commercial Fishing – Primary
Frank Smith, Dry Cargo Ship Operators -
Primary
Vicente Cruz, Dry Cargo Ship Operators –
Alternate
Paul Mehler, Marine Oil Terminal Operators –
Primary, HSC Chair
Bill Wolverton, Offshore Oil Production –
Primary
Therese Dolan, Port Mackenzie – Primary
Ronnie Poole, Port of Alaska – Alternate
Matt Clarke, Port of Homer – Alternate
Mark Tornai, Recreational Boaters – Primary
Todd Paxton, Response Organization – Primary
Todd Duke, Salvage Organization – Primary
Luke Hasenbank, Ship Agents – Primary
Bryan Baker, Small Passenger Vessel Operators -
Primary
Angelina Fuschetto, Tanker Operators – Primary
Sharm Setterquist, Tug and Barge Operators -
Primary

Committee Members Absent:

Erik Velsko, Commercial Fishing – Alternate
Rachel Lord, Environmental – Primary
Brad Kroon, Harbor Tug Operators – Primary
Steve Ribuffo, Port of Alaska – Primary
Bryan Hawkins, Port of Homer – Primary
Peter Garay, SWAPA – Primary, HSC Vice-Chair
Ian Maury, SWAPA – Alternate
Matt Green, Response Organization – Alternate
Pete Pawlicki, Tug and Barge Operators –
Alternate

Managing Board (all absent):

Peter Micciche, President
Mike Munger, Secretary/Treasurer
Mark Nielsen, Member
Ron Ward, Vice President

Ex Officio:

LCDR Hadley Owen, NOAA
Catherine Berg, NOAA
LT Matt Lemanski, USCG
CAPT Leanne Lusk, USCG
Daniel Payne, USCG
Jade Gamble, ADEC
Captain Bryan Crisp, Nikiski Fire Department

Ex Officio Absent:

COL Scott Carpenter, DOD
CIV Daniel Payne, USCG
Julie Anderson, USACE
Donna West, USACE
Ron Van Sickle, ADOT&PF

Other:

Steven Gabelein (Alaska Chadux)
Tom Rueter (Alaska Maritime)
Anthony Procida (Hudson Marine)
Bernie Rosenberger (Global Diving & Salvage)
Captain Carolyn Vermette (SWAPA, Navigation
Workgroup Chair)
Casey Desiderio (Marathon)
Lauren Kinky (Hudson Marine)
Brittney Kennington (Alaska Maritime)

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Captain Paul Mehler, HSC Chair, reviewed the agenda and called the ninth meeting of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee to order at 9:02am (AKDT).

Tim Robertson led introductions for meeting attendees.

Captain Paul Mehler reviewed meeting protocols and general meeting housekeeping actions.

Approval of Agenda

Motion Catalano, Hasenbank to approve as the agenda as prepared. Motion passes by no objection.

Meeting Summary March 10, 2021

Motion Catalano, Baker to approve the March 10, 2021 meeting summary as prepared. Motion passes by no-objection.

Round Table Committee Member Updates

Committee Members in attendance took turns providing the group with updates from their industry sectors. No actionable items arose from the discussion.

Ex Officio Reports

USCG

LT Matt Lemanski discussed his involvement over the last three years. He will be transferring with the USCG and will be replaced by LT Will Mason on the committee. He introduced the UKC Guidance he has been working on to be discussed later in the meeting.

Daniel Payne introduced himself as the port recovery specialist and responsible for the salvage and firefighting response plans. He is looking forward to working with Todd Duke on the salvage plan and Captain Bryan Crisp on the firefighting plan.

ADEC

ADEC not present at this time during the meeting.

NOAA

LCDR Hadley Owen provided her office's email address (Alaska.NavManager@noaa.gov) for anyone interested in NOAA navigation related announcements or to notify NOAA of chart or coast pilot updates.

Managing Board Report

Tim Robertson presented for the Managing Board. He announced the recent appointments to the committee and the route to filling vacancies. He discussed the budget and the contribution letter which will be sent out soon to entities.

HSC Chair Report

Captain Paul Mehler thanked Steve Ribuffo for his service as the outgoing HSC Chair.

