

Background



On October 30, 2009, the oil tanker *Dubai Star* lost over 400 gallons of Intermediate Fuel Oil (IFO) during a re-fueling accident. This is the oil that powers the ship. At the time, the ship was anchored in the Bay between Alameda and San Francisco. The oil moved east, eventually impacting the shorelines of Alameda and Bay Farm Islands. The heaviest shoreline oiling was along Robert W. Crown Memorial State Beach. The primary impacts were to birds, shoreline habitats, and human recreational activities.

Under state law, the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) may act as a trustee for natural resources and pursue a claim for damages for impacts to wildlife, habitat, and human uses of the

resources. In this case, DFG worked with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and East Bay Regional Park District to assess injuries from the spill and to determine appropriate restoration projects. These projects are intended to both speed natural recovery and to compensate for the impacts of the spill.



Oil stranded on Robert W. Crown Memorial Beach, Alameda County (10/31/2009)

Injury Summary

Birds

Collected alive: 48
 Cleaned and released: 28
 Collected dead: 20
 % of shorebirds oiled: 2.3

Estimated dead

Large grebes 17
 American Coots 57
 Shorebirds 86
 Other 26
Total 186

Habitat

Most of the habitat was lightly oiled, with full recovery expected after 12 months.

Acres oiled

Rocky Intertidal 35
 Sandy Beach 37
 Tidal Flats / Salt Marsh 140
Total 212

Recreation

Closures at Crown Beach lasted 25 days and warnings were posted for over six months. Parts of Alameda and Bay Farm Islands were closed to fishing for 27 days. Boating was also affected during clean-up operations.

Affected trips (lost and diminished)

Fishing 2,000
 Boating 400
 General Shoreline Use 20,700
Total 23,100

Restoration

The May 7, 2012 natural resource damages settlement with Pioneer Ship Management Services LLC and South Harmony Shipping, Inc., the responsible parties in the case, involved several components. For natural resource damages, the trustee agencies and the responsible party agreed to the following: \$400,000 for wildlife and habitat projects and \$350,000 for recreational improvements. Potential projects are briefly summarized below. An additional \$100,000 will fund administration and oversight. Any unused administrative funds will go toward more restoration.

Wildlife and Habitat

The trustees are considering native vegetation enhancement at Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary, which will improve the marsh habitat and provide high tide roosting areas for birds. The project may include additional measures to protect endangered birds in the marsh. Another project will restore rocky intertidal habitat along the Alameda County shoreline.



Recreational Improvements

Potential recreation improvements may include sand enhancement at Robert W. Crown Beach.



Dubai Star Restoration Funds

Total Amount Received	\$850,000
<u>Proposed Restoration</u>	
Bird and Habitat Improvements -Elsie Roemer Bird Sanctuary	\$356,000
Rocky Intertidal Enhancement -Alameda County shoreline	\$44,000
Recreational Use -Crown Beach and vicinity	\$350,000
Total Restoration Funds	\$750,000
Administration & Oversight	\$100,000

Contact Information

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<http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/NRDA/Dubai-Star.aspx>

