

# Wildlife EMERGENCY RESPONSE:

Canadian Wildlife Service framework, roles, and expectations

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CNLOPB Lessons Learned Forum



# Overview

CWS Roles & Responsibilities during emergencies

CWS Policy and Framework

Expectations during spill response

SeaRose & Hibernia spill examples

Lessons Learned



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# Canadian Wildlife Service (CWS)

## Roles & Responsibilities



CWS is responsible for the management and conservation of Wildlife:

**Migratory Birds** wherever they occur in Canada (MBCA)

**Species at Risk** under ECCC's jurisdiction (SARA)

(not fish, marine turtles, nor marine mammals)

During an environmental emergency, CWS:

Oversees all aspects of **impacts to Wildlife**

Authorizes activities affecting Wildlife (**permits**)

Acts as a **Resource Agency**



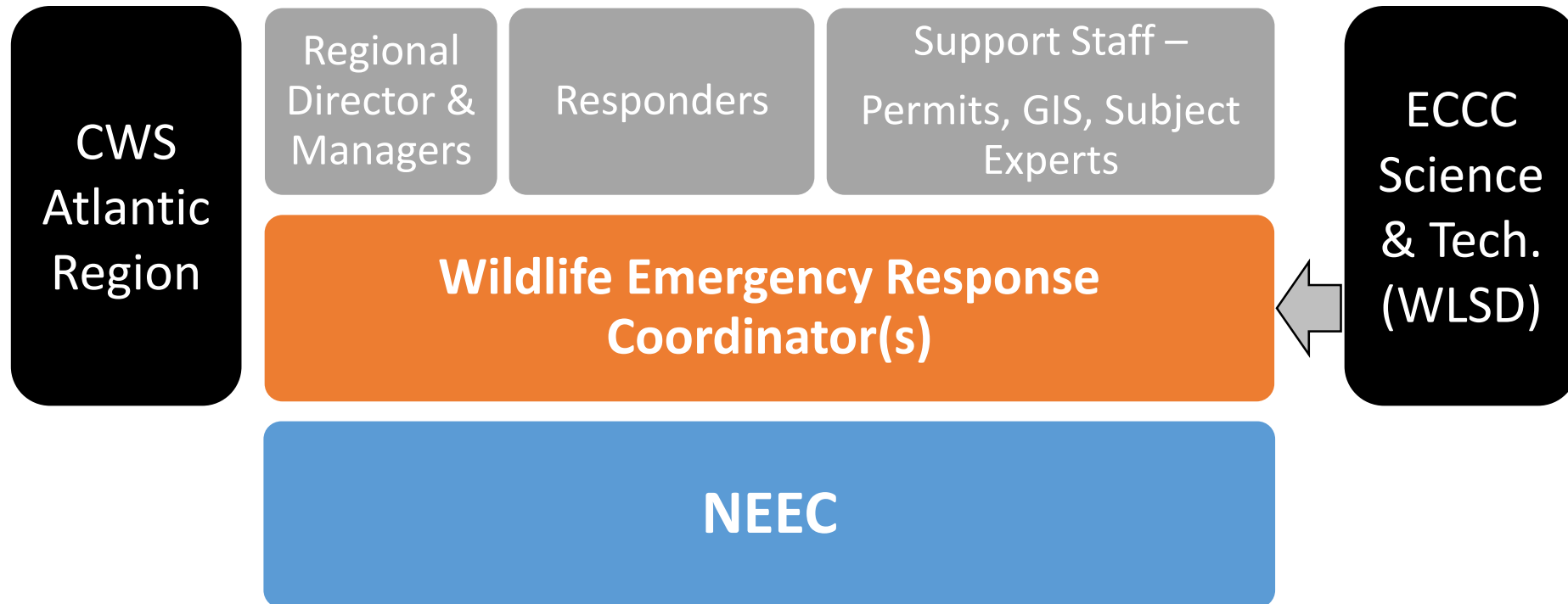
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# CWS Roles & Responsibilities

CWS provides **science-based expert advice** to prevent, prepare for, and respond to incidents involving Wildlife.

