



European Workshop

**cleaning and rehabilitation  
of oiled wildlife**

Algarve, 21-24 October 2006

# Proceedings



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## 1. Introduction

Between 21-24 October, 29 delegates; wildlife responders, government officials and NGOs from 18 European countries (17 EU Member States and Norway, see Annex 1) gathered in Albufeira, Portugal, to discuss animal welfare issues related to the cleaning, rehabilitation and release of oiled wildlife. The workshop was organised by ZooMarine, Sea Alarm Foundation, International Fund For Animal Welfare (IFAW) and Istituto Centrale per la Ricerca Scientifica e Tecnologica Applicata al Mare (ICRAM), with a grant from the Community Framework for Cooperation on Accidental and Deliberate Marine Pollution (Grant Agreement no.07.030900/2005/429215/SUB/A5).

During the opening session, the participants were welcomed on behalf of the ZooMarine, by **Mr. Pedro R. Lavia** (President ZooMarine). **Dr Elio Vicente** (Zoomarine) who acted as the Plenary Chair during the whole of the workshop welcomed the participants on behalf of the co-organisers and Project Partners, Sea Alarm, IFAW and ICRAM. He provided some backgrounds on the history and activities of ZooMarine. Mr. Hugo Nijkamp (Sea Alarm) introduced the objectives of the workshop, the programme and the anticipated outcomes.



The programme of the workshop (see Annex 2) included eight lectures, a country report session, two subgroup discussion sessions, a table top exercise and four plenary discussions. In the last plenary session, the main conclusions and recommendations were drawn up.

A report on all of these activities can be found in Chapter 3 to 6. The conclusions and recommendations are listed in Chapters 7, and the follow up of the workshop is described in Chapter 8.

## 2. Objectives of the workshop

Mr. Hugo Nijkamp (Sea Alarm) showed a record of at least 15 oiled wildlife incidents in Europe since the very first incident with the Torrey Canyon (1967) and reported that the response to these incidents have not always been successful. Whether or not Europe will be able to deal effectively with the next incident depends on a number of factors. This workshop allowed an opportunity to look at factors contributing to failure or success in past incidents and assess the actual level of preparedness for a future incident in different European countries and in Europe as a whole. The workshop aims look at the different challenges from a wildlife responder's point of view. A main product envisaged from the workshop discussions is a Handbook on oiled wildlife cleaning and rehabilitation.

## 3. Summary of lectures

### ***Oil Pollution: Sources, Fate and Response***

**(Mr. Franck Laruelle, ITOFF)**

Marine pollution comes from a large variety of sources, including land based sources, natural seeps, the atmosphere and marine spills. Tanker and non tanker accidents are a relatively small part (one fourth) of the marine spills. The quantities of oil spilled demonstrate a downward trend over the years (since 1970), and tanker traffic seems to have become safer (a diminishing number of accidents while shipping traffic has become increasingly intensive). Risks of spills demonstrate changing patterns too: oil transport patterns change over time, putting new areas at risk from pollution. Bunker spills may cause response problems comparable to those of tanker spills, and there is an increasing transport of hazardous and noxious cargos.

The problems caused by an oil spill depend much on the time and place of the spill, the type of oil and conditions of weather and sea. All these factors have to be taken into account to determine the most appropriate response.

### ***International cooperation***

#### **(Mr. Hugo Nijkamp, Sea Alarm)**

In many countries permanent rehabilitation facilities exist, but most of them have limited capacity to deal with a larger-than-routine caseload of oiled birds. Response centres should therefore design a scenario by which they could scale up to a larger capacity. In such scenarios it would be an advantage if international response capacity could be mobilised. Many initiatives to make this possible are being developed, but still a lot needs to be done. International cooperation in Europe would allow effective response preparedness and a model of how this could operate was presented. Sea Alarm has been playing a moderating role, linking up different networks (e.g. wildlife responders Europe; the International Alliance of Oiled Wildlife Responders) and setting up working relationships with maritime insurers, ship owner organisations, the salvage industry, the oil industry and authorities. In Europe, oiled wildlife response is gaining more attention and different countries have started processes to increase their preparedness.

