

CONNECTICUT MARITIME COMMISSION (CTMC)
SUMMARY REPORT OF MEETING (Mtg. #10-12)
October 17, 2012.

Location of Meeting: Fort Trumbull Conference Center
90 Walbach Street
New London, CT 06320

Attendance:

Commissioners

Present

Ronald Angelo* (for DECD Commissioner)
Chuck Beck (for DOT Commissioner)
Tom Dubno
Dave LeVasseur (for OPM Secretary)
Stan Mickus
Parker Wise
George Wisker (for DEP Commissioner)
Bob Ross

Absent

Michael Griffin
John Johnson
Larry Miller
Joe Riccio
David Shuda

Guests

Dan Coleman	Ned Farman	Jeff Flumignan	Bill Gash	Scot Graham
Larry Hempal	Patrick Kennedy	Martha Klimas	LTJG Steven Loy	LT Brent Pounds
Jeremy Riddle	Dave Rossiter	Rich Rotanz	Greg Roth	Joe Salvatore
Joel Severance	Judi Sheiffele	Bill Spicer	Grant Westerson	

I. Call to Order:

Due to the absence of the Chairman and the Vice Chairman, Commissioner Dubno called the meeting to order at 0936. A quorum was present (*Ron Angelo attended via teleconference). Commissioner Dubno obtained the consensus of the CTMC Commissioner/designees to rearrange the posted agenda by moving action items (those requiring a vote) to the top. Commissioners/designees present introduced themselves followed by introductions of the interested parties.

II. Review of Meeting Minutes:

The summary report of the September 19, 2012 meeting was reviewed. A motion to approve the summary report was made by Commissioner Ross. Dave LeVasseur provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

The Meeting Schedule 2013 item was moved forward from New Business. Dave LeVasseur made a motion to approve the draft schedule. Commissioner Ross provided a second and the motion was approved by unanimous vote.

The SAFE Port Act Letter item was moved forward from New Business. A motion to approve the draft letter was made by Commissioner Ross. Dave LeVasseur provided a second and the motion passed by unanimous vote.

III Discussion Open to Public

Prior to opening the floor to the public, Commissioner Dubno asked all present to introduce themselves. Once the introductions were completed, NOAA LT Brent Pounds provided information on several maritime related issues. An IMO amendment to SOLAS Chapter V Regulation 19.2 became effective July 1 2012. The Amendment requires ships engaged on international voyages to be fitted with an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS). As part of the requirement, ships must carry up to date Electronic Navigation Charts (ENCs), available as a free download from the NOAA at (<http://www.charts.noaa.gov/>). He provided a handout on the topic. LT Pounds also informed that the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO) has become aware of issues with ENC display in some ECDIS. ECDIS users are asked to download test data sets and report their test results. A handout was provided with a link to information on the ECDIS testing:

(http://www.iho.int/srv1/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=585:news&catid=166:1news-links).

Lastly, LT Ponds stated that current and new bottom surveys will be now available as a Geolmage PDF documents from the National Geophysical Data Center website (<http://www.ngdc.noaa.gov/mgg/bathymetry/relief.html>). An effort is being made to create Geolmage PDFs for surveys completed since 2000. An effort is being made to create Geolmage PDFs for surveys completed since 2000. NOAA LTJG Steven Loy provided information on the navigation response team. In response to a question from Joel Severance, LT Ponds stated that NOAA as well as the USGS would be conducting surveys of the mouth of the CT River.

IV Old Business:

A. Dredging Update – Joe Salvatore advised that the Army Corps of Engineers had closed the comment period on the LIS DMMP Work Group product. An LIS DMMP meeting has been scheduled for 10/30/2012 in Bridgeport. It is expected that a draft LIS DMMP will be available in 2013. Joe Salvatore updated all on the status of the Eastern Long Island Sound (ELIS) Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (SEIS) project. UCONN Avery Point has the lead under an MOA with the CTDOT. CTDEEP and EPA are partnering with CTDOT. Joe Salvatore announced that the CTDOT had successfully completed 3 MOAs with and transferred state funds to the New England District of the ACOE for the Patchogue River, Clinton Harbor and Housatonic River dredging projects. The ACOE has awarded contracts for the Patchogue River (Patriot Marine) and Clinton (Select Transport) projects. The ACOE Dredger CURRITUCK will do the Housatonic River project. The Patchogue project is approximately 36K cubic yards of material, Clinton is approximately 45K cubic yards and Housatonic approximately 50K cubic yards. The Patchogue material will go to the CLIS disposal site. The Clinton material will be used to nourish Hammonasset State Park Beach. The Housatonic material will be located near shore off of a beach in Stratford.

B. Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Council (LIS AMSC) Update – The Coast Guard announced a public meeting to receive comments on the development of a Facility Security Officer training program, with the primary focus on developing the curriculum for such a program. Section 821 of the CG 2010 Authorization Act (Pub. L. 111-281) required the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish comprehensive FSO training requirements, and to coordinate with the MARAD in developing the FSO training curriculum. The purpose of the public meeting is to obtain comments on a draft model FSO training course and other elements of the FSO training program. Information on the FSO training program and the public meeting can be found at the following web sites:

<https://einvitations.afit.edu/inv/anim.cfm?i=123867&k=036341017D50> and

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-10-17/pdf/2012-25571.pdf>.

A Pollution Workshop was held in New Haven on 10/10/12. Scot thanked the New Haven COOP for organizing the event and others who participated.

Scot reported that an LIS AMSC Executive Steering committee meeting was held on Long Island on 10/03/2012. A briefing was made by FEMA Region 2 on the requirement for states to develop a Threat Hazard Identification Risk Assessment (THIRA) in order to be eligible for future DHS/FEMA grants. CT DEMHS has the lead. There was also a brief on the expansion of the Domestic Nuclear Testing program centered on NYC. The present program covers a 100 mile radius which will be expanded. Information was provided to at the LIS AMSC ESC on a grant being submitted by SeaTow to sponsor encrypted AIS for non-commercial vessels. The benefit would allow tracking of all "blue forces" employed in an emergency response.

Lastly, Scot reported that security concerns have developed relative to the TWIC Card renewal process. Fraudulent TWIC cards are being discovered. All were asked to confiscate any fraudulent TWIC card discovered during the renewal process or during attempted entry into a marine facility. More on the TWIC Card renewal program can be found at

<http://www.tsa.gov/stakeholders/transportation-worker-identification-credential-twic%C2%AE>

C. Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) Update – Scot Graham provided an update on the Degaussing Range work in the Thames River. He thanked all who participated in the survey and advised that the NPRM public comment period ended October 5, 2012. <http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-09-05/pdf/2012-21760.pdf>.

Scot advised that repair work will be done on the fixed light in Southport. He also thanked all that participated in the recent Survey regarding navigation ranges.

Scot stated that the USCG recently issued a news release stating that as of 16 Oct 2012 it has commenced enforcement of the new requirement that all commercial fishing vessels (whether state-registered or federally documented) that operate or transit more than three nautical miles offshore need to demonstrate full compliance with all commercial fishing vessel safety regulations during dockside safety examinations. Upon successful completion of a dockside examination, the vessel will be issued a Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decal. To demonstrate compliance with this new requirement, fishermen are encouraged to contact Coast Guard fishing vessel safety examiners to obtain a Commercial Fishing Vessel Safety Decal. In the CG Sector Long Island Sound area the contact is Mr. Mark Dixon at mark.h.dixon@uscg.mil (203) 468-4437. More information about this change and methods for achieving compliance can be viewed at www.fishsafe.

D. Study of a Strategy of the Economic Development of CT's Ports (Port Study) – Commissioner Ross stated that the Port Study is done and has been made public via a link contained in the Governor's press release. He stated that there is something for everybody in the Port Study. He advised that he was happy with the process involved with the Port Study, stating that there was tremendous cooperation among the 4 state agencies involved as well as the 3 municipal deep draft port authorities. Commissioner Ross stated that advice presented to the consultant by the DEEP, DECD and DOT Commissioners from the beginning was to "tell the truth, make the effort market based and prioritize recommended state investments". One of the issues identified in the Port Study is that many of the reasons associated with the decline of CT ports were beyond state and local control. The goal should be to stop the decline, support what is being done (niche markets; ferry systems; shipyards, etc.) then pursue growth. Commissioner Wise recommended that the CTMC Commissioners individually become familiar with the Port Study and then collectively generate some recommendations to the Governor, Legislature and CTDOT Commissioner. After some supporting comments, it was decided that the main agenda item at the November 2012 CTMC meeting would be the Port Study. It was suggested that the "governance issue" would be most important. Given the popularity of the idea, all present were challenged to read and become familiar with the Port Study in preparation for the November 21, 2012 CTMC meeting. The Port Study can be accessed electronically at (http://www.governor.ct.gov/malloy/lib/malloy/ct_deep_water_port_strategy_study_-_final_report_full_-_sept_2012.pdf). Jeff Flumignan, MARAD's Executive Director of the Northeast Gateway, supported the idea of the CTMC generating recommendations. He also advised that a mini-TIGER Grant program could be out by January 2013. The TIGER Grant should offer \$200-300M nationwide and have a quick turnaround (45 days) between solicitation for and submission of grant applications. Jeff also stated that RI has established a Freight Advisor Committee.

