Major Oil Spills and Incidents in California

Vessels

Apex Houston Oil Spill (1/28/86) -The tank barge *Apex Houston* lost a hatch cover while being towed from the Shell Oil refinery in Martinez to Long Beach, spilling an estimated 25,800 gallons of crude oil along the coastline of Marin, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, and Monterey counties. An estimated 10,577 birds were killed.

American Trader Oil Spill (2/7/90) - The tanker vessel (T/V) *American Trader* ran over its anchor, puncturing its hull and spilling an estimated 416,598 gallons of crude oil onto the waters and coastline in the vicinity of Huntington Beach. An estimated 3,400 birds were killed. Fish and recreational beach use were also impacted.

Kure Oil Spill (11/5/97) – The motor vessel (M/V) *Kure* punctured a fuel tank and spilled approximately 4,500 gallons of oil while docked in Humboldt Bay. An estimated 3,950 birds were killed. Salt marshes, mudflats, and recreational beach use were impacted.

T/V Command Oil Spill (9/26/98) - The T/V *Command* left San Francisco Bay bound for Panama. As it traveled south off San Francisco and San Mateo County coasts, it released an estimated 3,000 gallons of bunker fuel. An estimated 1,500 birds were killed. Shoreline habitat and recreational beach use was also impacted.

Stuyvesant Oil Spill (9/6/99) - The dredge *M/V Stuyvesant* spilled at least 2,100 gallons of oil into the Pacific Ocean near the mouth of Humboldt Bay, close to Eureka. An estimated 2,405 birds were killed. Coastal beaches, fish and shrimp in the water column and recreational beach use were impacted.

Cape Mohican Oil Spill (10/28/96) **-** The steam ship (S.S.) *Cape Mohican*, a Maritime Administration vessel, discharged an estimated 96,000 gallons of fuel oil into a floating dry dock during routine maintenance at the San Francisco Drydock Shipyard. Approximately 40,000 gallons of fuel entered the San Francisco Bay. An estimated 593 birds were killed. Recreational beach use, shoreline habitat and fisheries were also impacted.

S.S. Jacob Luckenbach Oil Spill (2002) **-** The *S.S. Jacob Luckenbach* collided with its sister ship and sank on July 14, 1953. This vessel, which was loaded with 457,000 gallons of bunker fuel, sank in 180 feet of water approximately 17 miles west-southwest of San Francisco. It has been leaking sporadically over the years. In 2002, oil associated with several “mystery spills” was linked to this vessel. These include the Pt. Reyes Tarball Incidents of winter 1997-1998 and the San Mateo Mystery Spill of 2001-2002. In summer 2002, the U.S. Coast Guard and the trustees removed much oil from

the vessel and sealed the remaining oil inside the vessel. Resources impacted included birds (51,569 estimated killed between 1990 and 2003) and sea otters (eight estimated killed).

F/ V Miss Kelley/Ft. Bragg (1/26/06) – The fishing vessel (F/V) *Miss Kelley* struck rocks near the entrance to Noyo River, spilling approximately 2,000 gallons of diesel fuel and other motor oils. The remote location and surf made standard cleanup methods impossible.

Barge Holland/Stockton (4/5/06) - As much as 10,129 gallons of diesel and motor oil was released from a 134-foot, 1920s-era crane barge used to build some of the Delta's levees. The hull was breached and below-deck doors were left open, during rainy season. It sank when the person responsible for pumping water out failed to keep up with the need.

Cosco Busan Oil Spill (11/7/07) -The container ship *Cosco Busan* struck a support tower of the Bay Bridge, puncturing the vessel and spilling approximately 54,000 gallons of oil into the San Francisco Bay. The spill affected birds (an estimated 6,849 died), marine mammals, fish, and habitat (sandy beach, rocky intertidal, salt marsh, eelgrass beds).

Tesoro Refinery/Tug Independence: Avon Wharf Allision, Contra Costa County (5/14/08) - The Tug *Independence* hit a Tesoro refinery pier in Martinez damaging a fuel line. The initial spill estimate was 1,500 gallons, based on the full capacity of the pipeline. DFG/OSPR and the U.S. Coast Guard responded to this initial estimate. The spill turned out to be much smaller; however, the allision could have caused a much larger spill.

Tugboat Resolute, San Francisco Bay (10/13/08) - The tugboat *Resolute* discharged an estimated 140 gallons of diesel into the Oakland outer bay after a spill occurred while transferring fuel on board the vessel. The spill occurred during a flood tide, which caused much of the product to be pushed up under the piers.

