

Summary Notes¹
Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force
Spring Quarter Coordinating Committee Meeting
April 10-11, 2003
Vancouver, BC

Attending: Scott Schaefer, CA OSPR; Stan Norman, WA Dept. of Ecology; Bob Mattson, Alaska DEC; Curtis Martin, Hawaii Dept. of Health; Heather Taylor, BC Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection; and Jean Cameron, Executive Coordinator.
(Please reference the attached agenda)

I. International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) Debrief

- All Coordinating Committee members who attended the International Oil Spill Conference agreed that it was a good event, praising the Vancouver location. The sessions were good. Keynote speakers ADM Watkins and VADM Allen were praised, but John Crosbie's presentation was not. Jean particularly objected to his disparaging comments regarding Canadians and the UN.²
- There was general agreement that having a booth in the exhibit hall was useful outreach as well as a good gathering place. All member agency attendees assigned to staff the booth had done so except for one Ecology person who was unable to attend the conference due to illness.
- Jean particularly praised ADEC for producing the map of the Task Force region, which made the booth more attractive. Some conference attendees at the event stopped by to use the map for reference! Jean noted that the Task Force handouts were not "glitzy" enough to be popular, except for Alaska's AIMS manual. If we plan to do booths in the future, the Task Force should invest in an attractive backdrop, more appealing literature, and possibly some "come-on" gifts. There was discussion, but no agreement yet, regarding whether the Task Force should sponsor a booth for the 2005 IOSC in Miami, FLA or just do one whenever the conference is held on the West Coast.

II. Member Agency Updates:

The British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection (MWLAP), Heather Taylor reporting:

- Heather is working with the Canadian Petroleum Products Institute to establish an industry response strategy for response to trucking incidents.

¹ PLEASE NOTE: This is a meeting summary and is not intended as a verbatim record of all presentations or comments made during the meeting.

² Since he was addressing the oil spill conference, Crosbie should have addressed concerns raised by fishermen in Newfoundland about oil spills from huge single-hulled tankers that sail off their coast; they have asked the Canadian government to bring in tanker exclusion zones to prevent oil spills (CBC News 3/7/03)

- She's also trying to establish a trust fund to support local government emergency response planning and training, including a responder certification program.
- Hazmat training for MWLAP response officers is beginning. Heather is planning to have their training updated prior to their participation in the CANUSDIX exercise which is scheduled for the week of September 8th out of Ketchikan, Alaska.
- Heather also noted that Alex Grant of MWLAP had participated in development of the wildlife annex to CANUSDIX.
- The Committee discussed the proposals for offshore oil and gas drilling in BC waters, and Heather noted that in specific areas, such as Hecate Strait and Dixon Entrance, there is some dispute about seabed/mineral ownership.

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Bob Mattson reporting:

- ADEC is ready to propose changes to the contingency planning rules governing exploration and production. The straw man of proposed changes will be available for an informal 60-day review, followed by a 30-day formal comment period on the draft proposed changes which have been revised based on input from the informal review.
- ADEC and others are still testing Geographic Response Strategies.
- Non-tank vessel contingency plans are due by the end of May.
- Legislation extending the contingency plan review period from three to five years is moving easily through the 2003 Session.
- Bob noted that, as SOSC for SE Alaska, he can join the contingency planning staff on facility inspections and incorporate lessons from those inspections into facility drills.
- He also reported on a controversial decision by the Governor's office to restructure the permitting process administered by the Department of Fish and Game's Habitat Division and place that authority with the Department of Natural Resources instead.

The Hazards Evaluation and Emergency Response Office of the Hawaii Department of Health (HEER), Curtis Martin reporting:

- Curtis announced that Governor Lingle has appointed Lawrence Lau as the Department's Deputy Director for Environmental Health; Mr. Lau will also serve as Hawaii's Task Force member. Curtis explained that Mr. Lau has been assigned to cover the state's environmental programs for the Attorney General's office, so he is already familiar with the oil spill program and the HEER staff.
- Curtis noted that the database project has been useful to HEER and that the DNV Investigator training course was well-received. He noted that the course highlighted HEER's need to focus on definitions and their applications.
- The Hawaii 2003 Legislature is primarily focused on budget issues, and has transferred \$1.7 million from the environmental fund to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to be used to battle invasive species.

The Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), California Department of Fish & Game, Scott Schaefer reporting:

- OSPR staff both helped to organize and participated in the DNV training, which went well.
- Dodge Kenyon from Washington DOE will brief California's Technical Advisory Committee (TAC) meeting on 4/22 regarding the issue of illegal bypasses of oil/water separators. The TAC is currently focused on "grey water" issues, and is particularly interested in cruise ship pollution.
- The per barrel fee increases went into effect January 20th and the non-tank vessel fee was effective January 1st. Scott noted that these seem to be working well and no complaints had been received.

- California's statewide deficit is at \$38 billion. Even with stand-alone funding, the statewide hiring freeze affects OSPR. Some state agencies are facing staff cuts of 10-15%; it's not clear whether OSPR will also be expected to cut staff as well.
- OSPR is beginning to drill the sensitive site protection strategies for the Bay Area. These will be announced drills focused on ninety out of 300 sites in the area.
- Scott noted that he'd been recalled by the USCG and would be assigned to the USCG D11 offices for the next few months. While there he'll work on revisions to the USCG/OSPR Memorandum of Agreement, which is now one governor and three admirals out of date! Most revisions will involve cleaning up references, but it will also reflect that OSPR no longer accepts the USCG's OSRO certifications.

