

*An Oil Spill Impacting Wildlife:
The Response Before the
Animals are Retrieved*



**The Fifth
Biennial
Freshwater
Spills
Symposium
New Orleans, LA**



Eileen Gilbert

Senior Coordinator

110 Possum Hollow Rd.

Newark, DE 19711 USA

(302) 737-7241 X. 113

24-hour US Pager 1-800-710-0695

Egilbert@tristatebird.org

www.tristatebird.org



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FOR WILDLIFE

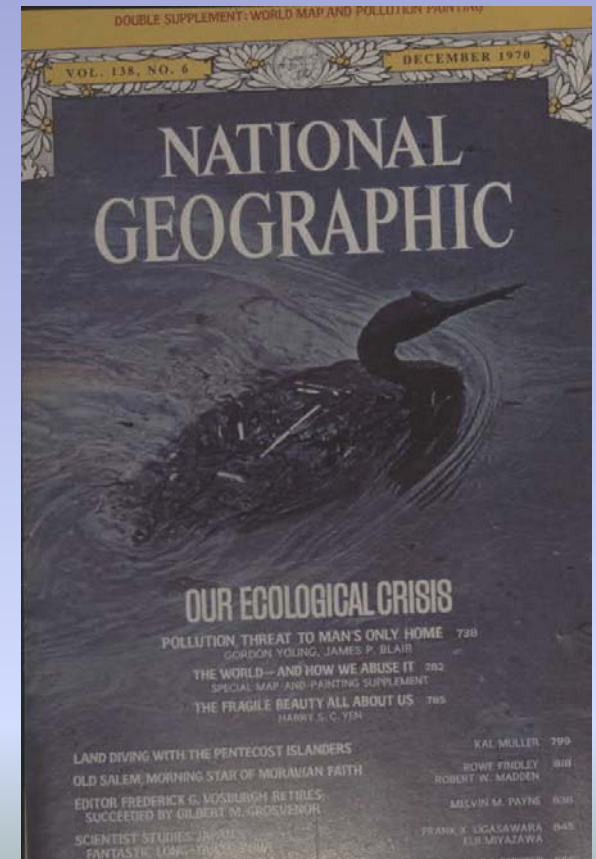
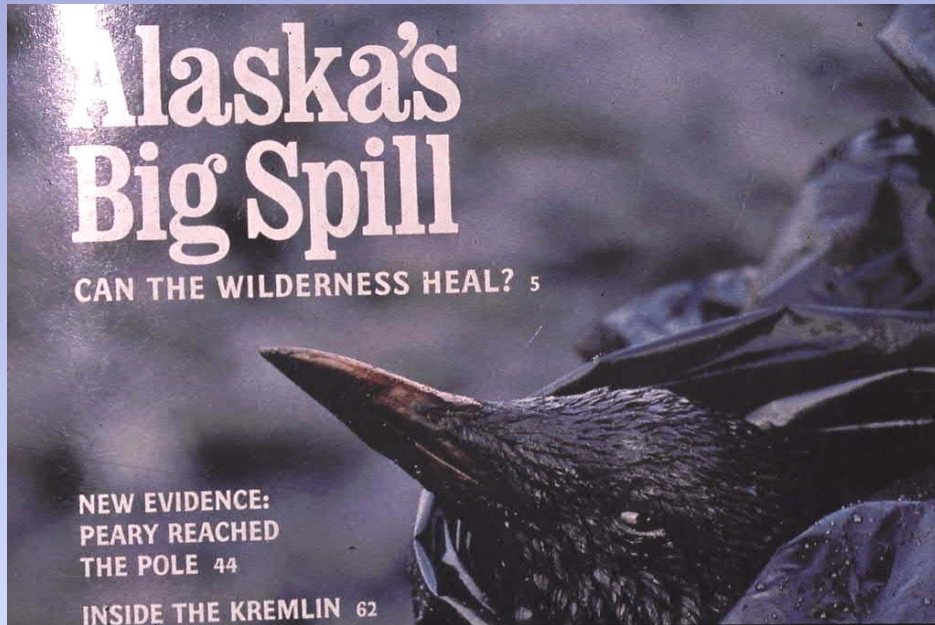
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TRI-STATE
WILDLIFE RESCUE & RESEARCH, INC.

