

Fishing Vessel Training

FACT SHEET

Overview

Trained, on-call fishing vessels and crew are an important part of oil spill response in Prince William Sound. Crews are trained each year and are highly skilled in deploying and operating spill response equipment. Alyeska's Ship Escort Response Vessel System (SERVS) maintains and funds this fishing vessel training program, a required component of contingency planning. The council monitors the training.

Fishermen are paid a certain amount per vessel foot to contract as a responder. They are also paid for training. In addition, the core fleet receives money to keep vessels maintained throughout the winter. Communities within Prince William Sound as well as Kodiak, Seward, Homer, Seldovia, and Kenai participate in the training.



Left and above: fishing vessels practice using equipment during training near Homer.

Three Tiers of Vessels

Two types of vessels are involved: contracted and non-contracted. Contracted vessels include Tier I or "core fleet," and Tier II. Non-contracted vessels include Tier III.

Tier I and Tier II vessels receive the same type of training. Tier III vessels are "vessels of opportunity," those that have not participated in training and are not contracted. They may show up just after an oil spill wanting to help in any way possible. They are at that time given training adequate to their assigned job.

- Tier I: contracted, trained, core fleet (within Prince William Sound)
- Tier II: contracted, trained (in or out of Prince William Sound)
- Tier III: not contracted; trained as needed

Three-day Training

All fishing vessel training includes interactive communications to gain and use local knowledge and experience.

Day 1: Classroom Instruction

Orientation, incident command systems, response strategies and tactics, rigging for safety, site characterization, and use of gas meters to determine air quality.

Topics may vary from year to year.

Day 2: Hands-on Training

Equipment familiarization and operation for booms, skimmers, personal protective equipment, mini barges, field first aid, and other tools and skills.

Day 3: On-water Exercises

Training with nearshore response barge or landing craft, deploying and towing boom, using skimmers and mini barges, practicing beach operations, and radio communications.

Vessel and Crew Capabilities

- Contain spilled oil
- Collect spilled oil
- Report conditions on-scene
- Maintain and repair equipment
- Clean boats, harbors, and shorelines
- Provide logistics support
- Assess damage
- Spot oiled wildlife and report it
- Transport food, equipment, and people
- Provide floating housing for marine work crews
- Provide communication equipment

On the web: www.pwsrca.org/programs/oil-spill-response/fishing-vessel-training/