

# MOBILE MARITIME COMMITTEE

## MEETING MINUTES

**Date:** February 14, 2001; 1000-1200      **Location:** International Trade Center, Killian Room

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

### AGENDA:

Old Business	Chair Election Terms
Port Safety Issues	Upcoming Conferences
Member List	Subcommittee Reports
Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System Presentation	
Local Charts and Coast Pilot Updates	

### Old Business:

- Captain Carey has started collecting data on water depths for all terminals in Mobile, Theodore, and Chickasaw. Information sought includes the current/actual depth, project depth, and the last time surveyed. So far, information on approximately 90 piers & terminals has been collected and entered on an excel spreadsheet. Everyone needs to be using the same terminology for names of piers/berths, and ensure information on any new or private berths is forwarded to Captain Carey. The information will be posted on the State Docks website ([www.asdd.com](http://www.asdd.com)), with a caution noting the latest revision date.
- Jeff Mynatt indicated that the letter has been drafted regarding non-local agents paying fees just as Mobile area agents are required to pay.

**Port Safety:** Three U.S. Navy vessels will be in the Port of Mobile for Mardi Gras festivities (22-28 February), and will be instituting new physical security measures while moored at the State Docks. There will be oil boom placed for a distance of 50' outside of the vessels. The boom will be lit. The Navy's use of force policy will be in effect. The Coast Guard Marine Safety Office has also instituted a Security Zone for a distance of 75' from the vessels. Coast Guard and Navy small boats will be patrolling the area.

**MMC Member List:** LT Schultz is creating an official MMC member list based on all meeting attendees that have signed the attendance lists dating back to February 2000.

**Chair Election Terms:** All attending members agreed that the current chairman and vice-chairman should stay the same for this year (2001), and make all succeeding elected positions a two year term. A suggestion was made to consider staggering the elections for chairman and vice-chairman in the future.

### **Upcoming Conferences:**

Harbor Safety Committee Conference, San Francisco, CA, 19-20 March 2001  
International Oil Spill Conference, Tampa, FL, 26-29 March 2001  
Invasive Species Conference, New Orleans, LA, 9-11 April 2001  
Clean Gulf Conference, Mobile, AL, 23-25 October 2001

**Navigation Subcommittee:** Captain Mareno, Mobile Bar Pilots, provided a request to the MMC Chair, Jeff Mynatt, to conduct a port study on the feasibility of enabling larger vessels into the Port of Mobile under current ship channel and turning basin conditions. The MMC will generate a letter requesting funds, guidance for funds, and fund handling from the Chamber of Commerce, City and County of Mobile, State of Alabama, and local Congressmen to get support for a port study and subsequent related training. Discussion was generated that there may be funding available through the Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE). Pat Langan (ACOE) will meet with Jeff Mynatt and Capt. Carey to discuss

**Theodore Subcommittee:** The Dredge Electra will be working in Theodore for at least 4 more months, 2 months on the south side and 2 months on the north side. The time it is taking to break down the dredge pipeline is a concern. Thompson Engineering is managing the project, and will have the project manager available at the next meeting.

**ACOE Issues:** Dredging contracts are currently being negotiated for Bon Secour, Gulfport Harbor, Perdido Pass, and sump maintenance in Mobile River and Mobile Bay. Ongoing projects include Mobile with the Dredge Columbia and Pascagoula Phase II and Bayou Casotte extension projects.

**Other Issues:** Capt. Pierce, U.S. Navy Port Coordinator, thanked everyone for their assistance and continued support with the LST-325. He also reported the LST-325 continues to receive visits of approximately 30 people per day. The current plan is to make repairs and moor the LST-325 at Cooper Park for the LST Convention in September 2001.

In reference to VTS articles in the newspaper, the State Docks input and position is they “continually evaluate risk assessment in the port” and that VTS is not now necessary. According to Sheldon Morgan, Warrior-Tombigbee Waterway Assoc., brown water mariners oppose VTS. Capt Carey indicated VTS may be considered in the future if/when technology improves, and there is a demonstrated return for the investment. In reference to the Port Risk Assessment study conducted in summer 1999, port users did not want VTS, although the report indicated otherwise.

**Physical Oceanographic Real-Time System (PORTS) Presentation:** Alan Bunn, Regional Manager, Gulf of Mexico with the National Ocean Service, NOAA (979-845-3855) provided the PORTS presentation urging the Port of Mobile to consider installing the system to enhance commerce, promote safe and efficient navigation, and protect the environment. More information about PORTS can be found at [www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.co-ops.nos.noaa.gov).

Alan Bunn and Todd Schatgen (NOS, NOAA St. Louis Office) also provided a brief on Print-on-Demand navigational charts and NOAA’s Navigational Response Team. The Navigational Response Team out of Houston can assist ports in post-hurricane channel damage assessments utilizing their towable side scan sonar and 26’ boat.

**Local Charts and Coast Pilot Updates:** NOAA collected input from various local waterway users for changes to local charts and U.S. Coast Pilot 5 in order to make updates for subsequent editions.

The next meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, April 11, 2001 from 1000 to 1130** 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 (334) 433-5401 or Capt Carey at (334) 441-7250.

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