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

Meeting Notes


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)
  o Recoverable – important to K. Hansen
• Suspended – in water column
• UK standard terminology:
  o Sunken – negatively buoyant; on the bottom
  o Submerged – neutral or near neutral buoyancy – in water column – including over-washed oils
• Over-washed – temporarily submerged
• Discussion wrap up:
  o Standard terminology may not be realistic
  o 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)