



Cooperation and Communication are the Pillars of a Strong ACP

I have been struck by the strong spirit of cooperation that has taken root among the government and civilian agencies at work here. It is truly remarkable and I thank all of you for your efforts and patience in developing that environment. Cooperation is key to planning and planning is extremely important to an effective response. As we identify planning areas that require development, improvement and exercising, it will be the broad cooperation among potential stakeholders that underpins the final plan and response. As we move forward we need to draw in more partners from the small communities that dot our coastal area of responsibility. The key to this effort will be helping each community to understand the role a Joint Information Center plays in making a response work. We need to educate our local political players and first responders about the value of speaking with one voice for the Unified Command. Delivering an agreed upon message will positively effect response management. To do this we need to identify those political, organizational and community leaders who we can expect to interact with during a major spill response.

Our upcoming TTX in June will be an excellent event to invite these folks to. My staff and I will be at the forefront of this effort and I ask each of you to help us develop this strategy. As these outreach efforts mature it is our hope they will give us the opportunity to develop MOU's with local governments and/or agencies to shore up our planning gaps and set transparent and accurate expectations on both sides. A great example of this is the AC's current effort to enter into an MOU with Carlsbad to use their EOC for incidents in the North County.

Lots of work to be done but none of it in vain. The beautiful shoreline and Marine Resources we enjoy are best protected if we have solid workable plans to deal with an emergent crisis. This is one of the most beautiful places on the planet, it is worthy of our best effort to protect it for those who come after us. I greatly enjoyed meeting with our San Diego Area Committee members in early March and hope to see you all again soon.

CAPT Tom Farris

Commander, USCG Sector San Diego

USCG 11th District and Mexican Navy 2nd Region Collaborate on Incident Management Exercise in Baja California



Members of the 2nd Naval Region working on an IAP for their exercise.

By Susan Krala, USCG 11th District, MEXUSPAC Coordinator

For several years, the Mexican Navy has been encouraging its forces to learn and apply the Incident Command System (ICS) used in the United States. Formal training has only been available to a small number of English-speaking officers who have attended classes in the United States, or to those who have attended classes with foreign oil companies. In addition, ICS forms were only available in English.

In response to requests from the 2nd Naval Region in Baja California, Mexico the Coast Guard 11th District Planning/Force Readiness Division developed an Incident Management Exercise to demonstrate the basic and intermediate principles of ICS to show participants how to use the most common forms associated with an Incident Action Plan (IAP). The Mexican Navy Language School in Mexico City provided advance support by translating PowerPoint

slide shows and ICS forms. They also provided instantaneous translation during the English presentations during the meeting.

The exercise took place from the 2nd to 5th of February in Ensenada and covered the first twelve hours after a collision between a tanker, the BLACK CAT and a tanker barge, the SEA WITCH just north of Ensenada, Mexico. Sensitive sites included four separate aquaculture installations, all raising tuna, both north and south of Ensenada and extensive salt marshes south of Ensenada.

Fifty-two participants were divided into five teams. Their task was to follow the “Planning P” through the initial response, Objectives, Tactics, and Planning Meetings, and to complete ICS-204 Work Assignment forms for several Groups and Divisions.

The high point of the exercise was distribution of the USCG Incident Management Handbook translated into Spanish and a CD-ROM with all the class materials in Spanish to each participant to keep.

I will be working with the international liaisons at D11, USCG HQ and EPA to see if there is any opportunity to secure NORTHCOM or other funding to support ICS train-the-trainer courses for Mexican Navy instructors. For the latest information on MEXUSPAC events, see our web page at www.rrt9.nrt.org.

Testing the Area Committee Through Yearly Exercises

Members of the Area Committee are once again developing an exercise to test the readiness of the Area Committee. This year the Area Committee will have a table top exercise on June 4th at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Offices in Carlsbad from 1100-1630.

This exercise will be held in accordance with the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program guidelines which require a full scale exercise every three years and a table top each year when there is not a full scale. We recently had a full scale in June 2008 at the San Diego Convention Center which lasted for three days. Besides numerous people feverishly running about in the Convention Center, there were also assets in the Bay of San Diego and 30 nm off the coast of Point Loma simulating actual response actions.

This year's exercise has a purpose similar to the full scale exercise but will differ greatly in its structure.

The table top will last three hours and be at a much slower pace. It will be discussion based and assets will not be deployed. It will be in one conference room where participants work in small groups on certain issues and then come together as one large group to discuss the positives and negatives of actions. This slower pace will facilitate discussion of key issues deemed relevant by the design team. It will also improve the Area Committee's familiarity and comfort with issues and better prepare them for the next full scale exercise or real world incident. If you would like more information on this exercise please contact LTJG Mares at Marc.A.Mares@uscg.mil.

Next ACP Committee Meeting

- When:** June 4th, 2009
from 9:00am— 11:00 am
- Where:** US Fish and Wildlife Offices
6010 Hidden Valley Rd
Carlsbad, CA 92011
- Agenda:** Volunteer Plan Update
New Salvage Regulations
Cabrillo Monument Subcommittee Update
Recent Pollution Cases Update



There will be a TTX immediately following the meeting. See above article for information.

