



Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee

HARBOR SAFETY PLAN

2025 Edition

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Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
Harbor Safety Plan | Chapter I

INTRODUCTION

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Amendments to LCRHSC mission statement, DOE description, and formatting changes.	Harbor Safety Plan Review Committee	03/09/2022

A. Purpose

The Harbor Safety Plan (HSP) of the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee

(LCRHSC) is provided as an information and educational tool. The HSP is intended to complement existing regulations by advising the mariner of unique conditions and requirements that may be encountered in the Lower Columbia Region. These standards and protocols have been developed by local experts. This document will be updated periodically with current versions posted on our web page:

www.lcrhsc.org.

B. Procedures

The elements of the HSP are developed by subcommittees of the LCRHSC. For specific issues, interested parties and subject matter experts are included to assure the broadest perspectives on measures considered.

C. Guidelines and Standards of Care (SOC)

Standards and protocols included in the Harbor Safety Plan address operational and environmental issues unique to the Lower Columbia Region. The Harbor Safety Plan is not intended to supplant or otherwise conflict with federal, state or local regulations developed under legal authorities. Nor is the HSP intended to replace the good judgment of a vessel's master in the safe operation of his/her vessel.

The Columbia River SOC's:

- Were cooperatively drafted by regulators and industry representatives and provide information unique to the river system.
- Are to be implemented in accordance with all International, Federal, State and
- Local regulations, and the normal practices of good seamanship.
- Constitute the Minimum Standards of Care to be used in all referenced operations on the Columbia River System.

D. Harbor Safety Committee

The Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee (LCRHSC) is an open forum comprised of public and private entities with vital interests in assuring safe navigation to protect people, the environment, and property on the waterways within the Lower Columbia Region.

LCRHSC accomplishes their mission by adopting or developing appropriate standards and guidelines (Harbor Safety Plan) that address environmental and operational elements of maritime operations unique to the Lower Columbia Region.

The LCRHSC provides an inclusive, cooperative and equitable venue for addressing waterways issues to ensure the continuation and improvement of prudent

management practices for our local waterways. Throughout the process, the LCRHSC strives to ensure reliable and efficient marine transportation.

E. Geographic Area

This HSP encompasses the Columbia River and its navigable tributaries from the seaward approaches to the Columbia River Entrance to Bonneville Dam.

F. Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone

For all navigation/marine safety, commercial vessel and waterways management, port security and environmental response issues in the Lower Columbia Region, the COTP (located at Sector Columbia River) is the primary Coast Guard authority. The legal boundaries for the Sector Columbia River Marine Inspection Zone and Captain of the Port Zone are set forth in 33 Code of Federal Regulations 3.65-15. The Captain of the Port has varying levels of jurisdiction extending to the outer limit (200 nautical miles) of the EEZ for foreign and domestic vessels.

G. Washington Department of Ecology (DOE)

Washington State Department of Ecology Ecology's Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program (Spills Program) focuses on preventing oil spills to Washington's waters and land, and planning for and delivering a rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated response to oil and hazardous substance spills wherever they occur. The Spills Program works with communities, industry, state and federal agencies, tribes, and other partners to prevent and prepare for oil spills. The Spills Program also responds to spills 24/7 from six offices located throughout the state and works to assess and restore environmental damage resulting from spills.

Spills Program activities include:

- Preventing oil spills from vessels and oil handling facilities.
- Preparing for aggressive response to oil and hazardous material spills.
- Rapidly responding to and cleaning up oil and hazardous material incidents.
- Restoring public natural resources damaged by oil spills.

Core services include inspections of commercial cargo and passenger vessels of 300 gross tons or more for substantial risk, facility inspections, oil transfer monitoring, plan review and approvals, contingency plan drills, development of Geographic Response Plans, technical assistance, environmental restoration, and 24/7 response to oil and hazardous materials spills.

H. Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ)

DEQ's marine oil spill prevention program is responsible for the prevention and response to oil spills in Oregon's waters. Such spills pose a major threat to Oregon's waters, air, land and wildlife. The state's jurisdiction extends to activities occurring in

the coastal waters within the U.S. territorial seas and inland waterways such as the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

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AIDS TO NAVIGATION GUIDELINES

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Updated Logo. No content changes.	N/A	4/4/23
Updated formatting. Updated USCG numbers.	N/A	5/15/25

A. Purpose/Scope

To provide guidelines to be followed by all vessels operating in the Lower Columbia Region.

B. General Information

The waters of the Lower Columbia Region are marked to assist navigation using the U.S. Aids to Navigation System. This system encompasses buoys and beacons conforming to the International Association of Lighthouse Authorities (IALA). Specifically, the Columbia River (along with most other U.S. waterways) follow IALA-B, which places red aids on your starboard side when transiting inbound from a channel. The U.S. Aids to Navigation (ATON) System is intended for use with nautical charts. The exact meaning of a particular aid to navigation may not be clear to an individual unless the appropriate nautical chart or U.S. Chart No. 1 is consulted. Additional important information supplementing what is shown on the charts is contained in the *Light List*, *Coast Pilot*, *U.S. Chart No. 1*, and *Sailing Directions*. Information can be found at the websites below:

Light List Volume VI for Pacific Coast and Pacific Island

<https://www.navcen.uscg.gov/?pageName=lightLists>

US Coast Pilot Volume 10 for Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, and Pacific Islands

<https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/coast-pilot/index.html>

U.S. Chart No. 1

<https://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/publications/us-chart-1.html>

Sailing Directions

<https://msi.nga.mil/Publications/SDPGuides>

The effectiveness of Aids to Navigation is regularly reviewed. These reviews, known as Waterway Analysis and Management System Studies (WAMS), are conducted by the U.S. Coast Guard with input from pilots and other waterway users.

C. Caution Using Aids to Navigation

The ATON depicted on nautical charts comprise a system of fixed and floating aids that have varying degrees of reliability. Mariners should not rely solely on any single ATON; and specifically, shall not solely rely on a single floating ATON. With respect to buoys, the charted buoy symbol is used to indicate the approximate position of the buoy sinker, which anchors the buoy to the sea floor, not the exact location of the buoy hull.

Due to environmental forces, the position of the buoy hull can be located outside of the chart symbol. There are many factors that contribute to a buoy's inherent imprecision including river conditions (tide and current), seas and swells, bottom type, and slope changes at the buoys assigned position. Buoys are anchored to the sea floor using sinkers and varying lengths of chain. Buoys are serviced on maintenance cycles; meaning that some buoys are not serviced, including a position verification, for multiple years unless it is discrepant. Buoys may be carried away, shifted, capsized, or sunk, etc.

Lighted buoys may be extinguished, or sound signals may not function as the result of natural causes, collisions, or other accidents. Mariners should not rely solely upon the position or operation of floating ATON, but shall use all means available to accurately fix the ship's position. Give buoys an appropriate berth when passing as a vessel attempting to pass close aboard risks collision with a yawing buoy or with the obstruction the buoy may be marking.

D. Reporting Aids to Navigation Discrepancies

Mariners should notify the Coast Guard Sector Columbia River Command Center immediately of any observed ATON defects or discrepancies via VHF-FM channel 16, or by phone at (833) 769-8724. Your timely report could prevent a marine casualty.

The Coast Guard cannot monitor the thousands of aids in the U.S. Aids to Navigation System continuously. Furthermore, it is impossible to be able to constantly verify the correct position and operation of every aid. In the event that you observe an aid that is missing, sunk, capsized, damaged, off station, or showing characteristics other than those advertised in the Light List or on the chart, inform the Coast Guard. When making the report to the Coast Guard, the mariner should consult the Light List to ensure the correct geographical information is used due to the similarity of names and geographical areas. Additionally, before making the call, the mariner should check the local notice to mariners for any anomalies with aid positioning and/or characteristics.

E. Changes to Aids to Navigation

The Coast Guard frequently evaluates its system of aids to navigation to determine whether the conditions for which the aids were established have changed. Some of the conditions that are considered include environmental changes, (i.e., shoaling),

type and amount of vessel traffic in the area, and improvements in technology. When changes occur, the feasibility of improving, relocating, or discontinuing aids is considered.

Comments on proposed changes should be addressed to:

Commanding Officer (wwm)

Marine Safety Unit Portland

6767 N Basin Ave

Portland OR 97217

or by phone at 503-572-3524

The CFR excerpt below provides more details on the specific information that should be provided.

TITLE 33--NAVIGATION AND NAVIGABLE WATERS

CHAPTER I--COAST GUARD, DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PART 62--UNITED STATES AIDS TO NAVIGATION SYSTEM

Subpart D--Public Participation in the Aids to Navigation System

Section 62.63 Recommendations.

- (a) The public may recommend changes to existing aids to navigation, request new aids or the discontinuation of existing aids, and report aids no longer necessary for maritime safety. These recommendations should be sent to the appropriate District Commander.
- (b) Recommendations, requests and reports should be documented with as much information as possible to justify the proposed action. Desirable information includes:
 - (1) Nature of the vessels which transit the area(s) in the question, including type, displacement, draft, and number of passengers and number of passengers and crew.
 - (2) Where practicable, the kinds of navigating devices used aboard such vessels (e.g., magnetic or gyro compasses, radio direction finders, radar, loran, and searchlights).
 - (3) A chartlet or sketch describing the actual or proposed location of the aid(s), and description of the action requested or recommended.

F. Interference with Aids to Navigation

In accordance with 33CFR 70.01: "No person shall obstruct or interfere with any aid to navigation established and maintained by the Coast Guard, or any private aid to navigation established and maintained in accordance with Title 33, Code of Federal Regulations, Parts 64, 66, or 67. Any person violating the provisions of this section shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be subject to a fine not exceeding the sum of \$500 for each offense, and each day during such violation shall be considered a new offense."

G. Private Aids to Navigation

Private aids to navigation (PATON) include all marine aids to navigation operated in the navigable waters of the United States other than those operated by the Federal Government or those operated in State waters for private use. The U.S. Coast Guard Commandant controls PATON and permission is required for new PATON or changes to existing PATON. To get permission to establish and maintain, discontinue, change, or transfer ownership of a private aid to navigation, please visit the Coast Guard Thirteenth District's PATON website to download the current CG-2554 and CG-554A forms:

<https://www.pacificarea.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/District-13/District-Staff/-dpw/-paton/>

You can also request the forms from the following address:

Commander (dpw)
13th Coast Guard District
915 2nd Avenue, Room 3510
Seattle, WA. 98174-1067
Attn: PATON Manager

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COLUMBIA RIVER ANCHORAGE GUIDELINES

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A. Columbia River Anchorage Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Columbia River Anchorage Guidelines are intended to raise awareness of and mitigate hazards common to anchoring in the Columbia River System. Common anchorage considerations and hazards include (but are not limited to):

- Traffic
- Local Weather Patterns
- Changing River Levels
- Tides
- Currents
- Fishing Activities
- Residential communities/residents in proximity to the river
- Recreational River Usage, and
- Lack of immediate availability of Tug and Launch Services

River conditions constantly change. Masters, Pilots and Agents must take all current and impending circumstances into account a) when anchoring vessels and b) while vessels are at anchor, to avoid swinging into the channel, collisions, allisions and groundings.

The Columbia River Anchorage Guidelines:

- Were cooperatively drafted by regulators and industry representatives and provide information unique to the river system and its anchorages that may be required in order to anchor safely.
- Are to be implemented in accordance with all International, Federal, State and Local regulations, and the normal practices of good seamanship.
- Constitute the Minimum Standards of Care to be used in all anchoring operations on the Columbia River System.

2. Scope

The Columbia River Anchorage Guidelines apply to the use of all **Designated** and **Non-Designated** Anchorages in the Columbia River System.

3. Authority

The U. S. Coast Guard is authorized under the Ports and Waterways Safety Act (33 CFR § 109.07) to direct the anchoring of vessels, in both **Designated** and **Non-Designated** Anchorages. Individual Masters and Pilots will anchor vessels in a safe position for their size, draft and duration at anchor. Pilots are available on short notice to reposition ships that may have worked out of position. Vessel Masters shall immediately contact a Pilot to reposition their vessel when required.

4. Deviations from Guidelines

The Master or Pilot (in consultation with the Captain of the Port) may deviate from these guidelines when an alternate approach will provide an equivalent or higher level of safety. Vessel Masters shall inform the **U.S. Coast Guard Sector Columbia River**, (833) 769-8724 and the appropriate Pilot organization (**Columbia River Pilots, 503-289-9922** or the **Columbia River Bar Pilots, 503-325-2641**), when such deviations are anticipated or have occurred.

5. Length of Vessel Stay

In accordance with 33 CFR 110.228(b) (4) no vessel may occupy a designated anchorage for more than 30 consecutive days without a permit from the Captain of the Port. Some designated anchorages have special considerations limiting intended length of stay, see additional guidelines for designated anchorages.

6. Definitions

- **Bunkering** is the transfer of fuel.
- **Bankfull Stage** is a given stage determined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and used to schedule releases from reservoirs. Normally, Bankfull Stage is below Flood Stage.
- **Columbia River Datum (CRD)** is the plane of reference from which river stage is measured on the Columbia River from the lower Columbia River up to Bonneville Dam, and on the Willamette River up to Willamette Falls. Equals 1.82 feet above Mean Sea Level (equivalent to NGVD) at Vancouver, Washington.
- **Common Names** are names in common use locally that do not coincide with the names listed in 33 CFR 110.228.

- **Designated Anchorages** are those anchorages listed in 33 CFR 110.228.
- **Lightering** is the transfer of cargo in bulk from one vessel to another vessel while at anchor.
- **Non-Designated Anchorages** are other viable anchorages that are not designated in 33 CFR 110.228. These areas are available for anchoring any vessel.
- **River Mile** is the distance in statute miles beginning at the mouth of the Columbia River. Tables for converting statute miles to nautical miles are contained in Coast Pilot 7.
- **Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)** tidal datum is the average of the lower low water height of each tidal day observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. For stations with shorter series, simultaneous observational comparisons are made with a control tide station to derive the equivalent datum of the National Tidal Datum Epoch.

7. Anchorage Names

The following table lists the CFR Designated Name and Common Name for each Designated Anchorage:

Designated Anchorage (As listed in the CFR)	Common Names of anchorages adjacent to or included in other anchorages
Astoria North Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Between Buoys 37 and 39 • Between Buoys 39 and 43
Astoria South Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Below Buoy 40 • Between Buoys 40 and 42 • Above Buoy 42
Rice Island Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Anchoring positions are referred to as position numbers 1 through 5.
Port Westward Anchoring Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beaver
Longview Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Longview Anchorage • Longview Deep Anchorage
Cottonwood Island Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainier Anchorage

Designated Anchorage (As listed in the CFR)	Common Names of anchorages adjacent to or included in other anchorages
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Rainier Anchor Buoy • Cottonwood Island Anchorage • Below Light 33 • Residential area between Light 33 and Buoy 36 • Above Buoy 36
Prescott Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prescott Anchor • Prescott Anchor Buoy
Kalama Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kalama Anchorage • Kalama Deep Anchor (Hole) • Sandy Island
Woodland Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Columbia City Anchorage
Henrici Bar Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fish Trap • Willow Point
Lower Vancouver Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Vancouver Lower Anchor Buoy • Hewlett Point (Below Pipeline) • Caterpillar Island • Reeders
Kelley Point Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Kelley Point Deep Anchorage (Hole)
Upper Vancouver Anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Buoy • Below Upper Buoy • Upper Buoy • Below Power Line • Power Line • Above Power Line

Other Areas Suitable for Anchoring	Common Names of anchorages adjacent to or included in other anchorages
Crims Island Anchoring Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Anchoring positions are referred to as position numbers 1 through 3, and two deep water temporary anchor positions at the upstream end.
Welch Island Anchoring Area	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Price Island, Skamakowa

8. References

USCG Authority 33 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Part 109, Ports and Waterways Safety Act, 33 CFR 110.228; 33 USC 1221 et seq; 33 USC 471; 49 USC 1655 (g)(1).

49 CFR 1.46 ((c)(1)); Inland Rules of the Road, ORS 776.405(1)(a); 776.880(2).

B. General Guidelines for All Anchorages

1. Anchoring Procedures

The vessel Master and crew shall:

Prior to Anchoring:

- Review the General and Additional Guidelines in this document and the Coast Pilot concerning your anchorage.
- Confer with your Pilot to ascertain expected condition changes while at anchor.
- Establish a Point of Contact to order tug assistance.
- Establish and document the lead time for tug arrival with the Point of Contact.
- Have a gangway rigged and ready for use.
- Clear anchors for letting go. All classed foreign and domestic vessels subject to Title 33 Code of Federal Regulation (CFR), Part 164 transiting the Columbia River, shall have the required number of operational anchors as designated for that class of vessel.

Master's Orders to include orders to keep engines on standby:

- During conditions of forecast high winds,

- b. In crowded anchorages during tidal changes,
- c. In anchorages with poor holding ground, and
- d. Call the Master and Duty Engineer immediately should the anchor start to drag.

While at anchor:

- a. Maintain a proper Deck Watch at all times. Deck Watch personnel shall:
- b. Check the condition of the anchors and anchor gear while making periodic rounds of the vessel.
- c. Continuously monitor the vessels position as well as other vessels, paying particular attention to potential of dragging anchor or swinging toward a hazard.
- d. Monitor VHF Channels 16 and 13 at all times.
- e. Any vessel required to be fitted with AIS shall use this equipment at all times while anchored.
- f. Confirm vessel's position and under keel clearance at a minimum of once per hour, more frequently if weather conditions deteriorate.
- g. Monitor weather forecasts on a regular basis.
- h. Call the Master and Duty Engineer immediately if the anchor is dragging or the vessel is blocking the channel.
- i. Maintain a proper Engine Room Watch at all times. Engine Watch personnel shall remain ready to answer all bells in the event of dragging or losing an anchor.

2. Response to Changing Conditions

During Periods of Restricted Visibility

All the above plus:

- a. Maintain Bridge Watch with Licensed Deck Officer.
- b. Maintain Position and Traffic Watch on Radar.

When Gale Warnings are in Effect (Sustained Winds of 28 – 47 Knots)

All the above plus:

- a. Engines on Standby, ready to provide immediate propulsion.

When Storm Warnings are in Effect (Sustained Winds exceed 48 knots)

All the above plus:

- a. Consider increasing the scope of anchor chain.
- b. Determine the availability and locations of potential stand by tugs (with appropriate size and horsepower), which could assist the vessel in holding position.
- c. Assess the need to have tugs alongside.
- d. Assess the need for a Pilot and, if necessary, order immediately.

3. General Anchorage Hazards

Low Water

Low Water occurs when the River Stage is about 5 feet above the Columbia River Datum (CRD) and can be expected to occur between the months of September and November.

During periods of Low Water adequate consideration shall be given to:

- Under keel clearance to avoid the increased possibility of grounding.
- Tidal currents may begin to flow upriver during on flood tides.
- Vessels are more likely to swing at anchor.
- If vessels drag anchor, they may ground, block the channel, or alide with other objects.

When anchoring during periods of Low Water, Pilots and Masters should evaluate the following factors:

- The size of the vessel compared to the characteristics of the anchorage.
- Reduction of the scope of the anchor to the minimum necessary to safely hold the vessel.
- The anticipated length of stay in anchorage with regard to tide cycles.
- Anticipated operations while at anchor and their impact on the ability of the vessel to get underway.
- The amount of anchor chain that the vessel carries.
- The size of other vessels in the anchorage (and in particular, large vessels).
- Proximity of other vessels within the anchorage.
- Anticipated under keel clearance.
- Potential for grounding or dragging anchor.

High Water

High Water occurs when the River Stage is about 10 feet above CRD and can be expected to occur between the months of January and June.

- During periods of High Water adequate consideration shall be given to:
- The higher potential of dragging anchor because of high water flows.
- Anchor chains may be fouled by floating debris.
- The current in the anchorage may exceed 5 knots or more.
- When high water conditions approach the Bankfull Stage (maximum safe water level which will not overflow the riverbanks) moorage may become submerged resulting in more demand for anchorages.

4. Emergency Situations

In case of emergency, pilots must be notified before moving the vessel. However, this does not preclude the master taking any and all action necessary to protect their vessel. Under Oregon law (ORS 776.405(1)(a); 776.880(2)) any person who pilots a vessel on a pilotage grounds without being a pilot licensee is subject to a civil penalty of up to a maximum of \$50,000.

