

Summary Notes
The Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET)
2008 FALL MEETING
10/7/2008
Washington Department of Ecology

Attending: Eric Olsson, Washington SeaGrant; Mary Ellen Voss, Washington Department of Ecology; Chris Wilke, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance; Harry Ota, U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary; Charles Martin, City of Des Moines; Jean Cameron, Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force.

Participating by phone: Gary Folley, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; Glenn Dolphin, Oregon Marine Board; Mike Richards Georgia Strait Alliance; Pete Anderson, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ); Vivian Matuk, California Coastal Commission and Department of Boating and Waterways; and Rob Hughes, California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR).

Member reports

- Chris Wilke, representing the [Puget Soundkeeper Alliance \(PSA\)](#), reported that they had certified five more marinas this year, for a total of 37 certified marinas in Washington. There are an additional three close to certification. He's expanding outreach to the Coast, Eastern Washington, and the Columbia River.
- In the summer, PSA focuses primarily on outreach to boaters. PSA went to 10 marinas this summer and distributed 663 Clean Boating kits. They have initiated a Dockwalker program at five marinas, and these volunteers were able to contact 280 boaters at various events. Dockwalkers receive one and a half hours of training; they are either boaters or came through the Washington State University Extension Program's BeachWatcher program, Chris explained. PSA is also planning a Clean Boating Pledge program, Chris noted, if they receive funding from State Parks.
- The Seattle Boat show in January is a major event for outreach, as is the Port Townsend Wooden Boat show in September.



- Vivian Matuk reported that the California Coastal Commission and the California Department of Boating and Waterways' [Boating Clean and Green Program \(BCGP\)](#) has developed and distributed a total of 10,000 boater kits in partnership with the *Keep the Delta Clean* Program. This year, there are two versions of the Boater kits: [State](#) and [Delta](#). These boater kits were distributed at more than 15 boat shows, and boating events, as well as by volunteer Dockwalkers. Dockwalkers are trained by the BCGP and boating program partners (such as the USCG Auxiliary and the Power Squadrons) about clean and safe boating practices. Once trained, Dockwalkers go to marinas, marine supply stores, boat shows boating events, boat launch ramps, and other locations where they conduct face-to-face boater education and distribute the boater kits. This year 160 new volunteer Dockwalkers were trained throughout the state.
- Dockwalkers asked every boater kit recipient to fill out a 4-5 minute anonymous questionnaire. There are two versions of the questionnaire; the state version is available at: http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/statewide_boating_survey.pdf ; and the Delta version at: http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/delta_boating_survey.pdf). Vivian explained that a completed questionnaire is required in order to receive a Boater Kit. The Dockwalkers explain that the kits are worth \$35, which provides incentive for boaters to complete the questionnaire. The on-site return rate is 76%. She also explained that each Dockwalker is only given 42 boater kits at a time; more are distributed as the questionnaires are returned.
- Vivian also reported that the program distributed over 3,600 clean boating posters, available at: http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/boating_posters.html . These posters showcase the new program mascot *Reilly the Rainbow Trout* and promote clean boating practices.
- She also reported that the BCGP is partnering with the BoatUS Foundation, the *Keep the Delta Clean* Program, and with boating facilities throughout the state to install 30 monofilament fishing

line recycling stations in areas with the highest fishing activity. Monofilament line is another name for single-strand, high-density, nylon fishing line that is used on fishing reels and in the manufacturing of fishing nets; when disposed of improperly, monofilament can be hazardous to marine life, scuba divers and even boat propellers.

