

THE EFFECTS OF RECENT OIL SPILLS ON WILDLIFE, NECROPSY FINDINGS AND THE ADEQUACY OF RESPONSE

Students: Kedisha Hope, Amartya Hosein, Gabriel Roopnarine, Emily-Rose Phillip
Supervisors: Dr. Rod Supaul, Dr. Karelma Frontera-Acevedo

Oil spill contamination is a major environmental concern for marine and wildlife and can cause health problems with long-term changes to their behavior and physiology. A retrospective and prospective study was conducted on necropsy cases of oiled wildlife submitted to the School of Veterinary Medicine during the period of 2017 to 2021. A total of seven (7) oil spills were documented in Trinidad at Chaguaramas, Cedros, La Brea, Petrotrin and Point Fortin. A total of forty-two (42) pelicans, forty-eight (48) cormorants, one (1) frigate bird and fourteen (14) shoreline bird cases were reviewed. Gross lesions included oil feathers (8), visceral gout (2), moderate renomegaly (9), hepatomegaly (17), airsacculitis (2) and severe cerebellar hemorrhage (5). These lesions are consistent with those associated with oil exposure.

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