



MARITIME MATTERS

June 2019

United States Coast Guard



- CMDR Eric Runyan, formerly of USCG Southeast New England has officially replaced CMDR Nicole Vaughan as head of USCG Sector New York Prevention and Safety. CMDR Vaughan's last day at Sector NY was June 13, and after the re-scheduled Harbor Ops Steering cttee meeting of June 12, 2019, a fare-well lunch was held at Blue on Staten Island. We wish her fair winds and following seas.
- USCG reported they have held a preliminary meeting with reps of Carnival Line regarding the potential for LNG bunkering in NY/NJ during future vessel calls. Carnival expects the first of 16 new dual-fueled vessels to call NY/NJ in September, 2020. It is expected bunkering will employ an LNG barge currently located in Jacksonville which will be moved to NY/NJ. HOPs is initializing a working sub-committee to work with concerned parties regarding such issues as risk management, restrictions, safety, etc.
- On June 10, 2019 there was a small chlorine fire on the Passaic River. A temporary Safety Zone was established and there was no waterway disruption.
- The National Harbor Safety Committee meeting will be held in Houston, TX on June 25-27, 2019. CAPT Mc Govern and LCDR Josh will be in attendance to represent NY/NJ.
- Fleet Week proceedings went well with no significant issues.
- The Ellis Island bridge underpass is open for human-powered craft until October, 2019 to allow such craft to avoid conflict with Statue of Liberty traffic.
- The SAIL GP Regatta took place June 20-22 with spectator areas to the north of the course and a transit lane on the west side of the Hudson. The regatta is for 50ft catamarans, and the course was in use between 1600-1900 each day. Accommodations were made with ferries.
- A Jet Ski Event will take place on June 29, 2019, with a rain date of June 30, 2019. Several hundred jet skis are expected to take part with oversight of USCG and NYPD on-water assets to ensure safety.
- The MACY'S 4th of July fireworks display will have barges located between the Battery Tunnel and the Brooklyn Bridge with the usual safety and spectator areas. Service of the Staten Island Ferry will be suspended between 2000-2200 hr.
- The USCG New York Bight East/West Port Access Route Study is still underway. This study will be critical to establish safe operational guidelines for Offshore Wind development.
- USCG has received the initial draft of the EQUINOR Navigational Risk Assessment for proposed Off-shore Wind development. (More detail to follow).
- On July 20, 2019 the Manhattan Kayak Circumnavigation event will have approximately 100 kayaks circumnavigate Manhattan.
- USCG Vessel Traffic System (VTS) has been studying actual operations of SULCV and ULCC vessels and is expected to issue revised/updated Deep Draft Vessel Guidelines shortly.



- Bids for the 50ft Newark Bay project are expected to be finalized shortly with work to be done July-October, 2019.
- There is currently no schedule for the 40ft section of Newark Bay.
- USACE is still in discussions with the National Park Service regarding the necessary dredging of Sandy Hook Channel. Having noted the physical conditions in the channel, it was noted unless the USACE/NPS discussions are resolved shortly, it may be necessary to re-locate the existing channel marker buoys.
- USACE expects the Anchorage Study to be completed soon.

MAPONY/NJ Awards

The seal of the US Merchant Marine Academy is circular and features a central figure, likely a ship or a maritime scene, surrounded by the text "US MERCHANT MARINE ACADEMY" and the year "1871".

On June 14, 2019 Ed Kelly attended the US Merchant Marine Academy Awards Convocation to present the MAPONY/NJ Award to graduating Midshipman Benjamin Braswell White of Carthage, NC. The \$500.00 award and congratulatory letter was awarded to M/N White, “A Marine Transportation M/N who, in the opinion of the graduating class, possesses the qualities and attributes to become an outstanding Deck Officer based on grades, the regiment, and Sea Year”.

NY State - Marine Mammals

A grey, semi-transparent map of New York State is positioned behind the text of the section header.

