

WESTERN CANADA
MARINE RESPONSE

2023 ANNUAL UPDATE





- 03 ——— Our Mission, Vision, and Values
- 04 ——— President's Message
- 05 ——— 2023 Highlights
- 06 ——— Behind the Scenes at Chancellor Channel
- 07 ——— Health and Safety Update
- 08 ——— Response Readiness Update
- 09 ——— Logistics Update
- 10 ——— Training Update
- 11 ——— Behind the Scenes of the M/V Maipo River
- 12 ——— Indigenous Nations and
Coastal Community Engagement
- 13 ——— Response Base Reports
- 13 ——— Prince Rupert
- 14 ——— Vancouver Harbour
- 15 ——— Fraser River
- 16 ——— Nanaimo
- 17 ——— Sidney
- 18 ——— Port Alberni
- 19 ——— Beecher Bay

MISSION —

Western Canada Marine Response delivers safe and effective oil spill response services within the province of British Columbia.

VISION —

To be regarded by communities and industry as the leader in marine oil spill response.

VALUES —

We believe that putting our values into practice creates long term benefits for our employees, shareholders, stakeholders, suppliers, and the communities we serve.

We value:

- Safety and readiness
- Open and honest communication that fosters a climate of trust
- Integrity in everything we do
- Protecting the environment
- Continuous improvement through competency, creativity, efficiency & teamwork
- Celebrating individual and team successes



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Another year has passed and once again we have set new levels in “response readiness”. Not only have we met and set new milestones, but we have expanded our knowledge within our zones of responsibility. It truly has been another very successful year!

Reflecting on the year, we brought in the final three additions to our fleet with the commissioning of the two new barges and the OSV. Great additions to our fleet that will help set us apart from many other response organizations. There is no doubt that these assets, along with the rest of our fleet, will be showcases for WCMRC’s capability in the event of a major spill on this coast. That said, assets are only as good as their trained crews!

WCMRC is certified as a “response ready” organization. What this means is that all assets are in excellent working order, crews are trained and competent in the standard operating procedures that ensure a safe and effective response, and our area planning is at the highest level possible.

It also means working together as a TEAM — Response Readiness Group coordinating exercises, certification requirements, training, logistical support, and area planning. E&M working closely with Operations to ensure the vessels and other assets are ready to go at a moment’s notice. Operations working with RRT and Safety to ensure assets are accounted for, operating to a safe standard, and exercised in scenarios and responses that will help build our competencies. Then there is Finance, IT, Communications, Indigenous and HR all supporting the entire organization for both day to day and spill response requirements.

As an organization we have been very lucky in recruiting and maintaining the best of the best. Whether it is at Head Office, Field Hub Offices, or our Operational Bases, without a doubt our best asset is our people.

Without a doubt, our best asset is our people.

Going forward WCMRC is positioned to be a leader in spill response. When the Beecher Bay Response Base is finished, we will have nine of the best operational bases and accompanying equipment that any response organization could ask for. Add to that the strong support & commitment to excellence in execution from field and head office personnel and you have the formula in place that will carry the organization forward for many years of success. I feel really good about where we are positioned and the opportunities that may lie ahead.

Finally, as I count down the days to retirement, I appreciate all the support you have given me, and I am very proud of where the organization has come from and where it is going. It truly has been an honour and privilege to lead an organization that cares about the environment, its employees, and our beautiful coastline.



2023 HIGHLIGHTS

Each year, WCMRC responds to spills across the British Columbian coastline in concert with our many partners and stakeholders to ensure the protection of wildlife, economic and environmental sensitivities, and the safety of both the responders and the public. Over the years, our employees have responded to hundreds of marine oil spills and spent thousands of hours training and preparing to ensure response readiness. Here are some of the key highlights from 2023:



18

SPILL
ACTIVATIONS



110

CONTRACTORS
TRAINED



40

GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE
STRATEGIES DEVELOPED



110

GEOGRAPHIC RESPONSE
STRATEGIES FIELD TESTED



4

COASTAL RESPONSE
PACKAGES DEPLOYED



BEHIND THE SCENES AT CHANCELLOR CHANNEL

On April 20, 2023 a fuel truck, laden with approximately 17,000 liters of marked diesel, fell off the back of a barge in Chancellor Channel, just off the east coast of Vancouver Island. The truck did not reportedly suffer any damage prior to it falling off and no immediate release of product had been observed. The responsible party (RP) first notified the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) and then activated WCMRC.

