
Puget Sound

Trajectory Analysis Planner (TAP) User's Guide



Washington Department of Ecology
March 2002

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INTRODUCTION

The Trajectory Analysis Planner uses an innovative statistical approach to help oil spill contingency planners. TAP answers the crucial question: where are spills likely to go?

How does TAP do it?

With a few mouse clicks, you can see the probability that any oil spill will reach a specific segment of shoreline. TAP analyzes statistics from potential spill trajectories generated by an oil spill trajectory model. The spill model predicts how an oil spill will spread and move within a local area. The model incorporates:

- the bathymetry and shoreline configuration of a particular body of water, including its channels, bays, and significant rivers;
- currents and winds; and
- shoreline characteristics that determine beaching and refloating of oil.

Then for each season, the model generates 500 individual oil spill trajectories from each of about 300 potential spill locations. The model then accumulates statistics for where, when, and how much oil impacts receptor sites, into data files for TAP.

TAP gives you detailed maps

TAP displays a map of a specific local area, including a major water body and the adjacent land. The map displays shoreline segments that cover the entire shoreline, the user can associate these sites with shoreline resources such as seabird colonies or marine mammal hauling grounds, sites of particular socioeconomic value such as tourist beaches or large marinas, or areas where remediation measures would be difficult or expensive. You can use TAP to evaluate the probable threat to any of these sites from an oil spill that originates in any location within the mapped water body.

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About This Manual

This manual pertains to TAP in general and focuses particularly on the Puget Sound TAP. This manual is divided into five principal sections:

1 Introduction

This chapter briefly describes TAP.

2 TAP modes

This chapter describes each of TAP's five modes:

- i. Shoreline Impact Analysis, where you can learn the percentage of spills that could reach areas of concern;
- ii. Site Oiling Analysis shows you the amount of oil that could reach areas of concern;
- iii. Response Time Analysis shows you how long it might take for a spill to reach a given location.
- iv. Resource Analysis lets you determine the probable cost to specific resources from a spill; and
- v. Threat Zone Analysis shows you where the oil could come from that would threaten a given shoreline.

3 Using TAP for contingency planning

This chapter explains strategies for using TAP modes to create and revise vessel and fixed-site area contingency plans.

4 Frequently asked questions

This chapter answers questions ranging from best uses for TAP to uses for which TAP is not suited.

5 Oil spill terms in TAP

This chapter explains nomenclature in TAP, including oil industry terminology.

System Requirements

All Puget Sound TAP files are on one CD and include the TAP application program, TAP, this manual, and technical documentation. It is recommended that you go through the manual so that you can fully understand the capabilities and limitations of TAP.

Requirements	Macintosh	Windows
Operating System	System 8.1 or higher	Windows 95, NT, 98, 2000
Hard Drive Space	5 GB: 1-2 GB for each sub-region	5 GB: 1-2 GB for each sub-region
RAM	40 MB	40 MB
Color Monitor	Yes	Yes
Monitors Control Panel	Thousands or Millions of colors	High Color (16 bit) or True Color (32 bit)
Printer	Color	Color

You should have at least 5 GB of memory available on your hard drive to accommodate TAP once decompressed. However, it is possible to decompress and run single regions within Puget Sound with less hard drive space, i.e.:

Puget Sound TAP Sub-Region	Memory Requirement
Strait of Juan De Fuca	1 GB
San Juan Island (Georgia, Haro and Rosario Straits)	1 GB
North Puget Sound	1 GB
South Puget Sound	1 GB

Installing the Puget Sound TAP

Warning: Be advised that approximately 5 GB of hard drive space are required to install and run the entire Puget Sound TAP. The files on the Puget Sound TAP CD or downloaded from the internet are compressed (zipped). When fully expanded TAP'S data files will increase in size by 100 fold.

1. Copy all of the Puget Sound TAP files located on your CD to an empty folder on your hard drive.

In your TAP folder you should see the following files (see figure 1):

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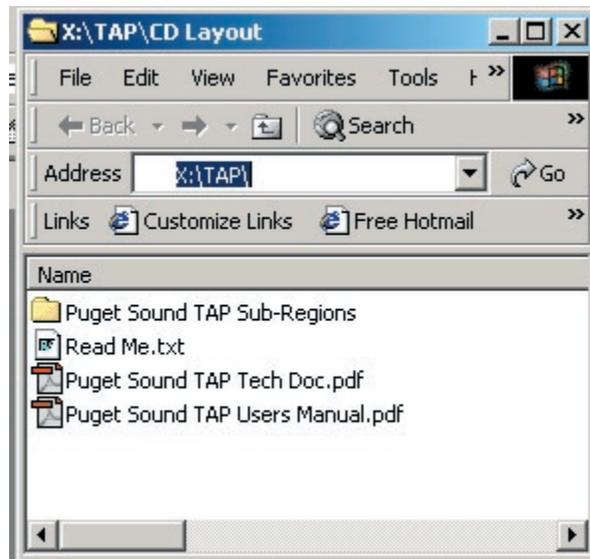


Figure 1. Files contained in TAP folder

The Puget Sound TAP Users Manual and Technical Documentation are in .pdf format.

2. Open a Puget Sound TAP Sub-Region Folder. See figure 2.

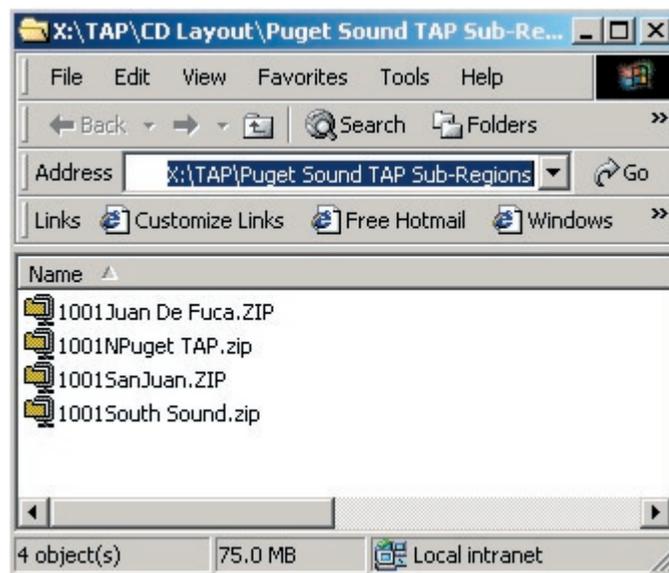


Figure 2. Files contained in Puget Sound Sub-Regions folder

3. Decompress a Sub-Region area of interest, e.g., using WINZIP or is just a matter of double clicking on the desired area.
 - Once unzipped or expanded do not move or retile any file or folder.
 - Don't retile any file or folder name, or modify any data files.

The following folders should now appear on your hard drive for the selected Sub-Region see figure 3:



Figure 3. Files in selected subregion

Each area, when decompressed should have a view similar to figure 3 above.

Resource Manager (folder): This folder contains a stand-alone copy of Resource Manager, a FileMaker Pro 4.0 application (both the Macintosh and PC versions are in this folder). This application allows you to create or modify existing strategies for a particular TAP region. Resources previously entered into the Puget Sound TAP include GRP strategies and shoreline types. These are located in the MHR folder.

TAP (PPC) (Macintosh Application)
Tap.exe (PC Application)

TAPDATA (folder): This folder contains season folders, text files and a base map file that support the operation of TAP in a particular region. The following are a description of these folders and files:

***.BNA (text file):** This is the base map that is used for a specific region.

SITE.TXT (text file): This file contains the global defaults used for each specific region including receptor site and start site information.

SUMMER (folder), SPRING (folder), WINTER (folder): These files contain the seasonal data files.

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TAP MODES

TAP is organized into five modes to help you answer questions to refine your plan.

Q: Which shoreline locations have the highest probability of impact?

A: Use the Shoreline Impact Analysis Mode

Q: How quickly do I need to respond?

A: Use the Response Time Analysis Mode

Q: How much oil can impact a shoreline location?

A: Use the Site Oiling Analysis Mode

Q: How much shoreline is impacted and how many response resources are needed to protect sensitive areas?

A: Use the Resource Analysis Mode

Q: Where could the oil come from?

A: Use the Threat Zone Analysis Mode

Depending on the mode, you can specify

- Season
- Product type spilled
- Level of concern (minimum amount of oil that you want to reach a particular receptor site before the spilled product becomes a concern)
- Threat time period (time interval that begins as soon as a spill starts and lasts as long as you specify)

14 TAP Modes

Getting Started

Start TAP by double-clicking the program icon. See figure 4.

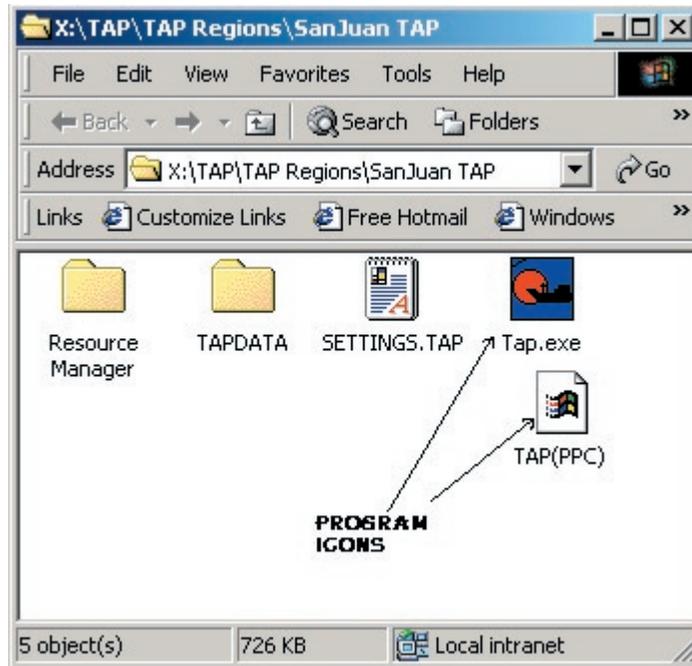


Figure 5: Program icons for Windows(.exe) and Mac(PPC) operating systems.

Click on TAP's initial screen "OK" to proceed to the main screen. See figure 5.

Opening screen for TAP. Hit OK to proceed.

TAP's main screen includes three components: a menu bar (figure 6), a toolbar (figure 7), and a map window. TAP displays the map of your local area in the window. On the map, the coastline is represented by separate segments called receptor sites.

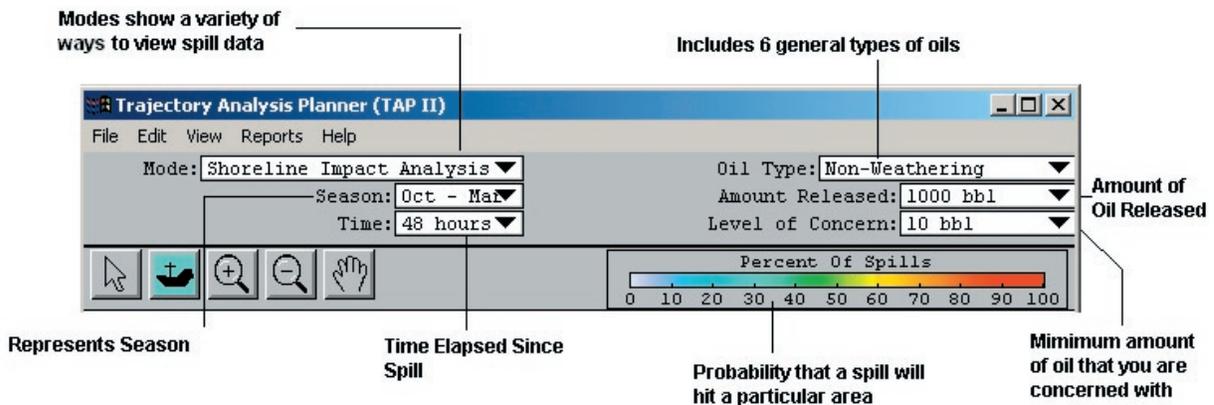


Figure 6. TAP menu bar and tool bar.

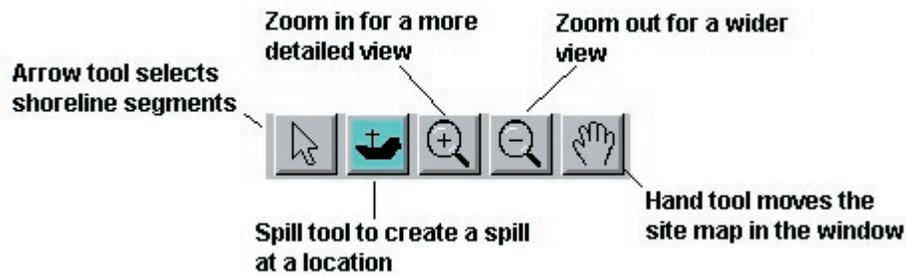


Figure 7. TAP tool bar.

I. Shoreline Impact Analysis: Which Areas Could Be Hit?

Prioritizing for Protection

In Shoreline Impact Analysis, you view the percentage of spills (represented by color or gray scales) from the spill site that could reach your receptor sites. Each receptor site is color-coded to represent the percentage of modeled spills originating at that site that were above the level of concern (LOC, the minimum amount of oil you want to reach a particular receptor site before the spilled product becomes a concern).

Below, we'll use TAP for the San Juan Island sub-region to determine how the shoreline receptor sites will be affected from a spill incident.

Tutorial: Shoreline Impacts from a Diesel Spill

In the following example you will set up a scenario for a 100,000-gallon diesel spill with a 100-gallon level of concern at each receptor site after 48 hours during the summer.

