

From: Ross, Peter (Pacific) <rosspe@dfo.mpo.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2007 4:42 PM
To: Reid, Bruce (Pacific) <ReidBru@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Ruecker, Kirsten <RueckerK@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Cc: Hutton, Karen <HuttonK@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Naito, Brian <NaitoB@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Paterson, Dale <PatersonD@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Kotyk, Mel <Kotykm@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>; Salomi, Corino <SalomiC@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca>
Subject: RE: DFO and Pollution response/ support

Hi all-

it strikes me that there are two problems: 1) there was a DFO NHQ (Ottawa) directive for OHEB to hand over enforcement activities to EC, but no formal notification was served to EC; 2) EC does not have the staff, logistical infrastructure and/or expertise to deal with marine spills/impact assessments (hence enforcement). The attitude on the latter tends to be that this is EC's business and no longer DFO's.

We may agree (or not) that there is be a logical place for DFO in spill response (habitat/impact assessment. science. enforcement) but Ottawa sees otherwise;

Regardless of this difference in 'perception', we find ourselves in the midst of a large amount of 'grey area' as EC is not fully aware of DFO's position, and may not be in a position to to an adequate job.

Is there an appetite for OHEB to write a Briefing Note that encapsulates 4-5 incidents, what we learned, how DFO was 'vulnerable' in terms of media/legal, and where we should go?

Peter S. Ross, PhD

Research Scientist

Institute of Ocean Sciences (Fisheries and Oceans Canada)

9860 West Saanich Rd

P.O. Box 6000 Sidney BC V8L 4B2 Canada

Tel ++1.250.363.6806 FAX ++1.250.363.6807

my website: http://www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/osap/people/ross/ross_e.htm

Chercheur scientifique

Institut des sciences de la mer (Pêches et Océans Canada)

9860, chemin ouest Saanich

B.P. 6000 Sidney (C.-B.) V8L 4B2, Canada

T: ++1.250.363.6806 F: ++1.250.363.6807

mon site web: http://www-sci.pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/osap/people/ross/ross_f.htm

Conducting science in support of healthy oceans and healthy marine mammals

-----Original Message-----

From: Reid, Bruce (Pacific)
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2007 3:49 PM
To: Ruecker, Kirsten
Cc: Hutton, Karen; Naito, Brian; Paterson, Dale; Kotyk, Mel; Ross, Peter (Pacific); Salomi, Corino
Subject: RE: DFO and Pollution response/ support

Kirsten: To improve everyone's understanding of "who does what" during a spill incident, I have been asked to prepare a brief summary of DFO's Pacific "current" roles and responsibilities for spill incidents (both marine and freshwater spills). We will also discuss with FAM and C&P regarding fishery closures and role of Science. Karen Hutton will be preparing a draft and I will ask her to talk to you regarding media inquiries. Once we have this sorted

DFO-505985

\\\\svbvcvnp01\Cohen-Comm\Second Review\Email\Science\Peter Ross\Cohen 2005 - 2008\Sent items\

CAN322433_0001

out internally, we will share with EC/Coast Guard.

Cheers...Bruce

-----Original Message-----

From: Ruecker, Kirsten
Sent: Tuesday, July 31, 2007 3:15 PM
To: Salomi, Corino; Reid, Bruce (Pacific)
Cc: Hutton, Karen; Naito, Brian; Paterson, Dale; Kotyk, Mel; Ross, Peter (Pacific)
Subject: RE: DFO and Pollution response/ support

Corino, Bruce:

Should you deem it appropriate, I could provide some input on the communications aspects/challenges DFO faces in responding to media inquiries on these incidents.

Regards,
Kirsten

-----Original Message-----

From: Ross, Peter (Pacific)
Sent: Sunday, July 29, 2007 9:55 AM
To: Salomi, Corino; Reid, Bruce (Pacific)
Cc: Hutton, Karen; Naito, Brian; Ruecker, Kirsten; Paterson, Dale; Kotyk, Mel
Subject: RE: DFO and Pollution response/ support

Hi Corino-

as discussed last week by phone, I share your concerns about DFO's role in incidents such as oil spills. I think the department is vulnerable on both the assessment (including Science advice) and the enforcement sides, as EC is not in a logistical or intellectual position to comprehensively address the marine fish/marine mammal habitat aspects. I would support a renewed discussion at the regional level of this issue, and would be willing to contribute from a Science perspective. If deemed appropriate, perhaps we should consider writing a Briefing Note both for Science and Habitat, as we folks 'in the trenches' have witnessed the failings of the incidents over the last 4 years.

