

# Wildlife Response Management Group (WRMG) Toolbox

Part of the Environmental Incident Wildlife Response Plan:  
Scarborough South Bay to Bridlington North Bay (encompassing the  
Flamborough Head European Marine Site)

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## Appended Documents

Appendix 1: Health and Safety Information for Volunteers and Staff during an Emergency Response

Appendix A: WRMG Incident Log Template



**Environmental Incident**  
Wildlife Response Plan

This Environmental Incident Wildlife Response Plan is coordinated by the Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership and is the result of a partnership between various organisations. This plan will be implemented during environmental incidents which threaten the internationally-important wildlife within the Flamborough Head European Marine Site and surrounding beaches.

Updated November 2023

## 1 Health and Safety Information

All volunteers and staff must be familiar with the health and safety guidance. Please read the appended document carefully.

WRMG actions will be undertaken remotely, for the most part, with all meetings taking place via teleconference. Therefore, during an emergency situation, duties should not be dissimilar to those of normal day-to-day work. However, if an individual chooses to attend a BHCP or carry out survey/wildlife recovery roles, guidance in the ‘*Health and Safety Information for Volunteers and Staff during an Emergency Response*’ document should be adhered to. In such instances, the individual officer must ensure that they are covered under their organisation’s insurance policy for the type of work they wish to carry out.

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## 2 WRMG Membership and Contacts

Organisation	Contact Details
Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership (Chair)	<b>Heather Davison-Smith</b> – Development Officer Heather.davison-smith@eastriding.gov.uk 07814873356
Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA) (Vice-Chair)	<b>Geoff Edmond</b> – RSPCA Wildlife Inspector geoffrey.edmond@rspca.org.uk 07969296418
Yorkshire Wildlife Trust	<b>Ana Cowie</b> – Marine Pollution Officer Ana.cowie@ywt.org.uk
Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	<b>Danielle Jackson</b> – Visitor Experience Manager Danielle.jackson@rspb.org.uk
British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDLMR)	<b>Chris Cook and Em Mayman</b> – Yorkshire Area Coordinators Yorkshire@bdlmr.org.uk <b>Head Office</b> - 01825 765546
Scarborough Sea Life	<b>Todd German</b> – Curator Todd.german@merlinentertainments.biz

## 3 Organisational Roles and Responsibilities

Organisation	Roles and Responsibilities
<b>British Divers Marine Life Rescue (BDMLR)</b>	BDLMR is a voluntary network of trained marine mammal medics who are able to respond to call outs across England, Wales and Scotland to injured and distress marine mammals. During an incident, BDLMR will sit on the WRMG and, in partnership with RSPCA, take the lead on any marine mammal response required.
<b>Environment Agency (EA)</b>	The EA is responsible for chairing the Humber Standing Environment Group which may be activated in an emergency event. The Standing Environment Group is able to advise organisations such as the MCA

	and Local Authorities on the most appropriate methods of clean-up and wildlife recovery.
<b>Local Authorities</b> (North Yorkshire County Council, Scarborough Borough Council, East Riding Of Yorkshire Council)	Local Authorities will be asked to remove any deceased animals and dispose of them appropriately, once beaches have been swept and records gathered. LA's are also responsible for ensuring the beaches remain safe for the public to use and will be working with other organisations to ensure any pollution is contained.
<b>Marine Management Organisation (MMO)</b>	The MMO are responsible for approving clean-up techniques if a large oil spill occurs. The MMO will advise the Standing Environment Group on appropriate clean-up techniques and may issue licences, where required.
<b>Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA)</b>	The MCA provides information and training to national organisations and Local Authorities in how to prevent and respond to pollution events. Support from this agency will enable the group to determine the best course of action and generate the most efficient response.
<b>Natural England (NE)</b>	Natural England is the Government's statutory nature conservation advisor. Natural England will provide advice on protected area sensitivities, issue appropriate licences and may conduct monitoring after the event to determine any negative impacts of the incident.
<b>North Eastern Inshore Fisheries and Conservation Authority (NEIFCA)</b>	NEIFCA ensure that commercial fisheries within 6nm conduct their practices in a sustainable and legal manner. This organisation's expertise may be needed to respond to any shellfish 'wash-ups', communicate incidents to local fishing vessels and close certain fishing areas. Local officers may be dispatched to confirm incidents or coordinate specific responses.
<b>Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA)</b>	The RSPCA is a national charity which specialises in animal rescue and has significant experience in responding to environmental incidents. RSPCA will act as Vice-Chair of WRMG, coordinate wildlife response efforts and provide some specialist equipment. Beach Head Collection Points will be established by RSPCA to enable wildlife casualties to be assessed efficiently. The RSPCA will also provide training on the proper handling techniques and wildlife first aid to volunteers.
<b>Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)</b>	The RSPB Bempton Cliffs reserve sits within the boundaries of the EMS and has a network of volunteers who are regularly active around the headland. RSPB will sit on the WRMG, as a volunteer coordinator. An existing volunteer group regularly performs Beached Bird Surveys along the beaches from Scarborough to Hornsea and records any deceased / distressed birds.
<b>Sea Life Centre (Scarborough)</b>	Scarborough Sea Life Centre is located to the north of Scarborough and has some capability to respond, recover and rehabilitate wildlife. SSL will sit on the WRMG as a BHCP Manager. There are also additional storage facilities for deceased animals. The Centre may also act as a BHCP for injured/distressed wildlife on the north side of the headland, for recovery by the RSPCA.
<b>Yorkshire Marine Nature Partnership (YMNP)</b>	This partnership organisation manages the Flamborough Head European Marine Site (EMS) and ensures that the conservation features (namely the seabirds and the chalk habitat of the headland) are protected and managed appropriately. Through the Development Officer, this partnership will Chair the WRMG and act as a conduit for

