

Comments sought on draft Grays Harbor oil spill response plan

Local News

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OLYMPIA, Wash. - The Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Coast Guard are accepting comments through Oct. 15 on draft updates to a plan used to improve site-specific oil-spill response strategies for Grays Harbor.

The plan, called the Grays Harbor Geographic Response Plan, is designed to minimize the impact of spilled oil on sensitive natural, cultural, and economic resources during the early hours of an oil-spill incident.

The plan details contain site-specific spill response measures like oil-containment booming and notification strategies. It also establishes priorities based on potential spill locations and the proximity of sensitive resources to them.

The Grays Harbor Geographic Response Plan (GRP) is one of 19 such plans in the state. It covers shoreline and nearshore areas of Grays Harbor from Cosmopolis to the Pacific Coast (Grayland to Copalis Beach).

The current Grays Harbor GRP was published in March 2003. Work to update the plan began in August 2009. The updated draft version of the plan is significantly more detailed, and nearly six times larger than the existing plan. All parts of the existing plan were reviewed and updated, with two dozen response strategies added.

The plan was developed with input from citizens, resource managers, spill response contractors, industry representatives, and local officials.

All comments received will be reviewed and considered before the final version of the plan is produced.

Comments may be submitted to GRPs@ecy.wa.gov or mailed to Washington Department of Ecology, Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (GRPs), P.O. Box 47600, Olympia, WA 98504-7600.

The GRP is part of the larger Northwest Area Contingency Plan.