

# HUNDREDS OF OILED BIRDS DIE FROM NATURAL OIL SEEPS EACH YEAR



**Oiled Grebe Tries to Preen**  
Photo © Ingrid Taylar

Grebes and other diving birds and ducks, struggle to preen the oil off of their feathers. The feat is impossible as the oil sticks to their plumage and prevents the birds' feathers from insulating the animals properly.

Unless captured and washed, oiled birds eventually succumb to cold, hunger and weakness -- as well as toxicity from ingesting the oil as they groom.

**SOURCE: US COAST GUARD AND THE CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH & GAME'S OFFICE OF SPILL  
PREVENTION AND RESPONSE**