

Oil Spill Contingency Planning Annual Report

Fiscal Year 2026

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Document information

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Executive summary

This report documents fees collected for oil spill contingency planning and preparedness activities conducted by the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality, for fiscal year 2026, beginning July 1, 2025, and ending June 30, 2026 (FY 2026). This report provides an analysis of the fees collected to ensure that revenue is sufficient to meet DEQ's budgetary needs to operate an effective oil spill contingency planning program.

This report is required by ORS 468B.412 and ORS 468B.405, which establish fees for covered vessels and facilities to be submitted to DEQ. The fees are dedicated to implementing the work required of DEQ by ORS 468B.300 through 468B.500, the statutes governing oil spill contingency planning and preparedness. Each year, DEQ publishes a report for the previous fiscal year documenting:

- Fees assessed and collected under ORS 468B.405 on covered vessels, pipelines and facilities located offshore and onshore
- DEQ activities conducted during the year as required by ORS 468B.410(4)
- Details on penalties received due to willful or negligent discharge of oil and the use of those funds

Fees collected by DEQ under ORS 468B.405 are used to review industry-prepared oil spill contingency plans, prepare geographic response plans for specific areas, and participate in drills and exercises to ensure plan holders and state responders may respond quickly and effectively to oil spills.



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Oil Spill Preparedness Program

DEQ has two mechanisms for funding its Oil Spill Preparedness Program: The Oil Spill Control Fund and the Oil Spill Prevention Fund.

Oil Spill Control Fund rules

[ORS 468B.450](#) establishes the Oil Spill Control Fund, which is supported by civil penalties imposed for the “willful or negligent discharge of oil.” Any person who willfully or negligently causes or permits the discharge of oil into the waters of the state shall incur, in addition to any other penalty provided by law, a civil penalty commensurate with the amount of damage incurred. All penalties recovered under [ORS 468B.450](#) shall be appropriated to the DEQ for:

- Cleanup activities
- Contingency plan reviews pursuant to [ORS 468B.360](#)
- Training, response exercises, inspections and tests to verify inventories and ability to respond to oil release emergencies pursuant to [ORS 468B.345](#)
- Verifying or establishing proof of financial responsibility required by [ORS 468B.390](#)
- Reviewing and revising oil spill response plans pursuant to [ORS 468B.495](#) and [ORS 468B.500](#)
- Restoring fish and wildlife production, including habitat restoration pursuant to [ORS 468B.060](#)

Oil Spill Prevention Fund

Oregon Revised Statute [468B.405](#) establishes fees to fund DEQ’s oil spill contingency planning program. The allowable uses of the prevention fund include reviewing required contingency plans, conducting inspections of facilities, conducting exercises, conducting training, and developing plans required under ORS [468B.345](#) to 400. DEQ collects these fees from facilities (including pipelines) that transfer oil in bulk over state-defined navigable waters and covered vessels. Covered vessels include those with a gross tonnage of more than 300, tank ships, barges transporting oil in bulk and dredges. Specific definitions for covered vessels and facilities are in Oregon Revised Statutes [468B.300](#).

Fee categories

Table 1 shows the fees for the various activities and facilities along with the fee-generating activities and revenue for FY 2026.

Table 1 – Fees by Category, Fee-Generating Activities and Revenue for FY 2026

Activity Type	Fees	FY 2026 Activity	2026 Fee Revenue
Facilities	\$20,000	12	\$240,000
Pipelines<=6"	\$15,000	1	\$15,000
Pipelines<=6"	\$25,000	4	\$100,000
Cargo Vessel	\$220	1354	\$297,880
Tank Vessel>300T	\$5,500	93	\$511,500
Tank Vessel<300T	\$160	0	\$-
Barge T1	\$160	55	\$8,800
Barge T2	\$220	513	\$112,860
Barge T3	\$1,850	70	\$129,500
Dredges (/Day Ops)	\$100	103	\$10,300
		2205	\$1,425,840

