



INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS  
POLLUTION FEDERATION LIMITED

## *Oil Spills in Cold Water: Lessons Learned*

PAJ Symposium  
Tokyo, Japan  
February 2005

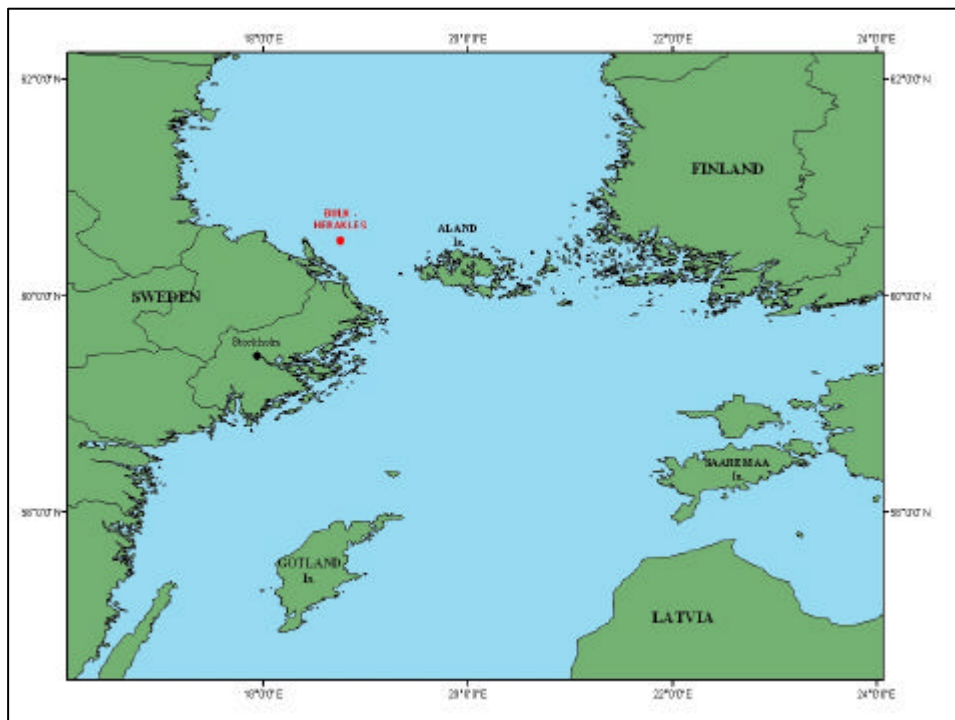
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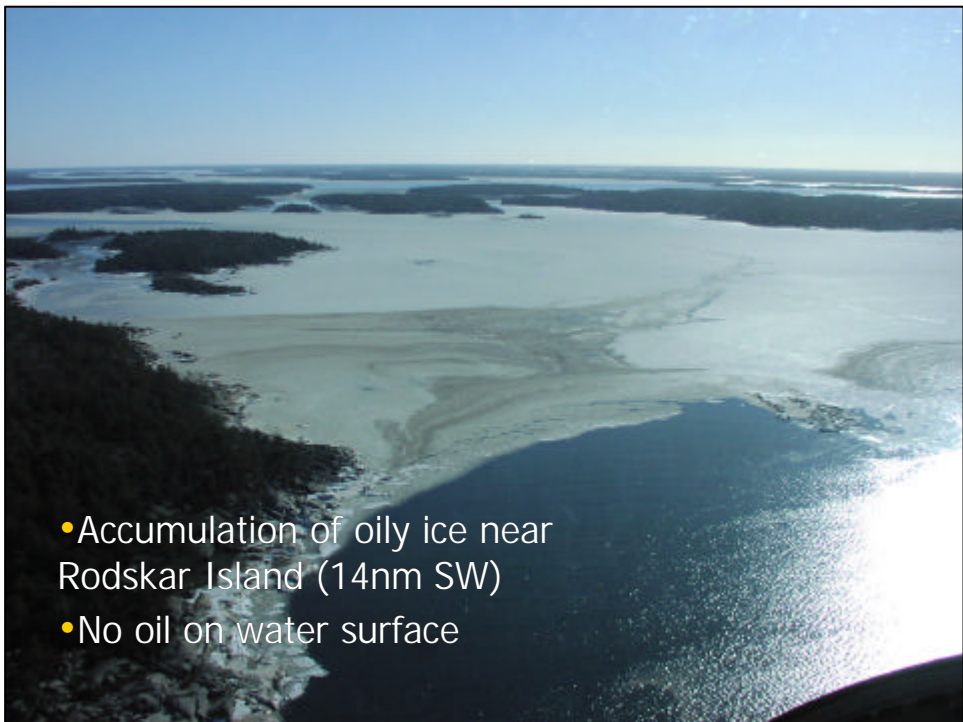
## Review of three incidents

