

PUBLIC NOTICE

COMMONWEALTH 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 PRIMARY RESTORATION PLAN  
for the APRIL 27, 2006 T/V MARGARA INCIDENT

Available for Public Review and Comment until October 20, 2014

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

Notice is hereby given that a Draft Primary Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment (Draft PRP/EA) for the April 27, 2006, the T/V MARGARA 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 MARGARA Incident involved the grounding of a 228-m (748-ft) oil tanker carrying over 300,000 barrels of #6 fuel oil in coral reef habitat three miles south of Tallaboa, Puerto Rico. Although the vessel was refloated and removed the day after the grounding without discharging any oil, the Incident injured and destroyed coral species and impacted the coral reef structure and ecosystem across an estimated eight acres of coral reef habitat. Emergency restoration actions undertaken at the site between 2006 and 2008 could not address all physical injuries or conditions at the site caused by the Incident. The Draft PRP/EA was developed by the Trustees and identifies the additional actions the Trustees are proposing to undertake at the site in order to restore lost topographic complexity and address site conditions that are continuing to impede natural recovery processes at site.

A copy of the Draft PRP/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 PRP/EA is also available for downloading at  
[http://www.drna.gobierno.pr/oficinas/arn/recursosvivos/negociado-de-pesca-y-vida-silvestre/division-de-recursos-marinos-1/Margara\\_Primary%20Restoration\\_Plan%20SEPTEMBER2014%20%28copy%29.pdf](http://www.drna.gobierno.pr/oficinas/arn/recursosvivos/negociado-de-pesca-y-vida-silvestre/division-de-recursos-marinos-1/Margara_Primary%20Restoration_Plan%20SEPTEMBER2014%20%28copy%29.pdf)

Written comments on the Draft PRP/EA must be received on or before October 20, 2014. Comments may be submitted via email to Sean.Griffin@noaa.gov. Comments may also be sent by mail or fax to Sean Griffin using the address or fax number listed above.

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

The Draft PRP/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 Commonwealth of Puerto Rico.