

Salvage Update

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



October 29, 2009 ♦ Issue 1, Volume 1

SALVAGE UPDATE COMMENCES

Welcome to the inaugural issue of the American Salvage Association (ASA) *Salvage Update*. The purpose of this newsletter is to keep ASA's membership informed about and interested in the activities of the association. It will be published in the months when *Soundings* is not being published. If you have questions, comments, or suggestions related to *Salvage Update*, please contact the editor, Debra Colbert, dcolbert@vesselalliance.com or 301/332-0813.

ASA ELECTS NEW LEADERS

At its Fall Membership Meeting on October 5 in Arlington, VA, Mauricio Garrido, Vice President, Salvage and Emergency Response for Bisso Marine Co., Inc., was elected President of the ASA. Tim Beaver, Chief Executive Officer of Global Diving & Salvage, Inc., was elected ASA's Vice President. Paul Hankins, Vice President for Operations, Donjon Marine, was elected Secretary/Treasurer.

In addition, David DeVilbiss, Alaska Regional Manager for Global Diving & Salvage; Dan Schwall, Managing Director for Titan Salvage; Bob Umbdenstock, Director, Planning & Corporate Relations for Resolve Marine Group; and Captain Jack Ringelberg, President, JMS Naval Architects & Salvage Engineers, were elected to ASA's Executive Committee.

The following were named as leaders of ASA's Standing Committees for 2009-2010:

Jack Ringelberg, JMS Naval Architects and Salvage Engineers, *Chairman*, ASA Associate Membership Committee; Paul Smith, The Glosten Associates, *Vice Chairman*, ASA Associate Membership Committee; Matt Miller, The Glosten Associates, *Chairman*, ASA

Membership Committee; Devon Grennan, Global Diving & Salvage, Inc., *Chairman*, ASA Safety Committee; Tim Williamson, Donjon-SMIT, *Chairman*, ASA Security Committee Chairman; and Todd Schauer, Resolve Marine Group, *Chairman*, ASA Training Committee Chairman.

In a press release, Garrido said, "ASA owes great thanks to John A. Witte, Jr., Executive Vice President of Donjon Marine Co., Inc., who led us as President since 2007. John's guidance and counsel served ASA and our entire industry well over his term in office." Garrido added, "Special thanks to Ken Edgar for his past leadership as Chairman of the ASA Associate Membership Committee."

WORP/WOW UPDATE

The ASA-supported Wreck Oil Removal Program (WORP), designed to minimize the risk and costs of pollution from some of the 7,000 sunken commercial vessels while demonstrating a commitment to protecting the marine environment using a scientifically-based, controlled approach to oil removal, is awaiting a possible infusion of Congressional funding to begin initial work. Rep. Elijah Cummings and Sen. Barbara Mikulski introduced two parallel House and Senate programmatic requests, each for \$1 million back this past summer that remain on the table. ASA will update members on developments as the process winds through Congress.

The WORP program was the basis of a one-day conference on September 9th titled "Wrecks of the World (WOW): Hidden Risks of the Deep" that was held at The Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) in Linthicum Heights, MD, just outside of Washington, DC. The conference was attended by more than 80 industry and government representatives

from the United States and around the world, as well as those in the news media.

The event was co-sponsored by ASA, the Association of Diving Contractors International (ADCI), International Salvage Union (ISU), Marine Technology Society (MTS), Maritime Law Association of the United States (MLA), North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA), Spill Control Association of America (SCAA), Maritime Technology Alliance (MTA), and the World Ocean Council (WOC).

Presentations and press coverage of the WOW conference appear under "Presentations" on the ASA website at www.americansalvage.org

NATIONAL MARITIME SALVAGE CONFERENCE A GREAT SUCCESS!

The National Maritime Salvage Conference, sponsored by ASA and *Marine Log*, was held October 6-8 in Arlington, VA. The conference drew record numbers of attendees – 160 total – and featured experts from industry, the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, insurance organizations, the legal community, and others addressing marine firefighting and salvage, environmental salvage, media relations, port operations and salvage. A training session was also held in conjunction (*see details in the "ASA Training Committee in Demand" article*).

As part of the event, on October 6, Congressman Elijah E. Cummings, Chairman of the House Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee, was presented with ASA's Rapid Response Award.

The award was presented to Rep. Cummings for his leadership of the Subcommittee, his bold initiative and unwavering commitment to the publication of the U.S. Coast Guard's Salvage and Marine Fire-fighting Regulations last December, and his support of the Wreck Oil Removal Program (WORP). It is the second time Rep. Cummings has received this award from ASA.

ASA TRAINING COMMITTEE IN DEMAND

The ASA Training Committee has been quite active the past six months. Composed of members of the Association and led most recently by David DeVilbiss (Global Diving & Salvage), the Committee formats its courses around various modules that cover areas like assessment, strandings, capzings, emergency lightering, emergency towing, and underwater oil removal. Each module is taught by an expert in the associated field and provides excellent tutelage for students.

A three-day course held in Mobile, AL in May for the USCG National Strike Force (NSF) Teams, including the Gulf Coast, Atlantic, and Pacific Strike Force Teams, offered theory and practical examples covering six different modules and a team exercise focusing on a specific case scenario. In this exercise, the student teams represented their own salvage companies to present solutions to the problem. The USCG Salvage Engineering Response Team (SERT) also participated in this training by presenting tools they can offer in support of salvage operations.

In attendance at the NSF training were several newly billeted Port Security Specialists. Their exposure to the training led to several requests to conduct training for other Port Security Specialists and their colleagues. Time constraints limited the Committee to restrict this training to one session that was held in Ft. Lauderdale, FL during September. This course was a two-day event that included an overview of many of the topics in the NSF course, but was further supplemented with a module on the commercial aspects of salvage, the new salvage and firefighting regulations and issues such as ports of refuge. SERT was also present at this session in Florida.

A new module in the ASA's training handbook on arctic salvage was put together this summer and presented as a stand-alone topic at the Arctic Shipping North America Conference in October at St. John's, Newfoundland.

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The training committee most recently completed a day of training as a part of the October 2009 National Salvage Conference in Arlington, VA along with special guest presenters from the ASA. A half-day was devoted to the study of a case scenario with different speakers addressing various aspects of the job while keeping an open dialogue with attendees. The diverse group of attendees, which included ship-owners, underwriters, emergency responders, and Federal On-Scene Coordinators, provided a lively discussion that proved to be very beneficial to the effort of the training. The second half of the day offered a study on different salvage contracts and a study on their use in the arena of salvage today.

Anyone interested in obtaining training opportunities offered by ASA should contact Todd Schauer, tschauer@resolvemarine.com, or Dick Fredricks, rfredricks@vesselalliance.com.

Future editions of *Salvage Update* will focus on the works of ASA's other Standing Committees.

INDUSTRY CALENDAR

Upcoming Events:

- **November 3-4:** "Ferries 2009" Conference, Seattle, WA (www.marinelog.com)
- **December 2-4:** International WorkBoat Show, New Orleans, LA (www.workboatshow.com)
- **SAVE THE DATE: March 22, 2010: ASA Spring Membership Meeting, Stamford, CT (www.americansalvage.org)**
- **March 22-24, 2010:** SHIPPING 2010, Stamford, CT (www.shipping2010.com)
- **April 21-22, 2010:** Tugs & Barges conference, Stamford, CT (www.marinelog.com)

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