LONE STAR HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE
Full Managing Board Meeting
August 8, 2025 9AM Houston Pilots
Meeting Agenda

A. Opening Remarks by Committee Chair – Greg DeLong

Chairmen Greg Delong welcomed and thanked everyone in attendance and introduced the new GalTex Subcommittee.

B. Safety Briefing – Capt. Clint Winegar

Capt. Clint Winegar welcomed everyone in attendance and stated there are no drills scheduled for today.

C. Invocation –David Foret

Greg Delong introduced Capt. David Foret to give the Invocation.

D. Welcoming Remarks by Sector Commander : Captain Nicole Rodriguez

Captain Nicole Reoriguez welcomed everyone in attendance and gave thanks to all the great work the subcommittees have been accomplishing.

- Reported LCDR Alex Mostrom will be giving a brief overview of Fleet Week.
- The Coast Guard anticipates numerous projects in the coming year, including the Freeport expansion, Fleet Week, the Coast Guard Foundation events, and preparations for the upcoming World Cup. However, resources remain constrained due to the loss of key civilian personnel, with multiple essential positions still vacant.

E. Confirmation of Committee Quorum – Laysa Flores

Laysa Flores confirmed there is a quorum. 25 of 35 members/representatives present.

F. Approval of Minutes – May 2, 2025 meeting

Chairman Greg DeLong stated that the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee website is undergoing improvements. Presentations from this meeting, as well as minutes from previous meetings, are available on the website under the Archive tab.

- First – Darren Shelton
- Second – Capt. David A. Foret, Jr.

G. US Customs & Border Protection – Officer John Landry

Continuing work on executive orders and plans to discuss crew welfare. Recent progress includes successful crew changes on arrested vessels.

H. Presentation of Waterway Suitability Analysis; Enterprise Houston Ship Channel facility, REF #4 expansion Jon Sawicki/Witt O'Brien & Caleb Vinyard/Enterprise

Caleb Vinyard and Jon Saeicki discussed the proposed expansion to an Enterprise facility in the Houston Ship Channel while ensuring alignment with the NVIC 01-2011.

- The project involves expanding propane operations at the existing Ship Channel facility north of the Beltway Bridge. Adding incremental refrigeration capacity to improve loading efficiency —no new docks, storage, or product types are planned.
- A Waterway Suitability Assessment (WSA) is underway due to increased vessel traffic; most details remain SSI and under Coast Guard review.
- Vessel traffic is expected to increase from 45 to 62 vessels per month, with coordination among pilots and port operators to manage impacts. The project completion and operational ramp-up are targeted for Q1 2027.

I. Subcommittee Reports and Working Group Updates:

1) Navigation Operations Subcommittee and Working Groups – Capt. David Foret

Capt. David Foret reported the subcommittee is working on finishing up the Waterway Action Plan for the San Jacinto River.

a) Increased currents at Bolivar / GIWW Current meters, TXDOT – No Report
b) Working Groups – No Report
-Marine Casualties/Loss of propulsion, Loss of steering
-Safe Access Group; Ship Pilot Ladders
-Texas International Terminal: approach, assist vessel, Pelican Island bridge

1) Waterways Utilization Subcommittee and Working Groups –JJ Plunkett / Greg Delong

Chairman Greg DeLong report the last Waterways Utilization Subcommittee meeting was held on June 10th at the Houston Pilots with presentations from Vessel Traffic Service, Sector Houston/Galveston Waterways and the National Weather Service. Greg gave recognition to James Prazak on the great work being done for the Heavy Weather working group.

a) Heavy Weather w/g James Prazak
- James Prazak reported the group is working on managing ways to get the port back up and running faster after storms.
- Big storms are easy to plan for since everyone knows operations will be down for a while, but smaller storms make it harder to decide what areas can safely reopen. The group is working on a way to assess risk and determine what soundings are needed.
- The next meeting will be a virtual meeting held on August 8th.

