

Summary Notes
The Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET)
2007 FALL MEETING
10/16/07
Washington Department of Ecology

Attending: Eric Olsson, WA SeaGrant; Mary Ellen Voss, WA Department of Ecology; Chris Wilke, Puget Soundkeeper Alliance; Jean Cameron, Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force.
Participating by phone: Vivian Matuk, California Coastal Commission and the California Department of Boating and Waterways; Gary Foley, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation; Glenn Dolphin, Oregon Marine Board; Mike Richards, Georgia Strait Alliance; Laurie Boyle, British Columbia Ministry of Environment; and Susan Shingledecker, Boat US.

Member reports:

California Coastal Commission and the California Department of Boating and Waterways

- Vivian Matuk reported that approximately 60% of her time has been focused on the *Keep the Delta Clean* (KDC) program. This program is lead by Contra Costa County and is implemented in partnership with the California Coastal Commission, the California Department of Boating and Waterways, Sacramento, San Joaquin, Solano, and Yolo Counties and the City of Stockton. She is working also in the statewide program.
- 40% of Vivian's time has been devoted to her statewide program, the Boating Clean and Green program (BCGP) lead by the California Department of Boating and Waterways and implemented in partnership with the California Coastal Commission.
- During 2007, Vivian worked with other KDC staff developing the boater kits and other educational materials that will be distributed in 2008. There will be two sets of boater kits: the Delta boater kits (15,000) and the statewide kits (5,000). Both boater kits are reusable organic canvas boater bag filled with a variety of useful boater resources including a bright nylon orange boater safety flag, a recyclable oil absorbent bilge pillow and invaluable Department of Boating and Waterways publications such as the ABC's of the California Boating Law, Clean Boating Habits and Personal Floatation Devices. The Delta boater kit unlike the statewide boater kit will also include the waterproof Delta Recreational Boater's Map, which was previously reviewed by POSPET.
- The statewide boater kit also contains a 8_ x 11 laminated card with information on clean boating practices. The cards were 3-hole punched so boaters could put them in binders with their navigation charts. Vivian sent to POSPET members a digital copy of the binder card on October 16.
- The boater kits were designed based on non-toxic materials. No floating key chains were used this time, since all versions had some toxic components.
- In 2007, the three chapters of the California Clean Boating Network (CCBN) distributed over 10,000 *Changing Tide* newsletters. This newsletter promotes clean and safe boating practices and is the result of the work among the three chapters. The Northern CA chapter is facilitated by the BCGP. The Delta chapter is facilitated by the KDC and the BCGP. The Southern CA chapter is facilitated by the Santa Monica Bay Restoration Foundation.

- Vivian reported that there are going to be several Dockwalker trainings throughout the state. The Dockwalkers will again conduct a boater survey. The idea will be that for every boater kit distributed a boater questionnaire needs to be collected. Vivian and KDC staff are working with the San Francisco State University Public Research Institute to draft the survey and then analyze the responses. She'll share the final survey with other POSPET members.
- The BCGC and the KDC will be attending several boat shows and boating events in 2008.
- Vivian also explained that both the Delta and the statewide program will offer only 40 boater kits to Dockwalkers, marinas, yacht clubs at a time; once those forty surveys are returned, they get another 40. In this way, marinas, yacht clubs and Dockwalkers are encouraged to actually distribute the kits. The KDC and the BCGP will provide prizes for those who return the most number of completed surveys. Vivian shared with the group on October 16 a list of the items in her boater kits as well as a copy of the "Boater Kit Distribution Agreement."
- Vivian explained that she'll be focusing on pollution prevention infrastructure in the Delta. The KDC program will be setting up free and publicly accessible pollution prevention infrastructure including: beverage container recycling; free used oil, oil filters and marine battery recycling; oil absorbent exchange centers (locations where boaters can pick up and drop off oil absorbents); cigarette butt disposal stations; fishing line recycling; and pet waste stations.
- In 2007, Vivian developed clean boating posters that were distributed to marinas, yacht clubs, marine supply stores throughout California. Delta specific posters have been also developed as a part of the KDC program and will be distributed at the beginning of 2008. Vivian noted that approximately 85% of California boaters use trailers rather than marinas, so boat ramps are a prime target for her educational outreach.

Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC)

- Gary Foley explained that Alaska is "playing catch-up" since they're just starting their clean marina and clean boating campaigns.
- In partnership with the Cook Inlet Regional Citizens' Advisory Council (CIRCAC), ADEC got a grant from ConocoPhillips to help establish a Clean Marina program in Cook Inlet.
- They hope to eventually expand the program to Prince William Sound and other areas of Alaska.
- Gary noted that fishing vessels are the primary source of small spills. Eric Olsson remarked that Washington Sea Grant has a fishing vessel safety course, and recommended that Gary check with Alaska Sea Grant to see if they have a similar course.

