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- ◆ As mentioned in last weeks' edition of this newsletter, the State of California's Office of Spill Prevention and Response ("OSPR") is proposing to revise its Oil Spill Response Organization ("OSRO") rating program, with related changes being proposed for its Contingency Plan Regulations. Copies of the regulations and the proposed changes can be found on line at <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Ospr/regulation/regulation.html>. The revised OSRO regulations will require that OSRO's subject themselves to unannounced drills by the OSPR to verify their ability to respond and deploy equipment as stated in their OSRO's application. The OSRO will be subject to one unannounced drill per year in each Area Contingency Plan area in which a rating has been issued by the OSPR. If an OSRO realizes "significant" reductions in their resources (i.e., reductions that affect the OSRO's ability to respond consistent with their assigned rating level and response planning volume), additional unannounced drills may be conducted. The proposed requirements further state that "All non-government costs associated with the unannounced drill are the obligation of the OSRO." ***Editor's Note: While many of our member contractors are not located in California and are unlikely to apply as OSRO's in the state, this proposed regulation would set dangerous precedent should it pass as written. Most OSRO's are privately-owned companies, and cannot afford to fund deployment exercises – nor should they be required to do so - that are for the benefit of the state and/or potentially responsible party. Because of the significant decline in the number of spills occurring in U.S. waters, many OSRO's must look to spill drills and/or deployment exercise as a means to obtain additional funding to help offset the substantial costs associated with maintaining a ready-to-respond posture. If regulations like these continue to be drafted and are ultimately passed, OSRO's who are not currently charging retainers for their response services will be forced to do so to meet the demands placed upon them by these new requirements. We will continue to follow this issue and keep the membership informed of any developments through this newsletter.***
- ◆ As you may know, the Department of Transportation published its final rule on drug and alcohol testing procedures on December 19, 2000. One provision of this rule requires employers to inquire into the drug and alcohol testing records of applicants for employment. However, a group of maritime organizations asked the Department to provide a comment period on this provision. In response to the request, the DOT opened a 30-day comment period. Comments must be received by July 16, 2001, and should be sent to the Docket Clerk, Attn: Docket No. OST-99-6578, Department of Transportation, 400 7<sup>th</sup> Street SW,

Room PL401, Washington, DC, 20590. Instructions for electronic submission of comments can be found on-line at <http://dms.dot.gov/submit>. (Sources: *Maritime Items* and *Federal Register*)

- ◆ The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (“NOAA”) has opened a call for nominations for the 2001 Walter B. Jones Memorial and NOAA Awards for Excellence in Coastal and Ocean Resource Management. The awards program is offered biennially, and includes the only congressionally sanctioned awards for coastal resource conservation. The ten categories for award are: (1.) Coastal Steward of the Year; (2.) Excellence in Coastal and

Marine Graduate Study; (3.) Excellence in Local Government; (4.) Volunteer of the Year; (5.) Non-Governmental Organization of the Year; (6.) Excellence in Promoting Diversity in Coastal or Ocean Resource Management; (7.) Excellence in Business Leadership; (8.) Excellence in Coastal Zone Management; (9.) Excellence in Estuarine Reserve Management; and (10.) Excellence in Marine Sanctuary Management. All nominations must be received by July 31, 2001. More information can be obtained by calling 1-301-563-7212, e-mailing [jonesawards2001@noaa.gov](mailto:jonesawards2001@noaa.gov), or by visiting [www.nos.noaa.gov/jones\\_award.html](http://www.nos.noaa.gov/jones_award.html). ***Editor's Note: Numbers 1, 2, 4, 6, 8, 9, and 10 are given to individuals, with the remaining being awarded to local government, non-government entity, and business, respectively.***

- ◆ Speaking of NOAA, the agency recently announced that it intends to distribute Electronic Navigation Charts ("ENC's") of U.S. Waters on the Internet on or about July 16, 2001. The web site, when active, will be found at [www.chartmaker.nos.noaa.gov](http://www.chartmaker.nos.noaa.gov). The initial ENC's will be prototypes, and NOAA does not recommend that they be used for navigation. Once an update process is implemented, NOAA intends to make the ENC's available for use in navigation. (Source: *Maritime Items*)
- ◆ ***Congratulations!*** to Ro-Clean Desmi, who was recently awarded the Guinness World Record for developing the largest offshore oil containment boom in the world. Known as the RO-BOOM 3500, the boom has an overall height of 11.5 feet and was developed for use in the North Sea in Europe, where wave height can exceed 23 feet. (Source: *Maritime Reporter*)
- ◆ Authorities in the Galapagos Islands are set to file a major claim against the insurer and other parties over the grounding of the tanker "Jessica" in January. Insurance interests have denied any responsibility for the ship spilling oil, and said the protection and indemnity policy that it placed was canceled the previous year. The ship's owner, Acotramar, reportedly stated in public that it was unwilling to pay for the insurance any longer, and would not submit its vessel for survey. Lawyers for the island's government said they will sue if the insurance company refuses to pay on the reported \$10 million policy within thirty days. (Source: *Lloyd's List*)
- ◆ The Posidonia International Shipping Exhibition and Conference will take place in Piraeus, Greece June 4-7, 2002 at the Piraeus Exhibition Center. Applications for booth space and a site plan have already been issued. For more information on this event, visit the conference web site at [www.posidonia-events.com](http://www.posidonia-events.com), or call Posidonia Exhibitions at +30-1-428-3608.
- ◆ ***Work/Life/Health:*** Following are some tips to help run a good meeting, as provided by *Financial Times*: (1.) **Don't compete with group members** – give their ideas precedence over yours. (2.) **Listen to everyone** – paraphrase, don't judge. (3.) **Don't put anyone on the defensive** – assume everyone's ideas have value. (4.) **Control the dominant people** without alienating them. (5.) **Realize** that your interest and alertness are contagious. (6.) **Keep all participants informed** about where they are and what's expected of them. (7.) **Check** with the person who owns the problem to find out if an idea is worth pursuing or if a proposed solution is satisfactory. (8.) **Give others** a turn at running the meeting. (Source: *Communications Briefings*)
- ◆ ***Quote of the Week:*** "Those who compare the age in which their lot has fallen with a golden age which exists only in imagination, may talk of degeneracy and decay; but no man who is correctly informed as to the past will be disposed to take a morose or desponding view of the present." – Julia Crawford (1800-1885), *History of England [1849-1861]*, vol. I, ch. 1