Colonial Pipeline Company

Wildlife Management Plan

INCIDENT: **CR 91**

LOCATION: **Pelham, AL**

DATE & TIME PREPARED: **September 12, 2016 11:24 am**

Prepared by:		Erin Norris	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date
Reviewed by:		John M. Wyatt	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date

APPROVALS:

Colonial PSC:		Jeffry T. Ty	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date
Colonial IC:		GERALD BECK	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date
FOSC:		Charles Berry	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date
SOSC:		Tim Wynn	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date
LOSC:		Mindy Nash	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date
LOSC:		Danny Ray	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date
LOSC:		John W. Wilder, II	9/12/16
	Sign	Print	Date

***Please note**: All approved plans must be filed with the appropriate Documentation Unit Leader (DOCL) to upload into WebIAP as well as disseminated to proper ICS Staff and/or included in the Situation Display.

Colonial Pipeline Company

TRI-STATE BIRD RESCUE & RESEARCH, INC.

Peel Creek Response/CR-91 Event
Birmingham, AL
Wildlife Management Plan
12 September 2016

Signatures

Planning Unit Lead _____ Date_____

Operations Unit Lead _____ Date_____

FOSC _____ Date _____

SOSC _____ Date _____

Colonial Pipeline UC _____ Date _____

1. INTRODUCTION

On September 10, 2016, Jon Bernhardt of Colonial Pipeline Company contacted Erin Norris about a gasoline spill along a main line that goes through Pelham, AL. The released product has migrated to a pond (Pond 2) that sits in a Wildlife Management Area. Five animals (1 turtle and 4 mammals), all deceased, had been collected. At this time (1300, 10 September 2016) Tri-State made plans to activate a team of two personnel to the Incident Command Post in Pelham. Plans were set that Tri-State personnel would arrive at the Birmingham International Airport and report directly to the Incident Command Post on 11 September 2016. At 1900 Erin Norris received word from Jon Bernhardt (Situation Unit Leader) that the Incident Command Post (ICP) would be relocated to the Pelham Civic Center. This Wildlife Management Plan (WMP) has been developed for the areas of concern surrounding Peel Creek and the Cahaba River to provide coordinated protection, rescue, and rehabilitation of wildlife resources in order to minimize any negative impacts that may be resultant of the release of oil or remediation techniques. The WMP provides specific operational response details for this incident focusing on wild birds, mammals, reptiles, and amphibians. The plan does not specifically address concerns for fish, aquatic invertebrates, and marine mammals because it is created with the mindfulness of TSBRR's wildlife rehabilitation permits.

1.1. Relationship to Other Plans

The responsible party has developed an Incident Action Plan to respond to the incidents. The Wildlife Management Plan will be considered a supplement of the IAP. This WMP is intended and has been compiled to directly guide wildlife response in association with the Colonial Pipeline CR-91 Event.

2. OBJECTIVES

The WMP has been established to achieve the following objectives:

- Minimize impacts to wildlife through appropriate and achievable protection.
- Provide appropriate and achievable retrieval and rehabilitation of impacted wildlife.
- Document all wildlife rescue and operational actions that result from a release and subsequent cleanup.

Several strategies will be employed to achieve these objectives including the following:

- Diversion of wildlife from oiled areas before they become oiled.
- Monitor and report the presence of wildlife species in proximity to oiled areas and any observations of oiled wildlife.
- Safely capture oiled wildlife (live and deceased) using proper equipment and protocol.
- Perform triage on any live, captured, oiled wildlife to ensure the most humane treatment through stabilization, rehabilitation, or euthanasia.
- Provide appropriate forms for documentation to all surveillance and capture teams.

3. ORGANIZATION

Response actions concerning the protection, identification, rescue, processing and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife or wildlife at risk will be performed by Tri-state Bird Rescue & Research (TSBRR) in coordination with Colonial Pipeline's Planning Section and Operations Section during the response operations.

