

CIRCULAR

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TO MEMBERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

Dear Member:

OIL POLLUTION IN THE UNITED STATES: NON-TANK VESSEL RESPONSE PLANS: FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS

Delay in mandatory application of non-tank vessel VRP requirements

Reference is made to Circular 9/05 of April 26, 2005, informing Members of the United States Coast Guard (USCG) requirement that Vessel Response Plans (VRPs) for non-tank vessels be submitted and approved by the USCG by August 8, 2005.

Your Managers have now been informed that the USCG will not enforce this requirement by August 8, 2005 since the final regulation has yet to take effect. Nevertheless, knowing that the requirement will at some stage come into force, Members are encouraged to submit their VRPs in any event. Should a spill occur, this will ensure that a plan for an efficient and effective response will be in place.

Salvage, firefighting and lightering services for VRP compliance – exclusive offer for American Club Members

The completion of a VRP requires the designation of a party capable of providing the services highlighted above.

Your Managers are pleased to report that DonJon-Smit, An OPA-90 Alliance, one of the four International Group-approved organizations providing nationwide salvage, firefighting and lightering services in response to the requirements of OPA-90 and similar legislation, has offered an extended retainer waiver for American Club Members for non-tank vessels over 400 GT. This waiver will remain in effect until December 31, 2008.

For further information, and the required contract documents, Members should contact DonJon-Smit directly as follows:

Donjon-Smit, An OPA-90 Alliance
15402 Vantage Parkway East
Suite 316
Houston, Texas 77032-1966 USA
Phone: +1 281 442.6800
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If any Member has any questions in regards to the above, or generally, your Managers will, of course, be pleased to respond.

Yours faithfully,

Joseph E. M. Hughes
Joseph E.M. Hughes, Chairman & CEO
Shipowners Claims Bureau, Inc., Managers for
THE AMERICAN CLUB