Oil Spill Prevention & Response

An Oil Spill Guide for Commercial Fishing

DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY
State of Washington

Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program
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Why It Matters

As little as a quart of spilled oil, diesel or gasoline can contaminate acres of water and prove deadly to marine life. Proper equipment and practices can prevent most spills. When spills occur, a planned response can reduce the adverse effects on the environmental, economic, and cultural resources as well as the vessel's ability to keep operating. This can also reduce the size of penalties levied and the cost of cleanup.

For More Information or Technical Assistance

Washington Dept. of Ecology
Spills Program
PO Box 47600
Olympia, WA 98504-7600

Olympia Office:
360-407-7455
Fax: 360-407-7288 or
1-800-664-9184
OilTransferRule@ecy.wa.gov

Special Accommodations

If you need this publication in an alternate format, call the Spills Program at 360-407-7455. Persons with hearing loss, call 711 for Washington Relay Service. Persons with a speech disability, call 877-833-6341.

Appreciation Extended

Washington Department of Ecology wishes to thank Trident Seafoods Corporation for contributing to this publication.

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Fish Need Clean Water

There are thousands of commercial fishing vessels operating in Washington waters and each vessel presents a potential oil spill risk to our waters. Oil spills can happen when people make mistakes or are careless. Boats whose owners and captains train their crew, maintain their boats, and set clear expectations for protecting the marine environment, are usually safer and have fewer spills.

Keeping our waters clean and oil free requires time and energy but spill prevention pays off in the long run. Good practices are common-sense things you can do to avoid polluting the environment. For specific information, check out the following topics:

Smart Practices for Spill Prevention

Equipment Related Procedures

- Use checklists for all oil-handling procedures.
- Check oil tank levels before, during, and after transferring oil to ensure levels are where they are supposed to be and are not increasing or decreasing unexpectedly.
- Don't "top off" oil tanks. Know tank capacities, how much you need, and how much each tank can take before pumping.
- Install hydraulic hoses and lines without kinks or sharp turns. Route hoses and lines and provide protective guards to avoid hidden leaks, damage, and abrasion.
- Inspect hydraulic hoses on a regular, planned, basis and replace any showing damage or signs of poor condition (leaking, cracking, abrasion).
- Color-code and clearly label fuel, hydraulic, and other oil system valves. Included labels indicating which way to turn the valve to

open and close it. If you have more than one vessel, ensure the valve color-coding system is standard fleet-wide.
- Replace rubber hoses with protected metallic piping in hard to reach locations to reduce maintenance and future problems.
- Keep weather deck hydraulic hose runs as short as practical.
- Use marine-grade hydraulic fittings and hoses.
- Ensure fuel oil tanks, vents, and valves are clearly labeled in a clear, consistent manner and that labels on tanks match labels on diagrams.
- Provide adequate containment, especially surrounding fuel fills, vents, and sounding tubes. If possible, arrange for containment to drain back to an internal waste oil tank.
- If your vessels berth at a company facility, circle them with boom even when not actively bunkering or lightering.
- Provide sufficient lighting for working areas.

Standard Practices

- Develop written operating and maintenance procedures for the crew to refer to and use.
- Ensure new crew members are familiar with the vessel's fueling, operating, and emergency procedures.
- Use Washington's Safe Bunkering Procedures (Washington Administrative Code 317-40) for fueling operations if you are required to; use them as a basis for your own fueling procedures if you aren't.
- Don't consider absorbent pads and rags as permanent fixes for hydraulic leaks.
- Keep oil off the deck. Rain will wash it overboard.
- Require persons installing, repairing or maintaining hydraulic systems to test all work they do before putting the system back into operation.
- Ensure contractors working on the vessel have a plan for preventing, containing, and responding to oil spills.
- Ensure scuppers are properly plugged before each oil transfer.
- Encourage on-going improvement by compiling lessons-learned from each incident, spill, and close-call.

Tools for Success

- Provide easy access to a color-coded fuel manifold diagram. Post a laminated copy in a location that makes sense for fueling operations.
- Provide piping diagrams for fuel and hydraulic systems.
- Provide a spill prevention and response plan.

