





Oiled Wildlife Response Service

The impact of oil on birds, mammals and reptiles is often one of the most emotive aspects of a spill response. It is also one of the most problematic, being particularly difficult to manage and prepare for. A joint programme agreed between *Oil Spill Response* and the Sea Alarm Foundation was launched in October 2005 to address the issue. The programme enables the skills and experience of the oil industry to be combined with those of relevant environmental groups to assist and protect wildlife threatened by oil pollution.

Benefits to our Clients

The rescue and rehabilitation of oiled animals have been traditionally carried out by voluntary wildlife groups, which although highly dedicated, often lack the logistical connections or resources to carry out a rapid response and an effective long term operation. This service will thus offer a solution by providing:

- A simple 24-hour activation procedure where a single phone call will activate
 Oil Spill Response and oiled wildlife response as appropriate (see diagram to the right).
- Rapid mobilisation of wildlife response equipment from Oil Spill Response's Southampton base and transport to site.
- Access to wildlife experts working to international best practice.
- Facilitated transport of a team of Sea Alarm coordinated experts to the spill site.
- Improved links between wildlife response and oil spill cleanup activities on site.
- Development of Country Wildlife Response Profiles.



What might oiled wildlife response involve?

- Preventing animals from entering oiled areas
- Pre-emptive capture and relocation of un-oiled animals
- Capture and stabilisation of live and oiled animals
- Collection of dead animals
- Cleaning and rehabilitation of oiled animals
- Release of rehabilitated animals
- Scientific documentation and assessment of impacts
- Post-release monitoring of long term survival and breeding success



Oiled wildlife preparedness services

A marine oil spill may affect wildlife such as birds, mammals and reptiles. The media and public are usually quick to focus on any wildlife affected by an oil spill. Oil companies may risk their corporate image if they fail to deal appropriately with oiled wildlife challenges.

Oil Spill Response and Sea Alarm have jointly developed tailor-made services in order to assist the oil industry in becoming properly prepared for an oiled wildlife response. In addition to offering a 24/7 wildlife response service with equipment and trained personnel, the following key preparedness services are available.

Oiled Wildlife Response Planning

Having an oiled wildlife response plan (OWRP) in place is the best guarantee that the challenges posed by a wildlife incident can be managed and kept under control. An OWRP enables a company to take any necessary steps in a timely. appropriate and most effective way and involve the assistance of internationally accredited wildlife responders.



The service combines Oil Spill Response's expertise in oil spill response

planning with Sea Alarm's extensive knowledge of oiled wildlife response planning and worldwide network of wildlife response expertise.

OWRPs developed under this service are state of the art and meet the standards described by IPIECA and other international organisations.

IPIECA Guide to Oiled Wildlife Response Planning

The IPIECA Guide to Oiled Wildlife Response Planning is the leading international standard. Sea Alarm initiated and coordinated the development of the Guide, which was written by leading wildlife responders and oil industry epxerts, including Oil Spill Response. Copies are available for download at www.ipieca.org.

Wildlife response training for spill response managers

Oil Spill Response managers need to know what options and resources are available to respond correctly in order to mitigate the effects of oil on wildlife.

Oil Spill Response and Sea Alarm have developed a dedicated training course that will bring Oil Spill Response managers up to speed with international best practices on oiled wildlife preparedness, and train them to face the challenges of an actual response.

The course consists of lectures, table top exercises and an appreciation of the required response equipment and facilities, and is organised to allow leading international wildlife responders to lecture and describe case histories.

Examples of spill collaborations

Sea Alarm was mobilised to Estonia in conjunction with IFAW and RSPCA to initiate an oiled wildlife response at the request of the Estonian Ministry of Environment and the Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF).

Many oiled birds were found on the shorelines in late January in iceforming weather conditions and it was decided to mount a response to rescue and rehabilitate them.

Oil Spill Response assisted in the response by mobilising wildlife rehabilitation equipment from its Southampton base to a facility preidentified by IFAW and Sea Alarm as a wildlife rehabilitation centre.

In addition, Oil Spill Response sent a senior consultant to Estonia to help set up a wildlife operations room using its global Oil Spill Response expertise. The international response team drew up a training programme for Estonian responders as a 'firststrike' team for future incidents in the region.

Estonia 'mystery spill' summary

- Occurred January 2006 along Gulf of Finland, Baltic Sea
- Unknown amount of fuel oil spilled
- More than 3,000 oiled and dead birds including swans, goldeneye and long-tailed ducks

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