### ***Compensation for oiled wildlife response***

#### **(Mr. Alex Hunt, ITOPF)**

There are different compensation schemes for the damage caused by oil pollution from oil tankers, most notably the Civil Liability Convention and the Fund Convention (recently extended with the so called Supplementary Fund). Together, these mechanisms can pay for damage up to 1 billion USD, in the case of a tanker incident in a country that has signed up to all three conventions. The extent to which oiled wildlife response can be compensated for will be judged on a case to case basis and the CLC and Fund Conventions provide the necessary guidance for this judgement. The term “reasonable” is a key to understanding both conventions and is well described in the 2004 Claims Manual of the IOPC Fund. The capture, cleaning and rehabilitation of wildlife and also wildlife impact assessment are activities that can be compensated for. Wildlife responders who will get involved in a future incident response are advised to contact and involve the P&I Club, the IOPC Fund and ITOPF in an early stage of the response, as this will enhance the probability that a future claim will be successful. It should be borne in mind that the described mechanisms are only in place in the case of a tanker spill. Similar mechanisms for bunker spills caused by non-tankers have been designed, but are not yet in force.



### ***Effects of Oil on Wildlife***

#### **(Mr. Ian Robinson, IFAW)**

Oil can have both physical and physiological effects to animals. In birds, the feather structure will be damaged, resulting in loss of insulation, buoyancy and flight capability. Hypothermia and starvation are amongst the main consequences of exposure to oil and animals may suffer from dermal and ocular irritation. In cases where toxic fumes have been inhaled the lungs may be damaged, and when oil has been ingested, gastrointestinal functions may be affected. Consequences may include immunosuppression, anemia, effects on the functioning of organs and reproductive effects. In case of an incident that affects a relative large proportion of a population, population effects may be measured, due to massive declines in abundance, altered food availability, changes in age class or sex distribution, a potential loss of genetic diversity and/or the extinction of threatened & endangered species.

### ***Animal welfare***

#### **(Mr. Sean Wensley)**

In the 70's the five Freedoms concept has been developed as a tool to define the quality of animal welfare on farms and in zoos. These Freedoms (see box) can also be applied to oiled wildlife rehabilitation without much modification. The presentation showed how implementation of the five Freedoms would apply to each of the rehabilitation steps (i.e. search and collection, transport, triage, stabilisation, cleaning, rehabilitation, release). Oiled wildlife responders, if aware of the Five Freedoms and the way they can be implemented

during the time oiled animals are in care, would be able to look critically at any part of rehabilitation process and consider how animal welfare could be optimised.

### Five Freedoms

- Freedom from hunger, malnutrition and thirst
- Freedom from discomfort (thermal and physical)
- Freedom from pain, injury and disease
- Freedom to express normal behaviour
- Freedom from fear and distress

### ***The Lebanon oil spill***

**(Mr. Ezio Amato ICRAM)**

In July the coastal power plant of Jieh in Libanon was hit by a missile, causing 60,000 tons of stored fuel oil to burn and leak into the Mediterranean Sea. The oil spread into a northern direction, polluting the coasts of Lebanon and Syria. ICRAM provided a first assessment of the damage and the presentation showed the results.

### ***Setting up a temporary wildlife hospital***

**Ms. Barbara Callahan**

In a larger oiled wildlife incident, any attempt to rehabilitate the number of bird casualties which are brought into care would overwhelm the capacities of existing permanent rehabilitation facilities. In many cases the creation of a temporary wildlife hospital is the best response option. A temporary wildlife hospital is a tool to concentrate resources, use them cost-efficiently and allows close monitoring of the condition of the animals that have been brought into care. Setting up and running a temporary wildlife hospital is a specialized job. The selection of a suitable facility where the hospital can be built is crucial to the success of the hospital and the whole wildlife response. The presentation went through a number of aspects and included a case study of the response in Estonia in early 2006.

### ***Health and safety aspects of an oiled wildlife response***

**Tim Thomas**

The laws on health and safety issues in many EU countries are very strict and cover both employees and volunteers. Employers and managers can be liable for stiff penalties if these laws are ignored. It is important to check the laws in the country where the wildlife operation is taking place. All activities of the wildlife response should be assessed for risks. The presentation gave examples of hazards connected to outdoor and indoor activities, working with wildlife and some general considerations. An example of a risk assessment sheet showed how hazards and preventive measures can be identified systematically and measures taken to minimize the risk. Training and the provision of personal protective equipment (PPE) are measures that should be part of the operational response. The lead organisation should consider the need for appropriate insurance cover.

