

The United States Coast Guard directed that a Ports and Waterways Safety Assessment (PAWSA) workshop be held to identify major waterway safety hazards, estimate risk levels and evaluate potential mitigation measures on the Hudson River.

The PAWSA workshop was conducted on November 7 and 8 in Poughkeepsie New York with 39 stakeholders participating that included the Tug and Barge Committee's Chairman, Vice Chairman and Executive Director.

For two days all the risks associated with vessel traffic on the Hudson River were analyzed along with all of the mitigation measures currently in place to minimize those risks including improved vessel safety, the use of Custom and Practice Anchorages identified in the Coast Pilot for the region and preventing obstructions in the navigational channel and Federal Designated Anchorages such as cables and pipelines. The United States Army Corp of Engineers Definition found in 33 Code Federal Regulations Chapter II 245.5 of *Obstruction* is anything that restricts, endangers or interferes with navigation. The Commercial Industry is firmly against cables/pipelines or other infrastructure that would restrict, endanger, or interfere with navigation while anchoring for all uses including an emergency.

Other topics discussed were interactions between commercial and recreational boaters, marinas sited too close to navigation channels, and the increase in human powered craft on the river.

All attendees were able to learn from each other and realized that there are ample common goals. The Tug and Barge committee is pleased to announce that the Poughkeepsie PAWSA ended with a general consensus that for increased risk mitigation of the environment and the safety of all waterway users, Federally Designated Short-Term Anchorages should be implemented as proposed. The Albany PAWSA will be held Wednesday and Thursday with a different group of stakeholders. Professionally organized and facilitated, the Poughkeepsie PAWSA made a major first step to ensure the safe and efficient movement of vital cargos on the Hudson River, while keeping vessels, crews, and the environment safe and healthy. The Albany

PAWSA will continue the process and be held on Wednesday and Thursday, November 15-16.