Common Causes of Spills

Human Factors

- Poor situational awareness
- Complacency
- Inattention
- Bad judgment
- Fatigue

Company Factors

- Confusing or outdated procedures
- Inadequate maintenance, repairs, training, or safety equipment
- Lack of a spill prevention “culture”
- Inadequate supervision

Equipment Factors

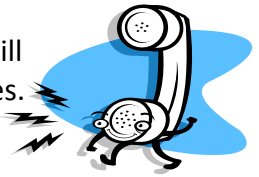
- Equipment not suitable for marine and/or commercial use
- Equipment failure due to impact/overuse
- Equipment failure due to normal wear and tear
- Equipment poorly designed, installed, or manufactured

Oil Spill Response

When spills or other accidents happen, time can be wasted in the confusion of an emergency. Planning and practicing the steps to take can dramatically reduce the time it takes to respond. Oil spill response drills should be added to the vessel's drill schedule. Please adapt this information to fit your needs.

Initial Actions List

1. **STOP THE PRODUCT FLOW** – If safe to do so. Act quickly, secure pumps, close valves, etc.
2. **WARN PERSONNEL** – Ensure safety and security measures.
3. **SHUT OFF IGNITION SOURCES** – Motors, electrical circuits, open flames, etc.
4. **CONTAIN/CONTROL SPILL** – Use berms, boom, absorbents, etc.
5. **NOTIFICATIONS** – As mentioned below.
6. **CLEAN UP SPILL** – If necessary, contact a spill response contractor for additional resources.



Required Notifications

- Report spill to the U.S. Coast Guard National Response Center at: **1-800-424-8802**
- Report spill to the Washington Division of Emergency Management at: **1-800-OILS-911 or 1-800-645-7911**
- Call 911, if necessary
- Notify facility manager/owner or after-hours contact
- Contact the Spill Response Contractor, if necessary

If you spill oil or other hazardous material, you are required to complete the above steps.

Be Ready to Provide this Information

- Who is reporting the spill? How can Ecology contact you?
- Location of the spill.
- What spilled and how much?
- How concentrated is the spilled material?
- Who spilled the product and is anyone cleaning up the spill?
- Type and amount of petroleum stored on site, if any.
- Facility and vessel characteristics.

Additional Contact Information

In addition to the required notifications, your plan should include contact information for anyone you would need to contact in your region in the event of a spill.

Organization	Phone
Dept. of Ecology – Northwest Regional Office (Island, King, Kitsap, San Juan, Skagit, Snohomish, and Whatcom counties only)	**(425) 649-7000**
Dept. of Ecology – Southwest Regional Office (Clallam, Clark, Cowlitz, Grays Harbor, Jefferson, Mason, Lewis, Pacific, Pierce, Skamania, Thurston, and Wahkiakum counties only)	**(360) 407-6300**
Dept. of Ecology – Central Regional Office (Benton, Chelan, Douglas, Kittitas, Klickitat, Okanogan, and Yakima counties only)	**(509) 575-2490**
Dept. of Ecology – Eastern Regional Office (Adams, Asotin, Columbia, Ferry, Franklin, Garfield, Grant, Lincoln, Pend Oreille, Spokane, Stevens, Walla Walla, and Whitman counties only)	**(509) 329-3400**
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Puget Sound	**(206) 217-6001**
U.S. Coast Guard Sector Columbia River	**(503) 240-9310**
Environmental Protection Agency - Region 10	**(206) 553-1263**
Washington State Dept. of Natural Resources	**(360) 902-1071**

Waste Disposal

Oil spill recovery and cleanup operations can generate large quantities of recovered oil and oily wastes. Overlooking or delaying waste disposal issues can temporarily halt recovery operations, delay re-deploying equipment, and potentially violate state and federal waste disposal laws. Remember that oil cleaned up in the first 24 hours of a response can mitigate the monetary penalty.

The Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP) provides tools and guidance for disposing of waste generated from a spill. The ***Sample Disposal Plan*** provided in Chapter 9620 of the NWACP provides a model format for incident-specific disposal plans. The NWACP guidelines describe how the responsible party must handle, designate, segregate, track, store, transport, treat, and finally dispose of waste in Washington State. This process can be coordinated with your response contractor. For more info go to: www.rrt10nwac.com/Files/NWACP/Chapter_9620.pdf

Conclusion

Washington Department of Ecology developed this guidance document for commercial fishermen. Paired with the proper training, this information can help your staff respond effectively to an emergency.