

**Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee**  
**Meeting**  
13<sup>th</sup> May 2016  
**Meeting Summary**

**Attendees**

**Committee Members**

Bob Arts, Ship Agents – Primary  
Gunar Berklund, Offshore Oil Production Operators – Alternate  
Captain Patrick Callahan, Tanker Operators – Alternate  
Captain Sven Christensen, Harbor Tug Operators – Alternate  
David DeVilbiss, Salvage Organization - Primary  
Todd Duke, Salvage Organization – Alternate  
Peter Garay, Southwest Alaska Pilots Association, Vice-Chair  
Luke Hasenbank, Ship Agents – Alternate  
Bryan Hawkins, Port of Homer – Primary  
Captain Brad Kroon, Harbor Tug Operators – Primary  
Rachel Lord, Environmental Organization - Primary  
Matt Melton, Response Organization – Alternate  
Captain Michael O’Hara, SWAPA - Alternate  
Stephen Ribuffo, Port of Anchorage, Chairman  
Jerry Rombach, CI Regional Citizen’s Advisory Council – Alternate  
Captain Sharm Setterquist, Tug and Barge Operators – Alternate  
Captain John Taylor, LNG Carrier Operators – Primary  
Mark Tornai, Recreational Boaters – Primary  
Mike Watson, Response Organization – Primary

**Ex-Officio**

CDR Hector Cintron, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Anchorage – Primary

**Others**

Robert Archibald, Kachemak Bay Conservation Society  
Kate Blair, Alaska Oil and Gas Association  
Randy Borland, CISPRI  
Jim Butler, Baldwin and Butler  
Steve “Vinnie” Catalano  
Norm Darch, Private Citizen  
Jennifer Flounders, Crowley Marine  
Jeff Johnson, Resolve Marine  
Greg LeBeau, Witt & O’Brien’s  
Dan Miotke, Private Citizen  
Todd Paxton, CISPRI  
Jeff Pierce, Safe Guard Marine LLC  
Dr. Jon Pierce, Safe Guard Marine LLC  
Tim Robertson, Nuka Research and Planning Group LLC  
Walt Sonen, SOS Response

The third meeting of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee (CIHSC) was held as at the Best Western Hotel in Homer, Alaska on 13<sup>th</sup> of May 2016.

### **Call to Order**

Chairman Stephen Ribuffo called the meeting to order at 11:05am. Some changes were made to the order of the agenda to accommodate schedules.

### **Approval of Past Meeting Summary**

The Committee approved the summary from the 4<sup>th</sup> November 2015 meeting without objection.

### **Managing Board Report**

Captain Ron Ward, Vice-President Board of Directors, provided a summary of the recent Board meeting. The following appointments have been made to vacant seats:

- Frank Smith – Dry Cargo Ship Operators, Primary
- Captain Erik Velsko – Commercial Fishing Organization, Alternate
- Ken Gill – Dry Cargo Ship Operators, Alternate
- Matthew Melton – Response Organization, Alternate

Approximately \$25,000 has been raised by member contributions and more contributions are expected. It appears that there is adequate funding to sustain the 2016 budget. Steve Catalano is exploring ways to receive funds electronically.

The Board reviewed the Draft Mission Statements submitted by the work groups and believes that they appropriately describe the intent of each respective group. The 501(c)(3) application has been submitted to the IRS and approval is pending.

### **New Business**

#### **Decommissioning Differential Global Positioning System (DGPS) sites in Cook Inlet.**

Commander Mike Patterson, USCG Office of Navigational Systems, provided a telephone briefing on the USCG intent to decommission the DGPS antennal in Nikiski. He explained that because of the evolution of GPS technology, in general DGPS is no longer necessary for accuracy sufficient for marine. Additionally, an enhance DGPS signal from Kodiak can be received throughout Cook Inlet so DGPS will still be available. It is the government's intent to pare down the DGPS coverage nation wide and the decommissioning of the Nikiski antennal is part of this effort. Additional information will be available in a Federal Register Notice that will be published shortly.