Fishing Trawler Hits Bridge, San Francisco Bay (4/15/09) - After losing power, the 70-foot fishing trawler *Big Timber* drifted and became wedged under the San Mateo-Hayward Bridge. Approximately 1,300 gallons of diesel was pumped out of the vessel to reduce the risk of a spill as the boat broke apart. No significant amount of oil was released into the bay.

T/V Dubai Star Bunker Spill, San Francisco Bay (10/30/09) - While taking on bunkers at anchorage in San Francisco Bay on October 30, 2009, the tank vessel Dubai Star's port side bunker tank overflowed, spilling approximately 420 gallons of IFO 380 into San Francisco Bay. A unified command was formed and cleaned up the spill. A NRDA is being conducted and the case is under investigation.

T/V Matilla, Petaluma River (9/6/10) - The Tug Boat *Matilla* was towed into the Petaluma River from San Pablo Bay by a salvor, where it was beached on shore near Ellis Creek/Slough. On Sept. 6, a member of the public reported seeing an oil sheen. Responding officers confirmed the occurrence of an oil spill that covered approximately four miles of the river with sheen and several pockets of black oil. Because the waterway was tidally influenced, oil and sheen were pushed both above and below the vessel. The tug was being cut up for salvage and an estimated 400 gallons bilge oil, waste oil and related lubricants had been spilled during the operation. Responders used vacuum trucks and sorbents to remove the material. Crews then cut the tug apart and used a crane to dispose it.

T/V Da Tang, Long Beach (11/7/10) - The vessel *Da Tang 18* spilled bunker fuel into the Long Beach harbor at Anchorage B-11 during a bunkering operation late on Nov. 7, 2010. It was estimated that more than 6000 gallons of bunker fuel was released. The U.S. Coast Guard and the Department of Fish and Game supervised cleanup operations. The spill resulted in a fishery closure in the harbor area.

T/V Al Jalaa, Long Beach Harbor Spill (2/21/11) - The T/V *Al Jalaa* experienced a release of diesel fuel while docked at Long Beach Harbor, Berth 84. The ship overfilled a tank in the process of moving fuel between internal tanks. Diesel fuel spilled onto the deck of the ship and then into the water. The vessel had been boomed prior to the fuel transfer, but due to the shape of the ship, its deck is wider than its hull, which allowed the diesel to fall from the deck and outside of the boomed area. The amount of fuel spilled was estimated at 840 gallons. During the spill response 15,000 feet of boom was deployed and14 vessels were on scene including 5 skimmers.

S.S. Montebello (10/ 2011) - After years of effort and planning, OSPR and the USCG completed an assessment of the *SS Montebello*. It sank after a Japanese submarine torpedoed the large oil tanker on December 23, 1941. The Montebello broke apart and sank, landing upright with her bow broken off and landing apart from the majority of the wreckage. Working with a USCG contracted dive team, the Unified Command gathered oil, hull and sediment samples. From the surveys completed and data gathered, Unified Command determined that the Montebello posed no substantial threat to the marine environment.

Tug Tiger, Richmond (12/11/11) - OSPR responded with the USCG to the sinking of the *Tug Tiger*, a decommissioned 205-foot former Navy tug, moored at a graving dock in the Port of Richmond. The Tug Tiger was berthed with the Tug Lion, which had to be defueled and removed before efforts to dewater and then defuel the Tug Tiger could continue, since the starboard side of the Tug Tiger rested below the Lion. On Feb. 6, 2012 - after construction of a cofferdam – responders dewatered and refloated the Tug Tiger with defueling following. The tug will be removed for salvage.

Pipelines/Refineries

Guadalupe Oil Field – At least 80 plumes of diluent, associated with leaks in pipelines that may have lasted for decades, were first detected in and near the Guadalupe Oil Field at the Nipomo Dunes in January 1988. These leaks have released an estimated 12 million gallons of diluent into the dunes, beach, groundwater, and Pacific Ocean.

Shell/Martinez Oil Spill (4/23/88) - A leaking tank at the Shell oil refinery in Contra Costa County drained approximately 400,000 gallons of crude oil into a nearby creek. The oil then ran into a marsh and into the bay. Resources impacted include wetland habitat and fish.

