



## Summary of Protocols

Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Summit

The Thirteenth Coast Guard District and Washington Department of Ecology collaborated to develop twelve protocols enumerated below to implement and guide coordinated agency operations under the 2007 Memorandum of Agreement on Pollution Prevention, Preparedness and Response for the protection of Washington State waters.

The overarching purpose of the protocols is to maximize the combined oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response efforts of the Thirteenth Coast Guard District and the Washington Department of Ecology by reducing duplication of effort, more effectively using resources, and improving communication, coordination, and collaboration.

The protocols cover the 12 work areas common to both agencies' authority and responsibilities regarding prevention, preparedness and response to oil and hazardous substance spills. The protocols represent the current limits of federal and state authority, or ability to jointly address these activities.

The protocols provide procedures for the agencies to coordinate pollution prevention, preparedness and response operations. These formalized working relationships will complement the accomplishment of the joint strategic work plan. As authorities are modified and enhanced, the protocols will be amended accordingly.

### ***Facility Response/Contingency Plan Review***

Provides for coordinated review and approval of jointly regulated facility spill response contingency plans.

### ***Oil Transfer Operations***

Provides for coordinated monitoring of regulated cargo and fuel oil transfer operations.

### ***Drills and Exercises***

Provides for coordination and participation of both agencies in spill response exercise design and execution to test veracity of contingency plans and the response organizations.

### ***Facility Inspections***

Provides for coordination and collaboration on the inspection of regulated land-based and mobile oil handling facilities transferring to and from vessels.

### ***Investigations***

Provides procedures for cooperation to leverage expertise in the conduct of marine accident investigations, including pollution incidents. Investigations provide critical lessons learned and feedback to institute prevention programs to prevent recurrence or to mitigate impact of future incidents.

### ***Pollution Response***

Provides procedures for coordinated responses to spill events maximizing the effectiveness of the agencies' combined response resources.

### ***Media Relations***

Provides coordinated and timely information sharing for media engagement on agencies' responses to incidents to enhance effectiveness of outreach and accurate reporting by the press.

### ***Disclosure of Records***

Provides guidelines for the disclosure and protection of information and records shared between the agencies, particularly sensitive information that may impact ongoing investigations and operations.

### ***Vessel Inspections***

Addresses the sharing of vessel screening or targeting measures, as well as results of inspection and examinations to further reduce substandard shipping and vessel operations.

### ***Information Sharing***

Establishes procedures guiding effective sharing of vessel operational histories, vessel arrival, and accident or marine incident information between agencies aimed at reducing causes or mitigating impacts of spills, while ensuring conformance with federal and state public disclosure statutes.

### ***Standby Emergency Response Tug Employment***

Outlines the conditions and procedures by which Coast Guard officials may request employment of the Washington State managed standby emergency towing capability to prevent a disabled vessel, or a vessel with reduced maneuvering or propulsion capability from harming Washington State waters.

### ***Cross Familiarization Training***

Fosters better familiarization, cooperation, and relationship building between agency personnel by ensuring cross training and observation of operational activities.

Each protocol includes appropriate Measures of Effectiveness to gauge and enhance agencies' efforts for continuous improvement in protocol implementation and, most importantly, marine environmental protection and safety of operations upon waters of the United States and Washington State.