



NW Arctic Ecological Risk Assessment Consensus Workshop

Basics

- October 18-20 2011 Anchorage
- November 16-17 2011 Kotzebue
- 53 attendees from 17 organizations
- Objectives:
 - Evaluating and improving oil spill response strategies
 - Enhancing oil spill contingency planning

Approach

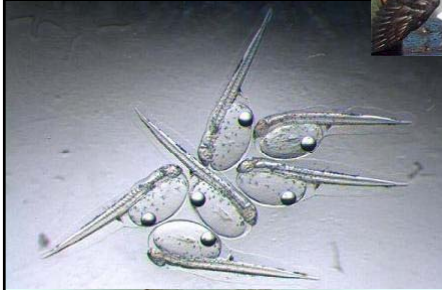
- Introductory presentations on
 - Scenario
 - Resources at risk
 - Response technologies
- Four focus groups (2 sessions)
- Evaluated risks and benefits of response options
 - Session 1: natural recovery, mechanical recovery, in-situ burning
 - Session 2: dispersants



Scenario

- 400,000 gallon release
- IFO 180 fuel
- Fuel carrier grounded near Little Diomed Island
- 7-8 August
- Dispersant application (40% effectiveness)

Resources at risk



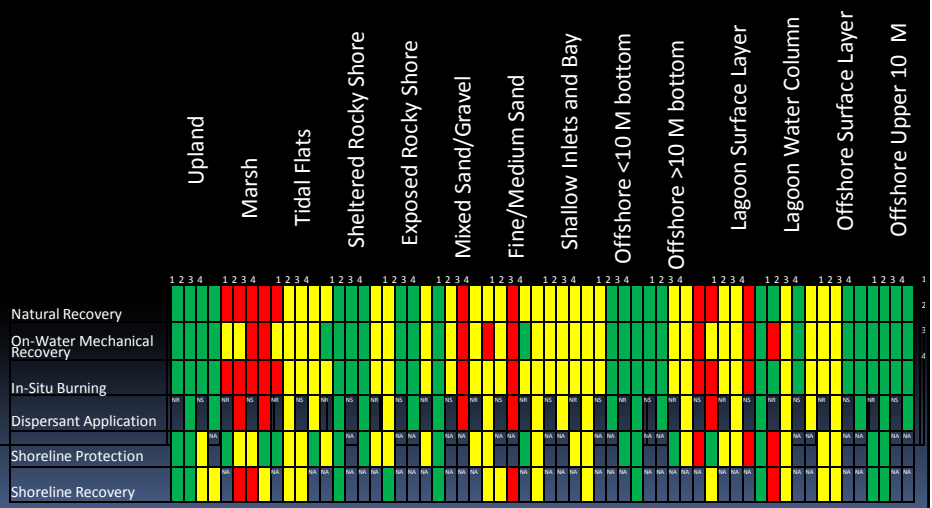
Conclusions (1)

- Specific Concerns Identified for

- Upland
- Marsh
- Tidal flats
- Sheltered rocky shore
- Beaches
- Lagoon bottom
- Subtidal bottom <10m water depth
- Lagoon surface and water column
- Offshore surface and water column



Conclusions (2)



Recommendations (1)

- Engage locals in area planning
- Build response capacity in villages
 - Training
 - Equipment
 - Exercises
 - Create a Village Response Team
- Expand understanding of threats and response options
- Exchange traditional and western knowledge- especially include traditional knowledge of currents

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Recommendations (2)

- Conduct a Bering Strait risk assessment
- Support shore zone mapping and baseline habitat information
- Dispersants:
 - More communication on risk and benefits
 - Additional research in cold water
 - Ensure availability

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Summary

- ERA workshop was beginning of response dialog
- Specific concerns were identified to consider and build on at this workshop
- Subsistence/cultural use is a MAJOR concern

