

Final Technical Implementation Report

February-2008

European workshop on the development of good practice guidelines regarding the cleaning and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife (particularly oiled birds) during an oil spill incident

Zoomarine (Portugal), 21-23 October 2006

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1.Introduction

The "European workshop on the development of good practice guidelines regarding the cleaning and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife (particularly oiled birds) during an oil spill incident" took place at Zoomarine, in the Algarve (southern Portugal), during October 21-23, 2006.

The workshop intended to bring together wildlife responders from across Europe to discuss best practices and planning requirements for the cleaning and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife; special attention was given to dealing with animals (and, in particular, birds) involved in an oil spill incident.

During this technical event it was discussed how wildlife responders can take steps that would lead to better results in future oiled wildlife incidents, wherever they take place in Europe.

The outcome of the discussions was incorporated in a Handbook.

The workshop in Portugal was the third (and last) in a series of three related EU Workshops that have been organised in 2006.

Workshop 1: meeting of European authorities

In June, the oil spill response and wildlife authorities from EU countries were invited to a workshop in Brest (France); the aim was to have a discussion on the need for (and good practice of) oiled wildlife response planning. This workshop resulted in a promising list of conclusions and recommendations. One of the main conclusions was the observation that most countries in Europe are not prepared to deal effectively with an oiled wildlife incidents. Other conclusions and recommendations provided guidance as to how this problem can be tackled by activities that countries could carry out at their national level, and by cooperating at various international levels.

Workshop 2: meeting of European scientists

In September, a workshop was held in La Coruña (Spain) where scientists from EU countries came together to discuss good practice and planning requirements for seabird impact assessments in the aftermath of oil spills. The workshop drafted the outline of an on-line handbook on seabird impact assessment. Also here, the workshop enhanced international cooperation, and some concrete activities and products can be expected.

Workshop 3: Meeting with Wildlife Rehabilitators

The workshop in Albufeira (Portugal) created an unique opportunity for wildlife responders from across Europe to discuss (with colleagues from other countries) methodologies for oiled wildlife cleaning and rehabilitation, especially under the circumstances of an oil spill incident. The workshop aimed to define "best practices" with regards to cleaning and rehabilitation of wildlife under those circumstances. Participants brought their knowledge of practices in their own country to the table. The outcome of the workshop was incorporated into a "Handbook" that was produced once the event was concluded. The "Handbook", basically a set of guidelines and recommendations, enables wildlife responders to be more prepared and effective in a future oiled wildlife incidents.

Overall Objectives

The overall objectives of this European Workshop were:

- Training: learn about the major aspects of a successful oiled wildlife response as an integrated part of an oil spill response;
- Workshop: exchange principles of an effective oiled wildlife response, especially concerning European and international experiences with methodologies and techniques to clean and rehabilitate oiled birds.

1.1.Partnership

Zoomarine acted as beneficiary and formally led the project, and thus managing the contractual relationship with the European Commission.

Sea Alarm Foundation, IFAW – International Fund for Animal Welfare and the ICRAM - *Istituto centrale per la ricerca scientifica e tecnologica applicata al mare* were partners in the project.

1.2.Expected deliverables

The expected deliverables included the following products:

- 1.Workshop Proceedings (disseminated to the workshop's participants and published on a specific website)
- 2.Handbook on Good Practice for the Rehabilitation of Oiled Birds in the Aftermath of an Oil Spill Incident (1000 copies)
- 3.Layman's Report (1000 copies)

2.General summary of project implementation process

2.1.General overview of the process

The contracting of the project took place on January 9th of 2006 and allowed the planning of the project activities.

The Workshop was planned for the 21, 22 and 23 of October, 2006, in Portugal (Zoomarine).

The attendance of the workshop consisted on 42 participants, including representatives from the partners' organisations, 29 formal delegates (from 17 countries) and observers. There were various presentations that highlighted the various aspects of oiled wildlife response and planning. Discussions were scheduled with sufficient flexibility, thus resulting in in-depth discussions during a number of parallel sessions. The last morning was spent to finalise a list of conclusions and recommendations.

The workshop proceedings were drafted immediately after the workshop and were finalised and published online in a website (www.oiledwildlife.eu), created by the Sea Alarm Foundation, where they can be freely downloaded.

