

# MOBILE MARITIME COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** August 22, 2001; 1030-1200      **Location:** International Trade Center, Killian Room

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

### AGENDA:

Old Business  
Sail Mobile

Subcommittee Reports  
Mobile Port Emergency Action Team contact verification

**Mobile Port Emergency Action Team (PEAT) contact verification:** LTJG Chico Knight from the Marine Safety Office reviewed who the primary PEAT contacts were for the Port of Mobile:

Bar Pilots	Captain Wildon Mareno / Captain David Wittendorfer
Port of Alabama	Captain Dave Carey (Harbormaster)
ACOE	Pat Langan
Ship Agents	Ted Lee (Navios)
Red Flag Barges	Tommy Phillips (Coastal)
Other Barges	Paul Hartman (Warrior & Gulf Navigation)
Towing	Tad Willcutt (Crescent Towing)
Ship Yards	Shawn Sweeney (Benders Shipbuilding)
Theodore	John Chapman (Mobile Bay Woodchip)

The Marine Safety Office will notify the primary contacts when the Coast Guard sets Hurricane Conditions for the area. The primary contacts will notify others in their industry and collect vessel and facility status information within the port.

Randy McKee with the National Weather Service indicated that they could provide the local weather perspective and information that they put out through the Mobile County EMA. He could also meet with the PEAT(s), if requested.

The Marine Safety Office's port status voice announcement system (251-441-5080) received compliments for its usefulness during PEAT activation for Tropical Storm Barry.

**Sail Mobile:** Ninky Vickers, Director of Sail Mobile 2002 for the city, expressed the need for assistance with the services (fuel, garbage, food stores, etc.) that the visiting tall ships will require. The celebration is scheduled for July 4-8, 2002. There is a committee set up with the city if businesses or individuals are interested in participating. Contact Ninky at (251) 342-4386 or Jeff Mynatt at (251) 433-5401.

At this time, the Coast Guard Cutter EAGLE has committed to participate. Tall ships from Brazil and Philadelphia will be coming too. The city is also negotiating with Venezuela, Ireland, Argentina, Portugal, and Italy. All vessels are Class A ships. The final list of tall ships should be known by January.

Everyone is reminded that there will be limited vessel movement and possible port closure on July 4, 2002, as the tall ships arrive.

**Sail Mobile (continued):** Al St. Clair with the city of Mobile also indicated that the bulkhead site being constructed on the Mobile River, from Cooper Riverside Park to Eslava Street, will be completed in May 2002. This area will be called “Mobile Landing”, and will have approximately 1,100’ of dock space (not including Cooper Riverside Park) for tall ships to moor.

The Bar Pilots reminded everyone that the foreign flag vessels will require pilots.

Captain Carey is putting together the Captain’s Handbook on visiting the Port of Mobile for the tall ships. Agencies need to contact Captain Carey for any particular information that they would like to be included.

**Theodore Subcommittee:** Wendell Spencer, Chair for Theodore Subcommittee, will be moving to Houston, TX within the next few months. John Chapman (Mobile Bay Woodchip), current vice-Chair was elected as new Chair of the subcommittee. Robert Luiten with Phenolchemie was elected as new Vice-Chair.

John Chapman announced that there have been two meetings with the Safety Committee of the Bar Pilots to address the current vessel transiting restrictions (“any vessel whose length exceeds 550 feet or whose draft exceeds 32 feet, shall transit the Theodore Ship Channel and Harbor only during daylight hours.”). Proposals have been drafted and submitted to the Bar Pilots to work towards changing the restriction. The Bar Pilots have submitted a letter to the Coast Guard for additional aids to navigation. Once completed, consideration will be made to allow vessels less than 625’ in length or draft less than 37’ to transit at night. However, this still leaves burdens on larger vessels that conduct operations at Mobile Bay Woodchip Center, Holnam, Coflexip, and Bredero. At this time, the next meeting has not been scheduled. John Chapman will schedule.

The Marine Safety Office voice message line (251-441-5670) is still available to log any navigation safety complaints. At this time, only 6 complaints have been received (however, keep in mind that night time transits are now restricted). The complaints include excessive widths of barge tows, barges moored where they shouldn’t be, and tows not heeding radio calls from bar pilots. However, an immediate call to the Marine Safety Office at 251-441-5121 (24 hrs) is best, in order to respond in a timely manner.

### **Other issues:**

Captain Carey will be clarifying the proper naming of the Old Homeport docks with the Theodore Subcommittee for safety and billing purposes.

Marine Safety Office passed information on the current shoaling and bridge pile obstruction in the GICW from MM 360.5 – 361.5 near St. George Island Bridge in Florida.

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, **October 10, 2001 from 1030 to 1200** in the Killian Room at the International Trade Center.

This meeting was adjourned at 1200. The meeting minutes, as well as other information, are also posted on MSO Mobile's web site at [www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/mobile](http://www.uscg.mil/d8/mso/mobile).

Thank you for your participation. Any questions or concerns can be addressed to Jeff Mynatt at (251) 433-5401 or Capt Carey at (251) 441-7250.

For Coast Guard issues please contact Marine Safety Office Mobile at (251) 441-5121.