

## Industry resources for responding to oil spills ~ What determines their effectiveness?

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## Early beginnings

**1967 – The Torrey Canyon**

The UK's and world's first major post-war maritime pollution disaster.

The UK's response lacked in all areas.

Spur for much of the oil industry response plans



## 1980's Oil Spill Incidents



- ◆ Amoco Cadiz , Brittany
- ◆ Esso Bernicia , Shetland
- ◆ Christos Bitas , Milford Haven
- ◆ Andros Patrea, Spain



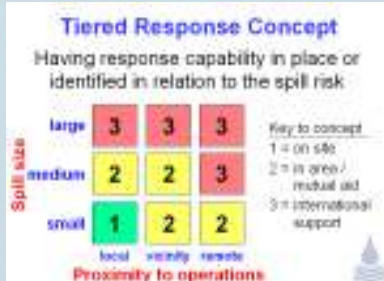
## Late 1980's ~ Early 1990's



- ◆ Exxon Valdez
- ◆ Mega Borg
- ◆ Maersk Navigator
- ◆ Nagasaki Spirit
- ◆ Sanko Honour
- ◆ Haven



## Oil Industry Reaction



- Planning Regime  
Introduction of Tiered response concept

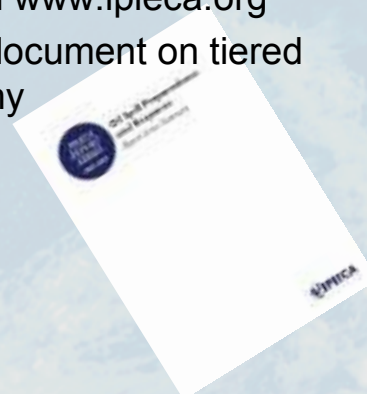
- Resources  
BP OSSC established in Southampton 1981

CCA established in Caribbean



## IPIECA

- Oil Spill Preparedness and Response deals with response issues
  - Good source of technical information
  - Downloadable from [www.ipieca.org](http://www.ipieca.org)
  - Recently updated document on tiered response philosophy



### International Response from Industry and Government

- ◆ Oil pollution Act 1990 passed by Congress
  - Prescriptive Planning and response requirements
- ◆ International Maritime Organisation OPRC Convention
  - Convention to improve response capabilities
- ◆ Ship construction rules changed
  - Double Hulls
- ◆ ISM Code
  - Improved management arrangements
- ◆ Ship Vetting
  - More interest in shipping Quality



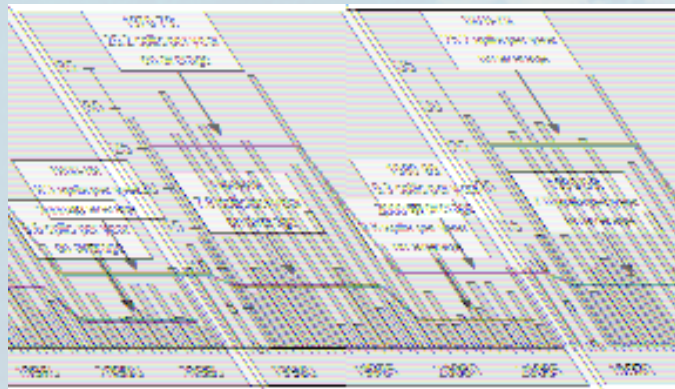
### Improvements in response arrangements

- ◆ MSRC developed in USA
- ◆ EARL established in Singapore
- ◆ OSRL capability expanded in UK
- ◆ AMOSC established in Australia
- ◆ CCA redeveloped in Caribbean
- ◆ PAJ stockpiles established along trade routes
- ◆ PIMMAG established in Malaysia





## Impact of measures



Source ITOFF

- ◆ Combined impact of all measures has led to a general reduction in tanker incidents



## Consolidation and the drive to share experience and knowledge

- ◆ Reduced spill frequency leads to limited opportunity to gain skills
- ◆ Changing demographic profile in industry means experience is being lost
- ◆ Outsourcing of response provisions
- ◆ Need to create fora to share experience
  - International Petroleum Environmental Conservation Association ( IPIECA )
  - Global Response Network
  - Industry Technical Advisory Committee

