

Summary Notes¹
Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force
Spring 2007 Coordinating Committee Meeting
April 25-26, 2007
Oregon DEQ
Portland, OR

ATTENDING: Betty Schorr, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC); Steve Sawyer, California Office of Spill Prevention & Response (OSPR); Curtis Martin, Hawaii Hazards Evaluation & Emergency Response (HEER); Stafford Reid, British Columbia Ministry of Environment; Jon Neel, Washington Department of Ecology (DOE); Mike Zollitsch and Don Pettit, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ); and Jean Cameron, Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force. Phil Woods from the Alabama Department of Environmental Management and Phil Wieczynski of the Florida Department of Environmental Protection joined the meeting by phone during the Jurisdictional Updates. Dick Pedersen, Deputy Director, Oregon DEQ also joined the meeting during the Jurisdictional Updates.

JURISDICTIONAL UPDATES:

British Columbia Ministry of Environment; Stafford Reid reporting:

- The Ministry has finished its review of railroad spill response issues, and Stafford reported that it was productive to meet with the operators. The operators' response plans all require them to report spills in British Columbia to the Ministry.
- Stafford is developing technical support such as SCAT and air monitoring capabilities for the Provincial Incident Management Teams. They're also pulling together "gear bags" that are ready to go in an emergency.
- He noted the potential for increased vessel traffic including tankers, as well as new pipelines, if all the proposals for development in Kitimat and Prince Rupert are realized. Most are tied to developing a system to export Alberta crude. British Columbia will definitely have to improve emergency preparedness capabilities for that area.
- Regarding the current debate over lightering any oil remaining on the sunken ferry *Queen of the North*, Stafford felt certain that no one really knows how much oil remains onboard.
- He noted that Dave Byers from Washington Ecology had attended the Ministry's annual response officers' meeting to describe Washington's program. Several aspects were particularly interesting, including methamphetamine lab cleanups and the idea that a spills program could be funded based on 5 cent/bbl fee!
- Stafford will send the Coordinating Committee a copy of the Excel program the Ministry uses for risk-based response decision-making. He also offered Coordinating Committee members command post signage, which is available on a CD.

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

California Office of Spill Prevention & Response (OSPR); Steve Sawyer reporting:

- Steve reported that Lisa Curtis' confirmation hearing as Administrator in front of the senate rules committee is scheduled for May.
- Regarding regulations, he noted that the amendments to the contingency-plan regulations that were reported on last quarter were approved by the Office of Administrative Law (OAL). They become effective May 1, 2007. The significant change in this package is the requirement that all contingency plan holders must comply with OSPR's pre-designation of response personnel and equipment necessary to meet the established sensitive site shoreline protection strategies. The new rules will be integrated into OSPR's unannounced drill program for OSROs.
- Regarding legislation, Steve reported that the Marine Invasive Species Act, AB 740, which generally applies to all vessels carrying or capable of carrying ballast water into the coastal waters of the state after operating outside of the coastal waters of the state, and to all ballast water and associated sediments taken on a vessel, imposes specified requirements on the master, owner, operator or person in charge of one of those vessels. These requirements are to minimize the uptake and release of non-indigenous aquatic species, including the removal of fouling organisms from the hull, piping and tanks on a regular basis. This bill also requires that specified records be maintained, and that the State Lands Commission shall develop and adopt regulations governing the provisions of this bill by January 1, 2010.
- SB 965 would authorize the Administrator of OSPR, in cooperation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Ocean Service (NOS) and the port authorities and the Harbor Safety Committees located in Humboldt Bay, San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun Bays, Port Hueneme, Los Angeles/Long Beach Harbor and San Diego Bay, to establish, operate, maintain and integrate a network of marine environmental sensors in order to provide information on currents, tides, winds etc., to the five above mentioned maritime communities.
- OSPR's executive branch and branch chiefs have finalized a new Strategic Plan addressing OSPR's future from 2007-2010. The strategic plan requires specific goals and objectives to be met in an aggressive time frame. Progress will be evaluated every three months. Steve explained that there are six major areas of focus: Funding; Prevention; Readiness/Response; Technology; Relationships/Partnerships; and Inland Pollution. In addition, the strategic plan includes new Mission and Vision Statements as well as a Shared Values Statement.
- Steve also provided a summary of spill incident data from 1/1/07 through 3/31/07. Of a total of 826 reported incidents, 244 were in the marine region and 582 in the inland region. He explained that there is no funding for OSPR response to inland spills. Either a dedicated source of funding needs to be identified or the states' definition of "oil spill response" needs to be expanded to include inland spills so the existing Response Fund could be used.
- Steve also explained that OSPR has embarked on a new collaborative process with the Western States Petroleum Association (WSPA). The intent is to discuss issues of importance to OSPR and WSPA in an open and transparent format so that each side will understand the position of the other prior to any formal proceeding. This format worked very well during the contingency-plan rewrite process, he noted.
- OSPR has achieved compliance with both state and federal mandated training requirements for the utilization of the State Emergency Management System (SEMS) and the National

Incident Management System (NIMS). OSPR has trained the majority of employees on ICS 100, 200 and 700 as required by NIMS. The state requirement merely requires compliance with the federal requirement.

- OSPR held its annual staff meeting in Monterey the week of April 9th. The focus of this year's staff meeting was the new Strategic Plan as well as response issues. There are many new employees that have never been to a spill or drill and one of the sessions dealt with the basic question of "what do I do when I get the call." They also held sessions for all the ICS sections to develop tip sheets to be utilized at spills and then applied those tip sheets to a drill scenario.
- Steve also provided copies of OSPR's 2007 1st quarter data report.

Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Mike Zollitsch reporting:

- Dick Pedersen, the new Deputy Director at DEQ and Oregon's Task Force Member, introduced himself and noted the value of the Task Force for Oregon's program.
- Dick and Mike Zollitsch explained that, at that point in time, the prognosis for Senate Bill 105 looked very promising. DEQ's legislative package will provide resources to continue existing plan review and coordination efforts while fulfilling their commitment to be full partners in critical drills and exercises.
- An amendment to the original bill defines LNG as oil and will require contingency planning for LNG tankers and facilities that offload from vessels. There are five proposed LNG facilities in Oregon in various stages of permit development, review and approval, Mike noted; four of them are located along the Columbia River.
- A ballast water bill in the legislature would require DEQ to have a more aggressive program and hire one new FTE.
- Dick and Mike noted a current problem with railroads not reporting spills directly to DEQ. They call the Office of Emergency Management but won't release information to DEQ in a timely way. DEQ staff plan to meet with the railroad operators to address this issue.
- DEQ has no rule changes in progress at this time.
- Mike noted that DEQ continues monitoring the preparations for TOPOFF 07 and is participating in some of the planning efforts. He explained that there will be 60 days of pre-FSE intelligence play. In addition, a Cyber Exercise is proposed 30 days prior to the FSE. The Full Scale Exercise will run for 7-10 days; the proposed dates are 10/15-24/07. Incident Management will be using ICS. DEQ would only participate if asked by EPA or the Oregon Department of Health to do so, since DEQ does not have regulatory responsibility for radiological events. (The Oregon Department of Health is the lead state agency for radiological events.) Other aspects of TOPOFF which could involve DEQ include State/Federal Response & Recovery, Intelligence/Investigation, Public Information, or Debris Removal (technical advice and assistance only, again at the request of other local, state or federal agencies). DEQ will conduct a desktop exercise of the agency's Business Contingency Plan. Mike also noted that a 3-day Recovery Tabletop Exercise will be conducted 30 days after the FSE.
- Regarding the salvage operations on the stern section of the *New Carissa* in Coos Bay, Mike explained that the work has now been postponed to June 2008 because Titan Maritime's salvage equipment is tied up in the Gulf of Mexico this year. Oregon State Lands would be

the RP if a spill occurred during the salvage operations, so DEQ will help them develop an OSRO contract.

- Removal of the *CW Pasley* in Newport is still in the assessment phase.

Washington Department of Ecology; Jon Neel reporting:

- Jon explained that the Washington Legislature had adjourned the previous Sunday. There were no fee or tax increases since the state has a budget surplus. Jon noted that the Spills Program is facing a projected budget shortfall in a couple of years, so funding will need to be dealt with by the next Session.
- Funding for the Oil Spill Advisory Council (OSAC) will stay at current levels. OSAC funding supports two staff as well as per diem for members' travel. The Legislature did add funding for subcontractors.
- The Legislature provided considerable funding for the Puget Sound Partnership and enhanced its oversight and accountability role. Ecology will get funding for 100 more FTE agency-wide to meet the new mandates, but none of these are to be assigned to the Spills Program.
- SB 5552 increased the maximum assessment values in the NRDA compensation table from \$50 to \$100. It also increased the state oil spill penalties to \$100,000 per day for negligence, and up to \$500,000 per day for intentional or reckless discharges.
- The Neah Bay rescue tug will complete its contract on May 3rd. The Legislature approved one additional year of funding. (NOTE: The rescue tug had one final "save" as it came off station; for details, see: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/news/2007news/2007-112.html>).
- Jon explained that the Spills Program is working with the Governor's office to schedule a "Summit" on June 26th between Governor Gregoire and USCG RADM Houck to discuss a shared strategic plan addressing overlapping authorities and issues of concern, resign the MOA, and modify the working level protocols. They plan to have a public process leading up to the summit. The USCG/State MOA and protocols will then be used to follow through on the implementation details.
- Regarding recent incidents, Jon reported that a 1500 gallon spill from a fishing vessel had impacted the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary the previous weekend.
- He reminded the Coordinating Committee that Ecology had removed most of the oil from the wreck of the *SS Catala* last summer; they plan to remove the entire wreck this summer.
- The Spills Program has been very busy with hiring and training new employees FTE's to pursue additional oil spill transfer inspections. They have also been doing a great deal of public and stakeholder outreach on the new oil transfer, and the new oil spill contingency plan regulations.
- Jon also noted that their 2006 Annual Report "Spill Scene" is available at: <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/biblio/0708002.html>

Hawaii Department of Health, Curtis Martin reporting:

- Curtis reported that there have been no significant releases in Hawaii since the last meeting.
- The Places of Refuge incident involving the *M/V Tong Cheng* took considerable time and attention, beginning on January 7th. The Chinese-flagged vessel was carrying both breakbulk cargo and containers, including some military cargo. The U.S. State Department was involved

because the vessel was bound for Cuba; U.S. law prohibits ships from sailing from a U.S. port to Cuba, so and the vessel had to return to China after repairs.

- A leak in the #2 hold resulted in the bow riding low in the water. After the vessel requested refuge, the state and USCG advised it to stay a safe distance offshore for inspection and temporary repairs. The vessel had to be dewatered to get the bow up for entry into the Kalealoha Harbor, and there was some oil in the flooded hold. Unified Command had tested the fuel for dispersability and had a dispersant delivery system on standby.
- The repaired *M/V Tong Cheng* departed Kalealoha on March 13th and is now back in China, Curtis explained. He reflected that the Unified Command/ICS worked well, and that all agencies had worked well together, although the State Department involvement did complicate decision-making. They used the IMO/Pacific Area decision-making guidelines. The weather also cooperated! For more information on this incident, please go to page 4 of the *Summary Notes of the Places of Refuge Area Planning Workshop*, available at http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/docs/meeting_notes/summary_notes_places_of_refuge_20607.pdf.
- Curtis noted that the U.S. Navy at Pearl Harbor had recently conducted a spill exercise, which went well.
- In addition, the State, the USCG, and local industry and OSROs conducted a three-day exercise to test full deployment of the ADDS pack and helo/bucket dispersant systems on February 21-23, 2007.
- The Hawaii Legislature is still in session; Curtis noted that the Department of Health sponsored a bill to establish standards for methamphetamine lab cleanups which is based on the Oregon standards. Property owners will be required to hire contractors to do the cleanups and Department of Health inspectors will verify that the work was done to approved standards.
- Curtis also noted that Hawaii's new "superferry" has been tested in the Gulf of Mexico and is on the way to the islands. Operations are to begin this summer.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC); Betty Schorr reporting:

- Regarding significant events from January-April, Betty noted the following:
 - The Milne Point C Pad Produced Water Release: BPXA discovered the spill on February 8, 2007 at 11:00 p.m. It was reported to ADEC by State Troopers a half-hour later. The rupture occurred behind Milne Point's "C pad," well #17. The Milne Point Unit is located approximately 20 miles west of the Greater Prudhoe Bay oil field on the North Slope. BPXA initially reported the spill as approximately 200 gallons of produced water, but eventually revised the spill estimate to 1,050 gallons of produced water. Produced water is a mixture of saline water and crude oil from the formation. The 3" produced water line split due to inadequate thawing of the line prior to startup.
 - F/V Exodus Explorer: The vessel ran aground on Gannet Rocks in Kuluk Bay near Adak. The vessel operator reported to the Coast Guard (USCG) that the vessel was carrying 2500-3000 gallons of diesel fuel. The vessel was also carrying 35,000 pounds of cod. All fuel was lightered from the vessel and a salvage/scuttling plan was submitted to the Coast Guard and DEC for approval.

- DS-5 Access Road Vac truck Rollover: The spill was reported to ADEC by the State Troopers on April 8, 2007. A total of 165 barrels (6930 gals) of diesel was released to a frozen pond and to the tundra near the BPXA Drill Site 5 access road, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska. The truck rollover was due to human error.
- Snug Harbor Seafood Barge: A deck barge used as a fish buying and vessel support platform during the fishing season was reportedly torn from its moorings during an extreme ebb tide in the early morning of April 17, 2007 when the ice broke in the Kenai River. The barge drifted in large broken ice floes and grounded on the north river bank approximately half a mile from the mouth of the Kenai River. The PRP estimates that 20 gallons of hydraulic oil has been released.
- On March 9th, a 443-foot freighter lost power and drifted within 500 yards of Hog Island in Unalaska Bay (Dutch Harbor). The *Salica Frigo* was 15 minutes from grounding when crew members were able to restart the engine at 6:43 am. The winds were northerly about 30 to 40 knots with gusts in the 60- to 70- knot range at times.
- Betty also reported that the initial kickoff meeting for the development of the Aleutians Potential Places of Refuge (PPOR) and Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) was held on January 31, 2007 in Anchorage. Attendees included PERP and IPP staff, the Mayor of Unalaska, representatives from the Alaska Pilots Association, Aleutians East Borough, NOAA, DOI, USFWS, DNR, ADFG, Coast Guard, the Mayor and City Administrator for Akutan, the King Cove Harbormaster (via teleconference), and contractor staff (Nuka Research). Numerous potential places of refuge sites were selected throughout the Aleutian chain. The GRS project focused on the area immediately surrounding Unalaska Island (Aleutians East Zone B). Several other priority sites were selected for GRS development. The Tactics Work Group was identified as well. The next meeting of the PPOR/GRS work group is tentatively scheduled for May 16th in Unalaska.
- On March 19th and April 2nd, the PERP Program Manager (Leslie Pearson) and Central Area Response Team SOSC participated in a teleconference regarding disabled vessels in the Aleutian Islands and near waters of Unalaska/Dutch Harbor. The meeting was organized by Unalaska Mayor Shirley Marquart. Representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard (CG), Alaska Marine Pilots (AMP), Samson Tug & Barge and local tugboat operators also participated. The purpose of the teleconference was to take immediate action to address the ability of local assets to rescue disabled vessels by developing a system of equipment and training that is practical and has a clear and measurable definition of success. As a result of the two teleconferences, the following tasks were assigned:
 - The AMP pilots are to work locally with the James Dunlap and Gyrfalcon crews to develop and provide training with the Orville hook and reverse deployment of an emergency tow system in tandem with freighters moored in the Dutch Harbor area.
 - Upon boarding, AMP pilots will check the available emergency gear for compliance with the International Convention Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) requirements, including line guns and anchor chains, and relay the information to the USCG for future reference, or for enforcement of the Severe Weather Plan.