- In addition, the BCGP is partnering with the CA Department of Fish and Game, US Fish and Wildlife Services, and the USC Grant Extension program to organize a series of workshops throughout the state focused on preventing the introduction of invasive species. These workshops are targeted at boaters, fishermen, marina and yacht club operators, state and local officials, and other interested persons. Participants will learn how to identify aquatic invasive species, understand their economic costs and operational impacts, and inspect watercraft and fishing gear to prevent the spread of invasive species in California waterways. More information is available at: <http://www.coastal.ca.gov/ccbn/boatingabout.html>
- Vivian reported that the BCGP continues to facilitate two of the three chapters of the California Clean Boating Network (CCBN). The CCBN consists of government, environmental, business, boating, and academic organizations working to increase and improve clean boating education efforts in California. Through the exchange of information and consideration of new trends in clean boating practices, CCBN member increases their ability to educate the boating public about clean boating practices. There are more than 200 CCBN members throughout the state. CCBN sponsors the *Changing Tide* newsletter, which focuses on new trends in clean boating practices and environmental services for boaters. Ten thousand copies are developed and distributed on a quarterly basis.
- The BCGP has been working with the *Keep the Delta Clean Program*, (KDC) which is currently partnering with 25 Delta marinas to install, maintain and promote publicly-accessible and free environmental services that prevent pollution at its source. These services will be maintained by the municipality in which they are located for a period of ten-twenty years (depending on the service type). The services include: 6-Oil Recycling Centers (accepting used oil, oil filters, oil absorbents and marine batteries), 15 Oil Absorbent Exchange Centers (boaters can pick up and drop off oil absorbents for free); 60 pet waste stations; 65 recycling bins; 13 fishing line recycling centers; 2 fish cleaning stations; 40 cigarette butt bins; 15 informational kiosks (displaying clean and safe boating information and various marina educational signage); 105 leak-proof dock boxes; and 80 leak-proof dock box liners (to prevent cleaning and maintenance products from leaking into the Delta).
- The KDC is utilizing a unique tracking system to understand how their accomplishments translate into pollution prevented at its sources. Below are the estimated amounts of hazardous materials collected through the environmental services outlined above:
 - 7,935 - Gallons of used oil reclaimed (not including oil filters and oil absorbents)
 - 4,990 – Pounds of Used oil filters collected.
 - 3,480 – Pounds of used oil absorbents collected
 - 1,372 - Pounds of oil absorbent polypropylene fiber recycled
 - 370 - Gallons of used oil reclaimed from used oil absorbents
 - 130 - Additional gallons of used oil reclaimed from used oil filters
 - 1,194 - Marine engine batteries collected
- These numbers are constantly increasing as promotion and outreach continue and expand, Vivian noted. The five centers alone have collected more than 8,435 gallons of motor oil from the delta community. Putting that into potential pollutant terms and considering that one gallon of oil can pollute one million gallons of drinking water, our program has overseen the protection of over 8 billion gallons of Delta water, the annual water supply for 421,750 people. The marine batteries collected at the centers have ensured the recovery of 17,910 lbs of lead oxide.
- KDC utilizes a dynamic outreach strategy to promote the new environmental services and clean and safe boating practices in the Delta, which includes:
 - Over 30,000 free recreational boater kits will be distributed by the end of 2008 (15,000 in the Delta Region and 5,000 statewide) ;
 - Over 43,000 free maps will be distributed (“Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta Map for Recreational Boaters”);

- 1,000 free kids' activity books will be distributed as well as 8,000 free promotional lip balms with a campaign message; and
 - 10 Informational kiosks have been placed at marinas.
- BCGP staff is working with the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation (SMBRF) to produce a total of 7,000 boater kits for the 2009 boating season. The boater kit is a bag filled with educational materials and promotional items for boaters. The kits will be distributed at boat shows, boating events, and by volunteer Dockwalkers. The kit will include:
 - an organic tote bag,
 - a 2009 tide book,
 - Department of Boating and Waterways pamphlets (ABC's of the California Boating Law,
 - Clean Boating Habits, Carbon Monoxide stickers and the CPR card)
 - An oil absorbent pillow with reusable zip tie and instructions and more.
 - A Boating Clean and Green Binder card promoting clean and safe boating practices
 - West Marine Discount coupon
- One of the components of this project will be to install needed pollution prevention services at marinas in Southern CA. Program staff is working with the SMBRF to establish two free oil absorbent exchange centers in Long Beach at the Alamitos Bay Marine fuel dock and at the Shoreline fuel dock. They also plan to support the existing City of Los Angeles oil absorbent pad collection at both the San Pedro/Wilmington marinas and to support the used oil absorbent exchange collection at the Marina del Rey fuel dock.



