

# Salvage Update

*Promoting professionalism and improving marine casualty response in American coastal and inland waters.*



April 23, 2010 ♦ Issue 3, Volume 2

## ASA TO ACHIEVE MILESTONE

The American Salvage Association (ASA) will start to commemorate the 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary of its founding in June. Since the first meeting in 2000 of nine of the nation's leading salvors who organized to speak with one voice on marine salvage issues and to professionalize the industry, ASA has grown to include 17 General Members, seven Corporate Associate Members, 53 Associate Members, and six Affiliate Members. Over the last decade, ASA gained the respect of the U.S. Coast Guard, U.S. Navy, NOAA, and other government agencies, along with professional maritime organizations and the news media.

Special thanks to ASA's esteemed Past Presidents J. Arnold Witte, Richard Fairbanks, George Wittich, John A. Witte, Jr., and its current President, Mauricio Garrido. And congratulations to all American Salvage Association members!

## OCEANTECH EXPO APPROACHING!

Plan to attend OceanTech Expo, May 25-27 in Newport, Rhode Island, where ASA will present an "Industry Outlook Panel" on the technical aspects of the Wreck Oil Removal Program (WORP) on Wednesday, May 26, from 1:30-3:00 p.m. with panelists as follows: Moderator: Dr. Dagmar Schmidt Etkin, President, Environmental Research Consulting; Dave Westerholm, Director, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration; Dr. Deborah French McCay, Principal, Applied Science Associates, Inc.; Robert Urban,

President, PCCI, Inc. ; and Carleen Lyden-Kluss, Director, North American Environmental Protection Association. Visit [www.oceantechexpo.com](http://www.oceantechexpo.com) for more details and to register. The event is free to ASA members.

## NOTE ASA'S SAFETY MISSION

Members of the ASA Safety Committee created a safety mission statement as follows:

Members of the ASA are encouraged to ensure safe execution of salvage/wreck removal projects. The inherent differences and unforeseen difficulties attendant to any marine casualty compared with general marine activities such as towing, construction, transportation, and subsea work, place salvage in an extraordinary position within the maritime industry.

The ASA considers safety one of the primary and identified goals of any marine salvage or wreck removal operation. The objectives of any salvage operation should include: ensuring safety ashore and at sea; preventing human injury and loss of life; avoiding damage to the marine environment; and preservation of property. In order to accomplish these objectives:

- ASA members are encouraged to comply with appropriate domestic and international safety regulations while recognizing the unique and sometimes risky nature of marine salvage;

- ASA members are encouraged to recognize various industry safety standards and use a best endeavors standard to comply with them in promoting a safety culture;

ASA members are encouraged to participate and cooperate in safety of operations by adhering to their own company safety standards for the well being of their employees, customers, authorities and visitors. ASA members are also encouraged to promote the notion of individual responsibility for safety;

ASA membership requirements include qualification through proven experience and recognition that salvage operations involve a wide range of risks. Members are encouraged to make every effort to minimize risks to an as low as reasonably practicable level;

ASA members are encouraged to promote the use of risk assessment and management of change techniques to adapt to risk;

ASA members are encouraged to recognize that their industry is subject to changes over time and therefore ASA encourages all members to participate in safety developments by making suggestions to improve current practices whenever necessary to promote safety.

## NEW NEWSLETTER LAUNCHING

The editors and publishers of *Marine Log* have announced the launch of a new, bi-monthly e-newsletter, *Marine Salvage News & Safety Report*, which will report on marine incidents, salvage response and issues, as well as current and future regulations and legislation impacting marine salvage and spill response operations. A link to this new report will be included in the ASA Salvage Column in *Marine Log's* Digital Edition. ASA members can submit articles and press releases directly to *Marine Log* for this new publication.

## ASA ASSOCIATE MEMBERS WANTED

Please help the ASA Membership Committee bring in new Associate Members. Please advise ASA Membership Chairman Matt Miller, 206/624-7850, [msmiller@glosten.com](mailto:msmiller@glosten.com) of your leads, and thank you!

## SOUNDINGS OUT NEXT MONTH

The next issue of *Soundings* will be published in May and sponsored by new General Member Mammoet Salvage Americas. If you would like to sponsor a future issue of ASA's newsletter, please contact Editor Debra Colbert, [dcolbert@vesselalliance.com](mailto:dcolbert@vesselalliance.com).

## IOAC 2011 ABSTRACTS DUE

Doug Helton at NOAA has announced that abstracts to the International Oil Spill Conference (IOAC), scheduled for May 23-26, 2011 in Portland, Oregon are due at the end of the month. In the call for papers, topic area four is focused on "underwater response to benthic spills and sunken wrecks." He is investigating the option of an ASA/NOAA panel, but in the meantime, submit abstracts to IOAC with a copy to Doug, [Doug.Helton@noaa.gov](mailto:Doug.Helton@noaa.gov).

## INDUSTRY CALENDAR

- May 25-27. Ocean Tech Expo, Newport, RI ([www.oceantechexpo.com](http://www.oceantechexpo.com))

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