## **4. Country Reports**

In preparation to the workshop, the national delegations had filled a questionnaire and they were asked to provide some key information on the current status of preparedness in their country during 5 minute presentations. This provided an overview of preparedness in Europe and a basis for discussions later on in the workshop.

From the presentations (see Annex 3) it appeared that most countries have an oil spill contingency plan in place which will be operated by a central authority in case of an incident. However, the degree of preparedness for oiled wildlife incidents in European countries varies. Some countries such as Belgium, France and the UK have explicit instructions or wildlife response plans in place,



and allow integration of such a response into an overall oil spill response. In France however, not all the *Départements* have developed or implemented an oiled wildlife response plan. The Belgian plan needs further completion (especially the annexes) and will need further testing by means of an exercise. Although wildlife response is integrated into the overall response, the actual response strategies in the UK are regionally developed (England, Wales, Scotland, Shetland) and differ from each other. Few other European countries are prepared for oiled wildlife response. In Estonia, an oiled wildlife response plan is now being developed following two incidents earlier this year. Also in the Netherlands an integrated plan is being developed by the authorities in close consultation with wildlife responders. In Germany, Ireland, Norway and Slovenia, the preparedness for oiled wildlife response has been placed on the political agenda and is currently being discussed. In other countries, no pre-spill arrangements are in place.

## 5. Subgroup discussions

The subgroup discussions were held around two different themes:

- Animal welfare aspects of an oiled wildlife incident
- How to put animal welfare principles into practice?

Each of the themes was discussed in three different groups and the results of each group were reported to a plenary session.

### ***Animal welfare aspects of an oiled wildlife incident***

Annex 4 of the discussion paper was basically accepted by all subgroups and will be made part of the Handbook, with some agreed modifications. With regards to the different response options (“doing nothing”; “euthanasia”; “rehabilitation”) It was agreed that under certain circumstances “doing nothing” would be the right response, but only when the other options (euthanasia and rehabilitation) are not available or unsafe to be carried out. In an active response, euthanasia and rehabilitation are two sides of the same coin. Neither option should be chosen while ignoring the other. The table that was provided in the discussion paper was accepted, with a few modifications, as a useful tool for inclusion in the Handbook, to aid the making of case to case decisions, provided it was accompanied by appropriate guidance to avoid misinterpretations. Decisions on which strategy to be applied and under which circumstances should ideally be taken by qualified experts from different stakeholder groups and/or expert groups.



Some other useful remarks were made during the subsessions:

- It is important to consider how the public might react to the response strategy. For example, if the public does not agree with the methodology applied (e.g. mass euthanasia), spontaneous and uncontrolled activities may take place (e.g. members of the public saving animals from euthanasia).
- Experience shows that without a controlled and scientifically sound attempt to rehabilitate animals, there is no chance of methodological improvement. Even if the infrastructure is not fully adequate, it may still be worthwhile to attempt a wildlife response, as long as animal welfare issues are continuously monitored and subject to control.
- Those groups that accept the responsibility to undertake a coordinated attempt to rehabilitate oiled animals must have adequate expertise. They should define and apply minimum standards using the wealth of information that is available internationally on acceptable minimum standards.
- Triage is a most important instrument in an oiled wildlife incident and, because of various ethical and emotional concerns, needs clear decision making. Principles should be defined pre-spill but certain details might need further consideration during the incident. Once criteria and methodology for triage have been agreed, decisions on individual animals must be taken based on veterinary examination, by trained people (vets or qualified staff members).
- One single strategy for euthanasia and rehabilitation is probably not possible to achieve in Europe. There are too many differing standards, resources and circumstances.

### ***How to put animal welfare principles into practice?***

Annex 5 of the discussion paper was basically accepted as a useful model for defining “good practice” for the rehabilitation of oiled birds for inclusion in the Handbook. Each of the subgroups made a number of modifications to the paper which were agreed at the plenary session. Also additional details were suggested e.g. a definition of the key characteristics of an oiled wildlife expert, the specific knowledge and skills that

are required to carry out a wildlife response, and the characteristics of “good practice” in oiled wildlife rehabilitation.