C. Additional Guidelines for Designated Anchorages

33 CFR 110.228 (b) (3) states that pilot organizations manage all Designated Anchorages. The Columbia River Bar Pilots manage Astoria North Anchorage and Astoria South Anchorage. The Columbia River Pilots manage all designated anchorages upriver from Astoria.

The Additional Guidelines provide locally generated information (in addition to that provided in 33 CFR 110.228 (a) (1) and other published authorities). The prudent mariner should study all generally available information and then supplement that information with the information contained in this guideline. When selecting an anchorage, the Master should consider length of stay and anticipated work, i.e., bunkering, cleaning, repairs, etc.

1. Astoria North Anchorage

Common Local Alternative Name

Anchorage positions are referred to according to their proximity to the closest buoy.

Location

Between River Miles 14.0 and 17.8

- Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)
- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Depths range from 24' (7.32M) to over 45' (13.72M) MLLW. Deeper anchorages are to the east. All vessels are encouraged to arrive with drafts of 23' (7M) or less to facilitate maximum use of anchorage grounds.

Buoys

There are no anchor buoys.

Vessel Sizes

Normally the length of vessels in this anchorage range from 623' (190M) to 760' (231M) and up to 120' (36.5M) breadth.

Anchorage Capacity

This anchorage approximately 2.5 miles long and is divided into anchoring locations approximately every ½ mile. Under normal conditions, there is room for six vessels to be anchored within this anchorage area.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels normally stem the prevailing Columbia River current. On slack currents or when winds oppose the prevailing current vessels can swing in any direction.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this anchorage is low. As the length of stay increases, a vessel's anchor may walk out of position increasing the risk of grounding or blocking the channel.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur in the Astoria North Anchorage. Lightering operations are limited to the transfer of the fish cargo of processing vessels.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may not occupy this anchorage.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally remain at this anchorage from one to fourteen days. They may be required to reposition their anchor at any time the anchor drags or walks out of position.

Special Considerations

Additional considerations specific to the Astoria North Anchorage include:

- Limited space is available in this anchorage for the size of the vessels that typically anchor here.
- Vessels over 760' (231.6M) LOA or 120' (36.5M) breadth may be anchored under special circumstances and may require a tug standing-by.
- When the anchorage is crowded ebb current may be required for anchoring.
- Anchoring in fog is not recommended in a crowded anchorage.
- Vessels over 28' (8.53M) draft should not be anchored in Astoria North Anchorage due to the probability of dragging anchor. A vessel with over 28' (8.53M) of draft may require tug(s) and/or a pilot to standby.
- This anchorage should be vacated in anticipation of prolonged Storm Force or Hurricane Force winds.
- Ships can swing into the channel at the change of the tide. With ships in both Astoria North and South Anchorages they can swing towards each other and block the channel.
- In this anchorage it is important to anticipate, to the degree possible, the effects of changes in wind, current, and water level, both upon the anchoring vessel and upon other nearby vessels.
- During the winter (usually between November and March), winds change direction and force at short notice with the passing of fronts. Anchored vessels must maintain a close watch on their position and be prepared to use their

engines to prevent dragging into other ships or going aground and to clear the channel when they swing on tidal changes.

- This anchorage should not be used for extended stays during the winter season.

Emergency Situations

Tugs are not normally available on short notice but can be arranged with approximately six hours' notice by contacting the vessel's agent or the Columbia River Bar Pilots on VHF Channel 13. Pilots are normally available within an hour but may arrive earlier in an emergency.

2. Astoria South Anchorage

Common Local Alternative Name

Anchorage positions are referred to according to their proximity to the closest buoy.

Location

Between River Miles 15.0 and 18.2

- Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)
- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Depths in this anchorage range from 20' (6.10M) to over 45' (13.73M) MLLW. Deeper anchorages are on either end. All vessels are encouraged to arrive with drafts of 19' 08" (6M) or less to facilitate maximum use of anchorage grounds.

Buoys

There are no anchor buoys.

Vessel Sizes

Normally the length of vessels in this anchorage ranges from 600' (183M) to 660' (201M).

Anchorage Capacity

This anchorage approximately 2.75 miles long and is divided into anchoring locations approximately every ½ mile. Under normal conditions, there is room for four vessels to be anchored within this anchorage area, however the location downstream of Buoy 42 is normally kept vacant for deep draft vessels in unusual situations or emergencies.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels normally stem the prevailing Columbia River current. On slack currents or when winds oppose the prevailing current vessels can tend in any direction.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this anchorage is low. As the length of stay increases, a vessel's anchor may walk out of position increasing the risk of grounding or blocking the channel.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur in the Astoria South Anchorage. Lightering operations are limited to the transfer of the fish cargo of processing vessels.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may not occupy this anchorage.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally remain at this anchorage from one to fourteen days. They may be required to reposition their anchor at any time the anchor drags or walks out of position.

Special Considerations

Additional considerations specific to the Astoria South Anchorage include:

- Limited space is available in this anchorage for the size of the vessels that typically anchor here.
- Vessels over 660' (201M) may be anchored under special circumstances and may require a tug standing-by.
- When the anchorage is crowded ebb current may be required for anchoring.
- Anchoring in fog is not recommended.
- Vessels over 26' (7.93M) draft should not be anchored in Astoria South Anchorage due to the probability of dragging anchor. A vessel with over 26' (7.93M) of draft may require tug(s) and/or a pilot to standby.
- This anchorage should be vacated in anticipation of prolonged Storm Force or Hurricane Force winds.
- Ships can swing into the channel at the change of the tide. With ships in both Astoria North and South Anchorages they can swing towards each other and block the channel.
- In this anchorage it is important to anticipate, to the degree possible, the effects of changes in wind, current, and water level, both upon the anchoring vessel and upon other nearby vessels.
- During the winter (usually between November and March), winds change direction and force at short notice with the passing of fronts. Anchored vessels must maintain a close watch on their position and be prepared to use their

engines to prevent dragging into other ships or going aground and to clear the channel when they swing during tidal changes.

- This anchorage should not be used for extended stays during the winter season.

Emergency Situations

Tugs are not normally available on short notice but can be arranged with approximately six hours' notice by contacting the vessel's agent or Columbia River Bar Pilots on VHF Channel 13. Pilots are normally available within an hour but may arrive earlier in an emergency.

3. Rice Island Area

Common Local Alternative Name

Anchoring positions are referred to as position numbers 1 through 5.

Location

Between River Miles 17.75 and 21.5

Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)

US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Depths range from 23' (7M) to over 43' (13.1M) MLLW at extreme edges of the area. Minimum depths are less in the downstream area and increase in the upper area of the area. This is a lite draft anchoring area and all depths are subject to change with the deposit of dredge material.

Buoys

There are no anchor buoys.

Vessel Sizes

For commercial deep draft vessels, position number one is normally limited to no greater than 623' (189.9M), and positions two through five no greater than 751' (228.9M).

Anchoring Area Capacity

This anchoring area is approximately 3.75 miles long and is divided into specific anchoring positions. Under normal conditions, there is room for five commercial deep draft vessels to be anchored within the area.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels normally stem the prevailing Columbia River current. On slack currents or when winds oppose the prevailing current vessels can swing in any direction.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this anchoring area is low. As the length of stay increases, a vessel's anchor may walk out of position.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur; however, special care must be taken as there is a possibility of smaller commercial, public and recreational vessels occupying the area.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may occupy this anchoring area only with permission from the Captain of the Port.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally remain at this anchoring area from one to fourteen days. They may be required to reposition their anchor at any time the anchor drags or walks out of position.

Special Considerations

Additional considerations specific to the Rice Island Anchoring Area include:

- Limited space is available in this anchoring area for the size of the vessels that typically anchor here.
- Vessels over 7751' (228.9M) LOA or 120' (36.5M) breadth may be anchored under special circumstances and may require a tug standing-by.
- During periods of prolonged Storm Force or Hurricane Force winds, ships will be closely monitored, and pilots will be ready with short notice.
- In this anchoring area it is important to anticipate, to the degree possible, the effects of changes in wind, current, and water level, both upon the anchoring vessel and upon other nearby vessels.
- During the winter (usually between November and March), winds change direction and force at short notice with the passing of fronts. Anchored vessels must always maintain a close watch on their position and be prepared to use their engines to prevent dragging into other ships or going aground.

Emergency Situations

Tugs are not normally available on short notice but can be arranged with approximately six hours' notice by contacting the vessel's agent or the Columbia River Bar Pilots on VHF Channel 13. Pilots are normally available within one and a half hours but may arrive earlier in an emergency.

4. Port Westward Anchoring Area

Common Local Alternative Name

Beaver

Location

Between River Miles 51.5 and 53

Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)

- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchoring Area Depth(s)

Depths range from 19' (5.8M) to over 43' (13.1M) CRD at extreme edges of the area.

Buoys

There are no anchor buoys.

Vessel Sizes

This anchorage is open to vessels of any size.

Anchoring Area Capacity

This anchoring area is approximately 1.5 miles long. Under normal conditions, there is room for two vessels to be anchored within this area.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels anchored in the Port Westward anchorage will normally require a standby tug to ensure they do not swing while at anchor. Vessels in ballast may be able to anchor in the lower portion of the anchorage without a standby tug after consulting with the Columbia River Pilots.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this area is low. As the length of stay increases, a vessel's anchor may walk out of position.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur; however, special care must be taken as there is a possibility of smaller commercial, public and recreational vessels occupying the area

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may occupy this anchoring area only with permission from the Captain of the Port.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally remain at this anchoring area from one to fourteen days. They may be required to reposition their anchor at any time the anchor drags or walks out of position.

Special Considerations

Additional considerations specific to the Port Westward Anchoring Area include:

- In this anchoring area it is important to anticipate, to the degree possible, the effects of changes in wind, current, and water level, both upon the anchoring vessel and upon other nearby vessels. Anchored vessels must always maintain a close watch on their position and be prepared to use their engines to prevent dragging into other ships or going aground.

Emergency Situations

Tugs are not normally available on short notice but can be arranged with approximately four hours' notice by contacting the vessel's agent. Pilots are normally available with three hours' notice.

5. Longview Anchorage

Location

Between River Miles 64.0 and 66.0

- Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)
- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Depths range from 29' to 40' CRD.

Buoys

There are no stern anchor buoys.

Vessel Sizes

Normally this anchorage is limited to vessels under 650' (198.17M) LOA.

Anchorage Capacity

This anchorage runs from Buoy 23 to the Longview Bridge (approximately 1.5 miles long) and can accommodate five vessels.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels normally anchor facing upstream; in lower water conditions vessels will stem the tide. Vessels will stem the prevailing wind in slack water conditions.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this anchorage is low.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur in the Longview Anchorage. Lightering operations are not allowed in this anchorage.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may occupy this anchorage with permission from the Captain of the Port.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally remain at this anchorage for no more than seven days.

Special Considerations

Additional considerations specific to the Longview Anchorage include:

- Vessels over 600' (182.93M) in length are better situated just above Buoy 23 because of more room to swing.
- Loaded ships should use caution as they tend to move toward the channel while at anchor.
- Vessels greater than 660' (201m) in length may use the anchorage with a tug standing by.
- In this anchorage it is important to anticipate, to the degree possible, the effects of changes in wind, current, and water level, both upon the anchoring vessel and upon other nearby vessels, and barges.
- During seasonal periods of low water levels (usually between September and November) anchored vessels must remain aware of their under-keel clearance while at anchor. The possibility of grounding exists when swinging on tidal changes.

Emergency Situations

Tugs are normally not available on short notice and can require a three hour notice. They can be notified on VHF Channels 16 and 13 or by contacting the vessel's agent.

6. Cottonwood Island Anchorage

Common Local Alternative Name

Cottonwood Island Anchorage is a long anchorage and can be described as Above Buoy 36, Residential Area between Light 33 and Buoy 36, Below Light 33, and Rainier Anchorage.

Location

Between River Miles 66.7 and 71.2

- Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)
-
- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Depths range from 19' to over 40' CRD.

Buoys

There is one stern anchor buoy in the Rainier Anchorage.

Vessel Sizes

Normally this anchorage is limited to vessels under 650' (198.17M) LOA except for vessels secured to a stern anchor buoy or standby tug.

Anchorage Capacity

This anchorage is 4.5 miles long. Under normal conditions this anchorage accommodates eight vessels including the anchor buoy.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels normally anchor facing upstream; in lower water conditions vessels will stem the tide. Vessels will stem the prevailing wind in slack water conditions.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this anchorage is low.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur in the Cottonwood Island Anchorage with the following restrictions: No bunkering may occur off the Residential Area between 2000 and 0800. Lightering operations are allowed when a stern buoy is utilized.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may occupy this anchorage with permission from the Captain of the Port.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally remain at this anchorage for no more than seven days. The Residential Area between Light 33 and Buoy 36 is a last resort anchorage and should be short term only.

Special Considerations

Additional considerations specific to the Cottonwood Island Anchorage include:

- Loaded ships should use caution as they tend to move toward the channel while at anchor.

- Vessels greater than 660' (201m) in length may use the anchorage with a tug standby or secured to a stern anchor buoy.
- Depths to over 40' CRD exist within the lower 1.5 miles of the anchorage off Rainier.
- In this anchorage it is important to anticipate, to the degree possible, the effects of changes in wind, current, and water level, both upon the anchoring vessel and upon other nearby vessels, and barges.
- During seasonal periods of low water levels (usually between September and November) anchored vessels must remain aware of their under keel clearance while at anchor. The possibility of grounding exists when swinging on tidal changes.

The Following Special Considerations are specific to the Residential Area between Light 33 and Buoy 36

- Vessels at anchor will reduce their use of high intensity deck lights to the minimum consistent with the safety of the vessel and crew, and in accordance with the Rules of the Road.
- Vessels at anchor shall not perform on-deck vessel repair, maintenance, or hold/tank cleaning between the hours of 2000 and 0800. Nor shall any other activities that create excessive noise or odors be performed during this period.
- This anchorage should be considered a last resort anchorage and should not be used unless absolutely necessary.

Emergency Situations

Tugs are normally not available on short notice and can require a three hour notice. They can be notified on VHF Channels 16 and 13 or by contacting the vessel's agent.

7. Prescott Anchorage

Common Local Alternative Name

This location is between the upstream end of the Prescott Beach area and the downstream bound of the inactive Trojan Nuclear power plant site near Coffin Rock. It can also be referred to as Prescott Anchor or Prescott Anchor Buoy.

Location

Between Columbia River Miles 72.1 and 72.5

- Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)
-
- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Depths range from 52' to over 65' CRD.

Buoys

One stern buoy is located in the anchorage.

Vessel Sizes

It is expected that this anchorage will generally be reserved for large or deeply laden vessels, as determined by Columbia River Pilots. Vessels using the Prescott Anchorage are expected to use the stern buoy or a standby tug.

Anchorage Capacity

This anchorage is 0.4 miles long. It is intended to accommodate one vessel.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels will anchor facing upstream, positioned an appropriate distance upstream of the stern buoy, and will be secured to the stern buoy while at anchor.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this anchorage is low.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur in Prescott Anchorage; ship-to-ship and ship-to-barge lightering operations are only allowed when a stern buoy is utilized.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may occupy this anchorage with permission from the Captain of the Port. These vessels are required to use a stern buoy.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally stay at this anchorage for no more than seven days. No vessel loaded in excess of fifty percent capacity shall remain at anchor in the Prescott Anchorage for longer than 72 hours without the permission of the Captain of the Port.

Special Considerations

In order to manage possible impacts to adjacent residences, additional considerations specific to the Prescott Anchorage include:

- Vessels at anchor in the Prescott Anchorage will reduce their use of high intensity deck lights to the minimum consistent with the safety of the vessel and crew, and with the Rules of the Road.
- Vessels at anchor in the Prescott Anchorage will reduce their use of onboard generators to the minimum necessary for safe vessel operations.
- Vessels at anchor shall not perform on-deck vessel repair, maintenance, or hold/tank cleaning between the hours of 2000 and 0800. Nor shall any other activities that create excessive noise or odors be performed during this period.

Emergency Situations

Tugs are normally not available on short notice and can require a three-hour notice. They can be notified on VHF Channels 16 and 13 or by contacting the vessel's agent

8. Kalama Anchorage

Common Local Alternative Name

Kalama Anchor is the common name for the Kalama Turning Basin area (just above Coffin Rock). Sandy Island describes the upper portion of the anchorage.

Location

Between River Miles 73.2 and 76.2

- Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)
- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Depths in the anchorage range from 26' (7.93M) to over 40' (12.19 M) CRD.

Buoys

There are no stern anchor buoys.

Vessel Sizes

No length restrictions in the Turning Basin area. Normally, the area off Sandy Island will accommodate vessels under 650' (198.17m).

Anchorage Capacity

It is permissible to anchor one vessel in the Turning Basin area. A standby tug is required to be secured to the vessel because of the close proximity of the channel.

The area off Sandy Island is approximately 1.25 miles long and will accommodate four vessels.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels normally anchor facing upstream. In lower water conditions vessels will stem the tide. Vessels will stem the prevailing wind in slack water conditions.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this anchorage is low.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur in the Kalama Anchorage. Lightering operations are not allowed in this anchorage.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may occupy this anchorage with permission from the Captain of the Port.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally remain at this anchorage for no more than seven days.

Special Considerations

Additional considerations specific to the Kalama Anchorage include:

- Vessels greater than 660' (200M) in length may use the anchorage with a standby tug.
- In this anchorage it is important to anticipate, to the degree possible, the effects of changes in wind, current, and water level, both upon the anchoring vessel and upon other nearby vessels, and barges.
- During seasonal periods of low water levels (usually between September and November) anchored vessels must remain aware of their under keel clearance while at anchor. The possibility of grounding exists when swinging on tidal changes

Emergency Situations

Tugs are normally not available on short notice and can require a three-hour notice. They can be notified on VHF Channels 16 and 13 or by contacting the vessel's agent.

9. Woodland Anchorage

Common Local Alternative Name

Columbia City Anchorage

Location

Between River Miles 83.6 and 84.3

- Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)
- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Depths range from 8' (2.44 M) to over 40' (12.19 M) Columbia River Datum (CRD).

Buoys

There are no stern anchor buoys.

Vessel Sizes

Normally this anchorage is limited to vessels under 650' (198.17m) in length.

Anchorage Capacity

This is a small anchorage approximately 0.75 miles long and is rarely used.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels normally anchor facing upstream. In lower water conditions vessels will stem the tide. Vessels will stem the prevailing wind in slack water conditions.

Grounding Potential

Normally, the risk of grounding at this anchorage is low.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur in the Woodland Anchorage. Lightering operations are not allowed in this anchorage.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may occupy this anchorage with permission from the Captain of the Port.

Length of Vessel Stay

Vessels normally remain at this anchorage for no more than seven days.

Special Considerations

Additional considerations specific to the Woodland Anchorage include:

- This is a remote anchorage and not routinely utilized.
- Vessels greater than 660' (200M) in length may use the anchorage with a standby tug.
- In this anchorage it is important to anticipate, to the degree possible, the effects of changes in wind, current, and water level.
- During seasonal periods of low water levels (usually between September and November) anchored vessels must remain aware of their under keel clearance while at anchor. The possibility of grounding exists when swinging on tidal changes.

Emergency Situations

Tugs are normally not available on short notice and can require a three-hour notice. They can be notified on VHF Channels 16 and 13 or by contacting the vessel's agent.

10. Henrici Bar Anchorage

Common Local Alternative Name

Fish Trap, Willow Point (not Willow Bar)

Location

Between River Miles 91.6 and 93.9

- Charts have been discontinued, refer to appropriate area ENC(s)
- BA Chart 2849
- 33 CFR 110.228 (a) (6)
- US Coast Pilot 10, Chapter 5

Anchorage Depth(s)

Useable depths range from 22' (6.71 M) to over 33' (10.06 M) CRD.

Buoys

There are no stern anchor buoys.

Vessel Sizes

Normally this anchorage is limited to vessels under 600' (182.93 M) in length.

Anchorage Capacity

Henrici Bar Anchorage is a narrow anchorage about 2 miles long and is rarely used.

