

Unified Command News Release

Humboldt Bay Oil Spill

*U.S. Coast Guard * California Department of Fish and Game,
Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response * SMQI Services, Inc.*

Contact: Joint Information Center
Phone: 707-441-4784 / 4785

Date: November 10, 1997
Time: 7:30 p.m.

Spill Response, Day 6

EUREKA -- Crews continue to make significant headway in containment and clean-up on Humboldt Bay.

The Unified Command -- which consists of the U.S. Coast Guard, California Department of Fish and Game Office of Oil Spill Prevention and Response, and the responsible party -- is currently employing the following resources:

- * 427 people: 38 federal, 35 state, and three local government employees; the responsible party has provided 40 employees, and 311 from three different clean-up contractors; another 100 people are working in wildlife operations, many of whom are trained volunteers.
- * Eight vacuum trucks, 12 pressure washers, and two skimming vessels.
- * Seven boats (work boats, skiffs, air-boats, canoes) and two aircraft;
- * 5,000 feet of containment boom and 3,000 feet of sorbent and snare boom are being used throughout the bay area.

Rock-washing continues around Samoa Spit and at the Coast Guard station. There are plans to open the tide gates at Palco Marsh, tomorrow.

The Wildlife Operations staff have rescued 392 live birds and recovered 297 dead birds. They have been taken to the Marine Wildlife Care Center at Humboldt State University. The species hardest-hit are the murrelets, shorebirds, and scoters. Also affected are grebes, loons, scaups, marbled murrelets, and gulls. From the endangered list, we now have - alive - one oiled brown pelican. We have also received, dead, one brown pelican and six marbled murrelets.

(more)

The Coast Guard and California Department of Fish and Game are continuing their investigation into the cause of the accident.

The Humboldt County Department of Health recommends that no fish, shellfish or algae be taken from any part of the bay until further notice.

Important public phone numbers:

- * Report oiled wildlife: (707) 826-3450 (Be patient; this line has been overwhelmed.)
- * Damage claims: (888) 422-2524
- * Volunteer opportunities (707) 442-3711 (Volunteer Center of the Redwoods, which will be closed, Tuesday, in honor of Veterans' Day)