b) Technology w/g Mike Warner – No Report
c) Facility w/g John Taylor – Captain Matt Glass – No Report
d) Anchorage w/g Mark Nokelby – No Report
e) COC w/g Jeff Milstein / Denise Schaefer
- Senate and House have passed versions of the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2025; the bill is now in reconciliation to merge the two versions.
- Key provisions include performance-driven exams, allowing the Coast Guard to use commercial vetting tools (e.g., SIRE 2.0, Port State Control data) to determine vessel inspection needs.
- Industry groups, including Lone Star and GAPB, aim to stay engaged in implementation discussions to ensure the new process meets practical needs and avoids repeating past issues (redundant annual exams).
- The group is optimistic the final legislation will pass later this year, simplifying COC processes and strengthening collaboration between industry and the Coast Guard.
- Captain Nicole Rodriguez stated regarding the Coast Guard Authorization Act the Coast Guard is look

f) Seafarers David Clark
- State Patrol reached out regarding a ship that had been arrest offshore, a note from the ship Captain was received stating the crew was no longer receive payments, were low on fuel and supplies. The Coast Guard intervened, brought the ship to Bolivar and did a welfare check and everything was in order.
- Letters for the 2025 Christmas Box program for the Seafarers will be going out soon.

2) Dredging & Marine Construction Subcommittee – Ryan Brown

The last meeting with Tricom included input from the National Weather Service, and the next meeting is set for September 16th, the location is to be determined. The group is expanding to include members involved in alternative fueling operations, while still maintaining its primary focus on emergency response and fire preparedness.

a) U.S.A.C.E. update Sara Knoll
   - Sara Knoll will now be the new Army Core of Engineers representative and has assumed responsibility for Houston and Galveston operations.
   - Reviewed Army Core Handout, overall operations continue smoothly with no expected disruptions to vessel traffic. Anticipate six contracts to be awarded across Houston, Texas City, Galveston, and the GIWW.
   - Dredging in Newark is complete, except for the old Tule Lake bridge, where old bridge foundations remain at the channel edge. The team is coordinating with the Port of Corpus Christi and contractors to determine a solution.

b) Project 11 update Amanda Hamrick
   - Reviewed Project 11 Slideshow for updated on current port dredging. Bayport to Barbours Cut: Cal Marine has two remaining sections. Outbound dredging is complete and pending Army Corps acceptance; only a small taper remains on the inbound side. Full dredging completion expected by end of August, with the channel usable through Barbours Cut by September or early October.
   - Overall, the final dredging phase is wrapping up and all port work is progressing on schedule.

3) Maritime Education, Training and Outreach Subcommittee – Adam Reeves

a) Recreational Boater w/g David Clark
   - A sailboat in the Bolivar area crossed in front of a large inbound ship without responding to radio calls. Alberto Hernandez with VTS tracked the vessel's movements and identified the operator, and the Coast Guard plans to follow up. This incident was used as a teaching example during a recent boating safety class with members of the Texas Mariners Cruising Association (TMCA)—emphasizing the importance of monitoring radios, avoiding the ship channel, and crossing safely when necessary.
   - Capt. David Foret reported AWO stood up a Recreational Safe Boating "Sharing the Waterway" group—which has produced safety videos in Miami and Tampa—plans to film a new video in Houston in the coming months. Recent incidents on July 29—a fatal sailboat collision with a tug and barge in Miami and another recreational vessel striking a tug on the Sabine River—underscore the importance of this effort. David Clark will lead coordination for the Houston collaboration, highlighting local boating conditions and promoting safe interaction between recreational and commercial traffic on the waterways.

b) Fishing Vessel w/g Todd Whitecotton – No Report

4) Freeport Subcommittee Kody Andrews
   - Capt. Ross Coviello reported A mechanical dredge from Great Lakes Dredge & Dock is deepening the Freeport Channel to 58 feet, with completion expected in Q1 2026. Two hopper dredges are also scheduled to mobilize soon, though arrival dates continue to shift. Vessel traffic is increasing, with about 2,500 vessel movements expected this year.
   - Thanks to Lone Star the subcommittee successfully resolved an issue involving bright private property lights affecting vessel navigation. A new pilot boat, identical to Houston's, will be delivered mid-2026 to support growing traffic.
   - Freeport continues coordinating with NOAA, Coast Guard (ATON team), and local stakeholders to ensure updated electronic navigation charts and timely placement of aids to navigation for commissioning the new channel. The next subcommittee meeting is set for October 1st.

5) Galveston Subcommittee Darren Shelton
   - All is progressing smoothly for GalTex. Another GalTex Subcommittee meeting is planned for this fall (date and location TBD). There's a proposal to establish a GalTex Facility Working Group, similar to Houston's, to provide a formal process for reviewing new projects, berth modifications, and technical issues—such as recent concerns about facility pilings. The group would evaluate and recommend solutions as needed.

