

PUBLIC NOTICE

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO, DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESOURCES and the NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION, U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
ANNOUNCE ISSUANCE OF
DRAFT RESTORATION PLAN
for the OCTOBER 27, 2009 T/V PORT STEWART INCIDENT

Available for Public Review and Comment until February 10, 2017

Pursuant to 33 U.S.C. 2706(c)(5) and 15 C. F.R. 990.55

Notice is hereby given that a Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft RP/EA) for the October 27, 2009, T/V PORT STEWART Incident is available for public review and comment for a period of 30 days. This document has been prepared by the state and federal natural resource trustee agencies listed above (the "Trustees"). The T/V PORT STEWART Incident involved the grounding of a 176m tank vessel carrying seven million gallons of oil, grounded in coral reef habitat on the southeast coast of Puerto Rico near the entrance to Yabucoa Channel. Although the vessel was refloated and removed the day of the grounding without discharging any product, the Incident injured and destroyed coral species and impacted the coral reef structure and ecosystem in over 500m² of coral reef habitat. While emergency restoration actions undertaken at the site during 2009 to 2010 addressed many of the physical injuries or conditions at the site caused by the Incident, there were still corals that could not be saved and site recovery will take time. The Draft RP/EA was developed by the Trustees and identifies the additional actions the Trustees are proposing to compensate for interim losses at the site.

A copy of the Draft RP/EA may be requested by mail or email sent to:

Attn: Sean Griffin
NOAA Restoration Center
260 Guard Rd.
Aguadilla, PR 00603
Sean.Griffin@noaa.gov

The Draft RP/EA is also available for downloading at https://casedocuments.darrp.noaa.gov/southeast/port_stewart/pdf/DRAFT_Port_Stewart_Restoration_Plan_JAN2017.pdf

Written comments on the Draft RP/EA must be received on or before February 10, 2017. Comments may be submitted via email to Sean.Griffin@noaa.gov. Comments may also be sent by mail to Sean Griffin using the address listed above.

The Trustees will consider comments received during the public comment period in preparing a Final RP/EA selecting any compensatory restoration action for the T/V PORT STEWART Incident. A summary of the comments received, and the Trustees' responses thereto, will be included in the Final RP/EA. An additional opportunity for public review will be provided if public comments on this Draft RP/EA result in significant changes to the restoration actions proposed herein.

The Draft RP/EA was developed in accordance with the Trustees' authorities under the Oil Pollution Act (OPA), 33 U.S.C. § 2701 *et seq.*, and other applicable federal laws. The Puerto Rico Department of Natural And Environmental Resources is also acting pursuant to Law 147 of the Government of Puerto Rico.

Dated: January 6, 2017