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TOWING SAFETY ADVISORY COMMITTEE (TSAC)

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FALL 2016 MEETING
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THURSDAY

OCTOBER 27, 2016

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The Committee met in the Oklahoma
Rooms, U.S. Department of Transportation
Headquarters, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.,
Washington, D.C., at $8: 30$ a.m., Steven Huttman,
Chairman, presiding.

STEVEN HUTTMAN, Barge \& Towing (B\&T), Chairman ERIC JOHANSSON, Port Districts, Authorities \& Terminal Operators (PDATO), Vice Chairman MICHAEL CALIENDO, B\&T, Great Lakes STEVEN KRESS, B\&T, Northeast MATTHEW LAGARDE, B\&T, Rivers JILL TAFT, B\&T, Southeast Coast

CHRIS MYSKOWSKI, B\&T

MICHAEL VITT, [Active] Masters of Ship Docking
or Harbor Towing Vessels
DONALD SOUTHWORTH, Masters of Ship Docking or
Harbor Towing Vessels
RAYMOND RICHMOND, Masters of Pilot or Towing
Vessels

LAURA WILCOX, Credentialed Engineers of Towing
Vessels

BRIAN GUIDRY, Offshore, Mineral \& Oil Supply

Vessel IndustryJOY TERRAL, Port District,
Authorities, \&

Terminal Operators (PDATO)
JERRY CROOKS, JR., Shipper, Oil
MIKE FEWELL, Shipper
MICHAEL RUSHING, General Public
JO ANN SALYERS, General Public

## ALSO PRESENT

PAUL N. JAENICHEN, Maritime Administrator
CAPT VERNE GIFFORD, USCG Director of Inspections and Compliance
CDR JOSE PEREZ, USCG, Designated Federal Officer
WILLIAM J. ABERNATHY, Alternate Designated Federal Officer
LCDR WILLIAM A. NABACH, USCG, Alternate Designated Federal Officer
KEN BEATTY, Wilmington Towing, Inc.
ALAN L. BISH, Reinauer Transportation
TINA CARDONE, C-PORT
KEVIN COLEMAN, MARAD
RON CORIGLIANO, Campbell Transportation Company
Z. DAVID DELOACH, DeLoach Marine

JOHN FRANCIC, ABS
JERRY GALLION, Kirby Corporation
LUKE HARDEN, USCG
CAITLIN HARDY, Foss Maritime
TERENCE HOUSTON, AWO
CAPT JIM JENKINS, USCG, MARAD
CAPT SCOTT KELLY, USCG
MATT KENT, AWO
KEVIN KOHLMANN, MARAD
SCOTT KUHANECK, USCG
GEORGE LEAVELL, Wepfer Marine
RAY LECHNER, USCG
PATRICK LEE
PATRICK LITTLE, Buffalo Marine Service, Inc.
COURTNEY MALLON, USCG
JULIO MARTINEZ, USCG
IAN MCVICKER, ABS
TOM MCWHORTER, Maritime Services Group of Louisiana
GREG MENKE, Evansville Marine Service
LEE NELSON, Upper River Services
FRED NYHUIS, Marathon Petroleum
EDWARD PINNER, Crescent Towing
JOHN QUINN, MARAD
SEAN REILLY, Southern Towing Company

ALSO PRESENT: (CONT.)

TRACI SILAS, DHS/FACA
CAITLYN STEWART, AWO
TOM SULLIVAN, Northstar Midstream KEVIN TONE, USCG
CDR JACIE TWOMEY, USCG
LCDR MATTHEW WALTER, USCG
JASON WISNESKI, Dann Marine Towing RICHARD WELLS, OMSA

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## INTRODUCTION AND WELCOME

DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICERS
CDR. PEREZ: Good morning, again.
Welcome to the full TSAC meeting. My name is
Jose Perez. I work at the Coast Guard
Headquarters at the Office of Environmental and Operating Standards. I'd like to welcome, again, for the second day of these proceedings.

Yesterday, we had a really interesting day, a lot of discussion about our subcommittees and their work. Overall I would like to say thank you for the participation, for the comments, thank you for the members of the committee and the general public, and thank you for volunteering to become members of the actual subcommittees that were conducting work.

We encourage, at any time, to join us, talk to the subcommittee chairs, and then become an active member. Make sure that you provide your comments, your feedback, and your expert
insight in relationship to the actual live tasks and stuff we've got going on right now. Today, we have a really, really interesting agenda, a lot of topics, a lot of presentations. We do have some distinguished guests. We will have quick remarks by Captain Kelly, our executive sponsor. We do have the presence of Captain Gifford, and he's going to be presenting some remarks about current implementation of efforts for Subchapter M.

We also have the Maritime
Administration, the administrator's going to be here, join us for a little bit, at 9:00, and he's going to present some remarks and share some of the common collaborations that we have going on right now between MARAD and Coast Guard. Then we're going to have the actual presentation of the subcommittees. We do have quite a few of them.

> One of them is in terms of implementation of Subchapter $M$, another working on tilbury tug barge operations electronic
charting system, firefighting training requirements for officers, and then we'll be presenting the new task statement -- it was finally vetted and cleared by the committee yesterday -- in relationship of towing of LNG barges and risks pertaining to those operations. Just quick remarks from that part. We do have a microphone in the back, right there on the table.

What I would like for our comments and for general public and members of the TSAC, whenever you want to make a comment, please come forward, grab the microphone, and state your name and your title. This is because today is a public meeting, and we do have a court reporter.

He's recording all the comments for the record, so we need to know who are you and your title and what is your comments. Same thing for members of the TSAC. Any time you ask a question or make a comment, please state your name and your title, so we can have it on the record. Mr. Abernathy, if you can raise your hand for people who doesn't know him. He's back
there, has sign-in sheets.
It's really crucial that we record the name and the title of all the participants of the meeting. If you haven't signed in, please do so. We do have a break a little bit later on, so please take advantage of that break and sign in. At 11:30, we will be breaking for lunch. At that time, the general public, feel free to utilize the cafeteria here. They have a really interesting menu, really good food. We'll break from 11:30 to 1:00. That's for the members of the general public. For members of TSAC, we're mandated to have training. We're going to have our DHS coordinator for FACA training and FACA administration. She will be giving you all a 30-minute session to meet the requirements for FACA training.

Lastly, I would like to share is yesterday, we discussed and showcased a safety alert that was recently published, and it's based on the report from the work of the subcommittee reviewing the KULLUK Report. We do have the
safety alert posted in our Homeport page. Then Mr. Abernathy's going to make a quick safety brief, and then he's going to show you and share what is the address for the Homeport page.

At any time that you feel like you need to know what's going on with TSAC reports, you want to review the reports, you want to see the safety alert, please feel free to visit Homeport, and you can access the documents and see what else is new and what are we doing with this valuable FACA. That's pretty much all I have to say. Thank you, again, good morning, welcome. I would like to introduce our chairman, Mr. Steve Huttman. He's going to say a couple remarks, and then a couple things on the agenda, and then we'll proceed accordingly with remarks from our distinguished guests. Thank you so much.

## CHAIRMAN'S OPENING REMARKS

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank you very
much. Thank you, Commander. Again, like
Commander Perez said, I'd like to thank everybody
for attending today, and also wish to thank the Maritime Administration for hosting us again.

This is our third time back over here. We very much appreciate the assistance from the Maritime Administration to give us a place to meet here in Washington.

This has been very beneficial for the committee because we get to have much better dialogue with the folks at Coast Guard

Headquarters and very much appreciate that, so thank you. As the commander said yesterday, we had a very productive day with our subcommittees. I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate them on the hard work that they've been turning out for us. Yesterday's meeting, for some of you who weren't here, Commander Perez was able to tell us about the Coast Guard Safety Alert that was issued on October 4 th regarding the "Don't Lose Your Toe in Heavy Weather, Plan Ahead to Ensure a Safe Endeavor," which was truly a ringing endorsement of the work of this body, this committee, with the great work that was
produced on the report of the MODU KULLUK.
That was a very diligent report. The committee worked on that for a number of years, and we're very pleased to see that the Coast Guard took a lot of those recommendations and set that out for the widest dissemination to the industry. We were very pleased to see that, so thank you. Again, we have a pretty full agenda today.

## ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: The first thing we need to do is to accept the agenda by the members. At this point, I'd look for a motion to accept the agenda. Have a motion from Ms. Salyers.

> MEMBER SALYERS: Motion to accept.
> CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: I'm looking for a second. Mr. Lagarde.

MEMBER LAGARDE: Second.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: All those in favor to accept the agenda, say aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Those opposed?
(No audible response.)
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: None opposed;
therefore, we'll continue with the agenda, as written.

TSAC MEMBER AND AUDIENCE
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: The next thing is
for the introduction of the members and the committee roll call. I'll start with that. I'm Steve Huttman, vice president of operations for G\&H Towing Company, and the chairman of TSAC. I represent the barge and towing industry. When I call your name, if you could also tell us what segment of the industry you represent for your position on the committee, as well, I'd appreciate that. Mr . Johansson.

VICE CHAIRMAN JOHANSSON: Good
morning, Eric Johansson, director of the tug and barge committee, representing port terminals and vice chair of TSAC.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Vitt.

MEMBER VITT: Good morning. I'm Mike

Vitt with E.N. Bisso \& Sons of New Orleans, representing the tug and barge industry.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Kress.
MEMBER KRESS: Good morning, Steve
Kress, McAllister Towing, vice president of operations, representing the tug and barge industry.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Myskowski.
MEMBER MYSKOWSKI: Good morning, Chris
Myskowski, Marquette Transportation, representing barge and towing.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Ms. Taft.

MEMBER TAFT: Jill Taft, Kirby Inland Marine, representing barge and towing.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Caliendo.

MEMBER CALIENDO: Mike Caliendo,
Andrie, Incorporated, president of the
transportation group, representing towing and barging.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Ms. Terral.
MEMBER TERRAL: Joy Terral, Lemm
Corporation, representing terminals and ports.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Guidry.
MEMBER GUIDRY: Brian Guidry with
Edison Chouest Offshore, senior operations manager, representing the oil and gas industry in the Gulf East.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Ms. Wilcox.
MEMBER WILCOX: Laura Wilcox,

Massachusetts Maritime Academy, assistant professor of engineering, representing licensed marine chief engineering.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Lagarde.
MEMBER LAGARDE: Matt Lagarde with
American Commercial Barge Lines, director of regulatory compliance, representing the tug and barge industry.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Southworth.
MEMBER SOUTHWORTH: Wes Southworth,
captain, Moran Towing, Baltimore. I represent harbor tugs and ship docking masters.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Richmond.
MEMBER RICHMOND: Ray Richmond,
SCF/Lewis \& Clark Fleeting, pilot, representing
masters and pilots on the Western Rivers.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Rushing.
MEMBER RUSHING: Mike Rushing with
Rushing Marine, representing members of the general public.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Ms. Salyers.
MEMBER SALYERS: Jo Ann Salyers,
Salyers Solutions Consultants, representing the general public.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Fewell.

MEMBER FEWELL: Mike Fewell, barge operations manager at Dow Chemical, representing shippers.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Crooks.
MEMBER CROOKS: Jerry Crooks, Shell
Trading Company, marine technical advisor, representing shippers.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Commander Perez, we have a quorum present and request permission to continue with the business of the committee.

CDR. PEREZ: Yes, sir, thank you so much for that. Welcome, again. I would like to
highlight that we do have two new members to the committee, Ms. Wilcox, Mr. Myskowski. Thank you, and welcome to your first meeting. We look forward for your participation. Yesterday, you made some interesting remarks, so first time I hear a new member speak actively and share their experiences and their vision. I encourage you to keep up the great work. Soon enough, you're going to be leading a subcommittee and the lead to some great final reports. Coast Guard looks forward to those final reports. Mainly, like you saw, the safety alert was published, also regulatory development, so your comments and recommendations are really vital to our efforts to improve the standards of commercial towing operations and other types of operations like, for example, NOSAC next week.

Thank you, again, for that. I would like to introduce, actually, my boss and our senior executive sponsor, Captain Kelly. He always participates with TSAC, and he's really interested and really passionate about the great
work that we accomplish with TSAC, mainly because of all the good stuff and the great relationship that we're maintaining with Coast Guard.

Having some ex-Coasties on the committee, that's always interesting to see how they perceive the operation, not only from the Coast Guard perspective, but also from their current work and their activities. Thank you for that. Captain Kelly, I have a two-page bio on him, but I'm just going to say that he's the chief of the Office of Environmental and Operating Standards, Coast Guard Headquarters. He joined us at TSAC last year, so we about a year solid relationship. He's becoming an expert and master at that relationship with FACA-related committees. Captain Kelly.

CAPT. KELLY: Thank you, Jose. Good morning, everybody. Once again, my name is Scott Kelly. I'm from Coast Guard Headquarters. My office is OES, Operating and Environmental Standards.

One difference I do want to point out,
and I think you're going to hear about it later today, we recently pulled out the credentialing program and we consolidated all of credentialing under a new Coast Guard office, the Merchant Mariner Credentialing Program. You'll hear from Luke Harden later today, I believe, about what that means for all of you.

You can fire some questions at Luke about manning. I'm sure you have a few. Again, thank you, everybody, for coming to Washington, D.C. It's beautiful here this time of year. I want to thank our hosts, the Department of Transportation and MARAD, and I want to highlight and especially thank Captain Jim Jenkins, who's here in the audience, who's our Coast Guard liaison. We got put through the wringer earlier this week about some rooms and he helped us straighten it out, so $I$ want to thank him. $I$, of course, want to thank everyone here at TSAC for your great work, your volunteer work, especially the chairman and vice chairman, Steve and Eric.

Everything that TSAC does is vitally
important to the Coast Guard and the towing industry, but I think today, you'll find the discussions to be especially interesting, since we've delivered Subchapter M, our regulations that we've been waiting to hear about, that we couldn't talk about in great detail, and now we can.

Do want to highlight, you may find it interesting that next week, Jose and I will be in Houston once again, leading another FACA, the offshore NOSAC. At that FACA, ironically enough, most of the discussion is going to be about safety management systems. We've heard from the offshore industry about some of the things that we've been focusing on about the value of a safety management system and how they have told us that the early investment in a safety management system, not just a system on the shelf, but a fully implemented safety management system, not only makes for a safer vessel operation, it saves the company money. I think that's something we're all interested in. At
least, I'm interested in the safety aspect, and I'm sure you're interested in the ability to continue your business uninterrupted.

Thank you to everybody, once again, for coming here today. I also want to thank Captain Verne Gifford, who'll be speaking later on today. He's in charge of all of our inspections and compliance programs in the Coast Guard, and he's been going around the country talking quite extensively about Subchapter M, so we look forward to his comments later. Then, of course, I'll end it with thanking Commander Perez and Will Nabach and Bill for setting this up today. Thank you very much.

REMARKS BY THE MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR
CDR. PEREZ: Thank you, Captain. Now, I have the pleasure to introduce and welcome Admiral Chip Jaenichen. He was appointed by President Obama and served as the maritime administrator since 25th of July, 2014. He previously served as both the deputy and acting maritime administrator from July 2012 to July
'14. Sir, thank you for coming. He's going to make some welcoming remarks. Thank you.

MR. JAENICHEN: Commander Perez, thank
you. I just happened to notice -- does anybody get the Tug Technology and Business News? Anybody see this one? I thought this was pretty interesting. It's a gentleman, his title is that the Jones Act is an obstacle to investing in the U.S.

I assume if you're a foreign company, that might be the case. The interesting thing that he talked about is the fact that we don't have $Z$ drives, and that's holding it back that we can't handle -- I thought it was very interesting that he wants to get his company in to help us get $Z$ drives on our tugs.

I thought that was a pretty
interesting comment. Clearly, Jones Act is holding his company back, but it's not about technology because I think we already have that out there. Good morning, everyone. It's certainly a pleasure to be here. I want to
welcome you to the Department of Transportation and apologize in advance. I understand, as I saw the long lines trying to get through security this morning, sometimes when we have more than one or two conferences going on at the same time, it's difficult to get into the building. I'm certainly honored to be here with so many of the industry experts that are connected to the towing industry.

I'm going to make some remarks here, and then I'll certainly open it up for questions, but I'll leave it to the Coast Guard, who's obviously set up this meeting today. This is the day and time, which I think most of you already know, the industry is, quite frankly, struggling. They're facing many challenges. I was just out in Paducah this past weekend, and I talked to many of the two boat operators out there. They were talking about some of the cargo, specifically coal, which is down pretty significantly. Other than that, the towing industry is really the one sector of our maritime
industry that really is growing and, for the most part, is thriving in this particular environment. In many ways, what the towing industry has done, they've taken a very proactive versus a reactive approach to inevitable change, and it stands as a very dynamic model for what the rest of the industry, I think, should be emulating. I want to extend a personal welcome to all the towboat/tugboat operators and mariners and the shippers and the port authorities who are here today in D.C. and are here for this public meeting.

I frequently ask my speech writer to inject some humor into my remarks because he feels like I have a very dry wit and it doesn't go over very well. Today's humor comes compliments of David Holbrook's daughter, Ashley. He shared that when he was saying goodnight to his two young daughters earlier this week, they got to talking about some of the speeches that he writes for me and some of the topics that they talk about. He explained the subject in quite a bit of detail. He asked them what they thought I should lead my remarks with because he told them that I like to tell a little bit of humor up front. His youngest sat for a moment and says, "Okay, Dad, how's this? What do you get when you cross a foot with a ship?" Anybody? You get a big toe, $T-O-E$, boat. It's way better than mine, so I'll just leave it at that. I think it was actually definitely appropriate, with the largest fleet size of any other maritime category in the United States, with over 6,700 tugs and towboats nationally, and another 100 or so that are actually sailing in deep water, $I$ put the towing industry at the head, rather than at the foot, of the industry.

Now you see how this all ties together, right? As I noted earlier, some of the segments of the maritime industry, they are struggling. The U.S. Merchant Marine is at a dangerous tipping point. We live in a time that I absolutely thought that I would never see.


#### Abstract

That's where the U.S. flag oceangoing fleet, specifically that in international trade, has shrunk to its lowest level in our nation's entire history.


When I came to the Maritime
Administration a little over four years ago, the international trading fleet that was U.S. flag stood at 106 vessels and had been between about 120 and 100 or so for the last three decades. On the 1st of October of this year, that number now stands at 78,27 percent decrease in the size of international trading fleet in less than four years. The U.S. flag percentage of ships that are transporting freight internationally, and that includes both imports and exports, is shockingly and embarrassingly small.

Our maritime strategy for the nation comes from the Merchant Marine Act of 1936 and says we're supposed to be carrying a substantial amount of our cargo on U.S. flag ships. Today, that percentage stands at less than 2 percent. I don't know about you guys, but substantial does
not mean 2 percent to me. Of the 40,000 vessels that are moving cargo globally in international trade, 78 are U.S. flagged. Again, I'll just re-emphasize that point one last time. That is the lowest level in our entire nation's history.

