

Summary Notes¹
Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force
Fall Quarter Coordinating Committee Meeting
October 1-2, 2003
Oregon DEQ, Portland, Oregon

ATTENDING

Curtis Martin, HDOH; Stan Norman, WDOE; Scott Schaefer, CAL/OSPR; Heather Taylor, BC/MWLAP; Ed Collazzi, ADEC; Mike Zollitsch, ODEQ; and Jean Cameron, PS/BC OSTF. Also attending as guests on October 1st: Wayne Turpin, Canadian Wildlife Service Atlantic Region, and Bill Jefferies, RadarSat International

JURISDICTIONAL REPORTS

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, Emergency Response and Site Assessment; Mike Zollitsch reporting:

- Maritime Fire and Safety Association Plan Extension:
 - The geographic coverage area of the Maritime Fire and Safety Association Umbrella plan was temporarily expanded on a limited basis. Equipment was relocated to the Yaquina Bay area and procedures were implemented to get personnel to Newport if a spill occurred while the entrance to the bar was dredged.
 - An upriver annex was also added to the plan to provide coverage for a ship calling in the Port of The Dalles on the Columbia River. The ship was picking up cattle and for shipment to Korea. Financial analysis of this venture may lead to future shipments; if so, a permanent solution to providing oil spill coverage upriver will need to be addressed.
- Rules:
 - Staff is working on enforcement rules related to the three rule packages which were filed with the Secretary of State and became effective on January 31, 2003. These rules cover oil spill contingency planning, emergency response, and ballast water.
- Contingency Planning:
 - The Department is beginning to receive revised contingency plans based on recent rule revisions, including plans from inland pipelines.
- Spill Incidents:
 - There have been five highway spills this year which have taken multiple weeks to resolve.
 - There was one bunkering spill at the Port of Portland, and one soft grounding near Astoria. The vessel was refloated within six hours, and no spill occurred.
- Other:
 - The Emergency Response program staff continues to participate in the joint Northwest Area Committee and Regional Response Team. Paul Slyman, Deputy Director and Oil Spill Task Force Member, Chuck Donaldson and Michael Zollitsch continue to meet with the Governor's Security Council, the Governor's Security Council Steering Group and the State Domestic Preparedness Working Group.
 - The Department has received Homeland Security Grants to improve laboratory capacity including a containment area and a Liquid Chromatograph/Tandem Mass Spectrometer.
 - The Department continues to work on 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 within the next six months. The Department also continues to work on the chemical release annex to the State's Emergency Operations Plan.

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

- Mike Greenburg has been designated as Oregon's Weapons of Mass Destruction Coordinator.

Washington Department of Ecology Spills Program; Stan Norman reporting:

- Oil Spill Prevention:
 - Illegal waste oil discharges continue to occupy a lot of vessel inspector and investigator time. There are approximately a dozen cases pending.
 - The dedicated rescue tug, *Barbara Foss*, was deployed to Neah Bay on September 15, 2003. The tug will be on station through at least April 30, 2004. Ecology plans to re-bid the rescue tug contract for a four year term next spring. They are considering fire fighting, oil spill response, and towing capability enhancements to the current specifications as part of the re-bid package. The Coast Guard has yet to commit federal funding to the tug.
 - Work continues on implementing the Washington/Coast Guard District 13 MOA Protocols. Nine of ten protocols have been signed and are posted on the Ecology Spills Program web site: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/spills.html.
 - Inspection of above-ground oil storage tanks to API standards remains an elusive goal. We are conducting a survey to determine which facilities will be able to meet the state regulatory deadline of June 2004.
- Spill Preparedness:
 - Work continues on the Contingency Plan rulemaking. The current focus is on developing the data for a defensible cost/benefit analysis.
 - DRILLTRAC, our Incident Command System competency program, has been initiated for Spills Program staff. There are classroom training requirements, requirements for participation in drills, and annual refresher training requirements. See CDs distributed to each Coordinating Committee member.
- Spill Response:
 - The number of drug lab clean-ups continued a slight downward trend through the summer.
 - Although oil spills from regulated vessels and facilities are down in both number and volume, oil spills from non-regulated vessels and facilities continue to increase. This trend is behind our strategic plan for expanding our population of regulated vessels and facilities to match the Coast Guard population.
- Restoration
 - Work continues on dispersants and decanting; some issues just never get resolved.
 - Maintaining a list of approved and executable restoration projects for the use of federal prosecutors during illegal oil dumping plea agreement and settlement negotiations is challenging.