Fee-generating activities

Facilities and pipelines are charged annual fees, and vessel fees are charged based on the number of trips. A trip, for the purpose of assessing fees, means travel to the appointed destination and return travel to the point of origin within the navigable waters of the state (see ORS 468B.405). Table 1 (above) shows the actual fee-generating activities for FY 2026. Note that actual revenue (shown in the subsequent section) versus fee-generating activities differ slightly based on the timing of arrivals, the dates when billing and collection of the fees occur, and the interest in the funds held in the account. Figure 1 (below) shows the fees collected by fee category for the past 10 years.

Figure 1 – Comparison of Key Fee-Generating Categories for Fiscal Years 2016 through 2026

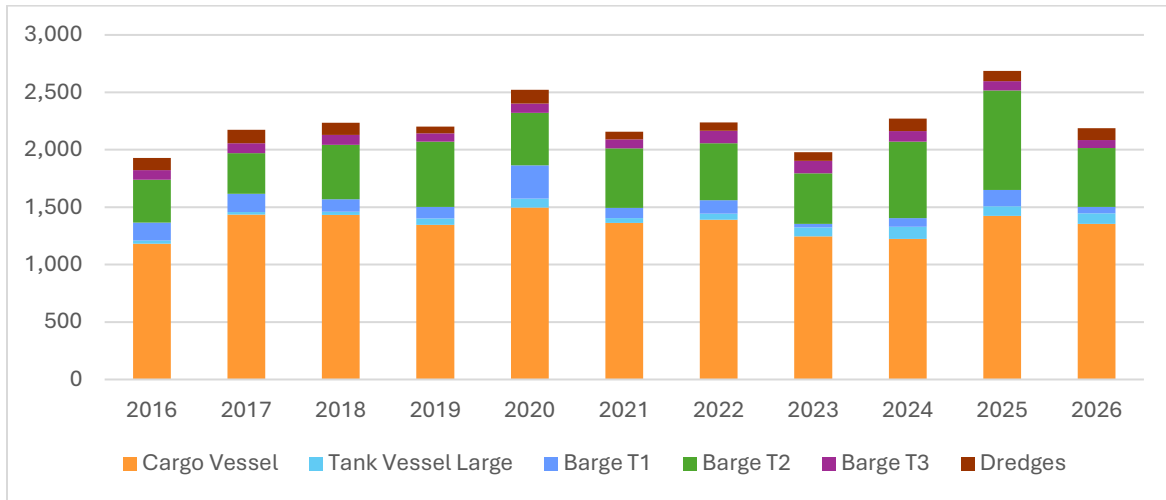


Figure 2 – Oil Spill Prevention Fund Revenue Breakdown for Fiscal Years 2022 to 2026