- 1 Select Mode > Shoreline Impact Analysis.

Mode:

Figure 8. TAP shoreline mode selection menu.

- 2 Select Time > 48 hours and Season > April-June.

Season:
Time:

Figure 9. TAP season, and time from start of spill menus.

16 TAP Modes

- 3 Select Oil Type > Diesel.

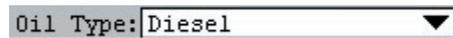


Figure 10. TAP oil type menu.

- 4 Choose Amount Released > Set Amount Released.

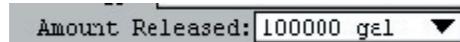


Figure 11. TAP menu for setting amount of oil spilled.

- 5 Type in 100,000 and choose gallons from the popup menu. Click OK.

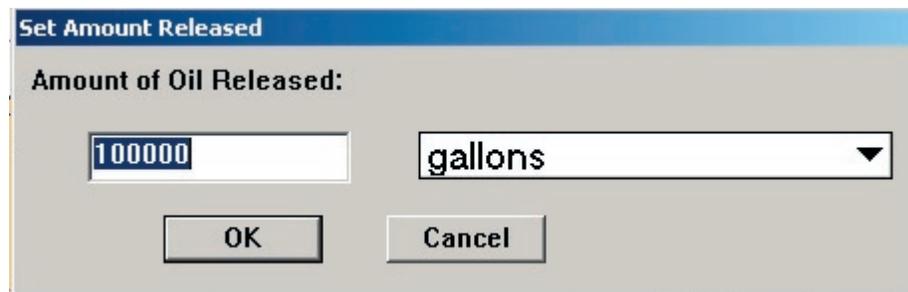


Figure 12: TAP menu for setting the amount of oil spilled.

- 6 Choose Level of Concern > Set Level of Concern > 100 gallons.

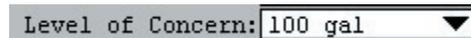


Figure 13. TAP menu for setting minimum amount of oil you are concerned with.

Now you set a spill location.

- 7 In the toolbar, select the ship tool by clicking on the ship tool icon.



Figure 14. TAP cursor for setting a spill location.

Click on the location of your spill site.

You may have to use the zoom in tool to accurately select the site. The main window should look something like figure 15.

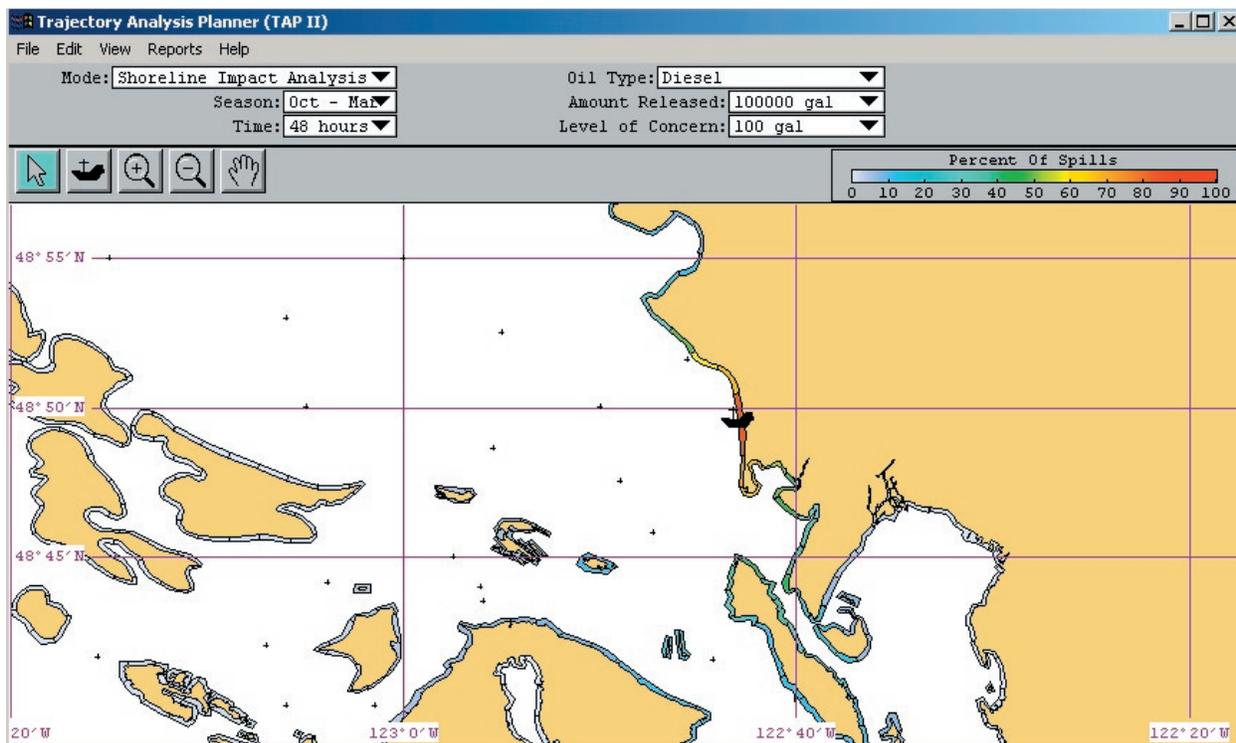


Figure 15. TAP example for Shoreline Impact Analysis.

In a matter of a few quick steps, you can see which shoreline areas are impacted by a 100,000-gallon incident with each receptor site receiving 100 gallons or more of the spill product. The orange areas indicate shoreline receptor sites that have been impacted by 80-90 percent of the statistical spills. The yellow-to-orange, 60-70 percent, and so on. The color bar in the upper right of the map window links the site color with the percent of spills.

This does not represent the amount of oil reaching the receptor sites, but rather gives you an idea of which areas are likely to be oiled.

For more precise numbers, move the mouse along the receptor sites. In the lower left corner of your computer screen TAP gives you a running commentary of the percentage of spills (i.e., out of 500 spill simulations) that exceed your level of concern. See figure 16.

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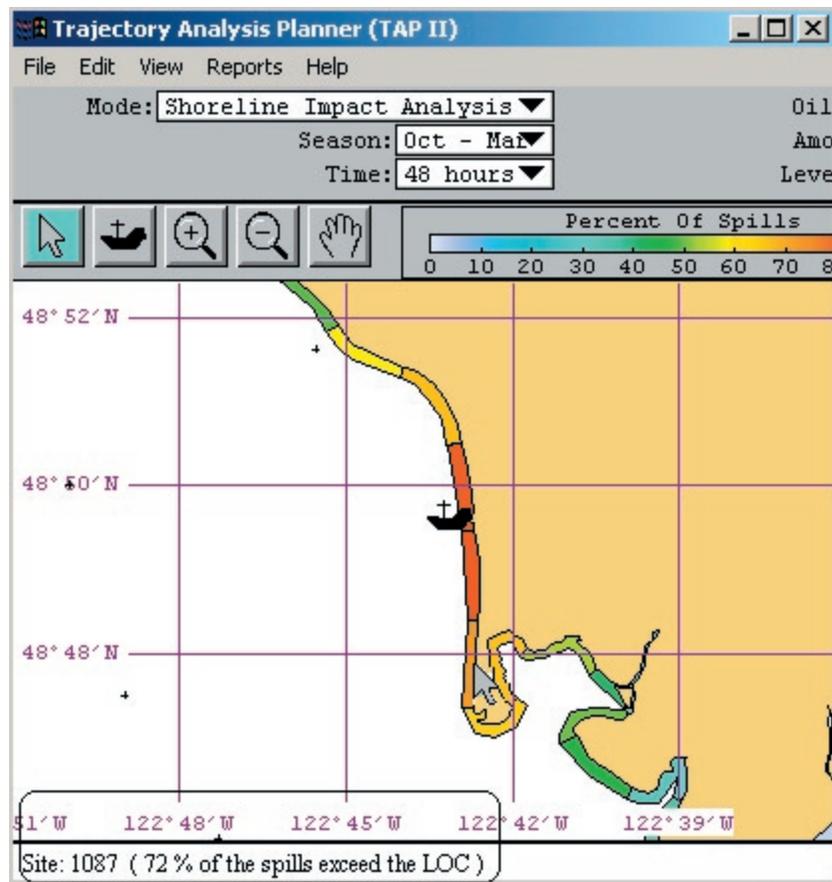


Figure 16. Example of TAP lower left window readout for Shoreline Impact Analysis.

For more experience...(see figures 16 - 22)

- Experiment with different types of oils (e.g., gasoline, medium crude, fuel oil #6) in the oil type pop up menu. (See the time series comparison of gasoline and Fuel Oil #6.)
- Notice the great difference between gasoline, a light product, with a high rate of evaporation, and fuel oil #6, a heavy product with greater persistence under most environmental conditions. Also, modify the time by clicking on the time pop up menu in the toolbar.
- Choose 6 hours, 24 hours, and 48 hours days.
- Experiment with changing the amount released, season, and level of concern.
- If the ship tool is highlighted, you can change the location of the ship by either clicking anywhere in the water or clicking directly on the ship and dragging it some where else.
- Change the location of the ship and see the difference in shoreline impacts.

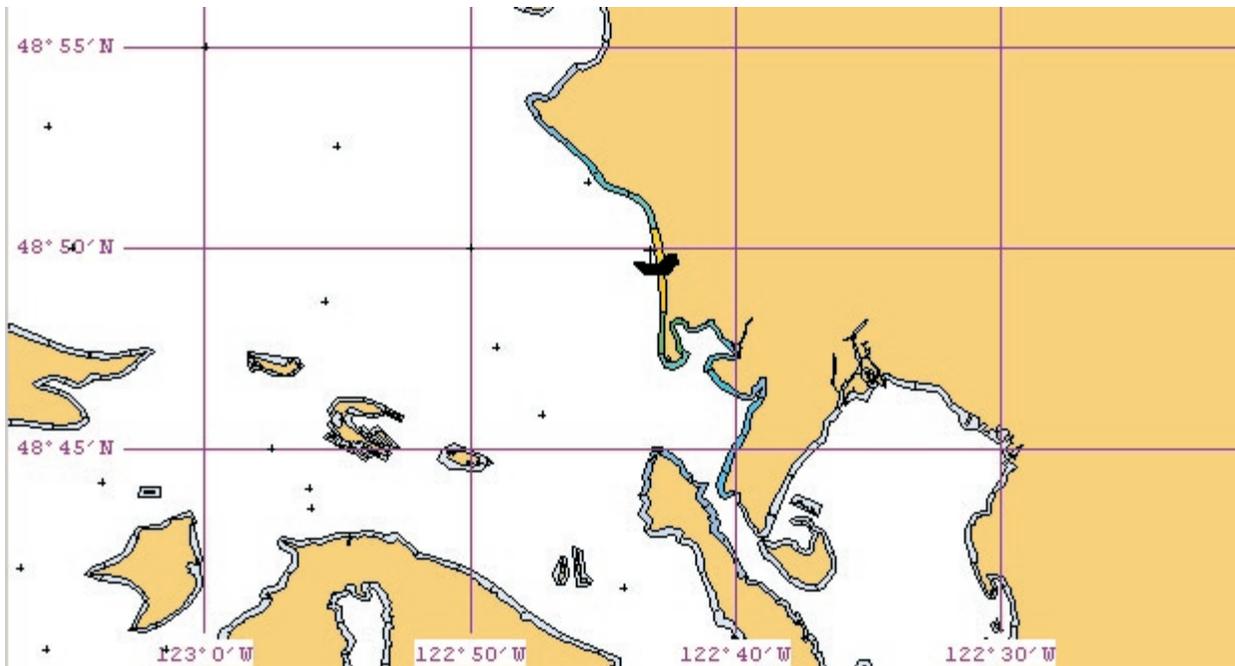


Figure 17. Shoreline Impact Analysis for gasoline at hour 6.

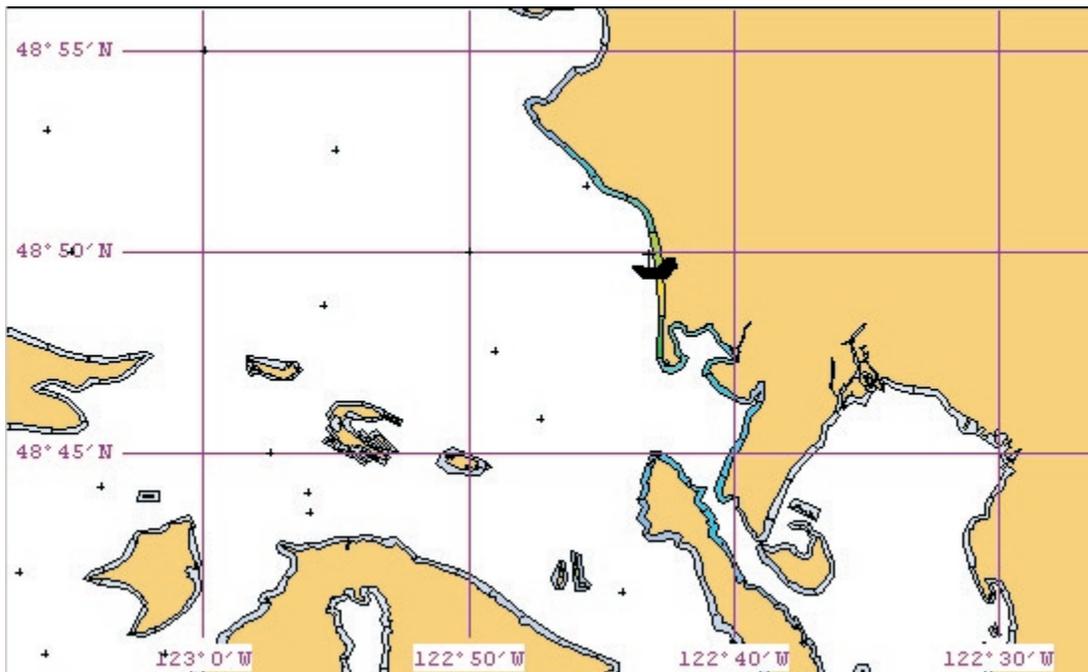


Figure 18. Shoreline Impact Analysis for gasoline at hour 24.