Oregon Marine Board

- Glenn Dolphin reported that 24 marinas are now certified as Clean Marinas in Oregon. He's developed a newsletter for them.
- Glenn recently held a training event in the Portland area for both certified and pledged facilities. Oregon DEQ and the U.S. Coast Guard gave presentations on spill prevention and response, as did two oil spill response organizations. Together they covered reporting, safety, and booming guidelines.
- Glenn noted that he's had varying success with workshops as a recruiting tool for the Clean Marina program, but thinks it's definitely a good way to do educational outreach.
- Many marinas replied that they were "just too busy" when he approached them this summer, so he hopes to get back in touch with them over the winter months.

Puget Soundkeeper Alliance

- Chris Wilke reported that the Washington Clean Marina program has certified 31 marinas.
- The WA Department of Ecology has renewed funding for the program.
- He'll be handing out the Clean Boating kits, and hopes to establish a Dockwalker program. He also plans to set up an Earth 911 website for the program.
- Chris is planning to establish a pilot program for marinas to collect and dispose of oily bilge water. In the trials, the Clean Marina program split the costs with the marinas. There has been a lot of interest in the program, Chris noted. He's not sure yet whether they'll offer a bilge pump-out service or just a receptacle and disposal. He noted that Shilshole Bay Marina already has a pump-out service.
- Eric noted that he has some cost information which he'll share with Chris.
- Chris also noted that he and Glenn Dolphin are coordinating with other Clean Marina programs in the U.S.

Washington Department of Ecology

- Mary Ellen Voss reported that Ecology had printed and she had distributed 600 more *Spills Aren't Slick* signs, 12,000 decals, and 5,000 brochures.
- She also does two news releases/year regarding clean boating practices. The fall news release focuses on winterizing boats.
- Mary Ellen is also been working with Chris and Eric on Washington's Clean Marina program, developing clean boating tips on a rack card.¹
- She also reported that she'd distributed *Spills Aren't Slick* material at the Clean Pacific Conference, and had checked out various display systems used by exhibitors there.
- Mary Ellen agreed to send Washington spill data to Mike Richards, and will send a copy of her "winterizeing" press release to other POSPET members.

Georgia Strait Alliance (GSA)

- Mike Richards reported that he'd distributed bilge pads and *Spills Aren't Slick* materials at both the Nanaimo Boat Show and the Vancouver Wooden Boat Festival.
- Mike teamed up with waterways safety programs to distribute approximately 3,000 clean boating kits in partnership with harbor authorities, yacht clubs, and the Canadian Power Squadron. He also reported that GSA had received some grant funding for the outreach program.
- He's working on an "Oceans Solutions" project to provide sewage pump-out facilities at marinas. This might also include bilge-water collection facilities as well.
- He's working to adapt a clean marina program from Ontario into "Clean Marina British Columbia". Following the Ontario model will keep it consistent nationwide. He hopes to include federal and provincial agencies, as well as industry, as partners. Mike noted that marinas in Westport and Salt Spring are currently participating.

¹ Mary Ellen emailed a copy of this rack card to POSPET members on 10/16/07.

Washington SeaGrant

- Eric Olsson reported that he had done Clean Marina outreach at various harbors on the Olympic Peninsula and along the Columbia River, including Ilwaco and Westport.
- He feels that maintaining proper signage is a critical issue; often marina operators will have too many signs, so that it's just confusing to the boat owners. Eric recommended that we develop guidelines or a photo illustrating correct signage.
- Eric has completed development of an online course for the University of Alaska at Sitka which provides oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response information for the marina industry.

BOAT U.S. Foundation

- Susan Shingledecker reported that BOAT U.S.'s *Stop the Drops* campaign had targeted 400 fueling stops in the Great Lakes during the 2007 boating season. They used signs, magnets, stickers, and brochures. She noted that 95% of the marinas surveyed indicated that these educational materials helped to prevent spills at their fuel docks, and 100% of the surveyed marinas indicated that their customers appreciated their efforts.
- The BOAT US website will have a map that provides Clean Marina info for each state.
- Mary Ellen noted that Ecology plans to join BOAT U.S. as a member in order to provide a link to Washington's Clean Marina program.
- Susan will send POSPET a PDF file of her No Spills/Clean Marina article.
- She noted that the International Boat Builders Exhibition and Conference included a lot of information on environmental issues, including reduction of fuel spills as a way to reduce air emissions. (See New Issues below)

POSPET Web Page

- Jean noted that she plans to add the March, 2007 meeting notes as soon as everyone has provided their edits to her.
- She'll also send around the POSPET member list for revision, then post it.
- Mary Ellen Voss noted that the *Spills Aren't Slick* brochure needs to be added to the website.
- Jean noted that the POSPET members had agreed in March to highlight member organizations, but no one had sent her any material. So she'll take what she's got on the Washington Clean Marina program and start there.
- It was also recommended that Jean post contacts on the website so the public can order free *Spills Aren't Slick* materials. These contacts would be Mike Richards for British Columbia; Mary Ellen Voss for Washington, Glenn Dolphin for Oregon, and Vivian Matuk for California. The web notice will include a statement that "supplies may be limited."