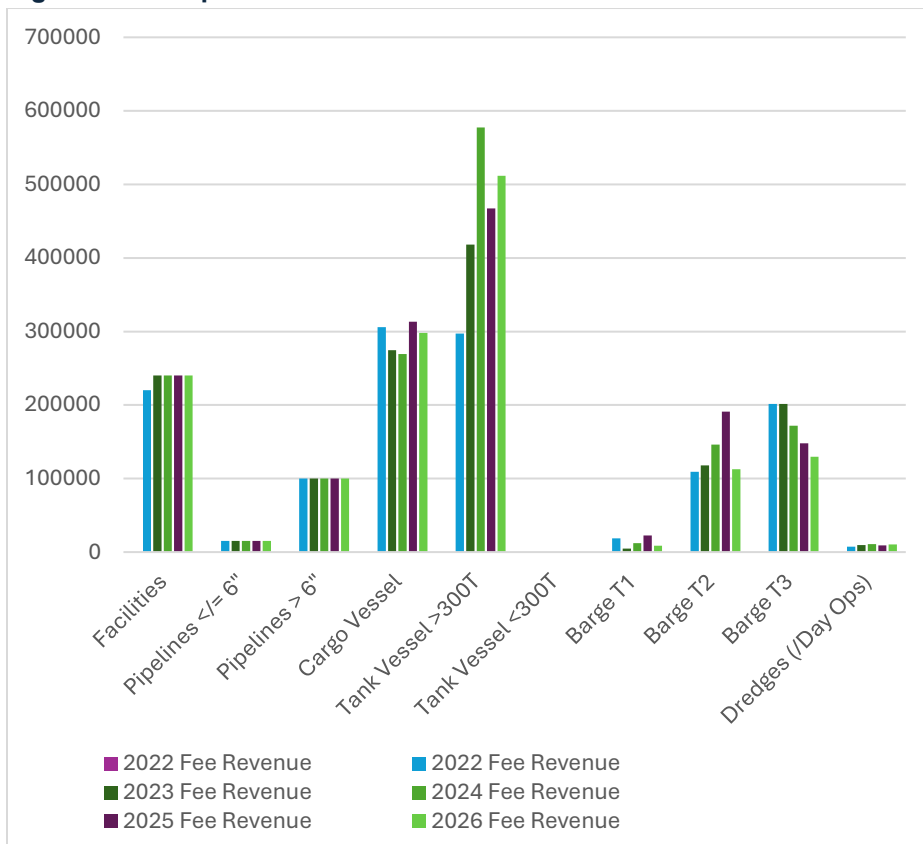


Figure 3 – Oil Spill Prevention Fund Revenue, Expenses and Ending Balance for Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026

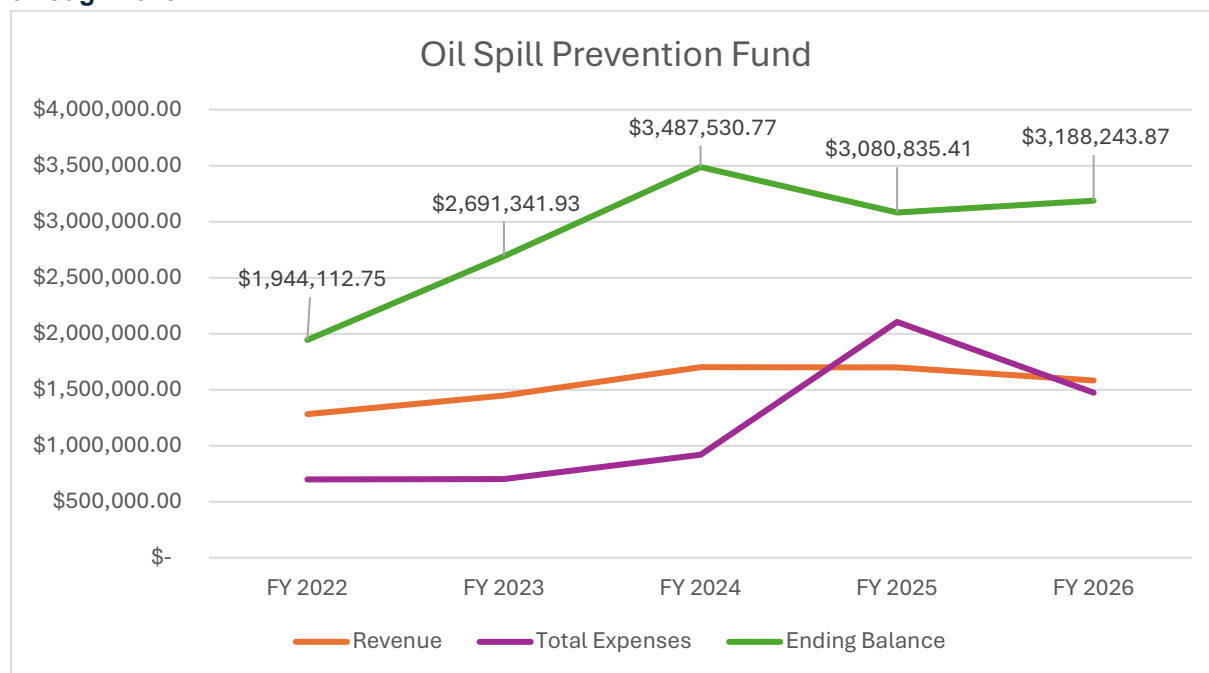
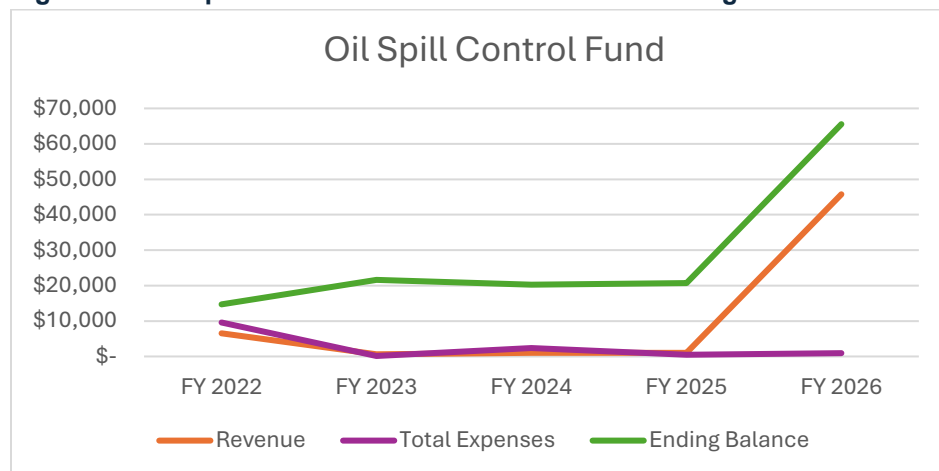