- The local tug companies are to inventory the existing recovery equipment on hand and examine what other rescue tugs are using and work with Pilots for training.
- The USCG will decide whether the local tugs could keep the system onboard in a secure manner and be certified for weight (by USCG personnel) before deployment.
- The USCG is to consider what process would the aviators need to follow in order to be sure the weight of the emergency towing system package would NOT be tampered with when used.
- The USCG is also to determine whether the AMP pilots could be trained by USCG personnel to land on the deck of a distressed ship.
- DEC is to identify possible funding sources from the *Selendang Ayu* incident for equipment and/or training in Unalaska.
- The creative thinking and personal experience of all involved were instrumental in the ability of the group to define the problem and design a strategy that allows for a flexible and comprehensive fix to a constant challenge. A third meeting will be schedule in late-April to discuss each member group findings. The DEC has committed to purchasing an emergency towing system for vessels less than 500,000 DWT. Once purchased, the package will be staged in Unalaska for use by the resident tow boat operators and/or air deployed by the U.S. Coast Guard to a disabled vessel for emergency towing.
- PERP staff hosted a meeting of the Federal and State On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) on March 8, 2007 in Anchorage. Attendees included PERP staff and Coast Guard Federal OSCs, FOSC representatives, and District 17 staff. The EPA FOSCs could not attend due to a scheduling conflict. Discussion topics included in-situ burn guidelines, Potential Places of Refuge, vessel risk assessments for the Aleutians and Cook Inlet, lessons learned from past responses/drills, updates to existing Memoranda of Agreement, training, and other items of general interest. The OSC Work Group meeting was held in the morning. The OSC Work Group then held a joint meeting in the afternoon with the Alaska spill cooperative managers (Alaska Chadux Corporation, Alaska Clean Seas, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company Ship Escort/Response Vessel System, Cook Inlet Spill Prevention and Response Inc., Southeast Alaska Petroleum Resource Organization, and Naval Supervisor of Salvage). The group discussed similar issues in addition to mutual aid concerns, aerial observation procedures, Coast Guard nontank vessel proposed regulations, and a briefing on WebEOC. The next meeting will be contingent on the Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) meeting schedule, or sometime this fall if an ARRT meeting is not held.
- Betty reported that DEC is implementing the new regulations for flow lines. She also noted increased demand for DEC oversight at Prudhoe Bay since the BP spill, which means they need to hire more engineers. Unfortunately, state wages are not competitive. She's hoping for more funding for this work.
- Governor Palin has established a Petroleum Systems Integrity Office at DNR; DEC will need to assign a liaison to this group.
- Betty also provided some background information on the recent problem of the TAPS shippers reporting that their oil storage barges actually had 70,000 bbls less capacity than was cited in their contingency plan. DEC had requested spill prevention measures, including no

night transits, until the problem was resolved. DEC will issue a compliance order, she explained.

Alabama Department of Environmental Management, Phil Woods reporting:

- Phil reported that he'd been working with the USCG on a Protection Strategies Plan covering the Alabama and Mississippi coasts as well as the panhandle of Florida. He explained that the Coast Guard and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Research Institute provided expertise to pull these digital contingency plans together. They can be accessed at http://research.myfwc.com/features/view_article.asp?id=3482.
- Phil Woods also noted that his program is projecting a budget shortfall.
- He explained that DEM is working on a project to remove mercury from autos before they are crushed for scrap metal.

Florida Department of Environmental Protection, Phil Wieczynski reporting:

- Phil Wieczynski reported that he's been busy with plans for Clean Gulf, which will be November 14-16 in Tampa. EPA Region 4 also plans to co-locate a SERC/LEPC Hazardous Materials conference.
- Phil noted that DEP receives reports of approximately 2000 incidents each year, about 500 being coastal oil spills. Others are primarily inland spills from trucks, or abandoned containers. They respond on scene to about 50% of the reported incidents.
- He explained that his program has been preparing for the 2007 hurricane season as well as drought planning. One worst-case scenario for an exercise next year will include a hurricane impacting the entire state so that few reserve assets would be available. They want to identify necessary federal assets in advance.

STATUS REVIEW OF SPILL PREVENTION PROJECTS

Database Project

- Jean reminded the Coordinating Committee that the revised Data Dictionary was sent to them in February, and is now posted on the website. She urged them to update their agency databases for consistency. She also credited Jack Barfield of Ecology for leading the update effort.
- Regarding the status of 2006 data submittal, she reported that Camille Stevens, the Data Workgroup chair, is still waiting for data from both California and Washington.
- The Coordinating Committee decided that they would like regional 5-year data summaries for total number of spills, volume, products, causes, and sources. They recommended adding a caveat to the data text explaining that the California data was underreported for inland spills in the past, as well as a note that most data is represents a conservative estimate anyway.
- Regarding the DNV investigator training May 8-10 in Sacramento, Jean reported that she had signed the DNV Service Agreement 3/1. Ken Nielsen of OSPR is managing registration for DNV, and DNV will bill each agency directly. Steve reported that the class is full.

Prevent Pipeline Spills

- The Coordinating Committee discussed the Pipeline Roundtable the day before, noting that there was a lot of information to absorb. They were interested in the issue of 3rd party damage, as well as the land use planning issues of easements and encroachment limits.
- They also thought that there could be a role for the Task Force in encouraging streamlined permitting in situations when repair or replacement of damaged pipelines is urgent. Jon was interested in risk-based management and how the perceived value of spilled oil drives investments in prevention. They also discussed the need for standards for valve spacing that would reduce residual quantities in a line. The Coordinating Committee also noted that they were interested in clarifying working relationships with other agencies regulating pipelines.
- Jean thanked DEQ for their help with setting up the event, sending out a press release, handling registration, and running the laptop/projectors for the presentations. She also thanked OSPR and Ecology for doing press releases, and noted that she'd received a few calls from British Columbia media regarding the event.
- Regarding the Regulatory Table and the GRP report, Jean noted that the GRP was done, although she needs some clarification re: fed rules that she hoped to resolve while working on the regulations table. She wasn't making much progress, however, since not all agencies had sent their surveys back, and since she had been busy organizing the Roundtable.
- She reported that the 2007 Pipeline Integrity Workshop in Banff focused on spill prevention topics, and was an impressive example of industry and regulators cooperating; she'll send the Coordinating Committee a detailed report in May.
- Stafford noted that most pipelines in British Columbia are located in the NE area of the Province. He also reminded the Committee to differentiate between oil field lines, transmission lines, and urban "delivery" lines.

West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management (WCOVTRM) 5-Year Implementation Analysis

- Jean reviewed the draft sent to the Coordinating Committee on 4/14 and reminded them that their edits/comments were due by May 11. She particularly wanted their review of any text applying to their jurisdiction.
- She proposed to ask the WCOVTRM Project Workgroup to review the next draft (incorporating comments from Rick Holly, Steve Danscuk, and the Coordinating Committee) in mid-May. She'll ask them to rank the status of implementation and efficacy of each recommendation on a scale of 1 to 10, as well as submit any further recommendations they wish to have considered.