Especially those of you who are
familiar with the Hanjin bankruptcy and the fact that 3 out of every 4 shippers in the U.S. -540,000 containers -- are hung up -- they declared bankruptcy at the end of August. Many of the containers are still not delivered to the end customers, so that is certainly a challenge. As the U.S. oceangoing fleet dwindles, so does the part that the U.S. Merchant Marine plays, and it directly affects our shipbuilding, and it affects our mariner jobs. It affects our resources. These are all essential resources and components of both our national and our economic strategies. The slow demise of these vital assets increases our vulnerabilities.

It's both to international, but also

that we've added a word to that strategy.
It started off as the National

Maritime Strategy. It has now gone through its first interagency review, and we've changed it to transportation primarily because it does not have a defense element in it. It's really about
transportation. It's about commerce. That's why we've changed it.

We're also doing it through,
literally, millions of dollars in grants and loans and versatile funding streams through the Department of Transportation and the Maritime Administration. We're making that available to be able to modernize ports, maritime infrastructure, and be able to recruit and train the next generation of mariners. Just yesterday, the Department of Maritime Administration announced $\$ 4.85$ million in marine highway grants. Three of those grants are going to bar services, one between Baton Rouge and Memphis, the other, what we call the M64 Express, which runs from Hampton Roads all the way up to Richmond, and the
last one is going to be a demonstration project for the Illinois Soybean Association. Those grants were just announced yesterday. The strategy, we believe, is going to strengthen all segments of the industry, including the towing industry. Today, what, in all likelihood, with the election coming up -- if you've ever seen the movie with Sylvester Stallone, the Expendables -- I'm not expendable, as we run up to the election, so most of the political appointees will be going to greener pastures or, in my case, I hope it's browner water.

It is certainly a sincere pleasure to be here today. It gives me an opportunity to highlight, I think, one of the truly encouraging segments of the maritime enterprise, and that is one that is admittedly flying well below the radar for the nation. It's below the public consciousness. That's our nation's towing industry, in terms of what you do day in and day out. I'm not exaggerating when I call the
towboat and the barge sector the backbone of the maritime industry. You know it, and I know it.

It's a very vibrant industry that supports thousands of well-paying jobs. It contributes significantly to our nation's economy and enhances the health of many, many communities all around the country, coast to coast, but mainly in the U.S. heartland.

Your vessels, your operators, and your crews are a vast array of services that are being provided, from pushing 1,000 feet of barges out in the waterways to handling and docking of millions of tons of cargo on commercial ships that are calling at our commercial coastal harbors, to moving -- providing propulsion for articulated tug barges, carrying oil and petroleum products and taking those from the refineries to markets all around the country.

There are many people, both inside and outside of your industry, that don't realize that your members have historically always led the way, from the standpoint of marine safety and
environmental stewardship. That is one of the real reasons why we're here today. As was just announced, as I think everyone knows, this past June, the U.S. Coast Guard published their landmark Subchapter $M$, which raised a regulatory floor in this critical industry segment. Over the course of the next several years, during the implementation period, it's going to take marine safety and environmental stewardship to the next level for this industry.

Subchapter M is the most important rulemaking, $I$ believe, that's ever been effected for the tug and the towboat industry, striving to achieve the lofty goal of zero harm to humans, zero harm to the environment, and more importantly, zero harm to property, as the towing industry serves the critical waterborne commerce for the nation.

The effort was certainly a massive undertaking. It took over 12 years, as many of you know. It brought together unprecedented combination of intellectual resources from the

Coast Guard, from the Towing Safety Advisory Committee, which is here, American Waterways Operators, and hundreds of maritime leaders from all across the country. Together, they produced a very comprehensive 820-page document, the first of its kind. What's even more impressive, I think, is the fact that you did it on your own. You worked creatively; you worked collaboratively; and you worked proactively.

That is the precise formula of success that $I$ think the rest of the maritime industry should be emulating if they want to not only survive, but to thrive in the 21st century.

What you've accomplished is exactly what I've been talking about. It provides the specificity -- I've been talking about this for the last four years, since I came to the Maritime Administration. I do it at every conference that I'm at, in terms of what it's going to take for our industry to move forward, and you're doing exactly that.

Your achievement has taken a long and
often exhausting process, but the final result, $I$ would say, is better than good enough. It certainly is one that sets an example. I believe the end result -- if you start with a goal in mind to make sure that every towing vessel and operator are competing on a level playing field, I think that's good for the industry, and I think it's good for the nation. My good friend, and I think many of you know her, Jennifer Carpenter, at American Waterways Operators, has been deeply involved in the drafting of the Subchapter $M$ since its early inception in 2003. She has said that her son, Chris, was born, essentially, the very same week that AWO came back to the Coast Guard and said, "We're happy to partner with you on this regulatory journey." Today, Jennifer proudly states that her son, Chris, is now taller than she is, needs a shave. That really is the story, what I'd call, of commitment and perseverance and, simply, just staying the course until the goal is reached. It's a feat that $I$ find that's even
more impressive when you consider how you exercised forethought and, more importantly, you thrust it upon yourself, as an industry, because it was the right thing to do.

You didn't wait until there was a major accident or a disaster. You didn't wait until Congress forced it on you. You saw an opportunity to take what was, for the most part, a pretty safe, unregulated industry, and then over the course of 12 years, you produced a systematic body of rules to guide you forward. There is no question in my mind that we would not be here today without the collective leadership of the industry and the Coast Guard across the span of several years. What that means is there's many, many people involved. If you think about the rotations for the Coast Guard and how many changes of leadership in the course of 12 years, to keep that on track, I think, is singularly impressive.

The new regulations cover literally
every aspect of towing vessel operations to
reduce risks across the board. It covers the management policies and procedures, the structural integrity of vessels and how they are maintained, from firefighting and life-saving procedures to emergency equipment.

It takes a very serious and detailed look at operating procedures, including such things as how to shoot under bridges to make sure that you don't elide with them, to prevent damage to either the towboat, the barges, or the structure of the bridge, itself. It places heavy emphasis -- and I think this is probably the most important thing -- on training, emphasizing both the hardware and the software aspects of people and the management systems, and also how all of it fits and works together. It addresses a host of environmental safety concerns by setting forth best practices to prevent accidents that would adversely affect rivers, ports, and harbors. It keeps that waterborne traffic that must be kept moving to ensure our nation remains both strong and vibrant for our economy.

It's been a long time in coming. Subchapter M is certainly a comprehensive regulation -- I think everyone would agree that -- whose results show that it was certainly time well spent, and it was made possibly only because the towing industry embraced the process from the very beginning.

You had already been on a safety journey, even before Subchapter M, previously putting into place AWO's Responsible Carrier Program that was a voluntary, self-regulatory program. Yet, the industry kept asking what can we do better to improve our industry standing from the standpoint of safety? Here, just let me state the obvious. What the tugs and towboats do in the water I do not think, by any standard, is an easy or an operation that has no dangers or no inherent risks. Much larger ships have crews of up to 26 mariners on board; whereas, a small fleet boat or tugboat can have, you can look at two, and maybe some of them will have up to six or seven, but certainly, they have less than 12.
 said we have an opportunity to build on what we
have in place and put together a comprehensive regulatory structure, and you've done just that, with support of the Coast Guard and the American Waterways Operator each step of the way.

I think the Towing Safety Advisory Committee has certainly taken charge, has a broad array of very inclusive team, from companies both large and small, from every geographic area, from ship builders to towboat and tug operators and owners and naval architects, all have provided their technical input to the TSAC.

What's resulted, I think, is a truly
new world for the towing industry. I think there are some people that say that it's just going to take some time and we'll see, once we get through the implementation stage, whether that really proves it out, but I think you're certainly making the right progress.

To everyone throughout the industry who participated and brought Subchapter $M$ to fruition, I say congratulations and job well done. That said, I think everyone recognizes
that the hard work is now beginning. That is to be able to go through the implementation phase and determine how to make these regulations work in practice. That's going to require both time and resources. Resources means manpower, but more importantly money, in some cases.
The Coast Guard, naturally, is going to shoulder a huge part of the burden of implementation and, of course, AWO has pledged their commitment to helping all of its members navigate success with the transition to the towing vessel inspection and to sharing information on Subchapter $M$ throughout its entire industry as the rules are implemented.
It's going to continually be a collaborative effort. You know that. I was just down in Houston, and I met with the American Bureau of Shipping. They recognize that they have a role, potentially, to play in this.
They're going to be providing a contribution in critical expertise and consultation throughout this implementation
phase. I do want to express my full confidence in all of you to complete the process, but even more so, I want to express my deep appreciation to the role of TSAC as an advisory committee to the Coast Guard and for all the cooperation from the industry to bring this significant milestone and regulation into effect. If you continue to work together, there's no question that you'll be able to succeed and be able to move marine safety and environmental stewardship forward.

Your work in the industry is going to benefit the American people with even safer waterways than we currently have today, but more importantly, quality jobs and commercial vitality. You're going to ultimately create, I think, a very healthy and safe towing industry. You've got a great track record, and I have every confidence that you'll be able to do that, so this is more -- this is just the beginning. Again, thank you for the invitation to speak. Thank you for coming and using the Department of Transportation Headquarters. GSA
thanks you. Again, welcome, and I hope you have a great meeting today.

CDR. PEREZ: Thank you, sir. Thank you for the great remarks. Once again, thank you for hosting us and allowing us to be here for the last two days -- great accommodations, location. This is perfect to host this type of meeting and allow us to engage in our professional information exchange and allowing the community to generate the great recommendations that, later, are going to be shared with Coast Guard, and so on and so forth, for the greater good of the towing industry. Thank you, sir. Now, I would like to recognize the general public joining us today.

I would like to take a couple minutes to do a quick introduction of the general public. We do appreciate your participation joining us yesterday and today. We count on the valuable comments and the expert insight that you shared yesterday. Hopefully, we'll have another great set of comments, questions, and sharing of

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { opinion about the topics that we're discussing } \\
& \text { today -- yesterday and today. } \\
& \text { Starting from the left, Mr. Abernathy, } \\
& \text { if you can share the mic, so we could have our } \\
& \text { guests from the general public stand up and } \\
& \text { introduce yourself, name and your title. Then } \\
& \text { that way, we'll also capture it on the record. } \\
& \text { MR. ABERNATHY: I'm Bill Abernathy. } \\
& \text { I'm the ADFO for TSAC. } \\
& \text { LCDR. NABACH: Lieutenant Commander } \\
& \text { Will Nabach, another ADFO for TSAC, Coast Guard } \\
& \text { Headquarters. } \\
& \text { CAPT. GIFFORD: Verne Gifford, } \\
& \text { Lechner, U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters, Domestic } \\
& \text { Vessel Compliance Division. } \\
& \text { Mirector of inspections and compliance, Coast } \\
& \text { Guard Headquarters. } \\
& \text { Transportation Company. } \\
& \text { MR. BISH: Alan Bish, Reinauer }
\end{aligned}
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MR. MARTINEZ: Julio Martinez, U.S. Coast Guard, Fifth District Office.

MR. PINNER: Eddie Pinner with Crescent Towing of New Orleans.

MR. QUINN: Good morning, John Quinn, associate administrator for environment and compliance here at MARAD.

MS. CARDONE: Tina Cardone from C-PORT, representing the marine assistance towing companies.

MR. FRANCIC: John Francic with ABS Group out of Houston.

MR. NYHUIS: Fred Nyhuis with Marathon Petroleum.

LDCR. WALTER: Matthew Walter, Coast Guard Headquarters, Office of Navigation Systems.

MR. MENKE: Greg Menke, Evansville Marine Service.

MS. MALLON: Courtney Mallon, attorney, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law.

MR. REILLY: Sean Reilly, Southern

Towing Company, Memphis, Tennessee.
MR. MCVICKER: Ian McVicker, ABS out of Paducah.

MS. HARDY: Caitlin Hardy with Foss Maritime.

MR. NELSON: Lee Nelson, Upper River Services, St. Paul.

MR. LEAVELL: George Leavell, Wepfer Marine, Memphis.

MR. LEE: Good morning, Patrick Lee representing the general public.

CDR. TWOMEY: Jacie Twomey from the Coast Guard's Towing Vessels Center of Expertise. Thanks, Pat, for all you've done for us in the past. I also wanted to let you know that Scott Kuhaneck is also here from the CVC, but he stepped out for a second.

MR. LITTLE: Patrick Little, Buffalo Marine, Houston, Texas.

MR. TONE: Kevin Tone, Coast Guard marine safety specialist at Vessel Facilities Operating Standards.

MR. GALLION: Jerry Gallion, Kirby Corporation, Houston.

MR. MCWHORTER: Tom McWhorter, Maritime Services Group out of New Orleans, Louisiana.

MR. WISNESKI: Jason Wisneski, Dann Marine Towing, Chesapeake City, Maryland.

MR. BEATTY: Ken Beatty, Wilmington Towing, Incorporated, Wilmington, Delaware.

MR. WELLS: Richard Wells, Offshore Marine Service Association, New Orleans.

CAPT. JENKINS: Good morning, Jim Jenkins, captain in the Coast Guard and the liaison over here at Department of Transportation.

MR. CORIGLIANO: Ron Corigliano with Campbell Transportation Company out of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

MS. STEWART: Caitlyn Stewart with the American Waterways Operators.

MR. DELOACH: Z. Dave DeLoach, DeLoach Marine.

MR. COLEMAN: Kevin Coleman, I'm the safety director here at the Maritime Administration.

CDR. PEREZ: Thank you, Commander Nabach. Yes, sir?

MR. ABERNATHY: All right, some of you didn't sign in, need to have you sign in, please.

CDR. PEREZ: We're going to continue the agenda. We'll have a break scheduled in a couple minutes. Then I encourage for the rest of the public to sign in, so we can make it official. Just quick, as a safety brief notice, we do have our facilities -- restrooms are towards the back, both for female and male.

We do have dining hall facility, which we're going to be using for lunch. The exits are clearly marked. In case of an emergency, we will follow Mr. Abernathy outside the building. He's going to guide us to safety. At any time, if you have any questions about the building, the facilities, or anything else that you need, please approach Mr. Abernathy or Lieutenant

Commander Nabach, and they will be more than happy to assist you. Also, please make sure that you sign in the sign-in sheet. Now, I take great pleasure to introduce our final distinguished guest. He is Captain Gifford.

He is the chief of inspections and compliance, and he oversees policy enforcement, casualty investigation for commercial and recreational vessels, waterfront facilities, and port security. I do also have about two pages, but we're going to leave it at that and let Captain Gifford make his remarks. Thank you, sir.

REMARKS BY THE USCG DIRECTOR OF INSPECTIONS AND COMPLIANCE, CG-5PC

CAPT. GIFFORD: I think you'd appreciate my joke telling more than my biography, and my joke telling's not that good, so I'll get to business. Chairman Huttman, the members of TSAC, thank you very much for the opportunity to speak to you today. This is the fifth time in front of a group of industry. AWO
was kind enough to open up its meetings. During the summer, we went to Portland, Pittsburgh, New York, New Orleans, and now here today. We've spoken to about -- the highlight, in just terms of numbers of people, was Pittsburgh, where we spoke to about 325 people and presented Subchapter M. Each audience has been upwards of at least 100 people to 200 people.

I'd say all told, it's probably 1,000 people that we've briefed on Subchapter M, just how we were going to go about ensuring that we met all of the regulatory requirements, what the timeline was, and then how we were going to address issues as they arose. This is the first TSAC meeting since Subchapter $M$ has gone into effect.

It's a pretty noteworthy meeting just for that. I'm thankful -- we had some 11th hour concerns about meeting room size. We were told we were initially going to be put into a place with 78 people, so thank God this place opened up again. It's very nice to see everybody.

For us, Subchapter M is significant, in terms of numbers. We're going to have 6,000 new towing vessels that join the inspected fleet. That is an increase of 50 percent. The inspected fleet right now, for the Coast Guard, is 12,000 vessels. This increases, by 50 percent, the number of vessels that we'll be inspecting. Another interesting and unique factor about Subchapter M is that it contains two options for compliance. There's the Coast Guard option, which I think everyone who may have owned an inspected vessel before is familiar with, where Coast Guard inspectors go out and conduct the inspection on an annual basis.

They attend all dry docks. They make
sure they go to internal structural exams. This one has the TSMS option, which allows the company to use a third party to conduct audits, and also to conduct surveys, either externally or internally, so that they can then obtain a certificate of an inspection working with the Coast Guard, having much less involvement by the

Coast Guard.
The Coast Guard would only be looking at vessels on the order of once every five years, assuming everything is running well. This rulemaking is very significant from that point. I think it's always important to just emphasize, again, how safe the towing vessel industry is. When you look at presentations, because it's considered part of the transportation sector, just in terms of how much moves by the towing industry and how safely it all moves -- you look at any one barge -- I think everyone's familiar with this, but it bears repeating, one barge carries anywhere between 70 to 140 truckloads. It removes those truckloads from the roads, which are already congested.

It carries anywhere from 16 to 46 railcars, depending on the kind of car you're looking at. It does it much more safely. For every death in the towing vessel industry, there is 22 deaths in the rail industry, and there's 155 deaths in the truck industry. You already
are starting at a benchmark for the rest of the
transportation industry.
You do things much more safely than
they do and, quite frankly, since the Bridging
Program started in 2004-2005, the number of
deaths has decreased to 30 percent of what it was
back in 2005. Also, when you just look at the
number of spills, if you look at the six lowest
years for spills for the towing industry, they've
all happened within the last eight years. There
is a noted trend downward, in terms of incidents.
Because barges move so much, when an incident
does happen, it gets noted. That's what we're
here to try to prevent, those things that draw a
lot of attention and cause a lot of anguish on
the part of the towing industry and the Coast
Guard when we're trying to respond to things. I
think, though, you can definitely see a trend of
safety.
June 20, 2016, that's the date, etched
in stone, of when the rulemaking was published.
June 20, 2017 is when Subchapter M will apply to


We have those issues posted on the National Center of Expertise website. I'm going to point to the subject-matter expert who dressed like me, just to make sure $I$ wasn't going to be the only one. Jacie, could you stand up, please? If you guys start asking very hard questions, as soon as we get through my brief remarks, Jacie will likely answer them. She's been a rock star, in terms of making sure everything is implemented well.

