TORCH/PLATFORM IRENE TRUSTEE COUNCIL

2010 ANNUAL REPORT

JULY 2011

RESOURCES AGENCY CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT FISH & GAME

U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION

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INTRODUCTION

On September 28, 1997 a 20-inch pipeline connecting the Torch/Platform Irene oil extraction platform to an onshore storage facility located in Santa Barbara County ruptured and released at least 163 barrels (6,846 gallons) of crude oil emulsion into the Pacific Ocean (Figure 1). The release affected approximately 17 miles of coastline in northern Santa Barbara County causing impacts to a variety of natural resources including seabirds, sandy and gravel beach habitats, rocky intertidal shoreline habitats, and lost use of beaches for human recreation.

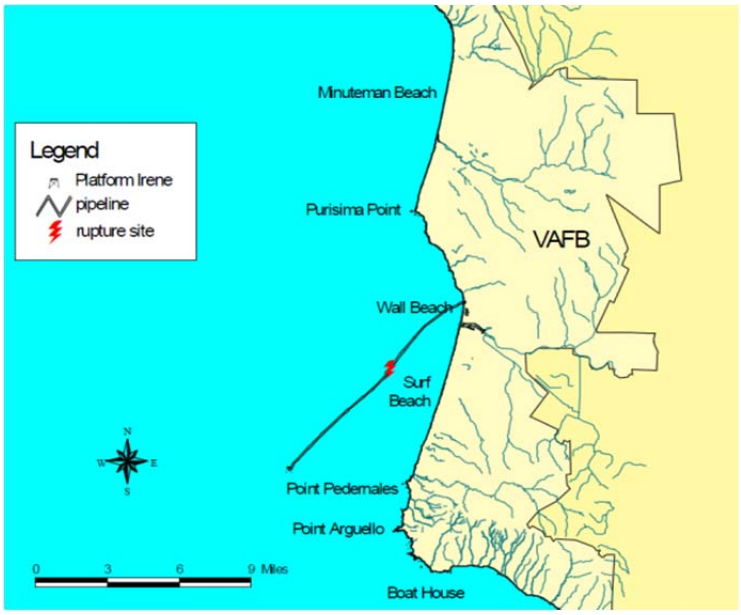

Figure 1. Location of Platform Irene, the pipeline connecting the platform to the onshore storage facility, and the location of the rupture (Trustee Council 2007).

Federal and California laws require responsible parties to make the environment and the public whole for the injury, destruction, and loss of natural resources and services resulting from oil spills. A settlement with the responsible parties, the Torch Operating Company, Nuevo Energy Company, and Black Hawk Oil and Gas Company, was memorialized in a Consent Decree filed in court on July 25, 2002. The Consent Decree required the responsible parties to pay a total of $3,000,000 and specified that $2,397,000 was designated for restoration of damaged natural resources.

Federal and state agencies that act as trustees for the natural resources that were damaged by the spill include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), California State Lands Commission (CSLC), and Vandenberg Air Force Base (VAFB). Collectively, these agencies comprise the Torch/Platform Irene Trustee Council (Trustee Council). The Trustee Council Representatives for each agency are listed in Appendix A. On October 24, 2007, the Trustee Council released a Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (Restoration Plan) that outlined the projects that were selected to compensate for natural resource injuries and lost recreational uses caused by the Torch/Platform Irene spill. This document also fulfills National Environmental Policy Act compliance obligations including the incorporation of public comments. Additionally, this Restoration Plan and Finding of No Significant Impact may be relied upon by the California State Trustees towards compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act.

The Restoration Plan identifies 5 projects designed to restore the natural resources that were damaged by the spill. The projects and estimated budgets are listed below:

1. Seabird Colony Enhancement Project, $1,200,000.
2. Sandy Beach and Dune Habitat Restoration, $396,000.
3. Mussel Bed Restoration, $100,000.
4. Rocky Intertidal Habitat Protection Program – Focus on Abalone and Other Rocky Intertidal Species, $136,000.
5. Boardwalk at Ocean Beach Park (Phase I), $65,520.

The Restoration Plan also provided that $100,497 would remain unallocated and may be used to supplement any of the restoration projects described above, and that approximately $400,000 would be spent on activities associated with implementing the projects outlined in the Restoration Plan (e.g., selection of organizations/agencies to implement the restoration projects, establishing agreements, etc.). The budget breakdown for the $2,397,000 settlement, as described in the Restoration Plan, is shown in Figure 2.

Following the completion of the Restoration Plan, the Trustee Council sought out entities that would be best suited to implement each project. In the case of the Sandy Beach and Dune Habitat Restoration project and the Boardwalk at Ocean Beach Park project, the logical choice for the implementing entity was the landowner (Vandenberg Air Force Base and Santa Barbara County, respectively). In the case of the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project, Mussel Bed Restoration Project, and Rocky Intertidal Protection Program, multiple organizations and agencies were solicited for their interest in leading the projects.

After implementers were chosen for each of the five projects, each project manager was directed by the Trustee Council to develop a Scope of Work based on the project descriptions and goals outlined in the Restoration Plan. The Scope of Work for each project must be approved by all Trustee Council Members prior to spending funds earmarked for the project. The following sections describe each of the projects in detail and their status as of December 2010.

