Aleutian Islands – Alaska

Emergency Towing Systems

September 1, 2009
AIRA Advisory Panel Meeting
Unalaska, Alaska
Selendang Ayu
Background

- 2007 Near grounding M/V Salico Frigo (March)
- Mayor of Unalaska convened a Workgroup
  - Develop emergency towing capability locally
  - Purchase of equipment
  - Development of Procedures Manual
  - Training Video
  - Annual Training & Equipment Inspection
Aleutians Shipping Route - Unimak Pass
Vessel Traffic Statistics

• 4,470 large commercial vessel transits through Unimak Pass in 2007:
  – 3,580 vessels westbound (85%)
  – 890 vessels eastbound (15%)
  – 3,130 vessels bound to/from U.S. ports (70%)
  – 1,340 vessels bound to/from Canadian ports (30%)

• Number of transits of vessels involved in local trade tracked in and around Unimak Pass in fiscal year 2007: 1,720 (1,435 fishing vessels, or 80 percent of the total)
Emergency Towing System Components
600’ x 7/8” Spectra Messenger Line

Lighted Pick-up & Thimble Buoy

Line Gun

Components
Ship’s End  

Tug’s End

500’ by 7” Plasma Towing Line
Packing
Deployment
Ship to Tug
Ship to Tug
Tug to Ship Deployment
ETS Training & System Expansion

- May 2008- IMO Regulation Revision require all ships to carry emergency towing procedures, towing arrangement, equipment inventory, means of communicating
- August 2008 Aleutian ETS Training
  - Update Procedures Manual
  - Tandem Tow Tactic
- October 2008- ETS System staged in Kodiak
- September 2009 Aleutian ETS Training
Questions?