Next to her is Scott Kuhaneck, who has also been here day in and day out. Pat Lee, he no longer works for us, but he could probably answer those questions very well, too. I want to mention just how we're addressing issues, as we collect those issues. Scott Kelly, here, is our acronym master on the headquarters staff, so he always makes sure that we always develop something that can be effectively acronymized. In this case, the Towing Policy Council, or TOPOCO, is the group of headquarters, area, district, and the NCOE staffs that meet to

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address the issues that come up. TOPOCO meets
twice every week. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, at
1300, we're having conference calls that bring
everyone in to address the issues at hand.
    Of those 250 issues, we've identified
about 40 that are high priority. We're trying to
tackle those 40 first. We're making slow, but
effective progress. Right now, we've got 40
papers that are in draft status, that are getting
vetted and viewed throughout the system. I think
we will soon be able to start publishing those
papers online.
    What you have online right now, if you
go to the NCOE website, is a listing of
frequently asked questions that's about seven or
eight pages long. You also have a spreadsheet
that, when you print it out, is over 25 pages.
That includes the 250 issues that I mentioned.
You can look and see what issues have already
been submitted. What we hope to also post is
what our answers to those issues are, but
everything requires legal reviews, so sometimes
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it takes a little bit of time. In addition to
what we talk about at TOPOCO, we have an open
task statement with TSAC. We use that,
effectively, to present to you our TPO or
third-party organization guidebook.
    That's the guidance we're offering in
addition to Subchapter M that allows us to go
through the process now -- when I say us, the
NCOE is responsible for approving TPOs. After
TSAC review and comments, we hope to then get
those comments, address them, and make sure that
we're on our way to approving third parties.
    As you know, third parties are the
ones that issue the certificates to the
companies, and those certificates have to be in
place six months prior to companies then getting
COIs for their vessels.
                    With the July 20, 2017 timeline for
new vessels, we want to make sure that we, of
course, have approved TPOs, so that they can
start issuing certificates by January 20, 2017
for those new vessels. We definitely want to
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make sure we have everything in place for the
existing vessels. With that, I'll try to yield
back my time. I didn't want to go a full half
hour here. If anyone has any questions, we do
have subject-matter experts coming in to address
licensing issues later on in the day, so $I$ would
ask that if you have a licensing question, you
wait for Mr. Luke Harden, who will be coming from
our headquarters staff.
I know person in charge is an issue
that always gets a lot of interest, and he should
be able to address where we stand with that
person in charge issue. We can address, with the
help of the folks in the audience here from the
Coast Guard, any other questions that the public
or TSAC may have. Thank you.
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any questions from
the members for Captain Gifford? Everybody must
have already heard him speak at one of the other
opportunities. I do want to give you some kudos
for that, Captain Gifford.
I had the pleasure to hear you speak


#### Abstract

at the AWO conference in Pittsburgh. I really appreciate the openness and the welcoming atmosphere that you established between your staff and TSAC and the Coast Guard and industry in working through the issues that inevitably are going to arise in Subchapter M.

CAPT. GIFFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.


CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank you very much for that. Do we have any questions from the general public for Captain Gifford? Again, if you could state your name and who you represent for the reporter, that would be appreciated.

MR. WELLS: Good morning, Verne. I'm Richard Wells of the Offshore Marine Service Association. One of our members brought up an issue that was surprisingly unclear to me, so I'm going to bounce it off you and see what you think. A vessel that is multi-certificated as an OSV cargo vessel and an anchor-handling tug supply vessel, when that vessel is towing a MODU under it's I certificate, it's operating as a
towing vessel.
The question is the manning. Is the master, mates, engineers on the vessel adequately manned if they have a master or mate towing with the correct route and tonnage, or do they also need a Subchapter I vessel license of appropriate tonnage and route?

CAPT. GIFFORD: Scott stood behind you. That's one of two things. Either I put him to sleep and he's trying to wake himself up, or he probably has addressed this issue before and is really just ready for it. Scott?

MR. KUHANECK: Scott Kuhaneck, Office of Commercial Vessel Compliance. I was anticipating another question that we'd gotten, Richard. To be honest, we have to take a look at that from a credentialing standpoint. We've had questions come up about multi-service and occasional towing if they're certificated and how M might apply, so $I$ was anticipating that vein. I did not necessarily anticipate the credentialing question. I think that's best,
maybe, something we should lob toward MMC, sir.
CAPT. GIFFORD: Thank you, Richard.
MEMBER LAGARDE: Matt Lagarde with TSAC. I did happen -- when the list was down to 205, I think, I read through everything. I noticed that we had priorities set out there next to a lot of the different questions that came in. One of the questions was in regard to watertight closures and bulkheads. I happened to notice that the level of priority next to that question was a 3. Considering that was one of the first things to go in effect under Subchapter M, I was wondering where that priority shook out as a 3, instead of a 1 , being it was one of the first things to come into effect?

CAPT. GIFFORD: I can't necessarily tell you -- I wasn't involved in the prioritization, but you're right. If, for some reason, you're awaiting an answer to a question that you're like, "We already have to comply with this," if you bring it to our attention, I think we can -- if we haven't already addressed it, we


MR. KUHANECK: Right.

MR. NELSON: A towing operator.

MR. KUHANECK: Right. Yes, I think we'd be fine with 12 or less. Above 12 , we might have some issues. I think there's existing regulations and policy that would cover moving individuals who are not crew members from one location to another when it's 12 or less.

CAPT. GIFFORD: I would encourage everyone, especially if you feel you've got an urgent issue -- I'll put Jacie, but the NCOE out there. No. 1, the website allows feedback, but if you don't feel that's a quick enough vehicle, make sure you're just calling the NCOE and telling them this is already in place; we need an answer. We'll bring it up at the following TOPOCO meeting if it hasn't already been addressed. We'll take care of it. Then any other issue that, perhaps, allows us a little more time to digest it, hopefully we can take that time. Thank you very much, everyone.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank you. Thank
you, again, Captain Gifford. We appreciate you making the time available here. We stand ready to take on any of those additional tasks that you may send our way. We appreciate very much that we got the guidebook just the other day. That's already been forward to the members.

Later this afternoon, we'll be taking on the first of our recommendations for Report No. 1 out of our Subchapter $M$ implementation team. Just as they're wrapping up one task, they're ready to take on the next. We very much appreciate that. Thank you.

ACCEPTANCE OF PRIOR MEETING MINUTES (SPRING AND JUNE TELECONFERENCE)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: At this point, we have a couple of administrative items to take care of. I had previously sent to all the members our minutes from both our spring meeting, as well as our summer teleconference, for your review. Both of these meeting minutes may be found on the TSAC website at Homeport -- Missions Homeport. I just go to google and type TSAC and

Homeport, and it takes you to the right page. I won't spend the rest of the time going through that. At this point, I'll need to entertain a motion for acceptance of both the spring and summer teleconference minutes. Do I have --

MEMBER GUIDRY: So moved.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Guidry made a motion to accept. I need a second.

MEMBER CALIENDO: Second.
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Second by Mr.
Caliendo. At this point, we have a motion on the floor to accept the minutes from the spring and fall teleconference. I'll call for a vote. All those in favor, say aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: All those opposed,
say nay.
(No audible response.)
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any abstentions?
(No audible response.)
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We have two
abstentions, our new members, noted. With that,
the meeting minutes have been accepted. We'll sign those and get those over to the DFO for acceptance. Thank you very much for that. I think we have covered all the items on the agenda at this point, and we are scheduled -- we're a little bit ahead of time. We've been running well. We're planning a break, so we'll go ahead and take that break right now, with the plan to return at 10:00, a little earlier than what's on the agenda -- at 10:00. That will give us time to have our first report from our subcommittee. Thank you. We'll see you at 10:00. (Whereupon, the above-entitled meeting went off the record at 9:38 a.m. and went back on the record at 10:02 a.m.)

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING NEW AND UPDATED POLICY FOR ARTICULATED TUG AND BARGE (ATB) COMBINATIONS CURRENTLY CONTAINED IN NVIC 2-81, CHANGE 1
(TASK NO. 15-02)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, we're going to go ahead and continue with the published agenda today. At this point, we'll begin the

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process of our subcommittee progress reports.
The first one that we have queued up for this
morning is from the subcommittee concerning the
recommendations regarding new and updated policy
for articulated tug and barge (ATB) currently
contained in NVIC 2-81, Change 1. For us, this
is Task No. 15-02. Mr. Jerry Crooks is our
subcommittee chair. With that, we will turn this
over to Mr. Crooks for a report on the status of
this task.
    MEMBER CROOKS: Good morning,
everybody. I'd like to stand up here and tell
you that we've made a lot of progress on this
tasking, but the fact is that we haven't. This
has been an unusual task, in that the first three
tasks all are dependent on a different group
having finished their work before we can actually
begin ours. The history on this one is that the
Coast Guard was developing a policy letter to
deal with conditional occupancy of ATBs.
    The purpose was to allow there to be
people aboard an ATB to operate necessary
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machinery while underway. The Coast Guard had formed a working group with AWO, and they were going to draft interim policy guidance, with the ultimate goal of bringing that policy guidance to TSAC, and then eventually revising the NVIC 2-81, Change 1. We were tasked with reviewing that interim policy letter as Task 1, once completed, and reviewing the proposed recommendations of the working group, once they complete their work. The good news is that since the spring, the policy letter has been completed. It was issued in July. The AWO working group has now scheduled meetings.

We're going to meet in Washington here in a couple of weeks, November 15 th and $16 t h$, to continue that work. We haven't been completely inactive. The subcommittee has done some work developing a strawman as a starting point for our discussions, once we receive the AWO report. But at this point, beyond developing that strawman document, we really haven't done much, other than wait for the policy letter.


#### Abstract

I don't have a lot of progress to report. We've been a bit impatient waiting for this. We're really hopeful that the working group will wrap up its work soon, and we're hoping that at the spring meeting next year, we can present a draft report. But at this point, that's really the extent of the work that we've done. I'll entertain any questions, if anybody wants to -- has something that they want to contribute or ask.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Do we have any questions from TSAC members for Mr. Crooks? Hearing none, we'll ask if there's any questions from the general public for Mr. Crooks regarding this task? We have no questions. I do have one, Mr. Crooks. Yesterday, there was some discussion regarding the NVIC, where we were talking about better redefining the name from ITBs to ATBs with dual modes. Can you speak to that for a moment, just in terms of the issue, as it's been raised? MEMBER CROOKS: I did mention that we had done some work as a subcommittee. One of the


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things that we had done, we met at the spring
meeting and we discussed, among other things, the
issue of the terminology. The consensus of the
subcommittee is that we would like to see this
terminology of dual mode ITB go away.
    We can't really remove the term ITB
from the NVIC because there are two operating
ITBS in the U.S. flag fleet currently. We did
some research on that and determined that as long
as those two ITBs remain in service, we probably
need to address them in the NVIC. We have, in
the strawman, already crafted some language that
eliminates the term dual-mode ITB in favor of
just using ATB. One of the other things that
we've done -- I mentioned this yesterday; I'll
mention it again today -- is we have decided to
add a couple of enclosures to the NVIC, one being
a history of the development of ATBs, and the
second being a list of the different ATB
technologies, the PIN technologies.
    We're going to have those two
enclosures. We feel like they're better as an
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addition, as an addendum to the NVIC, rather than built into the body of the NVIC. We're going to try to keep the NVIC focused on policy. Yes, the consensus of the committee is we want to see this term dual-mode ITB permanently retired.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank You, Mr.

Crooks, and we look forward to your continued work. I know there's been some frustration, and we'll continue to push with the Coast Guard and with AWO to try to move this process, so you can guys can continue your work. We look forward to that report.

MEMBER CROOKS: Yes. The working group has invited myself and my co-chair, Mike Caliendo, to the meeting in November. I plan to attend. Mike, $I$ don't know if you plan to attend. We'll be there to encourage them, with all of our influence, to get this thing wrapped up, so we can get moving.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, thank you, Mr. Crooks.

MEMBER CROOKS: All right, thank you
all.

RECOMMENDATIONS ON ELECTRONIC CHARTING SYSTEMS
(ECS) CARRIAGE ON TOWING VESSELS (TASK 15-03)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We're going to be hooking up a laptop computer, rather than trying to show some of the presentations that we had yesterday on -- although very neat technology using an iPhone, we think it's probably more appropriate that we do it with a laptop.

At this point, we have Mr. Lagarde, who's going to come up and give us a status report from the subcommittee concerning the recommendations on electronic charting systems carriage on towing vessels, Task No. 15-03. While he gets started, I want to take this opportunity to thank Mr. Walters, our Coast Guard technical representative on this task. I want to extend to him our appreciation. This is one of the few tasks where we have had diligent participation and guidance from our Coast Guard technical representative. We really appreciate that. It tends to make the process work much

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more efficiently for our subcommittee chairs to
do their hard work. We really appreciate that.
So thank you for attending both yesterday and
today, as well. Thank you very much. With that,
we're just about ready to queue up Mr. Lagarde
and the presentation. With that, we'll turn it
over to Mr. Lagarde.
    MEMBER LAGARDE: Yesterday, for those
of you that were here, I had the report up. I'm
going to try to simplify this down a little bit.
This PowerPoint's a little easier to look at than
the report is, I guess. What I'm going to do is
just kind of go over the highlights of the task
and kind of explain where we're at with
everything.
    I'm going to start with acronyms
because it's kind of been brought to my attention
that it's very technical. There's a lot of
acronyms; it's kind of hard to follow. I've
thrown a couple up here, so we kind of go over
these from the beginning. The task is for
electronic charting systems. That's where we're
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starting at. ECS, when I refer to ECS, that's
going to be an electronic charting system. ECDIS
is an electronic chart display and information
system. That's the big daddy, international
sailing navigation systems that are approved
under the international community rules. IMO,
International Maritime Organization.
    These are the guys that kind of make
the rules to the international committee. The
IHO is the International Hydrographic
Organization. These are the guys that make the
rules about charts, so a lot of the stuff that
the Army Corps, that NOAA and stuff is going to
coordinate with the International Hydrographic
Organization.
    The Radio Technical Committee for
Maritime, years and years and years and years
ago, started as a FACA, an advisory committee.
It has morphed into a non-profit group of
organizations that put together technical advice
on electronic equipment. This works in
conjunction with the International
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We were supposed to have a final
report to the Coast Guard by spring of 2016, so
that they could take our recommendations and
prepare the NVIC and get it out the door, so that
the NVIC would allow use in carriage of
electronic charting systems, to do away with the
paper charts. The NVIC popped out the door in
February of 2016 , before we had a formal report.
As we started picking the RTCM standard apart, we
realized that the standards that they put forth
didn't consider the equipment that was already in
use within the industry, widely in use within the
industry. It was based off the international
standards and, mostly, ECDIS requirements. The
RTCM standard that we received -- and this was
one of the things was we went to the RTCM website
to download the document for the standards.
It was $\$ 80$ for the copy. When we
clicked on the link, we got an old copy. It
wasn't the most up-to-date copy, even though the
website said it was. We started peeling back the
layers. Most of the RTCM 109 document referred
back to other documents from the IHO, from IEC,

they're describing doesn't exist, and the stuff
that exists doesn't meet what they're describing,
we realized that this wasn't going to be a
shoe-in, we were just going to figure out which
ones fit in what slots, and we were going to hand
this to them in the spring.
We kind of went back to the drawing
board and worked with the Coast Guard to kick the
due date on this back to the fall, so we can get
a little bit more time to wrap our heads around
the problem. We got the extension, and we were
also asked to take a look at the NVIC and see if
-- with the new NVIC coming out, how did that
affect everything? Again, NVIC 01-16 was
originally intended to allow the use of
electronic charts. The tasking of the committee
was to provide recommendations on a requirement
to carry this stuff. The NVIC was designed to
allow carriage of the stuff. But the NVIC did
kind of confuse everybody when we started
realizing that it really didn't fix anything.
It just kind of confused everybody a

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little bit more. There's a couple of things
we're looking at. The subcommittee really got
down into two problems that really presented
itself. The first thing was chart equivalency.
So 01-16 was designed to provide chart
equivalency. What do you need to do to meet the
chart carriage requirements?
    The problem was all the extra stuff
that goes into the 109 requirements, everything
else that goes into the ECS requirements goes way
above and beyond the chart carriage. The chart
only needs to do four things, pretty much,
according to regulation. It needs to be for the
appropriate area and produced by a government
organization, large enough scale and detail to
navigate safely, and it needs to be current
corrected or most recent edition, if you're
operating on Western Rivers. AIS targets showing
up on a piece of paper, all this other eMSI data
doesn't show up on a piece of paper, so all this
additional equipment and function that goes in
with ECS really shoots way above and beyond chart
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equivalency.

Saying that if you have the ECS, you meet the chart carriage requirements seemed like -- let's get to the chart carriage satisfaction, then we'll talk about all the additional stuff we want to see. Again, this gets back to the paper charts being replaced do not display all this other stuff.

We're just going way above and beyond.

Most recent edition of the Lower Mississippi River Flood Control map, this is one of the problems we get into with the paper charts we're using now versus the electronic charts that are available.

The paper charts everybody carries onboard their boats right now, again, Western Rivers, most recent edition. The Army Corps flood control map and navigation maps for the lower Mississippi are from 2007. That's the most recent edition. They don't have any intent on producing another paper copy. They quit producing paper copies in 2014. They're not

going to be a new edition of that. The way the
reg's written right now, ten years from now, we
can conceivably be using a 20-year-old chart on a
river that changes course every spring, depending
on what the floods do. We've got to fix this.
We've got to get away from the paper charts.
We have got to get to the electronic
charts. The charts that the Corps produces
electronically are updated almost weekly. This
should provide some sense of urgency to the Corps
and the Coast Guard and NOAA. Let's get forward
into the new era. Our recommendation from the
subcommittee is likely to be that the U.S. Coast
Guard consider the desire to replace the paper
charts and graduate to a complete navigation
system as two separate items.
Let's get chart equivalency tackled.
Once we get the chart equivalency tackled, which
should be able to be handled in policy -- so
there's nowhere, anywhere in any regulation, that
to have charts. They have to be produced by the

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government for the area, adequate scale,
currently corrected. NOAA gets to define what a
chart is, by statute. NOAA says the S-57 version
of an IHO, International Hydrograph Organization,
chart is a chart. We're just getting down into
how we view the chart that is really the point of
contention. That's what we're talking about.
The systems, as described in RTCM 109, paper not
available.
    I'm going to talk a little bit about
this because here's where we got to with this.
When we realized the RTCM paper really had
equipment that we couldn't find, we went to the
RTCM. We went to the RTCM meeting in Clearwater,
Florida last May. We had a conference call with
them, and we've had a couple of communications
with them other than that.
    RTCM committee is made -- mostly made
up -- I can't say completely because I really --
if you call them, you can't get a list of the
members, but it's made up predominantly of
manufacturers. The manufacturers that have put
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equipment's reliable and it works. Of the four
classes of the systems all identified, we found
some shortcomings with them all.
    They had a Class A system which was
pretty much an ECDIS, for all practical purposes.
Call it what it is. An ECDIS does not have to
have an AIS plugged into it. But the Class A,
every description of it pretty much falls into an
ECDIS. When we're sitting around the table with
the RTCM, which is all manufacturers, we asked
them, "What piece of equipment is this?" They
said, "It's an ECDIS." "Are you going to build
one to the Class A standard?" They said, "Why?
If you can buy an ECDIS and plug into an AIS into
it, why would we develop a new piece of
equipment, certify it, and test it?"
    The Class B systems were pretty much
about the same thing. They were right there,
exactly, almost, a Class A. Class C systems, we
thought originally, in the subcommittee, that the
Class C systems would kind of fit our bill. It
was quickly pointed out that the hardware
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charting systems over here, the D should have
some function somewhere. The RTCM put all this
effort into describing what a Class D system is,
but the RTCM, Coast Guard, and others have said
that the D isn't suitable for navigation.
    If the D wasn't suitable for
navigation, the subcommittee wanted to know why
we're even talking about it. Why is it on the
list? Why does it say, "Class D ECS," if it's
not an ECS, and it's not suitable? There's got
to be an application somewhere, where this thing
fits, even if it's a backup. Because it does put
your position on a map, shows your position in
relation to other stuff, and shows your course
and speed. This is a -- IHO 66 document explains
that an ECS can be a simple hand-held instrument,
GPS-enabled, that displays a chart. There's a
precedent; there's a description in there for
that. We think there's an application. Everyone
else was chucking the D out the window.
                                The subcommittee feels the D needs to
stay on the list somewhere, for something. In
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the void of regulation -- the U.S. Coast Guard
Reauthorization Act of 2004 required the Coast
Guard to put together rules explaining ECS
requirements by 2007. I was building boats in
2007. I had to make a choice on wheelhouse
equipment. I'm digging through all kinds of
stuff, trying to figure out where this
regulation's at, and I couldn't find it because
it wasn't there.
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    The Coast Guard was waiting on RTCM to
    publish the standard, so it just got pushed back.
Need is the mother of invention. We have this
huge hole. We have a lack of guidance. We have
a lack of regulation. But we still have a need
that needs to be filled. Manufacturers, the
towing community stepped up, they got together.
They devised a system of equipment that works.
Now, it's been through many iterations. Just to
throw a couple names out there, CX, CNS, Captain
Voyager, Rose Point, and not to endorse any one
system, but throughout the industry, Rose Point,
through process of elimination, market choice,

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whatever, has kind of risen to the top and is
pretty prevalent throughout the industry.
It meets all the functional
requirements that are described in the RTCM document. The only thing, again, we're hung up on is the hardware. The bulk of the industry already has all this stuff out there. The guys are trained on it. Whether you acknowledge it as a primary navigation device or don't acknowledge it as a primary navigation device, it's sitting on the dash of almost every towboat I've ever been on.
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When the guys are navigating, that's what they look at. There's a set of paper charts on the boat because they have to have a set of paper charts on the boat. But when it comes to making a decision or trying to evaluate some passing arrangements, they're not grabbing a piece of paper and looking at that to figure out what's going on. They're looking at an electronic chart system that's sitting on the dash. These things are in use. They've been in

oats that don't plot courses. The boats that

> plot courses offshore or may plot courses offshore, where you've got an ocean of water or gulf of water, bay of water, whatever you want to call it, where you can't see the underwater hazards. If you lose your navigation system, you've got to look around, and you've got to figure out where you're at, get a position fix, and figure out where you are relative to the dangers.

