

# Massachusetts Marine Oil Spill Act Advisory Committee

April 9, 2009

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Massachusetts  
Department of  
Environmental  
Protection



# Mass Oil Spill Act 2008

- Chapter 268 of the Acts of 2008 (August 6, 2008)
- Amends Mass Oil Spill Act of 2004 (Chapter 251 of the Acts of 2004)
- Major provisions apply to Buzzards Bay
  - Notification
  - State Marine Pilot
  - Rescue Tug



# Notification

Section 9 (a) “ An owner or operator of a tank vessel carrying 6,000 or more barrels of oil may provide 24-hour notice to the department, in a manner to be determined by the department, of the owner or operator’s intent to enter or operate such tank vessel in Buzzard’s Bay.”

- Notification is voluntary
- **BUT** triple fines if don’t notify *and* spill oil in Buzzards Bay



# State Marine Pilot

Section 9 (b) “If 24-hour notice is given, pursuant to subsection (a) and the tank vessel is unaccompanied by a tugboat escort, the commissioner shall dispatch a state pilot, if requested by the owner or operator, to the towing vessel.”

- If state pilot is requested, MassDEP will fund using OSA Trust monies
- State-funded pilot service in place as of March 1, 2009
- For more information see Fact Sheet at:  
<http://www.mass.gov/dep/cleanup/laws/buzfs.htm>



# Rescue Tug

Section 9 (c) “The commissioner shall dispatch rescue tugs in Buzzards Bay to be available to tank vessels carrying 6,000 or more barrels of oil, unaccompanied by a tugboat escort, entering or operating in Buzzards Bay. The commissioner shall establish by regulation the maximum response times that rescue tugs shall maintain upon being dispatched. “

- RFR for rescue tug services issued on 12/12/2008
- Bids evaluated and no contract awarded



# Mass Oil Spill Act Regulations

## 314 CMR 19.00

- Emergency Oil Spill Prevention and Response Regulations effective February 12, 2009
- Provides for 24-hour notice of intent to transit, state pilot services, and rescue tug services, for tank vessels carrying 6,000 barrels or more of oil in Buzzards Bay.
- Hearings to finalize emergency regs held March 30, 2009 at Mass Maritime Academy and March 31, 2009 at MassDEP, Boston
- Comment period closes April 10, 2009



# Current Mass OSA Legislative Activity

## State

- HB 3855 – working to rewrite certain rescue/escort tug provisions

## Federal

- MassDEP working with congressional delegation to require pilot and escort tug for double hull tank barges transiting Buzzards Bay



# Next Steps

- Additional amendments expected to 314 CMR 19.00
- Following legislative changes, anticipate new rescue/escort tug procurement

