



The Resources Agency ♦ Department of Fish and Game
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
OSPR News Release



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MEDIA CONTACTS — Rob Hughes (on-scene, cell phone): 916-214-3279

Dana Michaels (OSPR Sacramento): 916-327-9948

Responders expand oiled bird rescue in Ventura area

The California Department of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) continues to search for and collect oiled seabirds along the coast between Ventura County and Venice Beach.

The source of oil affecting these birds remains unknown. OSPR wardens and other field personnel are expanding their efforts to identify the source of this oil. Samples of oil from the birds' feathers and nearby waters are being analyzed by OSPR's Petroleum Chemistry Laboratory, near Sacramento.

As of this morning, approximately 580 seabirds — mostly western grebes — have been captured and taken to the Los Angeles Oiled Bird Care and Education Center in San Pedro for cleaning and rehabilitation. Of that total, 43 birds were dead on arrival and another 43 died while in care.

OSPR's veterinary van is in full operation at Ventura Harbor. It serves as a central location where rescued seabirds can be stabilized before transport to the fully-equipped Center in San Pedro. Point Mugu Naval Air Station continues to be used as a second collection and stabilization point.

The public is reminded not to handle or approach oiled or injured wildlife. Injured animals can be even more dangerous to humans than healthy ones. **Anyone seeing an animal in distress is asked to report its exact location to 562-342-7222.** Trained wildlife professionals will be dispatched with appropriate equipment to capture and transport the animal without further injury.

The Oiled Bird Care Center is one of 12 primary care facilities located along California's coast, specially designed for this purpose by California's Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN). The OWCN is a partnership program of DFG-OSPR and the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center.

The OWCN is seeking volunteers over age 18 to work with wildlife personnel. Interested adults may **call 800-228-4544** for more information or to volunteer.

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