On boats that operate on rivers and canals, you can see the bank. If the system fails, you stop. It's not -- again, I'll go back to Z. David's quote last week, "People don't get lost at river, they get lost at sea." When we talk about backup arrangements or what systems should be used where, there's a different level of risk on rivers than there are in open water. The equipment that's out there now is proven to be reliable. We think the backup battery arrangements that are out there are reasonable. Everybody, whether you're using a laptop, or you're using an iPad and it's plugged

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into the wall, or you're using the desktop with
the APC or APU backup battery, everybody's pretty
much got that already, so we didn't think that
was out of whack. The use of high-quality
components seemed to be reasonable. Now, there
was arguments made in the RTCM discussions about,
"I don't want a guy going to Wal-Mart and buying
a laptop off the shelf, putting it on a boat, and
navigating with it." The question the
subcommittee had for them was, "If it works, what
difference does it make where it came from?"
    We think that the manufacturer of the
software has system requirements. They tell you
how much memory it needs to have. They give you
a list of stuff that it needs to be able to do to
perform that function. The backup arrangements
should be addressed in its own safety management
system and applicable to the route.
    If you're operating in a place where
failure of the ECS is critical, or your
electronic chart is critical, then you should
have a backup computer in some way, shape, or
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The subcommittee feels that should be an option somewhere on the table. If you wanted to actually maintain the paper charts, as hard as that is, it should be an option, but we don't think it's the best option. The reason being is because it defeats the whole purpose of what the Coast Guard's trying to accomplish with eNav, which is being able to view eMSI data, being able to overlay your AIS data and everything on your charts. We think that if you're going to do it, you should be able to provide for the backup, but again, it's on rivers, where you're not going to get lost. Your system goes down, you should be able to just stop. To touch on that, the RTCM requirements in the NVIC require backup arrangements. When you're on a towing vessel, you've got to have one searchlight; you've got to have one radar; you've got to have one AIS; you've got to have one GPS, all the stuff that feeds into your ECS.

Even if you had two completely
separate ECSs sitting on the dash, you've got one


> Kentucky. That's the cost of the ECS, honestly. The quicker we can get this approved as chart carriage, then the better off we are. Training requirements -- we came to training requirements on stuff. That was one of the things we were asked to look at. MERPAC was also tasked with the same thing.

It's one of the little hiccups we had because MERPAC was tasked on looking at training requirements under the RTCM 109 guidance for Class A, Class B, Class C, Class D systems. When we come back to talking about a software-based -a platform independent software-based system was how the international committee at the eNav conference described it and endorsed. They said, "We're looking at training requirements that were not described in the MERPAC Task 92 statements." What we're also going to recommend in our report is that the training for the software-based system and the Class $D$ system, which was kicked out of the MERPAC report, follow the MERPAC guidance, which is basically for companies to do

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in-house training, proficiency-based training,
certificated or record the training in some way,
and if an auditor or Coast Guard investigator,
something, gets on the boat, be able to produce
records of that training and proficiency.
    We thought that kind of makes sense.
We couldn't just swallow -- wholeheartedly say,
"What MERPAC said," so we've added a component in
there for the software-based system, and we've
added a component in there for the Class D
system, where it applies. The ECDIS system for
the Class A systems made complete sense under the
MERPAC stuff.
    If the ECDIS is the Class A,
apples/oranges, whatever you want to call them,
then that made sense. From the training aspect,
we felt -- what we wanted to avoid was the
catch-22 we've been in with the radar training.
Every five years, I've got to go recertify for a
radar class, and I have to demonstrate
proficiency in a skill which I'll never use on a
boat. I've got to do this every five years.
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It's not applicable to what the inland community
does. It may be applicable to the offshore
community, but the bulk of the mariners are on
the Western Rivers and the Inland Canal. Because
Of regulation, we go do this.
    We go through the motions. You study
right before you go take your exam, and then you
put it on a shelf for five years because we don't
use it. We didn't want that to become the same
thing with the ECDIS. Regardless of whether you
run a Rose Point or a SEAC or a CNS or whatever
you're going to run on your boat, it needs to be
applicable to the system you're using.
    You need to be able to use that
system, and you've got to demonstrate
proficiency. You're not going to do that in a
classroom once every five years. The towing
vessels operate in limited local areas. I'm
going to get back into -- we were also asked to
provide some guidance on which vessels should be
waived from ECS carriage requirements.
Everybody's still got some charting requirement
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that they need to meet. Whether you carry paper
charts under 33 C.F.R. 164, or electronic chart
over whatever we come out of this task with,
there's waiver parameters in place.
In 33 164.70, it describes that
vessels operating in a limited geographic area,
assistance towing vessels, and other vessels that
the OCMI deems so are exempt from certain chart
carriage requirements under 164.72. We figured
that same stuff should apply -- the limited local
area, limited geographic, however you want to
break it down on the towing vessels.
We think that really needs to fall
into the same breakdown that they use for the
limited local area licensing. AIS exemptions
cover one nautical mile up and down river, which
is too tight to make any sense for navigation
within a fleet.
Most of the fleets on the lower
Mississippi River and a lot of the ones up on the
Ohio River spread out over miles, and the boats
just operate within those areas. They may go a
mile or two upriver, go to a dock, drop a barge off, and come back. They're not going to get lost in that stretch. They've still got to carry an AIS, which is telling everyone around them where they are, who they are, what they're doing. They've still got to carry that equipment, but whether that guy carries an ECS on that boat or not is really not fundamentally important. We think the local OCMI should define what those areas are based off of traffic.

Could be different in Houston if you're running up and down through there. The AIS projection on the screen may make a little bit more sense. But in general, we think the OCMI should decide what areas are "limited local areas". The assistance towing guys have been excepted from the Subchapter M requirements. There is an exemption for them for certain chart carriage requirements under . 72, in 33 C.F.R. 164, and their wheelhouses are tiny, in most cases. We've got to take a look at what makes sense for those boats. I'm pretty sure

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they know where the shoals are because they're
going to drag people off of them. Let's take a
look at that as it makes sense. Voyage data
recorders; here's another one. On the RTCM Class
A and Class B systems, there's a voyage data
requirement, not really described on what needs
to be captured and how long it needs to be
captured for. C doesn't have that. The bulk of
the towing industry that's operating right now on
the software-based systems have it. We were kind
of expecting more of an argument within the
subcommittee on voyage data recorders versus not
voyage data recorders.
    Honestly, nobody really had a problem
with it because the bulk of the equipment in
place does it. There's not a lot of guidance on
what it needs to be able to do. The argument by
the Coast Guard that the C carriage requirement
under RTCM needed to have the voyage data
recorders kind of centered around casualty data,
on being able to turn over your charts, with your
plot, showing your little track.
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The subcommittee looked at this, and we kicked it around, and we read the regulations. We picked them apart, and we honestly couldn't find anywhere where it specifically said that. It's just an interpretation. When we come back to our requirement to carry a voyage data recorder -- function within the electronic charting system, we think that should be a "should", and not a "must". We think it's admirable to have it, but we don't think it should be required. The subcommittee's further going to recommend that if the Coast Guard's interested in voyage data recorders, then that should be a spin-off tasking to decide the dos and don'ts and how much data to record, what data needs to be recorded, the format in which that's turned over.

We think that needs to be its own thing. Again, the Rose Point systems prevalently in use throughout the industry do it, so we're not as hung up on that as possible. You don't want to write a hard requirement in there because

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there's systems out there that may not.
Subcommittee members are eager to adapt a process
to transition from paper charts to electronic
charts.
The Coast Guard needs to be make this
happen. It needs to be sooner, rather than later. Again, the paper charts are sitting in the back of the wheelhouse, in many cases. The guys are using the ECS. They've been using them for ten years. Let's call it what it is. It meets the chart carriage requirements, as described by NOAA, who gets to decide what a chart is. If it's faithfully reproducing the S-57 chart, we need to just go ahead and swallow that pill and get past it. The paper charts have to be currently correct or the most recent
editions. We're either going to be using the
ten-year-old chart that isn't corrected because
it's legal, or they're going to be trying to make
corrections to paper charts.
                            It's nearly impossible to do on a
Western Rivers towboat. Policy Letter 10-05 says
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you can carry all your nautical publications
electronically, except your Rules of the Road and
your chart. Nowhere in any regulation where
you're required to the stuff does it say you've
got to carry a paper copy. It just says it's
policy. It's not regulation.
    When you take all these electronic
nautical publications and you sit down with all
the stuff on a computer screen and you're trying
to mark a chart up to make sure it's kept up to
date, and you have 20,000 mariners out there
doing it differently -- they're trying to do it
the same way, but I'm sure that mark doesn't end
up in exactly the same spot on every chart.
Wouldn't it be better if we used the system that
we have now, and once a week, the system went and
updated the charts and everybody had the same
mark on their chart? It would make a whole lot
more sense. The technology's already there. All
we have to do is embrace it.
                                The integrations of the GPS, which is
your electronic position fixing advice, your
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automatic identification, and your eMSI data,
which is what we're trying to get to to begin
with, being projected on the chart, the systems
that are out there now do it. They already
receive this information. They already project
it on the screen. It's already there. The
technology exists. All we're arguing over is the
equipment.
    If we prolong this transition over to
these electronic charting systems, then all of
the work that the Coast Guard's working on with
synthetic buoys and eMSI data and all that stuff,
while it's available and you're working on it and
you want that information to get to the mariner,
you're also telling them that you can't use that
for navigation, for primary navigation. We've
got to get past this. Again, two steps,
equivalency, then full system integration. Adopt
what we've got now, then we'll work out the
details. The RTCM guidelines, where they come
out -- the Coast Guard's been using RTCM
guidelines for decades. It made sense in some
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system in your car -- it'll tell you where you're
at, where you're going, and where the dangers are
-- and you can get from Point A to Point B -- the
only thing it doesn't show you is all the other
targets, which you can see. There's only one
direction they're going to be.
It's on a reciprocal course on these
canals -- then that should be acceptable. I
actually put this presentation together for the
eNav conference last week, which I'm going to
touch base on that a little bit, too. After all
the discussions with the RTCM 109 committee,
where RTCM 109 committee acknowledged that they
did not consider our equipment when they put
together these standards, we had some conference
calls.
They said, "We'll talk about amending
the standard to include your equipment." About
two weeks ago, they came back and said, "No,
we're not going to change our standard. You're
just going to have to deal with our stuff."
Again, the manufacturers are telling us that

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they're not going to work with the stuff we already bought. They want us to go buy new stuff. It doesn't make any sense. We got to the eNav conference, which is the international community. The guys in the Netherlands and the guys in Denmark operating on the Rhine River and the inland waters over there have what they call an ECDIS light, which is basically what we've got. They go buy a laptop.
They put the nav software on it. They
put the pilot plug into it to feed the AIS and GPS data into it, and they navigate off these things. The guys in the Netherlands, it's iPads sitting on the dash. That's what the pilots are operating on over there. It's not like there's no precedent in the international community, regardless of what the \(R T C M\) is saying or the international electric technical committee's saying.
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There's a precedent for the stuff out there. A lot of the foreign European communities were in support of what we've got. Again, they
came up with the phrase platform independent
software-based system. It means user gets to go
buy what he wants. The software's not attached
to the equipment. We get to go choose it, put it
together. So long as it works, it's good. There
were certain markets on the other side of the
world that were kind of vehemently opposed to
seeing the United States develop a software-based
system. I'm not going to go into too much
through the AISs.
detail, but where the equipment's made -- but
international standards. It should take into
they have fishing boats in their coastal waters
not having Ecs. Again, it's not a domestic
noftware-based systems comply with an
issue.
came up with the phrase platform independent software-based system. It means user gets to go buy what he wants. The software's not attached to the equipment. We get to go choose it, put it together. So long as it works, it's good. There were certain markets on the other side of the world that were kind of vehemently opposed to seeing the United States develop a software-based system. I'm not going to go into too much detail, but where the equipment's made -- but they have fishing boats in their coastal waters not having ECS. Again, it's not a domestic issue.

The argument came down to should the software-based systems comply with an international standard? But we ended up settling on a recommendation from the eNav conference that the systems should be compatible with the international standards. It should take into account the IHO guidelines for display. The systems should talk to one another, which they do through the AISs.

Our AIS broadcasts stuff in
international format. Their AIS broadcasts in international format. There shouldn't be any conflict there. What happens to the electrons once they get inside the wheelhouse should fall into a whole different realm. Again, we want to work on doing -- our final report is going to put together some functional requirements of the systems for chart equivalency. This is the stuff it should do, must do, or may do, depending on chart equivalency. Then we've got a separate set of functional requirements based off of ECS requirement, which is all the integration of the different navigational functions. There's going to be different sets of must, should, and may for those systems.

That's in the final report. We're<br>less concerned -- this subcommittee is less concerned with how the magic happens. We're more concerned with what magic comes out of the box and helps us navigate the boats differently. I'm going to back into -- all wheelhouses are not

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created the same, so you can't just have a
one-size-fits-all approach to putting the staff
in the wheelhouse.
    You'll see one of the assistance
towing boat wheelhouses up on the left-hand side.
You're not going to cram another screen in there.
You're not going to put a mandatory piece of
equipment up there. It's just not going to fit.
The lower left-hand corner, you'll see the
wheelhouse from one of our boats operating on the
canal. If this ECS goes off, I don't think he's
going to be lost. It's pretty much a bank on one
side, and there's a bank on the other side. But
any more screens in there, I'm going to start
losing windows. We need to take a look at that.
When you talk about backup arrangements, I can't
put additional screens in there. I should have a
way to swap one screen over or have some laptop
or something I can replace something with.
    That's a different consideration.
That lower right-hand corner's one of our bigger
boats. There's plenty of room on that dash.
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#### Abstract

That's one of those situations where we're not required to carry two radars, but we do because it makes sense for us. I have options on those boats. All routes, all wheelhouses are not equal.


That's pretty much what I have for now. The status of the report right now, I've got it about as far as $I$ can run it to ground. The RTCM stuff, we can't use it as it is, or shouldn't use it as it is, because the equipment prevalent throughout the industry is already there. If we take all the equipment that we've got and we walk away from it, then we've got to re-equip 6,000 towing vessels and retrain 20,000 mariners on new equipment. That's not adding one iota of safety to inland nav, on top of the fact that the lag between getting the equipment designed and approved and certified, prior to getting to that point, just doesn't make any sense. We've got a track record 10 to 12 years old with equipment.

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                                    The equipment surpasses the abilities
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and requirements of the $R T C M$ guidance, with the
exception of the hardware. There's no casualty
data that the subcommittee received from the
Coast Guard that pointed to a problem with the
systems anywhere. Systems are widely in use;
they're easily updated; they're user friendly.
The guys $I$ know operate in open water routes.
I've got friends operating boats in
Mexico right now that have ECDIS because they
need ECDIS, but they don't trust the ECDIS. They
walk to the back of the wheelhouse and look at
their Rose Point system to judge whether or not
the ECDIS is telling them the truth because it's
an easier to system to use. It's more accurate;
it's got more features on it. We really need to
take this stuff into account. Just because the
international community is going off on this
tangent, where they want equipment built this way
because they know we'll buy it, doesn't mean
that's the way we need to go with stuff. I've
got the report about as far as I can. I have
distributed it to the subcommittee and to the

> TSAC committee for tweaks, so to speak. What I'm looking for is just structural stuff, pretty much, on the report.
> Mr. Chairman, I hope to have a final, final, final copy to you on November 4th, or by November 4th, so I can get this albatross that has become this monster off my neck. It has been an adventure in trying to figure out all the ins and outs of international standards and the alphabet soup of acronyms associated with it.

It's been rewarding engaging the international community and finding out their views on what's going on. But I'm ready to finalize this as soon as possible, so that the Coast Guard can take this and run with it and, hopefully, adopt the systems that we have now for chart carriage requirements. Then we can work towards the ECS.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank YOu, Mr. Lagarde, for a very comprehensive report, very detailed report yesterday, as well. I'll open the floor, at this point, for any TSAC members
who have any questions for Mr. Lagarde. Mr. Vitt.

MEMBER VITT: Mr. Lagarde, great report. The voyage data recorder references you made, not in the regulations that $I$ could find.

MEMBER LAGARDE: Correct, we couldn't
find them either. The standard for the voyage data recorders rests within the RTCM 109 guidance for Class A and Class B systems. There's a requirement. It doesn't describe what that requirement is. It just says they have to have that capability. There's no clear guidance on how much or what needs to be captured in that.

