

PROTOCOL FOR COLLECTING BIRDS DURING AN OIL SPILL RESPONSE



Anyone collecting migratory birds must be a nominee on an existing federal salvage permit



Collection of dead birds

- 1) Every time a beach is swept, select two oiled birds to be retained as possible evidence, preferably from different parts of the beach. For each of these two birds:
 - Individually wrap the bird in aluminum foil,
 - Place the wrapped bird in its own evidence bag,
 - Completely fill out a chain of custody form,
 - Write on the bag the date and location, and record that bird was found dead, and
 - Place evidence bag in a secure place until retrieved by appropriate Environment Canada personnel.

- 2) To avoid oil cross-contamination, it is vital that:
 - Clean gloves are used prior to handling each bird, and
 - Birds are wrapped in foil as soon as they are found.

- 3) Place each remaining bird found on the beach in its own generic plastic bag, and:
 - Write on the bag the date and location, and record that the bird was found dead,
 - Record on the bag whether the bird was OILED or NOT OILED, and
 - Treat bird parts the same as whole birds.

- 4) If it is not feasible to individually bag all birds found on the beach:
 - Put remaining oiled birds in one or more large bags,
 - Put remaining un-oiled birds in separate large bag(s) from oiled birds,
 - Write on each bag the date and location, and record that birds were found dead,
 - Record on the bags contain OILED or NOT OILED birds, and
 - Keep birds from different beaches in separate bags.

- 5) Make arrangements to retrieve all oiled and un-oiled birds with:
 - CWS personnel if oiled wildlife rehabilitation response is NOT in place, or
 - Wildlife rehabilitator if oiled wildlife rehabilitation response is in place.



Collection of live birds



A. If oiled wildlife response is NOT in place:

1. If you are permitted to humanely euthanize the oiled bird, do so following the standard protocol and:
 - Individually wrap two euthanized birds in aluminum foil,
 - Place the wrapped bird in its own evidence bag,
 - Completely fill out a chain of custody form,
 - Write on the bag the date and location, and record that bird was found alive, and
 - Place evidence bag in a secure place until retrieved by appropriate Environment Canada personnel.
2. Record and bag remainder of euthanized oiled birds as outlined in points 3, 4 and 5 on reverse side of this form.
3. If you are not permitted to euthanize oiled birds, do not feel comfortable doing so, or have found a bird listed under COSEWIC (e.g., Harlequin Duck, Ivory Gull):
 - Place the oiled bird in a cardboard box,
 - Label box with date and location where bird was recovered, and
 - Place in warm, quiet area until handed over to CWS personnel for euthanasia or rehabilitation.

B. If oiled wildlife response is in place:

1. Place the oiled bird in a cardboard box,
2. Label box with date and location where bird was recovered, and
3. Place in warm, quiet area until handed over to wildlife rehabilitator for rehabilitation or euthanasia.

Important information when catching and placing birds in box:

- Handle birds with gloves, preferably disposable ones, and
- Lid and walls of box must have sufficient holes to allow proper ventilation.



Place only one murre, seaduck, or other large bird per box



Two dovekies may be placed together in box if both are only slightly oiled (i.e., <25% of body covered)