The Washington Department of Ecology (DOE), Stan Norman reporting:

- Stan noted that the State of Washington's \$2.6 billion deficit will impact DOE, but not too hard, since programs generally are supported by special fee funding.
- Spills Program staff are working to find permanent funding for the dedicated rescue tug. There's bilateral support for this in the Washington Legislature, so the only question is "who pays?" One proposal in the House would establish a marine protection fund for deposit of vessel penalties, grants, gifts, federal funds, etc. Another proposal is to apply 25 cents from each vehicle registration fee towards funding emergency vessel towing.
- Stan noted the oil/water separator training event sponsored by DOE on May 14th and explained that DOE has 12 active cases of this nature under investigation.
- DOE's new contingency planning rules will be developed in three parts: drills, oil spill response organizations, and planning and performance standards. Stan noted that response standards for the first 6 hours are considered performance standards, while standards beyond the first 6 hours are for planning purposes. The rules will be consistent with Oregon's rules for the Columbia River.
- DOE is considering allowing spill prevention credits for tank vessels in the revised contingency planning rules. The credit would allow a vessel to meet only federal (Coast Guard) planning requirements in the coastal zone; the more stringent state requirements would be waived. In order to earn such a credit, a tank vessel would have to meet standards such as double hulls, redundant propulsion and steering systems, and adherence to the recommended distances offshore.
- Stan expects legislation to pass which will establish Washington's COFR requirements at the same levels as California's (\$1 billion for tank vessels and \$300 million for non-tank vessels) effective in two years.
- DOE responders are doing security training which covers Weapons of Mass Destruction and chemical attacks.
- Stan was happy to report that no significant spills have occurred in Washington over the past quarter.
- Stan noted that Ecology will deploy a revised Marine Information System in the next fiscal year that will include ownership, violation, and casualty information. This database is intended to be accessible to the other Task Force agencies, the USCG, and perhaps marine exchanges.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ), report submitted in writing from Mike Zollitsch:

MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENTS/ACTIVITIES:

- The final three rule packages required under HB 2150 were filed with the Secretary of State and became effective on January 31, 2003. These rules cover oil spill contingency planning, emergency response and enforcement.

WORK GROUPS

- The Department is planning on meeting with the Emergency Response Advisory Committee one more time to debrief the process prior to establishing a new committee after July. The next committee work will focus on oil spill drill and exercise efforts.
- The House Bill 2150 Task Force prepared and submitted its report to the legislature on Additional Spill Response Measures and Recommendations.

DRILLS AND EXERCISES

- The Department participated in the first industry drill of the year conducted by Chevron Products-Willbridge. The scenario involved a release of 200,000 gallons of gasoline.
- The Department participated in QuakeEx `03 on April 2nd and 3rd. This phase of the drill focused on the emergency actions to respond to a 9.0 earthquake off the coast of Oregon. The recovery phase is scheduled for April 8th.

OTHER

- Spill program staff participated in the joint Northwest Area Committee and Regional Response Team meeting in Bellingham, WA.
- Paul Slyman, Deputy Director and Oil Spill Task Force Member has been appointed to the Governor's Security Council. Chuck Donaldson has been appointed to the Governor's Security Council Steering Group and Michael Zollitsch continues to work under these groups in the state Domestic Preparedness Working Group.
- The Department is in the final stages of drafting the Department Response and Recovery Plan. Regional offices are preparing geographic specific annexes to the plan.
- The Department is drafting the state recovery plan for a chemical release at the Umatilla Army Depot Demilitarization project. The depot is scheduled to start incineration of chemical weapons as early as the fall of 2003.
- The Department is also drafting the chemical release annex to the State's Emergency Operations Plan.

III. Status of Spill Prevention Projects

Database project

- DNV Investigator Training Course, Sacramento, CA 2/25-2/27/03
 - 23 persons from DOE, HEER, OSPR, California State Lands MFD, and the USCG attended the course.
 - The DNV trainers applied terms from the Task Force's Data Dictionary in their case studies.
 - All attendees gave both the trainers and the course content high marks.
 - Everyone thanked OSPR for organizing the event, with special kudos to Rick Holly and Bud Leland.
 - If Alaska would like to arrange for the next Investigator training course to be held in Anchorage, Hawaii might send one more, Washington might send 4-8 persons, and California is likely to send two. BC might send staff if it were held in conjunction with the CANUSDIX exercise in September; otherwise it would be hard to get approval for out of country travel twice. Jean noted that, in order to fill the course (25 persons), ADEC might need to recruit from the USCG and other federal agencies in Alaska.
- 2002 Data Review
 - Jean handed out copies of the graphs, tables, and supporting text which Jack Barfield had drafted for the 2002 oil spill data from Alaska, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii. (Note: the BC MWLAP is not the agency which currently collects spill data for BC, but Stafford Reid has been participating on the

Database Workgroup and is designing an incident reporting system that will provide this information in the future.)