The Class C systems, which we feel
that the software-based systems that we're using more closely represent, that requirement doesn't exist for those systems in Class C. The Coast Guard asked us to strongly consider requiring that from a casualty investigation standpoint, but there's no regulatory requirement that we could find that would require that voyage data recorder. CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any other questions?

MEMBER LAGARDE: Mr. Johansson.<br>CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Johansson.<br>VICE CHAIRMAN JOHANSSON: Great<br>report. I could see your struggles with trying to get all of this put together in regard to the different levels of acceptance of different organizations. In the tasking, also, was not only the acceptance of some sort of electronic charting system, but also the training on that system, too. I don't think it was addressed in here, or did I miss it?<br>MEMBER LAGARDE: You might have missed it. What we said was if you go by the RTCM standards -- MERPAC had a tasking, No. 92, in spring of this year, down in Jacksonville, Florida, to address the training requirements for the class systems, as identified in NVIC 01-16.<br>What they effectively did was talked about the Class A systems as being almost equivalent to ECDIS and should follow SOLAS

training on ECDIS. They talked about the Class B and the Class $C$ systems being in-house training for the companies, proficiency based, and be able to document that proficiency-based training and evaluation somehow in house. The Class D systems, again, we come back to we kept getting that this isn't suitable for navigation. The 15-03 task subcommittee disagrees with that assessment. We think that they fit somewhere in it.

In my final report, we're going to go back to the platform independent software-based system training should follow the MERPAC guidance in Task 92 for the B and C systems, and included Class $D$ systems in that recommendation, as well, if the vessel's so equipped. Basically, A will be SOLAS-type ECDIS training. B, C, D, and software-based systems would all be in-house training.

VICE CHAIRMAN JOHANSSON: Documented, you said?

MEMBER LAGARDE: Yes, sir, proficiency


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are already using that information or asking for
it.
    MEMBER LAGARDE: 46-4.05 Tack 15 says
that during a casualty investigation, you have to
turn over charts, your logs, other navigational
documentation to the Coast Guard. It does not
specifically say, anywhere in that regulation,
that electronic data recordings -- it doesn't say
anything about voyage data. It doesn't say
anything about anything other than what's listed
there. If you don't have it, there's no
requirement for you to be able to get it. If you
do have it, I'm sure that there's -- I'm not
going to make a legal argument. If you've got
it, you probably would be obligated to turn it
over. What we're talking about is the obligation
to capture that.
MEMBER MYSKOWSKI: All right. Just to
comments.
                    VICE CHAIRMAN JOHANSSON: One other
suggestion is where you've broken it down to
rivers and inland and, of course, the coast, I
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suggest you use the language that we're now going to be using for the LNG, which would break it down to the routes that are specified in Subchapter M.


MEMBER LAGARDE: That will be in the final report. Based off the recommendations I got yesterday, we were talking about inland waters versus rivers and canals and all that. Basically, what $I$ went to is rivers and canals, including Western Rivers, as defined in 46-136.100, which is the definition of Western Rivers in Subchapter M, which includes the Gulf Intracoastal Canal, if that makes any sense. I've got canals. I broke it down, and I can show that to you guys, if you want to see it. VICE CHAIRMAN JOHANSSON: I could email you what $I$ just pulled out of Subchapter M. It would be easier.

MEMBER LAGARDE: That's what $I$ put in there. I used the definition of Western Rivers, as defined in Subchapter M, which includes the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway. I've got the rivers
and canals, including Western Rivers. I've got lakes, basins, sounds, coastal waters and oceans, non-SOLAS as a different group, and I've got the limited geographic/limited local area.

Again, when we get back into defining routes, throughout all of the different presentations and all the different taskings I've participated in over the years, Coast Guard regulations are all over the book with the different definitions of routes and areas.

PARTICIPANT: They are.

MEMBER LAGARDE: There's not a lot of clear guidance in any -- across the board that all of this applies under this, or all of this applies under this. It's just kind of depending on what you're talking about. In my final report, $I$ also referenced the fact that they probably need to get to the bottom of that.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any further questions from TSAC members for Mr. Lagarde? Ms. Terral.

MEMBER TERRAL: Just a quick question.

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Matt, did you consider that they're already using
electronic charts in the aviation units in the
Coast Guard?
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MEMBER LAGARDE: When we were looking at the different systems, yes, we did look at the aviation systems. We were talking to the guys at the eNav conference, the guy from the Netherlands actually had a picture of the plane he flew over on. There's two guys sitting in the cockpit of a commercial airliner with iPads sitting on their laps with their voyage data, voyage plan in them.

The aviation industry's been using this stuff for years. The guys that fly planes that $I$ know, everything they do, plan, submit, everything is done on an iPad. You know why? Because it's portable. It's reliable, fits up on the dash, so that's what the guys are using. This is the only segment of the transportation industry that's lagging behind on this.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: At this point, I have another question. Mr. Abernathy.

MR. ABERNATHY: The voyage data

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recorder, has anybody gone to NTSB to see what
they would like to see, or is that opening
(Simultaneous speaking)?
    MEMBER LAGARDE: Which is why I want
it to be another task. If we try to tackle every
aspect of that within us and it's the same as the
cybersecurity. There's a cybersecurity component
that goes with this. Again, it's overarching.
    There's so many different electrical
systems on a boat that are connected to the
Internet in some way, shape, or form, whether
it's vessel computers, your AIS spoofing,
whatever you want to call it. There's so much
different stuff that that could just eat up
everything. The VDR thing, we kind of feel the
same way.
    It's one of those subjects that is on
the verge of -- I'm not going to say taboo, but
you start to get into privacy and everything
else. The question is what makes sense; what
doesn't make sense? I think that deserves its
own argument, for argument's sake, so that you
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get the best information and the best minds sitting at the table. I talked to NTSB about some of the stuff. The NTSB was at the meeting last week, talking about exactly the same stuff. He agreed with our arguments for the software-based system because it's proven and it's in effect.

It's better than what we're using paper chart wise. The NTSB is on our side with this. The fact that the equipment that the bulk of the community's already using already has a VDR built into it makes sense. Again, if we ratify and accept what we have, then we're already way ahead of the bar.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: At this point, if we have no further questions from the TSAC members, we'll open it up to the general public for questions for Mr. Lagarde regarding the electronic charting systems. Mr. DeLoach.

MR. DELOACH: Captain Kelly, I'm so happy that you're here today, as the master of the acronym. I'm going to say that one more
time, RTCM, because you need to be focusing on
that with your group that reviews all of the
issues out here. Since 2007 , we've been waiting
on a standard, and even prior to that, ten years
prior to that. We started putting systems
together on our systems to use to navigate. We
spend tens of thousands of dollars. Here at the
eleventh and a half hour, the RTCM committee
comes in and makes a recommendation from a bunch
of guys who have a -- that are manufacturers of
the devices.

It's a pay-to-play system for a system that doesn't exist out there, that we have developed in a completely different direction. If you listened to Secretary Jaenichen this morning, he said we're very good at developing -filling holes and developing systems that are very safe and economical and efficient in our industry.

But the RTCM has now thrown a wrench into that. I can't stand here and say that they have a conflict of interest, but I can say that

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { they have a pecuniary interest in what they got } \\
& \text { to design or to recommend on a design. The } \\
& \text { reason } I \text { know that is } I \text { heard it last week at } \\
& \text { this same conference that Matt referred to. It } \\
& \text { was said multiple times that without our market, } \\
& \text { without the U.S. fleet of vessels to develop that } \\
& \text { system that they designed that doesn't -- that } \\
& \text { they recommend be designed and built for us, they } \\
& \text { probably wouldn't build it. That tells me it's } \\
& \text { all about the money with the manufacturers. } \\
& \text { That's the same guys who sit on the RTCM. I } \\
& \text { would recommend, No. 1, that you look at the } \\
& \text { appropriateness of relying on a group that has a } \\
& \text { special interest in what they're recommending to } \\
& \text { the Coast Guard for us to use in this country. } \\
& \text { It goes back to exactly what the }
\end{aligned}
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Well, guess what?
They're going to get to sell them.

But he has the same problem. He has a poor technical system and a bad business model. We have developed systems in this country that work. So I would recommend that the Coast Guard immediately drop the idea that they need to rely on the RTCM 109 standard and proceed forth with a recommendation that they accept what we have put tens of thousands of dollars into developing. It's a safe, reliable system. Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank you for your
comment. Are there any further questions from the general public? Mr. McWhorter.

MR. MCWHORTER: Tom MCWhorter, actually member of MERPAC. I just kind of want to tack on what the training aspect, what we looked at MERPAC. Matt, you did a great job, your committee, on peeling back the onions.

Because we were told why we left $D$ out of there is don't even worry about $D$, from the Coast Guard, because we don't think it even has a
chance to become approved.


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But if you look at the training elements, there's basically 12, easily could be adopted, I think, right into whether D is a system or not, which then also fits right into Subchapter $M$ on how that training is recorded. I just wanted to make that comment.


MEMBER LAGARDE: Again, we didn't want to re-create the whole thing here. The committee members felt that the work of MERPAC was admirable and relevant, so there was no sense in trying to go back across the top of that. Originally, when we first started talking about everything, the ideas that came out of the 15-03 committee were almost exactly in line with the ideas that came out of the MERPAC committee. When we really went back and looked at it, we just pulled the 92 report.

I've got a copy of it off the Homeport website. When we went back and reviewed it, it's in line with what we're thinking. We just wanted to make sure we captured the stuff that was not

identified system wise in the MERPAC report.
questions from the general public regarding Mr.
Lagarde's report? I have a couple of process
questions, Mr. Lagarde. As the pathway forward,
as you stated in your report, a lot of this was
in flux up through last week, in terms of the
eNav conference and finalizing the report that
was first presented for the first time to the
full TSAC committee for consideration.
At this point, all the members have
received a copy of the report. You're looking
for feedback back from us no later than November
4th, in order to finalize these recommendations
and finalize the report. Then at some point in
the near future, we would look to host an
intercessional meeting, where the committee could
accept the report in a final format. Is that
your --
MEMBER LAGARDE: That is correct,
Chairman. My intent is to try to have a
finalized report -- again, the substance of the

system that may also be on many workboats, as
well, in terms of extra monitors and equipment.

I think it may be worthwhile for us to consider that as one of the backup options, in the event of a failure of the primary ECS system, that you may be able to use that as an alternate to complete a voyage, until such time as the equipment can be repaired.

Very similar to what we do with maintenance and reporting of equipment failures today, a voyage doesn't terminate just because of the loss of marine radar or echo sounding device or any of the other navigation safety equipment, that the mariner can still continue the voyage, maybe use that as a backup, which will prevent us from filling up a wheelhouse, where we want clear view of the outside of the wheelhouse, with additional monitors and equipment.

MEMBER LAGARDE: I believe I covered
that in the discussion and also in the recommendations. The RTCM requirements for the nav computers require that nothing else can be on the computer. It can't be connected to the


From the office, $I$ can go out and look at the entire fleet of boats and see who's out of date, and we can correct that problem. Secondly, the company computer that you speak of, in the Rose Point systems, that computer talks to the



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transparency, valuable for us to publish this for
some period of time on Homeport and share it with
the public that's been here, that had an
opportunity to come and see this, before we make
any final -- take any final action by the
committee. That's just been our precedent in the
past. I leave that, obviously, to the discretion
of the committee.
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MEMBER CROOKS: Thank you. I just want to pass my congratulations to Matt and his subcommittee. They did a really good job on this task. I think that what he said at the outset about initially thinking that this was going to be an easy task, I think a lot of us thought the same way. It certainly turned out to be much more complicated, as it seems it happens very often.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank YOu, Mr.

Crooks. Just as another point of order, usually, before TSAC's going to accept a final, in our Federal Register Notice, we normally let the public know ahead of time that we plan to vote to


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accept a final report, as that becomes part of the agenda, so that the public has a chance to comment on that.


I think the pathway moving forward, my recommendation to the committee would be that we continue to proceed with a review of the existing document by members, get feedback back to Mr. Lagarde. Then as soon as possible, we'll schedule with the DFO for an intercessional meeting where, once we've already read the report, we've seen his presentation, it will be very easy for us to move forward and accept that as a final report, and then be able to transmit that on to Admiral Thomas for further action. Thank you, Mr. Lagarde, absolutely fabulous report, very comprehensive. I appreciate your passion that you have exhibited in developing these reports and conclusions and recommendations. Thank you, again, appreciate that.

MEMBER LAGARDE: Thank you.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Lagarde also
was able to get us back on our agenda time. This is a very in-depth report. It was very comprehensive. We're within minutes of a break that is necessary for some FACA training for the TSAC members. This is a requirement of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

What we intend to do is the committee will remain here for a training session starting immediately with our FACA representative. That will allow the public an extended lunch period. As currently laid out in our agenda, we are planning to reconvene after lunch, at 1300 , with a presentation from Mr. Luke Harden. At this point, we will break for lunch. The committee members will remain here for our FACA training. Thank you.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled meeting went off the record at 11:23 a.m. and went back on the record at 1:04 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Our DFO kind of tapped the mic. We got you all. We didn't bring our bell or gavel here to ring us back to order,
but welcome back from lunch. During our FACA
training, we had some lively discussion on the
process of reports and how do we act on those?
It was brought up at the end of our training that
we might wish to reconsider the committee action
on the ECS that we were discussing earlier. with
that, I'll just ask if there's any further
discussion from members or any motions regarding
our pathway forward regarding the electronics
charting system? Ms. Terral.
I think I'd like to have a few days to review the
document, rather than move forward with it at
this time.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: What I'm hearing is

I have a motion on the floor to continue to -for the committee to work on reviewing the document. Do I have a second on that motion?

PARTICIPANT: I'll second that motion, yes.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: I have a second on the motion for the committee to continue a

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further review of Mr. Lagarde's report on the
electronic charting system. Any further
discussion?
    MEMBER MYSKOWSKI: Just a question.
What's the concern? It seems like it was pretty
well covered.
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Ms. Terral?
    (Simultaneous speaking.)
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Kress.
    MEMBER KRESS: I'm sorry; Steve Kress.
I'd like to recover it.
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Ms. Terral, it's
your motion, so the question directed to the
Chair.
    MEMBER TERRAL: I'd like to review the
full document, and I'd like to stiffen up our
recommendations just a little bit, to clarify our
recommendations just a little bit.
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay. Mr. Kress,
you're recognized. Any other discussion from
members? We have a motion on the floor to
continue to keep the matter tabled for review,
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assuming that we would continue on the pathway that we had described previously, before lunch, continue on review, get comments back to Mr. Lagarde.


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He's looking for a deadline by November 4 th to provide comments back, and the committee will move forward, then, to schedule for an intercessional when the report's completed


 for acceptance by the full committee. We don't have a date on that yet. We'll get comments to Matt and see what he can do to --VICE CHAIRMAN JOHANSSON: The updated report is reflected by the comments that we made today? Eric Johansson; I'm sorry. Thank you, Matt, I'm asking that the updated report, reflective of the routes and all that other stuff, you'll have that to us --

MEMBER LAGARDE: Matt Lagarde with TSAC. The copy I sent out last night to the members had the route corrections in it. It had some additional stuff on cybersecurity, and some other comments that were after the conversations

(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any opposed, say nay.
(No audible response.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Hearing none
opposed, are there any abstentions?

MEMBER LAGARDE: I will abstain from that.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Lagarde, it's noted that he abstains. With that, we'll continue moving forward for -- Mr. Harden, apologize. We had a little bit of administrative business to get on, but we're pretty much right back on the schedule.

At this point, we have a question and
answer presentation from the Mariner

Credentialing Program and the standup of the Coast Guard Headquarters Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing. Mr. Luke Harden, I think many of us already know Mr. Harden, and we're very pleased to have you here today.

PRESENTATION, QUESTION AND ANSWER ON THE MARINER

## CREDENTIALING PROGRAM-STAND OF CG HEADQUARTERS

## OFFICE OF MERCHANT MARINER CREDENTIALING

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                            MR. HARDEN: Thank you very much. My
name is Luke Harden, as they said, and I'm from
the Office of Merchant Mariner Credentialing.
This is a new office, as of July 1, 2016,
although I'm not sure if that was the official
standup date, but that's the date we started
working as a full office. As many of you know,
I've been involved with the towing industry, at
least the regulatory side of it, since 1999, and
prior to that as an REC chief in St. Louis,
Missouri.
In the past, the organizational
structure for my office worked under two different directors, under Captain Gifford at 5PC, and Mr. Lantz of 5PS. Basically, we had the regulatory side that worked under one director, and the policy and implementation side that worked under another director. This caused some organizational challenges.
The office consolidated under one
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director, currently Mr. Lantz, at 5PS, underneath
the admiral. Now we have a single office at
Coast Guard Headquarters that deals with
credentialing matters. The regulatory and policy
group are both working together. Currently,
that's under Ms. Medina, who is acting office
chief. Here's our rationale. We were looking at
giving better customer service because we
recognize that there was some disconnect,
sometimes, between the regulatory side and the
policy side. Also, when you came to me with a
question, I would coordinate my answer with the
regulatory side. Sometimes, that all worked --
it was jumping through hoops to get that done.
The other is we're looking at consistency. We're
looking at a single director who's dealing with
all issues.
    On the appeal matters, it's the same
director who's also working on the information
for the National Maritime Center, who's also
working on the regulatory issues. Then
efficiency, just because we had some duplication
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on regs, but you guys have been around long enough, you know we can't talk about regs that are in process, other than what's on the list of regulations. You're aware that we've published 24 NVICs for STCW, which shouldn't impact a lot of you all.


We also have published NVIC 03-16, which did impact all of you all, and then RFPEW, which, again, is an STCW NVIC that changed. We are looking at doing more changes to the STCW NVICs. I'm not going to talk about that. We're also going to be working on a policy letter for Tankerman PIC for towing vessels. We're also working on revising the guidelines on medical evaluations for mariners. If you have questions on any matters, you can go to either one of those email addresses. The MMC policy is just asking policy questions. That gets to a generalized email mailbox, where anyone can pull it. The STCWASK one is if you have questions on STCW NVICs. Then if you have an application question, a specific question about an individual's


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application, that goes to the National Maritime Center.


If you send it to us, if we smell that it's a specific application, we will ask you to contact the National Maritime Center because it's inappropriate for us to get involved too early in the process. Speaking of the process, we have the appeal process, which hasn't really changed. The only thing that has changed is final agency action.

It's going to Mr. Lantz, instead of Captain Gifford. Additionally, now, instead of the appeals going through the National Maritime Center -- in the past, as you'll recall, the application went to the National Maritime Center, reconsideration went to the National Maritime Center, and then appeals would go to the National Maritime Center, and they would package everything up and send to headquarters. Now, the process is the application goes to the National Maritime Center, the reconsideration goes to the National Maritime Center, but the appeal comes


trying to -- how do you make it work? Two of the offices we give it to are lawyers, so that means probably half the comments come from the lawyers. Those are harder to resolve than standard questions because they ask questions like should it be vessel or boat? It just takes a longer time. We're in the process -- they're getting close. They've been drafted there. They've been in the review for a while.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any other questions
by members? Mr. Richmond.