Figure 3 (above) The bulk of the Oil Spill Prevention Fund is used to pay for staff time preparing to respond to large oil spills within the oil transport industry. Revenue stability has allowed DEQ to expand participation in drills and exercises, continue work on plan review and development, and facilitate coordination among the oil spill industry.

Oil Spill Control Fund numbers

The original Oil Spill Contingency Planning Act, passed in 1991, established the Oil Spill Control Fund (Oregon Revised Statute 468B.455). All civil penalties recovered for violations related to the willful or negligent discharge of oil are to be deposited in this fund.

Figure 4 – Oil Spill Control Fund Fiscal Years 2022 through 2026



Oil spill program activities conducted in FY 2026

DEQ responsibilities under Oregon's statutes on oil spill contingency planning are:

- Ensure all regulated vessels and facilities have prepared oil spill contingency plans, and that those plans meet requirements specific to protecting Oregon's navigable waterways.
- Verify that equipment listed in oil spill contingency plans is available and adequately maintained, that personnel listed in the plans are trained, and that drills and exercises are conducted.
- Conduct drills and exercises in accordance with the [Northwest Area Contingency Plans](#), and promote a consistent approach to oil spill incident response using the Incident Command System throughout preparedness and response activities.
- Develop and maintain an interagency response plan for oil or hazardous material spills.
- Develop and update oil spill response plans (Geographic Response Plans) for navigable waters including the Pacific Ocean and its estuaries, the Columbia River and the Willamette River.

DEQ activities charged to the Oil Spill Prevention Fund include:

- Geographic Response Plan development and updates (excluding railroad routes, which have separate funding)/
- Northwest Area Committees and Regional Response Team participation.
- Updates to the Northwest Area Contingency Plan/Regional Contingency Plan.
- Rewriting of the Sector Columbia River Area Contingency Plan to meet new USCG standards.
- Oil spill preparedness training and development of information needed for response.
- Assist plan holders in developing and conducting drills and exercises.
- Participate in plan holder-led drills and exercises.
- General oil spill planning and preparedness.
- Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force activities.
- Interagency Agreement with ODFW for spill responder training as well as drill and exercise participation.