Vessel Orientation at Anchor

Vessels normally anchor facing upstream. In lower water conditions vessels will stem the tide. Vessels will stem the prevailing wind in slack water conditions.

Grounding Potential

Normally the risk of grounding in this anchorage is low.

Bunkering and Lightering

Bunkering may occur in the Henrici Bar Anchorage. Lightering operations are not allowed in this anchorage.

Cargoes of Particular Hazard

Vessels carrying a Cargo of Particular Hazard as listed in 33 CFR 126.10 may occupy this anchorage with permission from the Captain of the Port.

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee

Harbor Safety Plan | Chapter 4

COLUMBIA RIVER BUNKERING GUIDELINES

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Chapter was reviewed and no changes required.	Harbor Safety committee	5/11/22
Update USCG information.		5/15/25

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A. Bunkering Guidelines

1. Purpose

The waters of the Columbia River system are environmentally sensitive, and are both a precious environmental and economic resource. Bunkering operations, while routine in many parts of the country, do in fact pose risks different than those normally expected of standard shore to ship refueling operations.

Some bunkering operations are conducted while vessels are at berth and may be conducted simultaneously with cargo operations. This adds some additional risk to a bunkering operation and the personnel involved, for which additional precautions are necessary. The procedures associated with bunkering operations are covered below.

Bunkering Guidelines:

- Cooperatively were drafted by regulators and industry representatives. They provide information unique to this river system, its operations, and are required in order to bunker safely.
- Are to be implemented in accordance with all International, Federal, State and Local regulations, and the normal practices of good seamanship.
- Constitute the Minimum Standards of Care (SOC) to be used in all bunkering operations on the Lower Columbia Region.

2. Authorities

Bunkering operations are subject to U.S. Coast Guard regulations, Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 153, 155, 156 and Title 46 CFR Sub Chapter D Tank Vessels. If bunkering operations are conducted within Washington waters, Washington State regulations addressing oil transfer operations also apply. Vessels intending to conduct bunkering operations while at anchor should also carefully review the guidance in the anchorage chapter of this Harbor Safety Plan (HSP).

Regulators frequently monitor fuel/oil transfer operations in the Columbia River system based on the level of risk, amount of fuel/oil, familiarity with company operations, procedures and track records. Regulating agencies may stop any bunkering operation or prohibit planned operations due to safety concerns or unacceptable risk.

3. Definitions

- **Bunkering** is a bulk oil transfer operation to replenish a self-propelled vessel with fuel or lubricating oil.
- **Delivering Vessel** is the vessel delivering the fuel or lube oil in a bunkering operation.
- Designated Anchorages are those anchorages listed in 33 CFR 110.228 and detailed in the Anchorage chapter of the HSP.
- Heavy weather is sustained winds from 34 to 47 knots or higher gusts (Gale Warnings).
- Lightering is the transfer of cargo in bulk from one vessel to another vessel while at anchor.
- Receiving Vessel is the vessel receiving the fuel or lube oil in a bunkering operation.
- Zone of Concern (ZOC) encompasses the delivering vessel and that portion of the receiving vessel adjacent to the location of the bunker barge and/or transfer manifold. The ZOC is different for every bunkering operation since it takes into account the particular bunkering barge, where it is secured to the receiving vessel, and where the transfer hoses will be rigged.

4. References

- 33 CFR 153 Notice of Discharge and Removal of Discharged Oil
- 33 CFR 155 Oil or Hazardous Material Pollution Prevention Regulations for Vessels
- 33 CFR 156 Oil and Hazardous Material Transfer Operations
- 46 CFR 30-40 Tank Vessels
- 317-40 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Bunkering Operations
- 173-184 WAC Vessel Oil Transfer Advance Notice and Containment Requirements

5. Applicable Industry Standards

The following references contain worldwide industry standards, and should also be consulted for applicability to bunkering operations:

- Oil Companies International Marine Forum Guidelines (OCIMF) Ship to Ship Transfer Guide

- Oil Spill Risks from Tank Vessel Lightering - published by the Commission on Engineering and Technical Systems (CETS)

B. General Guidelines for Bunkering Operations

1. Heavy Weather

- Wind:** Vessels will not come alongside in preparation for bunkering at anchor or pier side if sustained winds are at or exceed 30 knots or if wind gusts exceed 40 knots. If bunkering operations have already begun when sustained winds reach 30 knots or gusting over 40 knots, personnel in charge of bunkering operations will continuously monitor environmental conditions and take any additional measures necessary to reduce risk of injury, vessel damage or pollution, and prepare for worsening weather. When sustained winds reach 40 knots, bunkering operations will cease and hoses will be drained and disconnected. Personnel should consult separate guidance issued by Coast Guard Sector Columbia River and the Harbor Safety Committee regarding anchoring procedures relevant to all vessels.

Underway bunkering is not allowed under any conditions within the Lower Columbia River system.
- Seas:** For bunkering operations from one vessel to another vessel while at anchor, operations will cease, with hoses drained and disconnected when waves or swells reach 3 ft. The wind and sea conditions criteria have been developed with industry input and are used by operating companies in the area. These standards are based on historical observations and experience in handling these vessels under prevalent conditions.
- Sheltered Waterway:** The foregoing wind and sea guidelines may not be applicable when a receiving vessel is being bunkered at a wharf or pier in a sheltered waterway. A waterway is considered to be sheltered when area around the ZOC is protected from the prevailing wind or seas. The criteria for securing a bunkering operation in these types of locations would be dependent upon adverse movement of either the receiving vessel or delivering vessel caused by the prevailing wind or sea conditions.

2. Personnel/Safe Access between Vessels

The delivering vessel and receiving vessel shall each have a designated Person in Charge (PIC) that is responsible for the transfer on their respective vessels. The receiving vessel shall provide safe access in order to facilitate face to face

communications between the receiving and delivering vessels for purposes of a pre-transfer conference and other required communications. The accommodation ladder should be the first choice, but if the ladder is inaccessible from the delivering vessel, a SOLAS approved pilot's ladder should be used instead. A "Jacob's ladder" is not an appropriate means of access between vessels.

3. Mooring Equipment

All parties will use fenders of sufficient size and type to prevent steel to steel contact between the two vessels. Mooring lines will be of sufficient size and type to hold the delivering vessel alongside the receiving vessel during expected tidal, wave, and wind conditions.

4. Tug Availability

During bunkering operations in moderate to heavy weather conditions involving vessels at anchor, at least one tug will remain on scene and ready to render assistance until bunkering is completed, and all hoses are disconnected and returned aboard their respective vessels. The attending tug(s) must have sufficient horsepower to maneuver and control at least the delivering vessel involved in the bunkering operation under all conditions. Bunkering operations may take place without direct tug assistance, once the mooring portion of the operation has been completed. The attending tug or a designated tug must be on immediate standby in the area to render assistance in less than 30 minutes. This standard does not apply to delivering vessels that are self-propelled.

5. Number of Vessels Involved

A vessel may receive bunkers and lubricating oils from two separate delivering vessels at the same time, provided:

- a. Each transferring vessel has a separate PIC unless otherwise approved by the **Captain of the Port (COTP)**.
- b. That each system is completely separate from the other or is otherwise affirmatively isolated or segregated by means of blank (spectacle) flanges which may be visually verified.
- c. Bunkering will not take place simultaneously with Lightering operations.

6. Flow Rate, Topping Off and Gauging Procedures

Flow rates, topping off and gauging procedures should be conducted in accordance with OCIMF Ship to Ship Transfer Guide and if in Washington waters, with Washington State Bunker and Oil Transfer Rules.

7. Declaration of Inspection (DOI)

A Declaration of Inspection (DOI) must be filled out and signed by both PICs prior to the start of a bunkering if either vessel has a total capacity of 250 barrels (10,500 U.S. gallons) or more. The DOI must include the information required by the references in Section A.4 of this guideline.

8. Watch keeping

A qualified PIC shall be on watch and monitor the oil transfer operation on the receiving and delivering vessels of which they are in charge at all times. A qualified deck officer shall maintain a navigation/anchor watch on the bridge of a vessel that is anchored. The receiving vessel and the attending PIC of the delivering bunkering barge/tank vessel will ensure the monitoring and maintaining of sufficient mooring for all conditions as required by the DOI.

9. Required Notifications

If the receiving or delivering vessel has a total capacity of 250 barrels (10,500 U.S. gallons) or more, the delivering vessel or facility operator will ensure notification is made to the USCG of the time and place of each transfer operation at least 4 hours before it begins

For bunkering operations in Washington State waters, the delivering vessel or facility operator must submit in advance a notice of oil transfer (ANT) to the Washington State Department of Ecology (DOE) via fax (see Enclosure 1) or through the Ecology ANT website (see Enclosure 2). This notice must be sent at least 4 hours prior to commencement of each transfer operation of more than 100 gallons. Providing advance notice using the Washington State website will also fulfill the USCG advance notice requirements.

10. Washington State Requirements for Response Equipment

In addition to the individual Vessel Response Plan requirements, the following pollution prevention and mitigation measures must be met for bunkering operations in Washington State waters:

- a. When bunkering operations at a rate exceeding 500 gallons per minute take place, and when it is safe and effective to do so, containment boom capable of encircling the entire operation must be in place with at least a five foot stand-off from the vessel; or boom must be positioned to provide for the maximum containment of any oil potentially spilled. Each vessel or facility that delivers oil at a rate exceeding 500 gallons per minute is obligated to have developed and implemented pre-booming strategies using safe and effective thresholds under WAC 173-180 or 173-184. These thresholds are approved by DOE.
- b. Where it is not safe and effective to pre-boom transfer operations, a length of boom will be made available on scene and ready for immediate deployment such that the boom could be completely in place within 1 hour of detection of a spill, unless the vessel has an equivalent compliance plan approved by Washington DOE and accepted by the USCG COTP.
- c. The standby booming requirement can be met by the equipment normally carried by barge, by a dedicated response vessel, or both.
- d. If this requirement is met without a response vessel, then a small boat capable of deploying the boom in a timely fashion must be on scene and immediately available.
- e. If both the barge and the response vessel contribute toward this requirement, the equipment must be compatible.
- f. Adequate personnel shall be on scene to take appropriate actions on the vessels while simultaneously deploying boom.
- g. Personnel shall be trained in deploying boom and the boom and response equipment shall be prepared so it can be deployed without delay.

11. Anchorage Management

Vessels desiring to bunker in designated anchorages in the Columbia River are reminded to consult the Columbia River Pilots on securing anchorage reservations. When bunkering at anchor, the preferred side for the delivering barge/vessel will be the lee side or side away from the main shipping channel. For example: Willow Bar anchorage will receive bunkers on port side of anchored vessel and Hayden Island will be on starboard. Both examples are during ebb tide conditions.

Bunkering operations are normally permitted in: Astoria North Anchorage, Astoria South Anchorage, Longview Anchorage, Kalama Anchorage, Woodland Anchorage, Henrici Bar Anchorage, and Kelley Point Anchorage. Bunkering may occur in the Willow Bar and Hayden Island anchorages.

C. Guidelines for Bunkering Operations during Cargo Operations

1. Overview

This section outlines the process for essential communication between the agents, bunker barge operators (tankermen), the designated vessel contact for cargo operations (e.g. Chief Mate), the terminals Marine Department, and shoreside cargo personnel to ensure a safe and productive work environment when bunkering a vessel at the same time as cargo operations are being conducted. A quick reference guide is provided as Enclosure 3.

2. Initial Agreement

The agent will ensure notice of bunkering operations is given to the vessel crew, terminal operator, and the bunkering company. If there is a potential interaction with shoreside cargo operations, the vessel's master will notify the shoreside cargo personnel prior to the bunkering. In the event of a spill, the vessel's contact for cargo operations will immediately notify any cargo personnel operating in the area.

Points of contact and contact information (e.g., phone/cell numbers) will be shared among the terminal, vessel, and bunkering company personnel who will be working during that bunkering operation. Having this contact information serves as the cross check that all parties are aware of the planned bunkering operation.

3. Essential Communications: Contact between Tankerman, Vessel and Terminal

The designated facility will be notified of planned bunkering operations by the agent, bunker supplier or vessel's master. The designated vessel contact for cargo operations (e.g. Chief Mate) will meet with the bunker barge representative (tankerman) and vessel contact for bunkering operations (e.g. Chief Engineer) prior to beginning the bunkering operation. This will allow the tankerman to learn the details of the planned cargo operation that might present possible conflicts. The designated facility contact will then give notice to the cargo personnel that bunkering operations are about to begin. These

contacts may be in addition to or simultaneous with the required pre-transfer conference with the person in charge of receiving bunkers.

4. Zone of Concern (ZOC)

Tankermen, terminal personnel, and vessel personnel all must be mindful of and take particular care when cargo operations take place anywhere in the vicinity of the ZOC. On container vessels, particular care must be taken when working the outer three stacks of containers adjacent to the ZOC and bunker barge when the transfer is in progress, and immediately before and after the bunkering operation.

Since virtually all bunker oil transfer operations in Washington waters require the vessel(s) and facilities involved to be surrounded by oil containment boom prior to oil transfer commencing, all personnel involved in cargo loading/lashing operations need to be particularly alert for small vessel boom deployment and retrieval operations adjacent to the ship both immediately before and after the bunkering operation takes place. If at any time in the judgment of the tankerman the bunkering operation is at risk due to ongoing cargo operations, he will secure the fuel transfer to the ship and contact the vessel representative.

5. Tankerman Check Sheet

In making contacts with the designated facility and vessel points of contact, the tankerman needs to identify the following:

- a. Where possible the bunkering barge should be secured to the receiving vessel such that there is no overlap between the Zone of Concern (ZOC) and any areas in which cargo operations will take place. If this is not feasible, then any overlap should be minimized.
- b. What is the ZOC for this bunkering operation, taking into account the particular bunkering barge, where it is secured to the receiving vessel, and where the transfer hoses will be rigged?
- c. Are there any loading, discharging, lashing, or other cargo operations planned within or near the ZOC?
- d. When does the terminal or wharf plan to work within or near the ZOC?
- e. Can the cargo be worked in a specific time frame so possible conflicts with the ZOC are avoided?

- f. When do shoreside personnel plan to shut down cargo operations for breaks, lunch, etc.?

6. Incident Response

The Tankerman shall be alert to the crane and cargo operations that have been planned to work near the barge.

The Tankerman shall determine the proper action to take regarding oil transfer process should any incident occur which affects the safety of the operation including the safety of the boom deployment personnel and vessels.

Any incident will require direct communications between the parties involved who shall be readily available. This will allow for adjustments to working plans to correct conflicts.

7. Long-Term Incident Resolution

The Port/Terminal Operations Department's management personnel, vessel representative, and the barge operator will discuss mutually agreeable adjustments in the cargo and bunkering operations to minimize tankerman exposures that may be determined as the result of an incident and the post incident investigation. Ideas and lessons learned will be shared between all parties including the other port terminals.

8. Bunkering Best Practices

Please note the reference manual for safe bunkering operations in Washington State Department of Ecology.

Copy/paste or type into your browser the following:

PDF Manual: [Bunkering Best Practices Manual - WA Dept. of Ecology](#)

Video: <http://oilspilltaskforce.org/products/bunkering-video/watch-bunkering-video/>

D. Enclosure 1: Washington State Advance Notice of Oil Transfer Form



Advance Notice of Oil Transfer

To: Prevention Section
Dept. of Ecology, Spills Program

FAX: 1-800-664-9184 or E-mail to OilTransferNotifications@ecy.wa.gov

<p>* - Indicates required fields by rule Questions about Advance Notice of Transfers can be answered by calling 360-407-7390</p>			
*Delivering Company Name:			
*Company Address:			
*Company Contact Name:		*Contact Phone () Number:	
*Start Date: (mm/dd/yy)		*Start Time: (hhmm)(24-hr clock)	
*Duration (hh.mm): (decimal hours)			
Deliverer Type: (Check one)	Vessel <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Mobile <input type="checkbox"/>		
*Name of Deliverer:			
Receiver Type: (Check one)	Vessel <input type="checkbox"/> Fixed Facility <input type="checkbox"/>		
*Name of Receiver:			
Berth Location:		Anchor Location:	
*Address or Location of Transfer:			
*City of Transfer:			
*Product or Type of Oil(s):		*Quantity: Gallons <input type="checkbox"/> or Barrels <input type="checkbox"/>	
1	2	1	2
/	/	/	/
Purpose of Transfer: <input type="checkbox"/> Cargo <input type="checkbox"/> Fueling <input type="checkbox"/> Lube/Hydraulic <input type="checkbox"/> Waste Oil <input type="checkbox"/> Bilges			
*Pre-boomed? Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> No: <input type="checkbox"/>			
Comments:			

Ecology is an equal opportunity employer. To receive this form in an alternate format, please contact the Spills Prevention Program at (360) 407-7390 (voice) or 711 and 1-800-833-6388 (TTY)

ECY 070-175 (11/06)

E. Enclosure 2: Washington State ANT Entry Form

ANT Entry Form Website: <https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ecy/ants>

New Oil Transfer

Reporting Party

Ecology HQ

Company*

Start Date
(mm/dd/yyyy)*

Start Time
(hhmm)*

Duration(hrs ##.##)*

Berth Location

Anchor Location

City of Transfer*

--Select--

Address*

Deliverer Type*

☒ Vessel
 ☐ Facility
 ☐ Mobile

Deliverer*

Search

Receiver Type*

☐ Vessel
 ☒ Facility

Receiver*

☒ Regulated?

Transfer Type*

--Select--

Product*

--Select--

Quantity*

Unit*

--Select--

Pre-boomed

☐ Yes

Transfer Rate

☒ > 500gpm

NOTE: Rate A deliverers (>500gpm transfer rate) must complete the Boom Report information below. If the information cannot be completed at this time, then you must complete it prior to the transfer via the ANT History screen by clicking the "Detail" button.

Boom Report - Environmental and Safety Conditions Summary:

Wave Height (ft):

Sustained Winds (knots):

Wind Direction:

--Select--

Current Velocity (knots):

Safety Issue(s):

Other factors:

Remarks

* - Indicates required fields

Submit

Clear

F. QUICK REFERENCE GUIDE FOR BUNKERING DURING CARGO OPS

[PDF] [Bunkering Best Practices Manual - WA Dept. of Ecology](#)

Vessels contract for bunkers

- Oil Companies notify barge operators
- Agents coordinate delivery notifications with barge operators and terminals
- Bunker Barge arrival time and duration of pumping is established

Vessel Arrives for Cargo Operations Agent coordinates bunker barge arrival

- Terminal plans operations
- Cargo Plan, Cargo Flow Sheet (CFS) or Crane Letter of Operations (CLO) is prepared
- Outlines what cargo is to be moved in what sequence
- Terminal will plan around bunker operations if possible
- Terminal gives CFS/CLO to Agent to pass to Chief Engineer and tankerman

Bunker Barge Arrives for Bunker Operations

- Optimal placement of the barge to minimize ZOC exposure
- Vessel ensures "Bunker Operation Sign" is posted at the shore side gangway.
- Vessel and bunker barge surrounded by containment boom when safe and effective to do so, or deliverer submits Boom reporting Form to WA Department of Ecology and puts alternative measures in place to mitigate impacts of any spill that may occur.
- DOI is signed by receiving vessel "PIC" and tankerman
- Tankerman/Chief Mate/Chief Engineer should have a copy of Cargo Flow Sheet or Crane letter (CFS/CLO)
- Tankerman should understand what cargo adjacent to the barge is to be handled and when
- Tankerman shall have contact with the vessel superintendent at all times

Vessel cargo operations commence

- Lashers/longshoremen sent aboard to free cargo

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
Harbor Safety Plan | Chapter 5

DEAD SHIP TOW GUIDELINES

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Updated logo. No content changes.	N/A	4/4/23

A. Dead Ship Tows

1. Purpose/ Scope

To reference and support the USCG Policy for Dead Ship Tow Evolutions on the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

2. Authorities

The Ports and Waterways Act (33 USC 1221) authorizes the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to regulate the movement of dead ships for the purposes of maintaining safety on the navigable waterways of the Columbia and Willamette Rivers.

3. Reference

Sector Columbia River Dead Ship Tow Policy 16601.1A

Enclosures:

- a. Sector Columbia River Ship Tow Procedures
- b. Dead Ship Tow Application
- c. Inspection Checklist for Dead Ship Tow Evolutions

4. Guidance

All dead-ship tows transiting within the Columbia and Willamette Rivers must comply with SECTORCRINST 16601.1A.

