



For Immediate Release

Triumph for Sea Alarm Foundation

(London, England – 22 April 2008)

The Sea Alarm Foundation has been honoured with a coveted Seatrade Certificate of Commendation, in recognition of its significant achievements in the field of oiled wildlife preparedness and response. The small, Brussels-based NGO received the Certificate as one of two runners-up in the *Protection of the Marine and Atmospheric Environment* category at the 20th Seatrade Ceremony Dinner, held at the historic Guildhall in London on the evening of 21 April 2008. The glittering event was graced by the presence of Her Royal Highness, The Princess Royal who presented the main Awards in front of more than 350 distinguished guests.

The enduring success and importance of the Seatrade Awards was highlighted by this year's record 105 entries from 30 different countries. The organizers stressed the exceptionally high standard of the entries and consequently the difficulties faced by the expert panel of judges and assessors, chaired the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization. Given that Sea Alarm is a small NGO outside of the mainstream maritime industry, it is a remarkable achievement to even make it to the short list.

Roelf de Boer, Chair of Sea Alarm, stated "Receiving this prestigious Certificate of Commendation is truly a great honour and a triumph for Sea Alarm. This recognition of what the organization has achieved during its relatively short life will spur us on to even greater heights in improving the rescue and rehabilitation of birds and other wildlife affected by oil pollution."

Over the past nine years, Sea Alarm has steadily progressed, becoming a major driving force that initiates and facilitates oiled wildlife response planning throughout Europe. The organization has forged strategic alliances between key stakeholders in the oil and maritime industries, with NGOs, and government authorities. Crucially it has also established a coordinated network of global wildlife response experts ready to respond within hours to an oil spill emergency threatening vulnerable wildlife.

Since 2005, Sea Alarm has collaborated very closely with Oil Spill Response and East Asia Response Limited (OSRL/EARL) to further the development of global oiled wildlife response capabilities. This joint initiative has enabled both parties to benefit from each other's expertise and experience, and has also provided essential funding for the continuation of Sea Alarm's work. Archie Smith, Chief Executive and Director of OSRL/EARL, expressed his delight at Sea Alarm's achievement stating, "The oil industry members of OSRL/EARL are proud to support Sea Alarm's mission of improving the professionalism and effectiveness of oiled wildlife preparedness and response on a global scale. Being awarded a Seatrade Certificate of Commendation is indeed a great triumph that will hopefully lead to greater prominence being given to oiled wildlife issues and a consequent broadening of support for Sea Alarm's vital work."

(Ends)

Note to Editors:

Sea Alarm's mission is to improve the professionalism and effectiveness of the rescue and rehabilitation of oiled wildlife. Sea Alarm is widely recognized by governments, the oil and maritime industries, and NGOs as an independent facilitator, building bridges between key players and encouraging the adoption of best practices.

OSRL/EARL is a non-profit making organisation that is wholly owned by the oil industry, and exists to respond effectively to oil spills wherever they occur. Operating as a single business from the United Kingdom, Bahrain and Singapore, it is the largest international oil spill response co-operative, and is an industry leader in preparedness and response services.

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