- Bulk and Herakles collision  
– March 2004, Gulf of Botnia, Sweden
- Polo M grounding  
– November 2004, Gotland, Sweden
- Selendang Ayu grounding  
– December 2004, Alaska, USA

## Bulk and Herakles incident

- Collision with a navigational aid while in transit between Finland and Sweden on March 2, 2004
- Both sank causing a spill of:
  - 13000 m<sup>3</sup> of coal
  - 70 m<sup>3</sup> of IFO-180
  - 120 m<sup>3</sup> of MDO
- Oil and ice drifted on nearby island (Swedish Natural Reserve)









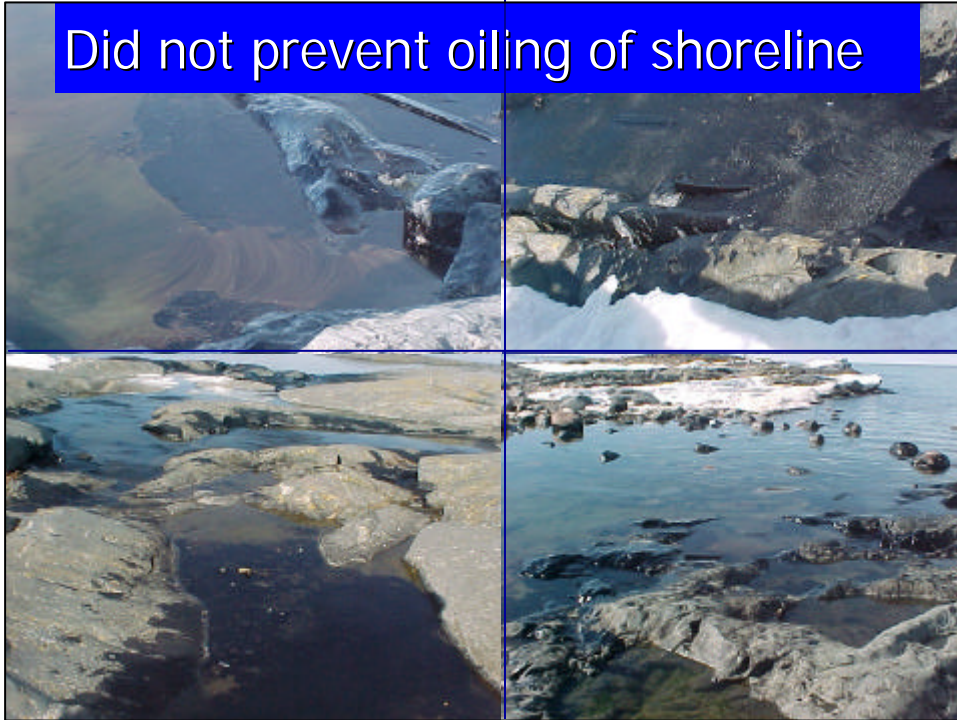


## Success?

- After 10 days:
  - 200 containers recovered
  - Oil collected = 1 to 5m<sup>3</sup>
  - 5 to 25 litres/container
  - \$129,000 USD/m<sup>3</sup>
- Recovery rate very low
- Most of the contaminated ice melted on the shore or drifted away



