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Bird cleaning center closes

MOSS LANDING — After a full month of cleaning sea birds contaminated by three North coast oil slicks during the first weekend of February, PG&E's Moss Landing Bird Cleaning Facility has shut down.

Of the 1,100 birds brought to the facility, approximately 700 later died. The main cause of death was liver disease caused by the birds' ingesting oil.

Most of the remaining birds were

returned to the water Monday afternoon at the Moss Landing Jetty. A dozen still not ready to return to the

sea were transferred to the Monterey County SPCA to continue recuperation.

Environmentalists estimate that more than 30,000 sea birds may have perished as a result of the oil slicks.