



Minutes from the September 2019 Meeting of the Mariners' Advisory Committee

Standing in for Captain Stuart Griffin, Captain John Kemmerley welcomed 49 members and guests of the MAC to the September 2019 meeting.

I. Approval of Minutes Jean Cureton moved that the reading of the Minutes from the June 2019 meeting be dispensed with. Roy Denmark seconded. All voted, all approved.

II. Reports

Treasurer's Report

Standing in for MAC Treasurer Captain Iulucci, Captain Nesbitt reported a balance of \$11,636.53

Membership Report

MAC Membership Chairman, Captain John Gazzola, welcomed the following new members:

Amy Trice- Ocean Conservancy, Daniel Wright- Sounding Science, Jennifer Banks- U.S. Wind and Shana Beiger- Civil & Environmental Consultants

He also noted the following guests today: Captain Mike O'Connor- Atlantic Salt and Pat Connor- John S. Connor

III. USACE Reports

Deepening- Tim Kelly reported the following distribution:

**Philadelphia District Corps of Engineers
Project Status Update
Mariners Advisory Committee for the Delaware River and Bay
12 September 2019**

Delaware River, Philadelphia to Sea & Main Channel Deepening

The Upper Reach B section of the river is currently under contract with Great Lakes Dredge and Dock Company's (GLDD). The fifth blasting season and remaining dredging is expected to commence in November/December 2019 and be completed in December 2019/January 2020.

This year's annual maintenance dredging was advertised on 26 August 2019. Bid Opening is scheduled for 25 September 2019. The Base Bid portion of the contract includes Marcus Hook Range to a depth of 45+2 ft MLLW, New Castle Range to a depth of 46+1 ft MLLW, Deepwater Point to a depth of 46+1 ft MLLW. There are three Options, Christiana River to a depth of 38+1 MLLW, Cherry Island Range to a depth of 46+1 MLLW, and an option to remove obstructions from the channel.

Delaware River, Philadelphia to Trenton

The Hopper Dredge McFarland completed 30 days of dredging operations between 1 October and 05 November 2018 to address shoaling in the Harbor, Delair, Frankford, Mud Island, Enterprise/Beverly and Edgewater/Devlin Ranges. Approximately 137,000 cubic yards of material dredged from the 40ft channel was placed at the Ft. Mifflin Confined Disposal Facility (CDF). A similar operation is anticipated to occur between 1 November 2019 and 15 March 2020. In addition, a project to dredge the federal portion of the Fairless Turning Basin was awarded on 23 August, with dredging anticipated to be completed in November.

Wilmington Harbor

A contract for maintenance dredging of both the 35-foot and 38-foot project channels and turning basin was just completed by Norfolk Dredging in August. Approximately 230,000 cubic yards of dredged material was removed and placed at the Pedricktown North CDF. An option for additional dredging of the harbor is included in the current DPS Maintenance Dredging Contract out for bid currently. This dredging is anticipated to occur in January or February of 2020.

Schuylkill River

A contract for maintenance dredging of the 33-foot channel is scheduled to be awarded by the end of the month to Norfolk Dredging Company.

Chesapeake and Delaware Canal

A contract for maintenance dredging of the 35-foot channel has been advertised and Bid Opening is scheduled for 23 September 2019. Approximately 400,000cy will be placed into Pearce Creek CDF.

Mr. Kelly added the following:

There is an option to dredge by the canal dispatcher's office on the Delaware side. There is also an option to dredge, if funding is available, for the Salem River.

IV. NOAA Report

NOAA Charting/Surveying-Ed Owens, Office of Coast Survey, reported the following:

Bay Hydro II has some issues including Echo Sounder problems and engine problems. Despite that, we've been able to complete Big Stone Beach Anchorage and Breakwater Anchorage with no obstructions found. More work is scheduled here for this fall.

PORTS -Chris DiVeglio, Maritime Services Program Manager, reported that the Delaware Memorial Bridge air gap sensor, funded by the DRBA, has been turned on and is detailed here:

<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports/ports.html?id=8550959&mode=composite>
<https://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/ports/index.html?port=db>

NOAA/NOS/CO-OPS provides summaries detailing what the air gap sensors are reporting in our data products. Real-time air gap readings are a measurement from the surface of the water to a defined "air gap reference point" on the bridge.