	information between authorities and NGOs/volunteers on the ground in the event of an incident.
<b>Yorkshire Wildlife Trust (YWT)</b>	YWT have a number of volunteers who are regularly active around the headland and there are facilities available at the LSC for wildlife casualty care. YWT will sit on the WRMG as volunteer coordinators and, should a BHCP be established at the LSC, as BHCP Managers.

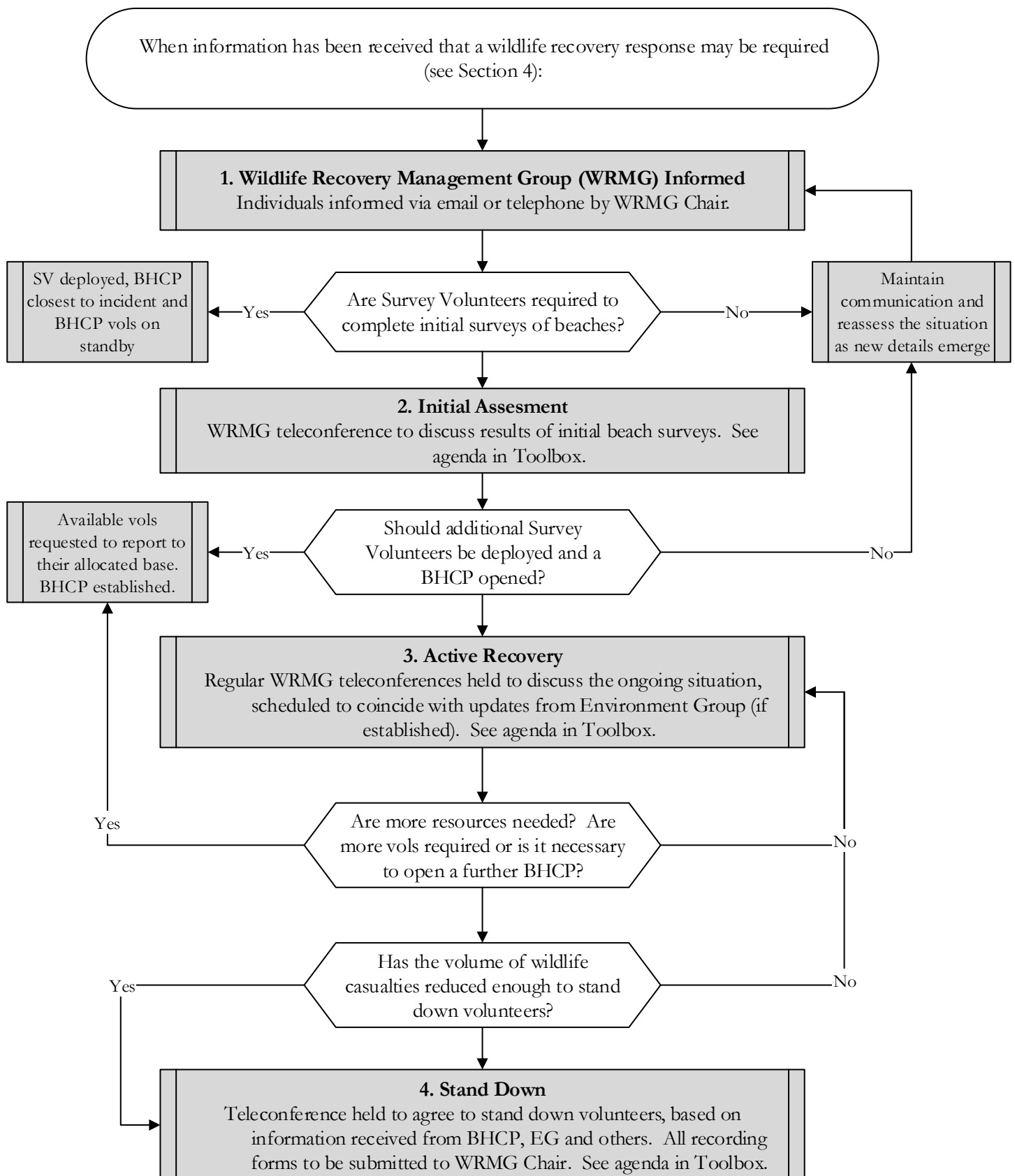
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#### **4 WRMG Teleconference Agenda Template**

