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Government's Role in Oiled Wildlife Response



Jim Lilley 7th October 2009 New Zealand Government

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Government's Role in Oiled Wildlife Response

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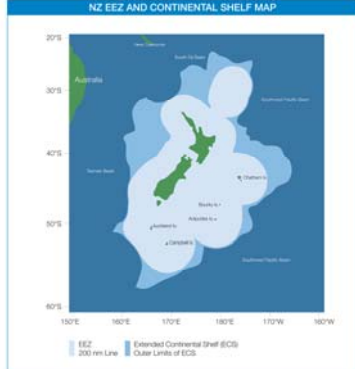
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NZ EEZ AND CONTINENTAL SHELF MAP



EEZ
200 nm Line
Extended Continental Shelf (ECS)
Outer Limits of ECS

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Our Maritime Environment

New Zealand's maritime environment is diverse, dynamic and changing. It provides valuable employment, trade tourism and recreational opportunities for people on our seas, rivers and lakes.



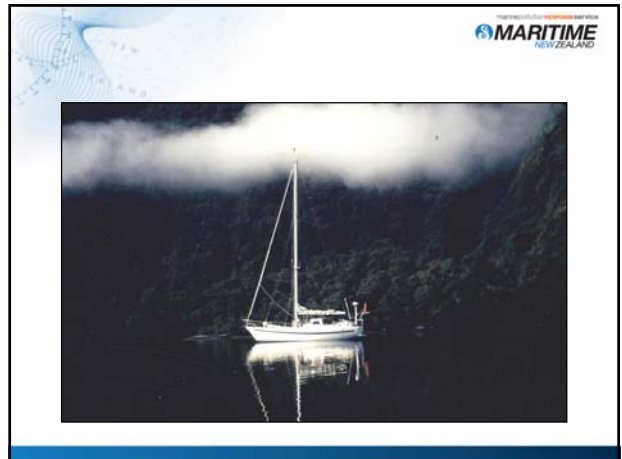
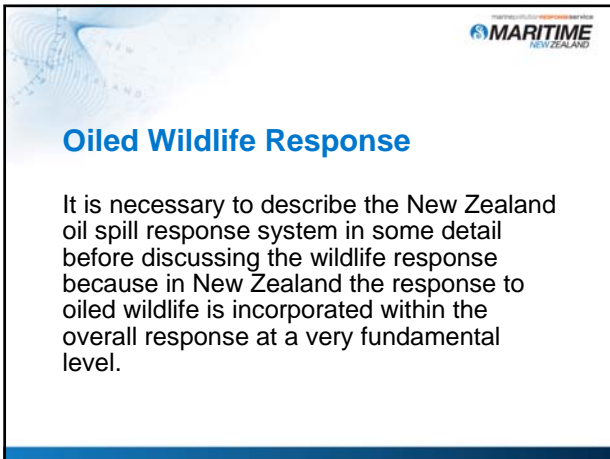
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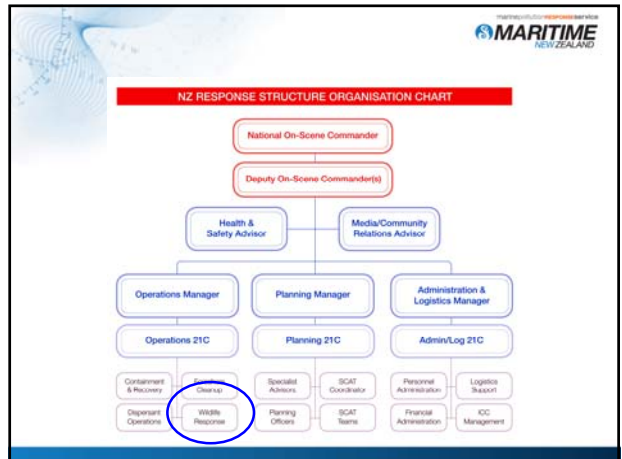
Our Maritime Community

Our diverse maritime community includes more than 450,000 pleasure craft, nearly 4,000 commercial vessels, and a small number of New Zealand flagged vessels (including interisland ferries), as well as a range of smaller ferries carrying millions of passengers each year.

Oiled Wildlife Response

It is necessary to describe the New Zealand oil spill response system in some detail before discussing the wildlife response because in New Zealand the response to oiled wildlife is incorporated within the overall response at a very fundamental level.




Legislation

Within New Zealand the relevant legislation is:

- Maritime Transport Act 1994
- Maritime Transport Amendment Act 2005
- Marine Protection Rules



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The Maritime Transport Act 1994

The Maritime Transport Act 1994 provided for the implementation of New Zealand's obligations under international maritime agreements and ensured that participants in the maritime transport system of New Zealand are responsible for their actions.



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Marine Pollution Response Service

As part of their mission to ensure the seas around New Zealand remain clean, MNZ established the Marine Pollution Response Service (MPRS) based in Auckland.



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Marine Pollution Response Service

MPRS is staffed by a small team of trained oil spill response experts who oversee New Zealand's stockpiles of specialist oil spill response equipment.



