

GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday, March 6, 2024

The following representatives were in attendance:

<i>Attendee</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>	<i>Attendee</i>	<i>Affiliation</i>
Marc Broussard	Callan Marine	Christine Titus	Louisiana Maritime Assoc.
Ed Landgraf	CAMO/811	Jake Stahl	Marine Expertise
Cherrie Felder	Channel Shipyard	David Beerbohm	McDonough Marine
Scott Cunningham	Consulting	Chris Voelker	Norton Lilly
Karl Gonzales	Cooper Marine/GNOBFA	Tommy King	ParaTech
Hartson Harmon	Cooper Mooring	Elizabeth Gondek	Port NOLA
Anthony Almerico	Cooper Mooring	Ross Armstrong	Reliant Recycling
W.P. Loga	Crescent River Port Pilots	Kevin Lordo	Southern Devall
Dan Summit	Delgado CC	Roxane Assevedo	St. Bernard Port
Jean-Paul Richard	E.N. Bisso	Angela Nunez	St. Bernard Port
Michael Leblanc	E.N. Bisso	Jason Wilbur	Stratigos
Rick Bauer	Es2	Chase Peloquin	Stratigos
Hank Webster	Federal Pilots	Rick Francis	T&T Salvage
Paul Dittman	GICA	Thyn Oo	Tulane Public Law Center
Matt Lagarde	Ingram Barge Co.	Mario Munoz	Turn Services
Farrell Latour	J.H. Menge	Billy Soltz	US Lifesaving Assoc.
Mark Wright	LA House of Representatives	Shelby West	USCG
John Rutherford	Lanier Engineers	Kelly Denning	USCG
Erwin Thompson	LeBeouf Towing	Michael Novak	USCG
Ron Branch	Louisiana Maritime Assoc.	William Stewart	USCG

The following reports were given:

Harbor Safety Committee Chairman, Mario Munoz

Chairman Munoz called the meeting to order, led introductions, and made general announcements.

USCG Sector New Orleans, CAPT Kelly Denning

CAPT Denning made announcements and thank everyone for attending. Many great lessons were learned over the extended low water event that we are coming now hopefully leaving behind us. The National Harbor Safety Committee is coming up towards the end of the month. That will be held in Chicago, and hopefully we will get some great takeaways to add to our Marine Industry Day agenda. Marine Industry Day will be held on May 10 at the Four Seasons in New Orleans.

The Sector New Orleans change of command will take place on June 7, when CAPT Greg Callaghan will assume command of Sector New Orleans and CAPT Melanie Burnham will be reporting as Deputy Sector Commander. CAPT Denning's retirement ceremony will follow the Change of Command.

USCG Sector New Orleans, LCDR Will Stewart

The updated Waterways Action Plan for MM167 was released on January 30. It's available on the Homeport website. Thanks to everyone that provided feedback, and please reach out if you have any questions. Waterways Management is sending out a daily navigation outlook summary M-F, and if you're not currently

receiving that but would like to be added to the list, please reach out to william.a.stewart@uscg.mil for the link to sign up for those, or see the attachment to these minutes for an example and link to subscribe. MSBI XXIV-015 was released last week for operators working in South Pass. The US Army Corps has reraised some jetties that were previously below the waterline. USCG had placed some ATON in the area a few years ago to notify boaters of the hazard. Now that the jetties have been raised, they are planning to reevaluate the ATON in that waterway. If you do operate in that area please read the MSIB and provide any feedback to LCDR Stewart. Hurricane season is coming – operators that remain in the RNAs will start seeing emails from WWM and they will be making the rounds with the flood protection authorities and US Army Corps. Big thanks to everyone that attended the waterways suitability assessment for a proposed ammonia facility in January. The feedback from industry is very helpful in planning for additional traffic and hazardous cargo operations. When the follow-up report is received from the company it will be circulated to industry for additional comments and question. There are ongoing revetment operations at MM23, please be mindful in that area. Point Celeste anchorage has been reopened. Lower 9 Mile Anchorage has a new dredging operation in the northern end – details are still being finalized and more information is forthcoming. MM158 pipeline removal is being led by Gulf South, they've had several navigation stakeholder meetings and will continue to hold those stakeholder meetings this month and next month with plans to remove that pipeline between late June and early August.

US Customs & Border Protection – Terri Edwards, Area Port Director

Regarding the VECS program, CBP is getting positive feedback from users, and they will host monthly vessel agent meetings via TEAMS going forward. They are still sending personnel to the southwest border but the number of people going from the New Orleans Field Office has decreased significantly. Flights and vessels are going well. There have been some management changes at the New Orleans Field Office. Kevin Alombro is the Acting Assistant Port Director for Passenger, Try Simon is APD for Trade & Tactical, and Mark Choina has been promoted to Assistant Director of Field Operations.

Crescent Pilots – Captain W.P. Loga

The dredging operations at 9 Mile anchorage are somewhat impacting one-way traffic and passing in the area. Fog is still causing delays on the CRPPA route – please be patient.

Federal Pilots – Captain Hank Webster

All is going well, they are monitoring revetment operations and planning accordingly.

GICA – Paul Dittman

Fog is causing delays. The ongoing daytime restrictions at Bayou Sorrel lock and the fog is exacerbating the issue. Delays are not overwhelming, and the Corps has been very helpful in coordinating to assist traffic management. The Calcasieu Lock is a parking lot. The new Belle Chasse Highway bridge will go into service on 5/31 and the antique movable bridge will be locked in the “open to marine navigation” position until it is torn down. The annual GICA-sponsored Joint Hurricane Team meeting will take place on May 23 at the Port NOLA administration building. The annual GICA Seminar will be August 8-9 at the Westin and the golf tournament will be on August 7 in Algiers.

