

The Houston/Galveston Navigation Safety Advisory Committee (HOGANSAC) has formed a sub-team to study the problem of ships getting pulled off docks by passing traffic. The team is chaired by Bill Boehm, Stolt-Nielsen, and Tim Lietzell, HOGANSAC, serves as the HOGANSAC Liaison. It is comprised of members from the Coast Guard, Corps of Engineers, terminals, shipping companies, barging companies and engineering firms. The Mission of the team is in bold print below.

The team has held five monthly meetings. To date, the Corps of Engineers gave a very illustrative presentation on a channel modeling they had just performed in the area of Goat Island in the Houston Ship Channel. The team decided to prioritize the 4 most affected docks in the area. The Corps of Engineers asked that this list be reduced to just one dock. Through extensive discussion and study, a dock has been selected to be studied. The announcement of the dock is pending approval of the proposal by the terminal. The team is currently working with the Corps to develop the definition of the formal work study. This list will be used by an engineering firm for three purposes. First, the data will be fed into a mooring software program to ascertain the best type/location/size of mooring for the situation. Second, the team will develop a strategy for the team to present to industry to reduce or eliminate the problem. Finally the data will be used to develop a long-term solution to the problem to prevent the situation here or in other locations.

MISSION

This project is to improve the incident rate of ships/barges getting pulled off docks by passing traffic in the Houston, Texas City and Galveston area. To identify and recommend design, engineering and operational changes that would eliminate this problem and thus reduce the risk to people, property and the environment. The sub-committee's objective is to focus on preventing the incidents as well as minimizing the impact should such an incident occur.