WCMRC dispatched the 27-foot landing craft Cortes Sentinel with three crew, the 26-foot workboat Sentinel 32 with three crew, and two trailers carrying equipment and boom, to a staging area at Kelsey Bay. The CCG acted as the Federal Incident Commander with an on-water vessel and helicopter. Nanwakolas Council member First Nations also responded to the incident with their Ha-ma-yas Guardians.

On April 21, WCMRC crews mobilized and engaged in reconnaissance to identify the truck location, while an underwater remote-operated vehicle (ROV) and divers were mobilized to identify if there was any

damage to the truck's tanks. As surveys were conducted, planning meetings occurred to identify what response would be if the tanks were damaged. Over the following days WCMRC engaged in protection/strategy deployment alongside the Guardians, using a total of 6,350 feet of boom.

Divers continually surveyed the truck to examine seepage from the truck's tanks, while preparations were made to bring in equipment to lift and remove the truck from the seabed. On April 28th, the truck was able to be successfully lifted from the seabed onto a barge with the remaining fuel immediately being transferred out of the truck. It was estimated that up to 15 per cent or as much as 2,500 liters of diesel had leaked during the incident.

HEALTH AND SAFETY UPDATE

- ✓ Introduced Safety in Motion with a focus on ergonomic concepts to establish awareness of stressed vs better body position.
- ✓ Established Regional Safety Committees for Vancouver Island and South Coast. The new committees provide another layer of safety oversight to ensure regional issues are discussed and all areas and departments are involved in the safety committee process.
- ✓ Assessment completed regarding hazardous vapour response process, resulting in additional safety equipment procurement such as, full-face respirators and personal gas monitors, to support staff in ensuring a safe and effective response.
- ✓ Introduction of Psychological Health & Safety / Workplace Mental Health Initiative with a focus on sharing of resources and material to staff.
- ✓ Safety team supported the commissioning of the Sentinel 303 & 304 barges.

CORE-4 SAFETY PRINCIPLES

01 	02 	03 	04 
Safety is #1 — Always	Visible Health and Safety Leadership	Be Certain — Stop and Reassess	Continuous Improvement