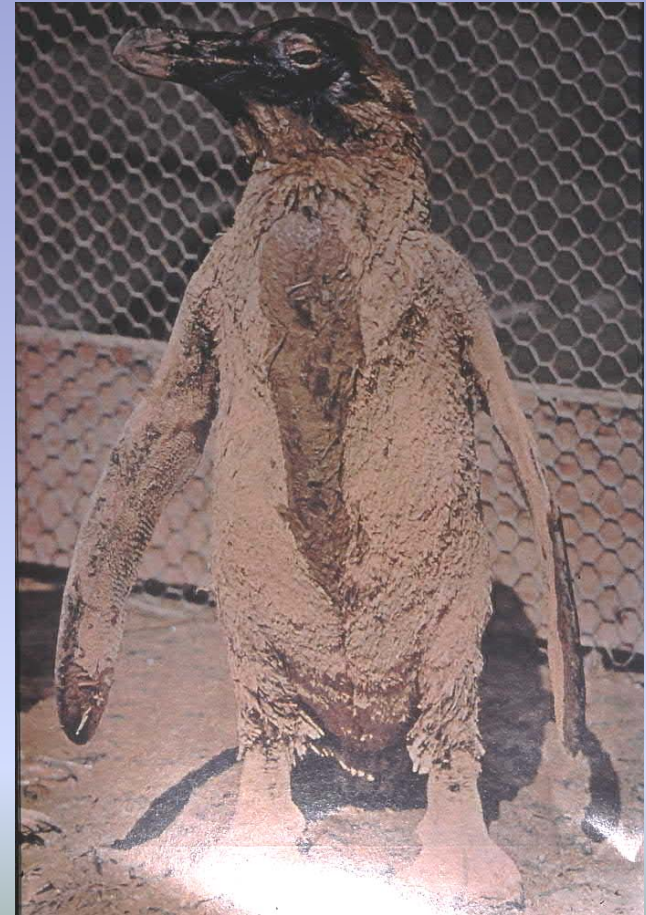
Things to Consider.....

- The overall structure of the response effort and how it relates to wildlife concerns
- Safety concerns for the wildlife component of any response effort
- Preparation for the potential immediate needs for a successful wildlife response

A Long History of Impacted Wildlife



Some Early Attempts...