V New Business:

A. Meeting Schedule 2013 – Moved to top of agenda. Draft approved.

B. SAFE Port Act Letter – Moved to top of agenda. Draft approved.

C. U.S.C.G.A. Center for Maritime Policy & Strategy Presentation – Dr. Judith Youngman provided information about the Center for Maritime Policy & Strategy at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy. The CSMP is actually a CG initiative taken up by the CG Academy. The missions of the CMP were presented: 1. inclusion of maritime policy & strategy goals throughout the Coast Guard Academy's teaching, leadership development, research, and public service missions; 2.

facilitate and deliver advanced, timely and relevant analyses on maritime policy and strategy founded upon interdisciplinary research across the maritime disciplines; 3. foster innovative policy approaches to contemporary maritime challenges through collaborative research and partnerships with scholarly and policy communities. An implementation strategy includes implementing academic curriculum at the CGA, CMPS research projects, interdisciplinary research and policy proposals, dissemination of innovative research and advising decision makers on related policy and strategy. Workshops are planned that will involve the public. The first workshop on Maritime Governance is scheduled to take place at the CG Academy on December 10-11, 2012. The CMPS is being modeled after the U.S. Military Academy's Combating Terrorism Center (CTC). It is anticipated that the CMPS will have connectivity with other "centers of excellence".

D. **SeaConnect Presentation** – Richard Rotanz provided information on both the Applied Science Foundation for Homeland Security Morrelly Homeland Security Center and the SeaConnect project, a conceptual off-shore port. The Morrelly Homeland Security Center has been established as a C4I facility located in close proximity to NYC using a \$25M grant. The mission of the Center is to help protect the U.S. from man-made and natural disasters as well as enhance society's resilience to such events. The Center employs Resident Research Partners. It has Video and Communications laboratories and is certified as a Secure Communication Information Facility (SCIF) with Satellite (CBand, VSAT), all band terrestrial (for First Responders), dedicated cell network and fiber & WIFI connections to fixed and mobile platforms. The facility has a 200 seat lecture hall for training, lectures and exercises. The lecture hall can be transformed into a 75-seat Joint Operations Facility in an emergency with links to other parts of the operations facility.

SeaConnect – In its conceptual stage, SeaConnect is a floating off-shore port facility that would allow containers to be unloaded from very large ships on one side and lowered onto smaller ships on another side or onto barges underneath the main deck. The platform would be a self-sustaining facility with approximately 60 acres of deck space capable of unloading/loading 3 ships near simultaneously. The SeaConnect facility would relieve the service regions, ports and infrastructure of most of the long-haul truck traffic on the main highways through the increase the use of smaller container vessels, barges and rail delivery systems. The SeaConnect facility will also enable the reallocation of funds for dredging and major infrastructure spending. Additionally, port security will be addressed at the SeaConnect facility directly by the government agencies with whom these responsibilities fall away from the population, port and infrastructure so critical to each country. All containers will be screened during off-load / on-load sequences, prior to being cleared for delivery into a port ashore, or loaded on-board a vessel transiting to another destination. All necessary staff accommodations will be in place for workers, government agencies as well as research staffs. More information on SeaConnect can be found at <http://www.asfhs.org/ASFHS/pillarsresearch.html>

VI **Executive Session** – none held.

VII **Date of Next Meeting:** It was announced that the next meeting of the CTMC would be held at the **Regional Aquaculture School in Bridgeport, CT on Wednesday November 21, 2012**

VIII **Adjournment:** - A motion to adjourn was made by Commissioner Ross, seconded by George Wisker and passed by unanimous vote. The meeting ended at 10:45 AM.