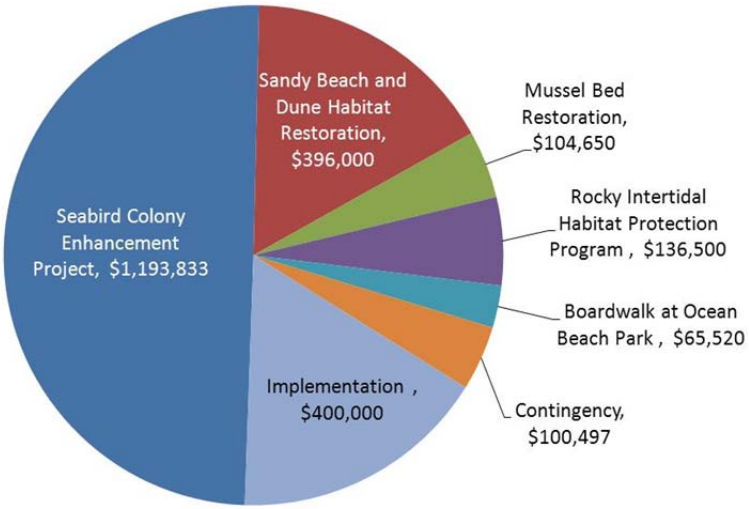

Figure 2. Torch/Platform Irene budget categories as presented in the Restoration Plan (Trustee Council 2007).

PROJECT DESCRIPTIONS AND STATUS

1.0 SEABIRD COLONY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

Nexus to Injury: It is estimated that between 635 and 815 seabirds and shorebirds were adversely impacted from the Torch spill. A total of 90 dead birds were collected and 50 live oiled birds were collected, of which 18 survived and were released. The species of birds collected include red-throated loon, Pacific loon, common loon, eared grebe, western grebe, Brandt's cormorant, common murre, rhinoceros auklet, pigeon guillemot, American coot, sooty shearwater, California brown pelican, western gull, Heermann's gull, ring-billed gull, elegant tern, northern phalarope and sanderling.

Figure 3. Oiled bird in the Platform Irene spill zone (Trustee Council 2007).

Goal: As described in the Restoration Plan, the goal of the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project is to restore injured seabird resources to pre-spill (i.e., baseline) conditions, and to compensate for interim ecological losses pending full recovery. More specifically, the primary goal of the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project is to improve the nesting success of seabird species such as cormorants and common murres by reducing human disturbances at their breeding colony sites along the central California coast. Additionally, the project is intended to improve the survivability and condition of roosting seabirds such as California brown pelicans by reducing human disturbances at roosting sites. The Restoration Plan specified that the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project should build on the efforts of the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary to expand their Seabird Protection Network south into the Torch/Platform Irene oil spill impact area.

Project Title:	Seabird Protection Network South Central California Coast Chapter
Implementer:	Bureau of Land Management, California Coastal National Monument
Budget:	$1,200,000
Project Duration:	5 years
Project Manager:	Eric A. Morgan 20 Hamilton Court Hollister, CA 95023 (831)394-8314 direct line emorgan@ca.blm.gov
Trustee Council Project Manager:	Melissa Boggs (See Appendix A for contact information)

Project Description: As described in the Scope of Work dated December 7, 2009 (year 1 scope of work) the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) will expand the existing Seabird Protection Network established by the Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, into the coastal areas of southern Monterey, San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara, and Ventura Counties, including the northern Channel Islands (Program Area). The Central California Coast Chapter of the Seabird Protection Network will reduce human disturbances to seabirds by implementing a three-part strategy:

1. Seabird and Human Disturbance Monitoring,
2. Coordinated Law Enforcement and Management, and
3. Information and Outreach.

The three components of the Seabird Protection Network are intended to support an adaptive strategy to achieving the goals of the project. As shown in Figure 4, BLM has outlined goals and objectives for the project in the Scope of Work (BLM 2009), including targets for reductions in human disturbances. These goals and objectives will be met by first implementing a disturbance monitoring program to identify the source and locations of human disturbances to nesting and roosting seabirds. Once disturbances are identified, public information and education programs will be developed and implemented to target the specific type of disturbance. For example, if kayakers are identified as causing disturbances to seabirds, maps may be developed and distributed at kayak rental shops that show safe vantage points for viewing seabirds without causing a disturbance.

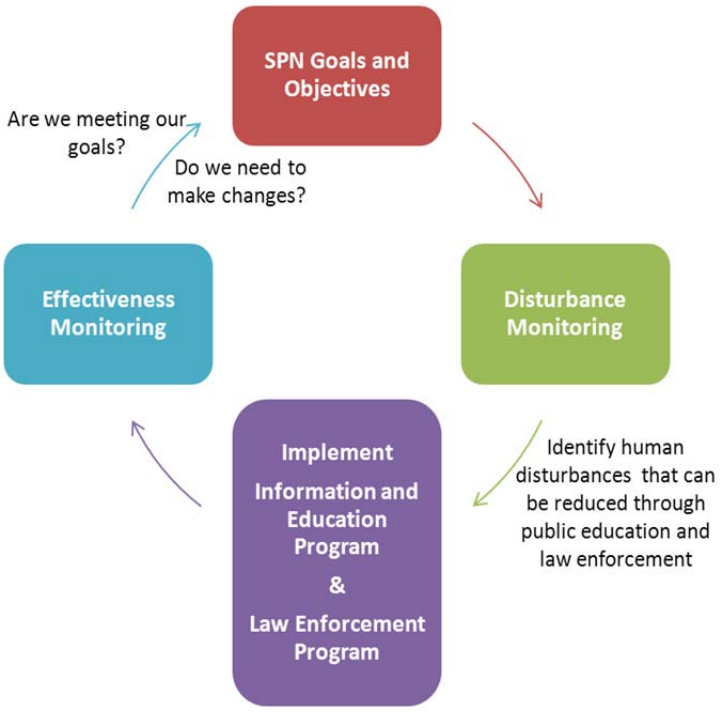

Figure 4. Conceptual model for the Seabird Protection Network South Central California Coast Chapter.