It was established that there are a number of different methodologies used across Europe to rehabilitate oiled animals. Some of these methodologies have been used in past incident but should be considered unacceptable in terms of animal welfare standards. At the same time, it will be difficult to change established methods. It was felt that operators of European wildlife rehabilitation centres should be enabled to take note of the more successful methods and techniques by which they could improve their own practice. There are different descriptions of successful approaches available, published e.g. by Oiled Wildlife Care Network, RSPCA, Taronga Zoo. Although there are differences between them, they share the same underlying principles and are all based on a scientific understanding of the specific techniques by which these principles are applied. The envisaged Handbook could play a key role in providing access to these techniques and protocols.

The model of Annex 5 of the discussion paper was discussed in some detail. It was agreed in all subgroups that post release survival should be considered as the ultimate goal of a successful rehabilitation process, not release alone. Post release survival research however does not receive high priority in many countries and therefore data on the survival of rehabilitated animals are scarce. Increasingly, better (more objective) techniques to measure the health of animals in care, such as blood sampling, become available from countries where post survival research is more integrated into the scientific studies on rehabilitation techniques. If these criteria were shared internationally and made available to interested rehabilitation centres, the success rates of rehabilitation should rise. Also if rehabilitation centres across Europe adopt and implement a standardised form of record keeping that would allow scientific analysis of their methodologies and results, Europe would be able to contribute significantly to the development and availability of better health criteria for different species. It was agreed that international meetings should be held in order to regularly update these criteria and make them available to individual oiled wildlife responders. This should not be difficult to achieve if this were supported and enabled by the responsible authorities.

It was agreed that a huge step forward will be made when the Handbook is published as a main result from the present project. The Handbook should read as a low threshold invitation to apply proven methodologies, and it was suggested that authorities could provide certain incentives to encourage rehabilitators to explore and implement these methodologies. On the short term, authorities could play a catalyst role by enabling rehabilitators in their country to realise these improvements on a voluntary basis, e.g. by following training and be an active member of an international exchange programme. On the longer term, authorities could use the defined “good practice” as a criterion for accrediting individual centres. The subgroups also identified a number of training modules that should be developed at the international level and made available to responders in the different countries. The Handbook should ideally be published in all the relevant European languages.

## 6. Table top exercise

The objective of the table top exercise was to confront the participants with several aspects of an unprepared response to a developing larger oiled wildlife incident in a European county, from the



perspectives of a wildlife rehabilitation centre. Pieces of information from a developing incident were presented in a chronological order to small groups of delegates (each group had 4-5 members). Each time a piece of new information was received, the group had to carry out the specific instructions that were attached to it. In the exercise, all groups played the role of the management team of the oiled wildlife rehabilitation centre nearest to the incident. This centre would be first in line to receive the impacted birds that were found oiled on the beaches in the immediate aftermath of the incident.

The exercise was well received by all participants and delegates who had experienced an oiled wildlife incident

before, stated it was very realistic. Each of the groups was asked to list a number of conclusions and recommendations from the exercise (see Annex 4).

## 7. Conclusions and recommendations

### ***Implementation of good practice and response preparedness***

Internationally there is an expanding wealth of science based methodologies and proven experience with regards to the successful rehabilitation of oiled wildlife. These methodologies and experiences are still insufficiently known in Europe and gaps exist between what wildlife responders do on a day to day basis and the success that is reached elsewhere based on good practice. The workshop has identified a range of solutions by which this gap can be bridged, in many cases only requiring the interest and goodwill of key stakeholders, most notably the competent authorities and (oiled) wildlife responders in the different European countries. In addition, at an international level, access to information and training should be improved, which requires some coordinated activities by internationally operating actors in cooperation with international organisations and supported by authorities and industry stakeholders.

### ***What could authorities contribute?***

Authorities should acknowledge the potential problems of an incident with regards to wildlife and demonstrate active leadership in the planning and response to oiled wildlife, involving key stakeholders such as oiled wildlife responders. They could improve the level of national preparedness by enabling wildlife responders to improve methodologies according to international standards and facilitating their training.

