LONE STAR HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE
Full Managing Board Meeting
Meeting Agenda
February 6, 2026, 0900
USCG Sector Houston Galveston

A. Opening Remarks by Committee Chair - Nathaniel Hough

B. Safety Briefing - LCDR Mostrom

1) No Scheduled Drills during meeting
2) Safety Brief

C. Invocation - Darren Shelton

D. Welcoming Remarks by Deputy Sector Commander - Capt. Ron Caputo

1) CDR Rodriguez could not be present today. Gives thanks for the presence of so many people from the maritime community. Government shutdown did not shut down operations and Sector Galveston/Houston is fully operational.
2) Port Security grants approved; 8 million dollars awarded going towards boosting and maintaining port security and safety.

E. Confirmation of Committee Quorum - Kathleen Sanders - Approved

F. Approval of Minutes - 11/7/2025 Meeting***

1) First: D. Shelton
2) Second: D. Clark

G. USCG Citation Presentation - Deputy Sector Commander - Capt. Ron Caputo

H. US Customs & Border Protection - John Landry

I. VTS State of the Waterway - Albert Hernandez

1) Recap of last year statistics for VTS State of the Waterway. Presentation uploaded on website.
2) Record-high disruptions in channel activity due to fog and inclement weather.
3) Slight decrease in number of transits due to Project 11 dredging throughout the Houston/Galveston operating waterways.
4) Increased cruise transits: Over 2 million passengers in 2025.
5) Increased communication for calls made to VTS regarding safety concerns, vessel problems, and alarms. Good sign that mariners are using the early notification system to alert others of any possible problems developing.
6) Commercial fishing increase in collisions and allisions; being addressed.
7) Groundings → 12 in Bolivar and 4 at LB11

J. Introduction

K. Subcommittee Reports and Working Group Updates:

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

a) Increased currents at Bolivar / GIWW - Ray Newby

- Current meters, TXDOT

  - Current meters are to be installed in Bolivar looking to be a permanent fixture. Working with Geological Surveyors for best locations
  - Mile Marker 420 groundings due to current speeds; Caney Creek Meter installation is the priority over Bolivar Roads for the time being.
  - Seavers Cove ½ mile to 1 mile increase in width due to constant wave energy. Increased water flow is making the current more aggressive through that area. We are looking to restore Seavers Cove from wave damage to control water flow.
  - Add more TCOON (Texas Coastal Operation Outfit Network) stations for current meters
  - San Jacinto High Water action plan – working with VTS and USACE to solidify the plan

b) Working Groups

- Marine Casualties / Loss of propulsion, Loss of steering
- Safe Access Group; Ship Pilot Ladders - Capt. Matt Glass / John Taylor / Capt. Clint Wineger

  - Moment of silence

- Capt. Phillip Brady – Panama City Pilot
- Texas International Terminal: approach, assist vessel, Pelican Island bridge

2) Waterways Utilization Subcommittee and Working Groups – Andrew Cook / Denise Schaefer

a) Heavy Weather w/g - James Prazak

- February 19, 2026 is the next virtual meeting. We are using working group knowledge for a Mariner's Guide Update
- Hurricane season preparation. We are developing an industry guide for easier access and understanding of the weather matrix

b) Technology w/g - Mike Warner
c) Facility w/g - John Taylor
d) Anchorage w/g - Mark Nokelby

- CFR change: Alpha East waiting for Homeland Security to implement after ruling
- Gulf Coast Protection Agency speaking on the barrier dunes and gate system project and the impact it is going to have on the Bolivar Roads anchorage

- Displacement of over 3,000 ATBs and ships that anchor in the Roads once the system is installed
    - Where are those ships/ATBs going to do operations?

e) COC w/g - Jeff Milstein / Denise Schaefer

- Bill passed for COC, waiting for implementation, working with Port State controls
- Washington D.C will have a hearing in regard to the implementation
- 20 years in the making and real progress made in the previous 3 years

f) Seafarers - David Clark

- Distressed seafarers with working through violence onboard ships and other working vessels. The Annual Seafarer Gala is upcoming.
- Maritime Workers Emergency Medical Fund - James Nash
    - Our goal is to find beneficiaries to raise money for mariners and their families when financial emergencies arise – rent, food, medical care, etc.
- Seafood Boil Fundraiser – May 2, 2026, at Texas Hideout Bar & Grill
- Golf Tournament – September 26, 2026

3) Dredging & Marine Construction Subcommittee - Jim Elliott

a) U.S.A.C.E. update - Sara Knoll

- A video is coming out from TransCare regarding firefighting and safety operations.
- February 12, 2026 is next meeting for Salvage and Marine Firefighting operations in conjunction with U.S. Coast Guard.

b) Project 11 update - Leia Wilson

- Segment 3: Barbours Cut target completion date in January of 2027. We have faced delays and are behind schedule but still on track. Segment 4: Boggy to Sims; deepen and widen the channel starting in Quarter 4 after Beltway 8 construction completion targeted for Quarter 3. Other segment projects starting in 2027.

