

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Planning for the *Cosco Busan* Oil Spill



Oiled Greater Scaup

As a result of the *Cosco Busan* oil spill in San Francisco Bay, state and federal trustee agencies (trustees), in cooperation with local cities, counties, and other organizations, are working to assess the ecological injuries and human use losses caused by the spill. Through this process, known as a natural resource damage assessment (NRDA), the trustees intend to quantify the injuries to wildlife, habitat, and lost use of those resources, and to develop a restoration plan. The trustees will ultimately make a claim for funds from the responsible party to implement restoration projects designed to both restore and compensate for the injured resources and human activities.

Public Involvement

There will be two public information meetings to provide an opportunity for the public to learn about the NRDA process and for the trustee agencies to learn about additional observations and data collected by the public or other organizations. The meetings will be:

- 11am to 1pm, Tuesday, January 22, 2008 at First Floor Auditorium within the Elihu M. Harris State Building, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland
- 6:30pm to 8:30pm, Tuesday, January 29, 2008 at the Mill Valley Community Center, 180 El Camino Alto, Mill Valley.

There will be additional public meetings in the future, as well as an official public comment period prior the finalization of a Restoration Plan.

Preliminary Assessment Results

Since the day of the spill, the trustees have been working to assess the injuries and to collect time-critical data. Since then, they have begun analyzing data, collecting samples, and conducting other assessment activities. Here is a preliminary summary of known impacts to date:

- Birds: 1,084 collected live (421 rehabbed and released); 1,858 collected dead
- Mammals: 1 collected live, which died; 2 collected dead; analysis in progress
- Fish: studies in progress
- Rocky Intertidal Habitat: 50 miles of coastline oiled (3.1 moderately or heavily oiled)
- Sandy Beach Habitat: 41 miles of coastline oiled (2.3 moderately or heavily oiled)
- Saltmarsh Habitat: 7.5 miles of coastline oiled (0.7 moderately or heavily oiled)
- Eelgrass Habitat: 200 acres within impacted area
- Human Uses: more than 50 beaches, piers, and coastal access points closed

These numbers are subject to further development and analysis.

Trustees

California Department of Fish and Game
California State Lands Commission
United States Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service
Bureau of Land Management
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration

Websites

coscobusanincident.com
dfg.ca.gov/ospr/spill/nrda/nrda_cosco-busan.html
darrp.noaa.gov/southwest/cosco/index.html
fws.gov/contaminants/Issues/OilSpill.cfm

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