

Wildlife Operations During the Cosco Busan Spill: A Political Disaster in a Sea of Discontent



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November 7, 2007 0830 hr





Activation of the OWCN

- November 7 2007 AM
 - OSPR reports 140 gal spill in Bay
 - No oiled birds yet observed
 - In and around Pier 39
- Plan
 - Two teams for recon
 - Stand-by
 - Equipment
 - Personnel
 - Fairfield facility

HUNDREDS OF THOUSANDS OF MIGRATING BIRDS THREATENED

About 1.6 million shorebirds and waterfowl, hundreds of species, come to San Francisco Bay each year, most staying for the winter, some stopping on their way south. Wildlife experts fear that the oil washing onto sandy beaches and wetlands threatens the birds' survival.



SHORELINE WHERE OIL HIT
Light to heavy oil deposits

EAST BAY SHOREBIRDS
American avocets, long-billed curlews, black-bellied plovers, least and western sandpipers and dunlins head for the mudflats and tidal marshes, where they probe for worms and little clams.

COAST GUARD REPORT
As of Wednesday evening:
804 live oiled birds recovered
244 of those were washed
105 had died or were euthanized
590 birds were collected dead

FARALLON ISLANDS BIRDS
Common murre, western gulls, Cassin's auklets and ash petrels seek the rocky islands to breed and feed.




OCEAN WATERFOWL
Surf scoters, greater and lesser scaups, roody ducks and Western grebes spend most of the time in the water feeding on small fish and crustaceans.

SANDY COASTAL BEACH BIRDS
Sandpipers, marbled godwits, willets, whimbrels and snowy plovers run along feeding on insects and invertebrates in the kelp line left by high tides.

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Activation of the OWCN

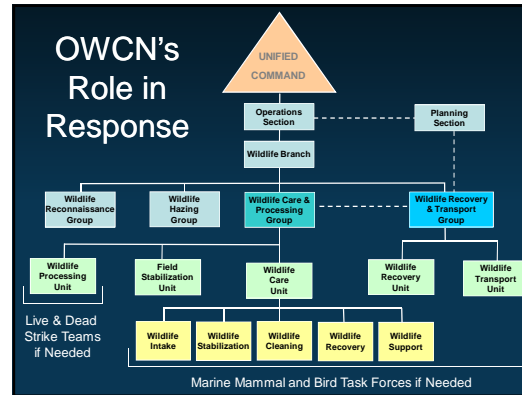
- November 7 2007 PM
 - Initial assessment
 - Large # birds in area
 - More oil then expected
 - Plan
 - Mobilize stabilization in early AM
 - Activate additional R & T teams
- Nov 8: 58,000 g (218 t.)

Oiled Wildlife Care Network

- Structure
 - Managed by UC Davis for CA DFG-OSPR
- Mission
 - Best achievable capture & care to oiled wildlife
- Programs
 - Readiness
 - Reaching Out
 - Research
 - Response











Research: Husbandry

- Keel wraps & booties
- Gavage recipes
- Infrared thermography
- Soft side net-bottom pen



Research: Medical

- Hemoglobin
- Lactate
- Sucralfate
- Colloid fluids
- Disease surveillance
 - Aspergillus in birds/envt
 - Fecal pathogens



Research: Post-Release

- Three groups
 - Oiled, rehabilitated (n=17)
 - Captured, rehabbed (n=16)
 - Captured, released (n=22)
- Method
 - Itracelomic implant of VHF radiotransmitters
- Goals
 - Differences in survival
 - Changes in distribution
 - Changes in behaviors



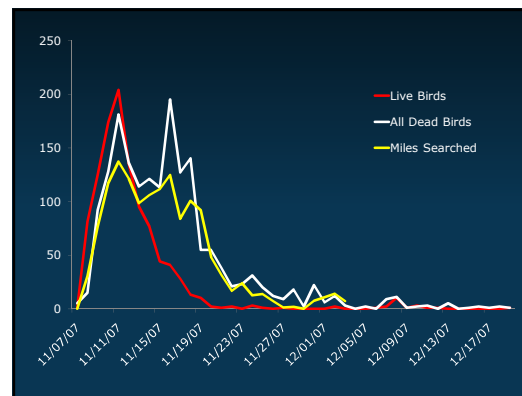

Meanwhile, in Santa Cruz...

- Nov 10: Large numbers of birds present in Monterey Bay
 - No apparent oil, but not waterproof
- Between Nov 10 & Jan 7
 - Live birds = 568 (371 released)
 - Dead birds = 82
 - Facilities activated = 3
- Caused by blue-green algae
- Little press interest

Animal Totals

Live			Dead		
	Bird	Mammal		Bird	Mammal
Died/Euthanized	650	1	Oiled	965	6
Released	418	0	Unkilled	883	0
Unknown Disposition	15	0	Unknown	16	0
TOTAL	1084	1	TOTAL	1854	6



Release Percentages (Species > 5 animals collected)

Species	Grand Total	Released	Release %
SUSC	375	136	41.9%
WEGR	151	51	34.4%
EAGR	139	44	32.4%
GRSC	94	53	56.4%
HOGR	58	21	36.2%
COMU	51	20	39.2%
RUDU	41	11	26.8%
COLO	24	2	8.3%
AMCO	22	17	77.3%
CLGR	12	5	41.7%
DCCO	11	1	9.1%
WWSC	11	4	36.4%
LESC	10	3	30.0%
BUFF	6	2	33.3%
WFGU	6	3	66.7%
BRAC	5	0	0.0%
NOFU	5	0	0.0%

Volunteer Response

Staff: > 60
Volunteers

- 23 of 25 Member organizations
- 10 non-Member organizations
- 1,500 convergent volunteers registered
 - 500 utilized
- 450 pre-trained volunteers utilized
- > 13,000 volunteer hours



Legislative Response

- 10 State & 2 Federal bills introduced
 - AB 1960 (Nava): Inland Prevention Pgm
 - AB 2031 (Hancock): OSPR to train/\$ local spill response managers/volunteers
 - AB 2911 (Wolk): Inland Response Pgm; enhances OWCN for search & rescue
 - AB 2935 (Huffman): Expand planning for environmentally sensitive areas

Solutions

- Clear organizational responsibilities
- More trained field personnel
- Better stabilization coordination
- Increased public communication
- Electronic medical records system
- New technology
 - Soft-sided pens
 - Preventive wraps

What Impacts Survival?

- Product spilled
- Species affected
- Weather
- Animal condition
- Season
- Speed of capture
- Facility availability
- Trained personnel
- Pre-spill preparation



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Questions?

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