A draft "Handbook on Good Practice for the Rehabilitation of Oiled Birds in the Aftermath of an Oil Spill Incident" was developed after the Workshop. The partners of the workshop, the participants and a wider European audience commented the Handbook before it was published (in August 2007).

A Layman's Report was written in the form of a two-page flyer.

2.2.Comparative analysis

See Annex 1: Results by action.

2.3.Planned and used resources

All resources were used as planned.

2.4.Expected and actual results

The following results of the project were expected:

- Revision and evaluation of recent oiled wildlife incidents in Europe with the aim to identify keys to the successful cleaning and rehabilitation of oiled animals;
- Revision of different approaches and methodologies to the cleaning and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife (particularly, birds), identification of common principles but also the strengths and weaknesses of approaches of which the underlying principles to a certain extent appear different (e.g. hand washing of birds vs. machine washing);

- Discussion of the differences between working under the conditions of routine responses to illegal discharges versus those of a major incident, and identification of the structures that should be in place in support of a response under the complex conditions of a major incident;
- Discussion of the possibilities, advantages and eventual thresholds of international cooperation in the preparedness and response to an oiled wildlife incident;
- Discussion of the keys to optimal volunteer coordination in the response to a major incident, in order to develop a number of guidelines for increased European cooperation to the preparedness and the response of wildlife incidents.

The training session (which was organised the day before the workshop) intended to bring all the participants up to a similar level of understanding and background knowledge on overall oil spill responses, compensation schemes and on scientific aspects of oiled wildlife response activities. During such training, the participants followed a series of lectures:

- Effects of oil on Wildlife;
- Responsibilities and strategies to successful oil spill responses (relevant modules from IMO's Course for On Scene Commanders);
- Liability and keys to submitting a successful oiled wildlife claim;
- Elements of a successful oiled wildlife response.

All results have been achieved and published in products that were anticipated in the proposal (i.e.: Workshop Proceedings, www.oiledwildlife.eu, "Handbook on Good Practice for the Rehabilitation of Oiled Birds in the Aftermath of an Oil Spill Incident" and the Layman's Report).

3.Evaluation of project management/implementation process

3.1.Positive aspects

The project was carried out according to plan. There was much enthusiasm from Project Partners and workshop participants. In total, 42 participants from 17 different European countries (including partners, observers and invited speakers) participated in the Workshop.

3.2.Internal and external difficulties encountered

The preparation time between the contracting and the workshop itself was relatively short. The organisation was further hampered by the poor responses that were received from the announcement sent out, by the European Commission, to the Country Focal Points. It appeared that focal points in many countries did not undertake action, not even after having received a reminder. Much time had to be spent by partners to contact in-country stakeholders, in order to make them aware of the Workshop, and often, the interested parties had to be put into contact with the focal points in their own country order to realise the country's participation. As a result, not all the invited countries were present and not all had two representatives, as initially planned.

3.3.Partnership/core group cooperation

Cooperation on this project went according to plan and was, at all levels, excellent.

3.4.Lessons learnt and possible improvements

The organization spent a considerable (and unpredicted) amount of time contacting and reinforcing national focal points and endorsing them to with other interested stakeholders (those who had been considered target participants). This allows us to consider that there is still a deep "communicational gap" between authorities responsible for oil spill response (hosting the focal points) and those responsible for wildlife response.

As such, it is recommended that the European Commission consider other invitation system(s), in future (and similar) events.

4.Activities

4.1.Qualitative evaluation of activities

All draft products were sent for comments to the partners and participants. Institutional logos of the four partners were printed on all documents, which confirms that the contents have been approved by the all entities.

5.Presentation of the technical results and deliverables

See Annex 2 of an overview of the technical results and deliverables. The deliverables can be found in the Appendices.

6.Evaluation of the technical results and deliverables

6.1.General lessons learnt

The invitation of participants via the European Commission and the national focal points was disappointing. Albeit some countries were accurate to provide a reaction to the invitation, the organization had to spend considerable resources (time and money) to contact stakeholders in each coastal country (thus making them aware of the invitation and to ensure their formal registration, through their National Focal Point). Simultaneously the formal registration through the National Focal Point, although somewhat complicated in certain countries, provided an official "clout" to the workshop. Furthermore, in some countries, the process of registration reinforced contact and communication between authorities and NGO, which is a very interesting and productive progress.

The European Commission was not represented in the workshop; unfortunately, that meant that participants could not receive a formal communication on how the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop could be used at an European level.

