



**International
Bird
Rescue
Research
Center**

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PRESS RELEASE

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News Advisory for: Monday, May 10th, 2010

Oil Spill veterans join forces in the Gulf, prepare for extended rescue effort

Press teleconference scheduled for Monday at 11 am (central) to share updates with media unable to make on-site visits

WHO: Heidi Stout, Director of Tri-State Bird Rescue and Jay Holcomb, Director of International Bird Rescue Research Center. Stout and Holcomb have responded to hundreds of oil spills around the world.

WHAT: Press teleconference detailing preparations for Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida coastal bird rescue and stories from field efforts to date.

WHEN: Monday, May 10th, 2010, 11 am Central Time, (9 am PST, 12 pm EST)

WHERE: Call-in #: **877-442-4103** | Pass code: **73229591**

Venice, Louisiana – As oil begins washing ashore at Louisiana’s Chandeleur Islands, bird rescue specialists from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research in Delaware and International Bird Rescue Research Center in California are standing by to clean birds caught in the slick. The two organizations have prepared temporary rescue facilities in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi and Florida, and are helping with the search and rescue effort led by the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

PREPARED STATEMENTS:

“It is impossible for one organization to manage an oiled wildlife rehabilitation program that incorporates four states, millions of gallons of oil and vast areas of shoreline. With thousands of brown pelicans and other birds nesting in the Chandeleur Islands and other barrier islands and wetlands off the Gulf Coast, time is of the essence. We’re lucky to have a seasoned team, with Tri-state Bird Rescue taking the lead, and International Bird Rescue helping to manage the rehabilitation program,” said Jay Holcomb, Executive Director of International Bird Rescue Research Center (IBRRC).

“Capitalizing on the recent calm weather, we are working closely with US Fish & Wildlife personnel and state wildlife agencies across the Gulf coast to ensure that oiled

birds are located and captured. The proactive response efforts have allowed for prepositioning of wildlife equipment and the ramping up of oiled bird treatment facilities in each of the states (LA, MS, AL, FL). Tri-State and International Bird Rescue are looking forward to working with the wildlife rehabilitators and state animal response teams along the Gulf coast. ” said Heidi Stout, Executive Director of Tri-State Bird Rescue.

News shared during this call will be posted to <http://www.ibrrc.org/gulf-oil-spill-media-center-2010.html> approximately one hour after the press teleconference.

Tri-State Bird Rescue and International Bird Rescue have responded to a combined total of 400 oil spills. The groups worked together in the Venice Louisiana area to care for over 200 baby pelicans after crude oil from a broken pipeline was strewn over one of the islands in the Breton Island Refuge during a tropical storm in 2005. They also partnered on a South Africa rescue effort in which 20,000 endangered African Penguins were oiled in 2000.

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research: <http://www.tristatebird.org/>

International Bird Rescue Research Center: <http://www.ibrrc.org/>

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