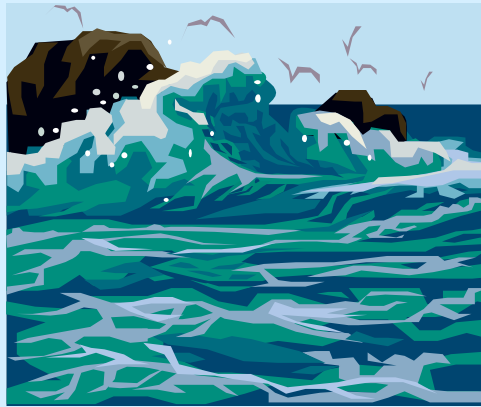


Pacific States
British Columbia
Oil Spill Task Force



2004-2009
Strategic Plan

STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY

This document represents a consensus of the 2004 Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Members concerning a common sense of purpose and direction for the next five years. It is adopted pursuant to and follows the intent of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Memoranda of Cooperation of 1989 and 2001, and is endorsed by the following members:

- Signed by Ernesta Ballard, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, on July 20, 2004
- Signed by Eric Partridge for Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Air, and Land Protection, on July 20, 2004
- Signed by Carlton Moore, Administrator, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Game, on July 20, 2004
- Signed by Laurence Lau, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Hawaii Department of Health, on July 20, 2004
- Signed by Alan Kiphut for Paul Slyman, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, on July 20, 2004
- Signed by Linda Hoffman, Director, Washington Department of Ecology, on July 20, 2004

(Signatures are on file at the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force office and copies are available upon request)

PACIFIC STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA OIL SPILL TASK FORCE 2004-2009 STRATEGIC PLAN

INTRODUCTION

The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force was formally created by a Memorandum of Cooperation (MOC) signed in 1989, following two west coast oil spill incidents. The first involved the barge *Nestucca*, which spilled oil off the coasts of Washington and British Columbia in December of 1988; the second incident was the catastrophic spill by the T/V *Exxon Valdez* in Alaska's Prince William Sound in March of 1989. These events highlighted the common concerns shared by the West Coast states and the Province of British Columbia related to spill risks from coastal vessel traffic routes, the need for cooperation across shared borders, and a shared commitment among West Coast citizens of both the U.S. and Canada to protect their unique marine resources.

The 1989 Memorandum of Cooperation stated that the West Coast States and the Province of British Columbia formed the Task Force "to develop coordinated programs for oil pollution prevention, abatement, and response." The MOC established that the Task Force would be jointly chaired by the top executives of each jurisdiction's environmental agency with oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response authorities and that "this responsibility will be included in the job descriptions of these representatives. [who] will meet annually to review progress and plan future cooperation." It is further stated in the MOC that "the duration of this memorandum is intended to be perpetual."

The State of Hawaii agreed to join the Oil Spill Task Force in August 2001. The Governors of Hawaii, Alaska, California, Oregon, and Washington joined the Premier of British Columbia in signing a revised Memorandum of Cooperation in 2001 to acknowledge this expanded membership, and the name of the Task Force was subsequently changed to the "Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force."

Pursuant to the Memorandum of Cooperation, Task Force Members meet annually to receive reports on projects completed according to their current Strategic Plan, to adopt annual work plans to implement additional projects, and to interact with stakeholders in member jurisdictions. The Members' representatives to the Task Force Coordinating Committee meet quarterly during the year to review progress on implementation of the annual work plans. The continuing focus of the Task Force is on fostering regulatory compatibility, sharing information and resources, and coordinating development and implementation of new policies and programs.

For more information on the accomplishments of the Task Force from 1989 to 2004, please reference Appendix I. For a list of the 2004 Task Force Members, Coordinating Committee Members, and Task Force contact information, please reference Appendix II.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS: 2004-2009

The Task Force will renew its core emphasis on oil spills over the next five years. To prevent oil spills we will develop and refine our regional spills database to better determine spill trends and focus our initiatives on spill causes through a risk-based approach. For example, the data we have collected for the last two years indicates that the majority of spill events are associated with facilities, unregulated sources, and inland transportation sources, so our future prevention efforts will focus on these sources. We will also focus spill prevention efforts on waste oil dumping from vessels, bulk oil transfers, enhanced salvage capacity, spill risks from sunken vessels, and best practices for tank barges, pipelines, non-tank vessels, railroads, trucks, recreational boating, and marinas. In addition,

we will conduct a 5-year review of the implementation status of recommendations made by the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project Workgroup.

