



Abandoned and Derelict Vessels

A chronic marine debris and oil/hazmat threat

United States Coast Guard (USCG)

Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy (CG-MER)

**Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating
Committee (IMDCC) Meeting
September 29, 2022**

Photo: South Carolina Department of Natural Resources

The Issues...



The Issues... continued

- A nationwide and international issue
- Affects commercial and recreational vessels
- Scope and scale of issue is hard to quantify
- Vessels accumulate in 'hot-spots'



Threats from Abandoned and Derelict Vessels (ADV)

- Oil and hazmat
- Smothering or destruction of sensitive habitats
- Navigation and trawl obstruction
- Interference with port operation
- Illegal dump site
- Nutrient enrichment
- Entrapment and safety hazard

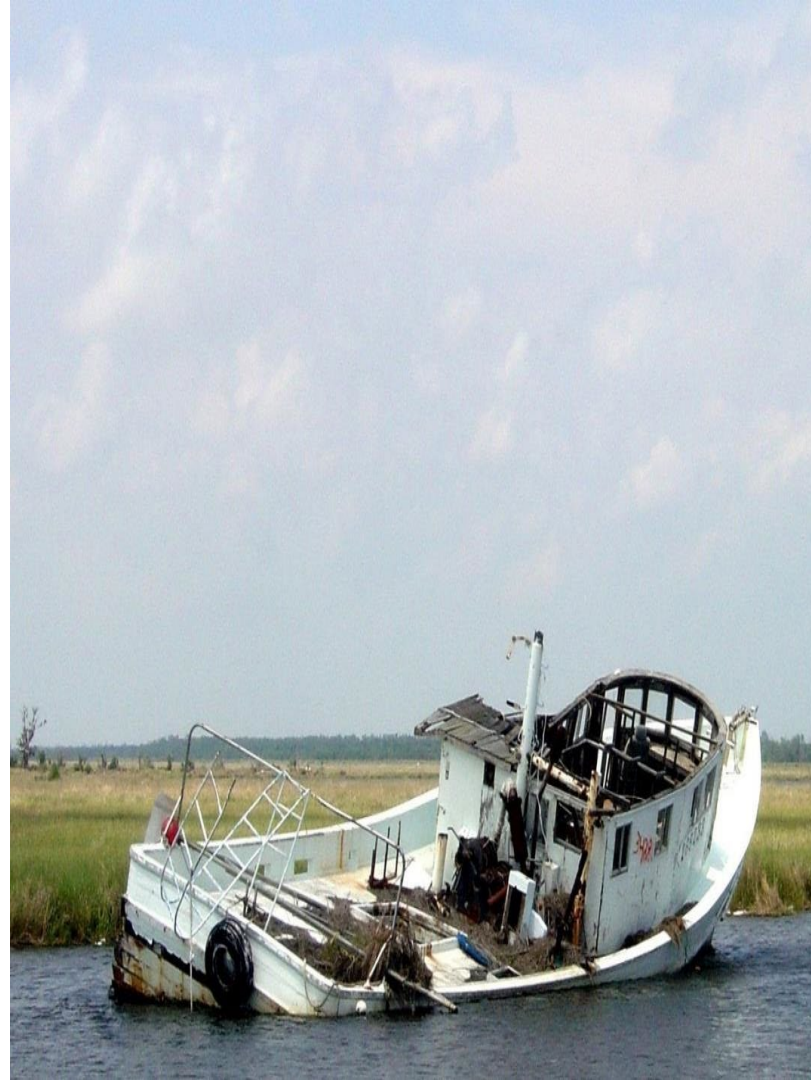


What's being done...



Interagency Working Group On Abandoned Vessel Response Authorities and Best Practices

- Co-chaired by USCG and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, with other NRT member agencies - especially Department of the Interior, Department of Justice, Navy Supervisor of Salvage and Diving, Environmental Protection Agency, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Department of State.
- Designed to provide the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) with best practices used for responding to abandoned vessels, the regulatory and policy authorities, and the roles and responsibilities of each agency.



