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## **Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's Vessel of Opportunity Program earns Stewardship & Sustainability Award for protecting ocean resources**

ANCHORAGE, Alaska – Alyeska Pipeline Service Company's Vessel of Opportunity Program recently received a 2015 Alaska Ocean Leadership Award by the Alaska SeaLife Center (ASLC). Alyeska received the Stewardship & Sustainability Award, which honors an industry leader that demonstrates the highest commitment to sustainability of ocean resources. The award was presented to Alyeska leadership at the Alaska Marine Gala on February 21 in Anchorage.

The Vessel of Opportunity Program started in 1990 to ready citizens and fishing industry professionals around Prince William Sound to provide oil spill response support in the unlikely case of an actual incident. Each year, staff from Alyeska's Ship Escort/Response Vessel System (SERVS) provides education and training to more than 1,500 crew members of approximately 450 vessels from six Prince William Sound ports (Valdez, Cordova, Whittier, Homer, Kodiak and Seward).

"It is phenomenal to be recognized for sustainability and stewardship by the Alaska SeaLife Center," said Andres Morales, Alyeska's SERVS Director. "Our mission is prevention, and if needed, to be ready to respond. The Vessel of Opportunity Program is truly emblematic of how fishermen and industry share a common interest and work together to protect Prince William Sound. This is a wonderful and deserved recognition of our joint work to be the best stewards of this tremendous resource we have."

The rigorous, multiday training strengthens the crews' skills in spill response, containment and recovery, which allows them to be safe while playing an integral role in Alyeska's response readiness and protecting Prince William Sound. The trainings take place in each of the six ports, spending time in the classroom and on the water. Crew members get hands-on experience in loading equipment, deploying boom, setting up skimmers and rehearsing other recovery tactics. A smaller segment of participants are trained in wildlife management and treatment. SERVS staff is assisted in the training by the U.S. Coast Guard, Prince William Sound Community College, and other entities.

The ASLC noted in its award announcement that, "The local knowledge and commitment of the Prince William Sound fishing communities is evident in this program's ongoing success – ensuring that the fisheries and environment are protected and sustained for years to come." The award was sponsored by ASLC Awards Committee member Jason Brune.

Learn more about Alyeska's Vessel of Opportunity Program at [www.alyeska-pipe.com/TAPS/SERVS/VesselOfOpportunity](http://www.alyeska-pipe.com/TAPS/SERVS/VesselOfOpportunity). For further information, contact Michelle Egan, Alyeska Corporate Communications Director, at (907) 787-8870. For more information on Alyeska, visit the company's website at [www.alyeska-pipe.com](http://www.alyeska-pipe.com).

### **About Alyeska Pipeline Service Company**

For 37 years, Alyeska has operated the 800-mile Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), safely moving oil from Prudhoe Bay on the North Slope of Alaska south to the Port of Valdez, the northernmost ice-free port in the United States. The pipeline traverses three mountain ranges, permafrost regions and 34 major rivers and streams. Alyeska personnel work in Anchorage, Fairbanks and Valdez and at pump stations and response facilities all along the pipeline. They also operate the Ship Escort/Response Vessel System (SERVS) for Prince William Sound. Alyeska was created to construct, operate, and maintain TAPS for owner companies which today are BP Pipelines (Alaska), ConocoPhillips Transportation Alaska, ExxonMobil Pipeline Company and Unocal Pipeline Company.

For more information, visit [www.alyeska-pipe.com](http://www.alyeska-pipe.com), or follow Alyeska on Facebook or on Twitter at [www.twitter.com/AlyeskaPipeline](https://www.twitter.com/AlyeskaPipeline).

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