The Puget Sound Partnership convened a Cross-Partnership Oil Spill Work Group during fall 2010 to fulfill its legislative responsibility to “provide independent advice and assessment of Washington State’s oil spill programs.”

The broadly based stakeholder work group met for three full days during September and October. At the conclusion of the group’s third meeting on October 29, 2010, the group adopted four recommendations by consensus of the attending members. The recommendations were developed with the intention they be forwarded to the Puget Sound Partnership’s Leadership Council for consideration as potential legislative priorities.¹

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Cross-Partnership Oil Spill Work Group – October 29, 2010

General Recommendation #1

Ensure the State Spill Program has Adequate and Stable Funding*

*We define the terms “adequate” and “stable” to mean:

“Adequate” means the level of revenue necessary to allow the Legislature to appropriate (authorize expenditure of) sufficient money to the Departments of Ecology and Fish & Wildlife to fully and efficiently implement their statutory directives.

“Stable” means that the inter-annual variation in the level of revenue available to support legislative appropriations is small enough to allow the agencies to have predictable staffing levels and consistently apply regulatory requirements over time.

General Recommendation #2

Ensure that sufficient and appropriate response equipment and trained personnel are positioned to safely, promptly and properly respond to potential worst-case spills to the maximum extent practicable, and are well-matched to locations and regardless of time of day and operating environments throughout the waters of the State. Such equipment should reflect best available and emerging technology and procedures deployed in order to achieve state’s goal of a “rapid, aggressive and well-coordinated response.”

General Recommendation #3
The Department of Ecology should receive adequate funding from the Legislature to ensure the effectiveness and coordination of vessels of opportunity programs.

- Ecology should work with the regulated industry, tribes, commercial fin fishers and shell fishers, spill response contractors, and the public in a collaborative process to define and ensure coordinated non-dedicated vessel of opportunity programs, including participation in drills.

- Industry oil spill contingency plan holders should be given appropriate response credit for the enhanced containment and recovery available from vessels of opportunity, as they comply with state contingency plan regulations.

**General Recommendation #4**

Effort should be made to enhance and make drill program more robust, including re-establishing presence of key participants (state, locals, tribes, federal) at drills.

With particular attention to:

- Gaps
- Cost effectiveness
- More on-water (deployments)
- Consistent performance and level playing field
- Up-scaled to include multiple plan holders and beyond 48 hours

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1. Members Present: October 29, 2010 – Cross-Partnership Oil Spill Work Group

   Work Group Chair – **Tom Leschine**, Director School of Marine Affairs, University of Washington
   Lead Staff & Contact – **Todd Hass**, Oil Spill Policy Specialist, Puget Sound Partnership (todd.hass@psp.wa.gov)

   - Tribal Government
     - Chad Bowechop, Makah Tribe
   - Counties
     - Commissioner **Mike Doherty**, Clallam County
     - Councilmember **Lovel Pratt**, San Juan County
   - Public Ports – **Johan Hellman**, WSPP
   - Business sectors
     - Oil refining – **Dave Sawicki**, BP (alt. Frank Holmes, WSPA)
     - Oil shipping – **Jeff Shaw**, Polar Tankers
     - Cargo and other shipping – **Mike Moore**, PMSA
     - Commercial fishing – **Leslie Hughes**, NPFVOA
     - Shellfish growing – **Lisa Bishop**, Little Skookum Shellfish Growers
   - Environmental organizations
     - **Bruce Wishart**, People For Puget Sound
     - **Jerry Joyce**, Seattle Audubon Society
• Recreational Boating – Lee Roussel, Citizens for a Healthy Bay
• Washington Department of Natural Resources – Shane Cothern

Ex Officio Members
• Department of Ecology – Dale Jensen
• Department of Fish and Wildlife – Dan Doty
• Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission – Joe Subsits
• National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration – Ruth Yender
• U.S. Coast Guard – Scott Knutson
• U.S. Department of the Interior – Jeff Krausmann