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Minutes: Forum #105

Date: April 13, 2016
Time: 10:00 AM
Location: University of Maine Hutchinson Center
80 Belmont Avenue (Route 3)
Belfast, ME 04915

1. Introductions and Administration:

Introductions – The meeting was called to order at 10:00 by the Port Safety Forum Co-Chair Brian Downey representing the Maine Port Authority with Commander Andrew Myers as the Co-Chair representing the Coast Guard. A quorum was comprised of 21 individuals.

Review and Approval of the December 16, 2015 Port Safety Forum Meeting Minutes – Hearing no amendments or objections to the content of the December 16, 2015 minutes, Mr. Downey accepted the minutes as approved.

2. Passenger Vessel Operations

Cruise Ship Outlook – Amy Powers, Director, CruiseMaine USA

Amy Powers (Cruise Maine USA) delivered a presentation outlining the current state of the cruise ship industry in the State of Maine. CruiseMaine USA is a port marketing coalition serving 12 ports in Maine and two in Atlantic Canada. CruiseMaine works under the umbrella of the Maine Port Authority to represent the cruise ship marketing and community relations efforts. In 2016 Maine will see a 6% increase in passenger counts (283,000 passenger bed day yield) over 2015, largely as a result of increased cruise ship size and capacity. This year, the State will continue to see robust cruise ship calls from 30 separate ships representing 22 different brands. Among the port calls expected in 2016 will be several ships making their first voyages to Maine:

- AidaMar
- Azamara Quest
- Zuiderdam
- Oceania Sirena
- Anthem of the Seas
- Silver Explorer

September is forecasted to have the highest number of port calls (98) followed by August (73) and October (62). Maine continues to enjoy continued overall growth in cruise ship tourism with American Cruise Lines homeporting 2 small ships in Portland and its sister company, Pearl Seas homeporting Pearl Mist in Portland.

The estimated economic impact of the cruise ship industry in Maine is \$47 million in direct spending to the Maine economy (as of 2014). The cruise industry generated 755 jobs and wages totaling \$26 million in income for Maine workers; with average wages totaling \$34,100 for Maine workers.

Special note should be made to Royal Caribbean's Anthem of the Seas which is among the newest and largest ships afloat and will make several Maine port calls in 2016. Built in 2015, the ship's length is 1,141' boasting 16 decks and will carry 4,180 passengers. The ship will make its first of eight visits to Portland on 8/28/16 and Bar Harbor on 8/29/16.



Rockland welcomes industry veteran Blount Small Ship Adventure Line as the city's first ever cruise line to homeport there. The Grande Caribe will run a series of two – Two-Nation Vacation cruises between Rockland and Halifax, NS. This series also includes stops in Eastport and Bar Harbor. Additionally, Rockland will host 33 ship visits from 6 different cruise ships and 5 different brands. The largest ship to visit will be Oceania's Regatta (650 passengers) and the smallest is American Cruise Line's Glory (49 passengers).

Mass Rescue Operations (MRO)– Captain Arn Heggens (USCG)

Mr. Heggens briefed the Forum regarding high capacity passenger vessel rescue planning. The Coast Guard is currently enhancing a collaborative pre-planning concept to best respond to large cases involving mass marine rescue. An MRO is best described as a civil search and rescue activity requiring the need for immediate assistance to a large number of persons in distress (such as a cruise ship or ferry). It is recognized that such events are low-probability but nevertheless, high-consequence, and could exceed the capabilities of any single agency or jurisdiction. Specifically, Sector Northern New England is leading a multi-agency initiative to develop an MRO Concept of Operations Plan to guide Coast Guard response operations and coordinate local response to a mass casualty. The initiative will identify local planning requirements and work toward establishment of local MRO plans to be included in Standard Operating Guides at local jurisdictions. The three driving tenets of the initiative include:

- Partnership: Identifying & formalizing relationships with response partners (MRO plans, mutual assistance pacts, etc.). In a disaster, seamless cooperation through a Unified Command is important;
- Planning: Identify risks and MRO scenarios and plan accordingly;
- Practice: Train all personnel and all partners (preferably utilizing a Unified Command structure) and practice the plan.

