

TITLE VII—OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION . . .

(d) VESSEL TRAFFIC RISK ASSESSMENT

(1) REQUIREMENT. The Commandant of the Coast Guard, acting through the appropriate Area Committee established under section 311(j)(4) of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, shall prepare a vessel traffic risk assessment for Cook Inlet, Alaska, within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) CONTENTS. The assessment shall describe, for the region covered by the assessment

(A) the amount and character of present and estimated future shipping traffic in the region; and

(B) the current and projected use and effectiveness in reducing risk, of

(i) traffic separation schemes and routing measures;

(ii) long-range vessel tracking systems developed under section 70115 of title 46, United States Code;

(iii) towing, response, or escort tugs;

(iv) vessel traffic services;

(v) emergency towing packages on vessels; H. R. 3619 84

(vi) increased spill response equipment including equipment appropriate for severe weather and sea conditions;

(vii) the Automatic Identification System developed under section 70114 of title 46, United States Code;

(viii) particularly sensitive sea areas, areas to be avoided, and other traffic exclusion zones;

(ix) aids to navigation; and

(x) vessel response plans.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS.

(A) IN GENERAL. The assessment shall include any appropriate recommendations to enhance the safety, or lessen potential adverse environmental impacts, of marine shipping.

(B) CONSULTATION. Before making any recommendations under paragraph (1) for a region, the Area Committee shall consult with affected local, State, and Federal government agencies, representatives of the fishing industry, Alaska Natives from the region, the conservation community, and the merchant shipping and oil transportation industries.

(4) PROVISION TO CONGRESS. The Commandant shall provide a copy of the assessment to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of

Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate.