

# CHAPTER 3 - PORT PREPAREDNESS & POST STORM ACTIONS

- A. **PURPOSE** – Chapter 3 of the Sector Jacksonville Heavy Weather Plan provides guidance to the Jacksonville, Fernandina, and Port Canaveral area maritime community and the Coast Guard, on steps that should be taken and critical risk factors to consider before severe heavy weather affects the area. Post-storm considerations for re-opening the ports, along with survey and reporting requirements are also addressed in this chapter. This plan should be used, by all maritime interests, to prepare similar plans for individual terminals, facilities, fleets, vessels, or marine operations.
- B. **GENERAL** – The Atlantic Hurricane Season runs annually from June 1 to November 30. During this time, the entire Jacksonville COTP Zone is at significant risk from tropical cyclone activity, including tropical depressions, tropical storms, and hurricanes.

This plan is developed to ensure that the Ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, and Canaveral have taken all practical precautions for severe weather, including the worst-case scenario; a direct hit by a Major Hurricane. Most of the preventive provisions and requirements of this Port Plan are intended to be enacted prior to the onset of *sustained* Gale Force Winds associated with tropical cyclone activity (winds and surge) *are predicted to follow*. When Gale Forces Winds are expected but hurricane conditions are not predicted to follow, the Captain of the Port (COTP) may elect not to implement all of the requirements outlined in this plan. In any case, due to the unpredictable nature of tropical cyclone activity, marine interests should plan for the worst case scenario.

- C. **USING THIS PLAN** - This chapter has the following key parts:
  1. **Planning Factors** – these elements should be used by the maritime community when developing heavy weather plans, ensuring full understanding of local risk factors and policies that may impact operations and preparations before, during, and after heavy weather. Refer to Planning Factors for information on local policies regarding: vessel, sorties, bridge openings, safe moorings, etc.
  2. **Pre-Storm Procedures** – lists specific operational restrictions and requirements imposed upon the maritime community by the COTP. Those affected include: terminals, facilities, marinas, owners, operators, agents, and Masters of vessels, etc. The “action items” checklists should be referred to whenever the COTP changes the Port Hurricane Condition.
  3. **Communications Plan** – describes how the COTP will communicate with the maritime community and how marine interests should contact the Coast Guard before, during, and after severe weather. The radio frequencies and other communication mechanisms outlined in this section should be incorporated into individual heavy weather plans.
  4. **Post-Storm Procedures** – describes facility and vessel requirements to ensure safe and secure operation once severe weather has passed. Post-storm survey and reporting requirements are listed for each segment of the commercial maritime community.
  5. **Lessons Learned** – several key lessons learned from previous Hurricane Seasons were incorporated into the current plan revision.

## D. **PLANNING FACTORS**

1. **Tidal Surge And SLOSH Tables** – Most often, more damage is caused by Tidal Surge than by wind during Tropical Storms and Hurricanes. For this reason, storm surge is regarded as the greatest threat to marine interests, during severe weather. Storms approaching from the Southeast are particularly dangerous to the ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, and Canaveral. The NWS Sea Lake and Overland Surges from Hurricanes (SLOSH) models indicate that a storm surge in excess of 20 feet is possible in downtown Jacksonville if a Category 5 storm were to make landfall just south of the entrance of the St. Johns River.

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Although many factors impact the storm surge that accompanies tropical storms and hurricanes, including height of tide and stage of the moon, the following table provides useful information for planning purposes:

**Table 3.1**

| Storm Category | Port of Jacksonville Entrance | Port of Fernandina Entrance | Port Canaveral Entrance |
|----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|
| Cat 1          | 7.7 FT                        | 4.6 FT                      | 5.0 FT                  |
| Cat 2          | 11.2 FT                       | 8.1 FT                      | 6.5 FT                  |
| Cat 3          | 14.5 FT                       | 11.4 FT                     | 9.7 FT                  |
| Cat 4          | 18.3 FT                       | 14.4 FT                     | 13.0 FT                 |
| Cat 5          | 21.8 FT                       | 17.6 FT                     | 14.5 FT                 |

Note: Based on 1998 SLOSH Model Data

2. Geographic Considerations within the COTP Jacksonville Zone – **Due to the low topography of the area, the Port of Jacksonville and the Naval Station Mayport Basin are not suitable refuge for hurricanes or other tropical cyclones. The NWS SLOSH model indicates that water surges of over 21 feet can be expected in the St. Johns River near Port of Jacksonville Entrance and Naval Station Mayport Basin if a Category 5 hurricane were to strike the area.**

**Port Canaveral** is located on the east coast of Brevard County, Florida, approximately 145 miles south of Jacksonville. **Port Canaveral is not a suitable refuge for either hurricanes or tropical storms.** In addition, Port Canaveral is a port of significant national interest, and every effort must be taken to minimize the damage caused by severe weather. In most cases this means that vessels or barges greater than 500 GT will not be permitted to remain anywhere within Port Canaveral.