- Rob Hughes, who represents the **California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR)**, explained that he is no longer involved in OSPR's outreach to fuel dock operators, but will stay involved with POSPET in order to assist with production of the *Spills Aren't Slick* materials.



- Harry Ota, the Marine Safety Officer for the **U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary for District 13**, explained that the U.S. Coast Guard is mandated by Congress to provide environmental education and outreach. As part of that mandate, he has trained USCG Auxiliary trainers in Oregon, Washington, and Idaho, and hopes to expand the program further. The Sea Partners program is delegated by the U.S. Coast Guard to the Auxiliary; the Auxiliary members are familiar with boating, and also bring a multitude of life experiences to the table.
- Harry reported that the Auxiliary worked with the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance on a debris clean-up event at Lake Union where more than two tons of trash was removed by 250 volunteers. The Auxiliary was able to provide two boats and three watercraft, in addition to personnel. That clean-up event was a good opportunity to connect with local students, Harry noted, and expressed an interest in doing more environmental education outreach.



- Gary Folley, representing the **Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) Spills Program**, reported that the Alaska program is called "Clean Harbors." They've begun a pilot program in Homer with a \$25,000 grant from ConocoPhillips. The Cook Inlet Keeper, the Cook Inlet Regional Citizen's Advisory Council, the Coast Guard, Alaska SeaGrant, and the local Harbormaster have all cooperated to put together a Clean Harbors Guidebook. One of the local issues they're dealing with is that boaters beach their boats during low tides to do maintenance.
- The group designing the Clean Harbors program has been evaluating who should do the certification; both ADEC and the Green Star program have declined. Gary asked the POSPET members how this worked with their programs; they explained that it's primarily a recognition program, and that it's valuable to get the marina and boating industry associations involved. They

also noted that a new program can gain traction by certifying the “greenest” marinas first; this results in a base group that others will want to join. Glenn Dolphin explained that he involves industry representatives in both the program design and in the marina certification visits. Chris Wilke noted that, although the Washington Clean Marina program is not a regulatory program, he does check the status of applying marinas to ensure that they are not involved in any pending investigations. Eric Olsson offered to add Gary Folley to the national Clean Marina listserve.



- Charles Martin, from the **City of Des Moines Marina**, reported that they had a very busy season, during which they sponsored a Clean Boating Fair in June that included the USCG and People for Puget Sound. The event was a chance to distribute information to boaters. Charles expressed an interest in helping with the Dockwalker program or sponsoring speakers like Mr. Ota, since he wants to provide a “funnel” for environmental and safety messages to boaters and marina staff.
- There is an Ecology spill response trailer at his marina, so he has been working with local emergency responders to clarify roles and expectations, as well as to familiarize everyone with the response equipment. His goal is to hold emergency response drills twice/year.
- The Pacific Coast Congress of Harbor Masters, which represents both public and private marinas, will be meeting at the Des Moines marina October 24-27th.



- Glenn Dolphin of the **Oregon Marine Board** announced that eight new Clean Marinas had been certified in Oregon in 2008, for a total of 32; two more are in the pipeline. His work with marinas includes helping with fire safety signage and spill kits (these include 50 feet of boom and 50 absorbent pads, plus gloves and waste bags).
- He’s added a lot of work on invasive species education to his marina and boater outreach.
- Glenn has also been working with an insurance group that covers marinas, and they are interested in offering a discount for certified Clean Marinas, although the discount amount will vary by marina as a function of their overall risk.
- He reported that he distributed 1500 boater spill kits from January to June of 2008. He is also working to develop a comprehensive Clean Boater program that will include Dockwalkers, boater kits, and pledge forms. He plans to launch this new program at the January 2009 boat show.
- Glen noted that he’s drafting a Clean Marina newsletter. He also pointed out that *Marina Dock Age* magazine is planning an article on Clean Marinas (<http://www.marinadockage.com/>).
- Chris and Glenn agreed to coordinate outreach to marinas on the Columbia River.



