

United States Coast Guard and Washington State Department of Ecology Shared Strategic Work Plan (5/22/07)



[The United States Coast Guard](#) (USCG) and the [Washington State Department of Ecology](#) Spills Program (Ecology) are continuing their collaboration on a broad range of oil spill prevention, preparedness and response issues. Building upon past successes ([highlighted in the attached reference document](#)), the USCG and Ecology are addressing issues of concern where the agencies share jurisdiction or have a common interest.

The 2007 Memorandum of Agreement demonstrates the USCG and Ecology's on-going commitment to continuous improvement and strengthened community partnerships. This cooperative work plan is a living document that identifies and lays out priorities and strategies to address oil spill issues that may pose a threat to the environment of Washington State. This work plan will evolve with changing priorities and resource availability, and will incorporate lessons learned.

[Constructive comments](#) on the work plan are welcomed and will be considered by both the USCG and Ecology. The comments received will be compiled and made available for review. For more information on this process or on the ongoing partnership between the USCG and Ecology, visit our Web site at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/ecyuscg/main.html.

CROSS-PROGRAM		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
Quarterly Meetings		
Continue to conduct quarterly meetings to coordinate activities and review the progress of the work plan and existing protocols.	USCG, Ecology	Quarterly
Make meeting summary available after each meeting.	USCG, Ecology	Quarterly
Work together in the following venues:		
A) <u>Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force</u> (Task Force)		
Participate in routine meetings.	Ecology, USCG	On-going
B) <u>The Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee</u> (PSHSC) and <u>Columbia River Harbor Safety Committee</u> (CRHSC)		
Continue to actively participate and support as appropriate the harbor safety committees in executive committee and regular committee meetings.	USCG, Ecology	PSHSC: On-going CRHSC: TBD
Foster engagement with stakeholders and industry members.	USCG, Ecology	PSHSC: On-going CRHSC: TBD
Identify and evaluate potential improvements in oil spill prevention.	USCG, Ecology	PSHSC: On-going CRHSC: TBD
Pursue as appropriate additional standards of care or modify existing standards of care, and monitor effectiveness of implementation.	USCG, Ecology	PSHSC: On-going CRHSC: TBD
Review current status and pursue efforts as appropriate to reduce coastal towing failures.	USCG, Ecology	PSHSC: On-going CRHSC: TBD

CROSS-PROGRAM		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
<p>C) <u>Regional Response Team (RRT) and the Northwest Area Committee (NWAC)</u></p> <p>Participate in and advise on the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Regional Area Policies Continue to develop regional area policies and tools for dispersant use and in-situ burn capability. • Response Capabilities Inventory the response capabilities of the various incident management teams in the Pacific Northwest. • Places of Refuge Consider whether pre-designated places of refuge locations need to be included in the Northwest Area Plan. • Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) <i>GRPs are critical planning tools for the first hours after a spill. They are most effective when very specific and reviewed often.</i> Coordinate on the review of GRPs through a public process to ensure plans include relevant and current information. <p style="padding-left: 20px;">Develop GRPs for all inland areas with major transportation risks: pipeline corridors, highway and railway routes.</p>	<p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>Ecology, USCG</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>D) <u>Early Action Oil Spill Task Force (EAOSTF)</u></p> <p><i>Most recommendations of the EAOSTF have been accomplished. Process completed in 2005.</i></p> <p>Continue to look for opportunities to accomplish the remaining recommendations.</p> <p>Issues include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remote Sensing Sign agreements with King County and WSP to conduct Forward Looking Infrared (FLIR) technology over-flights to look for spills. 	<p>Ecology</p>	<p>February 2006</p>

