

**PACIFIC STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA
OIL SPILL TASK FORCE
RESOLUTION ON VESSEL ROUTING MEASURES**

Whereas, the mission of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force is to strengthen member agency efforts to prevent, prepare for, and respond to marine oil spills by exchanging information, sharing resources, developing a consistent approach to regulatory standards, and advocating on national and international issues of common interest to member jurisdictions; and

Whereas, the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force was established to address, among other issues, oil spill prevention and response issues that transcend state and international boundaries; and

Whereas, the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force has been at the forefront in developing consensus among its members on pivotal issues affecting oil spill prevention and response proposals of both the US and Canadian federal governments and the international Maritime Organization; and

Whereas, the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force have a common and shared interest in the routing of tankers and other ships carrying large amounts of oil as fuel, particularly as those ships and tankers transit along the west coast of North America; and

Whereas, the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force recognizes the benefit of voluntary agreements with the Western States Petroleum Association which places tank vessels engaged in the TAPS trade at least 50 miles off the coastline while traveling along the West coast; and

Whereas, ships and other vessels traveling close to the coast present a threat of oil spills due to the increased risk of grounding caused by either mechanical failure or human error; and

Whereas, if ships are routed further offshore the risk of grounding is all but eliminated and the time to effectively respond is greatly increased; now, therefore,

Be It Resolved that the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force should meet with the Commander of the Pacific Area of the US Coast Guard and the Pacific Regional Director of the Canadian Coast Guard to discuss routing schemes along the West Coast of the United States and Canada in order to further enhance safety of navigation and reduce the risk posed to coastal resources from oil spills; and

Be It Further Resolved that both the Canadian and US Coast Guards are invited to co-sponsor with the Task Force a workgroup composed of members of the shipping industries, state, provincial, and federal government agencies involved in coastal resource protection, and environmental groups, for the purpose of establishing feasible vessel routing schemes to enhance navigational safety and resource protection.

This resolution was adopted pursuant to and following the intent of the *Oil Spill Memorandum of Cooperation of 1989* and was endorsed by the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force as represented by the following members¹:

- Signed by Pete Bontadelli, Administrator of Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Game, on 11/20/96;
- Signed by Barbara Herman, Director, Washington Office of Marine Safety on 12/5/96;
- Signed by Mary Riveland, Director, Washington Department of Ecology, on 12/5/96;
- Signed by Langdon Marsh, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, on 1/7/97;
- Signed by Michele Brown, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, on 1/7/9; and
- Signed by Cassie J. Doyle, Deputy Minister, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands and Parks, on 3/13/97.

¹ Signatures of endorsement are on file and available upon request.