- Mary Ellen Voss of the **Washington Department of Ecology** reported that she continues outreach to Class 4 marinas and commercial fueling docks, focused primarily on clarifying Ecology’s new transfer regulations and on distributing *Spills Aren’t Slick* material.
- She’s also developed laminated signs that make it clear that absorbents, not soaps, should be used for cleaning up small spills; the signs stress fines for using soaps as well as the spill reporting numbers to call.
- In addition, Mary Ellen has developed an informational poster focused on avoiding fueling spills; the PDF is available to local ports and governments to print and distribute. It’s also included in the Class 4 fueling dock packets.
- From October of 2007 through September of 2008, Ecology distributed 435 *Spills Aren’t Slick* signs; 13,025 *Spills Aren’t Slick* brochures, and 8,075 *Spills Aren’t Slick* decals; some of these went to POSPET members.
- Mary Ellen did a news release last fall with a “don’t blame the rain” theme focused on the need for good boat-keeping to prevent oily runoff during the rainy season.



- Mike Richards of the **Georgia Strait Alliance** (GSA) reported that they had certified their first clean marina – the Westport Marina in Sidney, British Columbia. On an “eco-ranking” scale of one to five, they came out a three, he said.
- Pam Murray, their Bilge Pad Coordinator, had distributed 2500 kits, with another 1,000 planned for distribution this year, since this is a project that can be done year-round. Mike also sent a web link for GSA’s “bilge pad sea shanty”: <http://www.georgiastrait.org/?q=node/767>). Check it out and sing along!



- Jean Cameron reported on various **Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force** activities. These included the Green Ports Roundtable held in Long Beach, CA in April, production of the 2008 Annual Report which she distributed at the meeting, and the 2008 Annual Meeting in Victoria, British Columbia on Sept. 18th, which included a session on assessing the risk of salvaging sunken vessels. The Task Force’s 2008-2009 Work Plan includes a major stakeholder project focused on assessing U.S./Canadian transboundary spill preparedness/response, Jean noted. She also reported that ongoing support for POSPET is included in the Work Plan as well. And she reminded everyone that the Task Force will be hosting Clean Pacific 2009 September 14-16 in Portland, Oregon; she hopes that small spill prevention issues will be included, as they were at Clean Pacific 2007.



- Eric Olsson, who chairs POSPET and represents **Washington’s SeaGrant program**, reported that he is serving on the Education and Outreach Committee for the Puget Sound Partnership.
- He has also been involved in strategic planning for the SeaGrant program.
- Eric wrote articles for the SeaGrant newsletter as well as for the Pacific Coast Congress of Harbor Masters on clean marinas; his theme was that marinas provide access to boaters and help “control the chaos” of recreational boating. He noted that the Clean Marina certification process is one of constant interaction with the marina operator, as well as the fact that marina types and characteristics are quite variable. Some are private, some public; some large, some small; some new, some old; some support working fishing boats and others support fancy yachts. He concluded that perfection is not the goal so much as striving for environmental protection.
- Eric reported that he’d recently conducted a safety workshop at Elliot Bay, and explained that his fishing vessel safety work included oil spill prevention and response messages on laminated signs promoting Best Management Practices.
- He’ll also do a session at the Pacific Coast Congress of Harbor Masters conference in Des Moines focused on the role of marinas in pollution prevention and boating safety. Eric is also planning to attend the national Clean Marina Conference this month.
- Eric also provided copies of a brochure promoting the University of Alaska’s career training for ports and marinas; more information on the certificate program is available at: http://www.uas.alaska.edu/sitka/coed/Ports_and_Marinas.



- Susan Shingledecker from **BoatUS** emailed the following report: “This summer we sent our *Help Stop the Drops* educational materials to about 400 inland marinas with fuel docks along the Mississippi watershed. About a year ago we published an article on the results of our tests of Jerry Jugs. That article can be found here: <http://www.boatus.com/foundation/findings/findings43/>. It is my understanding that CARB (California Air Resources Board) has since changed some of the specifications on nozzles and there may be some newer nozzles now that work better on some of the models we tested. We also did a give-away this summer of 50 fuel whistles to our members.

They have agreed to install the whistles on their boats and report back their findings. We haven't heard any feedback yet but will be surveying those boaters in the spring."

