

# Lummi Nation Emergency Management Involvement: Oil Spill Response



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Northwest Straits Marine Conservation Foundation  
Community Engagement for Oil Spill Response and Readiness  
Squalicum Boathouse, Bellingham WA  
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# Purpose Statement

- The purpose of this presentation is to describe the Lummi Nation oil spill response program including:
  - Reasons why the Lummi Nation developed an oil spill response program;
  - Staff training efforts;
  - Lummi's oil spill response equipment;
  - Lummi's programmatic actions related to oil spill response;
  - Current program development focus areas.



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# Why Did the Lummi Nation Develop an Oil Spill Response Program?

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# Lummi is a Fishing Tribe



Largest Northwestern  
Tribal Fishing Fleet



Treaty Rights to a Commercial,  
Ceremonial, and Subsistence  
Harvest



# Lummi is a Fishing Tribe

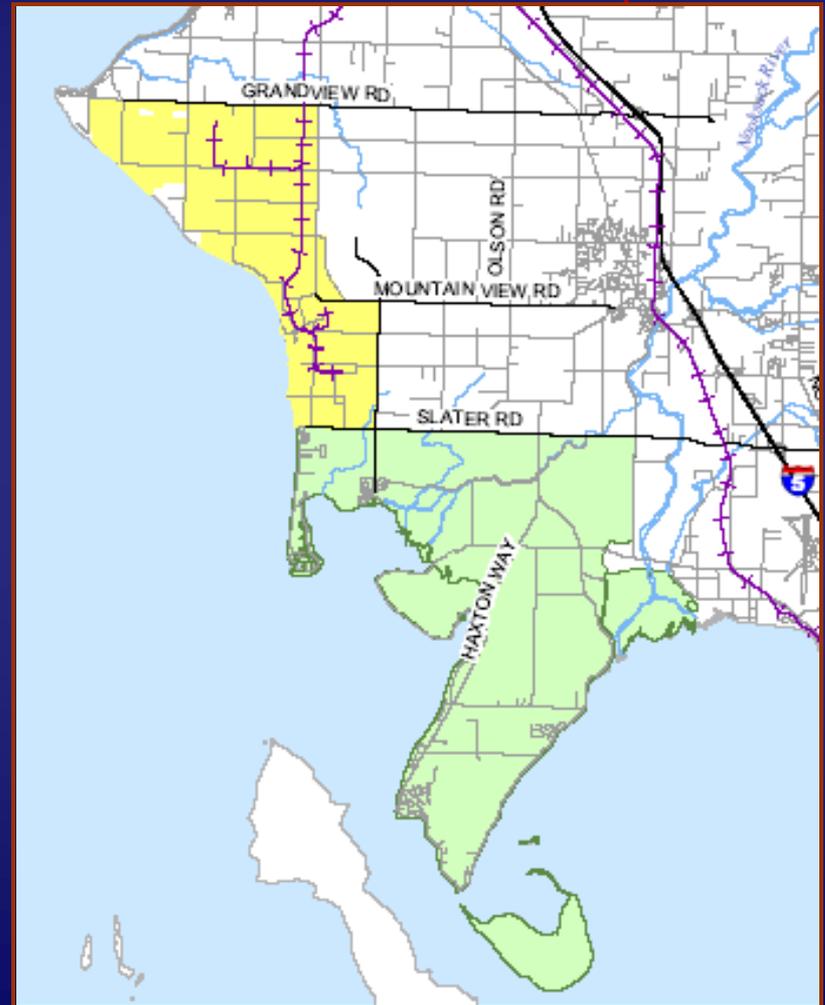


Harvests require access to fishing grounds and stations that are not contaminated with toxic substances



# Reservation Location

- Proximity to Cherry Point Heavy Impact Industrial Zone
- Proximity to Georgia Strait, Puget Sound, Bellingham Bay, Shipping Lanes, and Anchorages
- Proximity to Anacortes / March Point Refineries



# Why Develop an Oil Spill Response Program?



- To protect human health and the environment from spills of oil and hazardous substances
- Most effective way to minimize impacts is to:
  - Take measures to prevent releases
  - Be prepared to take steps if release occurs
- Four steps of spill prevention and response:
  - Prevention – proper storage and handling
  - Preparation – have plans and training
  - Response – quick reaction to an emergency
  - Recovery – return the environment to pre-accident conditions



# Off-Reservation Spill Sources



- Two Petroleum Oil Refineries
  - Crude oil and products by tanker, barge, pipeline, and train; products such as gasoline, jet fuel, diesel, heating oil, propane, butane; process materials such as sulfuric acid, sodium hypochlorite, hydrofluoric acid
- Aluminum plant
  - Alumina, chlorine, sulfuric acid, diesel, gasoline, sodium hydroxide
- Cogeneration facility
  - Natural gas, anhydrous ammonia, sulfuric acid, diesel



# On-Reservation Spill Sources

- Boat launch and boat storage
  - Gasoline and diesel, vessel sinkings
- Gas stations
  - Gasoline, diesel, propane
- Marina
  - Oil and fuel spills, sewage spills
- Roads
- Construction sites





# Staff Training Efforts



# Training Goals

- Establish a Lummi Spill Response Team
  - LNR, Law Enforcement, and LNTHPO staff plus fishers
  - HAZMAT training
  - Focus on response training
  - Policy and technical staff support
  - 24/7 availability
  - Able to work in shifts for long time scale response efforts (i.e., 24 hours, 3+ days)





# Training Focus

● Provide training to ensure a safe and effective response:

