

**OIL SPILL
MEMORANDUM
OF
COOPERATION**

Between the Pacific
States of Alaska, California,
Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington
and the
Province of British Columbia

June 2001

OIL SPILL MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION

Whereas the Province of British Columbia (the “Province”) and the Pacific States of Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington (the “States”) share and protect common Pacific Ocean fish and wildlife resources and their supporting environments, as well as common cultural and economic values; and

Whereas the Province and the States each have a mandate to enhance and protect their environmental, cultural, and economic resources from oil spills; and

Whereas the Province and States also share the benefits, risks and impacts from oil transportation and carriage; and

Whereas the impacts of oil spills and pollution may cross jurisdictional boundaries; and

Whereas it is paramount to both maintain and improve a coordinated response to prevent, prepare for, and respond effectively to oil spills in our shared waters; and

Whereas the Province and the States have coordinated effectively for over a decade under an initial Memorandum of Cooperation signed in 1989, producing Agreements and Recommendations that have significantly improved the protection of our shared resources and established an internationally respected model of cooperation; and

Whereas the future requires continued cooperation in preventing or abating oil spills in our respective jurisdictions, including the provision of opportunities for the participation of appropriate federal agencies and all affected stakeholders of both Canada and the United States;

Now therefore, in recognition of the spirit of co-operation which has characterized their efforts thus far, the Province of British Columbia, through its Premier, the Honorable Gordon Campbell, the State of Alaska through its Governor, the Honorable Tony Knowles, the State of California through its Governor, the Honorable Gray Davis, the State of Hawaii through its Governor, the Honorable Benjamin Cayetano, the State of Oregon through its Governor, the Honorable John Kitzhaber, and the State of Washington through its Governor, the Honorable Gary Locke, join together in this Memorandum of Cooperation pertaining to the resolution of mutual problems of oil spill pollution in the aforementioned

jurisdictions. In this regard the Province and the States will continue to participate in and support an Oil Spill Task Force to develop coordinated programs for oil pollution prevention, preparedness, and response as well as improved communications.

The members of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force will be the British Columbia Deputy Minister for Water, Land, and Air Protection, the Commissioner of the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Administrator of the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response, the Hawaii Deputy Director for Environmental Health, the Director of the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, and the Director of the Washington Department of Ecology.

To ensure effective coordination of their intergovernmental efforts, representatives of each member agency will be appointed to maintain this Memorandum and coordinate Task Force activities. These representatives and the Task Force Executive Coordinator will form the Task Force Coordinating Committee. The Coordinating Committee will meet quarterly and the Task Force members will meet annually to review progress and plan future cooperation as outlined in Strategic Plans adopted by the Task Force Members.

Issues addressed by the Task Force Strategic Plans will include shared issues of concern with regard to:

- Oil spill prevention, preparedness and response;
- Information exchange on issues of vessel pollution other than oil;
- Effective communications; and
- Consistency and compatibility between Task Force jurisdictions.

Each party shall bear its own expenses of cooperating pursuant to this Memorandum, and will contribute to the operating expenses of the Task Force according to interagency agreements established for that purpose.

The duration of this Memorandum of Cooperation is intended to be perpetual, but each party may terminate its agreement at will by giving written notice to the other parties.

The parties do not intend by this memorandum to create any separate legal or administrative entity.

This Memorandum represents a consensus concerning a common sense of purpose and direction regarding cooperation to prevent, prepare for, and respond to oil spills. It is pursuant to and follows the intent of the *States/British Columbia Oil Spill Memorandum of Cooperation of 1989* and is endorsed by the Governors and Premier as follows:

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2001 _____
The Honorable Gordon Campbell
Premier, Province of British Columbia

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2001 _____
The Honorable Tony Knowles
Governor, State of Alaska

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2001 _____
The Honorable Gray Davis
Governor, State of California

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2001 _____
The Honorable Benjamin Cayetano
Governor, State of Hawaii

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2001 _____
The Honorable John Kitzhaber
Governor, State of Oregon

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2001 _____
The Honorable Gary Locke
Governor, State of Washington