



## 2023 Annual Meeting Speaker Bios

*(alphabetical by session)*

### **Session 1: Executive Coordinator Update**

**Meg Harris, Executive Coordinator, Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force; Managing Associate, Triangle Associates**

Meg Harris serves 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.

### **Session 2: Jurisdictional Updates**

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

**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 17 years, with a diverse background in the Clean Air Act, Spill Prevention & Response, and the Clean Water Act. Tiffany was appointed 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 23 years.

**Kelli Kryzanowski, Director of Environmental Emergency Branch, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy Government of British Columbia**

Kelli Kryzanowski has been working in emergency management for almost 30 years and greatly enjoys the fast-paced, dynamic, and exciting work that continually offers new challenges and opportunities. Kelli has worked within the BC Provincial Government for over 20 years where she started in emergency management at the ground level, literally, in the early '90s as a BC Ministry of Forests Forest Fire Fighter and spent 5 summers in the field.

Previously, Kelli completed a Master of Arts in International Community Development while working for the Canadian Red Cross in the international humanitarian issues and disaster management portfolios with a specific focus on international humanitarian law (the rules of war). She spent over 10 years working at Emergency Management British Columbia leading the Tsunami Integrated Preparedness Project, developing the community disaster recovery/resilience centre concept, was lead planner for the development and implementation of the Integrated Response and Recovery Deployment Teams (iRRAD) and led the development of the BC Earthquake Immediate Response Plan. Kelli also worked for the BC Ministry of Health as Director of the Emergency Management Unit.

Kelli has been with the Environmental Emergency Branch for 7 years as the Manager of Preparedness and Strategic Initiatives. Her current files include strategic planning, catastrophic disaster planning, intergovernmental and Indigenous relations, development of legislation and regulations, oversight of the program's compliance and enforcement team, and oversight of the ministry's Department Operations Centre.

Kelli and her husband, Duke, live in Victoria with their fur babies, His Majesty Lord Jamison Sir Jimmy James the Urban Panfur (obviously a cat!), and labradoodle Kunik (means "to kiss" in Inuktitut). Kelli and Duke have a passion for travel, good wine, and spending time outdoors either in their kayaks or zooming around on e-bikes.

**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 who 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 an 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.

**Kimberlee Van Patten, Senior Emergency Response Coordinator, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality**

As Sr. Emergency Response Coordinator, Kimberlee Van Patten is the statewide technical expert on emergency response activities and coordinator of Oregon DEQ's Emergency Response Program. She is also responsible for interpreting, evaluating, and making recommendations on laws and policies related to emergency response and marine transportation conventions. Kimberlee joined DEQ in 1988 and has been a member of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force since 2016.

**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.

**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.

**Session 3: Environmental Justice in Spill Response**

*Oil spills can often disproportionately impact remote, vulnerable, or underrepresented communities. This session will explore considerations for environmental justice in oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response, with an emphasis on equitable access to information and building two-way channels of communication.*

**Nhi Irwin (moderator), Statewide Resources Section Manager, Washington State Department of Ecology**

Nhi Irwin has been with the Washington State Department of Ecology for 18 years and manages the Statewide Resources Section for the state's Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response Program. Her team functions as the support branch for the Program in the areas of information technology, research and policy planning, regulatory procedures, Crisis Management Team and Incident Management Team training, investigations, enforcement, and volunteer management. Nhi has been involved in the development of legislation, rule writing, and implementation of many of the oil spill regulations in Washington State. She is involved in local, state, and cross border issues and is a member of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Coordinating Committee and is a commissioner on the state Board of Pilotage Commission. Her educational background includes multiple advanced degrees in political science and economics.

**Uni Blake, American Petroleum Institute**

No bio provided.

**Courtney Cecale, WA Department of Ecology**

No bio provided.

**Nicole Cropper, CA Office of Spill Prevention and Response**

No bio provided.

**Erandi Trevino, Public Citizen**

No bio provided.

**Session 4: Communication Challenges of Remote Locations**

*Remote locations provide unique challenges for spill responders. This session will explore the safety and communication needs when working in physical or technologically remote areas and the tools used to address these constraints.*

**Jessica Whipple (moderator) AmergentTechs**

No bio provided.

**Kelli Kryzanowski (moderator) Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy**

See bio above.