Recommended Best Industry Practices (BIPs)

- Jean reported that neither Jason Lewis at AWO nor USCG CAPT Paul Gugg had replied to her 3/20 email inquiring about a meeting of the USCG/AWO Pacific Region Quality Steering Committee, which Jason had proposed earlier in the year.
- Jean would like to do a presentation on the BIPs as Standards of Care at the annual meeting that OSPR sponsors for the chairs of the California Harbor Safety Committees.

POSPET

- Jean reviewed the March 29th POSPET meeting, noting highlights of reports from members including the California Coastal Commission, the Oregon Marine Board, Ecology, Washington Sea Grant, the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance, the Pacific States Marine Fisheries Commission, the USCG Auxiliaries in Seattle and Portland, and the Georgia Strait Alliance.
- She demonstrated the member links and photos on the *Spills Aren't Slick* webpage on the Task Force website.
- Regarding the *Spills Aren't Slick* materials Jean reported that POSPET needs 6000 more brochures and 6000 more decals for this summer; it looks like Ecology will cover this printing, since most of the material will be used in Washington.

Monitor TAPS Conversions

- Captain Laura Stratton of Ecology submitted a revised TAPS report on 4/11. She noted that the *SeaRiver Denali*, as well as the *Polar Alaska* and *Polar California* (both double bottom tankers), have all been removed from the TAPS service.
- As of April 2007, the average age of the 17 tankers participating in the TAPS trade is 11.1 years, Captain Stratton reported. She also noted that mandatory retirement dates for the remaining two tankers that are not double hull are August 2012 for the double-bottom tanker *SeaRiver Baytown* and January 2010 for the single-hull tanker *SeaRiver Long Beach*.

Spill Prevention Topics of Concern (only those topics with updates are noted below)

- Cruise ship operations: *Curtis noted that the Spirit of Hawaii is being moved from Hawaii. Presumably, the owners will change her name.*
- Regarding Best Achievable Protection (BAP) standards, *Jean noted that the San Francisco and LA/LB Harbor Safety Committees had developed recommendations to avoid debris & containers falling on bunkering barges.*
- Regarding oil spill risks from sunken vessels, *Steve stated that OSPR knows where all the sunken vessels are in state waters and is monitoring them.*
- Regarding vessel and facility oil transfer regulations:
 - *Jon reported that Ecology is sponsoring a study on the safety and efficacy of pre-booming in various conditions and will use the information to develop guidelines for industry and for transfer plan reviews.*
 - *Mike noted that two Oregon facilities are required to pre-boom oil transfers under their Contingency Plan conditions; these operators request exemptions under high-current conditions.*
- Regarding Liquefied Natural Gas shipping and terminal operations:
 - *Steve noted that no LNG facilities had yet been approved in California, and explained that FERC approval authority only applies to "high volume ports."*
 - *Mike noted that two LNG facility permit applications are in process on the Columbia River: Bradwood and Astoria; apparently pipeline access is a plus for these locations. He also explained that the Coos Bay facility would require construction of a new pipeline which is as controversial as the LNG facility itself.*
 - *Jean noted that, according to the Pacific Maritime issue of March 2007, the LNG terminal at Kitimat British Columbia is the only fully permitted facility on the West*

Coast so far. Construction is to begin this spring and the facility is to be operational by 2009.

- Regarding tug escort requirements:
 - Jon reported that Ecology's Phase II of the Tug Escort Study will focus on the human element aspects associated with risk reduction.
 - Stafford noted that tug escorts for tankers outbound from the Vancouver area are taken only on a voluntary basis.
- Federal preemption issues:
 - Jean reminded the Coordinating Committee of their conference call with Amy Frankel and Simon Geerlofs of Senator Cantwell's office in January, and noted that Ecology had taken the ball from there to develop some recommendations, as requested by Amy.
 - Jon reviewed legislative concepts submitted by Ecology to Senator Cantwell's staff in March. These covered such topics as reporting casualties to states, affirming state authority over oil transfers in state waters, USCG delegation of vessel inspections to states and joint casualty investigations, directing the USCG to negotiate with Canadian authorities for tug escorts for laden tank ships in the WA/BC shared waters, requiring industry financing for the Neah Bay rescue tug, making the Olympic NMS ATBA mandatory, developing federal spill response standards for national marine sanctuaries, and allowing response co-ops to submit umbrella vessel response plans for nontank vessels. Jon expects Senator Cantwell's bill to be released in early May.
- Noting that a staff person at Ecology had asked whether other agencies have USCG delegation through MOAs to review facility ops manuals, Jean posed that question to the Committee.
 - Mike replied that Oregon facilities can submit a letter of certification from the USCG in lieu of their operational plan, but that's a DEQ standard and not dependent on an MOA.
 - Steve stated that the California State Lands (SLC) Marine Facilities Division requires USCG certification by law. (After later conversations with SLC, Steve reported that the Coast Guard has not delegated their authority to SLC for facility inspections, but also have not participated at most of the recent "joint" inspections. SLC basically performs the facility inspections (alone) and copies the USCG on their results/findings as part of the existing MOU. SLC does no enforcement or follow up on any discrepancies of Fed regulations.)
 - Betty explained that, since the state standards are more stringent than the federal, the USCG allows facilities to submit their approved state plan to them.

STATUS REVIEW OF SPILL PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE PROJECTS

Promote Remote Sensing Capability

- Jean reviewed an updated report from Judd Muskat at OSPR:
 - Judd noted that "The new OSPR strategic plan has a goal to 'Develop collaborative RADARSAT project concepts with the USCG by October, 2007'." Judd also inventoried the remote sensing section of the AMOP conference sponsored by Environment Canada in June.
 - He reported that he is working with Dr. Jan Svejksky on two remote sensing projects over the next two years. One, an OSPR Scientific Study and Evaluation Program (SSEP) contract, is geared to utilize oil spill detection and

mapping capabilities to create a coast-wide system that would provide rapid digital access to information on oil spill location, extents, thickness/volume characteristics, and other related variables.

