



## Oil Spill Task Force News Release

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### **Pacific Oil Spill Task Force to meet in San Diego, July 20**

The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force will hold its 2006 Annual Meeting in San Diego on July 20th. Formed in 1989, the Oil Spill Task Force provides a forum for regional collaboration on oil spill prevention and response policies that provides protection for 56,660 miles of coastline from the Beaufort Sea to the Baja Peninsula, and the Hawaiian Islands.

The theme for this year's Annual meeting — *Improving Response Coordination: Transferring Lessons From the Gulf Coast to the West Coast* — will focus on “lessons learned” during the response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In addition to two panel presentations dealing with this theme, there will be presentations on model oil spill programs in California, and California Department of Fish and Game Director Ryan Broddrick will present the keynote speech. Vice Admiral Charles Wurster, Commander of the U.S. Coast Guard Pacific Area, will make welcoming remarks, and updates will be provided on Task Force initiatives as well as on oil spill program and policy developments in Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii.

The Annual Meeting will also feature the Oil Spill Task Force's 2006 Legacy Awards, which will be given in recognition of outstanding oil spill prevention, preparedness, and response efforts. The 2006 Legacy Award winners are:

The Clean Islands Council, which is being honored for numerous oil spill preparedness and response initiatives and services that have benefited both their clients in Hawaii and other oil spill response organizations in the U.S. and Canada;

Foss Maritime Company, which is being honored for multiple vessel rescue actions that epitomize their “Always Ready” motto and have kept thousands of gallons of oil out of the water;

Tesoro Hawaii Corporation, which is being honored for their investments in spill prevention and response at Hawaii's “single point mooring,” where 65% of all petroleum products enter the state; and

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**PACIFIC STATES • BRITISH COLUMBIA OIL SPILL TASK FORCE**

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The Marine Exchange of Alaska, which is being honored for development of the *Automated Secure Vessel Tracking System* that can track vessels worldwide, and has been useful in identifying distressed vessels as well as nearby rescue tugs.

The Members of the Oil Spill Task Force are the directors of the oil spill prevention and response agencies in Alaska, California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Hawaii. This annual meeting provides them with an opportunity to interact with interested public and regional stakeholders on oil spill policy issues. **The California Office of Spill Prevention and Response** will host the 2006 Annual Meeting at the Red Lion Hanalei Hotel, 2270 Hotel Circle North, in San Diego.

Registration will begin at 7:30 a.m. on July 20<sup>th</sup>; the meeting will convene at 8 a.m. and adjourn at 5 p.m. The meeting is free and open to the public, but **advance registration is required; the registration deadline is July 13th**. For more information or to register, please contact Jean Cameron at 503-392-5860 or by e-mail at [JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com](mailto:JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com), or visit our website at [www.oilspilltaskforce.org](http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org).



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