- OSHA training – awareness, operations, general site worker
- ICS training focus
  - Unified Command
  - Planning Section
  - Operations Section
- “Table Top” spill drills (Establish relations, ICS proficiency)
- Boom deployment drills to practice and test the GRPs
- Emergency Management training – FEMA, WA EMD
- Recovery documentation and preparation - FEMA





# Lummi Oil Spill Response Equipment

# Lummi Oil Spill Response Equipment



- Equipment Includes:
  - Spill Response Boats
    - LNR has a 26 foot “Responder” and 16 foot skiff
    - Lummi Police have three boats
  - Boom Trailer that holds 1,200 ft of 8” x 12” boom
  - Boom (1,500 feet) and Tow Bridles (6 units)
  - Boom Anchor Systems (four 22 lb; four 40 lb anchors and buoys)



# Lummi Oil Spill Response Equipment



- Equipment (Continued):
  - Spill kits
  - Oil snares and oil sweeps
  - Sorbent pads and boom
  - Personal Protective Equipment
  - Communication – radios, cell phones
  - 5 hp Pump
  - Flashlights
- Equipment is included in the Western Response Resource List (WRRL)



# Oil Spill Response Related Programmatic Actions



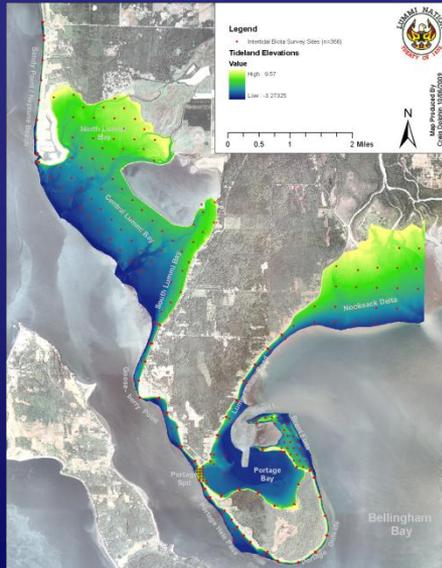
# Programmatic Actions



- Tribal Land Use Permitting
  - Storm Water Management – Pollution Prevention Plans
  - Spill response conditions incorporated in permits
- Water Quality Monitoring
  - Ambient monitoring program
  - Spill response sampling
- Clam Surveys
  - Tideland resources

# Programmatic Actions

- Lummi Inter-tidal Baseline Inventory (2010)
  - Pre-disaster ecological assessment of Reservation tidelands
- Six Surveys
  - Topographic
  - Inter-tidal biota
  - Large bivalve
  - Finfish
  - Shorebird and marine mammal
  - Petroleum toxicity baseline
- Over 242 separate taxa documented



# Programmatic Actions



- Participation in the scoping and review of vessel traffic safety studies being conducted for the proposed GPT and Kinder-Morgan projects in particular but also the three other studies being conducted.
  - Contracted technical expert



# Current Program Development Focus

# Current Program Development Focus



- Increase participation of LNR, Police, and LNTHPO staff in Industry-sponsored and LNR sponsored spill drills
- Increase participation of staff from other tribal governments in Industry-sponsored spill drills
- Update the 2005 Lummi Nation Spill Prevention and Response Plan



## Tribal 24-hr HazMat & Oil Spill Awareness Course

Sponsored by the Lummi Nation, US EPA Region 10, and the NW Regional Response Team

September 24-26, 2014  
Silver Reef Hotel, Casino & Spa  
Lummi Indian Reservation



Tribal officials and representatives that have responsibilities in Cultural Resources, Forests, Fisheries, Water Resources, Law Enforcement, Fire Department, Emergency Planning, TENC, Wildlife Protection, or Environmental Protection are invited to attend this FREE 24-hour HazMat and Oil Spill Awareness Course taught by the US EPA. Participants will learn the basic skills needed to assist in responding to a hazardous materials and/or oil spill incident, including health/safety, basic chemistry, use and types of personal protective equipment, agency responsibilities and resources. Additional skills taught will include information related to integrating tribal responsibilities into the Incident Command System (ICS) pursuant to the Northwest Area Contingency Plan ([66020/www.nwrtp.org/nwacp/](http://66020/www.nwrtp.org/nwacp/)). At their discretion, Tribes may determine if it meets the OSHA 24-Hr HazMat Technician or 24-Hr HazMat Refresher requirement.

A block of 20 discounted rooms has been reserved at the Silver Reef Hotel. Please call 360-362-0777 ext. 135 and mention "Lummi Natural Resources Hazmat & Oil Spill Response Training" when making reservations. Space is limited to 45 participants in the training - please register today!

To register, please contact:  
Josie Clark, US EPA  
(206)653-6219 or  
[clark.josie@epa.gov](mailto:clark.josie@epa.gov)

Training Information:  
Location: Silver Reef Hotel, Casino & Spa  
4876 Houston Way, Ferndale, WA 98248  
Times: 9:00 am-4:30 pm (each day)



# Summary and Conclusion

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# Summary and Conclusions

- A major oil spill could potentially destroy the environment and associated natural resources that the Lummi People have relied on since time immemorial for commercial, ceremonial, and subsistence purposes.
- The Lummi Nation has been developing its oil spill prevention and response capabilities since the mid-1990s in order to minimize the risk of a spill and to help ensure a safe and effective response in the event of a spill.



# Summary and Conclusions

- This effort has included:
  - Programmatic actions to prevent spills from occurring in the first place; and
  - Providing training, acquiring equipment, and participating in both table top and boom deployment oil spill drills to increase the chances of achieving or supporting a safe and effective response to small and large oil spills.



# Questions?



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