The best guarantee for a coordinated and effective oiled wildlife response comes from an integrated oiled wildlife response plan which can operate at different scales and in which roles and responsibilities, as well as strategy and methodologies are clearly defined. The plan should be updated regularly and tested by means of exercises. Key officers should be trained, individually and as a group.

The costs of an oiled wildlife response are only covered by international compensation mechanisms in case of a tanker spill. Past incidents in Europe however demonstrate that considerable wildlife problems can be caused by bunker spills. Authorities should not only endeavour to contribute to the ratification of new conventions such as the Bunker Convention, but also make sure that wildlife responders can be compensated for their efforts, e.g. by setting up a dedicated national emergency budget.



Authorities should seek for cost-efficient solutions at an international level. Many existing international oil pollution response and preparedness agreements would allow the inclusion of oiled wildlife response as one of the fields of structural cooperation. Cooperation could include regional risk assessments, agreements for mutual assistance, training, exercises, a network of mobile response units and an exchange programme for responders.

### ***What could European wildlife responders contribute?***

The main objective of oiled wildlife response is animal welfare. Internationally there is plenty of guidance available on how principles of animal welfare can be effectively applied under the extraordinary circumstances of an oil spill incident response. Wildlife responders should be informed about the existence of techniques and guidelines, they should endeavour to internalise this guidance on a day to day basis and develop a professional attitude to an oiled wildlife response. This would mean the will to cooperate with other key stakeholders like colleague wildlife centres, national experts and the competent authorities and agree and apply best practices.

A professional attitude of wildlife responders will enhance the dialogue with the competent authorities and other stakeholders and the probability that constructive measures can be taken towards oiled wildlife response planning and the creation of opportunities for training and exercising.

Increasingly, opportunities are created to exchange experience at a European level, and for training and education, e.g. via, and coordinated by Sea Alarm. Linking up with these international activities is recommended.

Coastal wildlife rehabilitation centres that have a more than average probability to get involved in a future oiled wildlife incident should endeavour to develop an appropriate response plan for the various scales of their own operations under such circumstances. This would e.g. include the definition of capacity, roles and responsibilities, the sourcing and mobilisation of human and other resources (e.g. finances, medicines etc.), a plan for the transition of the daily operations of the centre into an appropriate format as a forward holding centre or oiled wildlife rehabilitation centre, a health and safety executive, a communication plan, a waste management plan, and recordkeeping. Once developed, the regular training of staff and volunteers should be considered.

### **International activities and products**

Many international activities have already been set up, including the sharing and further development of good practice with regards to the successful rehabilitation of oiled wildlife. New initiatives should be set up which reduce barriers to European wildlife responders to access to information and getting involved in international activities.



A main field to be developed is a programme to encourage and assist wildlife responders to adopt and implement successful methodologies and a professional attitude. This includes access to information, and removal of language barriers that may prevent many local responders from finding and understanding internationally available literature (mostly in English). It also includes the availability of training modules and training opportunities through which good practice and techniques can be learnt. Initiatives are already underway, but once available it would also require the involvement of authorities to enable local wildlife responders to get trained, e.g. by organising training

events at their national level, or providing responders with a budget so that they can visit events (training, exchange programmes) that are organised abroad.

An increasing set of products become internationally available. Existing products are e.g. the IPIECA Guide to Oiled Wildlife Response Planning (IPIECA, 2004) and the IOPC Claims Manual (IOPC Fund, 2004). As part of another EU project that is running, the website [www.oiledwildlife.eu](http://www.oiledwildlife.eu) is being developed as a portal that provides access to any relevant topic with regards to oiled wildlife response and preparedness and international documentation that is available to these respective topics. This website would provide an important focus on and guidance to quality information selected and provided by experts and expert groups.

The workshop identified a number of activities and products of which the realisation should be encouraged and enabled:

#### Training modules and opportunities

Understanding of best practice is achieved through training, and training modules are best developed at the international level by expert groups. An example is the table top exercise that was developed specially for the workshop, which provided food for thought for people that are charged with the task of planning for oiled wildlife response. Similarly, table top exercises, standard lectures and practical sessions should become available, preferably in different languages. Training modules should be developed for wildlife responders (including volunteers), response managers and decision makers. Opportunities for training should be created by organising training events on national and international level, or by creating exchange programmes in which wildlife centres abroad can be visited and in which volunteers can temporarily work to learn methodologies in practice.

