Trans-Boundary Aspects of the Alaska Emergency Towing System (ETS)

Bob Mattson
SE Alaska SOSC, ADEC
In the Beginning

There were no ETS in Alaska
Alaska ETS Developed

- March 2007 - Mayor of Unalaska convened a Disabled Vessel Workgroup
- ETS Workgroup Goal: develop emergency towing capabilities in the Aleutian Subarea using locally available tugboats in conjunction with ETS equipment stationed in Unalaska
- City of Unalaska committed to purchase ETS for vessel <50,000 DWT
- ADEC committed to purchase ETS for vessel >50,000 DWT & contracted NUKA Research & Planning Group as a facilitator
- 1st Deployment Exercise of an ETS held August 2007 in Unalaska
Illustration sc-2. ETS components and nomenclature for the ship-to-tug deployment.
Today’s ETS

- **Medium ETS <50,000 DWT** stored at the Gargo Building, Nome.
- **2 x Larger ETS >50,000 DWT** with helicopter pendants and slings stored in the USCG Air Station, Kodiak.
- **Medium ETS <50,000 DWT** stored at the USCG Air Facility, Cold Bay.
- **Larger ETS >50,000 DWT** with helicopter pendants and slings stored at the ADEC Warehouse, Anchorage.
- **Larger ETS >50,000 DWT** with helicopter pendants and slings stored in the City EMS Building, Adak.
- **Larger ETS >50,000 DWT** stored in connex on City Dock, Unalaska.
- **Larger ETS >50,000 DWT** stored at the USCG Base, Ketchikan.
- **Larger ETS >50,000 DWT** with helicopter pendants and slings stored in the ADOT Hangar, Unalaska.
ETS SAVES

Golden Seas - December 3-7, 2010

- 738-foot cargo vessel
- Great Circle Route
- Loss of power – adrift into Adak Is.
- Threat: ~ 452,000 gal IFO 380 + diesel & lube
- Team: Tug Tor Viking II with 10-inch ADEC ETS
- Tow speed: 7-9 kts.
Laura Maersk - July 14-15, 2017

- Cargo vessel
- Great Circle Route
- Loss of power – adrift off Akutan
- Team: Tugs Millenium Falcon and Gretchen Dunlap with ADEC ETS
- Caught ~ 5.5 nm from landfall on Akutan
Trans-Boundary ETS?

The North Pacific Great Circle Shipping Routes
The North Pacific Great Circle Shipping Route – Eastern
MV Simushir

October 2014

- 135-metre (443-foot) cargo ship
- Everett, WA bound for Russia
- Lost power (broken oil heater) in gale force winds
- 472 tonnes bunker oil and 49 tonnes diesel
- 19 nm off Haida Gwaii
Neither ETS was used. However....
2015 ETS Training Juneau

- CCG interest in the ETS is further increased by *Simushir*.
- USCG asked State of Alaska for use of a 10-inch ETS at the 2015 Buoy Tender Roundup in part as a selling point to allow CCG participation.
- ADEC and USCG formed a training team and the training was put on the program for the BTR.
- CCGS *Bartlett* steamed to Juneau and received training on towing using the ETS towing USCGC *Maple*. 
ETS tow line rigged, commencing the tow
Oceans Protection Plan

- Presented to CANUSDIX in August, 2017.
- Launched November, 2016 – C$1.5B in funding over 5 years
- **Emergency tow kits (ETKs)** on 25 of the Canadian Coast Guard’s large vessels across Canada. 5 on West Coast & Arctic
  - 3 sizes
  - CCG (Western Region) has just received a “prototype” ETK as a test unit in lieu of an off the shelf kit
Questions?