OILS 911 Usage Report

- Jean reported that the final usage info for July 2006 - June 2007 was as follows: 120 calls in British Columbia, 21 in Washington, 7 in Oregon, and 210 in California, for a total of 358 spills reported on the system for that 12-month period.
- For July and August of 2007, 20 calls were made in BC, 5 in Washington, 2 in Oregon, and 39 in California, for a total of 66 reports.

***Spills Aren't Slick* Materials for the 2008 outreach season**

- Jean will survey POSPET members to determine what stock they have now and how much more they need for 2008.
- She will then work with Washington and California on printing and distribution.
- It was noted that Fish and Wildlife Agencies should include *Spills Aren't Slick* info in their educational materials.
- Mary Ellen Voss will explore designs of new *Spills Aren't Slick* items such as rack cards or other plastic cards.
- Chris Wilke will contact West Marine to see if they're willing to print and distribute any of the *Spills Aren't Slick* materials.
- Glenn noted that the 1-800-OILS-911 reporting number is in Oregon's boating education handbook.

New Issues

- Vivian Matuk noted that West Marine, a partner supporting her Boater Kits, had recommended a soy-based powder to remove oil spills. Further research indicated that it was not approved for use in California, so she cautioned other POSPET members to research materials before including them in their kits. Susan Shingledecker reported that the product is approved for professional spill responder use only by EPA, it is not legal for a boater to use on open water spills and can only legally be used for use on spills on hard surfaces.
- The issue of pollution from derelict vessels was discussed. It was recommended that this issue be included in Clean Marina outreach, since marinas can set standards and guidelines for boat maintenance, as well as provide for removal of derelict vessels in tenant agreements. Eric felt that states need more regulatory authority and funding to deal with the problem.
- How to measure whether our outreach efforts are making a difference is an ongoing concern. Pre- and Post- surveys are expensive and must be carefully designed. It was felt that one way to measure is to audit certified marinas to determine whether they're meeting their goals.
- Susan reported that EPA is likely to publish a final rule in late 2008 mandating installation of a carbon canister in boat vents in order to capture fuel vapors; this technology would also eliminate fuel spills at the vents. Susan will send POSPET a PowerPoint on this.
- Vivian raised the question of whether marinas need permits to recycle used fuel collars or bilge pads, noting that used oil absorbents are considered a hazardous waste in California, and the air resources boards require permits. She noted that used oil or diesel are considered hazardous wastes in California; materials with used gasoline on them were to be disposed of in fire bins with vents. Glenn stated that if a marina generates less than 220 lbs/month they have fewer reporting requirements to meet, but the material must be disposed of in a hazardous waste landfill.
- Jean reported that Section 706 of the Senate version of the U.S. Coast Guard Reauthorization Act focused on "Prevention of Small Spills." It would provide funding for NOAA to establish a spill prevention and education program for small vessels and facilities not required to prepare an oil spill response plan, including marinas. Since it calls for NOAA to provide grants to SeaGrant programs, Eric will track this for POSPET.
- Chris reported that the House of Representatives is considering the Recreational Boating Act of 2007, which would exempt recreational boats from needing Clean Water Act permits.

- Eric recommended the book *Boat Green* by Clyde Ford, which provides information on "50 Steps Boaters Can Take to Save Our Waters."

POSPET Enhancement Options

- Eric will take the lead to invite certified Clean Marina operators to the Spring 2008 POSPET meeting. It would help our educational outreach efforts to hear from the marina operators what works best for them.
- It was suggested that the *Spills Aren't Slick* decals should be put on dock carts, since most boat owners use these carts.
- The Pacific Marine Expo will be held in Seattle November 15-17.
- Eric wondered if the POSPET model could be expanded to the Gulf and Atlantic coasts. It's just takes education and political will.

Clean Pacific Conference

- Mike Richards, who attended Clean Pacific and chaired the session on Small Spill Prevention (Eric and Glenn were presenters), reported on the conference, which was held on September 13-14 in Seattle.
- He noted that Tom Fitzsimmons, the keynote speaker, was very interesting; Fitzsimmons had noted that more can be done to meet the growing demand for clean water.
- Approximately 40 persons attended the *Spills Aren't Slick* session and there was good Q/A.
- Mike felt that most sessions were useful, and noted an impressive number of exhibitors.
- Jean explained that the member agencies of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force had hosted the event, which incorporated their 2007 Annual Meeting. More than 1,000 persons attended. The Task Force will host a Clean Pacific Conference every other year; the next one will be in Portland, Oregon on September 15-16, 2009.
- She noted that Chris Wilke had received one of the Task Force's 2007 Legacy Awards at the Conference, noting that more information on Chris and the other winners will be posted on the Task Force website: www.oilspilltaskforce.org.

Next Meeting

- The next POSPET meeting was tentatively set for March 20, 2008.