- Jean explained that the data included all oil spills of 42 gallons or more for 2002; next year the inclusion threshold for spills to land will be 500 gallons. She reviewed Jack's conclusions and recommendations, noting the need to further define "other" and "unknown" within the Source and Product categories. Jack also noted that more investigation is needed under the Equipment Failure and Organizational/Management Failure categories within Causal Factors.
- Jean explained that Jack Barfield had provided a template that all the workgroup members used to compile 2002 data, and praised the effort invested by all agency representatives to the workgroup. The Workgroup is now reviewing how terms are applied and whether they can collect more detailed causal information for 2003. Jack will develop a new template based on discussion of these items, and the Workgroup members have agreed to submit 2003 data quarterly.
- Coordinating Committee members felt strongly that the data graphs should be included in the 2003 Annual Workplan in color (not to exceed 4 pages), and that the Task Force should cover the additional costs, not Oregon DEQ. Both Ecology and BC MWLAP offered to print the color pages, since the State of Oregon prohibits color printing under their current deficit, but that plan would require coordination regarding paper stock and shipping. It would be simpler to have it all done at the same place. Jean will work with ODEQ and the state printing office on this.

WCOVTRM Implementation

- Jean shared the following email from Oren Stembel, Chief, Coast Pilot Branch/NOAA 2/28: "You'll be happy to know the Task Force's recommended language for the Coast Pilot was just released from our Nautical Data Branch and can now be inserted in Coast Pilots 7, 8, and 9."
- She noted that Gordie Mann of Transport Canada had indicated Wednesday that his Ottawa office perceived a conflict between the recommended language and the Tanker Exclusion Zone, so she needs to ask the Canadian Coast Guard members of the WCOVTRM Project Workgroup to work with Transport Canada on this. (See page 12 below for more details)

Voluntary tanker standards

- Jean provided the Coordinating Committee with copies of an email and attachments she'd sent out on 3/10/03, which summarized attendance, discussion and decisions at a meeting at DOE on 2/18 with representatives from tanker operators, WSPA, and AWO.
- She and Stan, who co-chaired the 2/18 meeting with USCG CAPT Scott Glover, reviewed the cover email, noting that the tanker industry recommended that all vessel operators be included, not just tanker operators. They agreed to review and rank the recommended practices for most spill prevention effect.
- They have also recommended that the recommended "voluntary standards" be referred to as "Best Industry Practices" (BIPs) instead.
- Jean and Stan will deliver a report with the top ranked recommendations to the Task Force Members at the Annual Meeting. The Coordinating Committee suggested that this report be published and perhaps presented at a panel in some industry forum such as the Ship Operations Cooperative Program or at the 2003 Roundtable. In addition, the Task Force could request that the USCG Pacific Area endorse the recommended BIPs and issue a notice to mariners with these recommendations.

The Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET)

- Jean advised the Coordinating Committee that Eric Olsson, who works with Washington SeaGrant and chairs POSPET, is producing a brochure promoting POSPET, and will send it out with an invitation letter for a May 13th meeting in Lacey, WA. Don Jackson will come from Florida to make a presentation on the Clean Marina program, and a presentation by FOSS Environmental will show environmental and liability consequences of spills and how costly clean up can be.

Monitoring taps conversions

- Jean reported that Laura Stratton had advised her that “About the only thing happening right now is that the keel was just laid for the first Alaska Tanker Co. super-redundant tanker, the ALASKA FRONTIER, which will be TAPS Trade, but it doesn't affect the TAPS Trade Tanker Report. “
- Stan noted that all the TAPS tankers will be double-hulled by about 2008, and only three of these will not have the “super-redundant” standards covering steering, propulsion, etc.

Spill Prevention Topics of Concern

- Cruise ship operations with regard to spills and other water pollution impacts:
 - Curtis reported that Hawaii is working with the cruise ship industry to include the operational standards from Alaska in an MOU.
 - Scott noted that legislation has been introduced in California to set standards for cruise ship waste streams.
 - The Committee noted in discussions that there are only two ways to manage wastewater, which includes both human wastes and chemical wastes; these are either through treatment or by holding prior to disposal. Disposal is allowed beyond 3 miles from shore, and cruise vessels in the Inside Passage of Alaska and BC often found areas that were more than 3 miles from any shore, but still not in the open ocean, and would dump their wastes there.
 - The Coordinating Committee agreed that ports should provide waste treatment facilities.
- Bunkering and Oil Transfer standards:
 - Stan reported that DOE will expand their bunkering rules in 2004 to cover all oil transfers. DOE has agreed to monitor oil transfers on behalf of the USCG and plans to require 24 hour advance notice of transfers including those affecting fishing vessels, towing vessels, and facilities.
- Offshore Lightering:
 - Scott reported that OSPR has submitted comments on a draft Standard of Care (SOC) for offshore lightering which is available at:
<<http://www.uscg.mil/D11/sandiego/mso/lightering/lighteringsoc.pdf>>
 - Stan noted that the Puget Sound MSO also has an SOC on this.
- Development of a “threat matrix” to prioritize oil spill risks from sunken vessels:
 - Scott explained that the National Academy of Sciences is seeking funding for a study on risks from sunken vessels. OSPR is tracking the risk criteria which they propose to use.
- Port and facility Best Available Protection standards:
 - Stan suggested that Port Infrastructure issues be addressed in the next Strategic Plan, including construction standards and treatment facilities for vessel wastes.

