

*Q: I have seen oily waterfowl/wildlife on my property what should I do?*

A: Call the Enbridge Oil Spill Hotline at 1-800-306-6837 and report the type of wildlife and location.

*Q: I'm going goose/waterfowl hunting soon. Will there be oiled birds around the Kalamazoo river watershed?*

A: Yes, it is likely that oiled birds will still be present in the watershed when Early Canada Goose Hunting Season begins September 1, 2010. Hunters in Calhoun, Allegan, and Kalamazoo counties may encounter birds that have oil on them that have not been captured, cleaned, or banded. They may also encounter birds that have been oiled then cleaned and released with two bands on them. The amount of oiling can range from most of the body to small dark oily spots on the breast or belly. Please report any oiled birds to the Enbridge Oil Spill Hotline at 1-800-306-6837.

*Q: I usually hunt near the Kalamazoo River. Can I still hunt in that area?*

A: It is likely that hunting prospects will not be promising in that area because of the high amount of activity associated with the clean-up of the oil spill; however, we strongly urge people to avoid hunting on the river from I-69 to the west end of Morrow Lake as to not hamper clean-up activities.

*Q: I harvested waterfowl/wildlife that has oil, what should I do?*

A: The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is asking hunters to call the Enbridge Oil Spill Hotline at 1-800-306-6837 to get current instructions on where to submit oiled waterfowl/wildlife. The operators at the hotline may also be able to arrange for someone to pick up the oiled waterfowl/wildlife from you. The location of where the oiled wildlife was harvested is important to understanding the impacts of the spill. If possible, take the GPS coordinates at the place the animal was harvested -- or at minimum, note the closest crossroads.

*Q: Is it mandatory that I submit an oily carcass to the USFWS?*

A: No – but it would be appreciated. Each oiled animal is important to document. If you, the hunter, do not want to submit the bird to the USFWS, you can still report it to the Enbridge Oil Spill Hotline at 1-800-306-6837 and then place it in plastic garbage bags and dispose of it in your regular trash pickup.

*Q: Does an oiled bird count as part of my daily bag limit, especially if I plan on submitting it to the USFWS?*

A: Yes, it is still counted as part of your legal daily bag limit and don't forget, there are fines for harvesting more than your legal daily bag limit.

*Q: I harvested a bird with two aluminum leg bands what should I do?*

A: If you harvest one of these double-banded birds, call 1-517-336-5030 (Michigan Department of Natural Resources and Environment (DNRE) Wildlife Disease Lab) to get more information on the history of the bird and to ask questions about consumption advisories related to those birds. You should also report the federal band number to the USFWS Bird Banding Laboratory on their website or by calling 1-800-327-BAND.

*Q: Is the waterfowl/wildlife that has been cleaned or currently oiled safe to eat?*

A: DNRE consultations with toxicologists at the Michigan Department of Community Health and with oiled wildlife experts at the California Department of Fish and Game suggest that adverse health effects in hunters who harvest and consume these oiled waterfowl are unlikely. The decision whether or not to consume “cleaned” or oiled birds is left solely to you, the hunter. The regulatory authority of DNRE covers wildlife management, not food safety.