

**Northwest Joint Area Committee Meeting**  
**Hosted by USCG Sector Columbia River and ODEQ**  
**Virtual Meeting**  
**Tuesday 31 August 2021, 0900-1530 hours**

**Attendance record provided following summary notes**

**Welcome and Opening Statements from Area Committee Planning Partners**

This meeting is hosted by ODEQ and USCG Sector Columbia River, and attended by all Area Committee planning partners in the Northwest Area. LCDR Jarrod Pomajzle (USCG Sector Columbia River), CPT Gretchen Baily (USCG Sector Columbia River), Stephanie Wenning (EPA R10), Mike Greenburg (ODEQ), and Linda Pilkey-Jarvis and Carlos Clemmons (WA Ecology). Notable items: Dale Jensen has retired from WA Ecology. Linda Pilkey-Jarvis introduces Carlos Clements as the new Spills Program Manager at WA Department of Ecology. Mr. Clements comes to Ecology from the U.S. Air Force where he spent over 20 years, most recently filling a role in international crisis management.

**OSC Reports**

**USCG Sector Puget Sound** (LCDR Brian Dykens)

- NRC Notifications (7 March-7 June 2021): 137
- RRT Activations: 0
- Federal Projects: 4
- CERCLA Projects: 1
- Notable Incidents Presented: Lopez Island recreational vessel in August 2021, Gig Harbor sunken vessel in August 2021 and the P/C Northwestern response near Stewart Island in the San Juan Archipelago.
- Trainings: The Sector held Marine Firefighting and USACE Orientation trainings, and a training with the South Whidbey Island Fire Department.
- Planning/Coordination: The Sector participated in planning meetings with Zone 3 Hazmat Providers, the King County LEPC, the NWAC GRP Workgroup, and the NWAC Tribal Engagement Subcommittee.
- Exercises/Workshops: The Sector held a GIUE at the SeaPort Midstream Terminal in June, and a PREP Quarterly Notification Drill in August. The Sector will host a tabletop exercise on Sept. 30<sup>th</sup>, and will send invitations out to planning partners.

**USCG Sector Columbia River** (Chief Warrant Officer Brandon Selfridge)

- NRC Notifications: 57
- RRT Activations: 0
- Federal Projects: 1
- CERCLA Projects: 2
- Notable Incidents Presented: Pleasure craft Hobo at Waikiki Beach in August, and an unnamed pleasure craft at Coal Creek Sough in Longview, WA in August.
- Trainings: The Sector held Pollution Responder Break-In, FOSC Break-In, and Salvage Operation trainings since March 2021. A COBALT training is scheduled for 21-24 September 2021.

- Planning/Coordination: The Sector will participate in the RRT10 scheduled for 1 September 2021.
- Exercises/Workshops: The Sector participated in an IMAT exercise on the WCD Columbia River in May, and a GRP Deployment exercise in Longview Fishers Landing in August.

**ODEQ (SOSC Ray Hoy)**

- Notable Incidents Presented: Hedges Creek copper pesticide release in Tualatin, OR. A contractor performing work at a residence poured the copper pesticide waste down a residential storm drain, which followed stormwater outfall and impacted the Hedges creek, a pristine riparian zone and outfall to the Tualatin River. Agencies notified included the ORNS, the NRC, and subsequently US FWS, OR DEPT Fish and Wildlife, DEQ and the Confederated Tribes Grand Ronde. Response contractors for the municipality deployed boom and plugged a culvert to prevent the contaminated water from reaching the Tualatin Reservoir. An RRT10 representative notified NMFS. NMFS notification should go through NOAA Marla Steinhoff.

