Public Invited to Help Update Grays Harbor Spill Response Plan

Local News

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GRAYS HARBOR COUNTY, Wash. - The public is invited to help the state Department of Ecology (Ecology) and U.S. Coast Guard (Coast Guard) update and improve site-specific oil-spill response strategies used for Grays Harbor. These are called geographic response plans.
Ecology and the Coast Guard will hold a workshop on Tuesday, Aug. 25, 2009, from 10:30 a.m. to noon at the Aberdeen Timberland Library, 121 E. Market St., Aberdeen.
The workshop will give citizens, resource managers, spill response contractors and oil-industry representatives the opportunity to help the state and federal response agencies identify any new information that might make the geographic response plan strategies for Grays Harbor more effective.

Geographic response plans are tailored to reduce the effects of oil spills to sensitive natural, cultural and economic resources. The goals of the workshop are to:
* Provide information about the use and expectations of geographic response plans during spill incidents.
* Solicit local information to update existing geographic response plans, including site-access points such as boat ramps and marinas, as well as sensitive natural resources, cultural resources and significant economic resources.
* Ensure that those attending understand the plan-updating process and are provided the opportunity to participate.
For more information about geographic response plans and the upcoming Grays Harbor workshop, visit Ecology's Web site: http://www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills ... dness/GRP/GRPWorkshop.htm