



Oiled Wildlife Care Network—Ready to Respond

In the wake of the devastating *Exxon Valdez* and *American Trader* oil spills, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) was tasked by the California Legislature to make the state the most proactive region in the world for oiled wildlife response. In 1994 the department partnered with the Wildlife Health Center at the University of California, Davis, School of Veterinary Medicine to reach out to various organizations and agencies in California and form the Oiled Wildlife Care Network (OWCN).

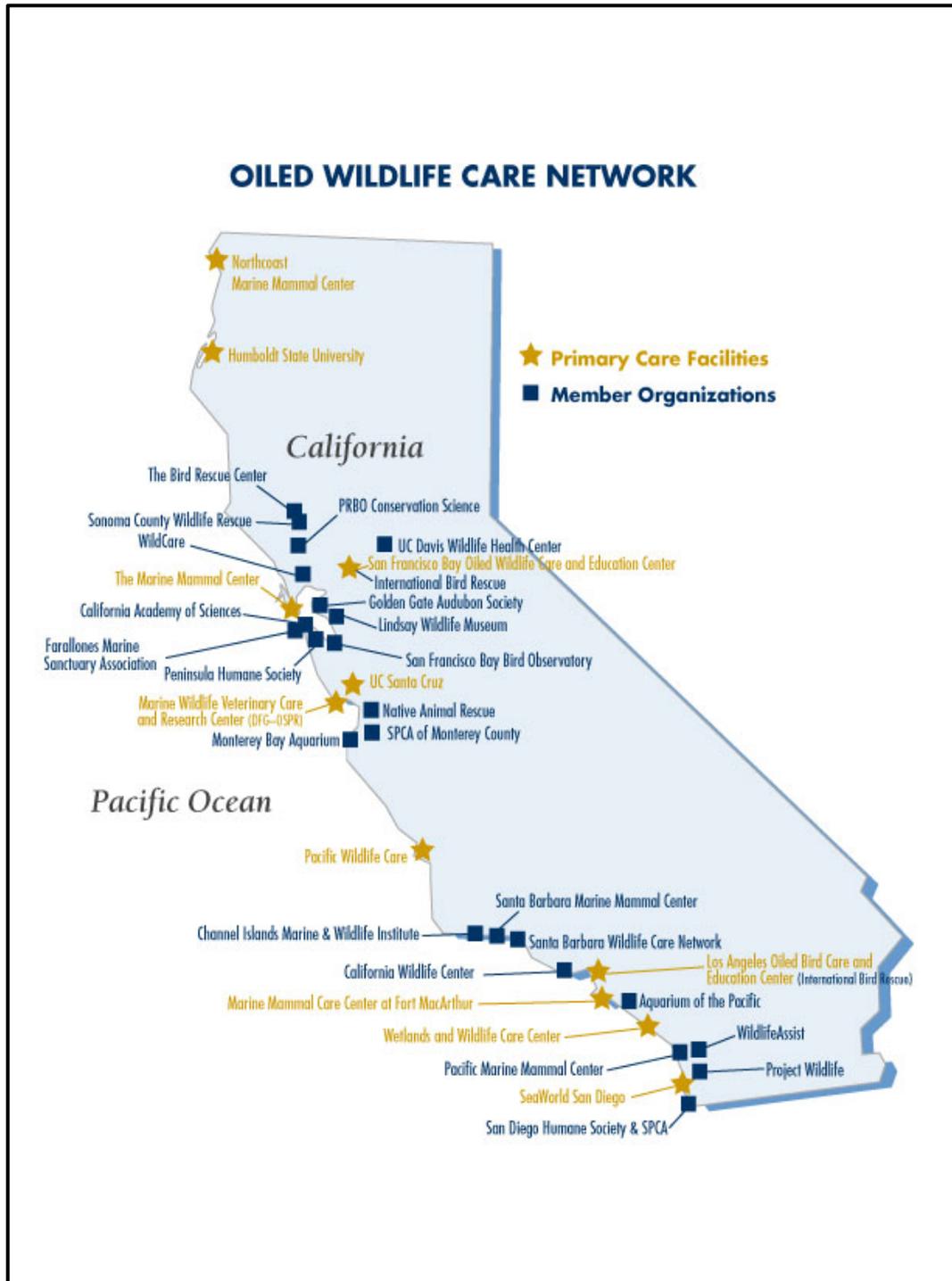
Capture and care of oiled wildlife—The OWCN provides the best achievable proactive capture and care of oiled wildlife by applying the highest caliber science, best personnel and medical treatments, and immediate access to the most sophisticated facilities available.

The Four “R’s”—The OWCN team utilizes “the four R’s” as the guiding principles to fulfilling their mission:

- **Readiness:** The OWCN is kept in a constant state of readiness for oiled wildlife events. This readiness is accomplished through a network of well-stocked and equipped facilities, a cadre of trained personnel, advanced treatment protocols, effective inter-agency communication and a trained corps of volunteers.
- **Response:** The OWCN is composed of more than 30 member organizations and affiliated agencies and maintains more than 12 specialized facilities in a constant state of readiness throughout the state. These factors, coupled with the OWCN’s cutting-edge protocols, allow the network to respond immediately and effectively to spills, giving oiled birds and marine mammals a better chance of survival.
- **Research:** In addition to engaging in self-directed research projects, the OWCN annually sponsors up to \$250,000 toward research projects on the effects of oil on wildlife. To date the OWCN has awarded over \$3 million to more than 140 studies that have resulted in improved understanding of the care, treatment and rehabilitation of oil-affected wildlife.
- **Reaching Out:** Sharing knowledge and experience with other organizations, governments, scientists, and the general public is an important part of the network’s activities. Some of the ways the OWCN conducts outreach include: presentations, blog entries, newsletters, consultations, and development of national and international oiled animal care standards.

More than 75 oil spills— Since 1995, the Oiled Wildlife Care Network has responded to over 75 spills throughout California, and has cared for over 8,000 oiled birds and marine mammals. The OWCN also participates in spill response nationally and internationally.

30 sites ready to respond– The Oiled Wildlife Care Network operates specialized primary care facilities throughout the state to provide aid for oil-affected animals. More than 30 Member Organizations in California have joined with the OWCN in order to provide critical staff, resources, volunteers and possibly oiled animal stabilization during an oil spill response.



Contact: Trina Wood, (530) 752-5257
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