Hawaii Department of Health, Hazards Evaluation and Emergency Response; Curtis Martin reporting:

- Cruise Ship MOU
 - The Department has negotiated Memoranda of Understanding with both the NW Cruise Ship Association and a couple of Japanese cruise lines that visit Hawaii. The terms of these MOUs require that the ships operating in Hawaiian waters submit voluntary oil spill contingency plans that include emergency response contact information and spill management team coverage consistent with the Task Force's recommended contingency plan elements.
- Spill Response and Cleanup
 - HEER responded to a PCB release from a transformer on a telephone pole behind Diamond Head on Oahu; Curtis reported that ownership of the pole – state or the Army - was unclear.
 - The Pearl Harbor cleanup continues.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, Division of Spill Prevention and Response; Ed Collazzi reporting:

- Budgets

- Division staff have been reviewing budgets and developing 4-year plans which include regulatory and legislative initiatives.
- The Legislature moved the Division's Prevention Fund into the state's General Fund as part of a larger funding "sweep". Because of this ADEC will need to submit a supplemental budget request this year to restore its funding.
- Spill Incidents
 - There were no major spill incidents in the last quarter.
- Contingency Planning
 - The 2003 Legislature passed a bill changing the contingency plan review cycle from three years to five years.
 - A 60-day public comment period ends 10/13 regarding the contingency planning rules governing exploration facilities. The Division expects to make response planning standards and the scenario requirements more specific.
 - There is some interest in extending the non-tank vessel contingency plan requirements to fishing vessels small than 400 GT as an FY '06 target.
- Other
 - ADEC is supporting the Division of Emergency Services with regard to homeland security issues.

British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, Environmental Emergency Management; Heather Taylor reporting:

- Budget Cuts and Program Management Issues
 - Revenues in the Province were lower than projected, forcing the Ministry into another round of cuts. The program has five staff in Victoria and 17 emergency response officers in the regions; some of these may be affected by the next round of cuts, although management recognizes that the program needs better funding.
 - Heather, who plans to retire at the end of March, expects that her position will be cut and her assignments given to an Assistant Director; the Task Force liaison function may be handled at a corporate policy level. The Emergency Response program might be transferred to Provincial Emergency Response.
 - Heather noted that the Canadian Coast Guard is also in a financial bind.
 - Heather continues Incident Management Team training and the review of the private sector's ability to respond to emergencies. The program's mandate is to set response standards and monitor compliance, but only to respond to the highest risk spills with Ministry staff. Currently, that's about 9% of all spills.
- Drills and Staff Activities
 - The Ministry will cooperate with Burrard Clean and Island Tug and Barge on a drill in October that will involve the Vancouver Incident Management Team.
 - Stafford Reid and Laurie Boyle worked on pre-ops during the forest fire response in the Province. Stafford is also preparing a paper on SCAT and response paradigms.
 - Laurie Boyle and Alex Grant participating in the CANUSDIX exercise September 8-12th.

California Department of Fish and Game, Office of Spill Prevention and Response; Scott Schaefer reporting:

- Spill Incidents
 - The US Navy spilled 50,000 gallons of oil in San Diego; Most of the oil was contained on land. The couple of thousand gallons that went in the water was contained under the pier. The US Navy's voluntary compliance with California regulations requiring pre-booming of oil transfers significantly minimized the environmental impact of the spill.
- Shoreline Protection Standards
 - OSPR is finalizing shoreline protection standards that will include 6-hour dedicated response equipment standards. Scott expects this to be very challenging for areas outside the high volume ports.

