

RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

Strait of Juan de Fuca Geographic Response Plan Update

Received through March 28, 2008

Comments were contributed by: (1) Liam Antrim representing Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary; (2) Tammy Brown representing U.S. Navy; (3) Craig Cornell representing Marine Spill Response Corporation; and (4) Aleta Erickson representing the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe.

We wish to sincerely thank all contributors for their time and expertise in providing the comments below. Their contributions have significantly improved the revised Strait of Juan de Fuca marine Geographic Response Plan (GRP).

The Washington Department of Ecology, United States Coast Guard and Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife reviewed all comments/recommendations.

Ecology categorized and condensed the original comments to make them more clear and consistent within this comprehensive comment/response format. For each comment, the contributor is acknowledged by number (above), followed by our response.

General comments concerning GRP approach and format.

Comment: *Boat ramps in shallow areas may only allow launches during mid to high tide (for example, BL 224 & 226 at Freshwater Bay and Dungeness Bay). Can we add data on these limitations (such as 'foot rating') to GRPs?* (1)

Response: We would be glad to add this type of information, please provide any such information you have, or the sources where it could be found.

Comment: *Can the GRP maps be cross-linked to the directions?* (2)

Response: Yes, but the current automated system does not have this feature as the intended audience will be referring to printed copies of the strategies while on a responding vessel rather than referring to them on a computer monitor.

Comment: *Why do only some of the GRP definitions contain chart numbers?* (2)

Response: Chart information will be included for all sites.

Comment: *The tidelands at the head of Sequim Bay are owned by the Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe as per the map we have provided.* (4)

Response: The *Jamestown S'Klallam Tribe* has been added as a point of contact for all the strategies in Sequim Bay. The maps used in the GRP are just overview maps and are based on GIS data the state currently has.

Specific comments concerning booming.

Comment: *Replace references to "pom-pom" with "snare boom."* (3)

Response: All replaced.

Comment: *Avoid calling certain collection areas "sacrificial."* (3)

Response: Changes made.

Comment: *Change recommended boom lengths to increments of 100 feet because that is the typical length that is available. Sorbent boom is typically available in shorter lengths (10'-50')* (3)

Response: Boom lengths will be rounded up to reflect increments.

Comment: *Remove type/kind (ex. B-3) references for boom because these are subject to interpretation and there is no specific standard being used.* (3)

Response: While we understand that references for boom may be subject to interpretation, the reference numbers (ex. B-3) used in the GRPs reflect the values used in the Western Response Resource List (WRRL), consequently no change will be made.

Comment: *Remove reference to river boom throughout and add a statement: "Select appropriately sized boom for strategy based on current speed, deployment angle, etc."* (3)

Response: The reference to river boom will be changed to "River Boom, or other appropriate boom for conditions."

Comment: *Add "Use anchors and lines as needed to maintain an effective angle" (on page 4-1 STR) under "During the Initial GRP..." section rather than in matrix.* (3)

Response: The statement "Use anchors and lines as needed to maintain an effective angle" will be included in the overview section, and for strategies where field conditions during our site visits indicated that currents could be particularly challenging.

Specific comments concerning matrices and 2-pagers.

Comment: *Remove reference to # of anchors needed in Strategy Implementation section of matrix (keep this info in 2-pagers.).* (3)

Response: We see no harm in having this in both locations.

Comment: *Change "recommended equipment & personnel" to "suggested equipment & personnel."* (3)

Response: Changes made.

Comment: *Change font on orientation of pictures, lat/long, etc (at bottom of pictures) to a regular type font.* (3)

Response: This will be done for all future work, unfortunately the current fonts are stamped on the photos.

Comment: *Mark new strategies as "new" under status.* (3)

Response: Changes made.

Comment: *Remove "SARCA" or other anchor type references.* (3)

Response: The equipment list in the database is used for both Inland and Marine GRPs. The contractor who worked on GRPs specifically suggested we used the specific SARCA anchor type. The equipment list wording has been changed to "Anchor(s) for strong currents - i.e., SARCA"

Specific comments concerning directions.

Comment:

STR-11 Directions should read "Drive through Joyce on Hwy 112, stay on Hwy 112. Turn right at M/R office, 1488 Pysht River Road." (4-79) (3)

STR-12 No need to go to Crescent Beach to get to Pysht. Stay on Hwy 112 and go through Joyce. Continue to County Park/Pillar Pt. (4-81 & 4-83) (3)

STR-14 112 through Joyce (4-85) (3)

STR-17 112 through Joyce (4-91) (3)

STR 24 West on Hwy 112. Take Place Rd. for access on the Wet side of the river. East side access Edgewood Drive to Low Elwha. (4-104) (3)

Response: The driving directions are generated with a computer program which uses the same data set used by GPS units in cars. However, we will add your statements to the staging notes for each referenced site.

Specific comments concerning spelling.

Comment: "Clallam" misspelled in STR-9, STR-19, STR-20.

Response: All fixed.

Specific comments concerning access or ownership.

Comment: BL-209: Silver King is private property, no public access. Rough boat ramp at low tide. Contact Joe Schmitt (360) 928-3489. (3)

Response: Will see if additions can be made to the boat launch data set- if so this comment will be added for BL-209.

Comment: BL-228: Thunderbird boat house ramp is washed out. (3)

Response: Will see if additions can be made to the boat launch data set- if so this comment will be added for BL-209.

Comment: STR-21: Lyre River Campground closed to public. (3)

Response: Comment added to SRT-21.

Comment: STR-23: West of Salt Creek Beach is private. Owned by Sea Kota, /Nova 2183 Crescent Beach Rd., Port Angeles, WA 98363-8703. Contact (360) 928-3454. (3)

Response: Comment and contact added to STR-23.

Comment: STR-25 thru 26: Daishowa name change to "Nippon Paper Industries." (3)

Response: The name has been corrected.

Specific comments concerning changing strategy.

Comment: STR 13-15: These are primarily exclusion strategies. (3)

Response: Change made for SRT-13 and STR-15, STR-14 is for collection.

Comment: STR-36: Remove reference to 'enhanced' skimming. (3)

Response: Enhanced skimming refers to any technique which will improve the rate of collection for the skimmer, using STR-36 to direct oil to the skimmer should improve the rate of collection once a skimmer arrives. No change made.

Comment: STR-37 & 38: Combine strategies into a single one. (3)

Response: Strategies are kept separate so that there can be unique spatial data associated with them. No change made.

Comment: STR-51: Change description to collection strategy. (3)

Response: Change made.

No new strategies were proposed, but the following question was asked.

Comment: Is there a GRP on Smith Island (a bird sanctuary), or did the trustees decide that it was not feasible? (2)

Response: While this area is a wildlife refuge, the GRP for the Straits that was released in 2003 does not show a strategy for this location. The exposed nature of this location coupled with the winds and water conditions make booming not feasible. However, if we had real-time data during a spill that showed oil headed to this site we would attempt other methods to reduce the impact, for example on-water recovery.