#### Websites and databases

Perhaps as part of [www.oiledwildlife.eu](http://www.oiledwildlife.eu), access should be given to dedicated information on e.g. oiled wildlife response case studies, statistics (post release survival, triage criteria), literature, protocols, etc. Centrally kept databases of which extensions would be accessible on the internet should provide access to experts and expert groups, mobile equipment, literature etc.

#### Guidelines and handbooks

The availability of international guidelines and handbooks would encourage the development of good practice in a consistent, unified way in Europe. Suggestions for such documents are on health and safety, setting up a temporary wildlife hospital, search and collection, mobile units, etc.

### Newsletters and discussion forums

Newsletters and discussion forums would allow wildlife responders to be kept up to date on developments and to get actively involved in new activities and actual discussions. A centrally coordinated e-mail service should be set up to notify key responders about upcoming events or newly published information.

### Workshops and conferences

International workshops and conferences, if organised and held regularly, would offer opportunities for wildlife responders to meet each other and develop relationships. Apart from the exchange of information, these events would help to bring down thresholds between groups and individuals and create grounds for mutual assistance

## **8. Follow up**

Discussions at the workshop have provided useful ingredients for the Handbook which will be developed as part of the project. The Handbook will be a 20 page document that will provide practical guidance to key stakeholders who will be, or may become involved in future oiled wildlife incidents. The table of contents of the Handbook has been agreed in principle (see Annex 5), and a first draft, as prepared by the Project Partners, will be offered to the participants of the Workshop for comments. Participants have also agreed to be available for contributions to the Handbook if so requested by the Partners.



# Annexes

## Annex 1: List of Participants

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## **Invited speakers**

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## Project partners

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## Annex 2: Programme of the workshop

### Friday, October 20

- 12h30 onwards Arrival of participants at Hotel Montechoro ([www.hotelmontechoro.pt/](http://www.hotelmontechoro.pt/))  
18h30 onwards Early Registration and Check-in

### Saturday, October 21

- 08h30 -09h00 Registration at Zoomarine  
09h00 -19h40 Welcome Address by Pedro Lavia, CEO of Mundo Aquático SA (Zoomarine)  
Welcome Address by Élio Vicente, Director of Science and Education (Zoomarine)  
Objectives of the Workshop by Hugo Nijkamp (Sea Alarm)  
09h40 -10h10 Keynote Address: "Oil Pollution: sources, fate and response", by Franck Laruelle (ITOPF)  
10h10 -10h30 Coffee Break  
10h30 -13h00 Introduction of Participants & Country Reports  
13h00 -14h30 Lunch (on the premises)

#### Workshop session: "Oiled wildlife: how to deal with animal welfare?"

- 14h30 -15h00 "Effects of Oil on Wildlife", by Ian Robinson (IFAW -International Fund of Animal Welfare)  
15h00 -15h30 "International cooperation towards good practices and effective oiled wildlife response", by Hugo Nijkamp (Sea Alarm)  
15h30 -16h30 Subgroup Discussions: "Animal welfare aspects of an oiled wildlife incident"  
16h30 -17h30 Coffee Break and Tour of Zoomarine's Rehabilitation Centre  
17h30 -18h30 Plenary Report: Subgroup Discussions  
20h00 -23h30 Dinner

### Sunday, October 22

- 09h00 -09h15 Wrap-up of Saturday and Agenda for Sunday  
09h15 -09h45 "Compensation of oil spill damage", by Alex Hunt (ITOPF)  
09h45 -10h15 "What is Animal Welfare?", by Sean Wensley (Invited speaker – veterinarian and wildlife welfare expert)

#### Workshop session: "How to put animal welfare principles into practice?"

- 10h15 -10h30 Introduction: "Expectations from the Session", by Hugo Nijkamp (Sea Alarm)  
10h30 -13h00 Sub-group discussions (including Coffee Break)  
13h00 -14h30 Lunch (on the premises)

#### Workshop session: "A serious oiled wildlife incident: how to deal with animal welfare?"

- 14h30 -17h30 Table Top Exercise: "Dealing with a large oiled wildlife incident" (including CoffeeBreak)  
17h30 -18h30 Results from the "Table Top Exercise" and Discussion  
20h00 -23h00 Dinner

