



Newsletter, Aug 2nd, 2021



Oil, it Still does not Mix with Water

Oil spills have an easily seen negative effect on the environment, the economy and pose a threat to the very order of things within our social communities. This man-made mishap (equipment breakdown or mistakes by human-error) occurs in bays, rivers and oceans, and is linked to barges, super tankers, drilling rigs, recreational boating craft and pipelines.

When oil enters our waters, it tends to float and spread quickly across the surface. As the oil continues spreading, the slick becomes thinner and thinner, finally becoming a very thin sheen, which often looks like a rainbow on the water's surface. Oil can persist for years in the marine environment, as it coagulates

into tarballs, sometimes sinking into the depths. Oil can also affect sea birds, and humans directly if they accidentally come into direct contact with this toxic substance.

Spills can be caused by:

- people making mistakes or being careless
- equipment breaking down
- natural disasters such as hurricanes, storm surge or high winds
- deliberate acts by fanatics, acts of war, vandals, or illegal dumping.

Oil spills can be very harmful to marine birds, sea turtles, mammals, and can harm fish and shellfish. Oil destroys the insulating ability of fur-bearing mammals, such as sea otters, and the water-repelling abilities of a bird's feathers, exposing them to the harsh elements. Many birds and animals mistake the oil for food and swallow it with disastrous results. Furthermore, many fowl are poisoned when they try to clean the oil off from themselves or consume it when eating oiled prey. Marine plankton and the other small organisms which



form the base of oceanic food chains can be easily killed off from these catastrophic spills, which exponentially increases the negative effects on the ecosystem.

In 1989, an estimated 1 million seabirds and 100,000 marine mammals died due to poor water quality and toxic contaminants from the "Exxon Valdez" oil spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound. These spills result in the destruction of Marine flora and fauna, a loss of resources (fish stock), impacting the economy and reducing overall human health.

When dealing with oil spills, our [national response mechanism](#) is intricate and entailed. [Methods](#) used in response to these spills include (but are not limited to); 1) Dispersion, 2) Burning, 3) Booms, and 4) Skimming. The “hands on” physical process is time consuming and requires a lot of personnel and equipment to both initiate and complete this activity. The shore-line prevention measures for reducing the impact of an oceanic oil spill include (but are not limited to); 1) Booms, 2) Manual Removal, 3) Flushing and Washing, 4) Vacuums, 5) Burning, and 6) Sorbents¹.

With a recent spill occurring 25 July 2020 when a Japanese tanker hit the reef in the [Indian Ocean](#), humanity still comes up short in having effective measures to this continuing problem. At OceanSaviours, we are committed to uniting with the global collective in reducing these ongoing disasters, by any means available. We ask you to join this effort in creating a solution to this enduring issue as we fight to save and protect a sensible future for our descendants.

¹ Oil spills: A major marine ecosystem threat | National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. (2010). Noaa.gov. <https://www.noaa.gov/explainers/oil-spills-major-marine-ecosystem-threat>