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Marine Pollution Response Service

MPRS staff also provides oil spill exercises and training courses to regionally-based oil spill responders from all around New Zealand.



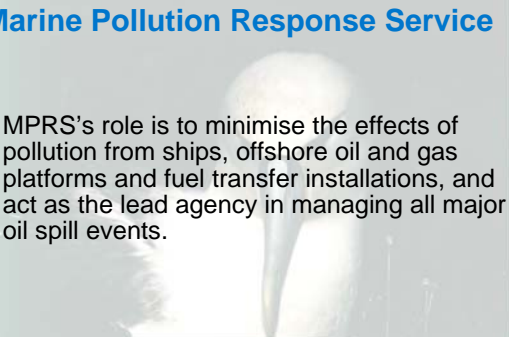
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Marine Pollution Response Service

MPRS's role is to minimise the effects of pollution from ships, offshore oil and gas platforms and fuel transfer installations, and act as the lead agency in managing all major oil spill events.



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The System in New Zealand

New Zealand's response capability is based upon contingency planning that has been developed and maintained through partnerships between MNZ, regional councils and unitary authorities, industry, domestic and international agencies.



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Oil Spill Responsibility in NZ

New Zealand has adopted a 'tiered' system that reflects the requirement for different scaled responses depending on the size of the pollution event.

- Tier 1: The Spiller
- Tier 2: The Regional Council
- Tier 3: Maritime New Zealand



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The System in New Zealand

There are other key principals used that make the New Zealand system unique and effective other than partnerships. These include but are not limited to:

- The protection of human safety.
- Net Environmental Benefit Assessment
- The 'polluter pays'
- effective and credible response, and
- The best available specialist advice sought.



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Risk Assessments

- MNZ maintains its domestic response capability based on the findings of successive and regular marine oil spill risk assessments.
- Undertaken every four years
- New Zealand has almost total reliance on the maritime transport system for imports and exports.



Funding

Oil spill preparedness activities undertaken by central and local government are funded by a levy on the oil and shipping industries (the risk creators). The levy is collected by Maritime New Zealand and is administered as the Oil Pollution Fund (OPF).



Funding

Representatives from industry and organisations with environmental responsibilities make up the Oil Pollution Advisory Committee (OPAC) that provides advice to the Director of Maritime New Zealand on the administration of the OPF.

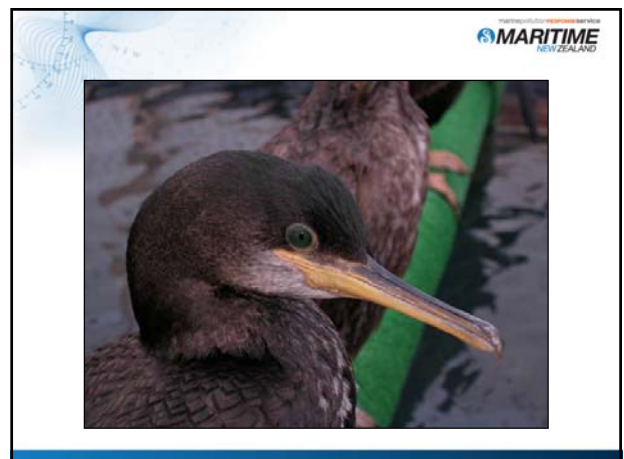


Oil Pollution Fund

Activities covered by the OPF include:

- Contingency planning
- Training & exercising
- Cleaning up un sourced oil spills.
- Equipment purchase & maintenance





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Our National Response Team

An example of the NRT system took place during the oiled wildlife response to the 'Jody F. Millennium' grounding in Gisborne in 2002. For the first time wildlife rehabilitation personnel found themselves working alongside technical staff.



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Our National Response Team

OWR expertise now accounts for just over 10% of the NRT.



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The Evolution

Of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

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The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

In New Zealand, the aim of oiled wildlife response is to avoid, remedy or mitigate the impact of oil pollution on:

- Marine and coastal birds
- Reptiles, and
- Marine mammals.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

MNZ recognised the need to provide a credible and effective wildlife response, and the NZWHC was duly contracted in 1998 to develop and maintain a Tier 3 wildlife response plan. This plan is annexed to the National Oil Spill Response Plan.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

The NZWHC are also contracted to provide a national wildlife treatment facility for up to 500 oiled wildlife equivalents, as well as personnel and equipment for use during an oil spill response.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

This agreement has since expanded to include assistance to the regions to develop their Tier 2 wildlife plans, aiming for consistency across all regions, and to facilitate a more seamless escalation from a Tier 2 to Tier 3 response.



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The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

This contractual agreement with the NZWHC ensures that best international practise is adhered to while prioritising human safety as well as animal welfare.



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The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

As with overall response costs, wildlife response costs are fully recoverable from the spiller.