Committee members questioned Commander Patterson about the tests that had been done to validate the strength of the Kodiak signal and noted that if the Kodiak antenna sign was lost there would be no redundancy. Committee members asked if they might independently test the accuracy of GPS with the Kodiak signal alone, before the Nikiski antennal is decommissioned. Commanders Patterson and Cintron agreed to look into the possibility of

facilitating a test for Harbor Safety Committee members. Committee members also suggested other site that could accommodate the equipment and antennal if the USCG chose to keep the site active.

The Committee decided to draft a letter to the USCG pointing to the need for continued DGPS coverage in Cook Inlet and to highlight the importance of marine commerce in Cook Inlet. Stephen Ribuffo agreed to draft the letter and circulate it for input and comment.

### **Anchorage Port Simulation**

Dr. Jon Pierce, Safeguard Marine, provide a briefing on the work their firm did for the Anchorage Port Modernization Project. The content of the briefing is contained in [handout for the meeting](#).

### **Work Group Reports**

#### **Navigation Work Group**

Captain Peter Garay, Chairman of the Work Group, reported on the group's activities, which were detailed in a [handout for the meeting](#). Captain Garay presented the Work Group's mission statement and the Committee accepted it without objection.

**Navigation Work Group  
Mission Statement**

*Utilizing the knowledge and expertise of industry professionals to identify and support industry-wide best practices with mitigate risk, improve navigational safety and ensure the flow of commerce.*

The Work Group has worked on a recommended best practice for Under Keel Clearance (UKC) for deep draft vessels in transit in Cook Inlet. This does not apply to vessels at the dock. The Committee discussed the recommendation.

The Committee approved a motion by Captain Garay, seconded by Captain O'Hara, to establish the following language as a recommendation Best Practice for deep draft vessels in transit and memorialize this recommendation in the Deep Draft Vessel section of the Harbor Safety Plan (HSP):

**RECOMMENDED BEST PRACTICE**

*The recommended Under Keel Clearance for deep draft vessel transiting in Cook Inlet is 10 feet calculated and 3 feet dynamic.*

The Committee recommended that additional language should be added to the HSP defining the terms used in the UKC recommendation. The Committee also noted that the USCG may need to review standing Captain of the Port orders related to this item.

The Navigation Work Group also worked with representatives of the commercial fishing industry to develop description of standard vessel tracks in an effort to minimize conflicts with pot and longline fishing gear.

### **Harbor Safety Plan Work Group**

CMD Hector Cintron, Vice-Chairman of the Work Group, reported on the group's activities, which are detailed in a [handout for the meeting](#). Commander Cintron presented the Work Group's mission statement and the Committee accepted it without objection.

**Harbor Safety Plan Work Group  
Mission Statement**

Facilitate the compilation of information to enhance marine safety and environmental stewardship in Cook Inlet.

Commander Cintron noted that a draft of the HSP had been completed in February and circulated for review. Some comments were received and edits were made. The revised draft was circulated as a [handout for this meeting](#). The HSP will always be an evolving document with changes as the Committee establishes best practices.

Commander Cintron recommended the following steps to facilitate the adoption of the HSP:

1. Establish a 30-day comment period, beginning today. All comments should be sent to Commander Cintron.
2. The Work Group will revise the HSP based on comments received and post a revised draft for the Committee's review at least 30 days prior to the next HSC meeting. They will also post a document summarizing comments received and the group's actions regarding the comments. It is anticipated that the HSP will be adopted at the next meeting.
3. The Committee should review the HSP annually and take any necessary actions at their first meeting of any calendar year.

The Committee adopted these recommendations without objection.

### **Salvage Work Group**

David DeVilbiss, Chairman of the Work Group, reported on the group's activities, which are detailed in a [handout for the meeting](#). Mr. DeVilbiss presented the Work Group's mission statement and the Committee accepted it without objection.

