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## Minutes: Forum #110

**Date:** June 14, 2017  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** University of Southern Maine  
Room 216 (Second Floor) Abramson Center  
88 Bedford Street  
Portland, ME 04101

### 1. Introductions and Administration:

*Introductions* – The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by the Port Safety Forum Co-Chair John Henshaw representing the Maine Port Authority with Commander Andrew Meyers as the Co-Chair representing the Coast Guard. A quorum was comprised of 20 individuals.

*Review and Approval of the March 22, 2017 Port Safety Forum Meeting Minutes* – Hearing no objections to the content of the March 22, 2017 minutes, Mr. Henshaw accepted the minutes as approved.

### 2. Port Activities Update:

*Army Corps of Engineers - Ed O'Donnell*, Army Corps of Engineers delivered a presentation about the ongoing and proposed dredging projects in Maine and New Hampshire for 2017, 2018, and 2019. The following projects were mentioned in the presentation:

- Pig Island Gut
- Sagamore Creek
- Hampton Harbor
- Saco River
- Biddeford Pool (trying to secure funding)
- York Harbor (est. start date November 2017)
- Wells Harbor
- Union River
- Cape Porpoise
- Searsport
- Rye Harbor

The Harbor Maintenance Tax Fund had \$8.83 billion in 2016 and the USACOE received a \$1.2 million budget for projects in New England. Mr. O'Donnell explained the need to keep the Cape Arundel disposal site open for the next five years. A proposed project for the improvement of the Piscataqua

River requires finding a use for the dredged sand. It may be possible to use a disposal site around Isle of Shoals. A Boston Harbor maintenance and improvement project is in the works for 2018/2019.

***International Ferry Operations - Jim Wilson; Bay Ferries***

Mr. Wilson delivered a presentation about The CAT international ferry which returned to service in 2016. The CAT connects Portland, ME and Yarmouth, NS with daily Ro/Pax ferry service. The vessel (Alakai) is on a charter from Military Sealift Command (MSC) for a 2+1+1 contract. The additional term years will be determined in the very near future. The return of The CAT was possible with crucial support from Senator Angus King, the congressional delegation, and the City of Portland, with thanks to Customs and Border Protection and the U.S. Coast Guard. Service commenced to Nova Scotia on June 25, 2016. So far, the vessel had made 100 crossings with 35,515 passengers. The CAT has also successfully conducted two rescue at sea operations. Surveys have reported a 93% satisfaction rate among passengers. 75% of passengers said they would ride The CAT again. The 2017 season started two weeks early and will extend for an additional two weeks on the closing end.

***NOAA Update - LCDR Meghan McGovern; NOAA***

NOAA delivered a presentation which detailed three aspects of NOAA activity around coastal Maine.

- Draft for the National Charting Plan – The Charting Plan is intended to improve chart coverage, specifically electronic charts (ECDIS) and reduce the amount of unwanted chart information. It will also improve accuracy and coverage of charts. The Federal Register comment period closed June 1 but NOAA is still accepting feedback/comments until 1-July. The link to the draft National Charting Plan is below:  
<https://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/docs/NationalChartingPlan.pdf>

*Comments can be submitted directly to NOAA though this link (please reference the National Charting Plan):* <https://ocsddata.ncd.noaa.gov/idrs/inquiry.aspx?frompage=ContactUs>

- Penobscot Bay Hydrographic Survey - Two small vessels will be conducting the survey in the defined area. They will be starting within the next few months and are hopeful to finish in 2017.
- Gulf of Maine Operational Forecast System. This is currently in the testing phase and \*not for navigation\*, however, NOAA will appreciate any feedback on the various products being showcased here: <https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ofs/dev/gomofs/gomofs.html>.
- Feedback can be delivered via email ([meghan.mcgovern@noaa.gov](mailto:meghan.mcgovern@noaa.gov)) and she'll be sure to get it to the development team. For more in-depth follow-up LCDR McGovern can put individuals in touch with the team directly.

***Alternative Tidal Energy Project Status - Mr. Nathan Johnson, Director of Environmental Affairs and Business Development for ORPC***

Ocean Renewable Power Company, LLC (ORPC) is a global leader in hydrokinetic power system technology with a focus on environmentally suitable river and ocean power solutions and electricity generation. ORPC is commercializing proprietary tidal and river power systems (TidGen® and RivGen®) which use a patented turbine generator unit (TGU) as the core component.

