



2022 Annual Meeting

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES (alphabetical by session)

Session 1: Jurisdictional Updates

This session will feature jurisdictional updates for each of the six Task Force Executives.

Carlos Clements

Program Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology, Spill Prevention, Preparedness & Response Program

Carlos was appointed Program Manager for the Washington State Department of Ecology, Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program in August 2021. The Spills Program is a statewide program responsible for activities that includes spill prevention, preparedness, response, and natural resource damage assessment. Prior to state service, Carlos was an instructor aviator for the United States Air Force Special Operations Command. Later Carlos became a Crisis Response Team Chief which represented the Department of Defense's 911 response to Global emergencies. Carlos was born in Colorado Springs, Co. but grew up in Tennessee and now lives in Lacey, with his wife Jennifer. They have two children. Carlos has a degree in Political Science with a minor in Psychology from Austin Peay State University in Tennessee. He enjoys spending time outdoors, fishing, hiking, and grilling with friends and family. He loves video games and is avid gamer. Carlos places importance on establishing and maintaining good stakeholder relationships, and a high priority on partnerships to protect the environment. He believes if we hold our regulated community to a high standard, we need to hold ourselves to that same standard. Accountability and performance are essential to our shared success.

Lydia Emer

Administrator for Land Quality, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality

Lydia Emer is the Administrator for Land Quality programs with the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality. She has served as an administrator since 2014. The division focuses on leadership and direction for coordinated short and long range planning for programs and services provided by Cleanup and Emergency Response, Materials Management, and Hazardous Waste and Tanks to support our agency's mission to be a leader in restoring, maintaining and enhancing the quality of Oregon's air, land and water. Prior to finding a home in environmental quality programs, Lydia performed various roles over 14 years with the Oregon Public Health Division. Her primary focuses were on agency-wide performance improvement and accreditation, and leading efforts to reduce the incidence of vaccine-preventable disease in our state. Lydia received a M.S. in Public Administration and Development from the University of Birmingham (2009), United Kingdom.

Kathleen Ho

Deputy Director for Environmental Health, Hawaii Department of Health

Kathleen Ho is the deputy director, Environmental Health Administration at DOH, effective July 1, 2021. Ho has served as deputy attorney general of the Health Division, Department of the Attorney General since 1992. She earned her J.D. from the University of California Hastings College of Law in San Francisco, her LL.M in environmental law from Lewis and Clark Law School in Oregon, and a B.S. in Biology from the University of San Francisco.



2022 Annual Meeting

Tiffany Larson

Director of Spill Prevention and Response, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Tiffany Larson has been with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation for more than 15 years, with a diverse background in the Clean Air Act, Spill Prevention & Response, and the Clean Water Act. Tiffany was appointed in Director for the Division of Spill Prevention & Response in March 2021. Mrs. Larson directs a team of administrative staff, contingency plan reviewers, spill responders, technical experts, and contaminated sites professionals. Tiffany has spent much of her life in Alaska and Fairbanks has been her home for 22 years.

Laurel Nash

Assistant Deputy Minister, British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Laurel has worked for the BC provincial government, in the Natural Resources Sector, for over 25 years, including roles in BC Parks, the Ministries of Forests, Energy Mines and Petroleum Resources, Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation and most recently Environment and Climate Change Strategy. She has held senior leadership and statutory roles such roles as the Director of Petroleum Lands and the Chief Gold Commissioner and Chief Negotiator. Laurel has been an Assistant Deputy Minister since 2014, first in the Strategic Initiatives Division of the Ministry of Indigenous Relations and Reconciliation, and currently as Assistant Deputy Minister of the Environmental Protection Division of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. Laurel brings strong leadership, innovation and collaboration to this role and looks forward to working with all levels of government, Indigenous Nations, industry and other partners to find opportunities to improve our stewardship in the province. Laurel grew up in in the Northwest Territories, before coming to B.C., where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Geography from the University of Victoria. She currently lives in Victoria with her husband and two children.

