

SUMMARY NOTES

Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET)

2013 Fall Meeting
December 12, 9:30-3:00
Lacey, WA

Attendees

In person

Shayne Cothorn, WA State DNR
Sarah Brace, States/BC Task Force
Andy Gregory, Clean Marina WA/Puget Soundkeeper
Lisa Isakson, WA State Dept of Ecology
Italo Lenta, OR State Marine Board
Charles Martin, Des Moines Marina
Eric Olsson, WA Sea Grant
Hilary Wilkinson, States/BC Task Force

On the phone:

Steve Gonzales, CA OSPR
Rachel Lord, Alaska Clean Harbors and Cook Inletkeeper
Vivian Matuk, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and California Coastal Commission
Sarah Moore, AK Dept of Env'l Conservation
Alexia Retallack, OSPR
Michelle Young, Georgia Strait Alliance, BC

A. Welcome and Introductions

Sarah welcomed attendees and walked through the agenda. She shared the new OSTF website and asked for input on how best to improve the POSPET section of the site. An update on the status of follow-up activities from the last POSPET meeting was provided. Highlights include:

Follow up from Spring Meeting:

1. **Adding Alaska to Oils 911** – There are difficulties adding AK to OILS-911 because it is not accessed 24 hours per day. It's an "all or nothing" number so it cannot work in Alaska as currently configured. However, they are investigating other options. There are three response areas because of the size of the state – each office has its own spill reporting number that is answered during business hours. After hours, the calls go to the state troopers' office. Discussion highlights include:
 - Rachel noted that that they have funding for spill response signage, so if the Oils-911 number is not going to work, they can at least get signs made up for harbor facilities.
 - Creating a third "spills" number could cause confusion.

- Eric mentioned that in WA, they have had to limit use of the spills number to recreational spills because commercial spillers are legally required to call a different number.

Next Step: Sarah will check with the AT&T coordinator to find out if they can have an after-hours 911 number or a call forwarding option.

2. **Create a draft safety checklist** – This was done and shared with POSPET members following last meeting.

Next step: Finalize and post on POSPET webpage.

3. **Fuel safety checklist magnet design** – Rachel Lord shared with group following spring meeting.

4. **Link to a bioremediation study** – Rachel sent to POSPET members. Note: She still hasn't received any results or report from BoatUS on this project but will let POSPET members know when she does.

5. **First POSPET newsletter** – No progress made on this effort.

Next step: The group suggested adding this as a blog posting on the POSPET website.

B. Update of Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force

Sarah provided a brief tour of the new OSTF website and asked for suggestions for improving the POSPET page. Highlights of this include:

- Sarah noted that she would like to post POSPET information to the “Events” and “Updates” sections of the site. Eventually there will be more project-specific blurbs.
- They are in the process of reorganizing how the documents are presented on the website.
- There are links to the specific Clean Marina programs. The idea is to keep this a living page.
- Would like to add more photos, possibly including a featured program event that was successful. More photos would be good – people photos are enticing, maybe add a collage on the POSPET page?

Next Steps:

1. Add an “intuitive” link to the POSPET page from the main page of the website. As currently configured, it is not obvious. (Hilary/Sarah)
2. Add an education and outreach tab and include all of the POSPET goals in it. (Hilary/Sarah)
3. Include POSPET (and related) products – a fueling check list, spill response plans, etc. (Hilary/Sarah)
4. Provide photos, events, Clean Marina success stories, case studies, etc. (ALL)
5. Schedule a conference call in early Feb 2014 to follow up on the website discussion and figure out strategies and assignments. (Hilary)

C. Member updates

Vivan Matuk, California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways and California Coastal Commission

Dockwalkers program – designed to train volunteers to conduct boater education. It exists because they found that the most common source of education is boat stores. Most volunteers are boaters, facility operators, etc. They interact with the Clean Marina program. Highlights of the program include:

