



Coastal Restoration & Recovery

The Office of Response and Restoration's (OR&R) activities to protect and restore coastal ecosystems are part of NOAA's overall efforts to recover protected species, build sustainable fisheries, and sustain healthy coasts.

OR&R protects and restores coastal ecosystems threatened or harmed by releases of oil and hazardous substances and other environmental disturbances, such as ship groundings.

As of this year, the Office of Response and Restoration has intervened successfully at more than 1500 sites in United States waters.

Restoration Means Rebuilding

Coastal ecosystems are threatened by releases of oil and hazardous materials, destruction of habitat, and other physical alterations. The essential first step in restoring the environment is a response that effectively controls the spread of contamination and protects natural resources from harm.

OR&R restores coastal natural resources directly but also works with coastal managers to build state and local capabilities to protect and restore our coasts. OR&R continually advances the science behind response and restoration decisions by applying the results of past and ongoing efforts through technology transfer and training. OR&R:

- Provides financial and other support for restoration projects through settlement agreements or litigation with parties responsible for harm;
- Develops restoration project plans and oversees implementation;
- Contributes expertise and decision support tools to improve restoration;
- Monitors restoration projects to ensure success; and
- Promotes regional restoration planning to maximize the benefits of individual restoration projects on a broader scale.



OR&R uses sound science and dynamic partnerships with government agencies, industries, and the public to accomplish its legislative mandates. OR&R:

- Reduces risk through accident prevention and contingency planning activities
- Advocates cleanup and response actions that protect natural resources and accelerate recovery; and
- Restores injured coastal resources

OR&R legislative authorities for restoration include:

- CERCLA (Superfund)
- Clean Water Act
- National Marine Sanctuary Act
- Oil Pollution Act

Restoration means rebuilding natural resources, habitats, and the services that they provide.

NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment

**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,
please visit our Web site at**

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov> or call (301) 713-2989.