The **Port of Fernandina** is approximately 40 miles north of Jacksonville, Florida. The NWS SLOSH model indicates that water surges of over 17 feet can be expected in the St. Mary’s and Amelia Rivers near the downtown area of Fernandina Beach, if a Category 5 hurricane were to strike the area. **The Port of Fernandina is not a suitable refuge for either hurricanes or tropical storms.**

3. Vessel Sortie Policy – Effective June 1<sup>st</sup>, the COTP will release a Marine Safety Information Bulletin (MSIB) setting Hurricane Condition IV in the ports of Northeast and East Central Florida. Additionally, the MSIB will address the actions required by all vessels greater than 500 GT operating within the COTP Jacksonville Zone.

As discussed above, there are no safe havens within the COTP Jacksonville Zone. As a result, the risk of damage to our ports is minimized when the inventory of commercial vessels is at a minimum. Accordingly, all oceangoing vessels greater than 500 gross tons, including oceangoing tugs and barges greater than 500 gross tons, within the COTP Jacksonville Zone must follow the requirements at each Hurricane Port Condition for the port in which they are currently moored, operating within, or intending to moor. All oceangoing vessels and ocean-going tug/barge combinations over 500 GT should plan to depart the port during the approach of a tropical cyclone. Vessels desiring to remain in port during a tropical cyclone must request and receive permission from the COTP. For vessels already in port, this request must be received within 12 hours of the COTP setting Port Hurricane Condition WHISKEY. Vessels arriving after the setting of Hurricane Port Condition WHISKEY must submit a request to remain in port prior to entering the port. The request must be submitted in writing and explain the reasons why the vessel is submitting the request and must include a completed Remain in Port Request and Checklist (Annex H).

Once the COTP sets Hurricane Port Condition ZULU, no vessel, regardless of size or service, will be allowed to enter, transit, or conduct cargo operations in the COTP Jacksonville Zone without permission from the COTP.

No vessels will be allowed to remain at facilities which are within one half mile of any bridge with out special consideration by the COTP. Vessels remaining in port must have the decks clear of all missile hazards, potential pollution hazards, and flammable materials. Tank vessels must be certified gas free or empty and inerted. All persons in charge must ensure that all hatches are secured for heavy weather.

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In addition to the conditions outlined above, all vessels, regardless of size or service, in the Port of Canaveral during Hurricane Port Condition WHISKEY shall begin making preparations and safely depart the Port Canaveral Barge Canal before the setting of Hurricane Port Condition X-RAY. Once Hurricane Port Condition X-RAY has been set in the Port of Canaveral, all vessels, regardless of size or service, will **not** be allowed to anchor or moor within the Port Canaveral Barge Canal without approval from the COTP. Additionally, once the COTP sets Hurricane Port Condition YANKEE in the Port of Canaveral, no vessel, regardless of size or service, will be allowed to transit through the Port Canaveral Barge Canal.

**Table 3.2: Vessel Sortie Requirements**

| <b>Port Hurricane Condition</b>                 | <b>Action Required by Commercial, Oceangoing Vessels and Barges Over 500 GT</b>  |
|---|--|
| <b>Condition WHISKEY<br/>(Alert – 72 Hrs)</b>   | Make preparations to get underway in sufficient time to ensure the safety of the vessel and its crew. Set navigation and radio watch. “Dead” vessels unable to put to sea must make written application to the COTP to remain in port (refer to Annex H). Written requests should be submitted within 12 hours of setting Port Hurricane Condition WHISKEY.  |
| <b>Condition X-RAY<br/>(Readiness – 48 Hrs)</b> | All vessels, including tugs & barges and vessels on domestic voyages, are required to give COTP advanced notice of arrival. All vessels should prepare to complete cargo operations and depart port in sufficient time to ensure the safety of the vessel and its crew, or when Condition YANKEE is set. Vessels and barges unable to depart must request written permission from COTP (refer to Annex H). |
| <b>Condition YANKEE<br/>(Warning – 24 Hrs)</b>  | Port is closed to incoming traffic without specific written approval of COTP. All ship-to-shore cargo operations must stop within 6 hrs of setting ZULU. All vessels must put to sea unless in receipt of specific written approval of the COTP to remain in port.   |
| <b>Condition ZULU<br/>(Max Prep – 12 Hrs)</b>   | Port is closed to vessel movements. No ship-to-shore movement of cargo is permitted. Vessel owners and operators with COTP pre-approved mooring or anchoring plan must still notify the COTP if the vessel intends to remain in port during Hurricane Port Condition ZULU.   |

**Note:** Maritime interests should anticipate that storm movement may accelerate and periods between Port Hurricane Conditions may be less than the 24 or 12 hours indicated above.