**Derek Moss, Fisheries and Oceans Canada, Canadian Coast Guard**

Derek Moss is the Assistant Commissioner for the Canadian Coast Guard Western Region, headquartered in Victoria, BC. In this capacity, he is privileged to lead a highly effective and motivated team that oversees the Coast Guard's operations, engagements and reconciliation, personnel, and finances in Canada's western waters. Before joining Western region, Derek was the Senior Director Fleet in Central region, where he managed the Coast Guard's vessel and aircraft fleets in the Great Lakes, St. Lawrence River, northern gulf of St. Lawrence, Hudson Bay, and Arctic waters. Derek served in National Headquarters in Ottawa as the Senior Director Operational Support, responsible for policy on fleet readiness and requirements, icebreaking program, Aids to Navigation and Waterways, and Marine Communications and Traffic Services. Previously in the Coast Guard, Derek was the Director, Incident Management and subsequently the Director, Maritime Security and Intelligence. In addition to his regular work, Derek involved himself in Arctic and Northern projects as well as Maritime Security issues. Prior to joining the Coast Guard, Derek served in the Royal Canadian Navy. He was Commanding Officer of the Halifax-class frigate HMCS REGINA, Commandant of the Naval Officer Training Centre (VENTURE) in Esquimalt, Deputy Commander of Joint Task Force North in Yellowknife, and Chief of Staff Maritime Forces Atlantic and Joint Task Force Atlantic in Halifax.

**Michael Anderson, Principal and Founder, Coup d'Oeil Group**

In his two-decade career, Michael has become a specialist in crisis and issues management. He has been deployed around the globe to manage communications during natural and man-made disasters, brand and reputational threats, as well as other sensitive issues. As a public information and liaison officer, he has responded to more than 50 nationally declared disasters, hundreds of oil and chemical releases, and 20 National Special Security Events (NSSEs).

He has counseled clients both government and corporate clients in high profile global and domestic crisis situations, including oil and hazardous material releases, product recalls, workplace safety situations, data breaches/cyber security events, labor actions, financial distress and bankruptcy proceedings, investigative media, and more.

Michael graduated with a bachelor's degree in communications from Arizona State University and is pursuing a master's degree at Harvard University.

**Liam Devine, Emergency Planning Analyst, Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy  
Government of British Columbia**

Liam is based in the sunny Okanagan valley and has been a representative on the Oil Spill Task Force for the past year. He brings seven years of experience in the emergency management sector and has previously held roles in humanitarian relief for the Canadian Red Cross. Liam transferred to government in 2021 and enjoys planning around the many hazards and risks that make up British Columbia's

geography. With a Master's degree in Conflict Studies from the University of Ottawa and a Bachelor's degree in Political Science from the University of Victoria, Liam is passionate about the reduction of climate change inequity through strong public policy, the provision of humanitarian aid globally, and the improvement of emergency planning across British Columbia.

**LCDR Meagan Bowis, Chief of Incident Management and Boat Forces Supervisor, US Coast Guard Pacific Area**

Lieutenant Commander Meagan Bowis is currently assigned as the Chief of Incident Management and Boat Forces Supervisor at Coast Guard Pacific Area. In this role, she directly supports the Area Commander in the oversight of emergency management, search and rescue, space launch and recovery mission support, marine environmental response, Boat Forces unit management and Strategic Planning Direction for four Districts and all areas westward from the Rocky Mountains across the Indo-Pacific, Arctic and Antarctic regions to the coast of eastern Africa. She serves as the Area lead for Incident Command System training and oversees the collateral duty and Reserve Incident Management Assist Teams. Her previous assignments include Sector Honolulu as the Command Center Chief from June 2019 to June 2021 and Enforcement Chief from June 2021 to June 2022. In these roles, she was responsible for the 24/7 operations center, maritime search and rescue, law enforcement, environmental protection missions, and operational planning for three Fast Response Cutters for an area encompassing 1.4 million square nautical miles in Hawaii, American Samoa and U.S. Pacific Island Territories. Previous tours include Coast Guard Headquarters in the Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy, Sector San Francisco Incident Management Division, and Deck Watch Officer on board USCGC RUSH (WHEC 723). LCDR Bowis holds a Masters of Science in Environmental Management from University of San Francisco, Masters of Art in Defense and Strategic Studies from the U.S. Naval War College, and Bachelors of Science in Marine Environmental Science from the United States Coast Guard Academy. Originally from Park City, Utah, Lieutenant Commander Bowis currently resides in Oakland, California with her husband Rudy. In her spare time, LCDR Bowis enjoys surfing, wind and snow sports, biking, and traveling.

**Melinda Brunner, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), Prevention Preparedness and Response Program (PPR) Manager**

Melinda Brunner joined Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) as the Prevention Preparedness and Response Program Manager in May of 2023. Melinda has been with the State of Alaska for 18 years, including 16 years in the Division of Spill Prevention and Response, with roles in both a contingency plan review and inspections as well as work with contaminated sites. In addition to her time at DEC, Melinda spent a handful of years at Eielson Air Force Base managing the Tanks and Spills Program and time with the Alaska Department of Transportation and Public Facilities in their environmental section. The combination of leadership, understanding, and expertise between Prevention Preparedness and Response Program and Contaminated Sites, alongside her experience as part of the regulated community makes Melinda an exceptional fit for her role at DEC.

Melinda serves as the Coordinating Committee representative to the Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force.