- On June 6, 2019 Ed Kelly attended the “New York Bight Whale Monitoring Workshop” sponsored by the NY State Division of Marine Resources at their offices in East Setauket, NY.
- The workshop reviewed the most recent year’s data collected through both aerial surveys and passive acoustic survey.
- The most recent data reflects a steady population of the endangered North Atlantic Right Whale (NARW), and a large increase in the Humpback whale population.
- A large percentage of NARW sightings were in, or in close proximity to established shipping lanes.
- MAPONY/NJ outlined the impact of NARW sightings on maritime traffic, and expressed concern with OSW development about to take place in the New York Bight, NARW avoidance requirements will compound operational difficulties in narrowed and more congested shipping lanes



Staten Island Ferry

- The SI Ferry has received a \$3 Million grant to study the feasibility to retrofit the smaller class of ferries to LNG. The study has not yet been initiated.
- On July 13, 2019 the SI Ferry will host approximately 2000 special children and adults for a 3-4 hour cruise on the Hudson River on the “GOD’S SPECIAL CHILDREN CRUISE”. The cruise is expected to occur 0700-1100hr.
- On June 26, 2019 NYC EDC will present a risk assessment for a proposed ferry landing at St George.



New York Shipping Association

600 “new” longshoremen have been authorized through the Waterfront Commission, and the new entrants are gradually being brought into the workforce. An efficient training and placement program will be essential to minimizing any Summer-related shortages.



PANY/NJ

- PANY/NJ is coordinating with USACE to scope and initiate the Port of NY/NJ harbor deepening study. PANY/NJ and USACE will make a presentation to HOPs for feedback. The study will include both automated and oil/bulk facilities.
- PANY/NJ is finalizing details related to the purchase/placement of the PORTS current meters (LB14-Kill Van Kull and LB 18-Newark Bay Entrance). The target installation date is likely October 2019, with data becoming available approximately 3 weeks after deployment.

NJ DOT

- Raritan Center is being re-evaluated for possible development for Marine Highway usage,
- NJDOT has engaged a contractor for a re-designed landing platform at Liberty Park, which will replace the current old barge in usage. It is hoped this will be completed before the close of 2019.

NYC Economic Development Corp.

New York City Economic Development Corporation

- The “Maritime Support Services” study has been re-named the “2019 Shared Harbor Survey” to reflect the inclusion of recreational vessels and input from NJ. The study will be released on July 13, 2019.
- The Coastal Resiliency study is currently on hold.
- The dredging at Hammond Cove in the Bronx is pending a Connecticut dredging permit. It is presently expected dredging may not commence for 4-5 months from now.
- An RFP/RFI for Sullivan Pier/Homeport will be released shortly. It is expected that the area may generate interest from Offshore Wind Developers as a construction/staging/assembly area. Infrastructure improvements (fenders, etc.) are already underway.
- EDC reminded all concerned parties there are several open comment periods for maritime-related RFP/RFI, including: DOCK NYC Operator-7/26; Hunts Point Marine Terminal-8/1; OSW Hub at Homeport-7/24; Marine Highway Market Assessment Consult-8/2; and 2019 Shared Harbor Survey-7/2019. Contact EDC for any additional detail.

Energy

- The CHPE cable project in the Hudson River made a presentation at the Hudson River Harbor Safety Committee. A group named “Alliance for Clean Energy NY” was in attendance and opposed the CHPE project. At present, CHPE appears to be on “hold”.
- SUNY Maritime has been named an Offshore Wind Center of Excellence, and will host a seminar in late September, 2019. More info will be advise, when obtained.

Towboat & Harbor Carrier Assoc.

- The TBHCA sponsored a McAllister tug to provide a working harbor tour to members of the NYC Mayor’s Maritime Advisory Board, of which MAPONY/NJ is a member. This was a great opportunity to make MWAB members aware of working waterfront concerns.

Bridges

- Portal Bridge comment period closes on July 12, 2019, and the temporary deviation closes on September 9, 2019.
- Between July 1, and August 1, 2019, the Outerbridge Bridge will have new fendering installed on the NJ side.
- The Throgs Neck bridge will have a deck replacement project which will cause a 4.5 foot air-gap reduction until November 30, 2022. There is no anticipated problem with the reduced gap.

Offshore Wind



- On June 12, 2019, EQUINOR, a major Offshore Wind development concern presented a DRAFT Navigational Risk Assessment (NRA) to the Steering Committee of our Harbor Safety, Navigation and Operations Committee.
- EQUINOR and their consultants presented their plan for discussion. They advised that they plan to file a final NRA plan to BOEM by September 2019, and that construction could begin by 2022.
- A fruitful discussion ensued.
- HOPs still expressed concerns regarding: 1 NM set-back from shipping lanes, placement of 3 export cables to NY and/or NJ, possible collision scenarios, radar distortions, use of 2017 SIS data, oil spill response plans, AIS marking of site, lighting, meteorological station capacity, and others.