4. Berthing Arrangements – Most deep draft berths in the ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, and Canaveral are owned or controlled by Port Authorities or private terminal operators. Many have strict policies against berthing vessels during severe weather and will direct vessels to depart when Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE is set. Terminal and facility owner/operators are encouraged to discuss heavy weather berthing arrangements with vessel agents and operators. Facility operators in particular need to recognize that one of the natural consequences of their decision to engage in commerce during the hurricane season, especially with tug and barge units, is that a vessel may need to remain moored at their facility before, during and after a hurricane. Normally, commercial vessels that can safely evade or ride out a storm at sea will voluntarily leave port in advance of a hurricane. Ultimate responsibility for the safety of a vessel and its crew rests with the vessel’s master and unless a thorough assessment of the situation indicates a greater level of risk to the safety of life in the port, the COTP will respect a master’s decision to remain in port or to seek entry into port. The COTP will not order vessels to depart a facility if doing so would unduly hazard the vessel.
5. Vessel Evacuations – The following factors should be considered when planning vessel evacuations:
  - a. Bridges – When civilian evacuation of coastal areas is ordered by local emergency management authorities, the operation of bridges in the escape routes will be impacted. Typically, mandatory civilian evacuation is ordered about 18 hours prior to the arrival of sustained Gale Force Winds, when

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tropical storm or hurricane conditions are expected to follow. At that time, the COTP will permit all bridges to switch from “on-demand” openings to scheduled openings, once per hour. In the Jacksonville area, the schedule will stagger bridge openings to accommodate the transit of vessels up the St. Johns River (toward Green Cove Springs).

About 8 hours prior to the predicted arrival of sustained Gale Force Winds, most bridges will be locked down and will not open until after the severe weather has passed. *It is critical that vessels intending to evacuate the Ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, or Canaveral via the St. Johns River or the Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway depart early to avoid being blocked by bridges.* In the **Port of Canaveral**, once the SR 401 Bridge has been locked down it is not possible to evacuate the port.

- b. Harbor Tugs – Masters and agents of deep draft vessels and tug/barges that require assistance during docking and transit should keep in mind that there is very limited availability of harbor tugs, particularly in the Ports of Fernandina and Canaveral. Vessels that postpone departure until the final hours of Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE may find it difficult to schedule harbor tugs, and may experience delays that make it difficult to evade the storm at sea. *Plan to depart the port early, and anticipate some scheduling conflicts caused by the simultaneous departure of many deep draft vessels.*

**Table 3.3**

| PORT         | NUMBER OF TUGS REGULARLY AVAILABLE |
|--------------|------------------------------------|
| JACKSONVILLE | 15                                 |
| FERNANDINA   | 1                                  |
| CANAVERAL    | 6                                  |

- c. Pilots – Pilots generally stop working when conditions at the sea buoy prevent safe transfer from ship to pilot boat, or at the on-set of sustained Gale Force Winds.
6. Lay-Up Vessels – No vessel will be permitted to enter or remain in lay-up status during the hurricane season, except as provided below. Vessels in lay-up during the off-season (1 Dec – 31 May) must depart port **no later than May 31**. Laid up vessels unable to depart before June 1 each year must obtain written permission from the COTP to remain in port. Such requests, at a minimum, shall include a lay-up plan containing specific provisions for **all categories of hurricanes**. For purposes of this policy, a vessel is considered in lay-up status if it is not operational or not undergoing repairs or contracted to commence repairs within seven (7) days. A vessel is considered operational only if it is manned, has valid certificates from the flag administration, and is prepared to conduct cargo operations or sail within 14 days of entering port.

E. **PRE STORM PROCEDURES** – This section outlines the actions to be taken by maritime interests and the operational restrictions imposed by the COTP for each Port Hurricane Condition. The operational restrictions and required actions listed here are intended for the worst case; when Gale Forces Winds are predicted *and Tropical Cyclone Activity is* expected to follow. In cases when less severe weather is expected, the COTP may choose lesser requirements and operational restrictions. These will be communicated to the maritime community in accordance with the Communications Plan provided in this Chapter.

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|--|--|--|---|
| <b>CONDITION: Port Hurricane Condition 5<br/>(Page 1 of 1)</b>   |  | <b>Set: Seasonally, 1 Dec – 31 May</b> |   |
| Description: “Stand-down” – review and update plans. Incorporate lessons learned from previous hurricane season. |  |  |   |
| Action Items   |  |  |   |
| <b>Who</b>   | <b>What</b>  | <b>When</b>                            | <b>Notes</b>  |
| <b>All maritime interests</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Review and update hurricane plans</li> <li>Make recommendation to COTP for changes to this plan.</li> </ol>                                 | By 1 June                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>In Jacksonville, the Port Hurricane Meeting will typically be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Harbor Safety Committee meeting.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Vessel and Barge operators or agents</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Submit Hurricane Plans for lay-up vessels and barge fleets that will be unable to depart the port when severe weather threatens.</li> </ol> | By 1 June                              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>See Planning Factors for Lay-up vessels.</li> </ol>  |

