

Aleutians Emergency Towing System (ETS)
Meeting Summary
March 19, 2008

Attendees:

David Arzt, AMP
John Brown, ADEC
LT Benjamin Duarte, USCG MSD
John Days, Harbormaster
Gary Folley, ADEC
Pete Garay, AMP
David Gregory, Qunalashka Corp.
Chris Hladick, City of Unalaska

Pete Henderickson, UNFA
Vern Johnson, Alaska Maritime
Agencies
Dan Magone, Magone Marine
Leslie Pearson, ADEC
Tim Robertson, Nuka Research
Margaret Williams, WWF

Tim Robertson opened the meeting with an explanation of the purpose of the meeting and introductions. The purpose of the meeting is to receive input on the ETS manual and training video and to discuss future exercises.

There was general agreement that the ETS manual and training video were useful and well done. One correction was noted on page 49, where it indicates that the satellite telephone is located in the Harbormaster's Office. The location has been changed to the AMP Office.

John Days reported that there has been interest in using the ETS three times since it became available. The group discussed the option to charge users for the ETS if it is deployed. It was decided to deal with this on case-by-case basis.

The group discussed holding another deployment exercise in the summer of 2008. The following suggestions were offered:

- ❖ Work through the activation and decision making process in real time,
- ❖ Work the Places of Refuge issue once the vessel is in tow,
- ❖ Keep the vessel in tow all the way to a dock or anchorage,
- ❖ Conduct the exercise with a container ship in the 50,000 DWT range,
- ❖ Work pollution response (Containment, GRS, Seafood Processors) issues as part of the exercise,
- ❖ Work the damage assessment process,
- ❖ Include helicopter delivery,
- ❖ Plan to update the ETS manual after the exercise
- ❖ Include an evaluation process to access areas for improvement, and
- ❖ Practice with an alternate more powerful line gun.

Late July or August was identified as the best time for the exercise. The potential sponsors of the exercise are the City of Unalaska, ADEC, and the USCG. Pete Gray agreed to look into a high level APL contact to approach for use of a container ship.

The group also discussed the prospects for a rescue tug in Dutch Harbor. It was suggested that there might be a commercial need for another/bigger tug in the port. Dan Magone briefed the group about a vessel owned by the Resolve Marine Group of Fort Lauderdale, FL. The Resolve Marine Group is evaluating the prospects of stationing a 207 foot 10,000 HP ice-class vessel in Unalaska. This vessel could potentially do commercial work and still be on call for rescue operations.

Margaret Williams and Pete Hendrickson briefed the group on the Shipping Safety Partnership's efforts to get a rescue vessel stationed in the Aleutians as an interim measure, until the Aleutian Islands risk assessment is completed in two or three years. They circulated a draft resolution meant to further this effort.

Action Items:

- Draft meeting summary and circulate for review – Nuka Research,
- Consider sponsoring a 2008 exercise – ADEC, City of Unalaska, USCG
- Provide an APL contact to approach for using a container ship – Pete Gray