

Abstract

Country Wildlife Response Profiles: The Advantage of Knowing Things in Advance

Roser Gasol Escuer

Sea Alarm Foundation, Rue du Cypres 7 B10, 1000 Brussels, Belgium

Further to a joint programme between Oil Spill Response (OSR) and Sea Alarm, Country Wildlife Response Profiles (CWRPs) are continuously being developed. These provide an indispensable source of information on the level of a country's preparedness to deal with an incident that involves oiled wildlife. The CWRPs have been designed to contribute to a quick and tailor-made international Tier 3 response, when requested by an OSR shareholder or by a third party. The structure of the CWRPs is based on the Country Profiles that are published by the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF), which contain key data on oil spill response and preparedness. The CWRPs are intended to complement that information with key data on oiled wildlife response and preparedness. The CWRPs have a fixed format and include the following key information: vulnerable marine species and habitats; known risks from oil production & exploration activities and shipping traffic; previous oiled wildlife spill experiences; oiled wildlife responders; rehabilitation facilities and equipment; and cooperative efforts. Crucially, CWRPs also identify the competent national authority and government agencies which are responsible for marine wildlife protection and conservation in general and (oiled) wildlife emergency response in particular. As far as information is available, the (assumed) roles of these departments are described and the most likely way an oiled wildlife response would be dealt with. The profiles, which are published as PDF files, are the outputs of a more comprehensive database which include additional information, such as the names and contact details of key individuals and key organisations that have been identified within a country. In the event of an incident, all this essential information is just a mouse click away. Each year, around 20 new CWRPs are produced, and as of December 2009, a total of 76 CWRPs will be finalised. This paper will provide an overview and analysis of the information from the finalised CWRPs and will discuss the strengths and weakness of the project.