Positive Impacts of the 2013 Update to the Canadian Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan – National and Regional Perspectives

A Model for Highly Cooperative International Spill Preparedness and Response

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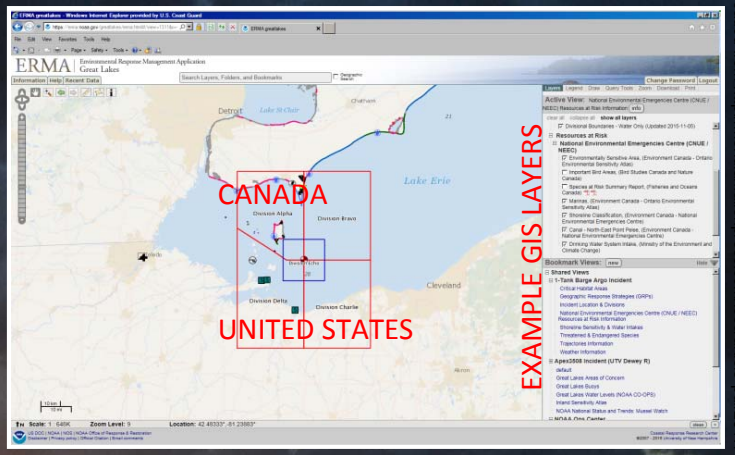
Background. The Canadian Coast Guard and United States Coast Guard (CANUS) Joint Marine Pollution Contingency Plan (JCP) was initially developed for the Great Lakes Region between both countries in June 19, 1974. The CANUS JCP facilitates a joint response framework for cross-border pollution spill preparedness and response. In 1983, both countries agreed to add four additional geographic annexes outside of the Great Lakes Region. These annexes include Atlantic Coast, Pacific Coast, Dixon Entrance and the Beaufort Sea (National Response Team, 2013). United States Coast Guard (USCG) District Commanders and Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) Regional Directors, Maritime Programs are responsible for reviewing, updating and exercising each regional annex.

2013 Update. The 2013 update of the National CANUS JCP covered a 10-year period which included overall spill governance lessons learned including the United States' 2010 Deep Water Horizon Spill. There were two significant improvements to the 2003 plan: First was the **creation of a National JCP Committee**. The National JCP Committee established strong executive oversight from each country. Co-chairs National JCP Committee were established by the 2013 CANUS JCP. The Director, Preparedness and Response for the CCG and the Chief, Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy, for the USCG. Co-chair responsibilities of the National JCP Committee include oversight and support to the Regional JRT's preparedness and response activities pursuant to the Regional Annexes of the JCP (National Response Team, 2011). A third level of support was established to the National JCP committee by the establishment of an Executive Secretariat. The second, significant improvement was the expansion of the geographic scope to include a provision of mutual for Harmful Substances Incidents in non-adjacent waters, the original scope limited the JCP to the contiguous waters of each nation.

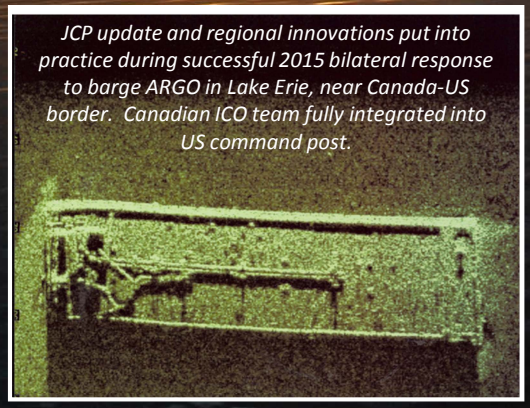
Regional Impacts & Innovations. In executing the 2013 JCP update, the CCG Central & Arctic Region and USCG Ninth District prototyped an **International Coordinating Officer** (ICO) concept, established a **combined Canadian Science Table and U.S. NOAA SSC environmental team** & combined Canadian & U.S. GIS data for **consolidated common operating picture**. The CCG and USCG Ninth District subsequently enacted the ICO during a table-top exercise, full scale exercise, and the real-world response to the ARGO (see inset). **Next Steps**. In 2016 a team of both US and CCG members was established to formalize and create the roles & responsibilities of the **International Coordinating Officer** (ICO).

2016 CANUSLAK Annex (Great Lakes) signing Formalized International Coordinating Officer position



Consolidated Canada-US GIS picture for 2015 ARGO response

Successful use of International Coordinating Officer (ICO) & combined Canada-US science table for seamless ARGO response



JCP update and regional innovations put into practice during successful 2015 bilateral response to barge ARGO in Lake Erie, near Canada-US border. Canadian ICO team fully integrated into US command post.

References. Canadian Coast Guard – United States Coast Guard Joint Marine Contingency Plan (2013)

Canadian Coast Guard – United States Coast Guard Joint Marine Contingency Plan CANUSLAK (Great Lakes) Annex (2016)

CANUSLAK Website:
http://www.uscg.mil/d9/D9Response/canuslakjrt.asp

U.S. Coast Guard (2016b). 2016 CANUS Multi-Annex Workshop – Event Summary
https://www.uscg.mil/d9/D9Response/docs/2016%20CANUS%20Multi-Annex%20Workshop%20Summary.pdf

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