

MOBILE MARITIME COMMITTEE

MEETING MINUTES

DATE: June 14, 2000; 1000-1130 **LOCATION:** International Trade Center, Killian Room

Chair: Jeff Mynatt (Strachan Shipping) **Vice-Chair:** CAPT Dave Carey (Harbormaster)

AGENDA:

Barge Fleeting	Subcommittee Reports
ACOE Issues (dredging & permits)	- Theodore
ATON Issues	- Vessel Priorities
Safety Concerns	- Broadcast Notice to Mariners
Mobile Port Emergency Action Team (PEAT)	

Barge Fleeting: Capt Carey announced that there was two barge fleeing area permits out for public comment from the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Exxon in Mobile and Theodore and Able Marine on the Mobile River to the north of Coastal Fuels. Another permit for Martin Marietta in Theodore on the east side and the turning basin was in the works, but not yet submitted. The Army Corps of Engineers indicated that Warrior and Gulf Navigation and Martin Marietta hold the only two active barge fleeing permits in Theodore at this time. Cooper Fleeting Service announced that they signed an operating agreement with ACL, and is now the contact for any fleeing issues concerning that area on the Mobile River.

ACOE Issues: Pat Langan began by briefing the committee on the Marine Transportation System (MTS) initiative, stating that it began in the Spring of 1998 to research the current state and future needs of the nations MTS. The MTS Task Force was chartered and held listening sessions throughout the country. The listening session on the gulf coast is scheduled for 17-18 July 2000 in Houston, TX, and is being hosted by the ACOE. Capt Kichner (MSO Mobile), indicated that MTS initiative information will be posted on the MSO Mobile website at www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/mobile. Next, Mr. Langan briefed on several ACOE project activities. The effects of drought and too little water have halted any dredging on the Alabama River and the Appalachicola-Chattahoochee-Flint River Systems. Dredging on the Tenn-Tom Waterway will begin in one week. On Dauphin Island, an emergency berm created for hurricane protection will be completed this week, and Pass Drury will be closed in order to begin dredging this week. On Mobile Bay, the Dredge Stuyvesant contract will expire on 01 August. In Pascagoula, MS, the channel deepening and widening project continues with phase II, which includes two bucket dredges, the cutter dredge Eagle, and maintenance dredging in the Pascagoula River. In Theodore, AL, surveys at the mouth of the Theodore channel indicated a high spot 300 feet to 500 feet long with a depth of 38.5 feet. This starts at the junction light and stretches across the entire channel. Navigation Notices forthcoming.

ATON Issues: No significant Aids to Navigation issues to report.

Safety Concerns: First order of safety discussion was centered on vessel wakes and subsequent damage caused by wakes. Many people agreed that most wake safety and wake damage incidents are caused by recreational boaters not aware of their wake and the marine surroundings where workers may be on small boats or barges. The question was raised about posting signs, but Capt Carey pointed out that such signs would have to be donated or manufactured by volunteers, and be of significant size and location to be useful. In addition, currently there is no legality to enforce such signs as “No Wake Zone” or “Minimum Wake”. Another suggestion was to increase public awareness of wake dangers in boating magazines, news articles, and flyers posted at marinas. Group discussion of a possible subcommittee to tackle this issue ensued. Second, in light of two recent deaths (Gulfport pilot & charter boat passenger in Perdido Pass), Capt Kichner stressed his concern with using life jackets in all facets of marine related occupations and personal water related activities. Lt Schultz passed out information on several varieties of Coast Guard approved life jackets that automatically inflate when a person hits the water.

Theodore Subcommittee: John Chapman (Mobile Bay Woodchip Center) stated the damages his facility incurred during recent wake damage in Theodore. From the same loaded, inbound vessel, Midstream Fuel Service experienced severe damage and avoided a pollution incident when five mooring lines parted and the fuel transfer arm bent 45 degrees during a fuel transfer. Other barges broke loose at Martin Marietta as well. At this time, MSO Mobile was involved in the investigation. The question was raised on whether or not there were any guidelines drafted for Theodore with respect for such issues and safety concerns. LT Schultz (MSO Mobile) stated that the initial reports made to the Coast Guard need to be as accurate as possible and called into the Marine Safety Office at 441-5121. Theodore Subcommittee guidelines need to be researched and drafted

Vessel Priorities Subcommittee: City officials believe that cruise ships are certain for the beginning of next summer. A rail ship service to Mexico consisting of two wide beam vessels on a four-day turn around is being reviewed by the Alabama State Docks. This subcommittee needs more people to begin drafting vessel priority guidelines.

Broadcast Notice to Mariners Subcommittee: No report.

Mobile Port Emergency Action Team (PEAT): LT LaDonn Hight (MSO Mobile), who is the Port of Mobile’s liaison with respect to hurricanes kicked off the Mobile PEAT hurricane season meeting at this time. Members of the Mobile PEAT remained, while others adjourned. LT Hight covered emergency preparedness for the upcoming hurricane season, reviewed port readiness actions to obtain as a storm is approaching, and reviewed contact phone numbers. Anyone interested in being on the Mobile PEAT should contact LT Hight at 441-5288.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, August 16, 2000 from 1000 to 1130 in the Killian Room at the International Trade Center.

This meeting was adjourned, on time, at 1130. The meeting minutes are also posted on MSO Mobile’s web site at www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/mobile.

Thank you for your participation. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to Jeff Mynatt at (334) 433-5401 or Capt Carey at (334) 441-7250.

For Coast Guard issues please contact Marine Safety Office Mobile at (334) 441-5121.