

Client Alert 03- 2014 February 14, 2014

RECIPROCAL RESPONSE PLAN COVERAGE FOR VESSELS CALLING AT WESTERN CANADIAN PORTS

As you are probably aware, all vessels transiting the Strait of Juan de Fuca (Strait) transit US/State of Washington waters (inbound) and Canadian waters (outbound). Therefore, response coverage requirements of both Washington (WA) State and Canada must be met. Vessels calling at WA ports must enroll under a WA Umbrella Plan provided by either the National Response Corporation (NRC) or Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC). Vessels calling Canadian ports must have Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC) response coverage. Vessels calling at Canadian and WA ports during the same voyage must have both WCMRC and WSMC/NRC coverage. To ensure that vessels are fully compliant with Canadian and WA response requirements, NRC, WSMC and WCMRC established mutual aid agreements that provide free reciprocal coverage for vessels in transit through the Strait to avoid duplication of enrollment fees. WCMRC reciprocal coverage is provided for vessels transiting Canadian waters and WA reciprocal coverage is provided by WSMC and NRC for vessels transiting WA State waters. The following is a summary of WCMRC, WSMC and NRC current reciprocal coverage procedures for Canada and WA.

WCMRC

For vessels calling WA State ports only, WCMRC has a reciprocal agreement with both NRC and WSMC that provides Canadian response coverage at no cost for vessels transiting through the Strait's. The WCMRC reciprocal agreement is provided to the vessel owner/operator or their authorized representative for signature during the NRC or WSMC enrollment process. No additional/separate enrollment with WCMRC is required.

NRC

For vessels calling Western Canadian ports only, NRC provides WA reciprocal response coverage at no cost for vessels with NRC OSRO coverage once a WA contract Addendum and vessel General Arrangement (GA) plan is submitted to NRC. The Addendum and list of vessels enrolled with NRC can be found at: www.nrcc.com. Please see ECM Client Alert 28-2013 for further information about NRC WA plan enrollment instructions. **NOTE:** No action is required if a vessel currently has NRC WA plan coverage.

WSMC

For vessels calling Western Canadian ports only, WSMC provides WA reciprocal response coverage at no cost after a 2014 enrollment form and Schedule of Vessel Information (Schedule) is submitted. The enrollment form is available on WSMC's website at: http://www.wsmcoop.org/wsmc_enrollment_form_instructions. Vessels in transit to/from a Canadian port should check the box on WSMC's Schedule that indicates "To/from Canadian port(s) only, via the Strait of Juan de Fuca?". **NOTE:** No action is necessary if the vessel is currently enrolled with WSMC. WSMC WA reciprocal coverage is not needed for vessels with NRC OSRO coverage under their federal VRPs (see NRC above). Vessels enrolled with WSMC may be found at: <http://208.79.150.98/wsmc/vessel/enrolled.aspx>.

NOTE: Emergency Response Towing Vessel (ERTV) coverage is required for all commercial vessels entering the Strait bound for a WA State port. Please see Client Alert 21-2010 for further information about ERTV requirements. No ERTV coverage is required if the vessel is only calling Western Canadian ports.

Please don't hesitate to contact us with any questions at: ecm@ecmmaritime.com.