**WA Dept. of Ecology (SOSC Dave Byers)**

- Notifications / Incidents Count: Oil: 2,905; Hazmat/Pollutant: 1,196; Vessel Incidents: 103; Vessel Spills: 41; Drug Labs: 90
- Exercises/Workshops: Ecology held 13 tabletop exercises, 26 non-GRP deployment exercise, 12 GRP deployment exercises, and one unannounced ECY-led exercise. Ecology participated in a Non-Floating Oils virtual workshop in June. A Marine Mammal Management Workshop is scheduled for September 8<sup>th</sup>, and six Worst Case Tabletop exercise in the future.
- Department Updates: Ecology continues to support illegal marijuana grow operations. The hiring freeze previously placed on the department is lifted, and Ecology is hiring positions in training support, enforcement support, and response. Equipment recently purchased includes gas meters, infrared/ramen spectrometers, trucks, and sorbent stockpile. State employees will be required to be vaccinated by 18 October 2021, and the requirement includes a religious and medical exemption. Response staffing: Ecology has moved to responders responding from home, and the model has been successful.
- Grant Updates: The Ecology Spills Program (spill penalties and NRDA) recently awarded 10 Restoration grants in the amount of \$370,000 to fund projects including shoreline restoration, riparian habitat improvement, invasive weed eradication, and wetland restoration. Ecology's Firefighting and Equipment grant program has received 41 applications; \$3.1M is available for reward, but applications have totaled to \$6.1M, so competition to receive grant funding is significant.

**EPA Region 10 (FOSC Randy Nattis and Stephanie Wenning)**

- NRC Notifications (7 March-7 June 2021): 609; 453 oil, 156 hazmat
- RRT Activations: 0
- OPA Projects: 1
- CERCLA Projects: 2
- Notable Incidents Presented: Hedges Creek copper solution release Tualatin, OR in June and the Toppenish Creek Truck Spill 8 August 2021.
- Training: EPA presented and participated in a Non-Floating Oils Workshop in June.
- Planning/Coordination: EPA participation in planning in the Cascadia Rising 2022 exercise continues.
- Exercises/Workshops: EPA participated in a UPRR Equipment Deployment exercise in June, a virtual UPRR IMTX, and the Clean Pacific conference in August.

**Presentation: Review of Non Floating Oil Workshop****Presented by Holly Robinson, Maritime Fire and Safety Association**

The Maritime Fire and Safety Association (MFSA) held a virtual workshop in June 2021 on Non Floating Oils. MFSA is a nonprofit organization that provides emergency services to the maritime industry along the Columbia and Willamette Rivers. The Non-Floating Oils Workshop was held over a virtual platform, and replaced a large scale multi-hazard worst case discharge exercise which was canceled due to COVID. After five years of planning with multiple agencies, COVID concerns required MFSA to cancel the live large scale exercise a few days before the scheduled date. Oregon and Washington hold regulatory requirements for exercises, and MFSA sought an alternate means to fulfill the exercise requirements. Clean Pacific planning meeting experience was helpful in creating mindful goals for the workshop. The core planning group brainstormed and developed the agenda in January 2021. Core planners intended the sessions to flow and build upon one another. The target audience of the workshop was stakeholders responding to a Non-Floating Oils spill. Over 100 participants enrolled in first few weeks, and over 250 attended. MFSA contracted with a professional production company to ensure success for virtual presentation elements, and the professional support was a key element to the success of the workshop. Production was mindful and carefully coordinated, including contingencies for technical problems, and carefully planned breaks, and transitions between session. Most presentations were pre-recorded to limit technical challenges. The workshop presented two days of NFO issues presented by subject matter experts, and ended with a tabletop exercise which included unified command and situation reports that included modeling tools. The presentation recordings may be reviewed at the MFSA website at <https://mfsa.com/nfo-workshop-2021/>.

**Questions / Discussion:** A meeting participant noted that the Zenith Trans Shipment Facility in the Northwest area of response (AOR) has increased the throughput of NFO, and asked if planners and responders in the area of response (AOR) are equipped to respond to a potential spill of increased size. ODEQ representative Scott Smith replied that response agencies and planners are aware of the increase in NFO throughput at the facility, have incorporated the Zenith facility into area planning, and are planning/exercising NFO response scenarios to address the general increase of NFO product in the AOR. Holly Robinson of MFSA added that while the overall product throughput at the facility may increase, the capacity of vessels carrying the product remains the same, and the size of a single potential spill would not increase.