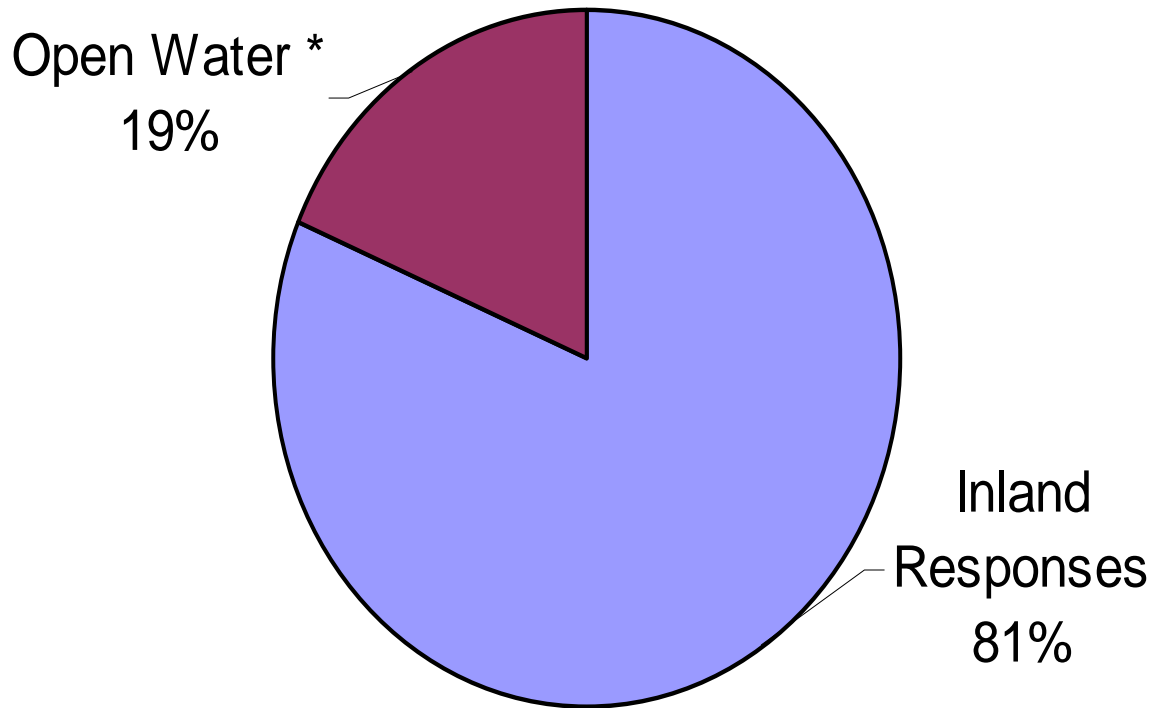


Fresh Water Responses are:

- Usually Smaller Amounts of Product
- Usually More Frequent
- Usually Involve Refined Products

- Inland Zone Habitats are:
 - Usually More Diverse than Ocean Spills
- Inland Species are:
 - Usually More Diverse than Ocean Spills
 - Avian, Mammalian, Amphibian, Reptilian

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. Inland vs. Open Water Spills 1989-2002



*Open Water responses include those occurring in bays, sounds, beaches, coastal, offshore, and involving islands.

Note: Statistics do not include international cooperative efforts e.g. *M/V Treasure* (SA).

Effects of Oil on Wildlife

- Environmental
- External
- Internal



External Effects of Oil

- Disrupts Waterproofing
- Inhibits Thermoregulation
- Decreases Buoyancy
- Impairs Flight



Internal Effects of Oil

- **Routes Of Exposure**
 - Inhalation
 - Ingestion
 - Absorption through skin
- **Medical Concerns**
 - Dehydration
 - Organ failure
 - Irritation of skin, eyes, and mucosal surfaces
 - Blood disorders
 - Nervous system damage
 - Reproductive and endocrine changes

