

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE
MEETING – March 13th, 2008 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held March, 13th, 2008 at Ristorante LaVeranda Philadelphia. Captain John Cuff called the meeting to order at 1100 hours. The meeting was attended by 50 Members, Associate Members, and interested parties.

I. Welcome

Captain Cuff welcomed all members and guests.

II. Reading of the Minutes

Rob Herb moved that the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting be approved, Captain Tom Sharp seconded. All approved

III. Report of the Treasurer

Captain Cuff reported again that the MAC has a new Treasurer; Jim Lombardo. Jim reported a balance of \$16,730.98. Captain Cuff reported that all dues have been paid. Captain Broadley moved that the report be accepted, James Young seconded.

IV. Aids to Navigation USCG

John Walters reported on the following lights and projects:

1. Horseshoe Range Rear Light
2. Bristol Range
4. Mud Island Upper Range
5. Baker Range
6. Ship John Shoal Light
7. Baker Range Light 2B
8. Acquisition, Instruction and Improvement funds.
9. Delaware River and Bay Deepening Project.
9. Navigation Items of interest
 - a. GPS interference test
 - b. LORAN
10. Lighted Ice Buoys
11. Offshore Anchorage: A copy chart was posted for the Committee to review. Comments are recommended and encouraged. This presentation to the MAC is prior to publishing the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The next step is for the new anchorage to be published in the Federal Register.

Captain Cuff added the following: regarding Bluewater's wind farm plan, it was emphasized that the windmills not interfere with traffic and they'll basically put it anywhere where we want it so as reps from the State of Delaware agree as well; i.e. out of sight from land.

V. NOAA

Howard Danley reported on various chart updates and availability. He added that the survey vessel the Rudy is being decommissioned and one Navigation Response Team was shut down for budgetary reasons.

VI. Marine Safety Office USCG- Captain of the Port

COTP Dave Scott reported on the following:

1. His command has been extended for an additional year.
2. TWIC opened a 2nd facility in Tioga
3. Administration of Port Security Grants is being handled by fiduciary agents. For our region, the Maritime Exchange is acting as the "local banker" for the grants.
4. The LNG project is still on hold waiting for a decision from the Supreme Court.

Regarding TWIC card processing, Captain Linton added that by making an appointment and using your passport will expedite things. He added if you use your merchant marine license, your TWIC will expire when your license expires. If you use your passport you get 5-years at a cost of \$132.50.

Jason Aleksak reported on and distributed CFR 33 CFR 70 on reporting requirements in the event of collisions with an ATON. He added that May 1st there will no longer be an SFO Atlantic City but operations will be seamless to mariners since all is being handled out of Philadelphia.

Jason then went on to discuss recent initiatives to effectively and efficiently manage the anchorages. Jason distributed and discussed today's MSIB on that subject. He went on to say that the regulatory process for extended stay at an anchorage was sent out in September and is posted on the Maritime Exchange's website. He added that the MAC anchorage subcommittee drafted a chart sectoring off MHA and MCA and requested tugs to anchor in certain areas. He also asked that mariners report in to the Maritime Exchange. In closing he asked that radios and AIS systems remain on at all times.

VII. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

Charlie Meyers distributed his report for the following areas:

1. Delaware River, Philadelphia to Sea
2. Chesapeake and Delaware Canal
3. Delaware River, Philadelphia to Trenton
4. Schuylkill River
5. Wilmington Harbor
6. District web site info.

There followed some discussion on proposed dredged spoil sites.

VIII. Old Business

ATON Survey

Captain Cuff reported that the MAC continues to solicit mariners to take the ATON survey that appears on our website.

Anchorage Committee

Captain Cuff reported on the following ideas from the Anchorage Committee:

1. Have a dedicated watch stander to monitor traffic in and out of the anchorages.
2. Make use of MHA and MCA be available on a reservation basis.

A reservation process would allow us to control

- (a) Who anchors there,
- (b) How many vessels anchored there,
- (c) And how long they are going to be there.

3. Remove the 48 hour limit for Kaighn's Point, Wilmington Anchorage, Reedy Anchorage, and Artificial Island.

Captain Cuff reported that Marcus Hook Anchorage is the only we have for deep draft vessels and anything over 750 feet can only go to Marcus Hook Anchorage. He went on to say that at Fort Mifflin, we are trying to put in 900 foot VLCC and that is a problem if there is a ship, tug or barge anchorage in that area of Mantua Creek.

Captain Cuff added that Lisa Humber is looking into applying for a grant to help fund the project which includes training, costs, cameras, AIS, radars, rules to establish and regulations to follow. He added that this will probably be run through the Maritime Exchange.

Lisa Humber added that she and Captain Tom Sharp are in a working group and are seeking participants to assist in drafting and determining SOPs, outlining requirements, video camera placement and operating rules.

Captain Cuff closed by mentioning that Peter Seamen is heading the working group to determine changing official Coast Guard rules and regulations to make the process mandatory.

IX. New Business

None

X. Adjournment

Rob Herb moved that the meeting be adjourned. Captain William Broadley seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1156 hours. Captain Cuff announced that the next MAC meeting is scheduled for 1100 hours, June 12, 2008 at the Ristorante LaVeranda in Philadelphia.