The Added Value of the Southern California Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS) for Oil Spill Response

By Lisa Hazard, Scripps Institution of Oceanography Operations Manager, Coastal Observing R&D Center

The Southern California Coastal Ocean Observing System (SCCOOS), aims to synthesize environmental observations into products that will provide a scientific basis for evaluating and improving management, guardianship, response to the ocean environment and its resources. Specifically for the oil spill community, utilities have been developed to address risk assessment, real-time oil spill response, and impact assessment. Some benefits of observations to the oil spill response community include:

- Real-time surface currents and trajectories allow the tracking of spills to aid clean up efforts.
- Real-time wind and wave fields assist oil spill response personnel in deploying and managing operational assets (booms, spill response vessels, etc.)
- Accurate observations of ocean circulation and water column biota provide the necessary data to accurately estimate natural resource damage assessment on a per spill basis.

Throughout 2005-2006, Scripps Institution of Oceanography collaborated with the California Department of Fish and Game – Oil Spill Prevention and Response (DFG OSPR) for a field experiment off the coast of San Diego. The experiment was designed

to simulate a dispersed oil plume and attempt to track and sample it. The goals of the project included measuring small-scale transport processes and developing/validating oil-spill model algorithms for effectively modeling subsurface dispersion of naturally-entrained and chemically-dispersed oil.

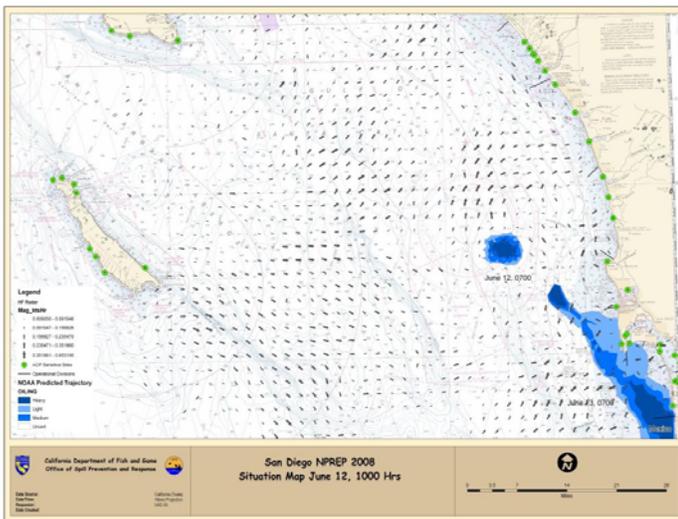
(Central and Northern California Coastal Ocean Observing System) CeNCOOS members provided surface current information for the Nov 2007 – Cosco Busan spill in San Francisco. The surface current maps provide real-time surface currents and can be configured for trajectory mapping in the case of an oil spill off the coast. This information proved quite useful and the Incident Specific Preparedness Review (ISPR) from the Cosco Busan recommended to "coordinate response activities with state ocean observation systems."

Recently SCCOOS members supported the San Diego National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program Guidelines (NPREP) oil spill response exercise conducted in June 2008. HF radar derived near real-time surface current measurements were integrated into the NOAA HAZMAT operational models as well as particle tracking based on optimally interpolated currents. Shape files were also created on an automated basis for California OSPR GIS specialist Judd Muskat and his team so they could include maps of ocean currents with their integrated on-scene GIS

SCCOOS Continued

products. As a result of the success of the exercise, Jordan Stout of NOAA HAZMAT has invited SCCOOS members to participate in future California training exercises to help raise awareness of surface current mapping technology for oil spill response. SCCOOS personnel actually helped in real world events in December 2008, when personnel responded to two oil spills, providing gap filled data to both OSPR and NOAA HAZMAT for integration into their models.

SCCOOS plans to continue to support and foster relationships with the maritime operations community. More information about SCCOOS and near real-time data can be found at www.sccoos.org. If you have questions or personal stories related to the utilization of ocean observing information, please email us at info@sccoos.org.



OSPR generated map with HF radar derived surface currents during the 2008 NPREP exercise.

Heard Through the Grapevine



The following bullets are from Jeff Slusarz, the Statewide ACP Coordinator for the Coast Guard. From now on he will be updating the San Diego Area Committee of Statewide matters in each newsletter. If you have any questions or comments on his bullets, please contact him at Jeffrey.P.Slusarz@uscg.mil.

- CAPT Doug Kaup will be replaced as Chief of Planning by CAPT Gwen Johnson in April 09. CAPT Kaup will be taking over as CO of Air Station Astoria, OR. CAPT Johnson is coming over from Sector Delaware Bay in Philadelphia, PA.

* The most recent Statewide ACP meeting was held on April 14, 2009 at the DFG OSPR office in Los Alamitos, CA. The meeting consisted of Sector reports, a Volunteer committee report, and an OSPR new technology presentation.

* The next RRT meeting will be during the third week of June 09. Exact date and location are pending. The last RRT meeting was in Scottsdale, AZ in Feb. 09. Most issues were of inland nature but a report of marine spills was included.

Best Regards

Jeff Slusarz

Statewide ACP Coordinator