- The second project is a MMS Technology Assessment and Research Program (TARP) grant for "Development of a Portable Multispectral Aerial Sensor for Real-Time Oil Spill Mapping in Coastal and Offshore Waters."
- Jean also reviewed an email from USCG CDR Vic Blalack regarding the status of RARARSAT. He had reported on 4/10 that "The contract was awarded to MDA. We're finalizing our initial concept of operations and should be sending that out to the Sectors shortly. Basically, MDA will send the Satellite images and analysis to our Intel Center; they in turn give it to our Command Center, which then will send it out to the appropriate Sector, District & Air Station. It'll be up to the Sector(s) to act upon the information. They can do anything from launching an asset to take samples and document the discharge, to a random MARPOL inspection when the vessel arrives in port. We're also trying to get POPEIE² certified for deployment in both airframe types and out in the field. MDA has been sending us images from the WA/Victoria area for starters [sample images were included with the email]. The discharge was approx 40 nm off the WA coast. We went through all the intel channels to identify a couple of likely suspect vessels; both vessels' next ports of call were in Canada. Of course, Environment Canada & Transport Canada knew of this too."
- Jean noted that CDR Blalack was retiring, but he had given her USCG contacts for follow-up on this project.

Contingency Plans for Non-tank Vessels

- Jean reviewed the USCG's report to the March 8th API Spills Advisory Group meeting, which states: "CG-3PCV-1 is completing the rulemaking workplan and preparing the Federal Register Notice to Proposed Rulemaking. The Coast Guard is anticipating a 2008 release of the NPRM with public hearings to be held in various parts of the U.S. The Final Rule is projected to be published in 2010. To date, the Coast Guard has received 2,143 nontank vessel response plans covering 12,075 vessels."

Monitor the Places of Refuge (POR) Annex

- Jean reported that the Summary Notes of the 2/6 Places of Refuge Workshop which the Task Force had co-sponsored in Oakland had been posted to the web as well as sent to the Coordinating Committee members. She thanked ADEC for sharing John Bauer and Larry Iwamoto, who both had done a fine job of sharing Alaska's experience with both planning for and implementing POR decisions.
- Representatives from D13, D14, and D11 who attended the Workshop were to begin planning for Potential Places of Refuge in their Areas. Jean noted that Ellen Faurot-Daniels of the California Coastal Commission - who had helped organize the 2/6 event with Jeff Slusarz of

² USCG District 11 received a Legacy Award from the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force in 2005 for their development of POPEIE. For more information, please go to:

http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/awards_history.htm#2005_award4

the USCG - had reported in a 4/11 email that "The CA Working Group has met to review the data input form, and CG San Diego has been working steadily on developing a database to go with it. The data collection forms and database will be used statewide. It combines pre-planning elements from the CG Job Aid as well as all required elements from the RRT IX Guidelines. OSPR will develop the GIS products from that database, once all CA Area Committees have provided data for their areas. A drill in San Diego Apr. 25-26 will beta test input to the CA data form, and then we'll start outreach to all CA area committees and hopefully get POR data for all CA coastal areas input by the end of summer. Developing the decision-making flow chart and other supporting tools will follow."

- Jean also reported that Marc Hodges of NOAA, who serves on the National Response Team (NRT), is leading an NRT effort to develop Places of Refuge guidelines based on those developed by IMO, the Alaska RRT, and the Task Force/USCG Pacific Area. These will then be provided to Area Committees and RRTs nationwide. Upon her request, Mr. Hodges had sent her a copy for review and comment in March.
- Jean also noted that she had just received a copy of the Canadian Places of Refuge Contingency Plan on 4/20, and would send the Coordinating Committee a summary analysis as soon as possible (NOTE: This was done on 5/8; Jean compared the Canadian Plan with the Pacific Area Guidelines and noted that "the Plan provides for a very logical and concise approach to Places of Refuge decision-making.")

Maintain the IVRP & C-Plan matrix

- Jean reported that there were no updates on this project.

Maintain OILS 911 Spill Reporting

- From July, 2006 through March, 2007, 269 spill reports had been logged on the 1-800-OILS-911 system. 87 were made in British Columbia, 15 in Washington, 7 in Oregon, and 160 in California.

Update Mutual Aid Agreements

- In lieu of the team drills agreed to by Coordinating Committee members at the January meeting, they had decided to use the Prince William Sound drill the first week of May to test the 1993 Mutual Aid Agreement.
- Jean reminded them to review their jurisdictional policies in the 1996 plan and advise her whether any updates were needed.
- At the January Coordinating Committee meeting Jean had been directed to add language to the 1993 Mutual Aid Agreement to indicate that the procedures for sharing staff and equipment could also be applied to non-emergency situations. She presented proposed text changes for *Section 1.0 - Purpose and Scope*, which the Committee approved. They also approved her recommendation that the language in the *Annual Work Plan, Communications Objective, Section B, Internal Communications, Step 2* be edited accordingly.

Clarify states' roles and authorities

- Regarding revisions to the National Response Plan, Jean reported that USCG CAPT Hanewich had noted at the API Spills Advisory Group meeting that numerous workgroups were working

on revisions to the National Response Plan (NRP) based on hurricane "lessons learned. He also said that states and tribes were involved. Interested persons should go to this NRP website to access the draft: http://www.dhs.gov/xprepresp/committees/editorial_0566.shtm. DHS is contacting the emergency response offices in the states rather than the spill response programs, so Coordinating Committee members should provide input through those sister agencies.