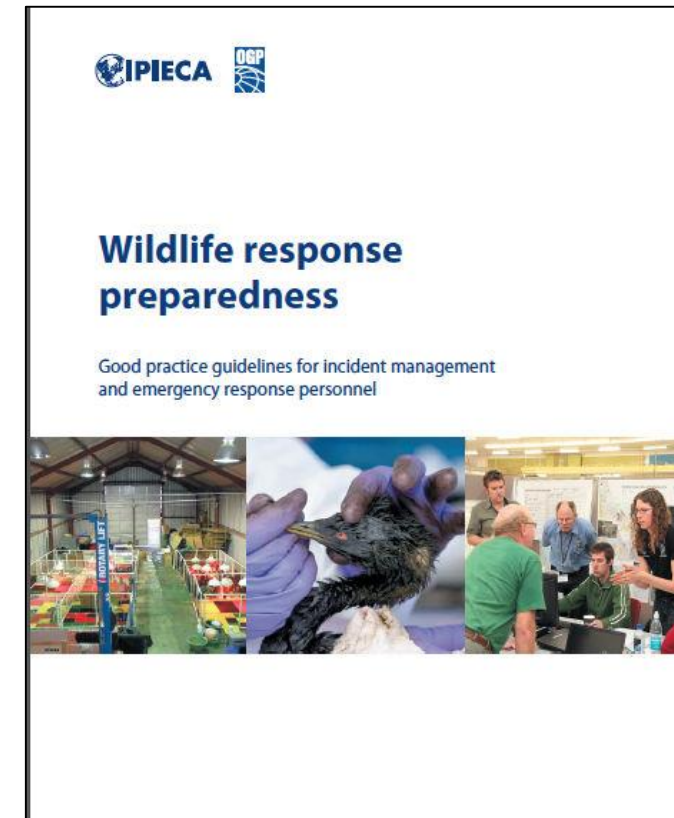
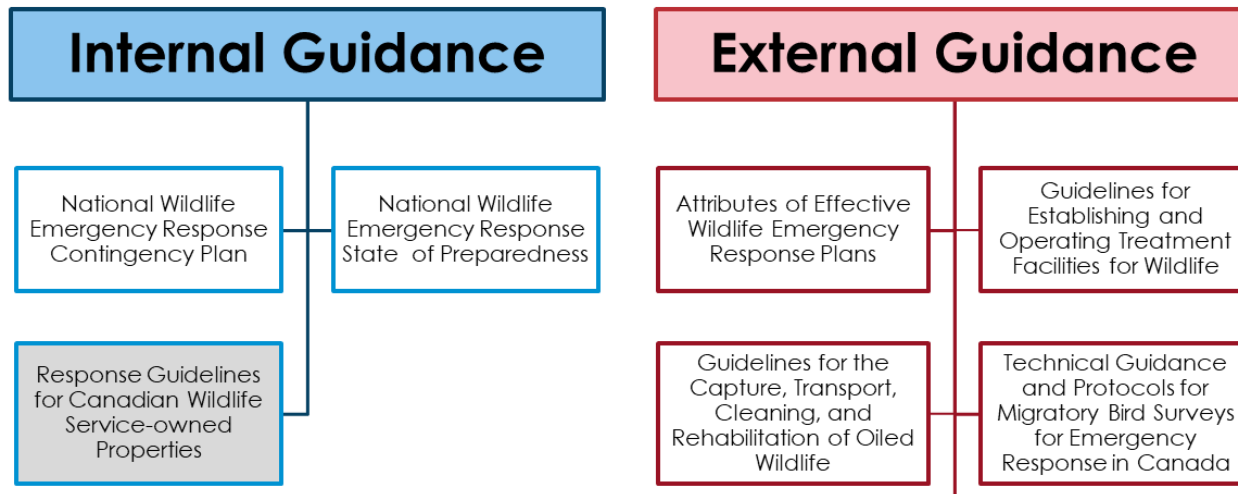