- 10 trainings in 2013; 180 new volunteers were trained. Trainings are free and last 2.5 hrs. They review sources of pollution and recommended practices, as well as the components of the boater kit. Distributed 6500 boater kits in 2013 (via program, plus other events). Volunteers donated over 1500 hrs.
- To keep Dockwalkers active, they have an annual contest – award top 10-20 most active Dockwalkers (e.g. highest # of completed surveys etc).
- Donations for the awards come from restaurants, cruises, tours to Alcatraz, etc.
- Conducted 16 boating seminars at marinas and boat clubs.
- Continue distributing the Changing Tides newsletter (quarterly publication) – POSPET is included in distribution.
- Released two 4-minute boating videos in August – they promote clean boating practices related to oil and fuel management. Already had 500 viewers.
- Released a communication packet in partnership with the Governor’s office on Emergency Service and Spill Response Program – trying to enhance communication capabilities between federal and state entities. Put together a very successful workshop -- 40 boating facility operators attended the workshop. Next year will do it in San Diego and LA/Long Beach. Will also conduct a free training seminar on booming.
- Conducted three workshops on aquatic invasive species.
- Since 2009, they have partnered with BoatUS Foundation on fishing line recycling efforts. Currently, there are 180 fishing line recycling stations. They promote the stations with Google maps. Have collected 900 pounds of fishing line so far.

Next steps: Vivian will initiate a conference call with AK, BC and WA members (and anyone else who is interested) to talk more about lessons learned from the Dockwalkers’ program.

Sarah Moore, Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation

- **Abandoned vessels** -- A hot topic in AK. New regulations are in place that increase the authority of states and municipalities to take control of abandoned vessels. The new regulations did not come with additional funding. They are currently talking to EPA and the Coast Guard regarding the derelict vessel issue. There will be a big push about vessel disposal and ocean dumping permits.

Rachel Lord, Alaska Clean Harbors and Cook Inlet Keepers

- **Clean Harbors** – Haines’ Portage Cove Small Boat Harbor was certified as their 3rd clean harbor. They continue to work with Bethel, Kodiak, Nome and a number of other facilities. They recently put together a short video that provides an overview of the program. It’s available at: www.AlaskaCleanHarbors.org. Bi-annual newsletters are also available on the homepage of the ACH website.
- **Harbor Map Brochures** -- ACH worked with a graphic designer to create a harbor brochure and map template for all certified harbors. Examples can be seen on the website: <http://alaskacleanharbors.org/homer-harbor-map-available/>
- **Dockwalkers outreach** – have used information from Vivian to do it in Alaska. Will be continuing and expanding effort in the Kenai Peninsula. They will also go to the Great Alaska Sportsman’s Show, and possibly Pacific Marine Expo in November.
- **Derelict vessels** – Big issue; they helped move forward the legislation previously mentioned by Sarah M. In February they will facilitate a derelict vessel task force, working to create a statewide ADV program in Alaska.

Steve Gonzales, CA OSPR

- **Funding** -- The new OSPR Administrator trying to get funding to better address inland issues related to increased rail transportation.
- **CalSpillsWatch page** – launched a couple weeks ago on a spill in Ventura. Trying to push it to industry so they know where the information is.
- **Social media** – they post smaller incidents on Facebook and Twitter.
- **2 minute videos** – OSPR is creating these are produced to keep their programs “fresh” when there is not a spill (e.g., it keeps people following their activities).

Michelle Young, BC

- **Dockwalkers Program** - In summer 2014, they will initiate a Dockwalker program with two summer students.
- **Clean Marina** – Five certifications at this point.
- **Plastic Shore** -- Looking to work with this new organization that is launching a marine debris collection program. The plastic debris would be recycled by industry to develop products with a certified marine debris product stamp. Looking to connect beach cleanups with this organization. PlasticShore can be found at <http://www.plasticshore.org/> and it is also in the resources and new initiatives section of the notes as “BC Certified Marine Debris product stamp”.
- **Save the Salish Sea program** – Save the Salish Sea is a partnership between GSA and Wilderness Committee to prevent the Salish Sea from becoming a fossil fuel export super highway. <https://wildernesscommittee.org/salish-sea>
- **Drift Card study** – is a GSA partnership with Raincoast Conservation Foundation and can be found at <http://www.salishseaspillmap.org/>
- **Vancouver International Boat Show** – will be conducting green boating outreach as well as reaching out to marinas to join Clean Marine BC. <http://www.vancouverboatshow.ca/>
- There are currently five recertification in progress

Next steps:

Michelle will send link to International Boat Show to Sarah Brace who will then put it on the events page.

