

Draft

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours January 15, 2026 – Hybrid In-Person Meeting @ Woodley Island Marina Conference Room & Via ZOOM Video Conference Call

Attendees	
Capt. Leroy Zerlang (Zerlang & Zerlang / Coos Bay Tug)	Chris Mikkelsen (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
Cory Mooers (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)	Jeff Ferguson (NOAA)
Jenny Lewis (City of Eureka)	Colin Campbell (Green Diamond)
Harrison Ibach (Commercial Fisherman)	Kent Hulbert (HASA)
Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)	Kevin Cliborn (Chevron)
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	Jen Kalt (Humboldt Waterkeeper)
Jeff Dayton (Fish & Wildlife)	Jake McMaster (Commercial Fisherman)
Scott Miller (USCG)	Denise Guerra (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR)	Noel Jones (USCG Headquarters)
CDR Krysia Pohl (USCG Sector San Francisco)	Tyler Felt – (Emergency Operations, Trinidad Rancheria)
Captain Andrew Manning (Humboldt Bar Pilots)	Nick Preston (Sause Bros)

Chair Leroy Zerlang called the meeting to order at 0900 hours.

1. Welcome / Call to Order

- a. **Committee and Meeting Attendee Introductions were made. Pledge of Allegiance. Roll Call.**
- b. **Comments by Chairperson:** None
- c. **Swearing-in of Members:** Harrison Ibach and Jake McMaster were sworn in.

2. Public Comment: None

3. Consent Calendar:

- a. Ross McDonald moved to approve the minutes of the November 20, 2025, meeting. Seconded by Andrew Manning. Voice vote was called. Minutes were approved unanimously.

4. USCG Reports:

- a. **USCG Nuisance/Abatement Report:** On January 7, 2026, an NRC report was received from NOAA, originating from NOAA satellite imagery depicting a potential sheen trailing the oil tanker MTM Portola approximately 35 nautical miles offshore of Point Arena. U.S. Coast Guard Sector San Francisco investigated and determined the vessel conducted cargo tank washings discharge in accordance with MARPOL Annex 1. On January 12, 2026, the towing vessel Patriot experienced a loss of propulsion and power due to a blockage in the fuel system. The major fuel blockages were removed. The vessel did come into Humboldt Bay.

5. US Army Corps of Engineers Report: None

6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. **Trinidad Harbor:** Due to a major water main break on Scenic Drive, the Trinidad Harbor was shut down for a day. Building progress is being made on the Interpretive Center.
- b. **City of Eureka Public Marina:** The permit for the 43rd Annual July Fireworks has been accepted by the Sector of San Francisco. The bilge pump out at the Public Marina is currently not working and boaters looking to pump out need to go to Woodley Island. The new fuel tank is not yet operational.
- c. **Port of Humboldt Bay / Woodley Island Marina:** There was a large amount of debris to clean up after the storm. There were 3 levees that failed and 2 roads related to King Tides and heavy rains. Mad River Slough has been very heavily affected. We are waiting for commercial crab season to open.

7. OSPR Reports:

- a. **Membership Update:** No membership is expiring any time soon. A primary member will be needed for Dry Cargo Vessel Operators as Colin Campbell is leaving Green Diamond.

8. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA Report:** None
- b. **Local Law Enforcement Report:** Denise Guerra read the report from Deputy Karl Norton: On 1/1/26 at about 1219 hours, HCSO received a call for an assist on Humboldt Bay. It was reported that a recreation sailor was in distress and needed rescue. The Sailor was in a small Laser Sailboat (Approx 7 feet in length) and the Mass had failed at the base where it was joined with the vessel. The sailor's friend observed the incident and responded with his sailboat to assist. While attempting to assist, the friend's kicker motor on the back of his sailboat fell off into the water. He was able to retrieve the motor however it was vapor-locked leaving both vessels stranded. Deputy Ethridge and I responded in the Sheriff's Office North River. Upon our arrival, we observed both sailboats tied off to a piling just south of Leroy's dry dock. Both sailors were successfully towed to the Eureka Marina without incident.
- c. **Coastal Commission Report:** None
- d. **Bar Pilot Report:** The chip ship, Prince of Nature, left with a full load of woodchips. Captain John Powell is officially retired.
- e. **Tank Barge Report:** None
- f. **Dry Cargo Report:** The chip ship, Prince of Nature, left last week. The next loading will be in 2 weeks, for a domestic barge down in the Columbia River. The next vessel will likely be in early March and then most likely every 2 months through the year.
- g. **Tug Report:** None
- h. **Tribal / Non-Profit Environmental Report:** None
- i. **Commercial Fishing Report:** One more clean domoic acid test is needed for the Commercial crab season to open. The rest of the state is actively fishing. The price has not yet been set. There is some concern about fuel.
- j. **Recreational Fishing / Boater Safety Report:** Recreational crab season is open. There are mixed reviews on crab size.

9. Subcommittee Reports: None

10. Work Group Reports:

- a. **Harbor Safety Plan Update:** Jonathan Bishop gave a report on the proposed update to Chapter 15. Jeff Ferguson reported that there are some administrative/numbering changes to be made to the Harbor Safety Plan.

11. Unfinished Business:

- a. A formal Letter of Request is required by OSPR, asking that Aquaculture become a new membership category. The Harbor District is currently training the Aquaculture community, providing them with their 40-hour HAZWOPER.

12. New Business: None

13. Action Items: None

The meeting was adjourned at 1015 hours.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2026.

Denise Guerra
Port of Humboldt Bay