

Presentation Title: The Detection and Recovery of Non-Floating Oil
Jim Elliott, Vice President of T&T Marine Salvage

Abstract: In 2016, following a number of submerged and sunken oil incidents, the U.S. Coast Guard issued revised Oil Spill Removal Organization Guidelines that include the requirement for the detection and recovery of non-floating oils. Oil spill response companies desiring Coast Guard approval to respond to non-floating oils must now first submit a concept of operation and also undergo a governmental company review and audit program.

This presentation will discuss the new Coast Guard rules and the innovative new procedures discovered in preparing a concept of operation to meet these standards. Non-floating oil detection options will include side-scan and multi-beam sonar, laser fluorosensors, sub-bottom profilers, commercial divers, remotely operated vehicles, and traditional towed sorbents. Recovery techniques will include specialized dredges and environmental clamshells, diver and ROV-directed pumping systems, specially designed trawls and nets, and other specialized mechanical recovery systems. In addition to detection and recovery, the presentation will address the logistical and operational requirements to meet the Coast Guard response timelines, the issues of storage and waste stream treatment, and the unique challenges of deep water operations.

Biography: Jim Elliott, Vice President of T&T Marine Salvage, is responsible for managing worldwide marine salvage, heavy lift, commercial diving and emergency response operations. A retired senior Coast Guard officer with over 25 years of experience managing search and rescue, marine casualty and pollution response operations, Jim has numerous advanced qualifications, including the highest US Incident Commander certification, Master Diver, Federal On-Scene Coordinator and National Strike Force Response Officer certifications. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Environment Management, a Master of Environmental Policy with honors, and a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies with highest distinction from the U.S. Naval War College. Jim also currently serves as Vice President of the American Salvage Association.

Mr. Elliott served as an author of the American Petroleum Institute (API) Report and Operations Guide on Submerged Oil Detection and Recovery that serves as the foundational document for the Coast Guard's non-floating oil detection and recovery policies. Additionally, he has served in key leadership roles on multiple non-floating oil response operations, including the *ARGO*, *ATHOS I*, *DBL-152*, *BOW MARINER*, and *DEEPWATER HORIZON*, among others.