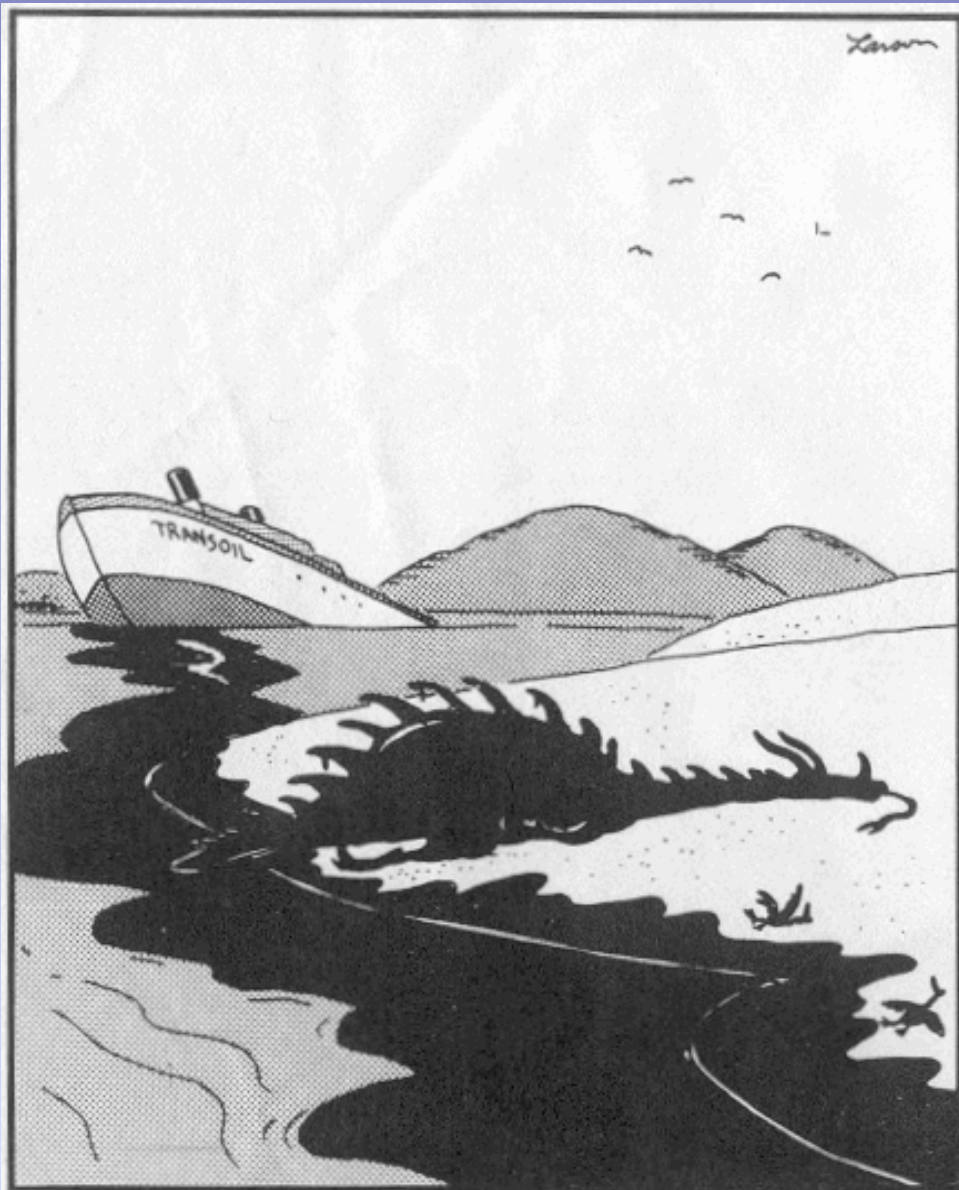
Reproductive Systems

- Poor survival of young
- Direct harm to eggs
 - Greatly reduces hatch-rate
 - Deformities
- Future productivity decreases



Why Rehabilitate Oiled Wildlife

- Mandated under OPA 90
- Understanding effects on common species increases survivability with T / E species
- Understanding how different products impact animals - ↑ survivability
- Public Relations



A tragedy occurs off the coast of a land called Honah-Lee.