Contact Name	*Agency/Organization*	*Phone/Email*
Jon Bernhardt	Colonial Pipeline, Situation Unit Leader	jbernhardt@colpipe.com
Joe Nicolette	Environmental Planning Services, Environmental Unit	jnicolette@envplanning.com, 678-451-8288
John Wyatt	Colonial Pipeline, Environmental Unit Leader	jmwyatt@colpipe.com
Michelle Neef	Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.	mneef@tristatebird.org
Erin Norris	Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc.	enorris@tristatebird.org
John Rawls	USFWS Special Agent	334-224-7810
Jeff Powell	USFWS Deputy Field Supervisor, Daphne, Al	251-4415858
Lindy Nelson	US DOI	215-266-5155

4. WILDLIFE RESPONSE PLANNING MEASURES

4.1. Wildlife Impact Assessment

Wildlife risk assessments will be completed by field personnel in coordination with TSBRR and Colonial Pipeline personnel. Tri-State will coordinate with field personnel through Colonial Pipeline since much of the area remains unsafe due to high LELs. Assessments will help determine the scale of a potential wildlife response and the necessary resources for implementation. Key considerations assessed included: potentially affected species, estimated species distribution, habitat types, weather/environmental conditions, and spill trajectory. The assessments will correspond to resources identified in the incident-specific ICS 232 and will be updated as necessary to identify the key resources at risk for consideration in response action inclusive of wildlife response.

4.2. Wildlife Reconnaissance Surveys

Wildlife surveys will be conducted to search for impacted wildlife in the affected area. This information will be used to help direct wildlife hazing and/or recovery efforts as well as to develop response strategies to minimize adverse effects on wildlife and to help keep the Unified Command (UC) informed regarding potential impacts.

Wildlife reconnaissance surveys shall be conducted by experienced observers able to identify species and behavioral characteristics, and who are knowledgeable about local ecological factors, once field conditions are deemed safe. TSBRR will provide up to 2, both with 40Hr HAZWOPER training if it is decided and approved by the UC, and conditions are safe. Reconnaissance surveys will be conducted on land by foot and vehicle and on water. Land survey teams will consist of two trained wildlife specialists. Water survey teams will consist of two trained wildlife specialists and one boat operator. Water survey teams will follow safety procedures as outlined in the incident safety plan. Reconnaissance surveys, in combination with the Wildlife Assessment, will help provide the real-time data necessary to fully develop and implement the WMP.

5. PROTECTION OF WILDLIFE

5.1. Oil Spill Response Measures

In the event of a release of petroleum the primary response in protecting wildlife from a spill is to prevent the oil from reaching areas where wildlife are concentrated.

Colonial Pipeline and HEPACO are deploying strategies to protect and recover product in and around Pond 2, and are continuing to create strategies for the protection of Pond 3, Peel Creek, and in a worst-case scenario; Cahaba River. In support of these operational efforts, TSBRR will provide information regarding wildlife location and movement to help support protection and recovery operations.

5.2. Wildlife Hazing and Deterrence

The objectives of hazing and exclusion are to prevent un-oiled wildlife from becoming oiled through diversion from oiled locations.

If necessary, TSBRR, in coordination with USFWS and ADEM, will plan and work to implement bird hazing tactics to reduce the potential for wildlife contact with oil in the environment. Wildlife hazing tactics will include auditory and visual disturbances to areas were wildlife congregates. As of 10 September 2016 the current response operations are acting as a productive deterrent for wildlife in the area.

6. WILDLIFE RECOVERY AND CARE

Recovery of oiled wildlife involves collecting the dead and capturing live animals for transport to the rehabilitation center for treatment and care. Wildlife recovery will be integrated with wildlife reconnaissance operations following a release if impact to wildlife were to occur.

Wildlife recovery and care by any organization must be conducted under the direction of the responsible regulatory authority (i.e., USFWS, State Fish & Wildlife). Wildlife recovery and care activities must comply with established agreements and permits from the appropriate management agencies and comply with relevant regulations.

Wildlife care involves field stabilization, treatment and processing as follows:

- Field stabilization provides triage in the field prior to transportation to a primary care facility;
- Treatment ensures that impacted wildlife receive the most appropriate and achievable care by providing access to veterinary services and to rehabilitation centers; and
- Processing ensures impacted wildlife are fully evaluated and appropriately documented to acquire oiled wildlife statistics to support response efforts and media updates.

6.1. Oiled Wildlife Capture

In cooperation with the Incident Action Plan, general public service announcements will include direction to ensure the public is advised not to touch or harm impacted or potentially impacted wildlife and to report their observations. All field personnel have been handed instructions regarding the capture of deceased wildlife (bag, tag, hold in freezer in Staging Area). In regard to live wildlife, field teams have been instructed to take documentation of sightings and call Tri-State personnel at **302-363-5086** (24HR response phone).

6.1.1. Recovery Surveys

TSBRR will remain on alert regarding the need of additional support for the collection of potentially oiled animals, in addition to providing any support needed for the field teams.

Beached birds will often attempt to retreat to the water if disturbed. The standard method for recovery of birds is ground or on-water capture with long-handled nets; additional techniques may be considered depending on conditions. USFWS shall be engaged regarding any capture techniques or protocols anticipated for use to capture/collect wildlife.

