

Harbor Safety and Area Maritime Security Committees

Joint Conference – June 6, 2011

The joint conference of Harbor Safety and Area Maritime Security Committees was attended by 340 persons, of which 147 were uniformed and civilian members of the Coast Guard.

The keynote address was given by the Coast Guard Commandant, Admiral Robert J. Papp. His principal theme was a commemoration of the events of 9/11, expanding on the theme of Maritime Security Committees and their improvement in the last ten years. He welcomed questions from the audience, one of which concerned probable AIS use by small [recreational] vessels. His conclusion: Their use would overwhelm VTS, and mandated use is not likely.

Breakout sessions followed, each a series of lectures, followed by a brief question and answer period.

Most interesting to the recreational boating attendants [the National Boating Federation was the only recreational boating organization represented] was a discussion of the newly created Ocean Policy and Coastal Marine Spatial Planning program, previously mentioned in the May issue of the LOOKOUT. The emphasis was on the perceived "crowding" of the offshore marine environment.

While representatives of the National Boating Federation did not serve on any discussion panels, there was ample opportunity to communicate with a diverse group of the audience. Numerous copies of the LOOKOUT were displayed and picked up by attendees, as were a number of our NBF brochures.

The actual "Harbor Safety Committee Only" was a 45 minute meeting of HSC chairmen; most of the discussion concerned the HSC Blog, and consideration of the location of the next meeting.

Margot Brown
Executive Director