We will focus our spill preparedness and response efforts on Places of Refuge planning as well as improving spill response through more focused drills/exercises, enhanced response organization readiness, use of performance standards for containment, recovery, storage, and shoreline protection, improved US/Canadian transboundary response and use of ICS, plus streamlining and better defining response planning requirements. Supporting effective and equitable Natural Resource Damage Assessment procedures and policies as well as oil spill research and development initiatives will also remain priorities. In addition, we will maintain the OILS-911 regional spill reporting number and the Integrated Vessel Response Plan Guidelines for tank vessels.

We propose to reach these objectives and satisfy our mission by facilitating collaboration, cooperation, and coordination among state, Provincial, and federal oil spill regulators, the regulated industry, and the public. We will promote regulatory consistency to the degree possible within the context of environmental, social, legal and economic variables among our member jurisdictions. We will continue partnering with US and Canadian federal agencies to address issues of common concern while promoting non-regulatory solutions and consistent enforcement of existing regulations, and we greatly appreciate their ongoing commitment to regional cooperation. We will continue our commitment to stakeholder involvement and input. We define “stakeholders” as persons, organizations, and public agencies which share our focus on oil spills and therefore should be participants in our dialogue and contribute their expertise to help shape our final products. Our member agencies are also committed to stakeholder involvement in their individual jurisdictions and will endeavor to provide forums for all concerned citizens to provide input into oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response policy development and implementation.

THE PACIFIC STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA OIL SPILL TASK FORCE

LONG TERM VISION STATEMENT No Spilled Oil

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Oil Spill Task Force is to strengthen state and Provincial abilities to prevent, prepare for, and respond to oil spills.

ONGOING GOALS

To prevent both large oil spills that cause catastrophic impacts in the waters of our member jurisdictions and the cumulative impacts of chronic small spills;

To coordinate communication, policy development, response capabilities, prevention and preparedness initiatives, and education in order to maximize efficiency of effort; to learn from one another and share ideas and "products";

To clarify the roles and responsibilities of state, provincial, and federal agencies in order to reduce regulatory gaps, overlaps, and conflicts;

To advocate in national and international arenas on selected issues of common concern, earning respect through credibility, clarity of purpose, and collaboration;

To work cooperatively with federal agencies, vessel and facility operators, the oil industry, response contractors, public interest groups, and all concerned citizens to create opportunities for political and technological breakthroughs by serving as a catalyst for progressive change;

To educate the public on the impacts of oil spills and issues relating to spill prevention, preparedness, response, and restoration; and

To serve as a model of regional cooperation and coordination.

I. SPILL PREVENTION OBJECTIVE: To prevent oil spills from vessels, pipelines, facilities, vehicles and railroads through development and implementation of regulatory and public/private partnerships.

Determine Spill Trends and Causes

Determine spill trends and causes by continuing to develop our regional database of oil spill incidents, by refining use of the terms in the Database Dictionary adopted by Task Force Members, and by providing ongoing training for member agency staff that conduct incident investigations.

Prevent Spills during Transfers of Bulk Cargo or Fuel Oil

Develop regionally consistent and effective bulk oil transfer standards. Evaluate the need for operator training and certification programs for persons in charge of bulk commercial transfer operations.

Prevent Spills at Oil Handling Facilities

Prevent spills at oil handling facilities by promoting best practices.

Prevent Spills from Small Vessels and Facilities

Invite operators of small vessels and/or facilities currently regulated solely by Federal agencies to address the Task Force regarding spill prevention and response programs and policies currently applicable to their operations. Identify successful strategies for preventing oil spills from these sources.