This short agenda should be followed during each WRMG teleconference conducted as part of the emergency response to an environmental incident. Teleconferencing details will be circulated to the WRMG via email before each teleconference.

1. Current Environmental Situation (either from POLREP or other information received)
  2. Update from Beach Head Collection Points (if established)
  3. Any Changes to Response Level Required?
  4. Questions/Issues?
  5. Media Requests/Responses
  6. Time of Next Teleconference
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## 5 WRMG Action Flowchart



## 6 Activating Volunteers

Representatives from each organisation will activate their volunteers via telephone, in order to immediately ascertain whether or not the individuals are available to respond. During a large scale incident, those volunteers identified for BHCP roles should be asked to respond first in order to assist in establishing facilities. Volunteers should be asked to report to their nearest BHCP in order to receive more information and begin their assigned tasks.

During the initial stages of an incident, the WRMG may decide to request that a small number of volunteers carry out rapid visual assessments of areas thought to be affected by an incident. Volunteer organisation representatives will be required to identify local volunteers within their organisations and ask that they respond. Volunteers conducting initial surveys will carry out visual assessments only and will not be required to report to a BHCP until one is established, however they must provide the following information to their volunteer supervisor before accepting the task:

- Confirmation of mobile phone number;
- The area which will be surveyed (including OS Grid reference);
- Mode of travel to and from the area of work and expected parking location (including car registration number and model);
- Expected departure time and estimated time of return;
- Confirmation of an emergency contact number.

Volunteers conducting initial surveys must contact their voluntary organisation when the assessment is complete to confirm their safety and relay any necessary information. If the volunteer does not contact the organisation after the expected time of return, procedures in the Health and Safety guidance document will be followed (Appendix 1).

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## 7 WRMG Incident Log

Throughout active operations, it is good practice to maintain a log which summarises all actions and decisions carried out by the WRMG (see appended templates). Each representative should maintain their own log to assist in post-incident reporting.

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## 8 Media Enquiries

All requests from the media should be discussed during WRMG teleconferences to ensure a consistent response between all organisations. During an emergency incident, no individual organisation should offer information to the media (including on social media) without prior agreement of WRMG. In all instances, the priority will be to establish and maintain any necessary emergency response, before any media enquiries are answered. RSPCA will lead on any WRMG

response to media requests, potentially providing specific times for press to attend a BHCP where this is practical / appropriate.

To ensure accurate and consistent information is delivered to the public, any media publications should be linked with those of other organisations involved, particularly Local Authorities. WRMG should maintain communication with Local Authority media leads and all media enquires / responses should be shared prior to publication.



**WRMG Appendix A: Manager's Incident Log**

					<b>Log No:</b>
<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>		<b>Completed By:</b>	
<b>Brief Summary of Actions and Decisions:</b>					
					<b>Log No:</b>
<b>Date</b>		<b>Time</b>		<b>Completed By:</b>	
<b>Brief Summary of Actions and Decisions:</b>					
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