

Abstract

Seabird Rehabilitation Injuries Associated with the Cosco Busan Oil Spill

Alison L. Davis, J. Gregory Massey, and Michael H. Ziccardi

Oiled Wildlife Care Network, Wildlife Health Center, University of California,
Davis, CA 95616, USA

1,084 live seabirds were admitted for evaluation and rehabilitation between November 7, 2007 and December 10, 2007 directly following the Cosco Busan oil spill in the San Francisco Bay. During the rehabilitation process, 44% of those that survived developed at least one injury in one of the following four categories: keel lesions, hock lesions, carpal and wing injuries, and foot lesions. There was no statistically significant difference in survival between all those with any injury versus all those without injuries. Those with foot injuries were the only ones with a statistically significantly greater chance of survival compared to those not injured ($p = 0.0016$). Days from processing to wash, days from capture to processing, and capture to wash were the major risk factors for developing injuries during rehabilitation. There was a significantly longer duration for rehabilitation of those with injuries versus those without ($p < 0.0001$), and the time from oil spill to processing was significantly shorter for those with injuries ($p = 0.006$).