# An Overview of Tri-State's Response Program

Danene Birtell
Program Director
dbirtell@tristatebird.org



## A Long History of Impacted Wildlife



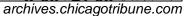


#### <u>History of Tri-State</u>

#### 40 Years of Service to Wildlife:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=S-UUehynOkM





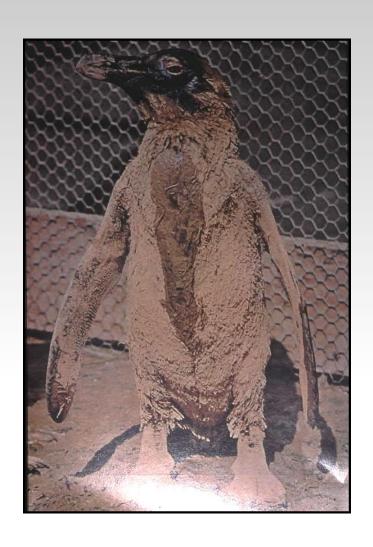


http://www.buzzardsbay.org/oilspill-4-28-03.htm





# Early Decontamination Attempts





Shampoos, kitty litter, organic sorbent products, various soaps, oils...

#### **Establishing Best Practices**

Helm et al. 2015

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Suggested Citation: Helm, R.C., H.R. Carter, R.G. Ford, D.M. Fry, R.L. Moreno, C. Sampera, and F.S. Tseng. 2015.
Overview of efforts to document and reduce impacts of oil spills on seabirds. In: M. Fingas (ed.). Handbook of Oil
Spill Science and Technology, John Wiley & Sons, Inc., Hoboken, New Jersey, pp. 431-453.

#### OVERVIEW OF EFFORTS TO DOCUMENT AND REDUCE IMPACTS OF OIL SPILLS ON SEABIRDS

ROGER C. HELM<sup>1</sup>, HARRY R. CARTER<sup>2</sup>, R. GLENN FORD<sup>3</sup>, D. MICHAEL FRY<sup>4</sup>, ROCÍO L. MORENO<sup>5</sup>, CAROLINA SANPERA<sup>5</sup>, AND FLORINA S. TSENG<sup>6</sup>

<sup>1</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Science Applications, Falls Church, VA, USA, roser\_helm@fws.sov
<sup>2</sup> Carter Biological Consulting, Victoria, BC, Canada, carterhr@shaw.ea

<sup>3</sup>R.G. Ford Consulting Company, Portland, OR, USA

<sup>4</sup> U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Environmental Contaminants, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, Honolulu, HI, USA

<sup>5</sup> Department de Biologia Animal, Facultat de Biologia, Universitat de Barcelona, Barcelona, Spain <sup>6</sup> Tufts Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, North Grafton, MA, USA

- 17.1 Introduction
- 17.2 Vulnerability
- 17.3 Effect of Oiling on Individual Birds
  - 17.3.1 External Oil Effects
  - 17.3.2 Internal Oil Effects
- 17.3.3 Oil Effects on Reproduction
- 17.4 Rehabilitation and Veterinary Care
  - 17.4.1 Key Considerations in Care
  - 17.4.2 Release Rates
  - 17.4.3 Post-Release Survival and Reproduction
  - 17.4.4 Rehabilitation Process
- 17.5Estimating Mortality
  - 17.5.1 Oiled Birds at Sea
  - 17.5.2 Oiled Birds on Land
  - 17.5.3 Cause of Death and Background Deposition
- 17.6 Long-term Impacts
- 17.7 Restoration
  - 17.7.1 Apex Houston Barge Oil Spill, Central California
  - 17.7.2 American Trader Oil Spill, Southern California

Lynne Frink
Erica A. Miller, DVM
171-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.
110 Possum Hollow Road
Newark, Delaware 19711 USA

**Principles of Oiled Bird Rehabilitation** 

#### HISTORY AND BACKGROUND

Oil, its additives and contaminants, through simple physical countact, inhalation, ingestion and transcuttaneous absorption have demonstrated detrimental effects on wildlife. These effects include, but are not limited to, contamination of feathers and fur, and damage to vital organ systems, including: the lungs and air sacs, kidneys, liver, heart, blood, and gastrointestinal tract. (Leighton, Butler, et. al. 1983, Leighton 1991, Pierce 1991, Langeaberg 1983, Miller 1983.

Rababilitation of olded wildlife is a complex, crisis-oriented endeavor requiring an experienced staff with medical, technical and crisis-management skills. Federal and state permits and operational ratining for Occupational fresh and Safery Administration (OSEA), compliance are also required to conduct an oiled wildlife response. Historically, efforts to rescue and reast wildlife affected by old have met with limited success. The image of an oil-toaked bird or other struggling to shore elicits a temendous emotional response in human beings. This atmosphere of public concern often results in well-intentioned people attempting to do a complex job for which they lack the training and the experience.