LIFE SAVING RULES

			
Risk Assessment	Line of Fire	Correct Unsafe Acts and Conditions	Critical Tasks
			
Buddy System	Personal Protective Equipment	Driver Safety	Fit For Duty

RESPONSE READINESS UPDATE

Transport Canada Certification

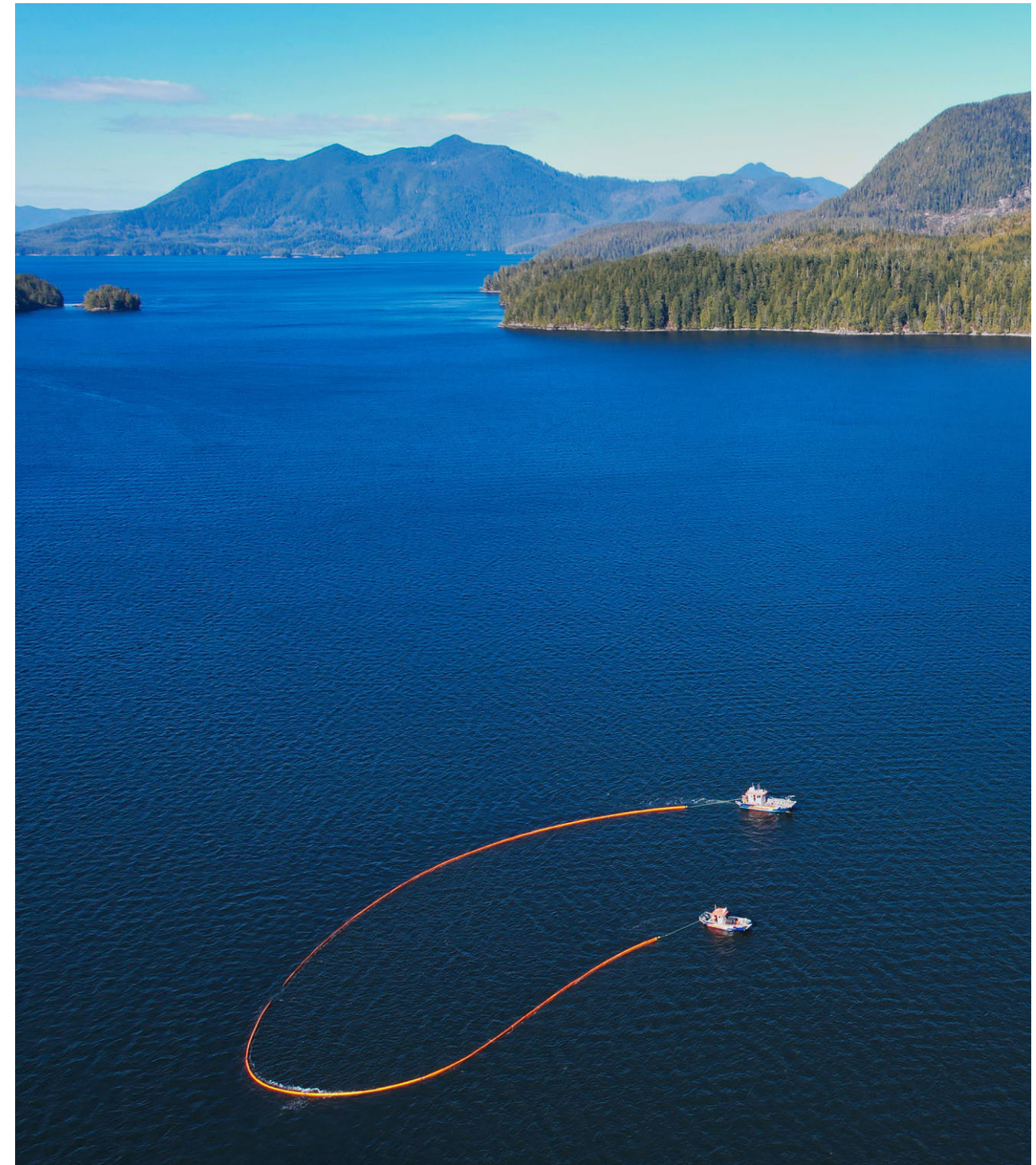
- Completed 1,000 and 2,500 tonne exercises for an incident near Royal Roads. Seaspan played the role of Polluter.
- Completed 150 tonne on-water drill in Vancouver with Pembina Vancouver Wharves.
- Completed an unannounced drill with representation from Sidney, Beecher Bay, Nanaimo, Fraser River, and Vancouver bases.
- Completed an on-water drill with Sidney and Beecher Bay bases in preparation for the 2,500-tonne exercise.
- Completed the 150 tonne of equipment verification for Vancouver Harbour.

20,000 Tonne Third Party Review

- Onboarded new third party review company, EPSC Brown Services.
- Completed Tier 5 equipment verifications in Nanaimo and Port Alberni.

Coastal Response Program

- Led 15 geographic response strategy (GRS) engagement sessions with First Nations, response organizations and coastal communities.
- Conducted a remote GRS development and field-testing session with a First Nation.
- Developed 50 new GRS's.
- Ran a major upgrade to WCMRC's ESRI mapping servers.



LOGISTICS UPDATE

- Led the kitting and outfitting of the 303 and 304 barges.
- Through long-term planning and procurement engaged in the kitting and outfitting of the Offshore Supply Vessel (OSV), the KJ Gardner.
- Participated in the facility and equipment transitions of:
 - Duncan to the Nanaimo Response Base
 - Kensington Warehouse to both the Coquitlam and Vancouver Response Bases
- Mobilized four Coastal Response Packages (CRP) to their respective home locations.
- Outfitted and commissioned two staging area trailers.

