

**PACIFIC STATES
BRITISH COLUMBIA
OIL SPILL TASK FORCE**



**2009-2012
STRATEGIC PLAN**

**PACIFIC STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA
OIL SPILL TASK FORCE
2009-2012 STRATEGIC PLAN**

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**PACIFIC STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA
OIL SPILL TASK FORCE
2009-2012 STRATEGIC PLAN
STATEMENT OF AUTHORITY**

This document represents a consensus of the 2009 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 Stephen Edinger, Administrator, Office of Spill Prevention and Response, California Department of Fish and Game, on September 14, 2009

Signed by Larry Hartig, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, on September 14, 2009

Signed by Graham Knox on behalf of Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, on September 14, 2009

Signed by Curtis Martin on behalf of Laurence Lau, Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Hawaii Department of Health, on September 14, 2009

Signed by Dale Jensen on behalf of Jay Manning, Director, Washington Department of Ecology, on September 14, 2009

Signed by Dick Pedersen, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality on September 14, 2009

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

PACIFIC STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA OIL SPILL TASK FORCE 2009-2012 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 2009, please reference Appendix I. For a list of the 2009 Task Force Members, Coordinating Committee Members, and Task Force contact information, please reference Appendix II.

FUTURE DIRECTIONS: 2009-2012

The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force will continue to provide a forum for information exchange and collaboration in support of our objectives of improving oil spill prevention, preparedness, response.

To prevent oil spills we will continue refining and improving our regional spills database in order to determine spill trends, with a focus on improving our causal analyses. We will evaluate risks associated with trends in use, production, and transportation of both petroleum products and biofuels. We will promote best management practices for facilities, pipelines, railroads, mid-size vessels, and towing/tank barge operations. We will implement the recommendations of the 2008 West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management project, and we will continue to support the spill prevention efforts of the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team. We will partner with agencies and organizations working to address the risks of oil spills from sunken, derelict, and abandoned vessels. Our members will work to prevent oily waste dumping by vessels through rigorous investigations as well as through advocacy for installation of oily water reception facilities at our ports. We will work to advance investments in rescue tugs, salvage capabilities, and Emergency Towing Systems. We also plan to monitor the percentage of tank ships and barges visiting our ports which are double-hulled.

We will focus our **spill preparedness and response efforts** on promoting development of best available technologies, including those enabling 24/7 response and those focused on response to biofuels. We will work to ensure the response readiness of plan-holders and response organizations, as well as local governments, tribes, and First Nations. We will continue to coordinate with key stakeholders regarding protection and restoration of wildlife and natural resources. We will promote effective “transboundary” response at the borders of our member jurisdictions and planning areas. We will advocate for the health of the U.S. Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. We will endeavor to transfer “lessons learned” into planning efforts throughout our jurisdictions, whether for Volunteer Management, Places of Refuge requests, or effective public outreach. We will maintain our Mutual Aid agreements and acknowledge that, as our spill prevention efforts succeed and the number of spills is reduced, there will be greater need for mutual aid among member agencies – not only to supplement staffing but also to build spill response experience.

We propose to reach these objectives and accomplish our mission **by facilitating collaboration, cooperation, and coordination** among state, Provincial, and federal oil spill regulators, the regulated industry, and the public, in order to develop coordinated and informed courses of action that can broaden our search for solutions. 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 both U.S. 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 should 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. At the same time, our partnership and outreach efforts will accommodate the pressures and changes facing both our member agencies and the key stakeholder groups with whom we work, ranging from an aging workforce, smaller staffs, and less funding for travel to meetings, roundtables, and conferences. We recognize that these dynamics increase the need for collaboration, cooperation, and coordination.

