



LA-LB AREA CONTINGENCY PLAN v.2014.4

August 2018

**SECTION 4000
PLANNING**

ABSTRACT

This section is designed to frame and inform decisions on planning for response actions.

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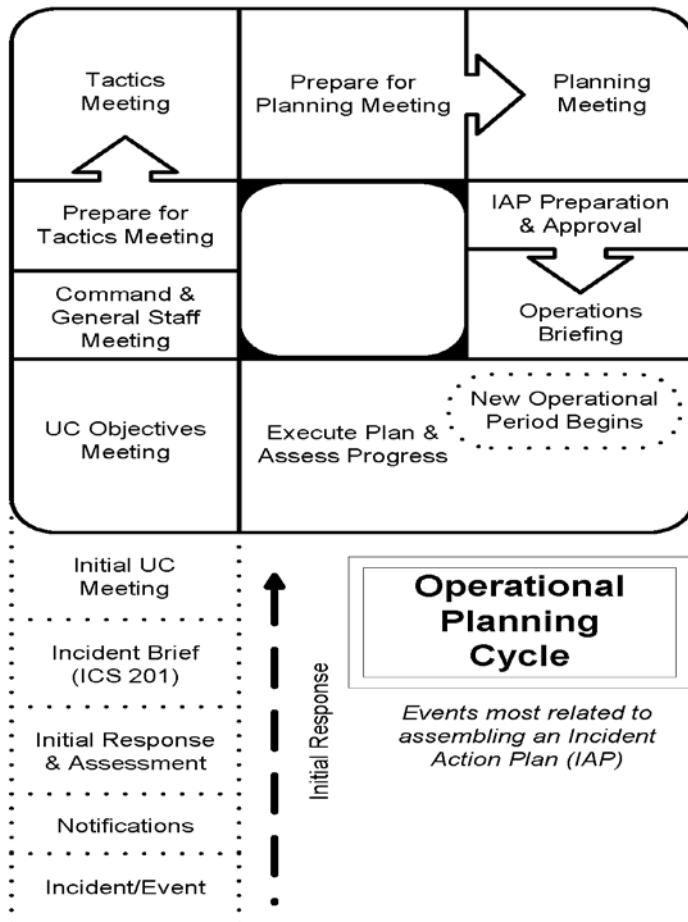
4000 PLANNING

4100 Planning Section Organization

The Planning Section, headed by the Planning Section Chief who is a member of the General Staff, is responsible for the collection, evaluation, and dissemination of tactical information related to the incident, and for the preparation and documentation of Action Plans. The section also maintains information on the current and forecasted situation, and on the status of resources assigned to the incident. Includes the Situation, Resource, Documentation, Environmental and Demobilization Units, as well as Technical Specialists.

Information is needed to 1) understand the current situation, 2) predict probable course of incident events, and 3) prepare alternative strategies for the incident.

4110 Planning Section Planning Cycle Guide



4200 Situation

The Situation Unit Leader is responsible for the collection and evaluation of information about the current and possible future status of the spill and the spill response operations. This responsibility includes the compilation of information regarding the type and amount of oil spilled, the amount of oil recovered, the oil's current location and anticipated trajectory, and impacts on natural resources. This responsibility includes providing information to the GIS Specialist(s) for the creation of maps to depict the current and possible future situation and the preparation of reports for the Planning Section Chief.

4210 Chart/Map of Area

Refer to Section 9800 of this Plan

4220 Weather/Tides/Currents

Refer to Section 9800 of this Plan

4230 Situation Unit Displays

The Situation Unit is responsible for maintaining a display of status boards, which communicate critical incident information vital to establishing an effective command and control environment. The display of incident status information is obtained from Field Observers (FOBS), resource status reports, aerial and other photographs, and infrared data.

Refer to the Coast Guard [Incident Management Handbook](#).

4240 On Scene Command and Control (OSC2)

The Situation Unit is responsible for maintaining a display of status boards, which communicate critical incident information vital to establishing an effective command and control environment.

Refer to the Coast Guard [Incident Management Handbook](#).

4250 Required Operational Reports

During each of the Planning Cycle meetings, the Situation Unit Leader reviews the current & projected incident situation.

Refer to the Coast Guard [Incident Management Handbook](#).

4260 Field Observers

Other positions in the response structure may be involved in shoreline assessment. One such position is the Field Observer. They are usually two-person teams (sometimes called Rapid Assessment Teams) made up of representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard and the State lead agency that quickly deploy to problem sites to determine what is happening. The Field Observers report directly to the Situation Unit Leader who in turn communicates their information to other units in Planning and Operations. At least one of the Field Observers on the two-person team should have an operations background, with the other member trained in shoreline assessment.

4300 Resources

The Resource Unit Leader (RESL) is responsible for maintaining the status of all assigned tactical resources and personnel at an incident.

Refer to the Coast Guard [Incident Management Handbook](#).

4310 Resource Management Procedures

Resource Unit is responsible for maintaining the status of all assigned tactical resources and personnel at an incident. This is achieved by overseeing the check-in of all tactical resources and personnel, maintaining a status-keeping system indicating current location and status of all these resources. Resources shall be managed in accordance with procedures stated in the Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook.

Check-in Procedures

All resources are required to check in at the beginning of an event and prior to departing, once his or her services are no longer required. Check in shall be conducted in accordance with the Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook procedures.

4320 Volunteers

The Non-Wildlife Volunteer Plan (NWVP) included as Appendix A to Section 4000 refers to and supports the United States Coast Guard (USCG) Incident Management Handbook (IMH) and complies with the National Incident Management (NIMS) guidelines (Homeland Security Presidential Directive; HSPD-5). The NWVP has been developed for guidance to the Unified Command (UC) or Incident Commander (IC) to consider the integration of volunteers into oil spill response for missions other than oiled wildlife. The UC should also refer to the relevant Area Contingency Plan or Local Oil Spill Contingency Plan for additional information regarding the use of volunteers. For the purposes of this plan, the term "UC" from this point forward is intended to be synonymous with UC or IC lead responses.

Historically, volunteers from the general public have not been utilized in oil spills outside the care and processing of oiled wildlife due to the health and safety hazards often present during an oil spill incident. However, recent California oil spill incidents have demonstrated there may be strong public interest in volunteer participation in other aspects of spill response. The NWVP sets forth guidance and protocols for the use of volunteers for non-wildlife related work at oil spill incidents.