6.2.Strengths

The workshop highlighted very well the practical aspects of wildlife responses (particularly, birds) in the aftermath of an oil spill and reinforced communication, European networking and communications.

In the meantime, the website "www.oiledwildlife.eu" is already recognised, by stakeholders, as an important source of technical information related to oil spills. This electronic toll has an extraordinary growth potential and may quickly become an internationally accepted tool to increase European preparedness to oiled wildlife incidents.

7.Follow-up

7.1.Additional follow-up approaches

The "Handbook on Good Practice for the Rehabilitation of Oiled Birds in the Aftermath of an Oil Spill Incident", the Layman's Report and website (www.oiledwildlife.eu) have been disseminated at the Fourth Sea Alarm Conference (1-3 October 2007), where they were well received, and will be disseminated the RIOS-Workshop (EU Contract N° 036891 (GOCE)), which will be held in Portugal (Zoomarine), on April 17-19, 2008.

Annex 1: Description of the results per action

<i>Action in proposal</i>	Implementation
Action 1 – Preparation of Workshop and travel arrangements	<p>Zoomarine and Sea Alarm took all necessary steps regarding the workshop, including, among others:</p> <p>Reservation of services (period 19-22 Feb 2006)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○General booking at Hotel Montechoro (40 rooms) ○Transfers services ○Catering & Restaurants <p>Invitation of participants</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○A first announcement was sent to the Commission, together with a list of recommended stakeholders and related representatives (potential participants) ○Invitations sent by the EC in July ○First participant registered on the July ○With the workshop date quickly approaching, Sea Alarm Foundation undertook an intensive effort with national focal points and wildlife contacts in all coastal European States, in order maximize awareness and reinforce participation. <p>Travel arrangements</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○Zoomarine made all travel arrangements, by bilateral correspondence with registered participants
Action 2 – Preparation of workshop documents	<p>As expected, and through Sea Alarm's European network, the organization secured "ad hoc" comments and advices from a group of wildlife experts; these efforts allowed the project team to select and prepare the different discussion topics for the workshop, thus guaranteeing that the event addressed the main problems faced by the European stakeholders. The expert group consisted of a number of nationally operating European wildlife rehabilitation experts, most of who are leading and recognised operators (in their own country and some internationally).</p>
Action 3 – Project team meeting	<p>A preparation meeting was held at Zoomarine, on May 18-19, 2006, during which all partners participated. During the meeting, the workshop agenda was finalized and speakers selected. Some of the discussion papers were also finalized.</p>
Action 4 – Announcements/circulation of documents	<p>A preliminary programme was provided with the first announcement. A more definitive programme was attached to the second announcement. An information pack was sent to all participants by e-mail, upon each individual registration.</p>
Action 5 – A training day in Albufeira	<p>The training day was set up in the first day of the workshop, and involved several lectures on topics like:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Effects of oil on Wildlife; – Responsibilities and strategies to a successful oil spill response (relevant modules from IMO Course for On Scene Commanders); – Liability and keys to submitting a successful oiled wildlife claim; – Elements of a successful oiled wildlife response.
Action 6 – the workshop	<p>29 participants from 17 European countries, 6 delegates representing the project partners, 4 invited experts and 4 observers attended the workshop. The European</p>