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

- Prevent spills that impact natural resources in our member jurisdictions, both large spills with significant impacts and chronic small spills with cumulative impacts.
- Facilitate communication among member agencies in order to promote policy uniformity and consistency, improve prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery capabilities, and maximize efficiency of effort by sharing ideas and “products”;
- Clarify the roles and responsibilities of state and provincial agencies with regard to federal agencies in order to reduce regulatory gaps and overlaps while avoiding potential conflicts;
- Advocate in national and international arenas on issues of common concern, building respect through credibility, clarity of purpose, and collaboration;
- Serve as a catalyst for improvements by working cooperatively with federal agencies, other states and provinces, industry, response contractors, public interest groups, and concerned citizens to create opportunities for policy and technology breakthroughs;
- Educate the public and stakeholders on the impacts of oil spills and issues relating to spill prevention, preparedness, response, and restoration;
- Identify emerging trends in oil transportation, production, and storage in order to assist member agencies with their strategic planning; and
- Serve as a model of proactive regional cooperation and coordination.

OBJECTIVES

Spill Prevention: To prevent oil spills from a variety of sources, including vessels, pipelines, facilities, vehicles, and railroads.

Spill Preparedness and Response: To enhance oil spill preparedness and response capabilities throughout our region.

Communications: 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.

I. SPILL PREVENTION OBJECTIVE: To prevent oil spills from a variety of sources, including vessels, pipelines, facilities, vehicles, and railroads.

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 who conduct incident investigations.

Track trends in exploration and production of petroleum as well as biofuels

Track trends in exploration and production of petroleum as well as biofuels in our region in order to target our spill prevention efforts and to ensure that our preparedness for spill response is focused on new areas of risk.

Track current and changing trends in oil and biofuels movement and storage

Consider trends in both marine and inland transportation modes with regard to risks from petroleum and biofuels spills as both cargo and fuel. Such transportation modes will include vessel transits (including both tank and nontank vessels and changes in vessel routing such as the opening of the NW passage); pipeline infrastructure; and vehicle and railroad transportation. Also evaluate related changes in fuel storage patterns as a result of transportation trends.

Prevent Spills at Small and Mid-size Oil-Handling Facilities

Insofar as facilities are a primary source of spills according to our data, the Task Force will analyze the data further and target dialogue with facility operators regarding their spill prevention and response programs. We will also evaluate the regulations and policies currently applicable to their operations. Our goal will be to identify successful strategies for preventing oil spills from these sources.

Prevent Pipeline Spills

Track data on pipeline spills and cooperate on the development of spill prevention policies as needed. Compile a chart comparing state, provincial, and U.S. and Canadian federal regulations covering pipeline spills. Monitor development of U.S. and Canadian federal regulations targeted at pipeline spill prevention.

Implement the 2008 West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project Recommendations

Collaborate with Harbor Safety Committees and key stakeholders to implement the 2008 recommendations made by the West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project Workgroup.

Improve Operating Standards on Tank Barges and uninspected towing vessels

Work with owners/operators of tank barges and uninspected towing vessels to promote voluntary adoption of best industry practices. Provide comments on U.S. Coast Guard rulemaking proposals for towing vessels. Track the impact of tank barge spills on the U.S. Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

Prevent Spills from mid-size vessels

Invite operators of vessels less than 300 GT to address the Task Force regarding the spill prevention and response programs and policies currently applicable to their operations. Identify successful strategies for preventing oil spills from these sources.

Prevent Spills from Marinas and Recreational Boating Activities

Promote fuel spill prevention education outreach to recreational boaters and at marinas by continuing Task Force support for the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team.

Prevent Spills from Sunken and Derelict Vessels

Prevent or minimize spills from sunken or derelict 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, derelict, or abandoned vessels - in cases where oil products or other hazardous materials remaining on board pose an environmental risk.

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 Salvage and Rescue Capabilities

Encourage improved salvage and rescue tug capability in our member jurisdictions by tracking implementation of the U.S. Coast Guard regulations regarding salvage and firefighting, and by advocating that these regulations be extended to cover nontank vessels as well as coordinated with Canadian vessel contingency planning requirements in shared waters. We will also advocate for establishment of Emergency Towing Systems in high-risk areas in our region.

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.

