



SAFE SEAS MEDIA DAY ACTIVITIES
Monday, August 7, 12:30 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.
Pier 30-32, The Embarcadero, San Francisco, CA

A one and a half hour media opportunity --- on Monday afternoon, August 7 at Pier 30-32 --- to interview key drill participants and get a first hand close-up look as some of the equipment that will be deployed during the actual Safe Seas drill on Wednesday, August 9. Listed below are the participants we currently anticipate being present.

U.S. COAST GUARD

USCG Cutter *Aspen*

The *Aspen* will deploy its Spilled Oil Spill Recovery System (SORS). The SORS is a self-contained mechanical containment and recovery system that allows the *Aspen* to act as a first responder to any petroleum spills and begin the process of its removal from navigational waters and the open ocean. The *Aspen* is 225-foot long, 46-foot beam, 2000 LT, 18-foot navigable draft, bow and stern thrusters, single screw controllable pitch propeller, and has 42 crew and seven officers onboard.

As this will be a live demonstration, the Alameda County Sheriff's Department high speed 85-foot patrol boat, the *Alco 85*, will be on scene to ensure on-water navigational safety. On Wednesday the patrol boat will be the platform for launch on an autonomous underwater vehicle (AUV).

Mobile Satellite Communications Trailer

The Coast Guard will demonstrate its newly developed mobile communications trailer that can provide satellite and other communications links to provide communications capabilities to remote and forward deployed command posts.

Pacific Strike Team

The Pacific Strike Team will be on hand to explain their role as part of the SMART demonstration (See R/V *Shearwater*). The Strike Teams are the Coast Guard's highly trained, highly mobile, first responders that are used to respond to a variety of emergencies throughout the nation. Their role was critically displayed in the response to hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION (NOAA)

National Marine Sanctuaries - NOAA R/V *Shearwater*

The NOAA R/V *Shearwater* is the primary research vessel of the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. It is a 62-foot high-speed Teknicraft catamaran used primarily as a research platform, conducting biotic and abiotic oceanographic research in the waters of the Santa Barbara Channel in Southern California. In addition to this role the vessel serves as a host for educational field trips and emergency response in and around the Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuary. The A-frame and winch configuration are used for a variety of projects including trawls, sediment sampling, and towing equipment such as sidescan sonar and remotely operated vehicles. The wet and dry labs allow on-board processing of samples and

data. Extensive dive operations are supported by onboard facilities and equipment. Recent efforts within the Sanctuary have included sea bird research, archeological/cultural research (primarily shipwrecks) and collecting baseline data for emerging management issues. On board berthing, stowage, galley and safety equipment allow for multiple-day excursions with crews of up to ten scientists.

For the Safe Seas drill the *Shearwater* will conduct three primary missions. First, it will serve as the deployment and recovery platform for the Quick Response Estuarine Buoy (below). It will then collect environmental information that is critical to NOAA's emergency response oceanographers that leads to increased accuracy of oil spill trajectory forecasts and a better understanding of the fate of dispersed oil (simulated for this exercise). Lastly, *Shearwater's* stability and maneuverability make her an excellent vessel to conduct Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART). After dispersants are applied during a real incident, decision makers need to know if they are effective and trustee agencies need to have an idea of how much oil has been dispersed. SMART Monitoring uses a technical flurometer protocol to measure the distribution of dispersed oil (non-toxic dye for the exercise). One of these flurometers, a Hydrolab multi-parameter water meter and other field data collection equipment will be presented during the demonstration by Louisiana State University's team of response chemists.

Quick Response Estuarine Buoy (QREB)

NOAA's Quick Response Estuarine Buoy (QREB) will be deployed by the *R/V Shearwater* in the southern operating area near the simulated site of the sinking of the barge *Dottie*. Data from the moored QREB includes ocean current profiles from an Acoustic Doppler Current Profiler (ADCP), ocean temperature and salinity data, and meteorological data which will be transmitted real-time to oil spill modelers and decision makers in the command post.

NOAA Office of Coast Survey AUV Team - Hydrographic Autonomous Underwater Vehicle

NOAA's Office of Coast Survey AUV Team will display its Hydrographic Autonomous Underwater Vehicle (AUV). The AUV is a hand-deployable vehicle that can be programmed to operate independently from shore, pier, or support vessel. The AUV is equipped with side scan sonar that can be used to detect and map submerged wrecks, rocks, and obstructions that could pose a hazard to navigation for commercial and recreational vessels. NOAA intends to use AUV's to increase the efficiency of its survey fleet and provide rapid response for port and harbor surveys.

The AUV will be deployed during the Safe Seas Exercise to map several existing wrecks in the immediate vicinity of the simulated sunken barge *Dottie* in order to demonstrate the type and quality of data that can be obtained to assist responders in evaluating the position and condition of a submerged wreck.

NOAA Office of Coast Survey - Navigational Response Team (NRT) Boat

NOAA's Office of Coast Survey will display equipment used in providing rapid response capability to identify and assist in clearing of navigational waterways following a natural or manmade disaster such as a ship collision, oil spill or hurricane. Equipment display will include the 30-foot outboard trailer-transported response boat and its on board survey equipment. The NRT Team #6 unit is California-based but responds as needed anywhere in country. The three-person crew, who will be available for interviews, participated in reopening of navigational waterways last fall in the Gulf of Mexico following Hurricanes Katrina and Rita.

NOAA Office of Response and Restoration - Data Collection From Remote Sites

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration will demonstrate its new field tools: a new database for managing Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) data and eSCAT, an electronic interface for SCAT data collection using GPS enabled Pocket PC handheld devices. These tools integrate Marine Debris assessment. Safe Seas is an opportunity to showcase the advancement of information technology and integration of marine debris assessment into the SCAT framework. Demonstration format will include: a poster to describe the systems, laptop demonstrations of the database and photo-logging software, demos of the hand-held devices, and examples of products to support response decision-making.