Chris reported work on the following sites over the summer: Brown Shoal Light current meter and the Ship John Shoal Water Level Station. He added that work is scheduled on the salinity base there for this fall. The water level meter is intermittent at Brandywine Shoal and we are trying to get its meteorological data back on line as well.

National Weather Service representative Darren Wright distributed and reported on changes to the following NWS Marine WX products

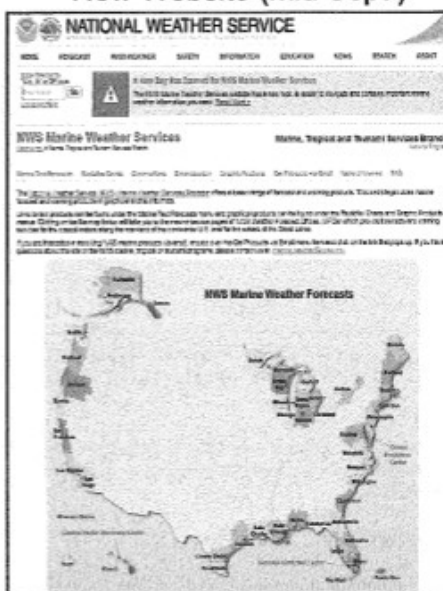
New NWS Marine Program Website

<http://weather.gov/marine>

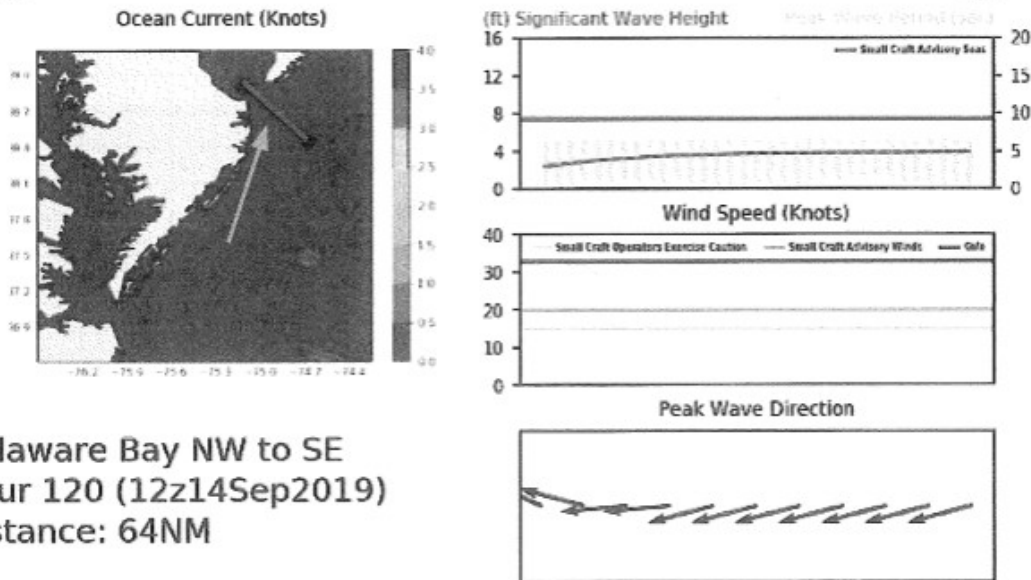
Current Website



New Website (mid Sept.)



Experimental Nearshore Wave Prediction System Transect Forecast Guidance



Delaware Bay NW to SE
Hour 120 (12z14Sep2019)
Distance: 64NM

****EXPERIMENTAL**:** The accuracy or reliability of these forecasts are not guaranteed nor warranted in any way. Forecast should not be used as the sole resource for decision making. Graphics may not be available at all times.

<https://polar.ncep.noaa.gov/nwps/para/viewer.shtml>

Reformat and Consolidation of NWS Watch/Warning/Advisory Text Products

Reformatted Example - MWW

(changes shown in red)

Current Product

Reformatted Product

...GALE WATCH IN EFFECT FROM TUESDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH TUESDAY EVENING...

Remove

The National Weather Service in Detroit/Pontiac has issued a Gale Watch...which is in effect from Tuesday afternoon through Tuesday evening.

* WIND: During the Gale Watch...expect sustained winds up to 28 knots from the southwest with gusts up to 37 knots.

