

Wildlife Response Management during a Federal Incident

Hurricane Isaac Wildlife Response: Federal Leadership and Support

The last days of August 2012 brought Hurricane Isaac's wind and water energy to south Louisiana, impacting many parishes with destruction of property and leaving behind severe flooding. After search and rescue efforts to ensure the safety of people in the area had been completed, surveys by boat and aircraft revealed impacted wildlife. As in past natural disaster response activations, wildlife professionals expected oil impacted animal cases to remain minimal; however, there was confirmation from some response crews that affected wildlife had been sighted. Given that there was no named responsible party, the US Coast Guard, as the Federal On-Scene Coordinator, took the lead in activation of wildlife personnel to conduct recovery and rehabilitation efforts.

**HURRICANE
ISAAC
IMPACT**

OILED WILDLIFE SIGHTED



Oiled Pelican Preening on Abandoned Structure

**WILDLIFE
RESPONDERS
ACTIVATED BY
USCG**

**FINANCIAL CONCERN:
NO BOA IN PLACE**

CHALLENGE OVERCOME:

- MSA IN PLACE WITH MULTIPLE CONTRACTORS
- BILLING THROUGH OSRO'S



Construction of Wildlife Holding Pens



Cleaning an Injured Wing



Rinsing a Cleaned Brown Pelican



Oiled Belted Kingfisher



Capturing a Black Vulture

RESOURCES PROVIDED:

- RESPONDER LODGING
- RESPONDER MEALS
- AIRBOATS FOR SURVEYS
- MANPOWER SUPPORT
- SECURITY
- REHABILITATION FACILITY
- ANIMAL FOOD—FISH
- PROCUREMENT OF SUPPLIES



Hurricane Isaac Wildlife Rehabilitation Facility



Preparing Food for Brown Pelicans

**WILDLIFE FEDERAL & STATE SUPPORT:
RESPONSE LED BY THE U.S. COAST GUARD
SECTOR NEW ORLEANS
LOUISIANA DEPT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES**

**LOUISIANA DEPT OF WILDLIFE &
FISHERIES**

- BOATS FOR SURVEYS
- DOCUMENTATION GUIDANCE
- CAPTURE PERSONNEL
- CHAIN OF CUSTODY SUPPORT
- RELEASE SITE IDENTIFICATION
- STATE WILDLIFE VETERINARIAN

**UNITED STATES
COAST GUARD**

- RESPONSE LEADERSHIP
- PROVIDED RESPONSE FUNDING
- WILDLIFE CENTER IDENTIFICATION
- DOCUMENTATION GUIDANCE
- PUBLIC RELATIONS SUPPORT
- WILDLIFE RELEASE SUPPORT



Washing a Brown Pelican



Medical Evaluation of Brown Pelican



Exercising in the Flight Pen



Pointe-aux-Chenes WMA—Release Site



Goal Met—Release of Healthy Pelicans



Brown Pelican Ready for Release Flight

Initial Information/Actions

- Response led by the US Coast Guard
- Address financial concerns
- Organizational Chart
- Extensive flooding / some resources
- limited due to human impact
- Oiled animals were already sighted by crews
- Established contact with LA Dept. of Wildlife & Fisheries response personnel and state wildlife veterinarian
- WRS Rapid Response Resource Trailer mobilized
- Sub-contractor agreements in place with OSRO's



**Wildlife Response
Services, LLC**
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WILDLIFE RESPONSE SUPPORT STAFF PROVIDED BY:
MATRIX NEWORLD
Enabling Progress