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## REPORT OF THE CLOSING PLENARY

### Agenda

1. Opening Remarks
2. Responses To Questions Raised In Opening Plenary
3. Summary Reports From Standing Committees & Working Groups
  - Ad Hoc Working Group on Marine Policy
  - Standing Committee on Construction & Equipment
  - Standing Committee on Environment
  - Standing Committee on Fishing Vessel Safety
  - Standing Committee on Marine Security
  - Standing Committee on Navigation and Operations
  - Standing Committee on Personnel
  - Standing Committee on Recreational Boating
  - Working Group on Domestic Vessel Regulatory Oversight
4. Other Business
5. Closing Remarks

### 1. OPENING REMARKS

Marc Grégoire, Assistant Deputy Minister of Safety and Security, welcomed everyone to the Closing Plenary and introduced Donald Roussel, Director General, Marine Safety, who was also at the head table. In his opening remarks, Marc Grégoire recognized the efforts of stakeholders to attend and participate and thanked the large numbers of registered participants who contributed to another successful National CMAC meeting. The only way to develop good regulations, he said, is through meaningful consultation with stakeholders.

Marc Grégoire made special mention of two people for whom this would be their last national meeting. Richard Day, Director, Operations and Environmental Programs, has attended an impressive 52 national CMAC meeting and is retiring! Also, Ruth Romkey, Director, Program and Technical Training Services, is retiring after ten years with the Marine Safety Management Team and a total of 41 years with Transport Canada. All the best in the future to these two individuals.

### 2. RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED IN OPENING PLENARY

There were no outstanding questions from the Opening Plenary.

### 3. SUMMARY REPORTS FROM STANDING COMMITTEES

#### Ad Hoc Working Group on Marine Policy

Valerie Devlin reported that the Ad hoc Working Group on Marine Policy heard presentations on:

- Proposed *Canada Transportation Act Data Regulations*.
- The Canada-China Agreement on Maritime Transport.

- The *Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, 2007* (Nairobi Convention).
- The Asia-Pacific Gateway and Corridor Initiative Performance Table.

The full report can be found in the minutes of the Ad Hoc Working Group.

Valerie Devlin concluded her summary by inviting participants to provide suggestions for future agendas. There were no questions from the floor.

### **Standing Committee on Construction and Equipment**

Luc Tremblay reported that about 40 people attended the meeting. Updates were presented on various regulations as well as work being done at the International Maritime Organization (IMO). Participants heard reports from the Working Group on North American Lifejacket Standards and the Working Group on Tug and Barge. During the afternoon, participants attended the Consultation Session: *Life Saving Appliances Regulations*. The full report can be found in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

Roxanne Standefer, representing WearALifejacket.Com, asked if the timeline was known for the harmonization of standards on lifejackets. Ravi Shankar, Transport Canada, replied that he expects the Standard to be published by March 2012 and confirmed that there are Canadian representatives participating on the drafting group.

### **Standing Committee on Environment**

Paul Topping summarized the meeting of the Standing Committee on Environment. Both the Working Group on Air Emissions and the Working Group on Ballast Water presented updates at this meeting. The full report can be found in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

John Hansen, President of Northwest CruiseShip Association, made a point for the record on the topic of the emissions control area. In addition to technical fuel issues, he stated that there is a concern that new fuel requirements will create an economic impact in certain regions because of the increased costs of operations.

### **Standing Committee on Fishing Vessel Safety**

Victor Santos-Pedro presented the report of the Standing Committee on Fishing Vessel Safety, which was attended by about 40 individuals. Mark Dolomount, Industry co-chair, had to return home unexpectedly and was unable to attend the meeting. The session included presentations from industry groups, regional reports, a federal government update, as well as reports from the Working Group on Fishing Vessel Safety Regulatory Issues and the Working Group on Fishing Vessel Safety Certification and Training. The full report can be found in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

There were no questions.

### **Standing Committee on Marine Security**

Dr. Allan Bartley gave the report of the Standing Committee on Marine Security, which was attended by more than 75 stakeholders. Updates were given on regulatory progress, operations, policy work, and the Marine Security Contributions Program. The full report can be found in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

There were no questions from the floor.

### **Standing Committee on Navigation and Operations**

Robert Turner reported on the full day meeting of the Standing Committee on Navigation and Operations. Many updates were heard. The full report can be found in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

There were no questions.

### **Standing Committee on Personnel**

Naim Nazha summarized the meeting of the Standing Committee on Personnel, which also met for a full day with several agenda items. The full report can be found in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

Captain John Greenway, Vice-President of Operations at Seaway Marine Transport, made some comments following Naim Nazha's summary. He began by thanking the department for expanding the availability of the Seafarer's Identification Documents to Marine Safety offices. He noted improvements on the follow up to certain marine medical issues and offered his appreciation to Naim Nazha for his thorough review of the proposed changes to the STCW Convention and the STCW Code. Captain Greenway expressed disappointment at the lack of progress of the HRSDC Sector Council Program, and stated that this being the Year of the Seafarer, there is no better time to move forward on a national approach to address skills training and seafarer shortages in Canada.

