



## Oil Spill Task Force News Release

---

SEPTEMBER 2, 2009

CONTACT – JEAN CAMERON: 503-392-5860

### **California, Alaska, Oregon, Washington, Hawaii, and British Columbia join to honor efforts to improve oil spill prevention and response**

The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force will give its 2009 Legacy Awards for Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness, and Response at the Clean Pacific Conference in Portland, Oregon on September 15, 2009. This year's Legacy Award winners are:

- Richard Wright, retired Pacific NW Regional Vice President of the Marine Spill Response Cooperative;
- Joseph Mullin, Manager of the Minerals Management Service's National Oil Spill Response Research Program;
- Alan Allen, an oil spill consultant working as "Spiltec"; and
- Scott Knutson, U.S. Coast Guard District 13 Response Advisory Team Supervisor.

Legacy Awards may be given to industry, non-profit, or public agency organizations and individuals, or for team efforts. The Task Force gives Legacy Awards for projects, accomplishments, or leadership that demonstrates innovation, management commitment, and improvements in oil spill prevention, preparedness, or response resulting in enhanced environmental protection. Efforts to promote partnerships and involve the public are favored. Organizations, individuals, or projects nominated for the Legacy Award should primarily be located in or operating in the Task Force jurisdictions of Alaska, British Columbia, Washington, Oregon, California, and Hawaii. Organizations or individuals representing a regulated industry must demonstrate a satisfactory history of compliance with state, provincial, and federal oil spill regulations.

Jean Cameron, Executive Coordinator for the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force, characterizes the 2009 Legacy Award winners as "men who define 'legacy' by their numerous contributions to improving oil spill prevention, planning and response, not only here on the Pacific Coast, but nationally and internationally as well."

Brief details on the accomplishments of the 2009 Legacy Award winners are as follows:

### Richard Wright

Richard Wright recently retired as the Regional Vice President of the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) Pacific/Northwest Region, which encompasses Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii. Prior to the merger of the Clean Sound Cooperative, Inc. with MSRC in April of 2005, he was the President of Clean Sound. He is also a retired U. S. Coast Guard Captain. In April of 2005, Mr. Wright expertly guided the MSRC merger with Clean Sound; this merger has enhanced the readiness and response capabilities in Washington, Oregon, and Hawaii by making a larger inventory of resources available. Richard Wright has always felt his role was to be a significant liaison and honest broker between the oil/gas industry, agencies, tribes, other contractors, and the interested public. He has been successful in achieving this goal by contributing to an improved understanding of issues and by communicating common goals among all parties. Richard Wright can be contacted for comment at: 206-940-3285 or at [richardwrightassoc@hotmail.com](mailto:richardwrightassoc@hotmail.com).

### Joseph Mullin

Joe Mullin has been the Program Manager for the U.S. Department of the Interior, Minerals Management Service's (MMS) Nationwide Oil Spill Response Research (OSRR) Program for more than 18 years; in that capacity he is responsible for research priorities and the management of contractual research. Mr. Mullin's research has focused on the study of crude oil's chemical and physical properties, remote sensing, mechanical oil recovery, in-situ burning, chemical treating agents and dispersants, and arctic spill response. He is directly involved in the evaluation of many different types of oil spill response equipment and techniques as well as the development and testing of numerous oil spill countermeasures such as fire-resistant booms, skimmers for broken ice conditions, in-situ burning in various environments, and cold water dispersant effectiveness. His experience with in-situ burning of oil derives from participation in more than 200 research burns in the U.S., Canada, and overseas. Under Mr. Mullin's direction, MMS's OSRR program has successfully developed, coordinated and managed more than 150 research projects and technical assessment studies; project reports are available at [www.mms.gov/tarphome](http://www.mms.gov/tarphome). His collaborative efforts are extensive and he has worked with all major North American and European R&D Programs. Mr. Mullin has authored or co-authored 134 scientific papers, technical articles and peer-reviewed publications. He has conducted scientific presentations at numerous national and international oceanographic, hydrographic, and oil spill conferences. In addition, Joe has been responsible for the successful operation and management of Ohmsett – the National Oil Spill Response Test Facility located at the U.S. Naval Weapons Station in Leonardo, New Jersey ([www.ohmsett.com](http://www.ohmsett.com)) - for more than 16 years. Ohmsett is the only facility in the world that allows full-scale oil spill response testing, training and research on a variety of oils in a marine environment under controlled conditions. Joe Mullin can be contacted for comment at (703) 787-1556 or at [joseph.mullin@mms.gov](mailto:joseph.mullin@mms.gov).

