



THE UNITED STATES COAST GUARD PRESENTS

The Los Angeles – Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee

WITH THE

**Harbor Safety Committee
of the Year for 2009**

GIVEN THIS 8th DAY OF JUNE, 2010

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Kevin S. Cook", written over a horizontal line.

Kevin S. Cook
Rear Admiral, U. S. Coast Guard
Director of Prevention Policy

**CITATION TO ACCOMPANY THE AWARD OF THE
HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE OF THE YEAR FOR 2009
TO**

THE LOS ANGELES – LONG BEACH HARBOR SAFETY COMMITTEE

The Los Angeles – Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) is hereby recognized as the 2009 Harbor Safety Committee of the Year for significantly improving maritime safety in the southern California area. Having one of the most productive years in the history of the committee, the HSC actively initiated several projects to improve safety in one of the nation's busiest and most economically vital port complexes.

When the State of California implemented low sulfur fuel regulations along its coastline in July 2009 to reduce air pollution, vessels responded by avoiding the traditional Santa Barbara Traffic Separation Scheme, instead, transiting the Channel Islands. With no standard routing in this area, the potential for accidents increased dramatically. The HSC took immediate action to promote and encourage the use of "Voluntary Western Traffic lanes" providing separate inbound/outbound lanes as a short term solution. In doing so, the HSC honored their mission by focusing on mitigating safety hazards while consciously avoiding any political stance toward the regulation. In response to strong Navy opposition of vessel traffic through a Missile Test Range, the HSC established a communications protocol that, together with other mitigation measures, assuaged objections and allowed for commerce to flow safely and without incident.

Beyond the issues surrounding low sulfur fuels, the HSC continued its cycle of continuous improvement, updating "Inclement Weather" procedures to include both reduced visibility and wind/wave criteria. The development of key standards of care greatly reduced the risk of collisions and groundings. The HSC also increased its outreach efforts; distributing 10,000 "Small Vessel Safety Pamphlets" to boaters reducing the number of near misses in the port complex through education, and approving a "Safe Transit Brochure" reminding vessel masters to conduct pre-arrival mechanical checks.

The exceptional actions and distinguished service of the Los Angeles – Long Beach Harbor Safety Committee reflect the strong support and teamwork of both government and industry. The Committee's efforts are most heartily commended and are in keeping with the highest traditions of maritime service and industry.