The disturbances identified through the monitoring component will also be reviewed to determine if enforcement of existing laws and regulations (e.g., rules outlined for Marine Protected Areas) may further reduce impacts to seabirds. BLM law enforcement officers will develop a strategy for educating and coordinating law enforcement personnel among various agencies to enforce the applicable laws that will protect seabirds. The effectiveness of the Information and Outreach and Law Enforcement components will be gauged through effectiveness monitoring that will assess progress toward the established goals and objectives. If the goals and objective are not being met as planned, changes in information and outreach and law enforcement strategies will be implemented to increase the effectiveness of these efforts.

Progress, Deliverables and Milestones:

January 2010	Trustee Council representatives signed resolution 10-1 transferring $379,022 from the Department of the Interior Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (DOI NRDAR) Fund to BLM for implementation of first year activities.
March 2010	The Trustee Council approves spending a portion of year 1 funds on aerial photographic surveys of seabird nesting colonies in the project area, and conducting an analysis of historic aerial survey information to identify nesting trends in the project area through time.
Summer 2010	Aerial photographic surveys are conducted throughout the project area to document the number of breeding Brandt's, double-crested, and pelagic Cormorants within the project area. A summary of findings is expected by March 31, 2011.
September 2010	BLM drafted a proposed biological and human disturbance monitoring proposal that outlined their vision for the monitoring component of the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project, including a description for how the monitoring will direct public information and outreach, and law enforcement actions.
November 2010	The Trustee Council agrees to provide funding for 2011 annual seabird overflight surveys. Funding from the Seabird Colony Enhancement Project will cover surveys throughout the project area (between Point Sur through Ventura County, including the northern Channel Islands).
December 2010	The Trustee Council, BLM, Pt. Reyes-Pt. Sur Seabird Protection Network Chapter members, and other stakeholders hold a SPN coordinating meeting and conduct a site visit of proposed monitoring locations and discuss progress and next steps.

Budget Status:

As agreed to by the Trustee Council and BLM, funds will be transferred to BLM at the beginning of each work year through the 5-year project term. BLM will develop a Scope of Work prior to the beginning of each year to outline project activities and budgetary needs for that year. In 2010, $397,022 of the $1,200,000 project was transferred to BLM for year 1 activities (Figure 5).

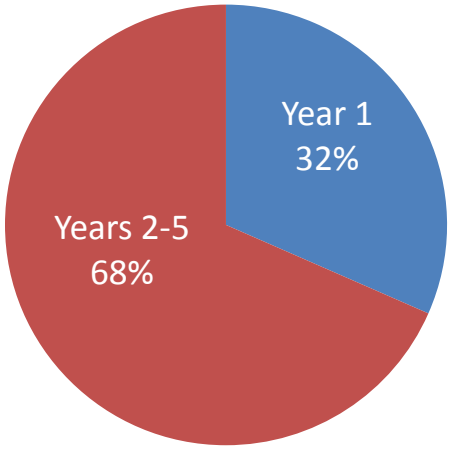

Figure 5. BLM spending projected for Year 1.

2.0 SANDY BEACH AND DUNE HABITAT RESTORAITON

Figure 6. Western snowy plover (D. Pereksta 2006).

Nexus to Injury: Oil came ashore on sandy beaches and on rocky intertidal areas from Minuteman Beach to the Boathouse Beach at VAFB impacting approximtaely 17 miles of shoreline and the estuaries of San Antonio Creek, Honda Creek, and the Santa Ynez River. The sandy beach habitat within the spill area supports limited public access and is characterized as ecologically productive with little degradation prior to the spill. After the spill, the invertebrates on the beach, particularly the spiny sand crabs and the Pismo clams, likely suffered significant mortality due to smothering under blankets of oil and sand compression caused by heavy equipment from cleanup operations. Additionally, the removal of wrack during the course of cleanup reduced food and habitat for invertebrates and shorebirds. A decrease in shorebird numbers, including the threatened western snowy plover (Figure 6), appeared to be associated with both the injuries to the invertebrate populations and disturbances to its habitat.

Goal: As described in the Restoration Plan, this project has two major elements:

1. Eradication of non-native European beach grass, iceplant, and other invasives such as acacia through the selective use of herbicides, hand treatment, mechanical treatment, and burning; and
2. Re-establishment of native vegetation (e.g., sand verbena, *Abronia spp.*) focusing on areas currently in non-native vegetation monoculture where native vegetation is not likely to re-establish naturally.

Implementer: Vandenberg Air Force Base

Project Title: Torch Oil Spill Snowy Plover Habitat Restoration

Budget: $395,983

Project Duration: 5 years

Project Manager: Luanne Lum
1028 Iceland Avenue
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437
(805) 606-5299
Luanne.Lum@vandenberg.af.mil

Trustee Council Project Manager: Luanne Lum (See Appendix A for contact information)

Project Description: The goal of the restoration project over five years is to achieve 95 percent eradication of beachgrass, iceplant, and other non-native plants over the project area, and successfully establish self-sustaining native vegetation over 15 percent of the same area. The dune restoration area extends from the Santa Ynez River mouth southward approximately 0.62 mile to just south of a public access trail at Surf Station (Figure 7). The project area contains a high percentage of non-native plant cover that, when restored, would create large areas free of invasive species and join other existing, relatively undisturbed, dune vegetation types, to create a large continuous area of available breeding habitat for the western snowy plovers and other shorebirds. The infestation of beachgrass in this area covers approximately 22 acres. Iceplant is found in isolated patches (less than one acre) throughout this section and in dense mats at the southern end. Acacia covers approximately six acres. In addition to controlling invasive vegetation, the project would also replant native vegetation within the treated areas where necessary to stabilize the dunes and protect special status plant species such as Beach layia.