- Additionally, there's been an uptick in recreational vessel activity, which is expected to decline with the cooler weather. Stakeholders are encouraged to reach out to the Navigational Advisory Committee with any issues or concerns.
- The Port of Galveston will celebrate its 200-Year Bicentennial on October 17th. For details on securing a table or becoming a sponsor, please visit their website.

J. Remarks by USCG Sector Houston-Galveston Personnel

1) Waterways Management and ATON LCDR Alex Mostrom / LTJG Nelson
   - Lieutenant Nelson has transferred, leaving Waterways Management staffed by Chief Booth and one remaining officer. All correspondence should now go to HoustonWWM@uscg.mil. Facilities planning construction or dredging should contact Waterways early for regulatory review.
   - Fleet Week Houston is set for November 5–12, featuring three Navy ships and one Coast Guard cutter with events across Bayport, downtown, Sylvan Beach, Kemah, Ellington Field, and Buffalo Bayou. Over 60 events are confirmed, and volunteers are encouraged to sign up soon.
   - Hurricane season is approaching please stay prepared and subscribe to GOV Delivery for Coast Guard alerts.
   - Overhead work/construction on the Beltway 8 bridge is still ongoing near the Ship Channel; an MSIB was released noting the areas to avoid; particularly small vessels should avoid using the area as a shortcut.

2) Vessel Traffic Service Albert Hernandez/Randy Scott – No Report
3) Area Maritime Security Committee – Tyson Muniz/Keiton Moore
   - LCDR Alex Mostrom reported the next AMSC meeting will be held on August 13th at 9 a.m., at the Sector Houston building second deck.

   Cybersecurity – Keiton Moore
   - Port Security grants were released with a 2-week timeframe, for organizations interested in getting a security grant reach out to a Coast Guard representative for more information.

Captain Nicole Reoriguez introduced her new Deputy Captain Ron Caputo of Sector Houston Galveston.

4) National Harbor Safety Committee – James Prazak
   - The National Harbor Safety Conference is scheduled for March 25–26 in Seattle, hosted by the Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee. Planning for the event is underway, with the first official committee meeting set for next week.
   - The team has helped establish about five committees, three of which are now fully functional, with others in development.
   - Participation is highly encouraged for a video project showcasing how Harbor Safety Committees benefit companies, ports, and operations. Volunteers can record their responses individually and sign up on a provided sheet. Additionally, there's an opportunity to join the Heavy Weather Subcommittee Working Group.

K. Old Business: - No Report
L. New Business: - No Report
M. Other Business /
   - James Prazak reported Houston will host the World Cup, which includes a Sustainability Committee chaired by the city's Chief Sustainability Officer. As part of this effort, there will be a Houston Regional Air Quality Summit on Wednesday, September 24, featuring multiple breakout panels and an industry-focused session. If anyone is interested in being a part of a maritime specific breakout panel, contact James for more information.

N. Roundtable Comments
1) LSHSC Managing Board – General Comments and Discussion
   - The Shipping Insights Conference usually held in Stamford, Connecticut, will be hosted in Houston for the first time on October 15–16.

2) Public Attendees

- Amy Seymour, Chief of Port Security and Emergency Operations at the Port of Houston Authority, introduced herself as the replacement to Captain Woodring. Amy proposed the formation of a new Subcommittee on Risk, Response, and Resilience under the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee.

3) American Bureau of Shipping Dan Wesp (future collaboration LSHSC, Alternative Fuels)
   - Daniel Wes gave thanks and recognition to Greg Delong and Jim Elliot. representing the American Bureau of Shipping's Global Gas Solutions team, spoke about new U.S. Coast Guard policies concerning alternative fuels, including updates on waterfront facilities (issued in December) and fuel bunkering operations (released last month). These policies highlight a growing role for Harbor Safety Committees in conducting risk assessments such as waterway suitability, compatibility, and SimOps evaluations.

O. Upcoming Schedule: (Check www.LoneStarHSC.org for details & updates)

a. COC working group – TBD
b. Waterway Utilization subcommittee – 8/26 Houston Pilots (tentative)
c. Dredging & Salvage subcommittee – 9/16 (tentative)
d. Freeport subcommittee – Port Freeport 10/1
e. Maritime Education, Training, & Outreach (TBA)
f. Navigation Operations subcommittee (Action Group office) 8/12 (tentative)
g. Next LSHSC Full Committee – Coast Guard Sector 11/7 0900

P. Adjourn – Motion to adjourn the meeting at 10:45

- First – Greg Delong
- Second – Darren Shelton

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