

M/V JIREH Grounding Response



Caribbean Regional Response Team Meeting
August 6, 2013



M/V JIREH GROUNDING RESPONSE

OVERVIEW

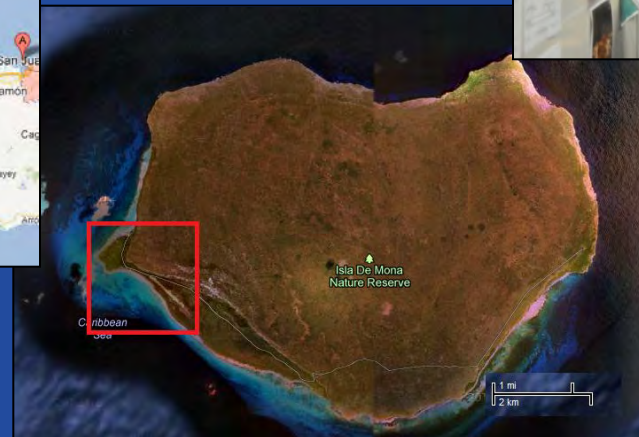
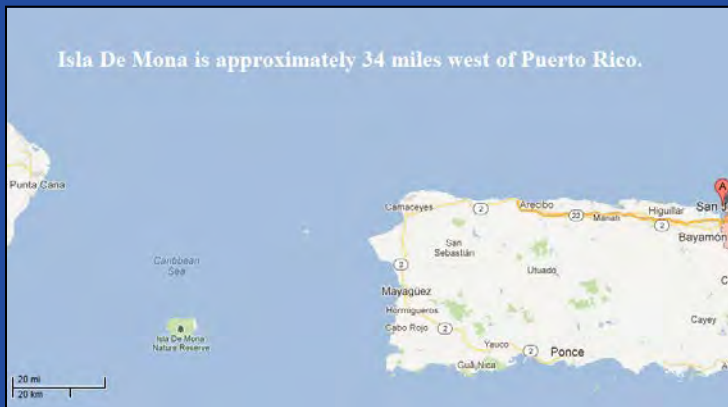
- Initial Response
- Incident Timeline
- Threat to the Environment
- Response Operations
 - Oil/Hazmat Removal Operations
 - Vessel Removal Operations
- Response Challenges
- Best Practices