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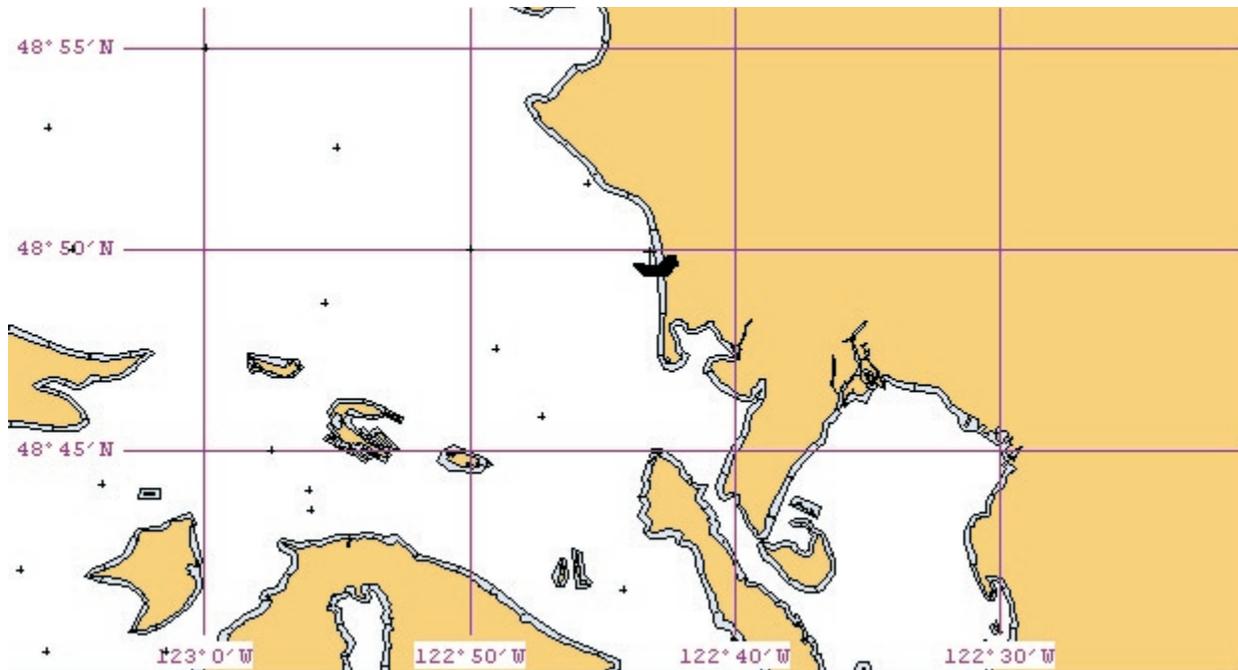


Figure 19. Shoreline Impact Analysis for gasoline at hour 48.

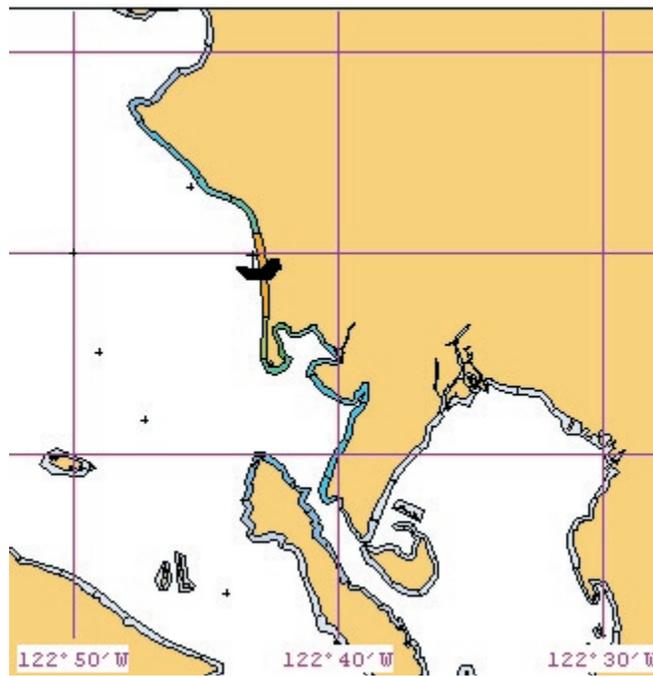


Figure 20. Shoreline Impact Analysis for fuel oil #6 at hour 6.

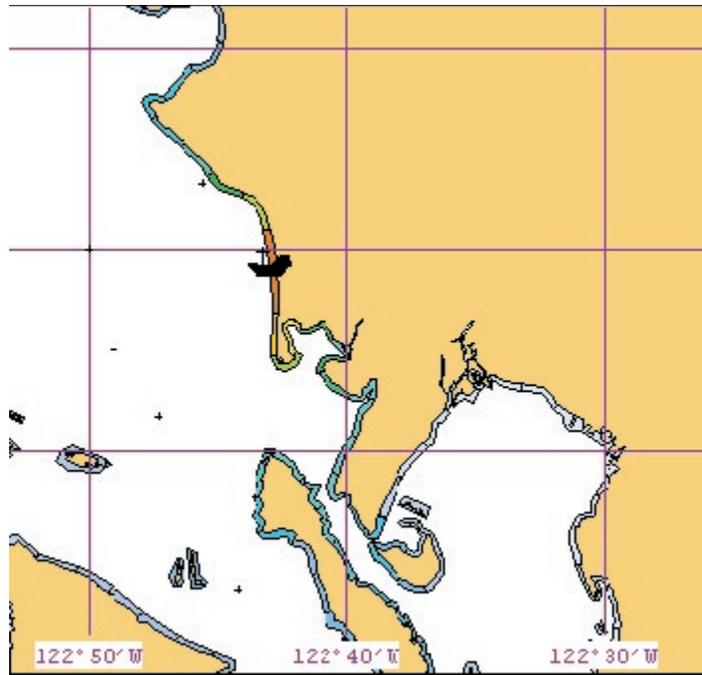


Figure 21. Shoreline Impact Analysis for fuel oil #6 at hour 24

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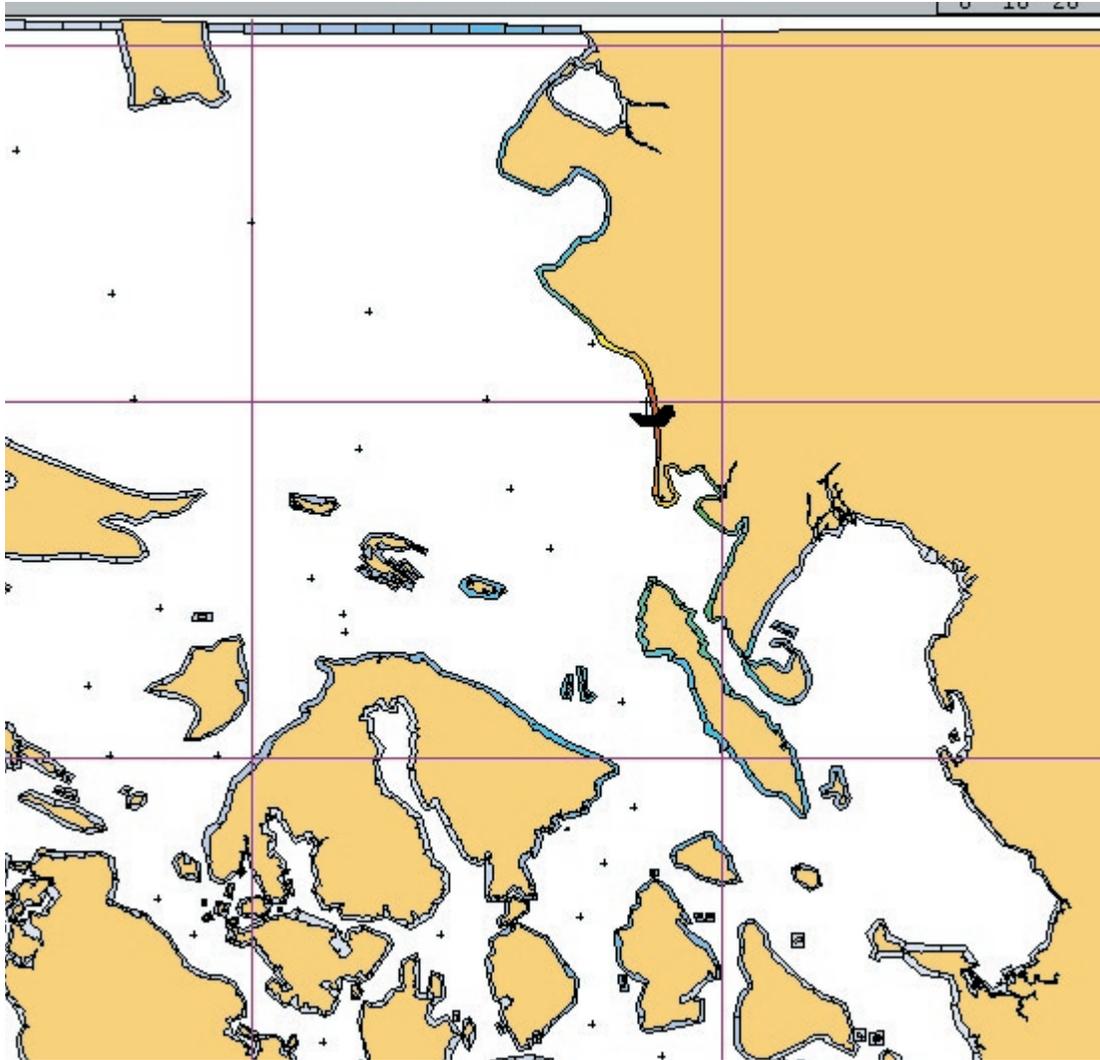


Figure 22. Shoreline Impact Analysis for fuel oil #6 at hour 24

Exporting the data:

You can also write out a file containing each resource site number and the percentage of the 500 modeled spills that exceeded the Level of Concern at that site. You can export this information to a spreadsheet where you can create customized charts and tables.

- 1 Choose Reports > Export Shoreline Impact Values...

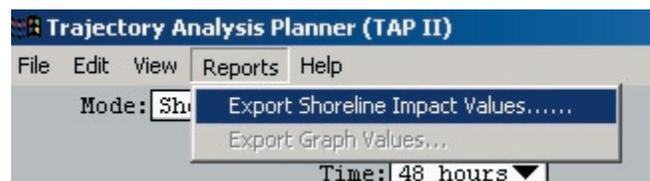


Figure 23. Selecting Export Shoreline Impact Values

2 For this example, type in “Ferndale Shoreline Data” and click Save.

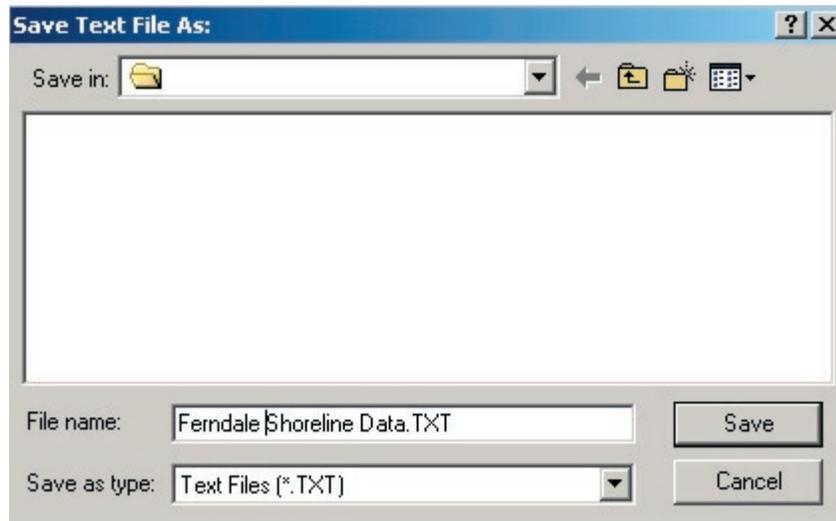


Figure 24. Exporting sample file called Ferndale Shoreline Data

The file that is saved is a standard ASCII, tab-delimited text file. This file lists location, mode, time, season, oil type, amount released, level of concern, latitude and longitude of spill site, and the individual receptor sites with the percentage of spills exceeding the level of concern at each site. You'll be able to open this file with any word-processing, text editor, or spreadsheet program.

The data is sorted by receptor site number. If you need to correlate these receptor site numbers to specific areas on the map, then you must look at the pdf map file on your CD. The map file for San Francisco looks like this:

The data should appear as follows:

```

Location: North Puget Tap
Mode: Shoreline Impact Analysis
Season: Oct - Mar
Time: 48 hours
Oil Type: Fuel Oil #6
Amount Released: 100000 gal
Level of Concern: 100 gal
SPILL: 48°49'35"N 122°43'16"W
Site    % spills exceeding the LOC
1      < 0.1
2      < 0.1
3      < 0.1
.
.
.
  