### Monday, October 23

- 09h00 -09h15 Wrap-up of Sunday and Agenda for Monday  
09h15 -09h45 "A Collateral Effect of an Act of War: Oil Spill in Lebanon", by Ezio Amato (ICRAM)  
09h45 -10h15 "Setting up and managing a temporary wildlife hospital for oiled birds – things you need to know", by Barbara Callahan (IFAW ER Team)  
10h15 -10h45 "Oiled wildlife response: Health, safety and environment", by Tim Thomas (RSPCA)  
10h45 -11h15 Coffee break  
11h45 -13h00 Plenary Report: Subgroup Discussions ("How to put animal welfare principles...?")  
13h00 -14h30 Lunch (on the premises)



14h30 -16h00 "Guidelines for oiled wildlife care": Results from the workshop and Discussion  
16h00 -16h30 Coffee Break  
16h30 -17h50 Workshop Conclusions and Follow Up  
17h50 -18h00 Closure of the Workshop  
20h00 -23h30 Farewell Dinner, at Zoomarine

**Tuesday, October 24**

07h30 onwards Check-out and Departure of Participants



## Annex 3: Overview of country information

Country	Is there a Plan?		# Coastal rehab. centres	Coop. between rehab. centres	Previous spills	Assess the degree of risk
	NOSCP	OWP				
Belgium	Yes	Yes	1 (Ostende)		Tricolor (2003)	
Estonia	Yes	No	1 (Nigula) NGO	Yes	Mystery spill (2006)	Yes
Finland	Yes	No		Yes		Yes
France	Yes	Yes	22 rehab. centres, 6 of them take oiled wildlife		Erika	
Germany	Yes	No	1 at the coast 2 small centres		No	
Greece	Yes	No	1 centre (run by an NGO)	Yes	No	
Ireland	Yes	No				
Italy	Yes	No	1 rehab. centre NGO		No	Yes
Latvia	Yes	No	No rehab.centres	Yes (scientist-NGOs)	No	Yes
Malta	Yes	No	No rehab.centres 1 NGO	No	No	Yes
Netherlands	Yes	No	5 rehab. centres 1 seal centre	Yes	Chronic pollution	
Norway	Yes	No			Rocknes (2004) Glomma (2006)	
Portugal	Yes	No				
Slovenia	Yes	No	No rehab.centres 2 NGO		No	Yes
Spain	Yes	No	33 rehab centres in coastal autonomous community, 13 of them take oiled wildlife.	Yes, (CONCER Forum)	Prestige (2002)	Yes
Sweden	Yes	No	1 centre and building a new one			Yes
UK	Yes	No	4 centres	No cooper. between the regions	Torrey Canyon	

NOSCP: National Oil Spill Plan  
OWR: oiled wildlife Plan

Countries in blue means that they are developing a plan.

Countries in yellow means that they are considering planning.

Countries in red means they neither are developing a plan not even considering the option yet.

## Annex 4: Table top exercise results

As part of the table top exercise, the participants were asked to list the items they felt should be considered by individual wildlife response centres as part of the development of an internal response plan. They were also asked to list recommendations for the development of a national response plan, with an emphasis on the elements that should appear in such a plan to support the activities of wildlife rehabilitators. The results of both tasks are listed below.

### Internal plan

Elements for an internal response plan for coastal rehab centres.

#### Organisation / management

- Assembly the team and setting the command chain
- Description of roles and tasks
- Appoint a leader
- Plan how to reorganise the centre to receive animals (scaling!)
  - Space management
  - People (human safety)
  - Supplies
  - Basic human needs
  - Hygiene, waste management
- How to keep records
- Telephone mobiles, computer printer, fax, photocopier,
- Delegate as many tasks as possible
- Establish a task force
- Preparation for the rehab facilities (food, water supply, equipment)
- Organise the volunteers
- Delegating responsibilities to team leaders (collection, transportation, triage, administration of volunteers)
- Preparing the facilities for receiving a large amount of animals.
- Setting up recollection teams.
- Organizing logistics, equipments and consumable materials (Boxes, confirming permits, transportations, medical supplies, etc.
- Indicating the coordinator.
- Prepare scenarios for a possible situation of reaching the carrying capacity of the centres.
- Preparing a control room.

