

Panel Biographies
Harbor Safety Committee Challenges



Patrick Gallagher: Chair, 2026 Conference Planning Committee; Chair, Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee; Executive Director, Marine Exchange of Puget Sound; Member, Harbor Safety Committee National Steering Team

Patrick is the Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Puget Sound and a retired Coast Guard Commander with over 25 years of maritime experience. Patrick has been stationed throughout the United States including tours in New York City, Oregon, and Hawaii. Patrick is deeply committed to ocean conservation while promoting the future of maritime industry.



Noel Jones: Harbor Safety Committee Program Manager, Office of Waterways and Ocean Policy, U.S. Coast Guard; Member, Harbor Safety Committee National Steering Team

Noel is a Management and Program Analyst in the Office of Waterways and Ocean Policy (CG-WWM). This office focuses on providing guidance to Coast Guard field units, through consultation, policy development, and generation of tactics, techniques, and procedures related to USCG mission activities within the Waterways Management portfolio, as well as consulting on curriculum development for related training programs. Noel's portfolio includes various environmental issues (e.g., marine mammals, National Environmental Policy Act, etc.), as well as stakeholder engagement (e.g., Harbor Safety Committees). Noel led the 2025 updates to the USCG Navigation and Vessel Inspection Circular providing guidance to Harbor Safety Committees ([NVIC 01-25](#)), and a companion policy document for USCG personnel ([COMDTINST 16010.9A](#)). Noel joined CG-WWM in April 2023 but has served in the Coast Guard since 2010; she previously served within the Office of the Commandant and the Coast Guard Intelligence Directorate, and prior to that worked within the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs.



CAPT Paul Mehler (USCG, ret.): Senior Port Captain – Alaska, Marathon Petroleum; Chair, Cook Inlet Harbor Safety Committee

Captain Paul Mehler, USCG (Ret.), serves as Senior Port Captain for Marathon Petroleum's Alaska Region, where he oversees all marine operations and ensures safe, efficient, and compliant maritime logistics in one of the nation's most strategically important operating environments. He brings deep expertise in maritime safety, security, environmental protection, and regulatory

compliance, with responsibility for operational oversight across complex Arctic and Alaska port and vessel activities.

Before joining Marathon Petroleum, Captain Mehler completed more than 25 years of distinguished service in the United States Coast Guard, concluding as Sector Commander and Captain of the Port for Western Alaska and the U.S. Arctic. His career included senior leadership and policy roles across government and international assignments, including service as a U.S. Senate Fellow and DHS liaison, multiple command positions, and federal incident leadership as a Marine Inspector and Investigator. He holds a BS in Marine Transportation from Massachusetts Maritime Academy and an MS in Quality Systems Management, and he and his wife Michelle have made Alaska their permanent home since 2015.



Christine Titus: Port Operations, Louisiana Maritime Association (LAMA); Secretary/Treasurer, Greater New Orleans Port Safety Council Harbor Safety Committee

Christine works for LAMA representing vessel agents and maritime stakeholders across the Lower Mississippi River and leading initiatives that strengthen communication, regulatory coordination, and operational readiness. Christine also serves as the Secretary/Treasurer on the Executive Committee of the GNOPSC Harbor Safety Committee, contributing to port safety policy development, interagency coordination, and best practices for navigation on the Lower Mississippi River. She is the Immediate Past President and an active board member of the Women's Professional Council (WPC) of New Orleans, supporting leadership development and professional advancement for women across the region. Christine also serves on the Board of Directors of the Louisiana Society of Association Executives (LSAE), where she collaborates with association leaders statewide on governance, professional development, and organizational excellence. In addition to these roles, she is the Maritime Transportation Sector Chief for InfraGard Louisiana and is actively involved in many other industry organizations and regional initiatives across Louisiana's maritime sector.



Scott White: prospective Chair, Massachusetts Bay Harbor Safety Committee; CEO of Montserrat Maritime, LLC

Scott White serves as the CEO of Montserrat Maritime, LLC providing expert consultation and advice for complex matters pertaining to Marine Transportation System operations and Critical Infrastructure sectors. Additionally, he serves as the President for the Massachusetts Bay Harbor Safety Committee and a Board Member of the Beverly, MA Harbor Management Authority. Mr. White previously served within the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Protection Agency's Region 1 (Boston) office, initially serving as a Critical Infrastructure Analyst and rising to the position of Regional Operations Manager, where he was responsible for leading the integrated coordination of regional-level communication and geospatial activities to obtain an overall understanding of regional

critical infrastructure. Mr. White retired from active duty in the U.S. Coast Guard in September of 2015 after serving for more than 28 years in numerous operational, leadership, and program management positions. He is a maritime operations and regulatory compliance expert with a comprehensive background in transportation safety, security, and preparedness operations and policy. Mr. White is a certified marine inspector with qualifications and experience in marine casualty investigations and enforcement, as well as incident management.