

Date: November 11, 1997

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Humboldt Bay Oil Spill-Update -- Images currently available in .pdf format: [Large Map](#) [Small Map](#) [Photos](#)

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**CONTACT:**

Contact: Joint Information Center  
DFG, U.S. Coast Guard, OES  
Phone: (707) 441-4784 or 4785  
FAX: (916) 591-2044  
Time: 6:00 p.m

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EUREKA -- Clean-up of Humboldt Bay continued today with crews focusing their efforts on removing oil from the rocky shorelines which surround the Samoa boat ramp and the Coast Guard station. Other crews were removing oiled eel grass from the west side of Indian Island.

The Coast Guard announced that 11 crew members of the M/V Kure have all tested negative for drugs and alcohol. Those tested were involved in the movement of the vessel at the time of the incident. This testing was mandated under a provision of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and was administered by a local independent laboratory.

Thus far, the owner of the vessel has incurred clean-up and containment costs of an estimated \$5 million and is committed to following the clean-up efforts to completion.

The Wildlife Operations staff have currently rescued 415 live birds and recovered 358 dead birds. The species most affected are murrelets, shorebirds, and scoters. Also affected are grebes, loons, scaups, marbled murrelets and gulls. From the endangered list, three California brown pelicans were discovered oiled - two remain alive - and eight marbled murrelets have been reported dead. In addition, 11 Aleutian Canada goose, out of a flock of approximately 200, were observed oiled. Aleutian Canada goose are federally listed as a threatened species.

Congressman Frank Riggs surveyed the area of the spill from a helicopter at 3 p.m.. He was accompanied by Capt. Harlan Henderson, Coast Guard Federal On Scene Coordinator, and Scott Stoltz of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

The Coast Guard and California Department of Fish and Game are continuing their investigation into the cause of the accident.

**Important Public Telephone Numbers:**

- Report oiled wildlife                      707-826-3450
- Damage claims                              888-422-2524

- Volunteer opportunities 707-442-3711

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