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Alaska DEC Honors SEAPRO for Oil Spill Response Work

(JUNEAU, AK) – The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation is proud to recognize Southeast Alaska Petroleum Resource Organization (SEAPRO) as a winner of one of the 2012 Legacy Awards for Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response. DEC is a member of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force, which gives out the awards to industry, non-profit, or public agency organizations and individuals, or for team effort. Awards are given for projects, accomplishments, or leadership that demonstrates innovation, management commitment, and improvements in oil spill prevention, preparedness or response.

DEC selected SEAPRO for a Legacy Award for its 22 years of service, highlighted recently by its work in the efforts to lighter more than 110,000 gallons of bunker oil from the sunken SS Princess Kathleen. In addition, SEAPRO has made several recent upgrades to spill response vessels and added wildlife treatment capability as well. The organization also provides training in hazardous material response and maintains a mutual aid agreement with spill response partners in Canada.

“SEAPRO is a model organization for spill response in the state of Alaska,” said DEC Spill Prevention and Response Director Larry Dietrick. “Their commitment and accomplishments in oil spill planning, preparedness and response are exemplary, and this award is a testament to their dedication to keep Alaska’s environment clean and safe.”

The Task Force will present the Legacy Awards at the Clean Pacific Conference in Long Beach, California on May 16, 2012. Program and registration information is available at www.cleanpacific.org.

The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force is composed of oil spill prevention and response agencies in Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia and Alaska. The Task Force provides a regional forum for coordination and collaboration on oil spill prevention and response policies that protect over 56,660 miles of coastline from the Beaufort Sea to the Baja Peninsula as well as the islands of Hawaii.

For further information on the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force and on the Legacy Awards visit: www.oilspilltaskforce.org.

For more information on the Division of Spill Prevention and Response, visit DEC's website: <http://dec.alaska.gov/spar/index.htm>.

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