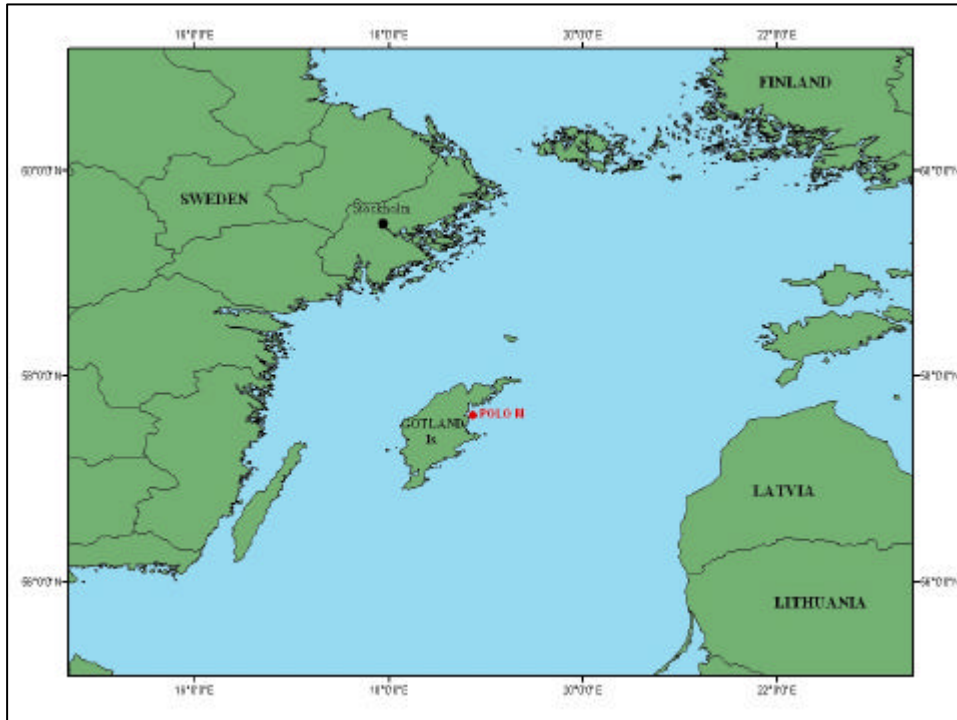
Did not prevent oiling of shoreline



## M/V POLO M Grounding

- Due to bad weather, vessel ran aground on November 23, 2004 on Gotland Island, Sweden
- Severe damages to the bottom
- On board:
  - 23000 tonnes of cement
  - 1000 m<sup>3</sup> HFO-380
  - 150 m<sup>3</sup> MDO





## M/V POLO M Grounding

- Lightering operation
  - Cement (4000 tonnes)
  - HFO (900 m<sup>3</sup>)
- Estimated spill between 50-100m<sup>3</sup>



## Oil Behaviour

- Tar balls and pancakes visible in vicinity of ship
  - No oil observed on water
  - But oil washing up on shoreline?
- Submerged oil (10 cm to 1m depth)

## Submerged oil?

- Why?
  - Oil density (0.9901 at 15<sup>0</sup>C)
  - Water temperature 4<sup>0</sup>C
  - Low water salinity (10<sup>0/00</sup>)
- Oil density increased above water density
  - Submerged oil





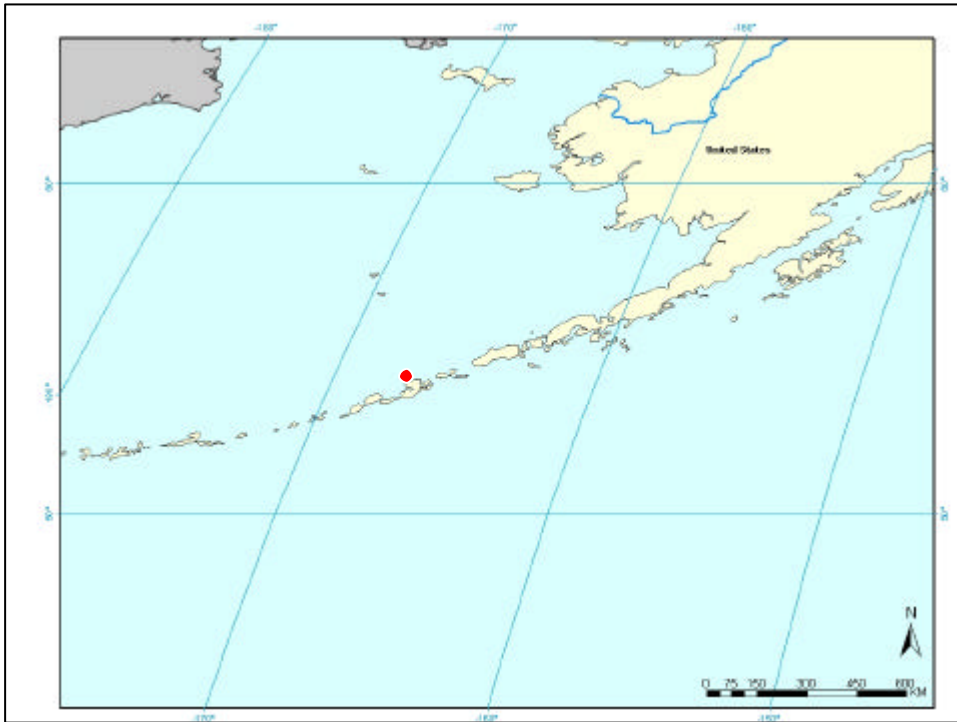


## M/V Selendang Ayu Grounding

- Following a power failure, ran aground and broke in two on Unalaska Island, Alaska
- 6 crew members died during evacuation of vessel
- December 7th 2004
- Very remote location









## M/V Selendang Ayu Grounding

- On board:
  - 1600 m<sup>3</sup> HFO-380
  - 70 m<sup>3</sup> MDO
- Approximately 1000m<sup>3</sup> were spilled
- Lightering of stern section



## Oil Behaviour

- Floats
  - Slicks
  - Tar balls
- Increased viscosity
  - Cold temperature (3°C)
  - Emulsification
- Small amount of oil in ice





## Lessons Learned – Cold Water

- Safety issues
  - PPE
  - Logistics
- Low recovery rate for oil in ice
- Affect oil density and viscosity
  - Increase
  - Potential for sinking oil
- Improve effectiveness of manual recovery