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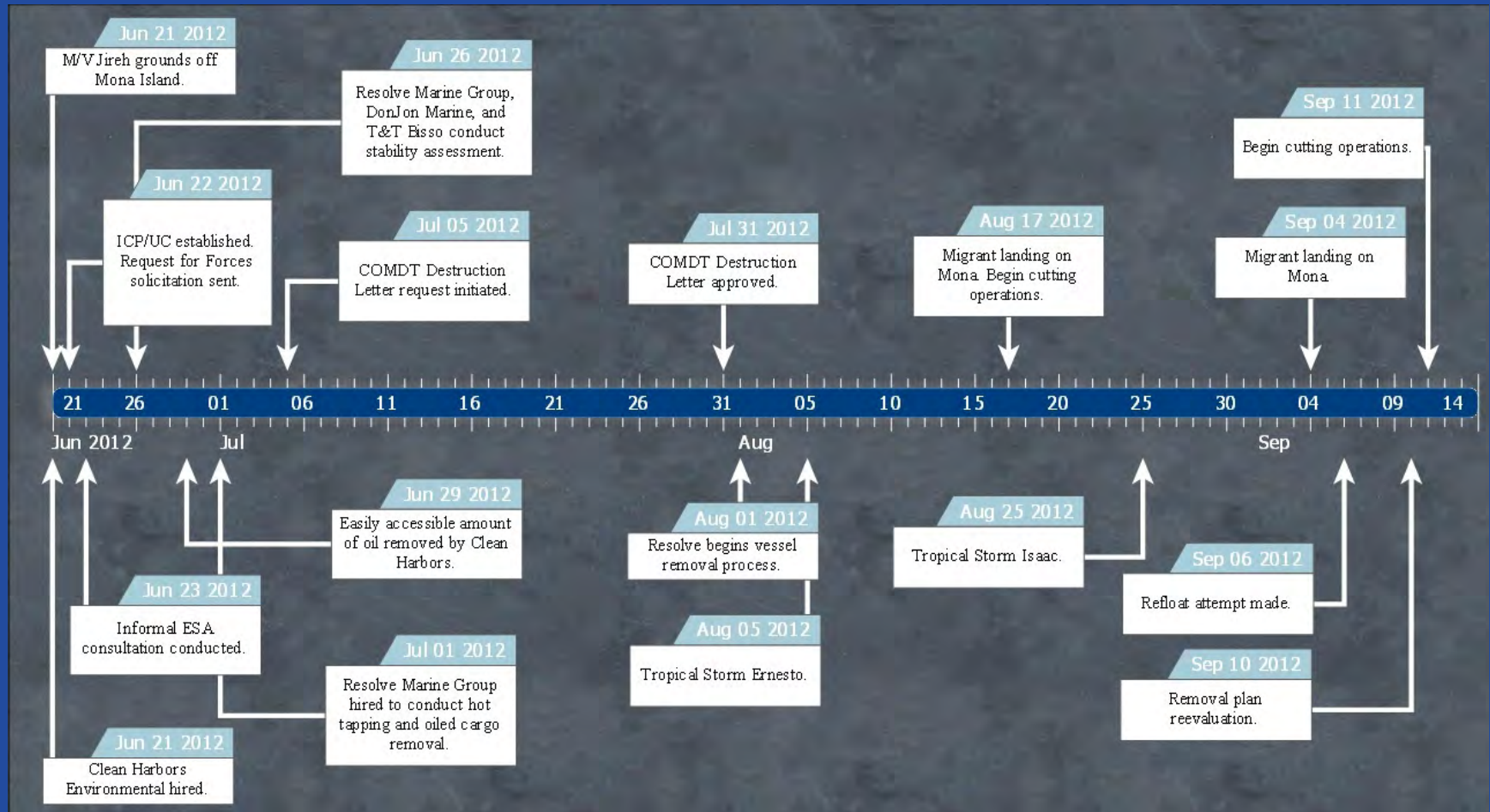
INITIAL RESPONSE

- June 21, 2012 - M/V JIREH, a 1963 202' coastal freighter, grounded on the west shore of Mona Island, Puerto Rico with 84 Haitians onboard.
 - Opened Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund w/FPN Ceiling of \$50,000
 - Hired Oil Spill Removal Organization Clean Harbors
- June 22, 2012 - Incident Command Post established at Sector San Juan
 - No viable Responsible Party ID'd – Honduras flagged/operated and home ported in Haiti
 - UC consisted of USCG, PR EQB, and PR DRNA