The relative proportions of various planning, plan review and exercise components conducted by Emergency Response Program staff in FY 2026 are consistent with those in previous years. The largest proportion of program activities during this period was participation in oil spill drills and exercises and review of oil spill contingency plans. With a single FTE dedicated to drill support and plan review, DEQ is understaffed in this area but is currently evaluating options for temporary or permanent employee(s) to assist with this important work. Significant work took place on reorganization and plan development under the Northwest Area Committee(s) and the Regional Response Team, as well as on updates to the Oregon Coastal Geographic Response

Plans. DEQ continues to provide general oil spill training for staff to strengthen our core response team's readiness and participates in the Pacific States-BC Oil Spill Task Force activities. Details of these program activities are outlined in the following sections.

Contingency plan review and coordination

Fees collected by DEQ under ORS 468B.405 are used to review industry oil spill contingency plans and to participate in drills and exercises to ensure plan holders and state responders respond quickly and effectively to oil spills. To be approved by DEQ, oil spill contingency plans must meet requirements specific to protecting Oregon's navigable waterways. Fourteen individual contingency plan holders submit plans for DEQ review and approval.

DEQ approves plans for five years and reviews any significant changes made during the year. DEQ has a public comment period of at least 30 days for each plan under review and makes plans available for public review on its website or in hard copy at the headquarters office.

Drills and exercises conducted in FY 2026

Drills and exercises are an important aspect of the program for testing the organizational and operational skills of plan holders and for preventing or reducing the impact of potential future incidents. DEQ participated in ten in-person drills and exercises in FY 2026. In some instances, DEQ staff were connected to exercises remotely to test our ability to provide early response support and to support incidents with a wider geographic scope.

Additionally, DEQ has been building an Incident Management Team (IMT) with 67 staff members from all regions, with many DEQ programs participating. DEQ is using the drill-and-exercise program to train staff in the Incident Command System.

DEQ also invited and encouraged attendance by OEM, OHA, ODFW, NWS, NOAA, FAA, EPA, USCG, and numerous county emergency managers, resulting in 23 attendees from these agencies participating in recent exercises. The participation of outside agencies increases the realism of these exercises, provides training for their staff, and is expected to lead to better integration of resource managers and emergency responders during actual incidents.

DEQ follows the Northwest Area and Regional Contingency Plans (NWACPs) and the Incident Command System at drills and exercises. DEQ typically staffs positions in the Unified Command, including Command Staff, Joint Information Center, Planning Section (Environmental Unit Leader and GIS Specialist), Safety Officer, and Liaison. Per the NWACPs, DEQ is responsible for staffing and leading the Environmental Unit, the Public Information Officer, and the Public Liaison Officer during drills and actual responses.

Figure 5 – Drills and Exercises Conducted in FY 2026

Plan Holder	Date	Drill Type	#DEQ Staff attended	DEQ Hours
Coos Bay Response Cooperative	9/20/2025	WCD	8	64
Chevron Willbridge	10/1/2025	WCD	14	112
Kinder Morgan Pipeline	10/15/2025	WCD	14	112
Zenith Terminal	10/22/2025	WCD	13	104
Centerline Logistics	10/28/2025	WCD	16	128
Pacific Terminal Services	10/29/2025	WCD	12	96
MFSA	10/29/2025	Y2 TTX	2	16
Olympic Pipeline	4/30/2026	WCD	18	144
Seaport Terminal	5/20/2026	WCD	12	96
MFSA	5/28/2026	WCD	19	152
			Total Staff Time	1,024

TTX = Tabletop Exercise; Virtual = Participants connecting remotely via collaboration platform (MS Teams, etc.)