**Presentation Abandoned Derelict Vessel Blue Ribbon Program****Presented by Hilary Wilkinson, Abandoned Derelict Vessel Workgroup Chair**

Hilary Wilkinson currently serves as the Chair of the Abandoned Derelict Vessel (ADV) Workgroup within the Oil Spill Task Force for British Columbia and the U.S. Pacific States (the Task Force). Wilkinson presented an overview of the ADV Workgroup findings, white paper recommendations from the Workgroup, and a model program created by the Workgroup titled the "ADV Blue Ribbon Program." In 2017, the Task Force identified the issue of ADVs as a common threat and a critical emerging issue and identified that there was a need for a comprehensive ADV program for the West coast. In 2018, the Task Force formed the ADV Workgroup, which was comprised of ADV experts and program leads from each of the five Task Force jurisdictions: Alaska, California, Hawaii, Oregon, and Washington. The ADV Workgroup's initial task was to document the scope and scale of the problem of ADVs across each jurisdiction. The ADV Workgroup published a White Paper in 2019, and established the ADV Blue Ribbon

Program in January 2020. The Blue Ribbon Program provides guidance to west coast North America and describes measures which a states/provinces can implement to effectively address ADVs. The Blue Ribbon Program is a program model developed by the ADV Workgroup, for use by the states of AK, CA, HI, OR, and WA. The ADV Workgroup identified five fundamental elements and 30+ recommendations for states to implement. The five fundamental elements are: 1.) Authority, 2.) Prevention, 3.) Public Outreach/Education, 4.) Removal/Deconstruction, and 5.) Funding. Wilkinson shared a key handful of the 30+ recommendations with the audience. The Blue Ribbon program also includes six recommendations for federal partners to the states / province. The Blue Ribbon Program can be reviewed in full at [Abandoned and Derelict Vessels | Oil Spill Task Force](#). Audience members may contact Hilary Wilkinson via email at [hilary@vedaenv.com](mailto:hilary@vedaenv.com)

### **Panel Discussion: Abandoned Vessels in the Northwest Area**

#### **Facilitated by Sector Columbia River, Panelists include all stakeholders on the call**

A summary of discussion comments follows.

Scott Smith (ODEQ) – Oregon is taking multiple paths to enact the Blue Ribbon Program recommendations. Oregon plans to approach the state legislature to show the extent of the problem, and is currently partnering with several state agencies to develop a tool that will allow multiple agencies to input and track vessels. ODEQ is currently drafting a letter to federal delegations to recognize the issue of ADVs. ODEQ is also working with other state agencies to align authorities to address ADVs. ODEQ is appealing to the state legislature to require insurance for owners, increase funding sources, and allow multiple responding agencies to access the funds. ODEQ continues to look for gaps in the legal system that are exacerbating the ADV issue.

Brandon Selfridge and Connor Sutton (USCG Sector Columbia River) – So far this year, Sector Columbia River has seen five ADV cases which totaled \$531,700 in federal funds. The sector reviewed USCG policy on ADVs, captured the USCG Marine Environmental Response and Preparedness Manual (MERMAN). The manual describes that vessels unattended for over 45 days can be designated as ADVs. Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) and CERCLA funds are only available for ADV removal if the vessels present a threat of discharge. After oil and hazmats are removed, the remaining vessel bodies are often a magnet for dumping, creating an additional hazard at a later date. Federal state and local coordination is essential to remove ADVs. USCG personnel in the field use an internal 5600 form to inventory ADVs, and fill out state forms, so the data collection platform that Oregon is progressive. Older wooden vessels when oil soaked can be addressed by USCG .

A summary of general discussion points follows.

- The Governors of WA, OR, and CA have written a joint letter to the west coast congressional delegations regarding resources to address ADVs, and is currently still under draft at the Governors offices.
- Scrapping vessels is specialized and complicated, and not profitable enough for private enterprises to be interested in processing ADVs, so private industry has not been active in this.
- A suggestion was posed that the vessels could be sunk to create reefs for diving tourism. This possibility was reviewed in the past, but EPA ultimately does not endorse ocean disposal, due to potential contamination issues from paints and other materials on vessels which might have long term contamination potential.

