

M/T Westchester
Case History Discussion

Freshwater Spills Symposium

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M/T Westchester Spill History

- 28 November 2000, vessel grounded
- 546,000 gal. crude oil released into the Mississippi River
- Port Sulpher, LA

Resources at Risk

- Delta National Wildlife Refuge
- Average wintering populations of 300,000 to 400,000 waterfowl
- Estimated at 200,000 waterfowl in the area that winter due to mild temperatures



Response Challenges



Wildlife Retrieval Challenges



- Climate
- Remote Locations
- Access
- Personnel
- Multiple Species
- Comms

Facility Set-up



- Shared Warehouse
- Logistics and Volunteer Break Area separate from Wildlife Caseload
- Clean Gulf Wildlife Rehabilitation Trailer

Medical



- Animals examined and stabilized on admission
- Veterinary concerns included:
 - dehydration
 - chemical burns & mucosal irritation
 - hypothermia (especially on lightly oiled animals)

Cleaning



- Pre-identified facility, supplies & equipment
- Trained personnel
- Product

Husbandry

- Housing & Diets for Multiple Species
- Pool Access
- Ambient Temperature
- Lighting
- Visitors



Release



- Clean Appropriate Habitat
- Coordinated with Agency & RP
- Media Interest

Always Have A Plan !



Demobilization