The owner, operator, agent, master or person in charge of the dead-ship tow evolution shall notify Marine Safety Unit (MSU) Portland, Oregon as early as possible, but no less than 72 hours, prior to the scheduled movement date.

Emergency situations shall be dealt with on a case-by-case basis.

Dead-ships shifting between berths within the Columbia or Willamette Rivers may be exempt from this guidance if approved by the Sector Columbia River Commanding Officer.

Towing companies contracted to conduct dead-ship tows of vessels, other than barges, greater than or equal to 150 feet in length, or otherwise applicable by the COTP, shall submit a dead-ship tow plan as early as possible, but no less than 72 hours, prior to the scheduled movement date.

Consultation shall be made with bar and river pilots to determine the safest pilot and tug configuration.

5. SECTORCRINST 16601.1A

The complete instruction dated Jan. 20, 2016 follows in this guideline.

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
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VESSELS TRAVELING EAST OF RYAN POINT VANCOUVER WA, STANDARD OF CARE

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Updated logo. No content changes.	N/A	4/4/23

A. Towed barge, passenger and other vessels Standard of Care

1. Purpose

The Columbia River towed barge, passenger and other vessels Standard of Care is intended to eliminate conflicts between towing vessels, passenger and other vessels on the Columbia River and Tributaries east of Ryan Point with a resulting improvement in navigation safety.

2. Background

The most predominant method of barge towing on the Columbia River east of Ryan Point is in the “push” or “river” mode of towing, whereby a towboat or tugboat faces up directly against the stern, or into a towing “notch” on the stern of a barge, and connecting to the barge with a system of wires. For the purposes of this standard of care, towing a barge in the alongside towing mode is considered equivalent to the push mode.

Since the earliest days of navigation on the river, it has been necessary for Log tows to be towed on a tow wire or hawser in the astern towing mode. This mode of towing is used when towing log rafts.

The concerns that most commonly arise with respect to towed barge operations being addressed by this SOC are:

- The ability of the towing vessel to safely control the tow under all anticipated river conditions during a transit.
- Communications between towing vessels, passenger and other vessels on the Columbia River and tributaries east of Ryan Point.

3. Scope

Geographic Area of Applicability

This SOC applies to all towed barge and passenger vessel operations on the Columbia River and tributaries east of Ryan Point at approximately Mile 108.2 to Lewiston Idaho on the Snake River at Mile 140 and Clearwater River to Mile 1.2.

Vessels Covered by the SOC

This SOC applies to towed barges, passenger and other vessels, along with log raft towing operations.

B. General Requirements

The master and pilots of passenger vessels, tugs towing barges and log rafts should have due regard for the needs and considerations of each other's respective vessels. The master of a tug should ensure that the tug is able to exert positive

control of their tow at all times. Positive control means that the master is able to maintain the tow on a stable track and maneuver the tow under all reasonably anticipated river conditions during a transit.

Tug and passenger vessel masters should ensure that appropriate voyage planning takes place to identify one-way traffic and holding areas which require close coordination and passing arrangements with other traffic in both meeting and overtaking situations.

When either the tug, passenger or other vessel recognizes that a meeting or overtaking situation is developing, they should communicate directly on the bridge-to-bridge radio and coordinate their actions in accordance with the Inland Rules of the Road to accomplish a safe passage.

C. Communications

Clear and timely communications between the towing vessels, passenger and other vessels are absolutely essential to safe navigation. The primary communication method is by VHF radio on Channel 13. All vessels should ensure that the automatic identification systems (AIS) on their respective vessels are updated, properly programmed and operating.

The master and pilots of tugs towing barges, passenger and other vessels should respond to security calls when appropriate and encourage timely and thorough bridge to-bridge communications to effect safe passing arrangements.

1. Security Call Checkpoints

In addition to the information provided by AIS, a voluntary system of security call checkpoints is recommended to be used at all times when using the main channel and during periods of reduced visibility. These calls are broadcast on the bridge-to-bridge radio (VHF Channel 13). Tugs, passenger and other Vessels are encouraged to participate in the checkpoint system. When reporting at the points listed below, the following information should be provided:

- • Tug/vessel identification.
- • Tug/vessel type.
- • Current position or check point.
- • Direction of travel.

Example: "Tug Chief with a tow is inbound Ryan Point".

The following list of checkpoints is recommended, but may not be inclusive of all locations or situations when the use of a security call would be appropriate.

	INBOUND East of Ryan Point	
NAME	LOCATION	REASON
Airport Dike	Mile 110.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Fishers Quarry	Mile 115.0	One-way-Traffic
Sundial Chip	Mile 118.0	One-way-Traffic
Washougal Dolphin #50	Mile 123.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Tunnel Point	Mile 127.6	Traffic inbound/outbound
Cape Horn	Mile 131.3	Traffic inbound/outbound
Prindle Dike	Mile 134.0	One-way Traffic
Skamania Light	Mile 139.5	One-way-Traffic
Fort Rains	Mile 146.6	One-way Traffic
Spring Creek	Mile 168.0	Hood River One-way Traffic
Straights Point	Mile 175.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Squally Point	Mile 184.8	Traffic inbound/outbound
Browns Island	Mile 198.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Celilo Park	Mile 202.0	One-way Traffic
Light 50	Mile 274.9	Traffic inbound/outbound
Devil's Bend Rapids	Mile 285.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
State Line	Mile 309.7	Traffic inbound/outbound
Mouth of Snake River	Mile 324.1	Traffic inbound/outbound
East Pasco	Mile 2.8	One-way Traffic
Hard Rock	Mile 11.0	Traffic inbound/outbound

	INBOUND East of Ryan Point	
NAME	LOCATION	REASON
Fish Hook Park	Mile 17.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Sheffler Elevator	Mile 29.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Burr Canyon	Mile 35.8	Traffic inbound/outbound
Steamboat Bend	Mile 57.6	One-way Traffic
Riparia	Mile 67.2	Traffic inbound/outbound
New York Bar	Mile 80.5	Traffic inbound/outbound
Schultz Bar	Mile 101.0	One-way Traffic
Nisqually John Landing	Mile 125.7	Traffic inbound/outbound
Silcott Island	Mile 131.4	Traffic inbound/outbound
Wilma	Mile 136.0	Traffic inbound/outbound

OUTBOUND From Lewiston Idaho		
NAME	LOCATION	REASON
Lewiston Port Docks	Mile 1.1 Clearwater River	Traffic inbound/outbound
Silcott Island	Mile 131.4	Traffic inbound/outbound
Boyer Park	Mile 105.4	Traffic inbound/outbound
Schultz Bar	Mile 101.0	One-way-Traffic
Lake Bryan Light 14	Mile 82.3	Traffic inbound/outbound
Texas Rapids	Mile 66.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Lyons Ferry	Mile 60.0	One-way-Traffic
Scott	Mile 36.2	Traffic inbound/outbound
Votow	Mile 22.6	Traffic inbound/outbound

OUTBOUND From Lewiston Idaho		
NAME	LOCATION	REASON
Fish Hook Park	Mile 44-17.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
East Pasco	Mile 2.8	Traffic inbound/outbound
Mouth of Snake River	Mile 324.1	Traffic inbound/outbound
Finley	Mile 322.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Yellepit	Mile 314.4	Traffic inbound/outbound
Hogue Warner	Mile 279.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Fulton Canyon	Mile 206.7	Traffic inbound/outbound
The Dalles Lock	Mile 191.8	Traffic inbound/outbound
Lyle	Mile 181.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Straights Point	Mile 175.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Bingen	Mile 170.0	One-way Traffic
Anderson Point	Mile 154.0	Traffic inbound/outbound
Bonneville Locks	Mile 145.4	Traffic inbound/outbound
Oneonta	Mile 137.6	One-way Traffic
Corbett	Mile 126.0	One-way Traffic
Lady Island Towers	Mile 120.0	One-way Traffic
Ryan Point	Mile 108.2	Traffic inbound/outbound

D. Lockage Guidelines

1. Purpose/ Scope

To provide uniform guidelines to be followed by all personnel operating vessels and/or tows through locks, as per 33 CFR, Section 207.718, on the Columbia and Snake Rivers. The term "Vessel" used in this chapter includes all connected units, tugs, barges, tows, boats or other floating objects.

2. General Information

- a. The vessel operator shall conduct a pre-locking meeting (Work Safety Assessment) with all required personnel. This shall include, but not be limited to, the following:
 - 1) Use of proper Personal Protective Equipment.
 - 2) Position of deck crew while maneuvering and mooring.
 - 3) Monitoring mooring bit ties.
 - 4) Monitoring tow position in lock between yellow lines.
 - 5) Risk assessment and mitigation of all known or potential hazards.
 - 6) Any special locking instructions provided by the lock operator.
 - 7) Communication requirements.
 - 8) Number and location of lines and tie off bits to be used.
- b. The vessel operator shall ensure mooring bit ties are properly monitored to assure the vessel remains in a safe position. During the entire lockage, the vessel operator shall constantly attend the wheelhouse, be aware of the vessel's position, and monitor radio channel 14 on frequency 156.700 MHz, or otherwise be constantly able to communicate with the Lock Master. At a minimum, vessels shall be as vigilantly manned as if underway.
- c. Lockage shall not be construed as being routine. Lockage has inherent risks and hazards including changes in the force of water movement impacting the tow throughout the lockage.
- d. Vessel operator shall request notification from the Lock Master of all gate openings before they are actually opened.
- e. When approaching a lock the vessel operator shall ensure that all radars are either in the off or stand by position, as early as safe navigation permits, but always before entering the lock.

E. Procedures

1. Arrival

- a. The vessel operator shall contact the Dam by radio a minimum of 30 minutes out and pass vessel dimensions and whether there is hazardous cargo to the Lock Master. When a tug draws more water than the barges in tow both drafts are to be passed.
- b. The vessel operator shall ask the Lock Master if a normal lockage is expected or are there any changes to the locking process currently in place.
- c. The vessel operator shall enter the lock on a green light and with a verbal OK to enter from the Lock Master. A red signal light shall indicate it is not safe to proceed.
- d. The vessel operator shall ensure that a qualified crew member, wearing appropriate personal protective equipment, is positioned on the tow early enough to provide the vessel operator with accurate and timely safe guidance information during the approach to the lock.
- e. A qualified crew member on the bow shall visually inspect the lock chamber to ensure that the gates are fully opened, no drift is present in the chamber and no overhead hazards exist that shall interfere shall the lockage.
- f. The vessel operator shall maneuver into the lock while being assisted by both visual signals and radio communications from the qualified crew member.

2. Lockage

- a. The vessel operator shall ensure the vessel and/or tow is secured, between the yellow lines, in a manner permitting minimal lateral and minimal fore and aft movement. A minimum of two lines shall be used for tows of empty barges and four lines shall be used for any tow with at least one load in it.
- b. The vessel and/or tow shall be tied to at least two (where practicable) floating mooring bits with ropes or lines adequate to ensure that there is no fore or aft movement of the vessel and that lateral movement is minimized. Redundancy can further reduce risk; where practicable, four mooring lines can provide greater security than two lines. Besides mooring procedures, mooring lines that are in good serviceable condition are essential in preventing movement of vessel and/or tow in the lock.
- c. After the vessel and/or tow is secured in locks, a qualified crew member shall visually inspect the yellow line and the stern of the boat and notify the vessel operator of the distance between the stern and the yellow line. The vessel operator shall add the distance between the stern of the vessel and the yellow line into the tow's length to ensure the overall length does not

exceed 650'. The vessel operator shall then report to the Lock Master that the tow is in position between the yellow lines and is secured.

- d. When Lock Master arrives at the head of the vessel and/or tow, the vessel operator shall ask for verification that the bow of the vessel and/or tow is at or behind the yellow line. (The Lock Master may observe the position of the vessel by using remote control video cameras and may not actually walk on the lock wall.)
- e. The vessel operator shall maintain continual monitoring of mooring lines and vessel movement during the entire lockage.

3. Departure

- a. Prior to departure a qualified crew member shall pass the completed lock slip to the Lock Master, if requested.
- b. The vessel operator shall not leave the locks until a green light is visible and a horn signal or verbal OK has been received from the Lock Master.
- c. The vessel operator shall develop as much understanding as is reasonable and prudent regarding traffic in the departure area prior to moving out of the lock. The vessel operator shall always exercise due caution to avoid the development of an unsafe situation.
- d. Deck personnel shall release lines and provide guidance for lock clearance and traffic avoidance for the vessel operator, both by visual signal and radio communication, until the vessel and/or tow is safely clear of the lock and all traffic or other hazards to safe navigation.

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
Harbor Safety Plan | Chapter 7

LIGHTERING GUIDELINES

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Chapter was reviewed and no changes required	Harbor Safety Committee	5/11/22

A. Columbia River Lightering Operations

1. The waters of the Columbia River are environmentally sensitive and a valuable economic and environmental resource. Lightering operations, while considered routine in many parts of the country, do in fact pose significant risks beyond those normally expected of standard ship to shore cargo transfer operations.
2. These guidelines represent the cooperative efforts of the U.S. Coast Guard, Washington State, Oregon State, and industry leaders to develop the best way to mitigate risks to the environment during lightering operations within the Lower Columbia Region.
3. These guidelines are Standards of Care (SOC) for lightering and topping-off (reverse lightering) operations in the Lower Columbia River region of the USCG Sector Portland Captain of the Port (COTP) zone. As such, it is expected that industry members follow them, educate and enforce them among industry groups, and make recommendations to the U.S. Coast Guard and Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee as changes are needed. In order to best mitigate risks, non-emergency requests for lightering operations that do not meet these standards must be made well in advance, and include a description of how the operation can be conducted with an equivalent level of safety. Full compliance with these standards of care will be considered a mitigating factor in the event of a spill or marine casualty.
4. Federal and state representatives may conduct announced and unannounced monitoring of lightering operations. Companies should expect to be monitored the first time they lighter in the Columbia River. The frequency of monitoring will be determined by the level of risk, familiarity with company operations, procedures and track records. Lightering operations may be stopped or prohibited due to safety concerns or unacceptable risks.
5. USCG Sector Portland, the Harbor Safety Committee, and other affected stakeholders will periodically review the safety record of lightering operations to determine if changes are needed to promote safer operations.

B. Definitions

In addition to the terms defined in applicable federal regulations, the following definitions apply:

- Lightering is the transfer of petroleum cargo in bulk from one tank vessel to another tank vessel while at anchor, or at a dock that is not regulated under the facility response plan and other requirements of 33 CFR 154. Specifically, this Standard of Care applies to cargo transfers, but not those transfers of fuel for vessel propulsion (commonly referred to as bunkering.)
- Service Vessel is the vessel receiving the cargo in a lightering operation or delivering the cargo in a topping-off (reverse lightering) operation.
- Ship to be lightered (STBL) is the vessel delivering the cargo in a lightering operation or receiving the cargo in a topping-off (reverse lightering) operation.

C. Applicable Regulations

Lightering operations must be conducted in strict accordance with the letter and intent of all regulations. In particular, lightering operations fall under the following regulations:

- 33 CFR 151 (MARPOL implementation)
- 33 CFR 153 Notice of Discharge and Removal of Discharged Oil
- 33 CFR 155 Oil or Hazardous Material Pollution Prevention Regulations for Vessels
- 33 CFR 156 Oil and Hazardous Material Transfer Operations
- 46 CFR 30-40 Tank Vessels
- WAC 173-184 Vessel Oil Transfer Advance Notice and Containment Requirements

In addition to the above regulations, vessels engaged in lightering operations must adhere to the vessel's Oil Transfer Procedures and should consult the Oil Companies International Marine Forum Guidelines (OCIMF) Ship to Ship Transfer Guide.

D. Standards of Care

1. **Location:** Lightering operations, for vessels at anchor, may be conducted in any anchorage pre-approved for lightering operations by USCG Sector Portland. These anchorages are described in the separate Columbia River Anchorage Guidelines. Lightering operations in anchorages not pre-approved for lightering, or involving an emergency with the vessel being lightered, may be approved by USCG Sector Portland on a case-by-case basis.
2. **Lightering Plans:** Companies will submit a lightering plan to Coast Guard Sector Portland at least four days prior to the proposed date of lightering or when the vessel's Notice of Arrival is required. It is understood that it is the nature of marine industry to have unforeseen schedule changes. However, all possible effort must be made to submit a lightering plan in time for this office to review it, and arrange for lightering monitors. Individual requests for a shorter time period may be considered on a case-by-case basis, but will generally not be granted for other than safety reasons.

Companies can either develop a general fleet lightering plan for each type of operation (ship to ship, ship to barge, barge to barge) or can submit individual plans prior to each event, covering the details of that specific operation. Fleet lightering plans will be approved and maintained on file at the Sector Portland for review when an "Advance Notice of Lightering" is received. All lightering plans should also be available for inspection when the Coast Guard or State monitors a lightering operation, or upon request. Once a company has a fleet plan approved, they only have to submit the Advance Notice Form. Both types of lightering plans should include the following elements:

- a. Exact/anticipated location(s) of lightering operations. Locations used beyond the scope of a fleet plan should be added to the Advance Notice Form, when necessary.
 - b. Names, official numbers, lengths, and other pertinent data for all vessels and barges, including details of any State approved contingency plans.
 - c. Date of transfer, and estimated start and stop times. Note if the operation will be restricted to daylight hours. For fleet plans, this information is included in the Advance Notice form.
 - d. The maximum limiting weather and sea conditions, if different than the SOC limits.
 - e. Total cargo capacity of the barge(s) and the STBL, and volumes of transfers (for fleet plans this is included on Advance Notice form.
 - f. Planned spill response equipment to be either on scene, pre-staged, or on standby, as per the SOC.
 - g. General description of written transfer procedures, as required by 33 CFR 155. This should include maximum flow rate, means of communication, overfill protection devices, and topping off procedures.
 - h. Proper shipping name, type, and characteristics of product.
 - i. Mooring and fendering configuration between participating vessels.
 - j. Location and disposition of standby tugs during lightering operation.
 - k. The final destination of the product.
 - l. If vapor balancing will be conducted (if yes, must comply with all applicable regulations).
 - m. General narrative of how the company intends to implement the SOC.
3. USCG Notification: The agent, owner, or operator of the STBL will ensure that USCG Sector Portland receives the lightering plan in writing at least four days prior to the proposed date of lightering or when the vessel's Notice of Arrival is required. In accordance with 33 CFR 156.118 or 33 CFR 156.215 as may be applicable, a finalized date and time notification will be submitted within 24 hours of the lightering operations. A lightering notification form is enclosed with these guidelines.

The vessel being lightered (STBL) shall advise USCG Sector Portland and Columbia River Pilots dispatch when lightering has actually begun, and when the last consecutive operation has concluded, or if lightering is secured for any emergency reason. These notifications can be accomplished by phone to USCG Sector Portland at 503/240-9301, or by VHF Channel 16, using the call sign COAST GUARD SECTOR PORTLAND, then shifting to the frequency specified. The Coast Guard may initiate a Broadcast Notice to Mariners, advising nearby traffic of the operation, and to proceed with due caution in the

immediate area. The Columbia River Pilots are reached through their Portland dispatch office at (503) 289-9922 or email to dispatchers@colrip.com.

