Washington Voluntary Best Achievable Protection Program/Exceptional Compliance VBAP/ECOPRO
Collaboration between the Voluntary Program Members and Washington State Spill Program

- A set of agreed upon standards

- Companies wishing to participate submit a prevention plan with excerpts from their Safety Management System

- Tank vessels are audited once every 3 years to ensure standards are followed
Benefits and Opportunities

- Working relationship between Washington state and tanker companies
- Ecology inspectors board vessels only once every 3 years (vs. annually)
- Set higher standards than international or federal regulations
- Address identified safety gaps in current safety system
  - Public recognition
- Reward companies for their commitment to safety and environmental excellence
Alaska Tanker Company ECOPRO Award 2002
Quotes

“The ECOPRO Award means that SeaRiver is achieving best-of-industry performance and is working in harmony with Washington state to achieve operational excellence goals.”
- Gus Elmer, Former President of SeaRiver Maritime, Inc.

“We are very appreciative of this special ECOPRO recognition and of the work done by Ecology to raise environmental protection standards for the whole industry. Crowley has operated in Puget Sound since 1923, and it’s special to us because we live and work there. We have always believed that high environmental standards benefit our company.”
- Thomas Crowley, Jr., Crowley Marine’s chairman, president and chief executive officer
Drawbacks

- Only attract companies who are already “good players”
- Difficult to incentivize the program
Future for voluntary programs

- Currently Washington’s program is for tank vessels only – this could be broadened to include bulk carriers or other cargo vessels

- Other green ship awards are tied to lower port rates or other incentives. Washington and Canada could work with ports to offer meaningful incentives to encourage companies to meet Exceptional Compliance standards
  - Green Award Foundation as example
Thank you

For more information:

- www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/prevention/bap/bapmain.html

Contact Information:

Lori Crews
Vessel Inspector
(360) 407-7538
Lori.Crews@ecy.wa.gov