Background

Following the near grounding of the *Salica Frigo* on March 9, 2007, the Mayor of Unalaska convened a Disabled Vessel workgroup to address the possibility of future groundings and to discuss local emergency response solutions. This initial meeting prompted the Emergency Towing System (ETS) workgroup; whose goal was to develop emergency towing capabilities for disabled vessels in the Aleutian Subarea using locally available tugboats in conjunction with ETS equipment stationed in Unalaska.

Based on the Aleutian Subarea vessel traffic, the ETS workgroup implemented two ETS in order to serve a wider range of vessels. The City of Unalaska purchased a system suitable for vessels up to 50,000 DWT and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation purchased a system capable of towing vessels greater than 50,000 DWT. A third ETS for vessels greater than 50,000 DWT was purchased in 2009 and is currently staged at the Coast Guard Air Station Kodiak for deployment anywhere in the State.

System Advantages

- Transportable by Helicopter to vessel in distress.
- Deployable from the distress vessel or tug.
- The towline and messenger line are bright orange and float.
- Towing eye has Anso-Tex® Chafe Guard which is light weight, abrasion and snag resistant, easy to handle.
- If the tow system is deployed from the distress vessel it may reduces close quarter maneuvering and extended station keeping by the towing vessel.
- Multiple systems allow for tandem towing capabilities.
- Developed procedures manual provides guidance for a coordinated response.

Future Plans

- Purchase two additional 10” towing systems for Alaska.
- Modify the procedures manual to make it an Alaska-wide procedures manual, which will address area specific mobilization procedures.
- Change the storage container to a reinforced wire cage system to allow for additional components and better ventilation to help reduce mildew.
- Coordinate a towing exercise in Southeast Alaska.
- Seek funding for additional towing systems.
Plasma® 12 strand is the highest strength synthetic rope available. Plasma® 12 strand is manufactured from Honeywell Spectra® Fiber that has been enhanced by Puget Sound Rope's patented recrystallization process. This process is especially effective in medium to large diameter ropes where strengths are over 50% higher and creep is significantly less than that of standard Spectra® 12 strand.

Plasma® 12 strand comes standard with a polyurethane finish and is easily spliced using a simple lockstitch type splice, 4-3-2 or 5-4-3 Tuck splice. Its soft, torque free braided construction provides easy handling.

- Highest strength
- Lowest stretch
- Low creep
- Soft hand
- Torque free
- Easy splicing
- Floats

Type Approved Product

![ABS Approval](image)

![DNV Approval](image)

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