Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program

DARRP

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.

DARRP Project Spotlight

We collaborate with our partners and industry to accelerate restoration. Through settlement or litigation, we have recovered $2.5 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.

M/T Athos I Oil Spill

What Happened?

On November 26, 2004, the *M/T Athos I* hit several submerged objects in the Delaware River. The vessel's bottom was punctured, releasing nearly 265,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River and nearby tributaries.

What Were the Impacts?

Oil from the ruptured tanker spread 115 miles downriver, impacting 280 miles of shoreline in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. Natural habitats were adversely affected, as well as recreational uses such as boating, fishing, and hunting.

What's Happening Now?

In 2010, the trustees received $27.5 million for ten restoration projects designed to benefit the environment, coastal communities, and economy in the Delaware River watershed.

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 shipbuilding, 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 in the area.

What's Happening Now?

Since 1991, twenty settlements with polluters have resulted in more than $70 million for restoration. To protect this enormous 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.

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