

# Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

## *Virtual Meeting Summary (DRAFT)*

March 10, 2021

### **Committee Members:**

Victoria Askin, At Large – Primary  
Bryan Baker, Small Passenger Vessel Operators  
– Primary  
Marshall Blankenship, Salvage - Alternate  
Steve Catalano, CIRCAC – Primary  
Shaylon Cochran, CIRCAC – Alternate  
Vincente Cruz, Dry Cargo Ship Operators  
Therese Dolan, Port Mackenzie – Primary  
Todd Duke, Salvage - Primary  
Pete Garay, SWAPA – Primary  
Matt Green, Response – Alternate  
Luke Hasenbank, Ship Agents - Primary  
Bryan Hawkins, Port of Homer – Primary  
Brad Kroon, Harbor Tug Operators – Primary  
Shannon Martindale, Port of Alaska – Alternate  
Paul Mehler III, Marine Oil Terminal Operators –  
Primary  
Andrew Mew, Ship Agents - Alternate  
Todd Paxton, Response Organization – Primary  
Stephen Ribuffo, Port of Alaska – Primary, HSC  
Chair  
Sharm Setterquist, Tug and Barger Operators -  
Alternate  
Frank Smith, Dry Cargo Ship Operators -  
Primary

### **Managing Board:**

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

### **Ex Officio:**

LT Hadley Owen, NOAA  
CDR Justin Jacobs, USCG  
LT Matt Lemanski, USCG  
CAPT Leanne Lusk, USCG  
Jade Gamble, ADEC

### **Other:**

Angelina Fuschetto, Crowley  
Sara Nichols, Nuka Research  
Pete Pawlicki, Kirby Corporation  
Tim Robertson, Nuka Research  
Bill Wolverton, Hilcorp  
Alla Strobel, State of Alaska Gov. Office  
David Blossom, ADEC  
Kevin Schroder, Crowley  
Matthew Richards, USCG  
Robert Archibald  
David Seris, USCG CIV  
John Schneider, Marathon

Stephen Ribuffo, HSC Chair, called the eighth meeting of the Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee to order at 1:33pm (AKDT).

### **Approval of Agenda**

**Motion Paxton, Hawkins to approve as the agenda 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. However, Matt Green with Chadux provided the group with a brief slide presentation on current Chadux activities as they relate to the CIHSC.

Cook Inlet Ocean Forest

**Meeting Summary November 7, 2018**

**Motion Catalano, Hawkins to approve the November 7, 2018 meeting summary.  
Motion approved by no-objection**

**Ex Officio Reports**

**USCG**

CAPT Leanne Lusk – Impressed with the amount of work the HSC is putting into making Cook Inlet safe to operate in; CIRCAC work with cameras; Paul Mehler’s group working on the Ice Guidelines; Working on responding to Todd Paxton and CISPRI’s comments regarding NPC vs. APC.

CDR Justin Jacobs- Thanked the group for the last 4 years; Regretfully, this will be his last meeting as he is moving to another assignment outside of Alaska.

David Seris, CIV– Provided an update District 17 and their approach to addressing problems with the Aids To Navigation (ATON) in Cook Inlet. District 17 coordinates all ATON teams across the State including Homer, Cordova, Kodiak, Sitka and Petersburg –1300 ATON overall. Page 25 of the Harbor Safety Plan has a link to our website with updates to all of the information pertinent to mariners operating in Alaska, and publishes navigation advisories, etc. The whole system relies on user feedback. Once a discrepancy is reported we have a checklist we go through before repairing, with many variables in steps to be taken before addressing. Point Woronzof ranges were fixed yesterday, (a vandalism issue) and converted to LED; Fire Island will be addressed later this month; Nikiski is an issue with the generator and we hope to be done soon. It is a 120v power issue – oil rigs have to have lights on all 4 corners and a sound signal for Dillon and the generator power is not enough for the load.