I would welcome any thoughts on BN strategies, or meetings, to help clarify this.

Cheers,

-Peter

-----Original Message-----

From: Salomi, Corino
Sent: July 26, 2007 9:26 AM
To: Reid, Bruce (Pacific)
Cc: Hutton, Karen; Naito, Brian; Ross, Peter (Pacific); Ruecker, Kirsten; Paterson, Dale; Kotyk, Mel
Subject: DFO and Pollution response/ support

Bruce,

This weeks oil spill in Burrard Inlet has highlighted the need for DFO to update its role during major pollution events. I understand that this has been raised by others recently as well. The following text which I previously drafted with input from Karen Hutton could provide the basis for a regional discussion or briefing.

\\\\svbcvafnp01\Cohen-Comm\Second Review\Email\Science\Peter Ross\Cohen 2005 - 2008\Sent items\

CAN322433_0002

draft

"The recent oil spills in Burrard Inlet and the Squamish Estuary and the ongoing clean-up activities have highlighted some shortcomings in DFO's ability to provide requested support to agencies involved in spill containment and clean-up activities. Under the current marine spill response scenario the Canadian Coast Guard takes the lead spill response and clean-up role with support from Environment Canada. DFO is called upon by Coast Guard or recently Environment Canada to provide information on fish, mammal, and habitat resources and sensitivities; priorities for protection and clean-up; preferences for clean-up techniques; and impact and recovery assessment.

DFO involvement is generally initiated through spill reporting or Environment Canada contacting an area director through to an area chief and then the area biologist. While area biologists are generally able to provide information on fish and habitat in a given area most staff are not familiar enough with oil or chemical spill impacts, containment, or clean-up techniques to give practical or effective support. I have been advised that a regional meeting of spill response agencies such as MOE, DFO, EC, Coast Guard etc., has not occurred for over four years. It is apparent from recent events that coordination, effectiveness and understandings of roles and responsibilities of various parties is not clear. That being said the Canadian Coast Guard website for example http://www.pacific.ccg-gcc.gc.ca/er/Contplan/dfo_e.htm identifies DFO habitat management as providing support to spill events.

The recent Squamish oil spill was atypical in that a high proportion ~2/3rds of the ~30,000 litres of spilled oil was collected because it was trapped against the ship and under the dock.. Typically less than 10% of spill oil is actually recovered. Under different wind and tidal conditions the ship's 60,000 litres of fuel oil could have spilled and spread over the entire Squamish river estuary and tidal channels. While the impacts to fish and habitat have been under-reported in recent events such a scenario would likely result in significant and ongoing impacts to fish and habitat with much public and media attention. The Department would be called upon to provide significant support and advice on assessment and clean-up activities.

The Department's current spill response support capacity is limited and the Department's expectations of area staff's role in spill events needs to be clarified. If meaningful spill response support is expected to be provided by the Department there is a need to maintain expertise with ongoing training, practice and coordination with other agencies. I am recommending that this issue be raised in the region and that clarification be provided to the areas. I would also like to recommend that consideration be given to establishing a regional representative(s) that would be trained and up-to-date on spill response techniques and regional spill response protocols in order to provide meaningful support and coordination of DFO area biologists under various emergency and spill response scenarios. "

Corino Salomi

Head, Habitat Section / Section de l'utilisation des terres
Oceans, Habitat and Enhancement / L'habitat et de la mise en valeur
Lower Fraser (West) / Cours inférieur du Fraser
Fisheries and Oceans Canada / Pêches et Océans Canada
Telephone / Téléphone : (604) 666-8712
Facsimile / Télécopieur: (604) 666-6627
E-mail: salomic@pac.dfo-mpo.gc.ca

\\svbcvanfp01\Cohen-Comm\Second Review\Email\Science\Peter Ross\Cohen 2005 - 2008\Sent items\