- Dispersant Policies
 - California has adopted dispersant pre-approval zones beyond three miles. State officials are now working on policies for the zones within 3 miles of shore and National Marine Sanctuary areas.
- 2004 SONS
 - A major Regional Incident Command/National Incident Command (RIC/NIC) training event was held in September in preparation for the 2004 SONS drill, and was attended by VADM Cross and Rear Admiral Eldridge, as well as several Mexican Navy officials.
- Budget/Administration
 - The State of California is planning to cut \$1.066 billion statewide, including 16,000 staff positions. Although OSPR's program is supported by dedicated funding, the impact on OSPR is still unclear. OSPR has nineteen new positions which were created July 1, 2003

STATUS REVIEW OF 2003-2004 SPILL PREVENTION PROJECTS

- Database Project
 - Jean noted that there had been problems with late submissions of the January – June 2003 data, and reminded the Coordinating Committee that this project was the Members' highest priority under their Spill Prevention Objective.
 - She then provided them with copies of the draft data for this period as compiled by Jack Barfield of Ecology, the Data Project Chair.
 - By product spilled, diesel is still largest by volume on a regional basis, followed by "other" and crude oil.
 - By spill source, facilities still dominate, followed by "other." In Washington, Alaska, and California, the facility type responsible for most spills is "commercial/industrial." In Oregon, it's residential fuel tanks.
 - Equipment failure still dominates causal factors on a regional basis, followed by Human Error, External Conditions, and "unknown." One Data Project Workgroup member has noted that "the more thorough the investigation the more likely human error comes in. The more sketchy the facts the more likely it ends with an equipment failure cause."
 - Jean asked whether ADEC's budget had included sponsoring a DNV Training event this year; Ed said it was being considered for the upcoming budget request for FY 05, so it would take place sometime after July 2004 if approved.
- Implementation of the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management (WCOVTRM) Project Recommendations
 - Jean reported that Rick Holly of OSPR, project co-chair, plus USCG CDR Steve Danscuk, and Ellen Faurot-Daniels of the California Coastal Commission, Project workgroup members, had been addressing concerns raised by the Port Hueneme, CA Harbor Safety Committee about the voluntary minimum distances from shore. Their primary concern was that this would have adverse impacts on ships using their port, but it had been explained to them that access to their port is controlled by the TSS for LA/LB, and existing management measures such as this are specifically exempted in the Coast Pilot language. The USCG Pacific Area is expected to respond to specific changes which the HSC recommended for the Coast Pilot language.
 - Jean explained that the comments which she's drafted regarding the AIS carriage and ballast water proposals by the USCG are based on the WCOVTRM Project Workgroup's final recommendations on these topics.
- Recommended Vessel Best Industry Practices

