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NEW ENGLAND FIELD OFFICE
CONCORD, NH

JULIE N

THE TWO DAYS STOOD IN STARK CONTRAST:

SEPTEMBER 27, 1996

The day of the Julie N oil spill

APRIL 15, 2009

*The day the final project was completed
to address the natural resource damages from the spill.*



Photo courtesy of the Portland Press Herald



The Julie N hits the Million Dollar Bridge on Sept. 27, 1996. (Copyrighted photo; photographer unknown.)

WHAT HAPPENED

At 11:05 a.m. on Sept. 27, 1996, the oil tanker Julie N, inbound with a cargo of 8.8 million gallons of No. 2 fuel oil, struck the south side of the Million Dollar Bridge spanning Portland Harbor between Portland and South Portland as it went through the draw span.

Following the collision, the vessel proceeded one mile up the Fore River to the Rolling Mills terminal where it was boomed off.

In the collision with the bridge, the Julie N sustained a substantial hole to its port bow area. The forward bunker tank lost approximately 93,198 gallons of IFO 380 heavy fuel oil. The No. 1 port cargo tank lost approximately 86,436 gallons of No. 2 diesel, totaling 179,634 gallons of spilled oil.

High winds and extremely high tides on Sept. 28 and 29 caused an unspecified amount of oil to be released from the boomed area and to be carried into the upper Fore River and Stroudwater Marsh area, including Long Creek.

Recovery efforts continued until clean up was declared complete on Dec. 2, 1996.

Recovery rates for oil spills typically range from 10 to 15 percent. Of the 179,634 gallons spilled in the Julie N spill, 140,994 gallons were recovered - a recovery rate of 78 percent.

Booming requirements around the vessel and during transfer of oil are largely responsible for the extremely high recovery rate. The final tally indicated that while a very high percentage of the oil was recovered, approximately 38,618 gallons of oil were lost to the environment.