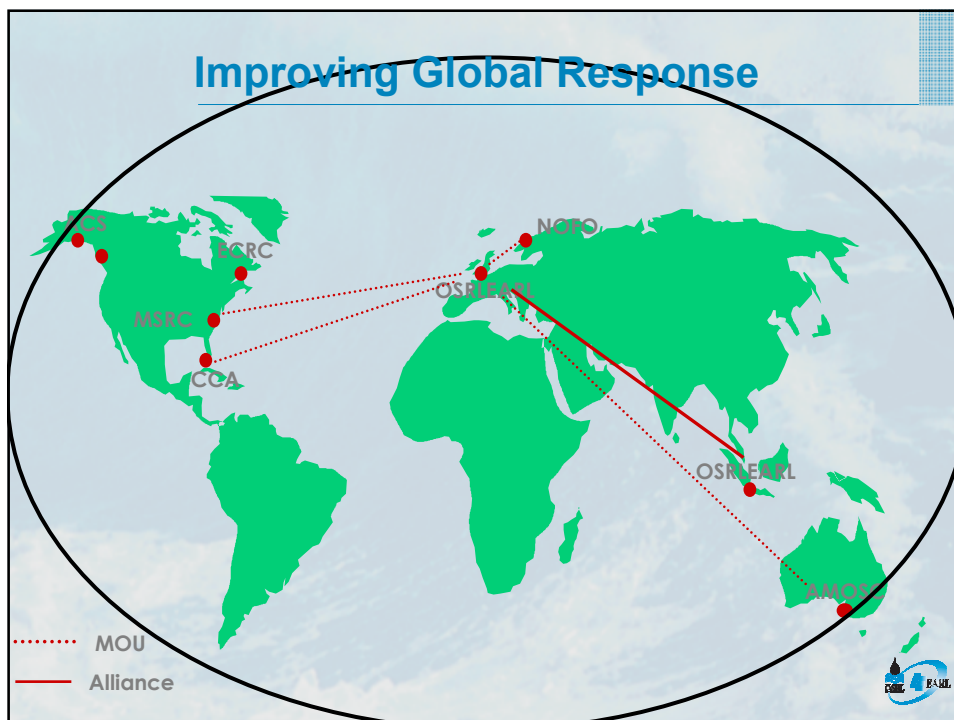


## Global Response Network

- ◆ Membership
  - Industry funded response organisation and not-for-profit
  - Substantive area / international remit
  - Willing to share resources with no financial gain to contributing party
  - Committed to the mission and fully participate in each area of GRN co-operation
- ◆ Key functions
  - Enhanced use of industry resources for training, during response, exercises, information exchanges
  - Sharing of best practice and helping establish, between each, good industry model standards



## Improving Global Response





## Members


- ◆ Founding Members
  - OSRL EARL
  - MSRC
- ◆ Members involved since the launch
  - CCA
  - AMOSC
  - ACS
  - ECRC
  - NOFO






## Deliverables

- ◆ Work groups to implement objectives
  - Response Activities Co-operation
  - Operations - Best Practice
  - Technical Development & Exchange
- ◆ Implementation so far
  - Spill back-up between OSRL EARL & MSRC
  - OSRLEARL - MSRC secondments
    - Savannah
    - Southampton
  - Information sharing
    - Aviation issues
    - HSE issues
  - GRN Co-ordinator role supported by OSRL EARL



## Industry Technical Advisory Committee



Response industry group formed to share experience and knowledge  
Access at [www.industry-tac.org](http://www.industry-tac.org)