```

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1073	17
1074	22
1075	41
1076	37
1077	37
1078	32
1079	47
1080	50
1081	35
1082	33
1083	41
1084	53
1085	66
1086	64
1087	72
1088	82 <<<
1089	82
1090	67
1091	59
1092	49
1093	32
1094	27
1095	21
1096	12

From this table you can see that 82 percent of the 500 statistical spills reach receptor site #1088.

II. Site Oiling Analysis: How Much Oil Might Hit

Shoreline Impact Analysis showed you which areas were likely to be oiled. Site Oiling Analysis provides a way for you to visualize how much oil these areas could be hit with. You select a spill site and a receptor site (the area you are planning to protect) to see a graph of the percentage of modeled spills that resulted in more than a given amount of oil impacting a site at a specific time that you specify.

Tutorial: How Much Oil is left at Hour 48 an Oil Spill?

In the following example, you will set up a scenario to find out how much of a 1,000-barrel spill of Fuel Oil No. 6 in Apr-Jun could reach your area 48 hours after the spill.

- 1 Choose Mode > Site Oiling Analysis.
- 2 Choose Time > 48 hours and
Season > Apr-Jun

- 3 Choose Oil Type > Fuel Oil #6 and Amount Released > 1000 barrels.
- 4 Click on the ship tool and locate the spill site. The ship tool changes to the arrow tool. This tells you to use the arrow cursor to select any specific receptor site. As before, you might have to use the zoom in tool, to better make this selection.
- 5 Now, with the cursor, select a receptor site. The spill area in the map window will look something like figure 25.

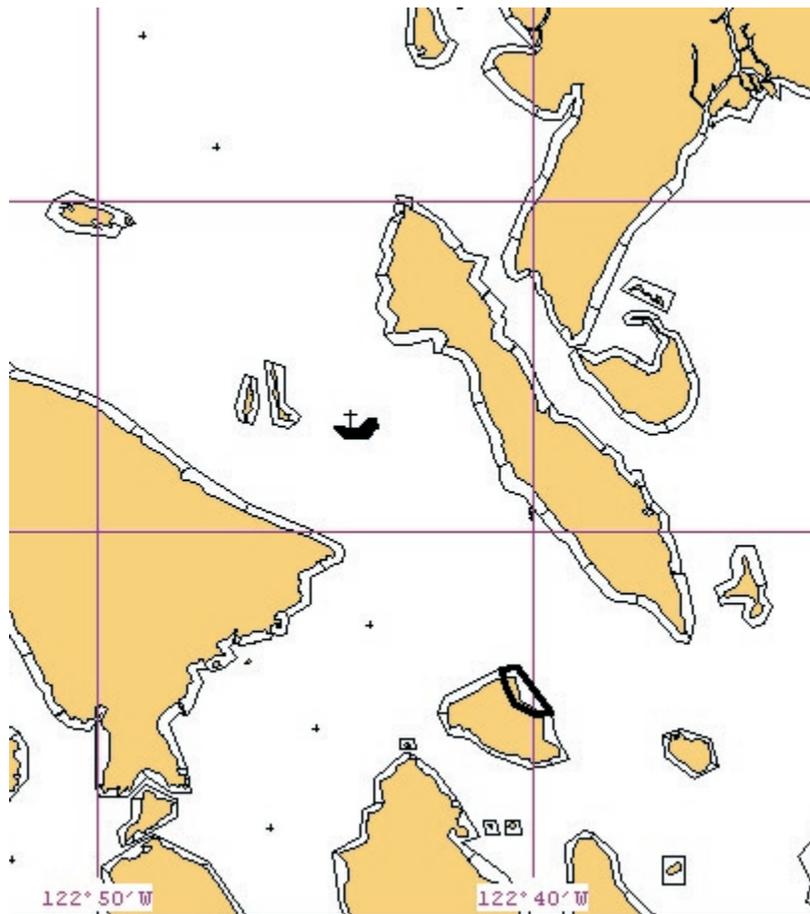


Figure 25. Example TAP map for Site Oiling Analysis menu selection

A small graph window in the main map window appears: See figure 26.

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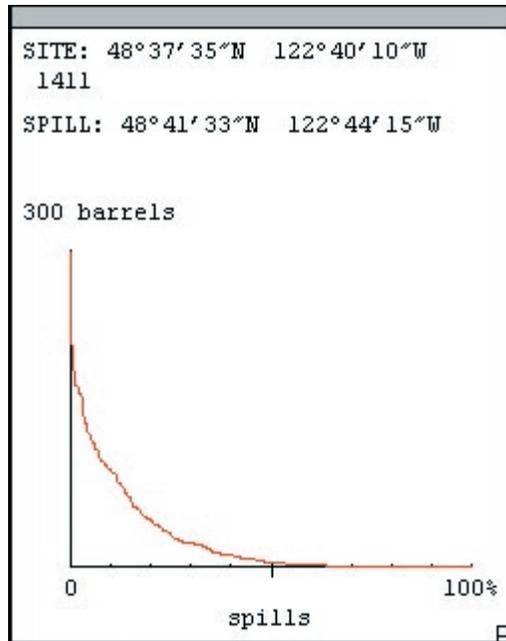


Figure 26. Site Oiling Analysis graph showing how much oil impacted site 1411.

The graph window has the latitude and longitude of the site location, the number of the site (which in this example is 1411) and the latitude and longitude of the spill incident.

The graph displays the spills reaching that receptor site in descending order according to the amount of oil brought to the site. Each point on the x-axis represents the percentage of modeled spills that brought more than a given amount of oil to that receptor site. The highest value is displayed above the y-axis is the largest amount of oil brought to that site by any of the modeled spills.

For this example, at hour 48 in Apr-Jun of a 1000-barrel spill of Fuel Oil No. 6, the worst spill to arrive resulted in 300 barrels of oil reaching the beach. The zero at that point on the x-axis means that 0% of spills brought more than 300 barrels of oil to that site.

Note that this is the largest amount of oil that was brought to the beach by any of the simulations used to create the TAP data set. It may not be the largest amount of oil that could possibly be brought to that site by a spill in the future. While the TAP dataset includes a large number of simulations that well represent the range of possible trajectories, it is based on a finite oceanographic and meteorologic record, and could miss some extreme events.

To precisely read the values on the graph:

Notice a vertical, dotted line on the graph? You can drag this meter with the mouse to see the precise values on the graph. You can also click anywhere on the graph to see precise percentage and unit measures. Finally, you can track these numbers in the

lower left of the map window; they'll change as you drag your mouse across the graph. See figure 27.

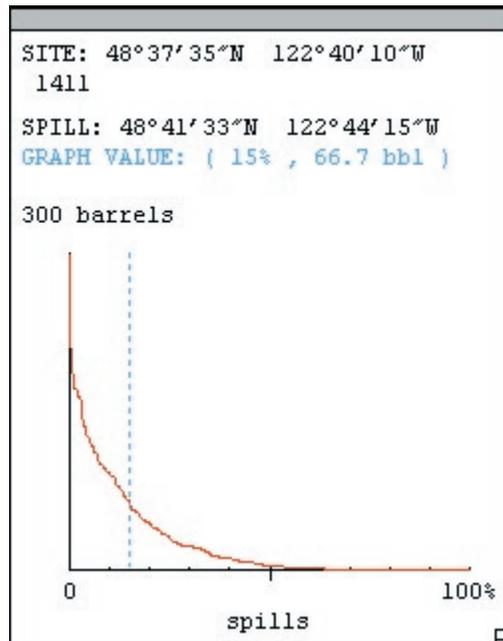


Figure 27. Using Site Oiling Analysis graph to see how much oil each spill brought to site.

In the example above, 15% of the modeled spills brought more than 66.7% barrels to that site. This means that 85% of the spills brought substantially less than the largest spill discussed above.

Experiment with selecting different types of oil to see how each oil type behaves in the environment. For example, diesel fuel spilled on a summer day may have lots of oil at hour 6 but only a small fraction by hour 48 because it has evaporated and dispersed. See figures 28 and 29. The answer for crude oil will be very different.

Tutorial: Gasoline spill

Let's look at how other types of oil are affected by time.

- 1** Experiment further with this mode by clicking on different receptor sites. Looking at the graphs below, notice the difference in the percent of spills reaching those areas.
- 2** Modify the time, season, oil type, and amount released and see how the graph changes.

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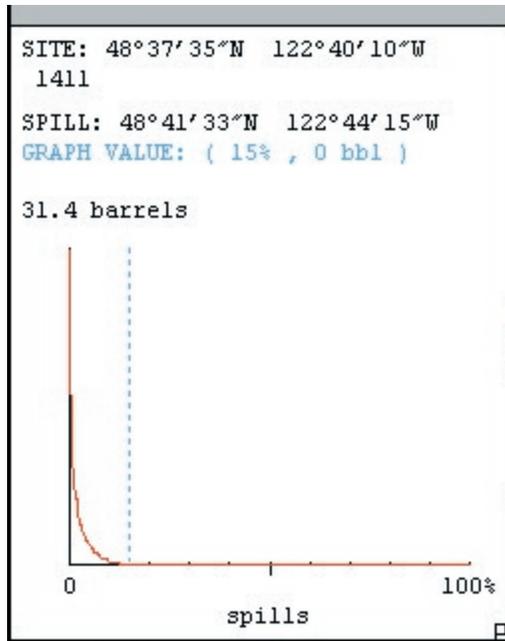


Figure 28. Diesel oil example with Site Oiling Analysis graph at hour 6.

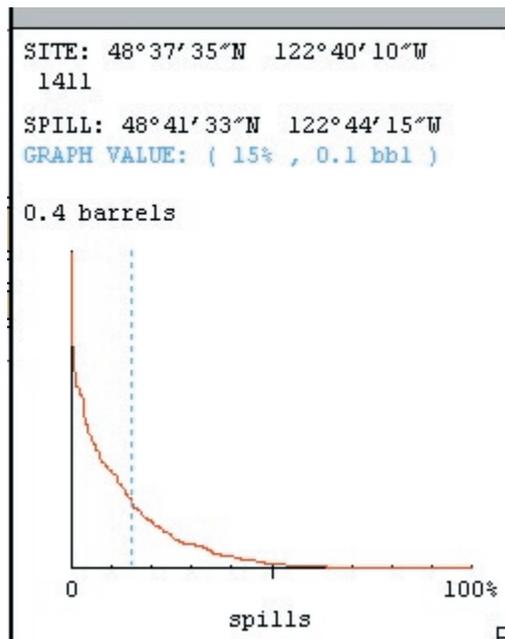


Figure 29. Diesel oil example with Site Oiling Analysis at hour 48.

- 3 You can move the graph window anywhere within the main map window by dragging the cursor over the graph area, and while using the cursor is a hand, clicking while holding the mouse down.

III. Response Time Analysis: When Will it Hit?

TAP allows the local area planner to determine how long it will take for an oil spill to reach various sensitive areas throughout a planning region.

Let's answer these questions:

What is the arrival time of the spilled oil to Sucia Island State Park?

How long will it take for oil spilled at Ferndale to reach Pt. Whitehorn?

Tutorial: A potential spill at Ferndale

For this example, suppose you are planning for a 1,000-barrel spill of Fuel oil #6 released at the Ferndale Refinery Island between October and March.

Use the following map (figure 30) for reference:

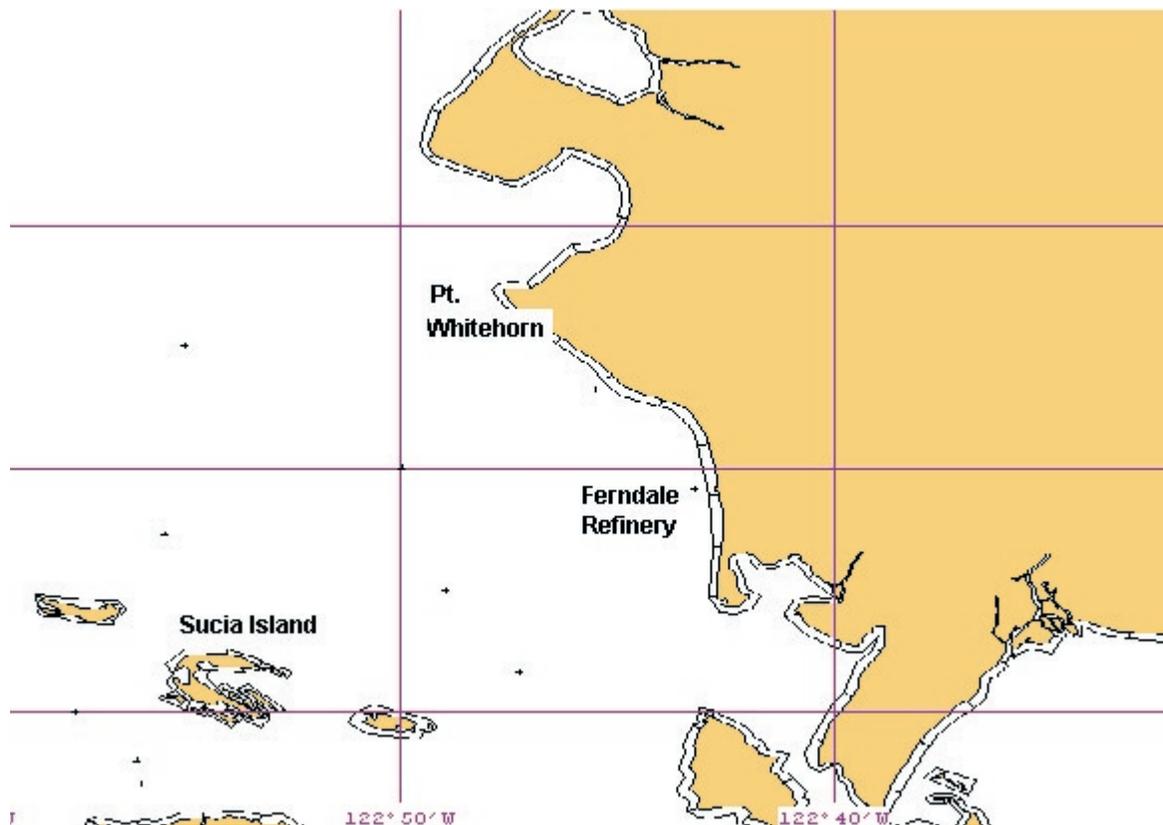


Figure 30. Reference map for Response Time Analysis example

- 1 Choose Mode > Response Time Analysis.
- 2 Choose Season > Oct-Mar.
- 3 Leave the default Level of Protection at 90% of Spills. This means that, out of the total number of spills, you are preparing to be able to protect areas

30 TAP Modes

within the spill region from 90% of the spills that may occur. The time provided by TAP for each receptor site area is the amount of time you have to respond at that location in order to get there before the oil 90% of the time.