Prevent Transportation Spills from Trucks and Railroads

Invite regulators and operators with responsibility for railroad operations to address the Task Force regarding spill prevention and response programs and policies currently applicable to their operations in order to identify successful strategies for preventing oil spills from railroads. Continue to promote our 2005 recommendations for preventing spills from trucks.

Monitor development of offshore energy installations

Monitor the development of oil, gas, and alternative energy installations in offshore locations on the West Coast where such installations pose either a direct spill threat or could increase navigation risks for vessels transits in their area of operations.

Spill Prevention Topics of Concern

Share information at Coordinating Committee meetings on Spill Prevention Topics of Concern as identified in each Annual Work Plan.

II. SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE OBJECTIVE: To enhance oil spill preparedness and response capabilities throughout our region.

Improve the Effectiveness of Oil Spill Response

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

Monitor response issues associated with biofuels spills

Monitor response issues associated with biofuels spills in order to ensure that member agencies are aware of the best available response technologies and methodologies applicable to biofuels and biofuels mixtures.

Promote Oil Spill Research and Development Priorities

Agree to and advocate for oil spill research and development priorities of value to our member agencies, including development of technology to facilitate 24/7 response operations.

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 and agencies. Encourage the development and implementation of effective US Coast Guard and Transport Canada guidelines for oil spill response organizations.

Promote Effective Response Management

Promote consistent and effective response management systems by:

- 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.

Improve Preparedness and Response to Nontank Vessel Spills

Improve our ability to respond to nontank vessel spills by emphasizing consistent use of streamlined contingency plans, Incident Management Teams, and drill/exercise programs. Comment on the U.S. Coast Guard's rulemaking for oil spill response plans for nontank vessels. Advocate that the U.S. Coast Guard delegate authority and provide funding for coordinated contingency plan review by states.

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 pursuant to the final recommendations of the U.S./Canadian Transboundary Project Workgroup.

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

Member agencies will work within their jurisdictions to promote adoption of planning guidelines in relevant Area Contingency Plans. They will also work to collect advance information on potential Places of Refuge in their jurisdictions in order to facilitate emergency decision-making.

Advocate for increased federal COFR requirements

Advocate that the US Coast Guard raise the Limits of Liability and Certificate of Financial Responsibility requirements for both tank and nontank vessels, as well as for pipelines and facilities, to levels that reflect current oil spill response costs.

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. Share information on wildlife care policies and Best Available Technologies.

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.

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 tank 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. Develop an IVRP for nontank vessels following U.S. Coast Guard adoption of final response plan regulations for nontank vessels.

Maintain and evaluate our Mutual Aid Agreements

Recognizing both the need for experience among our member agencies responders, as well as the need for support during spill response, we will promote and evaluate the use of our 1993 Mutual Aid Plan. We will also evaluate the effectiveness of our 1996 Mutual Aid Agreement for transfer of private sector equipment.

Preparedness/Response Topics of Concern

Share information at Coordinating Committee meetings on Preparedness/Response Topics of Concern as identified in each Annual Work Plan.

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

Hold Annual Public Meetings

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. Key elements of our Annual Meetings will be incorporated into the Clean Pacific Conferences which the Task Force will host every other year.

Sponsor Public Roundtable Discussions

The Task Force will sponsor occasional 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 with U.S. and Canadian Federal Agencies

The Coordinating Committee and/or the Executive Coordinator will meet annually with the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area and Districts 11, 13, 14, and 17 pursuant to our 2008 MOU. The Coordinating Committee and/or the Executive Coordinator will endeavor to meet frequently with other U.S. and with Canadian oil spill regulatory agencies in order 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.

Involve Stakeholders in Project Workgroups

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

Maintain the Legacy Awards Program on a biennial basis

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

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.

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 and time constraints.

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.

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, project reports, information on the Legacy Award program, comments and correspondence, and 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 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 multi-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. Annual Work Plan tasks will reflect priorities set in our Strategic Plan, ongoing projects, and new issues of common concern. 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.

Identify and maintain Points of Contact in other coastal states and provinces

The Executive Coordinator will identify points of contact in other U.S. coastal states and Canadian provinces for the purpose of information exchange and possible mutual aid.

