

Oil Spill Task Force

Combining Resources to Protect the Pacific Marine Environment

Quarterly Report to our Stakeholders
First Quarter 2003

The Task Force Annual Meeting will Address Prestige Oil Spill Issues

Our 2003 Annual Meeting and Roundtable will be combined into one event you don't want to miss on July 22-23rd in Honolulu! The theme for the Annual Meeting will be **The Prestige Spill: What if it happened in the Pacific Area?** We will ask both our keynote speaker and a panel of experts to address this issue on Tuesday, July 22nd. The panel will evaluate risks associated with tankers in innocent passage, existing contingency plans and transboundary agreements, our ability to respond to open ocean spills, our salvage capability, and wildlife rescue resources.



Photo Courtesy of NOAA

In addition, we'll provide updates on Task Force activities as well as those of our member agencies, provide copies of our 2003 Annual Report and 2003-2004 Annual Workplan, and recognize the 2003 Legacy Award winners. A busy day! And the focus on Prestige issues will carry over to

Wednesday, July 23rd when we'll host a roundtable on **Places of Refuge: What decisions are Needed, Who will make them, and When?** We plan to invite panelists representing the salvage industry, port authorities, risk assessment specialists, and representatives of local, state, and federal governments to review issues such as advance planning and who participates in the decisions.

The State of Hawaii, which joined the Task Force in 2001, is hosting this year's Annual Meeting. Both events are open to the public, and will be held at the Hilton Hawaiian Village on Waikiki Beach. A block of rooms is being held from Sunday July 20th through Thursday July 24th. Rates are \$112/night for persons qualifying for government rate and \$165/night for all others. The Hilton requests that we use their Room Reservation Request Form available on the Task Force web site. The deadline for reservations is July 7th. For more information on the Hilton, go to www.hawaiianvillage.hilton.com.

Public Comment Requested on Recommended Contingency Plan Elements

The Task Force has posted a draft of Recommended Contingency Plan elements on our web site for public comment. The Task Force Coordinating Committee has refined this list of key elements for a 21st century contingency plan for either vessels or facilities. Their goals are to reduce agency resources spent on plan review; to develop streamlined plans for vessels; to make the entire process less cumbersome on all involved; and to allow for electronic references to existing plans and documents as appropriate to meet information

requirements. We are also endeavoring to promote standardization among member agencies and with federal agencies, and to make plans consistent with the area planning process. We also hope to improve preparedness and response by addressing gaps and changes in response paradigms; by providing for continuous improvement; by making spill response more efficient; and by verifying spill response providers referenced in contingency plans.

Comments must be received no later than May 16th.

Other News from the Task Force

- The Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force will be at the International Oil Spill Conference April 7- 10. Please stop by and visit us at booth # 719 and pick up literature from the Task Force and its member agencies. Jean Cameron and Rick Holly will give a presentation on the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project during the Risk Management Session, Track 1 at 10:45am on Tuesday 4/8. And Jean will co-chair a session titled "Global perspectives on Cross-Boundary Spill Response Issues", track 5, at 2pm on Tuesday 4/8. You're encouraged to attend both sessions! For more information on the Conference, go to www.iosc.org

- NOAA has agreed to place notes on West Coast navigation charts that will refer mariners to Coast Pilot editions 7,8, or 9 for information regarding the voluntary 25 and 50nm minimum distances offshore as recommended by the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project workgroup. Transport Canada is in the process of reviewing similar action for navigation charts and the Sailing Directions covering western BC waters.

- The Task Force Coordinating Committee held its Winter meeting on January 14-16th, which included a meeting with Marine Safety Officers from the US Coast Guard Pacific Area. Summary notes from this meeting are available on our web site. The

Coordinating Committee will hold their Spring meeting in Vancouver following the International Oil Spill Conference, and will be meeting with officials from the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada, and Environment Canada while at the IOSC.

- Task Force comments were submitted on the US Coast Guard's proposed rules on 2003 Removal Equipment Requirements and Alternative Technology Revisions, and are available on our web site.

- British Columbia has named Gordon Macatee as Deputy Minister for the Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection, where he will serve as BC's Task Force Member. Mr. Macatee previously served as the Deputy Minister in the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food. Before joining the Ministry, he spent five years with the BC Trade Development Corporation leading international market development activities for the province in Asia, Europe, Central America and the US. His private sector experience includes several management positions in the food industry. Gord Macatee is a member of the Board of Directors of Land and Water BC Inc, which manages the disposition of Crown land assets in the province. Provincially, he sits on a number of Deputy Minister Committees, including Natural Resources and Economy, Fees and Licenses, and Regional Service Delivery. Nationally, he sits on the Federal Provincial DM committees responsible for Environment. In California, Harlan Henderson resigned as Administrator of the California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) on February 28th in order to pursue other opportunities. Department of Fish and Game Director Robert Hight named Carlton Moore as interim OSPR Administrator. Moore, a senior attorney with OSPR, previously served as interim Director of the California Department of Boating and Waterways from 1998-2001. Prior to that, he served as Deputy Administrator at OSPR. We welcome

Mr. Moore as California's new Task Force Member. Governor Linda Lingle of Hawaii has not yet named a Deputy Director for Environmental Health in the Department of Health; once named, that person will serve as Hawaii's Task Force Member.

- The Task Force has mailed and posted on our website a request for nominations for our 2003 Legacy Awards. Award categories include Organizations (industry, non-profit, and public agency), Individuals, and Teams. Awards will be given for oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response efforts that exceed regulatory requirements. Award criteria are defined in the announcement and include a requirement that nominees be located in or primarily operating in the Task Force jurisdictions. **Nominations must be received by April 25th.**

- OSPR and other Task Force agencies sponsored and participated in an investigator training course in late February. Personnel from the US Coast Guard and California State Lands Marine Facilities Division also attended. The course was instructed by Det Norske Veritas and applied the Task Force's Data Dictionary terms to case studies. The Washington Department of Ecology is sponsoring a training event on May 14th that will focus on investigating illegal discharges of shipboard waste oil; this course is also open to Task Force agencies and the Coast Guard.

- The Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET) was formed 10 years ago by representatives of the Task Force and federal and state agencies, non-profit organizations, and marine related businesses. POSPET recognizes small chronic oil spills from recreational boating activities as a regional issue and members exchange information and develop collaborative educational programs to address this problem. POSPET has promoted the Spills Aren't Slick poster which encourages use of a regional spill

response number, 1-800-OILS-911, and members have developed grassroots Dockwalker programs, offered fuel dock spill prevention education, and developed Best Management Practices for marinas. A POSPET meeting is scheduled for April 30, 2003 in Olympia, Washington to offer a presentation on Clean Marina programs and evaluate potential applications of this program on the West Coast. If you are interested in participating please call Eric Olsson at 206-685-8286 or reach him by email at: olsson@u.washington.edu for details.

The Task Force Member Agencies

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Contact Larry Dietrick at 907-465-5255

The British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection

Contact Heather Taylor at 250-356-8174

The Washington Department of Ecology

Contact Stan Norman at 360-407-7465

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Contact Mike Zollitsch at 503-229-6931

The Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Game

Contact Scott Schaefer at 916-445-9326

The Office of Hazards Evaluation and Emergency Response in the Hawaii Department of Environmental Health;

Contact Curtis Martin at 808-586-4249

Task Force member agency web sites may be accessed through the Task Force web site <http://wlapwww.gov.bc.ca/eeeb/taskforc/tfhome.htm>

For more information on any topics noted above, please contact Jean Cameron, Task Force Executive Coordinator, at 503-392-5860 (phone/fax), or through email at:

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