TTX/Deployment = Tabletop Exercise combined with an equipment deployment drill

WCD = Worst Case Discharge Exercise; GIUE = Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise

Seven plan-holders are scheduled for worst-case discharge exercises in FY 2027.

Training conducted in FY 2026

Training is an important element in maintaining and extending DEQ's preparedness to respond to incidents and participate within the Unified Command under an Incident Command System response.

In FY 2026, DEQ used funds from the Oil Spill Prevention Fund to increase the number of DEQ staff who received training in Emergency Response-related classes, expanding the total number to 67 people with at least basic Emergency Response training.

Many staff participated in specialized training, annual OSHA-required Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response (HAZWOPER) refreshers, ICS classes and oil spill exercises to develop their skills and gain a better understanding of the physical and chemical properties of oil and hazardous materials. Some ICS classes included the core training of ICS 100, 200, 300, 400, 700 and 800 and some staff chose to pursue specialized training in Planning Section Chief, Liaison Officer, Environmental Unit Leader, Documentation Unit Leader, Resource Unit Leader, Safety Officer, Public Information Officer and Incident Commander, which is helping DEQ to further develop its Incident Management Team (IMT). With continued support and training, DEQ is hoping to train other critical ICS positions such as Finance, Logistics and

Operations Section Chiefs, additional Unit Leader positions, and continue training staff to develop our emergency response skills.

DEQ also has an Interagency agreement with the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife (ODFW) to address ORS 468B.400, which requires ODFW to create a wildlife rescue training program. This Agreement will allow ODFW staff to participate in drills and exercises. DEQ and ODFW intend to evaluate this Interagency Agreement before its expiration on Dec. 31, 2026.

Regional Response Team/Northwest Regional Committees

Pacific Northwest spill planning and coordination

The Region 10 Regional Response Team (RRT) is a federally mandated body that supports coordinated responses to significant oil and hazardous-material incidents across Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. Led by the U.S. Coast Guard (District 13) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (Region 10), the RRT includes key federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, as well as tribal nations. Its mission is to ensure an efficient, unified response in accordance with the National Contingency Plan.

A 2017 federal mandate required the transition from a single area-wide plan to multiple plans. These new plans ensure federal, state, and tribal planning requirements continue to be met. After more than 3 years of active collaboration, the following four plans are expected to be ratified by the end of the calendar year 2026.

- Sector Columbia River Area Contingency Plan (SCRACP)
- Sector Puget Sound Area Contingency Plan (SPSACP)
- Northwest Inland Area Contingency Plan (NWIACP)
- Northwest Regional Contingency Plan (NWRCP)

In FY 2026, DEQ participated in the following Northwest area subcommittees and task forces:

- **Region-Wide Planning:** DEQ participated in the Northwest Region-wide planning committee during FY 2026 to develop the Northwest Regional Contingency Plan, Sector Columbia River Area Contingency Plan (SCRACP) and the Northwest Inland Area Contingency Plan (NWIACP), support general planning for Regional Response Team meetings, and coordinate other regional activities.
- **Geographic Response Plan Subcommittee:** DEQ participated as co-lead with the Washington Department of Ecology. During FY 2026, the subcommittee focused on publishing systems and databases to support GRP development.
- **Tribal Engagement Subcommittee:** DEQ continues to serve as an advisory member. The task force is working on multiple projects, including updating language to better align with the new Coast Guard and Inland plan formats, reviewing new and existing language across the plans, and updating notification requirements and policies.