M/V JIREH GROUNDING RESPONSE

INCIDENT TIMELINE



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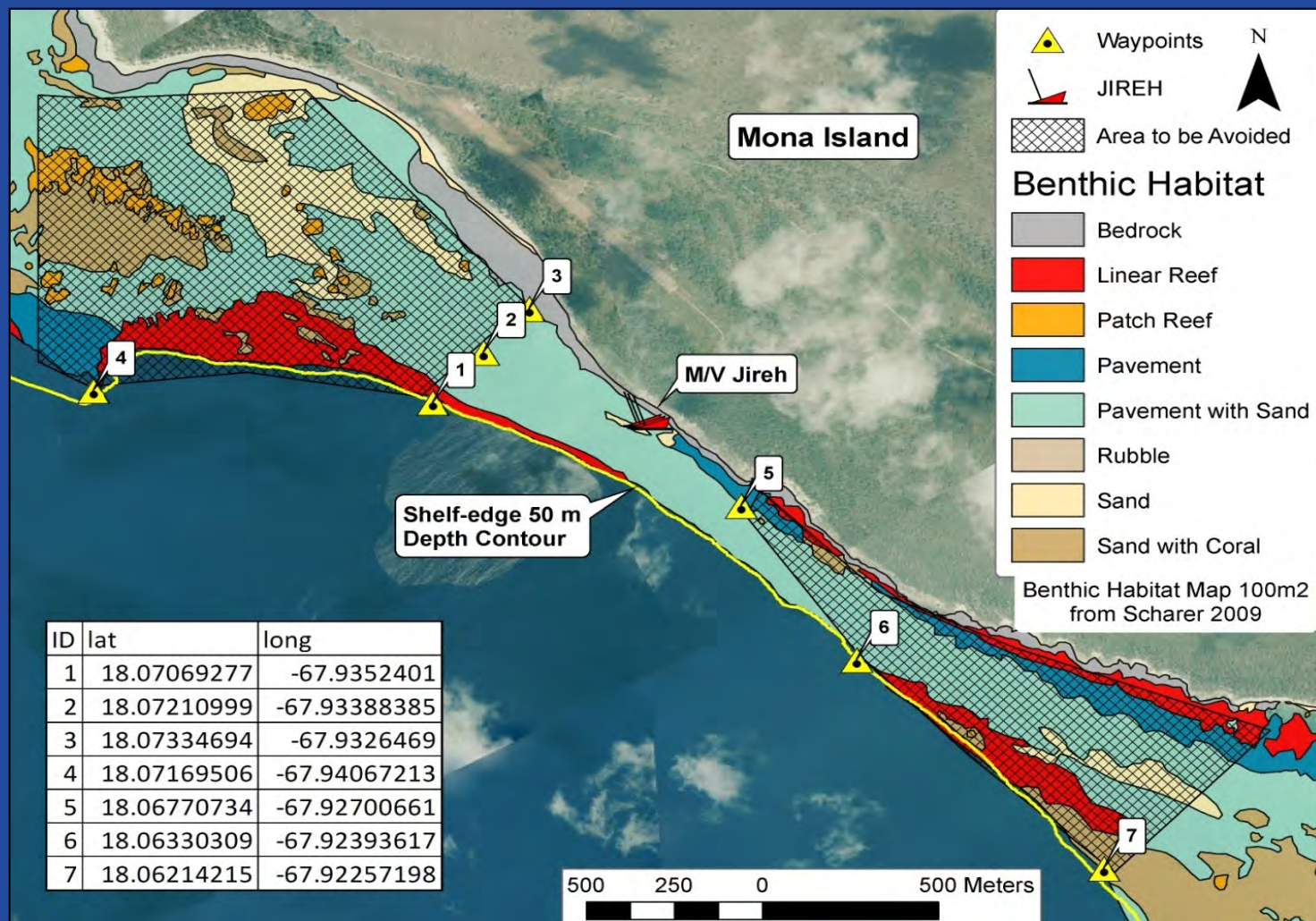
THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT

- Mona Island is a nature reserve with 18 endangered/threatened species located on the island and in the immediate area.
- Hawksbill sea turtle peak nesting season on Mona is in late August (500 yds from M/V JIREH).
- The vessel contained an unknown amount of oil, oily water, and hazmat.



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THREAT TO THE ENVIRONMENT



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RESPONSE OPERATIONS



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OIL/HAZMAT REMOVAL OPS

- Clean Harbors boomed off vessel and removed easily accessible oil and hazmat products.
- 3 independent companies hired to conduct stability assessment of vessel and provide oiled cargo and vessel removal options.
- Clean Harbors capabilities exceeded
 - Hired off-island company (Resolve Marine Group) to handle hot tapping and oiled cargo removal operations.



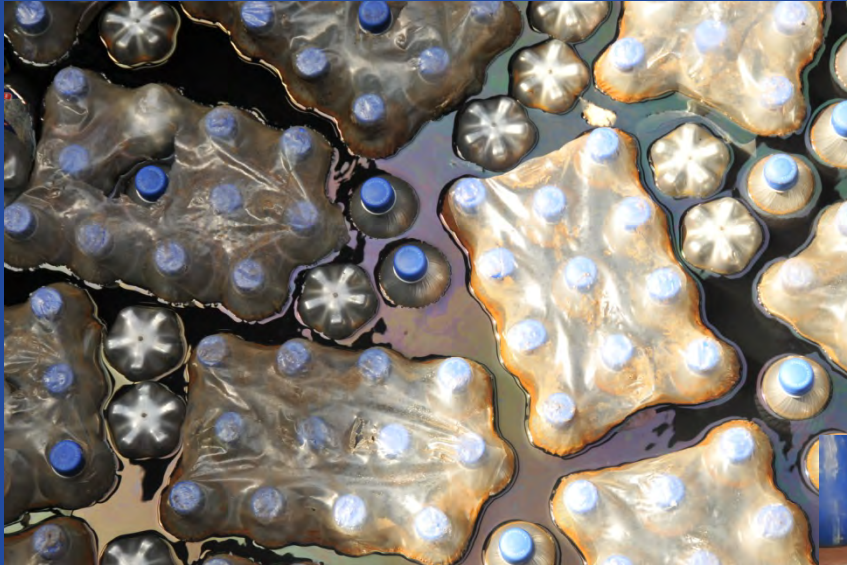
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VESSEL CONDITION



