

## **Abstract**

### **Wildlife and Oil in the Antarctic – A Recipe for Cold Disaster**

Valeria Ruoppolo<sup>1</sup>, Eric Woehler<sup>2</sup>, Curt Clumpner<sup>3</sup>, Barbara Callahan<sup>3</sup>, Kerri Morgan<sup>4</sup>, and Jay Holcomb<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup>International International Fund for Animal Welfare - IFAW, Av. Benedito Ferreira Silva, 472, São Paulo – SP, CEP- 04786-000, Brazil; <sup>2</sup>University of Tasmania (UTAS), University of Tasmania Private Bag HOBART TAS 7001; <sup>3</sup>International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC), 4369 Cordelia Rd. Fairfield, CA 94534, USA; <sup>4</sup>New Zealand Wildlife Health Centre, Institute of Veterinary, Animal and Biomedical Sciences, Massey University, Private Bag 11-222, Palmerston North, New Zealand 4442

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The recent spate of incidents involving vessels in Antarctica has highlighted the potential for chemical spills into the Antarctic environment. An increasing number of tourist vessels, often without ice-strengthened hulls built for use in other parts of the world, are penetrating farther and longer into Antarctic waters, and whose focus for destination are wildlife concentrations. This is a recipe for a catastrophic spill event with high numbers of oiled wildlife in a remote part of the world where there are major logistical constraints on the provision of equipment and personnel to respond. Here we review the history of events that led or could lead to discharges, the current legislation and contingency plans in place by Antarctic Treaty signatories', debating preparedness and expertise for oiled wildlife response.