# CWS Policy & Framework

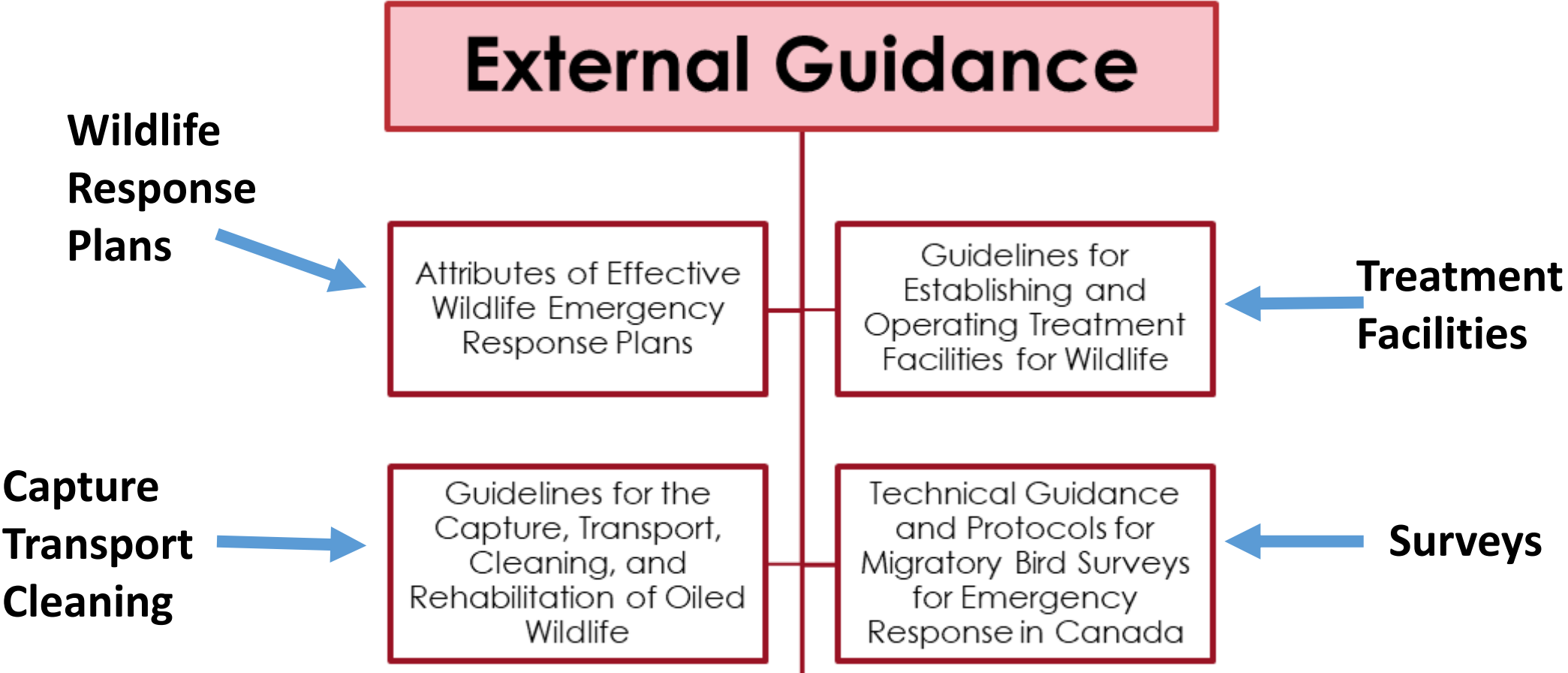
## Developed to address:

- 2010 Report of the Commissioner of the Environment and Sustainable Development (Ch. 1: Oil Spills from Ships)
- 2013 Tanker Safety Expert Panel report
- Several critical reports on oiled wildlife preparedness & response (McQuillan 2011, Butler 2015)

