

## **Connecticut Maritime Commission Annual Report 2013**

The Connecticut Maritime Commission (CTMC) was established in July 2004 by Connecticut General Statute (TITLE 13b CHAPTER 242\* Section 13b-51a) as the successor agency to the Connecticut Port Authority. Originally, the CTMC consisted of fifteen members representing five State agencies, the maritime business industry, local port authorities, port operators, marine passenger services, port labor unions, recreational marine services and the coastal communities. The State agencies were represented by the Commissioners of the Departments of Transportation (DOT), Economic and Community Development (DECD) and Environmental Protection (DEP), the Secretary of the Office of Policy and Management (OPM) and the Chairman of the Transportation Strategy Board (TSB) or their respective designees. Legislatively the Transportation Strategy Board was eliminated effective July 1, 2011. Thus, membership to the CTMC was reduced from fifteen to fourteen. The remaining members of the CTMC are appointed as follows: four members appointed by the Governor; one member each appointed by the president pro tempore of the Senate, the speaker of the House of Representatives, the majority leader of the Senate, the minority leader of the Senate, the majority leader of the House of Representatives and the minority leader of the House of Representatives. All appointed members serve for terms coterminous with their appointing authority and until their successor is appointed and has qualified. Vacancies on the CTMC are filled for the remainder of the term in the same manner as original appointments. The chairman of the CTMC is selected by the Governor from among the appointed members of the Commission. The Commission may elect a vice chairman, secretary and such other officers as it deems proper. Members receive no compensation for the performance of their duties.

In accordance with TITLE 13b CHAPTER 242\* Section 13b-51a.(f) of the Connecticut General Statutes (CGS), on or before January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year, the CTMC is to submit an annual report to the Commissioner of Transportation and the Governor. The report is to provide: (1) a list of projects which, if undertaken by the state, would support the state's maritime policy and encourage maritime commerce and industry; (2) recommendations for improvements to existing maritime policies, programs and facilities; and (3) such other recommendations as it considers appropriate. Copies of the report are to be submitted to the General Assembly.

During calendar year 2013, the CTMC met monthly on the third Wednesday of each month at four different locations throughout the state on a rotating basis (Newington, New London, New Haven and Bridgeport). The annual schedule of the CTMC meetings and the summary report of meetings held were made available to the general public by being posted on the ConnDOT webpage ([www.ct.gov/dot](http://www.ct.gov/dot)) under "About Us" and then "Commissions" or directly at <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2314&q=307038>.

There were no changes to the membership of the CTMC during the year. The vacancy created by the resignation of a gubernatorial appointment, Mr. John Opie, in March 2011 remained unfilled during all of 2013. Other members of the CTMC were as follows:

### State Agency Members

OPM Secretary Benjamin Barnes (Designee David LeVasseur)  
DOT Commissioner James P. Redeker (Designee Charles Beck)  
DEP Commissioner Daniel Esty (Designee George Wisker)  
DECD Commissioner Catherine Smith (Designee Ronald Angelo)

<u>Appointed members</u>	<u>Organization</u>	<u>Appointing Authority</u>
*Joseph A. Riccio, Jr		Speaker House (Donovan/ Sharkey)
John Johnson	Thames River Properties	Governor (Rell/ re-appointed Malloy)
O. Thomas Dubno	Gateway Terminals, Inc	Governor (Rell)
Michael Griffin	Norwalk Harbor Master	Senate Minority Leader (McKinney)
Stanley Mickus	Cross Sound Ferry Services	President Pro Tempore (Williams)
Larry Miller	State Representative	House Minority Leader (Cafero)
Robert Ross	Exec Dir CT Mil Affairs	Governor (Malloy)
David Shuda	Coastline Terminals of CT	Senate Majority Leader (Looney)
Parker Wise	American Cruise Lines	House Majority Leader (Sharkey)
VACANT		Governor

\*Appointed Chairman by Governor April 2009

The Maritime Policy for the State of Connecticut developed by the CTMC in December 2005 and approved by the Governor's office in 2006 continued to serve as the cornerstone of issues addressed by the Commission during calendar year 2013. Maintenance dredging of the state's waterways and the associated economic impact remained the top issues throughout the year. Public Act 11-57 Section 13(f) provided \$6 million in FY 2012 for port infrastructure projects including dredging and navigational direction. Public Act 11-57 Section 32(f) provided \$25 million in FY 2013 for the same purposes. Public Act 13-239 Sections 13(g) and 32(f) provided \$5M in each of FY 14 and FY 15. The CTMC monitored the dredging projects and studies initiated by the Department of Transportation during 2013. For example, under \$500,000 of the \$1 million the legislation earmarked to be applied to a Study for the Strategy of the Economic Development of the New Haven, New London and Bridgeport Ports (short title Port Study) was needed. The first draft of the Port Study was delivered in May 2012 and accepted on October 4, 2012.

