Wenk Lecture:
Striking a balance from competing values in setting public policies: A Case Study on Washington State Oil Spill Issues”

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State Agency Roles

- Ecology:
  - Vessel and Facility Spill Prevention
  - Oil Spill Preparedness
  - Oil & Hazmat Response
  - Natural Resources Damage Assessment
- Fish and Wildlife:
  - Lead Trustee for Fish and Wildlife
- Natural Resources:
  - Derelict Vessels & State aquatic lands
Board and inspect covered cargo and passenger vessels.
Inspect oil refineries and marine terminals.
Improve waterway management including transboundary tanker traffic and tank vessel escort.
Inspect oil transfer and pre-booming operations.
Promote voluntary “best achievable protection” for oil tankers and oil barges.
Investigate the causes of vessels and facility spills.
Take action to eliminate intentional waste oil dumping by ships.
Review and approve industry contingency plans.
Conduct oil spill drills.
Develop Geographic Response Plans (GRPs).
Verify and test effectiveness of response equipment.
Participate in Area Planning process.
Program Overview – Response

- Protect public health/safety, the environment and economy by:
  - Rapidly and aggressively responding to and cleaning up oil and hazardous material spills - 24 hours/day from 6 offices.
  - Building response capability at the local level.
  - Cleaning up methamphetamine drug labs.
  - Expanding remote sensing and spill tracking capability.
Spills that have shaped the Washington’s oil spill policies

HISTORY OF SPILLS
Where: Strait of Juan de Fuca (Port Angeles)

When: December 21, 1985

How much: 239,000 gallons of crude oil
Nestucca Oil Barge

- Where: Off coast of Grays Harbor
- When: December 23, 1988
- How much: 231,000 gallons of heavy oil
Exxon Valdez

- Where: Blight Reef, Prince William Sound, Alaska
- When: March 24, 1989
- How much: 11 million gallons of crude oil
Olympic Pipeline

- Where: Bellingham, Washington
- When: June 10, 1999
- How much: 277,000 gallons of gasoline into Whatcom Creek (explosion killed 3 kids)
Polar Texas – Dalco Passage Spill

- Where: Commencement Bay
- When: October 13, 2004
- How much: 7,200 gallons of heavy crude oil
Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill
Gulf of Mexico
April 20, 2010
Approximately 10,000 square miles

Approximately 2800 square miles

Approximately 600,000 square miles
• Spill covers 3500 - 6500 square miles of the ocean surface in the Gulf.
• Total area of land and water for Puget Sound is 2458 square miles.
Lessons Learned from Gulf Spill – impacts to Washington

- Dispersant application methodology
- Disclosure of product formula (proprietary)
- Designated, pre-approved or no-use zones within Puget Sound
How Washington is....

STRIKING A BALANCE BETWEEN COMPETING VALUES IN SETTING PUBLIC POLICIES
THANK YOU

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