M/V JIREH GROUNDING

VESSEL CONDITION



M/V JIREH GROUNDING

VESSEL CONDITION



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VESSEL CONDITION ASSESSMENT



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VESSEL CONDITION ASSESSMENT



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CRUDE OIL REMOVAL



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CRUDE OIL REMOVAL



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OILED CARGO REMOVAL



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OILED CARGO REMOVAL



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OILED CARGO REMOVAL



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OILED CARGO REMOVAL



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OILED CARGO REMOVAL



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MIXED EVENT (CPN & FPN)



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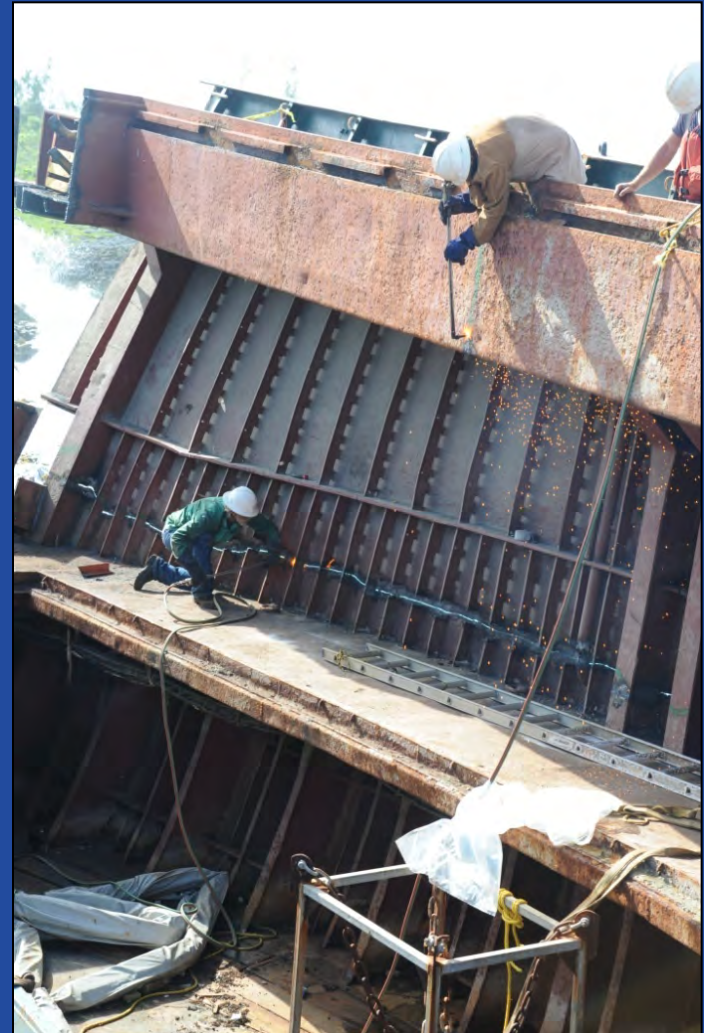
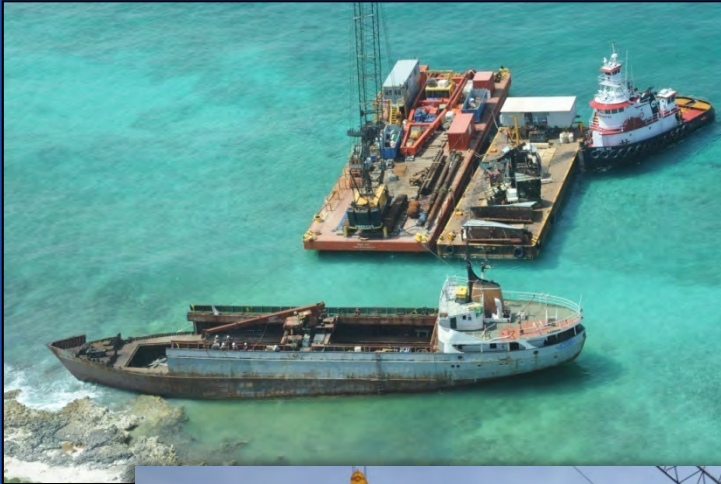
VSL REMOVAL OPS

- Once gross oil removal completed, vessel still deemed a substantial threat to the environment.
- Request to COMDT for vessel removal and disposal submitted.
- Upon receiving COMDT approval, hired Resolve Marine Group to conduct vessel removal ops.