Figure 7. Snowy plover habitat restoration project location and boundaries (Google Earth 2011, Vandenberg Air Force Base 2008).

Progress, Deliverables and Milestones:

Winter 2008	Full project Scope of Work finalized and approved by the Trustee Council
November 2008	Trustee Council Resolution 08-1 signed by the Trustee Council resolving to transfer $66,750 from the DOI NRDAR Fund to VAFB for the first year of the sand beach and dune habitat restoration project.
September 2009	Project activities began, including a vegetation survey, establishment of photo monitoring points, and clearing of 6 acres of acacia (*Acacia longifolia*) (Figure 8).
October 2009	Prescribed burn conducted to eliminate non-native biomass and make herbicide treatments more effective.
January 2010	Progress report received.
Fall 2010	16.27 acres of dune habitat infested with European beach grass, iceplant, and *Acacia* were treated with a formulation of glyphosate herbicide approved for aquatic use.

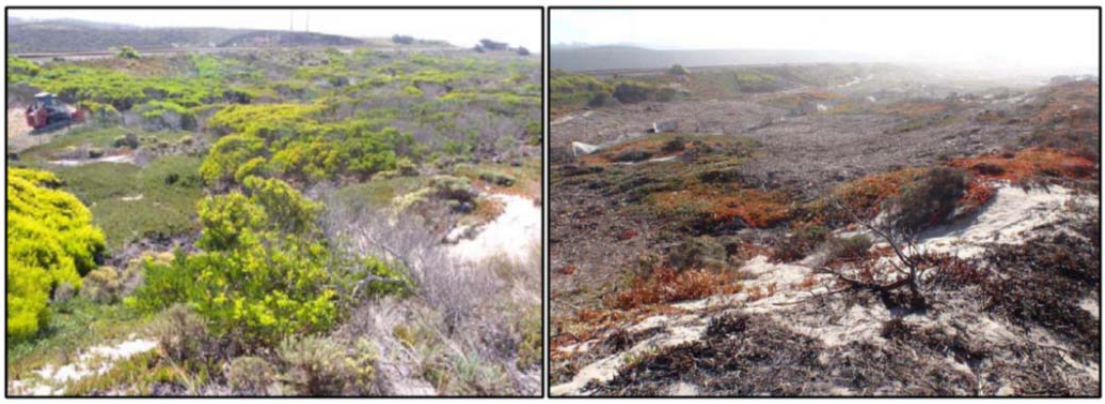

Figure 8. Before and after view of an area cleared of *Acacia* and treated with a controlled burn (ManTech 2010).

Budget Status:

As agreed to by the Trustee Council and VAFB, funds will be transferred to VAFB at the beginning of each work year through the 5-year project term. VAFB will develop a Scope of Work prior to the beginning of each year to outline project activities and budgetary needs for that year. In 2008, $66,750 of the $395,983 project was transferred to VAFB for year 1 activities and in 2010 $86,700 was transferred for year 2 activities (Figure 9).

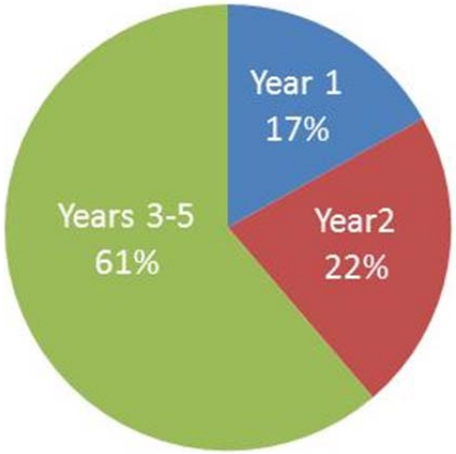

Figure 9. VAFB Sandy Beach and Dune Habitat Restoration budget breakdown by year.

3.0 MUSSEL BED RESTORATION

Nexus to Injury: Oil covered rocky intertidal habitats, including mussel beds, were observed along the shoreline during the spill at a location south of Point Arguello. While levels of injury greater than 10 percent were not documented, it is expected that the oil exposure caused low levels of injury to a variety of rocky intertidal species including crustaceans, mollusks, arthropods, and algae. In addition, at the time of the spill, there was a large El Niño event which ripped the mussels off of the rocks within a couple of weeks of the spill. Potential causes for reduced mussel abundances, other than the spill, include burial from sand, other physical disturbances from logs, rocks and humans (trampling and/or collecting), or impacts from other pollution sources (e.g., non-point source pollution.)

Figure 10. Mussels on display at the Santa Barbara Museum of Natural History's Ty Warner Sea Center (Marek 2010).

Goal: Mussel beds are extremely important to the ecological heath of rocky intertidal habitats. Mussel beds in northern Santa Barbara County and elsewhere in southern California have been declining for the past several years. The value of mussel beds in the coastal region is well documented. Mussel beds are one of the most diverse habitats in the world, and are relied upon by many marine animals as an important food source. When damaged, they may take as long as 15-20 years to recover fully. The goal of this project is to speed up the natural restoration/recruitment process for injured mussel beds by seeding barren areas with adult mussels and exploring which restoration practices are the most successful. Two projects are being implemented to fulfill these goals.