If needed, workboats will include craft to support landing on the shoreline, and teams will coordinate with the Operations Section for decontamination of large resources used during field surveying (i.e. boats).

6.2. Oiled Carcass Recovery

Dead, oiled wildlife need to be removed from the environment as soon as possible to help prevent secondary contamination of scavengers. Secondary contamination may occur through (1) ingestion of oily carcasses, and (2) physical contact with oiled carcasses.

While conducting surveys and/or capturing wildlife during a response, it is not always feasible, reliable, or practical to attempt to discriminate between spill-related and non-spill related casualties; thus all dead animals shall be collected.

The collection of oiled, dead wildlife needs to be performed in such a manner as to protect the integrity of data or evidence that may be obtained and used for law enforcement, scientific, and/or environmental purposes. Tri-State will work to coordinate with USFWS and state trustees to create a path forward regarding chain of custody for oiled carcasses. See **Attachment C**, *USFWS Carcass Collection Protocol*, for specific regulatory information.

Necropsy provisions (approval, notification) shall be coordinated with the appropriate regulatory authority.

This activity will be done in accordance with the USFWS Best Practices and standard chain of custody requirements.

6.3. Treatment and Rehabilitation

Tri-State personnel will determine when animals are stabilized and healthy enough for washing and release based on their medical personnel and SOPs. Oiled wildlife rehabilitation will follow established humane guidelines.

6.3.1. Policy on Treating Oiled Pets

For safety and liability reasons, TSBRR will not handle, treat, wash, or house owned oiled domestic animals. Pet owners and livestock owners will be advised to seek treatment from their personal veterinarian.

6.4. Rehabilitation Centers

6.4.1. USFWS Permitted Species: Wildlife Rehabilitation Center

A single primary Wildlife Rehabilitation Center may be established in the event wildlife become impacted by the spill and the animals are able to be captured without causing the animal harm or stress. The center will be large enough to accommodate a significant wildlife impact for birds, reptiles, mammals, and amphibians.

6.4.2. NOAA Permitted Species

There is no potential for NOAA permitted species to be impacted that has been identified.

6.4.1. Supplies

Major equipment and supplies will be ordered through the proper pathways in the Planning Section and Operations Section.

6.4.2. Support

Designated areas within the rehabilitation center shall be established to take breaks, to have meals, and to attend to administrative tasks. Restroom facilities are to be located within the facility.

Because the task of caring for oil impacted animals is time intensive, arrangements will need to be made to have food for responders ordered and delivered to the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center.

Decontamination of workers and equipment will be managed as identified in the Waste Management Plan and the Site Safety Plan.

7. WILDLIFE TRANSPORT

The movement/transfer of wildlife will follow chain of custody protocols. Chain of custody guidelines will be set by USFWS, and all teams will be provided with appropriate documents for reporting.

In the event that the center must be moved or particular wildlife species must be transported to another facility for care, wildlife that will have prolonged transport (>5 hours) to the rehabilitation center will receive triage and stabilization before transport.

8. DOCUMENTATION

Documentation is a key aspect of this plan in the recovery of oiled wildlife. In the event that oiled wildlife are encountered the following forms and documentation will be utilized.

- Wildlife Sightings Form
- Oiled Wildlife Collection Tags
- Wildlife Assessment and Collection Form
- Retrieval Data and Chain of Custody
- Oiled Carcass Recovery

9. PERMITS AND PROCEDURES

Permits are required for capture and rehabilitation of wildlife, particularly those protected under the Migratory Birds Convention Act. These permits are issued by USFWS, Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources. All applicable permits have been obtained, or are in the process of being obtained (Alabama Department of Conservation & Natural Resources) in support of the WMP. Copies of the applicable permits are available upon request.

10. STORAGE AND DISPOSAL OF DECEASED WILDLIFE

Wildlife carcasses will be put into indefinite storage, and TSBRR will coordinate with USFWS for potential future use by researchers and also as part of the evidence of spill impacts. Refrigerator/freezer truck units will be used for this purpose and will be located at the Staging Area with additional resources for proper documentation. Tri-State personnel will maintain the lock and key for the Evidence Storage Freezer.

When appropriate, and in coordination with USFWS, all wildlife will be transferred to the appropriate research/educational institutions for research and study. All wildlife will be accompanied by a Chain of Custody (COC) form (see Appendices). In coordination with and as directed by USFWS, arrangements for necropsies and post-mortem examinations will be made and documented. The method of disposition will be determined by USFWS.

