

Richard H. Dawson
Department of the Interior
Assistant Office Director, Office of Restoration and Damage Assessment Program

Rick began his career in the State of South Carolina as the first Senior Biologist of the SC Coastal Council and wrote the State's Coastal Zone permitting regulations and field evaluation procedures that were eventually overturned in the U.S. Supreme Court in the Case *Lucas v. U.S.* following Hurricane HUGO. He entered Federal government service in 1978 with the National Park Service at Everglades National Park as the Marine Resources Management Specialist for Everglades and the Dry Tortugas and wrote regulations eliminating commercial fishing from park waters which were challenged and upheld in the U.S. Supreme Court in 1986 (*OFF v. Andrus*). He then moved on to Atlanta as the Park Service's Regional Chief of Natural Resources Management and Policy for the Southeast Region. While in Atlanta, he was involved in planning and permitting oil and gas development within Big Cypress National Preserve and also represented all NPS parks in the Gulf of Mexico with regards to Outer Continental Shelf oil and Gas development. Rick left the Park Service in 1992 and worked briefly as the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service's Southeast, Region 4, Regional Oil Spill and NRDA Coordinator before returning to the NPS in 1996 to become its first National NRDA Program Manager. As the NPS National NRDA Program Manager, Rick was instrumental in developing many of the policies and procedures used by NPS in implementing the Park System Resources Protection Act (16 U.S.C. 19jj) as well as OPA, CERCLA, and the CWA on Park Service lands still employed today. Rick left the NPS in 2009 to accept his current position at DOI where he oversees the activities of the Interior Department's Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration Program Work Group. This group is comprised of members from the five Interior Bureaus (FWS, NPS, BIA, BLM, and BR) and Offices, providing technical assistance, the Office of the Solicitor, the Office of Policy and Program Analysis, and the U.S. Geological Survey. They allocate annual case funding and develop program procedures and policies for conducting damage assessment and restoration activities for cases involving Interior trust resources under OPA, CERCLA, and the Clean Water Act.

He received a BS in Biology in 1973 from St. Francis University, Loretto, PA and studied marine biology at the College of Charleston, Charleston, S.C. in their MS Program (1973-1977).

Rick lectures on spill response, spill planning, NRDA and Resource Law to audiences of Departmental and State natural resource practitioners at the National Conservation Training Center, Shepherdstown, WV and to NPS Park Rangers at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, Brunswick, GA. He has extensive and varied experience in CERCLA, CWA and OPA response and NRDA cases.

NATURAL RESOURCE DAMAGE ASSESSMENT EXPERIENCE

AMAZON VENTURE Spill, Savannah, GA (1987); EXXON VALDEZ Spill, Alaska (1989); Greenhill Well Blowout, Timbalier Island, LA (1992); Tampa Barge Collision, Tampa, FL (1993); M.J. BERMAN Spill, San Juan, PR (1994); Chevron Well Blowout, Dixon Bay, LA (1995); (1995); SKAUBAY-BERGE BANKER Spill, Padre Island, TX (1994); BUFFALO 292 Spill, Padre Island, TX (1995); Colonial Pipeline Spill, Chattanooga, TN (1996); Waiau Pipeline Oil Spill, Pearl Harbor, HI (1996); CAPE MOHICAN oil spill, San Francisco, CA (1996); and, IGLOO MOON grounding, Miami, FL (1996); Northern California Mystery Tarball Incident (1997); ALLIE B. grounding, Miami, FL (1998); SERGO ZAKARAIIDZE grounding, San Juan, PR (2000); Pryor Well Blowout, Obed R. NRA, TN (2002); CHRISTOPHER M grounding and spill, Pt. Bolinas, CA (2005); and, various small vessel groundings in Everglades, Biscayne, Ft. Jefferson (Dry Tortugas), and Virgin Islands National Parks (1994-present); Various spills/releases Hurricanes Katrina & Rita (2005), LA/MS/AL/MS; F/V CHRISTOPHER M grounding/spill, Pt. Bolinas, CA (2006). M/V VERNET (2007), Savannah, GA; COSCO BUSAN (2007), San Francisco Bay, CA; DEEPWATER HORIZON (2010), GOM, LA/AL/MS/FL.

Paoli Railyards Superfund Site, PA; Vertac Superfund Site, AR; Lake Hartwell Superfund Site, SC; Indiana Harbor-Grand Calumet River Superfund sites, IN; Palmerton Zinc Pile Superfund Site, PA; Clark Fork

River Superfund Site, MT.;Midnite Mine Superfund Site, Wellpinit ,WA.; and the Upper Columbia Basin Superfund Site, Spokane, WA.

Oil Spills worked: IXTOC, Padre Island, TX, 1981; AMAZON VENTURE, Savannah, GA (1987); EXXON VALDEZ, Alaska (1989); Greenhill Well Blowout, Timbalier Island, LA (1992); Tampa Barge Collision, Tampa, FL (1993); M.J. BERMAN, San Juan, PR (1994); Chevron Well Blowout, Dixon Bay, LA (1995); Pascagoula Mystery Spill, Pascagoula, MS (1995); BUFFALO 292, Padre Island, TX (1995); Colonial Pipeline Spill, Chattanooga, TN (1996); Waiau Pipeline Oil Spill, Pearl Harbor, HI (1996); CAPE MOHICAN, San Francisco, CA (1996); IGLOO MOON, Miami, FL (1996) ;SERGO ZAKARAIIDZE, San Juan ,PR (2000); and, Pryor (Howard White #1) Well Blowout, Obed R. NRA, TN (2002), COSCO BUSAN (2007), San Francisco Bay, CA.