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| <b>CONDITION: Port Hurricane Condition 4</b><br><b>(Page 1 of 1)</b>                         |  | <b>Set: Seasonally, 1 Jun – 30 Nov</b> |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Description: “Alert” – Ensure all preparations are complete to implement Heavy Weather Plans |  |  |  |
| Action Items   |  |  |  |
| <b>Who</b>   | <b>What</b>  | <b>When</b>                            | <b>Notes</b>   |
| <b>All maritime interests</b>  | 1. Attend Port Hurricane Meeting to review COTP Policy and requirements, and discuss any other topics of concern.  | As scheduled by COTP, prior to 15 June | 1. In Jacksonville, the Port Hurricane Meeting will typically be held in conjunction with the regularly scheduled Harbor Safety Committee meeting.   |
| <b>Terminal Owner / Operator</b>   | 1. Ensure all required equipment is on hand and operational.<br>2. Confirm contracts and agreements.<br>3. Conduct tests of emergency systems, including communications and power systems.<br>4. Provide COTP with updated list of all vessels and barges over 500 GT moored at the facility for more than 30 days.  | By 15 June                             |  |
| <b>Vessel and Barge operators</b>  | 1. Review Vessel Sortie Policy.<br>2. Confirm contracts and agreements.<br>3. Ensure storm moorings are in place or on hand for vessels or fleets with COTP permission to remain in port during severe weather.<br>4. Provide COTP with updated list of the number and size of barges and vessels over 500 GT that have been granted permission to remain in port. | By 15 June                             | 1. Plans for barge fleets and lay-up vessels that are unable to depart the port must be submitted to the COTP for approval prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition 4.<br>2. See Planning Factors for Lay-Up vessels. |
| <b>Navigational Support: Pilots, Tugs, ACOE</b>  | 1. Review plans<br>2. Attend seasonal meeting  |  |  |
| <b>Harbor Safety Committee</b>   | 1. Review plans<br>2. Host seasonal meeting<br>3. Update contacts for Hurricane Advisory Information   |  |  |

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| <b>CONDITION: Port Hurricane Condition WHISKEY<br/>(Page 1 of 2)</b> |   | <b>Set:</b> Sustained Gale Force winds from a tropical cyclone are <b>predicted</b> within 72 hours. |   |
|--|---|--|---|
| Description: "Alert" – Prepare to implement the Heavy Weather Plan   |   |  |   |
| Action Items   |   |  |   |
| <b>Who</b>   | <b>What</b>   | <b>When</b>  | <b>Notes</b>  |
| <b>All maritime interests</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Attend Port Hurricane Meeting to review COTP Policy and requirements, and discuss any other topics of concern specific to this storm.</li> <li>Review the requirements for Port Hurricane Condition X-RAY.</li> </ol>  | As scheduled by COTP   | 1. Harbor Safety Committee meeting (face-to-face or via conference call) will be held for Jacksonville/Fernandina and one for Port Canaveral.   |
| <b>Terminal Owner</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure the open areas of docks, wharves and piers are cleared of all missile hazards.</li> <li>Notify the COTP of any labeled dangerous cargo which must remain in open areas.</li> <li>Ensure drums are banded on pallets not more than two tiers high, or laid horizontally with secure dunnage.</li> <li>Notify COTP of any vessels or barges (over 500 GT) at the facility that may not be able to get underway within 48 Hours (request COTP issue orders to vessels suspected of not taking appropriate action).</li> <li>Coordinate approval of Cargo Operations Plan for vessels expecting to conduct cargo operations during Condition YANKEE.</li> </ol> | Within 12 hours of setting Port Hurricane Condition WHISKEY  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Hazardous materials should be removed from areas prone to flooding.</li> <li>Cargo Operations Plan details completion of cargo operations within Condition YANKEE, at least six hours prior to anticipated setting of Condition ZULU.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Terminal Tenant</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Notify the COTP of any labeled dangerous cargo that must remain in open areas.</li> <li>Notify COTP of any vessels or barges (over 500 GT) at the facility that may not be able to get underway within 48 hours.</li> </ol>  | Within 12 hours of setting Port Hurricane Condition WHISKEY  |   |