Below are a few of the more recent prominent MRO themed responses:

- February 2008: Pacific Glacier: 106 evacuees
- January 2012: Costa Concordia: 4,229 persons on board
- April 2014: South Korean Ferry Sewol: only 164 of 459 rescued

3. Port Activities Update:

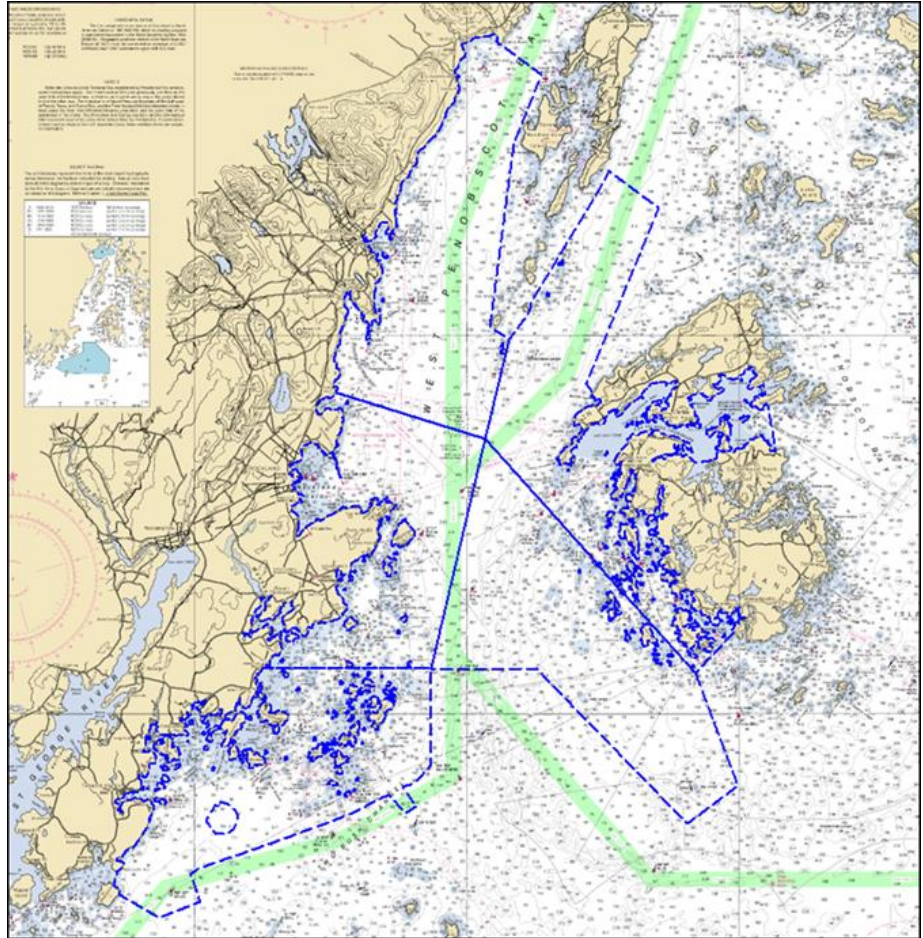
Casco Bay Bridge Update - Brian Downey

Mr. Downey briefed the Forum regarding the contracting of MaineDOT draw-bridge operations on the Casco Bay Bridge. A meeting was held in January among key port stakeholders including the Coast Guard, Portland Pilots, Portland Harbor Commission, Docking Pilots, tug boat operators, and MaineDOT to review the concept of operations for the bridge operation under a contracted workforce. The bridge

will now be managed by Florida Drawbridge Incorporated (FDI) based in Pompano, Florida. The official hand over of operation was on March 6. Only light maintenance such as greasing and oiling will be performed by FDI. All significant maintenance will remain with MaineDOT.