Preparedness/Response Topics of Concern (only those TOCs with updates are noted below)

- Regarding oil spill drill programs:
 - Jean provided copies of a 2007 SONS brochure and also noted that NOAA was seriously considering a SafeSeas drill in the Olympic National Marine Sanctuary in July 2008.
 - Jon noted that the ConocoPhillips drill currently underway is a Transboundary drill.
- Regarding the status and solvency of the US federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund: Jean reported that she had not had time to petition other federal agencies to increase their Limits of Liability for facilities.
- Response technologies research and development:
 - Updates to the National Contingency Plan products list include Sorbents and Solidifiers. The "Toxicity and Effectiveness of NCP Product Schedule-Listed Dispersants" is available at: http://www.epa.gov/oilspill/ncp/tox_dispersants.htm.
 - Jean reported that Lisa Symons of NOAA is considering sponsoring a corrosion workshop focused on the deterioration of sunken vessels, probably late summer or in early September.
 - Nick Nichols at EPA has stated that the CWA 110 Discharge rule is solid and will not allow for the addition of dispersants (proposed chemical agents) to be added to the bilge before discharge into waters of the U.S, and that EPA and Coast Guard regulations are in agreement.
 - Jean reported that Mr. Nichols also wonders about state regulations re: restrictions on the use of chemicals to clean algae off the Navy's 450,000' of permanent boom at fueling docks around the country. All Coordinating Committee members reiterated that state rules may not allow the use of soaps for chemicals in the water, so the USN should check with the state regulators.
- Oil Spill Response Organization (OSRO): Jean reported that Washington State Maritime Cooperative (WSMC) members had been notified by the US Coast Guard that they should not list WSMC as an oil Spill removal organization (OSRO) in their non-tank vessel response plans, since WSMC is not an approved OSRO. The USCG has advised WSMC members to indicate that their response coverage is with the NRC.
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) initiatives and activities: Jean reported on the 1/23 Joint Assessment Team (JAT) meeting, noting that USF&W is now coordinating with Environment Canada on migratory birds; that the JAT will plan a NRDA session at Clean Pacific; that MMS and UCLA are working together on an OSPR-funded project to develop "go-kits" for ephemeral data collection in rocky intertidal areas, sandy beaches, and wetlands before oil hits them; that the Luckenbach NRDA claim has been submitted to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for \$25 million; and that reef damage from the Cape Flattery grounding off Oahu was discussed.
- Applied response technologies:
 - MMS held a no-notice dispersant equipment deployment drill on January 29-30 involving the MSRC dispersant aircraft in an offshore Gulf of Mexico scenario. The actual sorties

over the Gulf were cancelled due to the RP's concerns that the rest hours provided for the flight crew after flying the plane to the Gulf did not meet their standards. MSRC is addressing this issue.

- NOAA is seeking \$8 million in funding from the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund in 2008 for their SSC program, in the face of reduced budgets, increased costs, and high expectations.
- Jon reported that Ecology sent five staff to the dispersant drill.
- **Coordination of inter-jurisdictional wildlife care:**
 - Jean handed out copies of an article on oiled wildlife from the Pacific Maritime magazine.
 - Stafford noted that he's written an oiled wildlife care plan for British Columbia; it provides for ICS coordination and use of a temporary care facility. The wildlife care NGOs in the Province are supportive. He also noted that Environment Canada is drafting wildlife response standards.
 - Jean noted that the NW Area Oiled Wildlife Plan is complete and will be included in the next update of the NW Area Contingency Plan.
 - Jon noted that the Washington Oil Spill Advisory Council may focus on wildlife issues in the next year.
- **West Coast sea bird and other vulnerable marine populations threatened by oil spills:**
 - The Puget Sound Orcas are now listed as an endangered species.
 - Betty noted that NOAA proposed on 4/17 to list the beluga whale in Cook Inlet as an endangered species. She also noted that listing the polar bear will have potential impacts on North Slope production (the U.S. government proposed to list polar bears as threatened 12/2006).
- **Impacts of Avian Influenza on oiled bird rescue/rehabilitation activities;** Jean noted that she had forwarded the NOAA OR&R Guidelines for Avian Influenza H5N1 to the Coordinating Committee in March.
- Jean raised an issue discussed at OSPR's TAC meeting 1/30 regarding spill protection for local business or utilities.
 - The Coordinating Committee noted that protection from private sector losses were the responsibility of the RP, but that if a public utility's intake valve was likely to be impacted, the GRPs probably addressed it, since there would be wider public impacts if such a utility had to shut down.
 - Jon noted that business and industry has been very supportive of Ecology's efforts to deploy response equipment caches around the state, since it facilitates faster response and booming to protect both environmentally and economically sensitive sites.
 - Curtis noted that resorts in Hawaii have a program to train and drill staff to deploy boom to protect their beaches in the event of an oil spill.

ADMINISTRATIVE & COMMUNICATIONS ISSUES

The Clean Pacific Conference

- Laura Liptak and Sean Guerre from the TradeFair group joined the Coordinating Committee via speaker phone. They discussed possible locations for Clean Pacific 2009 based on an analysis done by Jean showing the past rotations of Task Force Annual Meetings as well as the results of a 2006 survey by Trade Fair group. Jean's memo proposed two future rotation options which incorporated Clean Pacific in alternating years. Laura advised the Coordinating Committee that she plans to send RFPs to both Vancouver, British Columbia and Portland, Oregon for 2009. The eventual choice between these two locations will determine which rotation option we use.

- The Coordinating Committee agreed to post summary notes from the two General Sessions on our website. All program track session presentations will be available on the Clean Pacific website for access by delegates to the event.
- Laura reviewed the program status and explained that she expects to have a program brochure out very soon.
- TradeFair Group (TFG) has agreed to a grant fund of \$5,000; the process will be as follows:
 - TFG will distribute Grant Applications via Program Committee and email marketing in mid-April. June 29th will be the grant application deadline.
 - The Coordinating Committee will review applications and finalize selections via email and conference calls during the month of July. The final decision will be a collaborative effort with the Coordinating Committee, Sean Guerre, and Laura. All recipients will be informed by August 1st.
- The Coordinating Committee also discussed the Task Force booth design, staffing, and promotional items.