11. PERSONNEL

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. will supply wildlife subject matter expertise (2 staff) in the ICP and additional staff as needed for the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center and wildlife field reconnaissance, if these resources are needed and requested by UC. Tri-State staff has between 8-40 hours of HAZWOPER training and are experienced in the complicated care of oiled wildlife. All personnel handling wildlife will follow a Site Safety Plan that is integrated into the overall Safety Plan and approved by the Safety Officer. This plan will outline the PPE required for each area of work.

11.1. Volunteers

In the event of a large impact to wildlife, volunteers from the community will be trained to assist with animal care and cleaning in the Wildlife Rehabilitation Center. Prospective volunteers will be assessed as to their training needs. In the event of a large wildlife rehabilitation need, a Volunteer Management Plan will be created.

12. SAFETY

TSBRR will contribute to and follow the Site-Specific Health and Safety Plan (SSP). In the event wildlife recovery tasks are not included, TSBRR will develop a wildlife-specific Health and Safety Plan to support the specific requirements of wildlife capture and treatment and rehabilitation.

13. COMMUNICATIONS

Personnel implementing the WMP will follow communication protocols as set out in the Incident Action Plan. When possible, teams will use radios or cell phones for communication. Teams will notify operations upon departure, at scheduled intervals, and upon arrival (or return). Communications upon scheduled intervals will include information on field activities, such as surveillance records and capture reports.

Planning/Environmental Unit Lead_____ Date:_____

Operations Unit Lead _____ Date: _____

Federal On-Scene Coordinator (or designee)_____ Date:_____

State On-Scene Coordinator (or designee)_____ Date:_____

Colonial Pipeline (UC) _____ Date:_____

14. Appendix

A.

Peel Creek Response CR-91: Colonial Pipeline
Birmingham, AL
Wildlife Sightings Form

Date & Time of Sighting/Call _____

Witness/Caller Name & Number (in case wildlife team has any questions)

_____

Number of Animals Sighted & Type of Animal (e.g. mallard, muskrat, musk turtle)

_____

Description of where the animal was located (i.e. on land, on shore, in water, on street/structure)

_____

Oiled, injured, or dead? Please give a brief description.

_____

Where on the body is the animal oiled (live animal)? _____

If bird(s): Were the birds able to fly? _____

If mammals or turtles: Where they mobile / moving away _____

Time Last Seen (date and time) _____
Location (land marks, GPS, cross streets) _____

Next step internally:

- Please bag and tag deceased wildlife with name of capturer, time, date, location, and species (if possible), and then place in freezer.
- Tri-State personnel will work with Planning Section staff, and state and federal wildlife agency personnel regarding a plan of action for collected wildlife. Tri-State will work with Planning Section staff to maintain a list of captured wildlife.
- Look into resource requesting a freezer to hold dead wildlife for the time being & location of that freezer (staging area).

Field Personnel:

1. If dead wildlife are found: Please bag and tag deceased wildlife with name of capturer, time, date, location, and species (if possible), and then place in freezer. The bag may be a contractor bag/garbage bag and tape form to bag or write information on masking tape and stick bag.
2. Please report any newly discovered wildlife to Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. in the Planning Section at the ICP at 302-363-5086
3. If any live injured or oiled wildlife are found please fill out the form above or call Tri-State personnel at 302-363-5086

B. Field Observation Form (SCAT & Field Assessment Team)

Wildlife Field Observation Form

Contact Phone #: _____

Incident Name: _____ Observation Team: _____ Date: _____

Time: Start _____ /End _____ Location: City _____ State _____ Distance Covered: _____

GPS: Start ____ ° ____ . ____ N/ ____ ° ____ . ____ W Survey Mode: Foot Vehicle Boat Other: _____

End ____ ° ____ . ____ N/ ____ ° ____ . ____ W Temperature: _____ (F/C) Cloud Cover (%): 0 25 50 75 100

Rain/Snow: None Mist/Flurry Drizzle Steady Visibility: Clear Sun-Glare Darkness Fog (Light/Dense) Rain/Snow

Habitat: Shoreline/Beach River Ocean Bay Lake/Pond Wetlands Wooded Urban Ag Fields Rec Park

Additional Comments: _____

Species		# Animals Live	# Animals Dead	Oiling (H/M/L) Live	Oiling (H/M/L) Dead	# Oiled/ Total	# Collected Live	# Collected Dead	Photo (Y/N) (record in log)	Additional Comments (GPS position, etc.)
A										
B										
C										
D										
E										
F										
G										
H										
I										

Page _____ of _____

C. USFWS Carcass Collection Protocol

CARCASS COLLECTION PROTOCOL
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

The purpose of this protocol is to describe the methods and materials required to collect wildlife carcasses from the field as part of response and natural resource damage assessment activities during an oil spill incident.

