

Panel Biographies
There's No Wrong Way To Do It



James Prazak: Chair, Harbor Safety Committee National Steering Team; Current Member and Past Chair of the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee; Performance Director at Tricon Energy, Ltd.

James has 36 years' experience working in the chemical industry, with the first 20 years at Dow Chemical and the balance at Tricon Energy. At Dow, James began in Marine and Terminals division, spent a few years in the Rail division, and then went back to global support in Marine and Terminals with responsibilities including vetting, maritime regulatory affairs, emergency response and technical support. In 2010, James joined Tricon, first as Global Operations Manager and now as Performance Director, where he is responsible for all technical matters, transportation regulatory affairs, and compliance. James served as the Chair of the Chemical Transportation Advisory Committee for many years, and as the past Vice Chair of the National Chemical Transportation Safety Advisory Committee (which replaced the former committee). James was elected to the Executive Committee for the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee when it was formed, and served as the Chair from 2016-2018. James currently serves on the Lone Star Harbor Safety Committee, representing the Chemical Industry. James became involved in the National Steering Committee at the 2016 conference in Portland, served as Chair of the conference in Houston in 2019, and assisted on the planning committee for the 2019, 2022, and 2024 conferences.



CAPT Norman "Buddy" Custard (USCG, ret.): President, Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee; President and Chief Executive Officer, Alaska Chadux Network

Buddy Custard is the President and Chief Executive Officer of the Alaska Chadux Network, an industry-led nonprofit organization that provides petroleum storage facilities and vessel operators with U.S. federal and State of Alaska oil spill prevention and response regulatory compliance across Alaska and the U.S. Arctic.

Buddy brings more than four decades of maritime leadership experience spanning both the public and private sectors. He served over 30 years as a commissioned officer in the U.S. Coast Guard and later as a senior manager with Shell Exploration & Production Company, where he held key leadership roles supporting offshore exploration and emergency response operations in the U.S. Arctic Outer Continental Shelf.

His expertise encompasses Arctic and Alaska maritime operations, including environmental protection, search and rescue, emergency response, offshore exploration, homeland security, and the marine transportation system—particularly the unique operational and risk management challenges of high-latitude environments. He has led and supported numerous initiatives

advancing maritime safety and environmental stewardship, including the Western Alaska Tanker Lightering Best Practices Committee.

Buddy currently serves as President of the Aleutian Islands Waterways Safety Committee and sits on the Board of Directors of the Alaska Fuel Storage & Handlers Alliance and the American Red Cross of Alaska—where he is a past President. He also served for ten years on the National Offshore Safety Advisory Committee, appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

He holds a Bachelor of Science in Wildlife Biology from Colorado State University, a Master of Strategic Studies from the U.S. Army War College, and is a graduate of the Homeland Security Executive Leaders Program at the Naval Postgraduate School.



Capt. Mike McElroy: President, Chicago Harbor Safety Committee; Co-Chair, Area Maritime Security Committee; Director of Marine Operations and Regulatory Affairs, Wendella Boats

Captain Mike McElroy has been proudly serving the passenger vessel industry for 37 years. He is currently employed as the Director of Marine Operations and Regulatory affairs for Wendella boats and Chicago water taxi. He also serves as the MTSA required Company security officer responsible for maintaining the Company security plan, a robust training regimen, drills, and exercises. Mike is the designated person or

DP for Wendella's flagship safety management system.

Mike has previously served the marine passenger vessel industry as Captain, Engineer, and Chief Engineer on USCG inspected commercial passenger vessels. Mike has proudly trained thousands of marine crew members and related personnel in topics ranging from MTSA, Safety, Engineering, environmental compliance and Passenger Vessel Operations. Mike has a passion for safety, security, hospitality and the environment. He satisfies this passion through engagement and partnerships as the current co-chair of his Area Maritime Security Committee and as President of the Chicago Harbor Safety Committee (CHSC) where he also serves as agency liaison, education committee chair, and emergency preparedness committee chair. Mike has also previously served the CHSC in the capacity of passenger vessel Sector director and later Vice President prior to being elected President. Under Mike's leadership, the CHSC was awarded the honor of Distinguished Harbor Safety Committee by the USCG Commandant in 2024. Chicago is considered the gold standard for HSCs across the United States.

Mike also serves as Vice Chair of the Harbor Safety Committee National Steering Team. The objective of this team is to promote and assist in the establishment and sustainment of harbor safety committees across the country.

