

## A Proactive Island Approach to Oiled Wildlife Preparedness

Development of a Multi Species Non-perishable Wildlife Stockpile

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## Tri-State & HOVENSA: A Long History

- HOVENSA
  - Among the top 10 largest refineries in the world
  - Located on St. Croix USVI
  - Sensitive local resources
- Partnership
  - Over 10 years with Tri-State
  - Proactive wildlife planning



## Oiled Wildlife Preparedness



- Planning
- Training and Exercising
- Stockpile



## Wildlife Response Plan

- Integration into the Facility Response Plan
- Provides guidance
  - Assist HOVENSA personnel working with
    - Natural resource managers
    - Local responders
    - Permitted, experienced oiled wildlife responder



## Resources at Risk

- Threatened & Endangered Species
  - Federally listed
    - Sea turtles
    - St. Croix ground lizard
    - Roseate terns, brown pelicans
    - Staghorn and Elkhorn coral species (genus Acropora)
    - Humpbacked and pilot whales
  - Territorially listed and species of special concern
    - Multiple species of birds (least terns)
    - VI tree boa



## Sea Turtles

- Sandy Point NWR nesting
  - Leatherbacks
    - Largest in US
  - Hawksbill
  - Green



## St. Croix Ground Lizard

- Federally endangered since 1977
- Description
  - 35-77mm long (snout to vent)
  - Dorsal black, brown & white stripes
  - Ringed tail
  - Bluish tail and belly
- Food
  - Opportunistic hunters
    - Amphipods, moths, ants, small hermit crabs, hatching and eggs of anoles



## St. Croix Ground Lizard

- Habitat
  - Live in burrows
  - Leaf litter, tidal litter
  - Green, Protestant and Ruth Cays (only)
    - Ruth Cay adjacent to HOVENSA marine terminal
- Feeding behavior of young
- Local capture techniques

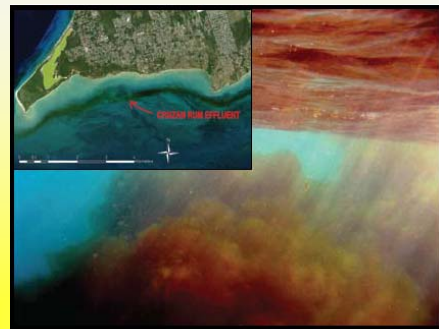


## Exercising Plans



- Protection Strategies
  - Agency and Industry
    - Ruth Cay
    - Krauss Lagoon
    - Sandy Point NWR
- Drills and wildlife response training
- Ecological Risk Assessments

## “Rum Slick”



CRUZAN RUM EFFLUENT -9KM LONG AND -400M AT ITS WIDEST, AERIAL AND UNDERWATER, ST. CROIX Photo: LVI

## St. Croix, US Virgin Islands



## Wildlife Non-Perishable Stockpile

- Container
  - Secure storage location
  - Mobile
- Goals
  - Multiple species capability
  - Non-perishable supplies & equipment
  - Outline perishable items to purchase



## What are Non-perishables?

- Storage conditions
  - 40' cargo container
  - On a secure facility
  - Extreme heat
- On island resources
  - HOVENSA sources
  - Local sources
- Specialized equipment & supplies
  - Gauntlet gloves
  - Salt water pumps

## Equipment & Supplies

- Essential element in the Wildlife Response Plan
- Three different types:
  - "Non-perishable": items to stockpile
  - "Perishable": items not able to be stockpiled
  - General supplies: items with local or refinery vendors

## Equipment & Supplies: The Stockpile



- Procurement
  - Cargo container shipped to Tri-State
  - Items ordered from reliable vendors



## Equipment & Supplies: The Stockpile



- Shipment to St. Croix
  - Packing for safe transport
  - Customs



## Equipment & Supplies: The Stockpile



- Response ready
  - Shelving system
  - Storage containers

## Wildlife Non-Perishable Stockpile: Key Pieces of Equipment



## Acknowledgments

- HOVENSA Environmental, Response and Terminal staff
- Tri-State staff and volunteers
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources



## Questions?

