

3 Understanding other Operations

Deepwater Horizon MS-252 Oil Spill

Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Teams, SCAT, were first developed during the *Exxon Valdez* oil spill. When spilled oil contaminates shoreline habitats, responders must survey the affected areas to determine the appropriate response. The teams use decision tools for shoreline cleanup methods; responders must base specific cleanup recommendations on field data on the shoreline habitats, type and degree of shoreline contamination, and spill-specific physical processes.

Shoreline surveys must be conducted systematically because they are crucial components of effective decisions. Also, repeated surveys are needed to monitor the effectiveness and effects of ongoing treatment methods (changes in shoreline oiling conditions, as well as natural recovery), so that the need for changes in methodology, additional treatment, or constraints can be evaluated.

The GIS Maps are created every day using SCAT team inputs.

SCAT teams are part of the Planning Section. They generate the information that Planning uses to direct Operations in shoreline cleanup. A **Shoreline Assessment Coordinator** manages the teams and synthesizes their field data into reports, used by the Planning Section, to develop the daily Incident

NOAA is the lead for SCAT on this incident.

SCAT Team responsibilities

- Describing shoreline types, oiling conditions, and physical setting;
- Identifying sensitive resources (ecological, recreational, cultural);
- Determining the need for cleanup;
- Recommending shoreline cleanup method(s).

NRDAR Operations:

Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Teams (NRDAR) are also working on site. NRDAR operations are interfaced with the oil spill. However, their interface channels/operations with ICS are slightly different as they are engaging in an “investigation” verses rescue and recovery.

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How are the objectives of SCAT different from the objectives of NRDAR?

SCAT teams coordinate with NRDAR concerns on shoreline assessment to optimize data sharing, but one is concerned with clean-up deployment, and the other is concerned with damage assessment.

Resource Advisors (READs)

Resource Advisors accompany Recovery, SCAT, Cleanup, and NRDA teams in the field when they visit National Park Service resources (in Mobile Sector, Gulf Islands National Seashore). Their job is to make sure that these teams do not damage any resources above and beyond what the oils spill does.

How does this impact me?

Engage all teams, SCAT, NRDAR, Law Enforcement, and others professionally. They have jobs to do as well. If you see another team disturbing a rookery or wildlife where they may not be authorized to do so, or due to lack of training, report that as appropriate. If you see a situation, such as a broken boom line close to a sensitive nesting area that may not be known about, you could also report that through your channels. Again, be professional and allow the ICS system to deal with potential conflicts.

Media and the Public

Workers may encounter media and the public. In most cases, workers have not been briefed on what to tell the media concerning overall event questions. You should focus on accomplishing your specific mission, but be responsive to people asking questions and as appropriate, help media people find the relevant liaison/public relations officer.

See your laminated Media Card for further guidance.