MEMBER RICHMOND: Ray Richmond, TSAC.

You mentioned briefly NVIC 03-16. Can you
clarify the grandfathering for what will now be the firefighting requirement?

MR. HARDEN: Can I clarify? I thought
it was pretty clear in the NVIC. Now, we were having a discussion back in the back there, and it might not be as clear as I thought it was. Basically, if you hold -- if you held master or mate as of 2014, you don't have to get firefighting.

If you started towards mate by 2014, then you -- as I recall, you don't have to get firefighting, or if you were transitioning from mate to master as of March 2014, you don't have to do firefighting ever. That's a one-time only training. That being said, I know there's some disagreements because there are some people who say you start towards master your first day on a towboat. I respect the people who tell me that, and $I$ respectfully disagree that when $I$ wrote the regs back in 2001 and established apprentice mate, apprentice mate is the gateway towards mate, or is the gateway towards master towing limit itself.

You don't start towards mate or master
until you get that apprentice mate. I know there'll be people who disagree, and I respect that. I would refer you to mmcpolicy@uscg.mil if you want to send a question, if you want to send another question on that go ahead.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Vitt.

MEMBER VITT: I'm Mike Vitt, from

TSAC. Mr. Harden, nice to see you again.

MR. HARDEN: Nice to see you. MEMBER VITT: I've got a question about the same NVIC, nothing to do with firefighting. There are some errors in the TOAR lineup for common elements, specifically Western Rivers, high wind is, $I$ think, missing. Is the high wind requirement inland, but not in the Western Rivers? Anyway, there's an issue there with some of the TOARs presented. Is there some way to fix that? I don't know how you can fix an attachment.

MR. HARDEN: All you do is send us an
email, let us know what -- identify where you think the errors are, and we'll put it on our list of NVICs to fix. I will apologize. It does take us time to get the changes done to the NVICs. We don't have a lot of people on staff, and we try to focus on appeals because those can impact livelihood.

Right now, $I$ have an individual who his sole job is working on revising NVICs or

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producing policy. It's getting tight enough
right now that I'm doing appeals. I'm drafting
appeals and drafting policy letters. If you
identify it, send it to the MMC policy email
address, we'll take that information and start
working on it.
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    MEMBER VITT: It's pretty exact, once
    I get in the sites. It's very obvious.

MR. HARDEN: Okay. No, I would
appreciate that. That's where -- it's just like
we said on all the NVICs we're putting out. Just
let us know where you see the errors, and we'll
fix them as soon as we can.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MEMBER VITT: Actually, Mr. Johansson
has the pinpoint, if you wish to look at it
later.
MR. HARDEN: Okay.
MEMBER VITT: The second thing I ask
is there were a number of approved courses that
are TOARs. G\&H Towing has one. Bisso Towboat
has one. E.N. Bisso has another. They're listed

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as approved courses. Recently, we went through
an additional approval process from MMC-2, I
believe it is. It came back approved, but the
verbiage we had requested did not return at all.
    We had asked for an extension of
route, which was apparently granted, at least
impliedly so. I'm really reluctant to send a
mariner into an area that is done by implication.
The geographic boundaries should be specific on a
limited license. With that in mind, the letter
said basically ask the cognizant OCMI. In this
instance, I know there's an OCMI at NMC. Is it
the OCMI at NMC? Is it the OCMI in Sector New
Orleans? They didn't identify that.
                                MR. HARDEN: That's where -- when it
comes to those local limited areas, those are
managed, as far as establishing what those local
limited areas -- the cognizant, that's the local
OCMI who has to deal with that. The NMC, if you
look at the regulations, it talks about the NMC
has the authorities of an OCMI. That's what it
says in the regulations.
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It does not say the NMC is an OCMI. It's language that only a lawyer could love. I'm not a lawyer. I don't like it at all because it leads to this area of confusion. In this case, while they can -- they have the authority to issue the credentials, which used to be an OCMI function, they still have to work with the local offices on these limited endorsements. They will work with the local sectors.

In this case, if they've kicked it back and said you have to get it cleared through the local sector, it sounds like they're asking you to go back to the sector and say can you approve this area, and then get that coordinated back. I respect the fact that you said you don't want to send someone into something based on implication. If you're getting back an approval that you don't agree with, that you think is inconsistent with your application, then you need to ask them to reconsider their decision and say we requested $X, Y$, and $Z$. Your approval gave us $X$ and $Y$. We believe you need to give us Z. You


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have to basically say please reconsider your decision. That's what you need to do on this case.


MEMBER VITT: I hear a two-pronged answer. Get the local OCMI to approve the verbiage?

MR. HARDEN: Approve the route.

MEMBER VITT: Okay, and then perhaps simultaneously ask MMC-2 to reconsider the wording of their approval --

MR. HARDEN: Yes.

MEMBER VITT: -- to be a little bit more clear. Right now, it's about as clear as the firefighting one that we just talked about. No, that's clearly not actually --

MR. HARDEN: No, you need to actually say -- you need them to reconsider their approval to explain -- to be based on what you've requested, as opposed to what they've granted. They may come back and tell you we didn't grant it. We gave you what you originally had, and we're not granting anything additional until such

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time as you give us the additional information.
That could be what their letter meant. I'm just
guessing.
                    MEMBER VITT: I understand. You
haven't seen the document, so I recognize that.
We added some tasks related to locking. My
request had something to do with locking in order
to get into a geographical area. I don't know
what the answer is. I'll clarify it both ways.
Presumably, it'll be faster than the, what, seven
or eight months it took to approve a TOAR that
was previously approved?
    MR. HARDEN: I would hope so.
    MEMBER VITT: Thank you. It's not
your fault, I realize. Thank you.
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Caliendo.
    MEMBER CALIENDO: Mike Caliendo with
TSAC. It's good to see you, Luke.
    MR. HARDEN: Good to see you.
    MEMBER CALIENDO: I would like to see
you at more meetings. My question is based on
what I've heard from the Coast Guard at some
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previous meetings and some of the recent policy
letters that have been issued by the Coast Guard,
it seems to me that the Coast Guard is beginning
to consider ATBs as a unit, as opposed to two
separate vessels, for a variety of reasons, which
may or may not make sense. However, do you see
where the combined tonnage of those units is ever
going to be recognized for qualifying service in
a way that benefits the mariners?
    MR. HARDEN: Yes, in part.
    MEMBER CALIENDO: Please explain.
    MR. HARDEN: I'm not a lawyer, and I
didn't stay at a Choice Hotel or whichever one it
is -- Comfort Inn, that's it. However -- Holiday
Inn, okay. We are counting time on ATBs. As you
look at the service time on ATBs, there are
various places in the regulations where we grant
some time towards the full unlimited tonnage, but
only a portion of it.
    I think up to 50 percent of the total
time will be counted. Then it's also dependent
upon what you're seeking. In some cases, it's a
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two for one credit; in some cases it could be one
for one. There's a lot of variables. You have
to look at the specific site to see how we're
applying it. We're working that way, but until
such time -- as you'll recall, ITBs were the only
combinations where we gave total credit, and that
was because the ITBs were outfitted and manned
comparable to a comparable conventional vessel.
Because of that, they got full credit. Since
there's two ITBs in the United States, those are
the only two that get one-for-one credit for all
the time. Did that answer your question, Mike?
                                    MEMBER CALIENDO: I think so. We
haven't seen anything but basically a flat denial
of credit for qualifying service on the combined
tonnage of the ATBs for the mariners who work for
us.
    MR. HARDEN: Complete denial of it?
    MEMBER CAIIENDO: That's what we've
seen on replies from the Coast Guard.
    MR. HARDEN: Ask for reconsideration.
Look at 11-217, I think it is, 211 is the reg
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> site that talks about the sea service that addresses the ATB time.

MEMBER CALIENDO: Okay, thank you.
MR. HARDEN: 10-232 also has some of
that language.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any further
questions for Mr . Harden from TSAC members? I'm going to say -- I have one -- okay, Mr. Lagarde, you're recognized.

MEMBER LAGARDE: Matt Lagarde with TSAC. Two things, in particular, that $I$ wanted to address, the difference in description of route with credentials versus the description of route elsewhere in regulations is a recurring problem with almost everything we deal with.

Whereas, we talk about Near Coastal, Inland, and Wester Rivers in one context, and we talk about lakes, bays, and sounds, oceans, coast wise in other regulations. In particular, there seems to be some breakdown in the definition of Western Rivers between the licensing regs and Subchapter M regulations, where the Western

Rivers include the Gulf Intracoastal Waterways.

As a mariner, as a company
representative, as a TSAC member, I'd like to see the Coast Guard get everything -- let's find a definition for stuff that we can apply across. I know it's a regulatory issue, but $I$ just want you guys to be aware of it.

MR. HARDEN: In regard to the definition of Western Rivers, that one's something $I$ would have to ask the drafters of Subchapter M. I would think we would use the same definition.

MEMBER LAGARDE: No, which brings us to a problem. The equipment is certified to run on a Western River, but the licensing is not. Another thing in Subchapter $M$ that came up, too, was the local OCMI ability to designate waterways within an area.

We have an area in New Orleans, the

Harvey Canal and Algiers Canals, in particular, that are inland waterways for the purpose of definition under waterways, but in reality, they
meet the criteria for a Western River.

Subchapter M gives the local OCMI the authority to designate those waterways. The question is from a credentialing standpoint, how does that play out? Can a Western Rivers mariner operate on that portion of inland waterway if the local OCMI designates it as such?

MR. HARDEN: At this time, I would not like to answer that just because I don't have -I would want to do some research before I answered that. On face value, $I$ would say if you have a Western Rivers and you're operating on Great Lakes Inland area, in an area that's considered Great Lakes and Inland, then I would say if $I$ were an IO, I would probably at least start investigating. Whether I would cite that operator or not, $I$ don't know. I haven't been an IO since the '80s. I would think you should have a credential for the route you're on.

The only area that's really -- there's
exceptions to the rules are in the pilotage waters of the lower Mississippi River. Then D-9
has some up in the rivers going into the Great Lakes. There's some exceptions to the rules up there.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, now it's time for the chairman's question. I have two, and that's a perfect dovetail off of Mr. Lagarde's. There is a continuing problem with identifying the Gulf of Mexico as a water that is creditable for sea service as either ocean or coastwise service once you depart the jetties.

Operating inside, shoreward of the boundary line, where our mariners get letters that basically say you're operating outside of the scope of your license with the Great Lakes and Inland route because you're on what would be considered coastwise service for the purposes of license time. There was a Policy Letter 12-01 many years ago that dealt with credit for the Gulf of Mexico for ocean or coastwise service. A mariner may be credentialed with an inland license, operate anywhere between Brownsville and Key West, Florida, which, in many other people's
eyes, would be considered a coastwise type
MR. HARDEN: Send me a copy of the
letter you get. Send me the copy of the sea
service letter you send them. Because it all
comes down to what's the definition of inland
waters. As most people know, the inland waters
for the Gulf of Mexico extend out 12 miles,
except off of certain portions of Florida, where
it can be as much as 25 miles. New England has
some of the same situations, where there's
waterways that the inland waters extend out past
what would be traditionally considered the

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boundary line. So unless people know that, then
it's likely the evaluators reviewing the service
may pick it up and say this looks like they're
operating beyond the boundary line.
                                    Just let me know when you run into
those problems. I'll coordinate with my
counterparts at the National Maritime Center and
say -- they'll do training. They do a lot of
training to make sure their evaluators understand
things. This may be one where they've just
missed it.
                            CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: In this case, it's
inverse. It's services inside of the boundary
line, which means we're in inland waters, but by
policy, the Coast Guard has said that water
operates like a Near Coastal route, so we want to
give you credit, if you operate in that area, for
some coastwise type service.
    It complicates the issue of service
time for completing the tour for Near Coastal
oceans tours or vice versa. If a mariner can't
get credit out there, you're not able to move
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that process along (Simultaneous speaking).
MR. HARDEN: So you're looking to get
credit, also, for the Near Coastal, as well?

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: As the policy
letter has -- since $12-01$ has been out authorizing that.

MR. HARDEN: Send me an email on mmcpolicy@uscg.mil.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: mmcpolicy letter.

MR. HARDEN: Who signed the policy
letter?

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Ernie.

MR. HARDEN: Okay.
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Yes, were outside
the scope. My second question -- I have a two-pronged question. There's a couple two-pronged questions. The new NVIC 03-16 regarding the TOAR lists a number of new items that may restrict mariner service or a restricted ability to serve -- if they don't complete the entire TOAR, they will have a restriction on their license.

But in many cases, a mariner need not, according to the existing law, turn in a TOAR, and they maybe carry that with creditable sea service. We're now forcing companies to be, basically, TOAR examiners. You have to go through and say this mariner is qualified on an inland water, but may not do downstreaming operations, or may not push a barge ahead. It seems as though we're continuing to complicate the issue associated with the licensing and manning of towing vessel officers by adding new tasks to the TOAR, which now will result in restrictions to mariners' ability to operate.

There are numerous areas that are inland waters, where there are no downstreaming operations undertaken, Galveston Bay, etc., except where you're not conducting downstreaming, which would be traditionally recognized under Subchapter $M$ or on the Western Rivers.

Now, a mariner will get a restricted license because he didn't do a downstreaming operation, and he's been operating in those
waters for an entire career. Now we'll say you can't operate in a downstreaming environment, or you can't go through a lock. What's our method to go back to this TOAR again? Is this a task that TSAC should comment back on to the Coast Guard, in terms of those issues relating to service on towing vessel operators?

MR. HARDEN: Yes, subject to the DFO and ADFO.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: That's why I put it on the record for you.

MR. HARDEN: And the sponsor.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Now that we are
done with member questions, unless that spurred any new questions, we'll ask if there are any questions from the public for Mr. Harden while we have him here? Mr. McWhorter.

MR. MCWHORTER: Tom McWhorter,

Maritime Services Group. Luke, great to have you here to publicly give us answers to questions that a lot of us -- like the firefighting that Ray had asked, that mariners prior to 2014 know
never have to take firefighting. They're
exempted. There still is a question that needs
to be clarified.
That is the issue with sea service,
and $I$ know you alluded to it. One, understanding
what our sea service is. I want to go back to
NVIC 02-14, which is STCW transit. I'm not an
STCW, at all, expert. You probably are, and many
in the room. Giving grandfathering privileges in
that NVIC basically stated service or training,
if you had that before 2014, qualified for
grandfathering. What you stated in NVIC 03-16,
it actually states service -- basically training.
You stated that didn't start until -- in your
opinion, until you received your apprentice mate.
However, when $I$ send in for my apprentice mate,
Coast Guard's going to ask me I need your 18
months of service time to qualify for apprentice
mate because that was your training time.
Then when $I$ send in for my pilot's
license, which is usually after a year, and the
records have already transferred out of the NMC,


There are many companies that hire


I can see you're shaking your head, which tells me that's not what's happening. What I'm saying is that apprentice mate starts the time -- once you hold the apprentice mate, that's what starts your time towards the next credential.

MR. MCWHORTER: Just one more comment. I guess that's how Coast Guard looks at it. That apprentice mate actually starts the time that $I$ can claim. It didn't start my training time. Some of these other operators may want to chime in here. Again, I understand what you interpreted, but how the industry works is training started before $I$ got the apprentice mate.

MR. HARDEN: I understand that. It's just like for cadet at a maritime academy. Their time as cadet goes toward their third mate or third assistant engineer. Their time towards their next level doesn't start until they hold that credential as an officer. It's the same -we look at it the same way, that it's the same

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sort of evaluation, even though at the maritime
academy, they may have already done some of their
management-level training, we still -- they don't
start the time towards management until they hold
that credential.
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CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any further
questions from the general public?
MR. BISH: A question and a statement.
In regard to the 50 percent time allowed for
ATBs, $I$ was in at a meeting about a year ago, we
had someone from NMC at the meeting. We talked
about the 50 percent time allowed for ATB. I
understand this is a double-edged sword, and we
tread lightly when we go to that area.

The statement was made that the ATB
time is only 50 percent because ATBs only operate
as ATBs 50 percent of the time. I said, "Where
do you get that?" She said, "This is what we've
deduced from what we see happening in the
industry." I wasn't the only person that spoke
up. I said, "That's not true." ATBs operate as
ATBs probably 90-95 percent of the time. It's

| just a very short time that they're not made up |
| :---: |
| disconnect in the Coast Guard about what is |
| actually taking place in industry with ATBs. |
| Maybe that license time should be re-evaluated |
| and looked at again. |
| Because we are denying people who have |
| deep sea licenses from maintaining their licenses |
| on vessels of the appropriate tonnage. Again, I |
| understand it's a double-edged sword, but there |
| does seem to be a disconnect within the Coast |
| Guard, itself, about what ATBs do and how long |
| they do it for as an ATB. |
| MR. HARDEN: Not having known who |
| spoke to you, nor -- |
| MR. BISH: I can get the name, but it |
| was about a year ago. |
| MR. HARDEN: Nevertheless, we |
| recognize the fact that most ATBs are operating |
| primarily as ATBs. They rarely operate as a |
| standalone tug. We understand that. The reason |
| we give a different evaluation is because an ATB |

we give a different evaluation is because an ATB

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is not a conventional vessel. Because it's not a
conventional vessel, we are only giving partial
credit for the service on an ATB. They're not
manned like a conventional vessel, nor do they
operate completely like a conventional vessel,
nor do they have all the equipment of a
conventional vessel. That's why we give a
partial credit. I understand there'll be some
disagreement there, but that's how we've come up
with the time on that. We can revisit it.
    MR. BISH: I think you need to revisit
because I think many ATBs are equipped as ships.
In fact, some have more than ships have on them.
The hours are different than a ship, obviously.
The level, the quality of the manning is
substantially higher than what it used to be,
say, even 15 years ago. It is an issue that
needs to be revisited because we do carry the
freight. We move that tonnage. Again,
understanding it's a double-edged sword. I think
it needs to be revisited.
MR. HARDEN: But as far as renewal
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time, if you get 12 months on an ATB, that's 12
months towards renewal. You can renew the
credential based on your service time, and the
service time is 12 months.
    MR. BISH: But if it only counts 50
percent towards an unlimited license --
    MR. HARDEN: You're right, but as far
as renewal of that unlimited license, you can
renew your unlimited license by showing 12
months' service time. Now, you can't -- the
upgrade becomes (Simultaneous speaking).
    MR. BISH: I understand.
    MR. HARDEN: -- obtaining the original
credential (Simultaneous speaking).
    MR. BISH: I think there's lack of
understanding in the industry, then, about the
renewal process. Either NMC's not crediting it
correctly for the renewal process, or there needs
to be -- maybe there needs to be some additional
guidance. I don't think the individuals
understand that.
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MR. HARDEN: If you can show me the


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circumstances, that would be helpful because it only takes being able to identify it to the people responsible, and they change their training and make sure their people understand.


