

Overview

This project provides for continued monitoring of research and regulatory issues regarding the physical and chemical properties and effects of dispersants.

As part of this project, the council funds research and gathers information to fill in gaps in information surrounding dispersant effectiveness and toxicity in the cold waters of our region.

For many years, the council has been pursuing answers to questions surrounding dispersant effectiveness and toxicity in the cold waters of our region. This pursuit has led to a number of studies on gaps in the research including swirling flask laboratory testing, photo-enhanced toxicity, test tanks, re-surfacing of dispersed oil, dispersants policy and other related subjects including on the subject of dispersion limited by mixed layer depths. These studies often have filled in information gaps in the industry funded and market driven research that had generally been the most available information previously.

This project provides the organization with the best scientific knowledge from both inside and outside the organization. Such scientific knowledge helps us make scientifically justified decisions and informed comments on spill response policy and regulatory development.

The project is ongoing for the foreseeable future due to the continuing efforts by industry to increase the use of dispersants for spill response.



As part of this project, the council observes oil dispersant testing at Ohmsett, an oil spill research test facility in New Jersey. Ohmsett has a pool where oil and dispersants can be sprayed into the water without risk of contaminating the environment.

A Georgia Institute of Technology and Universidad Autónoma de Aguascalientes lab study published in the scientific journal *Environmental Pollution* showed that the Corexit 9500A dispersant added to Macondo oil, as BP did in attempting to disperse the oil in its 2010 oil spill, **made the blend of oil and dispersant 52 times more toxic** to rotifers (a zooplankton species) than **the oil itself**.

More about this (non-council-funded) study:
<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0269749112004344>

This project is part of the work of the council's Scientific Advisory Committee. For more information, contact council project manager, Joe Banta, banta@pwsrccac.org. On the web: www.pwsrccac.org