

# Sea otter rescued in California oil spill dies of shark bite

March 27 2015

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In this photo taken by the U.S. Geological Survey and provided by the California Department of Fish and Game, a sea otter holds her pup at Seacliff State Beach near Aptos, Calif., on, Sept. 10, 2012 file photo. The sea otter, known as Olive, has amazed researchers by becoming the first sea otter not only to survive a dunking in oil but then also go on to deliver a healthy pup. The sea otter that became an ambassador for her species after a remarkable recovery from an oil tar soaking off the coast of Northern California has been killed by a shark. The California Department of Fish and Wildlife says Olive was found dead by a beachgoer on Sunday March 22, 2015. (AP Photo/U.S. Geological Survey, Joe Tomoleoni, File)

A sea otter that became an ambassador for her species after a remarkable recovery from an oil tar soaking off the coast of Northern California has been killed by a shark.

"Olive the Oiled Otter" made headlines in 2009 when she was found covered in oil and near death on Santa Cruz beach. Olive recovered fully and went on to deliver a healthy pup years later.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife says Olive was found dead by a beachgoer on Sunday.

The department says [wildlife biologists](#) found wounds consistent with a shark bite on the 7-year-old marine mammal's body.

It says Olive's wounds showed no signs of healing, indicating that she died quickly after the fatal bite.

Olive had more than 5,000 Facebook followers, in an account set up by [wildlife officials](#). Hundreds of followers expressed sadness after reading about her passing.

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