



# Canada / United States Great Lakes CANUSLAK Joint Response Team (JRT)



## Annual Meeting Minutes • June 26, 2024

### Participants

Amanda Greer	CCG Central Region
Peter Knight	CCG Central Region
Evelyn Taylor	CCG Central Region
Joanne Munroe	Canada Energy Regulator
Lisa Perusse	ECCC (virtual)
LCDR Chris Duffy	U. S. NOAA SSC (virtual)
Jerry Popiel	USCG Ninth District
TJ Mangoni	USCG Ninth District
Danny Wiltse	USCG Ninth District
LCDR Kit Pace	USCG Great Lakes COE (virtual)
CDR Dan Tavernier	USCG Sector Eastern Great Lakes
Brian Roche	USCG Sector Eastern Great Lakes
Dave Mergenthaler	USCG Sector Eastern Great Lakes
CDR Rudy Gazvoda	USCG Sector Detroit (virtual)
LT Cameo Ulbricht	USCG Sector Detroit (virtual)

Welcome and Introductions. Per section 304.2 of the Canada-U.S. Joint Marine Contingency Plan, the 2024 CANUSLAK JRT Meeting was held on the morning of June 26, 2024, in Buffalo, New York, at the U. S. Attorney's office, Western District of New York. Amanda Greer, Canadian Coast Guard, and Mr. Popiel, U. S. Coast Guard Co-Chair, provided opening comments welcoming the participants.

Agency Updates. The Canadian Coast Guard, Canada Energy Regulator, Environment and Climate Change Canada, NOAA and U. S. Coast Guard Ninth District provided status updates. The Canadian Coast Guard discussed their new wreck removal program, work on expanding UAS program and a general update on their planned St. Lawrence Seaway exercise series. Canada Energy Regulator gave an overview of their structure and who/what they regulate. Additionally, CER discussed reported incidents, preparedness activities, training and emergency management exercise schedules, provided regulatory updates, spoke about preparing for new cyber Bill C-26, and conducting research geared toward freshwater emergency response. ECCC discussed a new SCAT course and lessons learned from an incident where 100+ oiled waterfowl were affected during the case. The Ninth District presented an overview of FY 2023 spill response measures, a discussion of the U. S. Coast Guard's Area Contingency Plan new

architecture, expansion of SR-UAS and ROV-LC programs, continuing work on Endangered Species Act Consultations and status update on Enbridge Line 5.

GLCOE. LCDR Kit Pace from the U. S. Coast Guard Great Lakes Oil Spill Center of Expertise (GLCOE) provided a GLCOE overview. The presentation included a purpose statement, a description of a partner training initiative, project portfolio, a discussion of the MPRI project, and a description of the call for proposals process.

Great Lakes Marine Firefighting Task Force. Mr. Mangoni provided an update on the Great Lake Marine Firefighting Task Force, including a process overview, lessons learned from previous cases, recent tabletop exercise and application of best practices to the 2024 M/V CUYAHOGA fire in Ashtabula, OH.

Activations review. The group reviewed the notifications and activations over the past year:

ACTIVATIONS/NOTIFICATIONS: 10

- Tug WILLIAM DORA grounding, 10 Jan 23, Conneaut, OH (notification only)
- Tug OMNI COASTAL grounding, 17 APR 23, Toronto, CA (notification only)
- Excavator hydraulic leak, 11 MAY 23, Sault Ste. Marie, MI (notification only)
- M/V MARK BARKER grounding, 17 MAY 23, Detroit River, MI (activation)
- M/V CUYAHOGA fire, 23 MAY 23, western Lake Erie (activation)
- M/V NACC ARGONAUT grounding, 22 SEP 23, St. Lawrence River (activation)
- P/C DUGOUT grounding, 3 OCT 23, Lake Superior (notification)
- M/V AMERICAN COURAGE grounding, 7 NOV 23, St. Clair River (activation)
- M/V BARBRO G grounding, 27 NOV 23, Detroit River (activation)
- M/V ONEGO DUERO marine casualty, 5 DEC 23, Lake Superior (activation)

Updated CANUSLAK Annex

- The JRT attendees reviewed point of contact changes that will be made in the next CANUSLAK Annex. The possibility of including a general risk assessment in the next update was discussed, with the consensus being that it should only be done in general terms if we are to do one at all. Co-chairs will review and consider the possibility and propose language if value can be added with an additional risk assessment section. No update on ongoing efforts to address FAA/TC waivers for SR-UAS flights along the border.

Wildlife Annex

- The group had a discussion about the proposed Wildlife Annex for the CANUSLAK agreement. Future progress pends report out from other regions who have done additional work on this to date.

#### Exercise Schedule

- The Canadian Coast Guard is leading a significant exercise series to take place in 2024-2026. The exercise is called Exercise Border Alliance and will be held in the St. Lawrence Seaway region, with a tabletop exercise scheduled for October 2024 and a full-scale exercise for July 2026. It involves a major maritime incident in the Kingston, Ontario, area including mass rescue operations and on-water pollution emergency.

#### Next meeting

- The CCG proposed to host an in-person meeting, to be determined, in 2025.