

TRAINING AND EXERCISE WORKGROUP NOTES

Tuesday, May 5, 2026

Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge, Bateman Education Center, Chincoteague, Virginia
11:00-12:00

- First 15 minutes of open forum is closed, then closed to workgroup to workshop for the exercise tomorrow.
- Kelly is phasing out of this workgroup and is phasing in a counterpart.
 - Solicit Ideas & Planning for 2026-2027 Exercises:
 - Activating 4-hour window consolation process with state.
 - Practive NHPA notification procedures.
 - Cross-boundary RRT exercise.
 - Frank notes exercises are extremely broad, could be more productive. Suggestion to have more smaller focused exercises ex. EU. To better work through processes.
 - John notes his counterpart in R5 leading specific trainings/can share manual used do smaller.
 - Elisha notes Sectors also do smaller ones.
 - Areas of ports of safe refuge.
 - Review of Drills:
 - Sabina - Drills on annual basis for RRT3. First notification drill. Notification through MANNs system. Went to standing team with RRT. Reported good success, good response to system. Continually working to update contacts. Activation drill as part of exercise this week.
 - May Tabletop Final Logistics:
 - Justin Chase (USCG) leading, Sabina Bastias (USEPA), Chris Guzzetti (USEPA), Frank Csulak (NOAA), Elisha Cook (USCG), Kelly Thorkilson (USCG), Kevin Heym (USEPA), Mike Towle (USEPA)
 - Start with ground rules.
 - “Validate RRT process”
 - Chemical and biological countermeasures
 - Overview of Delaware Bay refinery
 - ERMA overview with Frank
 - STARTEX – bring up OSCs, Delaware, Trustees on stage.
 - Frank summarizes 232.
 - FOSCR – lead decision tree
 - Ask for feedback by group; federal, state, trustee, anyone else.
 - START to take notes on flip chart and notes.

Meeting Attendance Roster	
Attendee Name	Attendee Organization
Ben Anderson	DNREC
Bastias, Sabina	US EPA
Chase, Justin	USCG
Ciani, Lydia	START – Tetra Tech
Cook, Elisha	USCG D5
Csulak, Frank	DOC - NOAA
Gaynor, Kevin	US EPA
Guzzetti, Christopher	US EPA
Heym, Kevin	US EPA
Lohman, Elizabeth	VDEQ
Nelson, John	DOI
Thorkilson, Kelly	USCG D5
Towle, Mike	US EPA
Smith, Jessie	START – Tetra Tech