Prevent Transportation Spills from Trucks and Railroads

Invite regulators and operators with responsibility for truck and railroad operations to address the Task Force regarding spill prevention and response programs and policies currently applicable to these transportation modes. Identify successful strategies for preventing oil spills from these sources.

Prevent Waste Oil Dumping from Vessels

Prevent waste oil dumping from both tank and dry cargo vessels operating in the waters of member jurisdictions by collaborating with federal agencies on investigations and prosecutions as well as investigator training programs. Promote installation of oily water reception facilities at ports in our member jurisdictions.

Improve Operating Standards on Tank Barges

Work with owners/operators of tank barges to promote voluntary adoption of best industry practices.

Track the Conversion of Tank Vessels to Double Hulls

Monitor the double-hull conversion status of all tank ships and tank barges operating in the waters of member jurisdictions.

Improve Salvage and Rescue Capabilities

Encourage improved salvage and rescue tug capability in our member jurisdictions by tracking final US Coast Guard regulations regarding salvage and firefighting, and by advocating that these regulations be extended to cover non-tank vessels, coordinated with Canadian vessel contingency planning requirements in shared waters, and evaluated as necessary on an area planning basis. Evaluate the need for adoption of state salvage and firefighting regulations as necessary to meet these goals.

Prevent Pipeline Spills

Prevent spills from pipelines by tracking data on pipeline spills and cooperating on the development of spill prevention policies as needed. Monitor development of US and Canadian federal regulations targeted at pipeline spill prevention.

Prevent Spills from Marinas and Recreational Boating Activities

Promote fuel spill prevention education among recreational boaters and at marinas by continuing Task Force and member agency participation in the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team.

Prevent Spills from Sunken Vessels

Prevent or minimize spills from sunken vessels by tracking the development of sunken vessel risk assessment tools, and by advocating for federal funding for the removal of sunken vessels - as well as wrecked or abandoned fishing and recreational boats - in cases where oil products or fuel remaining on board pose an environmental risk.

Review the Implementation Status of the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project Recommendations

Collaborate with the US Coast Guard and Transport Canada in 2007 to conduct a Five-Year review of the implementation status and efficacy of the recommendations made by the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project Workgroup.

II. SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OBJECTIVE: To enhance oil spill preparedness and response capabilities in US and Canadian Pacific coastal areas.

Provide for Timely and Effective Responses to Requests for Places of Refuge

Develop consistent planning and response procedures for responding to requests for refuge by ships in need of assistance in situations where environmental or economic impacts may result. Partner with the US Coast Guard Pacific Area, appropriate Canadian authorities, and key stakeholders to develop recommendations on Places of Refuge decision-making protocols, authorities, and procedures.

Improve the Effectiveness of Oil Spill Response

Promote implementation of performance standards for containment, recovery, storage, and shoreline protection. Promote Applied Response Technologies through development of pre-approval policies and protocols for the use of in-situ burning, dispersants, or detergents, as appropriate based on scientific and risk-based assessments.

Demonstrate Oil Spill Response Capabilities

Use drill/exercise programs, including unannounced drills, to demonstrate planholders' capacity to implement their entire response plan and provide for adequate shoreline protection. Monitor and participate in Spills of National Significance exercises, advocating for scenario designs relevant to Task Force member agencies, including transboundary response scenarios.

Enhance Oil Spill Response Organization Readiness

Maintain and improve regional response and mutual aid capabilities by evaluating the response and management capabilities of Oil Spill Response Organizations (OSROs) to deal with spills from a variety of sources. Promote the use of Incident Management Teams by planholders. Encourage the development and implementation of effective US Coast Guard OSRO guidelines.

Advocate for increased federal COFR requirements

Advocate that the US Coast Guard raise the Certificate of Financial Responsibility requirements for both tank and non-tank vessels to levels that reflect current oil spill response costs.

Promote Effective Transboundary Response

Ensure coordinated and effective responses to transboundary marine oil spills by monitoring transboundary response plans and exercises, and by coordinating with appropriate OSROs and federal officials to improve applicable policies and procedures, including those governing response funding.