|   |   |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| <b>Vessel and Barge (Over 500 GT) operators, agents, or Masters</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make preparations to get underway, including setting navigational watch &amp; maintaining listening watch on channel 16 VHF FM.</li> <li>2. Ships and barges over 500 GT unable to get underway in sufficient time to ensure the safety of the vessel and its crew or desiring to remain in port during the storm must request permission, in writing, from the COTP.</li> <li>3. Ships and barges that have prior COTP approval to lay-up must update their status with the COTP and implement their Hurricane Plans.</li> <li>4. Review scheduled arrivals and departures to identify potential needs for assistance or possible deviations from COTP Policy.</li> <li>5. Tugs and barges must have established plan.</li> <li>6. Submit Cargo Operations Plan for vessels expecting to conduct cargo operations during Condition YANKEE to Terminal Owner for approval.</li> </ol> | <p>Within 12 hours of setting Port Hurricane Condition WHISKEY</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See Annex H for guidance on requesting permission to remain in port.</li> <li>2. All practicable and reasonable measures must be taken to ensure vessel stability (ballasting, shifting of cargo, securing hatches)</li> <li>3. Once Port Hurricane Condition X-RAY is set ALL Ships and Barges over 500 GT will be required to make notice of arrival to the COTP.</li> <li>4. Cargo Operations Plan indicates amount of cargo to be handled, time to complete operation, and certification from vessel that proposed completion time is adequate for securing vessel, getting underway and taking adequate storm evasion actions.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Navigational Support: Pilots, Tugs, ACOE Dredge Operators</b>    | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Confirm contracts and agreements.</li> <li>2. Notify Sector Command Center (SCC) of current position and intentions via CH. 16 or (904) 564-7512.</li> </ol>  | <p>Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition X-RAY</p>             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dredges will be required to clear the channel and seek refuge once Port Hurricane Condition X-RAY is set.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Small Craft &amp; Recreational Boaters</b>                       | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Take early action to evacuate to port. Vessels that can be, should be hauled and trailered.</li> </ol>  | <p>Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition X-RAY</p>             | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. The St. Johns river and the AICW are not safe havens for small craft.</li> <li>2. Evacuation of small craft will become more difficult as the storm approaches. Early action is best. See Planning Factors for Bridges.</li> </ol>   |

| <b>CONDITION: Port Hurricane Condition X-RAY<br/>(Condition 3) (Page 1 of 2)</b> |  | <b>Set:</b> Sustained Gale Force winds from a tropical cyclone are <b>predicted</b> within 48 hours. |  |
|--|--|--|--|
| Description: Readiness – Implement the Heavy Weather Plan                        |  |  |  |
| Action Items   |  |  |  |
| Who  | What   | When   | Notes  |
| <b>All maritime interests</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Prepare to terminate all ship-to-shore operations within 24 hours.</li> <li>2. Anticipate that the storm may accelerate, and that Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE may be set in less than 24 hours.</li> <li>3. Review the requirements for Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE.</li> </ol>  |  | 1. See Planning Factors for Vessel Evacuations.  |
| <b>Terminal &amp; Facility Owner/Operators</b>                                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Finalize authorizations for remaining at dock.</li> <li>2. Ensure COTP Orders are issued to recalcitrants.</li> <li>3. Make preparations to complete cargo operations during Condition YANKEE, 6 hrs ahead of ZULU.</li> <li>4. Secure missile hazards and hazardous cargo or supplies. Reduce container and pallet stacks to one high where possible.</li> <li>5. Lay-up vessels must be singled-up.</li> <li>6. Report any unusual or unsafe conditions to SCC at (904) 564-7511.</li> </ol>   | Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE   |  |
| <b>Vessel and Barge (Over 500 GT) operators, agents, or Masters</b>              | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make preparations to get underway. Ensure all required stores are aboard. Begin vessel evacuation as required for slow moving vessels.</li> <li>2. Anticipate bridge openings will switch from “on-demand” to scheduled openings approximately 18 hours in advance of sustained Gale Force Winds.</li> <li>3. Finalize remain in port agreement with facility and COTP. Ships and barges with permission to remain in port must secure for heavy weather in accordance with the plan approved by the COTP. Notify SCC at (904) 564-7512 when complete.</li> <li>4. Make preparations to complete cargo operations during Condition YANKEE, 6 hrs ahead of ZULU.</li> </ol> | Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All tank barges granted permission to remain in port will be required to empty all cargo tanks and ballast down.</li> <li>2. Lay-up vessels and ships granted permission to remain in port must be manned with sufficient crew to adjust lines.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Operators of Inland Vessels and Vessels Less Than 500 GT</b>                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make preparations to evacuate to sheltered water. Notify SCC of intentions at (904) 564-7512.</li> </ol>   | Prior to setting Port Hurricane Cond. YANKEE   | 1. See Planning Factors for Vessel Evacuations.  |