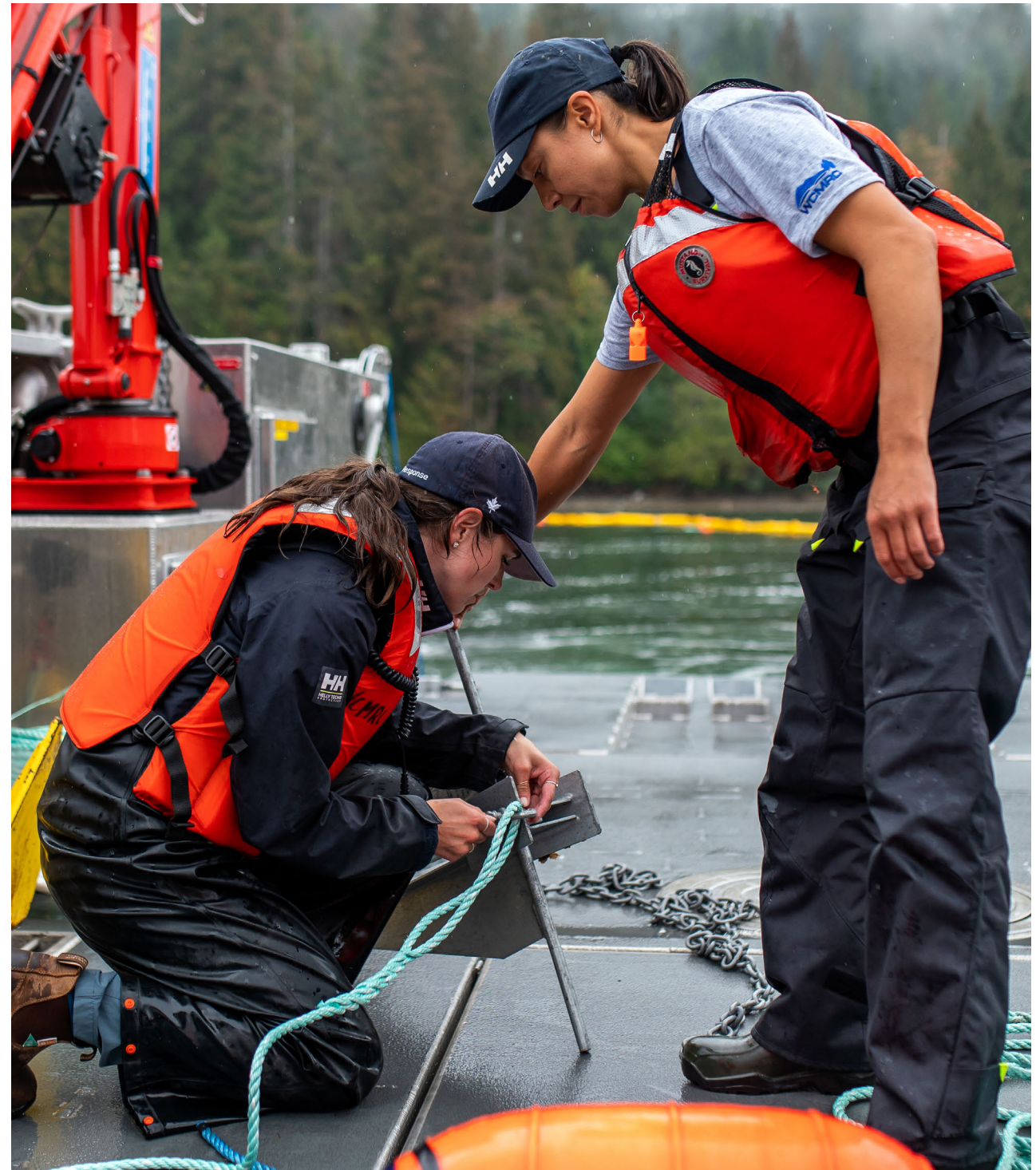


TRAINING UPDATE

- 110 contractors trained as deckhands on WCMRC vessels.
- 25 contractors trained as shoreline supervisors.
- 29 Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) and associated crews trained in various operational tactics.

