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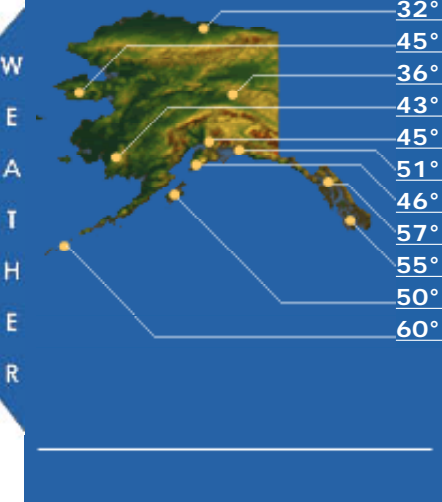
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Web posted Wednesday, August 14, 2002

Crowley christens tanker escort tug targeted for Puget Sound

Response joins newly built sister vessels in assisting oil transport

By Alaska Oil & Gas Reporter staff

Deicy Mathur, wife of Alaska Tanker Co. LLC President Anil Mathur, performed the honors of christening Crowley Maritime Corp.'s new tanker escort tug, Response, for the waters of North Puget Sound at a noon ceremony Aug. 2 in Seattle.



The tug, designed by Crowley engineers and architects with input from Alaska Tanker Co., was to be put into service shortly afterward to increase environmental protection provided by Crowley's ship assist and escort services group in the Sound.

Crowley Maritime Corp. Chairman Thomas Crowley Jr., Deicy Mathur and husband, Anil, joined the crew of the new tanker escort tug, Response, for its christening Aug. 2 in Seattle.

A team of Crowley engineers and architects designed the Response, with input from Crowley's ship assist and escort customer, Alaska Tanker Co. The 129.5 foot-long vessel was built by Marco Shipyard in Seattle.

"The Response is not only the newest tug in our fleet, but also the most advanced," said Tom Crowley, Jr., chairman, president and CEO of

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Crowley Maritime, who attended the christening. "We took many of the best features from other Crowley tugs and added new technology to create a boat that surpasses all others."

Oakland, Calif.-based Crowley has placed 13 newly built tractor type tugs into service during the past four years, five of them in Valdez.

During tanker escorts, Crowley tugs are tethered to, or shadow, tankers in the event braking or steering assistance is needed. Last year, Crowley tugs in Valdez stopped a tanker that was in danger of colliding with a fishing boat and its nets that had been set across a shipping channel.

Effectively slamming the brakes on a tanker requires a powerful, well-designed tug such as the Response, which has engines with 7,200-horsepower and can provide enough indirect force to get the job done quickly and safely.

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