MR. BISH: The second one's about the TOAR. At one time, we had a separate ATB TOAR that was approved by the Coast Guard. It eliminated some of the towing functions, and the license they issued was limited to ATB TOARs only, the master towing vessel or major towing vessel. Now that you've come out with a TOAR, in that language in the TOAR, it says Coast Guard will evaluate the TOAR and act accordingly and issue the credential accordingly. Do we need to put a preamble or some sort of statement when we submit that TOAR to the Coast Guard that this is for operations under ATB only, or will you deduce that from the lack of qualifications based on simple towing on the competencies?

MR. HARDEN: It would probably be helpful if you said this is for ATB only. The evaluators at the National Maritime Center,

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they're looking at a lot of different types of
vessels, so they --
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MR. BISH: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank You, Mr.

Harden. Any further questions? Ms. Taft.

MEMBER TAFT: I started working with
you on MEDMAC. Jill Taft, Kirby Inland Marine.

I have a question on towing vessel regulations in Subchapter M under manning, 15.535 has to do with towing and recency, acting as pilot on the lower Mississippi River. The paragraph in question, moving tank or hazardous material barges, to operate a towing vessel with tank barges, blah, blah, blah, Subchapter $N$ or O, "The officer in charge of the towing vessel must have completed at least 12 round trips over this route as observer, with at least three of those trips during hours of darkness. Must provide evidence to the Coast Guard upon request that at least one of these 12 round trips occurred within the last five years."

My question is for all of those


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counterparts in the reg drafting side of the house.
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MEMBER TAFT: Okay, thank you.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, no further questions for Mr. Harden. I want to thank you very much. Oh, we have one more. We've got to redirect. Tom, I'm going to have to call you on this at the end of this on your two minutes.

MR. MCWHORTER: Tom McWhorter,

Maritime Services Group. Luke, you had mentioned the PIC fueling you guys are working on. Can you share with us what the vision today is of what the Coast Guard's looking at from the letter of designation to -- is that system -- is there any way to keep that type of system? I've heard all kind of different aspects of the Coast Guard's thinking is the easy fix is to make an MMC with towing vessel or fueling. That's not the easy fix. That still creates a huge problem, as it was brought out that you're talking about tens of thousands of mariners that will require a TWIC on, plus this credential, and possibly even more


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going to change the regulations, we have to go
through a regulatory process to change the
regulations. As you're aware, some regulatory
rules take a long time to get done. I was just
looking back at the fact that the Tankerman PIC
rule took 15 years to get done, if any of you are
old enough to remember that rulemaking from start
to finish. Subchapter M took eight years?
                                    PARTICIPANT: Twelve.
                                MR. HARDEN: Twelve, okay. My rule,
the towing rule, seemed like it went light years,
and it took a decade. I don't think there's any
quick fix if we're going the regulatory pathway.
We're looking at developing policy. We're
looking at identifying grandfathering processes,
but that's -- we're looking at how do we proceed
with this.
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: All right. Thank
you, Mr. Harden. I appreciate you running the
gauntlet here today, taking the questions for
some of our TSAC members, and there was some
discussion on the ATBs. I point you to Paragraph
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\begin{aligned}
& \text { relating to the implementation of Subchapter M. } \\
& \text { This is the first report. There will probably be } \\
& \text { many. I'm certain Mr. Harden identified at least }
\end{aligned}
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recommendations of the subcommittee. There were
some specific items identified as disconnects in
the Marine Safety Manual. We collected those.
I'll move right to the recommendations. This is
the first set of recommendations that related to
the Marine Safety Manual. We are asking
confirmation that able seamen are not required on
towing vessels that are at measured below 100
gross registered tons. We are also asking
specifically -- in the MSM, there are some
paragraphs and tables that have apparent
disconnects. We've identified them. It relates
both to able seamen on towing vessels, it also
relates to licensed engineers. They were well
identified in the AWO submission, and we would
like to incorporate by reference that AWO letter
of September 13th as an enclosure to this report.
    No. }3\mathrm{ relates to almost the same
regulation that Ms. Taft was talking about. On
the lower Mississippi River, there is a
designation as pilotage water. One of the
problems with that is there's no definition found
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anywhere of what constitutes pilotage waters. There have been a number of problems related to meriting not only the record keeping portion that Ms. Taft identified, but also for what actually constitutes pilotage waters.

The Federal Register cites in that regulation do not give you the answer. Going back further, we found the source of that particular language. I asked that to be identified in the Marine Safety Manual, so that the OCMIs or IOs that have a question about service on that route know exactly what the boundaries are. I did identify the source. It's in the body of the report. We have a considerable difficulty with the terms that are used in Subchapter $M$, the terms that are used in Subchapter B, related to the licensing, and some difficulty with Subchapter $N$, in terms of lifesaving.

The route structure do not conform well. You can be coastwise for purposes of stability. You can be coastwise for purposes of




There's some difficulty with figuring out how much automation do you need to reduce manning? It's sort of left in the purview of the OCMI that's issuing the certificate of inspection. The problem with that is that there's so many different types of towing vessels and so many levels of automation. But even so, there could be a minimum standard, such as the listing in Subchapter $M$, for example, of the required monitoring and alarm.

At least that would provide a uniform application across the United States. If you have these things, you only need -- you don't need an engineer if you're below 4,000 horsepower or sailing on this particular route or whatever the issue might be. It would also provide the companies a place of argument, that you could refer to a particular source that's out in the public domain, "Wait a minute, Mr. Inspector, you're wrong," or, "Ms. Inspector, you're wrong. It's here in the Marine Safety Manual that if I have XYZ, my manning can be this particular
level." There are additional disparities with
the COI and routes on a mariner's MMC. That
relates back to the coastwise, limited coastwise
routes that would be on a coI.

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\text { I can expect for a couple of years or }
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more afterward, there'd be some difficulty with
enforcement of routes and licensing, so we ask
that there's a reference at hand for that, which
relates back to No. 4. Then last thing that we
talked about for the Marine Safety Manual is that
it be announced when it's promulgated, so the
changes are noticeably in the public domain, as
opposed to being changed and, if you can find it,
good luck to you.
putting stuff on the web. We applaud that, but I
think the outreach needs to be further. The most
significant import of this report related to the
person in charge of fuel transfers on towing
vessels. We asked that Coast Guard refer back to
the work that was done as far back as 1998
the Coast Guard's pretty good about

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under-inspected towing vessels. Some of the
thought that went into that process should assist
in promulgating a new policy. It would help to
look back to see the historical reasons of why it
was necessary. We need to continue to examine
that issue.
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You heard Mr. Harden saying policy was being generated. That's what we're referring to, that that continue and that the public continue their discourse with the Coast Guard. Then we need -- the policy guidance, itself, has got to be clear enough that it's understood across the board by all segments of the towing vessel industry.

There's some difficulties as it relates to towing vessels that do not handle red flags, for example. A Western Rivers towboat that only handles barges full of sand, the only people required to have an MMC would be the master and the pilot. That's a problem if that unlicensed engineer were the person in charge by letter of designation, but didn't hold the TWIC,

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because that's not required either, and certainly
doesn't hold an MMC. What do you do about that
population? In the preamble of Sub M, it had a
fairly limited number of mariners that would be
affected by this. As it turns out Ms. Warder
said tens of thousands. I'm not sure about that,
but I know it's somewhere between 3,000 to at
least 4,500, maybe 5,000, minimum. I'm sure
there are more. It's a big population.
    If there were a demand for issuance of
MMCs, it would be a burden on the National
Maritime Center. That, Mr. Chairman, is the sum
of the report and the recommendations that were
made by the subcommittee. We certainly thank the
public for their input, and AWO and AMSA for
their input, and ask if there's any questions now
about this report?
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank you, Mr.
Vitt. With that, I would ask if there any
members of the TSAC committee who have any
questions for Mr. Vitt regarding the
subcommittee's Report No. 1?
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CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank you. Any
other questions? We are fortunate, today, in that our executive sponsor is also a member of the TOPOCO, so he likes to use his acronyms. For those of you -- we're not supposed to use acronyms. I think it's the Towing Policy Council within Coast Guard headquarters. He's asked for a moment to speak to us on this issue. With that, $I$ 'm going to turn it over to Captain Kelly. CAPT. KELLY: Yes, this is Captain Kelly. Good afternoon, again, everybody. The sad irony of that acronym is you all weren't supposed to hear it ever, at all, ever, ever, ever, ever. Anyway, nonetheless, yes, I am part of it. I actually had a question. I know we just gave it to you this week, but $I$ wanted to know if you all had had a chance to look at the TPO guidebook and had any comments you were willing to offer at all?

MEMBER VITT: I have a suggestion.

The TPO guidebook is of great importance to more than the members of this committee. I'd ask that

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the chairman consider assigning that as a tasking
to the subcommittee that currently exists to
handle such questions, so that we can get some
public debate and comment about that. I think we
can fast track that and get that information to
you as a Report No. 2.
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CAPT. KELLY: May I motion yes?
Probably a FACA rule violation there, but I agree
with that.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We will take a floor action.

CAPT. KELLY: Yes, I would call out, in the original task statement, it does say that we were going to provide additional reports to you all. On that note, I'll just pick it up for all of you. What we intended to provide was the TPO guidebook earlier.

Because of the way the process works, we just delivered it to you. What we also intend to do, if you look at the task statement, it does mention that there's other reports. They're going to be the other enclosures in the NVIC.


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There are a couple things, when you look at the TPO guidebook, you'll notice that there's a couple of key compliance questions that have been asked by you all that are in that pile of questions that Captain Gifford referred to earlier.


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We have put those questions to the compliance guidebook. What the current plan is, in this dynamic, is you have a TPO guidebook first, which is an effort to get the TSMS system running as quickly as possible, so we put it out to start the framework, and it's dynamic. We plan to update it as we need to, based on your feedback through the NCOE -- Jacie's here. The next guidebook that you should see is something we're calling a TSMS compliance guidebook, which is going to answer some of the questions we've received about TSMS, itself, how it would work.

The third document that we need to deliver, I'm not sure if that's going to go to the public, but we need to deliver a document to our own marine inspectors about how they're going


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to deal with vessels that are in the TSMS option
for towing vessels. That is the current plan.
We would, of course, appreciate -- if you look at
the implementation schedule that we've set forth,
we're all challenged to work quickly together,
get your feedback on the TPO guidebook, working
within the rules of the FACA.
    Whether we have an interim of dialogue
or not, that would be probably helpful. Then
just to let you know ahead of time that literally
next week, now that TSAC is done, we're getting
right to work on reforming with the NCOE. We
have an internal group of people that get
together once in a while. We'll be looking at
the TSMS compliance guidebook next, to put that
out as quickly as possible, as well. What the
FACA allows us to do is to give it to you, and
then we'll also, simultaneously -- it's delivered
to you as part of a task statement, so it's put
on Homeport, as well, for folks to see. We would
ask that you accommodate people's questions as
they feed them through to the FACA.
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CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank you, Captain

Kelly. With that, any questions from the general public for Mr. Vitt regarding Report No. 1 from the Subchapter M implementation subcommittee? Hearing none, at this point, Mr. Vitt, that report, as $I$ understand it, is ready for -MEMBER VITT: Prime time.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: -- presentation and acceptance by the full committee. I would entertain a motion from a committee member to accept the report, as drafted.

MEMBER TAFT: So moved.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We have a motion by

Ms. Taft. I'm looking for a second.

MEMBER RICHMOND: Second.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We have a second
from Mr. Ray Richmond. Is there any further discussion on accepting Report No. 1 for forwarding to the Coast Guard from Subchapter M implementation, Task No. 16-01? Hearing no further discussion, $I$ will call for a vote on the motion. At this time, all those in favor, say
aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: All those opposed,
say nay.
(No audible response.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Hearing none
opposed, are there any abstentions?

MEMBER VITT: There are. I abstain.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Vitt recognizes
an abstention. Therefore, the motion carries,
and we will prepare the final transmittal letter to send the first report of the Subchapter M implementation team. As Captain Kelly mentioned, and per our guidance from Task No. 16-01, we have been presented with the TPO guidebook.

Mr. Vitt, moving forward, that's a new
task for your subcommittee to provide guidance back to the Coast Guard expediently as we can do. At this point, thank you, Mr. Vitt, for your hard work and continued effort on that task. We will now hear a report from the subcommittee concerning recommendations regarding firefighting

> training requirements for officer endorsements for master or mate pilot of towing vessels, except apprentice mate steersmen of towing vessels in inland service, Task No. 16-02. Our subcommittee chair is Mr. Mike Rushing.
> RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FIREFIGHTING TRAINING

REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFICER ENDORSEMENTS FOR MASTER

OR MATE (PILOT) OF TOWING VESSELS, EXCEPT

APPRENTICE MATE (STEERSMAN) OF TOWING VESSELS

IN INLAND SERVICE (TASK NO. 16-02)

MEMBER RUSHING: Thank you. I'm Mike Rushing, Rushing Marine, representing the general public. I have the enjoyable task of trying to help manage this firefighting training task that we have, Task 16-02. Can you all hear me okay? PARTICIPANT: Yes.

MEMBER RUSHING: Okay. I want to start by saying this is -- essentially, it's a brownwater issue. It affects inland mariners and Western Rivers mariners and their credentials. We'd like to ask that the members of this committee respect the expertise of the seven

| members of the committee that have brownwater |
| :---: |
| background and experience, as we address this |
| task going forward. We had a meeting yesterday. |
| It involved 31 people. We spent several hours |
| working in a breakout session. I think we've |
| come to several conclusions. We continued to |
| work some yet this morning, too, but we're not |
| ready to make a formal report to the committee. |
| I can give you some ideas of some of what was |
| considered and where I think we might be headed. |
| We're going to have another meeting -- |
| we'll continue to work with the committee through |
| conference calls and emails between now and the |
| end of November. We intend to schedule another |
| meeting for November 30th of our committee, at |
| New Orleans, in conjunction with the Work Boat |
| Show. Arrangements for that have not been set up |
| yet, but will be. |
| We're hoping to include some of the |
| members from MERPAC into that meeting. Our |
| overall goal here is to try to end up with one |
| report from both committees, so that it would |

report from both committees, so that it would
maybe carry a little more weight and be simpler
for the Coast Guard to manage. I don't know that
can happen, but it's something that we want to
try to make happen. I think where we are right
now is that we understand that this is an issue
about credentialing for mariners that have a
national endorsement, not mariners that have an
STCW endorsement. Therefore, the expectation to
do training based on the STCW may not have,
really, any impact on the outcome of this report.
I expect that we'll probably end up with offering
several options.
One of those options might be an
approved training program and a syllabus for what
that approved training program might include. In
addition to that, maybe an option for a Coast
Guard accepted program that might provide the
same level of training as what the approved
training would provide, and then thirdly, an
option to take it to an approved TSMS, also with
the expectation that it would address the same
level of training that would be required by the

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\begin{aligned}
& \text { other two training programs. } \\
& \text { That's what's been discussed. That's } \\
& \text { the majority of what's been on the table and is } \\
& \text { on the table at this moment. It's going to get } \\
& \text { massaged quite a bit between now and November. } \\
& \text { Hopefully, we'll have a good representation at } \\
& \text { the November meeting, where we can be face to } \\
& \text { face and work with the group to further resolve } \\
& \text { this issue. Our expectation at the moment is to } \\
& \text { goes down, what do the two deckhands or ABs } \\
& \text { still be able to come back to the spring meeting } \\
& \text { memaining on that boat, how do they know what to } \\
& \text { with a final report. That's our hope and our } \\
& \text { crew? As a shipper, I've got a lot of tows } \\
& \text { intent. That's where we are today. } \\
& \text { officer endorsements. what } \\
& \text { you, Mr. Rushing. Are there any questions for } \\
& \text { Mr. Rushing from the TSAC members? Mr. Fewell. }
\end{aligned}
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do?

MEMBER RUSHING: We have training
requirements for the rest of the crew. Actually, in my mind, that includes the master and the mate pilot, also. In 46 C.F.R. Part 27 , it requires training -- I'm not going to be able to quote it all, but training, essentially, over all of the firefighting equipment that's on the vessel. Whatever's on the vessel, they require training of, training for how to shut off the ventilation, how to close off the spaces, how to activate the fixed fire system, if there is a fixed system. I think that's probably the bulk of it. There may be another item or two, but that's the requirement for monthly training and monthly drills to actually practice fighting a fire in the engine room and other spaces onboard the vessel and practice that using all of the equipment that's on the vessel.

That's a monthly requirement for
training. It's a monthly requirement for drills.

That same amount of information is reiterated in

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Subchapter M with one small addition. Subchapter
M continues on with what was required since 2004
with 46 C.F.R. Part 27.
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CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Vitt.

MEMBER VITT: One of the things we're missing there is that -- Mike Vitt for TSAC. Can everybody hear me?
(Simultaneous speaking.)

MEMBER VITT: All right, I'm live and
in color. Mr. Rushing, a lot of the inland tows on the Western Rivers and other places have tankermen that ride the boat, correct?

MEMBER RUSHING: Yes, there are
vessels that have tankermen. Usually, those are liquid tows that they're dedicated tows to the public, but there are some boats with tankermen, yes.

MEMBER VITT: Those individuals, in order to have a tankerman PIC barge, have to have a firefighting course. They have already completed firefighting training. I wanted to let you know that, so that you wouldn't have the

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impression that no one in the crew, below the
Officer rank, has training in firefighting.
That's not the case. A great deal of mariners
who handle red flag barges do have firefighting
training.
    MEMBER RUSHING: There also are a
number of towing vessels that do not have
tankermen, that have tank barges in tow, that
they use shore tankermen, so there's no guarantee
that just because there's a tank barge in tow,
there will be a tankerman on board.
    MEMBER VITT: Understood. That's
basically the company's business practice,
whatever that might be.
    MEMBER RUSHING: Yes, sir.
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Lagarde.
    MEMBER LAGARDE: I would also offer
that fire training for the deck crew and for the
wheelhouse is also a requirement of AWO's
Responsible Carrier Program. The AWO members
will also have, as part of their TSMS -- it will
be a TSMS -- some portion of a training
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requirement that's already involved in the
company-specific training requirement, although
it's not going to be, necessarily, a Coast Guard
approved third-party option, and probably doesn't
necessarily need to be.
training required by RCP is more comprehensive
than what the training in Part 27 -- it does get
into the theory of fire and some of those others,
the management. It also gets into fire
prevention, none of which are mentioned in the
regulation. The regulation's all about using the
equipment and fighting the fire, hands-on sort of
things.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Myskowski. MEMBER MYSKOWSKI: Chris Myskowski with TSAC. It's kind of a question, I guess, for you, Mr. Chairman, being new to TSAC, and maybe it's a procedural or scope issue for this committee. One of the discussions Mr. McWhorter brought up was this idea of when does the service begin to be counted. Is that something that the

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subcommittee could make a recommendation on to
the Coast Guard, or would that be outside the
scope of that document? That will impact who
gets -- who would be required to get the basic
firefighting training.
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: NO, as a point of
order, I believe our vetting committee had
already identified a gap in the tasking statement
that did not leave us -- we usually ask the Coast
Guard for an out that says, "And any other
recommendations that the committee looked for."
I'm pretty sure we added that item in our task
statement. That already exists. The
subcommittee actually can move forward and
address any other issues that are identified by
the subcommittee in the process of working
through the task statement.
    MEMBER MYSKOWSKI: Okay. Then I'd
just ask Mr. McWhorter, I guess, that you address
that through MERPAC, as well, and we'll work with
you on that. Thank you.
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any other questions
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from members for Mr. Rushing and the inland
firefighting task? At this point, I'll open it
up to the general public in attendance for any
questions regarding the progress on this task
statement. We would continue to encourage our
members of the public to continue to participate.
Most of the bulk of this work, as this is our
final progress report, is not done at these
meetings today.
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    It's done behind the scenes, with the
    participation of many, many different members are
participating across the industry. We would
continue to encourage that and reach out to any
of the subcommittee chairs that are currently
working on any of these tasks, so that we can get
your comments and feedback and be able to
incorporate those into the deliberations of the
committee. With that, Mr. Rushing, we look
forward to the progress report and continued
progress on this task and a final report for the
spring meeting.