- Jean reviewed the Best Industry Practices ranking as included in the 2003 Annual Report, and told the Coordinating Committee that she would be putting these – with further details on the specific practices – on the new website, and will also add information about the project as a whole.
- The Coordinating Committee advised Jean to contact the Ship Operators' Cooperative Program regarding their interest in hosting a panel discussion on this topic in 2004.
- Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET)
 - Jean explained that she had contacted Eric Olsson and expressed her opinion that POSPET will probably have to function primarily by conference call over the next few years, since most member agencies and organizations have so little funding for travel.
 - Stan will contact Eric regarding the need to get POSPET functioning better.
- Monitoring TAPS Trade Tanker Conversions
 - The Coordinating Committee reviewed the updated report provided by Laura Stratton of Ecology on 9/16.
 - Scott had questioned whether the vessels included in the report were only calling on Washington ports, but Stan explained that all TAPS tankers were included, and these vessels go to any West Coast refinery, as directed.
- Resolution on Cruise Ship Pollution Prevention Standards
 - Curtis stated that Hawaii was ready to sign on to the draft which Stan had prepared
 - Ed explained that Alaska is already addressing cruise ship pollution issues and he and Larry Dietrick are concerned about expanding the Task Force's mission into topics beyond the core mission of oil spills. They would have to consult with other agency programs on this and present the resolution to the Commissioner with these other programs.
 - Mike stated that he was also concerned about "mission creep."
 - Heather's program is also focusing on core missions, so she agreed.
 - Stan explained that the Spills Program regularly consults with other programs in Ecology, particularly to provide maritime expertise, but recognized that not every agency works that way.
 - Since the majority was opposed to pursuing the resolution, the Coordinating Committee agreed that the issue of cruise ship pollution would be addressed by our 2004 Roundtable instead of through a resolution. They agreed that the sewage and hazardous chemical waste streams are more of a risk with cruise ships than with most other vessels.
- Spill Prevention Topics of Concern
 - *Offshore Lightering*: Scott reported that the San Diego USCG Marine Safety Office has published a Standard of Care for the lightering operations off southern California. The SOC doesn't address the fact that the operations are located near areas of heavy vessel traffic, however. He explained that a ULCC carries 3 million bbls of oil.
 - *California's development of a "threat matrix" to prioritize oil spill risks from sunken vessels*: Scott had no further progress to report on this project, but will have an update on the completed 'initial' threat matrix at the next coordinating Committee meeting.
 - *Oil/water separator bypass cases and issues*: Stan reported that Dodge Kenyon of Ecology provided training in Alaska for both the USCG and EPA, and Scott commented that a number of California attorneys are working on these cases. Wayne Turpin of the Canadian Wildlife Service Atlantic Region commented that interagency coordination on this issue is improving in Canada, although some agencies, such as Environment Canada, are pursuing it more aggressively than others.

STATUS REVIEW OF SPILL PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE PROJECTS

- Places of Refuge Project
 - Jean provided the Coordinating Committee with copies of a project outline that covered the short-term project schedule, a list of potential stakeholders to involve in the project, issues for the project workgroup to address, a possible agenda for the workgroup's first meeting, and the roles and responsibilities of various players.
 - She reported that she'd met and discussed the project with Linda Pilkey-Jarvis of Ecology, who will be the co-chair for the Task Force; Stan will serve as her alternate. Jean had also met with Yvette Myers of the Canadian Coast Guard, and she and Linda met with CAPT Rob Lorigan and his staff from the USCG Pacific Area Marine Safety Office. Jean is waiting to hear from both the Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada re: what roles they wish to play in the project.
 - Stan reported that he and Linda Pilkey-Jarvis were recommending that the Core Workgroup be limited to 30 persons representing the Task Force member agencies, the USCG (Pacific Area and the four districts), the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, representatives of tank and non-tank vessel operators, CIRCAC and the PWS RCACs, and environmental organizations from each Task Force jurisdiction. Other US and Canadian federal agencies, response organizations, salvors, and additional stakeholders can be invited to participate as either observers or advisors. The Coordinating Committee agreed with this recommendation.
 - Stan also reported on the Sause Brothers drill in September, which included a Places of Refuge scenario. He did not feel that the decision-making process went well, thus highlighting the need for this issue to be addressed in more detail.

- Contingency Plans for Non-Tank Vessels
 - While authority for the USCG to require oil spill contingency plans from non-tank vessels is in the House version of the USCG 2004 Authorization Act, it is not in the Senate version. This will need to be resolved in Conference committee.

