

## Electronic Media Transcripts

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Announcer: Nfld fishermen are being recruited for a new job. Some of them are being trained to help clean up oil spills off the coast. There's a lot more oil moving through our waters, but the capacity to respond to a major spill hasn't kept pace. Lynda Calvert reports.

Lynda Calvert: Spread out on a wharf on St. John's Harbour, some of the equipment in Canada's arsenal in the fight to clean up oil spills - today as the display for the cameras, but soon fishermen around the province will be trained to use of this equipment for inshore spills or to assist cleanup teams to help others use it for bigger, offshore spills.

So this is for calmer, smaller waters?

Terry Harvey: Exactly, exactly. And this is what the fishermen will be exposed to because this is the...

Calvert: Terry Harvey heads up the Coast Guard's Environmental Response in the Atlantic region.

Harvey: I think what it will do, it'll, number one, give us a better appreciation out there for, let's say the capability that's housed in Nfld. But it'll also give us a, a better appreciation, or give the fishermen a better

appreciation of, of what they can do when they actually see oil on the water.

Calvert: And so in the building behind Harvey, this rare sight assembled. Fishery union and Coast Guard officials, politicians, and petroleum industry representatives all in one place and all in agreement – at least on this.

Earle McCurdy: The fish harvesters have an intimate understanding of the marine environment at a localized level that is not available anywhere else. Nobody else has the knowledge that they possess. And so they have a lot to offer in, in being able to deal with any incidents that may arise.

Calvert: The initiative is the brainchild of the Marine Institute and something called One Ocean – an industry backed organization.

Gordon Slade: Since 1993 the amount of hydrocarbon product traversing the waters in and around Nfld and Labrador has increased sevenfold – from seven million tons to nearly 50 million tons.

Calvert: And as more oil passes through Nfld's waters than anywhere else in Canada, the odds of a disaster increase every year. Add to that the fact that hundreds of smaller mystery spills do occur. Harvey says they could use extra help.

Harvey: We quite often hold up the oiled bird as being the, the ultimate example of look what the oil has done. But anytime you have hydrocarbons in that first layer of water where all the little, little animals live, so to speak - the small lobsters, the small larvae of the fish, the small larvae of the salmon. Anytime you have that sort of

sheen on the surface of the water, you are having effect of the inhabitants that are in that layered water.

Calvert: Training will start in September and run for about three years. In that time they hope to train about 500 fishermen. Lynda Calvert, CBC News, St. John's.

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