Exxon Mobile/Santa Clara River Oil Spill (1/31/99) - A pipeline break resulted in the spill of over 74,000 gallons of crude oil into the Santa Clara River near Interstate 5 in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. The spill continued 15 miles downstream. Nearly 300 dead birds and 19 mammals were collected. Fish, riparian vegetation, and other riparian and aquatic animals were impacted.

Avila I Oil Spill (8/3/92) - A Unocal pipeline break resulted in the spill of approximately 24,200 gallons

of crude oil, which flowed down a gully, over a cliff face, and into the Pacific Ocean. The spill impacted birds (84 recovered, including 11 brown pelicans), sea otters (5 oiled) and fish.

McGrath Oil Spill (12/25/93) - A pipeline break resulted in the release of approximately 87,150 gallons of crude oil that entered McGrath Lake in Ventura County and eventually reached the Pacific Ocean. Approximately 206 birds were killed and riparian and coastal habitats were impacted.

ARCO/Santa Clara River Oil Spill (1/17/94) - A pipeline break during the Northridge Earthquake resulted in the spill of over 190,000 gallons of crude oil. Oil entered the Santa Clara River near Interstate 5 and continued 16 miles downstream in Los Angeles and Ventura counties. The spill impacted fish, riparian vegetation, birds, mammals, and other riparian and aquatic animals.

Torch/Platform Irene Oil Spill (9/28/97**)** - Off the coast of northern Santa Barbara County, an undersea pipeline, linking the offshore oil platform Irene with the mainland, ruptured, releasing an estimated 6,846 gallons of oil into the ocean and then washing ashore. Over 700 birds were killed and sandy and rocky shoreline habitat and recreational beach use were impacted.

Avila II Oil Spill (1999-2000**) -** Numerous pipeline leaks, lasting several decades, under the beach and town of Avila Beach resulted in an underground plume of oil products. This eventually created a threat to public health and to the environment. Much of the beachfront section of the town was excavated in 1999-2000. Site remediation was completed on Nov. 29, 2000.

Chevron/Castro Cove (Discharge began 1987) **-** Intertidal and sub-tidal mudflats near Richmond in Contra Costa County are contaminated with oil and mercury from historical discharges of wastewater and storm water runoff from the Chevron Refinery into the adjacent marsh and cove. Impacted resources include intertidal and sub-tidal mudflat and associated biota (invertebrates, shorebirds and fish).

Kinder-Morgan/Suisun Marsh Oil Spill (4/27/04) - A pipeline ruptured, spilling over 70,000 gallons of diesel directly into Suisun Marsh near Roos Cut. Impacted resources included brackish marsh habitat, marsh birds and wildlife (over 30 birds and mammals collected).

BP Pipeline/Long Beach (9/8/06) - A BP pipeline released 43,000 gallons of “gas-oil” in an industrial area occupied by BP and the Union Pacific Railroad. The oil went down storm drains and then into an underground pump room, where it was contained. It never reached a waterway.

Vintage Production/Tar Creek (1/30/07) - A 210-gallon oil spill on private land within the Los Padres National Forest boundary occurred in Tar Creek, near the Sespe Condor Sanctuary and Sespe Wilderness in northern Ventura County. Vintage Production California reported the break in a 27/8 inch wastewater line, which also spilled about 50 barrels of groundwater. On February 6, 2007, a second leak in the same pipeline was discovered in a dry tributary of Tar Creek, above and in close proximity to the first leak. The second leak spilled approximately 20 gallons of medium-weight oil mixed with approximately 80 gallons of groundwater.

Shell Pipeline/I-580/Tracy (4/17/07) – Approximately 4,000 gallons of California production crude oil was released from a Shell pipeline along Interstate 580 near Bird Road in Tracy. The oil flowed down an embankment onto the shoulder and directly onto the freeway. Afternoon commute traffic was

snarled for hours, as it was diverted off 580 to avoid the spill.

Pacific Energy Partners Marine Terminal/ Martinez (4/23/07) – A pipeline on the Pacific Energy Partners terminal failed and spilled an estimated 42 gallons of crude oil into Carquinez Strait.

2007/2008 Top Greka Energy Incidents, Santa Barbara County - Greka Energy had six spills at multiple facilities within Santa Barbara County between July 1, 2007 and February 28, 2008. Two (2) of the largest spills include: 1) 89,000 gallons of crude oil; and 2) 50,400 gallons of oil. DFG/OSPR formed a Multi-Agency Coordinating Committee of interested federal, state and local agencies has been formed to assure Greka Energy complies with all environmental and safety regulations. The investigations into the causes and environmental impacts of the spills are continuing.