- OILS 911 Spill Reporting Number
 - Jean reported that 11 calls were made in August using this system: 10 in California and one in Washington. She encouraged Oregon and BC to improve their participation rates.
- Preparedness/Response Topics of Concern
 - National Response Plan:
 - Jean noted that her travel report from the API and NAVSAC meetings in August and the NW RRT/Area Committee meeting in September had included information on development of the new National Response Plan by the Dept. of Homeland Security. Jean is concerned that this new plan may supplant the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan without addressing oil spill response needs.
 - The Coordinating Committee said their agencies were tracking this and there was no need for the Task Force to do so.
 - 2004 SONS:
 - The SONS exercise will be held in California April 19-23, 2004. The scenario will include a ship explosion off LA/LB followed by a barge incident in the San Diego area. There will be three command centers: LA, San Diego, and Ensenada. The RIC/NIC will be in Los Alamitos near Seal Beach. Mutual aid protocols will be drilled.
 - Each Task Force agency should advise Scott or Ted Mar re: the staff who wish to attend, and OSPR will send specific invitations.
 - Financial responsibility requirements, state and federal:

- Stan reported that Washington's COFR for large commercial vessels went to \$300 million on 7/27/03. The COFR for tank vessels will go to \$1 billion on 1/1/04. Washington will apply Alaska's COFR rates to fishing vessels.
- Response training standards for member agency personnel:
 - WA DRILLTRAC: Stan provided DRILLTRAC CDs for each Coordinating Committee member, and noted that the program outlines the functions and training necessary for each ICS position. The CD also includes the ICS forms that have to be completed in each function, along with examples of how to complete the forms. Elin Storey (425-649-7111) and Linda Pilkey-Jarvis (360-407-7447) are the contacts in Ecology for this project. (Also see notes re: DRILLTRAC on page 2).
- NRDA initiatives and activities
 - Jean advised the Coordinating Committee that the JAT would be meeting at OSPR in Sacramento on 10/16 and would be working on Guidelines for a Cooperative Assessment.

INVITED PRESENTATION BY WAYNE TURPIN, CANADIAN WILDLIFE SERVICE AND BILL JEFFERIES FROM RADARSAT INTERNATIONAL RE: ISTOP

- Mr. Turpin explained that ISTOP stands for *Integrated Satellite Tracking of Polluters*, and employs daily satellite photos in which oil slicks can be identified.
- These can then be confirmed by over-flights of the area, and then samples can be taken. Vessel images in photos can be correlated with vessel transits based on AIS data. RADARSAT 2, which will be operable in 2005, will be able to define the shapes of vessels.
- As developed for Eastern Canada, the program involves coordination of existing activities by such federal agencies as the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, Environment Canada, and Defense.
- If the radar operator reports an image on the daily scan that looks like oil, then over-flights can be mobilized within an hour.
- This program is also in used in Sweden and Denmark.
- Environment Canada plans to conduct a test program in Western Canada from mid-October to mid-November this year that will include surveys for illegal fishing activities, collection of weather data, and security applications.
- When a Committee member noted that illegal oil dumping was most often done at night, Mr. Jefferies explained that infrared radar images are not hindered by darkness or cloud cover. The only constraining factor is wave height. The satellite generally has a 96-98% success rate in acquiring images.

ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

- Executive Coordinator's travel report: NAVSAC, API's Spills Advisory Group, NWArea Committee/RRT, and the CANUSDIX exercise
 - Jean gave the Coordinating Committee copies of various documents referenced in her travel report (emailed earlier), and reviewed the following topics from the report: Maritime Security Regulations, AIS & Voice Data Recorder carriage; VTS; reports from the USCG and EPA at the API meeting; the Oiled Migratory Bird Protocols; and events and discussions at CANUSDIX.
 - She also reviewed the white paper provided by Dan Sheehan at API, noting that Mr. Sheehan notes that OPA 90's success has resulted in fewer spills and OSROs are realizing less income. As a result, they're getting involved in other project, but this has reduced their availability. He suggests more PREP exercises as one answer. Since the Spills Advisory Group agreed to

discuss this topic at their December meeting, Jean asked that the Coordinating Committee to send her their comments by 11/28 so she can compile them prior to the 12/11 API meeting.

