

Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

Meeting Summary (DRAFT)

September 7, 2022

1:30pm-4:00pm (AKDT)

Hybrid Meeting - University of Anchorage, Alaska

Committee Members Present:

Steve Catalano, CIRCAC – Primary
Frank Smith, Dry Cargo Ship Operators – Primary (via Webinar)
Paul Mehler, Marine Oil Terminal Operators – Primary, HSC Chair
Bill Wolverton, Offshore Oil Production – Primary
Steve Ribuffo, Port of Alaska – Primary
Matt Clarke, Port of Homer – Alternate
Mark Tornai, Recreational Boaters – Primary (via Webinar)
Todd Paxton, Response Organization – Primary
Matt Green, Response Organization – Alternate
Todd Duke, Salvage Organization – Primary
Luke Hasenbank, Ship Agents – Primary
Peter Garay, SWAPA – Primary, HSC Vice-Chair
Angelina Fuschetto, Tanker Operators – Primary (via Webinar)
Sharm Setterquist, Tug and Barge Operators - Primary (via Webinar)

Committee Members Absent:

Shaylon Cochran, CIRCAC – Alternate
David Martin, Commercial Fishing – Primary
Erik Velsko, Commercial Fishing – Alternate
Vicente Cruz, Dry Cargo Ship Operators – Alternate
Rachel Lord, Environmental – Primary
Brad Kroon, Harbor Tug Operators – Primary
Therese Dolan, Port Mackenzie – Primary
Ronnie Poole, Port of Alaska – Alternate
Bryan Hawkins, Port of Homer – Primary
Bryan Baker, Small Passenger Vessel Operators - Primary

Ian Maury, SWAPA – Alternate

Managing Board (all present):

Peter Micciche, President (via Webinar)
Ron Ward, Vice President
Mike Munger, Secretary/Treasurer (via Webinar)
Paul Mehler, HSC Chair
Mark Nielsen, Member

Ex Officio:

Captain Bryan Crisp, Division of Forestry & Fire Protection (via Webinar)
CIV Daniel Payne, USCG
William Mason, USCG
CAPT Leanne Lusk, USCG
Stephen Brawn, USCG
LCDR Hadley Owen, NOAA
David Blossom, ADEC (via Webinar)

Other:

Steven Gabelein, Alaska Chadux
Tom Rueter, Alaska Maritime
Marc Bayer, Marathon
Captain Carolyn Vermette, SWAPA, Navigation Workgroup Chair (via Webinar)
Sol Kohlhaas, Marathon
John Schneider, Marathon
Dan Nutt, Kirby Offshore
William Waverton, Hilcorp Alaska
Tim Robertson, Nuka Research and Planning Group
Haley Griffin, Nuka Research and Planning Group

Call to Order and Opening Remarks

Captain Paul Mehler, HSC Chair, reviewed the agenda and called the tenth meeting of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee to order at 1:34pm (AKDT).

Tim Robertson led introductions for meeting attendees.

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

Approval of Agenda

Motion Steve Ribuffo, Todd Duke to approve as the agenda as prepared. Motion passes by no objection.

Meeting Summary March 16, 2022

Motion Steve “Vinnie” Catalano, Todd Paxton to approve the March 16, 2022 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.

Steve Ribuffo informed the Committee that Col. Scott Carpenter and Donna West have retired. Todd Paxton informed the Committee that Captain Bryan Crisp has moved on from his position at Nikiski Fire and was replaced by Chief Trent Burnett. Captain Sharm Setterquist announced his retirement at the end of the month, and that Mark Theriault offered to take over the position.

Ex Officio Reports

USCG

Captain Leanne Lusk announced a new hire in the Sector Anchorage Cyber Position, Mr. Mike Wills. He will be attending the Alaska Association of Harbor Master and Port Administration meeting to give a presentation for the Coast Guard at the end of the month. She offered to coordinate with the HSC to present at this meeting in the future.

Captain Lusk announced that there is a new Deputy, Response Department head, Command Senior Chief, and several other members of the sector. The Coast Guard is working on getting these folks into the field.

The Captain thanked people for their participation in the HSC, highlighting the importance of industry partnerships established in Cook Inlet.

ADEC

David Blossom reported that the ADEC responded to small spills and a couple cases of sinking vessels this year.

NOAA

LCDR Hadley Owen reported that they are continuing the transition of data solely to electronic treading data but has not yet reached Cook Inlet, and all traditional paper charts being cancelled are being listed in the local Notice to Mariners. She provided her office's email address (Alaska.NavManager@noaa.gov) for anyone with interest in NOAA navigation related announcements or to notify NOAA of chart or Coast Pilot updates. She also stated that Catherine Berg, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator, is another NOAA point of contact with this group and to reach out with any questions.

