

GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday, November 6, 2024

The following representatives were in attendance:

Hossame Elsharkey	ABS	Pat Stant	McDonough Marine
Rafael Alexei Perez	ABS	Eric Acosta	MSOC St Bernard/Plaquemines
Dustin Braud	Alliant Insurance	Lisa McGoey	MVTTC
Jill Bessetti	AWO	Brett Bourgeois	New Orleans Board of Trade
Tim Lagarde	Bar Pilots	Earl Hersch	No More Carbon USA
Sean Duffy	Big River Coalition	Tommy King	ParaTech
Harold Bauer	Boh Bros.	Jeff Roesel	Regional Planning Commission
Marshall Adams	Capes Shipping	Karen Parsons	Regional Planning Commission
Cherrie Felder	Channel Shipyard	Jeff Kindl	Steiner Construction
Jim Boucher	ClassNK	Thyn Oo	Tulane Public Law Center
Stanislav Smyk	ClassNK	Michelle Kornick	USACE
Karl Gonzales	Cooper Marine/GNOBFA	Robby Swayze	USACE
E. Michael Bopp	Crescent River Port Pilots	Vic Landry	USACE
Michael Leblanc	E.N. Bisso	Chris Booth	USCG
Bobbi Brothers	E3 Environmental	Michael Novak	USCG
Ethel Harris	Fastest Labs	Alex Gagne	USCG
Matt Lagarde	Ingram Barge	Gregory Callaghan	USCG
Bradley Glenn	Ingram Barge	Melanie Burnham	USCG
Farrell Latour	J.H. Menge	Dan Velez	USCG
Leo Falgout	Kirby	Kelley Edwards	USCG
Mark Wright	LA House of Representatives	Scott Kirker	USCG
Richard Heausler	Labmar Ferry	Roy Ford	USCG
John Rutherford	Lanier Engineers	Steven Woodard	USCG
Vaughn McDaniel	LeBeouf Towing	Calvin Vuu	USCG
Ron Branch	Louisiana Maritime Assoc.	Xiaobin Tuo	USCG
Christine Titus	Louisiana Maritime Assoc.	Courtney Keith	USCG
Bruce Lambert	MARAD	Justin Harris	USCG
Ian Burnette	Marathon Petroleum	Lopez	USCG
Jake Stahl	Marine Expertise	Tim Long	Valero
David Beerbohm	McDonough Marine		

The following reports were given:

Harbor Safety Committee Chairman, Mario Munoz

Matt called the meeting to order, led introductions, and made general announcements. Marine Industry Day 2025 will be held on May 22 at the Higgins Hotel in New Orleans.

Big thanks to Mr. Jeff Roesel and his staff for hosting us at the Regional Planning Commission for our meeting. Jeff welcomed everyone and shared some information about the RPC and their mission and operations.

USCG Sector New Orleans, CAPT Greg Callaghan

Captain Callaghan thanked everyone for their ongoing participation in the HSC and collaboration across the industry. MSIB Volume 24, Issue 78 was recently issued regarding notification of Marine Casualties in hazardous conditions. Please connect with Sector staff if you have any questions. There will be another MSIB regarding the 4-hour advance transfer notice issued this week. The Port State Control Arrivals desk has been consolidated to increase efficiency, but it should not affect operations; please provide feedback to Port State Control Chief LCDR Kelley Edwards if you notice any unanticipated effects. LCDR Edwards and LCDR Chris Booth are currently working on a handbook for agents, and if you have any input or questions, please reach out to them. As a reminder, everyone should be aware of how USCG is applying SA/SH policies on commercial vessels; be aware that this applies to USCG personnel when they are on commercial vessels.