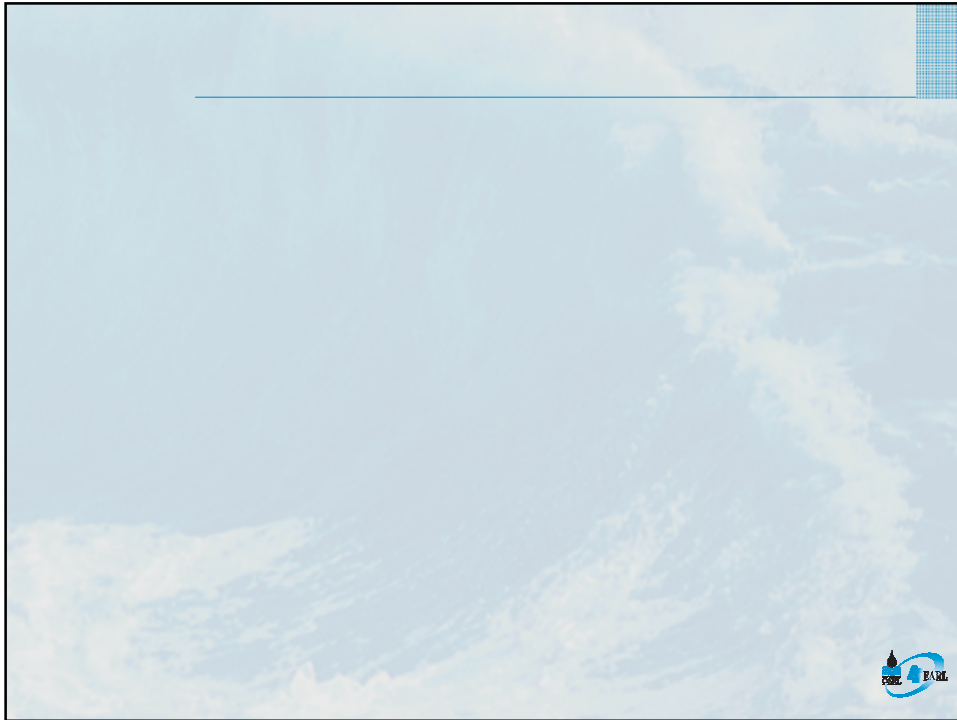


## Summary

- ◆ Significant resources are expended worldwide to deal with oil spill response
- ◆ Oil industry record has improved significantly over past years
- ◆ World is changing and different threats are emerging
- ◆ Need to retain structures to keep experience and knowledge current







## Response effectiveness

- 💧 No shortage of worldwide resources
- 💧 Availability of expertise and experience
  - Reducing within oil industry but available from other sources
    - Government
    - Response industry
    - Insurers representatives
- 💧 So what are the issues in reality?

### Effectiveness of Response governed by

- ◆ The ability to call upon resources (access)
- ◆ The will to do so
- ◆ A clear understanding of what is needed
- ◆ The ability to deploy the resources
- ◆ The ability to manage the resources
- ◆ The ability to be able to say no to assistance if it is not required



### Ability to call upon resources (1)

- ◆ Worldwide availability
- ◆ Nearest clearly the best logistical option
  - Speed
  - Price
- ◆ OPRC Convention provides framework to share resources
- ◆ National issues may inhibit transboundary movement
  - People
  - Equipment



## The will to do so (2)

- ◆ Often face a resistance to call for help
  - Perceived failure
  - Recognition of seriousness
  - Accuracy of spill report
  - 'its under control syndrome'
  - Don't want to escalate the problem syndrome
  - Fear of cost
- ◆ Consequences always follow



## Understanding what is required (3)

- ◆ Right resources
- ◆ Right place
- ◆ Right time
- ◆ Not too much
- ◆ Not too little



## The ability to deploy (4)

- ◆ Pointless having equipment that cannot be deployed
- ◆ Need logistics support
  - Vessels
  - Transport
  - Recovered oil storage / disposal
- ◆ Need trained personnel
- ◆ Trained supervisors



## The ability to manage resources (5)

- ◆ Management team
- ◆ Agreed objectives
- ◆ Agreed plan
- ◆ Command and control
- ◆ Supervisors in field
- ◆ Communications





## The ability to say no (6)

- ◆ 'Just more resources' is not the answer
- ◆ Right resources
- ◆ Right place
- ◆ Right time
- ◆ Politics can be a problem



## Summary

- ◆ Large amount of resources available
- ◆ Only useful if put to work
- ◆ People more than equipment are the drivers
- ◆ Recognition of the need to respond quickly but effectively
- ◆ Recognition that *'all spills are different'* but in reality the *'problems faced are invariably the same'*