CROSS-PROGRAM		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
Invest in radio telemetry oil spill tracking buoys. Enhance FLIR system in King County. Research remote sensing technologies and invest in practical technologies as appropriate. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Spill Reporting Explore improvements in spill reporting mechanisms. • Spill Response Equipment Examine if adequate response equipment is pre-positioned for a potential worse case spill. • Community Liaison and Outreach Improve community liaison and outreach during spills. 	Ecology Ecology USCG, Ecology USCG, Ecology USCG, Ecology Ecology, USCG	May 2007 January 2007 On-going On-going On-going On-going
E) <u>Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Advisory Council</u> <i>Important venue for outer coast issues.</i> Continue to implement the MOA between USCG, NOAA and the OCNMS. Participate in OCNMS advisory council meetings. 2008 Safe Seas Exercise for the outer coast	 USCG USCG, Ecology USCG, Ecology	 On-going Monthly Meetings Funding TBD
F) <u>Oil Spill Advisory Council (OSAC)</u> <i>The OSAC is an advisory council to the state.</i> Continue to provide expert input and participate in OSAC deliberations.	 Ecology, USCG	 Quarterly Meetings
G) <u>Puget Sound Partnership</u> Participate as appropriate in the Partnership's efforts to protect and clean up Puget Sound. Engage in their work plan and accountability measures as appropriate.	 Ecology, USCG Ecology, USCG	 TBD TBD

CROSS-PROGRAM		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
<p>Public Outreach Before, During and After Spills <i>Public outreach is necessary in educating people on the spill agencies involved and their roles in preventing and responding to spills.</i></p> <p>Coordinate and maximize existing education and outreach outlets including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Shared Partnership Web Site</u> Develop new Web site dedicated to the ongoing partnership between USCG and Ecology. • Shared Web Site for Spill News Make information during spills readily available to communities as determined to be appropriate by unified command. • <u>Northwest Area Committee</u> Develop programs to inform the public about the roles, responsibilities and capabilities of the USCG and Ecology. • <u>Washington State Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET)</u> Ensure POSPET-published materials have instructions for spill prevention, in addition to spill reporting tips. <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Recruit boat “homeowners” to serve as ambassadors.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>USCG Sea Partners</u> Educate pollution awareness to families and children, emphasizing oil spills and their negative impacts. • <u>USCG Auxiliary</u> Give courtesy dockside examinations, including pollution prevention items. • <u>Beach Watchers</u> Train volunteers for oil spill notification and early assessment. • Volunteer Management Strategy Establish strategy for organizing, training and providing logistical support for volunteers. 	<p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>Ecology</p> <p>USCG</p> <p>USCG</p> <p>Ecology</p> <p>Ecology</p>	<p>June 2007</p> <p>As Needed During Major Oil Spills</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>December 2008 (Not Funded)</p>

CROSS-PROGRAM		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
<p>Conferences</p> <p>Participate as appropriate in conferences, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Clean Pacific Conference</u> <i>The conference will bring together industry, environmental and governmental representatives from across the Pacific States and British Columbia to improve partnership and share information and strategies.</i> • 2008 National Harbor Safety Committee Conference • <u>International Oil Spill Conference</u> • Green Ports Stakeholder Roundtable Review the recommendations, connecting with the American Association of Port Authorities, including options for oil reception facilities. • <u>Clean Gulf Conference</u> 	<p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p>	<p>September 13-14, 2007</p> <p>TBD</p> <p>May 2008 April 2008</p> <p>TBD</p>

PREVENTION		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
BP Cherry Point Vessel Traffic Risk Study Provide expert knowledge as needed. Review the findings of the study and consider recommendations.	USCG, Ecology	On-going
	USCG, Ecology	2009
Automatic Identification System (AIS) Utilization <i>AIS navigation software provides GPS data, is common on vessels and increases safety.</i> Research various uses of AIS data to conduct future risk analyses. Continue to improve vessel AIS input data.	USCG, Ecology	On-going
	USCG, Ecology	On-going
Emergency Response System (ERS) for the Strait of Juan de Fuca <i>The Washington Legislature directed Ecology to develop an ERS for the Strait of Juan de Fuca in 1991 (RCW 88346.120).</i> Define the state plan, aligning with the NWACP, for the emergency response system in consultation with USCG. Continue dialogue with coastal tribes and other stakeholders in the region, including the harbor safety committees and the government of British Columbia. Refer to previous documents including Strait of Juan de Fuca and Northern Puget Sound Regional Marine Safety Committee Plan and Final Report of the Emergency Towing System Task Force.	Ecology	March 2008
	USCG, Ecology	December 2008
<u>OCNMS Existing Areas To Be Avoided (ATBA)</u> Monitor current levels of compliance and evaluate additional methods to achieve 100% compliance, in coordination with NOAA and OSAC. Research methods to determine which barges are “laden” and “unladen” in vicinity of the ATBA.	USCG, Ecology	June 2008
	USCG, Ecology	June 2008