## National Policy on Wildlife Emergency Response



# CWS Policy & Framework



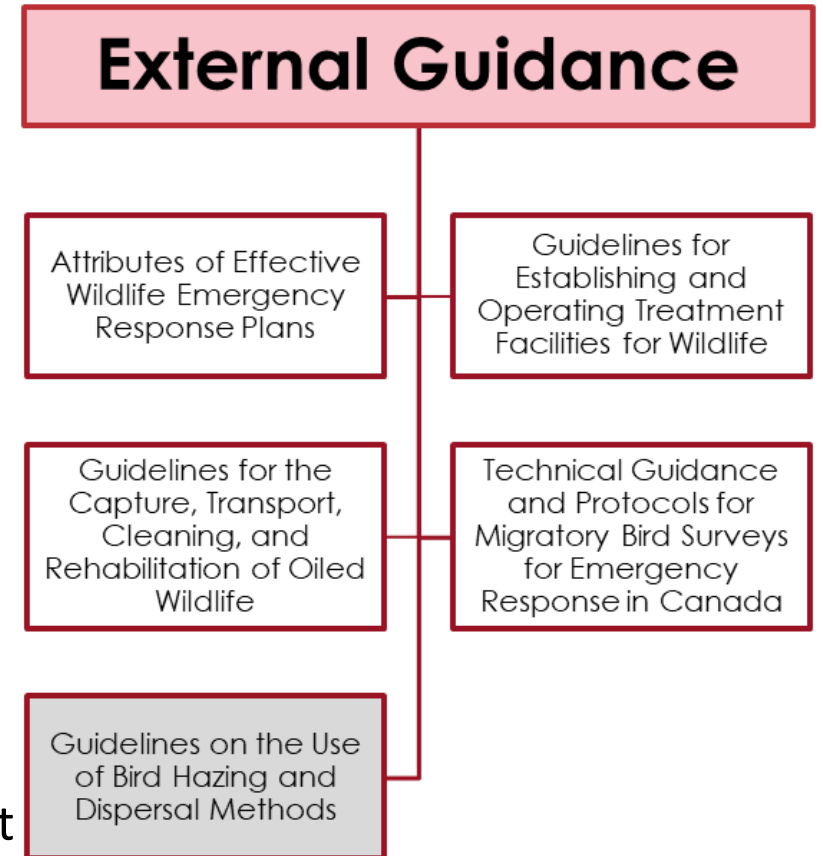
# Expectations during spill response

## Wildlife Emergency Response Plans (WERP)

- Strategic plan (pre-spill **preparedness**)
- Tactical plan (incident-specific **response**)

## Components of WERP

- Objectives
- Permits
- Wildlife Surveys
- Hazing plans/tactics
- Oiled wildlife protocols: capture, transport, carcasses, treatment
- Documentation and reporting structure



# Expectations during spill response

Wildlife Observers and Surveys are an important element of offshore spill response