#### Health and safety humans

- Take care of people's need and safety
- Time tables for staff (rotation schemes, rest periods)
- Room for meeting, for rest and eat
- Looking for health and safety issues in relation to people involved in the event.

#### Health and safety animals

- Ensure proper triage (by qualified person)
- Decide on triage parameters

#### Communication

- Communication plan (authorities, stakeholders, public)
- How to get information on the situation
- Optimal communication with all stakeholders
- Be prepared for the press
- Collect information on incident and local conditions
- Establish contacts with other organisations and authorities
- Establish contact with the media (taking control)
- gathering information
- Dealing correctly with the media.



### Mobilisation

- How to call on manpower, (trained) volunteers
- How to arrange for and manage search and collection teams
- Arrange for transportation and equipment
- Basic supply list for first hours
- Mobilisation personnel (24/7 will be difficult)
- Network of trained and prepared volunteer (training, workshop every 2 years)
- Transfer existing animals out of your centre
- Planning of logistics (accommodation, catering, transport)

### Invest in preparedness

- Exercises (table top and practical)
- Pre-identified plan of knowledge and resources
- Working under stress
- Check facilities – resources and supplies
- Dealing with the pressure from public and authorities.

### **National plan**

Recommendations for planning so that a plan would support and optimise the role of a single oiled wildlife response group, especially in the early days of a developing incident

### Scale

- A plan should define different scales at which operations may have to be set up (tiered response)
- Response capacity and possible extension of existing centres
- Evaluation of response capacity of the actual centres (evaluating carrying capacity of the centres, logistics and possible scenarios for other suitable places for rehab).

### Coordination

- Organisation chart, flow-chart of stakeholders (up to date)
- Coordination of volunteers to avoid chaos
- Cooperation and coordination of centres
- Who's doing what (key roles and responsibilities)
- Designated leader
- Resource management
- Clear roles between stakeholders
- Chain of command (responsibilities)
- Definition of the general coordination scheme and list of contacts (Institutions and focal points, both national and international).
- A clear definition of roles of different institutions / individuals.

### Communication

- Access to reliable information (facts)
- Public relations (public, press, photographers)

### Mobilisation

- Human resources that should be mobilised
- Updated contact details and resources lists
- Make sure you're regularly updated
- Work plan
- Detailed (incl. checklists for tel nrs, food humans, food animals, transport, accommodation animals, accommodation humans)
- Have sufficient supplies available (or at your disposal)
- Key information (list of contacts, experts, overview of cooperation agreements)
- Inventory of equipment and list of suppliers
- How to assembly Human resources needed for a large spill (experts, vets, volunteers, etc).
- A list of contacts of places and institutions were to buy equipments and materials need for an emergency events.

### Finances



- Pre-identified sources of financial support
- Finance accounting: in and out.

#### Health and safety animals

- Pre-identify locations where animals should be brought to
- Triage, first aid and evaluation of success
- Animal welfare criteria (5 freedoms)

#### Health and safety humans

- Make sure their contribution is optimised by giving right amount of training

#### Training

- Training (volunteer network)
- Proper training personnel (staff and volunteers)
- Good practice checklist (lessons learnt from previous experiences)

#### Aftercare

- Impact on species
- What to do with carcasses (freeze, link with vet school)



## **Annex 5: Agreed table of contents of the Handbook**

### Part 1: Methodologies for rehabilitation of oiled animals

The rehabilitation of oiled animals: doing the right thing  
Considerations of animal welfare relevant for rehabilitators  
Successful approaches and methodologies  
Scientific approach: record keeping and data collection  
Improving methodologies

### Part 2: Responding to major incidents

Rehabilitation as part of a number of response options  
How to make a response successful from the perspective of a rehabilitation centre  
Wildlife response planning  
Being part of a National response  
The role of the authorities

### Part 3: Future spills in Europe

What to expect from international assistance  
Coordination and management of an international response

### Part 4: Information, contacts and links

References to scientifically developed methodologies  
Oiled wildlife care network  
RSPCA  
etc  
References to oiled wildlife response planning  
IPIECA Guide to oiled wildlife response planning  
etc

### Useful contacts and addresses

Sea Alarm  
IFAW ER  
ITOPF  
OSRL  
etc

### Links

(any relevant link)