The FAR SIDE

NOVEMBER

7

THURSDAY

Main Components of a Successful Wildlife Response

- Notification
- Field Effort
- Personnel
- Facility
- Rehab Effort

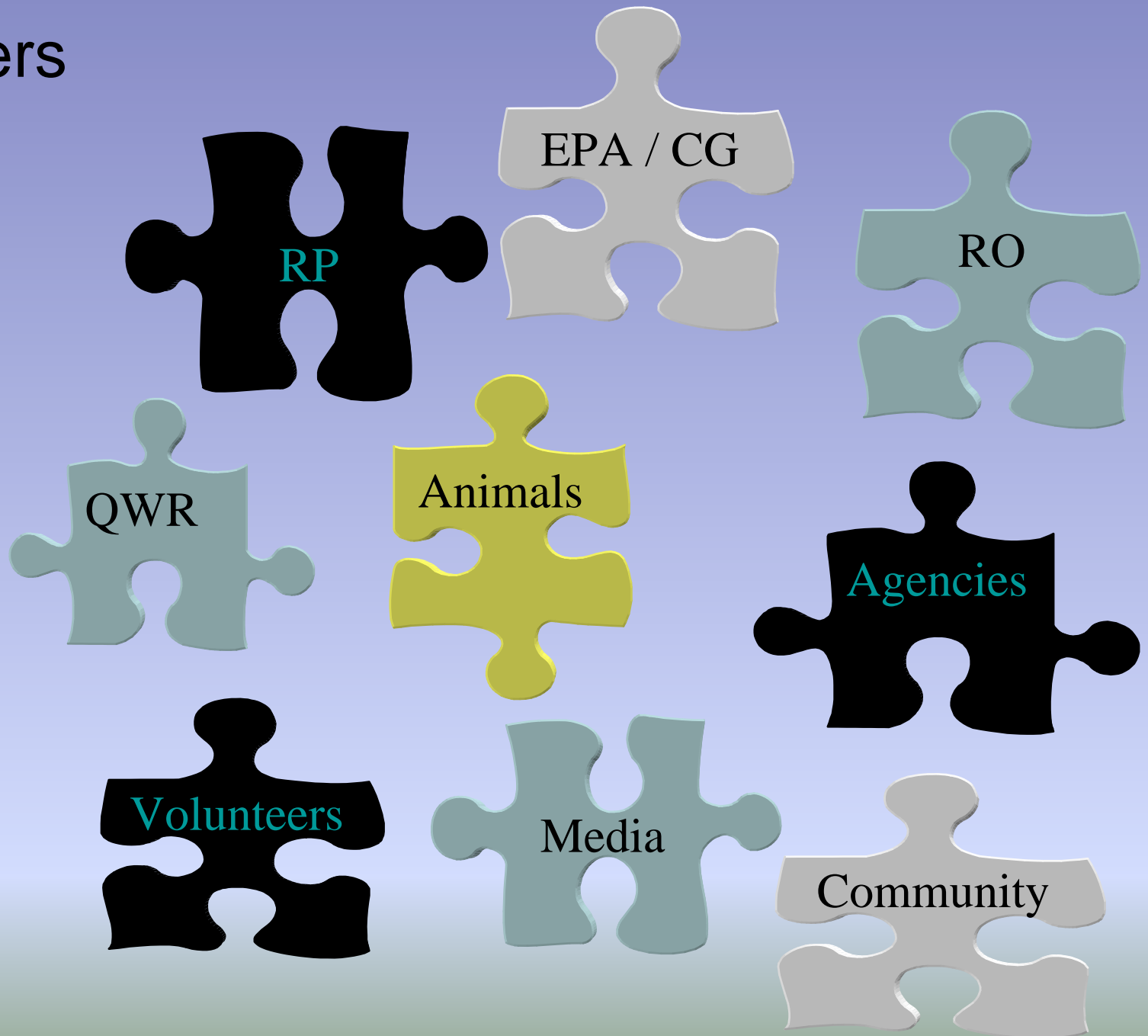


Notifications



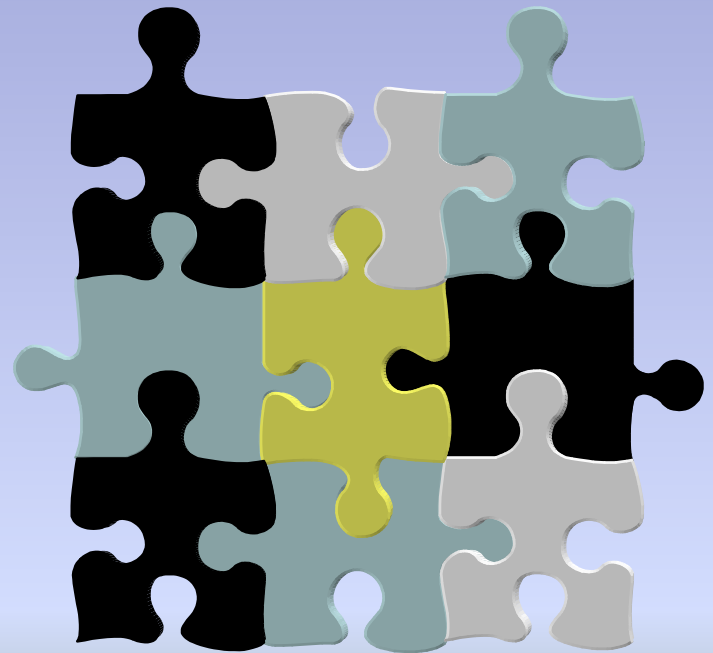
- 1-800
- Call Out Lists
- Resource Agencies
- Specialists