- Noting HR 880 introduced by Rep. Lois Capps (D-CA), which would amend OPA 90 to accelerate to 2007 the double-hull requirements, as well as moves by the European Union to accelerate the international double-hull phase-in requirements, the Coordinating Committee pointed out that the Task Force is already on record as recommending voluntary expedited double-hull replacements for the TAPS fleet. (WCOVTRM Recommendation).

IV. Status of Spill Preparedness/Response Projects

Non-tank vessels

- Jean shared an email received 3/31 from Mark Meza, Deputy, United States Coast Guard Office of Response, regarding the status of the USCG 2002 Reauthorization bill which contained language authorizing the USCG to require contingency plans for non-tank vessels. Basically, it was still before Congress at that time.

Maintain the IVRP matrix

- Jean reported to the Coordinating Committee that she needs to update Oregon and Alaska information on both the IVRP and the contingency plan matrices.

OILS 911 Spill reporting number

- Jean provided copies of OILS-911 activity report for August 2002 through February 2003, which shows a total of 8 calls in BC, 1 in Washington, 2 in Oregon, and 73 in California for that period. She feels that the numbers are down due to a lack of outreach in BC, Washington, and Oregon which also reflects a lack of activity by POSPET over the past year. She plans to raise this issue with POSPET at their meeting.

Contingency plan elements

- Jean advised the Coordinating Committee that the Public Comment draft is now on the website and that the project and chance to comment were noted in the *1st Quarterly Report to Our Stakeholders* as well as in the handout at the IOSC booth. The public comment deadline is May 16th.
- Jean asked if there was any desire to discuss Ecology and DEQ comments exchanged by email on 4/1; there was none. She noted that each agency could circulate this among their staff for additional comment before 5/16. Several Committee members acknowledged some resistance within their agencies to reducing the number of elements required in the plans.
- Jean will compile all comments after 5/16 and get them to the Coordinating Committee for review. A final draft will then be compiled for the Task Force Members' review and comment prior to the Annual Meeting.

Spill Preparedness/Response Topics of Concern

- Unannounced drill programs:
 - Bob noted that ADEC is doing more unannounced drills. The Committee noted that the USCG's PREP program calls on the COTPs to call unannounced drills on planholders every four years, but the states are picking up the ball and running with it more frequently. Scott noted that OSPR notifies the USCG by cell phone when they arrive on scene, so they have the same notice as the OSRO or planholder.
- Financial responsibility requirements, state and federal:
 - Please see Washington legislation noted on page 4 above.
- Hazardous material spill contingency planning:
 - Jean noted that the USCG Office of Response anticipates delays in promulgation of these final rules.

- Response technologies, including research and development:
 - Scott reported that OSPR will have \$500,000/year for R&D effective July 1, 2003.
- Salvage capabilities and regulations:
 - Stan noted that Ecology has put a “place-holder” in their contingency planning rules for this topic.
 - Stan also reported that a firefighting consortium is being developed for Puget Sound, modeled on the Marine Fire and Safety Association for the Columbia River. The consortium will be run by the Puget Sound COTP and the Seattle Fire Chief. They are seeking grants for the project.
 - Jean noted that the USCG Office of Response stated that it anticipates delays in promulgation of the final salvage and firefighting rules.
- Response training standards for member agency personnel:
 - Stan reported that DRILLTRAC, Ecology’s ICS competency program, will soon be presented to DOE staff. He expects that the program will be ready to share with other Task Force agencies by this summer.
 - Scott noted that the OSPR staff is renewing ICS training in preparation for the SONS drill next year.
- D13 logistics drill:
 - Jean reported that Scott Knudson of USCG D13 had advised her that a planning group including DOE, ExxonMobil, Shell, BP, Global, MSRC, Clean Sound and the Canadian Coast Guard are developing a drill to be held on the Olympic Peninsula and focused on logistics topics. They have identified staging areas, traffic plans (air, ground, sea) and communications as the main logistics issues. They have met with all the principle land owners on the entire coastline which reinforced the need to get back and do follow-up interviews, according to Knudson. The process will include the radio communications testing and staging site reviews. This will be ongoing with the culmination being a Logistics Response Plan ready for 20 October. At that time, they will bring in the logistics section away teams from the major oil companies and sponsors and do a presentation of the plan, the locations and the issues on the outer coast.
- 2004 SONS:
 - Scott reported that the 2004 SONS will be April 21-24, 2004 and that all Task Force member agencies will be invited to attend, probably acting as evaluators.
 - The Coordinating Committee discussed their desire to test the Mutual Aid Agreements during the SONS exercise by cascading equipment, noting that movement of equipment from outside of California would be the best test. Scott asked that Jean send him copies of the Agreements.
- MSRC mergers with West Coast coops:
 - Scott reported that OSPR has been provided with more details of the mergers, but Stan noted that the Washington merger was not as far along as the California mergers.
 - Scott Schaefer noted that PMSA was canceling its contract with the coops for non-tank vessel oil spill response since the vessels are covered by MSRC through their P&I clubs.
 - The Coordinating Committee concluded that OSROs on the West Coast will primarily include MSRC, remaining response coops, NRC, FOSS Environmental, small contractors, and a coastal cleanup group.
- USCG Response Resources Inventory:
 - Referencing Scott Knudson’s 3/17 email on this topic, the Coordinating Committee noted that the inventory is compiled and posted by the District Response Assistance Teams.

