

AGENDA
EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
HUMBOLDT BAY HARBOR, RECREATION AND CONSERVATION DISTRICT

DATE: February 21, 2019

TIME: **Emergency Session – 4:00 PM**

PLACE: Woodley Island Marina Meeting Room

The Meeting Room is wheelchair accessible. Accommodations and access to Harbor District meetings for people with other handicaps must be requested of the Director of Administrative Services at 443-0801 at least 24 hours in advance of the meeting.

1. **Call to Order Emergency Session at 4:00 P.M. and Roll Call**
2. **Pledge of Allegiance**
3. **Public Comment**

Note: This portion of the Agenda allows the public to speak to the Board on the various issues not itemized on this Agenda. A member of the public may also request that a matter appearing on the Consent Calendar be pulled and discussed separately. Pursuant to the Brown Act, the Board may not take action on any item that does not appear on the Agenda. Each speaker is limited to speak for a period of three (3) minutes regarding each item on the Agenda. Each speaker is limited to speak for a period of three (3) minutes during the PUBLIC COMMENT portion of the Agenda regarding items of special interest to the public not appearing on the Agenda that are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Board of Commissioners. The three (3) minute time limit may not be transferred to other speakers. The three (3) minute time limit for each speaker may be extended by the President of the Board of Commissioners or the Presiding Member of the Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of the District. The three (3) minute time limit for each speaker may be enforced by the President of the Board of Commissioners or the Presiding Member of the Board of Commissioners at the regular meeting of the District.

9. New Business

- a) **Consider a Declaration of Emergency Regarding Shoaling Hazards at the Entrance to Humboldt Bay**

Recommendation: Staff recommends the Board: Adopt a Resolution Declaring the Emergency.

Summary: In January of 2019, a major storm which closed Humboldt Bay caused significant shoaling within the Army Corps of Engineers (USACOE) maintained federal navigation channel, in the area known as "Rock and Roll Alley" (Buoy # 9). In response to these conditions, the District, the Harbor Safety Committee, the USCG, the Humboldt Fisherman's Marketing Association, the Wiyot Tribe, and Humboldt County requested that emergency dredging be initiated to remove the hazard. The USACOE immediately reacted and dispatched a vessel to conduct emergency soundings to confirm the hazardous conditions and the need for emergency dredging. This morning the USACOE posted the results of the sounding and the Harbor District immediately met with the Humboldt Bar Pilots, the Chair of the Harbor Safety Committee, and other local maritime navigation experts.

At the conclusion of this meeting, the Humboldt Bar Pilots drafted a letter placing 21-foot draft restrictions in an area that is authorized to be at 48 feet. These conditions place an extreme hazard to life, property, and the environment. Up to 30 - 40 commercial boats and up to an additional 30 – 40 recreational boats cross "Rock and Roll Alley" (Buoy # 9) daily. Fisherman report life threatening conditions in that they "gamble every time you go out." There are large cross waves and extremely large sneaker waves at buoy # 9. There is real danger of crab pots shifting, crew members being thrown overboard or capsizing due to shoaling caused waves.

Approximately six million gallons of gasoline, diesel, and aviation fuel traverse the Humboldt Bay Bar every nine days. With a draft restriction of 21 feet, the areas fuel supplies are at risk. The commercial shipping industry has reported that they have postponed chip ships that were scheduled to arrive.

USACOE will be reviewing the new official soundings and options to determine the appropriate action required to address this emergency condition.

13. Adjournment



ZERLANG & ZERLANG MARINE SERVICES

1493 Fay Ave Samoa, CA 95564
ZandZMarine@gmail.com
(707) 443 5180

January 17, 2019

Dear Mike Wilson,

Due to extremely **life threatening** conditions at Rock & Roll Alley in Humboldt Bay between buoy #9 (off-station) and #10 caused by shoaling, it is extremely urgent that we receive a letter from Humboldt County Board of Supervisors addressed to the United States Army Corps of Engineers and the Humboldt Bay Harbor District. Unlike in past years, the shoaling conditions are not just impacting the commercial shipping aspect of our area, but also will impact the commercial fishing fleet and fuel barging. We are willing to attend Supervisor meetings or meet with you in person if necessary. Again, I would like to stress that this could close down Humboldt Bay to not only commercial shipping, receiving fuel, commercial fishing, sport fishing, and recreational use as well as compromising the use of this port as a safe haven. In my career of over a half a century in Humboldt Bay I have never seen conditions this serious.