**ADEC**

Jade Gamble introduced herself as the new supervisor for CI/Kodiak area. Has worked SPPR for 25 years. In last year, ADEC has worked remotely – this has been successful and actually encouraged more communication. Even virtual inspections of some facilities have been possible. Her offices are located in Soldotna – feel free to reach out, if any questions arise.

**NOAA**

LT Hadley Owen introduced herself as the replacement for Bart Buessler in the Office of Coast Survey with an invite to contact her for anything related to navigation items on charts and/or Coast Pilot. NOAA is currently undergoing an Electronic push for a NOAA custom chart product that can be used to produce large and small scale charts to provide an onboard back-up. Project is ongoing and only in rough draft stage – asked the group to flag useful information in the Coast Pilot to ensure they stay in the new format and also what parts can go away. NOAA Coast surveys will be conducted on the NE & SW sides of Kodiak this year – please bring to her attention areas that need updated. Please send questions or feedback regarding navigational charts and/or the Coast Pilot to [Alaska.navmanager@noaa.gov](mailto:Alaska.navmanager@noaa.gov)

## **Managing Board Report**

The Board's President, Senator Micciche, sends his regrets that he could not be in attendance - as Vice President, Captain Ward provided the Board report.

The Board is happy that the Harbor Safety Committee is getting active again. It is hard to believe that the full Committee hasn't met since 2018, but as we all know, there have been circumstances beyond our control. The Board has met 4 times in the interim and we are committed to keeping a viable Harbor Safety Committee for many reasons. We believe that this forum is important for discussing marine safety issues in Cook Inlet among the waterway users and the state and federal oversight agencies. As you will see during Tim's presentation on the survey we conducted, there are many in the maritime industry and public that agree. We also think that the Harbor Safety Plan is an important document, that sets out best practices for operating in Cook Inlet. Without the Committee, we wouldn't have this plan.

One of the Managing Board's responsibilities is to develop funding to keep the non-profit functioning. We did not seek contributions in 2020, because we had adequate funding from the contributions through 2019 to meet our budget. But by the end of 2020 the funds were depleted, so on January 13th Senator Micciche sent a letters requesting contribution from the maritime community and others that have supported the Harbor Safety Committee. Our budget for the year is \$27,500. We believe that this is a reasonable budget given our mission. To date, 6 organizations have made contributions, 6 organizations have pledged a contributions, and 10 organizations have not responded to the request. You know which category your organization is in and if your organization has not yet made a contribution, I ask that you consider our mission and find a way, within your means, to contribute. resolved soon.

Another responsibility of the Board is to recruit primary and alternate members for the 21 stakeholder seats on the Committee. We are very happy that almost all seated members, who's seats were expiring in 2020, chose to re-apply. We have excellent representation from almost every segment of the maritime community in Cook Inlet. However, we are always looking for good people to fill vacant seats. There is a roster in the meeting packet that shows which seats are open. The Board has some applicants that we will act on at our next meeting, but if you, or anyone you know, is interested in serving on the Committee, send us a letter of interest and your resume.

## **HSC Chair Report**

Stephen Ribuffo reported that over the past year, focus has been on family, not business extras (CIHSC). We don't have to talk often as a group and that is indicative of a safe Cook Inlet - a good thing.

## **Workgroup Reports**

### **Salvage Workgroup**

Todd Duke provided a presentation titled Special Briefing on Salvage Operation Expertise, and reported that there have been no COVID infections on any salvage projects in the U.S. There was a 20% increase in vessel traffic (containers). It was a huge year for vessels coming through Unimak pass to western U.S. Resolve Marine

formed a partnership with CISPRI to work with each other in a response situation should it be needed.

Some discussion was held regarding the unintended consequences of vessels switching from heavy fuel oil to Low-sulfur diesel (LSD), as the buildup of sludge results in loss of propulsion and other issues.

### **Navigation Workgroup**

Captain Peter Garay reported that the Workgroup will work on a checklist to add to the HSP to help address the unreliability of using LSD vs. heavy fuel oil by requiring captains to submit an additional pilot card specific to the type of oil being utilized. What can we do to mitigate the risks and address the concerns? A pre-arrival checklist will, at the very least make them acknowledge the difference.