PREVENTION		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
<p>Safety and Environmental Hazards <i>Anchors that have been lost and sunken vessels may pose a safety and environmental hazard.</i></p> <p>Ensure effective notification and communication between the USCG and the State on potential obstructions.</p>	USCG, Ecology	December 2007
<p><u>Best Industry Practices (BIPs)</u> <i>BIPs are established by a group of stakeholders, including industry and government representatives, to reduce the incidence of spills.</i></p> <p>Review current BIPs for consideration by harbor safety committees to incorporate into SOC, as appropriate.</p> <p>Examine options for monitoring adherence with BIPs through existing forums.</p>	USCG, Ecology USCG, Ecology	On-going On-going
<p>Towing Vessel Practices <i>Standards of Care (SOC) are established by harbor safety committees and are voluntary marine safety practices.</i></p> <p>Working through the harbor safety committees, review SOC for compatibility and effectiveness in Puget Sound and the coastal offshore environment, and revise if necessary.</p> <p>Examine options for monitoring adherence with SOC through existing forums.</p> <p>Review coastal oil barge towing practices to set standards that will reduce coastal towing failures.</p>	USCG, Ecology USCG, Ecology USCG, Ecology	March 2008 On-going PSHSC: CRHSC: TBD
<p>Puget Sound Tanker Escorts – <i>There is a SOC for tanker escorts in Puget Sound established by the PSHSC.</i></p> <p>Initiate and complete study of state tug escort requirements for human factors considerations.</p>	Ecology	December 2008, dependant on funding

PREVENTION		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
Review recommendations from above study for action as appropriate.	USCG, Ecology	Upon completion of above study
Promote adherence with the adopted SOC for Puget Sound tanker escorts.	USCG, Ecology	On-going
Escorts for Canadian In and Out Bound Laden Tankers		
Examine the options for gathering information to monitor tug escort practices in Boundary Pass and Haro Strait.	USCG, Ecology	January 2008
West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management (WCOVTRM) <i>This is an initiative to reduce the probability of coastal vessel collisions and to ensure emergency towing and salvage is available.</i>		
Participate in the 5-year review of the 2002 WCOVTRM workgroup, in coordination with the Task Force.	USCG, Ecology	September 2007
Complete an offshore weather analysis of limitations for mechanical recovery and dispersant use to determine if it is appropriate to move vessel transits further offshore, in coordination with the Task Force.	USCG, Ecology	Weather data gathered by December 2007
State Inspection Standards <i>State inspection standards for vessels have not been updated for several years.</i>		
As Washington State updates its inspection standards (WAC 317-31-220), the USCG will provide consultation, as appropriate.	USCG	December 2008
Use new standards to update the state's Voluntary Best Achievable Protection Program .	Ecology	June 2008
Oil Dumping <i>In recent years there have been several significant International Maritime Organization maritime pollution (MARPOL) treaty violations discovered through vessel inspections.</i>		
Continue vessel inspections and investigations to detect MARPOL violations. Increase training for vessel inspectors, in coordination with the U.S. Attorney's Office.	USCG, Ecology USCG, Ecology	On-going On-going