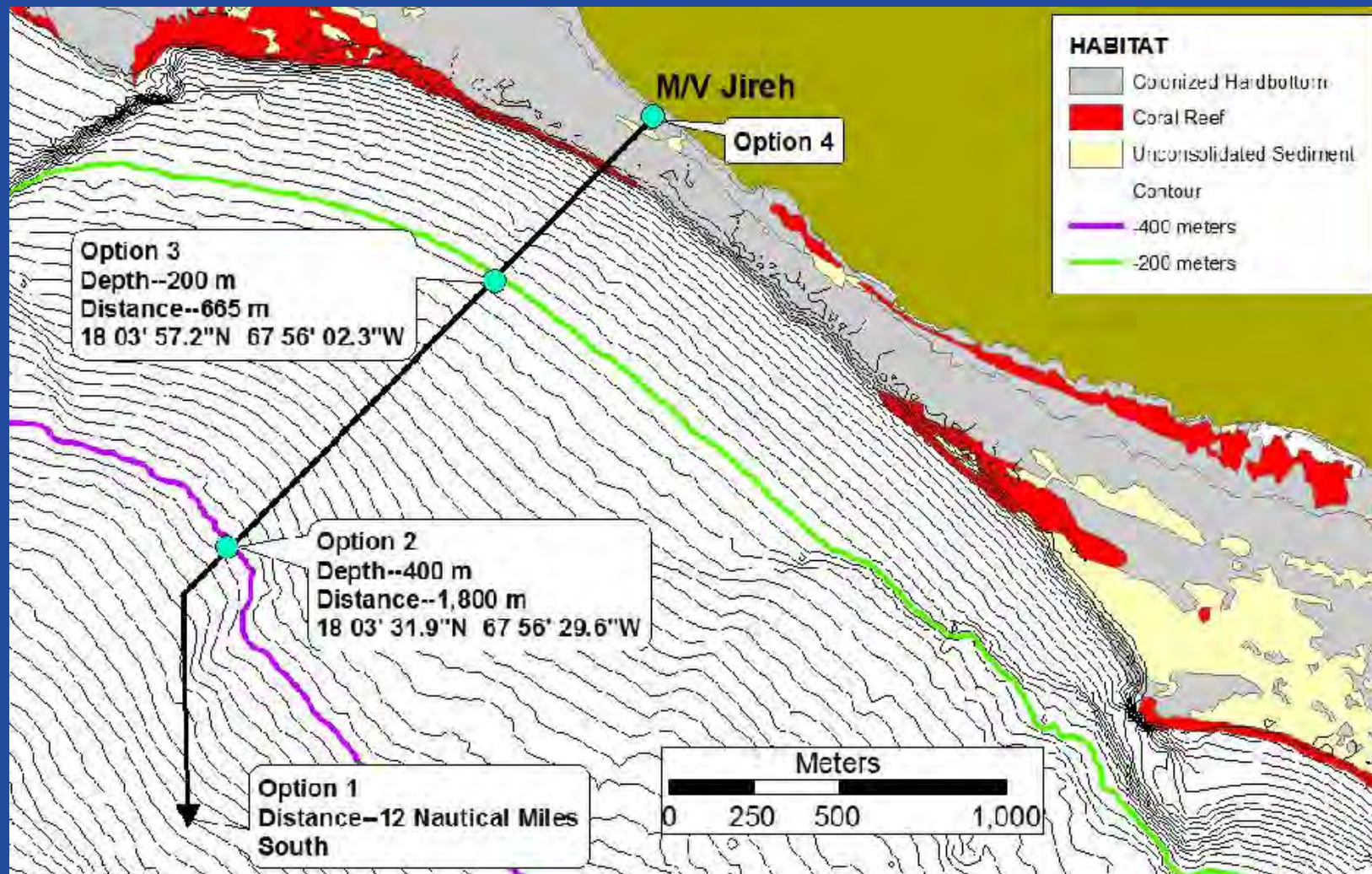
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VSL REMOVAL OPS



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Vessel Removal



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VSL REMOVAL OPS

- September 6, 2012 – attempt made to refloat the vessel.