The New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) routinely provided updates on the development of the Long Island Sound Dredge Material Management Plan (LIS DMMP) as well as on Connecticut dredging projects such as; New Haven Harbor, Patchogue River, Clinton Harbor, Greenwich Harbor, Housatonic River and Norwalk Harbor Phase III. Unfortunately, despite having funds available to the project, the New England District of the Army Corps of Engineers did not move the LIS DMMP towards completion during 2013. The 2012 Energy and Water Development Appropriations Bill contained language inserted by Congressman Courtney and Senator Lieberman prevented the New London and Cornfield Shoals Disposal Sites from being closed for an additional 5 years in order to give the EPA time to complete the Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (ELIS SEIS). State funds were transferred to the EPA to initiate the ELIS SEIS. UConn Avery Point was contracted to lead the ELIS SEIS effort. Three dredging projects (Patchogue River, Clinton Harbor and the Housatonic River) were completed during the 2012-2013 dredging season by combining state and federal funds as well as developing innovative disposal solutions for the dredge material. The Patchogue River dredging project was completed on December 11, 2012. Material from the Clinton Harbor project was used to nourish Hammonasset State Park Beach. Additionally, state project funds established a piping plover monitoring plan. The Norwalk Phase III project was combined with the

New Haven Harbor project for disposal material management purposes. The New Haven material will provide the required cap for the Norwalk material at the Central Long Island Sound (CLIS) disposal site. Both projects were started in October 2013. The Norwalk dredging project was completed in mid-December 2013. The New Haven harbor project has an anticipated February 2014 completion date.

As a means of keeping current on national as well as maritime issues around the state, the CTMC entertained presentations during the year from federal agencies, state agencies, harbor management commissions, local port authorities, marine developers and other maritime organizations. Presentations were provided to the CTMC in 2013 by the following: OpSail2012CT Committee; Northeast Region Ocean Policy Council (NROC); the Long Island Sound Assembly (LISA); members of the North Atlantic Port Association (NAPA); the Maritime Administration (MARAD); DHS Northeast Region Cyber Security Advisor and the Connecticut Cruise Ship Task Force (CSTF).

A wide variety of issues were covered during the presentations and follow-on discussions. Briefings and updates were provided on: dredging related issues/projects; the creation of a statewide port authority; National Freight Advisory Committee actions; OPSAIL2012CT and Schooner Fest planning and after action reports; potential cruise ship visits; the Port Study; the Marine Highway; the Eastern Long Island Sound Supplemental Environmental Impact Study (ELIS SEIS); the Harbor Maintenance Trust Fund (HMTF); Physical Oceanographic Real Time System (P.O.R.T.S.); proposed guidelines for passenger vessels; Ballast Water Management Systems; Northeast Diesel Collaborative (NEDC); the CT Marine Trades Association (CMTA); Northeast Regional Ocean Council (NROC); Vessel General Permit (VGP) Process and the National Coast Guard Museum. Of particular importance to the CTMC were discussions on recommendations made in the Port Study, such as the formation of a statewide port authority endorsed by the CTMC via a letter to the Governor dated December 26, 2012.

Updates on the Long Island Sound Area Maritime Security Committee (LIS AMSC) and the Long Island Sound Harbor Safety Committee (LIS HSC) were routinely provided as a standing agenda item by representatives from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Long Island Sound (CG Sector LIS). At the request of CG Sector LIS, the CTMC now serves as the Harbor Safety Committee for the Connecticut region of the Sector's area of responsibility. Issues presented to the CTMC by the CG included port security grants, heavy weather plans and security related exercises held by the various Regional Marine Groups.

The CTMC provided letters of endorsements and letters of request to several organizations on maritime issues during 2013. A letter of support for a \$75,000 grant was sent to the Governor on behalf of the OPSAIL Connecticut's Schooner Fest committee. A letter of endorsement to the Thames Shipyard's application for a 2013 Small Shipyard Grant was sent to the U.S. Maritime Administration. By a letter dated September 25, 2013, the CTMC requested that the CTDOT consider any and all solutions (including designation as a capital project) that would upgrade and keep the New Haven P.O.R.T.S. as well as the tide stations in New London and Bridgeport functional. The CTMC letter and those from other stakeholders provided supporting documentation to the CTDOT's request to the Bond Commission for capital funds to upgrade and maintain all three tide stations.

Although all of the CTMC meetings are open to the public, the 2013 Annual Meeting of the CTMC required to be held in accordance with CGS Sec. 13b-51a (e) was held on December 18, 2013 at the ConnDOT HQ building in Newington, CT. State

Agency Commissioners Esty, Redeker and Smith attended. Topics of discussion included a review of the 2013 dredging projects, an update on the potential creation and implementation of the Connecticut Port Authority, a review of the Maritime Policy Statement adopted in 2006, a discussion on Short Sea Shipping and the Marine Highway and the need to press the Army Corps/ EPA to complete the LIS DMMP on time. Commissioner Esty thought that perhaps EPA should be engaged on the LIS DMMP via a "three Commissioners' Letter" (DOT, DEEP and DECD). The letter would review the promises made and focus on the negative effects on transportation, the environment and economic development should the LIS DMMP not be completed. There was additional discussion about engaging the Connecticut Congressional Delegation (CT CODEL) to assist in resolving the LIS DMMP completion delay. The draft 2013 Annual Report was presented at the Annual Meeting for review. Additionally, the Ocean Planning/NROC staff was introduced and invited all to stay for a follow-on meeting to discuss the draft of their "Strategic Plan". The Vice Chairman acknowledged the coordination and cooperation of the state agencies (DECD, DEEP and DOT) on maritime issues over the past year.

At the October 16, 2013 CTMC meeting a motion was approved to hold all of the 2014 monthly meetings at a single location. Thus, the 2014 CTMC meetings will be held at 0930 on the third Wednesday of each month at the ConnDOT HQ Building in Newington, CT. Following the usual practice the CTMC calendar year 2014 meeting schedule as well as the Mission Statement, Summary Reports of CTMC meetings, Annual Reports, Commission Member information and the Maritime Policy are all posted on the CONNDOT web page [www.ct.gov/dot](http://www.ct.gov/dot) under About Us then Commissions or directly at <http://www.ct.gov/dot/cwp/view.asp?a=2314&q=307038>.

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