Goal: quantify and minimize impacts

## Objectives of Observers/Surveys:

- Search for and document oiled Wildlife
- Quantify bird density and distribution
  - Direct response activities
  - Provide data for **Damage Assessment**
- Search for and mitigate stranded birds
- Inform and document bird hazing/deterrence implementation



# Initial response data

CWS data inform initial Resources At Risk

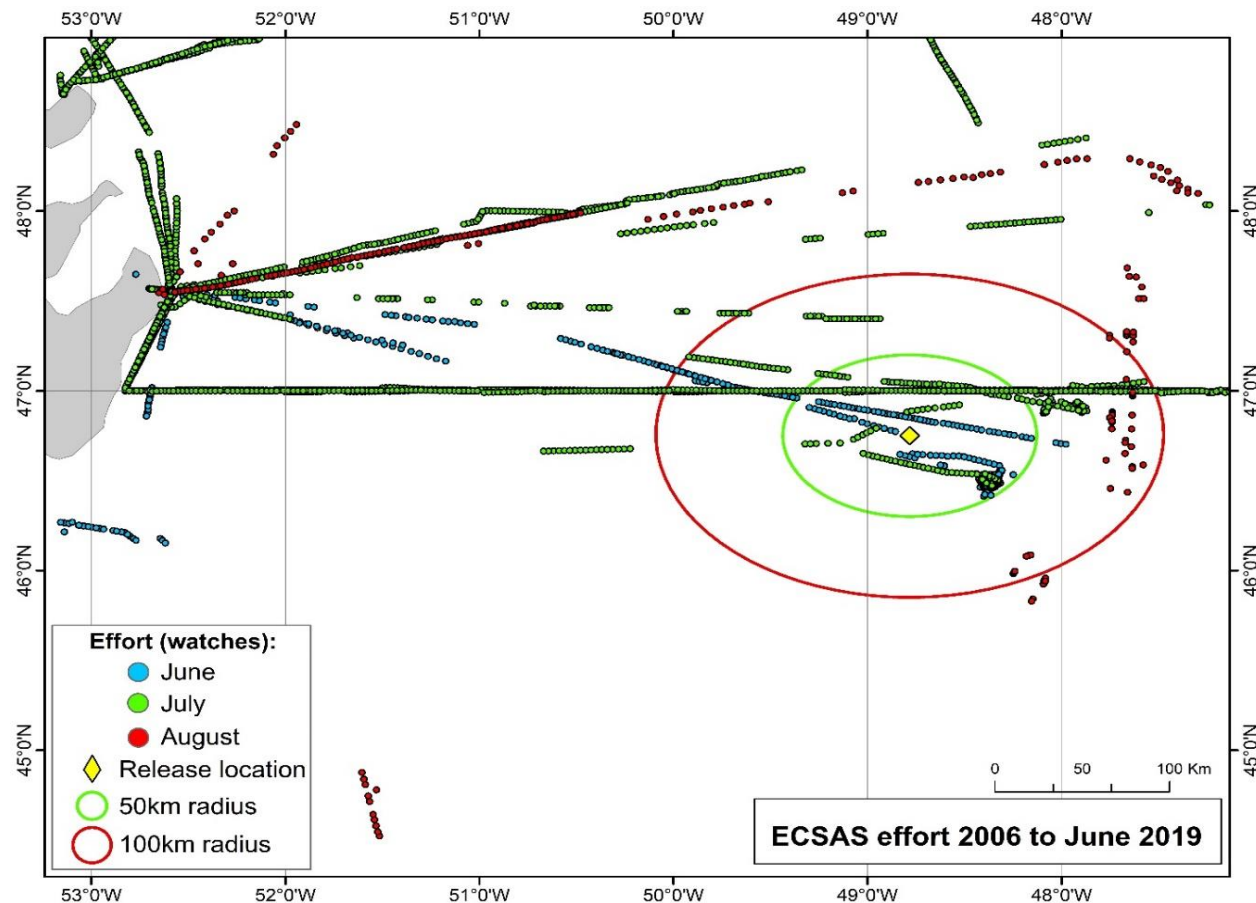
- Eastern Canada Seabirds At Sea (ECSAS) program
- Species and relative abundance