PREVENTION		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
Derelict Vessel Removal		
Continue to implement Operation Trash Compactor for coordination of identification, assessment, monitoring, salvage, recovery and disposal.	USCG, Ecology	On-going
Formalize an agreement with WDNR.	USCG, Ecology	June 2008
Fishing Vessel Spill Prevention Education and Outreach		
Assist and coordinate fishing vessel outreach efforts.	USCG, Ecology	Annually
USCG to continue to perform voluntary dockside examinations.	USCG	On-going
Focus efforts to seasonally examine and educate regulated fishing vessels to emphasize accepted industry practices.	Ecology, USCG	On-going
Assist UW SeaGrant in targeting its education program.	Ecology, USCG	Review annual report, September 2007
Breaking Bar Casualties		
<i>Breaking surf at river entrances, including Grays Harbor and Columbia and Quillayute Rivers, poses a risk to vessel safety and therefore the environment.</i>		
Research methods to improve breaking bar safety using USCG work group and Charter Vessel Go/No-Go SOC, at river bar entrances.	USCG	June 2009
Identify Point Sources of Oil Spills		
Continue to compile oil spill data, including urban storm water outlets, in order to effectively target spill prevention strategies.	USCG, Ecology	On-going

PREPAREDNESS		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
Federal and State Contingency Plans		
Identify where differences exist with federal and State planning requirements, with a view to educate stakeholders and ensure compliance.	USCG, Ecology	June 2008
Review fast water and ocean boom requirements and equipment availability, in coordination with NWAC.	USCG, Ecology	March 2008
Participate through the NWAC, to explore strategies and technologies to improve on-water recovery rates of oil.	USCG, Ecology	December 2008
Readiness Drills <i>Increased and realistic drills are needed to see if companies can meet the contingency plan requirements established by regulation.</i>		
Continue coordination of unannounced drills with set annual goals for the program.	USCG, Ecology	Annually in March
Implement the state's regulatory goal to inspect 100% of Washington's response assets over two drill cycles (6 years).	Ecology	Complete by 2013, with milestones along the way
Develop an annual reporting mechanism.	USCG, Ecology	December 2007
Coordinate with area contractors and government entities to maintain an accurate list of response assets on the web-based equipment list (WRRL).	USCG, Ecology	December 2007
Outer Coast Response Capabilities		
Review MSRC's spill response infrastructure study (to be completed by June 2008).	USCG, Ecology	June 2008
Partner with industry and tribes on other potential studies.	USCG, Ecology	As needed

PREPAREDNESS		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
<p>Oiled Wildlife Care <i>Wildlife that is affected by oil spills require special recovery and care mechanisms that are currently lacking in Washington State.</i></p> <p>Monitor and support current efforts to improve wildlife care mechanisms through the RRT and NWAC, in coordination with WDFW.</p> <p>Study infrastructure and staffing needs for various size spills including potential worst case spills.</p>	<p>Ecology, USCG</p> <p>Ecology</p>	<p>March 2009</p> <p>September 2007</p>
<p>Shoreline Cleanup Trained Personnel and Equipment <i>Use the revised State contingency plan regulations.</i></p> <p>Ensure that caches of equipment are maintained statewide and that industry has local capability for shoreline cleanup as well as mechanisms to bring in large numbers of additional resources for worst case spills.</p>	<p>Ecology</p>	<p>March 2009</p>
<p>Columbia-Snake River Response Initiative and Safety Plan <i>Spills that occur on the Columbia River share characteristics unique from other marine spills across Washington.</i></p> <p>Continue to expand public-private response consortiums for spill response on the Columbia and Snake Rivers, in coordination with the CRHSC.</p>	<p>USCG, Ecology</p>	<p>December 2007</p>

PREPAREDNESS		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
<p>Cross Boundary Spills/CANUSPAC</p> <p><i>Oil spills that occur in the straits of northern Puget Sound, along the Columbia River and any other water body shared by Washington, Oregon, Idaho or British Columbia present unique jurisdictional and co-management difficulties.</i></p> <p><i>CANUSPAC is an annex to the international oil spill response agreement between USCG and the Canadian Coast Guard regarding the joint border area.</i></p> <p>Through the Joint Response Team (JRT), continue to exchange information concerning alternative response technologies including dispersants and in situ burning. Continue to focus on cross border issues such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bringing equipment & people across the borders for spill response. • Waste disposal. • Common response management systems. <p>Participate, as appropriate, in cross border drills and exercises:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ConocoPhillips drill. • CANUSPAC equipment deployment. • NPREP/SafeSeas 2008. 	<p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>May 2007 June 2007 2008</p>

