

Salvage Update

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



ASA MEMBERSHIP MEETING HELD

The American Salvage Association's (ASA) Membership Meeting was held March 22 in Stamford, Connecticut, in conjunction with the Connecticut Maritime Association's (CMA) **SHIPPING 2010** conference.

There were nearly 60 in attendance at ASA's meeting, which gave the ASA leadership an opportunity to report to its members on the latest developments related to Coast Guard Salvage and Marine Firefighting regulations, the Wreck Oil Removal Program (WORP) and other Association activities, along with the status of relationship with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), the U.S. Navy and with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R).

Among the key issues discussed, Foss -- not seeing itself as a major salvage company -- has resigned its General Membership in the ASA, and from the International Salvage Union as well. ASA was pleased to vote on and welcome a new General Member, Mammoet Salvage Americas, Inc., based in Houston, Texas.

ASA reported that its relationship with the Coast Guard is excellent and the ASA/USCG Marine Salvage and Firefighting Quality Partnership, executed in 2007, continues to thrive. ASA is working to create a similar Partnership with NOAA.

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It was reported that ASA will create a new committee focused on education, and will address such issues as potentially offering scholarships to students, or offering an ASA student membership rate. ASA will also create a Technical Committee to help with the National Maritime Salvage Conference program, as well as to help spearhead technical article submissions such as those to *Industrial Prevention and Response* newsletter which has extended an invitation to ASA to provide articles.

ASA's Safety Committee has created a "Safety Mission" for all members that states, "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 to general marine activities such as towing, construction, transportation and subsea work, place salvage in an extraordinary position within the maritime industry." It goes on to offer six objectives that ASA members are encouraged to accomplish. The Safety Mission will be sent to members and posted to ASA's web site.

As part of its membership meeting in Connecticut, ASA was invited to attend the Women's International Shipping & Trading Association (WISTA) luncheon, which honored Pam Conover, President and Chief Executive of Seabourn Cruise Line, a luxury cruise subsidiary of the Carnival group, with its "Personality of

the Year” Award.

The next ASA General Membership meeting will be held in mid-October, date TBD, at MITAGS in Linthicum Heights, Maryland, just outside of Baltimore.

ASA PARTICIPATES IN SONS EXERCISE

This month ASA participated in the U.S. Coast Guard-sponsored triennial Spill of National Significance Exercise (SONS) 2010. SONS is a full-scale exercise designed to test response to a Spill of National Significance (SONS) and is defined as a spill that due to its severity, size, location, complexity or impact requires extraordinary coordination of federal, state, local, and responsible party resources to contain and clean up.

This year, the SONS was held in Portland, ME with Shell Oil acting as the industry partner with the Coast Guard. The scenario involved a collision between a tanker and car-carrier, so the salvage component was especially important. There were a significant number of General and Associate members of ASA participating; they were integral parts of the Incident Command in Portland and were crucial to the successful completion of the exercise. Especially important from a salvage perspective in this exercise was the playing out of Safe Harbor of Refuge issues and how to rapidly clear a channel to re-open a port.

ASA TRAINING COMMITTEE ACTIVE

ASA’s Training Committee has been extremely active over the last year in providing training sessions to the U.S. Coast Guard along with other federal and state response stakeholders. The Coast Guard's newly

billeted Port Security and Recovery Specialists have comprised a significant portion of the attending audiences.

The Training Committee is composed of ASA members and the training is focused on modules that address areas such as assessment, strandings, collisions, cap-sizings, emergency lightering, emergency towing, and underwater oil removal. Each module is taught by an expert in the associated area. Recent case studies are presented and reviewed in working groups to convey real world lessons learned.

The ASA Training Committee was initially focused on training the Coast Guard's National Strike Force Teams in the Gulf Coast, Atlantic, and Pacific, but has expanded its reach. Most recently the Committee was approached by the Canadian Coast Guard to provide training which is tentatively scheduled for early 2011.

There are multiple scheduled training events in the near future. If you can help volunteer your time with these important sessions, please contact Committee Chair Todd Schauer, tschauer@resolvemarine.com

WANTED: ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A challenge to the ASA membership: please help identify, contact, and help the ASA Membership Committee bring onboard new Associate Members. Every ASA member is asked to help bring into the association one new Associate Member. Please advise ASA Membership Chairman Matt Miller, 206/624-7850, msmiller@glosten.com of your leads, and thank you!

UPDATE ON WORP

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Having received a \$1M appropriation, NOAA's Wreck Oil Removal Program (WORP) is underway. WORP Phase 1 involves development and application of objective, scientifically-based risk criteria to assess and prioritize the inventory of 600 larger wrecks in U.S. waters for potential oil removal operations. The risk assessments will provide the Coast Guard with preliminary data on those wrecks that present a "substantial and imminent pollution threat," the criteria for tapping the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. ASA and NAMEPA are also working with Sen. Barbara Mikulski (D-MD) on a second \$2M appropriation for FY2011. WORP Phase 2 includes outreach and educational programs, on-site/underwater surveys of high-risk wrecks, detailed assessments of the benefits of oil removal operations, and development of formalized plans for oil removal and pollution response options for the riskiest wrecks, as well as a determination of where proactive response funds will be appropriated.

NOAA LAUNCHES DAVE PROGRAM

In addition to its work on the WORP program, NOAA is also establishing a Derelict and Abandoned Vessel Elimination (DAVE) program, as it is often called upon to remove abandoned vessels that are causing or threatening to cause injury to environmental resources. Impacts include physical crushing of sensitive habitats such as corals, entrapment and entanglement of marine life, and marine debris. The problem of abandonment is expected to grow as small yachts and work vessels that were once built of wood are now made of more durable materials such as

fiberglass and steel. As these vessels become obsolete and are abandoned they will persist in the environment long after they are no longer seaworthy. The recent economic crisis and rising fuel prices have also led to vessel abandonment.

ASA and the NAMEPA, acting for themselves and other interested parties, are endeavoring to assist NOAA to address the imminent environmental threat from these vessels. Though NOAA has shown interest and leadership in addressing this problem for a number of years, such as with the development of its Abandoned Vessels Inventory (AVI), no funding to address this issue has been included in any presidential budget request. NOAA needs a fund to address vessel removal in sensitive areas through a "DAVE" program. The agency needs to prioritize existing derelict vessels and to have sufficient funding to contract for the prompt removal of vessels that pose a threat as well as remove those vessels that have recently become abandoned.

SOUNDINGS SPONSOR NEEDED

A sponsor is needed for the next (Spring) issue of *Soundings*, to be published in May. The cost to sponsor an issue is \$500 and includes a spotlight article on the sponsoring company. Please let Editor Debra Colbert know if you are interested in sponsorship for this, or an upcoming, issue of *Soundings*, dcolbert@vesselalliance.com, 301-332-0813.

CLEAN ATLANTIC CONFERENCE

CANCELLED

The Clean Atlantic conference, scheduled for May 17-19 in Baltimore, has been cancelled due to expected low attendance. The ASA workshop to be held there has also been cancelled.

ATTEND OCEANTECH EXPO!

Mark your calendars 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 with Dr. Dagmar Schmidt Etkin; Carleen Lyden-Kluss; CAPT Anthony Lloyd (Invited); Dr. Deborah French McCay; Robert Urban; and Dave Westerholm.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:

- April 21-22: Tugs & Barges conference, Stamford, CT (www.marinelog.com)
- May 25-27: 2010 Ocean Tech Expo, Newport, RI (www.oceantechexpo.com)

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