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PACIFIC COAST OIL SPILL TASK FORCE TO HOLD PUBLIC MEETING IN SAN DIEGO

The States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force, which has been working since 1989 to coordinate development and implementation of oil spill prevention and response policies on the West Coast, will hold its 1995 annual meeting at the Hubbs-Sea World Institute in San Diego, California on July 18th. The theme for this year's meeting - *Charting a New Course Together* - refers to the group's focus on improving state and federal regulatory relationships, and vessel routing and pilotage. Jerry Aspland, recently retired president of ARCO Marine, Inc., will be the keynote speaker.

The Task Force is comprised of the lead oil spill prevention and response agencies for California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. It was formed in 1989 in response to two major west coast oil spills: the *Nestucca* barge spill off the coasts of Washington and British Columbia, and the *Exxon Valdez* spill in Prince William Sound. Both events underscored the need for better interstate and international cooperation to prevent and respond to oil spills.

Representatives from the U.S. and Canadian Coast Guards will provide updates on their agencies' activities, and will join Task Force members and a representative from the Texas General Land Office in a discussion of regulatory reform issues. In addition, Rear Admiral Scott Walker, Commander, Naval Base San Diego, will provide an update on the U.S. Navy's spill prevention and response preparedness activities.

Concurrent spill prevention sessions that afternoon will include presentations by California Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) Administrator Pete Bontadelli, on the recent California pilotage study; and Dr. Martha Grabowski, with the National Research Council's report on national pilotage issues. Marci Glazer of the Center for Marine Conservation in San Francisco, and Margie Hegy of the U.S. Coast Guard navigation office in Washington, D.C., will provide presentations and recommendations on vessel routing issues.

Task Force members will also adopt their workplan for the coming year and receive reports on projects conducted this past year. These projects include a review of recommendations to prevent oil spills caused by human error, recommendations regarding use of in-situ burning and dispersants, recommendations to promote mutual aid and provide credit for drills and exercises conducted among Task Force jurisdictions, a comparison of contingency planning regulations and prevention programs, a survey of West Coast oiled wildlife rehabilitation capabilities, and a report on oil spill research programs.

The Hubbs-Sea World Research Institute is located at 2595 Ingraham Street, San Diego. Registration begins at 7:30 a.m. The meeting begins at 8:00 a.m., and will adjourn at 5:00 p.m.

STATES/BRITISH COLUMBIA OIL SPILL TASK FORCE ANNUAL MEETING AGENDA

- 8:00 **Welcome and introductions of Task Force Members:**
Pete Bontadelli, California Department of Fish and Game Office of Oil Spill
Prevention and Response (host)
Gene Burden, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation

Thomas Gunton, British Columbia Ministry of Environment, Lands, and Parks
Barbara Herman, Washington Office of Marine Safety
Langdon Marsh, Oregon Department of Environmental Quality
Mary Riveland, Washington Office of Marine Safety

8:15 **Updates** from member agencies.

8:45 **Keynote Speaker:** Jerry Aspland, former President of ARCO Marine, Inc.

9:30 **Reforming Regulatory Relationships** - Task Force Members: Capt. George N. Naccara, U.S. Coast Guard; Peter Golden, Canadian Coast Guard; U.S. EPA representative (invited); Russell Lutz, Texas General Land Office.

10:45 **RADM Walker: Update on U.S. Navy** efforts to improve oil spill prevention and response.

11:15 **Updates on Coast Guard Activities:** Capt. Naccara and Peter Golden.

Noon Lunch break

1:15 **Concurrent Spill Prevention Sessions:**

📄 **Pilotage Reform:** Pete Bontadelli for OSPR, on the California pilotage study, and The National Research Council's Martha Grabowski on the Marine Board study, "Minding the Helm."

📄 **Vessel Routing:** Marc Glazer for the Center for Marine Conservation; Margie Hegy, U.S. Coast Guard.

2:15 **Session Reports**

2:45 Afternoon break

3:00 **Business Session:**

📄 Update on **Strategic Plan** and adoption of **1995-96 Annual Work Plan**.

📄 **1994-95 Project Reports and Recommendations:** Human Factor Spill Prevention; In-Situ Burning; Dispersants; Mutual Aid; Drills and Exercises; Program Comparisons; West Coast Wildlife Rehabilitation Survey; research and Development Coordination.

5:00 Adjourn.