

**US Coast Guard Pacific Area
Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force
Memorandum of Understanding**

Background

The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force was created in 1989 to address oil spill prevention and response issues on a regional level. The States of Alaska, California, Oregon and Washington have been members of the Task Force since its inception, as has the Province of British Columbia. In 2001, the State of Hawaii joined the Task Force. The Task Force member agencies share a mandate to protect their environmental, cultural, and economic resources from oil spills.

The U.S. Coast Guard's Pacific Area includes all of the waters of the U.S. states in the Oil Spill Task Force. One of the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area's many missions is to prevent, enforce and rapidly respond to halt degradation of the maritime environment and maintain it for the use and enjoyment of America's citizens, both today and tomorrow. In addition, they protect living and non-living marine resources - fisheries and endangered marine species and offshore mineral resources - and the control, response and remediation of pollution incidents.

Thus, the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area and the state members of the Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force are focused on common goals and share geographic jurisdictions and responsibility for the protection of the same marine resources from Alaska to California, including the Hawaiian archipelago.

In recognition of that common purpose, the Oil Spill Task Force has invited representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area, as well as representatives from Districts 11, 13, 14, and 17 to join them on projects of regional interest over the past 15 years.¹ In addition, member states of the Oil Spill Task Force currently maintain Memoranda of Agreement with their USCG Districts.

Purpose

The purpose of this Memorandum of Understanding between the Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force and U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area is to acknowledge and affirm the value of these existing partnership efforts to enhance regional marine safety and environmental protection while improving coordination, communication, and consistency among the partners.

Parties

The parties to this Memorandum of Understanding are the United States Coast Guard through Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area ("Coast Guard") and Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force (OSTF).

¹ Such projects include the Integrated Vessel Response Guidelines (1997), the Oil Spill Field Operations Guide Update (2000), the Best Industry Practices for Vessels and Tank Barges (2003), the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project (2002) and its Five-year Review (2007), Places of Refuge Guidelines (2005), the Clean Pacific Conference (2007), and the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (ongoing).

Points of Contact

For Coast Guard:

Commander (Pp)
U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area
Coast Guard Island, Bldg. 51-5
Alameda, CA 94501-5100
510-437-2943

For OSTF:

Executive Coordinator
Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force
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Neskowin, OR 97149-1032
503-392-5860

Authority

This Memorandum of Understanding is authorized under the provisions of 14 USC 93(a)(20), 14 USC 141, and 14 USC 142.

Structure

The U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area – Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force Steering Committee will serve as the focal point of this partnership. U.S. Coast Guard members of the Steering Committee will include representatives as designated by the Coast Guard Pacific Area as well as Districts Eleven, Thirteen, Fourteen, and Seventeen. The Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force Coordinating Committee members will represent the Task Force.

The representative for the USCG Pacific Area and the Executive Coordinator for the Task Force will serve as Steering Committee co-chairs.

Functions

The specific functions of the Steering Committee are as follows:

1. To serve as a forum for the discussion of Pacific Region marine safety and oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response issues.
2. To coordinate the establishment and implementation of consistent and effective oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response measures tailored for the Pacific region.
3. To identify opportunities for improving oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response in the Pacific region.

It is not the function of the Steering Committee to recommend or authorize any statutory or regulatory initiatives.

Procedures

1. The Steering Committee will meet at least once/year in conjunction with the winter meeting of the Task Force Coordinating Committee. Additional meetings may be convened by the Co-Chairs as needed.
2. The Steering Committee meetings will follow a “round table” format with each member having an equal voice. Agendas will be prepared cooperatively by the Co-Chairs.
3. The Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force may continue to recruit representatives from both the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area and from Districts 11, 13, 14, and 17 as appropriate to participate in projects and stakeholder workgroups authorized in their Annual Work Plans. Likewise, the U.S. Coast Guard may invite representatives from the Oil Spill Task Force to participate in their initiatives as appropriate. Although the USCG/OSTF Partnership Steering Committee is not expected to authorize or direct such projects, they may serve as a sounding board regarding project concepts and progress.

Modification

The Parties may change the terms of this Memorandum of Understanding at any time by a written, signed amendment hereto, with or without notice to any person. Any action to modify, amend or terminate this Memorandum of Understanding may only be taken by the Executive Coordinator of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force, or the Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area, or a person to whom this authority is specifically delegated by them.

Effective Date

The terms of this Memorandum of Understanding will become effective on the date this document is signed by the authorized representatives of both parties.

Termination

The terms of this Memorandum of Understanding, as modified with the consent of both parties, will remain in effect until either or both parties wish to terminate this Memorandum of Understanding.

Signatures

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
U.S. Coast Guard

Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill
Task Force





By: Charles D. Wurster
Vice Admiral, U.S. Coast Guard
Commander, Coast Guard Pacific Area

By: Jean R. Cameron
Executive Coordinator
Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force

Date: 5/27/08

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