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research (Tri-State) was assistantly for the proposed proposed from wildlife, design effective response mechanisms for wildlife affected by oil, and develop appropriate treatment protocols. Although Tri-State's scope has broadened beyond oil-contaminated wildlife, it has gained an international reputation for its oil spill response and training capabilities. This paper will provide a general overview of the effects of oil on birds, the basic treatment protocols, the relabilitation and husbandry techniques, and the criteria for pre-release evaluation currently found to be effective by Tri-State.

Rehabilitation of oiled wildlife focuses primarily on the adverse physiological effects of oil on individual birds. These effects, while complex, can often be successfully counteracted through the cooperative efforts of veterinarians, biologists and rehabilitators with oil spill response experience. The primary objective of wildlife rehabilitation is to care for injured animals and release them to their natural environment. Wildlife rehabilitation fills two purposes in an oil spill response:

- philosophically, or morally, it provides a humane response to wild animals harmed through man-related activities;
- biologically, it attempts to treat and return impacted animals to healthy breeding populations in the wild. Rehabilitation efforts can be particularly important when endangered or threatened species are contaminated.

#### THE EFFECTS OF OIL ON BIRDS

In general, the effects of oil on birds can be characterized as environmental, external, and

#### Environmental Effects

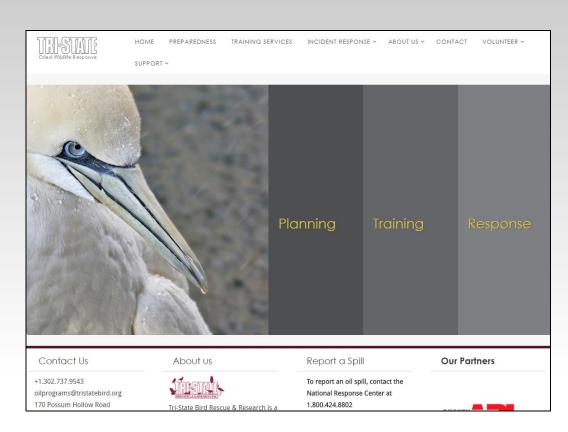
Environmental effects are perhaps the broadest category of the effects of oil on wildlife. Environmental effects include, but are not limited to: immediate contamination of the food source biomass; reduction in the breading animals and plants that provide future food sources; contamination of nesting labolita, and reduction in reproductive success through contamination and reduced hatchability of eggs or temporary inhibition of ovarian function (Albests 1977. Albers 1991, Leishton 1991).

In a number of spills, the environmental effects of the oil may be minimal (actue and temporary), while the physiologic effects on the individual animals and/or local populations may be life-threatening efferhe acute or chronic, and often long-lasting). For example, a tidal marsh which is contaminated by oil early in a spill may suffer damages which are largely temporary, in that certain types of oil may flush out of the marsh after only one or two tidal cycles. On the other hand, more permanent damage may be incurred following oil contaminations and the contamination of the contamination o

Wildlife and Oil Spills: Response, Research, and Contingency Planning , 1995

#### Tri-State's Oil Spill Response Program

- Dedicated Staff
  - Over 40 years of experience
- State of the art facility
- Training, planning, and response
- Local, regional and international reach



www.tristatebird.org/oil

# <u>Tri-State's Wildlife Response Annex</u>









#### Non-Spill Activities

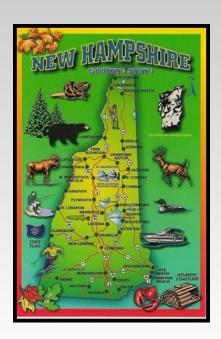
- Contingency Planning
- Workshops
- Education
- Supporting Rehabilitators & Industry Partners
- Drills & Exercises
- Attending Meetings
- Conferences
- Research

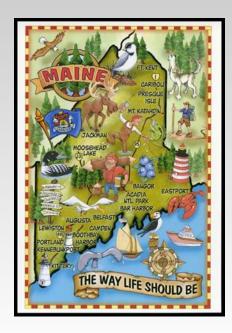




#### <u>Preparedness: Contract Services</u>

- Pre-Identified Facilities
- Facility Plans
- Stockpile Supplies
- Training Seminars
- Area Committee Meetings
- Organize Exercises
- Response Services
- Wildlife Response Plan







#### Preparedness: Permits

- Annual renewal process
  - As industry changes & expands, we seek new permits
  - Specific reporting procedures
    - Partnership with Agencies
- Implications in preparedness & treatment for contaminated wildlife
  - Relationships, resources
  - Threatened & Endangered Species



#### Caribbean Island Preparedness

- CRRT
- Developed a Wildlife Response Plan
- Created a non-perishable stockpile
- Outlined perishables for purchase
- Joint workshop with Sea Alarm Foundation in Trinidad & Tobago