These procedures are considered standard operating guidelines which may be edited and refined to meet incident-specific needs. Any changes to these procedures for specific incidents will be made in consultation with the Regional Spill Response Coordinator and a designated Office of Law Enforcement official.

The search and collection efforts for bird, marine mammal and other wildlife carcasses should be conducted by USFWS personnel whenever possible.

Marine mammals have a separate and unique collection protocol as provided under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and should only be collected by a Federal or State agency official, as appropriate.

PROCEDURES FOR USFWS PERSONNEL:

Search & Collection Teams:

- Search and collection teams will consist of at least two members. At least one member of the team should have previous carcass search and collection experience, or have completed standardized training.
- Each collection team will be issued a carcass collection kit (listed at the end of this protocol) and be given search location assignments.

Search Locations & Search Procedure:

- Search locations should be well defined and documented so that they are easily repeatable.
- Search locations may be identified as shoreline segments as defined and provided by the Incident Command Center. If shoreline segments are not provided, then search locations should be described using lat/long from a GPS, or using descriptions of unique geographic features that can be easily relocated.
- Searches should be conducted carefully and as thoroughly as time will allow. Search effort should also be documented by noting the time at the beginning and end of each search on the "**BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORM**" (single form attached to this protocol).

Collection Procedure:

- Begin each new search location by filling out the top portion of a "**BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORM**". Information on individual carcasses will be added as they are found. If one or more bird carcasses are found at a search location, assign a white **Evidence Seizure Tag (Form 3-487)** for the respective search location. The Evidence Seizure Tag is imprinted with a unique Seizure Tag

Number. **Do not fill in the INV number block.** Evidence Custodians will fill this in at the intake centers. Enter the date and start time; and search location/shoreline segment.

- Complete a blue **Evidence Identification Tag (Form 3-2052)** for each carcass that is located. One blue tag is used to identify a single carcass and should be filled in to include: the Evidence Seizure Tag Number for that search location (shoreline segment); an item number (assigned sequential number, i.e. 01, 02, 03, etc); name of the collector; date and time; and the species (if known).
- Photograph the carcass with the completed blue Evidence Identification Tag visible next to the carcass.
- When handling carcasses, wear nitrile gloves. (A new pair of gloves should be donned at the start of each new search location.)
- Fill in the carcass information on the **BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORM** including: species identification (if known), blue Evidence Identification Tag item number (assigned sequential number); photograph number; and amount/description of oiling. Determinations on carcass condition, scavenging, and emaciation should be made by experienced personnel as time allows.
- Place the carcass in a **paper bag**. It is important that oiled carcasses **do not** touch plastic bags. Also, do not place used gloves in the bag with the carcass. Place the paper-bagged-carcass in a plastic bag and securely attach the completed blue Evidence Identification Tag to the outside of the plastic bag.
- At the end of each search location (shoreline segment), record the stop time and stop GPS location information and estimate the length of the search area on the **BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORM**.
- Complete the white **Evidence Seizure Tag** with information from all of the blue Evidence Identification Tags associated with each carcass found at this location. One white Evidence Seizure Tag should be used to represent (tag) all carcasses (not to exceed 10 carcasses per seizure tag; use additional tags if necessary) collected within a defined search location (shoreline segment). After the search of a specific location has been completed and carcasses have been appropriately bagged and tagged, the accompanying Evidence Seizure Tag should be filled in to include: the stop date/time; number of carcasses collected; blue Evidence Identification Tag item numbers associated with each carcass; and the name of the person collecting the carcasses.
- One member of the collection team should become responsible for that collection and their name should appear on the Evidence Seizure Tag.

Turn in the Carcasses

- At the end of the search day, the carcass collection person whose name appears on the Evidence Seizure Tag should take the carcasses to a pre-established carcass collection facility (should be a secure location) and sign them over to the Evidence Custodian or ship the carcass (es) to the appropriate intake station.
- If circumstances are such that no designated carcass collection facility has been established for the area from which a bird carcass is collected, then the collector should receive guidance and assistance from the Sector Spill Response Coordinator, OLE Case Agent, or NRDA representative regarding appropriate transfer procedures to a designated FWS official.