Diversity at WCMRC

WCMRC struck its first Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee this year, with 8 members across the organization to lead it. The committee will meet quarterly to review how WCMRC can continue to foster an equitable, diverse, and inclusive culture and make any continuous improvement recommendations to enhance our culture. This year, WCMRC also began its first ever Women's Internship program. This program hires interns to work as deckhands at one of our six response bases for a four-month (May – August) summer job in a full-time paid position. Interns will gain valuable work experience in the marine sector and insight into how spill response works on Canada's West Coast.





BEHIND THE SCENES OF THE M/V MAIPO RIVER

In the early hours of the morning on July 26th, WCMRC received a Connect Rocket call from Pacific Basin Shipping Hong Kong reporting that a spill had occurred on a cargo ship at berth, the Maipo River, in Nanaimo Harbour. Initial details of the spill were sparse, with varying reports of the amount of product spilled.

What was known at the time was that the spill occurred upon the vessel deck and went through the scuppers during an internal fuel transfer. Thankfully, scupper plugs were in place and contained a significant amount of the spilled product on the deck. WCMRC crew and support staff were quickly mobilized, along with the decision to stand up an ICP (Incident Command Post) at WCMRC's Nanaimo Response Base.

At 7:50 AM, spill response vessels initiated u-sweeps in areas where they had observed black blobs of product along with an oil sheen. Primary containment by the Sentinel 33 and Island Sentinel occurred after the u-sweep maneuvers laying out 200 feet of boom across the stern of the Maipo River. Aerial surveillance was conducted to determine the risk coming from the product moving due to the currents. To assist in aerial surveillance, WCMRC activated contractors to conduct drone flights.

At approximately 10:00 AM the Cortes Sentinel departed to begin deployment of Geographic Response Strategies. By 2:45 PM secondary containment of the vessel had been completed with a total of 2,750 feet of containment boom out on the water. By the end of the day, the crew were left to tend to maintain the containment boom throughout the night, with no incidents being reported.

The following day, Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) teams were contracted to survey shoreline with collaboration from Environment Canada and Climate Change, B.C. Environment and Climate Change Strategy and impacted First Nations.

With containment of the spilled product being carefully maintained and monitored, Unified Command's response now moved towards the removal of approximately 24 logs, between 60 and 70 feet in length, caught between the casualty and containment boom, all in various degrees of oiled state.

As the responsibility for log removal fell on the Polluter, the Maipo River utilized its crane to lift and wrap the logs individually before transferring them to a barge. Final spilled product was removed by manual recovery (oil snares and sorbent pads), followed by the removal of 4,200 feet of boom for disposal. Vessels and equipment were then sent for decontamination and prepared back to a response ready state.

Coincidentally, about a year before this incident, training had taken place for a situation very similar to the one that occurred, involving the deployment of a primary containment at the adjacent berth (NAW C). During the exercise, crews practiced deploying enough boom to fully contain a large vessel in the event of a casualty, which mirrored the situation with the Maipo River. Upon examining the geography in and around Nanaimo Harbour, both for environmental protection and the location of our current Nanaimo Response Base, it was clear that one of the biggest risks to the estuary's ecosystem would be a discharge at one of the berths.

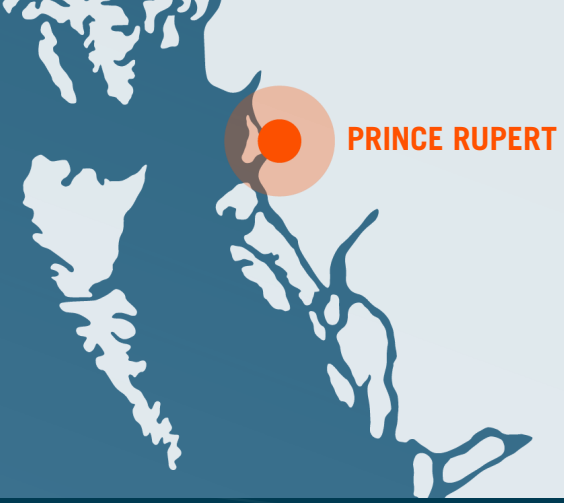
INDIGENOUS NATIONS AND COASTAL COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Coastal Indigenous Nations and coastal communities are the first to be impacted by a marine oil spill and play a vital role in response operations in Coastal British Columbia. Preparedness is a key factor in spill response on the West Coast, and strong relationships with local partners is vital to mitigating impacts should a spill occur. In partnering with many Indigenous Nations and coastal communities, WCMRC's capacity is improved, and communities are empowered to prevent, and mitigate the damage in the event of a spill.