Captain Paul Mehler reviewed his meeting with Workgroup Chairs held in November 2021 and outlined the reprioritization of goals moving forward. He identified Marine Firefighting as a focus and will be working with Captain Brian Crisp on Marine Firefighting. He stated increasing public awareness of the committee and providing training opportunities are additional goals.

Captain Paul Mehler intends to attend the National Harbor Safety Committee Conference in June 2022. He would like to see Alaska as a host in the future.

He thanked committee members for their continued interest and support in serving on the committee.

Matt Clarke mentioned a Marine Firefighting Symposium (Captain John Taylor in Valdez) and a Commercial Vessel Oil Spill Response (SERVS Alyeska in Homer) training as valuable opportunities. The SERVS training will be in April. CISPRI also facilitates training exercises.

Workgroup Reports

Navigation Workgroup

Captain Carolyn Vermette presented the recent Workgroup actions on the UKC Guidance at the Port of Alaska in support of static guidance while at the berth, which has been discussed within the workgroup members and within a larger group on February 22, 2022. A consensus was reached on recommending rescinding the March 9, 2001 USCG Navigational Advisory and to develop UKC Guidance to supplement the HSP. The Workgroup will continue developing draft language which, if recommended, will be forwarded to the committee for adoption in the HSP.

Captain Carolyn Vermette discussed future plans of the Workgroup to work on commercial fishing conflicts and will include David Martin in that coordination. She identified the Workgroup will proceed with developing a recommended definition for “in transit vessels.”

Captain Carolyn Vermette thanked all of the Workgroup members for their time in these efforts and highlighted Frank Smith’s input on the UKC Guidance.

Captain Paul Mehler thanked Captain Carolyn Vermette for the work and her leadership in the Workgroup.

Salvage Workgroup

Todd Duke discussed his coordination with Daniel Payne last year on updates to the various salvage sections of the area plans for Western Alaska. There have been no major salvage cases in Cook Inlet over the past year and a few emergency towing in the Gulf. Resolve has participated in three major marine fires and two salvage cases in Western US, for vessels that had all been in Western Alaska waters. He outlined that we need to maintain preparedness for this to occur in Alaska.

Todd Duke is supportive of the goal to focus on marine firefighting.

Resolve Academy is the training center for Resolve Marine in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. They provided the Anchorage Fire Department with marine firefighting training in October 2021. They will return to Anchorage to provide another training May 2-10, 2022. Todd Duke stated he will confirm if additional attendees can register.

Todd Duke offered to provide a virtual salvage assessment course at no cost.

Captain Paul Mehler thanked Todd Duke for all of his expertise and sharing that with the CIHSC. He asked Todd Duke to keep him and Captain Bryan Crisp included in any potential salvage or marine firefighting training opportunities.

Marine Firefighting

Captain Bryan Crisp outlined difficulties in the past in making modifications to the marine firefighting plan which is out of date. He is looking to provide more engagement opportunities. He will be working with the Coast Guard and other stakeholders to recommend updates to the Cook Inlet Subarea Contingency Plan and the Alaska Inland Area Contingency Plan.

Captain Bryan Crisp will be working with the RCACs to reignite the Marine Symposium training for Alaska fire departments, whose staff are unfamiliar with vessel fire fighting. He is also coordinating with Rob Mathis, of Western Emergency Services in Anchor Point who provides certification for marine firefighters, to join the Marine Firefighting workgroup.

Captain Bryan Crisp will be updated the workgroup member list. Dale Butts is no longer in Alaska.

Captain Bryan Crisp is also looking to identify funding sources.

Captain Paul Mehler thanked Captain Bryan Crisp for his leadership and asked attendees to contact Captain Crisp to join the Marine Firefighting workgroup. He emphasized this is one of the highest committee priorities.

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano thanked Captain Bryan Crisp for his efforts. He stated the reason the Marine Firefighting Symposium stopped being held may have been due to certification within fire departments. He will work with Captain Bryan Crisp on providing and funding the Symposium in various locations in Alaska. Captain Bryan Crisp mentioned a previous Dockside Awareness Program and emphasized the need for more advanced certification, Marine Firefighting for Land-Based Firefighters. The current obstacle for that certification is there is no vessel to use for training. Funding may best be used to create a training facility in a location that benefits all of Alaska and may be focused on shipboard-based or damage control.