Wildlife Response Plan

Part I – Initial Wildlife Response Procedure

> Prepared for: HOVENSA, LLC





Wildlife Response Plan

Part II –Wildlife Response Elements

Prepared for: HOVENSA, LLC



#### Global Oiled Wildlife Response System

- 11 Organizations
- 1st Stage (JIP 20)
  - Industry Funded (IPIECA)
  - Develop Tier 3 Structure
  - Deliverables:
    - Animal Standards
    - SOP
    - Governance Structure
    - Readiness Information
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Stage (Beta Phase)
  - Funded by Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL)
  - Readiness activities
  - Operations
  - Reach out to Stakeholders
- Industry support through the Industry Advisory Group (IAG)



#### **Initial Notification**

## **24** Hour Response Hotline:

800-261-0980

#### **TSBRR Coordinates with:**

**US DOI** 

**US FWS** 

State/Territory Wildlife Trustee(s)





# **Levels of Activation**

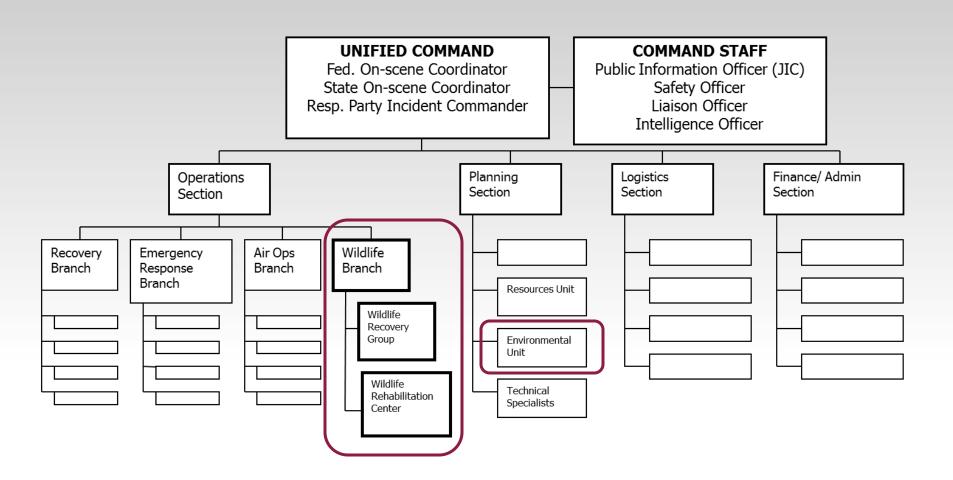
- Alert
- Assessment
- Response



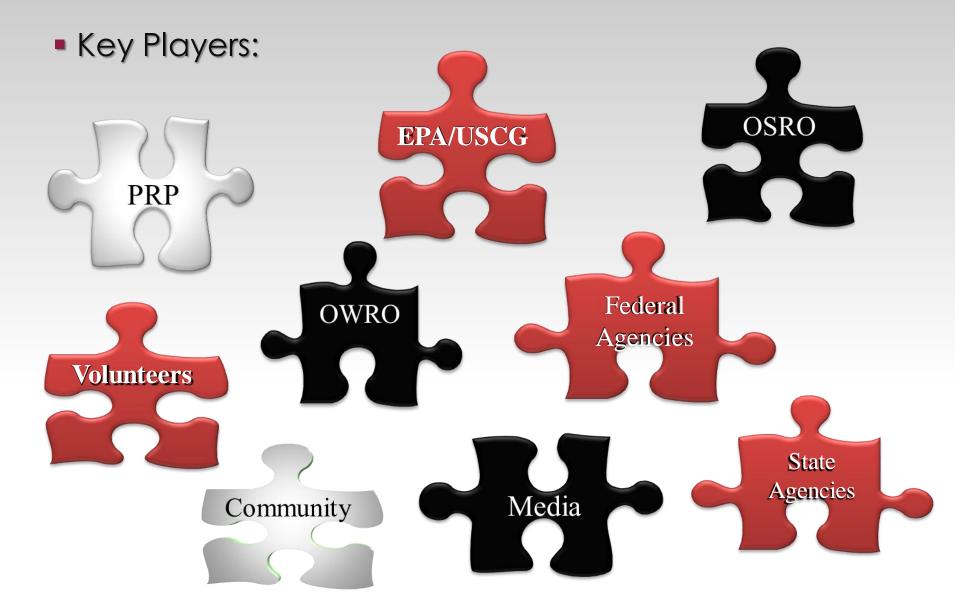




#### <u>Integration into the Incident</u>



## Who Makes Up an Oiled Wildlife Response?



#### Oiled Wildlife Response Considerations

- Potentially Hazardous Contaminant
  - Safety
  - Containment
- Number of Animals
  - Variety of species
  - Rapid fluctuation
- Facility Demands
  - Housing requirements
  - Water specifications
  - Large Demand on Resources
- Legal Considerations
  - Agency collaboration
  - Evidentiary concerns







## So What Goes Into 'Cleaning' Wildlife?

















#### Save the Date:

#### 13th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference



# Thank you!