

# Oil Spill Response Program Simplified Protocol



## Safety First!

Observing and responding to a spill can be very dangerous. Oil can be explosive, produce toxic vapors, and is easily transferred to your clothes and skin. Therefore, the top priority is safety. You are not authorized to enter any contaminated area as this requires specialized training, clothing, and supervision. You are not to attempt recovery of any injured or oiled wildlife, whether it is dead or alive. You are asked to observe and inform, not participate in the physical response. If you have any concerns, leave the area immediately.

1. **PROVIDE AVAILABILITY** Seattle Audubon will contact you if your site is identified as a Spill Observation Site
  - a. Respond via text, email, or phone call with your soonest availability to conduct an oil observation survey and a seabird survey
2. **CONDUCT AN OIL OBSERVATION SURVEY** as soon as possible during daylight hours once you are notified:
  - a. Record everything you see and do not limit your observations to 300m
  - b. Estimate the number of birds, and other wildlife, you observe on the water and beach
3. **REPORT OIL OBSERVATIONS**
  - a. Scan or photograph completed oil observation sheet
  - b. Send via email to [psss-oil-spill@googlegroups.com](mailto:psss-oil-spill@googlegroups.com)
4. **CONDUCT A SEABIRD SURVEY** at the next available daylight high tide
  - a. The 4hr survey window will be specified by Seattle Audubon staff
  - b. Follow standard PSSS protocol, but note any oil presence, oiled birds, or birds interacting with oil in the 'Notes and Comments' section of the datasheet

| Activity  | Contact info   |
|---|--|
| Contact Seattle Audubon                         | Toby Ross, Senior Science Manager<br>Direct line: 206-523-8243 ext. 102<br>Alternative line: 206-523-4483<br>Personal mobile: 206-552-3834<br>Email: <a href="mailto:toby@seattleaudubon.org">toby@seattleaudubon.org</a>  |
| Report Oiled Wildlife (WA Emergency Management) | 1-800-258-5990   |
| Press inquiries                                 | Refer them to Rasheena Fountain, Seattle Audubon Communications Manager<br>Direct line: 206-523-8243 ext. 116<br>Alternative line: 206-523-4483<br>Also refer them to the local Audubon chapters in the area of the spill. |

Puget Sound Seabird Survey  
Oil Observation Recording Form



Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Site Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Start time: \_\_\_\_\_ End time: \_\_\_\_\_

Location/Description if not standard site: \_\_\_\_\_ Lat: \_\_\_\_\_ Long: \_\_\_\_\_

Volunteer(s): \_\_\_\_\_ Contact phone or email: (1) \_\_\_\_\_ 2) \_\_\_\_\_

Did you see any oil (circle one)? Yes No If yes, where (circle all that apply)? On Water On Land On Wildlife

Oil Observations (skip if you did not observe oil):

|   |
|---|
| <b>On the water:</b> Percentage coverage: _____% <b>How badly (circle all that apply):</b> Light (Sheen) Medium Heavy               |
| <b>On the beach/shore:</b> Percentage shoreline oiled: _____% <b>How badly (circle all that apply):</b> Light Medium Heavy          |
| <b>What is oiled? (circle all that apply):</b> Sand/pebbles/cobble Seaweed/grasses Rocks Logs/debris Seawall/structures Other _____ |

Estimated number of wildlife present in the area:

|   |
|---|
| <b>Birds:</b> Seabirds _____ Shorebirds _____ Raptors _____ Crows _____ Gulls _____ Other _____ |
| <b>Mammals, others:</b> _____   |
| <b>Oiled wildlife (Species, number live/dead):</b> _____  |

Notes: