Dispersant Use In California Waters

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Presentation Objectives

- Role Review: Regional Response Team (RRT) IX and relationship of Unified Command and RRT during a spill
- Dispersant use zones in California
  - Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA)
  - NEBA in Pre-approval Zones vs. RRT Incident-Specific Approval Zones
- General layout of the California Dispersant Plan (CDP)
- How the CDP used during drills and spills
- Past and present work in research and response planning

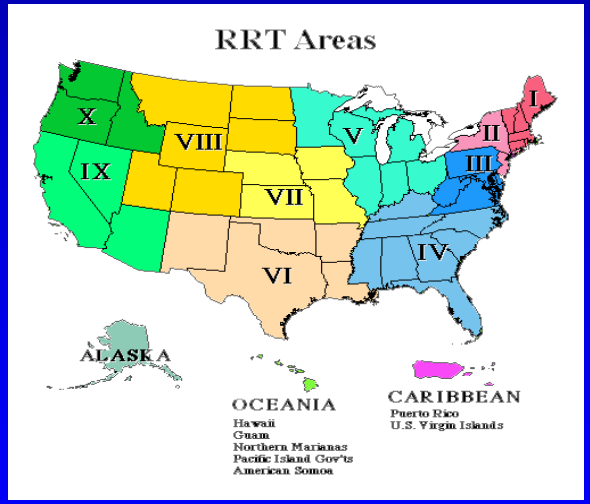
Federal Planning and Response

National Response Team:

- National planning & coordination (NCP)

Regional Response Team (RRT IX):

- Regional contingency planning, coordination of preparedness and response, including use of ART.
- Membership: Federal and state agencies
- Standing and Incident-Specific RRTs.
- Subcommittees (including ART) where most of plan update work begins



Region IX ART Approach

- 2002-2004: Multi-level/team approach to revise the dispersant policy
  - Expert panels for trustees & RRT agencies (OSPR participated in all of them)
  - Area Committee evaluations for each zone of operation
- New dispersant use zones reviewed and adopted by RRT
- California Dispersant Plan part of RCP
- OSPR drafted ESA Sec. 7 Biological Assessment on behalf of RRT
- 2009-Present: CDP update work, including BA

RRT Assignment to the Area Committees for Dispersant-Use Policy

- Each California marine Area Committee asked to recommend dispersant use zones within their Area of Responsibility, 3 - 200 nm from shore.

  RRT policy zone choices:
  - Dispersants are Pre-approved
  - Dispersants are Pre-approved, with consultation
  - Incident-Specific RRT Approval Required

- Area Committees used a modified ERA/NEBA model for the ecological trade off determination
- To adequately develop NEBA trade-off considerations, included impacts of any response option, to all marine waters and shorelines, -0 to 200 nm offshore, all water depths and habitats. This NEBA information retained in CDP.

- Zone recommendations forwarded by Area Committees to RRT for their review and approval

Process Used by each Area Committee/Dispersant Subcommittee

- Developed a risk matrix
- Ranked species/habitat based on relative risk
- Designated Dispersant Use Zones and areas of special concern (Sanctuaries, etc).

NEBA Matrix Design

RECOVERY

1. Irreversible 2. Reversible

MAGNITUDE

A. Severe	1A	2A
B. Trivial	1B	2B

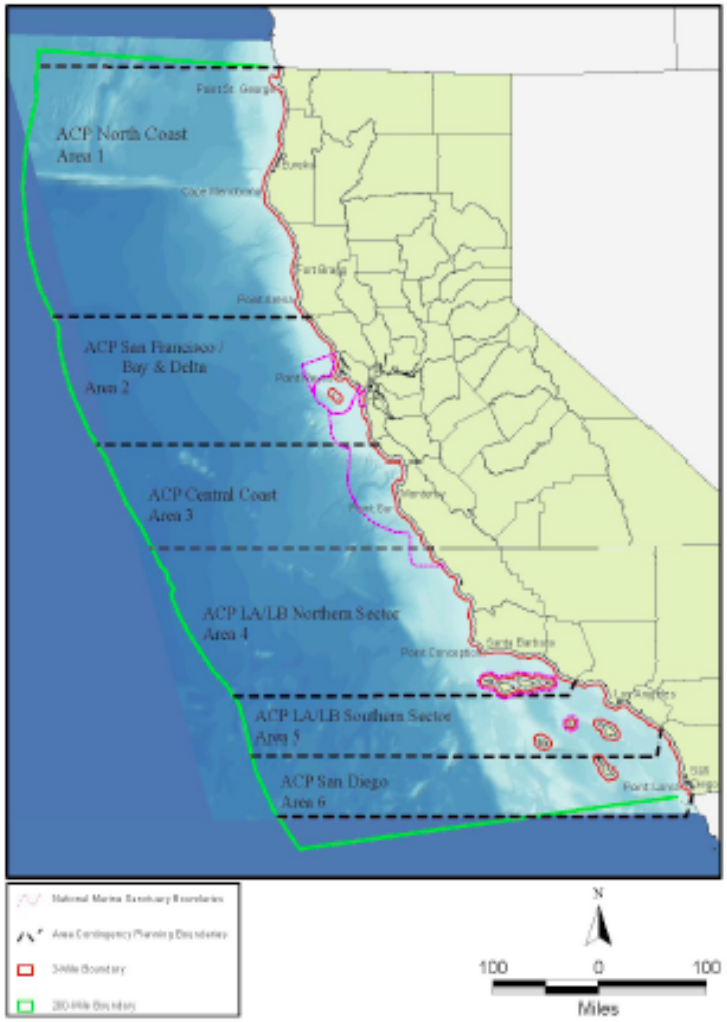
Los Angeles Matrix
(North and South Area Committees)

