



Assembly Member **JARED HUFFMAN**

News Release

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Huffman's Oil Spill Response Bill Signed by Governor

Measure Protects Public Health and Ecologically Sensitive Areas from Oil Spills

Sacramento, CA- Today Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger signed several oil spill response bills, including Assemblymember Jared Huffman's (D – San Rafael) AB 2935. AB 2935 requires the Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) to significantly expand oil spill protection planning and response for environmentally sensitive areas along our coast. The bill also encourages the use of fishermen and other private mariners to assist with oil spill response and cleanup efforts and requires the Department of Fish and Game (DFG) to close nearby waters to fishing immediately after an oil spill. The bill requires DFG and the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA), within 48 hours of a spill, to assess the public health hazard in the area of the spill, the need for additional closures and to perform expedited testing on potentially contaminated fish.

Assemblymember Huffman introduced AB 2935 to address the sluggish and ineffective response to the November 7, 2007, *Cosco Busan* bunker fuel spill in the San Francisco Bay, which caused significant damage to Bolinas Lagoon and other ecologically sensitive areas.

"AB 2935 will ensure that the San Francisco Bay's ecologically sensitive areas, including Bolinas Lagoon, will receive priority response if a future oil spill occurs," said Assemblymember Huffman. "This legislation will improve California's oil spill response efforts and I applaud the Governor for supporting it."

"Local fishermen have invaluable information on local waterways and fish populations, yet they were turned away without explanation from assisting with the *Cosco Busan* cleanup efforts," said Zeke Grader, Executive Director of the Pacific Coast Federation of Fishermen's Associations. "AB 2935 would allow fishermen to lend their expertise to oil spill responses. It also would increase protections to the public by setting specific criteria to close fisheries when an oil spill occurs, in order to ensure that fish are safe and healthy to eat when they enter our markets."

"The *Cosco Busan* oil spill aftermath showed us that California has no immediate-response plan to protect our most sensitive coastal ecosystems," said Linda Sheehan, Executive Director of the California Coastkeeper Alliance and a member of the U.S. Coast Guard's review team for the *Cosco Busan* spill. "AB 2935 will create clear priorities for action that will protect these areas in any future spills."

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