- Coordinating Committee meeting dates & locations
 - Winter Jan. 22-23 in CA: The Coordinating Committee confirmed these dates and agreed to meet in San Diego. Scott will reserve a location.
 - Spring in Alaska: The Coordinating Committee agreed to May 20-21; ADEC will determine whether this meeting will be in Juneau or Anchorage.

- Schedule 2004 Roundtable and meetings with federal officials
 - Roundtable: The Coordinating Committee agreed to host a roundtable on cruise ship pollution prevention issues on January 21st in San Diego. This will be a morning only event.
 - Meet with Pacific Area USCG: The Coordinating Committee asked Jean to arrange a meeting with the USCG Pacific Area marine safety staff for the afternoon of January 21st.
 - Meet with Canadian officials: Heather requested that Jean attend the Western Canada Marine Spill Response Committee meeting on December 10th as an opportunity to interface with Canadian officials on behalf of the Task Force.
 - 2004 Annual Meeting: It was agreed that Oregon would host the 2004 meeting in the downtown Portland area. A date was to be determined as soon as possible.

- Status: new Task Force website
 - The address oilspilltaskforce.org has been secured for 2 years.
 - Jean gave the Coordinating Committee a sample of homepage and sub-page categories, as well as a list of what products/documents will be available under each category.

- Budget status/interagency contract issues
 - Jean gave the Coordinating Committee a 1st quarter budget report which showed a balance of \$67, 734.76 for the 2003-2004 fiscal year. All expenses year-to-date are within budget.
 - Stan confirmed that all interagency contracts in support of the budget are in place.

- Executive Coordinator's vacation
 - Jean will be on vacation from October 15th until November 5th. She will leave a voice message referring callers to Stan Norman for urgent matters. This is one of the joys of being a contract manager, she explained.

- Other
 - Jean passed around the sign-in sheets from the 2003 Annual Meeting as an FYI item.
 - The Coordinating Committee confirmed that they wish to review the full Summary Notes from the Annual Meeting and not just their jurisdictional reports.
 - In response to Jean's query, the Coordinating Committee stated that the "daily news" selections she sends them are useful.

This quarterly meeting adjourned at 5:45pm.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

- The Coordinating Committee met October 2nd to discuss development of a new Strategic Plan. Strategic Planning decisions included:
 - The next Strategic Plan will be a five-year plan, subject to biennial review.
 - The phrase “and hazardous material” will be deleted from line 3 of the Mission Statement.
 - The Current Goals were retained with some minor edits which Jean will cover in the first draft of the 2004-2009 Strategic Plan.
 - The Objectives were revised as follows:
 - I. Spill Prevention Objective: Develop and implement regulatory and public/private partnerships to prevent oil spills and pollution from vessels, vehicles, facilities, and pipelines.
 - II. Spill Preparedness and Response Objective: Enhance oil spill preparedness and response capabilities in US and Canadian Pacific coastal areas.
 - III. Communications Objective: Improve communications within the Task Force, with key stakeholders, and with the general public, and maintain a high level of public and stakeholder involvement in Task Force activities.
- The Coordinating Committee reviewed the task list from the Fall 2002 Long Range Planning Retreat and made several deletions and additions.
- The Coordinating Committee did not feel it was necessary to conduct an implementation status review of all Task Force recommendations made under the current Strategic Plan.
- Since they did not feel that the new plan would represent any major changes of direction for the Task Force, the Coordinating Committee decided not to meet with stakeholder groups or conduct any stakeholder surveys in the course of this planning. Public comment on a draft 2004-2009 Strategic Plan will be done using the website.
- On the question of whether the Mexican State of Baja should be invited to join the Task Force, the Coordinating Committee asked OSPR to develop a recommendation on this matter.