## SeaRose (November)

- Kittiwake (50%)
- Fulmar (23%)
- Dovekie (10%)
- Murres (9%)

## Hibernia (July)

- Shearwater (60%)
- Storm-petrel (10%)



# Wildlife Response Plans (recent)

## SeaRose spill:

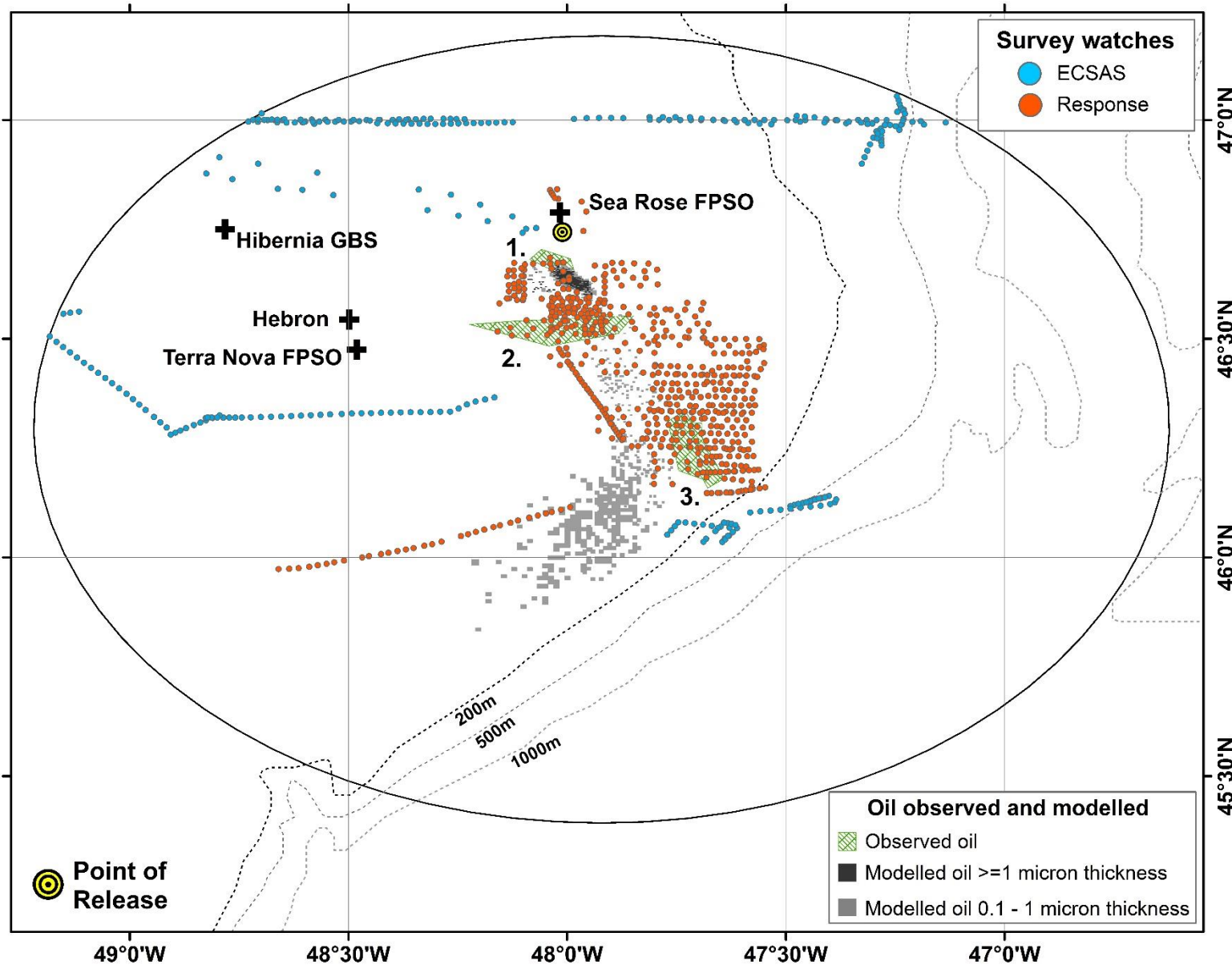
1. Response Actions
  1. Monitoring from vessels
  2. Tracker buoy
  3. Surveillance flight
  4. Dispersion modelling
2. Oiled Wildlife Recovery
3. Oiled Wildlife Response
4. Daily reporting