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The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

An important feature of the oiled wildlife response system in New Zealand is not only that the wildlife response integrated within the overall response, but key personnel are employees or subcontractors of the NZWHC and this system does not rely on volunteer involvement.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand



Any person who comes along to 'volunteer' their services during an oiled wildlife response goes through an induction process and effectively become employees of MNZ for the duration of their service.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand



Oiled wildlife response in New Zealand is not just as a contract between MNZ and NZWHC, but also involves:

- New Zealand Department of Conservation
- Tangata Whenua (indigenous population)



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand



While all of that describes what is written in MNZ's various strategy documents and Statement of Intent to the New Zealand Government, it does not describe what makes New Zealand's oiled wildlife response really unique.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

Since initiation of their contractual agreement in 1998, response preparedness and a healthy working relationship between MNZ and the NZWHC has developed steadily along the same lines as that described at the institution of the NRT.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

- Dedication
- Goodwill
- Pride &
- Passion



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

Regular and frequent interaction and reporting.





The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

These interactions are no longer just confined to the corporate level, but have filtered right down to the individual components that make up each organisation.



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The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

This has resulted in more specific plans for areas of significant conservation value like:

- Hauraki Gulf
- Fiordland, and
- The sub-Antarctic islands.



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The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

Barbeques and rugby games!



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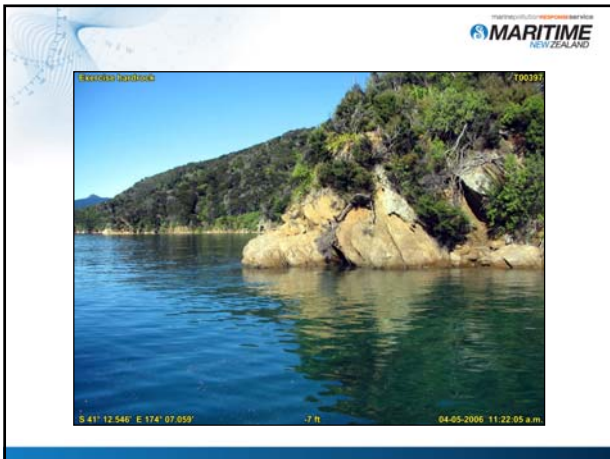


The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

This has resulted in the relationships going beyond MNZ and the NZWHC.

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An aerial photograph showing a coastline with a boat in the water. The image is framed by a blue border with the Maritime New Zealand logo in the top right corner.

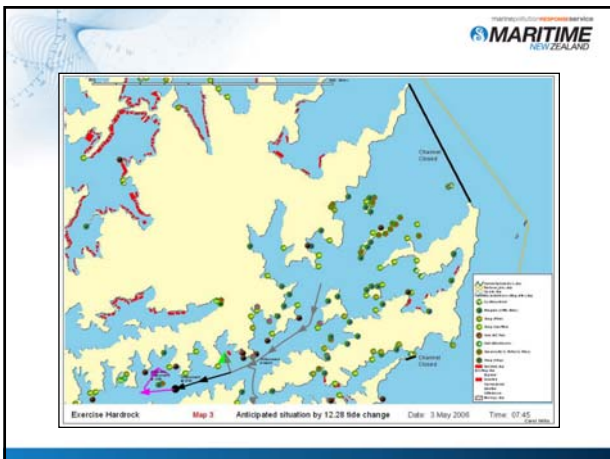


The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

This relationship has resulted in very close communication throughout any event and the tandem development of plans during responses and exercises.

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A map of New Zealand showing maritime boundaries and response zones. The map is framed by a blue border with the Maritime New Zealand logo in the top right corner.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

OWR is now incorporated in both planning and operations teams within the spill's organisational and command structure.

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A photograph showing a group of people sitting around a table in a meeting room. The image is framed by a blue border with the Maritime New Zealand logo in the top right corner.



The Evolution of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

This more inclusive approach also extends to training; this includes:

- Oiled wildlife responders
- Response management staff, and
- On-Scene-Commanders.



New Technology
& Other Developments for Oil Spill Response

On-Going Training

NZWHC now also participates in annual regional council workshops and Tier 2 and Tier 3 exercises.



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New Technology - Web EOC

This new tool addressed information & communication management during a response which is now handled via a web based incident management system.



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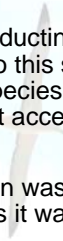


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New Technology - Web EOC

OWR staff conducting field assessments are able to log onto this system and log the number and species of wildlife observed via remote internet access.

This information was available to all at the ICC as soon as it was entered.



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The Future

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The Future of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

MPRS has:

- Reviewed training needs & syllabus, &
- Developed an improved training curriculum .





The Future of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

Current strategic projects include:

- Risk assessment (end of 2009)
- Capability review of NZ system (2010)



The Future of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

Given the dedication all partners bring to this field of endeavour in our country, we feel that New Zealand 'bats well above her weight' when delivering oiled wildlife response.



The Future of Oiled Wildlife Response in New Zealand

Maritime New Zealand is very proud of the relationship it shares with NZWHC and the fruits of that relationship, and we are confident that the welfare of our wildlife is well catered for under the oiled wildlife response system in place in New Zealand.







The End

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