Promote Effective Response Management

Promote consistent and effective response management systems by:

- Promoting use of the Incident Command System and Unified Command in British Columbia and its application in US/Canada transboundary response plans;
- Promoting the use of highly trained and pre-approved Incident Management Teams during spill response;
- Promoting consistent ICS training and applications among government agencies, responsible parties, and response organizations; and
- Improving communications regarding the effectiveness and impacts of cleanup actions.

Standardize and Improve Contingency Plan Requirements

Support and encourage adoption of the Task Force's Recommended Contingency Planning Elements by our member agencies, as applicable.

Improve Preparedness and Response to Non-tank Vessel Spills

Improve our ability to respond to non-tank vessel spills by emphasizing consistent use of streamlined contingency plans, Incident Management Teams, and drill/exercise programs. Advocate that the US Coast Guard require oil spill response plans for non-tank vessels as well as delegate authority and provide funding for contingency plan review by states.

Improve Natural Resource Damage Assessments

Develop and implement consistent and effective Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) policies, procedures, training, and exercises.

Improve Oiled Wildlife Care

Promote inter-jurisdictional coordination of oiled wildlife care.

Promote Oil Spill Research and Development Priorities

Advocate to federal agencies and industry for the oil spill research and development priorities as recommended by Task Force member agencies.

Promote use of the Integrated Vessel Response Plan

Promote use of the Integrated Vessel Response Plan (IVRP) guidance matrix - which provides a contingency plan format that can be used to meet all vessel oil spill contingency planning requirements of our member jurisdictions, of the US Coast Guard, and of Transport Canada - by updating the guidance matrix as necessary and maintaining it on our website.

Promote Spill Reporting by Recreational Boaters and Small Commercial Fishing Vessels

Promote spill reporting by unregulated boaters and vessel operators by maintaining the 1-800-OILS-911 spill reporting phone number in participating jurisdictions and publicizing its availability through "green boating" education campaigns.

III. COMMUNICATIONS OBJECTIVE: To continuously improve communications within the Task Force as well as with key stakeholders and the general public, and to maintain a high level of public and stakeholder involvement in Task Force activities.

A. STAKEHOLDER OUTREACH/EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Meet Annually

Task Force Members will hold public meetings each year, rotating meeting locations among member jurisdictions to facilitate stakeholder participation. Meetings will provide attendees with information on member jurisdiction and Task Force activities plus regional spill data and trends, focus invited presentations on key issues of concern, provide opportunities for public comment, and allow for adoption of Strategic and Annual Work Plans as well as Resolutions and Agreements.

Sponsor Public Roundtable Discussions

The Task Force will sponsor annual Roundtable discussions on key topics of concern, generally to be held mid-year, and open to the public. The location of these Roundtable events should be rotated among member jurisdictions as appropriate to the dates and topics.

Meet annually with US and Canadian Federal Agencies

The Coordinating Committee and/or the Executive Coordinator will meet annually with both US and Canadian federal oil spill regulatory agencies to identify and facilitate partnership opportunities on regional issues of common concern.

Meet with Key Stakeholders

As time allows, the Coordinating Committee will meet with key stakeholders from the jurisdictions where their quarterly meetings are held.

Maintain the Legacy Awards Program

Create incentives to reduce the risks and the impacts of oil spills by maintaining the Legacy Awards program. Legacy Awards honor and publicize public and private sector initiatives that go beyond regulatory requirements to improve oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.

Involve Stakeholders in Project Workgroups

Invite stakeholder participation in project workgroups as appropriate to each project.

Participate in Meetings, Workshops, and Conferences

Task Force Members, members of the Coordinating Committee, and the Executive Coordinator will attend and participate in meetings, workshops, or conferences as appropriate to the issues of concern to the Task Force as outlined in this Strategic Plan and/or current Annual Work Plans.

Respond to Requests for Information or Presentations

The Executive Coordinator will respond to all information requests regarding the Task Force and its projects. The Executive Coordinator will respond to speaking invitations on behalf of the Task Force as approved by the Coordinating Committee and as possible within the limits of the Task Force budget.

