# NORTHWEST AREA COMMITTEE

**0830 – 1530 Tuesday 3 March, 2020**

**Four Points Sheraton**

**714 Lakeway Drive**

**Bellingham, Washington**

**Sign-in sheets can be viewed** [**here**](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/NWAC%20Sign-in.pdf)**.**

## Introductions/Welcome/Initial Remarks from FOSCs, SOSCs

LCDR Brett Ettinger (United States Coast Guard [USCG] Sector Puget Sound [SPS]), welcomed the attendees and gave a safety briefing. Mr. Chad Bowechop (Makah Tribe) welcomed everyone and gave a tribal prayer for recently deceased Swinomish members. CDR Torrey Bertheau (USCG SPS) welcomed everyone and gave apologies for CAPT Sturgis who could not attend. Mr. Dale Jensen (Washington State Department of Ecology [Ecology]) welcomed the attendees and thanked the Steering Committee members for their work on creating a strong agenda. Ms. Josie Clark (United States Environmental Protection Agency [EPA]), welcomed everyone and expressed her desire to work through the upcoming challenges. CAPT Jeremy Smith (USCG Sector Columbia River [SCR]), welcomed everyone. Mr. Mike Zollitsch (Oregon Department of Environmental Quality [ODEQ]), also welcomed the attendees and noted ODEQ Planning efforts would not be as strong without the partnerships in the room.

## OSCs Briefing

### United States Cost Guard Sector Puget Sound

LCDR Ettinger gave a presentation on responses since the last meeting for SPS including commercial responses, recreational vessel cases, trainings attended, and a review of discharge materials and reported cases. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/01_SPS%20FOSC%20Report.pptx).

### United States Coast Guard Sector Columbia River

LT Raymond Marion, (USCG SCR) gave a presentation on the responses since the previous meeting including Fishing Vessel Amak, Towing Vessel Sakarissa, trainings, exercises, workshops as well as coordination efforts. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/02_SCR%20FOSC%20Report.ppt).

### Washington State Department of Ecology

Mr. David Byers (Ecology) gave a presentation on lessons learned from non-floating oil responses in Gas Works Park, at the Olympia Brewery, and nine other submerged oil cleanup areas. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/03_ECY%20OSC%20Report.pptx).

### Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Mr. Don Pettit (ODEQ) gave a presentation on the lessons learned from the recent Santiam Highway Tanker Truck rollover and the Tug Nova response on the Columbia River. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/04_ODEQ%20SOSC%20Report.pptx).

### United States Environmental Protection Agency

Ms. Clark gave a presentation on responses since the previous meeting, including the Plummer Gasoline spill, the Kootenai River train derailment, the Santiam River tanker truck rollover, and the Tug Nova spill response. She also reported on drills and exercises held as well as outreach activities. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/05_EPA%20FOSC%20Report.pptx).

## Response Consideration for Padilla Bay

Ms. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis (Ecology) introduced the panel discussion for response considerations in Padilla Bay. The panel consisted of Ms. Sonja Larson (Ecology), Mr. Connor Keeney (Marathon Refinery), Dan Klinnert (Marine Spill Response Corporation [MSRC]), Grace Ferrara (National Marine Fisheries Services), and Roger Fuller (Padilla Bay Natural Estuary). Mr. Fuller defined the Padilla Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve responsibilities and goals for the organization he also outlined the potential spill risks around the bay. Mr. Keeney reviewed the activities and outcomes of the Padilla Bay workshop and discussion-based tabletop exercise which was conducted in 2018. Mr. Keeney reviewed the field work that was conducted as a result of the outcomes of the workshop. Mr. Klinnert reviewed the lessons learned from the field work. Mr. Keeney then discussed the objectives of a strategic worst-case drill objectives. Ms. Ferrara discussed the Killer whale deterrent planning for the exercise. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/06_Padilla%20Bay%20Response.pptx).

## Update on Island Oil Spill Association

Mr. Keeney gave a presentation on the capabilities of the Island Oil Spill Association (IOSA) including: their mission, the 2019 rebuilding effort, a review of the 2019 San Juan County levy and funding that was provided to IOSA, and 2019 accomplishments. The presentation can be viewed [here](http://www.rrt10nwac.com/files/files/07_Island%20OIl%20Spill%20Associatation.pptx). Mr. Keeney noted IOSA will be hiring an Executive Director in 2020. The position will be posted in April 2020; however, a summary of the position is available and can be viewed [here](https://iosaonline.org/ed/).

