

California

Relevant statutes:

- WEST'S ANN. CAL. GOV. CODE § 8670.56.5, et seq. ("the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act")

Party / Liability	Clean up costs	Property Damage	Natural Resource Damage	Economic Loss	Other
Shipowner	Unlimited "absolute" liability for "costs of response, containment, cleanup, removal, and treatment".	Unlimited "absolute" liability.	Unlimited "absolute" liability for natural resource damage, "including, but not limited to, the reasonable costs of rehabilitating wildlife, habitat, and other resources and the reasonable costs of assessing that injury, destruction, or loss".	Unlimited "absolute" liability if the claimant derives at least 25% of his or her earnings from the property or natural resource damaged.	Loss of taxes, royalties, rents or net profit shares caused by property damage or natural resource damage.
Charterer	Demise charterer defined as "responsible party". Otherwise, only if charterer qualifies as "operator", in which case, same as shipowner.	Only if it qualifies as "operator", then the same as shipowner. Act imposes liability on "The owner and operator of a vessel".	Only if it qualifies as "operator", then the same as shipowner. Act imposes liability on "The owner and operator of a vessel".	Only if it qualifies as "operator", then the same as shipowner. Act imposes liability on "The owner and operator of a vessel".	Only if it qualifies as "operator".
Cargo Owner	Yes, the same as the shipowner. Act imposes liability on: "The owner or transporter of oil or a person or entity accepting responsibility for the oil".	Yes, the same as the shipowner.	Yes, the same as the shipowner.	Yes, the same as the shipowner.	Yes, the same as the shipowner.

Oil spill responder immunity if acting consistently with Federal or State Contingency plan or if acting as directed by Federal or State On-Scene Coordinator or Coast Guard *except* for gross negligence or willful misconduct. No immunity for personal injury or death.