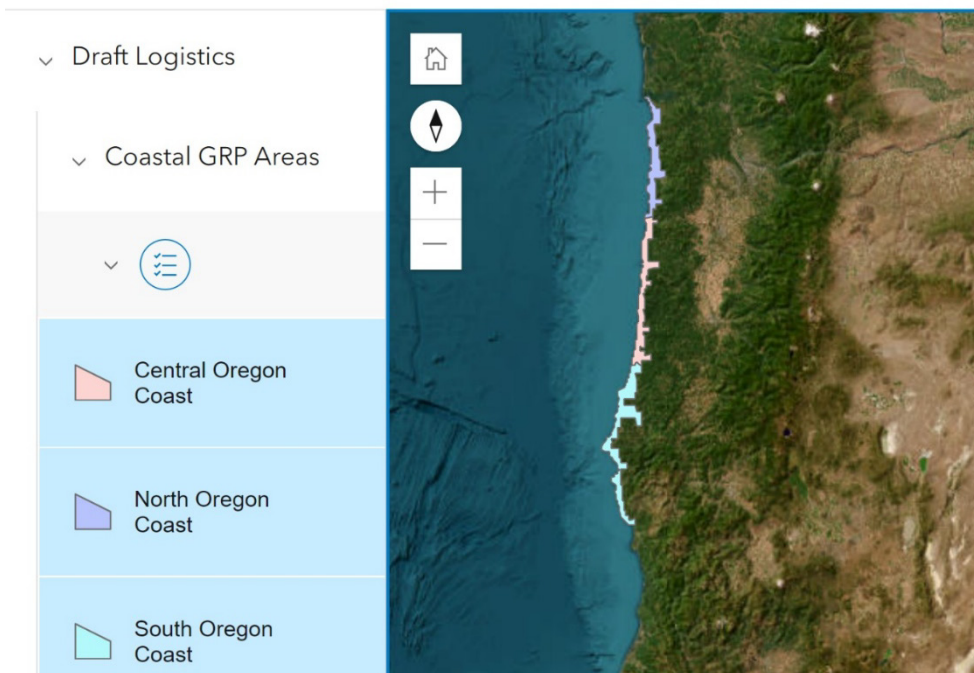
The subcommittee continues to work with the GRP Subcommittee/Resources at Risk Workgroup to determine which resources are important to tribes in the northwest. The subcommittee also provides outreach, training and exercise opportunities to Tribal members.

Coastal Geographic Response Plan updates

In fiscal year 2026, DEQ continued to develop the information and publishing systems needed to finalize the coastal GRPs, and prepare a draft of the Southern Oregon Coast GRP. The strategy information is complete and is available online on a provisional basis to support drills/exercises and incidents. The complete strategy information will be shared with Tribes, interested parties, and trustees of natural and cultural resources before the Northwest Area Committee's official adoption. The Southern Oregon Coast GRP will be ready for adoption by year's end, with the North Oregon Coast and Central Oregon Coast soon to follow.

DEQ's participation in the NWAC GRP Subcommittee has helped to establish policies for validating Geographic Response Plans and using newly developed spill response strategies until they are formalized in a final plan. The policy covers industry-developed strategies as well as draft strategies that have not been vetted for cultural resources protection. This key component has delayed finalization of response strategies in formally adopted GRPs. DEQ is exploring ways to support the review of cultural resource protection in the GRP development process, including entering into a formal partnership with a local university to provide expertise.

Draft Oregon Coast GRP Viewer



Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force

Oregon is a member of the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force. The task force provides a regional forum for coordination and collaboration on oil spill prevention and response policy issues. Task force members are the state and provincial government directors of the oil spill prevention and response programs in Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, British Columbia, and Alaska. DEQ's Land Quality Administrator serves as Oregon's representative to the task force.

Highlights of our collective efforts include:

- Exercised and updated the Mutual Aid Agreement.
- 2025 Annual Meeting with 20 presenters and 183 attendees.
- 2025 Federal Partners Meeting.
- Supported the Drills and Exercises, Research and Development, and Pacific Oil Spill Prevention Education Team (POSPET) Workgroups.
- Produced the 2024–2025 Biennial Report.
- Completed the 2025-2031 [Pacific States/BC Oil Spill Task Force Strategic Plan](#).
- Continued to strengthen coordination and collaboration through regular Executive Committee and Coordinating Committee meetings.
- Aligned the Task Force workplan and budget.

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