The Sea Alarm Foundation is an initiative by individuals and organisations involved in spills where birds and mammals became oiled. It was generally felt that lessons from past spills should be learned. Under the umbrella of Sea Alarm constructive steps have been taken to involve those parties with a degree of responsibility during oil spills (including wildlife responders, relevant government agencies, international government and non-governmental organisations [NGOs], and leading parties in industry) in a setting up a strategic programme of action. It is in dialogue with all these parties that Sea Alarm has taken the role of facilitator to improve the state of preparedness throughout Europe. Results from Sea Alarm’s work are increasingly applicable on a global scale.

Apology:
In the previous issue of Cleaner Seas (Autumn 2007) we published an article titled “Oiled Wildlife Response in Norway”, in which we stated “the Greek tanker MS Server hit the island of Fedje.” The MS Server is, in fact, a bulk carrier and lost approximately 300 tons of fuel. We take this opportunity to apologise for these inaccuracies and will endeavour to ensure this doesn’t happen in future.

Claude Veiter, who was part of the Sea Alarm assessment team, explained some key elements of oiled bird treatment to Russian volunteers.

A Russian volunteer holding an oiled coat that she has just rescued as part of a response to oiled wildlife following the Volganef-139 oil spill in the Kerch Strait. Sea Alarm traveled to Russia to advise WWF-Russia in their attempt to rescue oiled wildlife. Unfortunately, a lack of resources in this part of Russia prevented the well-intending Russian organisation from setting up an effective response.

Oiled grebes in the harbour of the Chushka spit, one of the most heavily polluted areas near the border with the Ukraine.