NRT Abandoned Vessel Guidance

- Updated in 2020
- Provides guidance to response community
- Identifies roles/responsibilities
- Identifies best practices and lessons learned
- Addresses both National Contingency Plan and Stafford Act response types



Chair



Vice Chair



Member Agencies

ABANDONED VESSEL
AUTHORITIES AND BEST
PRACTICES GUIDANCE

2020 UPDATE
VERSION 10

NRT

Key Elements of this Guidance

- Definition of Terms
- Background/Overview
- Initial Vessel Assessment
- Response Authorities
- Funding Authorities
- Vessel Removal and Disposal Options
- Case Studies
- References



Chair



Vice Chair

NRT

ABANDONED VESSEL AUTHORITIES AND BEST PRACTICES GUIDANCE

2020 UPDATE
VERSION 10



Member Agencies

Vessel Removal and Disposal Options

- The document includes flowcharts for:
 - Vessels causing a release or threat of release
 - Vessels with no threat of release
 - Post disaster response
- General process and management options for removal and disposition of abandoned vessels, including recycling, dismantling, artificial reefing, and ocean disposal



Chair



Vice Chair

NRT

ABANDONED VESSEL AUTHORITIES AND BEST PRACTICES GUIDANCE

2020 UPDATE
VERSION 10



Member Agencies

ESF-10 Operations Guidance and Best Practices

- Provides USCG FOSCs with unified command, planning and operations guidance during Stafford Act Responses
- Addresses Vessel Assessments, Identification, Data Collection/Management, Pollution Recovery and Vessel Removal Operations

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security
United States
Coast Guard



Commandant
United States Coast Guard

2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE
Washington DC 20593-7516
Staff Symbol: CG-MER
Phone: (202) 372-2234
Email: Ricardo.M.Alonso@uscg.mil

16472
01 Dec 2020

MEMORANDUM

R. M. Alonso
From: R. M. Alonso, CAPT
COMDT (CG-MER)

Reply to: J.P. LaMorte
Attn of: 202-372-2262

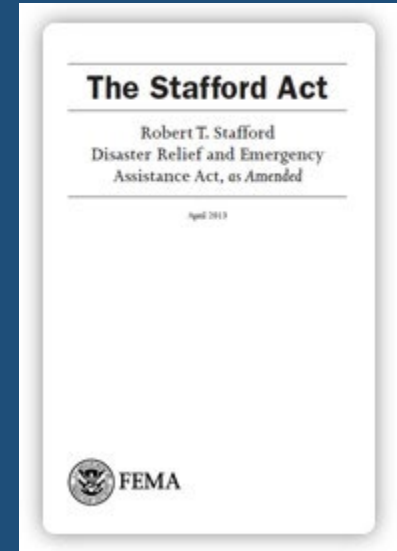
To: CG LANTAREA (LANT-5)
CG PACAREA (PAC-5)

Subj: EMERGENCY SUPPORT FUNCTION (ESF)-10 OPERATIONS GUIDANCE AND
BEST PRACTICES

1. **Background:** The recent hurricane seasons have revealed many lessons learned and challenges with respect to ESF-10 operations. When activated, ESF-10 Oil and Hazardous Materials Response provides Federal support in response to an actual or potential discharge and/or release of oil or hazardous materials. The purpose of this guidance is to outline the regulatory and policy authority of the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) in the event of an ESF-10 response. Because ESF-10 operations are conducted by leveraging Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) authorities in support of state requests and direction, this guidance is not meant to be prescriptive, but to provide recommendations for a multi-agency planning approach.
2. **Discussion:** When operating under the Stafford Act, activities directed under Mission Assignments may include responses to actual or threatened releases of materials not normally completed/approved by the U.S. Coast Guard under traditional FOSC authorities, but that address a threat to public health or welfare or to the environment. The Emergency Support Function 10 Operations Guidance and Best Practices (Guidance) is meant to provide the FOSC a best-practice approach to manage multi-agency priorities, timelines, and regulatory authorities under a Stafford Act response. Outlining the regulatory and policy authority of the USCG FOSC during an ESF-10 response, this Guidance specifically establishes best practices available for the mitigation of imminent and potential pollution threats and the transition to potential long-term ESF-10 vessel pollution recovery and removal operations for derelict, abandoned, and/or displaced vessels, barges, houseboats, and orphaned containers following a natural disaster.

Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (ESF-10)

- Coast Guard works in Partnership with FEMA
- States must declare a state of Emergency
- States incur a 25/75 cost share obligation



Abandoned Vessels, the National Pollution Funds Center & The Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF)

- A partial solution
- There are limitations
- Justification for using the OSLTF
 - Is the substance **oil**?
 - Is there a discharge or substantial threat of a discharge of oil?
 - Is the discharge or threat of discharge into navigable waters?
- Who determines the threat?
- Any success stories?



Contact Information

Allison Rychtanek

Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy

Allison.L.Rychtanek@uscg.mil



Thank You!