Indigenous Nations and coastal communities are involved by identifying local sensitivities; becoming response contractors; storing Coastal Response Packages; or simply learning what to expect if and when a spill occurs. This year WCMRC donated \$7,500 to coastal community sport teams, fishing derbies and local authors.

Our engagement work is highlighted in the following response base updates.





Response Base Report: PRINCE RUPERT

Highlights:

- Conducted an on-water exercise with the Canadian National Railway on the lower Skeena River.
- Took part in the Shearwater Fuel Dock spill response exercise.
- Participated in an international on-water exercise in Ketchikan, Alaska with our mutual aid partner response organization, SeaPro, along with the United States Coast Guard and industry stakeholders.
- Participated in Indigenous relations engagement and spill response training in Haida Gwaii, Kitimat, Prince Rupert and Shearwater.
- Participated in the following community engagement events: Seafest, All Native Basketball Tournament, career fairs and student work experience.
- North Coast sent crew to participate in the 2,500 tonne exercise.
- Carried out the deployment of 10 geographic response strategies (GRS).

PERSONNEL

10 

BOOM TOTAL (metres)

14,270

Sheltered (metres)

12,000

Unsheltered (metres)

1,140

Shoreline (metres)

1,130

SKIMMING CAPACITY
(tonnes/hour)

117

STORAGE
(tonnes)

316

EQUIPMENT
TRAILERS

33

VESSELS

1  Oil Spill Response Vessel

3  Landing Crafts

2  Boom Skiffs

3  Mini Barges

3  Work Boats

Response Base Report:

VANCOUVER HARBOUR

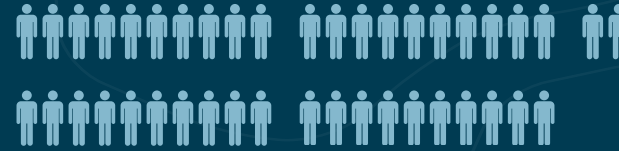


Highlights:

- Official handover of the new response base from Corporate Projects to South Coast Operations.
- Completed the decommissioning and mobilization of staff and equipment from the Kensington warehouse to WCMRC's new Vancouver and Coquitlam Response Bases.
- Completed commissioning the Sentinel 304 barge.
- Held spill response training with industry stakeholders, including West Coast Reduction.
- Executed 150 tonne on-water Transport Canada certification exercise with Pembina Vancouver Wharves.
- Presented to Lower Mainland teachers as part of Mineral Education's annual harbour tour.
- Presented to a dozen secondary school classes on marine career opportunities.
- Presented to the Burnaby and Vancouver-Sunrise Rotary clubs.
- Participated in a panel on the marine industry for the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport
- Hosted the Minister of Transport Canada, Omar Alghabra, for a tour of the Vancouver Response Base.
- Hosted the Mayor of Belcarra for a tour and presented to Belcarra Mayor and Council.
- Hosted members of Alyeska Pipeline in a tour of Vancouver Response Base and its vessels.
- Hosted a booth at the Union of BC Municipalities conference.
- Participated in the Port of Vancouver's World Maritime Day celebrations at Canada Place.
- Participated in the Vancouver International Boat Show with tours of the Pacific Sentinel.
- Participated in Shoreline Cleanup at New Brighton Park.
- Sponsored a local marine history book.