Due to the complexity of volunteer management and its potential to hinder the UC and oil spill operations, the NWVP establishes a Volunteer Unit (VU) in the Planning Section. The NWVP recommends a VU be staffed at the earliest opportunity to conduct stand by notifications of local government volunteer organizations including Emergency Management Organizations, Non-Government Organizations and Emergency Volunteer Centers (see Attachment G1-G3). The VU's task during early activation stages also includes advising the UC of the possible need for volunteers, external pressures to use volunteers and local government's ability to assist in managing volunteers.

Volunteer Unit Leader (VUL)

The best qualified candidate will fill this position, including state and local government staff.

- During initial stages of event, conduct stand by notifications for local volunteer operation.
- Once established, reports to the Planning Section Chief.
- Ensures VU is appropriately staffed for the event size, including Technical Specialist assistance. Assigns VU Assistants as needed.
- Coordinates with the JIC on approved press releases, including volunteer hotline/website, appropriate, timely public messaging and town hall meetings.
- Ensures EVC and NGO information is coordinated with JIC messaging.
- Works with the EOC and/or EVC-C to ensure all volunteers are registered and complete the incident specific required UC training.
- If not previously completed, coordinates Attachment A review with UC, appropriate Section Chiefs and IC staff to determine when/how to use volunteers and recommends suitable volunteer tasks for UC consideration and approval.
- Completes Volunteer Use Plan and Volunteer Safety Plan
- ICS 213RR o ICS 204
- Acquires PSC approval as appropriate.
- Provides volunteer status updates as directed by the UC, keeping the UC apprised of local and internal ICP sensitivities regarding volunteer issues.
- Works with LNO, LGOSC and/or NGOs to activate local government volunteer management systems.
- Be prepared to work with Local Government EOC and EVC staff to ensure appropriate policies, procedures and paperwork are implemented in volunteer management systems.
- Weighs and considers all options regarding establishing NGO-C position.
- Works with Planning Section Chief, Operations Section Chief, and Logistics Section o Chief to ensure effective and proper use of volunteers is included in the IAP.
- Ensures all pre-trained volunteers have appropriate level of training or complete required training.
- Coordinates with LNO to ensure appropriate sharing of information in a timely manner with California Volunteers Liaison and local government Agency Representatives.
- Coordinates with SOFR regarding any Volunteer injuries.
- Works with the EOC and/or EVC to ensure volunteer statistics are maintained.

Shoreline Cleanup

Volunteers will not automatically be used for missions such as shoreline clean up. Depending on the nature of the incident, volunteers may or may not be used to respond to an incident. Local government decision-makers can provide a wealth of knowledge to a UC when contemplating the initial decision to use volunteers. The benefit of volunteer efforts must be weighed against concerns for volunteer safety. Based on the conditions specific to a particular incident, the UC will determine the suitability of integrating volunteers for oil spill response missions. In all instances careful consideration shall be used to identify specific areas where volunteers can be used safely. If, in the judgment of the UC a dangerous condition(s) exists such that volunteers cannot be used safely, volunteers shall be restricted from operations in those areas.

In reviewing the potential for use of volunteers in oil spill response missions, the UC will consider the following factors:

- Primary safety hazards (e.g. size, type, and toxicity of discharged oil)
- Secondary safety hazards (e.g. weather, visibility, slips/trips/falls)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) guidance
- U.S. Coast Guard safety manual
- Incident Site Safety and Health Plan (SSHP)
- Possible clean up locations
- Logistics and administrative support requirements (e.g. training, Personal Protective Equipment [PPE], multi-jurisdictional coordination, public information)
- Local government desire/ability to activate an emergency volunteer management system (including recruiting, registering, screening, administrative activities, training, deployment, recovery/decon)
- Weather/tidal conditions
- How volunteers may effectively be used in shoreline clean up
- Outcome of consultation with the Safety Officer (SOFR) regarding dangerous conditions and safety concerns

Volunteer Groups

Refer to the Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach Non-Wildlife Volunteer Plan (NWVP), Appendix A to Section 4000, for Regional NGO contact information.

Volunteer Plan

The Sector Los Angeles/Long Beach Approved Non-Wildlife Volunteer Plan (NWVP) is included as Appendix A of Section 4000.

Volunteer Assignments

Position descriptions for volunteers, and the staff that will be managing them, are included in the NWVP.

Required Training

Human health and safety is the first priority in decisions regarding use of volunteers. Any volunteer interested in working an oil spill incident must register for the event and complete the UC required training. Members of the public and/or affiliated organizations providing their services without being registered for the event and completing UC required training will not be recognized as sanctioned volunteers for that oil spill incident.

Volunteers, once approved by the UC, will generally be used in very low risk activities and only after receiving appropriate safety training.

General Training Course Descriptions

Volunteers will be given appropriate training before being assigned to a particular position as described in the Non-Wildlife Volunteer Plan (NWVP). Training at the end of Section 4000. All required training must be completed and current with evidence of training made available upon

request. Volunteers must be trained to perform the tasks they are asked to do as described in the NWVP. An inexperienced and untrained volunteer will not be assigned to perform a task requiring training and/or experience.

To ensure volunteers integrate into ICS smoothly, all volunteers are encouraged to complete IS100 and IS700 training and provide documentation prior to being assigned a role during an oil spill response. These required trainings are free at <http://training.fema.gov/IS/>. Volunteers will only be assigned to sites which have been characterized and are under permissible exposure limits (PEL).

In order to volunteer during an oil spill incident you MUST fulfill the following requirements:

- At least 18 years of age
- CDFW/OSPR Volunteer Service Agreement or
- California Governor's Office of Emergency Services Disaster Service Worker forms Oath of Allegiance and Declaration
- Volunteer Information Form
- Vehicle Authorization Form (only required if using private vehicle during duty assignment) Able to lift 25 – 35 pounds
- Complete health and safety training requirements
- Review, sign and document understanding of incident Site Safety Plan

4400 Documentation

The Documentation Unit Leader (DOCL) is responsible for the maintenance of accurate, up-to-date incident files. They will also provide duplication and copying services for all other sections and finally, will store incident files for legal, analytical, and historical purposes.

Refer to the Coast Guard [Incident Management Handbook](#).

4410 Services Provided

The Documentation Unit Leader is responsible for the maintenance of accurate, up-to-date incident files. Examples of incident documentation include: Incident Action Plan, incident reports, communication logs, injury claims, situation status reports, etc.

Thorough documentation is critical to post-incident analysis. Some of the documents may originate in other sections. This unit shall ensure each section is maintaining and providing appropriate documents. The Documentation Unit will provide duplication and copying services for all other sections. The Documentation Unit will store incident files for legal, analytical, and historical purposes.

4420 Administrative File Organization

Refer to the RRT Region IX [Regional Contingency Plan](#).

4500 Demobilization

The DEMOB Unit Leader is responsible for developing the Incident Demobilization Plan. On large incidents, demobilization can be quite complex, requiring a separate planning activity. Note that not all agencies require specific demobilization instructions.

Refer to the Coast Guard [Incident Management Handbook](#).

4510 Sample Demob Plan

DEMOBILIZATION PLAN FOR THE incident name here INCIDENT

I. General Information

- a. The size and location of the incident lends itself to holding a small number of surplus personnel and equipment during the time it takes to process releases and arrange transportation. Released personnel requiring air transportation will be required to make all flight arrangements for themselves. Resources on this incident may have long travel times, thus the following general guidelines will be followed:
 - i. No person will be released prior to obtaining a minimum of four (4) hours rest, unless specially approved by the Unified Command or their designee.

II. Release Priorities

- a. The following are the release priorities:
 - i. Out of area resources
 - ii. USCG Vessels
 - iii. Contracted resources

III. Release Procedures

- a. Section Chiefs:
 - i. Will submit their lists of surplus resources to the Demobilization Unit Leader (DMOB) or the Planning Section Chief if no DMOB has been designated a minimum of 2 hours prior to their anticipated demobilization.
 - ii. Have the authority to approve the tentative release lists for submission to DMOB.
 - iii. Surplus resources planning to take leave in Hawaii after the incident assignment, prior to return to the home unit must have leave approval from the home unit supervisor in writing, to be provided to DMOB.
- b. Upon submission of tentative release lists by the Section Chiefs, the Planning Section will inform the UC that they are surplus to the incident and provide a recommendation for or against release from the incident.
- c. The DMOB will prepare the demobilization checkout (ICS 221) and ensure that all resources being demobilized have a completed checkout sheet signed by either themselves or the DMOB.
- d. Resources released from the incident are required to report back to the DMOB upon safe arrival to home unit via phone call or e-mail within 8 hours of arrival.

IV. Section Chiefs Responsibilities

- a. Planning Section Chief
 - i. Shall ensure demobilization information is disseminated in sufficient time to ensure the orderly downsizing of incident resources.
 - ii. Submit proposed release of resources for Unified Command approval. Ensure approved releases receive and comply with demobilization checkout form (ICS 221)

-
- V. Operations Section Chief
 - a. Identify and communicate excess personnel and equipment available for demobilization to the Planning Section Chief.
 - VI. Logistics Section Chief
 - a. Coordinate all personnel and equipment transportation needs to final destinations.
 - b. Ensure all communications equipment distributed is returned prior to release.
 - VII. Finance/Administration Section Chief
 - a. Is responsible for completion of personnel and equipment cost documentation and any release cost reports needed.

4600 Environmental

Both Federal and State laws establish three priority levels for dedication of emergency oil spill response resources:

First priority – protection of human health and safety (e.g. power plant and drinking water intakes);
Second priority – protection of environmental resources;
Third priority – protection of economic resources.

Refer to Section 9800 for detailed environmental information and refer to Sections 4610, 4620, and 4630 below for summaries of what is in Section 9800. The detailed Sensitive Site Summary and Site Strategy Sheets, Economically Sensitive Site Tables, and cultural and historic information are in Section 9800.

4610 Public Health Concerns, Seafood Tainting, and Fisheries Closure

Fish and shellfish are resources that may be seriously impacted in oil spill events. If these resources are impacted by a spill of ≥ 42 gallons, issues of primary concern are public health, seafood tainting, and fisheries closure. The fishery closure protocol requires the director of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) to close affected waters to the take of all fish and shellfish within 24 hours of a spill. However, this closure is not required if the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment (OEHHA) finds within that time that a public health threat does not or is not likely to exist. If a fishery is closed, the director must reopen the closed areas if OEHHA notifies the director, within 24 hours of receiving the notification, that there is no public health threat. If the fishery is closed and remains so for 48 hours, the director is required, within seven days from notification, to order expedited tests of fish and shellfish known to be taken for commercial, recreational, or subsistence purposes in the closed area. Testing is performed to determine the level of contamination and if the fish or shellfish are safe for human consumption. The director is authorized to modify the boundaries of the closure area if OEHHA makes a determination that contamination from the spill or discharge does not pose a threat to the entire closed area. Further, fish and shellfish from the affected area may not pose a threat to human health, but may have a taint in the smell or taste which could impact current and future market sales.

4620 Environmental Sensitive Sites Summary and Strategy Sheets

Refer to Section 9800 for the Environmentally Sensitive Site Summary Sheets, Strategy Sheets, and Response Diagrams.

The purpose of this section is to provide background, definitions, and philosophy behind the Site Summary and Strategy Sheets in ACP Section 9800. Both Federal and State laws require that sites having special ecological sensitivity be identified and provisions be made to protect or otherwise mitigate for the site impacts from spills. In California these locations are termed "Sensitive Sites". A narrative and diagram of each site with specific ecological and operational information has been developed.

The development of specific protection strategies to meet the site specific needs was conducted using a standardized protocol to ensure consistency for California's entire coast. The process of site visits, training exercises, and discussions allows trustees and response experts to exchange concerns and feasibility limitations in forming protection strategies. Using this approach, the local area committee incorporates input of State and Federal trustees, and stakeholders (industry, spill response co-ops and contractors, non- governmental environmental groups, and other agencies) to form consensus on the appropriate site protection strategies and response resources. The committee will revise strategies based on new knowledge and to adapt to changing conditions. This information is summarized in the Site Summary and Site Strategy pages in this section.

The environmental sensitivity differs by location or season depending on conditions or the presence of species. A ranking index was developed in order to identify the relative protection priority of sites. These ranks define the environmental sensitivity of the area and its resources at risk. Accordingly each site is ranked A, B, or C based on the following definitions:

Category A - Extremely Sensitive:

Wetlands, estuaries and lagoons with emergent vegetation (marsh-riparian ESI 10) Sheltered tidal flat (ESI 9); and Habitats for rare, threatened or endangered species (State or Federal); Sites of significant concentrations of vulnerable and sensitive species (e.g. pinniped pupping)

Category B - Very Sensitive:

Major pinniped haul out areas during non-pupping seasons; Moderate concentrations of vulnerable and sensitive species; other low energy habitats (ESI types 8A, 8B, 7 and 6B)

Category C – Sensitive:

Higher energy habitats (ESI 6A through 1) for example: Habitats important to large numbers of species of sport, commercial value, and scientific interest or species experiencing significant population declines though not yet threatened.