| <b>CONDITION: Port Hurricane Condition X-RAY<br/>(Condition 3) (Page 2 of 2)</b> |   | <b>Set:</b> Sustained Gale Force winds from a tropical cyclone are <b>predicted</b> within 48 hours.  |   |
|--|---|---|---|
| Description: Readiness – Implement the Heavy Weather Plan                        |   |   |   |
| Action Items   |   |   |   |
| <b>Who</b>   | <b>What</b>   | <b>When</b>   | <b>Notes</b>  |
| <b>Barges and Barge Fleets</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Barge fleets moored at facilities should be reduced as much as possible and singled-up.</li> <li>2. Fleets must be secured in accordance with the Hurricane Plan approved by the COTP. Notify ICC when complete at (904) 564-7511 or via VHF 16.</li> <li>3. Barge fleets not moored at facilities must be relocated away from the highest risk areas.</li> <li>4. All barges remaining in port must be emptied of all cargo. Tank barges are required to report to the COTP when cargo operations are complete.</li> <li>5. All barges should consider ballasting down for maximum stability.</li> </ol> | Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Barges will not be permitted to remain at any facility in Port Canaveral.</li> <li>2. In <b>Jacksonville</b>, barges should be relocated at least one mile upstream of the Buckman Bridge on the St. Johns River. In <b>Fernandina</b>, barges should be secured no closer than ½ mile from any bridge. In <b>Port Canaveral</b>, barges should be secured in the Indian River. See Planning Factors for Vessel Evacuations.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Agents, Ship &amp; Tug Operators</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make notice of arrival to the COTP for <u>all</u> ships, tugs &amp; barges over 500 GT.</li> <li>2. Divert inbound vessels that may not be able to depart port and evade the storm within 24 hrs.</li> <li>3. Anticipate that the port will be closed to incoming vessel within 24 hours.</li> </ol>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. At least 24 hrs prior to arrival.</li> <li>2. Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. See Planning Factors for Vessel Evacuations.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Dredge Operators</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Remove all equipment from the waterway and seek sheltered moorings. Notify COTP when Complete.</li> </ol>   | Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Dredge equipment may be moored no closer than ½ mile from any bridge. See Planning Factors for Vessel Evacuations.</li> </ol>   |

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| <b>CONDITION: Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE<br/>(Condition 2) (Page 1 of 2)</b>                 |   | <b>Set:</b> Sustained Gale Force winds from a tropical cyclone are <b>predicted</b> within 24 hours.                |   |
|---|---|---|---|
| Description: Warning – Commerce stops, all operations are to prepare the port for severe weather. |   |   |   |
| Action Items  |   |   |   |
| Who   | What  | When  | Notes   |
| <b>All maritime interests</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. “Normal” port operations are terminated. All effort is directed toward preparing the port for severe weather.</li> <li>2. Anticipate that the COTP will enact a safety zone prohibiting all vessel and ship-to-shore facility operation within 12 hours.</li> <li>3. Anticipate bridge openings will switch from “on-demand” to scheduled openings approximately 18 hours in advance of sustained Gale Force Winds.</li> <li>4. Anticipate that the storm may accelerate, and that Port Hurricane Condition ZULU may be set in less than 12 hours.</li> <li>5. Review the requirements for Port Hurricane Condition ZULU.</li> </ol>    | Upon the setting of Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE   | 1. The requirements for Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE may be modified in cases where gale forces winds are predicted but hurricane conditions are not expected to follow.   |
| <b>Terminal &amp; Facility Owner/Operators</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. No new arrivals or new starts for cargo operations.</li> <li>2. Complete all ship-to-shore cargo operations 6 hrs prior to setting ZULU. Secure all cargo handling equipment.</li> <li>3. Minimize cargo on the facility.</li> <li>4. Bulk liquid terminals will ensure that all transfer hoses and loading arms are drained, flanged, &amp; secured. Valves on transfer piping leading to pier and waterfront areas must be secured in the closed position.</li> <li>5. Make final survey of the facility to ensure all missile hazards and hazardous materials are secured. Report to SCC at (904) 564-7512 when complete.</li> </ol> | <p>1. Upon the setting of Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE</p> <p>Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition ZULU</p> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Shore-side storage tanks at bulk liquid facilities should be loaded to withstand maximum winds and storm surge.</li> <li>2. The report to the COTP should contain a list of all vessels and barges (of any size) moored at the facility and a phone number or frequency for a point of contact during and after the storm.</li> </ol> |

| <b>CONDITION: Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE<br/>(Condition 2) (Page 2 of 2)</b>                 |  | <b>Set:</b> Sustained Gale Force winds from a tropical cyclone are <b>predicted</b> within 24 hours. |   |
|---|--|--|---|
| Description: Warning – Commerce stops, all operations are to prepare the port for severe weather. |  |  |   |
| Action Items  |  |  |   |
| Who   | What   | When   | Notes   |
| <b>Vessel and Barge (Over 500 GT) operators, agents, or Masters</b>                               | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete/secure all ship-to-shore cargo operations 6 hrs prior to setting ZULU.</li> <li>2. Vessels without specific written approval from the COTP to remain in port must put to sea.</li> <li>3. Ships and barges with COTP approval to remain in port must ensure all provisions of the approved mooring plan are in place. Report to SCC when complete at (904) 564-7512 or via VHF 16.</li> </ol> | Upon the setting of Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE  | 1. Report to SCC should include verification that measures outlined in the approved mooring plan have been enacted, and a phone number or radio frequency for a point of contact. |
| <b>Operators of Inland Vessels and Vessels Less Than 500 GT</b>                                   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Evacuate to sheltered water. Notify SCC when complete at (904) 564-7512.</li> </ol>  | Upon the setting of Port Hurricane Condition YANKEE  | 1. See Planning Factors for Vessel Evacuations.   |
| <b>Barges and Barge Fleets</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report barge and fleet status to SCC at (904) 564-7512.</li> </ol>   | Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition ZULU   | 1. Report to COTP should include a phone number or radio frequency for a point of contact during and after the storm.   |
| <b>Agents, Ship &amp; Tug Operators</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report any delays in implementing SCC requirements or anticipated problems at (904) 564-7512.</li> </ol>   | Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition ZULU   | 1. Report to COTP should include a phone number or radio frequency for a point of contact during and after the storm.   |
| <b>Dredge Operators</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Report status and location of all dredge equipment to SCC at (904) 564-7512.</li> </ol>  | Prior to setting Port Hurricane Condition ZULU   | 1. Report to COTP should include a phone number or radio frequency for a point of contact during and after the storm.   |

