

# GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee

*Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday, March 5, 2025*

*The following representatives were in attendance:*

<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>	<b>Attendee</b>	<b>Affiliation</b>
Louis Claverie	Associated Mooring	Jake Stahl	Marine Expertise
Jill Bessetti	AWO	Eric Anderson	McDonough Marine
Tim Lagarde	Bar Pilots	Mike Buchanan	National Weather Service
Sean Duffy	Big River Coalition	Earl Hersh	No More CarboN USA
Harold Bauer	Boh Bros.	Tommy King	ParaTech
Chris Booth	Channel Shipyard	Ed Lee	Port of Greater Baton Rouge
Cherrie Felder	Channel Shipyard	Melissa Abreo	PSI
Stephen Babin	Chem Carriers	Steven Stock	PSI
Robert Socha	Conrad Shipyard	Joy Manthey	SCI
Claude Klein	Consulting	Geoff Davis	Seamens Church
Michael Leblanc	E.N. Bisso	Thyn Oo	Tulane Public Law Center
Lance Sannino	Enterprise Marine	Heather Jennings	USACE
Hank Webster	Federal Pilots	Michelle Kornick	USACE
Paul Dittman	GICA	Robert Swayze	USACE
Michael Nation	Harbor Towing	Don Clayton	USCG
Matt Lagarde	Ingram Barge	Robert Bate	USCG
Chris Ulfers	Jones Walker	Xiaobin Tuo	USCG
Leo Falgout	Kirby	Melanie Burnham	USCG
Vaughn McDaniel	LeBeouf Towing	Dan Velez	USCG

*The following reports were given:*

## **Harbor Safety Committee Ex-Officio, Matt Lagarde**

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

## **USCG Sector New Orleans, CAPT Melanie Burnham**

Captain Burnham provided updates for Sector New Orleans and highlighted recent events. Since our last meeting, Sector New Orleans monitored the safe transfer of LNG at Venture Global in Plaquemines Parish. Everything went well during the recent winter weather event, and thanks to everyone for their focus on safety and collaborative communications during this event. Regarding the Superbowl, CG provided Counter-UAS capabilities for the city of New Orleans in addition to increased waterway safety and security. There were no significant security events during Carnival Season, and Sector New Orleans appreciates the flexibility of industry during safety and security zones, fireworks, etc. As we approach high water season, please make sure your crews are prepared and familiar with the waterways action plan for their operating area(s). There will be an MSIB coming out soon regarding Engine Power Limiters – watch for that to be issued at the end of this week or early next week.

If you are interested in participating in either the IHNC Lock Replacement Outlook Study working group or the Belle Chasse Bridge SR23 Demolition stakeholder input group, please contact [xiaobin.tuo@uscg.mil](mailto:xiaobin.tuo@uscg.mil).

### **USCG MSU Baton Rouge, DCR Mike Novak**

Currently, the high water operating restriction for 30' and above are in effect at Baton Rouge. By Monday they should be reduced to the 25' and above restriction, which relaxes the 36-barge requirement, and it appears that the water will continue to go down. The Morley Railroad Bridge will be undergoing significant work beginning March 18, and there will be an MSIB coming out very soon which will include river closure dates. It is anticipated that there will be seven total closure days varying in length from 14-18 hours, but they will all be planned and information will be disseminated well in advance of all the closures. Upcoming Waterway Action Plan Revision – invitations will be sent out in May, if you're not on the list and would like to be involved please reach out to [Michael.j.novak@uscg.mil](mailto:Michael.j.novak@uscg.mil). CDR Novak will be leaving MSU Baton Rouge this summer. His change of command will take place on June 4 when he is relieved by LCDR John Scott.

### **USACE – Michelle Kornick**

River stages are currently expected to remain stable over the next several days and then start to fall. The hopper dredge GLEN EDWARDS began working in Southwest Pass began on March 2 and the hopper dredge NEWPORT is arriving to work at SWP in the middle of this month. There is still a dredge at the Head of Passes hopper dredge disposal site, and there will likely be full river closures from 0600-1800 on March 18 and March 20 to remove the submerged dredge pipeline. USCG is working to develop the MSIB for those closures.

### **USACE – Robbie Swayze**

There is ongoing dolphin work at the IHNC Lock and the Algiers Lock that are causing a few daytime closures intermittently. They will continue to work with GICA to make sure notice is given as needed. There are currently daytime closures at Calcasieu Lock for guide wall repairs Monday-Saturday of this week. There will be one week of intermittent closures at Leland Bowman lock for guide wall repairs beginning March 17 followed by one week of daytime closures. The tainter valve repair work at Port Allen will result in about a week of intermittent closures sometime during May or June. There will be some significant closures at Calcasieu lock for major repairs that could last 12-14 months and more information will be shared as they get closer to beginning operations.

### **Bar Pilots – Captain Tim Lagarde**

The channel is in good shape, and all is well on the Bar Pilot route.

### **Federal Pilots – Captain Hank Webster**

Nothing to report, all is well.

### **GICA – Paul Dittman**

Morely RR Bridge – all work will be done by the middle of April, including significant updates to increase resiliency before hurricane season. Regarding the 12-14 months of daytime closures at the Calcasieu Lock, they will work with USACE to manage queues as necessary. Union Pacific is planning major repair work beginning late 2025 and going through mid-2026 but they anticipate very minimal impact to navigation. GICA will remain engaged with CPRA to ensure that the 2029 Coastal Master Plan takes navigation into consideration throughout the process. USCG will conduct a ports and waterways safety assessment on March 26 & 27 in

Morgan City, please get involved if you would like to participate. There will also be an assessment in Lake Charles sometime in the first half of this year. the Joint Hurricane Team meeting will take place at the Port of New Orleans on May 29, and the GICA Seminar will be August 6-8 at the Westin Hotel.

**AWO – Jill Bessetti**

AAWO is finishing regional meetings this week. Things look good from an advocacy standpoint. The spring convention and barge-in will be May 12-14.

**Cybersecurity Subcommittee – Lester Millet III**

Lester provided an update on cybersecurity concerns, recent events, and upcoming opportunities for involvement. There has been a significant amount of information being circulated in light of recent security concerns, but most of it cannot be shared unless you are an Infragard member. If you are not a member of Infragard please consider joining to receive this information related to security concerns. It is free to join. There is a free app (for phones) called **See Send** that can be downloaded from the app store or you can find it on the state fusion website [here](#). This app can be used to immediately report suspicious activity or concerns.

**Big River Coalition – Sean Duffy**

Sean provided an update on the air gap sensor efforts on the LMR.

*Port Safety Council Ex-Officio Matt Lagarde adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee will be Marine Industry Day on May 22, 2025.*