- 4 Choose Set Oil Type > Fuel Oil #6 Amount Released > 1000 bbl, and Level of Concern > 1 bbl.

You are considering that one barrel or more of oil would need to impact each site in order for a response to be required.

- 5 From the toolbar, select the ship tool and place the spill at the Ferndale Refinery. The initial calculations might take a few seconds. The main window appears. See figure 31.

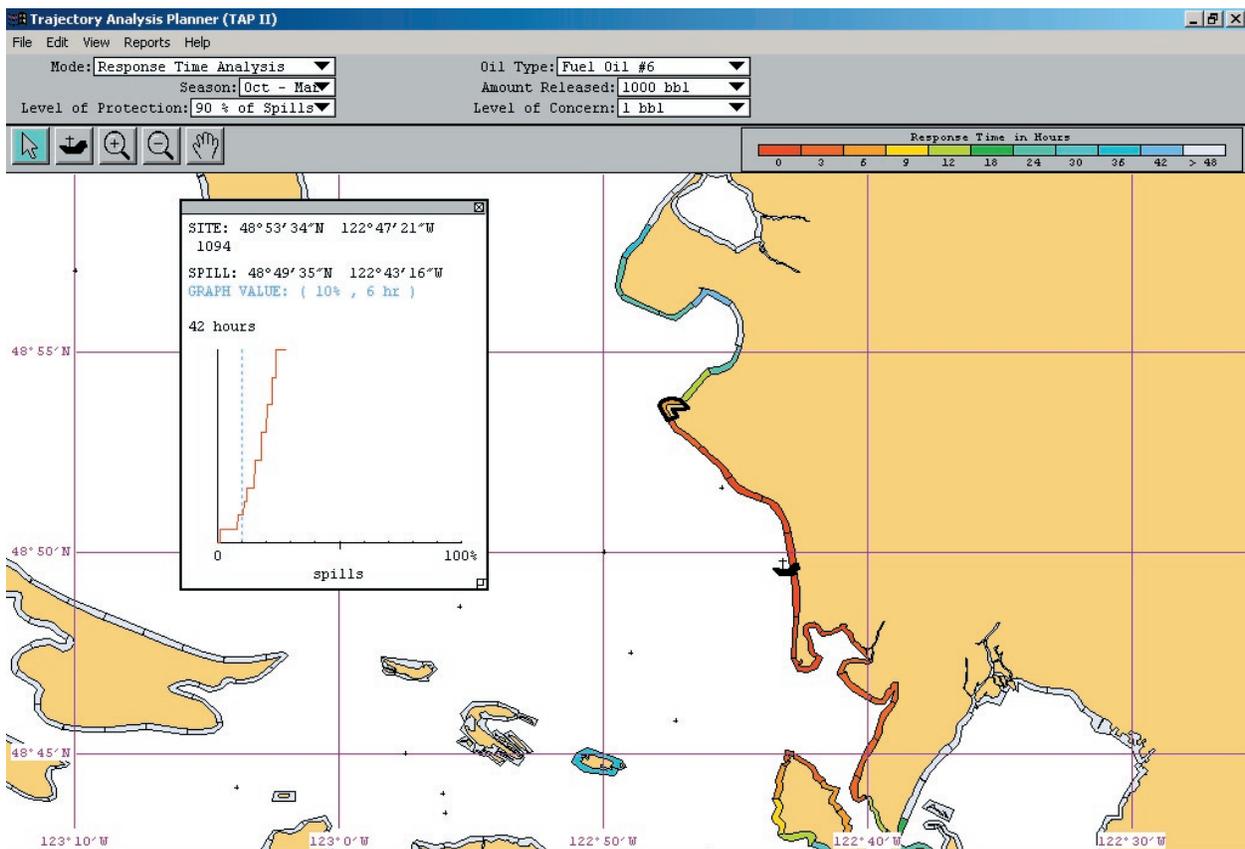


Figure 31. Response Time Analysis map for example spill at Ferndale.

To find out how long it will take the spill to reach your area:

How long would it take the spilled oil to reach Sucia Island State Park?

Look at the color bar above the main window in figure 31. At a level of protection of 90 percent of all modeled spills, it would take more than 48 hours for the oil to reach Sucia Island.

Let's modify the level of protection to 100 percent of the spills to see how the answers change.

- 1 Choose Level of Protection > Set Level of Protection.
- 2 Change the 90 to a 100 and click OK.

The main window should appear like figure 32:

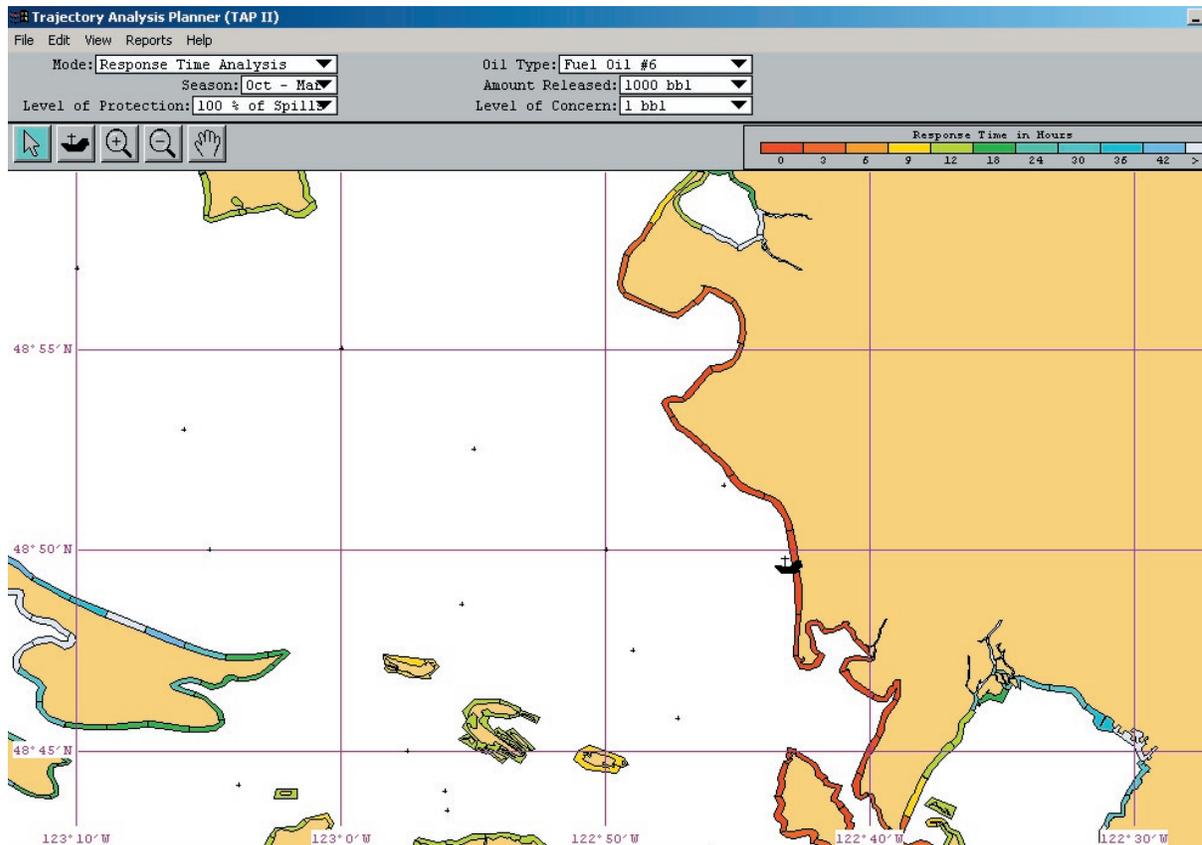


Figure 32. Response Time Analysis map example for Ferndale spill site at a 100% level of protection

Notice the difference in the answers. Sucia Island now has a response time of 12 hours. Many sensitive sites have response times of less than 48 hours.

Note: Is this extra 10 percent of protection cost-efficient? Remember that 100 percent means 100 percent of the 500 spill scenarios modeled for the TAP data set. It provides a reasonable upper bound for planning, but does not mean 100% of all possible spills. (See the FAQ for more information on and the Puget Sound TAP Technical Document for more information on accuracy)

- 3 Now set the Level of Protection back to 90 percent. See figure 33.

32 TAP Modes

Level of Protection: 90 % of Spills ▼

Figure 33. Setting level of protection for Response Time Analysis.

Let's answer the second question. How long would it take for oil to arrive on the eastern shoreline of Sucia Island?

- 4 Click on the arrow tool. Click on Point Whitehorn. A graph appears: See figure 34.

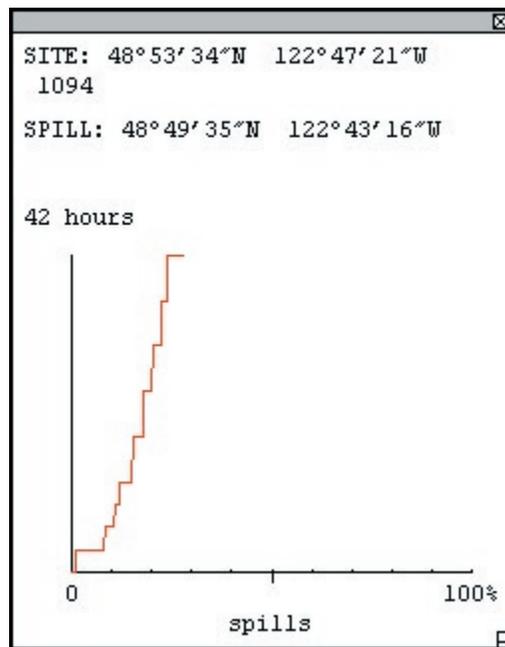


Figure 34. Example of Response Time Analysis graph

- 5 Click in the graph portion of the graph window to see the information in light blue. See figure 35.

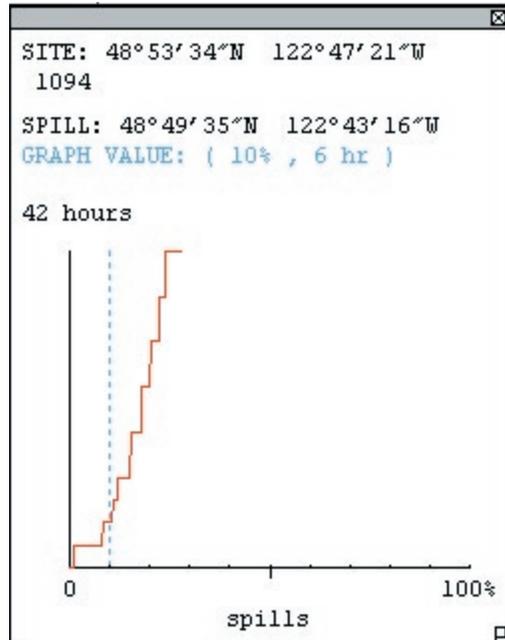


Figure 35. Response Time Analysis graph showing 10% of spills impacting receptor site in 6 hours.

In this case, at a level of protection of 90 percent, 10 percent of the spills reach Pt. Whitehorn between 0 and 6 hours.

6 Click again at 20 percent. See figure 36

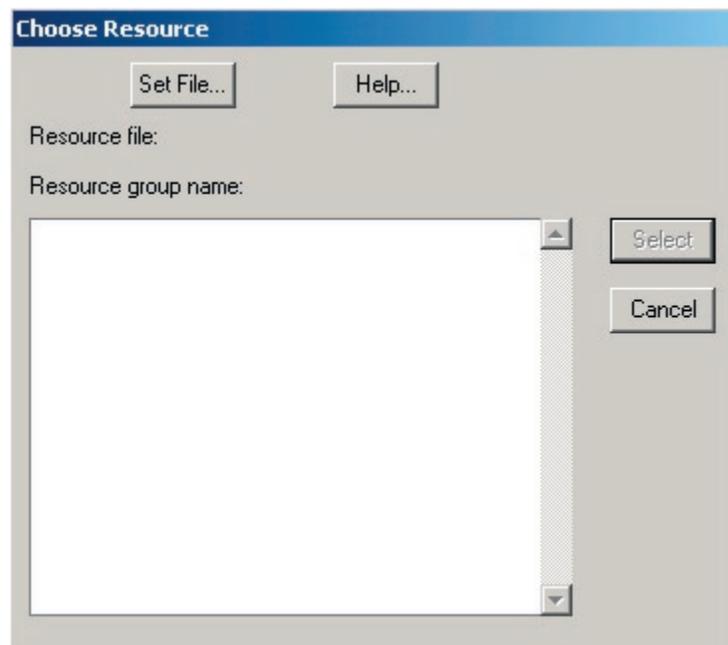


Figure 36. Response Time Analysis graph showing 20% of spills impacting receptor site in 24 hours.

