

A Proactive Island Approach to Oiled Wildlife Preparedness

Development of a Multi Species Non-perishable Wildlife Stockpile

Sarah Tegtmeier
Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc



Tri-State & HOVENSA: A Long History

- HOVENSA
 - Among the top 10 largest refineries in the world
 - Located on St. Croix USVI
 - Sensitive local resources
- Partnership
 - Over 10 years with Tri-State
 - Proactive wildlife planning



Oiled Wildlife Preparedness



- Planning
- Training and Exercising
- Stockpile



Wildlife Response Plan

- Integration into the Facility Response Plan
- Provides guidance
 - Assist HOVENSA personnel working with
 - Natural resource managers
 - Local responders
 - Permitted, experienced oiled wildlife responder



Resources at Risk

- Threatened & Endangered Species
 - Federally listed
 - Sea turtles
 - St. Croix ground lizard
 - Roseate terns, brown pelicans
 - Staghorn and Elkhorn coral species (genus Acropora)
 - Humpbacked and pilot whales
 - Territorially listed and species of special concern
 - Multiple species of birds (least terns)
 - VI tree boa



Sea Turtles

- Sandy Point NWR nesting
 - Leatherbacks
 - Largest in US
 - Hawksbill
 - Green



St. Croix Ground Lizard

- Federally endangered since 1977
- Description
 - 35-77mm long (snout to vent)
 - Dorsal black, brown & white stripes
 - Ringed tail
 - Bluish tail and belly
- Food
 - Opportunistic hunters
 - Amphipods, moths, ants, small hermit crabs, hatching and eggs of anoles



St. Croix Ground Lizard

- Habitat
 - Live in burrows
 - Leaf litter, tidal litter
 - Green, Protestant and Ruth Cays (only)
 - Ruth Cay adjacent to HOVENSA marine terminal
- Feeding behavior of young
- Local capture techniques

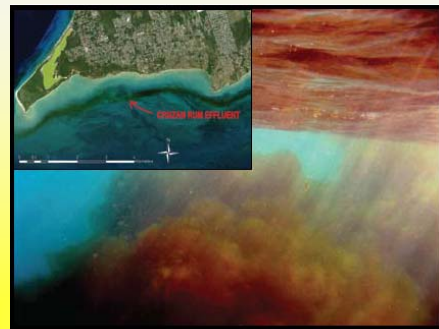


Exercising Plans



- Protection Strategies
 - Agency and Industry
 - Ruth Cay
 - Krauss Lagoon
 - Sandy Point NWR
- Drills and wildlife response training
- Ecological Risk Assessments

“Rum Slick”



CRUZAN RUM EFFLUENT -90M LONG AND -400M AT ITS WIDEST, AERIAL AND UNDERWATER, ST. CROIX Photo: LVI

St. Croix, US Virgin Islands



Wildlife Non-Perishable Stockpile

- Container
 - Secure storage location
 - Mobile
- Goals
 - Multiple species capability
 - Non-perishable supplies & equipment
 - Outline perishable items to purchase



What are Non-perishables?

- Storage conditions
 - 40' cargo container
 - On a secure facility
 - Extreme heat
- On island resources
 - HOVENSA sources
 - Local sources
- Specialized equipment & supplies
 - Gauntlet gloves
 - Salt water pumps



Equipment & Supplies

- Essential element in the Wildlife Response Plan
- Three different types:
 - "Non-perishable": items to stockpile
 - "Perishable": items not able to be stockpiled
 - General supplies: items with local or refinery vendors



Equipment & Supplies: The Stockpile



- Procurement
 - Cargo container shipped to Tri-State
 - Items ordered from reliable vendors



Equipment & Supplies: The Stockpile



- Shipment to St. Croix
 - Packing for safe transport
 - Customs



Equipment & Supplies: The Stockpile



- Response ready
 - Shelving system
 - Storage containers



Wildlife Non-Perishable Stockpile: Key Pieces of Equipment



Acknowledgments

- HOVENSA Environmental, Response and Terminal staff
- Tri-State staff and volunteers
- US Fish & Wildlife Service
- VI Department of Planning and Natural Resources



Questions?

