



UNIVERSITY of NEW HAMPSHIRE

Submerged Oil Working Group

19 November 2010 @ Clean Gulf

Meeting Notes

Participants:

Nancy Kinner, CRRC/UNH
Ben Anderson, Delaware
Chris Barker, NOAA ERD
Victoria Broje, Shell
Debbie French McCay, ASA

David Fritz, BP
Dan Hahn, NOAA ARD
Kurt Hansen, USCG R&D
Randy Imai, CA OSPR (by phone)
Greg Wilson, US EPA
Chris Pfeifer, ENTRIX

I. Introductions

II. Update Reports:

- Kurt Hansen, USCG R&D Center (RDC)
 - i. Funded 3 projects for full design on sunken oil detection, recovery and processing. 10 months, 3 contractors (Marine Pollution Control with manned submersible, Oil Stop with CA dredge company; and Alion teaming with Jacqui Michel) will evaluate & compare each project at OHMSETT in 2011; The vendors must answer detection, recovery and storage issues; budget ~TBD;
 - ii. After evaluation period, will continue with funding to build prototype(s). Hopeful to have funding for development of all 3 prototypes.
 - iii. For DWH: Sonar system, Codaoctopus sonar deployed in conjunction with EIC fluorometer in shallow (< 20 feet). Sonar was informally evaluated in RDC report and was available because this is being deployed by the USCG for security missions. It appears that it may also be useful for spill response. EIC small pencil laser fluorometer is detecting particulates oil in water column, although designed to find oil on the bottom. This is in the testing stage. If successful both may become operational if the Unified Command thinks they are needed. The SAIC system described in the report is also on a list for potential testing depending upon the results of the sonar and EIC tests.

- IMO working group – The OPRC-HNS Working group under the Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC) was asked to provide better guidance for responders for sunken oil after problems were encountered with recovering submerged oil off Lebanon in 2006. IMO was asked to

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help. UK's Maritime Authority is drafting the document, but is being rewritten (i.e., research as appendix and give document more decision making expertise). The next meeting of IMO is July 2011.

Link to UK previous Reports:

http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/master_vhfo_2008-4.pdf

http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/s_mca_019_sunken_and_submerged_oils_final_report_270209_pub_1.pdf

- ASA (French McCay) – no report
 - US EPA (Wilson) – no report at this time, but hopes to receive funding and is eager to overlap/cooperate with USCG R&D projects. DWH incident opened up new gaps in submerged oil research. This Working Group is important asset.
 - NOAA (Bill Lehr) – update on Modeling Working Group (MWG), Katz project “Measurements and Modeling of Size Distributions, Settling and Dispersions (turbulent diffusion) Rates of Oil Droplets” is completed.
 - CRRC
 - i. Jim Englehardt – Chris Barker is the NOAA liaison. Statistical derived Bayesian system that predicts where submerged oil moves. Data-derived, only works on flat bottoms. Completed Final Report is posted on CRRC website.
 - ii. Bruce Hollebone – submerged oil characterization – this project has been on hold, start date has been delayed by Environment Canada until Dec 2010
 - Shell (Broje)
 - i. Shell's focus is on dispersants, not submerged oil
 - ii. Not opposed to funding, but needs a specific good idea (Kurt suggested Octopus as it may be feasible for Arctic (in/under ice) detection
 - CA OSPR (Imai) – no funding to report
 - Delaware River OSRC (Anderson) – no funding. Report is pending (Dec 31, 2010) and unable to proceed with recommendations until final approval
- III. Submerged Oil Working Group will meet in conjunction with IOSC in May 2011, Portland, OR

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