

October 5, 2000

From: Captain of the Port Houston-Galveston

To: Distribution

Subj: COTP POLICY ON SALVAGE / LIGHTERING PLAN SUBMITTAL FOR BROWN WATER VESSELS

1. During a response to a marine casualty involving brown water vessels, the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) or Captain of the Port (COTP) may require a Salvage or Lightering Plan. The FOSC/COTP will evaluate this plan for its impact upon many issues including: a) personnel safety, b) the environment, c) waterway and shipping, d) commercial facilities, e) recreational areas, and f) the overall response effort.
2. Enclosure (1) is a checklist that will assist the responsible party in gathering the necessary information quickly and with minimal burden. Once the appropriate information has been collected, this checklist also serves as a guide for preparing the salvage/lightering plan to be submitted to the FOSC/COTP. As the contents of this checklist are not applicable to every situation, those preparing the salvage/lightering plan must use their own judgment in determining which elements to include.
3. This checklist is not intended to replace the expertise of a qualified Salvage Master, Salvage Engineer or Naval Architect nor is it intended to incorporate all safety issues of a vessel salvage operation. This list is only offered as guidance for gathering information commonly requested by the Coast Guard when overseeing a salvage/lightering operation. More information may be required by the FOSC due to particular circumstances.

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