USCG MSU Baton Rouge, CDR Michael Novak

The Port Allen Lock is currently operating with intermittent delays, but no closures are scheduled as of now. The delays can be up to 5 hours, so please plan accordingly. The Grosse Tete Bridge operations are ongoing and still on track to be completed in late November. The Morley Bridge is need of some repairs, and efforts are being made to align those operations with Grosse Tete Bridge operations to minimize delays to navigation.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Michelle Kornick

There is a slight increase in the river stage and it is expected to briefly rise before possibly falling again in early December, pending future rainfall. Low water dredging is ongoing and should be completed by early December. Upcoming dredging at Mile 0/Head of Passes is planned and navigation restrictions will be necessary to install the dredge pipeline. November 17 & 18 will be one-way traffic, and the river will be closed from MM0.0 to MM2.0AHP on November 19 & 21.

Neptune Pass has enlarged, and it is starting to affect navigation in the deep draft channel. The Corps is in the very early stages of planning and design for a structure to restore the flow in Neptune Pass to pre-2019 levels.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Vic Landry

There have been several personnel changes at the New Orleans District, and Vic is now the Assistant Deputy District Engineer. He will still be invested in navigation and is still available if you need to call him. Vic introduced Robby Swayze, who has been the Assistant Operations Manager for several years and is acting Operations Manager. It is highly likely he will assume that role on a more permanent basis pending the paperwork.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Robby Swayze

There have been some delays in the Port Allen lock operations and those equipment issues have been resolved so they anticipate no further delays to the work. There will be intermittent closures at Algiers Lock on Nov. 12 & 13. The IHNC Lock is experiencing reverse head challenges and lockings have been paused as needed over the past few days – expect delays but hopefully no closures pending rain. Harvey Lock is still closed and it is appreciated that everyone continues to reduce wake as much as possible in the vicinity.

Bar Pilots – Captain Tim Lagarde

The Bar Pilot Route is in good condition, and they are seeing 3-40 ships daily. Additionally, the Bar Pilots are working with USCG to get funding for Aids to Navigation as well as with the Corps to get Pilottown Anchorage dredged.

Crescent Pilots – Captain E. Michael Bopp

Things are busy on the CRPPA route, they are participating in the AtoN task force and working with NTSB to address concerns regarding the CCC that have arisen due to the recent Baltimore Bridge collapse. Anchorage dredging does need to be addressed.

GNOBFA – Karl Gonzales

Karl reminded everyone that there is a special LA legislative session beginning and encouraged everyone to become informed and aware of how these changes could affect your operations.

AWO – Jill Bessetti

AWO will hold their combined regions meeting 19-20, 2025 in Nashville, TN.

Cybersecurity Subcommittee – Eric Acosta

Eric shared updates on recent and upcoming meetings and events. See his summary as Attachment 1 to these minutes.

High Water & Severe Weather Subcommittee – Karl Gonzales

Karl relayed all concerns he received following Hurricane Francine to USCG Sector New Orleans.

Hurricane Francine

LCDR Tuo led a hotwash of Hurricane Francine. If you have any feedback to provide you can share it either anonymously or with your contact information included by using the QR Code provided as Attachment 1 to these minutes.

Port Safety Council Chair Mario Munoz adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting of the GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee is scheduled for January 8, 2025.

Report:

Past Activities

Aug. 21, 2024 InfraGard LA - Acadiana/Lafayette Mtg. at Sheriff's Dept. ALETA

Sept. 26, 2024 InfraGard LA - Baton Rouge mtg. at the Emerging Technologies Center approx. 50 attendees

November 30, 2024 NOLASEC/MSOC Annual Exercise – From MM 10 to MM296 AHOP

128 Participants

74 Entities

65 Vessels

Everything went well and certificates are being sent as we meet today

Future:

November 14, 2024 7:30 AM to 9:30 PM at Port of South LA Admin. Bldg.

NOTE: Please RSVP to Lester we need to give Gate List to Port

December 19, 2024 InfraGard LA New Orleans At the St. Bernard Port 2nd Floor.

Hurricane Season 2024 Survey

PARATUS