In Eastport, ORPC has led a ground breaking tidal energy prototype project in Cobscook Bay. The Tidal Energy Project was the first grid-connected ocean energy system in all of the Americas. ORPC guided the project from initial concept to a licensed, installed, and operating project delivering electricity to the utility grid under a long-term power purchase agreement with Emera Maine. With components

fabricated in other New England states, the bulk of the construction of the prototype, including the structure, was all completed and



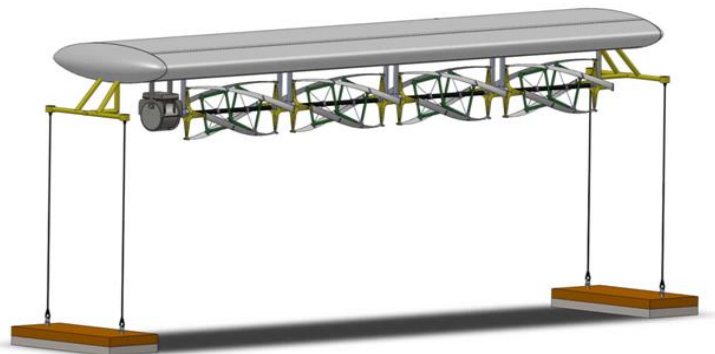
deployed in Maine. ORPC worked closely with local fishermen and applicable agencies to ensure the deployment of the turbine was conducted to reduce impacts on shipping routes as well as fishing and aquaculture grounds.

The Eastport turbine’s unique design includes:

- Four cross-flow turbines designed for coastal regions with large tidal ranges.
- Single driveline connects turbines to a direct-drive permanent magnet generator.
- Low vertical profile.
- Rated capacity: 300 kW.
- Device dimensions: 25 m x 5 m x 2 m.

A follow-on generation; the “Advance TideGen Device,” includes a modified buoyant system anchored in place with a tension leg system. The newer version will be easier and less expensive to install and retrieve and less intrusive compared to the previous design. The projected milestones of the Advance TideGen Device include:

- Subsystem field validation in Cobscook Bay – early 2019.
- System validation in Western Passage 2019 – 2020.



***Alternative Wind Energy Project Status - Mr. Jake Ward, University of Maine/Aqua Ventus***

Mr. Ward presented on behalf of Aqua Ventus of Maine on the Aqua Ventus 1 update. This project involves two 6 MW turbines that utilize a semi-submersible hull design with anchors to remain on station offshore. The proposed demonstration project site will be offshore near Monhegan Island. The project will occur in multiple phases, with specific note being made to when actual offshore towing and cable laying operations will commence. Anchor and cable patterns will be laid out in spring 2019, with the floating hull and turbines being towed out for installation in the Fall of 2019. Utilizing a large source of untapped energy, offshore wind is an exciting prospect that could be realized with the success of the Aqua Ventus 1 project.

### **3. Coast Guard Update:** – *CDR Andy Meyers – Sector Northern New England*

**Casco Bay Full Scale Exercise** - On June 7, 2017, the Coast Guard partnered with Sprague Energy to co-host and execute a full-scale exercise of the Area Contingency Plan which outlines roles, responsibilities, and strategies to respond to oil spills. The exercise is a unified federal effort and satisfies the exercise requirements of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90) which mandates federal oil pollution response exercise requirements. The June 7 full scale exercise was a great opportunity for both public and private sectors with an interest in the waterfront and environmental protection to simulate a petroleum spill and take away valuable lessons learned. The exercise incorporated a Command Center which was established at the Italian Heritage Center in Portland. The exercise also involved full deployment of oil response equipment. These periodic exercises keep response skills sharp, identify areas of improvement, and serve to update spill response policies and procedures.

**Land-Based Fire Fighter Training** – The Coast Guard and Port Safety Forum co-sponsored two separate two-day Marine Firefighting courses in May. Both training events were offered by Tri-State Maritime Safety Association and tailored to land-based firefighters to respond to unique and challenging shipboard fires and emergencies.

- May 18-19 **Harbor Incident Response Training** (Marine Firefighting Tactics designed for Land based firefighters):
- May 22-23 **Command Strategies and Tactics for Marine Emergencies** (designed for command staff of local, state and federal agencies).

The training covered various topics ranging from jurisdictional responsibilities to shipboard firefighting tactics and vessel stability. The training was successful in raising firefighter awareness to the complexities of marine fires and emergencies. The training stimulated discussion of potential follow on training aboard ships with an emphasis on larger passenger vessels.

**Paddle Safety** - Kayaking, Stand Up Paddleboarding and kayak fishing have grown dramatically in recent years. Between 90,000 and 105,000 canoes and 350,000 kayaks are sold annually, according to industry figures. However, with the growth in paddlesports, the number of fatalities has gone up. In the most recent reporting year, 2015, 29% of boating deaths were paddlecraft related; in 2016, fatalities climbed even higher, according to Coast Guard Auxiliary data. Six deaths having occurred in Maine so far this year. Personal Floatation Devices were attributed as being a common factor in these fatalities. The Coast Guard Auxiliary Strategic Plan for 2017 focuses Auxiliary efforts on addressing paddle safety by expanding outreach to the paddlecraft community.

**Piscataqua River** - A closing of the Piscataqua Bridge will occur September 7-21 for work on the Sarah M. Long Bridge.

**USCG Cutter Eagle Visit** - The USCG Cutter EAGLE will be visiting Portland, Maine August 4-7.

### **4. Old Business/New Business:** None.

### **5. Next Meeting:**

**Date:** September 27, 2017  
**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** NHDES Portsmouth Regional Office  
Pease International Tradeport  
222 International Drive, Suite 175  
Portsmouth, NH 03801