



Canada / United States Great Lakes CANUSLAK Joint Response Team (JRT)



Annual Meeting Minutes • Clayton, NY • August 20, 2019



Boom deployment at Kring Point State Park as part of CANUSLAK full scale exercise

Participants

Martin Blouin	CCG Central & Arctic Region
Amanda Greer	CCG Central & Arctic Region
Joanne Munroe	Canada Energy Regulator
Christopher Linfield	Transport Canada
Jerry Popiel	USCG Ninth District
TJ Mangoni	USCG Ninth District
Joe Boudrow	USCG First District
CAPT Lexia Littlejohn	USCG Sector Buffalo
CSCS Jami Wheeler	USCG Sector Buffalo
CDR Stacey Crecy	USCG Sector Detroit
LCDR Megan Drewniak	USCG MSU Toledo
Carl Pellegrino	USEPA Region 2

Welcome and Introductions. Per section 304.2 of the Canada-U.S. Joint Marine Contingency Plan, the 2019 CANUSLAK JRT Meeting was held on the morning of August 20, 2019 at the Clayton, NY, fire department's emergency management facility. The JRT meeting was conducted as part of the full-scale CANUSLAK exercise on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

Agency Updates

USCG.

- Jerry Popiel provided the U.S. Coast Guard update. The Ninth District has a new commander, Rear Admiral Donna Cottrell, who took command this summer.

- The Ninth District is working on a personnel qualification standard (PQS) – U.S.-side only at this time – to develop future CANUSLAK International Coordinating Officers (ICO). The draft ICO PQS is formatted for U.S. use, but may be of value to CCG and others.
- Also starting an Endangered Species Act compliance project for the U.S. portion of the Great Lakes. It is a regional attempt to create a Biological Evaluation that the U.S. services (U. S. Fish and Wildlife) may analyze to determine the impacts of spill response activities on endangered species. Goal is to use best practices to minimize adverse effects of response to endangered species.
- Continuing a regional emphasis on area contingency plans (ACP). The USCG second annual ACP national review panel was held in July and Sector Detroit's ACP was one of the ones evaluated.
- Continuing efforts to put ACP geographic response strategies (GRS) into NOAA's Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA), a GIS system designed for environmental response. Some GRS were evaluated as part of the exercise that took place this week, comparing planned ACP GRS with actual deployment to gauge potential effectiveness.
- Included a brief overview of USCG fiscal year 2018 oil spill response measures.



Incident command post at Clayton, NY, fire department

CCG.

- Martin Blouin and Amanda Greer provided the Canadian Coast Guard update. The CCG is considering relocating some response equipment to the Thunder Bay, Ontario, area. Currently in the process of evaluating the moves.
- The CCG Central & Arctic Region has a new Director of Incident Management, Jean Francois Joly. Part of his portfolio is Environmental Response.
- As part of the Oceans Protection Plan, are conducting additional outreach to indigenous groups for environmental response and preparedness.

- The CCG is putting a large focus on National, Regional and Sectorial plans over the next year.
- Working on a derelict vessel removal project, covering both commercial and recreational vessels.
- Disseminated copies of the CCG's Arctic Risk Assessment, a great product that evaluates risk from environmental threats in the vessel passages. Possible model for risk assessment for Great Lakes on a region-wide basis.
- Holding a CCG planning meeting in Quebec on October 22-24.
- Evaluating additional ice-capable oil skimmers for CCG use.

Canada Energy Regulator

- Joanne Munroe provided the Canada Energy Regulator update. With the coming into force of the Canadian Energy Regulator Act on August 28th, the National Board will now become the Canada Energy Regulator.
- Most field level operational functions related to emergency management will not change, although inspection officers will receive additional authorities to bring them in line with other federal inspectors.
- There have been no pollution incidents from NEB-regulated infrastructure that have impacted the Great Lakes since the last JRT meeting.
- There was an unauthorized ground disturbance in the Detroit River over the Plains Midstream Canada and Kinder Morgan Utopia pipelines in June of this year. No pipeline damage occurred, although pipelines were shut down as a precaution until integrity assessments were completed. Coordination measures between Canada and the United States worked well.

Transport Canada

- Chris Linfield provided the Transport Canada update. Chris was representing TC on behalf of Norman Monteiro and Shannon Seko and this was his first JRT meeting.
- Transport Canada has recently published a new set of regulations called the "Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessels Act" Under this act it now requires owners of vessels 300 gross tonnes and above to maintain and carry proof of insurance capable of covering the potential costs related to wreck removal, as well as any losses that might be claimed as a result of the wreck.

U.S. EPA Region 2

- Carl Pellegrino provided the US EPA Region 2 update. Over the past year or so, hurricane response to southern Region 2 has been the big story. Was a major resource commitment in Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands.

- Region 2 has been engaged with geographic response plan work in the Lake Champlain and other inland river areas, targeting crude oil by rail preparedness.
- Will be conducting a tabletop exercise in Port Henry in September 2019, targeting rail preparedness.

USCG Sector Buffalo.

- CAPT Littlejohn provided the USCG Sector Buffalo update. Near-record high water levels, particularly on Lake Ontario, has posed some operational challenges.
- An apparent uptick in the occurrence of mystery drum cases.
- Thanks to the CCG for their assistance in prosecuting a mystery drum case on the CANUS border near Niagara-on-the-Lake

Recent incidents

- The meeting participants discussed briefly the two significant cross-border incidents in the region during 2019 so far, a vessel (M/V ALGOMA NIAGARA) break-free/anchor drop near-miss near a submerged pipeline in the Detroit River on June 17 mentioned earlier by Joanne Munroe, and a Canadian National train derailment in the tunnel underneath the St. Clair River on June 28 where parts of the derailed train existed on both sides of the border. The CANUSLAK participants observed excellent cooperation during both incidents as result of the relationships developed under this Annex.

Exercise Schedule

- Next up is the CANUSLAK St. Clair River exercise in September. A Shell Oil scenario, with additional GRS validation for the USCG and validation of the CANUSLAK ICO Job Aid.
- 2020 CANUSLAK Exercise. Tentatively planning on western Lake Erie, using a vessel scenario (date to be determined). CCG requested not to do in the middle of summer, choose either earlier or later in the year. This would be an add-on to the planned CG MSU Toledo area exercise.
- 2021 CANUSLAK Exercise. Tentatively planning on western Lake Superior (Isle Royale area, date to be determined). CCG requested not to do in the middle of summer, choose either earlier or later in the year. This would be an add-on to the planned CG MSU Duluth area exercise.

Proposed changes to the CANUSLAK Annex

- The entire CANUSLAK Annex was re-signed in 2016 and is overall still valid in most respects.

- Need to update the contacts section with the correct region POC names. Consideration will be given to including those contacts that attend the JRT meetings versus those with agency responsibility for the Great Lakes Annex.
- Will evaluate the need for a risk assessment section in the Annex, requesting guidance at the national level how detailed this is envisioned.
- Will evaluate the need for better in-situ burning and chemical countermeasures section of the Annex, as part of it was based on draft RRT 5 guidance.

Next meeting

- Tentatively we have scheduled the next CANUSLAK JRT meeting to be held May 20, 2020, in Sarnia, Ontario, at the CCG facility.