

Date: November 13, 1997

---

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

---

**CONTACT:**

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

---

EUREKA, CA - Approximately 15 birds affected by the Humboldt Bay oil spill will be released on Friday, Nov. 14, at Big Lagoon in Trinidad.

The release, coordinated by Jay Holcolmb of the International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC) in Berkeley, will take place at 2 p.m. on the beach about 15 miles north of the north end of Humboldt Bay (Big Lagoon exit off Highway 101). Holcolmb, along with other California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) and animal welfare organization officials, will be available to answer media questions and provide photo and video opportunities.

Included in the release will be mostly grebes and scoters, said Kathy Collins, manager of the Wildlife Health Center at UC Davis. She has been coordinating activities at the Marine Wildlife Care Center at Humboldt State University in Arcata since the spill clean-up operations began on Nov. 5. The birds were collected from various areas near the oil spill, and brought in by the CDFG-Oiled Wildlife Care Network.

As of 4 p.m., a total of 456 live birds have been brought to the Wildlife Care Center, 142 of which died or were euthanized, and 445 dead birds were also recovered. Among those included on the endangered list are 10 dead marbled murrelets and three brown pelicans - two brown pelicans are still alive.

After the oiled birds were rescued, they were brought into the Wildlife Care Center at Humboldt State University in Arcata where they were immediately examined. The birds were given medical evaluation, medication, stabilization, and were cleaned.

"The operation at the Marine Wildlife Care Center wouldn't have been so successful if it wasn't for the literally hundreds of volunteers we used to assist our regular staff," Collins said. "The response from the community was overwhelming. They did everything from assisting with wildlife care, answering telephones, doing laundry and running errands."

Those participating in the success of the Oiled Wildlife Care Network included interagency cooperation from Humboldt State University, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, U.S. Coast Guard, State Department of Fish and Game, IBRRC, the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine, and SMQI Services, Inc.

#####