Western Washington University
Western CEDAR

Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference

2014 Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference (Seattle, Wash.)

May 2nd, 1:30 PM - 3:00 PM

Deep Sea Incident: Oil Spill Response Capacity Enhancement using Local Volunteers

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Salish Sea Conference 5/2/14

Enhancing Oil Spill Response Capacity using Local Volunteers

Getting the right people in the right place at the right time

Creativity

Collaboration

Focus on Solutions

A Case Example

- Winter 2011
  DV Deep Sea was anchored in Penn Cove, Whidbey Island
- May 12, 2012 - May 14, 2012
  Deep Sea caught fire and sank
- **An incident response team was assembled**
  - WA DOE Team Lead
  - WA DFW
  - US Coast Guard
  - Island County Emergency Response Staff
- **The decision was made to refloat the vessel**

Seattle Times Photo

Incident Response Considerations

- **Assess the shoreline** and nearshore during retrieval
- **Use resources efficiently**
- **Maximize effectiveness**
- **Foster positive community outreach**
- ***Volunteers might assist with these considerations based on prior positive experience (with WSU Beach Watchers)***

Considerations

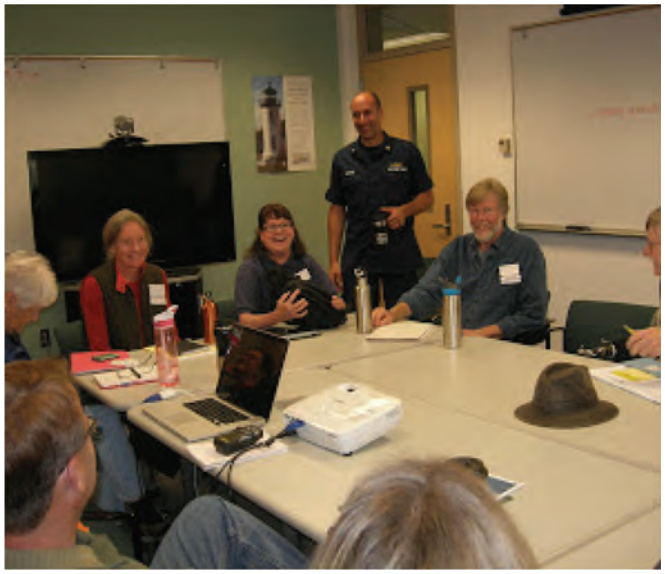
- **Situation developed rapidly**
  - Required capable, mature assistance
  - Able to respond within hours
- **Situation was dynamic and had to be managed**
  - Training re: FEMA Incident Command System required
- **Situation was hazardous**
  - Training re: hazardous materials required

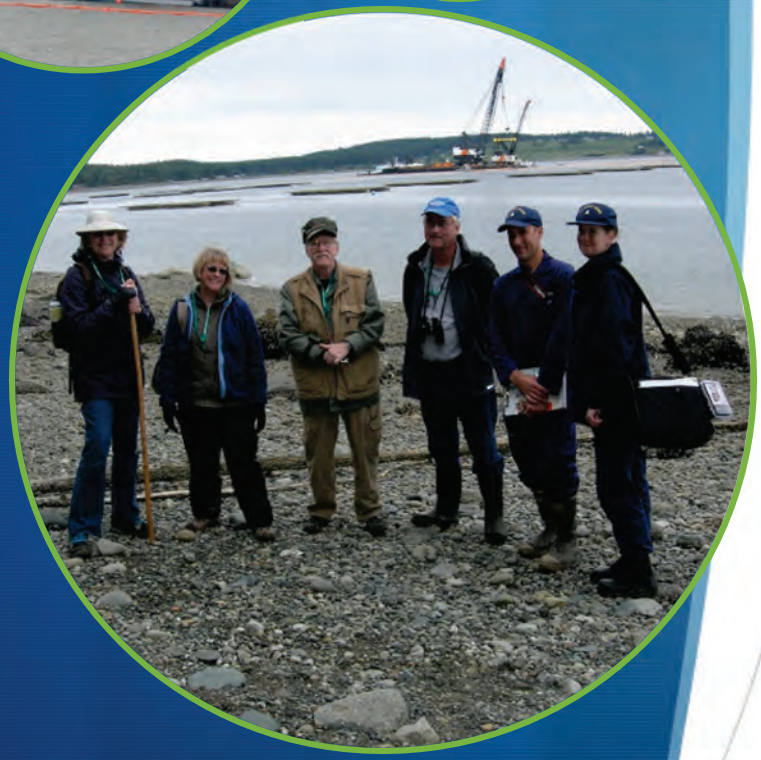
Volunteer Capacity

- An existing pool of local residents already trained in nearshore biota and experienced in field protocols
- Staff able to select capable, mature Individuals to participate
- Many with previous hazmat training but none were currently certified
- ***How could training requirements be accomplished?***

A Just-in-time Solution

- **Mobilized a select group of volunteers**
- **Each secured FEMA ICS 100 certification (web-based)**
- **Provided US Coast Guard customized, incident-specific hazmat training**
- **Assigned volunteers in teams under the supervision of fully trained Coast Guard personnel**





Teams were deployed to assess the shoreline and nearshore as the Deep Sea was raised

- Sunday, June 3 the Deep Sea was raised
- US Coast Guard personnel were accompanied by teams of volunteers who augmented assessment capacity

Incident response objectives were supported (advantages)

- Shoreline assessment was enhanced
- Additional resources were mobilized at minimal cost
- Volunteers became informed and enthusiastic and provided accurate **community outreach**

The mission of WSU Island County Beach Watchers was supported

To maintain and protect a thriving Salish Sea ecosystem through education, community outreach, stewardship, and research.

WSU BEACH WATCHERS
ISLAND COUNTY

WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY
ISLAND COUNTY EXTENSION

This situation succeeded in getting the right people in the right place at the right time

Using

Creativity

Collaboration

Focus on Solutions

And… the foundation was laid for future collaboration if needed again

Challenges

- **Liability**
- **Incident Intensity**
- **Volunteer skills and knowledge**
- **Capacity for rapid response**
- **Others….**

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