DOI/FWS Response
Capabilities & IPaC Demo

RRT5 SPRING MEETING – APRIL 28, 2022
PRESENTED BY: SARAH BOWMAN (FWS), AMBER BELLAMY (FWS), AND JOHN NELSON (DOI)
Introductions

- John Nelson, Department of the Interior's Regional Environmental Officer for DOI Regions 3 & 4 Mid-Atlantic and Great Lakes States
- Sarah Bowman, FWS Midwest Region 3, Assistant Spill Response and NRDAR Coordinator
- Amber Bellamy, FWS Ohio Ecological Services Field Office, Fish and Wildlife Biologist
Overview

- DOI and FWS missions
- DOI and FWS roles in spill planning and response
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)
- Endangered Species Act and spill response
- IPaC overview and demonstration
DOI and FWS Missions

- Department of Interior (DOI) Mission

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation’s natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) Mission

Working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance, fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people

Service trust resources: threatened and endangered species, migratory birds, interjurisdictional fishes, supporting habitats, and DOI managed lands
Overview of DOI and FWS Roles in Spill Planning

- Participate on Area Committees
- Contribute to RCP and ACPs to ensure natural and cultural resources are taken into consideration as part of a response.
  - Fish and Wildlife and Sensitive Environments Plan
  - Pre-spill consultation for Contingency Plans
  - Disinfection procedures for aquatic invasive species
- Maintain training and participate in drills and exercises
- Collaborate with partners on tools and guides to assist OSCs in protecting natural and cultural resources during an activation
  - Biological Evaluation Matrix
  - Habitat and Species Fact Sheets for Response
Overview of DOI and FWS Roles during Spill Response

- DOI and FWS may provide support (remote or on-site) for protecting trust resources
  - Assistance to the Planning Section
    - Information for resources-at-risk, resource protection, and development of cleanup techniques
    - Assist in identifying and obtaining appropriate FWS permits
    - Emergency consultation for the Endangered Species Act
  - Assistance to the Operations Section
    - Early reconnaissance of natural resources in the vicinity of the spill
    - Protection strategies to avoid and minimize impacts to trust resources and habitats
    - Technical assistance to wildlife response, implement or coordinate wildlife response (e.g., FWS can fill the Wildlife Branch Director role)
Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR)

- FWS may pursue NRDAR with Co-Trustees to assess damages from spill and response actions.
- While separate from response, some NRDAR activities may be conducted at the same time as spill response activities.
- Ephemeral data collection occurs during the spill.
  - Source oil sample, samples from oiled wildlife, information on extent of oiling and responses.
- Assessment work can lead to settlement or litigation.
- NRDAR Goal: Return the injured resources to baseline.
Endangered Species Act (ESA)

**Purpose**
- Protect and recover threatened and endangered species and critical habitats

**Administration – by the “Services”**
- Department of the Interior - U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
- Department of Commerce - National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS)
Interagency Cooperation

- Section 7(a)(1): All Federal agencies shall utilize their authorities in furtherance of the purposes of the Act by carrying out programs for the conservation of listed species.

- Section 7(a)(2): Each Federal agency shall insure that any action authorized, funded, or carried out by the agency is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of listed species or result in destruction or adverse modification of designated critical habitat.

- If a Federal agency action may affect individuals of a listed species or critical habitat, the agency must initiate consultation with the Service.
ESA Section 7 – Effects Determination

- **No effect**
  - Does not require concurrence from the Service
  - Include justification/support in project file
- **May affect, not likely to adversely affect (NLAA)**
  - Requires written concurrence from the Service
  - Informal consultation, 30 days
- **May affect, likely to adversely affect**
  - Requires formal consultation
  - 135 days after acceptance of initiation package
Developed jointly with NOAA, FWS, EPA and USCG

MOA provides framework and guidance for cooperation and participation among ESA Trustees (FWS & NMFS) in spill planning and response

Calls for cooperation with FWS and NMFS in pre spill planning such as ACPs

MOA does not limit the authority of the FOSC nor is it meant to stop the response