Amir Sharifi

Assistant Deputy Administrator Office of Spill Prevention & Response (OSPR) California Department of Fish & Wildlife

Amir serves as OSPR's Assistant Deputy Administrator and is responsible for overseeing Prevention, Financial and Administrative Services, Public Outreach and Regulation operations. His team is responsible for providing a myriad of services that support OSPR's mission in protecting California's resources. Amir holds a Bachelor of Science Degree in Managerial Economics from the University of California, Davis. As an avid fisherman, when Amir's not at work you will find him spending time with friends and family on California's waterways.



2022 Annual Meeting

Session 2: Executive Coordinator Report

Executive Coordinator Team Meg Harris and Hilary Wilkinson will report out on key Task Force activities and highlights from the past year.

Meg Harris

Senior Associate, Veda Environmental

Executive Coordinator, Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force

Meg Harris has recently joined the Pacific States/ British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force as the Executive Coordinator. She brings to this position a scientific background in environmental toxicology and experience coordinating complex, multi-stakeholder partnerships. Her passion for facilitation and science communication will serve her well on the Task Force. Meg enjoys time in the mountains and on the waters of the Salish Sea, especially any day spent outdoors with her two-year old.

Hilary Wilkinson

Owner/Principal, Veda Environmental

Executive Coordinator Team, Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force; Chair, Abandoned Derelict Vessel (ADV) and Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET) Workgroups

Hilary Wilkinson is a certified facilitator, stakeholder engagement/public outreach expert, and mediator with over 20 years of experience helping advance ecosystem conservation efforts on the west coast. Her work spans a wide variety of natural resource issues and geographic areas, from improving elk herd management in the North Cascades and restoring tidal estuaries in the Skagit delta, to addressing contentious water rights issues in the Nooksack River basin and advancing oil spill prevention, preparedness and response across the west coast. For the past 12 years, she has served on the Executive Coordinator Team for the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force (www.oilspilltaskforce.org) where she has led transboundary coordination efforts and supported entities focused on boater education and clean marina certification. She currently chairs the Abandoned and Derelict Vessel (ADV) Workgroup and the Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET).

Afternoon Keynote: Critical Incident Stress Management

During high stress situations how do we care for ourselves and our staff? Understand lessons learned to help you manage the normal Critical Incident Stress that comes with these assignments.

Charlie Strickfaden

Chief, Division of Communications, External Affairs, and Special Park Uses, Golden Gate National Recreation Area

Charlie Strickfaden, a 34-year veteran of the National Park Service, provides internal employee communications, partnership operations with the Presidio Trust, Golden Gate National Parks Conservancy, media, and elected relations, and community outreach at Golden Gate National Recreation. He has been a park Superintendent in New Mexico, prior to 2018, including an assignment as the Acting Superintendent of two new NPS units- the Manhattan Project National Historical Park, and the Valles Caldera National Preserve, as well as the Fort Union National Monument, on the Santa Fe Trail. Prior to that Strickfaden was Chief Ranger at the Flagstaff Area Monuments (Wupatki, Sunset Crater Volcano, and Walnut Canyon National Monuments, Northern Arizona) and Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine (Baltimore, Maryland). As Chief Ranger at historic Fort McHenry NM, in



2022 Annual Meeting

downtown Baltimore, he coordinated many dignitary visits to this Civil War park and oversaw a robust park event and historic events program. A native of Southern California, Strickfaden earned his Bachelor of Science degree in natural resource management at California Polytechnic State University in San Luis Obispo.

Session 3: Case studies

This session will focus on response case studies from the past year, highlighting the unique conditions or challenges during each response.

