

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in Pennsylvania

Issues

- Pennsylvania's streams provide productive and diverse habitats for fish, shellfish, and other wildlife. Upstream freshwater reaches provide critical spawning and nursery habitats for migratory fish species such as alewife, Atlantic sturgeon, and the federally endangered short-nose sturgeon.
- The Delaware River has been identified as a historic spawning area for over 60 species of fish. At the same time, the Delaware Estuary is the world's largest freshwater port, with heavy maritime traffic. This traffic can result in oil or other contaminant spills.
- The Pennsylvania Bureau of Water Quality has issued an advisory against human consumption of several sport fish species in the Delaware River due to elevated concentrations of PCBs and chlordane in edible tissue.
- Elevated levels of persistent contaminants from current and ongoing sources, including waste sites, impact freshwater wetlands, historically important rivers, and fisheries in Pennsylvania.

What we do

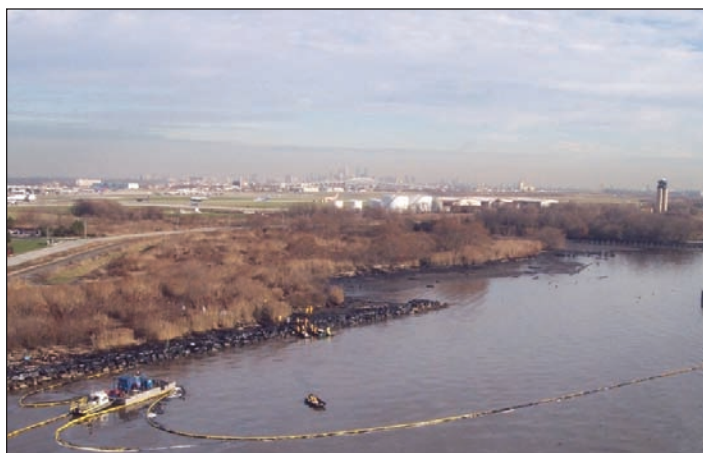
NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program (DARRP) acts as a trustee for natural resources on behalf of the public. DARRP collaborates with federal, state, and tribal entities and also works with cleanup agencies (such as EPA), local organizations, the public, and those responsible for the incident to:

- protect coastal and marine natural resources;
- respond to discharges of oil and hazardous substances;
- assess risks and injuries to natural resources; and
- restore injured natural resources and related socioeconomic benefits.

How we do it

DARRP acts as a trustee for natural resources to:

- work cooperatively with those responsible for the incident;
- develop innovative approaches and techniques for remediation and restoration;
- work with the public to select restoration options to compensate for injuries to natural resources; and
- design and implement or oversee natural resource restoration projects and monitor their success.



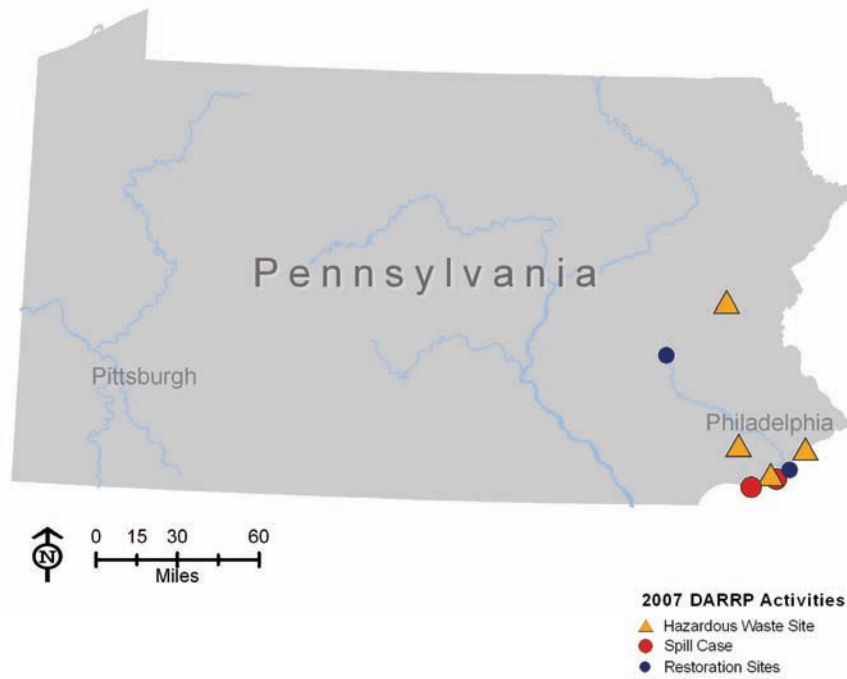
M/T Athos I Oil Spill, DE, PA, NJ - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restoration and/or protection of 10 acres of marine habitats and 1 stream mile in Pennsylvania (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 2 protection and restoration projects in Pennsylvania.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 26 hazardous waste sites.



M/T Athos I Oil Spill, DE, PA, NJ - see case highlights.



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- Metal Bank, Philadelphia, PA – Provided technical support to the cleanup agencies to assess ecological risk and to achieve a remedy that was protective of terrestrial and aquatic resources.
- Upper Delaware Estuary – Created a watershed database and mapping project for the Upper Delaware Estuary to facilitate future habitat and aquatic natural resource restoration efforts in the urbanized portion of the Delaware River.
- M/T *Athos I* Oil Spill, DE, PA, NJ – Assessed natural resource losses and planning compensatory restoration. Natural resources over 115 miles of the River (280 miles of shoreline) and six tributaries were exposed to Athos oil, including shorelines, aquatic organisms, birds and other wildlife, and recreational areas. Preferred restoration projects include restoring approximately 300 acres of oyster, marsh, shoreline, wet meadow, and grassland habitat; three recreation projects; and a dam removal and habitat restoration project.
- Palmerton Zinc, Palmerton Borough, PA – Working with co-trustees to protect and restore injured terrestrial and aquatic resources. Also working with the remedial agencies to get a protective cleanup and with the responsible party to determine the type and amount of restoration required to

For further information about DARRP, please visit
<http://www.darrp.noaa.gov>