RESPONSE		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
<p>Spill Response Coordination and Communication</p> <p>Continue to review actual incidents and implement lessons learned as practicable.</p> <p>Continue to inform tribes and other stakeholders about spills of interest.</p> <p>Continue coordinated and systematic Puget Sound over-flights to actively look for oil discharges and illegal dumps.</p>	<p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p>	<p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>Inclement Weather Early Detection Technologies</p> <p><i>Spills and incidents that occur at night or during inclement weather pose a special risk, as they are more difficult to track and contain.</i></p> <p>Review available detection technologies.</p> <p>Invest in and implement new detection technologies when practicable.</p>	<p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p>	<p>December 2008</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>Coordinated Early Spill Assessment</p> <p><i>The first minutes after a spill are critical in developing a comprehensive and effective response strategy. This strategy relies on a highly trained and organized early assessment to coordinate this effort.</i></p> <p>Establish coordinated early assessment strategy using all available public and private sector resources.</p> <p>Review communication and early assessment technologies and procedures, ensure interoperability and look for opportunities for improvements.</p>	<p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p>	<p>December 2008</p> <p>On-going</p>

RESPONSE		
Issue/Method Actions We Will Take:	Involved Organization:	Target Completion Date:
<p>Investigations <i>Oil samples and other information can assist in matching a vessel with an oil spill.</i></p> <p>Develop a coordinated sampling plan for potentially involved vessels.</p> <p>Leverage Citizens Actions Network, mariners and other local resources to support pollution investigators to gather additional on-scene intelligence.</p>	<p>USCG, Ecology</p> <p>USCG, Ecology</p>	<p>Case by case</p> <p>On-going</p>
<p>Spill Response Equipment Caching</p> <p>Position spill response equipment at locations across Washington and train local responders on its usage.</p>	<p>Ecology</p>	<p>September 2007</p>

Acronyms

AIS	=	Automatic Identification System	POSPET	=	Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team
ANS	=	Aquatic Nuisance Species	PPE	=	Personal Protective Equipment
AWO	=	American Waterways Operator	PRC	=	Primary Response Contractor
BAP	=	Best Achievable Protection	PREP	=	Preparedness for Response Exercise Program
BIP	=	Best Industry Practices	PSHSC	=	Puget Sound Harbor Safety Committee
BC	=	British Columbia	PSWQAT	=	Puget Sound Water Quality Action Team
BP	=	British Petroleum	PWSC	=	Ports and Waterways Safety Committee
CBRNE	=	Chemical Biological Radiological Nuclear and Explosives	QA	=	Quality Assurance
CPF	=	Coastal Protection Fund	RCP	=	Responsible Carrier Program
CRHSC	=	Columbia River Harbor Safety Committee	RRT	=	Regional Response Team
DRILLTRAC	=	Drill Training and Competency Program	SAFETRAC	=	Safety Training and Competency Program
EAT	=	Early Assessment Team	SERC	=	State Emergency Response Council
ECOPRO	=	Exceptional Compliance Program	SOC	=	Standards of Care
EPA	=	US Environmental Protection Agency	SOP	=	Standard Operating Procedure
EIS	=	Environmental Impact Statement	USACE	=	United State Army Corps of Engineers
ERS	=	Emergency Response System	USCG	=	U.S. Coast Guard
ERTS	=	Environmental Response Tracking System	UTC	=	State Utilities and Transportation Commission
GRP	=	Geographic Response Plan	VEAT	=	Vessel Entries and Transits
HAZMAT	=	Hazardous Material	WA	=	Washington
ICS	=	Incident Command System	WCOVTRM	=	West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management
IMAT	=	Incident Management Assist Team	WDFW	=	Washington Department of Fish & Wildlife
JIC	=	Joint Information Center	WDNR	=	Washington Department of Natural Resources
JRT	=	Joint Response Team			
LEPC	=	Local Emergency Planning Committee			
MCTS	=				
MIS	=	Marine Information System			
MOA	=	Memorandum of Agreement			
NRDA	=	Natural Resource Damage Assessment			
NWAC	=	Northwest Area Committee			
NWACP	=	Northwest Area Contingency Plan			