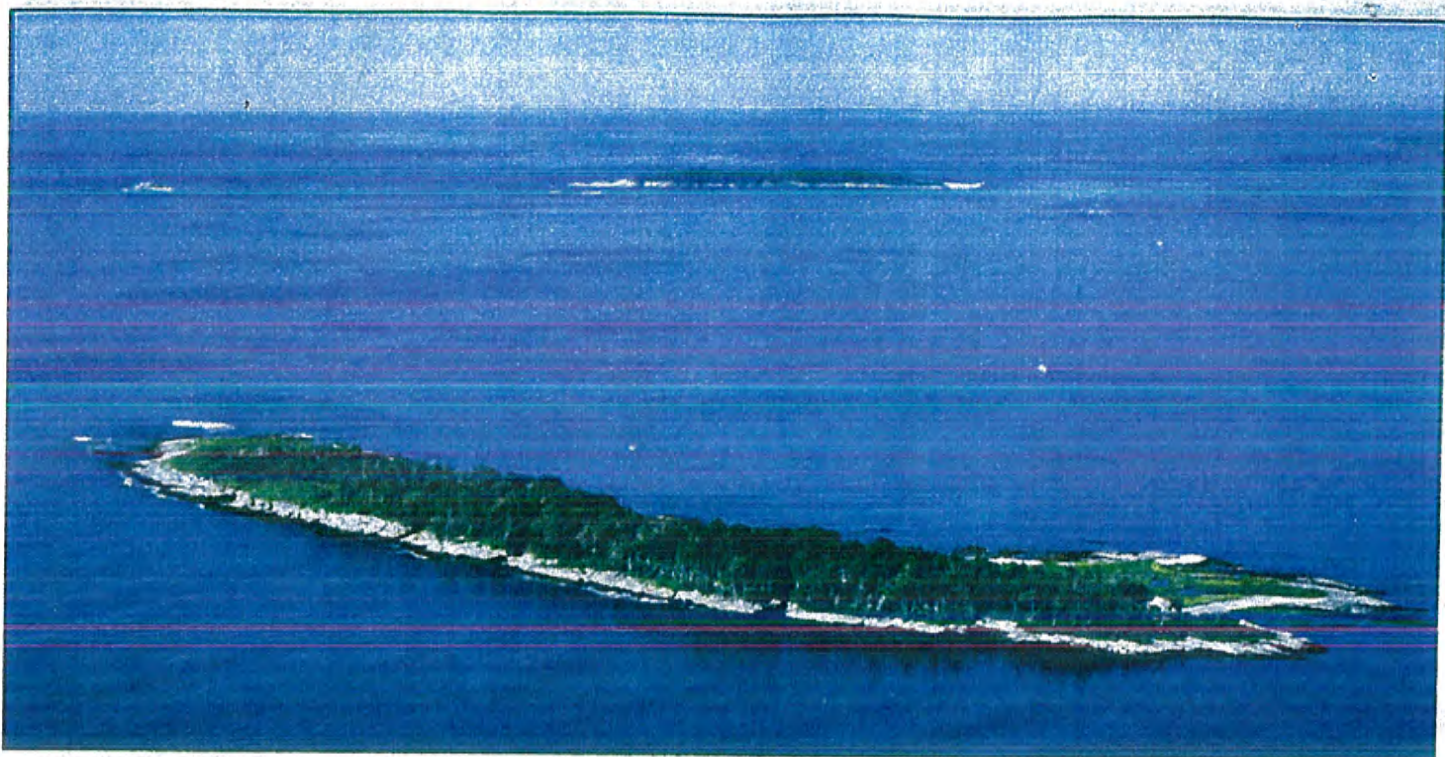
FRIDAY, SEPT. 27, 1996

was just another end of the week at work in our Bangor office until we received a phone call late morning from DEP indicating a ship had struck the Million Dollar Bridge in Portland and oil was spilling into the Fore River.

Based on several years of planning with state and federal agencies for such an event, John Kenney, IF&W's Oil Spill Biologist, and I began implementing the oil spill response plan. We gathered our gear together, hooked up the oil spill response trailer, and headed to Portland.

As we traveled south, the cell phone was constantly busy, first contacting biologist Sandy Eldridge in our Gray office. Sandy was heading out to the Fore River to make an initial assessment of potential oiled wildlife and habitat. John also contacted our bird rehabilitation contractor, IBRRC, to put them on standby for travel to Maine to set up a rehab center.

By the time we arrived in Portland, a number of responders from several agencies had gathered in a building on Portland's Harbor. Sandy provided a report of birds potentially oiled in the upper Fore River.



Flag Island is one of the most important seabird nesting islands in Casco Bay.

By late afternoon, we were in a news conference with the governor giving an initial assessment of the situation.

Through out the remainder of the day and into Saturday, we began mobilizing other IF&W staff, contacting the National Guard to set up wildlife rehab center in the South Portland Armory, coordinating with Tri-State Bird rescue, the rehab contractor for the company responsible for the oil tanker, laying plans for a systematic search for oiled birds, etc.

APRIL 15, 2009

was a quiet sunny day as I again drove south towards Portland to attend the closing on the Gervais property in Scarborough. To protect a portion of Scarborough Marsh and adjacent upland to benefit species impacted by the Julie N Spill, the Julie Natural Resource Trustees were providing approximately \$327,000 toward the purchase of the Gervais property. The acquisition of the entire parcel (46.5+ acres) was being completed with contributions from the Town of Scarborough, Land for Maine Future Board, Friends of Scarborough Marsh, Davis Foundation, and Ducks Unlimited.

By Richard Dressler

Supervisor of the Wildlife Resource Assessment Section, Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, based in Bangor, and Julie N Trustee Council Representative

A large portion of the parcel is marshland that is part of an ecologically significant block of conservation land that will be added to the Scarborough Marsh Wildlife Management Area that is managed by the Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife. Purchase of this property will protect this portion of the Scarborough Marsh from further industrial development and conserve valuable upland wildlife habitat for state endangered (federal candidate) New England cottontail and other species.

