Islands Trust Concerns re: Oil Spill Preparedness

Role of Local Government during Oil Spill Response Session

For: AVICC Convention, April 14, 2012
By: Sheila Malcolmson, Islands Trust Council Chair

- 5200 square kilometers (2K square miles)
- 13 major and 450 smaller islands
- 25,000 residents
- Established in 1974

Islands Trust Fast Facts

The Islands Trust ‘Object’

The object of the Trust is to preserve and protect the Trust Area and its unique amenities and environment for the benefit of the residents of the Trust Area and of British Columbia generally, in cooperation with municipalities, regional districts, improvement districts, other persons and organizations and the government of British Columbia.

2009 averted oil spill prompts Islands Trust concern

Islands Trust Council asked:

What led to these incidents?
Are we ready for worst case scenario?

Near disaster – again!

March 2, 2011
Cape Vanguard
Shouted too close to the rocks in Plumper Sound
Busy and Getting Busier

Container vessel traffic in Canada’s Pacific Gateway predicted to
- Double by 2021-2016
- Nearly triple by 2030

Also growing:
- Crude oil tanker and barge traffic
- Cruise ship traffic
- Bulk carrier traffic

Strong Safety Net in Place?

Washington State vs BC: Spill response and preparedness resources

"Every day, on average, at least one oil spill is reported to the Canadian Coast Guard," said Mr. Vaughan. "Fortunately, most are small. However, given the findings of this audit, I am troubled that the government is not ready to respond to a major spill."

Scott Vaughan, Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development
December 7, 2010

Our Learning Continues.....
Islands Trust Advocacy Themes

1. Safety net should rise with risk.
2. Transparency and openness vital.
3. Lasting solutions need broad support from diverse stakeholders.
4. Salish Sea ecosystem does not recognize human borders and jurisdictions.

Working with others for marine safety

“To achieve its object, the Islands Trust must be an educator, coordinator, and initiator, guiding individuals, organizations and other agencies in support of the [preserve and protect] object.”