Submerged Oil Working Group
Tuesday, May 6, 2008
In conjunction with IOSC

Meeting Notes

Attendees: Nancy Kinner, Troy Baker, Chris Barker (via phone),Victoria Broje, David Fritz, Lisa DiPinto, Debbie French McCay, Kurt Hansen, Charlie Henry, Bruce Hollebone, Don Davis, Amy Merten, Jacqui Michel, Chris Pfeifer, Matthew Sommerville, Carl Jochums, Matthew Rymell

I. Working Group Charge: improve understanding of behavior and fate of submerged oil and use it to improve response to and restoration after submerged oil spills

II. Updates on current projects members

- Matthew Rymell (BMT Cordah)
    - UK Coast Guard (MCA) – modeling, detection research
- Bruce Hollebone (Environment Canada)
    - Causes and importance of cause for sunken oil (CRRC-funded)
- Charlie Henry (NOAA SSC, CRRC SAP) response/restoration issues
- Victoria Broje (Shell Oil Spill Response Team)
- Matt Sommerville (OSRL/EARL)
    - UK Coast Guard (MCA) – modeling, detection research
- Kurt Hansen (USCG)
    - sonar system and laser fluorometer and real-time mass spec. – proof of concept
    - lessons learned paper
    - AMOP paper submitted
    - Funding for two devices: Ohmsett in January 2009 test open to public, using sonar system & laser fluorometer
    - 2009 not enough funding to do integrated recovery system
- Debbie French McCay (ASA) – interested as applies to modeling
- Troy Baker (NOAA) response/restoration issues
- Chris Pfeifer (ENTRIX) – practitioner side; end user
- Don Davis (LAOSRADP)
    - possible submerged oil database/literature review
- David Fritz (BP) TX GLO resample DBL152; support Kurt Hansen's project
- Jacqui Michel (Research Planning, Inc) NRC report; at CRRC workshop
- Carl Jochums (CA OSPR)
- Chris Barker (NOAA) – (via conference call) submerged oil modeling

III. Discussion on sunken vs submerged vs non-floating

- Submerged oil – potentially recoverable oil; anything not floating (broad category)
    - Recoverable – important to K. Hansen
- Suspended – in water column
- UK standard terminology:
    - Sunken – negatively buoyant; on the bottom
    - Submerged – neutral or near neutral buoyancy – in water column – including over-washed oils
- Over-washed – temporarily submerged
- Discussion wrap up:
    - Standard terminology may not be realistic
    - Terminology should be clearly defined per investigation

IV. Role of the Submerged Oil Working Group

- Coordination of research/funding
- Filling knowledge gaps
- Technical input/resource to practitioners

V. 2006 Submerged Oil Workshop

- Report still relevant – most suggested gaps not addressed yet
- Models are not currently good enough to predict what submerged oil is going to do
- Trend is for increased use/transport of heavier oils
- What research would have the greatest return or significant incremental benefit in improving response/restoration for submerged oil spills?
- Unknowns for modeling include droplet size distribution & what that means for modeling

VI. Tasks

- Kathy Mandsager (CRRC) will send Submerged Oil Final Report with list of priority areas to the group
- Working Group members will rank priority needs - due July 15 to Kathy.mandsager@unh.edu
- Will have conference call to follow up
- Kathy Mandsager will send the one-pagers and links to currently funded CRRC projects relevant to submerged oil (Hollebone, Englehardt, Reed)