Additionally, the property provides an ideal location for initiating educational programs. The closing on the property went smoothly and as I left the building that day I felt a sense of relief and that

we had accomplished much with the settlement funds from the Julie N Spill. The return drive to my Bangor office was quiet and uneventful.

THE SPILL'S IMPACT

Between Sept. 27, 1996 and April 15, 2009, we spent many hours working on behalf of the citizens of Maine, first to care for oiled birds and then to document the spill impacts on wildlife and their habitats. Until the Natural Resource Damage Assessment report was completed and final settlement was reached with the responsible party, we were well into 2000. Initial projects completed by the Julie N Natural Resource Trustee Council, with the approximately \$1 million settlement for natural resource impacts, included two projects in Portland. To address the impacts to marine communities of the unrecovered oil spilled into the harbor, the Julie N Natural Resource Trustees awarded a \$350,000 grant to the City of Portland for a PAH Abatement Project in December 2000. The objective of this project was to reduce the levels of PAHs (polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons)

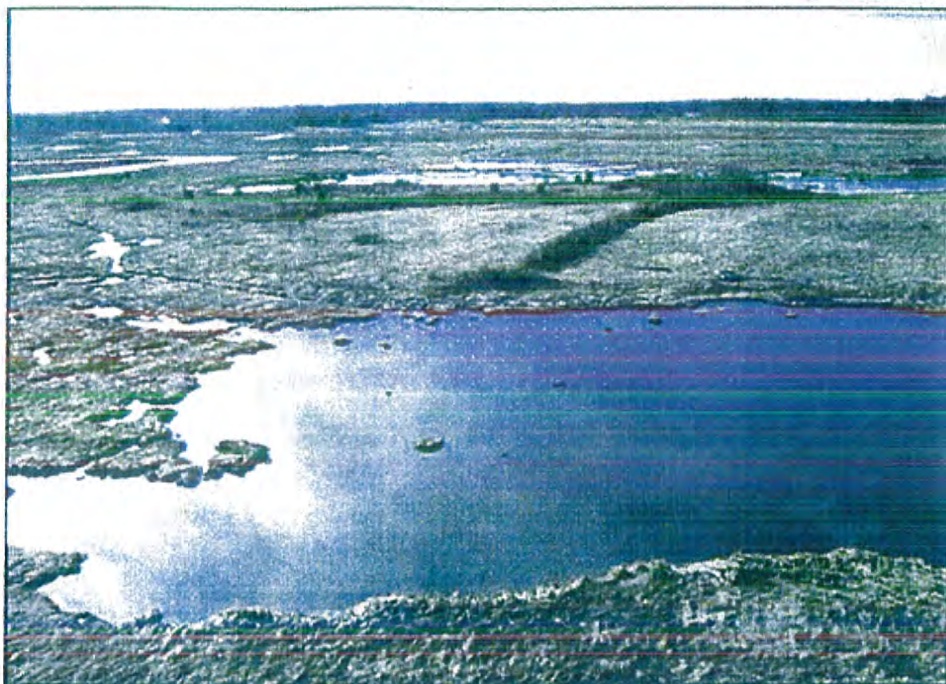
being transmitted to the harbor through Portland's storm drain system by targeted cleaning of Portland's streets and parking lots. PAHs are transported to Portland Harbor and other parts of Casco Bay in urban storm water runoff. By providing a new vacuum truck and rehabilitating an existing truck, as well as other equipment, this project has given the City of Portland highly effective tools to remove these particles from the streets and storm water collection system to reduce the discharge of PAH contaminants to the receiving waters. The equipment purchased with this grant was on display at the dedication ceremony for the Fore River Trail on the fifth anniversary of the Julie N oil spill, September 27, 2001.

FORE RIVER TRAIL

To compensate for lost public recreational uses of the harbor, the Julie N Trustees awarded a \$125,000 grant to Portland Trails in October, 2000, for the construction of a one-mile segment of the Fore River Trail, and for interpretive signage along the trail. The trail construction was completed in the summer of 2001 and dedicated in a public ceremony on Sept. 27, 2001, the fifth anniversary of the Julie N oil spill. This addition to the Fore River Trail System along an area of shoreline heavily oiled by the Julie N spill provides an array of recreational and ecological benefits to the public.

