

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



Commander
United States Coast Guard
Sector Miami

5700/05-0133
February 10, 2005

Re: M/V FEDERAL PESCADORES RESPONSE TEAM

Thank you for your exceptional service during the period October 7-11, 2004, for the expeditious response and flawless execution of environmental protection measures following the grounding of the M/V FEDERAL PESCADORES in the vicinity of the Port Everglades anchorage. In a model display of partnership and emergency management, a Unified Command was immediately implemented to manage the multi-faceted operation with a potential release of over 100,000 gallons of diesel and intermediate fuel oil. Numerous personnel effectively directed and monitored the response including Gallagher Marine Systems, Marine Spill Response Corporation, Hudson Marine, and primary salvage contractor Titan Marine with Resolve, Cliff Berry, and SWS as associated subcontractors. Federal and state responders included elements from Sector Miami's Prevention and Response Commands, Command Center, Station Fort Lauderdale, Air Station Miami, Gulf Strike Team, Marine Safety Center, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Fort Lauderdale Police Department. The rapid and resourceful pre-deployment of over 10,000 feet of boom and various spill response assets by the oil spill response organizations was essential for the protection of the pristine beaches of Fort Lauderdale and the environmentally sensitive areas of John U. Lloyd Park and Port Everglades. Demonstrating exceptional teamwork, the Unified Command expertly directed the salvage, lightering, diving and environmental protection operations that contributed to the casualty-free evolution. The combined effort of all participants minimized economic and environmental damage and improved response preparedness for future emergencies in South Florida.

I truly appreciate your contribution. On behalf of the Coast Guard and all those who live, visit, or work in South Florida who might have otherwise been affected by a spill, thank you for a job well done!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James Maes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "J".

JAMES MAES
Captain, U. S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Sector Miami