MEMBER RUSHING: Okay, thanks to
everyone for your input. We appreciate it.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, at this point, we're running a little bit ahead of schedule, so we're going to go ahead and take a 15-minute break because we've been running since lunch. We will reconvene here at 2:45 p.m. At that point, we're going to take up new business tasking that we have another task statement on the agenda. Hold on one second. I got a whisper in my ear, and our executive sponsor had a comment.

Unfortunately, he has got to leave us a little early today, and we want to make sure that we get that on the record while he's here. We very much appreciate the hard work that both Captain Kelly and Commander Perez do for us to move the process along for TSAC.

CAPT. KELLY: This is Captain Kelly. I guess $I$ better have something to say now. I was just trying to say thanks, $I$ have to go, but next time I'll just sneak out behind him. Actually, unfortunately, $I$ do have to go. I just didn't want you all to think $I$ just disappeared.


#### Abstract

I want to say thank you to everybody for coming here once again, like $I$ said this morning, and let you know that obviously, we recognize the great work and all the discussion that we value here today. I just want to highlight a couple things that $I$ really am happy to hear about. I think Admiral Thomas -- I know he mentioned this at NOSAC, and I know I mentioned this the last time at TSAC about trying to find opportunities to leverage the work of the FACAs that are going together. I'm really happy to hear the potential opportunity for MERPAC and TSAC to have a combined rapport.

I think that combined voice is much more powerful, and it really gives us a greater opportunity in the Coast Guard to leverage that when we move forward with whatever issue we're working on. I just also wanted to beat the drum again one more time about the importance of your work and your help with Subchapter M. I know we just delivered another guidebook here, but the reason why it's so important is that this is not


just about towing vessels.
paradigm shift in the Coast Guard in the way we're approaching our regulations. We are going to be talking to NOSAC next week in Houston about safety management systems, which very much parallels the work that we're doing with Subchapter M. The reason why it's so important and it's a paradigm shift is because what we're trying to do is to embrace a new focus. If you look at the way the Coast Guard typically regulates, or an authority having jurisdiction, a building code official, if you're a fire person, like myself, you get together and you try to put together, as the authority having jurisdiction, your requirements. You usually, typically, fall upon prescriptive requirements.

You agree upon, for example, the size of that door, this is the size door we need. You never think about it until there's a fire and you realize how small that door is when you're trying to run out. But somebody, somewhere, came up

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& \text { with a prescriptive requirement for the size of } \\
& \text { that door. }
\end{aligned}
$$

Then 40 years later, the nature of these multi-purpose rooms have changed, and the function has changed, but because you have a prescriptive requirement, you cannot change the size of that door. What we're trying to do here, in the regulations, with the safety and management system, is start a paradigm shift. I don't know how familiar you are with performance-based requirements and how challenging they are, but what this is really about is us to put our toe in the water here, to borrow the joke from earlier today, about -- as soon as we introduce requirements -- as a regulator, and as a mariner, and as a receiver of those requirements, it's great. That's my bottom line, and that's what it should be. It's your floor. Most quality companies exceed those requirements.

But they do become your challenge because they can't maintain pace with what you're

doing. The idea here is to create an umbrella that values and brings in what the quality companies are already doing and recognizes that. As we talked about earlier, if you have a properly implemented safety management system, you're going to have more continuous operations. You're going to be less likely to have an accident. You'll be less likely to see the regulator, and you'll be rewarded. It'll allow us to focus our resources on higher risks. I just wanted to be transparent with you that what we're doing with the towing vessel regulations is hard. You can see that. It's sort of dynamic, how we flush out the interpretation, how we really implement it. It's because it's a paradigm shift, both for the industry and for the Coast Guard. I would just ask that you continue to communicate with us and try to help us become more competent as possible about a safety management system, what it means, so we can teach our inspectors to do what $I$ just said, which is to reward those in industry that are exceeding
our regulations and requirements and help us
focus on the highest risks, where they're needed,
so that you can have safer, more uninterrupted
operations.

I think it's better for everybody. I just kind of wanted to call that out for everybody and, once again, thank everybody for their focus, and thank you for your patience as we work through, again, a real different change to how we're doing it.

If we're successful, we will have changed not only how we're regulating towing vessels, but we're going to be walking that into the rest of the industry. In fact, I'm doing it next week with the offshore industry. Okay? Thank you, and enjoy the rest of the day.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We'll stick with it. It's a ten-minute break now. We're going to come back quarter to.
(Whereupon, the above-entitled meeting
went off the record at 2:35 p.m. and went back on the record at 2:50 p.m.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: One change to the agenda is the presenter on this particular new business tasking. On our agenda, it said it was our DFO, but we're actually having the chairman of our vetting committee take us through the task, which, of course, is approved by the DFO to make this change.

With that, I'm going to turn it over to Mr. Johansson, who's going to present on the recommendations regarding operational risks associated with towing LNG barges astern, which will be assigned as Task No. 16-03. As we all learned, we cannot turn down a task that we get from the Coast Guard, so this is our task. Our job after seeing the task is to find a volunteer who wishes to lead the task. That's what we get to vote on. With that, Mr. Johansson.

RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING OPERATIONAL RISKS ASSOCIATED WITH TOWING LNG BARGES ASTERN
(TASK NO. 16-03)

VICE CHAIRMAN JOHANSSON: Good afternoon, everyone. This was a task that was

presented to us. We reviewed this yesterday.
The change that was made by the vetting committee
was to remove both harbor and offshore and
replace it with the verbiage that was reflective
of Subchapter M. We had originally reflected the
language in licensing, and then we opted instead
to stick with the $M$ language.
That's what we've done last night. I
did that; emailed that out. That is right there
from Subchapter $M$, which is oceans, coastwise,
limited coastwise, Great Lakes, lakes, basins,
sounds, or rivers. Then, of course, it is done
again on Task 1. Those were the only changes
that were made by the vetting committee. Other
than that, we will be sticking to what was
presented to us. But for clarification, those
were the changes that were made. This is the
task presented to the committee.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Thank You, Mr.
Johansson. As you can see -- we were talking
that there's a Paragraph 3, 4, or whatever, one

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of the last paragraphs in a task statement that
allows us some flexibility within the subject
matter of the task for us to take and provide the
Coast Guard with any additional recommendations
or comments if the committee so wishes. At this
point, we have received the new task from the
Coast Guard.
In order for us to move forward with this, we need to assign a chairperson that wishes to spearhead the work of the committee on this task. At this point, \(I\) will open the floor up for nominations or volunteers that wish to serve as the chairperson for this subcommittee. Mr. Caliendo.
MEMBER CALIENDO: Mike Caliendo, TSAC I volunteer to chair that subcommittee.
CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, so we have one volunteer for serving as our chairperson. Any other volunteers? No other volunteers, so I need a motion. I'll entertain a motion to accept that Mr. Caliendo wants to volunteer to serve as chairperson on this. I need a motion.
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MEMBER KRESS: I'll make a motion.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: A motion very
quickly by Mr. Steve Kress. Second?

MEMBER SALYERS: I second.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Ms. Salyers has seconded the motion. At that point, a nomination for subcommittee chairperson as Mr. Caliendo. We'll open that up for discussion.

PARTICIPANT: You're going to need some help.

PARTICIPANT: Good luck.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, so the discussion, he needs some help. I read that as at some point, you would wish to have us appoint a vice chair.
(Simultaneous speaking.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We have a motion on
the floor. The motion on the floor is to assign

Mr. Caliendo as the chairman for Task 16-03, towing of LNG barges. At this point, I'll call for a vote. All those in favor, say aye. (Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Those opposed, say nay.
(No audible response.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any abstentions?

Mr. Caliendo noted exception. With that,
congratulations, we look forward to your continued work on the committee. We know you've carried out a number of these tasks before. Just for the record, it was not a taxicab or Uber ride. Mr. Caliendo has noted that this task will probably need some additional assistance. I would look for nominations or volunteers who wish to serve as the co-chair or co-chairperson of the committee. Mr. Kress.

MEMBER KRESS: Steve Kress.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: This is really
good, two volunteers, and didn't even have to appoint anybody.

PARTICIPANT: You didn't have to pay for a taxi ride.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Yes. At this
point, if there are no other volunteers, and no

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further discussion on appointment of a co-chair,
I need a motion to accept. Mr. Guidry. A motion
on the floor, accept Mr. Kress' volunteering to
be co-chair on the LNG Task 16-03. Second? Mr.
Vitt. Any further discussion? Hearing no
further discussion, a vote on the motion to
appoint Mr. Kress as the vice-chair of LNG Task
16-03. All those in favor, say aye.
                    (Chorus of ayes.)
                            CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Those opposed, say
nay.
                                    (No audible response.)
                                    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Hearing none
opposed, and any abstentions? Mr. Kress
abstains. Congratulations, gentlemen. I know
that there are some folks in the general public
who have already expressed an interest in
participating on this task, in order for you to
stand up, and we will ensure that this
information, again, is posted on Homeport.
    We'll update the task statement to
show the fact that you have been assigned as
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chair and co-chair of the committee, so we can get that out. We look forward to your work on that task. Mr. Caliendo.

MEMBER CALIENDO: Mike Caliendo with

TSAC. Thank you. Anyone that's in the room that would like to be on the subcommittee, if you can see Steve or $I$ and just let us have your contact information, we'll get you on the preliminary list for the subcommittee. Thank you.

TSAC MEMBER COMMENTS

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Excellent. We've reached the point of the agenda now where we have some discussion from the committee members, so we'll take comments from the committee, things to consider for comments here, and things that we have to address. We'll also ask for a report, on the record, from the nominating committee, from Mr. Kress, as well, that we did yesterday, to report back to the Coast Guard regarding our by-laws for the appointment of officer positions on TSAC. Please limit your remarks to two minutes, but we can go back around.

We're actually ahead of schedule, if there any questions that you have. Things that we wish to have the Coast Guard consider, this is your opportunity to speak to the Coast Guard, on the record, for additional tasking for the committee or any other comments. No members?
Two things I've heard, at least people
have been planting seeds in my ear to say
consider this, so I'll take my opportunity, as
the chair, to bring these two issues up. We
heard throughout the meetings yesterday and today
of the issue relating to definitions, in terms of
license and routes. Rather than punt that back
to the Coast Guard and say, "Coast Guard, please
solve that," we have an opportunity to ask the
Coast Guard to task us directly to take that task
on. It's very much like our nomenclature task
that we've taken on in the past. We think this
could be valuable, in terms of reference, in
terms of an ability to highlight and show people
a pathway, where there are differences and lack
of consistency in regulations or understanding
terms.

If we can identify those, $I$ think this would be a good opportunity for us to consider asking the Coast Guard to task us with that. I open the floor to the committee on that for consideration of a task for doing that. Mr. Vitt.

MEMBER VITT: That's a great idea. I fully support it, however it's done. I thought I was loud enough. Mr. Chairman, great idea. Mike Vitt, TSAC. Great idea. It's not so much that the terms, in their use, specifically, are ambiguous. They're not.

It's just how they're cross-connected, how a mariner's license interprets their authority under the routes authorized of the COI. A document that explains that, both for the purposes of licensing, COIs, and life-saving equipment, would answer a lot of questions before they're asked. I absolutely, fully support that idea, and I hope my fellow members do, as well.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, questions or comments for the discussion of the members?


> something that we could just ask the Coast Guard to do and not actually task the TSAC with?
> CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: It may be easier for us to provide guidance to the Coast Guard than to ask the Coast Guard to -- to them, it's finding a project sponsor who will take on this task, in other words. If we do the work for them and say endorse this, this is what we think, this is our channel.

From my perspective, we're routinely asked by the Coast Guard to consider those things that we'd want to take on. We found a lot of value in the nomenclature and consistency of using nomenclature. I think this could be just an add on that would make that very easy for a lot of members. Then, of course, it carries the weight of TSAC. We had a broad consensus across the whole industry in order to provide that.

MEMBER MYSKOWSKI: Okay, thanks.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: At this point, based on that discussion, I would ask the committee to entertain a motion for us to draft a
draft task statement to send to the Coast Guard for tasking us.

LCDR. NABACH: Chairman, if I may, Lieutenant Commander Will Nabach. I actually think this is something that would probably just fit under the Item 3 in most of your open task statements. This is ECS, if it comes up there, then maybe this is something that could be added that -- just add it. Don't start something new.
(Simultaneous speaking.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Okay, so no need for a motion, based on the guidance from our ADFO. We'll just take that as one of the additional items that gives us the flexibility to do that. Then the second item that had been planted in my ear, over a period of time, is to consider the issue of nomenclature for commands to harbor assist tugs, tugs that provide ship assist services in pilotage waters, in order to provide some best practice of standardization within the industry of commands.

Especially when the administrator,

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this morning, was talking to you about these
tractor tugs and how they're utilized and
whatever, and that there's a great range of
diversity in each one of these ports. Yet, for
our mariners who move from company to company,
who have to relearn what are different commands,
we think there may be some value in us
considering that and putting out some kind of a
best practices or standardization stuff. I throw
that out not because I'm endorsing it, but for
your consideration because a number of members
have approached me about it for you to consider
it. Mr. Caliendo.
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                            MEMBER CALIENDO: I think that -- Mike
    Caliendo, TSAC. I think that's a great idea,
Steve, but it seems to me that you'd have to get
the various harbor pilot associations and that to
buy into using those commands to the tugs because
that's who's going to issue the command. I'm not
so sure -- that's a big task to get the various
-- around the country, the various pilot
associations to accept what the tugs want them to
say.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Yes. I think we could engage them in the process, but if you don't start -- if somebody doesn't start putting the cart before the horse or the chicken or the egg here, how do you have the discussion? Because routinely, harbor assist tug guys have problems with commands from even pilots within their own organizations. One day you're getting a command from one pilot and a tractor tug gets a completely command from another pilot within that association. From a consistency point of view and be able to provide service safely, some understanding of what the language we're speaking is, $I$ think, might be of value.
(Simultaneous speaking.)
MEMBER CALIENDO: Sure. Again, it's
a great idea. It's not just for the towing industry, though. It's for the pilots. That's a much more fragmented industry, I would say, nationwide, than the towing industry. It's just a point.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Any other comments
from the members on that?

MEMBER VITT: Yes.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Vitt.

MEMBER VITT: Mr. Chairman, TSAC has
already done this, many, many, many years ago.

In reviewing the accomplishments of TSAC, I
recall a tasking that did exactly this.

PARTICIPANT: For tractor tows.

MEMBER VITT: Not for tractor tows.

They didn't probably -- they still were overseas, apparently.
(Simultaneous speaking.)

MEMBER VITT: I don't know how that tasking was done or resolved or what the outcome was. I couldn't find it. I'm sure it's buried in an archive somewhere.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We'll check
faca.gov or --

MEMBER VITT: facadatabase.gov.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: database.gov and
see if we can find it.

MEMBER VITT: I'm not on it, so it doesn't matter.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Worthwhile, we may wish to look at that as an archive. I just throw that out as a discussion point for consideration for tasking, not that we don't have enough to do already. We need to be looking down the road as to what things, as a committee, we wish to try to tackle.

This is a question we get from our DFO all the time. They would rather have us take on tasks that we see are issues or on the forefront of issues for the Coast Guard. Okay, any other questions or comments from TSAC members? Otherwise we'll move into the public comment section. Did we have a sign-in sheet for any public comments? I don't think so.

MR. ABERNATHY: I have no comments provided to me.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We have no comments or anybody who signed up to speak directly, so we'll just open the floor, at this point, to see
if we do have any comments from any members of the public in attendance here today. Hearing none, we have no comments from the public, no comments from the members.
That would conclude our agenda today for today's fall towing safety advisory committee meeting. No other questions on Subchapter M? This is your last and final opportunity because I'm going to turn this over to our DFO and ask if he has any comments on today or yesterday's activities, and then we'll move to adjourn. CDR. PEREZ: Thank you so much for participation. We appreciate all of the work and the comments and all the good information. We look forward to maintaining the great partnership and keep working on the task statements that we have. That's pretty much it from our side, if I can get maybe five to ten minutes with only the committee members after the meeting, just final words, and then just way forward, appreciate that. As far as the public, thank you so much for joining us, and we look forward for the next
interaction. Thank you.

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            CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: We're not
officially adjourned yet, members, but I do have
that one task. According to our by-laws, we
needed a report from the nominating committee for
the Coast Guard for the officer positions.
Currently, Mr. Johansson was re-appointed by the
secretary and re-appointed as the chair, the
vice-chair until 2018.
    My current appointment is through
September 30th of 2017. According to the
by-laws, we need a minimum of four names to
provide to the Coast Guard for consideration for
chairman. If I could ask Mr. Kress to just give
us a report of the nominating committee, so we
can put that on the record.
    MEMBER KRESS: Mr. Chairman, Steve
Kress, TSAC. The nominating committee considered
eight names and voted to reduce that to four
names, as required --
    CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Mr. Kress,
microphone, if you wouldn't mind.
```

MEMBER KRESS: State my name, Steve

Kress, TSAC. Mr. Chairman, the nominating committee received eight recommendations for officers' positions and voted to get us down to the four that are required. Yourself was one, Mr. Johansson, even though already appointed, was another Matt Lagarde and Mike Vitt were the four names.

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Great. Thank you very much. I appreciate that. The DFO has that as we move forward with the selections for the next slate. At this point, $I$ will call for a motion to adjourn. So there's no discussion. I have a motion. I have a second, Mr. Fewell. All those in favor, say aye.
(Chorus of ayes.)

CHAIRMAN HUTTMAN: Then as requested by the DFO, we're now officially off the record, and if the members could just stay around for a couple minutes, we'd appreciate it. Thank you. (Whereupon, the above-entitled meeting was concluded at 3:13 p.m.)
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This is to certify that the foregoing transcript

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was duly recorded and accurately transcribed under my direction; further, that said transcript is a true and accurate record of the proceedings.


