

Title: *Marine Salvage Operations: Protecting the Marine Environment*

Abstract

The marine salvage industry plays a vital role in protecting the marine environment. Governments, industry and the public, worldwide, now place environmental protection as the driving objective, second only to the safety of life, during a marine casualty response operation. Recognizing that 20 years after the passage of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, the effectiveness of on-water oil recovery remains at only about 10 to 25 percent, in 2011 the United States implemented comprehensive salvage and marine firefighting regulations in an effort to improve the nation's environmental protection framework. These new regulations specify desired response timeframes for salvage and marine firefighting services, contractual requirements, and criteria for evaluating the adequacy of a marine salvage service provider. This presentation provides an overview of the new regulatory requirements, lessons learned from the regulatory implementation process and several case studies on both surface and subsurface ship salvage operations that demonstrate the valuable role of the marine salvor in preventing and minimizing environmental impacts.

Biography

Jim Elliott serves as Vice President of Salvage Operations for T&T Marine Salvage, Inc. in Galveston, Texas. He is responsible for managing worldwide marine salvage, heavy lift, commercial diving and emergency response operations. A former Coast Guard Federal On-Scene Coordinator, Certified Type-1 Incident Commander and Master Diver with over 25 years of experience in maritime response operations, Mr. Elliott holds a Bachelor of Science in Environmental Management, a Masters of Environmental Policy and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies. A Certified Environmental Professional, he is a recipient of the Texas Association of Environmental Professionals Regulator of the Year Award and over 70 U.S. Coast Guard awards.