Note that 20% percent of the total spills reach Pt. Whitehorn in 24 hours.

34 TAP Modes

Based on a set level of protection, you can determine the response times over the entire shoreline of a TAP region. You can also focus on a particular sensitive site to determine the arrival times of various percentages of the total spills. This will help you to decide which areas to protect first.

In order to make the graph window go away, you can either re-click on the receptor site you previously selected or click the small white square in the upper left hand portion of the graph window.

IV. Resource Analysis: How much of a Resource is Affected?

In Shoreline Impact Analysis, you saw which shorelines would be hit, and in Site Oiling Analysis, you saw how much oil would be likely to hit them. Resource Analysis provides data on the quantity of a given resource impacted by the modeled spills, or the level of response required to adequately address the impacts of those spills.

You choose a spill site and a resource, and TAP generates a graph that indicates the total costs of each of the modeled spills in terms of that resource. The values on this graph are the costs of oil impacting each receptor site area at greater than its level of concern (LOC), summed over all the receptor site areas for which the LOC is exceeded.

The cost of a receptor site area could be the number of nesting birds at that location, or the length of boom required to protect sensitive areas within the receptor site area, or virtually any resource of interest, in any appropriate units. You can provide data about each resource in a standard text file format. The Puget Sound TAP is preset to assess costs in terms of GRP equipment and the length of Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI).

These data include the quantity of each resource associated with each receptor site, and the LOC for that receptor site and resource. The LOC is expressed as the amount of oil that must reach the site for the resource to be considered impacted. These TAP resource files (MHR files) can be generated by the Resource Manager application, or virtually any spreadsheet or database application. See the Resource Manager documentation for information on the file format. Because the information required is spatial, the locations of the receptor sites are provided and could be entered into a GIS system to generate resource files from virtually any GIS dataset.

Resource Analysis is a powerful tool for response shortfall analysis. Once a response plan for each sensitive location in a bay has been developed, the data from that plan can be entered into a resource data file, indicating, for example, the quantity of boom required to protect each sensitive site.

Because it is unlikely that every location included in a plan would need to be protected at the same time, you can use Resource Analysis to compute the total quantity of boom required to respond to any of the modeled spills in the database. The total costs

can be computed for any of a number of different time frames, so that one could know that one quantity would be needed within 24 hours, and more within 48 hours, allowing time for longer-distance transport of the equipment to the site.

While at first glance, Shoreline Impact Analysis and Resource Analysis appear to answer similar questions, they are fundamentally different. Although receptor site A and receptor site B may both be impacted by about 30% of the spills modeled, the two sites are probably not impacted by the same 30% of spills. In fact, it's possible that two given sites are never impacted simultaneously, so that you'd never need to protect both of them at the same time. The Resource Analysis mode computes the total cost of each spill individually, so that these two receptor sites would not simultaneously contribute to the total cost.

Tutorial: Cumulative cost to exposed tidal flats of an oil spill

Suppose that you want to determine the cumulative "cost" (in this case, meters of shoreline) of all the exposed tidal flats for a 1,000-barrel spill of medium crude from March Pt. after the initial release in the winter.

- 1** Select the Resource Analysis mode.
- 2** Select Time > 48 hours and Season > Oct-Mar.
- 3** Select Oil Type > Medium Crude and Amount Released > 1000 barrels.
- 4** Select Resource > Choose Resource...

You see this dialog box shown in figure 37.

36 TAP Modes

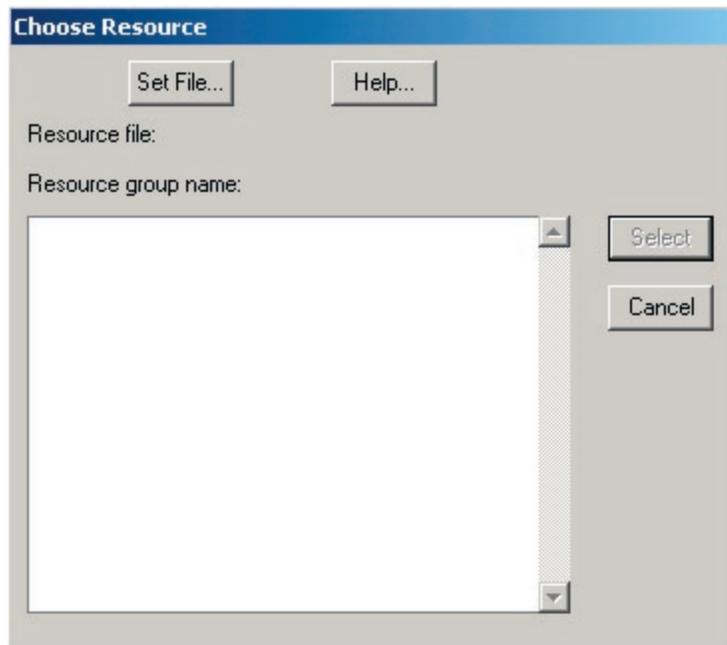


Figure 37. Choosing a Resource from Resource Analysis mode.

- 5 Click on Set File....
- 6 Open the Resources folder. See figure 38.

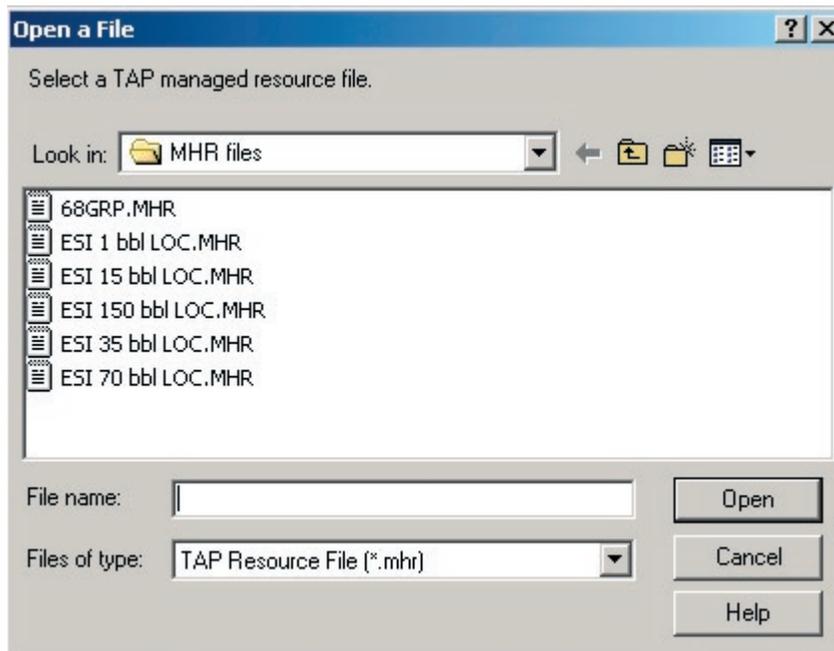


Figure 38. Example of a list of TAP resource files.

If necessary to browse, these files are located within SanJuan TAP\Resource Manager\MHR files. In the GRP strategies as of June 8, 2001 are included. Additionally, ESI Shorelines are included for various levels of concern.

- 7 Click on ESI 1 bbl LOC.MHR. Click OK. You see a list of all the ESI shoreline data.
- 8 Double-click on ESI 07: Exposed Tidal Flats. See figure 39.

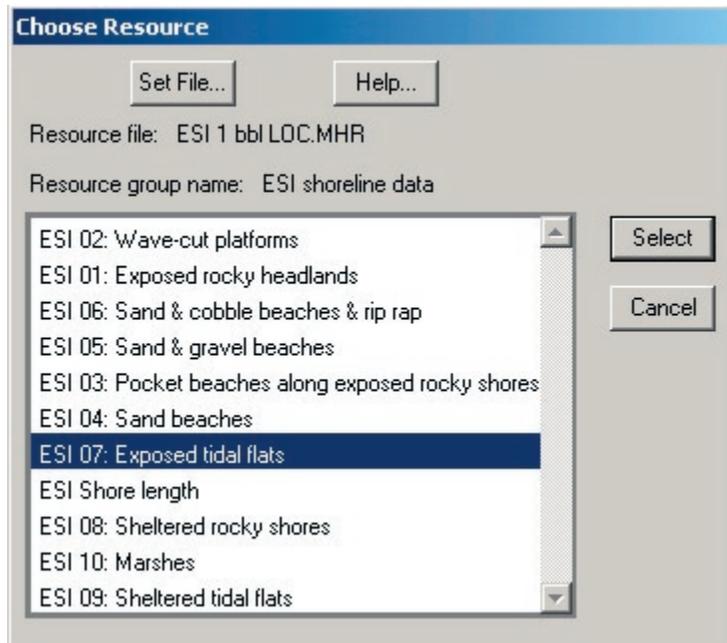


Figure 39. Example of selecting a resource.

The graph on the map window now displays the meters of Exposed tidal flats affected by a 1,000-barrel spill of medium crude from March Point 48 hours after the initial release. See figure 40.

38 TAP Modes

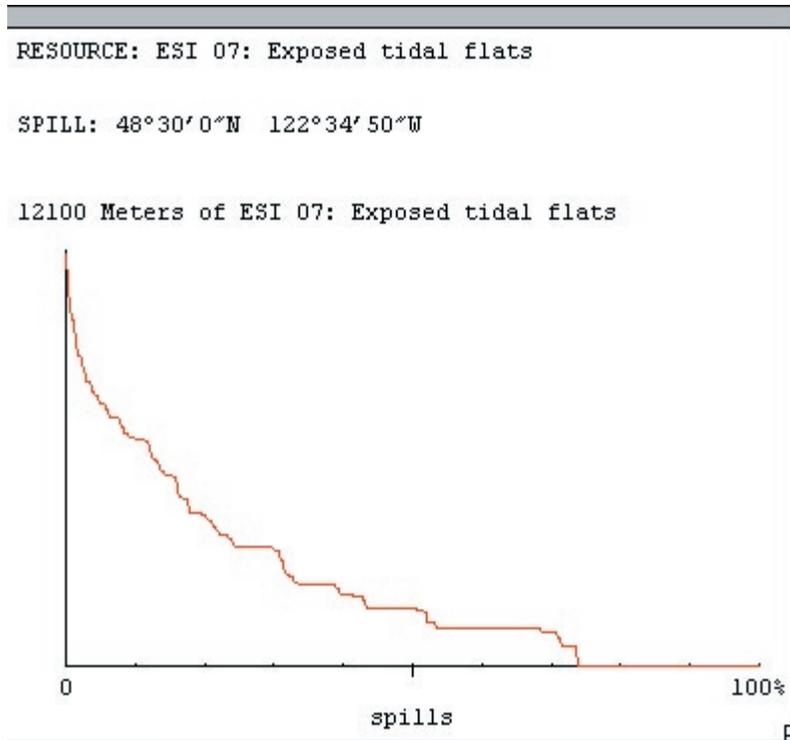


Figure 40. Resource Analysis graph showing how much exposed tidal flats were impacted.

The graph shows in descending order (from worst to least) all the 500 spills and the meters of Exposed tidal flats affected by a 1,000-barrel spill of medium crude from March Point 48 hours after the initial release.

- 9 Click within the graph window at the 40 percent mark. See figure 41.

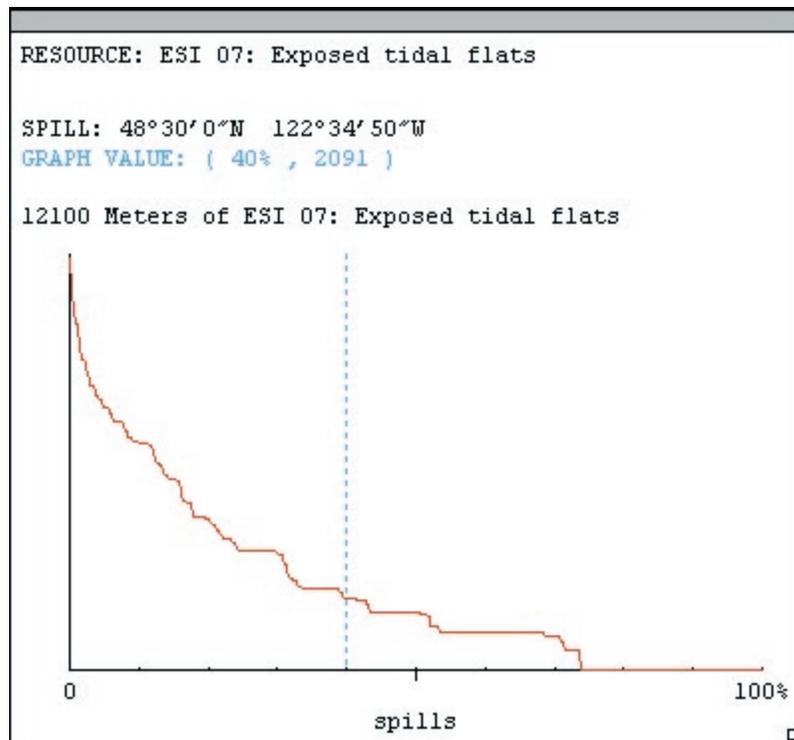


Figure 41. Resource Analysis graph showing 40% of spill impacted 2091 meters of Exposed tidal flats.

Note: the cursor will change to a plus to indicate when you can click and modify the percentage.

