

GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday, July 10, 2024

The following representatives were in attendance:

<i>Attendee</i>		<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Attendee</i>		<i>Affiliation</i>
Scott	Cunningham	Aerial Sonar	Jeff	Stephens	Heartland Barge
Jacob	Vega	ARTCO	Farrell	LaTour	J.H. Menge
Tristen	Bedi	ARTCO	Parker	Schonekas	JH Menge
Tim	Lagarde	Bar Pilots	Leo	Falgout	Kirby
Sean	Duffy	Big River Coalition	Jim	Orr	L&O Marine
Troy	Carollo	Blue Water Shipping	Richard	Heausler	LABMAR
Ed	Landgraf	CAMO	Vaughn	McDaniel	LeBoeuf Bros. Towing
Cherrie	Felder	Channel Shipyard	David	Beerbaum	McDonough Marine
William	Stewart	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Pat	Stant	McDonough Marine
CAPT Melanie	Burnham	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Mary	McCarthy	Moran Towing
CDR Daniel	Velez	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Eric	Acosta	MSOC St Bernard/Plaquemines
LCDR	Boothe	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Garreth	Fernandez	New Ship
Ben	Adrien	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Toby	Wattigney	NOBRA Pilots
Riley	Jackson	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Freddy	Schaefer	Norton Lilly
Xiaobin	Tuo	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Lonnie	Sehlinger	Norton Lilly
James	Coyne	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Charlie	Hurst	Norton Lilly
Robert	Bate	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	JT	Hannan	Office of the Governor
Adam	Tull	Coast Guard Sector New Orleans	Tommy	King	ParaTech
Jacob	Naquin	Conrad Shipyard	Tony	Evet	Port NOLA
Tyler	Maurin	Cooper Consolidated	Robert	Keister	Sabine Surveyors
Harston	Harmon	Cooper Mooring	Brett	Sprenger	Sabine Surveyors
Heather	Lech	Cooper Mooring	Phil	Schifflin	Seamen's Church
Mark	Nelson	Crescent Pilots	Christopher	Loffler	Seamen's Church
Michael	LeBlanc	E.N. Bisso	Tony	Odak	Stone Oil
Michael	Killeler	E.N. Bisso	Thyn	Oo	The Public Law Center (Tulane)
Hank	Webster	Federal Pilots	Laura	Lewis	TowWorks
Robert	Roussel	Global Maritime Ministeries	Mario	Munoz	Turn Services
Philip	Vandercook	Global Maritime Ministeries	Billy	Soltz	USLA
Stephen	McKinney	Global Maritime Ministeries	Tim	Long	Valero
Brandi	Trosclair	Green Marine	Derris	Armstead	Venture Global LNG
Michael	Nation	Harbor Towing	Frank	McCormack	Waterways Journal

The following reports were given:

Harbor Safety Committee Chairman, Mario Munoz

Chairman Munoz called the meeting to order, led introductions, and made general announcements. Marine Industry Day went very well; thanks those who planned, participated, and attended. If anyone has feedback on the event, send to Christine Titus.

USCG Sector New Orleans

Several incoming members of Sector New Orleans introduced themselves, including Deputy Sector Commander CAPT Melanie Burnham. Hurricane Season: There is a new Sector New Orleans electronic form

for Waterfront Facilities to submit in advance of a storm; the QR code on the new MSIB distributed in May links to the form. LCDR Tuo asked people to test the form in advance of a storm and send any feedback to her.

Bar Pilots – Captain Tim Lagarde

Pilottown Anchorages – There are no safe anchorages for larger ships due to silting; the Bar Pilots and several other groups urged attendees to advocate for funding for dredging. Southwest Pass ATONS – Six or seven ranges are down; the Bar Pilots and several other groups urged attendees to advocate for funding for replacement Flocculation at Southwest Pass – When there is 10-13 feet draft, a gel-like substance forms that can be difficult to transit through. While the Corps has helped with surveys and using dredges to agitate it, it can create issues for ships and delays.

NOBRA Pilots – Captain Toby Wattigney

The Blessing of the Fleet is August 14-15, and starts in Baton Rouge and ends in New Orleans. Toby and several others thanked the Coast Guard for their help with the event and if anyone wants more information, to sponsor, or to be part of the planning meetings, reach out to Toby.

Big River Coalition – Sean Duffy

Sean announced that he submitted comments on a Corps of Engineers Lower Mississippi River study/plan and will send them to Mario and Christine for distribution to the HSC; he encouraged people to submit them on behalf of their organizations. He also provided updates on projected changes related to study results.

CAMO – Ed Landgraf

There is an abandoned pipeline at Convent (MM 158.1) that will be removed starting in mid-July (landside) and continuing into August (waterside)

Cybersecurity Subcommittee – Eric Acosta

Drones – If you are planning to fly a drone over a secure area, you still need to submit the “old” form for vetting and approval. TWICs – there was an in-depth discussion about how to use your TWIC to qualify for TSA Pre-Check, but your TWIC cannot be used as an ID during TSA screening at the airport.

Presentation

The Port of New Orleans gave a presentation about the plan for the Louisiana International Terminal (LIT) and new associated anchorages.

Port Safety Council Chairman Mario Munoz adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting of the GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee is scheduled for September 4, 2024.