Project 1 Title: Mussel Bed Restoration

Implementer: University of California, Santa Cruz (UCSC)

Budget: $104,999

Project Duration: 3 to 5 years

Project Manager:
Peter Raimondi
Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of California, Santa Cruz
100 Shaffer Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 459-5674
Raimondi@biology.ucsc.edu

Trustee Council Project Manager: Jenny Marek (See Appendix A for contact information)

Project 1 Description: The goal of this restoration would be to accelerate the normal recovery time of *Mytilus californianus* by starting with a 30% cover of mussels. Assessment will occur at up to three separate sites on VAFB located south of Surf Beach on the southern side of Point Arguello, north of Wall Beach, and at Purisima Point. At each site, up to 8 study plots and 8 control plots were established. Each of the experimental plots were 1 square meter and were "seeded" by laying small patches of adult mussels on the substrate. Vexar mesh was affixed over the mussels and to the substrate to facilitate mussel attachment. The project will measure the degree to which these transplants act to induce subsequent settlement. The control plots at each site were established along with the experimental plots in gaps in the mussel beds. The total cover of added mussels in each plot was approximately 30%. Instead of taking mussels from otherwise healthy beds, adult mussels were collected using hand removal from an offshore platform after coordinating with Minerals Management Service, or from a pier. Aquatic plants (such as fleshy algae) and animals (such as anemones) were removed to provide a clean substrate for the mussels to attach. In half of the plots, artificial substrate such as vexar or burlap (thought to mimic properties of coralline algae and bysal thread) was added to cleared surfaces to enhance recruitment. Monitoring of the transplanted mussels was to occur every 2 weeks at first (during low tides) then monthly through the first 6 months. After six months, monitoring was to occur on a quarterly basis for two years. Monitoring consisted of photographing the plots and field sampling for recruitment.

Project 1Progress, Deliverables and Milestones:

February 2009	Grant agreement between USFWS and UCSC finalized
Fall 2009	Mussels are harvested from Ellwood Pier and transplanted into test plots (Figure 11).
Summer 2010	Mussel plots are monitored monthly between May 2010 and October 2010. Monitoring includes photographing the plots, tracking the remaining number of transplants and any obvious mortality, counting and measuring recruits within the plots, and counting the whelk (*Nucella* spp) and seastars in each plot (to follow predator abundance).
Fall 2010	Preparation for the establishment of an additional plot in early 2011
December 2010	Progress report received

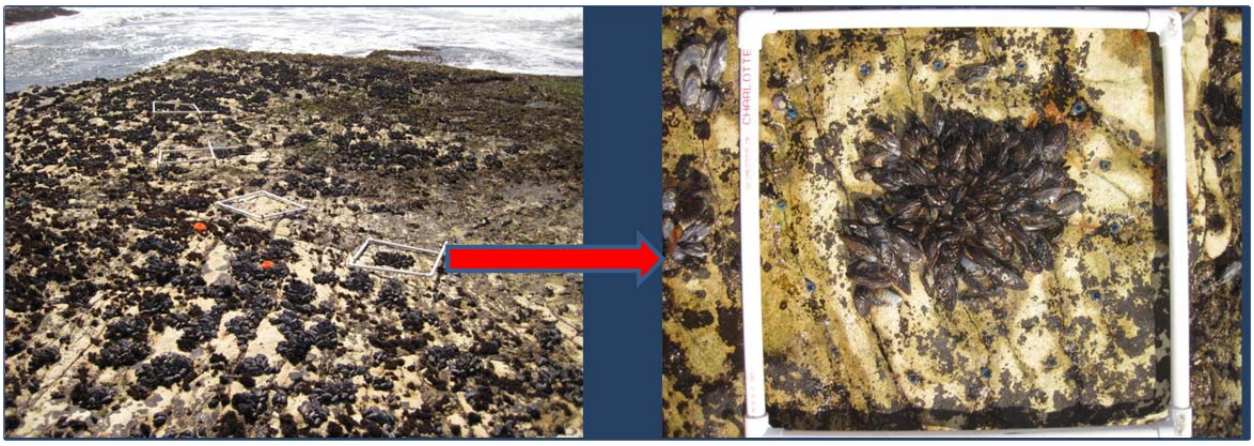

Figure 11. Mussel restoration plot established near Point Arguello (Raimondi 2010).

Project 2 Title: Use of Fucoids as a restoration endpoint and as a recruitment facilitator for the mussel, *Mytilus californianus*

Implementer: University of California, Santa Cruz

Budget: $107, 942

Project Duration: 5 years

Project Manager: Peter Raimondi
Professor, Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology
University of California, Santa Cruz
100 Shaffer Road
Santa Cruz, CA 95060
(831) 459-5674
Raimondi@biology.ucsc.edu

Trustee Council Project Manager: Jenny Marek (See Appendix A for contact information)

Project 2 Description: The Fucoid and Mytilus restoration project has two primary goals:

1. Restore *Silvetia* and *Fucus* populations using propagules released from harvested reproductive fronds and develop a model (if successful, to be used for future restoration efforts) to estimate the optimal strategy for restoration.
2. Restore *Mytilus californianus* populations using young fucoid populations as a recruitment facilitator.

Silvetia and *Fucus* are reproductive throughout much of the year. Scissors will be used to cut reproductive fronds from these species and mix them in mesh bags such that there is an equal biomass of sperm and egg producing material in each bag. The bags will be attached to dive weights with zip ties and placed on reef surfaces within the mid-intertidal zone just prior to the incoming flood tide. The bags will only be left out for 24 hours and then recovered. The plots will be assessed to determine how much area can be seeded with propagules using a certain amount of reproductive biomass, assess the survival of fucoid settlers over time, and determine the optimal age class of *Silvetia/Fucus* for the purpose of inducing recruitment of *Mytilus.* The study area is shown in Figure 12.

Project 2 Progress, Deliverables and Milestones:

Summer 2010	Pete Raimondi (UCSC) presents the idea of a fucoid restoration project to the Trustee Council
December 2010	Scope of work is finalized and approved by the Trustee Council

Figure 13. Fucoid and mytilus restoration experimental site locations (Raimondi 2010).