- OSROs maintain the lists, which show their total equipment inventories.
- Knudson noted in his email that “One of the projects we are beginning is a dictionary of terms to help clarify for the non-equipment folks and ourselves what means what. This will be some type of high to lower order sequence of descriptions to establish a common language and terms.”
- The latest version of the equipment list is at: <http://www.uscg.mil/d13/m/>
- NEATSWEEP dispersant demonstration project on oil seeps off the California Coast:
 - Scott explained that the project seems to focus on testing the SMART protocols as well as a dispersant applicator that uses boom. He noted that OPSR had been approached for funding but declined.
- JAT contacts for Alaska and Hawaii:
 - Jean explained that the Joint Assessment Team (JAT) was a group of state and federal trustees that meets regularly with industry representatives to discuss NRDA issues and procedures. She encouraged Hawaii and Alaska to identify state trustee representatives who could attend, even by speakerphone.
 - Jean also noted that the BP drill in Washington last November had included a NRDA element, which the JAT will draw on to develop recommendations for NRDA drill procedures. Including NRDA in drills makes sense, she noted, since any actual spill response would need to integrate NRDA activities.

V. Status of Communications Projects

Stakeholder Outreach

- Jean noted that her 3/21 trip report had covered outreach to AWO, API, SOCP, and the JAT.
- She also noted that outreach was inherent in Environmental Group survey, in that it had provided Task Force contact and web site address information.
- Jean also listed the 2003 Legacy mailing and promos for the annual meeting/roundtable, the IOSC booth, her presentation and session chairing, the Wednesday meeting with Canadian federal officials, and the *First Quarter Report to our Stakeholders* which had been posted on web. She reported that email notice of the newsletter’s availability was sent to 148 persons.

Tracking federal policies

- Jean reported that she had submitted comments on the Response Technologies NRPM on behalf of the Task Force and had advised the Coordinating Committee re: the ANPRM covering the definition of navigable waters as well as a Federal Register notice re: drug testing following incidents.
- The Coordinating Committee recommended that the Task Force copy other states on our comments on US federal rulemaking proposals.
- Jean also noted that Charles Hanson of Transport Canada will instruct her on how to access Canadian federal rulemaking proposals.

Summary of the 4/9 Meeting with Canadian officials

- The meeting was hosted by the Canadian Coast Guard in their offices in Vancouver, BC. Attendees included Yvette Myers for the Canadian Coast Guard, Charles Hansen, Gordie Mann, and Muhammad Akhtar for Transport Canada, Fred Beech for Environment Canada, Heather Taylor for BC MWLAP, Bob Mattson for ADEC, Jon Neel for DOE, Curtis Martin for HEER, Scott Schaefer for OSPR, and Jean Cameron for the Task Force. A summary of the discussion follows:

- Jean reviewed the status of various Task Force and member agency projects of interest to Canada, as follows:
 - **Status of implementation of the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project Recommendations:** Jean reported that NOAA had worked with the Task Force and the US Coast Guard to approve wording for the Coast Pilot and navigation charts in US waters, and asked Gordie Mann about the status of the Transport Canada review. He explained that Ottawa was concerned that this recommendation would interfere with the Tanker Exclusion Zone in BC waters. Jean noted that the language specifically states that the recommended offshore distances should be observed “where no other management measure already exists,” thus providing preemption power to the TEZ. In addition, the TEZ only applies to tank vessels, whereas the recommended minimum distances offshore apply to all vessels 300 GT or larger. Jean will ask Larry Pokeda and Gordon May - who represented the Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) on the WCOVTRM Project Workgroup – and David Heap, the Superintendent of MCTS, to work with Transport Canada on implementation of the offshore recommendation.
 - **1-800-OILS-911 in BC waters:** Jean explained the 1-800-OILS-911 system that functions in BC waters, noting that the focus is on recreational boaters and fishermen.
 - **The Task Force’s 2003 Legacy Award nominations:** Jean advised them that the Task Force is now accepting nominations for the 2003 Legacy Award, and noted past BC recipients.
 - **TAPS fleet monitoring:** Jean explained that Laura Stratton at DOE monitors the double-hull conversion status of TAPS tankers for the Task Force and maintains a matrix on the DOE website, which could be accessed directly or through the Task Force website.
 - **Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team:** Jean advised them that the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team provides a forum for information exchange and collaboration among groups and persons working with marinas and recreational boaters to prevent small oil spills. POSPET will be meeting in Olympia, WA on May 13th and will include a presentation on the “Clean Marina” program. More Canadian participation would be welcomed.
 - **Washington DOE’s training re: illegal bypasses of oil/water separator systems:** Transport Canada was particularly interested in participating in DOE’s upcoming training event on May 14th regarding identifying illegal bypasses of oil/water separator systems during vessel inspections. Jon Neel encouraged everyone to participate and agreed to put Transport Canada in contact with John Thornton from Ecology, who is organizing the event.
- The group next reviewed the status of various proposed projects of interest to Canada,
 - **A discussion of our Annual Meeting theme regarding the T/V Prestige and our Roundtable on Places of Refuge:** Jean briefed the group on Task Force plans to focus at their 7/22 Annual Meeting on how the Pacific area would respond to a Prestige-type event. In addition, she explained, the Task Force will sponsor a roundtable discussion the following day on the topic of Places of Refuge. She invited Yvette to discuss these issues within the Canadian Coast Guard and advise the Task Force whether they wish to participate on discussion panels either day. While navigation and shipping are federal responsibilities in Canada, Heather noted that places of refuge would be a local political issue in BC. Fred Beech recalled that the oil spill resulting from the tank barge *Nestucca* – an incident which fostered creation of the Oil Spill Task Force – had affected BC because of the decision to tow the barge offshore rather than bring it into Grey’s Harbor. Jon reflected on how that decision reflected the difficulty of the Places of Refuge issue in general. The decision to move

