

Strategic Decision Making During an Oiled Wildlife Response

Barbara Callahan
International Bird Rescue Research
Center

Proudly Sponsored by:

QuickTime™ and a
decompressor
are needed to see this picture.

Strategic Decisions

Definition of Strategy (Wikipedia):

A **strategy** is a plan of action designed to achieve a particular goal.



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Response Goals

- Maximize survivability
- Maximize efficient use of resources
- Increase local capacity
- Increase knowledge in the field of professional oiled wildlife response
- Respond safely



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Variables that Affect Response Goals

- When animals are received, spread over weeks or just a few days
- The animals' condition when received
- The type of oil or fuel to which they are exposed
- How long the animals spend in the field
- Number of birds, mammals and reptiles affected
- The skills and experience of the rehabilitation staff
- The resources available to the rehabilitation effort
- Adequacy and availability of facilities
- Cooperation from the regulatory agencies and RP



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Many variables are
beyond your control
SO...

What CAN you control?

- Facilities
 - size, type, location, water quantity and quality, HVAC, security
- Protocols
- Stabilization facilities
- Response Team



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Considerations in Choosing a Facility

- Species and number of animals involved
- Access to water (quality and quantity)
- Ability to provide heat, cooling, ventilation
- Location of facility
 - accessibility for staff, volunteers
 - Reasonable distance from spill site
 - Located around adequate infrastructure to support needed logistics



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Seminary in Washington State

- Old building with lots of rooms, water

However...

- No air exchange - only room fans used
- Aspergillosis caused very high mortality - approximately 90%



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Patagonia Response

Facility was an abandoned poultry slaughter house

- Limited space for stabilization (heat control)
- Water was brought by truck
- Water quality was poor and degraded waterproofing



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Treasure Facility Salt River

- Large enough to house approximately 16,000 penguins
- No heat control
- Several inherent hazards in the building



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Facility Expansion

California Oiled Wildlife Care Network Facility

- Purpose built facility in California
- Designed for approximately 500 oiled birds
- Tents were needed to increase capacity



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Facility Security

Important to consider:

- Keeping animals safe from predators, public
- Security barriers may help limit stress on animals



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Other Facility Considerations

- Sewer and Waste Disposal
- Adequate space for waterproofing pools
- Other Hazardous Waste
 - Oiled boxes
 - Rags
 - Protective clothing
- Telephone, Fax and Internet Access



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Plan of Action (Strategy)



Consider all known variables before making a decision

- Initial Assessment
- Recovery & Transportation
- Processing & Intake
- Treatment & Stabilization
- Cleaning
- Conditioning
- Release



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Ask yourself.....





Photo: C. Clumpner, IBRRC



- How will this effect the animals?
- Will the flow of animals moving through the process be impacted?
- Are there logistical implications with this decision?
- Will this decision help meet response goals?



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Making Critical Decisions to Adapt to the Situation...

- Adapt protocols to situation to meet response goals
- Address forward planning to maximize animal flow through rehabilitation process





EOW Oct 09 Estonia


Examples of Adaptation

Treasure Oil Spill Response:

- 20,000 oiled penguins
- Biggest wash day 650 birds
- Rinse time was cut down to 5 minutes per bird to increase number of birds washed per day






To compensate for quick rinse, pool time for all birds was mandatory and increased daily to enable birds to rinse and waterproof themselves.



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Adaptations....


- Feeding boxes designed to move high numbers of animals through feeding process


EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Pre-Planning

- Many of the most strategic decisions in a response can be made before an oiling event within the context of a Wildlife Response Plan
- The most *strategic decision* that can be made is the decision to plan for an event!



www.ipieca.org



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

What's Your Strategy?



EOW Oct 09 Estonia

Questions?



Photo: J. Holcomb, IBRRC



EOW Oct 09 Estonia