

18th Biennial National Harbor Safety Committee Conference
Maritime Strong: Navigating Diverse Growth and Change
June 13-15, 2022
Boston Park Plaza in Boston, Massachusetts
[Registration Website](#)

The Transportation Research Board and the Massachusetts Bay Harbor Safety Committee are excited to announce the 18th Biennial National Harbor Safety Committee Conference being held from June 13-15, 2022 at the Boston Park Plaza in Boston, Massachusetts. The national conference is held on a biennial basis and continues to be one of the premier gatherings of waterways stakeholders from the private sector, government agencies, and academia. This vital marine national transportation event is organized by the Transportation Research Board of the National Academies in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard. The Massachusetts Bay Harbor Safety Committee is the lead host for the conference in 2022.

The conference will include panel sessions, keynote addresses from high-level officials, and networking opportunities for waterways stakeholders and service providers from across our nation. The panel sessions are designed to be highly interactive, allowing an ongoing conversation between the presenters and the attendees. Topics to be covered within the conference include: federal waterways policy and regulatory issues, competing usage of harbors and waterways, automation and autonomous technologies, cyber and security issues, coastal resilience and port infrastructure, maritime training and workforce development, harbor safety committee best practices, lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, and more.

Harbor Safety Committees (HSCs) are local committees of waterways stakeholders addressing issues that include the safety, security, mobility, and environmental protection of our ports and waterways. Membership is typically comprised of representatives from the local maritime industry and governmental agencies, as well as recreational boaters and the commercial fishing industry.

This three-day event enables HSCs from all parts of the nation to come together on a national basis to share best practices, discuss policy and regulatory issues, highlight solutions, dialogue with government agencies, and form relationships that enable a robust transfer of ideas in between gatherings. The conference typically draws between 200-300 maritime professionals from throughout North America.

DRAFT AGENDA

Monday, June 13, 2022

1:00 PM

Opening Keynote

Flag Officer from the U.S. Coast Guard HQ – To Be Determined

2:00 PM – 3:30 PM

Panel 1 – Current Issues Facing the Maritime Industry: A Federal Perspective

This session will set the stage for the conference by presenting a national level discussion with current maritime transportation leaders from various Federal agencies with stewardship over a dynamic marine transportation system. The panel will focus on how current developments, new uses of the maritime domain, novel innovations, and increased environmental stewardship imperatives may present challenges to their missions to ensure secure, efficient and safe waterways.

Moderator: Ms. Helen Brohl, Executive Director, U.S. Committee on the Marine Transportation System (CMTS)

- RADM John W. Mauger, Assistant Commandant for Prevention Policy, US Coast Guard (invited)
- Representative from US Army Corps of Engineers (invited)
- Mr. Robert Bouchard, Director, Office of Infrastructure Development, Maritime Administration (invited)
- RDML Ben Evans, Director, NOAA Office of Coast Survey, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Mr. James Bennett, Director, Bureau of Offshore Energy Management

3:30 PM – 4:00 PM

Afternoon Break and Exhibits

4:00 PM – 5:30 PM

Panel 2 – New Developments in Marine/Port Technology: Benefits and Impacts

This session brings together diverse group of representatives of the marine tech industry and autonomous vehicle operators to discuss the benefits and impacts of the accelerating adoption of new security and data gathering/management technologies, vessel fuels and autonomous vessels on port security, facilities and vessels operations and labor force needs.

Moderator: Mr. Harlan M. Doliner, VP and Director, Marine Technology – Maritime Services Group, Mabbett & Associates, Inc.

- Mr. Dustin Varnell, Managing Partner, V2Subsea
- Mr. Scott Johns, President, Cleancor Energy (invited)
- Dr. Peter J. Stein, President, Scientific Solutions (invited)
- Ms. Elsa Nicol, President, FALCO-Wattson Elements

5:30 PM – 7:00 PM

Reception and Exhibits

Tuesday, June 14, 2022

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Breakfast and Exhibits

8:30 AM – 10:00 PM

Panel 3 – Off-Shore Wind: Current State and Future Plans

This session will bring together federal agency and industry representatives to discuss the burgeoning offshore wind industry development occurring in the United States with particular emphasis on activity in the Northeast US.

Moderator: Fara Courtney, Principal at Outer Harbor Consulting

- Ms. Arianna Baker, Navigation Analyst, Office of Renewable Energy Programs, Bureau of Offshore Energy Management
- CDR. John Stone, Marine Transportation Specialist, US Coast Guard
- Mr. Jay Borkland, Port Director, Avangrid Renewables
- Mr. Edward LeBlanc, Orsted Marine Affairs, Ørsted

10:00 AM – 10:30 AM

Morning Break and Exhibits

10:30 – 12:00 PM

Panel 4 – Coastal Resiliency: Planning, Prevention, and Recovery (concurrent with Panel 5)

This session will focus on best practices and lessons learned related to coastal and port resiliency drawing from actual experiences in port areas. Speakers will address coordination, communication and collaboration strategies between public and private sector entities before during and after disruptive events.

