



State of California – Natural Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94244-2090
www.wildlife.ca.gov/ospr

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



September 14, 2022

Captain Leroy Zerlang
Zerlang & Zerlang Marine Services
Brusco Tug and Barge
1493 Faye Avenue
Samoa, California 95564

Dear Captain Zerlang:

As the result of the allision involving the tank barge Monterey Bay and the south jetty of the Humboldt Bay channel, a tugboat to tank barge tethering technique called the "Slip Line", emerged from the investigation Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) conducted.

The use of the Slip Line technique may have prevented the allision from happening. Different tug escort situations require different strategies. The Slip Line technique could potentially be an added tool for tugboats engaged in escorting activities.

In accordance with Government Code, sec. 8670.23.1(g), I, the acting Administrator of the OSPR, am directing the Humboldt Bay Harbor Safety Committee (HSC) to discuss the Slip Line technique and conceivably adopt the practice into Best Maritime Practices of the Humboldt Bay HSC safety plan.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie Yamamoto".

Julie Yamamoto
Acting Administrator
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

cc: Mr. Amir Sharifi, Assistant Deputy Administrator
Mr. Michael Zamora, Oil Spill Prevention Specialist