

## **“Innocent passage” the M/V Selendang Ayu**

The M/V Selendang Ayu initially passed through Alaska state waters on what is called “Innocent Passage,” meaning without the intent to stop at any Alaska port. This is a common occurrence with vessels transiting the “Great Circle Route,” a major trans-Pacific route (<http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/perp/grs/ai/airiskmap.pdf>).

**The Selendang Ayu is not covered under Alaska’s Nontank Vessel Program (passed by the State Legislature in Spring 2001, with an effective date of May 27, 2003). However, the infrastructure set up by that program is of great benefit to all vessels in innocent passage.**

Alaska’s 3-year old Nontank Vessel Program applies to non-oil-tanker ships, like the M/V Selendang Ayu, which are over 400 gross registered tons. The owners of these ships must pre-hire Incident Management Teams and Cleanup Contractors, who would stand ready to lead a spill response if needed. These firms are registered with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, conduct periodic drills, are experienced in spill response, and must guarantee a quick response within 12 hours after notification of a spill incident.

When the potential of the M/V Selendang Ayu’s grounding became a possibility, the ship manager, IMC Shipping, made contact with three of the registered Nontank Vessel Incident Management Teams to ask for assistance. Corbett and Holt/Gallagher Marine Systems was contracted to provide the Incident Management Team for a potential response, as they have a number of response personnel in Alaska. A contract was also set with Alaska Chadux Corporation, a registered Nontank Vessel Cleanup Contractor, to provide the spill response equipment and responders. Both contracts were handled quickly because of the infrastructure set up through the Alaska Nontank Vessel Program.

More information is available on:

Alaska’s Nontank Vessel Program at [www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/ipp/nontank.htm](http://www.state.ak.us/dec/spar/ipp/nontank.htm)

Innocent Passage is defined in the Alaska Statutes: AS 46.04.055 (e)

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Spill Prevention and Response Division  
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