

Post Spill Monitoring – Case Study and Lessons Learned

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Vision

To be a trusted source of objective technical advice worldwide on preparedness and response to accidental marine spills.



Mission Statement

To promote effective response to marine spills of oil, chemicals and other substances as a means of reducing impacts on the environment and affected communities.







- Established in 1968
- Operates on a non-for profit basis
- Based in London, but we work globally
- Total team of 34, technical team with 14 responders available 24/7
- Primarily funded by the global shipping industry (annual fee)
 - Members: > 97% of the world's ocean going tanker fleet
 - Associates: > 90% of the world's ocean going non-tanker fleet







CONTINGENCY PLANNING & ADVISORY



INFORMATION SERVICES



TRAINING & EDUCATION









- 1. Assess potential environmental and economic impacts
- Identify appropriate and effective methods to investigate the impacts
- 3. Use best methods to assess short & long term impacts
- 4. Efficient use of resources
- 5. Assess the effectiveness of spill response & clean up operations
- 6. Determine compensation and / or liability

(Kirby *et al.* 2014)



However....

monitoring studies following spills are bound by a number of **scientific/technical** and **financial constraints**.



Types of post spill studies



ECOTOXICITY ANALYSIS

Post environmental studies – when are they necessary?



Necessity depends on...

- Scale of the pollution
- Vulnerability and sensitivity of natural resources
- Level of concern of the authorities
 / public
- 'Reasonableness' decided case by case
- Are studies likely to meet their objectives?
- Is there a clear link to the spill?



Fisheries

Mangroves





Despite the general trend in decreasing number of large spills, post-spill studies now occur in > 40% of incidents

Since the mid-1990s ITOPF has observed an increase in the number of cases involving post-spill studies.

Coral

Marshes

Birds



Case study: ST THOMAS DE AQUINAS



- 16th August 2013 (RORO) passenger vessel ST THOMAS DE AQUINAS (STA) suffered a collision with the container-ship SULPICIO EXPRESS 7in the approaches to Cebu port
- 125 m³ IFO, 20 m³ diesel and 20 m³ of lube oil on board at the time of the incident
- Environmental Impact Studies started in October /
 November
 - Chemical Assessment of Water, Sediment and Biological Samples
 - GIS Mapping of Affected Areas
 - Mangrove Assessment
 - Fisheries Assessment







Chemical Assessment of Water, Sediment and Biological Samples

- Total petroleum hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in the water and water column, sediment as well as biological samples (shellfishes and crab)
- \rightarrow no control or reference site, no baseline data
- \rightarrow elevated samples were close to the port / site selection

GIS Mapping of Affected Areas

- Environmental Sensitivity Index map
- → detailed map of the area, EAI maps are handy to have before an incident





Mangrove Assessment

- Aim: Determine the acute impacts of the oil spill on the mangrove community
- → presents the results of a "census" type survey, and as such, documents tangible impacts to mangroves
- \rightarrow mangrove replantation in direct response to the incident did not incorporate the study's findings



Fisheries Assessment

- Aim: assessment of the possible effects of the oil spill on fisheries
- Estimation of fishing effort, catch per unit effort, fisheries production, valuation of fishery
- ightarrow ightarrow lack of historical data
- \rightarrow collection of baseline data



CHALLENGES

Challenges encountered and suggested solutions

Lack of spill specific knowledge Identify knowledge gaps and develop protocols / guidelines

Absence of baseline data

Identify reference sites

Different definitions of environmental damage

Bi / Unilateral or International agreements

Exercises & drills exclude environmental regulators

Encourage cooperation between relevant parties

Lack of pre-defined study objectives

Focus on relevant indicators / develop specific guidelines



Thank you for your attention

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