Lisa Isakson, Ecology

- **Public Outreach** – Since June, they have done four public events, including the Pacific Marine Expo. They will be at the Seattle Boat Show in early Feb 2014.
- **“VOO” program** – Launched the Vessels of Opportunity (VOO) Program, which encourages boat owners (primarily commercial but some recreational) to volunteer their vessels for oil spill response to supplement first responders in event of a catastrophic spill. All the volunteer opportunities including wildlife will be housed under this website. In addition, volunteers can register for oilspills101.org (Ecy owned website). Informational pamphlets were distributed at the Pacific Marine Expo.
- **NW Marine Trade Association Conference** – Lisa attended this conference in November and did a presentation on oil spill prevention in marinas. It was very successful and they have been asked to do additional seminars.
- **Derelict Vessels** – WA State now has derelict vessel regulations in place, plus funding. They tapped the funding for two vessels - Golden West and Helena Star. Part of the focus for the Seattle Boat Show will be on derelict vessels, and Lisa is going to do a piece on “are you sure you want to invest in that vessel?” They are also trying to educate people about being more proactive.

- **Deployment capabilities in Washington** – A white paper is being developed right now – there is a model for travel time. It is an innovative and dynamic program.
- **WRRL.org** – this is a website that shows all the equipment across the state.
- **OSTF Bunkering Video** – Lisa re-ordered 1000 bunkering videos and she’s creating a bunkering manual –a spiral bound manual with checklists and other useful tables, and a laminated hard cover.

Questions and comments:

Q: What is the latest position on use of volunteers? *Lisa response:* the Regional Response Team (RRT) met this week. The preparedness section manager was there to make a case for convening a task force for standardizing the use of volunteers. Eric noted that this is a very critical issue that everyone is facing. Lisa responded that currently Ecology is figuring out what their standard should be. Volunteers can do everything but touch oil. They want to create a series of information sessions about what it means to be a volunteer. EPA grants have already been distributed for a couple different tribes. Sarah noted that the Task Force developed and published Volunteer Management Guidelines (posted on the Task Force website). The Task Force’s 2013-2014 Workplan includes a task to update these guidelines.

Charles Martin, City of Des Moines Marina (Environmental Coordinator)

- **Des Moines Marina drill** – Charles provided a presentation on a recent drill that was conducted at the Des Moines Marina to test their oil spill response equipment. Highlights of the presentation:
 - There are oil spill response trailers throughout Washington State, including at Des Moines. Have only had one drill and this (according to Charles) is woefully inadequate.
 - They reached out to the local fire station and others and developed a training session that was planned in coordination with the Ecology Spills Program. There was a classroom session with marina staff and others.
 - After the training, they positioned the trailer at a private dock and had members of the South King County Fire and Rescue District conduct a hands-on drill.
 - Charles suggested reaching out to Ecology for other trainings. There were a lot of valuable lessons learned doing these drills. The biggest lesson: non-first responders better understood their role relative to first responders.
 - Other lessons learned include:
 - a. It is very important to understand roles
 - b. Wide turns to move the boom are very important
 - c. First responders key; can deploy boom in half the time it took the boat

Italo Lenta, OR State Marine Board

- **Italo is new** - The position was vacant for 6 months.
- **Certified Marinas** – OR has 61 certified marinas as of this month. Italo is working with four pledged marinas to get them certified before boating season.
- **Marine flare disposal program** -- He is currently looking into such a program -- no one knows what to do with unused flares. Current practices include shooting them off or soaking them in water and disposing them in a landfill. Both are problematic. He’d like to know if there is a way to collect unused flares and approach a variety of chemical distributors to see if they can be repurposed, and asked if anyone else had any information. Eric and Andy noted that it is a very hot topic in WA where flares are collected from life raft servicing.

Andy Gregory, Puget Soundkeeper

- **Clean Marina Program** – Puget Soundkeeper has the primary administrative role in WA. Andy was previously a part-time boating program coordinator with Soundkeeper but now is on full-time. He is still in the role of administering the Clean Marina Program and is now managing the Pollution Prevention Program.
- **Certified Marinas** – WA has 66 certified marinas. Most recent: Peninsula Yacht Basin in Gig Harbor. Actively working with several facilities on renewals.
- **Funding** – Soundkeeper has secured three years worth of funding. They have renewed a PPG grant; also received Section 319 federal funding (\$25k/year for next 3 years). Also have contract with Seattle Public Utilities to do local source control work.
- **Educational tools and certification materials** -- One of Andy's priorities is to revamp their outreach materials. They also plan to invest in multimedia tools such as a series of clean boating and training videos for marina staff. They are in the process of developing video topics – aiming for 2-3 videos per year for the next three years. Andy is also working with Lisa to update Ecology's materials and improve the Clean Marina branding.
- **“Don't Drip and Drive”** – A regional committee initiated by King County Econet and focused on reducing vehicle leaks. The committee is oriented towards social marketing and behavior change. They will test a variety of incentive and outreach strategies.