In addition to the environmental narratives shown on the Site Summary page, a Site Strategy narrative provides information on protection strategies, recommended resources, and site logistical and access information. These Site Strategies are intended as guidelines to assist responders during the initial hours of a spill response. The intent of the site strategies is to provide initial recommendations to protect the site until actual conditions and needs at sensitive sites can be determined to provide appropriately modified strategies. In other words, strategies presented here are flexible and may require modification in real response situations. The

strategies provided here are the best available response options for foreseeable typical wind and current conditions at the respective sites. Those conditions may not prevail at the time of the spill. Responders and planners may need to adjust strategies to meet the needs presented by prevailing conditions; following the initial emergency response many sites may have alternative strategies to accommodate differences in conditions.

Section 9800 provides detailed information on Environmentally Sensitive Sites. Each site is described on multiple pages: Site Summary, Site Strategy, and Diagram. The Site Summary page provides a brief description of the site including location, access, specific concerns, agency contacts, etc. The Site Strategy page provides specific information on response strategies to be implemented to protect the site from marine oil spills. The diagram page shows the protection strategies, topography and roads.

Most sites have more than one protection strategy. These additional strategies may be used as back-ups to the primary protection strategy or as alternatives to accommodate prevailing conditions. It should be understood that the described strategies are intended as initial protection strategies for the first 24 hours of a spill. Additional or modified protection measures should also be considered.

4630 Cultural and Historical Sites

The national Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties (PA) during Emergency Response under the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan serves to ensure that historic properties are considered in the planning for and conduct of emergency response. The national PA facilitates the federal government's ability to develop and execute a uniform nationwide approach for considering and treating historic properties before and during emergency response. General guidance for addressing sensitive California-specific cultural and historic resources is found in: Emergency Response Program Guidelines to Implement the National Programmatic Agreement on Protection of Historic Properties (Guidelines). These Guidelines provide a checklist to guide the Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) to help protect and conserve cultural and historic resources during a response.

Provided in the document is the procedure for determining when to activate an Historic Properties Specialist (HPS), a checklist for the HPS to follow upon activation by the FOSC, and a form to document actions taken that resulted in unavoidable injury to historic properties.

Volume II/Section 9800 provides Cultural / Historic information specific to Area Committees and Geographic Response Plans. Most cultural resource information is confidential and is located in the California Historical Resources Information System (CHRIS). This System is a detailed database maintained by the Office of Historic Preservation of the California Department of Parks and Recreation and the local Information Center. To keep these resources as secure as possible, CHRIS can only be accessed by certified archaeologists, including the State Historical Preservation Officer (SHPO). Volume II/Section 9800 provides Cultural / Historic resource information on the Site Summary pages for locations where these resources overlap with sensitive sites. Also included is contact information to assist with accessing CHRIS and consulting with local tribal organizations. UC Santa Barbara also maintains a closely guarded record of sensitive historical sites to be utilized in the event that tribal monitoring will be needed during a response.

4640 Economic Sensitive Sites

Refer to Section 9800 for detailed Economic Sensitive Site tables and figures. The primary purpose of section 9800 is to identify and incorporate into emergency response planning, the specific economic resources subject to injury or damages from an oil spill event. Section 9800 identifies through lists, tables maps, and text, many of the economic resources that face potential damages due to an oil spill. Limitations of time, personnel, and the availability of information caused that not all resources of significant economic value and susceptible to marine oil spills could be identified at this time.

People involved with response planning recognize that throughout California's marine waters, along the State's shoreline, and within coastal communities are many resources of economic importance that could be severely impacted by an oil spill incident.

Types of Economically Significant Resources and Rankings

Section 9800 contains tables and maps with information about the economically significant resources within the planning area.

The economic sites are ranked using a continuation of the environmental scale with D, E, and F categories. Economic resources that have a greater potential for long-term damages receive a higher rank or priority for emergency response. Response planners recognize that marine resources can have environmental, economic, and cultural or historical importance, such as coastal parks or important fishing, areas. In these cases, the higher environmental ranking would be used for response planning. The need to set priorities for protection will occur only when response equipment or resources are inadequate to handle a given spill volume.

Criteria-for Priority Response and Types of Economic Resources

The following criteria or definitions are used to categorize economic resources in terms of priority for response:

Category D = Economic activities and resources which require high water quality for their operations or existence. Resources that fall into this category would face severe, long-term economic impacts from a spill. This category includes commercial fishing areas (also have environmental rank), aqua culture and mariculture areas, marine labs, salt pond intakes, aquarium water intakes, etc.

Category E = Facilities, businesses, or resources which directly use coastal or bay waters within their economic activity and which are at risk of oiling from a spill in marine waters. The resources falling into this category would face significant disruption of their activity, but shorter term potential damages from oiling than resources in the "D" category. This category would include resources such as marinas, harbors, commercial piers, industrial intakes, and parks or recreational areas.

Category F = This category contains marine associated facilities, businesses and resources. These resources would face economic impacts from a marine spill, but do not depend directly on marine water for their economic base. Resources in this category will tend to face less severe

damages than those identified in categories D or E. This category includes economic resources such as waterfront hotels, restaurants, shops, and residential areas. (Note: residential sites would be evacuated to avoid health risks).

Section 9800 contains lists, and/or maps of sensitive economic areas or resources. Following is a description of the types of information that can be provided for each identified economic

resource or facility: Resource or facility identification number, geographic location of resource or facility, brief description of the resource at risk, contact names and numbers (24 hour access if available), and priority response ranking.

Economically Significant Sites

Refer to Section 9800 for detailed tables and figures.

4650 Environmental Unit Positions

Environmental Unit Leader (EUL)

As indicated in the Coast Guard [Incident Management Handbook](#) (COMDTPUB P3120.17A), the EUL is responsible for environmental matters associated with a response, including but not limited to:

1. Strategic assessment;
2. Modeling;
3. Surveillance;
4. Environmental monitoring and permitting;
5. Preparing and providing environmental data for the Situation Unit;
6. Identifying sensitive areas and recommending response priorities;
7. Consulting with natural resource trustees to provide input on wildlife and site protection strategies, including Endangered Species Act provisions;
8. Consulting with historical/cultural specialists to develop plans for protection of historical/cultural resources;
9. Developing shoreline cleanup and assessment plans;
10. Evaluating use of response technologies; and
11. Developing waste management and disposal plans.

