

Development and implementation of a shoreline assessment (SCAT) programme for a Tier 3 OSRO

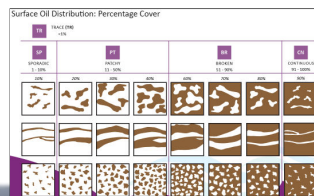
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Consistent and reproducible shoreline oiling assessments are critical for making decisions regarding shoreline treatment options and strategies. Industry recognised protocols such as the long established SCAT technique are embedded in many national contingency planning frameworks and are now considered best practice worldwide.

Background

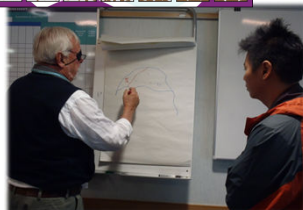
OSRL recently embarked on a long term project with Owens Coastal Consultants (OCC) to fully embed the SCAT protocol into OSRL's internal training and response procedures. OSRL has long employed many elements of SCAT in their shoreline response planning process but required a consolidated integration of standard SCAT methodology, process and data handling for global application.



Approach

A multi-skilled SCAT "Core Team" of 15 personnel were selected from across the organisation.

An intensive 5 day SCAT training session was delivered to the Core Team by Ed Owens in order to impart the knowledge, skills and technique required to arm personnel with the expertise to be effective SCAT field personnel.



Exposed Tidal Flats: E3-7

- Exposed tidal flats are composed primarily of sand and other materials of fine to medium grain size.
- Shoreline oiling is most likely to occur during high tide, when the water level is high enough to cover the flats.
- Oil does not usually adhere to the surface of exposed tidal flats, but rather is carried away by the tide.
- Oil that does adhere to the surface of exposed tidal flats is most likely to be found in the high tide zone.
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Sheltered Rocky Shores: E3-8

- Sheltered rocky shores are composed primarily of rocks and other materials of coarse to very coarse grain size.
- Shoreline oiling is most likely to occur during high tide, when the water level is high enough to cover the rocks.
- Oil does not usually adhere to the surface of sheltered rocky shores, but rather is carried away by the tide.
- Oil that does adhere to the surface of sheltered rocky shores is most likely to be found in the high tide zone.
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Sheltered Sand Shores: E3-9

- Sheltered sand shores are composed primarily of sand and other materials of fine to medium grain size.
- Shoreline oiling is most likely to occur during high tide, when the water level is high enough to cover the sand.
- Oil does not usually adhere to the surface of sheltered sand shores, but rather is carried away by the tide.
- Oil that does adhere to the surface of sheltered sand shores is most likely to be found in the high tide zone.
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SCAT Tools

New tools have been developed to support the new SCAT function of OSRL's response teams which include the following

- SOS forms – "e-version" for ease of use
- SCAT Database – for small scale spills
- SCAT Field Guide – OSRL version
- OSRL All weather note books



Achievements to date

OSRL SCAT TEAM MEMBERS

OSRL has taken the lessons learnt by the Core Team and developed its own internally run 2 day SCAT Team Member course with a 50% emphasis on field-based practical modules.

To date >100 operational personnel have been trained globally and skills have been used on 2 spill incidents and shoreline mapping projects.

RESPONSE INTEGRATION

SCAT has been integrated into OSRL's standard operating procedures thus ensuring all shoreline responses use the methodology for consistent and reliable oiling recording.

SCAT has also been included into OSRL's competency standards thus ensuring alignment of knowledge and expertise.

Future plans

The OSRL SCAT capability requires further investment with key planned activity:

- Investment in a SCAT database
- Integration of SCAT exercises
- Additional trained SCAT roles
- Offering external SCAT training courses

www.oilspillresponsetraining.com
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