

**PACIFIC STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA OIL SPILL TASK FORCE**  
**2005 Resolution on**  
**Places of Refuge**

**Whereas**, the member agencies of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force have a legal obligation to protect the environment within their jurisdictions from oil spills; and

**Whereas**, ships requesting a Place of Refuge may represent a risk of oil spills to both the coastlines of our member jurisdictions and our ports and harbors; and

**Whereas**, that risk is likely to require decision-making under emergency conditions to weigh which responses would mitigate and minimize environmental damage; and

**Whereas**, the International Maritime Organization adopted the *Guidelines on Places of Refuge for Ships in Need of Assistance* in December 2003; and

**Whereas**, the Oil Spill Task Force joined the US Coast Guard to sponsor a US/Canadian stakeholder Workgroup asked to consider and recommend how best to prepare our member jurisdictions to deal with a request for a Place of Refuge; and

**Whereas**, that Places of Refuge Project Workgroup has developed an Area Plan Annex template to operationalize the IMO Guidelines by providing pre-planning and decision-making guidance;

**Now therefore be it resolved** that the Task Force Members agree to endorse the Places of Refuge Annex developed by the Project Workgroup, and further agree that the US Task Force member agencies will participate in its implementation by Area Committees, and monitor its application and the efficacy of its use; and

**Be it further resolved** that the British Columbia Ministry of Water, Land, and Air Protection will monitor whether the Canadian Coast Guard and Transport Canada take into consideration the planning and decision-making guidelines in this annex as they develop Canada's Places of Refuge policies and procedures.

This Resolution is adopted pursuant to, and follows the intent of, the Oil Spill Memoranda of Cooperation of 1989 and 2001, and is endorsed by the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force as represented by the following Members:

Signed by Kurt Fredriksson, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, on February 7, 2005

Signed by Linda Hoffman, Director, Washington Department of Ecology, on January 10, 2005

Signed by Laurence Lau, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Hawaii Department of Health, on January 21, 2005

Signed by Carl Moore, Administrator, the Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Game, on February 1, 2005

Signed by Paul Slyman, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, on January 25, 2005

(Signatures are on file at the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force office)