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NOAA Report Out

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RRTII Meeting, November 8-9, 2023

U.S. Coast Guard Releases Video on NOAA Partnership to Advance Spill Response

On October 20, 2023, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) released [a short video](#)([link is external](#)) highlighting a recently completed field training aboard the USCG Cutter *Blackfin*, in collaboration with the Great Lakes National Center of Excellence and OR&R, to advance oil spill response using uncrewed aircraft systems (UAS).

OR&R recently led [a week-long training](#) for USCG UAS (or drone) pilots to effectively use UAS to provide eyes on the ground, or on the water in this case, for responders after an oil spill. The training equipped the pilots with the skills to collect information about oiling, including from a working response vessel, to provide data and information in near-real time. This capability enable responders and decision makers to minimize environmental impact in real-time.

Updated CAMEO Chemicals Tool Available Now

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) released the latest version of the [CAMEO Chemicals hazardous materials database](#), which is used by firefighters and emergency planners to prepare for and respond to emergencies. The updated version includes a new mapping tool to display initial isolation and protective action distances from the Emergency Response Guidebook. These distances help in assessing potential threats from chemical hazards, and responders can make informed decisions about keeping the public safe from airborne hazards during and prior to the initial stages of response to a chemical spill. Users can learn about critical response information for thousands of chemicals and use the reactivity tool to find out whether the combination of substances might result in an explosion, the creation of corrosive byproducts, or some other hazard. CAMEO Chemicals 3.0.0, developed by NOAA and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, is available on multiple platforms at no cost to users.

A new version of CAMEO Chemicals is now available. You can access CAMEO Chemicals 3.0.0 in a variety of formats:

- Visit the [CAMEO Chemicals website](#) (or [mobile website](#))
- Download the [CAMEO Chemicals desktop program](#) for Windows or Mac
- Get CAMEO Chemicals as a [mobile app for iOS](#) devices on the App Store
- Get CAMEO Chemicals as a [mobile app for Android](#) devices on Google Play

If you have questions about this program update, please email orr.cameo@noaa.gov.

RRTIII CNRDA Work Group

Endangered Species and Essential Fish Habitat

USCG – Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Biological Evaluation (BE) Guidance for U.S. Coast Guard Fifth District Coastal Zone

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Fifth District units will use this biological evaluation (BE) form to conduct Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation with the Department of Commerce National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). These agencies are referred to as "the Services." This form will be used to cover oil spill and/or hazardous substance response actions within the Fifth Coast Guard District coastal zone, which includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, portions of New Jersey, North Carolina, portions of Pennsylvania, and Virginia.

EPA – Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) Biological Evaluation (BE) Guidance and Form for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 Inland Zone

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 3 will use this biological evaluation (BE) form to conduct Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 and Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) consultation with U.S. Department of the Interior's (DOI) U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). This form will be used to cover oil spill and/or hazardous substance response actions within the EPA Region 3 Inland Area Zone, which includes Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia and West Virginia.

Best Management Practices

USCG – Final Draft Environmental Best Management Practices (BMPs) for Oil Spill Response in RRTIII Coastal Zone. The purpose of this document is to provide recommendations and guidance to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) to avoid and minimize impact to fish, wildlife, and cultural/historic resources during a response to an oil spill.

EPA – CNRDA Work Group plans to draft a similar BMP document for Region 3 Inland Zone.

Environmental Unit Leader EUL Job-Aid – Developing a EUL job-aid based on D5 lessons learned from recent PREP exercises. The USCG ICS Environmental Unit Leader Job Aid needs to be re-written to include more environmental unit specific information and position specific tasks should be developed for the ENVL position PQS.

There is a general lack of understanding of the Environmental Unit role within the ICS organization – particularly from Coast Guard members within the organization. The Coast Guard places very little emphasis and training on the role of the Environmental Unit Leader within the Incident Command System. There are currently no position specific tasks for ENVL3 within the Personnel Qualification Standards (PQS) and no required training outside of ICS-100, 200, and 300. As a result, there are very few qualified Environmental Unit Leaders CG-wide and the significance of this role is frequently overlooked by both the Planning Section Chief and Operations Section. Additionally, if/when the role of the Environmental Unit Leader is established, it is rarely filled by a Coast Guard member and is typically passed off to a member of another federal environmental agency.

The Environmental Unit provides technical information and recommendations to the Incident Command and provides technical expertise to the Operations Section. The Environmental Unit assists in the development of sampling plans, data analysis and interpretation, development of environmental models, and technology evaluation for ecological and human health assessments. The Environmental Unit fills a critical role, particularly for an incident that includes an oil spill or hazardous substance release.

Planning for a RRTIII Cultural Resource Job Aid - Objects, places, traditions, and beliefs that are significant to a group of people and form a collective cultural identity. Cultural resources include objects/artifacts made of stone, ceramic, bone, metal, glass, or wood, or buildings, structures, cemeteries, monuments, shipwrecks, railroads, trails, and subsistence areas. There are federal and state laws protecting cultural resources.

Unanticipated Discovery Plan – USCG D5 has prepared an Unanticipated Discovery Plan (UDP) designed to provide guidance to Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSC) or their representatives to ensure compliance with relevant and appropriate Federal Historic Preservation laws when responding to an oil spill or hazardous material spill. This plan puts forth procedures for personnel and the Federal FOSC regarding unanticipated discoveries of historic properties

under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). While the responsibility of the FOSC in protecting public health and safety is paramount, to the extent practicable, this plan will be implemented during responses being led by an FOSC. Plan is to develop a similar plan for RRTIII.

Training

SCAT (in-person) - 23-25, April 2024, Chincoteague, VA (Tentative)

September 2024, Carteret, NJ (Tentative)

Science of Oil Spills (SOS) (in-person) – March 18 - 23, 2024, Mobile, AL

June 3-10 2024, Seattle, WA

Ann Arbor, MI – Dates and location TBD

Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) (in-person) – March 11-15, 2024, Mobile, AL

May 6-10, 2024 Seattle, WA

Meetings

RRT III – December 5-7. 2023 Keystone Conference Center, Annville, PA

RRT I Meeting – December 13, 2023 Fort Trumbull, New London, CT.

Conferences

Virginia Port Authority Emergency Response Summit, November 16-17, Norfolk Waterside Marriott – POC William (Bill) Burket, bburket@PortofVirginia.com

International Oil Spill Conference(IOSC), May 13-16, 2024, New Orleans, LA

NOAA Monthly Webinars

You Don't Know What You Don't Know Lectures

- Join us every third Thursday of the month from 3:00-4:00 ET for more jaw dropping topics that you had no idea scientists, responders, and educators are looking into!
Website: <https://noaaorr.adobeconnect.com/orrlectureseries/>

Salvaging Solutions to Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

- NOAA invites you to attend our monthly webinar series, Salvaging Solutions to Abandoned and Derelict Vessels. Every fourth Wednesday of the month at 3 pm ET, the webinar will feature experts on a topic related to abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs),

to share perspectives and solutions from across the country on common ADV issues. Recordings for all the Salvaging Solutions to Abandoned and Derelict Vessels monthly webinar topics are now available on our website:

Website: <https://marinedebris.noaa.gov/abandoned-and-derelict-vessels-info-hub/salvaging-solutions-abandoned-and-derelict-vessels-webinar>