



OFFICE OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION

[HTTP://RESPONSE.RESTORATION.NOAA.GOV/](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/)

David Westerholm, Director

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MISSION: As the lead trustee for the public's coastal natural resources, the Office of Response and Restoration responds to, protects, and restores habitats, communities, and economies injured by oil spills, hazardous waste sites, and marine debris.

PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

- 24/7 response capability for coastal oil and chemical spills
- Spill planning, prevention, modeling, and risk assessment tools
- Scientific expertise for enhanced cleanup at spills and waste sites
- Restoration of coastal habitats, fishery resources, and recreational services via damages recovered from responsible parties
- Marine debris research, prevention, and reduction

LEGISLATIVE AND POLICY DRIVERS

Legislative Drivers:

- Oil Pollution Act
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
- Marine Debris Research, Prevention and Reduction Act
- Clean Water Act

Policy Drivers:

- Ocean Action Plan
- National Contingency Plan
- National Response Framework
- Committee on the Marine Transportation System National Strategy
- Ocean Research Priorities Plan
- Coastal Enterprise Report

BUDGET AND PERSONNEL

- **Budget Line:** Response and Restoration Base, Estuary Restoration Program, Marine Debris
- **FY08 Budget:** \$19.8 million (includes the Office of Response and Restoration, Marine Debris Program, and Pribilof Islands project)
- **Personnel:** 103 FTE

KEY PARTNERS

- U.S. Coast Guard, Environmental Protection Agency, Department of the Interior
- State trustee agencies
- Industry and non-governmental organizations (e.g., Restore America's Estuaries)
- NOAA Restoration Center and General Council for Natural Resources

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HIGHLIGHTS

- **Responded to more than 179 hazardous spill incidents**, including two large oil spills: the M/V *Cosco Busan* in San Francisco Bay, California, and an estimated 419,000 gallon fuel oil spill from a barge on the Mississippi River near New Orleans, Louisiana. Also responded to hundreds of reported spills in the Gulf that occurred as a result of Hurricanes Ike and Gustav.
- **Recovered approximately \$21.3 million from responsible parties** for assessment and restoration of habitats, resources, and services through the Damage Assessment Remediation Restoration Program (DARRP), which includes OR&R, the NOAA Restoration Center, and NOAA General Counsel for Natural Resources. DARRP also **achieved settlements of \$12.9 million** with potentially responsible parties for assessment and restoration of contamination in Commencement Bay, WA. This includes a wetland restoration project on Hylebos Creek, which will enhance and restore salmon spawning and rearing habitat, restore riparian vegetation, and provide habitat for birds. With these most recent settlements, DARRP has settled natural resource damage liability with over 50 parties and implemented restoration projects totaling over 200 acres.
- **Investigating environmental contaminants in and around the National Reserve Fleet** in Suisun Bay, California. More than 70 vessels make up the fleet, which is maintained by the United States Maritime Administration for national defense or emergency purposes. By Congressional request, NOAA is working with all involved stakeholders to evaluate potential environmental concerns, including heavy metals and antifouling agents in paint that is peeling off of the vessels.
- **Supporting the Republic of Korea in their assessment and restoration planning** activities after the 3.3 million gallon *Hebei Spirit* oil spill in December 2007. As part of ongoing NOAA assistance to South Korea, OR&R and the NOAA Restoration Center are advising on approaches to assess the spill-related impacts and appropriate types of restoration.
- Working to **reduce the amount of derelict fishing gear** in fishing communities and the marine environment. Developed the Fishing for Energy Project, a partnership project that provides a place for a fishing community to dispose of, at no cost, old or derelict fishing gear recovered while at sea. This debris is then recycled by Covanta Energy to provide electricity to New England communities. New Bedford, Massachusetts, was the first port on the Eastern Seaboard to launch the program, with an additional six sites added and plans to expand to the entire East Coast.
- Completed the **decade-long cleanup of the Pribilof Islands**.

ORGANIZATION

- The **Emergency Response Division** promotes effective spill response by increasing preparedness at the national and local levels, and providing scientific expertise during emergency response operations.
- The **Assessment and Restoration Division** protects and restores coastal natural resources injured by hazardous substances.
- The **Marine Debris Program** coordinates NOAA's marine debris prevention, restoration, and research activities.
- The **Business Services Group** provides critical mission support, including cost documentation, Information Technology, and logistical support.