Zones	Terrestrial	Water Surface	Intertidal			
Habitats	Upland and Supratidal		Marsh	Mud Flats	Sandy Beach	Rip Rap/Sea Walls/Pilings
Subhabitats						
Natural Recovery	B1	B1	D3/C1	C2	A1	C1/C2
Mechanical Rec. (30%)	B1	B1	D3/C1	C2	A1	C1/C2
Dispersants (75%)	D2	C1	E3/D2	D3	C2	D1
ISB (30%)	B1	B1	D3/C1	C2	A1	C1
W/shoreline protections	B2	B1	E3/D1	D3	Not Appropriate	C2/4E
Shoreline Cleanup	B2/C3	Not Applicable	A1	C1	D3/C4	C2

Comparative Risk Assessment Analysis Methodology

- The NEBA process provided the basis for comparing and prioritizing risk.
- If assume that every response alternative presents some level of risk, then this approach can provide the basis for choosing among alternatives.
- Risk assessment goal: Determine if a given response option offers a *relative environmental improvement*, when compared to no response.

California Dispersant Use Zones



Pre-Approval Zone

All areas 3 – 200 nm off the coast, except:

- Within a National Marine Sanctuary
- Within 3 miles of the US-Mexico border

Incident-Specific RRT Approval Required Zone

- Marine waters within 3 nm of the coast (including offshore islands)
- Waters within a National Marine Sanctuary
- Waters within three miles of the border with Mexico
- Marine waters one mile from anadromous fish streams during times of emigration and immigration

Post DWH: Subsea use and surface use for >5 days requires RRT approval

Dispersant Use Plan

- Complete guide for evaluating a dispersant use in California
- FOSC checklists and flow charts for all zones (Pre-Approval and RRT Incident-Specific Approval)
- Critical reference material in appendices

Multiple Plan Uses

- Planning and response tool
  - Easy to use flow charts and forms
  - All information needed in body of document
  - Appendices for supplemental information
    - SMART
    - Wildlife Spotting
    - Seafood Safety
    - NEBA summaries
    - Public Communications Plan
    - Oil Characteristics and their general dispersibility
    - Dispersant resources in or available to CA
- Training
  - Drills and exercises, oil spill schools, new staff training
- Stand Alone Document
  - An appendix to the regional contingency plan

Development of Dispersant Monitoring Program

Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies (SMART)

- Conducted in real time
- Provides visual or fluorometry information regarding the presence of dispersed oil; does not provide information on concentration or toxicity (although there has been discussion of including this additional monitoring step as a new tier within SMART)

Short and Long-Term Monitoring for Environmental Concentrations

- Draft Dispersed Oil Monitoring Plan (DOMP): Goal is to determine where and when monitoring should take place
- Data can be used for NRDA and seafood safety, as well as validating assumptions made during the NEBA process for dispersant pre-approval

MEXUSPAC and Dispersant Use

- In the event dispersants are to be applied in U.S. waters within 3 mi of the border with Mexico, notification to Mexican Navy will be made.

- Concerns by Mexican Government over dispersant application within 3 mi of MX waters will be considered by RRT IX prior to approval.

Next Steps

Overall: Update California Dispersant Use Plan (to be completed end of 2014?)

- Complete all ESA Section 7 consultations (now in CG and EPA hands); provide links to related Biological Assessments, get Coastal Commission federal consistency decision letter
- Finalize dispersed oil monitoring plan (DOMP), or equivalent
- Integrate dispersant and ISB flowcharts, worksheets and checklists, as appropriate, to de-conflict possible concurrent dispersant, ISB and mechanical removal operations

On-Going Work/Next Steps

Living document:

- Conduct/sponsor additional focused research as possible (sub-lethal effects, new dispersants or dispersant formulations)
- Include new Job Aid, to include full suite of templates for use by NOAA SSC and ART Lead Technical Specialist use
  - Determination of NEB, briefing memos and records of decision for FOSC, briefing memos and records of decision for RRT, added conditions and BMPs, communications with Operations Section, QA/QC of SMART results, etc.
- Clarification within state Drill & Exercise regulations, and in RCP, of who leads ART within Environmental Unit

Next Steps, continued

- Clarifications with IMH and federal drill and exercise regulations of who leads ART within Environmental Unit
- Integrate new research results (especially fate/effects, biological/ecosystem effects, dispersed oil monitoring for toxicity, public communications)
- Update CA OSCA licensing requirements as necessary to bolster toxicity and “additional hazards” considerations of licensed products (OSPR may internally conduct some side-by-side comparisons products within various OSCA classes)
- Update RCP and ACPs as appropriate

Next Steps, continued

- Conduct/facilitate additional, focused NEBAs as necessary (e.g., for other waters, other products, newly listed species or critical habitats), especially if will change ESA Sec. 7 effects determinations
- Continue training and outreach, especially to trustee agencies that might be working as ART Technical Specialists within EU
- Refine conditions and BMPs so that provide maximum protection of potentially impacted species yet also maximize operational efficiencies

Questions?

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