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| <b>CONDITION: Port Hurricane Condition ZULU<br/>(Condition 1) (Page 1 of 1)</b>                       |   | <b>Set:</b> Sustained Gale Force winds from a tropical cyclone are <b>predicted</b> within 12 hours. |  |
|---|---|--|--|
| Description: Maximum Preparedness – Final preparation and verification that all requirements are met. |   |  |  |
| Action Items  |   |  |  |
| <b>Who</b>  | <b>What</b>   | <b>When</b>  | <b>Notes</b>   |
| <b>All maritime interests</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make final preparations for severe weather. Ensure all operations and equipment are secure.</li> <li>2. Anticipate that the storm may accelerate or slow down, and that Port Hurricane Condition ZULU will be in effect until cancelled by the COTP after passage of the storm.</li> <li>3. Review the requirements for Post-Storm Procedures.</li> </ol> | Upon the setting of Port Hurricane Condition ZULU  | 1. The COTP will establish a safety zone for the ports of Jacksonville, Fernandina, and Canaveral that prohibits any commercial vessel transits or port facility operations without specific written approval of the COTP. This safety zone will remain in effect until specifically lifted by the COTP. |
| <b>Terminal &amp; Facility Owner/Operators</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All departing vessels gone.</li> <li>2. Complete docking pre-arranged vessels and secure</li> <li>3. Finalize security of cargo and evacuate facility.</li> <li>4. Curtail/complete shoreside operations as safety dictates.</li> </ol>   | Upon the setting of Port Hurricane Condition ZULU  |  |
| <b>Operators of all vessels and barges remaining in port</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Vessel operations without express permission of COTP are prohibited.</li> <li>2. Ensure that mooring are secured and checked/adjusted as necessary. Report any unusual condition or damage to the SCC as soon as possible at (904) 564-7512 or VHF 16.</li> </ol>   | Upon the setting of Port Hurricane Condition ZULU  |  |
| <b>Navigational Support: Pilots, Tugs, ACOE Dredge Operators</b>                                      | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Complete final in port vessel shifts.</li> <li>2. Report intended storm lay-up to COTP</li> <li>3. Secure.</li> </ol>   | Upon the setting of Port Hurricane Condition ZULU  |  |

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**F. COMMUNICATIONS PLAN**

| Method   | How Transmitted  | When Used  | Notes |
|--|--|--|-------|
| <b>Marine Safety Information Broadcast (MSIB)</b>                              | Telefax, E-mail, Internet, Home-Port Advance Warning System (AWS)              | When Port Hurricane Conditions change, as needed to update status and announce meetings. |       |
| <b>Broadcast Notice To Mariners (BNTM)</b>                                     | VHF FM CH 22.  | When Port Hurricane Conditions change, when safety zones are enforced.                   |       |
| <b>Landline</b><br>SCC<br>MSD PORT CANAVERAL<br>USCG STATION PORT<br>CANAVERAL | (904) 564-7511, 7512<br>(321) 784-6780<br>(321) 868-4200                       | To make request, reports or inquires to the Coast Guard.                                 |       |
| <b>Telefax</b><br>SCC<br>MSD PORT CANAVERAL<br>USCG STATION PORT<br>CANAVERAL  | (904) 564-7519<br>(321) 784-6794<br>(321) 868-4200                             | To make request, reports or inquires to the Coast Guard.                                 |       |
| <b>E-Mail</b>  | <a href="mailto:NEFLICCwatchstander@uscg.mil">NEFLICCwatchstander@uscg.mil</a> | To make request, reports or inquires to the Coast Guard.                                 |       |
| <b>VHF FM</b>  | CH 16  | To make request, reports or inquires to the Coast Guard.                                 |       |