4. **Wind:** Expected weather conditions during the expected duration of the operation must be reviewed by the personnel conducting the pre-transfer conference, and agreement made on measures to be taken if unfavorable weather (wind, lightning) is expected. Vessels will not come alongside in preparation for lightering if sustained winds are at or exceed 30 knots. If lightering operations have already begun when sustained winds reach 30 knots, vessel masters and Persons-in-Charge of lightering operations will take any additional prudent measures necessary to reduce risk and prepare for worsening weather. If sustained winds reach 40 knots (as determined by the STBL) lightering operations will cease, and hoses drained. The Persons-in-Charge and vessel masters will then determine if, given the high winds, the transfer hoses can be safely disconnected.
5. **Current:** If river stages are forecast to exceed long-term mean flows for intended lightering anchorages, or currents are expected to exceed 3 knots, vessel masters and the Persons-in-Charge shall exercise prudence and due care in determining the proper ground tackle and mooring line arrangement to handle the anticipated conditions. If river stages are forecast to reach or exceed "BANKFULL" stages, or the current in the anchorage is 5 knots or more, the Service Vessel should not come alongside. If, during the lightering operation the above-described river conditions occur, the transfer will cease and hoses drained. The vessel masters and Persons-in-Charge will then exercise prudence in determining if the transfer hoses can be safely disconnected.
6. **Personnel:** A separate Person-in-Charge will be assigned for each vessel involved in the lightering. The appropriate work-hour regulations of 46 CFR will be adhered to. Additional personnel, such as pollution control representatives and safety advisors may be assigned but in no way relieve the vessel masters or Persons-in-Charge of their responsibilities and authority as described in the applicable regulations of 33 and 46 CFR.
7. **Mooring equipment:** All parties will use fenders and mooring lines of sufficient size and type in accordance with industry practice and/or the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) Ship to Ship (STS) Transfer Guide.
8. **Tug availability:** During lightering operations at anchorage, a tug of sufficient horsepower to control the Service Vessel involved in the operation shall be available to render assistance in less than 30 minutes. For barge-to-barge lightering, either a suitable tug for each barge, or one tug capable of maneuvering both barges must be immediately available at the lightering location. For deep-draft vessels, whenever conditions prevent the arriving STBL from using a stern anchor or making fast at the stern to an anchor buoy, an assist tug should remain on station, immediately available at the lightering

location. The designated tug and company shall be listed in the 24-hour advance notice.

9. Response equipment: Both the STBL and the Service Vessel must make appropriate arrangements for Average Most Probable Discharge (AMPD) response resources prior to commencing the transfer. The name and contact number of the AMPD response provider will be provided in the 24-hour advance notice.
10. Washington State Requirements: Vessels conducting lightering in Washington State waters must comply with the transfer and pre-booming requirements of WAC 173-184. This includes submitting an Advance Notice of Transfer at least 24 hours before lightering to the Washington State Department of Ecology. The notice can be submitted online at <https://secureaccess.wa.gov/ecy/ants>, via email to OilTransferNotifications@ecy.wa.gov or via fax to (800) 664-9184.
11. Number of vessels involved: Lightering operations will normally involve not more than one ship to be lightered and one Service Vessel. In some cases, a “bridge” barge may be utilized and this procedure should be addressed in the lightering plan. Bunkering will not take place simultaneously with lightering.
12. Flow rate, topping off and gauging procedures: Conducted in accordance with the individual vessel’s oil transfer procedures and the OCIMF STS Transfer Guide.
13. Bridge watch: A qualified deck officer of the vessel being lightered, fluent in English, shall maintain a bridge radio watch on VHF Channels 13 and 16 during lightering. The watch officer is expected to keep a close watch on the lightering operation and be alert for any approaching commercial traffic capable of posing a hazard to the operation. For vessels at anchor, if the watch determines that the anchors are dragging, the masters and persons-in-charge will be immediately notified. In the case of attending and/or assist tugs, a licensed officer, capable of taking any necessary action, will remain on the bridge and maintain a radio watch on Channel 16 and the lightering operation working frequency.
14. Air Quality Standards: Lightering operations on the Columbia River are subject to air pollution regulations in both Oregon (Oregon Administrative Rules 340-232-0110) and Washington (SWCAA 491-040). Vessels lightering while made fast to a marine facility may not lighter gasoline or gasoline-like products unless a vapor recovery system is used. Lightering of gasoline and gasoline-like products at a facility or at anchor on Clean Air Action Days is prohibited unless vapor recovery systems are used. Clean Air Action Days are announced by the air pollution control agencies in both states when conditions are especially likely to lead to unhealthy ozone concentrations. Under ongoing adverse air quality conditions, lightering without vapor recovery may be prohibited altogether for up to two days. On third and subsequent days, lightering would only be allowed between the hours of 2 PM and 2 AM. To determine if a Clean Air Action Day has been or will be called, contact the

Oregon Air Quality boards at (503) 225-5555, ext.8054, (503) 229-5359 and the Washington SWCAA at (360) 574-3058.

15. Alternative Lightering Plans: Requests to conduct lightering operations which vary from these standards must be made well in advance to USCG Sector Portland. The alternative plan must include a description of how the operation will be conducted with an equivalent or greater level of safety to this standard of care.

ADVANCE NOTICE OF LIGHTERING OPERATIONS

This form, or the equivalent information, must be sent to USCG Sector Portland via fax at (503) 240-9302 or emailed to D13-PF-SectorPortland-SCCInbox@uscg.mil a minimum of 24 hours prior to commencing transfer operations. Start/stop times are assumed to be accurate to within 1 hour. Changes should be made by either a revised fax/email or by telephone to the Coast Guard Operations Center at (503) 240-9301. USCG Sector Portland will accept one notification for both the service vessel and STBL. It is the company's responsibility to ensure anchorage reservations are made separately through the Columbia River Pilots dispatch at (503) 289-9922.

Location of Operation:		
Date of Operation:		
Time Alongside:		
Estimated Separation Time:		
Estimated Start Time:		
Estimated Stop Time:		
Ship to be Lightered (STBL):		
Official No:		Flag:
Total Cargo Capacity of STBL:		
Service Vessel:		
Official No:		Flag:
Total Cargo Capacity of Service Vessel:		
Product to be Transferred:		Amount (bbls):
Product to be Transferred:		Amount (bbls):
Person-in-Charge, STBL:		Telephone:
Person-in-Charge, Service Vessel:		Telephone:
OSRO, STBL:		Telephone:
OSRO, Service Vessel:		Telephone:
Standby Tug Name/Company:		Telephone:
STBL Company Point of Contact:		
24 Hour Telephone:		

I certify that this lightering operation will be conducted in accordance with the Columbia River Harbor Safety Plan Lightering Standards of Care and my company's lightering plan, particularly with regard to the limiting weather and river condition parameters.

Signature	Company
Date submitted:	Time Submitted:
This form is (check one): <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL <input type="checkbox"/> UPDATE to form dated:	

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
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NAVIGATION PRACTICES

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Updated logo. No content changes.	N/A	4/4/23

A. Purpose

To describe customary navigation practices on the Columbia River in order to reduce the number of close quarter situations within the channel the Corps of Engineers is federally authorized to maintain.

B. Definitions

The federally maintained channel is depicted on the NOAA charts by dashed black lines. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to maintain a 600-foot wide channel in the Lower Columbia River designed for deep draft ship traffic by dredging restrictive shoaling to provide an authorized depth of 43 feet below CRD or MLLW from River Mile (RM) 3 to 105.5. On the Mouth of the Columbia River (MCR) the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is authorized to maintain a channel 2,640-foot wide to depths of 55 and 48 feet below MLLW from RM -3 to +3.

The natural navigable channel is the width of the river where there is sufficient water for navigation outside the federally maintained channel. For most shallow draft vessels this may be the 18 or 30 foot contours on the NOAA charts.

C. Problem

As navigation with electronic charts became more commonplace, there was an increasing trend of shallow draft vessels navigating within the confines of the federally maintained channel. Whether for ease of navigation, or the mistaken belief that navigating outside the dashed lines on the chart borders on negligence, this causes more close quarter situations with deep draft ships and is a hazard to safe navigation. While this trend doesn't seem to be increasing, it is still a continuous safety issue.

D. Procedure

Shallow draft vessels not requiring the additional dredged depth are reminded that navigation outside the federally maintained channel where there is sufficient water depth is a customary practice on the Columbia River. This practice is often the most prudent one when navigating near deep draft vessels that require the dredged channel depth.

In some cases, a tug and barge or ship in ballast may leave the federally maintained channel to allow more room when meeting a deeply loaded ship.

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
Harbor Safety Plan | Chapter 9

PLAN ENFORCEMENT

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Updated logo. No content changes.	N/A	4/4/23

A. Harbor Safety Plan Enforcement

1. Purpose/Scope

Standards and protocols included in the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Plan address operational and environmental issues unique to the Columbia River. The Harbor Safety Plan is not intended to supplant or otherwise conflict with federal, state or local regulations developed under legal authorities or replace the good judgment of a ship's master in the safe operation of his/her vessel. The Harbor Safety Plan is intended to complement existing regulations by advising the mariner of unique conditions and requirements that may be encountered in the Columbia River and adjacent navigable waters, and the standards and protocols developed by local experts for ensuring greater safety in light of those conditions and requirements.

2. Authorities

The U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) is responsible for the regulation of vessel movements and inspections through the authority vested with the Captain of the Port. The USCG also establishes requirements for vessel operation and other related port safety controls.

Washington State and Oregon State are responsible for protecting state lands and waterways through the authority granted by state law. State regulations include, but are not limited to, requirements for: inspections of facilities and vessels operating in or affecting state waters; contingency and response plans to improve safety and reduce the risk of incidents; spill notifications to the state; and water quality standards.

In the event of a regulatory violation, the appropriate state or federal agency must be notified. Federal and state agencies have the power to impose criminal and civil penalties for violations.

B. Enforcement Procedures

Upon notification or determination of a failure to follow the guidelines as described in the Harbor Safety Plan, the Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) may request the USCG or other appropriate agency take action to correct the problem.

The HSC may also request federal and state agencies forward to the committee any comments or suggestions from harbor users concerning their experiences with existing safety and enforcement mechanisms.

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
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REQUIRED CHARTS AND PUBLICATIONS GUIDELINES

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Updated logo. No content changes.	N/A	4/4/23
Updated Introduction, Chart Requirements, LMN. Removed Required Charts for Areas to Transited		5/15/2025

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A. Introduction

These guidelines provide information on charts and publications required for commercial vessels operating in the Lower Columbia region.

No person may operate or cause the operation of a vessel unless the vessel has the required marine charts and publications of the area prior to entering U.S. waters or departing a U.S. port.

Commercial vessel requirements are contained in 33 CFR 164 and all vessels should have appropriate charts and publications for the areas they are operating in. The information for the charts and publications should be currently corrected (updated) for the areas to be transited.

The Required Charts and Publications list and guidelines:

- Were cooperatively drafted by regulators, pilots, and industry representatives and provide information unique to the river.
- Are to be used in accordance with all International, Federal, State and Local regulations, and the normal practices of good seamanship.

The use of electronic charts and some electronic publications is acceptable in lieu of paper publications and are seen as equivalent to chart and publication carriage and certain navigation functions required by titles 33 and 46 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) as well as publication requirements in the International Convention for Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Chapter V, Regulation 27.

B. Chart Requirements

Marine charts of the areas to be transited must either include all available ENC or the area in all scales or be published by NOAA approved “print-on-demand” paper chart service.

C. Guidelines for Vessels Missing Charts

The vessel master must report directly or through their agent to the Captain of the Port (COTP) and pilots if the vessel is missing any of the required or current navigational charts. The master will be required to obtain the proper charts prior to entering U.S. waters. Note that some foreign flagged vessels may report they are missing U.S. charts; however, if they have the appropriate updated foreign charts for their transit those charts will be accepted (refer to Section G of the guidelines). Vessel masters or agents may contact the COTP to verify if the charts the vessel has on board are sufficient for their transit.

Required charts must be acquired before entering the Columbia River. The vessel’s agent or pilot can arrangement to have the appropriate charts delivered prior to entering the Columbia River. Faxed charts are not an acceptable alternative for missing charts.

In all cases, the vessel shall have the charts in sufficient time to support appropriate voyage planning. Vessel masters shall not rely on last minute chart deliveries and

the services of the pilot to make their transit. The bridge team shall remain fully engaged in voyage planning and execution of the voyage plan along with the services of the pilot, whose input, based on local knowledge, may require the voyage plan formulated by the vessels bridge team to be adjusted during various stages of the transit while in pilotage waters.

D. Local Notice to Mariners (LNM)

The Thirteenth Coast Guard District publishes a weekly LNM. Use this LNM or US Notice to Mariners to keep your charts and publications current. The LNM covers aids to navigation, , marine construction, military operations, bridge repair/construction, significant marine events and other information of interest to mariners.

The information from the Local Notice to Mariners (LNM) and the yearly Special Local Notice to Mariners (SLNM) can be found at:

[HTTP://WWW.NAVCEN.USCG.GOV/](http://www.navcen.uscg.gov/). The LNM and SLNM are produced only in an electronic format and no longer mailed.

The web address for the US Notice to Mariners:

[HTTP://WWW.NAUTICALCHARTS.NOAA.GOV/MCD/UPDATES/LNM_NM.HTML](http://www.nauticalcharts.noaa.gov/mcd/updates/LNM_NM.html).

E. Required Publications

Commercial vessels must have corrected versions of the following publications available for the area to be transited:

- U.S. Coast Pilot.
- Coast Guard Light List.
- Tide tables using data provided by the National Ocean Service.
- Tidal current tables using data provided by the National Ocean Service.
- U.S. Coast Guard International – Inland Navigation Rules.

F. Alternative Charts and Publications

If a ship uses foreign charts and publications such as Canadian or British Admiralty (BA), then these need to meet 33 CFR 164.33(b) requirements. This states that alternative charts or publications may be substituted for a U.S. chart or publication if:

- The chart is of large enough scale and has enough detail to make safe navigation of the area possible, and must be currently corrected.
- The publication, or applicable extract, must singly or in combination contain similar information to the U.S. Government publication to make safe navigation of the area possible.
- The publication or applicable extract must be currently corrected, with the exceptions of tide and tidal current tables, which must be the current editions.

G. Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS)

The United States Navigation Safety Regulations in 33 CFR Part 164 require that vessels have on board corrected marine charts of the areas to be transited. These charts must be of a large enough scale and have enough detail to make safe navigation in the area possible. Similarly, International regulations for the carriage of charts and publications are outlined in regulation V/19 of the 1974 International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS).

An alternative to the carriage of paper navigation charts is an Electronic Chart Display and Information System (ECDIS). ECDIS is a navigation information system which, with adequate back-up arrangements, can be accepted as complying with the chart carriage requirements in regulation V/19 of the 1974 SOLAS Convention, by displaying selected information from a system electronic navigational chart (SENC) with positional information from navigation sensors to assist the mariner in route planning and route monitoring, and by displaying additional navigation-related information.

“If a ship has an approved ECDIS installed according to chapter V, the ECDIS will be considered by the Coast Guard as meeting its nautical chart regulation in 33 CFR 164.33(a)(1), because the ECDIS meets the same navigational safety concerns as do paper nautical charts.”

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RESTRICTED VISIBILITY GUIDELINES

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Updated logo. No content changes.	N/A	4/4/23

A. General

Conditions of restricted visibility require mariners observe extra caution as set forth in Rules 19 of the applicable International or Inland Rules of the Road. Under certain circumstances, vessels may transit the Columbia and Willamette Rivers safely in reduced visibility provided a positive evaluation is made by the Master and Pilot (if employed). This risk analysis should include, but is not limited to, the maneuvering characteristics of the vessel, quality of the vessel's radar picture and navigational system, the vessel's size and draft in relation to the area to be transited, quality of the vessel's bridge team, vessel traffic and congestion in the area, anticipated visibility along the route, and special circumstances to be encountered.

B. Local Conditions

The Columbia River deep water navigation channel stretches from the mouth of the Columbia River to the Vancouver/Portland harbor, a distance of approximately 115 miles. Weather along the route consists of a series of microclimates. For example, about 40 miles from the mouth of the river is the area known as Skamokawa. This name derives from a Native American term meaning "smoke on the water". There may be fog in the Skamokawa area but not elsewhere on the route.

In the spring and fall with clear skies and calm winds, radiation fog can generate in the evening in the low lands along the river and become dense along portions of the river. This fog will usually dissipate with a light breeze or as daytime temperatures rise. In the summer, sea fog (advection fog) can generate offshore and gradually move inland with westerly winds to cover the Columbia River Bar and inland.

C. Standards

1. When coastal fog restricts visibility on the Columbia River bar and its approaches, the vessel's Master and Pilot (if employed) should assess all variables and determine whether it is safe for a vessel to enter the river. In some cases, it may be safer to wait offshore until visibility improves.
2. In situations of restricted visibility, a vessel that is underway may proceed along its intended passage with caution.
3. Vessels intending to dock in restricted visibility should be able to visually see the intended wharf for the entire length of the vessel. However, the Master and Pilot (if employed) may assess all variables and determine that the best course of action is to proceed to the dock.
4. Vessels at dock or anchored in a safe anchorage should not commence movement if visibility is less than 0.5 miles unless the Master and Pilot (if

employed) assess all variables and determine that the vessel can proceed safely.

D. Critical Maneuvering Areas (CMA)

There are areas to the Columbia-Willamette Rivers where additional standards of care are required due to the restrictive nature of the channel, proximity of hazards, or the prevalence of adverse currents. Vessels of 1,600 gross tons or more, tugs with barges 1,600 gross tons or more, or vessels with hazardous cargo should not transit CMAs when visibility is less than 0.5 miles.

Locations on the Columbia-Willamette Rivers identified as Critical Maneuvering Areas are:

- Vancouver Railroad Bridge Main Channel.
- Vancouver Railroad Bridge North Portland Harbor.
- I-5 Interstate Bridge.
- Lady Island Towers.
- Vicinity of Washougal dolphin.
- Garrison Rapids.
- Portland Bridges between the Broadway and Hawthorne Bridges.

E. Special Notes

- Small vessels (under 20 meters in length) take on an increased risk in restricted visibility due to difficulty in detecting these vessels with radar. Smaller vessels should use radar reflectors to increase the possibility of being detected by other vessels.
- Vessels without radar should not attempt to get underway in areas of restricted visibility.

Nothing in these guidelines shall be construed to require a vessel's Master to commence a transit in reduced visibility. The Master/Pilot's judgment and years of experience are the cornerstones of safe navigation.

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SEVERE WEATHER AND NATURAL DISASTER GUIDELINES

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Amendment to definition of Severe Weather (section 2) and formatting changes	Harbor Safety Plan Review Sub-Committee	
Updated logo. No content changes.	N/A	4/4/23

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A. Severe Weather and Natural Disaster Guidelines

1. Purpose

These guidelines provide preparation and prevention standards to be considered in the event of severe weather or natural disaster events in the Lower Columbia Region. They consolidate best practices and provide general guidelines to mitigate risks. However, they do not replace actions and good judgment to be taken by the prudent mariner during specific situations.

2. Definition of Severe Weather

Severe weather and disasters occur when any weather, natural or human caused activity could negatively impact operations within the Marine Transportation System (MTS). Examples include: high winds, storms, extreme heat, flooding, wildfire, extreme high and low water levels or natural disasters such as tsunamis, volcanic activity, earthquakes, and dam failure. Examples of human caused disasters include vessel groundings, lock outages, aircraft in the water, and mass casualty events.

Determining if severe weather concerns exist should be based on the operations, limitations, and capabilities of each vessel or facility based on the observed and predicted conditions. Natural and human caused disasters may happen without warning and be catastrophic in nature. Vessels and facilities should identify changing conditions of the river, disaster recovery efforts, and the stability of the ports and docks in surrounding areas before vessel operation.

3. Monitoring Weather Conditions

The National Weather Service (NWS) provides weather updates, forecasts and advisories. This information is available at WWW.WEATHER.GOV. Weather forecasts are broadcast on VHF Channel 2W (Frequency 162.40 MHz) for Astoria and VHF Channel 1W (Frequency 162.55 MHz) for Portland.

Severe weather advisories are divided into different categories and provide a general guide of the anticipated severity of an event. The USCG will announce this information on VHF Channel 16 and then broadcast updates on Channel 22A. The USCG may also provide information through the Local Notice to Mariners.

In general, the different alert categories mean:

- Advisories = Be Aware
- Watch = Be Prepared

- Warning = Threat imminent or is occurring, take action

4. Lower Columbia Region Considerations

Due to the nature of the river system, localized areas may be impacted to various degrees by the different types of severe weather and each should be considered separately along with any operational demands.

Specific anchorages may have weather condition limits where additional tugs would be required.

B. Vessels in Severe Weather

In all cases, the vessel master and pilot should evaluate the current and forecasted weather and the impact on vessel movement, and if necessary, delay movement, call for additional tugs, or take other appropriate measures to ensure safe operations.

Masters and pilots should consult the Coast Pilot and other sources of local knowledge when transiting high risk areas, and be prepared for strong tides, currents, and weather conditions.

