



# ARRT Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) Guidelines



# PPOR Guidelines

- Where to go?
- What to do?
- How to do it?



# PPOR Guidelines - Background

**In 2004, concurrent efforts initiated to implement IMO guidelines:**

- **Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force with the US and Canadian Coast Guard**
- **Alaska Regional Response Team Guidelines submitted to ARRT and approved in Oct 2004**



# Place of Refuge - Defined

- **Temporary location to stabilize vessel, protect life, remove hazard, protect public health and resources**



**Typically, harbor, port, natural embayment, mooring site, grounding site or offshore waters**

# Place of Refuge

- There are no pre-designated places of refuge - potential sites are pre-identified
- Potential sites are inventoried and relevant information is collected
- Place of refuge selected on an incident specific basis
- There is no single perfect location for a place of refuge for all incidents



# Place of Refuge Guidelines

## Two Part Process

- **Part 1 – Decision Making Process to assist mariners and authorities to determine what to do with a ship in distress**
- **Part 2 – Pre-incident planning to identify potential places of refuge**



# Decision Making Process

- Uses existing ICS structure to make decisions.
- 
- Establishes a standardized and predictable process to evaluate risks of a ship in distress
- Provides checklists to evaluate risks



# Decision Making Process

- **Defines the roles of federal, state, local and tribal authorities and the ship.**
- **Captain of the Port has ultimate authority to make decision. Activates Unified Command when time permits.**
- **Cross boundary incidents use existing agreements to establish lines of communication and organization**
- **10-step process to make the decision**

# **Step 1. Place of Refuge Requested**

**Vessel Master provides information on vessel and requests a place of refuge from COTP.**

- Location of vessel**
- Reasons the vessel needs assistance, specific assistance required.**
- Status of vessel (steering, propulsion, firefighting, flooding)**
- Types and quantities of oil and hazardous substances aboard**
- Presence of rats, invasive species, diseases on board**
- Operational status, weather**
- Safety of crew, passengers and ship, evacuation of ship**
- Consequences of ship remaining at sea**
- Location of Place of Refuge requested**

## Step 2. Immediate Action by COTP

Situation requires immediate action and no time to contact stakeholders. COTP selects one of 5 options:

- Continue on the vessel's voyage
- Take the vessel farther out to sea away from shore
- Scuttle the vessel at sea at an approved location
- Allow the vessel to remain in place
- Direct the vessel to a place of refuge

COTP will consider any pre-identified potential places of refuge.

COTP will notify other stakeholders after making decision.

# **Step 3. COTP/UC Evaluates Options:**

## **Non-Immediate Action - Vessel situation allows COTP to:**

- **Activate a Unified Command (UC), if appropriate**
- **Require vessel owner to contract with salvor, spill response company**
- **Dispatch an Away Team, if time allows**
- **Review subarea plan to see if PPORs have been pre-identified**
- **Evaluate weather status, tides, currents, spill trajectory**
- **Contact resource agencies, stakeholders, vessel owners, salvors, spill response experts to evaluate the five options (e.g., continue voyage, move further offshore, scuttle, remain in place, direct to PPOR).**

# Step 4. COTP/UC Selects Vessel Option

Based on input from stakeholders, COTP/UC considers the five options with the following criteria:

- **Vessel status and risk (Float, sink, leak? Ability to navigate?)**
- **Available response and salvage resources**
  - Tugs, Emergency Towing Systems, salvors, boom, repair infrastructure
- **Human health and safety considerations**
  - Safety of persons onboard, response, public
- **Natural resource considerations**
  - Cultural and sensitive resources, designated areas
- **Landowner and stakeholder considerations**
  - Subsistence, native allotments
- **Liability, insurance and port requirements**

# Step 4. COTP/UC Options

**Continue on to step 5 if COTP/UC determines the risks are acceptable to direct the vessel to a place of refuge**

**No Further Action Necessary if one of the following options is selected:**

- Continue on its voyage
- Take the vessel farther out to sea away from shore
- Scuttle the vessel at sea at an approved location
- Allow the vessel to remain in place



# **Step 5. COTP/UC Evaluates POR Options Based on Operational Criteria**

**Operational Criteria (PPOR and other potential sites):**

- **Weather, tides, currents and fetch**
- **Physical size needed and anchoring ground**
- **Navigation approach and piloting requirements**
- **Seaworthiness of vessel, threat to cargo**
- **Ability to deploy response and salvage resources to mitigate spill risks to public health and resources**
- **EMS and fire fighting capability**
- **Approval from port and harbor authorities**

# Step 6. COTP/UC Prioritizes POR Options Based on Operational Criteria



# **Step 7. Stakeholders Provided with Place of Refuge Options**

**POR acceptable from an operational criteria are ranked and provided to stakeholders. Information includes:**

- List of potential PORs**
- Reasons for selecting the potential POR**
- Transit route and escort and spill response support**
- Vessel status, seaworthiness, cargo, leak rate**
- Likelihood of releases**
- Salvage activities at POR and duration of stay**
- Support vessels, equipment**
- Weather**

# Step 8. Stakeholders Rank Order POR Options

Stakeholders rank the potential PORs provided to them

- Based on resources at risk or stakeholder concerns
- Identify special considerations or constraints
- Identify any Permits required
- Document ranking and discussion points



# Step 9. Place of Refuge Selected

**Operations and Planning (stakeholders) reach consensus and forward recommendation to Unified Command.**



**If no consensus, Unified Command will review information and make a decision.**

**Unified Command will inform stakeholders of decision and any additional response-related assistance required**



# Step 10. COTP/UC Documents Decision

**Unified Command  
formally documents  
the reasons the place  
of refuge was selected.**





# Questions/Comments?