- A suggestion was made that taxes or tax incentives would be the most effective tool to create momentum on cleaning up ADVs.
- States have come to the conclusions that new legislation and funding is needed to address the ADV problem at this point.
- USCG is actively engaged and welcomes assisting states in collecting information on ADVs to assist in cataloguing the vessels.
- Large ADVs are high profile and create interest, but the number of smaller vessels is creating a significant burden.
- Suggestion to invite State Senators to attend the annual Oil Spill Task Force meeting on 17 November 2021 to participate in a panel discussion of the ADV Blue Ribbon Report recommendations. The audience is invited to attend this virtual meeting, and registration is available at <https://oilspilltaskforce.org/task-force-events/annual-meeting/>
- The current cost of Discussion on how to show congress that dealing with ADVs up front is more cost effective than waiting. This group and the ADV tasks force is looking to identify ways to address ADVs, and new legislation appears to be the next step needed.

### **Northwest Area Planning Agency Updates**

Northwest Area planning partners agencies share information from their respective agencies regarding legislation, initiatives, trainings, and updates to respective agency plans.

#### **EPA (Stephanie Wenning)**

Waters of the US Rule (WOTUS) EPA and USACE have announced changes to the WOTUS rule, restoring rules to the status that was in place prior to 2015, and the rules are currently undergoing public comment. Public meetings and dockets for public comment are currently ongoing. The final rule for Subpart J regarding monitoring requirements for subsurface and prolonged dispersant use published in July 2021 will take effect in January 2022. The NWAC is currently working to ensure that dispersant use in Region 10 is in compliance with the new rule.

#### **WA Dept. of Ecology (Linda Pilkey Jarvis and Carlos Clemmons)**

Ecology is holding a virtual Marine Mammal Workshop on 8 September 2021. Presentations will be recorded and posted on Ecology's Oil Spills 101 website at [Oil Spills 101 \(wa.gov\)](https://www.wa.gov/oil-spills-101).

#### **ODEQ (Wes Risher) (ODEQ)**

ODEQ is participating in a DOE Clear Path Nine Fuels tabletop exercise on 20 September 2021, where agencies will support fuel operations after a catastrophic earthquake along the Cascadia subduction zone fault. The goal of the exercise is to understand fuel assets and carry out fuel missions in Washington and Oregon during a post-earthquake timeline. The training is by invitation. USCG selected the Portland Critical Infrastructure Hub as the scenario location for the SONS exercise happening in conjunction with the Cascadia Rising exercise. Union Pacific and BNSF railroads are required to submit their Railroad Contingency Plans for review by the state, and have submitted an extension request for plan submission, in order to minimize need for future updates. ODEQ has eight upcoming drills, with six as worst case scenarios. All eight drills will be virtual with an in-person component, and ODEQ has developed a new online common operating platform for use during three of the worst case drills. ODEQ looks forward to working with NOAA and Ecology to put on an Environmental Unit Leader Training Class.

#### **USCG District 13 (Elizabeth Petras)**

Sector Puget Sound and Sector Columbia River established their own Sector ACPs in accordance with the USCG national directive. The ACPs are currently being reviewed at the national level to ensure consistency and effectiveness. The Puget Sound and Columbia River ACPs are newly drafted documents not previously existing in the region, and proved to be on par with existing ACPs. The Sector Puget Sound and Columbia River ACPs are scheduled to be finalized in December 2021. Some areas for improvement were noted, and those will be addressed within the normal update cycle.

### **Drone Initiative / CFV Tiffany Review**

#### **Presented by Brandon Selfridge , USCG Sector Columbia River**

Sector Columbia River presented final status and lessons learned from the F/V Tiffany Removal. Final numbers of hazmat removed were 6,400 gallons of diesel/oily water, 50 gallons of oil, 3,000 pounds of hazardous waste, and other miscellaneous items of hazmat. One significant lesson learned was that disposal of the hazardous materials would have been easier if Clean Harbors had been contracted early in the response. Within days of hazardous material removal, transient populations and dumping commenced on the vessel. Currently, no enforcement action has been initiated. The cost of the removal \$875,000 of OSLTF and \$75,000 from CERCLA.