POSPET Projects

- **Web page:** Jean reported that she'll be posting the March 20th POSPET meeting notes and an updated contact list on the webpage. She's also requested that Vivian send photos and information on the California program so she can feature it on the web page. The POSPET webpage is at: <http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org/pospet.htm>.
- **OILS 911 usage:** Jean reported that a total of 464 calls had been made on the system from July 1, 2007 through June 30, 2008; 298 of those calls were in California, 138 in British Columbia, 13 in Washington, and 15 in Oregon. An additional 87 calls had been recorded for July and August of 2008. Washington POSPET members continue to feel that the numbers recorded on the AT&T bills for this system (which the Task Force pays) are too low for Washington. Jean explained that the numbers on other AT&T reports for each jurisdiction vary from those on the bills; she'll try using this different set of numbers for the 2008-2009 year.
- **Spills Aren't Slick Campaign:** Jean and Mary Ellen reported that \$1934.31 of Task Force funding had been used in June to print *Spills Aren't Slick* material through Washington's printing office. This generated 5,000 WA/Canada brochures, 5,000 Oregon/California brochures, 4,000 decals for Canada, and 6,000 for Washington, Oregon, and California. Mary Ellen distributed these materials to POSPET members. It was noted that the laminated signs go to boat docks and marinas; the decals and brochures are put into boater kits and used for outreach.
- Eric proposed a droplet shaped tag that carries a "prevent drips, spills, and overfills" type message as well as the reporting numbers, which could be affixed to fuel nozzles. Eric will check exhibitors at the Clean Marina Conference to see if anything like that is already available. If not, he and Mary Ellen will collaborate on a design and will get bids.
- Meanwhile, Jean will survey POSPET members for their 2009 orders for signs, brochures, and decals. If the nozzle tag looks doable, we can also discuss ordering that as a group.
- Eric also suggested that absorbent pads could be placed in waterproof bags and clipped onto fuel nozzle hoses; it was agreed that this good idea could be implemented without special materials and could be added to suggestions/material provided to marina operators.

POSPET Membership

- Regarding new POSPET members, Chris will do outreach to Power Squadrons and Glenn will check again with Tim Leathers, who works with California's Clean Marina program.

Possible New Projects

- The following were all suggested, but no implementation strategies were discussed:
 - Outreach to boaters to prevent leaks of hydraulic oils into the bilge
 - A Clean Boat = A Safe Boat
 - An instructive DVD for marina operators that includes subject-specific links for detailed information
 - Outreach targeted at fuel-dock operators not in marinas
 - Outreach targeted at boat launches and trailer boats

Other

- U.S. Senator Maria Cantwell's bill, SB 1892, which would have provided funding through Sea Grant for small spill prevention education, appears to be dead. No Senate action has been taken on the bill since it was reported out of committee in July, 2007.
- Commercial and recreational vessels up to 79 feet in length have been exempted from EPA's requirement for discharge permits.

Next Meeting

The spring 2009 POSPET meeting was scheduled for March 24, 2009. Glenn Dolphin and other Oregon members will arrange a meeting location in Portland, and possible a tour of a certified Clean Marina in the Portland area.

Summary of Assignments

- Jean will arrange for a 3/24/09 meeting location in Portland.
- Glenn will arrange a marina tour for 3/24/09, if possible.
- Eric Olsson offered to add Gary Folley to the national Clean Marina listserve.
- Chris and Glenn agreed to coordinate outreach to marinas on the Columbia River.
- Jean will use OILS-911 data from the jurisdictional reports received from AT&T, instead of from the system billings.
- Eric will check exhibitors at the Clean Marina Conference to see if something like the nozzle tag is already available. If not, he and Mary Ellen will collaborate on a design and will get bids. . If the nozzle tag looks doable, we can discuss ordering that as a group.
- Jean will survey POSPET members for their 2009 orders for *Spills Aren't Slick* signs, brochures, and decals and then coordinate printing with Mary Ellen and Rob Hughes.
- Chris will do outreach to Power Squadrons and Glenn will check again with Tim Leather to evaluate their interest in joining POSPET.