**Salvage Work Group  
Mission Statement**

*The Salvage Work Group seeks to identify and support industry-wide best practices related to Maritime Emergency Response in the Cook Inlet area to protect environmental resources and value of property.*

Mr. DeVilbiss reported to the Committee that the Salvage Work Group has the following two recommendations at this time:

1. Conduct salvage training for local stakeholders (agencies, municipalities, etc.) to educate them about the salvage requirements and procedures so they know what to expect in an event.
2. Review the new National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) guidelines in light of the Cook Inlet environment and prepare a report for the Committee consideration.

The Committee discussed the recommendations and approved (without objection) the Salvage Work Group to pursue them. Mr. DeVilbiss agreed to distribute a curriculum for the training to the Committee. It was suggested that the Salvage Work Group work with the oil spill response organization on the NPREP review.

### **Marine Firefighting Work Group**

Captain John Taylor, Chairman of the Work Group, reported on the Marine Firefighting (MFF) Work Group's activities, which are detailed in a [handout](#) and [briefing for the meeting](#). Captain Taylor presented the Work Group's mission statement and the Committee accepted it without objection.

#### **Marine Firefighting Work Group Mission Statement**

*The Marine Firefighting Work Group is dedicated to three basic goals:*

- 1. Safety of firefighters responding to marine incidents.*
- 2. Safety of life and property of Cook Inlet Marine Industry assets.*
- 3. Through teamwork set a standard for exemplary response utilizing all available assets.*

Captain Taylor gave a [presentation](#) (named MFF PP CIHSC, available for download) on the Work Group's activities. The presentation contained the following recommendations:

- Departments that have ships calling in their port or anchor in their port should investigate all available Grant monies for training.
- Mutual Aid departments to the above should conduct drills with their MOU departments specifically on MFF.
- Departments should attempt to include monies in their budget for MFF drills.
- Departments are encouraged to coordinate directly with Salvage Response Organizations regarding consent agreements, training and coordinating a public and private response to the benefit of industry users.
- Coordination must be made with the USCG, State, MFF Workgroup, Local and Private entities to conduct at least yearly, a Marine Firefighting Table-Top exercise. These are conducted throughout the lower 48 in ports facilitating ships and are usually sponsored by the USCG.

## **Cook Inlet Ice Camera Network**

Steve Catalano, Operations Director of Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council, provided an informational briefing on the Council's Ice Monitoring Network.

## **Public Comments**

No public comments were offered.

## **Old Business**

### **Website**

Tim Robertson gave a short explanation on the recent problems with the website and the actions taken to resolve the issue and protect the website from future hacking. It was suggested that the website be modified to allow for the collection of donations through a PayPal account. Nuka Research will look into this possibility.

### **Review Action Items and Set Next Meeting**

The next meeting was set for October 28<sup>th</sup> in Anchorage Alaska.

Chairman Ribuffo reviewed the action items from the meeting including:

- Steve Ribuffo will take the lead in drafting a letter to the USCG regarding the need for continued DGPS coverage in Cook Inlet.
- Commanders Cintron and Patterson will look into the possibility of testing the accuracy of DGPS in Cook Inlet without the Nikiski signal.
- Harbor Safety Committee and all work groups will review the draft HSP and provide comments to Commander Cintron by 13<sup>th</sup> of June 2016.
- Harbor Safety Plan Workgroup will post a revised draft of the HSP and a summary of comment received by 30<sup>th</sup> September 2016 in anticipation of adoption at the 28<sup>th</sup> October 2016 meeting.
- Mr. DeVilbiss will distribute a curriculum for the proposed salvage training course to the Committee.
- Nuka Research will explore the possibility of collecting donation through the website.
- Nuka Research will prepare and circulate a meeting summary.

### **Adjourn**

The meeting was adjourned at 15:00.