## Hibernia spill:

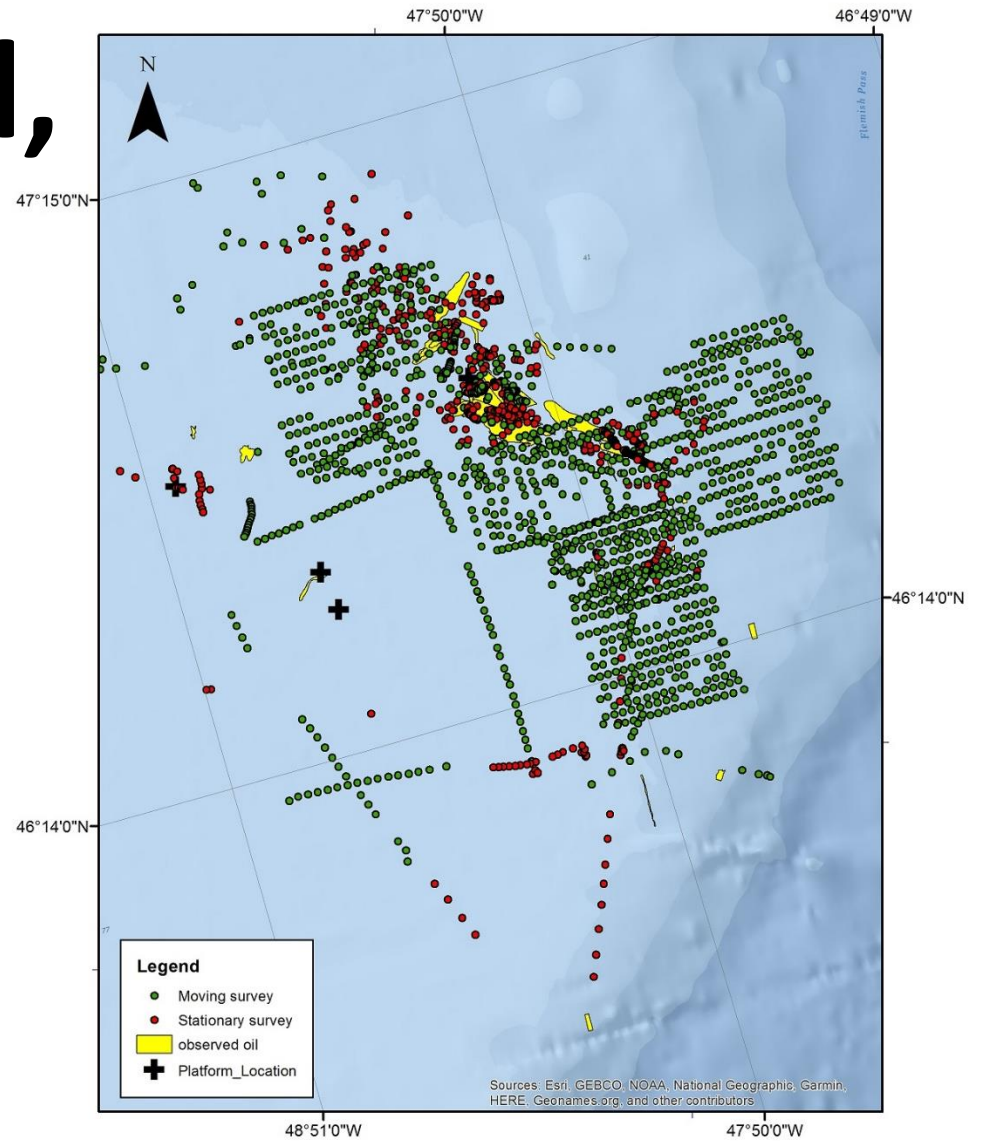
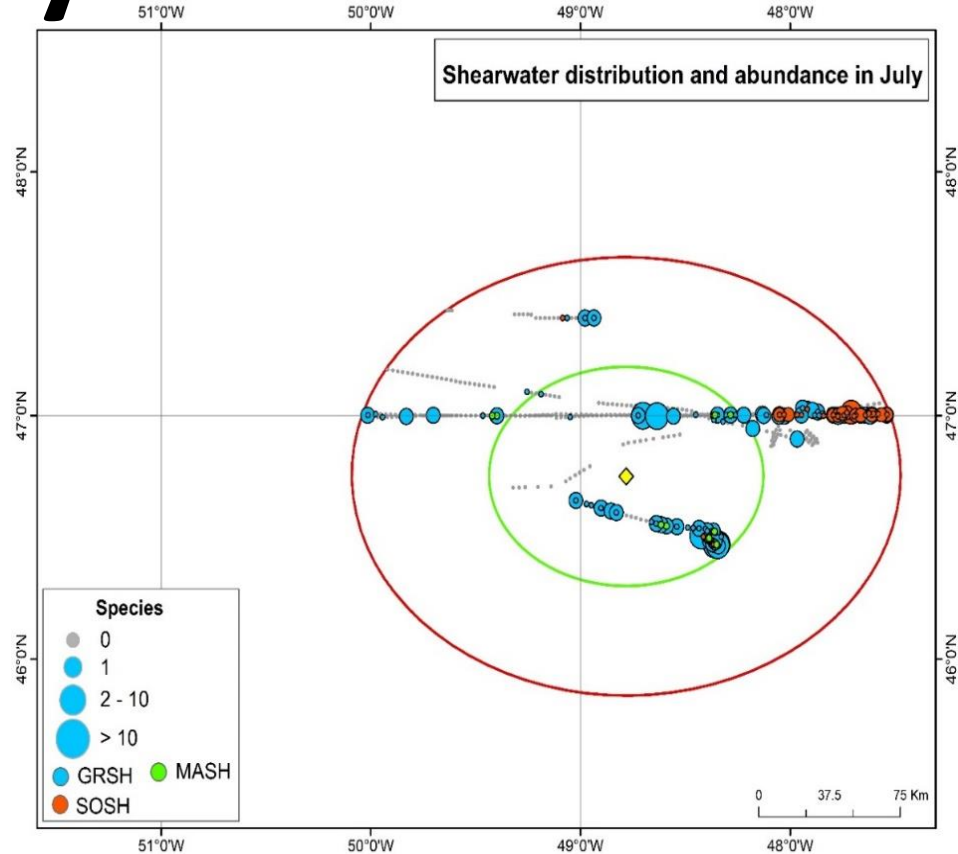
1. Purpose
2. Scope
3. Activating WRP
4. Response Measures
  1. Wildlife surveys and Reconnaissance
  2. Wildlife Deterrence
  3. Wildlife Recovery and Rehabilitation
  4. Wildlife Permits
  5. Daily meeting/reporting
5. Responsibilities
6. Appendices