Marc Grégoire noted Captain Greenway's points and promised to pass his comments on to colleagues in HRSDC.

### **Standing Committee on Recreational Boating**

John Murray presented the report of the Standing Committee on Recreational Boating, which was co-chaired by Mr. Bob Minielly, Canadian Safe Boating Council. The full report can be found in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

John Murray proposed for the next National CMAC meeting that Working Groups would be held in the morning to discuss issues that require consultation from stakeholders followed by the Standing Committee meeting in the afternoon. Two Working Group meetings are supported for the November National CMAC meeting:

- Construction issues related to TP 1332, specifically flotation for canoes and kayaks.
- Pyrotechnics or flare disposal.

The full report can be found in the minutes of the Standing Committee.

Roxanne Standefer, WearALifejacket.Com, pointed out that losses in the recreational boating community need to be recognized as unacceptably high along with industry losses as a whole, and that the wearing of lifejackets is an important element of prevention. She also stated that the Working Group on standards will be closely connected to the work of those who try to educate in lifejackets and if there are any improvements to design that can be made, she urged the Canadian group to do so. She also encouraged Transport Canada to participate to the extent possible at the Symposium of the Canadian Safe Boating Council from September 23 to 26, 2010 in Montreal. During the Symposium, one full day will be dedicated to an open forum to discuss stakeholders' positions on possibly legislating the mandatory wearing of lifejackets by recreational boaters.

Mark Boucher, speaking on behalf of the Ships' Officers Guild, asked about the status of issuing Pleasure Craft Operation Cards to deck officers with certificates. Naim Nazha responded that the cards will be provided free of charge to seafarers holding a certificate of competency in the deck area. He also noted that a Ship Safety Bulletin would be going out shortly to provide further information to industry members on this process.

#### **Working Group on Domestic Vessel Regulatory Oversight**

Julie Gascon reported on the Working Group on Domestic Vessel Regulatory Oversight. The participants adopted the terms of reference that govern the Working Group and accepted Captain Phillip Nelson, Council of Marine Carriers, and Captain David Kattler, B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers' Union, as industry and union co-chairs.

As this Working Group does not report to a Standing Committee they will provide minutes.

The full report can be found in the minutes of the Working Group.

There were no questions from the floor.

#### **4. OTHER BUSINESS**

Marc Grégoire thanked the Chairs for the informative reports and asked if there were further comments from participants.

Michel Drolet, Vice-President, Canadian Shipowners Association, thanked the CMAC Secretariat for the opportunity to make a presentation during the Opening Plenary and reiterated that they will continue to work with Transport Canada as it takes the next steps along with the marine industry. He agreed with Donald Roussels' statement that consultation takes time and can be frustrating, though he noted progress on many files. For instance, he appreciates the efforts taken by Robert Turner and his team at Marine Safety in listening to the concerns of industry and bringing operational issues closer to resolution.

Michel Drolet noted a lack of ice-breaking assets in the Great Lakes and will continue to monitor this concern with the Marine Advisory Board at the national level.

The Canadian Shipowners Association applauds Transport Canada's accomplishments in developing the Seafarer's Identification Document system. They will continue to support Canada in ratifying C-185.

Michel Drolet suggested that Marine Security build on the leadership of Marine Safety in finding ways to make the Seafarer's Identification Document the document of choice for ports and other shore facilities for the seafarer. The Canadian Shipowners Association supports implementing security measures in general, but will always request that economic and social impacts be taken into consideration, including personnel associated with port operations. Further, they recommend that Marine Security join in a pilot project with Marine Safety to look into benefits of a new Seafarer's Identification Document that could result from implementation of card readers. The Canadian Shipowners Association have already and will continue to submit comments on the *Marine Transportation Security Regulations* to ensure that Canadian seafarers, port workers, and Canadian vessels are not seen as a threat to national security.

Michel Drolet wrapped up his comments with a word of thanks, saying that the Canadian Shipowners Association submitted a record number of agenda items for this national meeting; all of which were addressed. Finally, the Canadian Shipowners Association saluted the team who put together this spring edition of CMAC and expressed best wishes to Richard Day.

On the subject of DSC radios, Phil Nelson mentioned that the Council of Marine Carriers has strong concerns over the interruption of critical communications between vessels and pilots when they are docking with tugs. He reiterated the Council's support for the fishing vessel industry position. Marc Grégoire duly noted this comment.

Richard Goode, B.C. Ferry and Marine Workers Union, acknowledged Transport Canada's efforts to include labour groups such as his own in consultations to amend regulations.

## **5. CLOSING REMARKS**

Marc Grégoire thanked the members of the CMAC Secretariat for all their work in making the meetings possible. He also thanked the chairmen of the Standing Committees and Working Groups, as well as every stakeholder for his or her participation and ongoing contributions.

The next National CMAC meeting will be held at the Government Conference Centre in Ottawa from November 1-4, 2010.