	<p>Commission did not send a representative.</p> <p>The workshop consisted of a number of expert presentations, plenary discussions and subgroup discussions. The participants agreed on a number of conclusions and recommendations.</p>
Action 7 – workshop proceedings	<p>After the workshop, the partners drafted the proceedings.</p>
Action 8 – finalisation of the guidelines	<p>A draft “Handbook on Good Practice for the Rehabilitation of Oiled Birds in the Aftermath of an Oil Spill Incident” was developed after the Workshop. Partners, workshop participants and a wider European audience were able to review and comment the draft Handbook, which was finalised in August 2007.</p>
Action 9 – dissemination of results	<p>Preliminary information related to the workshop (and its outputs) was published on the websites of the Sea Alarm Foundation and Zoomarine. It was also disseminated through the Sea Alarm Foundation’s Newsletters (in 2006 and 2007). A dedicated website (www.oiledwildlife.eu), created by the Sea Alarm Foundation has been announced intensively and contains all relevant information on oiled wildlife response and preparedness, including the outline and results of this project.</p> <p>1000 copies of the “Handbook on Good Practice for the Rehabilitation of Oiled Birds in the Aftermath of an Oil Spill Incident”, and of the Layman’s Report (a two-pages flyer) have been printed and were broadly disseminated.</p>
Action 10 – reporting to the EC	<p>A financial report was sent to the European Commission. Furthermore, all materials related to the workshop (pre and post) were sent to the EC .</p>
<p>Project management :</p> <p>The project will be managed by Zoomarine, in close partnership with the Sea Alarm Foundation, the IFAW and the ICRAM.</p> <p>Zoomarine will be responsible for overall project coordination and management, will organise the physical aspects of the workshop in Portugal, the preliminary meeting to the workshop, and will take care of the production of the printed materials. At the workshop, Zoomarine will be specifically be responsible for workshop activities regarding the cleaning and rehabilitation of marine mammals. All partners will be jointly responsible for the input into the discussion paper and will work with Zoomarine on the strategic preparation of the workshop. All partners will take key moderating functions at the workshop. The IFAW will make experts from their ER Team (i.e.: Curt Clumpner and Barbara Calahan) available for the project, who will be responsible for facilitating parts of the training day and moderating workshop activities regarding the cleaning and rehabilitation of oiled birds. The Sea Alarm Foundation will be responsible for the facilitating of the training module and will liase with ITOPE and the IFAW’s ER Team for the preparation of the different lectures. The Sea Alarm Foundation will also will be responsible for publication of the handbook on the Internet. ICRAM will be responsible for two workshop activities regarding the cleaning and rehabilitation of marine life</p>	<p>This worked as described.</p>

Annex 2: Overview of technical results and deliverables

Deliverables	Description	Purpose of the deliverable	Evaluation of the deliverable	Value-added in particular European value-added and transferability of the deliverable	Dissemination
Proceedings of the Workshop	Provides an overview of the Workshop activities and the results.	Report on the workshop; available for participants and other stakeholder who can not attend.	The proceedings have circulated for comments among Partners and participants. Received comments were incorporated. The overall feedback was that the report did reflect discussions well.	The proceeding provide clear references on the needs and protocols for oiled wildlife rehabilitation. These conclusions are supported by other related events. The availability of the proceedings (see dissemination) will strengthen a European wide awareness on the topics.	All participants have received a printed copy of the Proceedings, which were also disseminated electronically, by e-mail. The report can also be downloaded from www.oiledwildlife.eu .
Website: OiledWildlife.EU	This is a website that includes state of the art information related to oiled wildlife response, preparedness and rehabilitation.	Aims at becoming a widely accepted source of high quality technical information related to oil spills; intends to become a central medium of updating on current and relevant activities in Europe	The website was well received and has a good audience. The Sea Alarm Foundation maintains the website updated on a daily basis.	The website is aiming to become the first and most important source of information on these subjects. It contains information and results from all EU projects that have been held on these subjects.	The website has been announced in several European mailings (over 2'500 recipients) by Sea Alarm Foundation and Zoomarine, as well as in a number of international presentations.
Handbook on Good Practice for the Rehabilitation of Oiled Birds in the Aftermath of an Oil Spill Incident	This is a document that builds upon the conclusions and recommendations from the workshop	The Handbook provides a description and recommendation on the most modern protocols, equipments, etc, related to an effective rehabilitation of oiled birds	The Handbook reflects the conclusions and recommendations of the workshop. The partners believe it became a reference document in its field.	The handbook provides guidance for stakeholders that seek quick, effective and cost-efficient solutions for rehabilitation of oiled wildlife, particularly birds. The handbook used common, but technical and effective language, and is quite practical.	The Handbook was disseminated, by the Project Partners (mainly, Zoomarine), among all workshop participants and hundreds of European stakeholders. It can be downloaded from www.oiledwildlife.eu
Layman's Report	The layman's report is a two sided printed full colour flyer, which summarises the results of this project.	Informing an audience of authorities, wildlife responders, NGO and the general public on the results of the project, while informing where the results can be found.	The Layman's Report is a low-threshold document that effectively summarizes the event.	The Layman's report is an easy-to-digest summary of activities that have taken place at the event. It allows the reader to become easily aware that detailed information is available on the internet.	The layman's Report The Handbook was disseminated, by the Project Partners (mainly, Zoomarine), among all workshop participants and hundreds of European stakeholders. It can be downloaded from www.oiledwildlife.eu