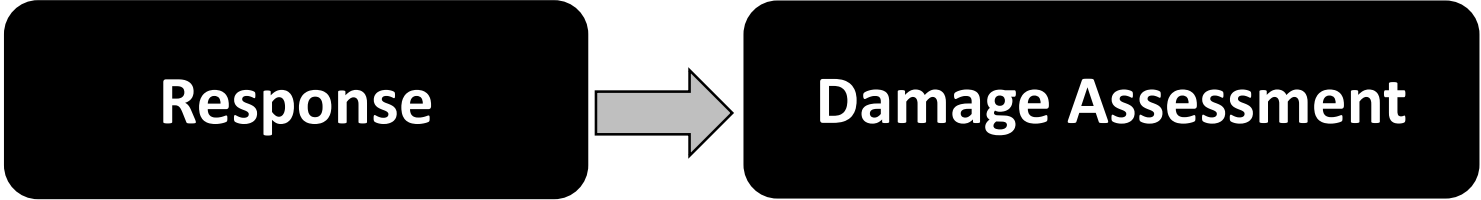


# Surveys: SeaRose spill, Nov. 2018

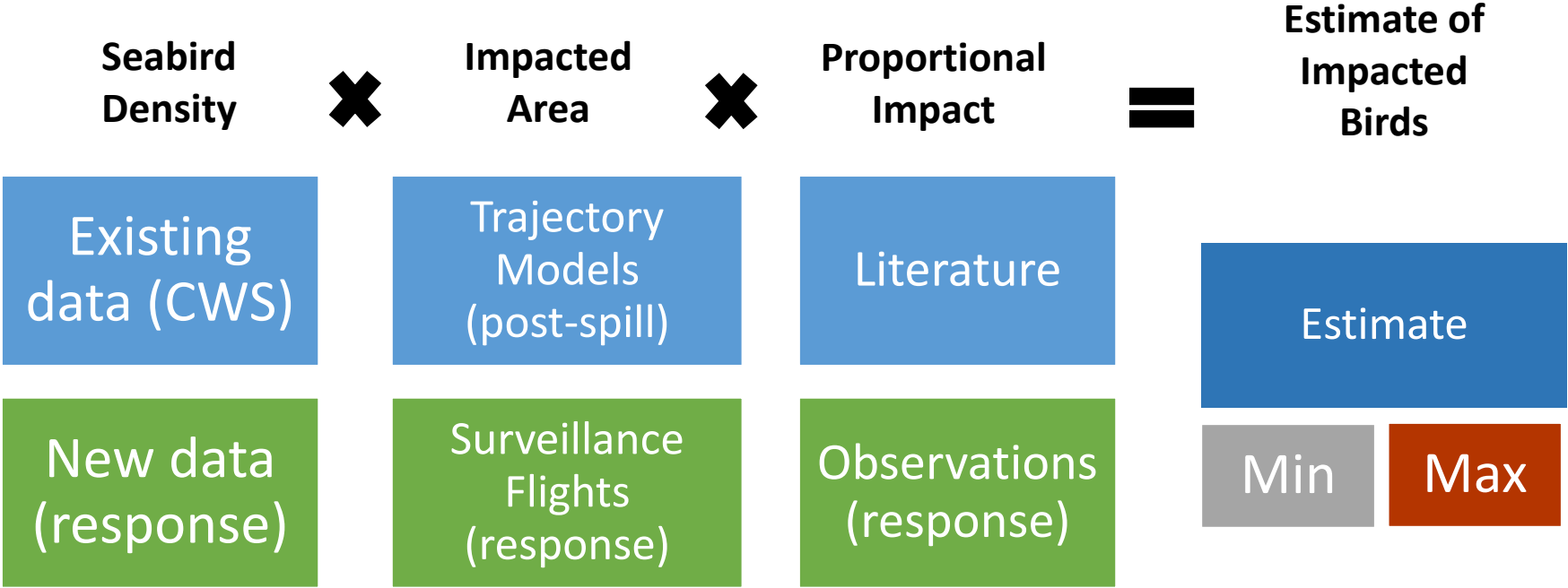


# Surveys: Hibernia spill, July 2019





Survey data are essential for impact assessment using an “exposure model” (Wilhelm et al. 2007, Haney et al. 2014, Haney et al. 2017)



# Lessons Learned

## Operators / Response Org.

1. Develop Wildlife Response Plans
2. Maintain a list of trained & experienced observers
3. Vessel(s) with dedicated wildlife observer(s)
4. Enhance capacity for data acquisition and transfer
5. Integrate Wildlife information into Common Operating Picture (COP)

## Canadian Wildlife Service

1. Communicate expectations prior to response
2. Provide guidance
  - a. CWS Framework
  - b. Standards for WERP
  - c. Observer training & experience
3. Regular check-in
4. Communications during a response