On a national level Mike is a current member and former Chair of the Passenger Vessel Association Safety and Security committee and the Chair of the PVA Engineering committee. Through his work with the PVA he has authored and co-authored articles in the

trade magazine “Foghorn” on active shooter training, COVID preparedness and de-escalation training for the marine employee. He has also Authored several PVA member online resources tools including de-escalation tactics for the passenger vessel employee’s, Looking beyond the trash can fire, battery safety and recognizing the dangers of carbon dioxide in your marine environment.

Mike worked with the CHSC and PVA to establish safe operating procedures during the COVID 19 pandemic. He also authored a video on Civil unrest during the COVID 19 pandemic lessons learned for his national trade organization.

He is an elected official as of 2018 in the Village of Worth, Illinois and serves as the Worth Park District President. He has earned the designation of master boardman by the Illinois association of park districts for a second year in 2025 (IAPD).

He is the former appointed life safety officer for his hometown. He also chaired the Village Life safety committee. This Committee was tasked to work directly with Congressman Dan Lipinski’s office to investigate the potential consequences of placing dredged material in a local natural area and assist in finding alternatives to the placement site for the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mike is a former BSA scout master and member of good standing of the Sons of the American legion post 991 as well as the Worth Lions Club.

Mike has also been awarded the USCG meritorious public service award three times (2012, 2019, 2024) for his contributions to the USCG’s mission by discovering major flaws with fixed firefighting systems that resulted in national safety alerts, developing training products to assist the passenger vessel fleet, assisting first responders on the Chicago River and Lake Michigan, Collaborating with USCG headquarters to clarify vessel automation policy and for publishing MTSA anti-terrorism quick reference tools for passenger vessel operators. Mike also worked closely with Agency partners during the Democratic National Convention and through annual active shooter and vessel fire exercises.

Mike was awarded the spirit of the river award by Friends of the Chicago River in 2024 for his dedication to environmental stewardship on and off the water. Mike was awarded the Chicago area waterways heritage award in 2025 for his outreach and expansion of waterways related safety training through building bridges between port stakeholders. Mike was also awarded the PVA Roger Murphy safety award for contributions to marine safety through development of his training programs that target an increase in safety culture.



Brandi Rogers: Chair, South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee; Supervisor, Scheduling Operations, Enbridge Ingleside Energy Center

Brandi Rogers is the Chairperson for the South Texas Waterways Advisory Committee (STWAC). Since stepping into the role in 2022, STWAC has adopted and formalized recommendations to the U.S. Coast Guard and the Port of Corpus Christi on such matters as marine firefighting, vessel surge mitigation, blue water/brown water barge transit procedures and is developing a continuing education platform for local fire departments to

assist with vessel and vessel emergency response plan familiarization.

Brandi is the Scheduling Operations Manager for Enbridge US Gulf Coast Terminals, overseeing logistics for both Enbridge Ingleside Energy Center and Enbridge Houston Oil Terminal. In her twenty-year career in oil and gas logistics, Brandi has handled truck, rail, pipeline and marine transportation activities for Occidental Petroleum, Moda Midstream, and Enbridge. Ten of those years have been focused on maritime exports in chartering, operations and marine terminalling. Brandi is also an active member of Women in Maritime Operations.



CAPT Glenn Wiltshire (USCG, ret.): Co-Chair, Port Everglades Harbor Safety Committee; Deputy Port Director, Broward County Port Everglades Department

Glenn A. Wiltshire, a 30-year U.S. Coast Guard veteran, is the Deputy Port Director for Port Everglades, which is ranked among the nation's leading container ports and a world leader in the cruise industry.

Mr. Wiltshire has successfully implemented several innovative programs to support increasing cargo, cruise and petroleum volumes. He worked closely with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and other state and federal agencies to introduce new technology such as facial recognition and automated passport control. He also negotiated multiple long-term commercial agreements and managed capital improvements to port facilities. He serves as a member of the South Florida District Export Council for the U.S. Department of Commerce and is president of the Florida Ocean Alliance.

Mr. Wiltshire was the U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port of New York/New Jersey. Mr. Wiltshire's other previous Coast Guard service also includes serving as Chief of Staff for the U.S. Coast Guard Oceania District in Honolulu and as Executive Assistant to the Assistant Commandant for Marine Safety, Security and Environmental Protection in Washington, D.C.

He joined Port Everglades in August 2006 as the Deputy Port Director, and served as Acting Chief Executive/Port Director from March 2019 through June 2020 and from

January 2024 through July 2024.

Mr. Wiltshire graduated from the United States Coast Guard Academy and received a master's degree in public administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University.