the Nestucca barge offshore was complicated by the extensive commercial oyster beds in Grays Harbor and the fact that crossing the coastal bar might have exacerbated the problem. It was also noted that the Council of Marine Carriers, the towing industry group in BC, has designated safe harbors along the BC coast, but these primarily exist as places of refuge from the foul weather and are not intended to be used for repair of leaking vessels.

- **An update on the Task Force project involving voluntary best industry practices for vessels:** Jean explained that Task Force representatives and USCG CAPT Scott Glover had met on 2/18 with representatives from tanker operators, the Western States Petroleum Association, and the American Waterways Operators to discuss voluntary spill prevention standards. The industry recommended that all vessel operators be included, not just tanker operators, and offered to review and rank the recommended industry practices according to which ones provided the most spill prevention impact. Gordie Mann noted that PI Club publications often list best practices and provide for lowered premiums as well as reduced liability. They suggested that the BC Chamber of Shipping might help the Task Force access such publications.
- Finally, the group reviewed Canadian initiatives of interest to the Task Force, as follows:
 - **Status of the Statia Terminal proposal at Prince Rupert:** Yvette and Gordie explained that there was no new information on the Statia Terminal proposal, since no formal permit application has been filed yet. As understood at this time, the proposal would be for a transshipment terminal where a ULCC would unload either crude oil or refined product. This would then be shipped to US refineries via smaller tankers. An assessment would be undertaken by Transport Canada using the TERMPOL process to evaluate traffic patterns and potential environmental impacts. Both provincial and other federal agencies would be included in the process. (For information regarding the TERMPOL process, go to [TP 743 - TERMPOL Review Process \(2001\)](#))
 - **The Tanker Exclusion Zone (TEZ) status:** Gordie reported that IMO approval was recently received on a change to the TSS for the Straits of Juan de Fuca which affected the TEZ. Also, the Bowie SeaMount near the NW end of the TEZ has been designated as a marine protected area.
 - **Status: CANADA/US Joint Contingency Plan (JCP) and CANUSPAC Annex:** The Canadian Coast Guard and the US Coast Guard anticipate signing the revised Joint Contingency Plan this May. The CANUSPAC and CANUSDIX annexes have been exercised on a regular basis while the JCP was being revised. A wildlife care agreement has been negotiated as an appendix to the CANUSDIX agreements, and will be tested at the CANUSDIX exercise this fall.
 - **Agency initiatives:**
 - Jon Neel explained that the dedicated rescue tug which the State of Washington has stationed at Neah Bay for four years has had a high success rate. The Washington Legislature is looking for a source of permanent funding (see page 3 above). (Jon has reported that since the meeting, the legislature has funded the tug for about 6-7 months per year for the next 5 years. Jon was invited to provide an update of Washington initiatives at a future Canadian federal/ industry coordination work group meeting.)
 - Fred Beech reported that Environment Canada is interested in doing a study on oiling of pelagic and migratory birds on the West Coast, similar to one done for Canada's East Coast. He will keep the Task Force advised regarding opportunities for support on this project. Fred and Jon discussed possible opportunities for partnering on the project. Washington State may be able to contribute funding if a joint project can be developed.

- Gordie Mann and Muhammad Akhtar explained that Transport Canada is developing “Administrative Monitoring Penalties” which would give them civil penalty authority to enforce port state control regulations. Until now, Transport Canada has to go through a criminal penalty process for enforcement because all civil penalty authority for marine regulation lies with the Canadian Coast Guard.
- Charles Hansen will send Jean information on how to track Canadian federal regulatory proposals.
- All participants agreed that the meeting was useful and that such a meeting should occur at least annually.

Environmental Group Survey

- Of 38 surveys sent out, 2 were returned due to wrong addresses with no correction information provided by the post office. Of the remaining 36, only 4 completed surveys had been returned prior to this meeting, for a 11% reply rate.
- These four replies were from CIRCAC, the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, the Canadian Marine Environment Protection Society, and Ocean Advocates.
- The Coordinating Committee advised Jean to check group websites and send reminders as she had time to do so.

Annual Report

- Jean gave the Coordinating Committee a timeline for production of the 2003 Annual Report, noting that their sections would be due to her by May 16th. The timeline may need to be adjusted somewhat to reflect color printing for the data, if that needs to be done outside of Oregon.
- Jean recommended that the 2003 cover graphic be a sea turtle, since the meeting will be in Hawaii. Curtis clarified that it should be a green sea turtle.