Evidence Custodian

- Please refer to the **Deepwater Horizon (MC 252) Oil Spill U.S. F.W.S. Procedures for Evidence Custodians Stationed at Bird Intake Centers**
- The Evidence Custodian (if different from the person who collected the carcasses), or designated FWS official, will complete the chain-of-custody on the back of the white Evidence Seizure Tag before logging the carcasses into the **Evidence Storage Log (Form 3-2064)**. The Evidence Custodian will log the carcasses into storage on the Evidence Storage Log including the following information: sequential log number; INV (incident-specific) number; date and time; description of the evidence; Evidence Seizure Tag number; and custodian's signature.
- At the end of each day, the Evidence Custodian should compile the number and species of carcasses collected and logged, and transmit that information to the Service's Response Representative at the Incident Command Center, the OLE Case Agent, and the NRDA Bird Lead.

Carcass Photographs

- Carcass collection photographs taken by Field Teams should be referenced on the original **BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORM** that is provided to the Evidence Custodian or to a designated Law Enforcement official and as soon as possible downloaded from the camera (memory card) to an approved data storage device. *****DO NOT DELETE, OVERWRITE OR OTHERWISE REMOVE OR MANIPULATE DIGITAL DATA (photographs) FROM THE INTERNAL MEMORY OF THE CAMERA OR FROM THE MEMORY CARD. *****
- For personnel working under authorized NRDA protocols, please refer to your study methods for the disposition of photographic documentation.

Chain-of-Custody

- **Anytime carcasses are transferred** from one person to another, a **Chain-of-Custody** must be maintained. The chain-of-custody may be maintained by using the back of the white Evidence Seizure Tag or by using a **Chain-of-Custody Form (Form 3-2063)**. A chain-of-custody form would be filled out for each white Evidence Seizure Tag (i.e. batch of carcasses with blue tags associated with that Evidence Seizure Tag). When there are only small numbers of carcasses, more than one Evidence Seizure Tag may be included on a single chain-of-custody form, so long as all of the listed items are transferred at the same time. The information from the Evidence Seizure Tag(s) should be listed in the appropriate section on the chain-of-custody form, including all associated Evidence Identification Tag item numbers. Information and signatures of both the transferee and the receiver must be included on the form. The chain-of-custody form must remain with the carcasses and transferred to a designated Law Enforcement official, as appropriate.
- If evidence is not transferred in person (i.e. via helicopter, plane or mail), the Evidence Custodian should describe how it was delivered on the Evidence Storage Log and/or Chain of Custody Form. The Evidence Custodian will also maintain a file of receipts (i.e.; Fed-Ex air bill) referencing the Evidence Seizure Tag number(s) that were shipped.

All shipments must be sealed (preferably, using evidence tape) and signed to ensure that the shipment has not been tampered with during transfer.

PROCEDURES FOR NON-USFWS PERSONNEL:

Marine Mammals:

- If a marine mammal carcass is located during spill response activities, non-agency personnel should be directed to mark and document the location and immediately report this information to a Supervisor or the Incident Command Center.

Operations Teams:

- All field operations teams, including live, oiled-bird capture and rescue teams, shoreline protection teams, and clean-up crews, who are unaccompanied by FWS personnel, should be directed to collect bird carcasses when they find them.
- All field operations team leaders should be provided with carcass collection kits and appropriate, incident-specific instructions for collecting carcasses. Instructions should include information on maintaining chain-of custody.
- Team leaders should be directed to designate a single individual as the carcass collector.
- Incident-specific arrangements should be made to ensure appropriate transfer of collected carcasses from the field to the pre-designated carcass collection facility or designated FWS official.
- **BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORM**s should be provided to all field teams and collectors should be directed to complete this information, as appropriate.

Carcass Collection Procedures:

- When handling oiled carcasses, wear appropriate protective gloves.
- When a carcass is found, place the carcass in a paper bag or in foil wrap. It is important that oiled carcasses **do not** touch plastic bags. Also, do not place used gloves in the bag with the carcass.
- Place the paper-bagged or foil-wrapped carcass in a plastic bag and tie securely.
- Tag the plastic bag with the following information: date, time, location, and collector's name.
- **BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA *FORM*s** *should be completed by the collector.*
- All carcasses collected should be transferred to an Intake Center Evidence Custodian or other authorized USFWS representative as soon as possible.

