



## WASHINGTON STATE MARITIME COOPERATIVE

PRESS RELEASE

### **Washington Department of Ecology Approves Oil Spill Contingency Plan for the Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC)**

#### **WSMC offers an approved umbrella plan for Puget Sound and Grays Harbor**

**January 23, 2014 - For Immediate Release**

January 23, 2014 – The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) has granted full approval to the Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC) oil spill contingency plan. Ecology has issued a five-year approval, which will run through January 23, 2019.

WSMC has been approved for multiple and umbrella vessel coverage since 1991. The latest version of its contingency plan was subject to review by Ecology and was sent out for a 30-day public comment period in late 2013. The WSMC Plan has now been approved as meeting the latest Washington contingency plan rules using WSMC's new primary response contractors. WSMC's Plan is approved for coverage of all vessels in the Puget Sound area and for non-tank vessels in Grays Harbor. WSMC is working with Ecology to obtain approval to cover tank vessels operating in Grays Harbor.

“WSMC is pleased to continue as the longest standing approved Washington multiple vessel/multiple owner plan holder, and the only “umbrella” vessel plan holder, for Puget Sound and Grays Harbor,” said WSMC Executive Director Roger Mowery. “We thank the Ecology staff for their cooperation and efforts during the plan review process. WSMC is particularly proud of its long history of service to the Washington maritime industry and of its ability to meet the state's very stringent requirements. We also thank our primary response contractors, Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), Global Diving and Salvage (GDS), and the Island Oil Spill Association (IOSA), for their part in developing and supporting the WSMC contingency plan.”

Mowery encourages vessel owners to use WSMC's fast and convenient “one-stop” 24/7 enrollment services for access to WSMC's spill response system that provides compliance with Washington state contingency plan statutory and regulatory requirements. Vessel owners and operators may quickly and easily sign up with WSMC using WSMC's enrollment agreement, no matter which national OSRO they use. No other paperwork is required. Also, there is no charge for coverage for enrolled vessels until they actually transit the WSMC coverage area in Washington state. WSMC's experience and extensive spill response resources provide benefits and advantages not available through other compliance options. For more information on enrollment and the advantages of the WSMC plan, please visit [www.wsmcoop.org](http://www.wsmcoop.org).

WSMC is a non-profit organization and has provided approved oil spill contingency services for Washington waters for over 22 years. As a non-profit organization, WSMC exists for the benefit of its members and provides the very best oil spill contingency plan coverage available, while keeping vessels in compliance at the lowest possible cost.

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