Michelle Bellizzi

Response and Training Manager, International Bird Rescue

(Bio Pending)

Rachel Fabian

**Spill Management Team Coordinator, Office of Spill Prevention & Response (OSPR) California
Department of Fish & Wildlife**

Rachel Fabian has been with the Preparedness Branch at the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) since 2017. As the Spill Management Team Coordinator, she developed OSPR's spill management team regulations and began implementing the new program in 2022. During oil spills, she coordinates with public health agencies as a Liaison Officer and, more recently, as the Public Health Assessment Coordinator in the Public Health Assessment (PHAU). Rachel worked with colleagues at OSPR and local health agencies to develop the PHAU concept, which was implemented during the 2021 Pipeline P00547 incident near Huntington Beach, CA. She is coordinating a PHAU Workgroup through the Regional Response Team IX, bringing together local, state, and federal public health agencies to establish the scope, objectives, and reporting protocols for executing PHAU during an oil spill response, to be incorporated into agency planning documents. Before coming to OSPR, Rachel completed a PhD in Ocean Sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz, where she conducted research into the impacts of an invasive host-parasite species complex in a central California estuary. She is originally from Memphis, Tennessee, but she has called California home since 2005.

Don Noviello

Environmental Planner, Section Lead for Oil Spill Team, Washington State Dept. of Fish and Wildlife

Don Noviello is an Environmental Planner with the Washington State Department of Fish and Wildlife, serving as section lead for the Oil Spill Team. He has worked in oil spill response planning for marine mammals. He is a retired United States Coast Guard Officer with significant nationwide oil spill response experience. His formal training includes a Bachelor's Degree in Fisheries Science from the University Washington and a Master's degree in Biology from Western Washington University and has also graduated from the TEEEX Oil Spill Control Course from Texas A&M in Galveston.

John Tarpley

Chief, Regional Operation Branch, NOAA Office of Response and Restoration Emergency Response Division

John Tarpley is Chief of the Regional Operations Branch for NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) Emergency Response Division. The OR&R is charged with responding to oil spills, chemical



2022 Annual Meeting

accidents and other emergencies in coastal areas. Under the U.S. National Contingency Plan, NOAA OR&R is responsible for providing scientific support to the U.S. Coast Guard for oil and hazardous material spills, and to serve as a natural resource trustee. John manages this scientific support and spill response program nationwide. John currently serves as a DOC/NOAA representative to the National Response Team. John has 28+ years of experience in oil spill response, contingency planning, NRDA and habitat restoration at state and national levels. He has responded to and managed hundreds of oil and chemical spills across the nation, including the Exxon Valdez and Deepwater Horizon. In 2010, John served as NOAA's primary representative on the USCG's Incident Specific Preparedness Review (ISPR) for the Deepwater Horizon incident. In 2019, he was selected for the Pacific States-British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Legacy Award. John has a Master's degree in marine ecology.

Session 4: Community-based Prevention Preparedness and Response

This session will explore locally focused and ground-up solutions to prevention, preparedness and response.

Illeana Alexander *They/Them*

Tribal Response Program Specialist, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians.

Illeana has held this position for 10 months and bring with them a Masters in International Environmental Policy and background in Ocean and Coastal Resource Management. In addition to the response program, Illeana also manages the Tribal Brownfield Program and the Climate Change Vulnerability Analysis and Mitigation Program."

Paul Hamdorf

Interim Executive Director, Islands' Oil Spill Association.

Paul has spent most of his life near the coast and enjoys many marine related activities. In 1992, he turned this passion into a career when he accepted a job with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Paul worked several jobs that included pollution response and criminal investigations. He led a team of law enforcement investigators and was the State representative for the Los Angeles/Long Beach Area Committee. He was also the State representative for the Incident Specific Preparedness Review of the Cosco Busan incident. Upon retirement Paul began work for Gallagher Marine Systems as a member of their Spill Management Team. Paul currently lives on San Juan Island and remains active on a Gallagher Marine Spill Management Team that is approved by Washington State.

Graham Wood

Manager, Spill Prevention and Response Division, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (Bio Pending)

Michelle Young

Clean Marine BC Program Coordinator, Georgia Straits Alliance

Michelle Young is a Chartered Professional Accountant whose love of the ocean and boating has led to the perfect match as Georgia Strait Alliance's Clean Marine BC clean boating and marina eco-certification program coordinator, as well as the Director of Finance. She is a coastal person at heart and has lived on four of British Columbia's beautiful islands since her childhood in the remote Broughton



2022 Annual Meeting

Archipelago. Michelle is now settled in the traditional ancestral territories of the Snuneymuxw people on Gabriola Island.