Platform A Oil Spill, Santa Barbara Channel (12/8/08) - Approximately 1,200 gallons of oil spilled into the Santa Barbara Channel from a hole in a pump at Platform A, which sits six miles offshore of Santa Barbara. A majority of the oil was recovered with skimmers and none reached the coastline.

Angus Petroleum Corporation, Huntington Beach Channel Incident (1/21/10) - Crude oil was discovered in the Huntington Beach Channel, a steel lined tidally-influenced flood control channel. OSPR responded with the County of Orange, City of Huntington Beach, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The oil was contained with boom before entering the Talbert Marsh, a sensitive wetlands area. Approximately 1 ½ miles of channel was oiled and cleanup lasted over a month. Oil was traced from the channel through a storm drain to the Angus Petroleum (Angus) production facility. A search warrant was issued for the Angus facility and the investigation is ongoing.

Javon Canyon (3/7/11) - A landslide ruptured an oil pipeline operated by Vintage Production California, releasing crude oil and produced water into Javon Canyon, Javon Creek and the Pacific Ocean near Faria Beach in Ventura County. It resulted in the closure of a stretch of shoreline to fishing in Ventura County from March 8 -9. On March 17, DFG, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service completed their assessment, determining that the beach needed no further clean up, but that the creek needed additional monitoring and maintenance of the spill containment dams.

Trains/Trucks

Cantara Loop/Dunsmuir Chemical Spill (7/14/91) - A train accident caused a chemical tank car to fall into the Sacramento River, spilling 19,000 gallons of the herbicide metam sodium. The chemical impacts extended over 20 miles from the spill site to Lake Shasta. The spill impacted instream habitat and wildlife including fish, amphibians, macroinvertebrates, as well as riparian habitat and human recreational use.

East Walker River Oil Spill (12/30/00) - A tanker truck operated by Advanced Fuel Filtration Systems, Inc. of Corona overturned on State Route 182 north of Bridgeport, resulting in the release of approximately 3,608 gallons of oil, the majority of which entered into the East Walker River. The fuel oiled approximately 10 miles of stream habitat. Wildlife were impacted as was human recreational use. Dead wildlife included one Virginia rail, two dippers, one mink, and six beavers.

Sabek/I-80/Vallejo (6/23/06) - A tank truck jack-knifed on the I-80/780 interchange in Vallejo, spilling 4,500 gallons of diesel. A half-mile of creek and vegetation was contaminated. Six oiled ducks were captured, treated and released.

VSS EmulTech/Klamath River (8/18/06) - A tank truck overturned and spilled roughly 3,000 gallons of chip seal – petroleum product used in road repair – into the Klamath River from Hwy 96 at mile 70.5.

UPRR/American River Trestle Incident (3/23/07) – DFG/OSPR personnel assisted the Union Pacific Railroad (UPRR) in responding to a railroad trestle fire on the American River in Sacramento. The fire, fueled by creosote-treated railroad ties, was brought under control by local fire companies. OSPR personnel monitored the habitat cleanup and restoration as well as the collection and proper disposal of the fire suppression run-off in this incident. The UPRR trestle was totally rebuilt and is fully operational.

Asphalt Spill at Batiquitos Lagoon, San Diego (9-5-08) - A truck carrying 17 tons of asphalt crashed into Batiquitos Lagoon in San Diego. As a result of the crash approximately 60-80 gallons of diesel, 35 gallons of hydraulic fluid and 19 tons of asphalt spilled into the lagoon. The crash occurred at low tide, so the spilled materials went into the ground. Boom contained most of the spilled material.

Donner Lake Diesel Spill (5/26/10) - CDFW and Nevada County Environmental Health (NCEH) responded to a diesel spill that occurred on May 26 when a tanker truck overturned and spilled as much as 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel along I-80 on the west side of Donner Lake. Some of the material washed over the side of the interstate into the soil and into the watershed of Billy Mack and Summit Creeks. Crews completed all spill related work in the median along Interstate-80 near the Donner Summit.

Sandia Creek Tar Spill, Riverside County (10/23/12) - Crews responded to a truck wreck on De Luz Road near Temecula, after the vehicle released approximately 600 gallons of asphalt tar into Sandia Creek. The tar-coated vegetation along a 300-yard section of the creek, which is recognized as one of the last pristine, free-flowing creeks in Southern California.

