

## Public Comment Sought on 3 Additional Restoration Projects Proposed by Cosco Busan Oil Spill Trustees

The Cosco Busan oil spill Trustees have prepared and invite public review and comment on a Draft Supplement to the Cosco Busan Final Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (DARP/EA). The Trustees are proposing to implement 3 projects previously considered in the DARP/EA.

In 2013, the Trustees published another Supplemental Restoration Plan ([2013 Supplement](#)). The 2013 Supplement selected for implementation two preferred projects to address injuries to and restoration of large diving ducks and loons: Enhancing prey availability for wintering and migrating Surf Scoters in San Francisco Bay and Removal of derelict fishing nets in the Salish Sea. Rather than extending these projects, the Trustees now are proposing, as a more cost-effective alternative, to allocate the remaining unspent funds for Large Diving Ducks and Loons to extend implementation of the Eelgrass restoration in San Francisco Bay project. This project, selected in the DARP/EA to address injuries to Fish and other Aquatic Organisms and Eelgrass habitat, is currently being implemented. Monitoring has shown that when herring spawned in the area of restored beds, they used the restored eelgrass as a spawning substrate. Herring roe is an important lipid and nutrient-rich prey item for wintering Surf Scoter, the bird species most impacted by the spill. Thus, increasing eelgrass, which can serve as a spawning substrate for herring, can increase the availability of herring roe, which can benefit Surf Scoters.

The City of Berkeley has deemed the Berkeley Pier Bird Enhancement [Project](#) infeasible during the time that a new ferry terminal will be constructed at the base of the pier. Therefore, the Berkeley Pier Bird Enhancement Project is not possible to construct within the next two years or more. The Trustees now propose two of the other projects considered (i.e., Alcatraz Island Human Disturbance Reduction and Seabird Habitat Restoration on Southeast Farallon Island) in the DARP/EA Section 4.3.1.6 for Brown Pelicans, Cormorants, and Gulls as preferred alternatives to replace the Berkeley Pier Enhancement Project.

The Trustees for the Cosco Busan oil spill are the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), the National Park Service (NPS), the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California State Lands Commission (CSLC).

The Draft Supplement describing these 3 proposed restoration projects can be found at: <https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/cosco-busan>.

The Final Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan/Environmental Assessment (DARP/EA) can be found at:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/OSPR/NRDA/cosco-busan>.

Public comments on the Draft Supplement are due by July 31, 2024 and may be submitted by email, fax, or mail to:

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