

Protecting and Restoring Natural Resources in California

Issues

- California's coast extends 1,100 miles across ten degrees of latitude, from the misty redwood forests of the north to the white sand beaches of the south. The kelp and eelgrass beds, salt marshes and bays along the coast support many important fisheries and marine mammals.
- Current and historic mining, oil refineries, chemical plants, military facilities, and other municipal and industrial activities release into the environment contaminants that can harm natural resources, degrade habitat quality, and contaminate fish and shellfish.
- More than 40% of all retail goods imported to the U.S. arrive on ships that dock at the Los Angeles and Long Beach Ports in southern California.

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.



Montrose Settlement Restoration Program, Palos Verdes - see case highlights.



Cosco Busan, San Francisco Bay - see case highlights.

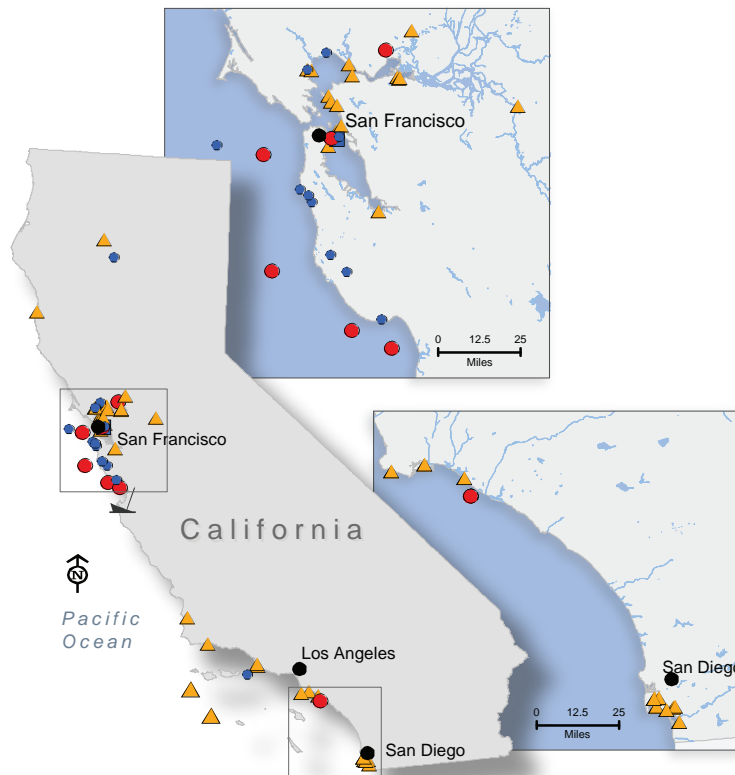
How we do it

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.

DARRP Accomplishments

- Restored and/or protected 1,600 acres of marine habitats, 2,900 acres of freshwater and terrestrial habitats, and 48 stream miles in California (completed and planned activities).
- Settlements have resulted in 60 protection and restoration projects in California.
- Cleanup actions have promoted recovery of coastal resources and communities at 22 hazardous waste sites.



2008 DARRP Activities and Associated Restoration Sites

- ▲ Hazardous Waste Site
- Spill Case
- Restoration Site
- ▲ Ship Grounding
- Special Project

Historic and ongoing case highlights

- *Cosco Busan*, San Francisco Bay – Responded to an approximately 53,500 gallon oil spill when the out-bound container ship M/V *Cosco Busan* struck the San Francisco - Oakland Bay Bridge on November 7, 2007 (*top photo on page 1*). A cooperative assessment is ongoing and the trustees anticipate undertaking restoration planning.
- Castro Cove, San Francisco Bay (Contra Costa County) – Entered into a cooperative settlement agreement with Chevron to address 25 years of chronic releases of mercury and Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) in waste water affecting over 200-acres of San Francisco Bay. Restoration planning is underway, settlement discussions are progressing in 2008.
- Iron Mountain Mine, Tehama and Shasta Counties – The Natural Resource Trustees are funding restoration of 42 miles of winter-run Chinook salmon habitat and are working

with The Nature Conservancy to acquire property and easements to conduct restoration.

- Montrose Settlement Restoration Program, Palos Verdes Peninsula – Currently planning to restore 180 acres of tidal wetlands for fish nursery habitat; additional planned restoration projects will benefit eagles (*bottom photo on page 1*), peregrine falcons, seabirds, and fishing and fish habitat.
- *S.S. Jacob Luckenbach* – In July 1953, the *S.S. Jacob Luckenbach* collided with a sister ship and sank in 180 feet of water approximately 17 miles west southwest of San Francisco. Loaded with 457,000 gallons of bunker fuel, the ship has been leaking sporadically ever since. The spills affected seabirds and marine mammals, and injured approximately 52,000 birds between 1990 and 2003. The Natural Resource Trustees finalized a Damage Assessment and Restoration Plan in November 2006 to address these injuries.

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