* TIMING: The maximum winds are expected around 6 PM EST Tuesday. Refer to the latest marine forecasts for greater detail.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

A Gale Watch is issued when the risk of gale force winds of 34 to 47 knots has significantly increased...but the specific timing and/or location is still uncertain. It is intended to provide additional lead time for mariners who may wish to consider altering their plans.

...GALE WATCH IN EFFECT FROM TUESDAY AFTERNOON THROUGH TUESDAY EVENING...

* WHAT... Sustained winds or frequent gusts of 28 knots from the southwest with gusts up to 37 knots are possible.

* WHERE... Lake St. Clair and Michigan waters of Lake Erie from Detroit River to North Cape Michigan.

* WHEN... Tuesday Afternoon through Tuesday evening. The maximum winds are expected around 6 pm EST Tuesday.

* IMPACTS... Strong winds can cause hazardous seas which could capsize or damage vessels and reduce visibility.

PRECAUTIONARY/PREPAREDNESS ACTIONS...

Mariners should consider altering plans to avoid possible hazardous conditions. Remain in port, seek safe harbor, alter course, and/or secure the vessel for severe wind and seas.

Haz Simp Consolidation - Small Craft Advisory

Existing Products

Small Craft Advisory
Small Craft Advisory for Hazardous Seas
Small Craft Advisory for Rough Bar
Small Craft Advisory for Winds

Consolidated to →

Future Product

Small Craft Advisory

Contact Information: Darren Wright, 301-452-8243, darren.wright@noaa.gov

V. USCG

Captain Scott E. Anderson reported on the following distribution

[Mariners Advisory Committee \(MAC\) For the Bay & River Delaware](#)
[Fifth Coast Guard District and Sector Delaware Bay](#)
[Waterways and Aids to Navigation Report for September 12, 2019](#)



1. Hurricane Seasonal Alert

- Hurricane Seasonal Alert was set on June 1, 2019 and will remain in effect through November 30, 2019, unless otherwise established.
- All vessels, facilities and marinas are asked to take adequate precautions and review the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Delaware Bay Port Hurricane Contingency Plan, dated April 2016.
- For port conditions and updates, please visit the MSIB tab under the Safety Notifications section on Sector Delaware Bay's homeport page.

2. Coast Guard Commandant Industry Visit

- a. The Coast Guard Commandant led a Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook media event with elected officials as well as regional and port partners on August 13, 2019.
- b. The Commandant emphasized four key areas during the event: the importance of maritime commerce to navigation and the Coast Guard's role in ensuring the Nation's economic prosperity, the importance of unity of effort in the maritime transportation system, how the Maritime Commerce Strategy Outlook relates to, and benefits, national infrastructure needs, and the need to transform the Coast Guard's workforce to meet increasing capacity and complexity within the maritime domain.

3. Silver Run Project

- a. The Coast Guard released Marine Safety Information Bulletin Number 14-19 on August 29, 2019 outlining the established safety zone for the Silver Run cable laying project.
- b. The safety zone will cover all navigable waters in the Delaware River within 300 yards of the cable laying barge ULISSE while it is exhibiting lights or shapes indicating it is restricted in its ability to maneuver per 33 CFR § 83.27 during submarine cable laying operations in and around Baker Range.
- c. Cable laying operations commenced on August 30, 2019.
- d. For any questions, please contact the Sector Delaware Bay Waterways Management Branch at (215) 271-4889.

Kiley Relf USCG reported on the following

4. Sector Delaware Bay's Annual Ice Conference

- a. On November 12, 2019, Sector Delaware Bay will host its annual ice conference.
- b. Presentations will include: ice reporting guidance and expectations, weather predictions, and ice forecasts.
- c. Invitations will be sent out later this month, if anyone is interested in attending, please give your contact information to LT Relf.

Captain Scott E. Anderson reported on the following distribution

5. Updated Sector Delaware Bay Contact Information

- a. Prevention Department Head: CDR Jennifer Doherty (215) 271-4850
- b. Chief of Inspections: LCDR Kelli Dougherty (215) 271- 4852
- c. Chief of Facilities & Containers: Chief Kurt Tomcavage (215) 271-4864

Sector Delaware Bay Aids To Navigation (ATON) Updates

1. Kinkora Upper Range Rear Light

- a. The design was completed and the project is currently in contracting with an anticipated award date of November 1, 2019. The anticipated start date is April 1, 2020.