The graph itself displays in descending order the spills reaching that resource. You'll notice a vertical, dotted line on the graph. This is a meter that you can drag with the mouse to see the precise values on the graph. You can also click anywhere on the graph to see precise percentage and unit measures. Finally, you can track these numbers in the lower left of the map window; they'll change as you drag your mouse across the graph.

Hence, for the Exposed tidal flat shoreline type at this location, the worst spill of the 500 spills modeled impacted 12,100 meters of exposed tidal flat shoreline. Also, about 40 percent of the spills are going to reach at least 2100 meters of exposed tidal flat shoreline.

Exporting the Resource Analysis Data:

You can write out a file containing the data used in generating the graph in the map window. This file can be imported into a spreadsheet and used for other analysis, or to make customized charts and tables.

- 1 Choose Reports > Export Graph Values... see figure 42.

40 TAP Modes

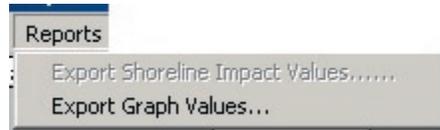


Figure 42. Menu for exporting Resource Analysis values.

2 For this example, type in “Exposed Tidal Flats Data” and click Save.

Inside your Resources folder there is now a tab-delineated text file titled “Exposed Tidal Data.” You can use any word-processing or spreadsheet application to open up this file. The file contains location, mode, time, season, oil type, amount released, resource type, spill latitude/longitude, graph value, and lists each modeled spill, sorted by the amount of the resource impacted by that spill.

TAP also provides the Spill ID Number. You can view the results of just that spill by using one of the “by spill” modes (see section 6).

The data should appear as follows:

TAP II Analysis Graph Points File
Location: North Puget Tap
Mode: Resource Analysis
Season: Oct - Mar
Time: 48 hours
Oil Type: Medium Crude
Amount Released: 1000 bbl
Resource: ESI 07: Exposed tidal flats
RESOURCE: ESI 07: Exposed tidal flats

SPILL: 48°30'0"N 122°34'50"W

GRAPH VALUE: (40% , 2091)

% spills	Meters of ESI 07: Exposed tidal flats	Spill ID
0.2	12058 282	
0.4	11111 486	
0.6	11054 137	
0.8	10416 119	
1	10213 142<<<<<<	
1.2	10077 433	
1.4	10051 44	
1.6	9358 473	
1.8	9070 407	
2	9052 399	
.		
.		
.		
10.8	6583 272	
11	6583 173	
11.2	6583 115	

11.4	6583	428
.		
.		
.		
13.8	5740	171
14	5663	392
14.2	5654	472
14.4	5579	167
14.6	5579	415
14.8	5579	9
15	5579	349
15.2	5579	252
15.4	5535	358
.		
.		
70.8	1003	130<<<<<

In this case, 1% of the 500 hypothetical spills reach 10,200 meters or more of exposed tidal flat shoreline. Also, 70.8% of these 500 spills reach 1,003 meters or more of exposed tidal flat shoreline. The spill ID is the spill from the 500 statistical spills that created this value.

Tutorial: Cumulative Cost of GRP Protection

The Puget Sound TAP, in addition to ESI shoreline types, also has an .mhr file which associates spill receptor sites with GRP strategies. The level of concern for GRP strategies was assumed to be 1 barrel. As discussed in Chapter 3 the Resource Analysis Mode is a powerful tool for developing practical response plans.

Suppose that you want to determine how much protective boom would be required to implement GRP strategies (and respective sensitive areas) threatened by summer spills from March Point.

- 1** Select the Resource Analysis mode.
- 2** Select Time > 48 hours > Jul-Sep
- 3** Select Oil Type > Medium Crude and > Amount Released > 1000 barrels
- 4** Select Resource > Choose Resource
- 5** Click on Set File
- 6** Click on the GRP.mhr. See figure 43.

42 TAP Modes

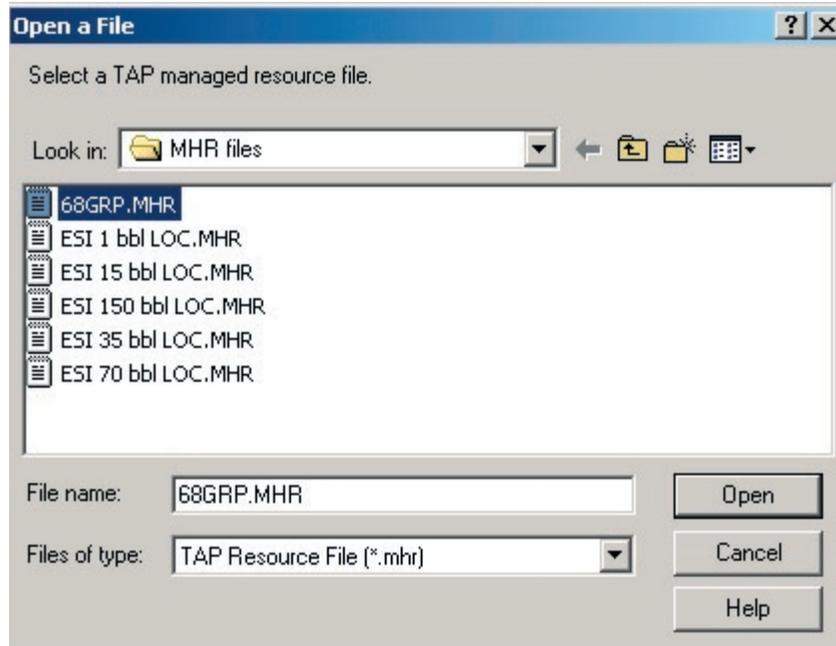


Figure 43. Example selecting geographical response plans as a resource.

7 Double-click on “protective boom” See figure 44.

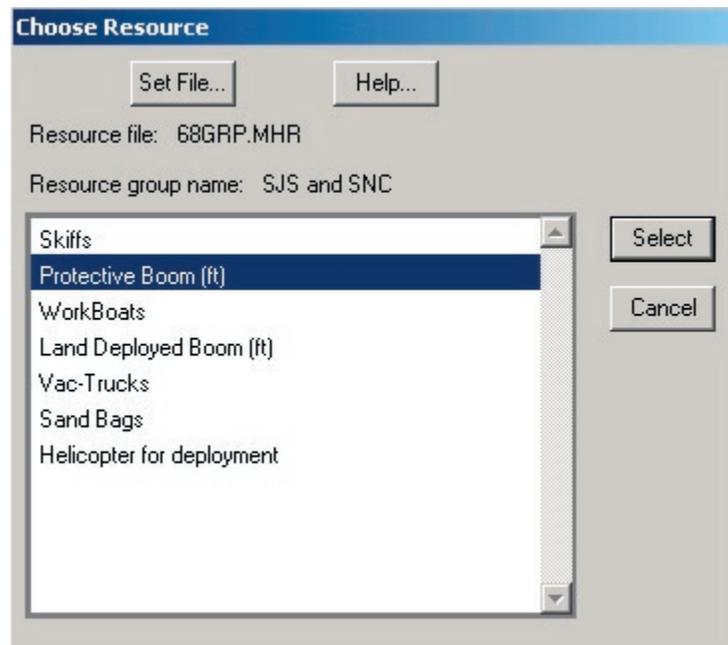


Figure 44. Example selecting a specific response plan for Response Analysis

The graph on the window now displays the number of feet of protective boom needed to boom off threatened sensitive areas from a 1,000 barrel spill of medium crude. The graph in shows in descending order (from worst to least)all the 500 spill simulations. See figure 45.

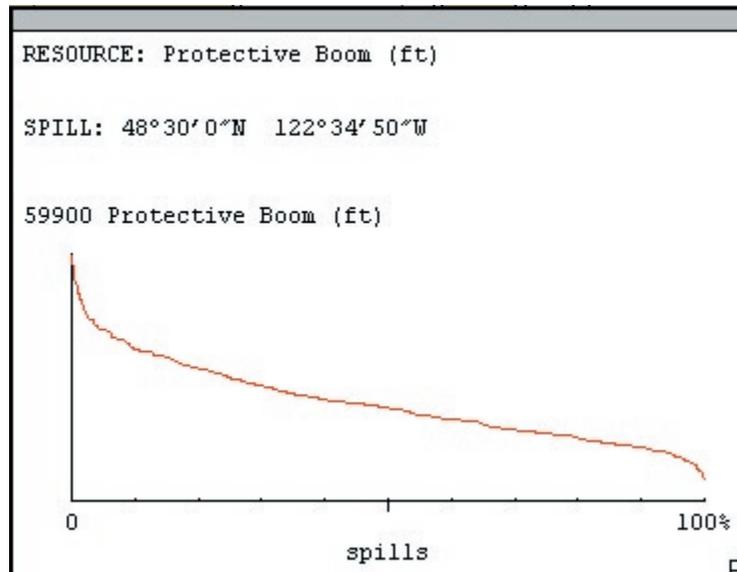


Figure 45. Response Analysis graph showing feet of boom required for each spill.

8 Click within the window graph at the 10% mark. See figure 46.

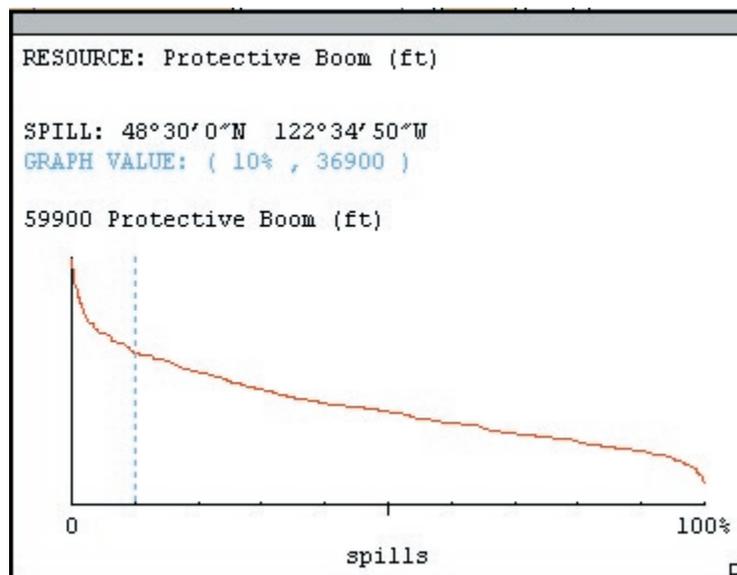


Figure 46. Response Analysis graph showing that 10% of the spills required 36900 feet of boom or more.

In this case this means of the 500 spills modeled, the worst 50(10%) were found to impact receptor sites associated with at least 36,900 feet of GRP protective.

V Threat Zone Analysis: Where the Oil Could Come From?

In Shoreline Impact Analysis, you saw the areas likely to be oiled; in Site Oiling Analysis, you saw how much oil could reach these resources; and in Resource Analysis, you saw which resources (whether shoreline or boom) could be affected. Threat Zone Analysis helps answer the question: From what spill start sites is the shoreline of concern threatened?

To find out, you select a receptor site of interest (perhaps a sensitive wetland), and are provided with a color map of the entire bay indicating the likelihood of oil reaching the selected receptor site from each spill start site. The map colors correspond to the percentage of modeled spills from each location in which the movement of oil to the selected receptor site is equal to or exceeds the level of concern for that site. By repeating this analysis for a number of different receptor sites, you can better understand the geophysical processes that move oil in the entire area.

Tutorial: Where could oil be spilled so that it would threaten a sensitive site?

Imagine you are responsible for protecting a sensitive shoreline site near a waterway with heavily traveled vessel traffic lanes, e.g., Sucia Island State Park. You want to know where a spill might originate that would threaten your site.

Your site would require a response if more than one barrel of oil were to come ashore within 48 hours of the start of a spill.

Use this map (figure 47) for reference.

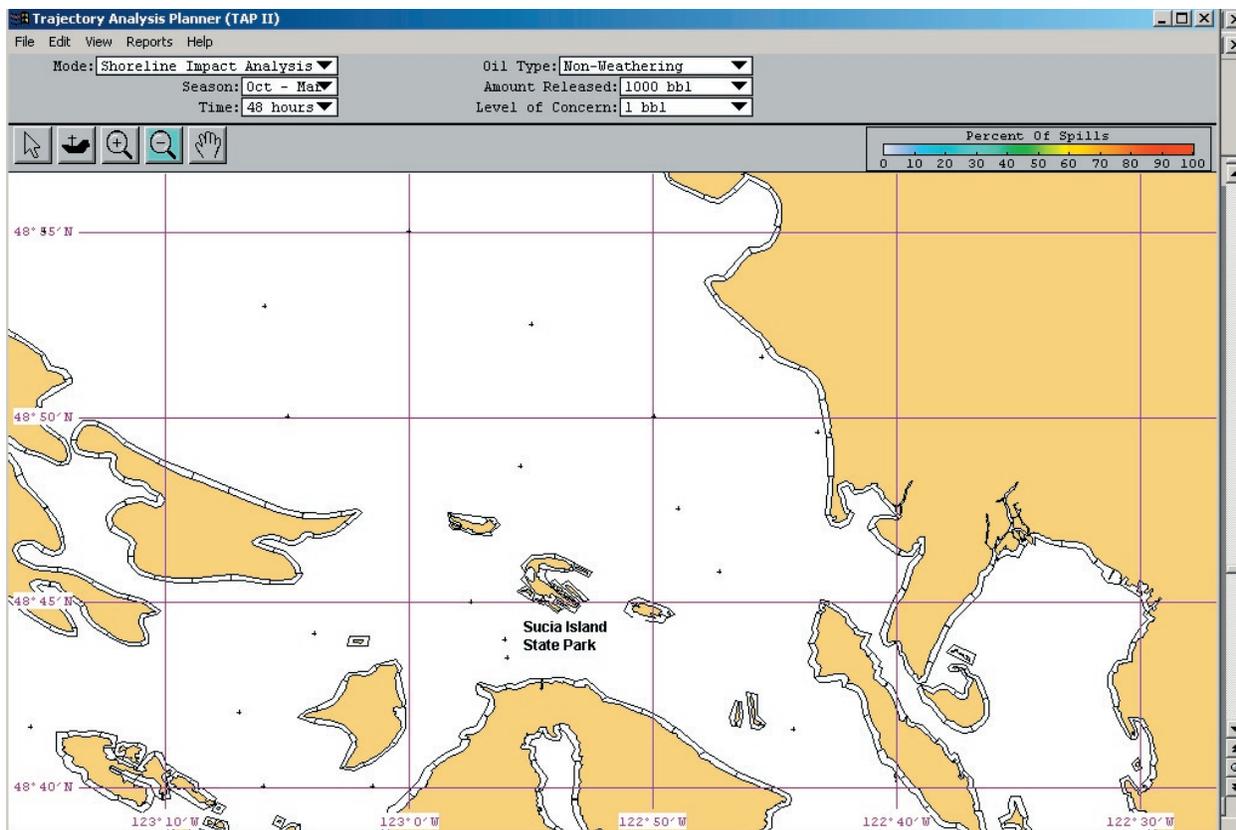


Figure 47. Reference map for Threat Zone Analysis example.

