

# DARRRP

DAMAGE ASSESSMENT, REMEDIATION, AND RESTORATION PROGRAM



## Healing Our Coasts, Protecting Our Future

*NOAA, our partners, and the public lead the way to successful restoration efforts*



After a pollution event such as an oil spill or a hazardous waste release, a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) may be initiated if it appears that significant impacts may have occurred to natural resources. The NRDA process is driven by law, science, economics, and public input, and is led by designated federal, state, and tribal trustee agencies. Through the NRDA process:

- ✓ **NOAA works together** with tribes, federal and state agencies, and responsible parties to identify injuries to the environment, including lost recreational uses, resulting from the incident.
- ✓ **Our experts determine** the extent of injuries, and—with public input—the best methods, amounts, and locations for restoration activities.
- ✓ **The rigorous scientific studies** necessary to identify the magnitude of injuries may take years. However, this process ensures an objective assessment—and that the public's resources are fully restored.

# NOAA NRDA Project Spotlight

We collaborate with our partners and industry to accelerate restoration. Through settlement or litigation, we have recovered \$10.7 billion for restoration and integrated restoration into 500 waste site cleanups since 1988. These projects also provide economic benefits from recreation, green jobs, and coastal resiliency.



## Bouchard Barge 120

### What Happened?

On April 27, 2003, the tank barge Bouchard 120 hit a bedrock ledge in Buzzards Bay. The impact created a 12-foot rupture in the barge's hull. An estimated 98,000 gallons of oil spilled into the coastal waters of Massachusetts and Rhode Island.

### What Were the Impacts?

Nearly 100 miles of shoreline were oiled, harming tidal marshes, mudflats, beaches, and rocky shorelines. Federally protected bird species like piping plovers and roseate terns were killed or injured. The spill also injured fish, shellfish, and other aquatic life, leading to restrictions on beach access, shellfishing, and boating.

### What's Happening Now?

Over \$19.3 million from a legal settlement has funded restoration efforts. Over the past two decades, in collaboration with various partners, Trustees have completed more than 50 projects to restore fish, wildlife, birds, and public uses affected by the spill.



## Commencement Bay

### What Happened?

A history of industrialization in Washington State's Commencement Bay resulted in the releases of hazardous substances from various industries, including ship building, oil refining, and chemical manufacturing plants.

### What Were the Impacts?

Contamination in the bay and its waterways has injured many species of fish and wildlife, including bottom-dwelling organisms, birds, and salmon. Consumption advisories are in effect for many fish species.

### What's Happening Now?

Since 1991, 20 pollution settlements have generated over \$70 million for the restoration of this crucial urban estuary. Essential habitats in the watershed, such as salt marshes, mudflats, channels, and floodplains, have been restored to support salmon spawning, resting, and feeding. To safeguard this significant investment, the restoration will be maintained for the next 100 years and beyond.

## How DARRP works

### Provide Scientific Expertise

During response and cleanup activities, we provide technical assistance to help assure long-term protection of fish, habitats, and wildlife.

### Evaluate Environmental Harm

We respond to pollution that poses threats to marine resources. We collect scientific data to determine if natural resources have been injured and then assess the injury.

### Hold Polluters Accountable

We work collaboratively with our partners to hold parties accountable for injuries to natural resources. Through settlement or litigation, we recover the funds needed to restore injured resources and compensate the public.

### Implement Restoration

With public input, we plan and implement project to restore the resources and habitats that were harmed. We undertake projects—such as constructing or improving boat ramps, fishing piers, and beach trails—to compensate for lost recreational uses.



An NRDA team checks for oil in a marsh in Louisiana.