

Restoring the Resources After the Julie N Oil Spill

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program



The Problem

On September 27, 1996 the Julie N oil tanker, bound for Portland Harbor, Maine with a cargo of 8.8 million gallons of No. 2 fuel oil, struck a bridge at the Harbor's entrance. Two holes formed in the forward portion of the vessel and 179,634 gallons of oil spilled from the tanker. Despite booming efforts, high winds and tides carried the oil approximately 3 miles up the Fore River and into Stroudwater Marsh. As a result of the spill, 26 acres of intertidal marsh were oiled, impacting shellfish, crustaceans, shorebirds, wading birds and waterfowl utilizing the marsh.



The Julie N

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program

When hazardous substances enter the environment, fish, wildlife, and other natural resources can be injured. The Department of the Interior, along with State, Tribal and other Federal partners, acts as "trustee" for these resources. Trustees seek to identify the natural resources injured and determine the extent of the injuries. Trustees work with the responsible parties to carry out restoration activities, or recover funds from responsible parties to carry out the restoration activities. These efforts are possible under the Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program (NRDAR), the goal of which is to restore natural resources injured by oil spills or the release of hazardous substances.

Highlights

- Assisted with protection of 46.5 acres of saltmarsh and adjacent upland habitat in Scarborough, Maine;
- Assisted with protection of two nationally significant coastal seabird nesting islands: 42-acre Flag and 75-acre Ragged Island, both in Casco Bay in Harpswell, Maine;
- Constructed a one-mile segment of trail, including interpretive signage in Portland along an area of shoreline heavily oiled by the Julie N; and
- Provided funds to the City of Portland for the purchase of a new oil vacuum truck, rehabilitating an existing truck and purchasing other equipment to help reduce the discharge of contaminants to Casco Bay.

Restoring the Resources

Spill response teams recovered 140,994 gallons of oil and clean up activities were completed on December 2, 1996. In 2000, the Responsible Party agreed to pay approximately \$1 million to restore natural resources injured by the oil spill. A Trustee Council comprised of representatives from the State of Maine, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration selected a number of projects to restore the injured resources: wetlands and birds, lost public use and marine habitats.



Common Eider



Scarborough marsh

Accomplishments:

Wetlands

- Permanently protected 46.5 acres of saltmarsh and adjacent upland at Scarborough Marsh in Scarborough, Maine
- Total Project Cost: \$795,000
- Trustee Restoration Program Share: \$328,000
- Partners: Town of Scarborough, Land for Maine's Future, Friends of Scarborough Marsh, the Davis Foundation and Ducks Unlimited

Birds

- Permanently protected two nationally significant coastal seabird nesting islands in Harpswell, Maine in Casco Bay: 42-acre Flag Island and 75-acre Ragged Island. These islands provide nesting habitat to over 1,000 pairs of common eiders. The islands also provide important migratory, foraging and roosting habitat for a variety of shorebirds, wading birds, waterfowl and songbirds. Nesting birds, include osprey, guillemots, great blue herons, yellow warblers, mallards and great horned owls.
- Total Project Cost \$1,487,000
- Trustee Restoration Program Share: \$75,000
- Partners: USFWS (through two National Coastal Wetland Conservation Grants and as Trustee Representative for the North Cape Oil Spill), Maine Coast Heritage Trust, Land for Maine's Future and the Maine Outdoor Heritage Fund, Ducks Unlimited, Casco Bay National Estuary Project Habitat Fund, and The Nature Conservancy.

Lost Public Use

- Constructed a one-mile segment of trail along the Fore River in an area of shoreline heavily oiled by the spill
- Total Project Cost: \$125,000
- Trustee Restoration Program Share: \$125,000
- Partners: Portland Trails

Marine Habitat

- Enacted a PAH (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon) abatement project in the City of Portland. Purchased equipment to reduce transmission of PAHs to the harbor.
- Total Project Cost: \$350,000
- Trustee Restoration Program Share: \$350,000
- Partners: City of Portland



Great Blue Heron

Bill Majoros



Ragged Island

Maine Coast heritage Trust



Newly constructed trail

MDIFW



Oil vacuum truck

MDIFW

Thanks to Our Partners

Special thanks to the State of Maine for spearheading the restoration with assistance from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. The State is represented by the Department of Conservation, the Department of Marine Resources, the Department of Environmental Protection and the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife.

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