Severe weather may cause a temporary closure of the Columbia River bar. The USCG Captain of the Port (COTP) may restrict passage or close the bar based on weather conditions under 33 CFR 165.1325. Weather conditions may also result in restrictions on commercial vessel passage by pilots.

C. Tugs and Tows in Severe Weather

Tug masters must be especially aware of severe weather risks. The areas to be transited, observed and forecasted weather, and tidal/current conditions should be considered when deciding tow configurations, cargo, and size and type of barges to be used. Tugs and tows should be particularly aware of bar conditions and high wind conditions throughout the river.

During periods of severe weather, tug masters should consider:

- Closing all watertight openings on the tug and tow.
- Reducing speed when necessary.
- Posting a lookout to monitor the tow in addition to the forward lookout.
- Checking gear, including bridle, pendant, chafe gear, drum and brake to ensure compliance with 33 CFR 164.74.

D. Facility and Cargo Operations in Severe Weather

Each facility has its own unique operating concerns which are affected by the complexity of the operation and weather conditions. Facilities should consider incorporating severe weather contingencies in their operations manual. As appropriate to the facility, the severe weather plan should address the following:

- Standards and responsibilities for monitoring weather and taking appropriate actions, including after hours, and reporting as appropriate to the Coast Guard.
- Monitoring mooring arrangements.
- Shore crane securing and tie-down requirements.
- Appropriate locations and heights of cargo based on the predicted event.
- Relocating or securing hazardous materials.
- Securing general operating equipment.
- Minimum number, size, and positioning of lines for expected weather conditions.
- Standards for making rounds of the facility, and ensuring the satisfactory material condition of mooring facilities, cleats, bollards, piers, etc.
- Plans and criteria for moving vessels to alternate locations if needed.
- Any unique aspects of the terminal or pier that could affect safe mooring.
- Maximum number of barges/vessels permitted to raft together for expected weather conditions.
- Standards for securing rafted vessels to each other and to the pier.
- Adequate staffing to conduct operations in severe weather conditions.

Port, pier, terminal and dock authorities, operators, and owners are encouraged to conduct annual reviews of internal severe weather procedures specific to cargo operations at their facilities. Procedures should be updated and distributed to key personnel to ensure the safety of employees, cargo, equipment, the public and the environment during periods of severe weather.

E. Recreational Vessels in Severe Weather

Recreational owners and operators should be proactive and consider:

- Monitoring USCG advisories (including small boat advisories, bar restrictions) on VHF Channel 16 and 22A.
- Be aware that commercial traffic monitors VHF Channel 13.
- Evaluating the voyage plan based on current and predicted weather conditions.
- Determining if PFDs should be worn and that an adequate supply is available.
- Ensuring that all prudent actions have been taken to minimize water entry into the vessel.
- Checking the condition of anchor and mooring lines, pendants, fendering, and chafing gear.
- Moving vessel to safe area or remove from water before severe weather.

- Be cautious when using heaters during cold weather events.
- Keeping a safe distance from dam spillways during high flows, especially in the spring and winter.

F. Bridges in Severe Weather

Use the Coast Pilot and Notice to Mariners to determine if severe weather could affect bridge operations and impact your voyage plan. There are several bridges over the major waterways in the Lower Columbia Region and their operations could be curtailed due to severe weather. General bridge operations are outlined in the Coast Pilot and emergent issues will be addressed either through the Local Notice to Mariners or Broadcast Notice to Mariners.

G. Dredging Operations in Severe Weather

Companies should develop written guidance for operations supervisors to take into account current and forecasted weather. The guidance should clearly identify weather conditions that would halt operations or require moving to a safe anchorage or mooring.

Operations supervisors should be especially aware of how their operations impact navigable waterways and should consider the following issues:

- Modifying/securing operations under certain weather conditions.
- Identifying a safe anchorage/moorage for each job.
- Proactively consider the activity's impact on safe navigation in all weather conditions.

H. Oil Transfers during Severe Weather

Vessels should follow the Lightering Guidelines, Anchorage Guidelines, and Bunkering Guidelines in this Harbor Safety Plan. Facilities should follow the severe weather procedures in their facility operations manual. For facilities and vessels transferring to or from a vessel of 250 bbls capacity or more, regulations are located in 33 CFR 156.

For oil transfers in Washington waters, Washington State oil transfer rules are located in Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 173-180 and WAC 173-184. Oil deliverers are required under state regulations to include weather criteria in making determinations for safe and effective transfer operations and pre-booming. WAC 317-40 addresses requirements for bunkering operations of vessels 300 gross tons or more. Companies are strongly urged to incorporate weather criteria into their oil transfer procedures.

I. Potential Captain of the Port (COTP) Actions

If individuals or vessels are not taking actions to mitigate the risks posed by severe weather, the COTP is authorized under various federal laws to take or direct certain actions, including:

- Direct bunkering and lightering operations to cease.
- Direct hazardous materials and explosives loading to cease.
- Direct changes in mooring configuration or location for vessels at terminals.
- Direct vessel movements to seek shelter, alter or hold position to protect the port, environment, and mariners.
- Require stand-by tugs or tugs in attendance.

J. Reporting Problems to the Coast Guard

Everyone should take ownership in making the waterways safe during severe weather. Mariners should report any actual or potential problems on or near the water to the Coast Guard at (503) 861-6211 or via VHF on Channel 16.

The Coast Guard may issue directions to responsible parties to compel action or may take action to mitigate unsafe situations.

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
Harbor Safety Plan | Chapter 13

SMALL VESSELS AND MAKE WAY RULE GUIDELINES

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
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A. Overview

1. Purpose

Recreational vessels and commercial vessels, including tankers, freight ships, containerships, and tugs with barges in tow share the waters of the Lower Columbia Region. This guideline provides information for small recreational vessels and explains the “Make Way Rule” (also known as Rule 9) for vessel operations in the Lower Columbia Region.

2. Small Vessel Risks

Recreational boaters and commercial fishermen transit the navigational shipping lanes and approaches to port facilities and marine terminals. Small vessels transiting in the vicinity of the Lower Columbia Region are subjected to numerous risks including: wakes, narrow transit areas, severe weather, and limited visibility from larger ships.

Small vessel operators should be aware that large commercial deep draft vessels cannot immediately stop or alter course due to large amounts of inertia and draft constraints. The inability of deep draft vessels to stop or alter course presents a high risk to a small vessel if the operator is unaware of the contents of the COLREGS 72 (Rules of the Road) Rule 9: Narrow Channels.

Small vessel operators must be aware of and comply with their obligations under COLREGS 72 (Rules of the Road), specifically Rule 9, Narrow Channels. Large vessels constrained by their draft may transit on the edge of or outside the navigation lanes and if smaller vessels are anchored too close to the navigational lanes they may be in harm’s way. Small vessel operators that anchor, fish or troll near navigation lanes are advised to remain aware of their proximity to the shipping lanes and to other vessels using such lanes and take necessary actions and precautions.

Small vessel operators should be aware of the factors that could make it difficult to see them. Small vessels such as kayaks, personal watercraft, and vessels with a low profile may be difficult to spot if there is a rising sun or setting sun. Once a small vessel is close to the bow or side of the larger vessel it may no longer be visible to the wheelhouse or the lookout on the larger vessel which creates a serious hazard to safe operations. Containers or other cargo carried on deck of container ships can potentially cause blind spots that extend ahead of the vessel.

On a sunny weekend or during fishing seasons, large numbers of small boats may be out. The crowded conditions create the potential for serious marine accidents. Memorial Day, Labor Day and the Rose Parade are times of extreme congestion by small vessels.

B. Make Way Rule (Rule 9)

- A vessel proceeding along the course of a narrow channel or fairway shall keep as near to the outer limit of the channel or fairway positioned on her starboard side as is safe and practicable.
- A vessel of less than 20 meters in length or a sailing vessel shall not impede the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within a narrow channel or fairway.
- A vessel engaged in fishing shall not impede the passage of any other vessel navigating within a narrow channel or fairway.
- A vessel shall not cross a narrow channel or fairway if such crossing impedes the passage of a vessel which can safely navigate only within such channel or fairway. The latter vessel may use the sound signal prescribed in Rule 34 if in doubt as to the intention of the crossing vessel.
- In a narrow channel or fairway when overtaking can take place only if the vessel to be overtaken has to take action to permit safe passing, the vessel intending to overtake shall indicate her intention by sounding the appropriate signal prescribed in Rule 34(c)(i). The vessel to be overtaken shall, if in agreement, sound the appropriate signal prescribed in Rule 34(c)(ii) and take steps to permit safe passing. If in doubt she may sound the signals prescribed in Rule 34(d).
- This Rule does not relieve the overtaking vessel of her obligation under Rule 13.
- A vessel nearing a bend or an area of a narrow channel or fairway where other vessels may be obscured by an intervening obstruction shall navigate with particular alertness and caution and shall sound the appropriate signal prescribed in Rule 34(e).
- Any vessel shall, if the circumstances of the case admit, avoid anchoring in a narrow channel.

C. Boater Education Requirements and Opportunities

There are several groups that provide education to small vessel operators. Examples of subjects that are covered by these courses are: Boating Safety, Sailing Skills &

Seamanship, Weekend Navigator, How to Read a Nautical Chart, Personal Watercraft Course, and others. These courses can be found locally. The table below lists groups that offer classes and their websites where you can find more information.

Organization Education Topics Website

US Coast Guard Auxiliary
Boating Safety, Rules of the Road, Basic Rescue
www.cgaux.org

U.S. Power Squadrons
Boating Safety, Rules of the Road, Basic Rescue
www.usps.org

Washington State Parks
Mandatory Boat Operator Course
www.parks.wa.gov/boating/boatered/

Oregon State Marine Board
Mandatory Boat Operator Course
www.boatoregon.com/osmb/

The U.S. Coast Guard operates a Boating Safety Hotline, (800) 368-5647, that dispenses information and references for local classes.

In Washington State, operators of motorboats with 15 horsepower or greater are required by law to take a boater safety education course. Boaters can take an education course in a classroom, online or at home. The Washington Boating Handbook is available at www.boat-ed.com/wa/handbook/pdf_index

In Oregon State, operators of motorboats with more than 10 horsepower are required to carry a Boater Education Card. Boaters can take an education course in a classroom or online or complete an equivalency exam. Additional information is available at www.boatoregon.com/osmb/boated/

An education card from Oregon or Washington is accepted by the other state as meeting the boater education requirements.

D. Reporting Accidents

Federal and state law require boating accidents be reported. Reports are confidential and used by the state and USCG for statistical reports as allowed by state law.

Washington State law requires the operator of a recreational vessel involved in an accident in Washington waters to file a Washington Boat Accident Report when:

- Loss of life occurs
- Injury occurs which requires medical treatment beyond first aid
- A person disappears from a vessel under circumstances that indicate death or injury
- Property damage is in excess of \$2,000, or there is complete loss of a vessel

This report is available at www.parks.wa.gov/boating/accidents/.

In Washington State, if there is an injury, disappearance or death, a report must be submitted within 48 hours. Reports on other accidents must be submitted within 10 days. If the operator cannot submit the report, the owner of the vessel is responsible.

Reports must be submitted to the city or county law enforcement agency that has authority where the accident occurred. If you are not sure which agency has authority, contact the Washington State Boating Programs by calling (360) 902-8555 or by e-mail at boatlaw@parks.wa.gov. Information is also available at www.parks.wa.gov/boating/accidents/. Failure of an operator to submit a report can result in a fine.

Oregon requires the operator of every vessel involved in an accident resulting in injury or death of any person, or total property damage in excess of \$2,000 to file a written report. Reports must be submitted within 48 hours in case of death or injury, 10 days in accidents involving only property damage. Forms are available at www.boatoregon.com/osmb/safety/docs/boatingacc.pdf

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
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TOWED BARGE STANDARD OF CARE

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A. Towed Barge Standard of Care

1. Purpose

The Columbia River Towed Barge Standard of Care is intended to eliminate conflicts between towing vessels conducting astern towing and deep-sea vessels on the lower Columbia River with a resulting improvement in navigation safety.

2. Background

The most predominant method of barge towing on the lower Columbia River is in the “push” or “river” mode of towing, whereby a towboat or tugboat faces up directly against the stern, or into a towing “notch” on the stern of a barge, and connecting to the barge with a system of wires or with a mechanical articulated connection system in the cases of articulated tug-barge units (ATBs). For the purposes of this standard of care, towing a barge in the alongside towing mode is considered equivalent to the push mode.

Since the earliest days of navigation on the river, it has been necessary on occasion for barges to be towed on a tow wire or hawser in the astern towing mode. This mode of towing may be required when the towing vessel or the tow is not equipped or suitable for utilizing the push mode, visibility over the tow is impaired or non-existent, or weather conditions preclude using the push mode. The last factor is particularly the case for barges being towed across the Columbia River Bar, whether entering or departing the river.

The concerns that most commonly arise with respect to towed barge operations being addressed by this SOC are:

- The ability of the towing vessel to safely control the tow under all anticipated river conditions during a transit.
- The tracking characteristics of the tow in the astern mode.
- Communications between towing vessels and deep-sea vessels on the lower Columbia River.

3. Scope

Geographic Area of Applicability

Notwithstanding Section 3(C), as noted, this SOC applies to all towed barge operations on the lower Columbia River between the Astoria Port Docks at approximately mile 13+00 and to the Bonneville Dam, and the Willamette River from mile 0+00 at Kelley Point to Oregon City locks. Occasionally, when rough weather or operational restraints prohibit making up astern or releasing below the Astoria Bridge this can be accomplished in the Astoria South Anchorage.

Vessels Covered by the SOC

This SOC applies to towed astern barge operations. The standard does not apply to log raft towing operations, short-duration astern towing operations as in harbor shifts or tug assist operations, or operations that take place outside of the main shipping channel.

B. General Requirements

The master and pilots of both deep-sea vessels and tugs towing barges astern should have due regard for the needs and considerations of each other's respective vessels.

The master of a tug towing astern should ensure that the tug is able to exert positive control of their towed vessel(s) at all times. Positive control means that the Master is able to maintain the tow on a stable track astern and maneuver the tow under all reasonably anticipated river conditions during a transit.

The tug master should ensure that appropriate voyage planning takes place to identify one-way traffic and holding areas which require close coordination and passing arrangements with deep-sea vessels in both meeting and overtaking situations. During the voyage planning process, the Master of the towing vessel should identify cable and pipeline crossings and ensure that in these areas the towing gear is not allowed to drag on the bottom.

The master of a tug towing astern should be familiar with the inherent towing characteristics of the towed barge or vessel. The length of the tow wire should be maintained at the minimum length necessary to maintain control and maximize the directional stability of the tow.

The deck officer on watch on a towing vessel is required to meet the Federal pilotage requirements as per 46 CFR 15.812 as may be applicable to their respective vessels.

When either the tug or the deep draft vessel recognizes that a meeting or overtaking situation is developing, they should communicate directly on the bridge-to-bridge radio and coordinate their actions in accordance with the Inland Rules of the Road to accomplish a safe passage. As a general rule, tugs with tows should give maximum channel clearance to laden deep sea vessels.

C. Tail/Tag Boat Requirements

Tail/tag boats should be used for transit both inbound and outbound when:

- The towing characteristics of the towed barge or vessel, regardless of the cargo carried, are such that it does not reasonably remain in the same trackline as the towing vessel.

- The tow is a loaded oil barge of more than 25,000 barrels capacity being towed astern. A loaded barge is defined as a barge carrying cargo of more than 25% of its cargo-carrying capacity.

A rule of thumb for the barge to be considered “under positive control” is that the barge should be able to track within one barge width either side of the tug’s trackline. A barge that yaws or “runs” continuously from side to side in an unpredictable manner, or consistently in excess of one barge width either side of the tug’s trackline would be considered not under positive control.

Loaded barges not carrying oil or hazardous materials being towed astern that are under positive control at all times do not require a tail/tag boat.

Towing vessel masters and/or their respective operating companies should develop procedures to be followed for determining the necessity of tail/tag boats and how the tail/tag boat is to be used during the transit.

The tag/tail boat should be of sufficient size, configuration, and horsepower to keep the towed barge behind the tugboat when full underway.

Particular care should be exercised when planning and executing tandem tow operations. Triple tows should never be considered on the Columbia River, but if emergency circumstances require it, permission from the COTP is needed.

Barges carrying oil should not be towed in tandem so that if the tow wire parts, the tug is free to recover the barge. This SOC applies to all oil carrying, barge operations on the lower Columbia River between mile -3+00 and to the Bonneville Dam, and the Willamette River from mile 0+00 at Kelley Point to Oregon City locks.

D. Communications

Clear and timely communications between the deep-sea and towing vessel are absolutely essential to safe navigation. The primary communication method is by VHF radio on Channel 13. All vessels should ensure that the automatic identification systems (AIS) on their respective vessels are updated, properly programmed and operating.

The master and pilots of both deep-sea vessels and tugs towing barges astern should respond to security calls when appropriate and encourage timely and thorough bridge-to-bridge communications to effect safe passing arrangements.

Tows intending to use an anchorage in the Lower Columbia River should refer to the Anchorage chapter for additional information and contact requirements.

1. Security Call Checkpoints

In addition to the information provided by AIS, a voluntary system of security call checkpoints is recommended to be used at all times when using the ship channel and during periods of reduced visibility. These calls are broadcast on

the bridge-to-bridge radio (VHF channel 13). Both tugs with tows and pilots of deep-sea vessels are encouraged to participate in the checkpoint system. When reporting at the points listed below, the following information should be provided:

- Tug/vessel identification.
- Tug/vessel type.
- Current position or check point.
- Direction of travel.

Example: “Tug Sirius with a loaded oil barge on the wire is inbound Morgan’s 40 for Willbridge”

The following list of checkpoints is recommended, but may not be inclusive of all locations or situations when the use of a security call would be appropriate.