Safety of human life continues to be the top priority during every response
DOI and FWS Resources

- DOI Regional Environmental Officer
- FWS Ecological Services Field Offices (see map with hyperlinks)
  - Ecological Services Biologists (and Refuges) can provide information about trust resources
- Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC)
  - [https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/](https://ipac.ecosphere.fws.gov/)
  - Public website
  - Species list
  - Contact information for local Ecological Services Field Office

- Minnesota-Wisconsin ESFO
  - Trina Soyk
  - Betsy Galbraith
  - Sarah Warner
  - Reena Bowman

- Michigan ESFO
  - Lisa Williams
  - Clark McCready

- Indiana ESFO
  - Dan Sparks

- Ohio ESFO
  - Amber Bellamy
  - Deborah Millsap

- Illinois-Iowa ESFO
  - Aleshia Kenney

- Chicago ESFO
  - Ed Karecki
IPaC Resource List

IPaC resource list

This project is a comprehensive inventory of species and other areas such as critical habitat (collectively referred to as resources) in the United States under the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). The default location is in the project area, but you can potentially select other species and areas by clicking on the selection box. The list may include a species in the list, so consult the project area where the list is located to get the most accurate results.

Endangered species

This research is for informational purposes only and does not constitute an analysis of project-level risks.

The primary information used to generate this list is the known or expected range of each species. Additional areas of concern for birds, mammals, and other species are also considered. The USFWS does not consider "new" species or areas that are not part of the project area. The list may have species that are not intermittently affected by activities at the site. Therefore, a new species or species that is not currently active at the site may be included in the list.

Critical habitats

Potential effects of critical habitats in this location must be analyzed along with the endangered species themselves.

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IPaC Consultation Package Builder (optional resource in IPaC)

- Consultation Package Builder (CPB) provides an interactive, step-by-step process to help you prepare a full consultation package leveraging U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service data and recommendations, including conservation measures designed to help you avoid or minimize effects to listed species.

- Many spill response activities built-in to the CPB.

- You may want to skip using CPB if:
  - You expect your project only needs minor technical assistance; or
  - You have already analyzed and made justified effect determinations for the species in your action area.
Project type and deconstruction

Deconstruct the proposed action by selecting all of its activities and structures. The selected activities and structures provide the headings under which the Effects Analysis (i.e., effects of the action) for the species and critical habitat will be organized in your final document (i.e., biological assessment or other environmental review document). Later you will describe each activity and structure in greater detail.

1) What structures and activities comprise your project?
- Monitor air quality
- Use of cofferdam
- Use of decontamination area
- Vacuuming

ADD MORE STRUCTURES AND ACTIVITIES

2) What kind of project is this?
- Project types
  - Contaminant spill response

Search to find project types (which include structures and activities) that best match your project; or add structures and activities individually. If your search produces no results, you can create a custom structure or activity.
Difference between IPAC and Inland Sensitivity Atlas

IPAC (Information for Planning and Consultation)
- Provides up-to-date T&E, Critical Habitat, Migratory Birds, wildlife refuges, and wetlands in the project area.
- Provides Determination Keys and Consultation Package Builder to assist with making effects determinations and compiling information required for consultation.
- Provides contact information for appropriate FWS Field Station for additional follow-up or consultation, as appropriate.

Inland Sensitivity Atlas
- Contains environmental, oil, and Geographic Response Plan (GRP) information.
- Sensitive species data masks exact location and particular species.
- Non-T&E species layer represent states species of concern or species in the process of being listed but not yet complete.

Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI)
- Provides a summary of coastal resources that are at risk if an oil spill occurs.
- Data incorporated into State Mapping Projects on RRT5 website.
Summary

- DOI Trustee for natural resources and DOI managed lands
- Ensure trust resources and supporting habitats are considered during planning and response
- FWS may conduct NRDAR with co-Trustees
- We are here to help during planning and response
Contact

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- Amber Bellamy - Amber_Bellamy@fws.gov or 614-519-2701
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