*PACIFIC STATES • BRITISH COLUMBIA OIL SPILL TASK FORCE*

Alaska British Columbia California Hawaii Oregon Washington  
PO Box 1032 • Neskowin, OR 97149 • <http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org>  
Tel/Fax (503) 392-5860 • Email: [JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com](mailto:JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com)

### Alan Allen

Mr. Allen has over 40 years experience as a technical advisor and field supervisor involving hundreds of oil spills around the world. He has conducted research, developed strategies, and developed equipment involving the physical removal, chemical treatment, and controlled burning of spilled oil under a broad range of conditions, while providing operational guidance for government and industry organizations involving critical on-scene decisions during responses. With projects spanning 65 countries, he has developed specialized strategies and equipment for the prevention, surveillance and control of oil spills. He has also conducted hundreds of oil spill training courses under arctic, temperate and tropic conditions. More information on Al Allen's background is available at: <http://www.spiltec.com/>. Mr. Allen can be contacted for comment at 425-869-0988 or at [alan@spiltec.com](mailto:alan@spiltec.com).

### Scott Knutson

Scott Knutson is a civilian staffer at the U.S. Coast Guard District 13 who has provided exceptional leadership, mentoring, and planning on numerous projects in the US and Canada. His perseverance has directly led to significant positive results in the areas of response planning, training, cross-border communications, equipment testing, and oil spill drill facilitation and evaluation. Among other accomplishments, Mr. Knutson has contributed to improvements in pumps used for viscous oil, he co-chaired the first National Maritime Salvage Conference, he has provided first-responder training for Coastal Tribes, and he organizes the annual NW Oil Spill Course as well as the annual "Ad Hoc Equipment Meeting" to critique the latest spill response technologies. He has been successful with the interested public, contingency plan holders, tribal members, contractors, and Canadian governmental officials, all for the benefit of spill prevention and response. Mr. Knutson can be contacted for comment at (206) 220-7219 or at [Scott.R.Knutson@uscg.mil](mailto:Scott.R.Knutson@uscg.mil).

More detailed information on the wide range of accomplishments of our 2009 Legacy Award winners will be provided at the awards presentation, or you may contact Jean Cameron at 503-392-5860 or at [jeanrcameron@oregoncoast.com](mailto:jeanrcameron@oregoncoast.com). Digital photos illustrating the efforts of our 2009 Legacy Award winners are also available upon request.

\* \* \* \* \*

The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force provides a regional forum for coordination and collaboration on oil spill prevention and response policies that protect over 56,660 miles of coastline from the Beaufort Sea to the Baja Peninsula and out through the island chain of Hawaii. The Task Force Members are the directors of the oil spill prevention and response agencies in Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. For further information on the

Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force and on the Legacy Awards, including past winners, please visit our website at [www.oilspilltaskforce.org](http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org).

The Task Force member agencies are co-hosting the 2009 Clean Pacific Conference with the U.S. Coast Guard. Since 2009 marks the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of both the Oil Spill Task Force as well as the Exxon Valdez oil spill, the theme for the 2009 Clean Pacific Conference is *Building on the Past, Charting the Way Forward*. We will focus on accomplishments over the past 20 years as well as the challenges ahead. The Clean Pacific conference opens on September 14<sup>th</sup> and runs through September 16<sup>th</sup> at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland. Program and registration information are available at [www.cleanpacific.org](http://www.cleanpacific.org).

The award presentations will be made during the opening General Session from 8 to 10 a.m. on September 15<sup>th</sup>. Media wishing to attend the Legacy Awards presentation should go to the registration counter at the Oregon Convention Center and ask for a Press Pass. If you need any special assistance at that time, please ask for Laura Couvillon with the TradeFair Group.