*Kevin Schroder suggested that this subject has been raised in the Lower 48 in the past 10 years, so there may be a lot of information in place that can be utilized.*

An additional point for the Workgroup to consider is commercial fishing conflict avoidance. Nav will work with Commercial fishing representative to plot track lines and perhaps do a risk assessment.

### **Harbor Safety Plan Workgroup**

The Harbor Safety Plan Workgroup recently reviewed the results of the Harbor Safety Plan public review and made the corresponding changes to the plan. During that review the workgroup also added some updates and additional information to improve the plan. These edits are included in the packet for Committee approval later on in the agenda.

### **Facilitator's Report**

Tim Robertson reported on the work that has been done since the last Committee Meeting: Website maintenance; Harbor Safety Plan annual public review and subsequent edits; General administration of the CIHSC Corporation, including Managing Board meetings. An action tracker has also been created and circulated to the workgroup chairmen. This tool includes a task list and membership list for each workgroup, and is intended to help the Workgroup Chairs keep their respective groups on task. Committee members are encouraged to join the workgroups and members of the public may also be included. Nuka Research conducted a public survey, as directed by the Managing Board, to help ascertain the level of public understanding and interest in the CIHSC Organization, going forward. Survey results were shared on screen and [can be viewed here](#).

### **Ratify 2020-2021 Ice Guidelines email vote**

<p><b>Motion Catalano, Mehler to ratify the 2020-2021 Ice Guidelines email vote conducted on October 16, 2020. Motion passes by non-objection</b></p>
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### **Harbor Safety Plan (HSP) Amendment Review & Adoption**

**Motion Blankenship, Kroon to approve the CIHSC Harbor Safety Plan as amended during the 2019 Public review and subsequent HSP Workgroup review.**

The group discussed some minor edits, and a suggestion to include links in place of some of the agency information that changes often, so that the document remains as relevant as possible.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Motion Blankenship, Kroon to amend the main motion to include the following amendments:**

- **Specify the Port of Alaska cargo handling as 30 and 40 long tons in the Appendix**
  - **Also include in the Port of Alaska the total terminal length as 2,109 feet.**
- **C.4. Action Item box (page 44) – remove the word ‘either’**

**2<sup>nd</sup> Motion approved by voice vote and no objection.**

**Voice vote on Main Motion. Motion passed by non-objection**

### **Review Action Items**

- Captain Garay will convene Navigation Workgroup to develop a 2<sup>nd</sup> pilot card checklist for vessels using LSD fuel, and work with Commercial Fishing HSC representative to address seasonal conflicts with fishing gear placement in shipping routes
- HSP Chairman Catalano will convene the HSP Workgroup to discuss further edits to the Plan before sending it out for another Public Review
- HSC Chair Ribuffo and Nuka Research Staff will work with Captain Mehler on the timing of the next meeting.

### **Next Meeting**

Fall 2021 – advertise for in person meeting if all are vaccinated? Seward? In conjunction with Winter Ice Meeting? Ribuffo will work with Mehler once logistics are settled.

**Motion Catalano, Kroon to adjourn. Motion passes by non-objection. Meeting adjourned at 4:24pm**

Meeting Materials:

#### *Agenda Items*

1. Meeting Protocols (sent in separate attachment)
2. CIHSC Roster

3. Meeting Summary November 7, 2018
4. Letter to CIHSC from SWAPA re: Aids To Navigation in Cook Inlet
5. Workgroup task list
6. 2020-2021 Ice Guidelines email vote results
7. Harbor Safety Plan – record of edits & redline pages

*Informational Items*

1. Letter introducing Anchorage Sector Commander, Capt. Leanne Lusk
2. Letter to HSC from Chairman Ribuffo (emailed January 2021)
3. Cook Inlet Ocean Forest System (CIOFS) Abstract Proposal