Managing Board Report

Senator Peter Micciche thanked the Members of the Board for their roles on the Committee, Steve “Vinnie” Catalano for his work on the Committee, and efforts from Nuka Research. He announced the current balance of the Committee and the list of contributions received from organizations in 2022, which are as follows: Alaska Maritime Agency, CISPRI, Cook Inlet RCAC, Cook Inlet Tug & Barge, Crowley, City of Homer, Hilcorp Alaska, Matson, Municipality of Anchorage, Olympic Tug, SWAPA, and Marathon Petroleum. He discussed the Harbor Safety Plan, which was renewed last year. He also thanked NOAA, ADEC, and USCG for their work supporting the Committee.

HSC Chair Report

Captain Paul Mehler thanked Steve Ribuffo for his service as the outgoing HSC Chair and his efforts on the Committee for the past few years. He discussed a reprioritization of goals to move forward with the Committee. He identified Marine Firefighting as a goal for 2022 and worked with Captain Bryan Crisp on the Marine Firefighting Plan. He also announced a goal to focus on increasing cross-training in Cook Inlet and heighten awareness among organizations.

Captain Mehler instructed Committee members to reach out to the CIHSC Coordinator to spread the word on future training opportunities. He stated that a goal for his meetings is to make people feel like they’ve left with value added and reminded the Committee of its accomplishments.

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

Workgroup Reports

Navigation Workgroup

Captain Carolyn Vermette presented the recent Workgroup actions on the Under Keel Clearance (UKC) Guidance at the Port of Alaska in support of rescinding the March 9, 2001, USCG Navigational Advisory letter. On August 4th a letter was received from the Coast Guard to rescind the 2001 letter. She thanked Commander Downing for bird dogging the letter and Captain Lusk for approving the request.

Captain Vermette stated that the Workgroup is still in the process of doing a UKC update in the Harbor Safety Plan (for the POA) and discussed future plans of the Workgroup to begin a new project of updating Coast Pilots with actual routes used instead of sending deep draft vessels west of Trading Bay.

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

Salvage Workgroup

Todd Duke discussed his coordination with the Salvage Workgroup and the Salvage Plan within the Area Contingency Plan. He stated that a recent focus in the Plan was on updating the lists of people and equipment available in the area.

Marine Firefighting

Captain Bryan Crisp announced that he is no longer working with Nikiski Fire Department or the Kenai Peninsula Borough and has moved on to the Division of Forestry of Fire Protection. He stated that the Workgroup met in April at Nikiski Fire, went through the plan, compiled it, and sent it back to Daniel Payne at the Coast Guard. There was an issue with the team's platform, so Mr. Payne took it and modified the Plan to be brought back to the Committee and adopted.

Daniel Payne stated that all of the changes to the Plan recommended by the Committee Working Group were made and worked with Todd Duke to include language from the Salvage Plan. He thanked the Workgroup for their progress on the Plan.

Captain Mehler concurred with Mr. Payne and stated that it was important to update the plan. He proposed that it should be included in the Area Plan and a Marine Firefighting section of the Harbor Safety Plan.

Daniel Payne states that the firefighting and salvage plans are designated as Sensitive Security Information (SSI) and public access is an issue in the Western Area Plan. Captain Leanne Lusk concurred with Captain Mehler and offered to work with CG Headquarters to change the SSI classification.

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano asked about the public commentary period if the MFF plan is included in the Area Plan. Mr. Payne responded that if the public requests changes, the whole plan can be updated at once. Vinnie thanked Mr. Payne and Captain Crisp for their work.

Captain Mehler called for adoption without objection the new revision of the Marine Firefighting Plan.

Motion Todd Duke, Steve "Vinnie" Catalano to adopt changes to the Marine Firefighting Plan with new language included via consensus. Motion passes without objection.

Harbor Safety Plan

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano outlined how the HSP went out for the second public review and was approved in 2019. This review included the addition of vessel response contact information, Port MacKenzie contact information, and facility background information on Port MacKenzie. Another update was done in 2021, to fix grammar errors and language, update a link to the ADEC, language in the Abandoned/Derelict Vessel section, Navigation Advisory table, Port of Alaska section, and Port of Homer section.

He stated that some items focused on by the Workgroup included adding a section on wake control, expressing that it would be appropriate for the Navigation WG to take on. He also stated a goal to make the document more locally driven and user friendly, and to put a TBD section for Marine Firefighting to limit redundancies and extra work when updating the plan.

Captain Mehler concurred that the MFF Plan should be added into the Table of Contents so it can be found easily in the Harbor Safety Plan. Steve "Vinnie" Catalano thanked

Marathon Petroleum and the Coast Guard for including CIRCAC in an incident that involved and anchor on a pipeline, emphasizing the importance of notifying the committee of pertinent navigational issues.

Captain Leanne Lusk commented on the efforts from CIRCAC, Marathon Petroleum, and the USCG during the incident mentioned by Vinnie, emphasizing that coordination was key in the successful response. She stated that Marathon identified an anchor in the pipeline in the entrance toward Turnagain Arm. Permitting to retrieve the anchor was expedited, and a 750-pound anchor was retrieved with minimum damage to pipeline. She thanked Nuka Research for getting them AIS data so marathon can review the reports.