Please send your letters to:

Jessica.L.BurtonEvans@usace.army.mil

Peter.Mull@usace.army.mil

And CC:

Showser@humboldtбай.org

Jgennuso@humboldtбай.org

Leroy Zerlang

Zerlang & Zerlang Marine Services

Chairman, Humboldt Bay Harbor Safety Committee

David Bitts
President
Larry Collins
Vice-President
Lorne Edwards
*Secretary &
Treasurer*



Noah Oppenheim
Executive Director
Glen H. Spain
Northwest Regional Director
Vivian Helliwell
Watershed Conservation Director
In Memoriam:
Nathaniel S. Bingham
Harold C. Christensen
W.F. "Zeke" Grader, Jr.

Please Respond to:

California Office

P.O. Box 29370
San Francisco, CA 94129-0370
Tel: (415) 561-5080
Fax: (415) 561-5464

Northwest Office

P.O. Box 11170
Eugene, OR 97440-3370
Tel: (541) 689-2000
Fax: (541) 689-2500

www.pcffa.org

January 27, 2019

To Whom It May Concern:

I write to request urgent action addressing the hazardous shoaling conditions inside the harbor entrance of Humboldt Bay, California. Our members rely on proper maintenance of harbors and ports in order to safely provide sustainable seafood and pursue their livelihoods. The current conditions in Humboldt Bay jeopardize the safety of fishermen on the North Coast and the success of the Dungeness crab fishing season.

The shoaling conditions in Humboldt Bay have worsened over the past couple of weeks to the point of presenting a safety threat to vessels and to human life. As the Dungeness crab fishing season has now opened throughout California, we are concerned the shoaling conditions will harm commercial fishing operations and potentially lead to injury or loss of life. The shoaling conditions are hazardous enough for local fishermen who know the bar. For those coming to Humboldt Bay from other ports, the lack of local knowledge in conjunction with the hazardous conditions may put human lives at risk. To make matters worse, at this time navigational aid is missing at this location due to extreme sea state conditions.

I request your support for swift action from the Army Corps of Engineers to remedy the hazardous conditions and ensure all vessel traffic can traverse Humboldt Bay safely. Such action is essential to the success of the Dungeness crab season. Commercial fishermen rely on the Army Corps of Engineers to ensure harbor conditions are safe enough for fishermen to pursue the already dangerous job. Please pursue emergency action to protect the safety of our members, their property, and their livelihoods at the earliest possible opportunity.

Sincerely,

Noah Oppenheim
Executive Director

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
Eleventh Coast Guard District

US Coast Guard Island
Bldg 50
Alameda, CA 94501-5100
Staff Symbol: d
Phone: (510) 437-2968
Fax: (510) 437-5793

16670

FEB 06 2019

MEMORANDUM

From: 
P. W. Gautier, RADM
Commander, Eleventh Coast Guard District

To: Commander, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, San Francisco District

Subj: SHOALING NEAR HUMBOLDT BAY ENTRANCE

Ref: (a) U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Humboldt Bay Bar & Entrance Channel Condition Survey, dtd 30Oct2018
(b) Humboldt Bay Harbor Safety Committee Letter, dtd 17Jan2019
(c) Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association, Inc. Letter, dtd 15Jan2019
(d) County of Humboldt Administrative Officer Letter, dtd 18Jan2019
(e) Coast Guard Sector San Francisco email, dtd 30Jan2019

1. Per reference (a) through (e) and consultation with USACE San Francisco District, the Coast Guard has determined that the shoaling at the Humboldt Bay Bar & Entrance Channel is a hazard to the safe navigation of all transiting vessels.

2. The authorized project depth at this location is 48 feet. Per reference (a), the depth at the center channel near the Humboldt Bay entrance is 42.4 feet. As a result, breaking bar conditions have been witnessed at this location, causing extreme navigation risk to all mariners. Severe winter storm activity and the shoaling condition has increased hazards in the channel and restricted navigation during harbor bar closures with breaking surf conditions. My units have issued a Local Notice to Mariners and Broadcast Notice to Mariners to help mitigate navigation safety risks for this area. I encourage USACE to authorize emergency dredging for Humboldt Bay Bar and Channel to project depth as soon as practical.

3. For any questions, please contact CDR Brett Thompson at (510) 437-2975, Chief, Waterways Management, or email: Brett.J.Thompson@uscg.mil.