GNOBFA – Karl Gonzales

The alternative security plan was approved by USCG in Washington, and you will need a letter from Karl or Alan to use that, so if you need either from of documentation you can reach Karl at karl.gonzales@cooper-marine.com.

CAMO – Ed Landgraf

Regarding the MM158 pipeline removal project – a six-inch pipeline removal will take place in the late June to early July timeframe. There will be some impacts to navigation due to construction barges and tug assists in the area. The project duration is anticipated to last 4-7 weeks, but if they can determine how much overburden is on the pipeline that timeline could be shortened. They have had many in-person meetings and are committed to ongoing stakeholder engagement. As of now, it looks like they will have daylight-only operations for this work. There is a draft communication plan in progress that will be finalized before operations begin to ensure that protocol is clear and widely disseminated. Regarding 811 Service – the “call before you dig” applies in marine construction as it does for land-based construction. You need to give a 7-day advance notice for marine operations. A fiber optic cable was severed during a marine construction project last month and the impacts were widespread and ultimately very costly.

Waterways and Navigation Subcommittee – Erwin Thompson

Regarding the Mid-Barataria Bay Sediment Diversion project, construction was scheduled to begin on April 1, but a pending lawsuit has likely postponed the start of those operations. When the operations begin there will be a monthly stakeholder call on the 3rd Wednesday of each month held by CPRA. If you would like more information or to be included on those calls, reach out to ethompson@lebeouftowing.com.

High Water & Severe Weather Subcommittee – Karl Gonzales

Karl will be coordinating the weather and water panel for Marine Industry Day. If you’re interested in participating, please reach out to him at karl.gonzales@cooper-marine.com

Marine Industry Day Subcommittee – Christine Titus

Our annual Marine Industry Day conference will be held on May 10 at the Four Seasons in New Orleans. Please reach out to HSC leadership if you have questions, comments, or suggested topics for consideration. We still have sponsorship opportunities and exhibitor booth spaces available. Let Christine know if you are interested in sponsoring or know someone that may want to get involved.

Port Safety Council Chairman Mario Munoz adjourned the meeting. The next regular meeting of the GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee is scheduled for July 10, 2024.

Subject: Captain of the Port New Orleans Navigation Outlook
Date: Wednesday, March 6, 2024 at 2:18:43 PM Central Standard Time
From: U.S. Coast Guard
To: Christine Titus



U.S. Coast Guard, Captain of the Port New Orleans Navigation Outlook

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[**Active Marine Safety Information Bulletins \(click here\)**](#)

[Habor Safety Committee Industry Day, May 10th at the Four Seasons Hotel \(Free Registration!\)](#)

WATERWAY CLOSURES & TRAFFIC RESTRICTIONS				
<u>*Table includes latest changes to published MSIB*</u>				
Location	Date	Time	Closure & Restriction	Last Updated
Revetment (Neptune) MM 23 LDB MSIB – 066	March 4-8 & March 11-13	0600-1900	Deep draft traffic is to transit the working area at slowest safe speed during working hours. The MSU will not fold in at night.	Mar 4
Point Celeste Anchorage			Anchorage Open CAUTION - Weeks Marine's submerged pipeline at Point Celeste is still in place from MM 49 to 51 along RDB, depth of pipe varies from 11 to 18 feet. Mariners are urged to use caution and ensure the	Mar 4

MSIB - 034			light ships are within the north side of the anchorage so that the stern of these ships will not swing over or make contact with the pipe.
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MSIBs Recently Rescinded (last 7 days)

- MSIB Vol XXIV Issue 014 High Water Safety Advisory: LMR MM 219-MM 237 AHP (28' and falling), superseded February 28.
- MSIB Vol XXIII Issue 034 Waterway and Anchorage Restrictions Point Celeste Anchorage, superseded March 4.

2024 Harbor Safety Committee Meeting Schedule			
Event	Date	Time	Location
Industry Day *** Register here ***	May 10	TBD	Four Seasons Hotel
General Meeting	July 10	1030-1200	Port of NOLA Auditorium
General Meeting	September 4	1030-1200	Port of NOLA Auditorium
General Meeting	November 6	1030-1200	Port of NOLA Auditorium
HSC Secretary/Treasurer: Ms. Christine Titus @ Christine.titus@louisianamaritime.org or (504) 833-4190			

Helpful Contacts	
Name	Contact
USCG Sector New Orleans Command Center	(504) 365-2209
USCG Vessel Traffic Service LMR	(504) 365-2514 or VHF CH. 05A, 12, or 67
USCG Sector NOLA Waterways Management	Secnola-wpm@uscg.mil

Helpful Links

[USCG Homeport COTP New Orleans](#)

- [USCG New Orleans Waterway Action Plan](#)
- [USCG Baton Rouge Waterway Action Plan](#)
- [USCG Deadship Tow & Transit Plan](#)
- [USCG Broadcast Notice to Mariners Checklist](#)
- [USCG Notice of UAS Operations](#)
- [USCG Seafarers Access Reporting](#)

[USCG District Eight Notice to Mariners](#) (weekly updates)

[USCG District Eight Broadcast Notice to Mariners](#)

[USACE Carrollton River Gage](#)

[USACE LMR Channel Surveys](#)

[USACE New Orleans District Lock Status.](#)

[USACE New Orleans Navigation Bulletin List](#)

[NWS Extended Streamflow Prediction \(28-day\)](#)

[LA DOT Bridge Status](#)

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secnola-wpm@uscg.mil



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