



# Minutes of the NOAA Small Boat Safety Board Meeting January 10, 2008 Via Teleconference



Minutes of Small Boat Safety Board (SBSB) Meeting via Teleconference and Go-To-Meeting

Date: Thursday, January 10, 2008

Time: 10:00 (PT)

Board members present:

- Mark Miller (Small Boat Safety Program Coordinator)
- Dennis Thaute, OLE
- Wayne Hoggard, NMFS (SE Region)
- Dennis Donahue, OAR
- Dana Wilkes, NOS
- Chad Yoshinaga, NMFS (PI Region)

Board members absent:

- Jack Burkes
- Craig Gillis, SECO
- John Humphrey, OMAO Fleet Safety

Contractors present:

- Rich Softye, BMT Designers and Planners, Inc.

Agenda Items discussed:

1. LCDR Miller made several announcements and reports:
  - a. Paul Parsons and Beth White have retired. We wish them both well in retirement.
  - b. Geof Fuller will be in Seattle on January 14, 2008. LCDR Miller will have a good portion of the afternoon to speak with him. Miller will be working directly for him until a replacement is named for Parsons. (update-Bill Cunningham is temporarily acting in Paul's place.)
  - c. LCDR Miller requested that the SBSB consider changing the name of the Small Boat Safety Program back to Small Boat Program. After a short discussion all agreed to the change. (update- Geof Fuller agrees. Miller will start the process.)
  - d. The NAO has completed the informal approval process. There will be one more pass through for final approval. Therefore, the NAO and Manual may be official within the next two months.
2. LCDR Miller and the board discussed Training.
  - a. NOAA Component will once again be offered in Seattle to "work the remaining bugs out".
  - b. February 4, 2008 is the first "Train the Trainer" conference presently there are 8 confirmed participants. Chad Yoshinaga requested that the trainees be limited to 12.
  - c. The East Coast would like to have a Train the Trainer session conducted the end of March, beginning of April. All agreed to work towards that goal, funding and availability of training space pending.
  - d. Wayne is still working on obtaining funds from the fisheries program managers. Oliver has been very supportive of providing the \$25k previously discussed by him and Wayne in Silver Springs, MD. LCDR Miller noted that RADM Bailey stated he will fund the \$25K if Fisheries can not provide it.



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3. LCDR Miller discussed the budget.
  - a. OMAO was cut 2.4 %. However LCDR Miller is scheduled to speak with NEP regarding freeing up money to support the Small Boat Program. Budget needs for the SBP will also be on the agenda for next week when LCDR Miller meets with Fuller.
  
4. LCDR Miller reported on the success of the Inspection and Trouble shooting class.
  - a. First offering in Seattle was a success.
    - i. High approval ratings from the attendees.
    - ii. Received comments for improvement and modification. ABYC to make the changes. (Some of the presentations were too technical for the target audience.)
  - b. Second offering was supposed to be taking place now in Hawaii however the instructor was ill. Training was postponed.
  - c. Future schedule:
    - i. March 10<sup>th</sup> in Norfolk, VA
    - ii. April 7<sup>th</sup> in Seattle, WA
    - iii. April 21st in Miami or Key Largo .
  - d. Next offerings will most likely be in October once field season is over.
  - e. LCDR Miller asked if this training is fully realized can the outside surveys be done away with. All board members agreed that it is too early to determine at this time. All agreed to give it a chance and in the future it may be a good initiative and a cost saving measure. Therefore not enough experience and knowledge at the present time to eliminate the licensed surveyor even though it is recognized that many of the surveyors need guidance on NOAA small boats as well.
  
5. LCDR Miller gave the details of 6 small boat inspections from the recent Seattle training and pointed out numerous deficiencies. Dennis Donahue suggested that the deficiencies may be NOAA program driven and not necessarily inattention by those operating and maintaining the boats. All agreed to a baseline inspection and the tracking of several boats to determine how far reaching the deficiencies may be and how to resolve them.
  
6. LCDR Miller suggested a VOC workshop. All agreed that it would be a great idea for the VOCs to network and receive training that their subordinates are receiving. Target dates in the fall of this year pending funding.
  
7. Dana Wilkes announced a NOS Summit April 15 – 17. He invited board members to attend.
  
8. Dana Wilkes also discussed a new NOS acquisition; an 89 foot offshore boat with a permanent crew of 3 that can work up to a sea state of 4 with a cost of approx \$4m and an annual (gross estimate) operating cost of \$450k. It appears to be a boat that can be extremely versatile to meet many mission requirements up to 100 miles off shore.
  
9. LCDR Miller announced the project Rich Softye is working on regarding the information gathering from DOI, USCG, USACOE and the Navy regarding small boat operation and support. This is intended to provide information to NMAO to garner support in the budget process. The questionnaire is in development and will be sent to board members for input before sending to other agencies.



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10. The next SBP Board meeting will be announced at a later date.
  11. The meeting was adjourned at approximately 1125 PT