- Attempt failed due to the degraded material condition of vsl. The towing chains sheared through through 3 structural frames.



- Plan B – cut up vsl in-situ and dispose of pieces in Puerto Rico.

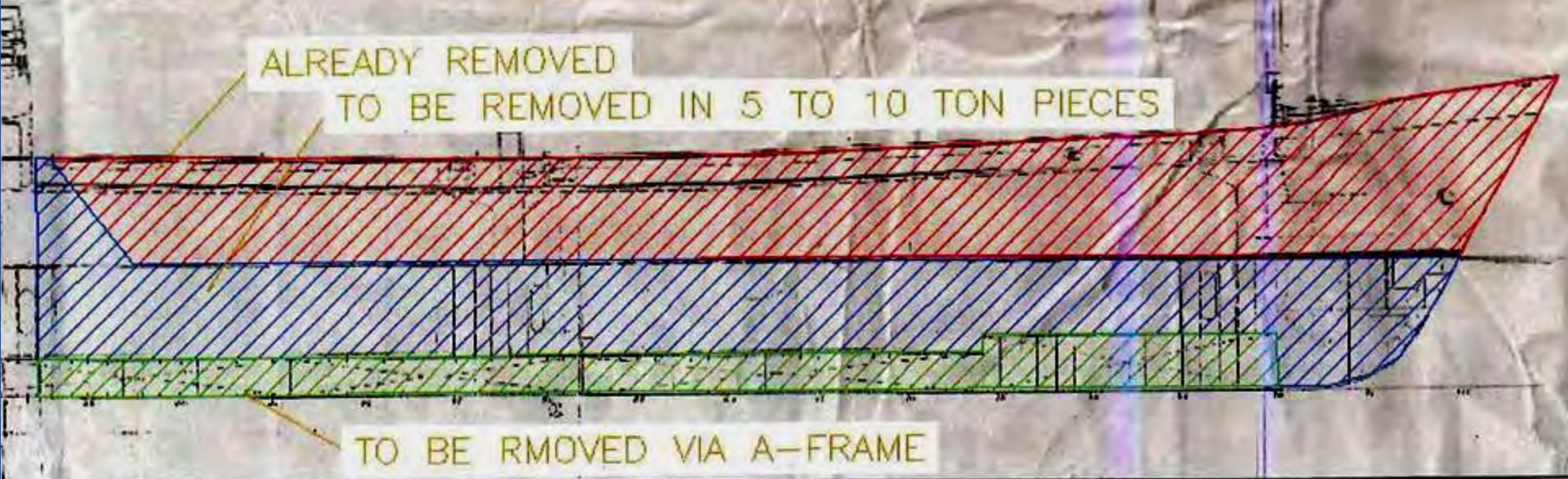
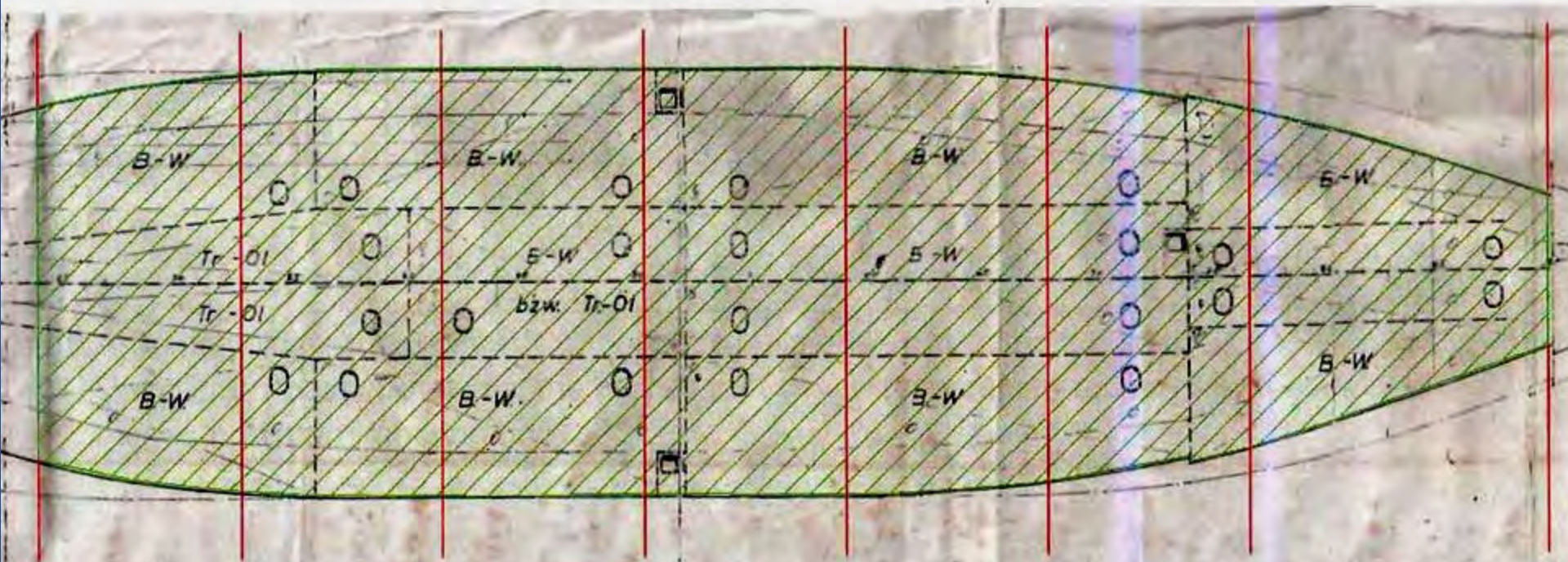


