



As a steward of our nation's coastal and marine environments, NOAA addresses immediate and long-term environmental threats through its Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R). Scientists are on call around-the-clock to provide the U.S. Coast Guard and other emergency responders with critical information to help minimize environmental damage caused by oil and hazardous chemical spills. Environmental experts assess ecosystems compromised by historic or ongoing contamination and work with other organizations to conduct remediation, restoration, and monitoring of critical natural resources.

Protecting and Restoring New York's Coastal and Marine Areas

NOAA trust resources in New York include freshwater wetlands, salt marshes, historically important rivers, and recreational and commercial fisheries. Persistent contaminants from industrial and shipping activities, however, threaten state and federally protected species, including shortnose sturgeon, Atlantic sturgeon, lake sturgeon, American eel, and sea turtles. The Port of New York/New Jersey is one of the largest and most complex ports in North America and the Arthur Kill and Kill Van Kull waterways contain some of the largest refineries on the eastern seaboard. The state map on the reverse page shows key response and restoration activities in the past year.

Emergency Response

On December 9, 2003, the cargo ship *Stellamare* listed and partially sank at the Port of Albany. Approximately 10,000 gallons of light fuel oil were spilled, creating an oil sheen extending for several miles downstream. The spill threatened mammals, waterfowl, and other birds, who in cold weather can be harmed by even very small amounts of oil. To assist response efforts, NOAA provided tide and



Cargo ship Stellamare



Oil spill at Exxon Bayway Refinery

current data, weather support, and sensitive habitat locations and recommended strategies for oil spill response in ice conditions.

Assessment and Restoration

In January 1990, an Exxon Bayway refinery pipeline running beneath the Arthur Kill ruptured, spilling 567,000 gallons of home heating oil. Over 100 acres of salt marsh were oiled, killing the marsh vegetation as well as fish, crabs, clams, and other invertebrates. An estimated 700 birds died as a result of the spill. NOAA worked with other federal and state trustees to restore approximately 34 acres of salt marsh and purchased over 110 acres of land to buffer Goethals Bridge Pond and the Old Place Marsh on Staten Island.

Research

NOAA collaborates with other federal, state, and local programs to develop innovative approaches to protecting marine and estuarine environments through research and synthesis of information. The Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) brings together the resources of a research-oriented university and the field expertise of OR&R to conduct and oversee basic and applied research, conduct outreach, and encourage strategic partnerships in spill response, assessment, and restoration.



NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration—Protecting our Coastal Environment

**For further information about NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration,
 please call (301) 713-2989 or visit our Web site at
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