NOAA Update - LCDR Meghan McGovern

Survey Work in Penobscot Bay - NOAA will be conducting oceanographic surveys in Penobscot Bay in the areas depicted in the accompanying chart. NOAA has consulted with the regional pilots, Coastal Zone Management, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Maine Port Authority to focus the scope of the most critical survey locations. NOAA recently awarded the survey contract but no timeline or survey methodology has been finalized. A meeting was held in Rockland in mid-April between Maine Lobstermen Association representatives and NOAA to discuss gear avoidance measures, which was productive. This survey will enhance navigation by replacing 1950's era survey data with current data utilizing state of the art surveying equipment and techniques. Rockland will be included in the survey which will help to identify suitability of certain bottom areas for possible ship anchorages.



4. Coast Guard Update:

Places of Refuge – CDR Meyers, Sector Northern New England

CDR Myers discussed the consideration of Places of Refuge in the event of a marine casualty or other need for a vessel to enter a port or area under emergency conditions. Examples of events that may trigger a Place of Refuge decision include vessel stability issues, flooding, cargo problems, fire, communicable disease, etc. The Coast Guard will host several Workshops to discuss the thought processes and frameworks needed to determine appropriate Places of Refuge. Workshops will be held in:

- Portsmouth – April 23
- Ellsworth – April 28
- Portland–May (date to be determined)
- Eastport - May (date to be determined)
- Searsport - May or early June (date to be determined)

Interested parties may contact Andrew.J.Meyers@uscg.mil for more details and specific venues.

Recreational Boating – CDR Meyers, Sector Northern New England

CDR Myers reminded the Forum of permanent Security Zones that surround cruise ships in Sector Northern New England's zone. Specifically, the cite is located in **33 CFR § 165.105** and is paraphrased below:

(a) Definition. "Passenger vessel" as used in this section means a passenger vessel over 100 gross tons authorized to carry more than 500 passengers for hire.

(b) Location. The following areas are security zones:

(1) All navigable waters within the Captain of the Port Zone, extending from the surface to the sea floor, within a 100-yard radius of any passenger vessel that is anchored, moored, or in the process of mooring.

(2) All navigable waters, within the Captain of the Port Zone, extending from the surface to the sea floor, extending 200 yards ahead, and 100 yards aside and astern of any passenger vessel that is underway.

(c) Regulations.

(1) In accordance with the general regulations in § 165.33 of this part, entry into or movement within these zones is prohibited unless previously authorized by the Coast Guard Captain of the Port (COTP) or his designated representative.

(2) All persons and vessels must comply with the instructions of the COTP or the designated on-scene Coast Guard patrol personnel. On-scene Coast Guard patrol personnel include commissioned, warrant and petty officers of the Coast Guard on board Coast Guard, Coast Guard Auxiliary, and local, state and federal law enforcement vessels. Emergency response vessels are authorized to move within the zone, but must abide by restrictions imposed by the COTP or his designated representative.

(3) No person may swim upon or below the surface of the water within the boundaries of these security zones unless previously authorized by the COTP or his designated representative.

(d) Enforcement. The Captain of the Port will enforce these zones and may enlist the aid and cooperation of any Federal, state, county, municipal, or private agency to assist in the enforcement of the regulation.

5. Old Business/New Business:

No new or old business was offered or discussed.

6. Next Meeting:

- June 22, 2016 (Portland), 10:00 AM
*University of Southern Maine
Room 216 (Second Floor) Abramson Center
88 Bedford Street
Portland, ME 04101*

USCG Sector Northern New England:

www.uscg.mil/d1/sectornne/ & <http://homeport.uscg.mil/northernnewengland>

Maine Port Authority:

www.maineports.com

Port Safety Forum:

<http://www.maineports.com/#!/safety/c1nnl>