



# Minutes of the NOAA Small Boat Safety Board Meeting April 30, 2009 Via Teleconference



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

Date: Thursday April 30, 2009

Time: 10:00 (PT)

Board members present:

- LCDR Mark Miller, SBP Manager
- Dennis Thaute, OLE
- Dennis Donahue, OAR
- Dana Wilkes, NOS
- CAPT John Humphrey, OMAO
- Jack Burkes, OMAO
- CAPT Michael Gallagher, NMFS Headquarters
- Wayne Hoggard, NMFS
- LT Keith Golden, SBP Manager

Board members absent:

- Craig Gillis SECO
- Chad Yoshinaga, NMFS (PI Region)

Technical advisor present:

- George Borlase, SECO

Agenda Items discussed:

- Review of previous meeting minutes:
  - a. Charter Boat NAO

New Business:

1. Introduction of new SBP manager: LT Keith Golden
2. CFO Briefing:
  - a. Ongoing submittals for budget.
3. Status of hiring new positions.
  - a. Delays in receipt of Inspection Coordinator cert. from WFM
  - b. Requirement for changes/review of hiring protocol within program
  - c. Position Description needed for training coordinator.
4. Introduction of new SECO Division Chief: George Borlase
  - a. Discussion about the future of SBP and whether it will stay under SECO or move within OMAO.
5. Small Boat requirement study.
  - a. Tajr Hull is currently working with the Small Wet Infrastructure.
  - b. SRV Study, awaiting LCDR Mowitt's input. Discussed using Rich Softye for further work on SRV Study.



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6. Discussed future SBSB meeting. It was suggested that the meeting be held in conjunction with the MACC (Multi Agency Craft Conference). Conference is held in Norfolk in June.
7. Dana Wilkes is working with the US Navy small boat research and development group to develop partnerships for the future.
  - a. A presentation from the Navy was discussed during the next SBSB meeting. Discussion to include standardization and division of vessel sizes.
  - b. Assistance with funding issues was also discussed in relation to Navy/NOAA partnerships.
8. Discussion of the PPBES cycle. It was stated that there has been a low quality of data submitted to previous data calls. Top down approach to requirement study was more of a “wish list” than requirement study.
  - a. A yearly update to the requirement study was discussed.
  - b. The SRV Study and concern over its whereabouts was also discussed.
9. Recent small boat accidents and incidents were discussed.
  - a. Review of R/V Manta and R/V Auk incidents and investigations by Dana Wilkes. Procedures taken after incidents included safety stand down and review of all procedures.
  - b. General review of *Thomas Jefferson* survey launch extinguisher discharge by LCDR Miller.
  - c. No review of NE Right Whale strike by R/V *Auk*.
    - i. Re-emphasized the need for SECO incident procedures. At minimum should have SECO as reviewing official for the process and outcomes.
    - ii. Need for feedback on reporting requirements. Will help to close loop on reporting.
    - iii. Many members of the board voiced concerns about the lack of involvement of SECO in regards to SB incidents.
10. Vote to allow AMSEA course as equivalent to BS&S requirement.
  - i. Unanimous vote for approval.
11. Discussed need for development of protocol for emergency or new hires who are not able to take a NOAA Component class before they begin work. (Emergency hire, or summer intern)
  - a. Discussed using a “light” version of component course for otherwise qualified operators.
    - i. Discussed need for VOC to review ORM and PQS with operator.
    - ii. Discussed one time only exemption until next available class.
  - b. Wayne Hoggard to review and develop short course for new employees not able to take component class.
    - i. Unanimous vote for approval
12. Discussed SBEX Course and future of NOAA Employee training.



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- a. Decided to put current NOAA employees through the training to evaluate course. (People mentioned-Dennis Donahue, Wayne Hoggard, 1 fleet inspector?, Roger Mays)
  - b. Decided to move toward getting class developed and priced by ABYC.
13. Discussion of two waiver requests by NW labs.
- a. R/V Pelican (Point Adams)
    - i. Reviewed all data associated with request. Discussed the shortfalls of classing all boats due to size and not having leeway to exclude boats by individual circumstances. Discussed issuing a letter of Interpretation instead of a waiver.
    - ii. Unanimous vote for approval of letter of interpretation.
  - b. R/V Noctiluca (Montlake)
    - i. Discussed details of request. Require more information from the program to proceed. Wayne Hoggard was tasked with info. request.
14. Open Discussion
- a. Discussion about vessels operating with CAT-1 deficiencies. It was noted that there have been changes from verbal fleet inspection debrief to written fleet inspection debrief. Cat 2 changed to Cat 1.
  - b. Jack Burkes will review small boat inspection debriefs more closely in the future.

The Small Boat Safety Board would like to recognize LCDR G. Mark Miller's continued efforts and positive outcomes for the NOAA Small Boat Program. Outstanding contributions include completion of NAO 209-125 and the Standards and Procedures Manual. Your hard work and dedication will be missed.