- Note: (1) To be added to the fax broadcast list send e-mail to [NEFLICCwatchstander@uscg.mil](mailto:NEFLICCwatchstander@uscg.mil) with the fax number and point of contact. Please ensure only one number and POC per company or agency.
- (2) To be added to the e-mail distribution list send e-mail to [NEFLICCwatchstander@uscg.mil](mailto:NEFLICCwatchstander@uscg.mil) with the e-mail address and point of contact. Please ensure only one e-mail address and POC per company or agency. Web address is [www.uscg.mil/d7/sectorjacksonville/](http://www.uscg.mil/d7/sectorjacksonville/).
- (3) VHF FM channel 16 is monitored by Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville. Broadcasts are made by Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville on VHF FM channel 22.
- (4) When Port Hurricane Condition X-RAY is set the COTP will issue a detailed Communications Plan with landline and cellular phone number for the Coast Guard Command Post. This Communications plan will be issued as an MSIB.
- (5) When Port Hurricane Condition ZULU is set, the Coast Guard Command Post will likely relocate to the Emergency Operations Centers in Duval and Brevard County. A listing of phone numbers and frequencies will be issued via MSIB at that time.
- (6) E-mail may not be available once Port Hurricane Condition ZULU is set.

**G. RE-OPENING PORT FACILITIES** – Re-opening port facilities, particularly CG-regulated Maritime Transportation Security Act (MTSA) facilities and Designated Waterfront Facilities (DWF) have certain implications and requirements to ensure safe and secure operation once severe weather has passed.

- MTSA Facilities** – After passage of heavy weather, MTSA facilities must 1) *re-establish security* in accordance with their facility security plan and 2) if security cannot be re-established, make a *report to the USCG*. Re-establishing security must include the restoration of power as well as on-site re-introduction of security measures. It should be incumbent on the Facility Security Officer (FSO) to report security shortfalls to the USCG Sector Command Center (SCC) at (904) 564-7511. USCG will acknowledge this notification and monitor the situation as the facility takes measures to re-establish security in accordance with their plan. Upon re-establishment of security and reduction below gale force winds, facility operators may pursue shoreside operations to include assessment, recovery, and cargo staging without waiting for full waterway restoration and opening.
- Re-opening Terminals and Berth Shifts** – The USCG will permit on a case-by-case basis facilities/terminals to partially open to allow dock-side operation as well as internal berth shifts before the port is fully opened. Terminal operators should contact the USCG SCC.

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3. Marine Transportation System (MTS) Recovery – Should a major disruption to the MTS occur, Coast Guard Sector Jacksonville will conduct and lead the local port community in MTS Recovery operations using existing Captain of the Port (COTP), Federal Maritime Security Coordinator (FMSC), and Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC), authorities. Any response to an incident affecting the MTS will be conducted in accordance with Sector Jacksonville’s MTS Recovery Plan, (SECJAXINST 16601.4), and will include the establishment of a Marine Transportation System Recovery Unit (MTSRU) within the Incident Command/Unified Command incident response structure.
  
4. Post-Storm Reporting Requirements – The following table lays out the required post-storm reporting criteria:

**Table 3.4**

| <b>POST-STORM REPORTING REQUIREMENTS</b>                                      |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Who</b>  | <b>What</b>  |
| <b>Terminal and Facility Owner/Operators</b>                                  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey facilities listed in Annex J and report any damage, pollution, or unsafe conditions. Secure damaged areas.</li> <li>2. Re-establish security operations.</li> <li>3. If shoaling is suspected, ensure soundings are taken and report results.</li> <li>4. Account for all vessels and barges moored at the facility prior to the storm. Report status to COTP.</li> <li>5. Make a recommendation to the COTP regarding the operational status of your facility.</li> <li>6. Use the form in Annex N to report.</li> </ol> |
| <b>Barge and Barge Fleet Managers</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey the barges or barge fleets. Account of all barges moored prior to the storm. Use the form in Annex N to report the status of your barges, including any damage, pollution or unsafe conditions.</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Dredge Operators</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey all dredge equipment. Use the form in Annex N to report status to the COTP. Assess availability of emergency dredge equipment.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>Pilots</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Make a recommendation to COTP regarding the status of the main channels, the need for extensive surveys, and the timeline for re-opening the port.</li> <li>2. Re-stage assets for support of post storm assessment.</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Harbor Tug Companies</b>   | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey all tugs and facilities. Use the form in Annex N to report and damage, pollution, or unsafe conditions. Make a recommendation to the COTP regarding the availability of tugs.</li> <li>2. Re-stage assets for support of post storm assessment.</li> </ol>  |
| <b>Masters, Agents, Operators of All Commercial Vessels Remaining In Port</b> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Survey vessels and mooring facilities. Use the form in Annex N to report any damage, pollution or unsafe condition.</li> <li>2. Make a specific recommendation to the COTP regarding the operational status of each vessel.</li> <li>3. Make any requests for shifting berths, deadship movements, or vessel departures as soon as possible.</li> <li>4. Plan for resumption of operations.</li> </ol>   |
| <b>COTP Jacksonville</b>  | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Collect and analyze facility and vessel status reports. Distill and formulate recommendations.</li> <li>2. Cancel ZULU and set necessary restrictions.</li> </ol>  |