Moderator: Bill Golden, Project Manager, Boston Harbor Storm Surge

- Dr. Malcolm Bowman, Professor of Physical Oceanography, Stony Brook University
- Mr. Robert Yaro, President Emeritus, Regional Plan Association (invited)
- Mr. Sandeep Mehrota, Senior Vice President, Hazen and Sawyer (invited)
- Mr. Richard Taylor, Director, Center for Real Estate, Suffolk University (invited)

10:30 – 12:00 PM

Panel 5 – Preparing Prospective Mariners for the New Maritime Workforce: A Discussion on Education and Training (concurrent with Panel 4)

This session brings maritime employers together with education and training sector to discuss opportunities for the future maritime workforce, including: new offshore industry focus areas, the importance of diversity and inclusion, and the changing technical nature of the knowledge, skills and abilities necessary for a future facing domestic maritime workforce.

Moderator: TJ Hanratty, Assistant Dean, Endicott College

- Mr. Michael Ross, Manager of Talent Acquisition and Development, Bath Iron Works
- Mr. Robert Lewis, Director, The Boys and Girls Club of Boston (invited)
- Ms. Kristen McKenna, Dean of Workforce and Economic Development, Bunker Hill Community College
- CAPT. Mike Burns, Executive Director of the Maritime Center for Responsible Energy, Mass Maritime Academy
- Dr. Shashi Kumar, Deputy Associate Administrator, Maritime Administration

12:00 – 1:30 PM Lunch and Keynote Speaker

Massachusetts Governor The Honorable Charlie Baker or U.S. Senator Ed Markey

1:30 - 3:00 PM Panel 6 – Aligning Emerging Environmental Protection Initiatives and Longstanding Marine Safety Practices (concurrent with Panel 7)

Certain environmental initiatives have the potential to adversely impact maritime safety. Deconflicting the various uses of the waterways is essential in our harbor safety goals of maintaining safe waterways. This session brings together maritime professionals with responsibilities for safe navigation, waterways management, species protection, and environmental stewardship to discuss challenges and solutions in this domain.

Moderator: CAPT. Jeff Monroe, Executive Director, International Association of Maritime and Port Executives

- Mr. George Detweiler, LCDR (ret.), US Coast Guard
- Mr. Darren Wright, National Marine Program Manager, NOAA
- Dr. Shannon Bettridge, Division Chief, Office of Protected Resources, NOAA
- Mr. Graham Platner, Owner, Frenchman’s Bay Oyster Company (invited)

1:30 – 3:00 PM Panel 7 – Keeping Waterfronts Working: A Legal Discussion (concurrent with Panel 6)

This session will address the challenges, legal issues and public policy engagement involved in ensuring that working waterfronts remain utilized for their traditional purposes in the face of encroaching development initiatives in waterfront areas.

Moderator: Ms. Jamy Buchanan Madeja, Esq., Buchanan & Associates

- Mr. Daniel Padien, Waterways Program Chief, MassDEP
- Dr. Austin Becker, Associate Professor and Chair, Department of Marine Affairs, University of Rhode Island
- Ms. Lisa Engler, Director, Office of Coastal Zone Management, Commonwealth of Massachusetts

3:00 – 3:30 PM Afternoon Break and Exhibits

3:30 – 5:00 PM Panel 8 – Funding the New Maritime Landscape

Given all of the opportunities for infrastructure funding and improvements currently being prioritized at all levels of government, this panel will delve into the maritime aspects of infrastructure renewal and expansion, lay out the critical needs and relay recent challenges and successes of initiatives that are having a positive impact on the marine transportation system.

Moderator: TBD

- Mayor Kim Driscoll, Mayor of Salem (invited)
- Mr. James Kearns, Esq., Jones Walker LLP
- Mr. Bill Doyle, Port Director, Port of Baltimore
- Mr. Paul Bloom, Vice President of Public Sector and Infrastructure, Goldman Sachs (invited)
- Ms. Jenifer Thalhauser, Navigation Chief, New England District, U.S. Corp of Engineers

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

7:30 AM – 8:30 AM

Breakfast and Exhibits

8:30 AM – 10:00 AM

Panel 9 – COVID-19 Impacts to Marine Harbor Safety and its Operations, and Steps Taken to Promote Resilience

This session provides perspectives from a diverse group of maritime industry representatives regarding issues confronted in operating during the pandemic, steps taken to mitigate impacts and keep operations safe, as well as recommendations to promote safety and mitigate operational disruption during future similar events.

Moderator: Dr. Shashi Kumar, Deputy Associate Administrator, Maritime Administration

- Mr. Joseph Morris, Deputy Port Director, Operations, Port of Boston
- Mr. Graeme Holman, Director of Operations, STAR Center
- Richard Paine, Vice President and Cameron Clark, Senior Vice President, Hornblower
- Admiral Brian Salerno and Captain Jennifer Williams, Cruise Lines International Association

10:00 – 10:30 AM

Morning Break and Exhibits

10:30 – 12:00 PM

Panel 10 – Harbor Safety Committees: Importance and Best Practices

Harbor Safety Committees are valuable partnerships that promote safety within ports across the nation. The COVID-19 pandemic changed how we meet and work. This panel will describe lessons learned and best practices related to communication, outreach, and collaboration in the dynamic world that we all currently operate in.

Moderator: CAPT. Zeita Merchant, Sector Commander, New York, US Coast Guard

- CAPT. Kailie Benson, US Coast Guard
- Mr. Daniel Russell, Chief Operating Officer, City Experiences
- CAPT. David Foret, President, The ACTION Group
- Mr. Pete Pawlicki, Port Captain, Kirby (invited)
- CAPT. Angel Montanez, Mass Maritime Marine

12:00 PM – 1:00 PM

Closing Keynote

Flag Officer from the U.S. Coast Guard District 1 – To Be Determined