Track US and Canadian Federal Initiatives

The Executive Coordinator will track US and Canadian federal legislative and regulatory initiatives, as well as other opportunities to comment on topics of interest to the Task Force, including international policy development. The Executive Coordinator will develop comments on such initiatives as directed by the Coordinating Committee.

Provide an Annual Report

The Task Force will publish an Annual Report covering Task Force and member agency activities as well as regional spill data. The Executive Coordinator will make the report available on the Task Force web site as well as in hard copy, and will submit copies to the Governors and Premier with the current Annual Work Plan.

Produce a regular Newsletter

The Executive Coordinator will produce a newsletter, *Report to our Stakeholders*, on a quarterly basis or as necessary. The newsletter will cover recent Task Force activities, upcoming events, and the status of current projects. The newsletter will be posted on the Task Force website.

Maintain a Task Force Web Site

The Executive Coordinator will regularly update the Task Force web site by posting event announcements, summary notes of Task Force meetings and events, newsletters, project reports, information on Legacy Award winners, comments and correspondence, plus current editions of the Strategic Plan, the Annual Work Plan, and the Annual Report. The web site will also provide current contact information and links to member agency and other appropriate websites. The Executive Coordinator will provide notice to key stakeholders when event notices, quarterly newsletters, or other items of current interest are posted on the website.

Develop and implement Strategic and Annual Work Plans

The Task Force will develop and implement Strategic Plans which articulate their mission, goals, and objectives for a five-year period. Each Strategic Plan will identify preferred tasks under each objective. Strategic Plans will be made available on the Task Force website for public comment prior to final adoption. The Task Force Members will adopt Annual Work Plans that clarify which tasks will be undertaken each work year and the specific steps to be taken to implement these tasks. Both the Strategic Plans and the Annual Work Plans will be made available to the public on the Task Force website or in hard copy by request.

Represent the interests of other jurisdictional agencies

Task Force member agencies will represent the interests and concerns of other state/provincial agencies in their jurisdictions which serve as trustees or have oil spill prevention, preparedness, or response authorities.

B. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Provide for Quarterly Meetings

The Executive Coordinator will arrange for quarterly meetings which provide an opportunity for Coordinating Committee members to share updates on jurisdictional activities and spill data, review the status of Task Force Projects approved in the current year's Work Plan, and host invited presentations or meet with US or Canadian federal agency representatives as appropriate. The location of these meetings will rotate among member jurisdictions.

Utilize the Task Force as a Forum for Information Sharing

Each member agency will share information regarding agency initiatives or events of interest on an on-going basis, either directly with other Coordinating Committee members or through the Executive Coordinator.

Share Expertise and Information

Where one member agency has staff expertise on a policy or regulatory issue of interest to another member agency, both agencies facilitate the exchange of that expertise and information.

Provide Task Force Members with a Mid-Term Report

The Executive Coordinator will provide the Task Force Members with a Mid-Term Status Report prior to January 31st, covering the status of all current projects, Task Force initiatives, and budget and administrative issues.

Maintain an Internal Contact List

The Executive Coordinator will maintain and keep updated a Contact List with address, phone/fax, and email information for the Coordinating Committee and Task Force Members, as well as for key US and Canadian federal contacts.

Maintain a Stakeholder Contact List

The Executive Coordinator will maintain a Stakeholder contact list for internal reference.

Minimize Travel Requirements

The Executive Coordinator and Coordinating Committee will make every effort to maximize use of electronic communications, to keep travel requirements to a minimum.

Evaluate Membership Expansion

The Task Force Members will evaluate membership expansion proposals in response to a request to do so by any current Member.

Appendix I

Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Accomplishments 1989-2004

The Oil Spill Task Force published its first major report in October of 1990; this included forty-six joint recommendations for spill prevention and response, as well as a number of recommendations specific to each member's jurisdiction. Most of these recommendations have since been incorporated into state or provincial statutes, rules, or programs; they were also reflected in the U.S. Federal Oil Pollution Act passed in 1990 (OPA '90), as well as the Canadian Shipping Act Amendments adopted in 1993.

