



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



U.S. Maritime Administration

This document is one section from the “National Guidance: Best Management Practices for Preparing Vessels Intended to Create Artificial Reefs,” published in May 2006. The reference number is EPA 842-B-06-002. You can find the entire document at <http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/habitat/artificialreefs/index.html>.

National Guidance: Best Management Practices for Preparing Vessels Intended to Create Artificial Reefs

Appendix E

May 2006

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General Principles for a Vessel Clean-up Operation

In order to prepare a vessel intended to create an artificial reef, a workplan should be developed to direct cleaning operations – as described in Appendix D. Salvage operations should take place first, being careful to minimize debris and contamination with oils or other products that will need cleaning sometime during the vessel preparation. Other vessel clean-up preparations to be considered include:

- Re-use/recycle/dispose of all or some vessel components – besides ferrous scrap materials, there may be high-value components onboard the vessel, such as non-ferrous metals (e.g., copper, aluminum, nickel), and re-useable equipment such as generators, machines, pumps, and cranes;
- Generally, clean-up operations should begin at the highest part of the compartment or tank and proceed downwards to the bilge;
- Deal with the large concentrations of oil and hazardous products early in the operation;
- Keep compartments clean and make concerted efforts to avoid spillage during salvage and clean-up operations; and
- Consider removing, instead of cleaning, heavily contaminated machinery and piping. Removal may be quicker and less expensive. Removal may also allow for less overall effort in clean-up as access to the contaminated machinery and piping is improved and ongoing contamination from drips and seepage is minimized.