To ensure early critical response decisions are made quickly, efficiently and effectively, it is essential that knowledgeable and qualified individuals lead the effort, as specified in the National Incident Management System Incident Command System (NIMS ICS) (trained and experienced in all Environmental Unit duties, Incident Command System, protection strategies, spill cleanup methods, response equipment, permitting, waste management, and local shorelines and associated resources requiring protection during an oil spill response). State natural resources trustee agencies, designated in Fish and Game Code Section 1802, and the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act (Government Code Sections 8670.1 et seq.); and Federal natural resources trustee agencies, as designated in 40 CFR Section 300.600(b)(1) and (2) and Section 300.605, are qualified (e.g., have knowledge of local resources specific to incident location, ICS, spill response, use of protection strategies, response equipment and response technologies) and provide the response knowledge and expertise necessary to fill positions in the Environmental Unit including the EUL position.

Federal trustee agencies, including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)'s Office of National Marine Sanctuaries (NMS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), and the National Park Service (NPS), as well as state

natural resource trustees, including California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Office of

Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) and the California Department of Parks and Recreation (CDPR) have personnel most familiar with local natural resources requiring protection during an oil spill response. In addition, trustee agencies have, and must ensure, that their statutory and regulatory natural resource protection authorities are not only recognized, but used in the most effective and efficient way during an oil spill response. This can be achieved by the Unified Command placing a trained and qualified representative from a state or federal natural resource trustee agency in the EUL position.

If no federal or state agency representative is initially available to lead the EU, it may be practicable for a Responsible Party (RP) representative to hold the position until a suitable trustee agency representative reports to the Unified Command.

As a spill response matures, it may also be practicable to transition from state or federal resource trustee to an RP representative as EUL with the concurrence of the Unified Command. Private sector/industry employees or contractors may be requested to staff the EUL position during drills and exercises for training purposes in order to gain familiarity with the respective duties, facilitate the staffing of those activities, and earn relevant drill credit.

Therefore, it is the recommendation and policy of the Region IX Regional Response Team (RRT IX) and the California coastal Area Committees that, whenever possible, the EUL position be filled with an experienced response employee of a natural resource trustee agency. The designated EUL may be assisted by a Deputy EUL provided by another trustee agency or by the RP representative.

Resources at Risk Technical Specialist (RAR)

As indicated in the Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook, the RAR THSP participates in environmental mitigation and remediation of oil impacts. These duties include, but are not limited to:

- Identifies resources thought to be at risk from exposure to the oil through analysis of known/anticipated oil movement and the location of natural, economic and historic/cultural resources;
- Considers the relative importance of the resources and the relative risk to develop a priority list for protection in the impacted area.

Based on these responsibilities it is essential that the individual filling the RAR Technical Specialist position be qualified (trained and experienced) in spill response and knowledgeable of local resources. OSPR field staff members and other natural resource trustee agency members possess these qualifications and should assume the role of RAR Technical Specialist. This is to ensure the resources at risk of oiling are properly identified and prioritized, which is critical to developing protection strategies consistent with the best achievable protection of resources. In addition, trustee agencies have, and must ensure, their statutory and regulatory natural resource protection authorities are recognized and used in the most effective and efficient way during an oil spill response.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Region IX Regional Response Team and the California coastal Area Committees that, whenever possible, the RAR Technical Specialist position be filled by a qualified and knowledgeable employee of a state or federal natural resource trustee agency as designated by law.

If no qualified trustee agency staff member is initially available to fill the RAR Technical Specialist position, an RP representative may fill the position until a suitable trustee agency representative reports to the Unified Command. To maintain flexibility in ICS staffing, the FOSC retains the discretion to fill the RAR Technical Specialist position and replace any person filling that position as they deem appropriate. As a spill response matures, a transition from a trustee agency staff member to a RP representative filling the RAR Technical Specialist position may occur with the concurrence of the Unified Command.

Applied Response Technology Lead Technical Specialist (ART THSP)

As indicated in the Coast Guard Incident Management Handbook, the ART THSP participates in environmental mitigation and remediation of oil impacts. These duties include, but are not limited to:

- Evaluate opportunities to use various applied response technologies (ARTs), including dispersants or other chemical countermeasures, in-situ burning, and bioremediation;
- Conduct the consultation and planning required to deploy a specific applied response technology, and articulate the environmental tradeoffs of using or not using a specific ART.

Based on these responsibilities it is essential that the individual filling the ART Lead Technical Specialist position be trained, knowledgeable and qualified. Unlike other ICS leadership positions described elsewhere in this policy, ART use decisions rest specifically with the FOSC, and not more generally with the Unified Command. The FOSC needs to assure that ART policies are being properly evaluated, implemented and documented as directed by the RRT. The ART Lead Technical Specialist working on behalf of the FOSC needs to know how to expertly and efficiently accomplish these critical evaluation tasks. As the decision to use ARTs is inherently a government decision, it follows that the OSPR ART Lead Technical Specialist and/or NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) should staff this position. Both the OSPR ART Lead Technical Specialist and the NOAA SSC possess the necessary qualifications, have existing/established roles with the RRT and FOSC, understand the environmental trade-off discussions that need to occur with trustee agencies, and can ensure that any ART decisions made and technologies implemented occur with proper evaluation, approvals, documentation, and coordination with the Operations Section. This also assures that an FOSC decision to use any ART, as approved/directed by the RRT, also leverages the ART Lead Technical Specialist's ability to incorporate, whenever possible, trustee agency input and Best Management Practices that will help support any conclusions related to the net environmental benefit that can be achieved through ART use.

The individual filling the ART Lead Technical Specialist position must be the individual most qualified and knowledgeable of ARTs, policies, processes, and local resources requiring protection during an oil spill response.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Region IX Regional Response Team and California coastal Area Committees that, whenever possible, the Applied Response Technology Lead Technical Specialist position be filled by qualified (trained and experienced) OSPR ART Lead Technical Specialist, the

NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator, and/or other trained and qualified personnel from a response or resource trustee agency. If no qualified staff from a response agency is initially available to fill the ART Lead Technical Specialist position, an RP representative may fill the role until a suitable response or trustee agency staff member reports to the Unified Command. To maintain ICS staffing flexibility, the FOSC has the discretion to fill the Applied Response Technology Lead Technical Specialist position, and replace any person filling that position as they deem appropriate. As a spill response matures, a transition from the response agency staff member to an RP representative filling the Applied Response Technology Lead Technical Specialist position may occur with the approval of the FOSC.

