

## 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



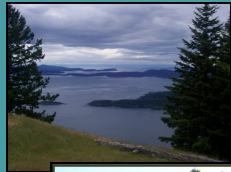
## Islands Trust Fast Facts

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



## 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

### Island Tides

**Too close for comfort—a ship runs aground**

When the Hebei Lion ran aground in Plumper Sound, British Columbia, on November 1, 2009, it was averted oil spill that caused concern for the Islands Trust. The ship, a 1,500-ton bulk carrier, was carrying a cargo of iron ore. It ran aground on a rocky shoal, and the crew was forced to abandon ship. The ship was later salvaged and towed to a nearby port.

The Islands Trust Council expressed concern over the incident, as it highlighted the potential for oil spills in the area. The Trust is committed to protecting the environment and the interests of the residents of the Trust Area.

Islands Trust Council asked:

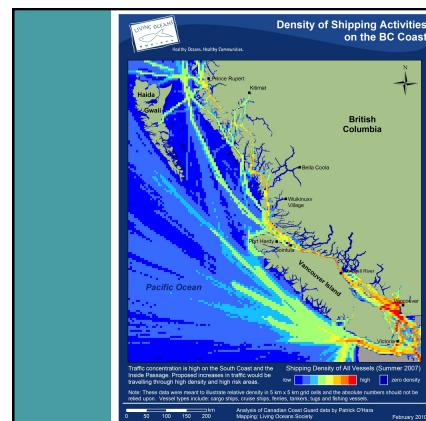
**What led to these incidents?**

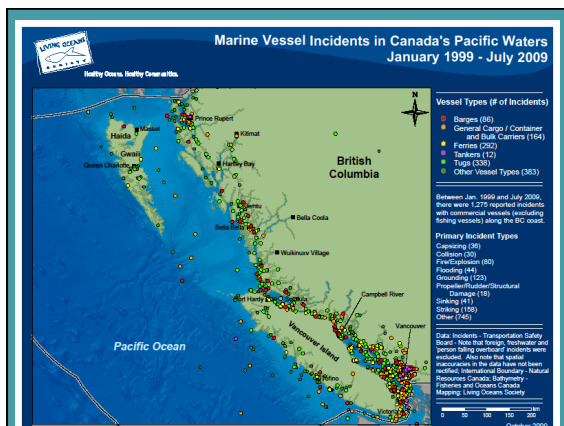
**Are we ready for worst case scenario?**

Plumper Sound incidents:  
1. Hebei Lion (Nov. 2009)  
2. Pacific Ace (Jan. 2010)

## Near disaster – again!

March 2, 2011  
Cape Vanguard  
-blown 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

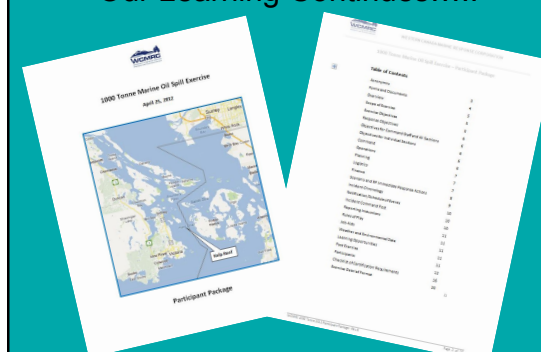


"Every day, on average, at least one oil spill is reported to the Canadian Coast Guard," said Mr. Vaughan. "Fortunately, most are small. However, given the findings of this audit, I am troubled that the government is not ready to respond to a major spill."

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



## Our Learning Continues.....



## Islands Trust Advocacy Themes



"Map of the Salish Sea & Surrounding Basin. Shown Freese, WWU, 2009"

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."*  
Islands Trust Policy Statement, 2003.

