

Approved

Harbor Safety Committee of the Humboldt Bay Area

0900 hours July 16, 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)	Denise Guerra (Humboldt Bay Harbor District)
Jenny Lewis (City of Eureka Public Marina)	Deputy Karl Norton (HCSO)
Noel Jones (USCG Office of Waterways)	Kent Hubert (HASA)
Jonathan Bishop (Coastal Commission)	Scott Miller (USCG MSD Sector Humboldt Bay)
Jeff Ferguson (NOAA)	David Bell (CDFW-OSPR)
Eric Gurney (MSRC)	Heather Geldart (OSPR Administrator)
Reuben Macaspac (CDFW OSPR)	Amir Sharifi (Ass't Deputy Administrator)
Ross McDonald (Sause Bros)	Sergeant Travis Rogers (HCSO)
Jennifer Kalt (Humboldt Waterkeeper)	Peter Mull (USACE)
Jon Victoria (CDFW-OSPR)	Jeff Dayton (CDFW)
Kevin Cliborn (Chevron)	

Chair Leroy Zerlang called the meeting to order at 0902 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:** None

2. Public Comment: None

3. Consent Calendar:

- a. As there was not a quorum, the minutes from January 15, March 19, and May 28 meetings will be approved at the September 17, 2026, meeting.

4. USCG Reports:

- a. **USCG Nuisance/Abatement Report:** On June 25, the Nanbellis Jo had a hydraulic oil spill, discharging 1-2 gallons of hydraulic oil into the water. MSD issued them a letter of warning. On July 2, the dredge Bayport had a hydraulic line burst leaving a small amount to spill. An unconfirmed amount may or may not have gone over the side. The crew stated they did not see a sheen.

5. US Army Corps of Engineers Report: It was reported that this was a successful dredging season. The Yaquina was here in late April, early May and dredged over 150,000 yards in the interior channel. The Essayons was here in May and approximately 295,000 cubic yards were taken out of the bar entrance and placed at the nearshore demonstration site along the north spit. The Bayport also had a successful dredge, removing about 490,000 cubic yards out of a total of 900,000. The Bayport anticipates coming back in November to finish the contract volume of 900,000 cubic yards.

6. Port/ Harbor/ Marina Reports:

- a. **Trinidad Harbor:** None
- b. **City of Eureka Public Marina:** The City is ready to take samples. If they are approved, dredging will start in September, hopefully at the launch ramp. On June 30, there was a boat fire and the source is unknown. The fire was out in an hour, and the boat was removed from the harbor.
- c. **Port of Humboldt Bay / Woodley Island Marina:** Six abandoned boats have been pulled out to be destroyed under the SAVE Grant.

7. OSPR Reports: OSPR Administrator, Ms. Heather Geldart and OSPR Assistant Deputy Administrator, Mr. Amir Sharifi, were introduced by Humboldt Bay Harbor Safety Committee Liaison, Reuben Macaspac. Ms. Heather Geldart

mentioned that they are trying to reinvigorate the collaboration across the different Harbor Safety Committees. Mr. Amir Sharifi mentioned that they are actively building a position in Redding for a new Oil Spill Prevention Specialist who will participate in the Harbor Safety Committee meetings.

- a. **Membership Update:** An application has been sent to Peter Jackson, of Green Diamond, to apply for the vacant Dry Cargo Vessel Operators representative position. The membership terms of Ross McDonald and Nicholas Preston, representing the Tank Barge Operators, will be expiring on July 19, 2026.

8. Member Reports

- a. **NOAA Report:** A strong el Nino is anticipated for the winter, and it is likely that water levels and tides will be higher than predicted.
- b. **Local Law Enforcement Report:** The 4th of July went well. There was an incident where a man on a surfboard had to be redirected after going into the restricted area not knowing that the fireworks started a half hour early. There was another incident of a boater operating in an unsafe manner and was dealt with accordingly. On July 19, Sergeant Travis Rogers will be coming back to Special Services.
- c. **Coastal Commission Report:** A new Chapter 15 in the Harbor Safety Plan is currently being worked on. This Chapter identifies and discusses the potential environmental and economic impact of implementing the provisions of the plan. This Chapter is following the framework of the LA/Long Beach and San Diego Harbor Safety Plans.
- d. **Bar Pilot Report:** The World cruise ship arrived at Schneider Dock on June 11 and stayed overnight. The Crystal Symphony cruise ship will be arriving in August most likely at Schneider Dock. The GT Persephone came in for a full load at Green Diamond. A domestic Brusco barge will be coming in. Two chip ships will be arriving in August.
- e. **Tank Barge Report:** None
- f. **Dry Cargo Report:** None
- g. **Tug Report:** The Eaglet survey boat will be taking the lady swimmer to Cape Mendocino to do another stretch.
- h. **Tribal / Non-Profit Environmental Report:** Some surfers were concerned about the nearshore placement of the dredge spoils and if they were possibly contaminated. It was explained to them that it was sandy material coming from the channels.
- i. **Commercial Fishing Report:** The commercial salmon season wasn't very good and the fish were small. Crab season is over. The fishermen are now preparing for tuna season. The Dockside Market is doing very well.
- j. **Recreational Fishing / Boater Safety Report:** The salmon quota is getting close to being met. The salmon size is a hit & miss. The Halibut Tournament will be on July 25.

9. Subcommittee Reports: None

10. Work Group Reports

- a. **Harbor Safety Plan Update:** The District is currently interviewing candidates for the position of Natural Resources Coordinator and one of the key responsibilities of that individual will be to manage the Harbor Safety Plan with the various committee members.

11. Unfinished Business:

- a. An alternate vendor is currently being looked for to work on the signage program.
- b. A Letter of Intent is being worked on to present to OSPR asking them to consider the Agriculture Community becoming potential members of the Harbor Safety Committee.

12. New Business: None

13. Action Items: None

The meeting was adjourned at 1002 hours.

The next Harbor Safety meeting is scheduled for September 17, 2026.

Denise Guerra
Port of Humboldt Bay