UAS Initiative: D13 has approved the Sector Columbia to proceed with ordering assets. Sector Columbia River will mirror Sector Puget Sound's program. Sector Columbia River has two IMD personnel approved as drone operators, and plans to train additional personnel. Use of UAS will expedite process of mystery drums and sheens where access has previously been limited.

### **Presentation: NOAA UAS Program – Remote Sensing in the Gulf of Mexico**

#### **Presented by Lisa DiPinto, NOAA**

Deepwater Horizon provided opportunities for NOAA to research detection of oil thickness using remote sensing platforms, specifically unmanned aerial systems (UAS, or "drones"). BSSE and NOAA partnered to expanding the use of remote sensing / UAS to meet response objectives, such as determining oil thickness and emulsion. NOAA performed control tests, combining UAS collected imagery with multi-spectral sensors, to create high resolution mapping. NOAA was able to use UASs to obtain multispectral data for SCAT, perform oil detection and thickness classification, perform vegetation assessment for changes in vegetative health, and document shoreline erosion over time. Examples of offshore experiments performed by NOAA included surface slick characterization, water column characterization, and combining fluorometry with UAS imagery. Details of the research is available on BSSE's website at <https://www.bsee.gov/research-records-list> through the record search engine. NOAA is currently working with EPA and USCG to research the use of remote sensing of oil in arctic environments, and the use of UAS/remote sensing techniques to supplement operations during in situ burn SMART protocol operations. Dr. DiPinto may be contacted at [lisa.dipinto@noaa.gov](mailto:lisa.dipinto@noaa.gov).

### **Closing Statements and Meeting Adjournment**

Stephanie Wenning (EPA R10) and Mark Dietrich (IDEQ) thank attendees and presenters for their participation.

### **Next Joint Area Committee Meeting**

Sector Puget Sound will host the next joint meeting of the Northwest Area Committees, tentatively scheduled for early March 2022. Please share input on meeting content or structure with Elizabeth Petras at [Elizabeth.J.Petras@uscg.mil](mailto:Elizabeth.J.Petras@uscg.mil) and Lori Muller at [muller.lori@epa.gov](mailto:muller.lori@epa.gov).

**END MEETING**

**Attendance Record**

The following members of the Northwest Area Committees were present during the initial roll call:

LCDR Jarrod Pomajzle (USCG Sector Columbia River), CPT Gretchen Baily (USCG Sector Columbia River), Stephanie Wenning (EPA R10), Mike Greenburg (ODEQ), and Linda Pilkey-Jarvis (WA Dept of Ecology), Carlos Clements (WA Dept. of Ecology), Lori Muller (EPA), Lisa DePinto (NOAA), Shayne Cothorn (WA Dept. of Ecology) a representative from the WA State Dept of Health Shellfish Program), (Susan Forsythe (WA State Emergency Management Division), Rob Whitlam (State of WA Dept Archaeology and Historic Preservation), Scott Lancaster (unspecified State Fire Marshalls Office), Tod Hass (WA Puget Sound Partnership), Dave Beyers (WA Ecology), Wes Risher (ODEQ), Kyrion Gray (ODEQ), Don Petit (ODEQ), Kimberly Van Patten (ODEQ), Scott Smith (ODEQ), Sara Idczak (ODEQ), Andrew Mason (NOAA), Heather Parker (Navy), Allison O'Brien Hall (DOI) Heather Parker (U.S. Navy), Allison Obrien-Hall (DOI), Heidi McMaster (Bureau of Reclamations PNW), Matt Slolum (National Weather Service), Glenn Schroeder (DOI), Joel Appair (USACE Regional Headquarters), Diane Barton (Columbia River Intertribal Fish Commission), Tiffany Royall (NW Indian Fisheries Commission), Xochitl Casteneda (USCG Sector Puget Sound), Ray Hoy (ODEQ), Mark Curtis, Randy Nattis (EPA), Rebecca Paradis (Collin County), Commander Valente (Sector Columbia River), Bob McFarland (USCG D13), Elizabeth Petras (USCG D13), Dean Johnston (USCG Sector Puget Sound), Brandon Selfridge (USCG Sector Columbia River), Bryon Dykens (USCG Sector Puget Sound). Summary Notes were captured by Hilary Gafford of Weston Solutions.