Captain Lusk also updated the Committee to the recent control fluid leak that occurred on Matson's container ship. She reported that an analysis was completed by Catherine Berg on the vegetable-based oil. Wildlife was a focus in efforts to minimize damage from the oil. Efforts included a Captain of The Port order, deploying a tug on standby, and communicating locations of the response vessel and the tug at all points of the incident. She stated that this was a great opportunity to coordinate among agencies and suggested that the response process could begin sooner. The spill had very limited impact on the environment but offered a good chance to practice the internal communication process before a more significant event occurs.

Steve Ribuffo suggested to the Committee that there should be a revision section under the Table of Contents where the most recent revisions are tracked in a table. Captain Mehler concurs.

Captain Mehler called for adoption without objection the new revision of the Harbor Safety Plan.

Motion Todd Duke, Steve "Vinnie" Catalano to adopt the Harbor Safety Plan with new language included via consensus. Motion passes without objection.

Facilitator's Report

Tim Robertson outlined website updates and Nuka's efforts to facilitate expiring committee seats, continue working with the Managing Board, facilitate workgroup meetings, maintain updated workgroup products, and assist in meeting coordination. He outlined that Sara Nichols and Emily Haynes have been replaced by Haley Griffin as the Committee Coordinator.

Presentations

Modernization Status Update

Steve Ribuffo presented on the Port of Alaska Modernization Program's construction progress, particularly the soon-to-open joint use Petroleum-Cement Terminal.

Photos of the new mooring/breasting dolphin configuration to increase the stability and resilience of the platform were described. The docks were heightened by 4 feet to accommodate future sea level rise. Finally, the dock face and approach were dredged to

operational depths. One lesson learned was that parts of new fendering systems can only be installed at low tide because that's when access to the wharf piles is at its best. The Port will be re-thinking the fender system design for the cargo docks so as to not be so dependent on tide cycles for construction timing. The final step in this project is to have the first fuel delivery, expected by the end of the year. He thanked Pacific Pile & Marine construction company for their work. This is the first piece of new maritime infrastructure in over 40 years at the Port. Mr. Ribuffo also spoke to the costs of this project, stating that costs were estimated at \$224 million, obtained through state funding, federal grants, port equity, and loans.

Steve Ribuffo spoke to next steps of construction progress at the Port of Alaska, including North Extension Stabilization, and digging out the failed sheet pile.

Old Business

There was no old business.

New Business

HSC Website Updates

Captain Mehler stated that time was spent removing redundant material from the website and making it more user friendly. He asked the Committee to go onto the website and explore it and offer feedback for further improvements. Captain Mehler supported Todd Duke's suggestion to digitize documents, stating that with the new website updates it will be easier to digitize HSC documents and communications.

Workgroup Assignments

Tim Robertson presented on the workgroup process. Captain Mehler encourages the Committee to offer ideas and suggestions for new training opportunities and spoke to a key list of Workgroup tasks which were distributed in the meeting packet.

Steve "Vinnie" Catalano emphasized the importance of this work and asked Captain Mehler and Nuka Research to reaffirm workgroup memberships by sending an updated list to the Committee.

Captain Carolyn Vermette identified two tasks to be added by the Navigation Workgroup; define wake control and revisions to the Coast Pilot's deep craft traffic route.

Captain Pete Garay commented that this work has been organic and helpful in negating conflicts between tank vessels calling at Nikiski and the commercial gill net fleet.

Todd Duke will prioritize removing redundant information from the Salvage language to include in the HSP. He also stated that a Marine Firefighting course for Anchorage Fire will take place in November, and he can direct any departments that are interested in participating to the Assistant Chief.

Public Comments

Todd Paxton endorsed AVTEC and the great opportunities they organize for participation in navigation training. He stated that there are opportunities this fall for anyone interested and thanked them for their work. Captain Mehler concurred.

Review Action Items & Set Next Time

Captain Mehler outlined the action items.

- ❖ Nuka Research will coordinate with Captain Mehler to send an updated list of workgroup participants to the Committee. *complete*
 - Members will reach out to the Workgroup chair to apply for the position.
- ❖ Committee will review the webpage and offer their feedback and improvements. *complete*
- ❖ Committee will share training opportunities among one another. *complete*
- ❖ HSP Workgroup will add a table off revisions in the beginning of the Plan. *complete*
- ❖ Workgroups will meet and address assignments. *ongoing*

Captain Mehler suggested the next committee meeting be in 6 months, in April 2023. He suggested that the committee to meet in-person on the Kenai Peninsula.

Final Comments

Steve Ribuffo and Captain Peter Garay spoke about the surveys created by USACE to determine the contract depth to maintain a 35-foot depth via dredging. It was clarified that surveys are conducted 3 times per week surveys in the summer, while the contractor is present, and once a month in the winter. If a survey shows a depth shallower than 35 feet, it informs the contractor where to dredge. The surveys were never intended to be operation information for port users.

Dan Nutt from Kirby Offshore stated that he will be surveying the Port of Alaska areas of construction in coming months.

Captain Lusk thanked the committee members for their participation and bringing everyone together.

Adjourn

Captain Paul Mehler thanked everyone for attending today and adjourned the meeting at 3:57pm.