Collect and share on-line news clippings regarding oil spill events and trends

The Executive Coordinator will provide a news clipping service by email to staff in our member agencies, in other coastal state and provincial agencies, and in other agencies serving our jurisdictions as appropriate.

Track U.S. and Canadian Federal Initiatives

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

B. INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

Provide for Quarterly Meetings

The Executive Coordinator will arrange for Coordinating Committee meetings on a quarterly basis, or at a frequency to be approved by the Task Force Members. These meetings will provide opportunities for the 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, host invited presentations, or meet with U.S. or Canadian federal agency representatives and other stakeholders as appropriate. In order to reduce travel costs, these Coordinating Committee meetings will be balanced between conference calls and face-to-face meetings, the location of which will rotate among member jurisdictions.

Minimize Travel Requirements

The Executive Coordinator, working with the Coordinating Committee as well as standing project workgroups, will make every effort to maximize use of electronic communications in order to keep travel requirements to a minimum.

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 will facilitate the exchange of that expertise and information.

Provide Task Force Members with a Status Report on the Annual Work Plan

Between the Annual Meetings of the Task Force Members, the Executive Coordinator will provide them with a report covering the status of all current Annual Work Plan projects and Task Force initiatives, as well as budget and administrative updates.

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 U.S. and Canadian federal contacts.

Appendix I

Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Accomplishments 1989-2009

INITIAL REPORT

The Oil Spill Task Force produced an initial report in October of 1990 that included 46 joint recommendations for spill prevention and response, as well as recommendations specific to each member's jurisdiction.

OIL SPILL PREVENTION INITIATIVES

- 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.
- 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, this West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project workgroup recommended a number of steps to reduce that risk, including voluntary minimum distances from shore for coastwise vessel traffic.
- Since 2002, the Task Force has collected data on spills of one barrel or larger in the West Coast states, and uses a common Data Dictionary to ensure standardized entries. We also sponsor investigator training every two years or as needed.
- The Task Force worked with tank vessel operators in 2003 to rank voluntary practices that help prevent oil spills. We have done educational outreach regarding these “Best Industry Practices” to both the commercial vessel and tug/tank barge industries.
- A review of the status of implementation of the 2002 West Coast Offshore Vessel Traffic Risk Management Project recommendations was conducted in 2007; new recommendations generated by a stakeholder workgroup were adopted in 2008.
- **Ongoing:** We track the double-hull status of all tankers in the Trans-Alaska Pipeline (TAPS) trade.
- **Ongoing:** We support the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET) whose members do spill prevention outreach to recreational boaters and marinas. The Task Force provides staff support, a web page, a listserv, and funding for outreach materials.
- **Ongoing:** We have supported and encouraged federal adoption of salvage and firefighting regulations for both tank and nontank vessels.

OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS/RESPONSE INITIATIVES

- The Task Force adopted a Mutual Aid Plan in 1993 to facilitate sharing member agency staff and resources.
- A comparison of contingency plan requirements for vessels and facilities was completed in 1995 and is being updated in 2009. This is available on our website.
- 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.
- We adopted a Mutual Aid Agreement in 1996 that outlines protocols for releasing private sector equipment cited in approved contingency plans for the purpose of Mutual Aid.
- In 1997 we adopted a voluntary Integrated Vessel Response Plan (IVRP) format based on the key elements of the U.S. Coast Guard’s Vessel Response Plan. This format allows correlation with west coast state contingency

plan requirements as well as with the Shipboard Oil Pollution Emergency Plan (SOPEP) required by Transport Canada.