Stakeholder Outreach

- Jean reiterated her participation in the API Spills Advisory Group meeting March 8th in Washington, DC, her briefing to OSPR's Technical Advisory Committee on 1/30, and her attendance at the Banff Pipeline Integrity Workshop April 1-5.
- Upcoming outreach opportunities include USCG CAPT Rob Lorigan's Retirement ceremony on 4/27, the JAT meeting in Portland on 5/10, and the Oiled Wildlife Care Conference in Monterey the end of June. Jon proposed that she attend a Washington Oil Spill Advisory Council meeting in early June. Jean also noted an interest in attending a Washington Citizens Advisory Committee on Pipeline Safety in the next few months.

Outreach to other states/provinces

- Jean reported that she had not had time to work on this as yet.

Track Federal Policies

- Jean noted that she was primarily tracking postings in the Federal Register through the Holland & Knight newsletter, but also did her own monthly search of the Federal Register and the Canada Gazette.
- She reminded the Coordinating Committee that the USCG report to the API Spills Advisory Group had included information on the status of their regulatory projects. In addition, her report on the API meeting had contained information on EPA's changes to their SPCC rule.
- She reported that the USCG's towing vessel inspection rules were to be presented to the Towing Safety Advisory Committee in late March. This regulation package was not covered in the USCG report to API.

Maintain the Task Force Web Site

- Jean reported that the following items had been posted on the web site since January:
 - Legacy Award notice;
 - Roundtable Notice;
 - Updated Events Calendars;

- Information on new Task Force Members in Alaska and Oregon;
- A statement explaining that Clean Pacific will be the Task Force's 2007 Annual Meeting;
- The Winter Coordinating Committee meeting summary notes;
- Updates to the POSPET page; and
- Summary Notes of the February 6th Places of Refuge Workshop and PowerPoints.

2007 Legacy Awards

- Jean provided copies of the 2007 Legacy Award notice posted on the website, and noted that the nomination deadline would be May 31st. She'll summarize the nominations and forward them to the Coordinating Committee by mid-June for discussion at the 6/29 Coordinating Committee meeting. Any additional discussion can be by conference call. The Coordinating Committee's recommendations will be forwarded to the Task Force Members by mid-July for a decision by early August. Winners will be notified, awards ordered, and all arrangements made for presentation on September 13th at the opening session of Clean Pacific.
- Jean urged the Coordinating Committee to promote the Legacy Awards within their jurisdictions.

Annual Report

- Regarding the 2007 Annual Report, the Jurisdictional Reports are due to Jean by June 1st, as is the 2006 data report from Camille and the Data Workgroup. Jean will work with the graphic artist on layout and cover design and hopes to send the final to the printers in time for final receipt by mid-August. She'll distribute copies to libraries, key stakeholders, the Premier and Governors, and member agencies. The balance will be made available at the Task Force booth at Clean Pacific.
- Reviewing quotes from the printers, the Coordinating Committee decided to print a maximum of 500 copies.

Administrative Issues

- Jean gave the Coordinating Committee YTD Expense Reports and noted that all expenses were within approved budget amounts.
- The Coordinating Committee discussed June and September meeting logistics, agreeing that the June meeting would be held in Monterey, CA on 6/29 in conjunction with the Oiled Wildlife conference.
- Since so much is going on at Clean Pacific and it ends mid-afternoon on a Friday, the Coordinating Committee agreed to hold their fall meeting by conference call in the weeks following the conference.
- They also agreed that the Coordinating Committee and the Task Force Members would meet for a briefing session over dinner on 9/12, unless any Task Force Members were unable to arrive on that date.

2007-2009 Contracts

- Jon reviewed the decision by the Coordinating Committee to renew Jean Cameron's contract and the agreed-upon budget amount.

- Jon reported that he's drafted the interagency contracts for 2007-2009 and asked the other Coordinating Committee members to review them ASAP.
- He also explained that Jean's contract can be renewed IF Ecology posts information that it intends to do so and allows a 10-day protest period.
- Jon and Jean will develop a budget and send it to the Coordinating Committee for review/comment during the Annual Work Plan process.

2007-2008 Annual Work Plan

- The Coordinating Committee reviewed a "menu" of possible 2007-2008 projects and made choices, including:
 - To continue the Pipeline project and strongly consider convening a stakeholder workgroup;
 - To leave the door open to follow-through on additional recommendations resulting from the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project review process;
 - To continue the Data Project, POSPET, and tracking the TAPS fleet.
 - Deletions and additions were made to both the Prevention and the Preparedness/Response Topics of Concern. In some cases, previous "projects" were moved to this category.
 - Some work will be required in 07/08 to respond to the final USCG Salvage regulations as well as the Towing Vessel Inspection NRPRM.
 - The 2008 Roundtable will focus on Green Port issues.
 - We will continue work to increase facility Limits of Liability and outreach to East Coast states and Provinces.
 - We'll investigate the feasibility of expanding OILS 911 to Alaska.
 - The IVRP and Contingency Plan tables will need to be updated to reflect regulatory changes in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California. Once the USCG nontank vessel regulations are finalized, we'll consider expanding the IVRP to cover nontank vessels.
 - The Coordinating Committee will meet with the USCG Pacific Area during their 2008 winter meeting.
 - The following Coordinating Committee meeting dates/locations were approved:
 - September by conference call after Clean Pacific Conference/Annual Meeting
 - January 9-10, 2008: Honolulu
 - April 9-10, 2008: Los Angeles in conjunction with the Roundtable
 - July 8-9, 2008: Alaska (location TBD)
- Jean will format all decisions into a draft Annual Work plan for the Coordinating Committee's review and comment. She hopes to have a final draft to the Task Force Members by late June for their review and comment, and to coordinate final adoption by early July, which will be the beginning of the new work and fiscal year.