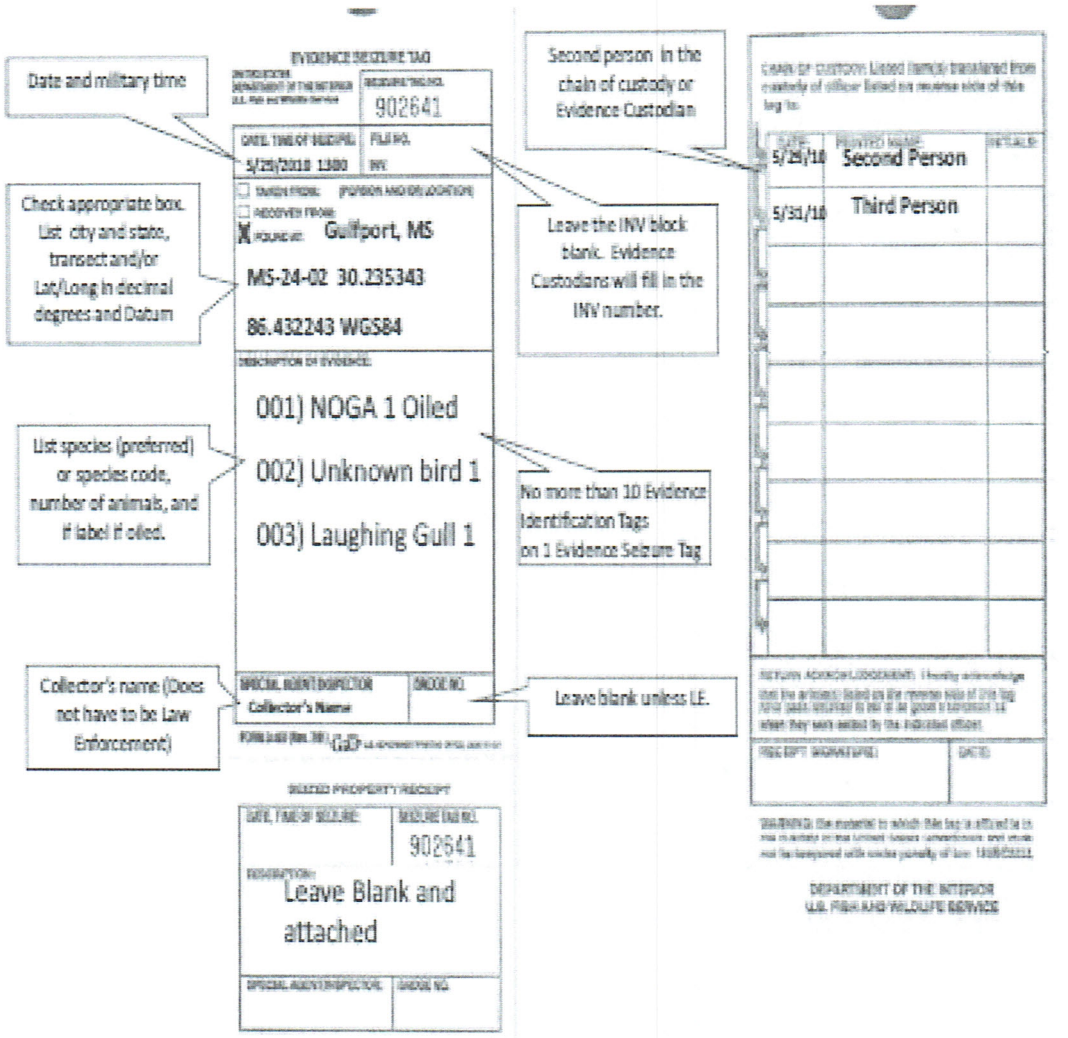
Carcass Transfer and Chain-of-Custody

- **Anytime carcasses are transferred** from one person to another, a Chain-of-Custody must be maintained. The chain-of-custody may be maintained by using the **Chain-of-Custody Form** provided in the kit.
- At the end of the day, collectors should be directed to transfer all collected carcasses to the pre-designated carcass collection facility or to a designated FWS official. The Evidence Custodian at the facility, or the designated FWS official, is responsible for ensuring that a chain-of-custody is established and maintained when carcasses are transferred.