- A subsequent Task Force Agreement to accept vessel contingency plans in a format that integrates both state and federal planning requirements was adopted in 1998.
- 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.
- A set of updated and simplified “Recommended Contingency Planning Elements” was adopted by the Task Force members in 2003.
- In partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and a stakeholder workgroup, we developed guidelines for decision-making in response to vessel requests of a Place of Refuge in 2005.
- We developed Area Committee planning guidelines for Volunteer Management in 2008.
- **Ongoing:** Member jurisdictions along the West Coast now require oil spill contingency plans from nontank vessels. We have also supported U.S. Coast Guard adoption of contingency plan regulations for nontank vessels.
- **Ongoing:** A table illustrating the Financial Responsibility requirements of member agencies is maintained on the Task Force website.
- **Ongoing:** We advocate for setting the Limits of Liability for both vessels and facilities at levels sufficient to maintain the viability of the U.S. Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.
- **Ongoing:** We monitor developments in the use of the Incident Command System as a response paradigm in order to advance the interests of our member agencies and promote improved training concepts.
- **Ongoing:** 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.
- **Ongoing:** We regularly monitor oil spill research and the development of new technologies, and advocate for research priorities.
- **Current:** We have initiated a comprehensive review of the status of planning and response capabilities on the two U.S./Canadian borders within our region.

COMMUNICATIONS INITIATIVES

- The Task Force was created in 1989 by a Memorandum of Cooperation signed by the Governors of Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and California and the Premier of British Columbia.
- 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.
- A second Memorandum of Cooperation was signed by the Governors and Premier in 2001 when the State of Hawaii joined the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force.
- The Task Force signed a partnership Memorandum of Understanding with the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area in May of 2008. The Coordinating Committee meets with Pacific Area representatives annually as a “Steering Committee” to implement this MOU.
- **Ongoing:** The Task Force hosts a one –day Annual Meeting, open to the public, and rotated among our member jurisdictions, every other year.
- **Ongoing:** The Task Force hosts a multi-day “Clean Pacific” conference, also rotated among our member jurisdictions, ever other year.
- **Ongoing:** The Task Force has sponsored public roundtable discussions on Spill Response Readiness, Natural Resource Damage Assessments, Spills from Trucks, Green Ports, Places of Refuge, response in low-visibility conditions, and Cruise Ship Pollution. We will continue to sponsor such topic-specific events as needed and possible.
- **Ongoing:** Stakeholder participation is encouraged in Task Force Annual Meetings, as the Clean Pacific Conferences, and at Roundtables, as well as in project workgroups as appropriate.
- **Ongoing:** A Task Force website is maintained at <http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org>.

- **Ongoing:** We produce an Annual Report which includes updates on Task Force and Member Agency activities as well as the spill data for the preceding year.
- **Ongoing:** We participate in the trustee/industry Joint Assessment Team's efforts to coordinate natural resource damage efforts is ongoing.
- **Ongoing:** The Task Force provides comments on US and Canadian regulatory initiatives of interest to our members.
- **Ongoing:** We have identified Points of Contact in other coastal states and provinces for information sharing.
- **Ongoing:** The Task Force Members meet annually; the Coordinating Committee members meet at least quarterly, either in person or by conference call.
- **Ongoing:** Internal communication and information exchange among member agencies are facilitated by Task Force staff.
- **Ongoing:** We regularly share information on spill prevention, preparedness, and response Topics of Concern among member agencies.
- **Ongoing:** The Task Force Executive Coordinator responds to information requests and represents the Task Force at meetings, workshops, and conferences as time and budgets allow.
- **Ongoing:** We operate on the basis of multi-year Strategic Plans which are implemented through Annual Work Plans.

Appendix II
Key Task Force Representatives 2009

TASK FORCE MEMBERS

Stephen Edinger, Administrator, Office of Spill Prevention and Response,
California Department of Fish and Game

Larry Hartig, Commissioner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Doug Konkin, Deputy Minister, British Columbia Ministry of Environment

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

Jay Manning, Director, Washington Department of Ecology

Dick Pedersen, Director, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

COORDINATING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Larry Dietrick (Alternates: Betty Schorr and Bob Mattson), Alaska Department of Environmental
Conservation

Graham Knox, British Columbia Ministry of Environment

Curtis Martin, Hawaii Department of Health

Jon Neel, Washington Department of Ecology

Steve Sawyer and 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, Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force