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Copy: CG Sector San Francisco
CG Sector Humboldt Bay



February 11, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman
317 Third Street, Suite 1
Eureka, CA 95501

RE: Emergency Dredging for Humboldt Bay

He'ba'lo' Congressman Huffman,

I am writing to respectfully request action to address hazardous shoaling conditions that are currently occurring inside the entrance to Humboldt Bay. As a result of these conditions the safety of fishermen and mariners, including Tribal members who fish for livelihood as well as for sustenance, has been substantially jeopardized. The Tribe is concerned that as this issue continues to worsen with winter conditions, the threat to vessels and human life increases. To make matters worse, navigational aid is missing at this location due to extreme sea state conditions. Moreover, damage to any vessel in Humboldt Bay could present a threat to the rich cultural resources that Tribal members rely on.

The Tribe requests your support for the appropriation of funds to allow the United States Army Corp of Engineers (USACE) to conduct emergency dredging that would ensure that all vessel traffic can traverse Humboldt Bay safely. Tribal members along with all mariners who traverse the Humboldt Bay bar rely on the USACE to ensure conditions are safe enough for passage. The Tribe requests emergency action to protect the safety of all fishermen who rely on passage in and out of Humboldt Bay at the earliest possible opportunity.

Čawokš,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Theodore Hernandez", written over a horizontal line.

Theodore Hernandez
Tribal Chairman



COUNTY ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICE
COUNTY OF HUMBOLDT

825 5th Street, Suite 112, Eureka, CA 95501-1153
Telephone (707) 445-7266 Fax (707) 445-7299
cao@co.humboldt.ca.us

Jan. 18, 2019

Delivered via email

Jessica Burton Evans
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1455 Market St.
San Francisco, CA 94103
Jessica.l.burtonevans@usace.army.mil

Re: Support from the Army Corps of Engineers

On behalf of the Humboldt County Board of Supervisors, I am writing to respectfully request the emergency dredging of Humboldt Bay. Strong recent storms have affected the Northern California coast, creating dangerous conditions for all vessels entering and exiting the Humboldt Bay Federal Channel, including fuel barge.

Shoaling has increased to such a degree that it prompted depth restrictions, and the US Coast Guard closed our harbor due to severe winter storm activity. Dungeness crab season is set to open off our coast soon, and because other areas remain closed many fishing vessels are entering this port without local knowledge, increasing the hazard around the channel. Safety of these and other vessels is the primary concern, as well as the risk to loss of business and fuel.

We recognize that over the years Corps of Engineers has been an outstanding partner for Humboldt County and we value all the efforts to help develop and maintain our port infrastructure and channels upon which our shipping industry and local economy are so dependent. Currently, the Corps is scheduled to dredge the channel in June. Considering the abnormal circumstances and the threat the current shoaling situation poses to our area, the county respectfully requests that dredging be moved up as early as possible. We appreciate your consideration for this request.

Sincerely,

Amy Nilsen
County Administrative Officer
County of Humboldt

cc: Humboldt County Board of Supervisors
Humboldt Bay Harbor, Recreation, and Conservation District
Paragon Government Relations
Congressman Jared Huffman
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Kamala Harris

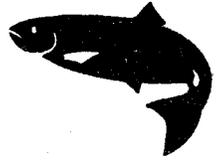
HUMBOLDT FISHERMEN'S MARKETING ASSOCIATION, INC.



3 Commercial Street
Eureka, California 95501-0241

(707) 443-0537

FAX (707) 443-1724



January 15, 2019

Re: Dangerous Shoaling in the Eureka Harbor Entrance

Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association is writing to request emergency action by the Army Corps of Engineers to remedy or modify dangerous shoaling conditions which have developed inside the harbor entrance of Humboldt Bay, California.

Shoaling has increased to such a degree during the past weeks as to present a life threatening hazard to all vessels entering and exiting Humboldt Bay. This includes a barge which supplies fuel to our port. Dungeness crab fishing season is literally days from opening, there are many fishing vessels that are entering this port with little local knowledge. We are convinced that vessel loss and potential loss of life due to this hazard is a strong probability. Navigational aid "G-9" is not only off-station, it is missing due to the extreme sea conditions at this location. An immediate emergency response by the Army Corps would be essential in restoring safe navigation for all vessels traversing Humboldt Bay. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "H. Ibach", written over a horizontal line.

Harrison Ibach, President
Humboldt Fishermen's Marketing Association
On Behalf of Fishermen in the Port of Eureka