Private sector/industry employees or contractors may be requested to serve as additional Applied Response Technology Specialists during drills and exercises for training purposes in order to gain familiarity with their respective duties. Earning relevant drill credit should include:

1. Coordination with the EUL, OSPR ART Lead Technical Specialist, and/or NOAA SSC, working remotely or in person;
2. Work in advance of or during the actual drill that acknowledges the trustee agency roles as ART Lead Technical Specialist;
3. ART play, and ART Team Lead and member roles that are scaled to the drill scenario.

4700 Technical Support

Technical Specialists are advisors with special skills needed to support the incident. Technical Specialists may be assigned anywhere in the ICS organization. If necessary, Technical Specialists may be assigned to a separate unit. The Planning Section will maintain a list of available specialists and will assign them where needed. The following are example position descriptions for Technical Specialists that might be utilized during an oil spill response.

4710 Hazardous Materials

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), commonly referred to as the Superfund, was enacted on December 11, 1980. CERCLA (pronounced SIR-KLA) provides a Federal Superfund to clean up uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous-waste sites as well as accidents, spills, and other emergency releases of pollutants and contaminants into the environment. Through the Act, the Coast Guard and EPA were given power to seek out those parties responsible for any release and assure their cooperation in the cleanup. In addition, CERCLA provided for the revision and republishing of the National Contingency Plan (NCP, 40 CFR Part 300) that provides the guidelines and procedures needed to respond to releases and threatened releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants. The NCP also provides for the National Priorities List, a list of national priorities among releases or threatened releases throughout the United States for the purpose of taking remedial action.

Also, see HAZARDOUS MATERIALS at Section 7000 for further discussion.

4710.1 Toxicologist

Under development by the LA-LB Area Committee.

4710.2 Product Specialist

A Product Specialist is an individual who works for a private enterprise and who is knowledgeable of the operating characteristics of specific materials spilled or released that may harm the environment.

4710.3 Certified Marine Chemist

A Certified Marine Chemist (CMC) promotes the science of, and improve the methods of evaluation and eliminating health, fire and explosion hazards in marine and associated industries.

4710.4 Certified Industrial Hygienist

An Industrial Hygienist (IH) is a professional evaluating the health effects of chemicals or noise in a work place. The IHs use their knowledge to anticipate when a hazardous condition could occur to cause an adverse health effect on a worker or the environment.

4710.5 Chemist or Chemical Engineer

Chemical engineers (CE) concern themselves with the chemical processes that turn raw materials into valuable products. CE skills encompass all aspects of design, testing, scale-up, operation, control, and optimization, and require a detailed understanding of the various "unit operations", such as distillation, mixing, and biological processes, which make these conversions possible.

4720 Oil

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act (FWPCA) is the primary law used for response and enforcement of oil discharges on or upon the navigable waters of the United States, or tributaries there of.

The Clean Water Act (CWA) amended the FWPCA and made the following provisions:

- Established pollution fund with a \$100 million amount
- Defined "reportable and harmful quantities"
- Authorized the federal assumption of clean-up operations.
- Established the National Response center.

The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 streamlined and strengthened Coast Guard's and EPA's ability to prevent and respond to catastrophic oil spills. A trust fund financed by a tax on oil is available to clean up spills when the responsible party is incapable or unwilling to do so. The OPA requires oil storage facilities and vessels to submit to the Federal government plans detailing how they will respond to large discharges. EPA has published regulations for aboveground storage facilities; the Coast Guard has done so for oil tankers. The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) of 1990 amended the CWA and made the following provisions:

- Created a \$1 billion pollution fund commonly referred to as the Oil Spill Liability
- Trust Fund (OSTLF).
- Allowed On-Scene Coordinator (OSC) to issue administrative orders.
- Increased civil penalties.
- Increased spiller liabilities.

4720.1 Scientific Support Coordinator

The Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), in accordance with the National Contingency Plan, will provide the Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) scientific advice with regard to the best course of action during a spill response. The SSC will obtain consensus from the Federal Natural Resource Trustee Agencies and provide spill trajectory analysis data, information on the resources at risk, weather information, tidal and current information, etc. The SSC will be the point of contact for the Scientific Support Team from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Hazardous Material Response and Assessment Division.

4720.2 Lightering

In addition to local, commercial lightering companies, the National Strike Force and Navy SUPSALV own oil-pumping equipment. They both have equipment capable of pumping highly viscous oils.

4720.3 Salvage

See Section 8000 Salvage and Marine Firefighting Plan for more information on salvage operations.

4720.4 Shoreline Cleanup Assessment

Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Team (SCAT) Coordinator serves in the Environmental Unit and reports to the Environmental Unit Leader. This function is responsible for assessing oiled shorelines and providing appropriate cleanup recommendations relative to the types of shorelines and the degree to which they have been impacted. The SCAT Coordinator should typically be staffed by a government regulatory natural resource trustee (e.g., DFG-OSPR), or a contracted subject matter expert agreed upon by the Unified Command during the initial Unified Command meeting.

The SCAT Coordinator should be designated to manage the SCAT teams and synthesize their field data, utilizing standard GIS data formats compatible with Environmental Unit and Planning Section to support the daily Incident Action Plan (IAP).

The SCAT Coordinator must be knowledgeable of ICS, SCAT, use of protection strategies, spill cleanup methods, response equipment, local shorelines and associated resources requiring protection during an oil spill response.

Trustee agencies have personnel most familiar with local natural resources requiring protection during an oil spill response. In addition, trustee agencies have, and must ensure, their statutory and regulatory natural resource protection authorities are recognized and used in the most effective and efficient way during an oil spill response.

Therefore, it is the policy of the Region IX Regional Response Team and the California Coastal Area Committees that, whenever possible, the SCAT Coordinator position be filled by qualified OSPR staff member or other trustee agency staff. The SCAT Coordinator may be assisted by a Deputy SCAT Leader provided by the RP. If no qualified OSPR staff members or other trustee agency staff are initially available to fill the SCAT Coordinator position, the RP representative may fill the position until an OSPR staff member or other trustee agency representative reports to the Unified Command. To maintain flexibility in ICS staffing, the Unified Command retains the discretion

to fill the SCAT Coordinator position and replace any person filling that position as the FOSC deems appropriate. As a spill response matures, a transition from an OSPR staff member or other trustee agency representative to an RP representative filling the SCAT Leader position may occur with the concurrence of the Unified Command.

