

GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee

Minutes of the Meeting held Wednesday, January 7, 2026

The following representatives were in attendance:

Attendee	Affiliation	Attendee	Affiliation
Sonny Businelle	ACBL	Leo Falgout	Kirby
Frank Martinez	American Maritime Svcs.	Mark Wright	LA House of Representatives
Michael Breslin	AWO	John Maurin	Lanier Engineers
Jill Bessetti	AWO	Cat WesterKamp	Lanier Engineers
Jason Mott	Bar Pilots	Vaughn McDaniel	LeBeouf Bros. Towing
Nick Fleming	Boh Bros.	Matt Denning	Louisiana Maritime Assoc.
Ryan Gaubert	Boh Bros.	Christine Titus	Louisiana Maritime Assoc.
Sean Duffy	BRC, LLC	Ian Burnette	Marathon Petroleum
Marc Broussard	Callan Marine	Tony Odak	Marine & Energy Consultants
Cherrie Felder	Channel Shipyard	Jake Stahl	Marine Expertise
Stanislav Smyk	ClassNK	David Beerbohm	McDonough Marine
Justin Billiot	ClassNK	Eric Anderson	McDonough Marine
Claude Klein	CMK of Louisiana	Brett Bourgeois	New Orleans Board of Trade
Donald Rulh	Coastal Service Group	Earl Hersch	No More Carbon USA
Craig Jackson	Cooper Mooring	Steve Wall	NOBRA Pilots
James Rousse	Crescent Towing	Ed Lee	Port of Greater Baton Rouge
Mark Nelson	CRPPA	Lester Millet III	Port SL/Infragard
Phil Constantin	DHS CISA	Mario Munoz	Rio Mar Global
Colin Macpherson	E.N. Bisso	Thyn Oo	Tulane Public Law Center
James Leonard	Enterprise Marine	Gregory Callaghan	USCG
Michael Fulcher	Federal Pilots	Dan Velez	USCG
Stephen McKinney	Global Maritime Ministries	Chris Booth	USCG
Chandler Stobbs	Global Maritime Ministries	Brooke Cumbie Lopez	USCG
Liz Shellabarger	Host Agency	Ben Adrien	USCG
Jeffery Babin	Ingram Barge	Jake Norris	USCG
Chris Ulfers	Jones Walker	Tim Long	Valero

The following reports were given:

Harbor Safety Committee Chairman, Mario Munoz

Mario called the meeting to order, led the Pledge of Allegiance and made general announcements. Marine industry Day is going to be May 21, 2026 at the Higgins Hotel in New Orleans. We are looking for sponsorships as well as planning and event support.

The national HSC Conference will be held March 24-25, 2026, in Seattle, Washington and hosted by the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound. If you have any questions and/or would like more information about this conference, please reach out to Mario or Christine. Registration is available [here](#).

If you are interested in joining one of our standing committees, please reach out to Mario or Christine for more information. Options for participation include the Cybersecurity, High (and low) Water & Severe Weather, and Waterways & Navigation standing committees.

USCG Sector New Orleans, CAPT Gregory Callaghan

Captain Callaghan provided updates for Sector New Orleans and highlighted recent events. Please be tracking the new cybersecurity requirements including the first annual cybersecurity plan audit for vessel and facility operators.

As a result of efforts made within the HSC, the USACE has installed new signage to address communications issues with boats coming from the Algiers Lock into the river. The Vessel Agent Handbook product is now available. LCDR Booth can be reached at christopher.w.booth@uscg.mil if you have any questions.

USCG Headquarters is evaluating VTS services in multiple port systems around the country. There will be a presentation to stakeholders on the river, likely in February, to begin the process for our VTS. The goal is to increase reliability and expand services.

It is now Carnival Season, and the Tier 1 Security Operations period will begin on Mardi Gras Thursday and end on Fat Tuesday. Anticipate typical Tier 1 security zone regulations. Sail250 events will take place in New Orleans May 28-June 1. There will be a variety of tall ships and military vessels involved, and more information will be forthcoming.

There are currently three openings for VTS Watchstanders, and the application is open until January 12.

Bar Pilots – Captain Jason Mott

The channel is in good shape on the Bar Pilot route, and some real progress has been made on the ATON situation. Captain Mott also gave an update on the Small Vessel Safety Initiative working group.

Crescent Pilots – Mark Nelson

Things are great, mat laying operations on the Crescent route are going well.

NOBRA Pilots – Captain Steve Wall

The low water is affecting some shallow draft anchorages, and recent fog events have been impacting some transits. They are working to minimize fog-related delays and otherwise all is well.

Federal Pilots – Michael Fulcher

The Federal Pilots are managing transits around fog, low water, and mat sinking operations as needed.

AWO – Mike Breslin

The AWO Southern & Mid-America combined regions meeting will be held on 2/25-2/26 in New Orleans. AWO members can sign up in the website, and if you're not a member and interested you can reach out to Mike at mbreslin@americanwaterways.com.

CAMO – Lester Millet III

They are planning a pipeline infrastructure roundtable in probably the second quarter of this year. If you have any questions or issues, please reach out to Ed Landgraf at ed@camogroup.org, Lester Millet, or Jake Stahl.

Cybersecurity Subcommittee – Lester Millet III

Lester provided an update on events, and upcoming opportunities for involvement. If you are interested in joining InfraGard please reach out to Christine and she will connect you with Lester.

Waterways & Navigation Subcommittee

Captain Mott with the Bar Pilots provided an update on the HSC's small vessel safety working group.

Port Safety Council Chairman Mario Munoz adjourned the meeting. The next meeting of the GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee is currently scheduled for March 11, 2026.