Budget Status:
The USFWS, as lead agency for project implementation/ administration for the Trustee Council, established a reimbursable agreement with the UCSC to fund the Mussel Bed Restoration Project ($104,999) and the Fucoid and Mytilus Restoration Project ($107,942). As of December 2010, UCSC has submitted two invoices totaling $19,285 for work on the Mussel Bed Restoration project and $193,656 remain in the USFWS account designated for these projects (Figure 13).

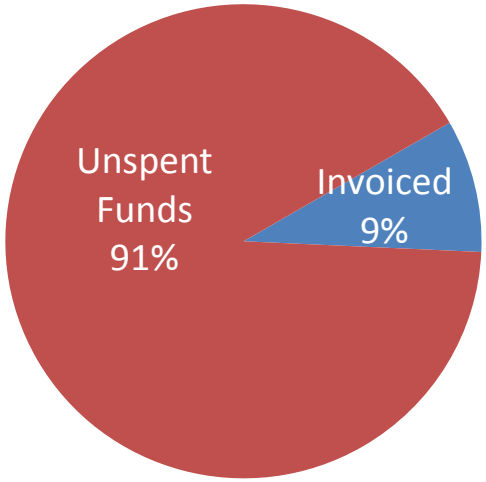

Figure 12. Funds spent, and remaining for the 2 Mussel Restoration Projects.

4.0 ROCKY INTERTIDAL HABITAT PROTECTION PROGRAM – FOCUS ON ABALONE AND OTHER ROCKY INTERTIDAL SPECIES

Figure 14. Black abalone shell (Marek 2010).

Nexus to Injury: There are extensive tracts of relatively undisturbed, highly productive, and diverse rocky intertidal habitat environments along the Vandenberg Air Force Base coast. Rocky intertidal habitat was exposed to oil in many places along the approximate 17 miles of impacted shoreline, totaling approximately 85 acres. Black abalone and mussel beds were observed to be coated with oil along or near the shores of Vandenberg Air Force Base and at other nearby rocky shorelines. Three abalone monitoring sites exist within the spill zone, but losses from the spill could not be quantified, as the data was confounded by the declines associated with withering foot syndrome. Withering foot syndrome is a disease associated with warmer waters and has caused a marked decline in black abalone in the VAFB area. The additional stress associated with the spill is expected to have exacerbated the decline and reduced chances for recovery of the species. Based on observations of black abalone covered with oil at Point Arguello, the pathway of oil on surface waters, the mixing of oil in the surf zone, and the projected slow recovery time for abalone, it was estimated that black abalone resources suffered a 10-15% loss in the spill area.

Goal: As stated in the Restoration Plan, the goal of the project is to provide local community outreach and education regarding the sensitivity of rocky intertidal habitats and to reduce the impacts from human disturbance on tidepools. The target audience is the Santa Barbara County community and visitors to the area's beaches (Figure 15). This project also includes a monitoring component to evaluate visitor use patterns and resource impacts at select high use rocky intertidal locations in Santa Barbara County such as Jalama Beach.

Implementer: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary, NOAA

Project Title: Rocky Intertidal Habitat Protection Program

Budget: $136,500

Project Duration: 3 years

Project Manager: Laura Francis and Julie Brusek
Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary
113 Harbor Way, Suite 113
Santa Barbara, CA 93109

Laura Francis: (805) 963-3238, ext. 17, laura.francis@noaa.gov
Julie Brusek: (805) 382-6149 x101, Julie.Bursek@noaa.gov

Trustee Council Project Manager: Sarah Mongano (See Appendix A for contact information)

Project Description: The goals of the program are to provide local community (i.e., Santa Barbara County) outreach and education regarding the sensitivities of rocky intertidal habitats and to reduce the impacts from human disturbance on tidepools. The program components include:

1. Educational outreach to minimize human impacts on tide pools.
2. Collaboration with private and government sector organizations.
3. Monitoring to evaluate visitor use patterns and resource impacts at select high use rocky intertidal locations in Santa Barbara County, such as Jalama Beach.

Figure 15. Tidepool visitors (NOAA 2006).

Partners and areas of interest include Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary, Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary, Jalama Beach County Park, Hancock Community College, MARINe Network, UC Santa Barbara Marine Science Institute, Orange County Marine Protected Area Network, Ty Warner Sea Center, Discovery Museum, Coal Oil Point Reserve, and Cabrillo High School Aquarium.

Progress, Deliverables and Milestones:

February 2010	Scope of Work Finalized and approved by the Trustee Council.
Summer 2010	CINMS staff reconnected with several project partners that were engaged during the planning process, and began to scope out individual projects with each group.
December 2010	Site visit with several partners in lower Santa Barbara County (Figure 16).

Figure 16. Julie Bursek(CINMS), Laura Francis (CINMS), Sarah Mongano (CSLC), and Jessie Altstatt (CINMS) speaking with Scott Simon (UCSB) about a black abalone exhibit at UCSB's REEF Facility (Marek 2010).

Budget Status:

As agreed to by the Trustee Council and CINMS, project funds were transferred to CINMS in 2010 following the approval of the scope of work for all project activities by the Trustee Council. CINMS will provide progress reports to the Trustee Council to ensure that project activities and goals are being achieved on schedule.