4) Maritime Education, Training and Outreach Subcommittee - Adam Reeves-

a) Recreational Boater w/g - David Clark

- Dickenson Bayou Bridge and other locations had missing/stolen “Small Boat, Big Wave” signs – need to put new signs up and devise a way to deter people from taking them down.
- Nassau Bay Marine Safety Committee meeting to discuss the blind curve accidents. We need a suggested solution to implement hazard buoys or signage. We also need to discuss ways to enforce warnings.

b) Fishing Vessel w/g - Todd Whitecotton

- There has been an uptick in accidents this past year, new enforcement being discussed while also providing updated information to fishing docks and companies. We are working on new chartlets to be provided for fishing vessels.

5) Freeport Subcommittee - Kody Andrews

a) Tows stopping in between Phillips and Enterprise

- This problem has been addressed by Brazos Pilots. The next meeting is slated for April 17, 2026

6) Galveston Subcommittee - Darren Shelton

a) Next meeting TBD in March

L. Remarks by USCG Sector Houston-Galveston Personnel

1) Fleet Week - Capt. Ron Caputo (April 15-22, 2026)

a) 80% of original schedule is still on track to happen. Parade of Ships is happening April 15, 2026

2) Waterways Management and ATON's - LTCDR Mostrom / Chief Booth

a) We are waiting for replacement for previous advisor. Interim is LTCDR Mostrom.

3) Vessel Traffic Service - Albert Hernandez / Randy Scott

a) Beltway 8 Project – Delayed until July 2026.
b) Any companies looking to start major construction or other projects must have it cleared through USCG first. Port coordination team – use proper forms to report projects.

4) Area Maritime Security Committee - Tyson Muniz

a) AMSC meeting – February 11, 2026
b) Security information comes from all levels of the industry. We are working to have one email for reporting suspicious activity or incidents. Everyone needs to keep a watchful eye out for suspicious activity leading up to Fleet Week – a great opportunity to foreign or domestic entities to cause problems.
c) Cybersecurity - Keiton Moore

- Our next meeting will be virtual on February 19, 2026. Our meetings will be held the 3rd Thursday of every month

5) National Harbor Safety Committee - James Prazak

M. Old Business:

N. New Business:

1) James Prazak gave a presentation on the NTSB findings from the Dali / Francis Scott Key Bridge accident

   a) Pilots did everything they could do by the book – entire evolution of the event happened in a span of 4 minutes
   b) Because of construction project traffic officers were able to decrease amount of civilian traffic on the bridge
   c) 6 fatalities
   d) Wire connection on the ship was the problem that led to a cascade of issues on the Dali – no one had time to diagnose the problem
   e) Recommendation was sent to the Harbor Safety Committee and more specifically to the Steering Committee
   f) Ongoing discussions on how to better inform the public of maritime emergencies to include but not limited to bridge incidents, high traffic areas with recreational boaters, etc.

2) Time for Action – Assign NavOps to conduct assessment for regional waterways

   a) First: D. Foret
   b) Second: D. Shelton
   c) Put to Vote – All in Favor, none against

3) National 2026 HSC Conference in Seattle, WA happening March 24-25. We have a motion to apply for HSC Award - James Prazak

   a) First: Eric C.
   b) Second: J. Prazak
   c) Put to Vote – All in favor, none against

4) CMA Conference held at Stanford – coming to Houston in Spring of 2027.
5) Motion for a letter of Support for National Weather Service continuing their position at VTS in a permanent capacity

   a) First: G. Kalhagen
   b) Second: T. Covini
   c) Put to Vote – All in Favor, none against

6) Houston Maritime Museum Gala is coming up on March 12, 2026

O. Other Business

P. Roundtable Comments

1) LSHSC Managing Board - General Comments and Discussion

a) Chart Updates need to be requested far enough in advance for most accurate information
b) Gier discussed Unifying ferries in Texas

- 9 million passengers and 5 million vehicles in transit 2025. The system is still growing. We are 2nd in both categories
  - New York for passenger vessels; and,
  - Washington for vehicles.
- Eric Carrero addressed a sharing information platform for maritime organizations to use – tabletop activity February 17, 2026 (0900 to 1100).
- Capt. Caputo states that preparations for next heavy weather season is already underway.
- World Cup Houston will not directly impact the maritime industry but may increase numbers of recreational activities in the waterways and have an influx of people in the Houston area. We are looking at a 6-week evolution

2) Public Comments

a) Institute of Homeland Security is supporting Maritime Risk Symposium at San Jacinto College on June 2-3, 2026

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

1)	COC working group –	TBA
2)	Waterway Utilization subcommittee –	TBA
3)	Dredging & Salvage subcommittee –	2/9/2026 - POH
4)	Freeport subcommittee – Port Freeport	4/1/2026 0900 - Port Admin Cherry Street
5)	Maritime Education, Training, & Outreach (Virtual)	TBA
6)	Navigation Operations subcommittee (Action Group office)	TBA
7)	**National Harbor Safety Conference**	**3/24-25/2026 - Seattle, WA**
8)	Next LSHSC Full Committee – Houston Pilots offices	5/1/26 0900

R. Lone star harbor safety committee full managing board meetings for 2026

1) 5/1/2026 - Houston Pilots
2) 8/14/2026 - USCG Sector
3) 11/6/2026 - Houston Pilots

S. Adjourn

*** denotes Action Item (vote required)

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