Shayne Cothorn – WA State DNR

- **Derelict Vessels** – The governors of WA and OR have submitted a letter to Congress requesting federal funding to deal with derelict vessels.
Note: Sarah mentioned that the Task Force is submitting a letter on behalf of the member states in support of this letter by the governors. Will be submitted to Congress mid-January. Should be done in the next month.

Eric Olsson, Washington Sea Grant

- **POSPET look back in time** – Eric Provided a brief overview of the history of POSPET and the program's evolution. They lost a few members because they expanded the focus beyond oil spills. Eric always thought a vision would be to have an Atlantic POSPET – and even the Gulf Coast POSPET. He thinks it's a very effective model. There are economies of scale at play – the important thing is that the message is consistent and coherent. Eric mentioned he is leaving his position at WA Sea Grant. Sarah thanked Eric for keeping POSPET going through 20 years and for providing leadership.
- **University of Alaska oil spill prevention and response course** -- Eric highly recommends this course.
- **Fishing vessel safety** – Eric tries to perpetuate the message that “a clean boat is a safe boat”. It's a great opportunity to capture a community that is often overlooked. Good tool for promoting spill prevention. Alaska has one; BC does “Fish Safe” – Oregon also has one.
- **Harbor Masters** – Eric will keep doing this through 2014. He chairs the Training and Education Committee, which puts on the conference. Next conference is in Newport OR, followed by BC.
- **Spill Prevention Kits** – Made 100 spill prevention kits. There is a good deal of literature on these kits, which help keep small spills from becoming big problems.
- **POSPET + Industry** -- POSPET needs to do a better job of connecting with industry – get voices of harbor masters and marina managers to say what we want said. POSPET should capture a few harbor masters and get them on video. Sarah noted that OSTF has set up a website that connects

the Harbor Safety Committees up and down the west coast – plan to post case studies. Maybe POSPET can do something similar with some of the marinas – share an interesting story or approach that someone is taking, such as “tech tips” from a marina manager.

- **Clean Marina Classroom** – www.misegrant.umich.edu/clean-marina-classroom/. Eric believes that those certified under the Clean Marinas program should take this course – they would benefit – the cost is \$100. It is not currently required, but is an example of what the states could require of the certified marinas. Several POSPET members expressed interest in taking the course. Eric offered to ask if we can avoid the registration fee. Comments/questions include:
 - Rachel: It would be great if we could all take the course and see the contents. We could have a West Coast Clean Marina Classroom for our member jurisdictions – make it more marine-based. She has talked to staff at the University of Alaska Southeast (they administer the Career Training for Ports and Marinas courses) about it for Alaska.
 - Shane: how could states require it of the marinas and why can't we do it here?
 - Andy: sees parallels between new WA state boater cards

Next step:

Eric will look into whether POSPET members can get into the Clean Marine Classroom as a group or with reduced or no registration fee.

D. New and Re-visited Projects

- **Handling oily bilge water** -- Seattle Boat Show is coming up and is a great opportunity to reach recreational boaters. Questions and comments:
 - Any BMPs for bilgewater management? Eric: spill prevention kit addresses that. Also – funding for bilgewater collection facilities.
 - One idea is to have the POSPET webpage link to Puget Soundkeeper Alliance re: what works for them.
 - Marinas should require insurance/and inspect on an annual basis.
 - Sarah asked POSPET members if they would be interested in website serving the function of incorporating resources for this information? The group responded YES.
- **POSPET online newsletter or contributing to existing one.**
 - Sarah would like to bundle this with the upcoming conversation about making the webpage more robust.
 - Concerns regarding capacity were raised. A suggestions of Twitter accounts feeding into the POSPET website was raised.
- **Create a “speaker list” for addressing oil spill concerns** -- This will be added to the website conversation. The idea for this is to create a resource for people to link with individuals with specific expertise – maybe YouTube video clips.
- **Hydraulic Spills – How can POSPET help eliminate this chronic problem?** -- This is one of the most prevalent problems, from big fishing boats to big cruise ships. Eric noted that when he goes on fishing boats, temporary fixes to problems are common.
- **Promoting HAZWOPER training** – There Should be a link on the website about where trainings are happening. Also, a link to what is required.
- **POSPET Fuel Dock Checklist** (alternative to Spills Aren't Slick posters) -- Do we want to support development of this? Eric: has probably looked at every fuel dock in the state – would like a standardized sign that can be seen from the boat. It costs money. Lisa volunteered to help, and Andy and Eric will work with her. They will draft a fuel dock checklist.