Players



Benefits of a Pro-Active Approach

- Cohesive and Accurate Information
- Updates for the Community
 - Rapid Reporting of Animals in Distress
 - Safe Practices
 - Needs of the Wildlife Effort
 - Donations
 - How to Help



QWR Integrates into the Incident

- Under contract to the RP
- Working in Operations under the Wildlife Branch Director (US FWS / State)
- Coordinating with Joint Information Center
- Addressing concerns of local community
 - (potential volunteers)

Getting the word out



- ID 2 phone numbers
 - To report wildlife in distress
 - For potential volunteers
- Distribution
 - JIC
 - Media briefings

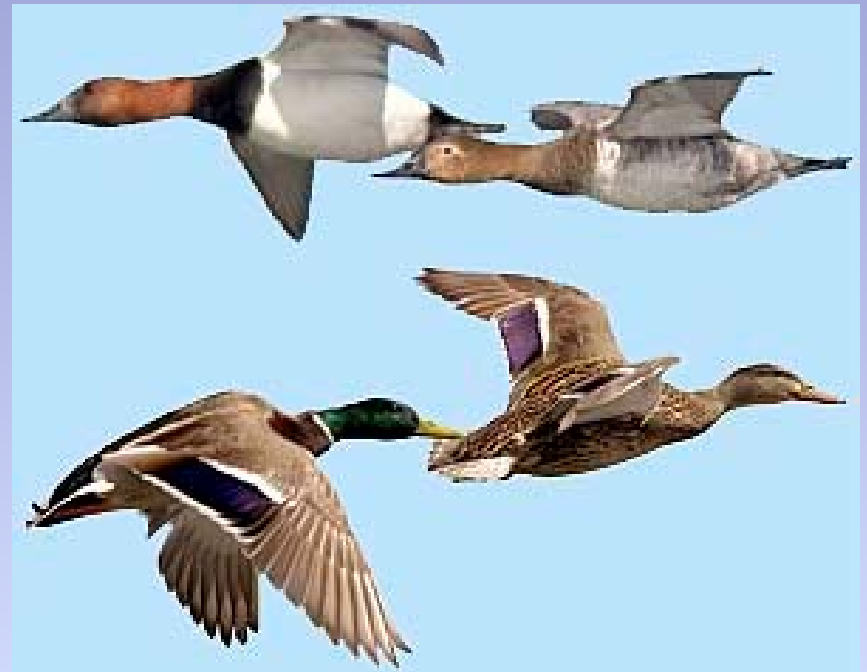
Response Strategies

- Stop the Spill
- Containment or Protective Booming
- Shoreline Clean up
- SCAT



Field Considerations for Wildlife

- Assessment of Resources at Risk
- Deterrent Options
- Hazing Plan
- Field Safety Plan
 - Safety Training for Field Personnel
- Coordinated Retrieval and Transport
 - Equipment
- Comms



NRDAR

- Identify Resource Trustees
- Collection and maintenance of evidence
- Security
- Carcasses