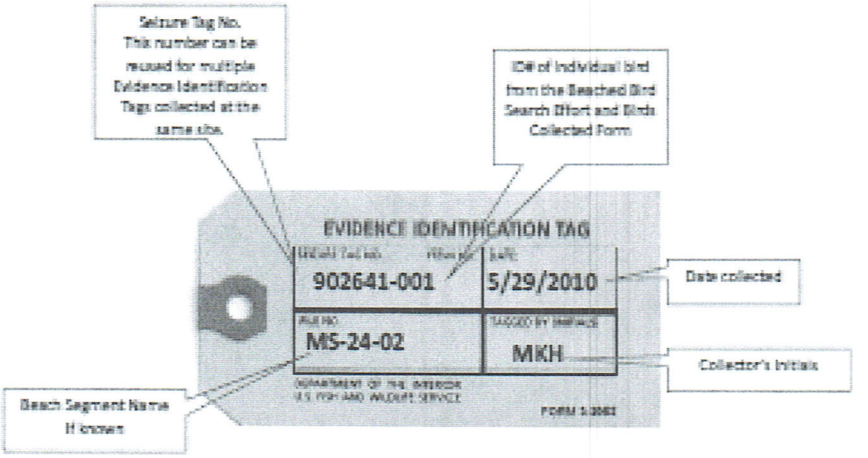
Evidence Custodian

- Upon receipt of carcasses collected by non-FWS personnel, the Evidence Custodian or FWS official will tag each carcass with a blue **Evidence Identification Tag** and enter each individual's collection onto an **Evidence Seizure Tag** as described above. It should be noted on the Evidence Seizure Tag that the carcasses were received from a non-FWS collector. The Evidence Custodian or FWS official should also prepare a **BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORM** (if this has not been completed by the collector) to include all information provided by the non-FWS collector with a time and date of receipt.

Evidence Seizure Tag



Blue Evidence Tag:



Carcass collection kit (USFWS):

Incident-specific maps or shoreline segment maps, if available
Evidence Seizure Tags, Form 3-487 (white)
Evidence Identification Tags, Form 3-2052 (blue)
BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORMs
Chain-of-Custody Forms
Carcass collection protocol
Large paper bags (for otter carcasses)
Paper bags
Small plastic bags
Large plastic bags
Rubber bands or twist ties
Pencil and / or permanent pen (sharpie)
Evidence tape
Nitrile gloves
Flagging (for marking large marine mammal carcasses)

Carcass collection kit (non-USFWS):

Incident-specific carcass collection instructions
Paper bags
Small plastic bags
Large plastic bags
Rubber bands or twist ties
Pencil and / or permanent pen (sharpie)
BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORMs
Chain-of-Custody Forms
Tape
Nitrile gloves
Flagging (for marking marine mammal carcass locations)

Deepwater Horizon (MC 252)

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BIRD SEARCH EFFORT and BIRDS COLLECTED DATA FORM

Please: Only one beach/marsh/mangrove segment per form. Complete form even if no birds are collected.

INV: _____

EVIDENCE SEIZURE TAG NUMBER: _____ Circle one: NRDA Wildlife Ops Evidence Custodian

Date: _____ Survey Crew Members (Print AND Sign Names): _____ Contact Info: _____

Segment Name (or State) _____ Segment Begin[1]: Lat. _____ Long. _____ GPS WP#____
(or geographic landmark)

_____ Length of surveyed segment (km) _____ % of segment surveyed (approximate) Segment End[1]: Lat. _____ Long. _____ GPS WP#____
(or geographic landmark)

Survey Mode[2]: _____ Survey: 1 pass or roundtrip (circle one) Wind Speed (mph) Direction: _____ Start Time (24-hour clock): _____ End Time: _____

Disposition[3]: _____

DEAD BIRDS COLLECTED *(one bird per line; use additional sheets if necessary)*

Species[4]	GPS Lat/Long[1] (dd.mmmmmm°)	ID#[5]	Time (24-hour)	Beach Position[6]	Oiling[7]	Scav[8]	Age[9]	Field Photo (ID No.)	Field Comments	EC Photo (ID No.)	Evidence Custodian Comments

[1] All Lat/Long: Decimal degrees, WGS 84
[2] Survey Mode: F = Foot, A = Air/boat, B = Boat, V = Vehicle, O = Other (specify)
[3] Disposition = Intake center where bird was transferred, Burns, LA; Gulfport, MS; Theodore, AL; Pensacola, FL; or Other (please specify)
[4] Species: Common name, "UNK" for unknown, "NONE" if no birds found
[5] ID#: Consecutive numbers on the data sheet that are transferred to blue evidence tag attached to each bird.
[6] Position relative to high tide line: U = Upper (above wrack line) W = Wrack, L = Low (wash zone)
[7] Oiling: NONE = not visibly oiled, Trace = ≤5% of body, Light = 6-20% of body, Moderate = 21-40% of body, Heavy = >40% of body
[8] Scavenging: F = freshly dead whole carcass with little or no scavenging, L = lightly scavenged, H = heavily scavenged, M = mummified or skeletal, X = not evaluated
[9] Age: HY = Hatch Year, JUV = Juvenile, AD = Adult, "UNK" for unknown

Database Form ID: _____
Database entry by (print and sign): _____ Date Entered: _____

Revised: 06Jul10

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