



Unified Command Fact Sheet

SAN MATEO MYSTERY OIL SPILL

DATE: December 13, 2001

TIME: 5:00 P.M.

MEDIA CONTACTS: US Coast Guard — Lt. Tim Callister (510-437-3073)
OSPR Public Affairs — Dana Michaels: 916-327-9948 or Rob Hughes: 916-323-6286
SF Bay Oiled Wildlife Care Center — 707-207-0380 ext. 100

Information Update

SPILL: Tuesday, a single, fresh oil tarball was found on Stinson Beach. The sample was sent to the OSPR Petroleum Chemistry Laboratory in Rancho Cordova. It will be thoroughly analyzed, and compared with oil taken from birds captured since November 24, when they were first discovered. Oil chemistry analysis generally takes at least two weeks.

The seven mile-long sheen discovered by the U.S. Coast Guard, last Saturday (Dec. 8) has not been seen since a second overflight noted that it had dissipated to three miles in length, that afternoon. It may or may not be the oil that has injured numerous seabirds. A sample was taken and sent to the OSPR lab for analysis and comparison with the samples taken from birds, and the new tarball.

The Coast Guard is directing daily overflights, continuing the search for the oil. Coast Guard small boats are also conducting periodic patrols for the oil.

WILDLIFE: To date, wildlife recovery crews have collected 196 dead, oiled birds and 222 live, oiled birds. Of the live birds captured, 116 are still receiving care; 95 have died. Twenty-two have been cleaned, rehabilitated and released.

Most of the oiled seabirds are common murrelets (which are not so common, any more). Other species oiled include grebes, surf scoters, loons and gulls.

WILDLIFE CARE: The Oiled Wildlife Care Network has been caring for the oiled animals since November 24th. Oiled birds are cleaned, stabilized, and rehabilitated at the San Francisco Bay Oiled Wildlife Care and Education Center in Cordelia, which just opened, last February. This Center is also headquarters to the International Bird

Rescue Research Center (IBRRC), the OWCN's most active member group. The OWCN was created and is funded by the OSPR, and operated by the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center.

Anyone seeing oiled wildlife should call the Center, ASAP, at 707-207-0380, so a capture team can be dispatched. Do not approach or touch wildlife at any time. Sick and injured animals are especially dangerous to both you and themselves.

FUNDING: The Coast Guard has opened the Federal Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund to pay all costs relating to the spill response, including wildlife care.

IMPACT RANGE: Oiled seabirds have been collected from Stinson Beach to the Farallon Islands, to Pacific Grove.

RESPONDERS: The U.S. Coast Guard Marine Safety Office - San Francisco (USCG) and California Dept. of Fish and Game Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) make up the Unified Command, which directs all oil spill response and clean-up in the State's marine waters.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Park Service, California State Parks, and Gulf of the Farallones National Marine Sanctuary's Beach Walk volunteers are also participating in the response.

Since the news media put the word out that we needed volunteers at the Wildlife Care Center, response has been excellent. Thanks to you all.

WEBSITES

DFG-OSPR — <http://www.dfg.ca.gov/Ospr/index.html>

UC Davis News Service — <http://www.newssearch.ucdavis.edu>

Oiled Wildlife Care Network — <http://www.vetmed.ucdavis.edu/owcn/default.asp>

IBRRC — <http://www.ibrrc.org>

US Coast Guard — <http://www.uscg.mil/D11/index.htm>

