



NEWS FROM NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC & ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION • US DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

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NOAA'S DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, REMEDIATION AND RESTORATION PROGRAM CELEBRATES 15 YEARS OF SUCCESS

At a special event on Capitol Hill in Washington, D.C., NOAA today marked 15 years of success by the agency's Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program in protecting and restoring coastal and marine resources threatened or injured by oil spills, releases of hazardous substances and vessel groundings.

"NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation and Restoration Program continues to play an integral role in protecting and restoring natural resources by using an innovative approach of working with states and other partners to reverse the effects of coastal contamination to the environment," said NOAA Chief of Staff Scott Rayder. "NOAA is proud of the success of this program and its role in supporting and sustaining America's coastal habitats."

DARRP's team of scientists, economists, restoration experts and attorneys respond to pollution incidents, assess risks and injuries, and work to restore those resources when injured.

Since its creation in 1992 following the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill, DARRP has recovered more than \$437 million from parties responsible for injuring natural resources and coastal habitats. DARRP encourages responsible parties to participate in cooperative damage assessment and restoration planning activities. By focusing on restoration early in the process, NOAA integrates risk and injury assessments with cleanup and restoration planning. This approach offers industry a practical and cost-effective way to resolve liability.

In addition to working cooperatively with responsible parties at oil spills and hazardous waste sites, DARRP regularly convenes industry, government, non-governmental and other stakeholder groups to identify methods for improving assessments and cleanups, reducing costs and restoring resources more quickly and more effectively.

DARRP is comprised of the NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA Restoration Center, and NOAA Office of General Counsel for Natural Resources.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, an agency of the U.S. Commerce Department, is celebrating 200 years of science and service to the nation. From the establishment of the Survey of the Coast in 1807 by Thomas Jefferson to the formation of the Weather Bureau and the Commission of Fish and Fisheries in the 1870s, much of America's scientific heritage is rooted in NOAA.

NOAA is dedicated to enhancing economic security and national safety through the prediction and research of weather and climate-related events and information service delivery for transportation, and by providing environmental stewardship of our nation's coastal and marine resources. Through the emerging Global Earth Observation System of Systems (GEOSS), NOAA is working with its federal partners, more than 60 countries and the European Commission to develop a global monitoring network that is as integrated as the planet it observes, predicts and protects.

On the Web

NOAA: <http://www.noaa.gov>

NOAA National Ocean Service: <http://www.oceanservice.noaa.gov>

DARRP: <http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>