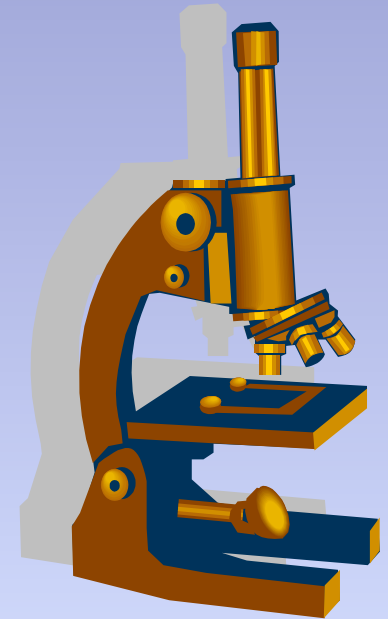
Personnel Involved in Wildlife Response

- RP / or reps
- Agencies
- QWR
- Media
- Community
- Volunteers



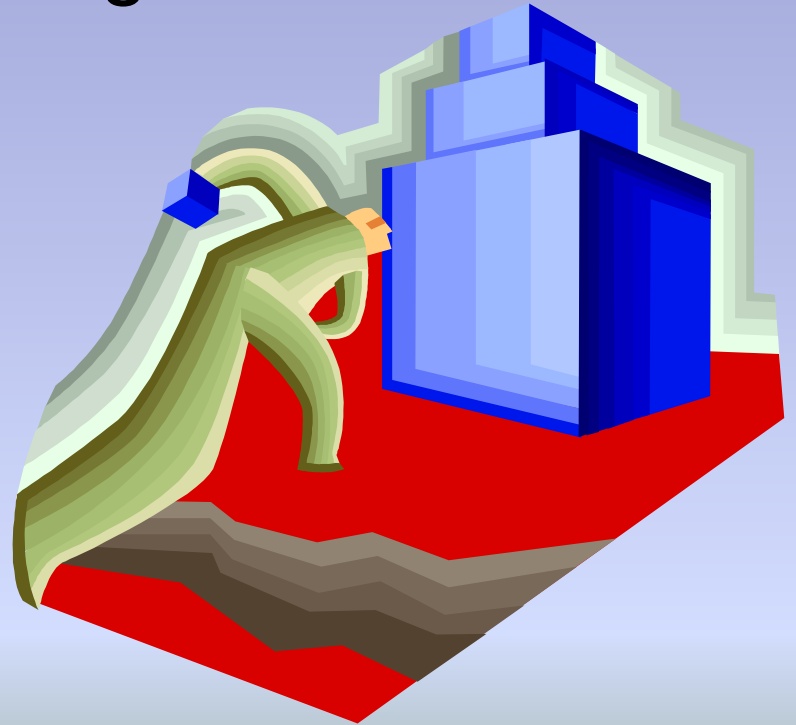
Media

- Keep Spill Management up to date
- Coordinate with JIC
- Schedule timely media interviews & facility tours
- Accommodate Spill Management in interviews (or the process)
- Write punctual, accurate press releases
 - Reviewed by the management system
- Present accurate information
- Present factual information
- Speak on wildlife issues only



Volunteers

- Volunteer Requirements
- Volunteer Training and Registration
- Release of Claims
- Sign In Form
- Shift Schedule



Oiled Wildlife Facility Selection: Or picking the perfect spot



Facility requirements can vary depending on the following factors:

- Anticipated number of animals
- Types and numbers of species
- Age of wildlife contaminated
- Type of contaminant
- Season/weather
- Location of the spill
- Facility availability



Requirements

- Geographically Close to Spill Site
- Space
- Climate Controlled
- Water
- Electric
- HVAC



Climate Controlled

- Temperature can play an important part of the rehab process



Water



- Cold Water Volume (pools and general use)
 - 23,360 gallons per day
- Hot Water Volume (animal cleaning only)
 - 450 gph @ 104 degrees F.
6,750 gallons per day @ 15 hrs
- Water Pressure (animal cleaning only) 50 - 60 psi
- Water Hardness (animal cleaning only) 2.5 - 3.5 gpg

Electric

- 200 amp 120/240 volt 3-wire single phase service with minimum of ten (10) 20 amp circuits in addition to the lighting and HVAC needs, with the ability to expand.



HVAC

- Air Exchanges in the wildlife response facility should be exchanged
 - 6 times / hour (office space)
 - 10 times / hour within large open areas involving animal care
 - 20 times / hour (ICU and surgical areas)
 - and still maintain ambient temperatures.

The Rehab Effort



In conclusion....

Preplanning + Communication +
Coordination =

A successful wildlife response effort

- good community relations
- good survivability
- cost effective

