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31 Jul 2019

FIRST ENDORSEMENT on CG MSU Toledo memo 5300 of 29 Jul 2019

From: 
CG Sector Detroit

To: CGD NINE (dp)

Subj: RECOMMENDED ACTIONS AHEAD OF WINTER LAY-UP 2020 AS A RESULT OF LESSONS LEARNED FROM INVESTIGATION INTO M/V ST CLAIR FIRE

1. I fully endorse all the recommendations presented by MSU Toledo in the enclosed memorandum. While the major marine casualty investigation remains open pending receipt of the National Transportation Safety Board's final investigation report, the extent of damage to the M/V ST CLAIR designates this incident as one of the largest, most costly marine casualties in Great Lakes' history. It is imperative that initial lessons learned from this incident are captured and recommendations provided to industry ahead of the 2020 Winter Layup / Spring Breakout season to prevent similar casualties from occurring in the future. We are very fortunate this incident did not result in loss of life or significant pollution discharge.

2. I strongly recommend the Ninth District communicate these recommendations to industry in the form of a Marine Safety Information Bulletin and consider other means to maximize dissemination of information that will aid in preventing future incidents onboard Lakers that could jeopardize the overall economic viability of the Great Lakes region. I fully support MSU Toledo's recommendation that each vessel develop and provide a "Layup Plan" to the OCMI prior to work commencing. I further recommend the Ninth District form a Working Group comprised of representatives from the Lake Carriers Association, Great Lakes' shipping companies and Ninth District Coast Guard units overseeing vessel layups in an effort to engage industry partners in discourse to adopt more concrete Ninth District Winter Layup / Spring Breakout policies for the future.

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Copy: MSU Toledo