5.0 BOARDWALK PROJECT AT OCEAN BEACH (PHASE 1)

Nexus to Injury: The spill interrupted recreational services to individuals participating in beach-related activities along the Santa Barbara County coast. Specifically, the following areas were impacted: Minuteman Beach, Purisima Point, Seal Beach, Wall Beach, Ocean Beach Park, and Surf Beach. Physical oiling of the beaches and subsequent cleanup activities impacted beach-related recreational services, including walking, jogging, swimming, surfing, wildlife and tidepool viewing, fishing, and picnicking. Surveys conducted in the weeks following the spill indicated that the spill impacted recreational activities by precluding use of the beaches and causing a diminished use value (i.e., less enjoyment) of recreation in impacted areas. Ocean Beach park, a 40-acre park owned by Santa Barbara County near the mouth of the Santa Ynez River, was closed to the public from September 29 through October 4.

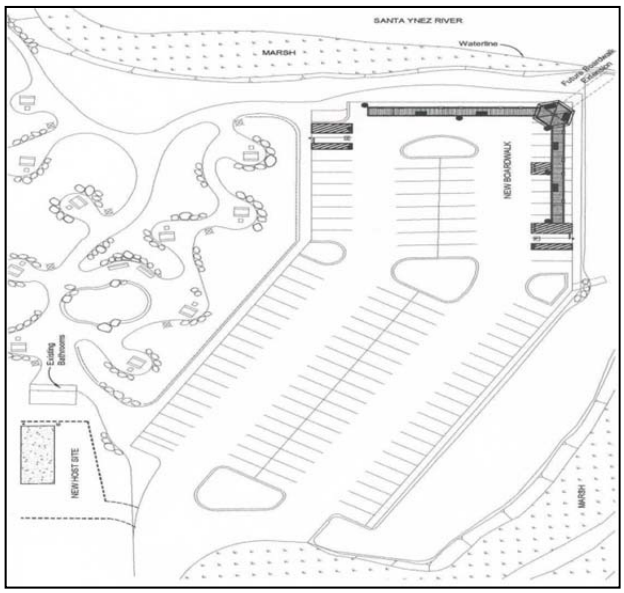

Figure 17. Schematic of the Ocean Beach Boardwalk (County of Santa Barbara 2010).

Goal: As described in the Restoration Plan, phase 1 of the project involves constructing a boardwalk along the northern and eastern perimeter of the existing parking lot at Ocean Beach Park. The project is intended to increase visitor appreciation and awareness of the natural resources in the area and will provide enhanced opportunity for viewing estuarine wildlife and habitat. Phase 1 also includes the construction of an interpretive/educational kiosk to provide information relating to environmental concerns, seabird identification, and natural habitats. Phase 2 of the project (to be funded by other sources) would include an extension of the boardwalk into the estuary, including a platform for wildlife viewing. An estimated 45,000 people visit the park annually.

Implementer: Santa Barbara County

Project Title: Ocean Beach Park Boardwalk Phase 1

Budget: $65,520

Project Duration: 1 year

Project Manager: Juan Beltranena
Santa Barbara County Parks
610 Mission Canyon Road
Santa Barbara, CA 93105
(805) 568-2470
jbeltranena@co.santa-barbara.ca.us

Trustee Council Project Manager: Jenny Marek (See Appendix A for contact information)

Project Description: The County of Santa Barbara Parks Department proposed to construct a boardwalk along the northern and eastern perimeter of the existing parking lot (Figure 17,18). The boardwalk includes the construction of an interpretive/educational kiosk to provide information relating to seabird identification, estuary habitats, and environmental concerns.

Figure 18. Ocean Beach County Park Interpretive Boardwalk Location (County of Santa Barbara 2010).

Progress, Deliverables and Milestones:

January 2010	Trustee Council representatives signed resolution 10-1 transferring $65,520 from the DOI NRDAR Fund to the FWS for a reimbursable agreement with the County of Santa Barbara for costs associated with the project.
March 2010	Scope of Work finalized and approved by the Trustee Council
December 2010	Construction began on the Ocean Beach Boardwalk (Figure 19)

Figure 19. Ocean Beach Boardwalk under construction (J. Beltranena 2011).

Budget Status:
The Fish and Wildlife Service, as lead agency for project implementation/administration for the Trustee Council, established a reimbursable agreement with the County of Santa Barbara to fund the Boardwalk Project, Phase 1. As of December 2010, Santa Barbara County has not submitted any invoices for work on the boardwalk project and all $65,520 remain in the USFWS account designated for this project.

BUDGET SUMMARY

On August 5, 2002 the Torch Operating Company deposited $2,407,012.24 (the $2,397,000 settlement amount plus interest) into a designated account held within the DOI's NRDAR fund. The Restoration Plan directs the use of these funds as shown in Figure 2. As the lead trustee for implementation, the USFWS is responsible for establishing all agreements and handling all Trustee Council finances. When the Trustees decide that funds should be withdrawn from the DOI NRDAR account, a Trustee Council resolution is prepared that outlines the amount of funds requested for withdrawal, the purpose of the withdrawal, and the entity receiving the withdrawn funds. All of the Trustee Council Members must sign the resolution prior to the release of funds. The monies withdrawn from the NRDAR fund to date are summarized in Table 1.

Table 1. Matrix of Trustee Council Resolutions indicating the projects and administrative funds allocated in resolution.