2003 Legacy Awards

- Jean expressed appreciation to DEQ for printing and mailing 890 2003 Legacy Award brochures, as well as printing extras for the IOSC booth. The announcement and request for nominations is also on the website.
- The nominations deadline is 4/25; Jean gave the Committee a timeline and they set the following dates for conference calls to review the nominations and develop recommendations to the Task Force Members: Friday May 9th, 1 to 3pm and Friday, May 16th, 1-3pm IF NEEDED.

2003 Annual Meeting and Roundtable Programs

- The Coordinating Committee discussed a schedule and agenda for the Annual Meeting on July 22nd. Decision highlights include:
 - US Coast Guard VADM Terrance Cross will be invited to be the keynote speaker;
 - The Task Force will ask Clean Islands Council to join them in co-hosting a buffet luncheon that will be open to all annual meeting attendees.
 - Mike Ziccardi of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network will be asked to give a luncheon presentation on the topic of wildlife care activities during the T/V Prestige oil spill response.
 - An afternoon panel will focus on the meeting’s theme: “The Prestige: What if it happened in the Pacific Area?” Questions to be addressed will include:
 - What’s our ability to respond to open-ocean spills?
 - What’s our salvage capability
 - How would we respond to a worst-case scenario?

- What additional steps are necessary?
 - Would expediting double hull requirements make a difference?
 - After a public comment session and responses from Task Force Members, the Members will be asked to adopt the 2003-2004 Annual Workplan.
 - The meeting will convene at 8am and adjourn by 3pm.
- The Coordinating Committee then discussed a schedule and agenda for the Places of Refuge Roundtable on July 23rd: Decision highlights include:
 - The Roundtable will convene at 8:30 am and adjourn by 12:30 pm.
 - Anil Mathur of the Alaska Tanker Company will be asked to provide the keynote address.
 - The first panel will address “Aspects of Decision-Making” including salvage, environmental and economic impacts, and West Coast port capabilities.
 - The second panel will address questions on “Decision-Making Procedures” such as Who has authority to deny entry or to make the final decisions? What planning could be done in advance of an incident? Should we use the Area Planning process in the US? How would IMO guidelines be applied? Would existing compensation schemes cover damages to “places of refuge”? Would the ICS/Unified Command structure be used? How would stakeholders be assured that the process will be inclusive and fair?
 - An open forum will then be provided for all Roundtable attendees to pose questions and suggest answers.

VI. Task Force Administration Projects/Issues

Budget status and contract transition

- Jean asked for clarification regarding use of the funds which would have been applied to expenses for the month of July under the current contract. The Coordinating Committee advised her to apply any balance at the end of June towards the Annual Meeting by paying the Hilton in advance, if possible.
- Jean asked the Coordinating Committee if they wished her to purchase a copy of “Oil Spill First Principles” but they did not recommend doing so.

Executive Coordinator Proposal

- Jean asked the Coordinating Committee to comment on the following three aspects of her bid for the Executive Coordinator position:
 - Regarding her proposal for having “electronic” Coordinating Committee meetings by using conference calls, there was strong resistance to the idea. Coordinating Committee member feel that face-to-face meetings are far more useful for information exchange as well as for building the Committee into a cohesive group.
 - The Coordinating Committee did approve the idea of hiring a private webmaster to revise the Task Force website and develop a more user-friendly address. Everyone appreciates what the MWLAP has done over the years to get the website up and running, but with changes at the ministry regarding web access, it is more burden for them and not as useful for Jean when it comes to loading documents.
 - Jean then walked the Coordinating Committee through all aspects of the cost proposal, including her offer to take an unpaid sabbatical. The Committee did not accept this proposal, preferring that the full salary costs be reflected in the final contract and that Jean carry “vacation” time over from the current contract to cover an extended leave in October/November of 2003. Her proposal for a \$12,000 annual travel budget was approved, but the goods/services total will have to be adjusted to compensate for the higher salary figure within the total 2-year budget of \$185,000. Jean noted that the

2005 IOSC booth was in the Goods/Services budget (which also includes the annual meeting and annual report which are currently shown as separate budget categories), as well as projected expenses for the roundtables and Coordinating Committee meetings.

