OSPR and California’s Diverse Harbor Safety Committees

NOAA Hydrographic Services Review Panel

Captain Thomas Cullen
OSPR Administrator

Long Beach, California
April 9, 2015
Office of Spill Prevention & Response (OSPR)
Created in 1991
by the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act;
OSPR is the lead State agency for oil spill prevention and response in California
OSPR’s mission

Provide Best Achievable Protection of California’s natural resources by preventing, preparing for, and responding to spills of oil and other deleterious materials, and by restoring and enhancing affected resources.
Our Protective “Umbrella”

- Contingency planning
- Regulations development
- Oil Spill Response Organization oversight
- Drills and exercises
- Specialized incident response training
- Demonstration of financial responsibility (insurance)
- Local Government Training and Coordination

- Verify adequate safety measures and monitoring in place
- Arriving vessel risk analysis
- Marine navigation oversight
- Marine and petroleum facility pollution prevention and response visits
  - Spill Dispatch Center
  - Incident Command
  - Oiled wildlife care and restoration
  - Investigations (criminal and civil actions)
Inland Oil Spills in Surface Waters
OSPR Spill Tracking Data Base
2010 - 2012
SB 861 Expanded Responsibilities
Unified Command

Incident Command

COMMAND STAFF

FED

CDFW

RP

SAFETY

PIO

LIAISON

OPERATIONS

PLANNING

LOGISTICS

FINANCE
Among the Administrator’s duties ...

- § 8670.23. Harbor Safety Committees; members; qualifications; chairperson and vice chairperson; removal of members; reimbursement for expenses (a) The administrator shall establish Harbor Safety Committees for harbors and adjacent regions of San Diego; Los Angeles/Long Beach; Port Hueneme; San Francisco; and Humboldt Bay ...

- § 8670.24. Pilotage areas; evaluations (a) The administrator shall evaluate all pilotage areas in the state ...
California’s Harbor Safety Committees

- Five Harbor Safety Committees
  - Humboldt Bay
  - San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun Bays
  - Port Hueneme
  - Los Angeles / Long Beach
  - San Diego

- Members appointed by OSPR Administrator
- Annual Harbor Safety Plans
- Make recommendations to the Administrator for safe navigation
California’s Harbor Safety Committees

- Port Authorities
- Federal partners (USCG, ACOE, NOAA, USN, etc)
- Cargo Vessel Operators
- Tank Ship Operators
- Marine Oil Terminal Operators
- Tug or Tank Barge Operators
- Passenger Ferry Operators
- Pilots
- Labor Organization
- Commercial Fishing
- Recreational Boaters
- Nonprofit Environmental Organization
- CCC or BCDC
California HSCs are unique in the nation

- Share Best Maritime Practices throughout California
- Committees and Members have liability protection
- Both San Francisco Bay Region HSC Los Angeles/Long Beach HSC have been named National Harbor Safety Committee of the Year (SF Bay HSC twice)
Some Current HSC topics

- Humboldt Bay HSC advising Mariners to stay away from NOAA Buoy 46022 (gone adrift 4 times in last 6 years due to line entanglement)
- San Francisco Bay Region HSC looking at changing speed restrictions for ATBs
- Port Hueneme HSC studying possible piloting of cruise ships into Santa Barbara.
- Los Angeles/Long Beach HSC discussing escort requirements for ATBs. Modeling swell effects on under keel clearance of ULCCs.
- San Diego HSC outreaching to personal watercraft operating in main channels and impeding traffic.
Thank You!