

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Hawaii and Pacific Islands

Issues

- The Hawaiian archipelago is home to diverse natural resources – from endangered Hawaiian monk seals and humpback whales to pristine coral reefs and sandy beaches.
- Coral reefs alone contribute more than \$360 million per year to the Hawaiian economy from marine-related tourism and commercial and recreational fishing.
- Isolation of the Hawaiian islands results in heavy vessel traffic which brings greater potential for ship groundings and spills.
- Oil refineries, agriculture and the associated processing, shipyards, and pollution from past military activities could harm natural resources of the islands.

What we do

NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

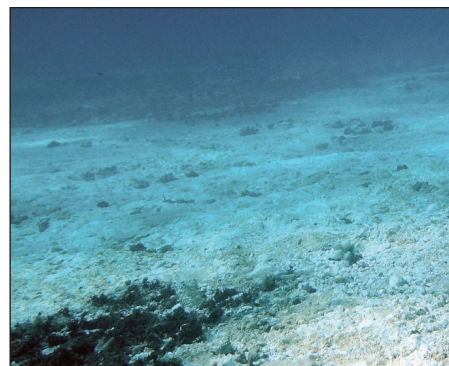
- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



M/V Cape Flattery Ship Grounding, Barber's Point - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 13 acres of marine habitats (completed and planned activities) and 21 tons of debris removed in Hawaii and Pacific Islands.
- Settlements have resulted in 8 protection and restoration projects in Hawaii and Pacific Islands.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 7 hazardous waste sites in Hawaii and Pacific Islands.



M/V Cape Flattery Ship Grounding, Barber's Point - see case highlights.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Tesoro Oil Spill, Kauai – Removed more than 20 tons of derelict fishing nets from the island's eastern shore, preventing further damage to the shoreline and coral reefs.
- M/V *Cape Flattery* Ship Grounding, Barber's Point – Removed 45 tons of rubble; over 2800 corals reattached to stabilize the reef area during the emergency restoration phase (*photos on page 1: impact photo on bottom; restoration photo on top*).
- Pearl Harbor Naval Complex – Worked with the Navy, State of Hawaii, and EPA to determine extent of ecological harm to Pearl Harbor from Navy and other activities; also currently determining options for cleanup of contaminated areas.
- Midway Atoll – Worked with USFWS and the Navy to clean up residual fuel, close landfills, and remove drums, derelict vessels, and engine parts that were releasing contaminants to the ocean off Midway.
- Chevron Pipeline Oil Spill, Pearl Harbor – Enhancing 8 acres of coastal marsh; removed 5 acres of invasive red mangrove to create shallow water habitat; repaired shoreline and refurbished boat dock at the U.S.S. *Arizona* Memorial visitor center.

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

