



**For Immediate Release
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Contact: Steve Chesser
310/519-3134**

New Executive Director of Marine Exchange Named

By Steve Chesser

Captain James Kipling “Kip” Louttit has been named as the new Executive Director of the Marine Exchange of Southern California. Louttit, who retired after 30 years of service in the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), replaces Captain Dick McKenna, who announced his retirement last October.

Captain Jim Morgan, President of the Marine Exchange Board of Directors, announced the selection after a recruitment process that attracted candidates from across the United States. “We were fortunate to have several highly qualified candidates apply, which made it difficult to make our selection,” said Morgan. “We’re pleased with our choice, and Captain Louttit tells me he’s eager to get started.”

Louttit’s experience includes ten years at sea including six years in command of three different Coast Guard cutters, and two years as commanding officer of USCG Integrated Support Command in San Pedro. When the Department of Homeland Security was established, he served as the first Acting Director of Budget for the new agency.

After retirement from the Coast Guard, Louttit provided consultancy services to the Coast Guard and Department of Defense. He will relocate to the San Pedro area from his present home in Chevy Chase, MD. Captain Louttit will lead a staff of 20 civilians, and a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) contingent of nine, with an annual budget of \$2.4 million.

The Marine Exchange of Southern California, a non-profit organization first established in 1923, is unique among the nation’s Vessel Traffic Services in having a public/private partnership with the USCG. It has evolved into one of the world’s foremost organizations of its kind, and utilizes state-of-the-art electronic and computer technology in serving the Southern California region.

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