Todd Paxton is interested in further discussions with Captain Bryan Crisp on providing a vessel for training.

Harbor Safety Plan

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano outlined the HSP went out for public review and received no comments. We are awaiting to publish it again. He will work with the workgroups to draft language for their work products to include in the HSP. Once updated, the HSP would go out for public review before finalization.

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano discussed the workgroup will be making edits to the HSP to include political contact information and applicable statutory and regulatory references. The workgroup will seek agency and public support in the value of the HSP.

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano supports training and cross-training opportunities. He recommends a training be included in the HSP.

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano emphasized the importance of active engagement from workgroup members. The next workgroup meeting is anticipated to be in the next couple months.

Captain Paul Mehler recognized the work that goes into the HSP and thanked Steve "Vinnie" Catalano for his efforts.

Facilitator's Report

Tim Robertson outlined that Sara Nichols has been replaced by Emily Haynes as the committee coordinator. The facilitator is responsible for the website, communications, and assisting in meeting coordination.

Tim Robertson presented on the workgroup process.

Presentations

Cook Inlet Vessel Traffic Report

Sierra Fletcher presented on the Cook Inlet Vessel Traffic Report, completed for CIRCAC, which will be updated annually. She requested metrics that would be beneficial for the CIHSC to capture in future reports.

Frank Smith asked if there is any way to look at groups of vessels that travel into Cook Inlet, which we can use to draft guidance on entering and exiting Cook Inlet. Captain Paul Mehler suggested the Navigation Workgroup coordinate with Sierra Fletcher. Frank Smith asked to be involved in that discussion.

Captain Paul Mehler introduced Captain Leanne Lusk. Captain Leanne Lusk recognized the benefit of the CIHSC's work in Cook Inlet to improve safety. She stated the Cook Inlet Vessel Traffic Report will be helpful in determining future needs of the COTP and requested a copy.

Old Business

Nothing to discuss.

New Business

UKC Guidance

Captain Carolyn Vermette presented the draft letter to the COTP for Western Alaska, recommending rescinding the March 9, 2001, UKC letter. The 2001 letter is no longer applicable and is confusing to operators in Cook Inlet. Captain Paul Mehler provided a brief overview of the history of the UKC Guidance and outlined that this an administrative effort that will allow for a more appropriate UKC Guidance to be developed. Captain Carolyn Vermette stated the Navigation Workgroup is working on draft language to recommend and, until then, SWAPA guidelines would remain.

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano recommended including a copy of this in the HSP's UKC section.

Tim Robertson called for any amendments to the draft letter. Captain Paul Mehler noted there is one typo that would be corrected before sending out.

<p>Motion Catalano, Clarke to approve the letter to the COPT with the typo corrected. Motion passes unanimously.</p>

Public Comments

Bill Wolverton informed everyone the offshore oil marine support operations moved from the OSK Dock to the rig tenders dock in July 2021.

Review Action Items & Set Next Time

Captain Paul Mehler outlined the action items:

- Captain Bryan Crisp will be coordinating the Marine Firefighting workgroup and moving forward.
- Captain Carolyn Vermette is going to work with Steve “Vinnie” Catalano on updating the HSP with a UKC Guidance.
- Captain Paul Mehler will get the letter to the COPT signed and sent out requesting rescinding of the 2001 UKC Guidance.

Captain Paul Mehler suggested the next meeting be September 7, 2022 to get it on the schedule. Additional meetings can be added per needs of the CIHSC.

Captain Paul Mehler requested any opportunities of training be sent to him for distribution to the CIHSC.

Captain Carolyn Vermette asked what VHF station the commercial fishing vessels monitor. David Martin stated it varies but most are on 16. He looks forward to coordinating with Captain Carolyn Vermette before the fishing season.

Adjourn

Captain Paul Mehler thanked everyone for attending today and adjourned the meeting at 10:51am.