USCG COTP Sector Delaware Bay
PORT HURRICANE CONTINGENCY PLAN

SECTION 1200 - CHECKLISTS

1201. STORM PREPARATION CHECKLIST FOR VESSELS

I. HURRICANE CONDITION WHISKEY

72 HOURS BEFORE ANTICIPATED LANDFALL

Port Status: Open to all commercial traffic

☐ (a) Review vessel's operational schedule.

☐ (b) Review vessel heavy weather plans and take appropriate action.

☐ (c) If unable to get underway, evaluate the safety of the present berth. If necessary, develop plans to shift to an alternate location or berth. The plans should include the number and source of tugs, the permits required and the agency responsible for approving them, and safety and security arrangements appropriate to the new mooring/berth.

☐ (d) COTP will issue a MSIB under authority 33 CFR 160.111(c)that requires:

(i) All self-propelled oceangoing vessels over 200 GT and all oceangoing barges and their supporting tugs to report their intention to depart or remain in port.

(ii) All self-propelled oceangoing vessels over 200 GT and all oceangoing barges and their supporting tugs remaining in port to complete a **REMAINING IN PORT CHECKLIST (Appendix 3)** and submit to the COTP within 24 hours for review. This checklist will allow the COTP to know what vessels are in the port. Fax this information to Situation Unit Controller (SUC) in Sector Delaware Bay's Command Center at (215) 271-4833. SUC can be contacted via telephone at (215) 271-4807.

Note: Those that do not comply with or refuse this request shall be issued a COTP Order for compliance.

☐ (e) Vessels intending to remain at their moorings during the hurricane should obtain the permission of the owner, operator, or person-in-charge of the waterfront facility and determine the conditions the facility will require.

☐ (f) Ships intending to remain in port at anchor during the hurricane should contact the Pilots' Association of the Bay and River Delaware to obtain a hurricane anchorage assignment. The Pilots' Association will report the identity and location of vessels anchored in hurricane anchorages to the COTP. **(NOTE 1: Vessels may not remain anchored at anchorages above Big Stone upon setting of Condition Yankee. NOTE 2: Barges shall not anchor during a hurricane unless approved by the COTP.)**

☐ (g) Certain bulk oil and hazardous material facilities may insist that vessels depart their docks during this period. The Captain of the Port will permit these moves **only** when other alternative berthing or safe anchorage has been identified within reasonable proximity.

☐ (h) The owner, operator, or representative of a vessel in lay-up status shall ensure the vessel is adequately secured to withstand hurricane conditions.

☐ (i) All offshore lightering is to cease, and vessels are to break off and make heavy weather preparations.

☐ (j) Ship and barge masters/operators shall identify primary and secondary sources of tug assistance for use during or after storm passage.

☐ (k) Set a continuous Channel 16 VHF-FM radio watch.

II. HURRICANE CONDITION X-RAY

48 HOURS BEFORE ANTICIPATED LANDFALL

Port Status: Open to all commercial traffic

☐ (a) All REMAINING IN PORT CHECKLISTs should have been submitted to the COTP for review. (COTP will individually assess vessels desiring to remain in port, issue COTP Orders as appropriate).

☐ (b) Vessels or Barges intending to anchor in port during the hurricane should prepare to proceed to anchorage prior to movement restrictions and closing of the designated waters of COTP Sector Delaware Bay (Condition YANKEE).

See Appendix 1 to Section 1201 Minimum Recommended Precautionary Measures for Ships that are anchored in the port.

See Appendix 2 to Section 1201 Minimum Recommended Precautionary Measures for Barges that are anchored in the port.

☐ (c) Vessels intending to weather the hurricane at sea should prepare to depart the port prior to movement restrictions and closing of the designated waters of the COTP Sector Delaware Bay (Condition YANKEE).

☐ (d) Vessels or Barges intending to remain moored at a waterfront facility during the hurricane should prepare to proceed to the facility if not already there or shift berths if needed, prior to movement restrictions and closing of the designated waters of the COTP Sector Delaware Bay (Condition YANKEE).

See Appendix 1 to Section 1201 Minimum Recommended Precautionary Measures for Ships that are moored in the port.

See Appendix 2 to Section 1201 Minimum Recommended Precautionary Measures for Barges that are moored in the port.

☐ (e) All fishing vessels and small vessels in coastal areas should immediately make for the nearest safe port of refuge. All dredges should cease operations and complete final heavy weather preparations.

☐ (f) Continue to monitor Channel 16 VHF-FM radio.

III. HURRICANE CONDITION YANKEE

24 HOURS BEFORE ANTICIPATED LANDFALL

Port Status: Vessel traffic control measures in effect

☐ (a) COTP will establish a Safety Zone controlling vessel movements and activities as appropriate.

☐ (b) Vessels should prepare to suspend cargo transfer operations as required by weather conditions or by the COTP.

☐ (c) COTP to review or direct, as necessary, final mooring arrangements for vessels remaining in port. Ships and barges may not be anchored above Big Stone Anchorage (BSA). Vessels anchored in Delaware Bay or River above BSA must depart anchorage immediately.

☐ (d) All lightering and bunkering must cease.

☐ (e) The Port of Salem is closed. Vessels must depart immediately.

☐ (f) All moored tank barges are required to have tug on standby alongside or in immediate proximity. All freight barges are required to be moored to a pier or wharf.

☐ (g) Masters of vessels remaining at anchorage must ensure that at least two anchors must be set.

☐ (h) All local tug companies should have a list of tugs available for assistance prior to and after hurricane passage.

☐ (i) All Coastal Inlets are closed to departing traffic.

☐ (j) Continue to monitor Channel 16 VHF-FM radio.

Note: Vessel traffic may be permitted in and out of port at the discretion of the COTP upon setting of Hurricane Condition ZULU. However, masters should not count on being able to transit the port during that time period and should plan accordingly. Vessel transit to and from the Port of Baltimore through the C&D Canal will be closely coordinated with COTP Baltimore

IV. HURRICANE CONDITION ZULU

12 HOURS BEFORE ANTICIPATED LANDFALL

Port Status: Closed to all vessel traffic except for vessel movements and activities specifically authorized by the COTP

☐ (a) Ensure the vessel is securely moored or anchored and prepared for hurricane conditions.

☐ (b) COTP will establish a Safety Zone prohibiting vessel movement and activities

☐ (c) Suspend cargo transfer operations as required by weather conditions or by the COTP.

☐ (d) Report any hazardous conditions or breakaways of vessels directly to the COTP as soon as possible.

Appendix 1 Recommended Precautionary Measures for Ships
Appendix 2 Recommended Precautionary Measures for Barges
Appendix 3 Storm Preparedness Planning for Oceangoing vessels and Oceangoing barges with tugs
"REMAINING IN PORT CHECKLIST"