- **Outreach targeted at boat launch ramps and trailered boats** -- Eric mentioned QR codes – could stick them on spills aren't slick signs Alexia mentioned that they are used in California. Andy noted that you can make them dynamic and they are free to generate.

Next Steps:

POSPET Fuel Dock Checklist – Lisa, Andy and Eric will draft a fuel dock checklist.

E. POSPET Enhancement Options

Sarah asked POSPET members to discuss the future of POSPET and what they would like to see the group achieve.

- **Quarterly meetings/conference calls** (broad support for this idea). Should establish some subcommittees to get work done in the interim. (Note: a listserv could serve some of these functions as well). Ideas for subcommittees include:
 - a. Derelict vessel subcommittee
 - b. Boat fueling/handling of fuel
 - c. Marina Operator's (Clean Marine Training Operator) – should be able to specifically address pleasure boat spill prevention
 - d. Website/communications/outreach (on POSPET)

Other questions and comments:

- **Q:** What is the situation moving forward with funding? **Response:** Sarah mentioned the idea of bringing a request forward to OSTF to support a small POSPET-driven project.

Next step: Brainstorm project proposal during conference call in February.

- **Q:** Is there interest in POSPET tagging on to Ecology's booth at the Pacific Marine Expo? **Response:** YES! Lisa will coordinate. Note: Rachel is interested in a dedicated Clean Marina/Clean Harbors booth if there is interest from the group. She notes that it is expensive, but there is some dedicated funding right now for a possible booth this year if there is interest from other Clean Marina coordinators.

SUMMARY OF NEXT STEP (FOLLOW-UP) ITEMS

TOPIC	Details	Lead	Deadline
OILS-911 Follow up	Check with the AT&T coordinator to find out if they can have an after-hours 911 number or a call forwarding option.	Sarah	2/30/14
POSPET webpage/communications discussion and next steps	Update web page with POSPET mission/goals, existing products and links to programs.	Sarah	3/1/14
	Schedule a conference call in early Feb 2014 to follow up on the website discussion and figure out strategies and next steps. The conference call conversation will go deeper into the framework/content/mechanism for the web page update. Topics: Use of QR Codes; Case	Hilary	2/15/14

	Studies; Resources to Post. Also: Brainstorm ideas for project(s) for Task Force funding.		
Dockwalkers Discussion Conference Call	A conference call with AK, BC and WA POSPET Members (and anyone else who is interested) to talk more about lessons learned from the Dockwalkers' program.	Vivian to initiate	2/15/14
International Boat Show	Post event information on Task Force website	Michelle to send URL	ASAP
Clean Marine Classroom	Explore possibility for POSPET members can enroll in classroom as a group.	Eric	ASAP
POSPET Fuel Dock Checklist	Draft a fuel dock checklist.	Lisa, Andy, Eric	Feb 28
Drift Card study	Provide a picture to Sarah of Drift Card to include on the webpage.	Michelle	DONE
Volunteer management guidelines	Share information on where WA Ecology's program and update (Lisa). Update the group on Task Force plans to revise guidelines. (Sarah)	Lisa Sarah	1/15/14 2/1/14
Ted Talk examples	Share video examples with group	Hilary	ASAP
Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference	Share information with group. Coordinate the Spring POSPET meeting to accompany the conference since many members might be in attendance.	Sarah	ASAP

RESOURCES AND NEW INITIATIVES

- "Don't Drip and Drive" – KC Econet - <http://www.ecy.wa.gov/fixcarleaks.html/>
- Clean Marina Classroom – www.misegrant.umich.edu/clean-marina-classroom/