

# Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force

## Background

Recognizing the continued potential economic and ecological threats from aquatic invasive species, the 2009 Oregon Legislature passed House Bill 2714, reestablishing the task force charged with studying and making recommendations for preventing the shipping-related introduction of aquatic invasive species.

In addition to investigating emerging issues and opportunities to promote ballast water management regulatory consistency among West Coast states, the task force will consider other shipping-related risks, such as biofouling, that could transport aquatic invasive species into Oregon waterways. Previous reports from this biennial task force are available from the website listed below.

## Task force organization

DEQ's director appoints members to the Task Force to achieve equitable representation from the maritime industry, environmental and academic communities, relevant federal agencies and the states of Washington and California.

Appointed task force members for 2009-10 are:

- Ralph Breitenstein, Hatfield Marine Science Center (volunteer)
- Maurya Falkner, California State Lands Commission
- Jessica Hamilton Keys, Oregon Governor's Office
- Marla Harrison, Port of Portland
- Frank Holmes, Western States Petroleum Association
- Krista Jones, Lower Columbia River Estuary Partnership
- Dick Lauer, Sause Bros. Ocean Towing Co. Inc.
- Martin Nugent, Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Allen Pleus, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Mark Sytsma, Portland State University
- Lt. Bill Taylor, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Portland
- Jim Townley, Columbia River Steamship Operators
- Dick Vander Schaaf, The Nature Conservancy

In addition, the Oregon Senate president and speaker of the Oregon House of Representatives appoint two members from the Oregon Legislature to serve in an advisory capacity to the task force. The 2009-10 legislative advisors are:

- Sen. Jeff Kruse (Dist. 1, Roseburg)
- Sen. Joanne Verger (Dist. 5, Coos Bay)
- Rep. Arnie Roblan (Dist. 9, Coos Bay)
- Rep. Brad Witt (Dist. 31, Clatskanie)

## Objectives and responsibilities

HB 2714 (2009) directs the Shipping Transport of Aquatic Invasive Species Task Force to study and make recommendations on:

- combating the introduction of aquatic non-indigenous species associated with shipping-related transport into Oregon waters
- identifying sources of funding to support and maintain the Ballast Water Management Program
- developing potential changes to ballast water regulations that may address: shipping industry compliance, treatment technology advances, water quality discharge standards, compatibility with other pertinent laws, and new techniques or regulations that may reduce the risk of aquatic invasive species invasions
- advising potential rulemaking efforts to guide implementation of Oregon's ballast water regulations.

The task force will submit a report on its findings to the Oregon Legislature no later than June 1, 2010.

## Information and meeting schedule

DEQ anticipates bimonthly meetings of the task force beginning in autumn 2009. For more information about this task force, visit the DEQ Web link:

[www.deq.state.or.us/lq/cu/emergency/staistaskforce.htm](http://www.deq.state.or.us/lq/cu/emergency/staistaskforce.htm)

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Last Updated: 11/10/09  
By: Rian Hooff  
08-LQ-068