INBOUND FOR PORTLAND		
NAME	LOCATION	REASON
Columbia River Buoy “2”	Abeam Buoy “2”	Traffic inbound/outbound Columbia River
Buoy “14”	Abeam Buoy “14”	Meeting at Tansy Point Turn and Astoria Bridge
Astoria Bridge or Tongue Point	Mile 13+30 or Mile 18	Outbound traffic from Harrington Point
Elliot Point	Mile 28	Skamokawa traffic
Three Tree	Mile 31	Skamokawa traffic
Cliffton Dikes	Mile 39	Bugby Hole traffic
Westport 66	Mile 46	Eureka Channel traffic
Beaver Dock	Mile 54	Stella Turn
Lord Island Towers	Mile 63	Longview Outbound traffic
Kalama	Mile 75	Traffic to Martin Island
Columbia City	Mile 84	Warrior Rock, Duck Club traffic
Morgan’s 40	Mile 100.5	When passing or entering Willamette River

OUTBOUND FOR ASTORIA/COLUMBIA RIVER ENTRANCE		
NAME	LOCATION	REASON
Columbia Grain	Mile 01	Traffic vicinity of river mouth
Fales 17	Mile 93	Inbound traffic in Duck Club area
Martin Island	Mile 80	Kalama traffic
Cottonwood 36	Mile 70	Longview traffic

OUTBOUND FOR ASTORIA/COLUMBIA RIVER ENTRANCE		
NAME	LOCATION	REASON
Fisher Island 5	Mile 59	Traffic inbound near Stella
Westport 68	Mile 46	Traffic inbound to Bugby Hole
Wauna	Mile 42	Traffic near Bugby Hole
Steamboat Reach	Mile 36	Skamokawa Turn traffic
Elliot Point	Mile 28	Miller Sands traffic
Astoria Bridge	Mile 14	Inbound traffic from Col River Bar
Buoy 14	Abeam buoy 14	Inbound traffic from Col River Bar

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
Harbor Safety Plan | Chapter 15

Incident Management Guidelines for Initial Actions and Communications

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Amendment to Medical Emergencies Abroad Ships at Anchor: Updated and added Consideration for Contacting Emergency Services (ES), ES Info preferred berths, and Dispatch Info for ES Providers.	Harbor Safety Plan Review Committee	3/8/23

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Quick Reference Contact Numbers

AGENCY	PURPOSE	COMMUNICATIONS
National Response Center	Oil & Hazardous Material Spills	(800) 424-8802
Washington State (Emergency Management Division)	Oil & Hazardous Material Spills	(800) 258-5990
Oregon State (Oregon Emergency Response System)	Oil & Hazardous Material Spills	(800) 452-0311
U.S. Coast Guard Captain of the Port Sector Columbia River	Search and Rescue Vessel Casualties & Equipment Failures	(503) 861-6211 VHF channel 16
U.S. Customs and Boarder Protection	Medical Emergencies	Astoria 503-325-5541 Longview 360-425-3710 Portland 503-326-3230
Local Emergency Response	Bridge Allisions	911
Washington Department of Transportation	Bridges	(360) 905-2135
Oregon Department of Transportation	Bridges	(503) 362-0457
Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots	State Incident Investigations	(971) 673-1530
Merchants Exchange	VHF Channel 18	(503) 228-4361
Maritime Fire and Safety Association	State Oil Contingency Plan for Covered Vessels	(503) 220-2055

Quick Reference Immediate Actions

TYPE / NOTIFICATIONS	IMMEDIATE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
<p><u>GROUNDING</u></p> <p>Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCG Sector Columbia River • NRC • WA • OR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate VRP/NTVRP. • Ensure all tanks/voids are sounded; pass results to USCG/Unified Command. • Follow emergency shipboard procedures to prevent progressive flooding. • Pass Drafts to USCG/Unified Command (Forward, midship, and aft on both sides, before and after grounding) • The vessel may be directed to safe anchorage or mooring if it touched bottom but is still underway. • If vessel is not hard aground, and there is no apparent damage, the Master/Pilot may be allowed to attempt to refloat, unless the vessel is holed (flooding/leaking), in which case it will be discouraged until the Coast Guard makes an on scene assessment. • If the vessel is hard aground, the vessel will be directed to develop, and submit a salvage plan to the COTP for approval prior to attempting to refloat. <p>See Section D for more information</p>
<p><u>REDUCTION OF PROPULSION OR STEERING</u></p> <p>Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCG Sector Columbia River • NRC • WA • OR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prepare for tug(s) of adequate size, horsepower, and bollard pull to maintain positive control in all expected weather/river conditions until safely moored to a shore-side facility. • Consider the closest safe anchorage, lay berths, weather conditions, and the estimated time of repair for casualty, and the effect of a tide shift. Ships and tows with loss of power pose a significant risk to the area, and should not transit without tug assist and special precautions. • Identify the cause of the casualty as well as make repairs necessary to regain minimum propulsion/steering.
<p><u>FIRE</u></p> <p>Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • USCG Sector Columbia River • WA 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activate VRP/NTVRP. • Follow emergency shipboard procedures to prevent progressive spread of fire. • Prepare for tug(s) of adequate size, horsepower, and bollard pull to maintain positive control in all expected weather/river

TYPE / NOTIFICATIONS	IMMEDIATE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OR 	<p>conditions until safely moored to a shore-side facility if subsequent loss of propulsion/steering occurs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the closest safe anchorage, lay berths, weather conditions, and the estimated time of repair for casualty, and the effect of a tide shift. Ships and tows with loss of power pose a significant risk to the area, and should not transit without tug assist and special precautions
<p><u>OIL OR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILL</u></p> <p>Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> National Response Center USCG Sector Columbia River WA OR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate VRP/NTVRP. Follow emergency shipboard procedures to mitigate effects of spill. <p>See Section C for more information</p>
<p><u>COLLISION OR ALLISON</u></p> <p>Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USCG Sector Columbia River NRC WA OR 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activate VRP/NTVRP. Ensure all tanks/voids are sounded; pass results to USCG/Unified Command. Follow emergency shipboard procedures to prevent progressive flooding or fire. Prepare for tug(s) of adequate size, horsepower, and bollard pull to maintain positive control in all expected weather/river conditions until safely moored to a shore-side facility if subsequent loss of propulsion/steering occurs. <p>See Sections E & F for more information</p>
<p><u>AUXILIARY EQUIPMENT FAILURES</u></p> <p>Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USCG Sector Columbia River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider the closest safe anchorage, lay berths, weather conditions, and the estimated time of repair for casualty, and the effect of a tide shift. Ships and tows with loss of power pose a significant risk to the area, and should not transit without tug assist and special precautions.

TYPE / NOTIFICATIONS	IMMEDIATE RECOMMENDED ACTIONS
<p><u>33 CFR 164</u> <u>NAVIGATION EQUIPMENT</u> <u>FAILURES</u></p> <p>Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USCG Sector Columbia River 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agent or other vessel representatives shall submit an inbound USCG LOD request form with noted operational restrictions to COTP for the below items: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a) One and only Marine Radar System ** b) Marine Radar Systems (1 of 2) * c) Echo Depth Sounding Device d) Gyro and/or repeater ** e) Automatic Identification System (AIS) f) Electronic Position Fixing Device g) Speed and Distance Indicator Devices h) Automatic Radar Plotting Aid (ARPA) i) Rudder angle Indicator j) AIS Plug * Limited to two miles visibility ** Limited to daylight hours only with two miles visibility <p>See Section G for more information</p>
<p><u>Medical Emergencies at Anchor</u></p> <p>Notifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> USCG Sector Columbia River EMS CBP Ship's Agent 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> First Aid and care for the patient is the priority Notify USCG Sector Columbia River Determine the best course of action and if transport ashore is warranted notify: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o EMS o Ship's Agent o CBP If transportation ashore is by commercial launch: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Ship's crew should provide medical care in transit o Ship's crew should translate, if necessary, to EMS o Coordinate berth for transport to EMS <p>See Section I for more information</p>

A. Incident Management Guidelines

1. Purpose

The Lower Columbia Region Incident Management Guidelines are intended to describe the expected initial actions and communications for commercial vessels and agencies involved in a marine incident. The Harbor Safety Committee is committed to ensuring vessels safely transit the waters of the Lower Columbia Region while also keeping these waters from environmental damage caused by vessel casualties.

The Harbor Safety Plan (HSP) is not intended to supplant or otherwise conflict with federal, state or local regulations developed under legal authorities. Nor is the HSP intended to replace the good judgment of a vessel's master in the safe operation of his/her vessel or a pilot while piloting a vessel.

The Lower Columbia Region Incident Management Guidelines:

- Were cooperatively drafted by regulators and industry representatives and provide information unique to the river system.
- Are to be implemented in accordance with all International, Federal, State and Local regulations, and the normal practices of good seamanship.
- Constitute the Minimum Standards of Care to be used in all referenced operations on the Columbia River System.

2. Authorities

Incident reporting is subject to U.S. Coast Guard regulations, Title 46 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 4, Washington State Administrative Code regulations, and Oregon Administrative Rules addressing incident notifications. Vessels should carefully review the guidance in this chapter of the HSP for incident management.

3. Definitions

- **Marine Casualty** The term “marine casualty or accident” applies to events caused by or involving a vessel and includes, but is not limited to, the following: any fall overboard, injury, or loss of life of any person, any occurrence involving a vessel that results in grounding, stranding, foundering, flooding, collision, allision, explosion, fire, reduction or loss of a vessel's electrical power, propulsion, or steering capabilities, failures, or occurrences, regardless of cause, which impair any aspect of a vessel's seaworthiness, efficiency, or fitness for service or route, or any incident involving significant harm to the environment. This also includes any occurrences of injury or loss of life to any person while diving from a vessel and using underwater breathing apparatus.

- **Unified Command** is an organizational structure formed to coordinate the strategy for a unified response to a discharge or substantial threat of discharge of oil or a release or substantial threat of a release of a hazardous substance.

4. References

- 33 CFR 153 Notice of Discharge and Removal of Discharged Oil
- 33 CFR 155 Oil or Hazardous Material Pollution Prevention Regulations for Vessels
- 33 CFR 164.25 Required Equipment Tests
- 40 CFR 300.210 Federal Contingency Plans
- 40 CFR 300.211 OPA Facility and Vessel Response Plans
- 40 CFR 300.300 Discovery or Notification
- 40 CFR 355 Emergency Planning and Notification
- 40 CFR 370 Hazardous Chemical Reporting: Community Right-to-Know
- 46 CFR 4 Marine Casualties and Investigations
- 46 CFR 5 Marine Investigation Regulations – Personnel Action
- 46 USC CHAPTER 63 Investigation of Marine Casualties
- 46 USC CHAPTER 77 Suspension and Revocation
- Chapter 90-56 Revised Code of Washington (RCW) Oil and Hazardous Substance Spill Prevention and Response
- Chapter 173-180 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Facility Oil Handling Standards
- Chapter 173-182 Washington Administrative Code (WAC) Oil Spill Contingency Plan
- Chapter 340-142 Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Oil and Hazardous Materials Emergency Response Requirements
- Chapter 856 Division 19 Oregon Administrative Rules (OAR) Oregon Board of Maritime Pilots
- Columbia River Area Contingency Plan (ACP)

5. Reporting Requirements

For oil or hazardous material spills, or substantial threats of spills, reports must be made to the required federal and state agencies and as required in the vessel or facility response plan, if applicable.

As soon as is practicable, a vessel shall notify the USCG of any of the following:

1. Marine casualty as defined in 46 CFR 4.05-1;
2. Pollution reporting requirements in 33 CFR 151.15;
3. Defect or discrepancy in an aid to navigation;
4. Hazardous condition as defined in 33 CFR 160.204;
5. Improper operation of vessel equipment required by 33 CFR;
6. Situation involving hazardous materials as required by 49 CFR 176.48; or
7. Hazardous vessel operating condition as defined in 33 CFR 160.215.

A casualty on a vessel must be reported if it occurs upon the navigable waters of the U.S. (46 CFR 4.05-1); and involves one of the following:

1. An unintended grounding, or an unintended strike of (allision with) a bridge;
2. An intended grounding, or an intended strike of a bridge, that creates a hazard to navigation, the environment, or the safety of a vessel;
3. A loss of main propulsion, primary steering, or any associated component or control system that reduces the maneuverability of the vessel;
4. An occurrence materially and adversely affecting the vessel's seaworthiness or fitness for service or route, including but not limited to fire, flooding, or failure of or damage to fixed fire-extinguishing systems, life-saving equipment, auxiliary power-generating equipment, or bilge-pumping systems;
5. A loss of life; or
6. An injury that requires professional medical treatment (treatment beyond first aid) and, if the person is engaged or employed on board a vessel in commercial service, that renders the individual unfit to perform his or her routine duties.
7. An occurrence causing property-damage in excess of \$25,000, this damage including the cost of labor and material to restore the property to its condition before the occurrence, but not including the cost of salvage, cleaning, gas-freeing, drydocking or demurrage.
8. An occurrence involving significant harm to the environment as defined in §4.03-65.

Whenever a marine casualty meets one or more of the criteria above, it must be reported to the Coast Guard on a "Report Of Marine Accident, Injury Or Death" (CG-2692) Form supplemented as necessary by appended Forms CG-2692A (Barge Addendum) and CG-2692B (Report of Required Chemical Drug and Alcohol Testing Following a Serious Marine Incident) within five days as per 46 CFR §4.05-10.

B. Emergency Communications

1. Overview

This information is designed to assist foreign and domestic commercial vessels in easily communicating with appropriate agencies regarding various emergencies or unusual situations while operating in the Lower Columbia Region. This document is not intended to suggest a departure from existing procedures set forth by the International Maritime Organization and Federal Communications Commission for the handling of Distress or Urgency communications. Nor is this to be considered a departure or substitution from taking action in accordance with the vessel's required response plans. The Lower Columbia Region is served by the Sector Columbia River Captain of the Port (COTP) Command Center located in Warrenton, Oregon.

After the USCG has been informed of a casualty and the situation safely permits, the vessel should contact their agent at the soonest opportunity to make any additional required notifications.

For incidents involving threats of release or spills to water, the vessel or agent will notify Washington and Oregon State agencies of any potential spill situations as described in existing law and implementing protocols. For incidents other than threats of release or spills to water, the COTP will notify Washington and Oregon State agencies of any potential situations as described in existing law and implementing protocols.

In such circumstances, a decision will be made whether there is a need or advantage to stand up a Unified Command to address concerns associated with the situation. A determination will be made if a Unified Command is required based on the circumstances of each situation, jurisdictional responsibilities, and guidance found in the Columbia River Area Contingency Plan.

2. Spills, Marine Casualties, and Other Reportable Events

These include collisions, anchor dragging, grounding, oil spills and hazardous material releases of any amount, substantial threats of spills, equipment casualties, loss of propulsion (including even brief losses) and any other situation which results in the loss of vessel control or possible loss of control but does not immediately put lives at risk. Drifting for repairs is not permitted within the COTP zone. Vessels are expected to have fully functioning propulsion and steering while underway or at anchor or a standby/escort tug(s) will be required.

C. Oil or Hazardous Material Spill

1. Overview

Oil or hazardous material spills, as well as threats of spills, are regulated under the National Contingency Plan (NCP) and state laws. The response to a spill incident on the lower Columbia River will be “ramped up” to provide adequate equipment and trained personnel to effectively respond to the highest quantity of product that will most likely be released. Under the federal plan, response to spills or potential spills that affect state, tribal, or local waters are coordinated between agencies. Because of the nature of the Columbia River, spills can quickly impact both Washington and Oregon state waters. The USCG fills the role of Federal On Scene Coordinator for oil and hazardous materials spills on the navigable waterways in the Lower Columbia Region. Washington Department of Ecology (DOE) and Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) act as the State On Scene Coordinator(s) for spills and impacts to state waters. Together with the responsible party (the spiller), these agencies make up the Unified Command (UC). Additionally, depending on the specific circumstances and location local and tribal agencies with jurisdiction may also serve on the UC. The UC coordinates responses, mitigation, and cleanup efforts for spills in the Lower Columbia Region to protect public health and safety, response personnel, and the environment.

The USCG, Washington State, and Oregon State have legal requirements for vessel response plans, including notification requirements if there is a spill or a potential spill. Any vessel over 400 gross tons must have a vessel response plan for oil and hazardous material spills that is approved by the USCG. Any non-tank vessel over 300 gross tons operating in Oregon and Washington waters must have a vessel response plan for oil spills that is approved by DEQ and DOE. For tank vessels of any size operating in Oregon and Washington waters, the vessel must have a vessel response plan that is approved by DEQ and DOE. These state requirements may be met by enrolling in the umbrella plan covering the Lower Columbia and Willamette Rivers or filing a plan submitted by the vessel owner or operator with the states. The umbrella plan for the Lower Columbia Region is managed by the Maritime Fire and Safety Association (MFSA).

The Coast Guard, Washington State, and Oregon State conduct investigations of spills as authorized by federal and state laws. This may include boarding vessels, reviewing logs and records, and taking statements from witnesses.

2. Actions for an Oil or Hazardous Material Spill

- 1) **Stop the flow of product** by quickly closing valves and secure systems.
- 2) **Warn personnel of hazards** and enforce safety and security measures.
- 3) **Shut off the ignition sources** by stopping motors, electrical circuits, and restricting open flames.
- 4) **Contain/control the spill** by deploying boom or sorbent on the deck and in the water.
- 5) **Make notifications** to appropriate agencies/groups using your Vessel or Facility Response Plan.

Do not use cleaning or dispersing agents on the spilled oil. The use of these products is strictly controlled by federal and state laws and regulations and will result in fines or penalties.

3. Oil/ Hazardous Material Spill Reporting

This is not an all-inclusive list; operators must follow their vessel response plan as per applicable laws and regulations. If at a facility, the facility response plan requirements must be followed. The following notifications to agencies are required for spills on the Columbia River:

- | | |
|--|--------------|
| • National Response Center | 800-424-8802 |
| • Washington State Emergency Management Division | 800-258-5990 |
| • Oregon Emergency Response System | 800-452-0311 |

For incidents where there is a potential for a spill operators are required to make state notification and consider activating their vessel response plans.

The Maritime Fire and Safety Association (MFSA) can be reached at (503) 220-2055 if the vessel is covered by the umbrella plan. The MFSA Field Guide, required to be onboard all covered vessels, details reporting requirements and can be found at their website: www.mfsa.com.

D. Vessel Grounding

1. Overview

The unintended grounding of a vessel is a threat to the vessel, safe navigation, and the environment. Any grounding that causes vessel structural damage should be treated as a potential spill until the situation is evaluated by the vessel operator/owner and federal and state agencies. Utmost caution should be taken to prevent further damage to the vessel or pollution of the environment.

2. Actions for a Vessel Grounding

After addressing the immediate safety concerns associated with any vessel grounding (except for a planned grounding that does not create a hazardous situation) the vessel Master and/or Pilot must ensure the COTP is contacted immediately via VHF-FM CH 16 or at (503) 861-6211. The COTP will initially treat the situation as a distress situation and the first priority is to mitigate or respond to any threat to human life. Then the COTP may establish a communications schedule and request the vessel to periodically update its situation. If the waterway is blocked or needs to be closed, a Marine Safety Information Broadcast will be sent.

The master, or pilot, will be asked to provide the following information:

- a) Vessel Name
- b) Vessel Intentions
- c) Position/Heading/Situation/Relative position
- d) Vessel Type/Cargo/Ballast
- e) Type of grounding (stable, unstable)
- f) Type of bottom (sand, rock, mud)
- g) Drafts (Forward, amidship, and aft on both sides, before and after grounding)
- h) Vessel damage, if any
- i) Pollution (cargo/bunkers)
- j) Injuries/missing personnel
- k) Tank soundings - Ensure ALL tanks/voids are sounded and when completed those results are passed to the COTP immediately
- l) Traffic Management Problems
- m) On-scene weather conditions

The vessel must secure all necessary watertight closures to maximize watertight integrity and subdivision.

Until determined otherwise through sounding of the impacted tanks, all groundings are considered a potential oil spill threat. The vessel response plan should be activated, National Response Center (NRC) and state agencies should be notified, and the area contingency plan should be considered.

Coast Guard response personnel and state investigators may respond to the scene for initial assessment and on scene communications and supervision. The vessel may be directed to safe anchorage or mooring if it touched bottom but is still underway or easily refloated. The COTP will work with the vessel and Unified Command to initiate pollution response as necessary.

If the vessel is aground on a soft bottom, time is critical, and it has been determined there is no appreciable damage or additional risk of flooding, the Master/Pilot may promptly attempt to refloat the vessel following consultation with the Coast Guard. The vessel's Master and/or Pilot must be satisfied that any prompt attempt to refloat the vessel would minimize or not cause any further damage. If the vessel is holed (flooding/leaking) the Coast Guard will typically make an on scene assessment before permitting an attempt to refloat and/or move the vessel.

Vessels grounded such that they cannot promptly refloat under their own power without structural or environmental concerns, will be directed to develop a salvage plan. The salvage plan must be submitted and approved by the COTP or the Unified Command prior to any refloating attempts unless a rise in tide or other environmental changes create a safer opportunity.

This plan should be developed as required in the vessel response plan and in conjunction with their Qualified Individual (QI), owners, and classification society. The plan should address all stability and hull strength concerns. (Note: Owners and operators of oil tankers and offshore barges must have prearranged, prompt access to computerized shore based damage stability and residual structural strength calculation programs as per 33 CFR 155.240.)

The vessel may be instructed to keep propulsion on standby and the bridge manned in case the vessel floats free. Tugs may be required. The vessel will be required to activate the vessel response plan to minimize any pollution threat or have a pollution response contractor on standby if the vessel does not have a vessel response plan. Keep in mind the need for standing by, emergency search and rescue, a medical evacuation, weather conditions, weather forecast, and any lightering plans.

The type of bottom (mud, sand, gravel, rock) and the speed of the vessel (underway, maneuvering with tugs, dragged anchor in high winds) will most often determine the severity of the incident and the level of precautions to be taken until the vessel refloats. In most cases, a class society and/or marine surveyor will be required either on scene or to inspect damage and verify repairs.

E. Vessel Collision

1. Actions for a Vessel Collision

After a collision the COTP must be immediately contacted via VHF-FM CH 16 or at (503) 861-6211. A collision should be considered an extremely urgent situation until deemed otherwise. The first action is to minimize the risk to the safety of life. The COTP may establish a communications schedule and request the vessel(s) to give periodic updates to the situation. If the waterway is blocked or needs to be closed, a Safety Marine Information Broadcast will be issued.

