



Office of Spill Prevention and Response

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Scientists Test Oil Spill Containment Equipment Meant for Protecting Environmentally Sensitive Sites

CARLSBAD -- The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and three oil spill response organizations today tested response strategies to protect environmentally sensitive sites in the event of an oil spill in the Batiquitos Lagoon.

“The exercise was performed within the lagoon, and involved the deployment of boom used to contain spills,” said Kris Wiese, an environmental scientist with CDFW’s Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR).

CDFW’s Sensitive Site Strategy Evaluation Program (SSSEP) evaluates strategies selected from more than 600 sites statewide that are particularly vulnerable to an oil spill. These areas are identified in Area Contingency Plans (ACPs) and are rich in sensitive resources such as fish, birds and marine mammals. Many also include habitat for wildlife breeding, nesting and feeding.

The strategy tested today focuses on preventing oil from reaching the habitat-rich lagoon that is essential to San Diego County’s marine ecosystem. Factors such as tidal patterns, currents and weather conditions affect how well equipment like boom works. Testing a strategy helps experts from OSPR determine whether it is likely to be successful in the event of a spill or needs to be altered.

ACP’s cover the entire coastline and marine waters of California and include the state’s busiest port areas: San Francisco Bay, Los Angeles/Long Beach and San Diego. More than 50 state, federal and local governments, as well as non-government organizations, industry and the general public contribute to ACP development.

The oil spill response organizations participating in the exercise included Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), National Response Corporation (NRC), and Patriot Environmental Services.

Hi-resolution photos of boom available for use at:
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=67532>
<https://nrm.dfg.ca.gov/FileHandler.ashx?DocumentID=67533>
Video of boom also available for use at: <http://youtu.be/nuSip3ZUi4w>

When you file your California income tax return, please consider making a voluntary contribution to the California Sea Otter Fund (line 410) or the Rare and Endangered Species Fund (line 403). Thank you!

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