OILED WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK

Field Stabilization Unit and Capture Equipment:

The Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN) will display and demonstrated marine mammal and bird response capabilities, including demonstration of field stabilization unit and specialized capture gear. Included will be display of a 21-foot mobile field animal hospital and a "capture" truck. The field hospital includes animal examination station and caging while the capture truck includes a specially modified all-terrain vehicle for tracking and capturing injured or threatened marine mammals and other animals.

The OWCN strives to ensure that wildlife exposed to petroleum products in the environment receive the best achievable treatment by providing access to permanent wildlife rehabilitation facilities and trained personnel that are maintained in a constant state of readiness for oil spill response within California. The OWCN is sponsored by OSPR from interest earned on the state's Oil Spill Response Trust Fund, and its management is a collaborative program with the Wildlife Health Center located in the UC Davis School of Veterinary Medicine.

Quick, expedient and effective response is essential to saving lives during an oil spill. Every minute the animals are exposed the toxins means greater risk for severe, life-threatening health problems. The OWCN is proud to have a 50-75% save rate of oiled animals they have helped.

MARINE SPILL RESPONSE CORPORATION

OSRV *Pacific Responder*

The Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) will have available one of its fleet of 210-foot response vessels (OSRVs) and will demonstrated the use of oil spill response vessel boom deployment and skimmer recovery technology and offer ship tours. The OSRVs have temporary storage for 4,000 barrels of recovered oil, and have the ability to separate oil and water aboard ship using two oil-water separation systems. To enable the OSRV to sustain cleanup operations, recovered oil is transferred into other vessels or barges. In addition to these 15 OSRVs, MSRC also operates two other OSRVs in the San Francisco Bay and four in Southern California.

MSRC is an independent, non-profit, national spill response company dedicated to rapid response. MSRC's capabilities include a large inventory of vessels, equipment, and trained personnel, complemented by a large contractor workforce in numerous locations in the continental U.S., Hawaii, and the Caribbean. MSRC also provides dedicated access to alternative response technologies such as in situ burn kits and aerial and vessel dispersant spraying. Although MSRC was created to respond to catastrophic spills, today's MSRC has broadened its scope of services. MSRC's mission now includes response to oil spills of any size, shoreline cleanup and, as appropriate, hazardous material spill response and response to spills outside the U.S.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Personnel from the Golden Gate National Recreation Area unit of the National Park Service will be available for interviews and informational guidance.

During the Wednesday exercise the Golden Gate National Recreation Area (GGNRA), the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC), and the California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR), will join together to test oil spill response protective strategies at Crissy Field in San Francisco, CA. These strategies have been developed by OSPR, GGNRA, and MSRC as a part of the San Francisco Bay Area oil spill contingency planning process and are the first line of defense in protecting the rich habitat at Crissy Field.

This partnership is a valuable tool in protecting cultural and natural resources of GGNRA. OSPR and MSRC provide technological and technical support, whereas GGNRA provides local knowledge of the resources and aids in the development of effective strategies.

CENTRAL AND NORTHERN CALIFORNIA OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (CeNCOOS) High Frequency Radar Coastal Current Monitors

The Safe Seas 2006 exercise will occur in an area represented by the Central and Northern California Ocean Observing System (CeNCOOS), a regional component of the developing national Integrated Ocean Observing System (IOOS). A system of high frequency (HF) radars for monitoring coastal currents is a core component of IOOS. To date, the most significant network of HF radars is in California where voters approved \$21M in state propositions to fund the Coastal Ocean Currents Monitoring Program (COCMP).

The state's COCMP program is an integral part of CeNCOOS and will provide ocean current data from their HF radar sites in near-real-time to the Safe Seas Incident Command Post. This CeNCOOS-NOAA effort shows the potential for regional HF radar observing systems to aid NOAA and USCG missions in spill response, search and rescue, and ecosystem monitoring.

NOAA's IOOS Team has recently been partnering with CeNCOOS/COCMP members to facilitate the transition of all HF radar sites in the coastal US to 24/7 operations. This partnership has resulted in the development of quality control and quality assurance metrics in addition to the creation of a prototype NOAA national HF radar data server.

CALIFORNIA OFFICE OF SPILL PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (OSPR)

The California Department of Fish and Game's Office of Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) is the state's lead agency in responding to hazardous spills in both marine and inland environments. The mission of OSPR is to provide the best achievable protection of California's natural resources by preventing, preparing for, and responding to spills of oil and other deleterious materials, and through restoring and enhancing affected resources. OSPR's mobile exhibit will be on display with a host of pamphlets, brochures posters and a video display with educational information geared toward the public and the news media.

U.S. AIR FORCE RESERVE

The U.S. Air Force Reserve's 910th Airlift Wing, based at Youngstown Air Reserve Station, in Vienna, Ohio maintains the Defense Department's only full-time, fixed-wing aerial spray capability. The 757th Airlift Squadron of the 910th Airlift Wing conducts aerial spray missions capable of controlling insects having public health significance, and missions for vegetation management on military bombing ranges, and missions responding to oil spill

contingencies. Four specially-modified C-130H aircraft, equipped with the Modular Aerial Spray System (MASS), are used for aerial spray operations.

In the Safe Seas drill the oil spill response capabilities of the 910th Airlift Wing will be incorporated with passes of C-130H aircraft over the site of the spill simulating the aerial spray dispersing detergent use to control oil spill spread. The 910th's mobile exhibit will be on display with a host of fact sheets explaining the mission of the 910th Airlift Wing and the aerial spray capability as well as a video geared toward educating public audiences about the military's reason for being involved with aerial spray applications.