The master, or pilot, will be asked to provide the following information:

- a) Vessel(s) name(s)
- b) Vessel Intentions
- c) Position/Heading/Situation/Relative position
- d) Vessel Type(s)/Cargo/Ballast
- e) Vessel Damage
- f) Pollution (cargo/bunkers)
- g) Injuries/missing personnel
- h) Tanks soundings - Ensure ALL tanks and voids are sounded, and communicate the results to the COTP immediately.
- i) Traffic management problem
- j) On-scene weather conditions

The vessel must secure all necessary watertight closures to maximize watertight integrity and subdivision.

If there is a threat of spill due to the collision, NRC and state agencies must be notified and state and federal vessel response and contingency plans activation considered.

Coast Guard response personnel and state investigators may respond to the scene for initial assessment and on scene communications and supervision and may form a Unified Command. If the vessels are joined, they may be directed not to separate until all necessary response and towing vessels are on scene and a determination of the vessel's stability has been made and concurred on by the COTP or Unified Command, and the master. The vessel will be asked to rig towing lines to the waterline, set out embarkation ladder, prep lifesaving gear, and have fire/towing & salvage plans ready. If vessel(s) are not joined, are stable, and have propulsion, they may be moved to a safe anchorage with an escort.

Notifications will be made to federal, state and local authorities. If cargo is potentially flammable or toxic the COTP will advise all responders of fire/explosion danger, and the vessel(s) should not engage equipment. Efforts should be made to assess wind direction, approach up wind, and notify downwind fire boards. The COTP will work with the vessel and Unified Command to initiate pollution response as necessary.

In most cases, a class society surveyor will be required either on scene or to inspect damage and verify repairs. Keep in mind the need for tugs standing by, emergency search and rescue, medical evacuation, and current or future weather conditions.

F. Bridge Allision

1. Actions for a Bridge Allision

Response to a bridge allision is similar in nature to a vessel collision. After an allision with a bridge the COTP must be immediately contacted via VHF-FM CH 16 or at (503) 240-9311 and 911 called to notify emergency services and the Department of Transportation of the incident. If there is a threat of spill due to the allision, NRC and state agencies must be notified and state and federal vessel response plan activation considered. A bridge allision should be considered an extremely urgent situation until deemed otherwise. The first action is to minimize the risk to the safety of life, particularly from damage to rail or roadway. The relevant bridge operator has to be notified as soon as possible to ensure the safety of anyone on the bridge. The COTP may establish a communications schedule and request the vessel to give periodic updates to the situation. If the waterway is blocked or needs to be closed, a Safety Marine Information Broadcast will be issued. The difference between a vessel collision and a bridge allision pertains to notifying the port authority and local bridge administration, which may result in closing the bridge or waterway.

The master, or pilot, will be asked to provide the following information:

- a) Vessel Name
- b) The name/location of the bridge involved in the allision.
- c) Vessel Intentions
- d) Position/Heading/Situation/Relative position
- e) Vessel Type/Cargo/Ballast
- f) Type of allision (hard contact, glancing blow, high or low speed)
- g) Vessel damage, if any
- h) Known injuries to people on or near bridge, and damage to bridge
- i) Pollution (cargo/bunkers)
- j) Injured or missing shipboard personnel
- k) Tank soundings - Ensure ALL tanks and voids are sounded, and communicate results to the COTP immediately.
- l) Traffic Management Problems
- m) On-scene weather conditions

G. Equipment Failures

1. Overview

33 CFR 164.25(a)(5) requires testing of the vessel's equipment 12 hours prior to entering port or getting underway.

A vessel's Master shall immediately take all precautions for the safety of the vessel, crew and environment and then notify the COTP of any mechanical or operational deficiency that would reduce the vessel's capabilities.

2. Actions for Equipment Failures

If the vessel needs to anchor and is unable to make it to the nearest safe anchorage it should consider anchoring in or near the channel. The Coast Guard will issue a Safety Marine Information Broadcast if the waterway is blocked or needs to be closed. Immediate action should be pursued to unblock the waterway.

The vessel's master, or pilot, shall immediately relay the following information to the COTP:

- a) Nature of the defect, deficiency, damage, failure or breakdown of the vessel's, machinery or navigational/radio equipment.
- b) Type of vessel, cargo and fuel capacity.
- c) Location and proximity to land or other navigational hazards.

Upon initial assessment, the vessel's master or pilot may be asked the following additional information:

- On-scene weather, visibility, tide, current, wind and sea state.
- Traffic density.
- Maneuverability of the vessel.
- Proposal to mitigate the deficiency.

If there is a threat of spill, NRC and state agencies must be notified and state and federal vessel response and contingency plans activation considered.

3. Safety Measures for Types of Equipment Failures

The following decision table serves as a guideline to vessel Owners, Masters or Operators to make timely and effective decisions to ensure an equivalent level of safety during a mechanical or operational deficiency.

Defects/ Deficiencies	Procedures and Safety Measures
Loss or reduction of Propulsion (LOP) while underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain the services of a tug of adequate horsepower or anchor as safety of navigation permits • Any reduction or loss of propulsion power must be reported to the COTP when the vessel cannot maneuver as described on the maneuvering information fact sheet and cannot establish propulsion ranging from full ahead to full astern movements. Inform the COTP at the onset of the incident and whenever situational changes warrant • Make both anchors ready for letting go • Prepare to anchor at the closest anchorage upon direction of the COTP • If at sea, determine and monitor the drift rate and track the vessel's position in relation to land. • If the LOP constitutes a substantial threat of a spill state agencies must be notified. • Correct deficiency before departing
Loss or reduction of steering capabilities or ship service generator while underway	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain the services of a tug of adequate horsepower or anchor as safety of navigation permits • Inform the COTP at the onset of the incident and whenever situational changes warrant • Make both anchors ready for letting go • Prepare to anchor at closest anchorage or moor at nearest harbor of safe refuge upon direction of the COTP • Correct deficiency before departing
Loss of all radars	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit only in daylight and good visibility • Inform the COTP at the onset of the incident and whenever situational changes warrant • Correct deficiency before departing
Loss of one radar	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit only in good visibility • Inform the COTP at the onset of the incident and whenever situational changes warrant • Correct deficiency before departing
Gyro failure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Transit only in good visibility • Inform the COTP at the onset of the incident and whenever situational changes warrant • Correct deficiency before departing

Defects/ Deficiencies	Procedures and Safety Measures
AIS or AIS Pilot Plug	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the COTP and Pilots at the onset of the incident. • Transit only permitted with pilot's concurrence for safety of navigation. • Correct deficiency before departing
Loss of required navigation equipment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inform the COTP and Pilots at the onset of the incident. • Correct deficiency before departing
Missing navigation chart(s)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact agent to supply chart(s) at entrance to Columbia River or appropriate pilot station (unless vessel meets IMO guidelines for ECDIS).
Propulsion or critical navigational equipment maintenance while at anchorage	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain the permission of the COTP prior to disabling the engine or equipment. • A tug of adequate horsepower may be required. • Inform the COTP at the onset of the incident and whenever situational changes warrant

H. Evaluating Drug and Alcohol Testing Requirements in an Incident:

Employer's Role: The Coast Guard puts responsibility for post-incident drug and alcohol testing on employers. Crewmembers *directly involved* in a marine casualty are required to undergo drug and alcohol testing by a DOT-approved laboratory (46 CFR 4.6, 46 CFR 16.240 & 33 CFR 95.035).

Incident Criteria-Serious Marine Incidents:

One or more deaths.

An injury requiring professional medical treatment beyond first aid and when person is a crewmember, the injury renders person unfit to perform routine vessel duties.

Damage to property in excess of \$100,000

Actual or constructive total loss of an inspected vessel.

Total loss of any self-propelled vessel of 100 or more gross tons.

Discharge of 10,000 or more gallons of oil into navigable waters.

Discharge of a reportable quantity of a hazardous substance into navigable waters or the environment.

Testing timeline:

Alcohol Testing-within 2 hours. If safety concerns prevent testing within 2 hours, testing should occur as soon as possible. If safety concerns prevent testing for over 8 hours from the incident, testing is not required after that time.

Drug Testing- within 32 hours

Documentation: Following a marine casualty that requires drug and alcohol testing, the results should be documented in a CG-2692B (Report of Required Chemical Drug and Alcohol Testing Following a Serious Marine Incident) and submitted the Coast Guard.

I. Medical Emergencies Aboard Ships at Anchor:

1. Purpose

This section is intended to fill a perceived gap between USCG Search and Rescue (SAR) procedures and shoreside Emergency Medical Services (EMS) for vessels anchored in the Columbia River.

Often, the quickest way for shipboard personnel to receive professional medical care is for a commercial launch service or tug boat to transport the crewmember to an ambulance, dispatched to the nearest dock.

2. Overview

Shipboard emergency medical care is performed by the ship's crew. If professional medical care is required, USCG Sector Columbia River and the ship's agent should be notified immediately.

- The USCG Flight Surgeon is available to provide guidance to:
 - Stabilize the patient until USCG arrives by boat or helicopter.
 - Recommend the patient be transported by quickest means to shoreside EMS.
- The ship's agent should arrange commercial transportation for professional medical care.

If the patient is to be transported by commercial launch, a qualified crewmember should attend to the medical care during transit and if necessary, a second crewmember to act as translator with the shoreside EMS personnel.

- It should be clear that in emergency situations, the safety of personnel is the priority.
- The closest Customs and Border Protection (CBP) office is to be notified at the earliest opportunity if foreign crewmembers are transported ashore.
- Foreign crewmembers should bring copies of their passports. Actual passports are to remain aboard the ship.

3. Considerations for contacting Emergency Services

The following tables provide information about the nearest berths to each anchorage that have been designated as “preferred” by the launch services due to accessibility for their vessels.

- Select the berth from the list of preferred berths for the anchorage
- For that berth, refer to the table with information on the emergency services available. Different jurisdictions may have different rules or requirements for emergencies on board a ship at anchor.

4. Preferred Docks for Launch Transfer to EMS Ambulance

This table provides the nearest berth for each designated anchorage where a launch could be boarded.

- For details on each berth, including nearest fire agency, refer to Emergency Services Information for Preferred Berths in section (5).

Designated Anchorage	Nearest Berth (preferred berths for launch access, medical emergency)
Astoria North Anchorage Between River Miles 14.0 and 17.8	Astoria, 17 th St. pier (RM 14.5)
Astoria South Anchorage Between River Miles 15.0 and 18.2	Astoria, 17 th St. pier (RM 14.5)
Longview Anchorage Between River Miles 64.0 and 66.0	Willow Grove (RM 60) Rainier boat launch (RM 68)
Cottonwood Island Anchorage Between River Miles 66.7 and 71.2	Rainier boat launch (RM 68) Kalama Marina (RM 75)
Prescott Anchorage Between Columbia River Miles 72.1 and 72.5	Rainier boat launch (RM 68) Kalama Marina (RM 75)
Kalama Anchorage Between River Miles 73.2 and 76.2	Rainier boat launch (RM 68) Kalama Marina (RM 75)
Woodland Anchorage Between River Miles 83.6 and 84.3	Kalama Marina (RM 75)
Henrici Bar Anchorage Between River Miles 91.6 and 93.9	Kalama Marina (RM 75) PoP Berth 603 (RM 102.6)

Designated Anchorage	Nearest Berth (preferred berths for launch access, medical emergency)
Lower Vancouver Anchorage Between River Miles 96.2 and 101.0	Kalama Marina (RM 75) PoP Berth 603 (RM 102.6) PoV Berth 10 (RM 104)
Kelley Point Anchorage Between River Miles 101.6 and 102.0	PoP Berth 603 (RM 102.6) PoV Berth 10 (RM 104) Cathedral Park (Willamette RM 6)
Upper Vancouver Anchorage Between River Miles 102.57 and 105.20	PoP Berth 603 (RM 102.6) PoV Berth 10 (RM 104) Vancouver Landing (RM 106.3)

5. Emergency Services Information for Preferred Berths

The following table provides information about how best to obtain emergency services to the Preferred Berths detailed in the table above.

- Note that most ambulance service providers WILL NOT leave their rig to provide care or transport to personnel who are on a ship at anchor.

DOCK NAME	ADDRESS / COUNTY	EMS CONTACT	NOTES
Astoria Area			
17 th St. pier	1792 Marine Dr. Astoria, OR Clatsop County	Clatsop 911	Astoria Fire will board vessel and will take launch to ship at anchor.
Crim's Island Area			
Willow Grove	6105 Willow Grove Rd. Longview, WA Cowlitz County	Cowlitz 911	Longview Fire will respond to a vessel at berth but will not board a ship at anchor. Cowlitz 2 will usually respond to a vessel at berth, but not likely to take a launch to reach a ship at anchor.
Longview Area			
Rainier Boat Launch	48 W. 7 th St. Rainier, OR Columbia County	Columbia 911	CRF&R will respond to a vessel at berth and would take launch to ship at anchor if deemed safe for responders.
Kalama Area			

DOCK NAME	ADDRESS / COUNTY	EMS CONTACT	NOTES
Kalama Marina	110 W. Marine Dr. Kalama, WA Cowlitz County	Cowlitz 911	Cowlitz 5 will board a vessel at berth and will take launch to ship with pre-boarding safety briefing.
Anchorage Launch Terminal	805 N. Hendrickson Dr., Kalama, WA Cowlitz County	Cowlitz 911	Cowlitz 5 will board a vessel at berth and will take launch to ship with pre-boarding safety briefing.
Portland Area			
Berth 603	Port of Portland, Terminal 6 7201 N. Marine Dr. Portland, OR 97203 Multnomah County	BOEC	Portland Fire & Rescue will respond to a vessel at berth and will assist a vessel at anchor using one of their response boats.
Cathedral Park	8940 N. Bradford St. Portland, OR Multnomah County	BOEC	Portland Fire & Rescue will respond to a vessel at berth and will assist a vessel at anchor using one of their response boats.
Vancouver Area			
Vancouver Landing	Port of Vancouver, Terminal 1 100 Columbia St. Vancouver, WA Clark County	CRESA	Vancouver Fire will board a vessel at berth and will take launch to ship at anchor but would prefer to use their own fire boat.
Berth 10	Port of Vancouver, Terminal 4 3103 NW Lower River Rd. Vancouver, WA Clark County	CRESA	Vancouver Fire will board a vessel at berth and will take launch to ship at anchor but would prefer to use their own fire boat.

*Note: Different docks may be used if transfer is made by tug boat due to freeboard and accessibility requirements.

6. Dispatch Information for Emergency Services Providers

The following table includes information for reaching each Emergency Services Provider through their public safety answering points (PSAPs).

- The phone numbers listed will reach their 911 center. Actually dialing 911 may not route you to your desired PSAP, depending on your location when making the call.

DISPATCH AGENCY	CONTACT PHONE NUMBER	AGENCIES REPRESENTED
CRESA (Clark Regional Emergency Service Agency)	(360) 696-4461	Vancouver Fire Department
Cowlitz 911	(360) 577-3076	Longview Fire Cowlitz 2 Cowlitz 5
Columbia 911	(503) 397-1521	Columbia River Fire and Rescue
Clatsop 911	(503) 325-4411	Astoria Fire
BOEC (Bureau of Emergency Communications)	(503) 823-1901	Portland Fire & Rescue

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
Harbor Safety Plan | Appendix 1

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
Updated logo. No content changes.	N/A	April 2023

Glossary of Terms

Term	Definition
Bunkering	The transfer of fuel.
Bankfull Stage	A given stage determined by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and used to schedule releases from reservoirs. Normally, Bankfull Stage is below Flood Stage.
Captain of the Port (COTP)	The Coast Guard officer designated by the Commandant to command a Captain of the Port Zone as described in Part 3 of Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations.
Captain of the Port (COTP) Zone	A zone specified in Title 33 Code of Federal Regulations, Part 3 and, for coastal ports, the seaward extension of that zone to the outer boundary of the EEZ.
Columbia River Datum (CRD)	The plane of reference from which river stage is measured on the Columbia River from the lower Columbia River up to Bonneville Dam, and on the Willamette River up to Willamette Falls. Equals 1.82 feet above Mean Sea Level (equivalent to NGVD) at Vancouver, Washington.
Lightering	The transfer of cargo in bulk from one vessel to another vessel while at anchor.
Lower Columbia Region Zone	The zone encompasses the Columbia River and its navigable tributaries from the seaward approaches to the Columbia River Entrance to Bonneville Dam.
Mean Lower Low Water (MLLW)	Tidal datum that is the average of the lower low water height of each tidal day observed over the National Tidal Datum Epoch. For stations with shorter series, simultaneous observational comparisons are made with a control tide station in order to derive the equivalent datum of the National Tidal Datum Epoch.
River Mile (RM)	The distance in statute miles beginning at the mouth of the Columbia River. Tables for converting statute miles to nautical miles are contained in Coast Pilot 7.
Stakeholder	Those individuals or groups who can have an affect on, or be affected by, maritime operations and other events with the coastal marine environment.
Standard of Care (SOC)	Standards of Care are the procedures and practices that experienced and prudent maritime professionals follow to ensure safe, secure, efficient and environmentally responsible maritime operations. Standards of Care are “good marine practices” that are developed and published to provide a guide for maritime professionals to consider and incorporate into their decision making process. Standards of Care complement the laws and

Term	Definition
	regulations and should they seem to conflict with law or regulation, the law or regulation always takes precedence.
State	For purposes of this Plan, we mean the State of Washington or State of Oregon.
Under Keel Clearance (UKC)	The vertical clearance under the keel of a ship to the channel bottom.
Vessel Response Plan (VRP)	The oil spill response plan, to which the vessel is subject, as required by Federal and/or State regulations.

Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
Harbor Safety Plan | Appendix 2

Acronyms

CHANGE LOG:

Changes Made	Sub-Committee	Date Approved
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Acronyms

AC	Area Committee
ACOE	(United States) Army Corps of Engineers
AIS	Automatic Identification System
AMSC	Area Maritime Security Committee
ANT	Advance Notice of Transfer
APIS	Advance Passenger Information System
ATB	Articulated Tug Barge
ATON	Aids to Navigation
AWO	American Waterways Operators
BTM	Bridge Team Management
CDC	Certain Dangerous Cargo
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
COLREGS	Int'l Regulations for Avoiding Collisions at Sea (Rules of the Road)
COTP	Captain of the Port
CRD	Columbia River Datum
DEQ	(Oregon State) Department of Environmental Quality
DOE	(Washington State) Department of Ecology
DWT	Deadweight Tons
ECDIS	Electronic Chart Display and Information Systems
eNOAD	Electronic Notice of Arrival/Departure System
ETA	Estimated Time of Arrival
ETD	Estimated Time of Departure
FMSC	Federal Maritime Security Coordinator
FSP	Facility Security Plan
GRP	Geographic Response Plan
GT	Gross Tons
HSC	Harbor Safety Committee
HSP	Harbor Safety Plan
ITU	International Telecommunication Union
IMO	International Maritime Organization
LCR	Lower Columbia Region
LCRHSC	Lower Columbia Region Harbor Safety Committee
LNМ	Local Notice to Mariners
LOA	Length Over All
MARPOL	International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution From Ships

MDA	Maritime Domain Awareness
MLLW	Mean Lower Low Water
MMSI	Maritime Mobile Service Identity
MTSA	Maritime Transportation Security Act
NOA	Notice of Arrival (i.e., U.S. 96 hour Notice of Arrival)
NOD	Notice of Departure
NOAA	National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
NRC	National Response Center
NTVRP	Non Tank Vessel Response Plan
OCIMF	Oil Companies International Marine Forum Guidelines
OCMI	Officer-in-Charge, Marine Inspection
OPA	Oil Pollution Act of 1990
OSC	On-Scene Commander
OSRO	Oil Spill Removal Organization
PIC	Person in Charge
RCP	Responsible Carrier Program
RCW	Revised Code of Washington (State)
RM	River Mile
RRT	Regional Response Team
SLNM	Special Local Notice to Mariners
SOC	Standard of Care
STBL	Ship to be Lightered
SOLAS	Safety of Life at Sea
STCW	Standards for Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping for Seafarers
TSS	Traffic Separation Scheme
UKC	Under Keel Clearance
USCG	United States Coast Guard
VRP	Vessel Response Plan
WAC	(State of) Washington Administrative Code
WDFW	Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife
WDNR	Washington Department of Natural Resources
WX	Weather