

## MRC Symposium Follow Up - Oil Spill Risk Consequences

San Juan MRC shared their *Oil Spill Risk Consequences* presentation for the July 23, 2020 MRC Symposium. [Click here to view the presentation materials, notes, and a recording.](#)

As more MRC's consider if and how they would like to get involved in oil spill prevention or response, the resources below provide an overview of other MRC work and state and federal actions and resources.

### ***What are the MRCs' and Northwest Straits' roles?***

The world of oil spill policy and planning is complicated, and has many state and federal regulations and agencies involved. The MRCs' niche in preventing spills and improving response is critical to keep in mind as you look for opportunities to contribute.

Below are questions or possible opportunities to consider, and we can add to this list as we learn more:

1. How would your MRC use an ecosystem services valuation and economic impact assessment (similar to the assessment for San Juan County)?
2. San Juan LIO is conducting an expanded consequences assessment on the capacity of an Emergency Response Towing Vessel in Haro Strait/Boundary pass to prevent a disabled vessel from drifting aground. Could the Emergency Response Towing Vessel proposed in the San Juan Islands improve marine safety in your county? Are you aware of other spill prevention and response measures planned or being considered to improve safety in your county waters?
3. Are there [Geographic Response Plans](#) (GRPs) that address your MRC data sets and local knowledge of important shoreline and benthic marine resources (kelp, forage fish spawning beaches, eelgrass, Olympia oyster beds, pigeon guillemot, restored beaches, etc.)? Are the data sets considered up-to-date?
  - a. Are there enough resources (equipment and personnel) to implement and maintain the GRPs in your county?
  - b. Do [Primary Response Contractors](#) and Oil Spill Response Organizations know how to properly protect and respond to oil spills on critical forage fish spawning beaches? Are there volunteer opportunities to assist with this knowledge gap?
4. How are Primary Response Contractors and Oil Spill Response Organizations prepared for non-floating oil spills in your county?

### ***Upcoming Events***

Consider attending the [Salish Sea Shared Waters Forum](#) on October 14-15, 2020

And the [Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force annual meeting](#) on Nov. 18 to learn more about WA and BC policy and planning for oil spill prevention and response.

## **MRC and Northwest Straits Commission Oil Spill Resources**

- San Juan MRC: <https://www.sjcmrc.org/projects/oil-spill-prevention/>
- Clallam MRC: <https://www.clallamcountymrc.org/projects/oil-spill-response/>
  - Clallam MRC Geographic Response Plan (GRP) report: [https://nwstraits.org/media/2272/cla-2016-grpupdate\\_datagapassessment.pdf](https://nwstraits.org/media/2272/cla-2016-grpupdate_datagapassessment.pdf)
- Snohomish MRC: <https://www.snocomrc.org/projects/oil-spill-prevention-preparedness-and-response/>
- [Click here](#) to use SoundIQ to see your GRP boundaries and response strategies.

## **Oil Spill Prevention and Response Resources**

- The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force also has resources: <http://oilspilltaskforce.org/documents/other-documents/>
- Overview of the Washington Department of Ecology's work on oil spill prevention and response: <http://oilspilltaskforce.org/about/task-force-jurisdictions/washington/>
- WA Ecology GIS page on oil spills. Includes GPR's, restoration sites, equipment locations: [https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlasc/storymaps/spills/spills\\_sm.html](https://fortress.wa.gov/ecy/coastalatlasc/storymaps/spills/spills_sm.html)
- Ecology's risk assessment reports: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Spills-Cleanup/Spills/Oil-spill-prevention/Risk-assessment>
  - The assessments do not include:
    - Modeling trajectory and predicting oiled shorelines of potential spills.
    - Evaluating impacts of spills
    - Evaluating impacts to tribal cultural treaty rights
- Washington uses Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) to plan for spill response: <https://ecology.wa.gov/Regulations-Permits/Plans-policies/Contingency-planning-for-oil-industry/Geographic-response-plans-for-oil-spills>
- WA oil spills 101 and volunteer page: <https://www.oilspills101.wa.gov/>
- NOAA's shoreline assessment manual and GNOME model to look at oil spill fate and effect:
  - <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/resources/shoreline-assessment-manual.html>
  - <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/response-tools/gnome.html>
- NOAA's Environmental Response Management Application: <https://erma.noaa.gov/northwest>
- Nuka Research's assessment of oil spill response capacity in the San Juans: [https://nukaresearch.com/download/old/150630\\_SJC\\_Oil\\_Spill\\_Evaluation\\_FINAL\\_w\\_APPENDIX\\_ES\\_2.pdf](https://nukaresearch.com/download/old/150630_SJC_Oil_Spill_Evaluation_FINAL_w_APPENDIX_ES_2.pdf)
- EPA emergency response center for oil and other toxic spills : <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response/national-response-center>