The shoreline assessment process should be easily modified to fit the spill conditions; it should be as simple as possible, yet comprehensive enough to address all of the issues and concerns of shoreline cleanup. It must not be a slow, cumbersome process that limits the effectiveness of Planning or Operations.

NOAA has significant SCAT tools and job aids, which can aid the response organization in determining the extent of damage along various types of shoreline as well as appropriate cleanup strategies. [NOAA Shoreline Assessment Manual](#)

Responsibilities of the SCAT Team

- Describe shoreline types, oiling conditions, and physical setting Identify sensitive resources (ecological, recreational, cultural) Determine the need for cleanup
- Recommend shoreline cleanup methods and endpoints:
- Specify generic and site-specific constraints for cleanup activities Determine the need for follow-up surveys if archaeological and cultural resources are present
- Establish cleanup priorities
- Identify safety concerns for cleanup operations
- Monitor cleanup effectiveness and effects, suggesting changes where needed Determine when cleanup operations are no longer effective
- Conduct post-cleanup inspections before sign-off
- Recommend to SCAT Technical Specialist or Coordinator if cleanup necessary at a given location based on observations
- Assist in the determination of which cleanup methods are appropriate or recommended for a given location
- Assist in the determination of which constraints are needed to protect sensitive resources for a given location
- Assist in the determination of site prioritization for cleanup
- Assist in the determination if cleanup operations are being conducted properly
- Assist in the determination if the cleanup method being used is no longer effective or causing collateral damage and recommend alternative methods.
- Assist in the determination if the targeted endpoints are realistic and obtainable for the current spill conditions.
- Assist in the determination if cleanup operations should be terminated at a given site.

4720.5 Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) is the process of identifying and quantifying injuries to natural resources and their services as a result of a release, and then determining the value of those injuries or losses for the purpose of restoration. Successful pursuit of NRDA actions, either by the trustees alone or in cooperation with the RP(s), is a complex process comprising numerous tasks involving the interaction of scientists, economists, lawyers, and administrators. The DOI Rules and NOAA rules reduce some of the complexity by establishing an assessment process and providing a mechanism for determining the merits of going forth with the

assessment and claim. The process provides a record of the trustee's decisions.

NRDA activities generally do not occur within the structure, processes, and control of the ICS; however, many NRDA activities overlap with the environmental assessment performed for the spill response, particularly in the early phases of a spill response. The NRDA Team coordinates and communicates their actions through the NRDA Representative via the Liaison Officer (LOFR). Therefore, NRDA Representatives should remain coordinated with the spill response organization via the LOFR, and may need to work directly with the IC/UC, Planning and

Operations Sections, and SSC to resolve any issues and prevent duplicative efforts. While NRDA resource requirements and costs may fall outside the responsibility of the Logistics and Finance/Administrative Sections, coordination is important. The NRDA Representative will coordinate NRDA or environmental injury determination activities.

DOI and DOC/NOAA can also provide technical assistance to those agencies for the initiation of damage assessments. The Federal damage assessment regulations for oil discharges mandated under OPA were developed by NOAA and are now final (15 CFR Part 990). The regulations developed by DOI under CERCLA and CWA authorities apply to releases of hazardous substances, and are in effect and available for trustee guidance and use (43 CFR Part 11).

4720.6 Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART)

SMART is used to scientifically monitor the use of dispersants, other chemical countermeasures, or in-situ burns. These operations however, because of their time sensitivity shall not be delayed pending the arrival of SMART monitoring equipment or personnel.

SMART is used to collect scientific information for the Unified Command to provide a measurement of success in the operation and to improve the knowledge about non-mechanical recovery procedures.

4720.7 Response Technologies (Dispersant, ISB, Bioremediation)

The Alternative Response Technologies (ART) Technical Specialist is responsible for evaluating the opportunities to use ART, including dispersant or other chemical countermeasures, in-situ burning, and bioremediation. The specialist will conduct the consultation and planning required to deploy a specific ART, and articulate the environmental tradeoffs of using or not using a specific ART.

See Sections 3260 through 3290 for ART use.

4720.8 Decontamination

The Decontamination Group is responsible for decontamination of personnel and response equipment in compliance with approved statutes. Contaminated personnel and personnel entering contaminated areas shall be decontaminated in accordance with the instructions of the Site Safety Officer (SSO).

4720.9 Disposal

See Section 3250 for more detail regarding disposal. Refer to the RRT Region IX [Regional Contingency Plan](#) for more information on disposal of oil and hazardous materials.

4720.10 Dredging

Dredging is an efficient, well developed method for removing large volumes of sediment (and oil) from the seabed at high recovery rates. Large volumes of water, oil, and sediment are typically generated in the dredging process and must be handled, stored, and disposed of as the recovery operation proceeds. Accurate vertical control of the dredge depths is critical to minimizing the amount of dredged material and the amount of clean sediment contaminated with oil as the result of the dredging operation. Operational costs and logistics requirements are lower for land-based than for barge-based methods of handling and storing dredged materials. Given the potential for storms that increase freshwater flows and shipping traffic, both of which can re-suspend or remobilize sunken oil, the timeliness of dredging is crucial.

4720.11 Deepwater Removal

Under development by the LA-LB Area Committee.

4720.12 Heavy Lift

See Section 8000 Salvage and Marine Firefighting Plan for more information on heavy lift operations.

4730 General

4730.1 Cultural and Historic Properties

See Section 4630 for information on Cultural and Historic Properties technical support.

4730.2 Legal

USCG District 11 Legal Division provides legal assistance to the FOSC when needed.

4730.3 Chaplain

Under development by the LA-LB Area Committee.

4730.4 Public Health

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), through the [Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry](#) (ATSDR), serves the public by using the best science, taking responsive public health actions, and providing trusted health information to prevent harmful exposures and disease related to toxic substances. The ATSDR is directed by congressional mandate to perform specific functions concerning the effects on public health of hazardous substances in the environment. These functions include public health assessments waste sites, health consultations concerning specific hazardous substances, health surveillance and registries, response to emergency release of hazardous substances, applied research in support of public health assessments, information development and dissemination, and education and training concerning hazardous substances.

4750 Law Enforcement

The Law Enforcement Group is responsible for coordinating and directing all law enforcement activities related to the incident, including but not limited to, isolating the incident, crowd control, traffic control, evacuations, beach closures, and/or perimeter security.

Perimeter/Crowd/Traffic/Beach Control

Perimeter/Crowd/Traffic/Beach Control if needed should be coordinated with local law enforcement authorities and may be augmented or replaced with contract security for protracted responses.