The Task Force adopted its first five-year Strategic Plan in 1994 and its second Strategic Plan in 1999. The following projects have either been completed since 1994 or are ongoing:

- Recommendations regarding Training and Standards intended to minimize human errors were adopted in 1995.
- A review of West Coast pilotage and recommendations to improve pilotage safety was completed in 1997.
- A survey of state/federal pipeline spill prevention standards to identify regulatory gaps and overlaps was completed in 1998; recommendations for interagency coordination to improve pipeline spill prevention were made in 1999.
- A comparison of contingency plan requirements for vessels and facilities was completed in 1995. An agreement to accept vessel contingency plans in a format that integrates both state and federal planning requirements was adopted in 1998. A set of updated and simplified "Recommended Contingency Planning Elements" was adopted by the Task Force members in 2003.
- A review of drills and exercise programs and adoption of procedures for reciprocity of credit was completed in 1995.
- A review of regulations that govern the transfer of privately-owned equipment for purposes of mutual aid was conducted, and a subsequent Agreement to enhance equipment transfers was signed in 1996.
- Recommendations regarding policies governing the use of alternative response technologies such as in-situ burning and dispersants were adopted in 1995 and the status of such policies is continuously reviewed by the Task Force.
- A review of oiled wildlife care facilities on the West Coast was completed in 1995, and recommended protocols for oiled bird and marine mammal rescue and rehabilitation were published in 1998.
- The Task Force partnered with the US Coast Guard to sponsor a stakeholder workgroup which updated the Oil Spill Field Operations Guide, effective 2000.
- The Task Force partnered with the US Coast Guard and Canadian authorities to sponsor a stakeholder workgroup that assessed the oil spill risks associated with offshore vessel traffic on the west coast and, in 2002, recommended a number of steps to reduce that risk, including voluntary minimum distances from shore for vessel traffic.
- The Task Force worked with tank vessel operators in 2003 to rank voluntary practices that help prevent oil spills.
- Adoption of a common data dictionary is complete, and implementation of a regional oil spill database to improve information on spill sizes, sources, product and causes is ongoing.
- Member jurisdictions along the West Coast now require oil spill contingency plans from non-tank vessels.
- A table illustrating the Financial Responsibility Requirements of member agencies is maintained on the Task Force website.
- The Legacy Awards Program has been ongoing since 1999, honoring groups or individuals who go beyond regulatory requirements to improve oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response.

- The Task Force maintains an easy-to-remember oil spill reporting number – 1-800-OILS-911 – for use by recreational and fishing vessels operating from British Columbia to California.
- We regularly monitor oil spill research and development of new technologies and advocate for research priorities.
- Participation in the trustee/industry Joint Assessment Team’s efforts to coordinate natural resource damage efforts is ongoing.
- The Task Force has sponsored public roundtable discussions on Spill Response Readiness, Natural Resource Damage Assessments, Places of Refuge, and Cruise Ship Pollution.
- The Task Force provides comments on US and Canadian regulatory initiatives of interest to our members.
- A Task Force website is maintained at <http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org>.
- A “Report to our Stakeholders” and Annual Reports are produced regularly.
- Internal communication and information exchange among member agencies are facilitated by Task Force staff.
- Stakeholder participation is encouraged in Task Force Annual Meetings and Roundtables, as well as project workgroups.

Appendix II
Key Task Force Representatives 2004

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Ernesta Ballard, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Linda Hoffman, Director, Washington Department of Ecology

Laurence Lau, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Hawaii Department of Health

Gordon Macatee, Deputy Minister, British Columbia Ministry of Water, Air, and Land Protection

Carlton Moore, Administrator, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Game

Paul Slyman, Deputy Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Larry Dietrick, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Curtis Martin, Hazard Evaluation and Emergency Response, Hawaii Department of Health

Stan Norman, Washington Department of Ecology

Stafford Reid, BC Ministry of Water, Air, and Land Protection

Scott Schaefer, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Game

Mike Zollitsch, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

EXECUTIVE COORDINATOR

Jean Cameron

Task Force Member bios as well as contact information for the Executive Coordinator and Coordinating Committee members may be found at the Task Force website: <http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org>