

Council Briefs

Newsletter of the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens Advisory Council

Second Quarter 2009

"The mission of the Council is to represent the citizens of Cook Inlet in promoting environmentally safe marine transportation and oil facility operations in Cook Inlet"

Perserverance: New and Improved

Cook Inlet RCAC was pleased to see the return of the spill response vessel Perseverance to duty for Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response Inc. (CISPRI) after being gone for nearly 9 months. The spill response cooperative purchased the Seabulk Nevada in June, 2008 and renamed it the Perseverance. Shortly thereafter, in early August, the vessel was sent to Lake Union Dry-dock in Seattle for repairs and inspection by the Coast Guard and

American Bureau of Shipping.

"The required repairs were quite extensive, but additional work was done to ensure that the vessel would be 'fit for service' for many years to come," commented Doug Lentsch, General Manager for CISPRI. "Our Members did not like to see the vessel gone for so long, but they remain committed to having a top-notch vessel available for spill response," added Mr. Lentsch.



The newly refurbished *Perseverance* leaving Seattle. Photo courtesy of CISPRI

The main engines of the newly

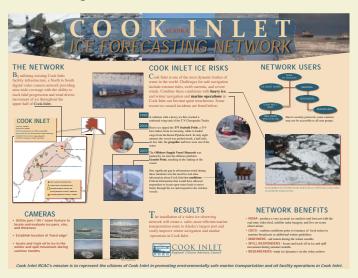
painted Perseverance were completely rebuilt and the shafts and propellers were inspected and repaired. Of the six main generators, three had their diesel engines rebuilt. Some major structural improvements to the vessel included replacing the steel in many areas including the hull, ballast tanks, potable water tanks, flume tank, bow thruster room, and the engine exhaust stacks. These improvements were completed to meet or exceed inspection requirements. Likewise, the piping within the internal tanks, engine room, bow thruster room, were also replaced to meet or exceed inspection requirements. The ballast tanks were coated to prevent corrosion and the keel coolers were repaired as well. To improve the navigation system, much of the electronics were replaced with new updated technology. The spill response capabilities of the Perseverance were also improved by increasing hydraulic power work stations on the aft deck to add options for deploying spill response equipment.

To comply with Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation regulations, several vessels with comparable capabilities, including the M/V Champion and the SPT Vigilance, took over response duties while the Perseverance was gone.

Ice Forecasting Network & GRIN at AMOP

The 2009 Arctic and Marine Oilspill Program and Technical Seminar (AMOP) held in Vancouver, British Columbia, June 9, 10, & 11 2009 afforded Cook Inlet RCAC an opportunity to present updates on two ongoing projects centered on prevention and response.. The AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response is an international forum on preventing, assessing, containing, and cleaning up spills of hazardous materials in every type of environment. It also deals with solutions for remediating and rehabilitating contaminated sites. This year, Vinnie Catalano, Cook Inlet RCAC Director of Operations, presented a poster of the Cook Inlet Ice forecasting Network, a follow up to the paper presented at last year's AMOP seminar.

The Poster presentation offered Cook Inlet RCAC the opportunity to answer questions



To see a full-size version of the Ice Forecasting Network poster visit the Outreach section at www.circac.org.

and present updated information about the project's progress from last year to this year. To illustrate the project's attributes and benefits a 3' by 4' color poster pointed out the extent of Ice Forecasting Network and camera locations. Other illustrations on the poster demonstrated how the network would serve the Cook Inlet maritime community, and oil spill responders. The poster was allowed to remain on display for viewing during coffee breaks between paper presentation ses-

sions. Staff accompanied the poster

during these times to answer questions and explain the project in detail to curious seminar attendees who expressed interest in the project and inquired about various aspects of the project's time line, access to the network, and the archived images.

Several members of the Prevention, Response, Operations and Safety (PROPS) Committee attended the seminar to gain an increased knowledge of recent advancements in prevention and response. The topics at AMOP ranged from Fingerprinting Analysis and Characterization of Hydrocarbons in sediments of the Pearl River Delta in China to Emergency Towing Systems for the Aleutian Islands, Alaska

"As always, the best solution is to keep oil from being spilled in the first place - Prevention is the Key," stated Jerry Brookman, public member of PROPS. "But since spill prevention is not perfect, equipment and techniques need to be improved and kept available in suitable locations and adequate quantities to respond to spills when they do occur."

In addition to the Ice Forecasting Network update, a Cook Inlet RCAC contractor gave a presentation on an updated version of the Geographic Resource Information Network (GRIN) project. This version of GRIN, like the original prototype, takes existing information from a number of sources, supplements that information as needed, and compiles both electronic and paper documents that allow the user to easily locate and view logistical information relevant to oil spill response in coastal Alaska. However, the new version uses an interactive GOOGLE TM map based system.

Information in the GRIN is organized by community, so that incident personnel assigned to a specific community (or a number of communities within a larger geographic region) are able to access a broad range of community specific information in one central location. Three major categories of information are presented – Community Profile, Liaison and Public Information, and Resources and Capabilities. GRIN uses the GOOGLE TM map format and pictures to provide responders with a

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visual reference to accompany textual information regarding the Resources and Capabilities category.

Tesoro Welcomes the T/V Overseas Boston

Tesoro introduced its new line of tankers to Cook Inlet at a ceremony on June 30. The welcoming ceremony for the T/V Overseas Boston, the first of four tankers from OSG America, included the presentation of a gift to the captain and a tour of the vessel. Guests included Vice-President of Refining for Tesoro Alaska Company, Steve Hansen; Kenai Peninsula Borough Mayor, Dave Carey, and his staff; Cook Inlet RCAC Executive Mike

Munger; and Cook Inlet RCAC Director of Operations, Vinnie Catalano.

The new vessels are built at Aker Philadelphia Shipyard and will replace Tesoro's current four time charter tankers which include the Seabulk Pride and Arctic. The ships, approximately 600 feet in length, are 48,815 dead weight, double hull tankers with roughly 444,000 bbl capacities. The other tanker scheduled to arrive in Cook Inlet this year is the Overseas Nikiski. The Overseas Martinez and



The bridge of the new tanker Overseas Boston. Photo courtesy of Tesoro

the Overseas Anacortes are slated for a 2010 arrival.

"Anytime new technology, such as these tankers, is introduced in Cook Inlet, we see this as a positive step toward navigational safety, commented Mike Munger, the executive director for Cook Inlet RCAC. "We appreciate the invitation to the welcoming ceremony and the tour of this vessel."