

Oiled Wildlife Response Realizing Best Practices

The Oiled Wildlife Society of British Columbia
Presented by Coleen Doucette, Vice President

Public Concern

- Has wildlife been affected?
- Are animals humanely cared for?
- Who is looking after wildlife?
- Who is paying for it?



Community Impact



- Suffering of **our** animals
- Public emotional response
- What is being done?
- Taking matters into their own hands
- Effects of oil in the home
- Effects on social culture

Responsibilities

Responsible Party

- Social ethics
- Corporate culture
- Image management
- Financial capacity
- No legislated responsibility in Canada

Regulatory Agencies

- Political ethics
- Population management – collection
- Policy recommendations – humane treatment
- No financial capacity
- No enforceable legislation

Responsibilities

NGO Stakeholders

- Animal welfare
- Social ethics
- Uphold professional standards
- No financial capacity
- No supporting legislation

OW Response Org's.

- Animal care protocols
- Social ethics
- Provide professional services
- Payment for services
- Contracted by industry or government

Current Financial Picture

- No legislation for the protection of wildlife
- RP insurance companies may refuse to pay
- RP can abandon wildlife response
- Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund is not accessible for wildlife
- No funding for policy enforcement
- Weak government guidance



International Models

- personnel, international access to OWRO's
- US – Federal emergency funds available from the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA 90)
- California – State funded: Purpose built facilities with trained personnel, professional contracts and access to international OWRO's
- Washington – State and industry funded: Mobile facilities and equipment with trained personnel and access to international OWRO's
- Alaska – State regulated, industry funded: Designated facility with staged wildlife equipment, professional contracts and access to international OWRO's

ICS Wildlife Branch

- Used throughout Europe, Australia, New Zealand and the United States
- Integration of wildlife operations into response management structure
- Management of media reporting and public impact
- Ensures professional operations adheres to best practices
- Means of meeting reporting obligations and providing financial control
- Facilitates productive communication between all stakeholders

Wildlife Branch Working Well

2007 Westridge Pipeline Incident

- Fully operational Wildlife Branch
- Integration of wildlife NGO's and OWRO
- Professional standards of animal care were provided
- Public expectations were met
- Positive and collaborative media interactions
- Successful release rate
- Very small percentage of overall response cost

National Value of Oiled Wildlife Response

- Ethical and Socially acceptable approach
- Protection of national and globally important populations
- Humane treatment of animals
- Implementation of internationally accepted Best Practices
- Branding of industry standards



Questions?