PERSONNEL

42



BOOM TOTAL (metres)

12,810

Sheltered (metres)

5,680

Unsheltered (metres)

3,490

Shoreline (metres)

3,640

SKIMMING CAPACITY (tonnes/hour)

270

STORAGE (tonnes)

4,520

EQUIPMENT TRAILERS

28

VESSELS

4



Oil Spill Response Vessels

1



Landing Craft

4



Boom Skiffs

1



General Vessel

8



Mini Barges

2



Response Barges

4



Workboats

Response Base Report: FRASER RIVER



Highlights:

- Provided a safety vessel for the Musqueam Canoe Race.
- Participated in the Riverfest 2023 Lucille Johnstone Workboat Parade with the M.J. Green.
- Conducted spill response training with BNSF Railway during their annual exercise, at Little Campbell River.
- Fraser River crews were the principal WCMRC responders to the Wreck Beach, City Reach and Samson V incidents.
- Attended the Imperial Oil Exercise in Burnette River with Nucor Corporation.
- Took part in Kamloops swift water booming training.

PERSONNEL

11 

BOOM TOTAL (metres)

3,350

Sheltered (metres)

Unsheltered (metres)

3,050 **300**

SKIMMING CAPACITY
(tonnes/hour)

8





STORAGE
(tonnes)

95

EQUIPMENT
TRAILERS

3

VESSELS

- 2**  General Vessels
- 1**  Landing Craft
- 1**  Boom Skiff
- 2**  Mini Barges
- 1**  Workboat

Response Base Report: NANAIMO

NANAIMO

Straight of Georgia

Highlights:

- Held the official ribbon cutting ceremony for the new response base.
- Created and implemented two Lead Hand positions.
- Nanaimo crews were the principal WCMRC responders to the Chancellor Channel and Maipo River incidents.
- Visited Hakai Calvert Island Ecological Observatory and transported six super sacks of ocean waste collected from the island to a sorting and recycling in Nanaimo.
- Raised money for a local charity, Loaves and Fishes as part of the bases' first Vancouver Island Golf Tournament.
- Led vessel of opportunity Current Buster training in Campbell River with the Inlet Transporter II.
- Held a geographic response strategy (GRS) deployment exercise and training with Namgis First Nation.
- Positioned a new Coastal Response Package in Gorge Harbour.
- Hosted a booth at the Association of Vancouver Island and Coastal Communities conference.
- Presented to the Village of Sayward Mayor and Council.
- Sponsored a local youth hockey club in Comox Valley.
- Completed the commissioning of the Sentinel 303 barge.

PERSONNEL

40



BOOM TOTAL (metres)

10,710

Sheltered (metres)

8,160

Unsheltered (metres)

2,030

Shoreline (metres)

520

SKIMMING CAPACITY (tonnes/hour)

100

STORAGE (tonnes)

2,465

EQUIPMENT TRAILERS

16

VESSELS

1



Oil Spill Response Vessel

2



Landing Crafts

1



Boom Skiff

3



General Vessels

1



Mini Barge

4



Work Boats

1



Response Barge

Response Base Report: SIDNEY



Highlights:

- Hosted a tour for Beecher Bay First Nation and Members of Ocean Resources at the response base.
- Hosted North Saanich Mayor and Councillors for an information session and tour of the base.
- Hosted the Canadian Joint Incident Response Unit for tour of the base.
- Hosted multiple community tours including Probus and the Canadian Institute of Marine Engineering.
- Provided support on the Saturna Sentinel to a group of canoes as part of an event to celebrate the opening of new exhibit about Indigenous canoe culture at the Royal BC Museum.
- Staffed a booth at the Harbour Authority Association of BC conference.
- Conducted spill response training and protective booming with BC Ferries at Swartz Bay.
- Held annual vessel of opportunity training with Malahat Nation and the Sidney station of Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue (RCMSAR).
- Held joint Canadian Coast Guard and Beecher Bay Response Base Current Buster deployment training.
- Provided an education session to the BC Environmental Assessment Office.
- Supported Environment and Climate Change Canada's Pre-Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) field campaign.
- Sponsored a local Sidney youth soccer club.

