

Briefing for PWSRCAC Board of Directors – January 2018

INFORMATION ITEM

**Sponsor:** Alan Sorum  
**Project number and name or topic:** 8000 - Two-Part Ship Arrest System

1. **Description of agenda item:** Peter Soles of Glosten and Jim Butler of the Alaska Maritime Prevention and Response Network (The Network) will brief the Board on their research and development of a two-part ship arrest system. The system is composed of a large-scale para-sea anchor (PSA) and a novel *Emergency Vessel Attachment and Towing System* (EVATS) designed for deployment from the bow of a disabled vessel.

The objective of the PSA System is twofold. The first is to turn a drifting vessel into the direction of the wind and waves, thereby reducing vessel motions. This reduces risk to the vessel and cargo, and increases the prospect of a repair. The second objective is to reduce drift rate by half, increasing response time and reducing the risk of accidental grounding.

Recently Peter Soles made a presentation on EVATS at the annual Samson Rope Tug Summit in Bellingham, Washington. Samson is a partner in this project with the Network and Glosten. It was noted that EVATS can be used independently (without the PSA) for emergency towing and nearshore salvage applications, and has unique features that set it apart from conventional emergency towing systems in terms of improved safety and reliability.

The Network currently has this system available for deployment in Alaska.

2. **Why is this item important to PWSRCAC:** The Council has long held an interest in promoting use of best available technology (BAT). Oil tankers operating in Prince William Sound are required to carry an ADEC mandated emergency towing equipment package. EVATS has the potential to replace currently carried towing systems as BAT.

The POVTS Committee has a project proposed in the upcoming long range plan on line handling between a vessel in distress and a rescue tugboat. EVATS certainly falls into the technologies being explored in this project.

3. **Previous actions taken by the Board on this item:** None.

4. **Summary of policy, issues, support or opposition:** The Council has a long held interest in promoting use of best available technology (BAT). Both the POVTS and OSPR Committees have an interest in better understanding this technology.

5. **Relationship to LRP and Budget:** Project is being considered for inclusion in the FY2019 budget.

6. **Action Requested of the Board of Directors:** None, item is for information only.

7. **Attachments:**

- A: EVATS Instruction Cards
- B: EVATS Technical Specification Sheet