Date (Resolution #)	*Seabird Project*	*Mussel Bed Project*	*Rocky Intertidal Project*	*Boardwalk Projeect*	*Dune Habitat Project*	*FWS Admin*	*DFG Admin*	*CSLC Admin*	*VAFB Admin*	**Total**
July 2004						$ 30,000	$ 35,000	$ 15,000	$ 20,000	$ 100,000
July 2005							$ 62,000	$ 15,000		$ 77,000
September 2006						$ 60,000	$ 50,000	$ 10,000	$ 1,000	$ 121,000
October 2007	Resolution to approve the Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment, no funds transferred									$ -
November 2008 (8-1)		$ 105,000			$ 66,750	$ 50,000			$ (21,000)	$ 200,750
September 2009						$ 50,000	$ 10,000	$ 10,000		$ 70,000
Jan 2010 (10-1)	$ 379,022		$ 136,500	$ 65,520						$ 581,042
July 2010 (10-2)					$ 86,700			$ 10,000		$ 96,700
Aug 2010 (10-3)	$ 10,000						$ 6,000			$ 16,000
TOTAL	$ 389,022	$ 105,000	$ 136,500	$ 65,520	$ 153,450	$ 190,000	$ 163,000	$ 60,000	$ -	$ 1,262,492

While the settlement funds are in the DOI NRDAR Account, interest that accrues will be applied to additional restoration activities. To maximize the amount of interest earned, withdrawals are only made when funds are ready to be spent. Figure 20 shows the total balance remaining in the NRDAR funds between 2002 and 2010 along with the annual interest earned and total annual withdrawals made for project and administrative costs. As of December 2010, approximately $394,000 has been earned in interest, bringing the total amount of restoration funds to $2,800,850. As of December 2010 approximately $1,538,400 remains in the NRDAR account to complete the restoration projects described above.

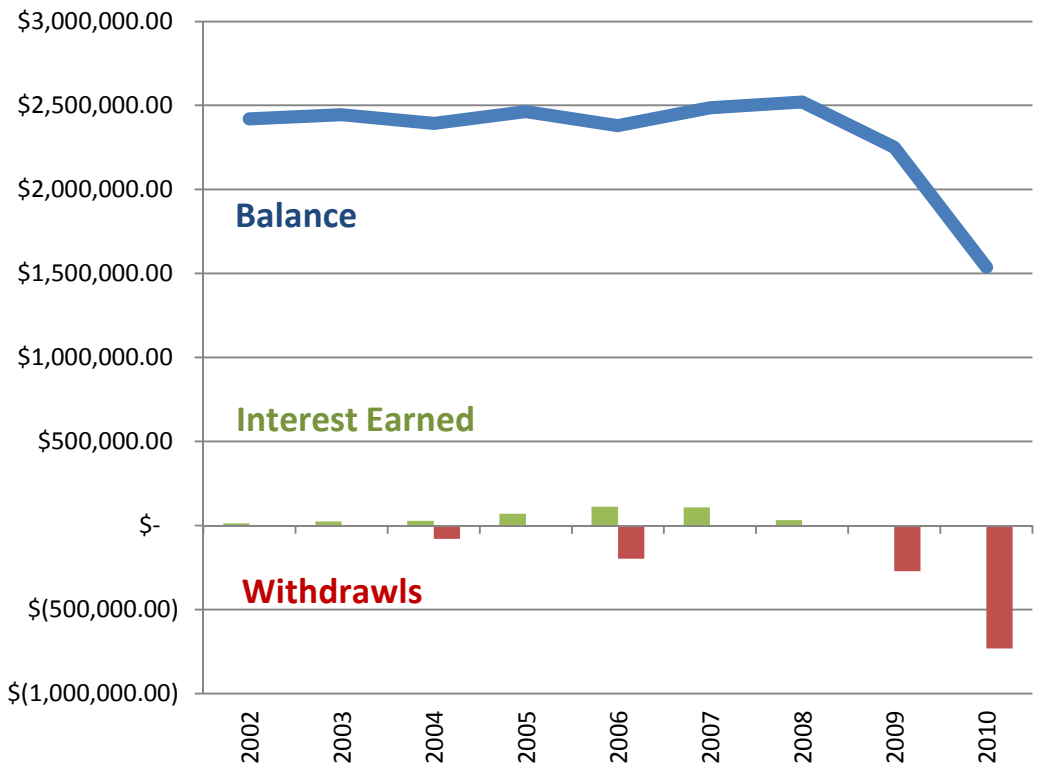

Figure 20. Total running balance of the DOI NRDAR Torch/Platform Irene Account and withdrawals and interest earned each year (Adapted from DOI NRDAR).

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APPENDIX A. Torch/Platform Irene NRDAR Trustee Representatives

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Ventura Field Office
2493 Portola Road, Suite B
Ventura, California 93003
Phone: (805) 644-1766
Lead Trustee: Jenny Marek (Jenny_Marek@fws.gov)
Alternate Trustee: Jeff Phillips (Jeff_phillips@fws.gov)
Legal Representative (DOI): Deborah Bardwick (deborah.bardwick@sol.doi.gov)

California Department of Fish and Game
Office of Spill Prevention and Response
1700 K Street
P.O. Box 944209
Sacramento, CA 94277-2090
(805) 594-6165
Lead Trustee: Melissa Boggs (mboggs@ospr.dfg.ca.gov)
Alternate Trustee: Dennis Ryan (dryan@ospr.dfg.ca.gov)
Legal Representative: Lisa Wolfe (lwolfe@ ospr.dfg.ca.gov)

Vandenberg Air Force Base
U.S. Air Force
1028 Iceland Avenue
Vandenberg AFB, CA 93437
(805) 606-5299
Lead Trustee: Luanne Lum (Luanne.Lum@vandenberg.af.mil)
Alternate Trustee: Samantha Kaisersatt (samantha.kaisersatt@vandenberg.af.mil)

California State Lands Commission
Division of Environmental Planning and Management
100 Howe Ave, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202
(916) 574-1889
Lead Trustee: Sarah Mongano (Sarah.Mongano@slc.ca.gov)
Alternate Trustee: Eric Gillies (Eric.Gillies@slc.ca.gov)