Feather River Diesel Spill, Plumas County (1/25/13) - OSPR supported CDFW Region 2's response to a diesel spill near the town of Keddie. The spill took place around 1:30 a.m. when a boulder fell and struck the fuel tank of a Union Pacific Railroad train. Approximately 3,200 gallons of diesel spilled onto land, with an unknown amount reaching the water. Sheen was reported as far as six miles downstream. Boom was deployed to capture gross product in the waterway and no wildlife was impacted.

Chemical Plants

Searles Lake – At Searles Dry Lake near Trona, hypersaline industrial wastewater is discharged into several large ponds. Migrating birds stopping at the ponds have died from salt toxicosis, salt encrustation, oiling, and possibly other causes. Over 2,000 dead birds were collected from January 2000 through July 2005.

Montrose CERCLA Site – Between the late 1940s and the early 1970s, the Montrose Chemical

Plant discharged an estimated 1,800 tons of the pesticide DDT into Los Angeles County sewers that empty into the Pacific Ocean. Montrose also dumped hundreds of tons of DDT-contaminated waste into the ocean near Santa Catalina Island. Other Los Angeles area industries also flushed massive amounts of PCBs into the ocean via the local sewer system. The contamination caused breeding failures in raptors, contaminated fish and adversely impacted the marine ecosystem.

Reaction Products/Reaction Products –Toluene Incident, Contra Costa County (5/5/08) - Approximately 3,300 gallons of the solvent toluene was released into a drainage ditch leading to San Pablo Bay after vandals stole a valve from an aboveground tank at the Reaction Products chemical manufacturing facility in Richmond. Most of the toluene was contained within the ditch, where it was collected before it reached the bay.

Mines

Iron Mtn. Mine CERCLA Site – Acid mine drainage from Iron Mtn. Mine in Shasta County runs out of the mine site and into several creeks, reservoirs, and the Sacramento River, impacting many miles of streams and adjacent land. Salmon kills have been noted since 1899. The contamination impacted instream habitat and wildlife (fish, macroinvertebrates), riparian habitat and fisheries (salmon).

New Almaden Mine CERCLA Site – Operation of the New Almaden Mine released injurious amounts of mercury into the Guadalupe River watershed and south San Francisco Bay. The contamination impacted anadromous and other fish species, riparian and saltmarsh birds, and aquatic invertebrates.

Leviathan Mine CERCLA Site – Since 1954, acid mine drainage (AMD) from the Leviathan Mine has been running out of the mine site and into several creeks, impacting many miles of streams and adjacent land in Alpine County, Calif. and Douglas County, NV. Impacted resources include instream habitat and wildlife (fish, macroinvertebrates), riparian habitat, tribal resource uses, and recreational uses (fishing).

Other Spills

Los Angeles Harbor Mystery Spill (4/19/07) – A sheen of Red dye diesel appeared in the Los Angeles Harbor near Berth 240. Investigators estimated the spill to be approximately 210 gallons, but the source was unknown.

Crimson/Dominguez Channel, Long Beach (12/21/10) - Over a period of several months, the Department of Fish and Game, OSPR was notified of – and responded to – numerous reports of oils sheen and oil in the Dominguez Channel, in southern Los Angeles County. Oil was frequently entering the local storm water sump near the Dominguez Channel. OSPR dispatched Field Response Teams to various locations to investigate several sites. One site was identified where oil was flowing out of the ground near a set of railroad tracks adjacent to the sump.

California Tsunami Response (3/11/11) - A magnitude 8.9 earthquake hit Japan's northeastern coast, causing a massive tsunami that in turn generated a smaller tsunami event along the California coastline. The resulting large wave surges caused damage to ports, harbors and infrastructure in California, particularly in the Santa Cruz and Crescent City harbors, where numerous sunken and otherwise damaged vessels posed serious pollution threats. In preparation for the tsunami event on

the California Coast, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG), California Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) and local governments mobilized and prepared for responding to human health, pollution, and other emergencies.

Stanley Hall, Strawberry Creek, UC Berkeley (12/10/11) - University California at Berkeley authorities received notification of diesel spill from a fuel tank (maintained for the emergency generators) into the basement of Stanley Hall, one of its laboratory buildings. Approximately 1,700 gallons of diesel fuel spilled and sump pumps in the basement moved some of the fuel out into Strawberry Creek, which leads to the Berkeley Marina. Crews removed oil from the creek and in January 2012 announced that active cleanup efforts would end, although monitoring of the area would continue for possible residue in pockets within the storm drain system. Responders were able to recover nearly 60 percent of the product.