Figure 1: Breakdown of Cutting Operations



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VESSEL REMOVAL



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VESSEL REMOVAL



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VESSEL REMOVAL



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VESSEL REMOVAL



**FINAL
PIECE**



M/V JIREH GROUNDING

VESSEL DISPOSAL



M/V JIREH GROUNDING

VESSEL DISPOSAL



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RESPONSE CHALLENGES

- OSRO limitations in AOR
- Logistical challenges
- Weather
- Communications



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RESPONSE CHALLENGES (CONT'D)

- Getting Natural Resource Trustee agencies to fully integrate into ICP
- Sector organic capacity to sustain IMT
- RRT guidance contradictory to legal guidance
- Other factors that played into response:
 - Contraband discovered onboard JIREH
 - 2 migrant landings
 - Proper disposal of oiled cargo



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BEST PRACTICES

- Use of special teams: SERT, SILC, NPFC, NSF, PIAT, IMAT, NOAA Meteorologists
- Proactive protection of the environment – coral relocation
- Transparent communications up internal USCG Chain of Command and to natural resource trustee agencies



Before coral relocation



After coral relocation

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FORMAL CONSULTATION

- Three takes occurred during the response:
 - 1 beneficial take to *Acropora palmata* coral colony
 - 2 adverse takes to *Acropora palmata* coral
- One report of excessive light from response vessel thought to have adversely impacted Hawksbill sea turtles



Acropora palmata coral under starboard hull of M/V JIREH.



Colony of *A. palmata* located off port bow of M/V JIREH

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FORMAL CONSULTATION (CONT'D)

- Formal consultation initiated with NOAA and USFWS
- Biological Assessment submitted on 23JAN2013
- To date USFWS responded; no take to turtles
 - Recommended capturing reduced lighting from response vessels in ACP



FINAL NUMBERS

- Total costs for Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund - \$14M
- Total costs for Superfund - \$82K
- Pollution removed from M/V JIREH:
 - 600 tons of oiled cargo removed
 - 3,000 gallons of diesel
 - 2,000 gallons of oily water
 - 23 drums of hazardous materials
- In-situ removal of M/V JIREH = 627 tons of steel recovered
- Other fun facts:
 - Seizure of 200 lbs of marijuana with street value of \$2.4M
 - Operations disrupted by 2 tropical storms (lost 15 days)
 - Assisted with 2 migrant landing attempts on Mona Island



QUESTIONS?