Annual Meeting & Roundtable Logistics and Budgets

- Jean expressed concern regarding representation from Oregon and Alaska at the Annual Meeting, due to budget cuts and travel restrictions in both states. Since Hawaii is a new member, full regional representation is critical, even if only one person can attend from each state.
- Jean reviewed the meeting schedule and locations as follows:
 - Monday 7/21 Briefing Session: 1-5 in Sea Pearl Suite #1
 - Tuesday 7/22 Annual Meeting, 7-6 in South Pacific Ballroom 1-2
 - Lunch 7/22 11:45-1:30 in South Pacific Ballroom #3
 - Wednesday 7/23 Roundtable 7-6 in South Pacific Ballroom 1-2
 - Thursday 7/24 Coordinating Committee meeting 8 – 1 Sea Pearl Suite #1
- She noted that a \$500 non-refundable deposit had been made with the hotel.
- A block of 100 rooms was being held for the Task Force for Sunday 7/20-Thursday 7/24 and that Registration information has been sent to all Coordinating Committee members for them to forward to their Task Force members. Stan noted that he was registered.
- HEER has agreed to provide: registration table staff, a media contact to handle a press release, a photographer, and a laptop and projector (with technician to load up presentations) for both days.
- The Coordinating Committee then discussed the Annual Meeting and Roundtable budget projections. Jean projected costs for meeting rooms and coffee catering for the briefing session, the Annual Meeting, and the Coordinating Committee meeting to be about \$1450, not including the luncheon. The total budget for this event will be \$1900 plus \$1000 from HEER, for a total of \$2900 out of the 2003-2004 budget. That would leave approximately \$1450 towards a buffet luncheon open to all participants, and Jean estimated the costs for such a luncheon to be approximately \$3244 for 100 persons. Curtis reported that Clean Islands Council was interested in co-sponsoring the event, so we will talk to them about picking up the balance. In addition, there may be funding left from the 2002-2003 budget, including funding allocated for the Annual Meeting. The Coordinating Committee felt strongly that we should go ahead with a hosted buffet luncheon open to all attendees.

2003-2004 Annual Workplan

- The Committee discussed the 2003-2004 Annual Workplan outline which Jean had drafted. Major decisions included:
 - Recommended Best Industry Practices for Vessel Spill Prevention would be an outreach project, possibly the topic for a Winter 2004 Roundtable or a panel presentation at another maritime industry forum. The Coordinating Committee did not recommend it as a workgroup project at this time (see pages 6-7 above).
 - No new spill prevention projects will be added this year, but Port Infrastructure issues will be discussed in the context of Strategic Planning (see page 8 above).
 - Places of Refuge would be added as a new project under Preparedness/Response; the Task Force should partner with the USCG Pacific Area and convene a stakeholder workgroup. The Workgroup's goal would be to develop a decision-making checklist to be adopted by Area Committees.
 - No changes were recommended to the current Annual Workplan format.
 - The Timeline as proposed was accepted.

- Jean will draft a 2003-2004 Annual Workplan based on these directions and submit it to the Coordinating Committee by May 2nd for further review/comment.

Fall Meeting Date/Location

- The Coordinating Committee members present set September 23-24 for their Fall 2003 Quarterly meeting, with September 16-17 as back-up dates. Their preference was to have a full day meeting followed by a half-day set aside for either additional meeting agenda if necessary, or a “field trip” such as accompanying DOE inspectors on a ship inspection in the Portland/Vancouver harbor.
- Consistent with the rotation schedule adopted at the January meeting, this one will be in Oregon, preferably in Portland.

Executive Coordinator’s upcoming activities/vacation

- Jean advised the Coordinating Committee that her upcoming projects would include drafting meeting notes, a Management Report, the Annual Report and Annual Workplan, working with them on the Legacy Award nominations, recruiting Annual Meeting speakers/logistics, meeting with Stan re: Contract, attending POSPET and the illegal discharge training, and briefing BC’s new Task Force member in May.
- Jean hopes to take a week of vacation in late May, perhaps including some travel in BC in conjunction with the briefing in Victoria on 5/29.

Meeting Evaluation

- Jean asked the Coordinating Committee whether they were pleased with the meeting. Was there enough time for each item and overall? Did they have sufficient advance information? Were they satisfied with the facilitation? Did they feel that they’d all had opportunity to participate? Since they were eager to adjourn, they responded in the affirmative.
- Everyone agreed that the meeting location was excellent, and thanked Heather for both the facility and the lovely catering.

The Spring 2003 Quarterly meeting of the Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force Coordinating Committee adjourned at 2:30pm on 4/11/03.

AGENDA
Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force
Coordinating Committee Meeting
April 10-11, 2003
Fairmont Waterfront Hotel, at 900 Canada Place Way, Vancouver BC

Thursday, April 10th

- | | |
|------|--|
| 3pm | Convene |
| 3:15 | IOSC Debrief |
| 3:30 | Jurisdictional updates |
| 5pm | Review budget status and contract transition |
| 5:15 | Review EC proposal <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Electronic" Coordinating Committee meetings • Hiring a private webmaster • All aspects of the cost proposal, including Jean's offer to take an unpaid sabbatical • Other |
| 6pm | Adjourn |

Friday, April 11th

- | | |
|---------|---|
| 8am | Reconvene |
| 8:15 | Review Spill Prevention Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Database project (25) • WCOVTRM implementation (10) • Voluntary tanker standards (20) • POSPET (5) • Monitoring taps conversions (5) • Topics of Concern (25) |
| 9:45 | Break |
| 10 a.m. | Review Spill Preparedness/Response Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Non-tank vessels (10) • Maintain the IVRP matrix (5) • OILS 911 Spill reporting number (5) • Contingency plan elements (20) • Topics of Concern (30) |
| 11:10 | Communication Projects <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stakeholder Outreach (5) • Tracking federal policies (10) • Debrief meeting with Canadian officials (20) • Environmental Group Survey (15) |
| Noon | Lunch Break |
| 1:30 | Administrative Issues <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Report (5) • Legacy Awards (15) • Annual Meeting & Roundtable (70) |
| 3pm | Break |
| 3:15 | Continue Administrative Issues: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2003-2003 Annual Workplan (60) • EC's upcoming activities (5) |

4:20 Meeting Evaluation
4:30 Adjourn