Security Zones

Security Zone regulations in 33 CFR 165.30 Subpart D is defined as an area of land, water, land and water which is so designated by the Captain of the Port or District Commander for such time as is necessary to prevent damage or injury to any vessel or waterfront facility, to safeguard ports, harbors, territories, or waters of the United States or to secure the observance of the rights and obligations of the United States. The purpose of the security zone is to safeguard from destruction, loss, or injury from sabotage or other subversive acts, accidents, or other causes of similar nature: (1) vessels (2) harbors (3) ports, and (4) waterfront facilities: in the United States and all territory and water, continental or insular, that is subject to the jurisdiction of the United States.

4760 Search and Rescue

The Search and Rescue (SAR) group is responsible for prioritization and coordination of all Search and Rescue missions directly related to a specific incident. All search and rescue operations will be coordinated through the Sector Los Angeles-Long Beach Operations Center.

For SAR assistance please call USCG Sector LA/LB CDO at 310-521-3801.

4770 Marine Firefighting

See Section 8000 Salvage & Marine Firefighting Plan.

4800 Required Correspondence, Permits & Consultation

4810 Administrative Orders

Administrative Orders are issued to protect public health and welfare under Section 106(a) of CERCLA or Section 311(e)(1)(B) of the FWPCA to a vessel (note: CERCLA Administrative Orders cannot be issued to a vessel) or facility requiring corrective measures when there is a discharge/release or threat of discharge/release involving oil, hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant.

Any person directly affected by an Administrative Order may request reconsideration by the FOSC. If not satisfied with the decision of the FOSC, that person may appeal in writing to the Eleventh Coast Guard District Commander. The District Commander's decision is final.

4820 Notice of Federal Interest

The FOSC shall present a Notice of Federal Interest for an Oil Pollution Incident (Form CG- 5549) to every suspected discharger. [NOTE: This requirement is for internal direction only. The failure of an FOSC to present this Notice in a given case does not affect any liability of any person which

may arise in that case.] This informs the suspected discharger of a potential violation of the FWPCA, as amended, and of his or her possible liability to a civil penalty of up to \$46,192 per day of violation or up to 3 times the costs incurred by the OSLTF. Notice should also be made in potential pollution incidents when the actions of the potential discharger to abate the threat are considered insufficient, and Federal action is contemplated. If possible, any witness(es) should accompany the FOSC's representative when the Notice is served. The FOSC's representative shall retain the FOSC's copy of the Notice that is signed and dated by the suspected discharger, or the suspected discharger's representative. If the discharger refuses to sign, the Notice will still be served. The investigator will note the circumstances on the copy, sign and date it. Any witness should also sign and date it. Should the owner/operator be unavailable, the Notice shall be sent via certified mail, return receipt requested. Reference COMDTINST M16000.11, Coast Guard Marine Safety Manual, Volume VI, Chapter 7.B.3.a.

4830 Notice of Federal Assumption

Under FWPCA Section (311)(c)(1), whenever a polluter is unknown or not acting responsibly, or when its removal effort is insufficient, or to present the substantial threat of a discharge, the FOSC may assume total or partial control of response activities. The FOSC must inform the suspected polluter, if known, of this action by issuing a Notice of Federal Assumption of Response Activities, even if the suspected polluter has not initiated any action. This Notice references the Notice of Federal Interest for an Oil Pollution Incident and indicates the date and time the Federal response is initiated. The same procedures used for issuing and obtaining signatures for the Notice of Federal Interest for an Oil Pollution Incident apply. Reference COMDTINST M16000.11, Coast Guard Marine Safety Manual, Volume VI, Chapter 7.B.3.b.

4840 Letter of Designation

The National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) is responsible for the designation of source and notification of associated responsible parties and guarantors for an oil pollution incident. The USCG FOSC has also been delegated this authority for use in rare circumstances as outlined in the NPFC Instruction M5890.3, Technical Operating Procedures (TOPs) for Designation of Source under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990.

[Technical Operating Procedures](#)

[National Pollution Funds Center](#)

4850 Fish and Wildlife Permits

Most species of birds found in the United States are protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). The MBTA implements within the U.S. the protocols established by four international treaties between the U.S. and four other nations. Each treaty protects species of birds that occur in each of the signatory countries. In all, the MBTA protects over 800 species of birds native to the U.S. and makes it illegal (except for limited permit exceptions granted by regulation) to take, capture, kill, possess, sell, purchase, import, or export any species listed under the MBTA without a permit. Implementing regulations provide that permits may be issued for certain activities (e.g. scientific collecting, taxidermy, falconry). The regulation that provides for permits for activities associated with oil and hazardous waste spills is found at 50 CFR 21.31.

4860 Endangered Species Act Consultations

During an oil or hazardous substance spill or release, the Endangered Species Act (ESA) [50 CFR 402.2] should be considered in developing the activities and actions that can be done during an oil spill response by federal agencies or agencies that are acting for or under a federal agency. As the spill response occurs, the FOSC is responsible for contacting an ESA specialist at the appropriate agency that is responsible for an endangered species or critical habitat that could be affected.

The FOSC should consult with the ESA specialist informally to discuss the oil spill response activities and the measures that could be taken to minimize any damage to the endangered species or a designated critical habitat. Consultation communications, whether formal or informal, should be documented. The ESA specialist will advise the FOSC regarding which response measure(s) will avoid or minimize impacts on listed species and critical habitat and which response measure(s) are preferred. These recommendations must be considered, but shall not stand in the way of response efforts. The ESA specialist and the OSC jointly evaluate tradeoffs and sensitive area priorities.

After the emergency has ended, any of the following *may* be produced as a result of the consultation process: biological assessment, letters of concurrence, initiation package, and biological opinion including an incidental take statement.

4870 Disposal

See Section 3250 for more detail regarding disposal.

Refer to the RRT Region IX [Regional Contingency Plan](#) for more information on disposal of oil and hazardous materials.

4880 Dredging

See Section 4720.10 for more information on Dredging.

4900 Potential Places of Refuge

The ultimate authority and responsibility for making a PPOR decision rests with the COTP. The USCG Captain of the Port (COTP) for Los Angeles – Long Beach also holds authority to prevent any vessel's access to the port and navigable waterways of the United States, in order to prevent damage or injury, and to protect the waters of the United States. This authority is exercised when a vessel requests a PPOR and desires to seek shelter, even though the vessel poses an environmental threat.

See Section 8000 for detailed information about the PPOR process.