FLAG ISLAND

To compensate for injuries and interim losses sustained by marine birds, the Julie N Natural Resource Trustees contributed \$25,000 to the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife to be used toward the \$945,000 purchase price of Flag Island, one of the most important seabird nesting islands in Casco Bay. Flag Island is located in the eastern section of Casco Bay. It includes 26.2 acres of upland habitat, 15.1 acres of marine intertidal wetland habitat and a 1.3-mile shoreline. The island is designated as a Natural Resource Protection Area by the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries



The Gervais family of Scarborough completed the sale of its 46-acre property to IF&W for inclusion in the Scarborough Marsh Wildlife Management Area.

and Wildlife and is recognized as a Nationally Significant Coastal Nesting Island by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

RAGGED ISLAND

In addition, the Julie N Natural Resource Trustees transferred \$50,000 in settlement funds to Maine Coast Heritage Trust towards purchase of a perpetual conservation easement on the 75-acre Ragged Island, located in Casco Bay in the Town of Harpswell, Maine. Ragged Island has been identified as a nationally significant nesting island recommended by state and federal agencies for permanent protection. This island provides important migratory, foraging and roosting habitat for shorebirds and wading birds, as well as wintering habitat for purple sandpiper, black duck, common eider and other waterfowl.

SCARBOROUGH MARSH

Scarborough Marsh was initially selected by the Trustees as the site of a habitat restoration project to address oil spill injuries to marine birds and their habitat. The purpose of this project was to create salt marsh habitat for species impacted by the Julie N spill by reducing

the extent and vigor of Phragmites (an invasive, non-native plant) in the Dunstan Marsh portion of the Scarborough Marsh by a combination of improving tidal exchange and removing freshwater that accumulates on the marsh plain.

The remaining Julie N settlement funds were spent on studies in Scarborough Marsh and related activities.

After the studies were completed, it was determined that the funds remaining in the Julie N settlement account were not nearly sufficient to meet Trustee objectives for restoration in Scarborough Marsh. Several attempts were made to gain matching funds to complete the restoration project. First, through the US Army Corps of Engineers, then the Natural Resource Conservation Service, and finally a Coastal Wetland Grant. None of these funding attempts were successful.

The results of these studies were shared with local NGOs, NRCS, Maine Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, other agencies, etc. with interests in the marsh. The findings of these studies were a significant contribution to the understanding of the Scarborough Marsh and its future management for species impacted by the Julie N Oil Spill.

As a result, the Trustees began considering other alternatives to meet our



Visitors read interpretive signage on the Fore River Trail System.

remaining restoration objectives. After considering several options, the Gervais property acquisition came to be the preferred option. Working closely with Friends of Scarborough Marsh, and with the assistance of many others, the project became a reality and brought the Julie N saga to a close.

IN APPRECIATION

With many thanks to the Trustee Council representatives from NOAA (John Catena, Matt Collins), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Gordon Russell, Molly Spurduto) and Maine departments of Conservation (Dan Prichard), Marine Resources (Seth Barker), and Environmental Protection (Mark Margerum) for their dedication and persistence in accomplishing the tasks. Also special recognition is given to John Kenney and the many IF&W staff who helped in the response to the Julie N spill and the Natural Resource Damage process.



The Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife and several conservation partners thank Dennis Gervais (third from right) for his family's decision to place a 46-acre parcel of land into conservation as part of the Scarborough Marsh Wildlife Management Area. From left are: Scarborough Town Manager Tom Hall, Rich Shinay of the Scarborough Land Conservation Trust, IF&W Regional Wildlife Biologist Scott Lindsay, C.D. Armstrong of Friends of Scarborough Marsh, and Richard Dressler, IF&W's representative on the Julie N Natural Resources Trustees.