The new AtoN Officer, Isaac St. John, reported on the following:

2. Aids To Navigation Team Philadelphia

- a. September 1, 2019, Aids to Navigation Team (ANT) Philadelphia began the removal of the Osprey and cormorant nests as well as correcting the impacted aids associated with the nests.
- b. Reedy Range Front is currently operating at reduced intensity.

3. Aids to Navigation Team Cape May

- a. The 49' BUSL scheduled to return from maintenance in late June 2019 has been delayed until mid-November 2019.
- b. LT 32 Delaware Main Channel is being corrected after inactivity of cormorant nests.

USCG William Birch reported on the following

4. CGC WILLIAM TATE

- a. CGC WILLIAM TATE is in emergency dry dock and is expected to return to service in late September 2019 or early October 2019.
- b. CGC WILLIAM TATE will commence the installation of Ice Buoys (season reliefs) in mid-November 2019 through January 2020.

5. CGC SLEDGE

- a. CGC SLEDGE will begin correcting discrepancies in the Salem River early October 2019.

USCG D5 Ethan Coble reported on the following

District Five ATON Updates

1. Rebuild Liston/Reedy Range Lights

- a. This project will entail the relocation/rebuild of front and rear structures for both ranges. The new range front light will be constructed at the intersection of both ranges and will serve as a combined range front structure. Separate rear structures will be constructed. The project remains on schedule to have the design completed in FY20 and construction begin in FY21.

2. Rebuild New Castle Front/Rear Range Lights

- a. This project will entail the relocation of the front and rear structures for the range. The existing range front and rear towers located on land will be demolished. The new range front light will be constructed near the edge of the channel. The new rear light will be constructed near the shoreline in front of the existing front tower in approx. 22 feet of water. Both new structures will have mono-pile type foundations driven into the river bottom. All optics will be changed to solar power. The project remains on schedule to have the design completed in FY20 and construction begin in FY21.

3. Marcus Hook Project

- a. The project scope entailed the removal of one front range structure, a submarine cable, and associated electrical equipment. Two new range structures were constructed and the final inspection was held on August 15, 2019.

4. Delaware Ice Breakwater Lights

- a. The project scope is to remove the abandoned towers (foundations to remain) at Delaware Bay Ice Breakwater Lights "W" and "2". Repair the JRIRS "W" light and install a new mono-pile structure at light "2" buoy location. Also the removal of the 30 ft leaning tower at Harbor of Refuge North End Light 1 and rebuild a new structure. The project remains on schedule pending updated information on award date.

5. Offshore Wind

- a. **US Wind (offshore MD):** Over next couple of weeks, US Wind will install a meteorological tower within the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) offshore lease OCS-A 0490, Maryland Wind Energy Area. The tower will be located approximately 15.5 miles east of Ocean City, Maryland, and 6.5 miles south by southwest of Delaware Lighted Buoy D, which marks the terminus of the Southeastern Approach of the Delaware Bay Approach Traffic Separation Scheme. The exact tower location will be 38 21 09.9 N, 074 45 12.8 W. US Wind anticipates submitted their Construction and Operations Plan (COP) to BOEM this fall.
- b. **Skipjack Offshore Energy (offshore DE):** Skipjack submitted their COP to BOEM in July 2019.
- c. **Ocean Wind (offshore NJ):** Ocean Wind submitted their COP to BOEM in August 2019.

Note: If BOEM determines these COPs to be complete and sufficient, they will begin conducting their environmental and technical reviews. Expected timeline from COP submittal to BOEM approval and turbine installation is approximately 2.5 years. Information on specific projects can be accessed:

<https://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy-State-Activities/>

