

**MARINERS' ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR THE
BAY AND RIVER DELAWARE
MEETING –June 16th 2011 MINUTES**

The Regular Quarterly Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee for the Bay and River Delaware was held June 16th 2011 at Ristorante LaVeranda Philadelphia. Captain Stephen Roberts presided over the meeting. Captain Roberts called the meeting to order at 1100 hours. The meeting was attended by 56 Members, Associate Members and interested parties.

I. Welcome

Captain Roberts welcomed members, new members and guests.

II. Reading of the Minutes

Captain Jim Roche moved that the reading of the minutes from the previous meeting be approved, Captain Rowland seconded. All approved.

III. Report of the Treasurer

MAC Treasurer Rick Iuliucci read the report and reported a balance of \$12,152.69

IV. Aids to Navigation USCG

On behalf of John Walters, USCG Lt. Corrina Ott reported on the following lights and projects and distributed a detailed report on the following:

Maintenance and Improvements projects

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1. Baker Range
2. Miah Maull Shoal Light
3. Delaware Bay East Icebreaker Light

Future AtoN Improvements

1. Delaware River and Bay Deepening Project
2. Liston Range, Reedy Is. Range, New Castle Range

Navigation Items of Interest

1. Offshore Renewable Energy Installations (OREIs)
2. Offshore Anchorages

Input from the MAC on the creation of two offshore anchorages is welcomed.

3. Sound Signals
4. Atlantic Coast Port Access Route Study
5. GPS Interference tests
6. Personnel Changes- see distribution.

Captain Roberts asked specifically about: 1) issues with Fisher Point Range, 2) reducing the intensity of Cross Ledge Light, and 3) Harbor Refuge Light becoming undermined. Corrina Ott replied that we'd hear back on those issues.

V. NOAA

NOAA Ports Manager Darren Wright reported that Howard Danley's replacement is CMDR John Swallows. Mr. Wright then introduced NOAA Director Richard Edwing. Mr. Edwing gave a brief update on the organization. Walter Drag of the National Weather Service in Mount Holly, NJ spoke briefly and kindly offered his services to the MAC.

VI. Marine Safety Office USCG- Captain of the Port

USCG CMDR Mike Antonellis reported that a mass rescue table top exercise is in development.

VII. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE)

Tim Rooney distributed his report and commented on the following:

See distribution.

1. Delaware River, Philadelphia to Sea maintenance
2. Dredge McFarland
3. Schuylkill River
4. Wilmington Harbor
5. C&D Canal
6. Fairless Turning Basin Deepening

Captain Rowland inquired about Cherry Island dredging. Mr. Rooney replied that dredging starts in August and is to be completed by March 31st 2012.

Safety Notices:

Captain Roberts reported the following:

The lift cables on the Burlington Bristol Bridge will be offline for two weeks beginning July 9th through July 22nd. The cables are being replaced. Vessels with an air draft of 62 feet or less will be able to proceed under the bridge. We expect a derrick barge to be working around the center-line that will reduce the horizontal clearance to approx. 200 feet.

Please be aware of your speed in the area of Pier 84 where the SS United States is berthed. Surge damage was reported in the area. Construction is going to strengthen the pier.

He attended the National Harbor Safety Meeting and wanted to remind everyone that the low-sulphur diesel requirements go into effect for the whole country in June 2012.

IX. Old Business

Coastal Traffic Lanes

Captain Broadley reported his work on drafting Coastal Traffic Lanes as it relates to the approach to the Delaware sea-lanes, in preparation for the Federal Register "request for comment". As reported in the May 11th issue of the Federal Register, A Port Access Route Study (PARS) is open to

comments. He welcomed members of the MAC to assist him in submitting the draft. Discussion followed. Dennis Rochford, on behalf of the Maritime Exchange, endorses the MAC submission to the USCG study. Volunteers to assist Captain Broadley in the MAC working group include: Captain Stephen Roberts, Mike Nesbitt, Captain Tom Sharp, Paul Myhre, and John Reynolds to Chair the group.

X. New Business

RIDE THE DUCKS

Ride the Ducks is back in business with a security boat on the river as part of their new operations plan. Captain Broadley reported a radio issue as he approached the "DUCK" transit area. The USCG is in review of that incident and their radio operations.

TUG BOAT ROUTES

Captain Roberts reported that there has been significant tow traffic crossing the traffic separation zones. He noted that he'll be reviewing Coast Pilot and likely add language for mariners to be aware of such traffic.

DOCKING PILOTS ISSUES TO GROWS TERMINAL

Captain Warmouth reported the following: A proposal for an amendment to the existing transit guidelines for outbound vessels, loaded, coming from GROWS TERMINAL. Currently, vessels with a draft of over 32.6 feet are to sail one hour before high water or 3 hours after high water. The majority of that window is during ebb current. To address some issues that have occurred in the past, the proposal calls for an amendment for vessels sailing from berths 1 and 2 only to sail 1 hour and 15 minutes before high water with no window. This would allow the Docking Pilots to get the ship out of the berth with the last of the flood current and have enough water to sail the rest of the river.

Captain Roche thought that the plan was "very appropriate". Captain Roberts added that sailing from the Fairless dock and from GROWS berths 3 and 4 are not an issue.

DELAWARE CITY

Captain Roberts reported the following: In Delaware City we have a number of buoys that are either not in place or not lighted. The Docking Pilots are currently working daylight only for flood or ebb and no sailing at night on an ebb tide. He added that contractors are working to repair and / or replace buoys.

XI URBAN HARBORS INSTITUTE Powerpoint presentation followed

XII OPEN DISCUSSION

MAC presented awards of dedication to the following individuals:

James F, Young, Esq.
CMDR. Michael Antonellis, USCG
Howard Danley, recently retired NOA
Roy E, Denmark, retired USACE
Lt CMDR Peggy Britton

XII. Adjournment

Captain Roberts announced the next meeting of the MAC is scheduled for September 8th at 1100 hours at the LaVeranda Restaurant in Penn's Landing.

With no further agenda items or discussion, Jean Curetan moved that the meeting be adjourned. Dennis Rochford seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1215 hours.