STATE OF CALIFORNIA THE RESOURCES AGENCY

OSPR News Release

DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE

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Roundtable on cruise ship pollution in San Diego, January 21

Hotel reservations available at a discount rate, *only until December 27*

The public is invited to a roundtable discussion focused on preventing pollution from cruise ships. The Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force is sponsoring this forum, which will take place from 8:30am to noon, January 21, 2004, at the Hilton Hotel at Harbor Island, in San Diego, California.

Marine oil spills have largely been associated with oil tankers and cargo ships, yet oil and waste discharges from passenger cruise ships can be just as damaging to ecosystems and deadly to wildlife. Cruise liners can release not only petroleum products, but sewage, plastic, toxic chemicals, and "gray-water" into marine environments. This discussion will bring together representatives from government regulatory agencies, environmental organizations, and the cruise ship industry. It is expected that a free exchange of ideas and perspectives will improve our ability to find solutions to existing problems and prevent future pollution incidents.

Anyone with an interest in preventing pollution in marine waters is invited to attend. There is no fee, but advance registration is required. Contact Ms. Jean Cameron, Task Force Executive Coordinator, at 503-392-5860 or by e-mail at JeanRCameron@oregoncoast.com for more information and to register for the Roundtable.

A block of rooms is available for January 20 and 21 at the Hilton Hotel, **for reservations made by December 27** (2003), in conjunction with the roundtable meeting. To make reservations, call the Hilton at 619-291-6700, and tell the agent that you are attending the California Department of Fish and Game – Pacific States Oil Spill event. (Reservations must be guaranteed by a valid credit card or a deposit equal to one night's charges.)

For additional information, please visit the Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force web-site at http://www.oilspilltaskforce.org.