PERSONNEL



BOOM TOTAL (metres)

6,790

Sheltered (metres)

4,280

Unsheltered (metres)

1,260

Shoreline (metres)

1,250

SKIMMING CAPACITY
(tonnes/hour)

59

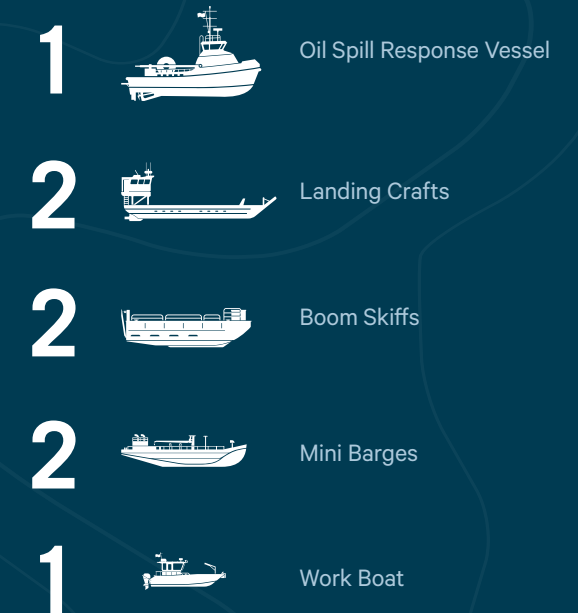
STORAGE
(tonnes)

137

EQUIPMENT
TRAILERS

13

VESSELS



Response Base Report: PORT ALBERNI



Highlights:

- The Coastal Response Vessel (CRV) Coastal Sentinel arrived at its new Port Alberni home.
- Public open house held at the response base with almost 200 visitors in attendance.
- Vessel tours conducted in Tofino and Ucluelet with over 150 visitors in attendance.
- Held joint training and RoBoom (heavy-duty oil boom) deployment with the Canadian Coast Guard’s Atlantic Eagle near Ucluelet.
- Led west coast Vancouver Island training, including man overboard protocols and night operations.
- Held training and engagement sessions with Quatsino First Nation for the first time.
- Sentinel Barkley and crew supported the Northwest Oil Spill Control Course in Port Angeles.
- Participated in Columbia Fuels (Parkland) exercise and recertification drill in Ucluelet.

PERSONNEL



BOOM TOTAL (metres)



Sheltered (metres)



Shoreline (metres)



SKIMMING CAPACITY
(tonnes/hour)



STORAGE
(tonnes)



EQUIPMENT
PACKAGES
& TRAILERS



VESSELS

- 1** Oil Spill Response Vessel
- 2** Landing Crafts
- 2** Boom Skiffs
- 1** General Vessel
- 2** Mini Barges
- 1** Work Boat

Response Base Report: BEECHER BAY

BEECHER BAY

Salish Sea

Highlights:

- Hosted the moorage ribbon cutting and vessel tours for Sci'aneew Nation and Spirit Bay community in Beecher Bay.
- Participated in the Regional Emergency Preparedness Fair hosted in Colwood.
- Participated alongside Sci'aneew Nation in the South Island First Nations Marine Stewardship Flotilla in Victoria.
- Provided the G.M. Penman as a start boat for the Swiftsure Race.
- Official breaking of ground for the construction of the Beecher Bay Response Base.
- Moorage and docks entered into service with all vessels re-located to their home at Beecher Bay.
- Hosted the 2,500-tonne spill response exercise at Race Rocks.
- Onboarded two new contactors, T'souke First Nation and Sooke Royal Canadian Marine Search and Rescue.
- The KJ Gardner arrived in Vancouver and began commissioning activities.
- Facilitated a geographic response strategy (GRS) workshop with District of Metchosin's Environmental Committee and Scia'new's Ocean Resources Centre.
- Sponsored multiple fishing derbies at Cheanuh Marina
- G.M. Penman and Strait Sentinel crews supported the Northwest Oil Spill Control Course in Port Angeles.

PERSONNEL

20 

BOOM TOTAL (metres)

3,080

Sheltered (metres)

2,590

Unsheltered (metres)

460

Shoreline (metres)

30

SKIMMING CAPACITY
(tonnes/hour)

61

STORAGE
(tonnes)

40

EQUIPMENT
TRAILERS

6

VESSELS

1  Oil Spill Response Vessel

2  Landing Crafts

2  Boom Skiffs

1  General Vessel

2  Mini Barges

1  Work Boat

