

Tampa Bay Oil Spill

Bird Restoration Projects: Bird restoration projects were undertaken as compensatory restoration actions for injuries to oiled seabirds resulting from the spill. These projects prevent bird mortalities caused by entanglement with monofilament fishing line. This is a well-documented source of bird mortalities in the Tampa Bay region.

Project: Monofilament cleanup

Location: Boca Ciega Bay

Funding: \$14,500 (Tampa Bay Oil Spill settlement)

Year of Completion: 2000 and 2002

Tampa Bay Watch and Florida Coastal Islands Sanctuaries implemented two cleanup efforts to prevent bird mortality from monofilament entanglement. Volunteers were boated out to rookery islands and spent the day removing monofilament from the beaches and mangroves. The monofilament was placed in a clear tube for use as an educational display

Project: Bird sign placement

Location: Pinellas County

Funding: \$14,600 (Tampa Bay Oil Spill settlement)

Year of Completion: 2002

This project involved creating and installing educational signs around the Tampa Bay watershed informing anglers how to properly remove fishing hooks from accidentally hooked birds. Two types of signs were developed and installed by Save Our Seabirds, Inc. The large signs contain text and graphics depicting the proper methods for capturing birds and removing fishing hooks. Small signs have graphics re-enforcing the text from the large signs. In combination, the signs provide instruction for reducing one of the leading causes of injury to seabirds and wading birds. Additionally, all signs have a phone number to bird rescue organizations who will send staff to rescue birds should members of the public be uncomfortable with handling the birds themselves. A total of 120 signs were placed at piers and boat ramps in the greater Tampa Bay area.