## Strategic Planning and Sectors’ Area Planning

LCDR Ettinger, Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis, and LCDR Wes Geyer, participated in a panel discussion regarding the creation of the new SPS and SCR Area Contingency Plans (ACPs). Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis noted the state requires a Statewide Master Plan, which at one time existed, but when the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) matured, it was adopted as the Statewide Master Plan. Mr. Keeney inquired about the creation of the ACPs, whether or not the USCG Sector information would be completely removed from the NWACP, does the remainder of the plan become the regional plan and if it does, would that mean there would be another ACP for the inland zone. LCDR Geyer stated the NWACP will remain intact for the 2020 year and whether the coastal information remains in the plan is a discussion that will be conducted at a later date. Ms. Clark responded EPA is planning to maintain the NWACP as the inland plan. Ms. Pilkey-Jarvis noted maintaining the NWACP as it stands is also the best course of action for Ecology. Mr. Keeney followed up with an inquiry of why the National Review Board found the crosswalk be insufficient to meet the criteria established by headquarters, but determined it was sufficient for EPA use. LCDR Geyer responded the National Review board is internal to USCG and not applicable to EPA. LCDR Ettinger added USCG feels that if all 37 of the ACPs across the country were formatted exactly the same then resources on a response would know exactly where to look in a plan regardless of where the response is conducted, thus improving the ability to respond effectively on a large incident. Mr. Matt Kolata (Trans Mountain) inquired how the USCG plans to update and maintain the ACPs. LCDR Geyer responded that the rubric for grading the ACPs will not change otherwise, and there will not be changes other than annual updates and lessons learned. The ACPs must be updated and reviewed by the District once every five years as part of the National Review Panel process. LCDR Ettinger noted there will not be substantive changes to the plans on an annual basis and both Sectors have a Warrant Officer that is a Planner that is assigned to the Sector for four to five years which will help with continuity and there are civilian planners on staff as well. Mr. Kolata followed up with an inquiry of success stories of the implementation of these new Sector-specific ACPs. Mr. Tim Lupher (USCG SPS) responded that the Area Maritime Security Plan is successful and was implemented in 2011 and updated every 5 years. Ms. Allison O’Brien (US Department of Interior [DOI]) inquired about the plan for the development of threatened and endangered species annexes. LCDR Geyer explained that if any sections or annexes are not completed prior to them being signed (April 1 for SPS and May 15 for SCR), then users would need to reference the NWACP. Mr. Kevin Mallick (BP) inquired how will these new ACPs may impact cross-border responses. Mr. Bob McFarland (USCG District 13 [D13]) responded they would each look at their respective plans and the CANUSPAC Annex to the Joint Response Plan to address any cross-border efforts and issues. Mr. David Sawicki (The Sawicki Group) inquired about how plan holders are having to deal with multiple plans. LCDR Ettinger responded that they would get a crosswalk letter from the COTP until the ACPs are in full force. Mr. Mike Auer (Maxim) inquired how they can be assured the plans will be as closely aligned with the NWACP so the plans sync together. Mr. Bowechop noted Makah views USCG and EPA as the trust officer with regards to spill response and wants an understanding of where the tribe fits in to the process, in order to ensure their treaty interests are addressed. Mr. McFarland responded that this work will improve the plans because the document has been around for so long. He also reviewed the history of the Deepwater Horizon review, which lead to the mandate to have a Captain of the Port (COTP) -specific ACP. Mr. Jensen noted the group as a whole have worked so well together in the past and encouraged people to continue asking questions so that everyone has a good understanding of the issues and resolutions moving forward, and we will be able to continue successful responses.

## NRT or RRT Issues

Mr. Bob McFarland reported the NRT/RRT conference will be conducted on 21-22 April at the Crowne Plaza in downtown Seattle. Updated note as of March 6, 2020 the meeting has been postponed.

## Pending Legislation, Initiatives, Trainings

Ms. Clark reported EPA is working through the new regulation and definition of Waters of the United States which has been narrowed. There will be a briefing at the Regional Response Team and further discussed at upcoming meetings. Mr. Jensen reported on recent rail laws and transferring of oil from rail cars to reduce the pounds per square inch allowance during transfers. Mr. Zollitsch reported there is new legislation for high hazard rail which now requires contingency planning and drills/exercises. Before the legislation can be enacted, ODEQ will need to write the rules, which is currently being drafted. Further, they are attempting to increase the emergency response program at ODEQ. Mr. Bowechop reported the tribe continues to be engaged in the cross-border planning efforts. Ms. Janet Niessner (Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, Siuslaw Tribes) reported they are working to increase their laboratory analysis capacity and are close to having water regulations completed. Ms. Elizabeth Petras (USCG District 13) gave an update on the ESA Consultation that EPA and USCG continue to work with the Services on this. Mr. Greg Buie (National Pollution Fund Center) reported the fund status is currently at $6.8billion which is highest the fund has ever been.