- d. **Nautilus Offshore Wind Farm:** In May 2019, US Army Corps issued a modified permit authorizing EDF Renewable Energy to install three 8.3 MW turbines approximately 2.8 NM east of Atlantic City, New Jersey. The NJ Board of Public Utilities however has not approved the project.
 - e. **New York / New Jersey Ocean Grid Project:** On April 30, 2019, BOEM received an application from Anbaric Development Partners for a Right of Way grant on the OCS offshore NY and NJ. The proposed project would entail the construction, installation, and operation of an offshore transmission system of approximately 185 NM of submarine cable on the OCS and approximately 118 NM of submarine cable on State submerged lands to deliver offshore wind energy generation to the onshore electric grid. On June 19, 2019, BOEM published a Request for Competitive Interest.
 - f. **BOEM "The Path Forward for Offshore Wind Leasing on the OCS":** On June 11, 2019, BOEM announced "The Path Forward for Offshore Wind Leasing on the Outer Continental Shelf." <https://www.boem.gov/Renewable-Energy/Path-Forward/> <https://www.boem.gov/The-Path-Forward-for-Offshore-Wind-Leasing/>
 - g. **BOEM Offshore Wind and Maritime Industry Knowledge Exchange:** BOEM has expressed interest to the USCG D1 and D5 about hosting another "Offshore Wind and Maritime Industry Knowledge Exchange," possibly Spring 2020. The first one was held on March 5-6, 2018. See: <https://www.boem.gov/Offshore-Wind-and-Maritime-Industry-Knowledge-Exchange/>
6. **Shipping Fairways:** In the coming months, the Coast Guard intends to publish an ANPRM regarding the possible establishment of shipping fairways for offshore and coastwise routes along the Atlantic Coast from Maine to Florida. The intent is ensure that traditional navigation routes currently used by mariners are kept free from obstructions that could impede safety.

7. **Anchorage:** In the coming months, the Fifth District intends to publish an ANPRM regarding the possible establishment of two new offshore anchorages along the sides of the Delaware Traffic Separation Scheme.

Captain Anderson also reported on the following:

On August 13th, the Commandant of the Coast Guard visited here to promote and talk about his 2018 Maritime Commerce Strategic Outlook. Subjects included shipping, shipping growth, and the value of maritime commerce for the nation. It is a \$5.4 trillion benefit. Captain Anderson commented on the good representation from the port and thanked all that were in attendance. He also noted good political turnout and media coverage.

VI. Unfinished Business

OFFSHORE WIND

With no offshore reps being present today, Captain Kemmerley briefly reported on the offshore wind project and the impact on offshore anchoring. He added that Captain Griffin will report on the project progress at the next meeting.

CRANE DELIVERY

COPT Captain Anderson reported that the Zhen Hua is due to arrive on September 16th with a river transit scheduled on the 19th and 20th. There will be two Safety Zones in place.

PETTYS ISLAND SENSOR

The temporary buoy that was deployed in July has collected 60 of the scheduled 120 days of data.

BURLINGTON COUNTY BRISTOL BRIDGE COMMISSION

Sasha Harding reported on the following updates:

They are finishing up the movable lift span by October 15th.

There will be a complete bridge closure on September 30 through October 4th.

Fender repairs are to be completed in November with no impact on ship traffic.

Painting of the Tacony Palmyra Bridge is scheduled for next summer.

Truss spans will be completed in December that involve a draft reduction of 4 feet during the project.

The arch span is scheduled for work in June of 2020 with a draft reduction of 3 feet.

There will be two marine closures due to work on the bascule span beginning on September 30th through October 4th and again October 9th through October 15th.

UPPER RIVER SHOALING- FAIRLESS TURING BASIN

Captain David Cuff reported the following:

Any vessel with a draft over 32.6 is a high water arrival until dredging is complete in November. At that time, we can go back to resuming normal operations of 35.6.

DEEPENING TRANSITION PLAN

Captain Kemmerley reported that we are still holding at 42' inbound/40' outbound due to obstructions listed and scheduled as indicated below:

Upper Delaware River-October removal by USACE,
Schuylkill River- October removal by USACE
Upper Brandywine Range – early November,

New Castle and Deepwater- late 2019/early 2020 by contract

SILVER RUN CABLE PROJECT

Captain Kemmerley reported that all is running smooth.

NEW ANCHORAGES

Bay Hydro II survey areas include:

Designating the **Breakwater Anchorage** officially through NPRM, **Deepwater, Bellevue, Indian River** ANPRM via the MAC letter to BOEM in support of making the anchorage official per 2011 dimensions (posted on MAC site)

VII. New Business

Obstructions- see above

Visitors: 10 members of the Pennsylvania Commerce Committee were part of a two-hour tour on the Pilot boat from Pier 40 to the Navy Yard that included the new cranes at Packer Avenue.

VIII. Open Discussion

None

IX. Adjournment

At 1201 Captain Kemmerley asked for a motion to adjourn. Roy Denmark moved that we adjourn. Todd Brown seconded. All approved.

**Next meeting: December 12th, 2019 at 1100
Popi's Italian Restaurant**