

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia

Issues

- North Carolina contains the largest estuarine system of any Atlantic Coast state. This 2.3 million acre network of habitats provides productive and diverse habitats for finfish, shellfish, and other wildlife, and recreation for millions of people.
- South Carolina has a complex coastline. More than 2,800 shoreline miles of bays, inlets and islands are encompassed in only 187 miles of coastline in South Carolina; it also ranks 4th nationally in salt marsh acreage.
- Georgia's coastline contains one-third of the remaining salt marsh along the Atlantic Coast, which is some of the most extensive and productive in the U.S., providing more food and energy than any estuarine zone on the eastern seaboard.
- More than 800,000 recreational saltwater fishing trips are taken annually in coastal Georgia; however, it is hampered by fish consumption advisories resulting from chronic contamination.

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.



MacAlloy Corporation, Charleston, SC - see case highlights.

DARRP Accomplishments

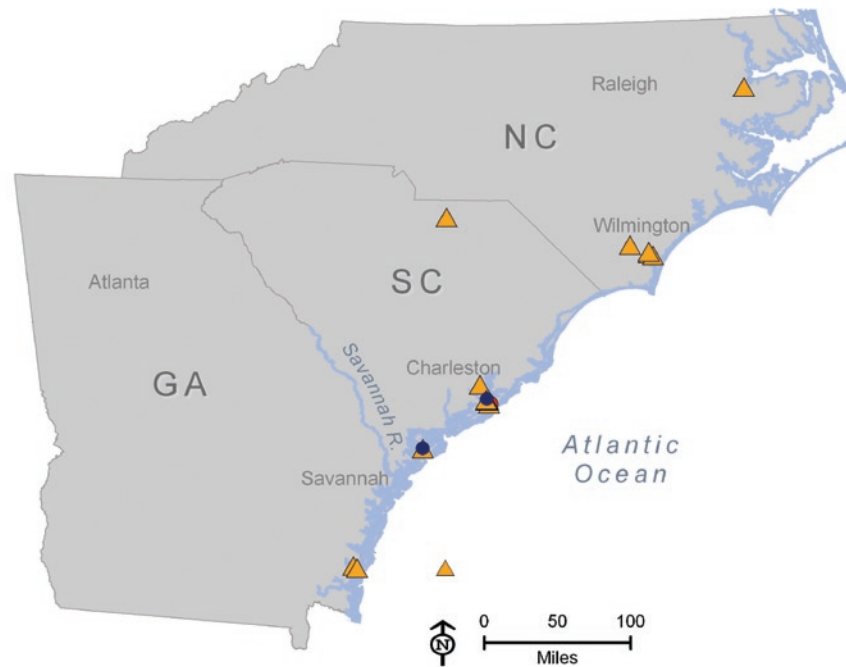
- Restoration and/or protection of 55 acres of marine habitats in South Carolina (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 2 protection and restoration projects in South Carolina.
- Cleanup actions promote recovery of coastal resources and communities at 12 hazardous waste sites in South Carolina, North Carolina, and Georgia.



LCP Hazardous Waste Site, Brunswick, GA - see case highlights.

2007 DARRP Activities & Associated Restoration Sites

- ▲ Hazardous Waste Site
- Spill Case
- Restoration Sites



Historic and ongoing case highlights

- U.S. Marine Corps Recruit Depot, Beaufort, SC – Successfully cleaned up 3 sites and currently monitoring restoration of salt marshes through cooperative work with co-trustees and Department of Defense.
- LCP Hazardous Waste Site, Brunswick, GA – Worked with EPA and co-trustees to address imminent threat of PCB and mercury contamination found in wetlands (*bottom site photo of remediated Spartina wetland on page 1*) and to achieve a long-term protective remedy for natural resources. Also working cooperatively with responsible parties to conduct NRDA and develop a list of potential restoration projects to restore injured resources.
- Macalloy Corporation, Charleston, SC – Site investigations and cleanup to remediate chromium contamination were completed in six years. This allowed rapid transition of the site, from a dilapidated parcel of property to a valuable community resource. Currently evaluating potential restoration projects for use of case settlement funds (*top photo on page 1: aerial photo of site*).
- Calhoun Park Area, Charleston, SC – Reached agreement in principal with the companies responsible on a cash settlement amount to be used to create and/or enhance coastal habitat.
- Domtar Company (formerly Weyerhaeuser Company), Plymouth, NC – Working cooperatively with co-trustees and those responsible to remediate existing contamination and restore injuries to natural resources and recreational fishing. Completed an upgrade of the plant's cooling water intake system to reduce the number of fish mortalities due to entrainment.
- HoltraChem, Riegelwood, NC – Working cooperatively with co-trustees and providing technical support to EPA regarding the engineering evaluation/cost analysis being conducted at the site. The anticipated outcome of the cleanup is the reduction of ecological risks.
- Koppers Wood Treating, Charleston, SC – Working with those responsible to determine injury and cooperatively design and implement salt marsh enhancement projects in Charleston Harbor.

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