- 1 Select Mode > Threat Zone Analysis.
- 2 Choose Time > 48 hours and Season > Oct-Mar.
- 3 Choose Oil Type > Medium Crude and Amount Released > 1000 bbl.
- 4 Choose Level Of Concern > 1 bbl.

Before continuing, click on the arrow tool and move the cursor over the map and the receptor sites.

Note, the receptor site number appears in the lower left corner of the map window.

- 5 Choose a receptor site. Move the arrow tool over the receptor sites until you have found site #1323 on Sucia Island. The site number is indicated by the text in the lower left corner of the map window. Click on this site. Depending on the speed of your computer, this drawing process might take a few seconds.

The threat zones in the map window should look like figures 48 and 49:

46 TAP Modes

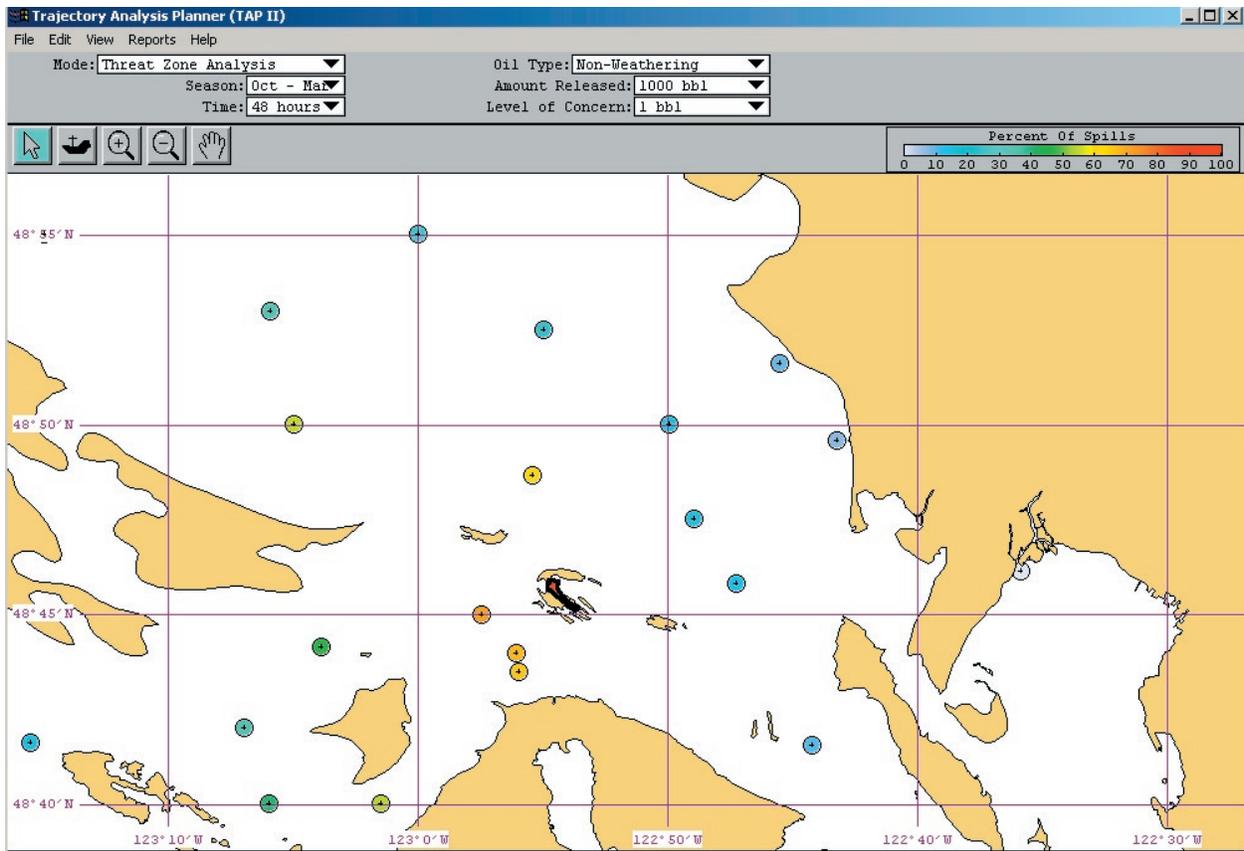


Figure 48. Zoomed in Threat Zone analysis map showing where oil could come from.

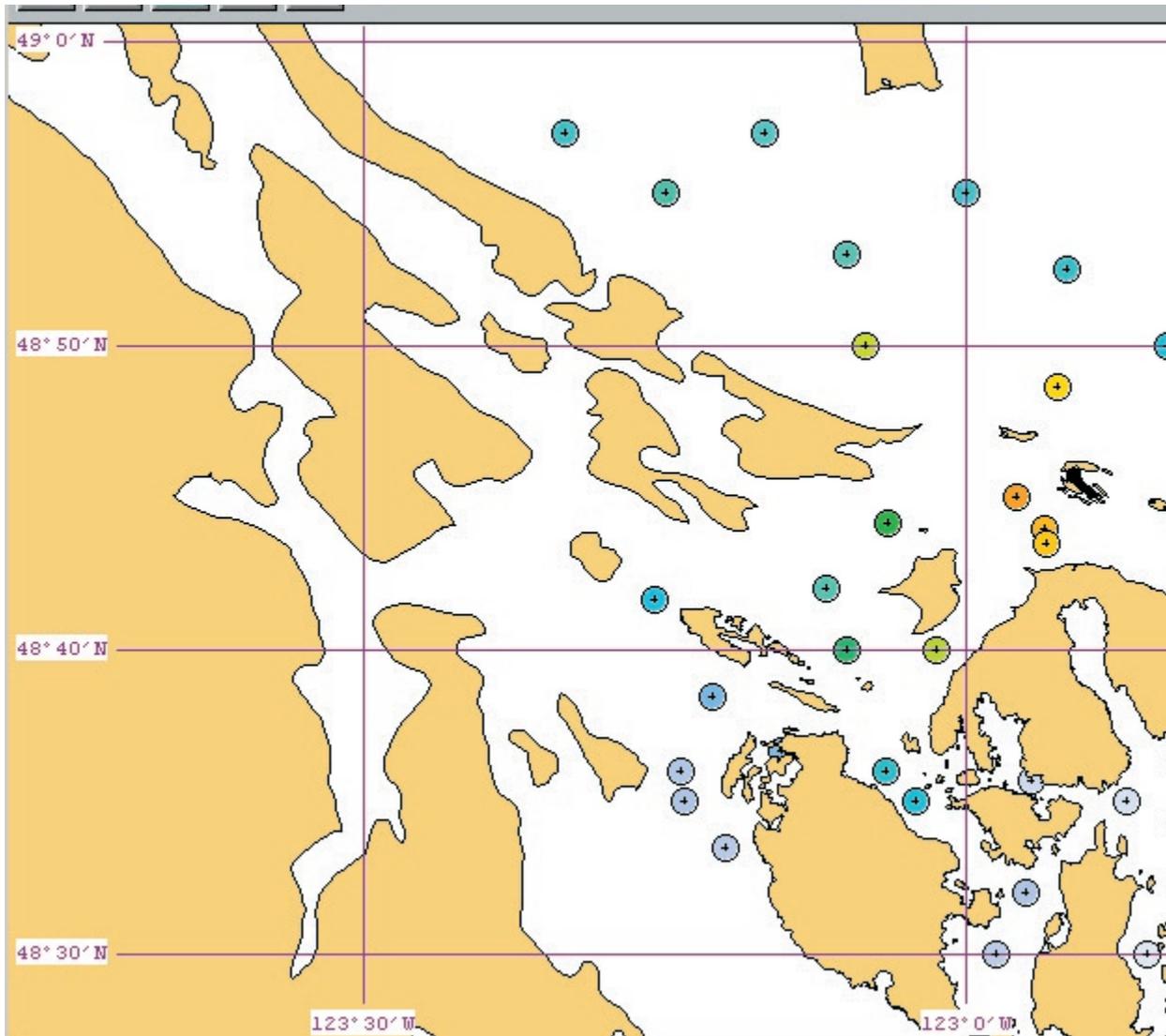


Figure 49. Zoomed out Threat Zone analysis map showing where oil could come from.

The orange and yellow circles indicate that 60% to 70% of the spills that originated from those locations impacted the selected receptor site area with at least 1 bbl of oil. The green and blue circles indicate that 20% to 40% of the spills from those start sites brought at least one bbl of oil to the receptor site on Sucia Island.

To see the exact numbers, move the mouse over the colored region. The values corresponding to the colors are displayed in the lower left corner of the map window.

48 TAP Modes

For more experience:

- Click on the highlighted receptor site with the arrow tool to see all of the shoreline receptor sites again,
- Click near any shoreline segment and a new receptor site will be chosen, and the map redrawn for that location.
- Modify the time, season, amount spilled, type of oil, and LOC to see how the colors change.

6 To see results for each modeled spill:

You can use the three remaining modes (Shoreline Impact by Spill, Response Time by Spill and Threat Zone by Spill) to view the results of each individual spill, rather than the accumulated statistics of all the modeled spills. Shoreline Impact by Spill, for example, shows you the shoreline impacts for each of the 500 spills at a particular location at a specific time. The difference between each spill is that it was started at a different time, and so was effected by different winds and currents.

Note: You can change the spill by clicking on the Spill Number pop up menu and selecting Set Spill Number... You can also navigate through the 500 spills by holding down the command key on the Macintosh, or the control key on Windows, and clicking the up and down arrow keys on your keyboard.

The Spill numbers given correspond to the numbers in the text file output by the reports menu. You can select the particular spill that caused the greatest impact to a given resource, as calculated by Resource Analysis mode, for example.

3

USING TAP FOR AREA CONTINGENCY PLANNING

In this chapter, you'll see how TAP can help you develop and review Area Contingency Plans for fixed sites and vessels, as well as help you review existing plans. TAP will do this by showing you:

- Where oil could go;
- Where it could come from;
- How long it could take to get there;
- How much oil could get there; and
- How much of a shoreline or grp strategy areas are affected?

This information helps you decide where to store equipment, what type of equipment you will need, and how much equipment you will need. You will also be able to develop and review large-scale protection strategies.

Getting Started:

Whether you're developing a fixed site plan or a vessel plan, you begin at the same place.

1 Fill in the default parameters for oil type, amount released, the LOC amount, and the season to analyze.

2 Make the amount released the "maximum spill size" that you need to plan for.

3 The LOC is the minimum amount of oil impacting a receptor site that you will be concerned with. In selecting this value, consider the type of oil being spilled, the resources that could be impacted, and the size of the receptor site. TAP will resolve oil mass or volume down to 1/1000 of your spill amount. This means that, if you discharge 10,000,000 gallons, the smallest LOC value TAP will model is 10,000 gallons ($10,000,000 / 1,000 = 10,000$).

You must select the percentage of spills that your plan will cover. TAP allows you to see results from all 500 of the hypothetical spills that were modeled; it may not be reasonable to expect a plan to account for every spill that could occur.

50 Using TAP for Area Contingency Planning

To Build or Review a Fixed Site or Vessel Plan

TAP is an ideal tool for dealing with a fixed site plan such as a facility or lightering site. It will tell you what you can expect and when to expect it. With this information you can arrive at and review decisions concerning equipment and strategies.

For vessel plans, you can use TAP in two ways to develop and review your plans. First, you can use TAP to assess the risk to any sensitive section of shoreline from the traffic lanes by answering the question of where can oil come from to impact a sensitive area.

Second, you can use TAP to examine spills from any location along the shipping route that has a high risk for accidents such as rocks, reefs, and high-traffic areas.

Where did the oil come from?

For fixed site plans, you know where an oil spill would originate that you are planning for. For vessel plans, you can use Threat Zone Analysis to assess the risk from vessel traffic lanes to any given section of shoreline. By clicking the arrow tool on a shoreline receptor site, you will get a set of colored circles that will give you an estimate of the probability of oil impacting the site from the specific start locations marked by the colored circles. You can use this information to identify and plan for high-risk zones along the vessel traffic route.

To plan for specific spills along the vessel route:

Click the ship icon tool at several locations along the vessel route, making sure that high-risk areas for accidents such as rocks, shoals, and high traffic areas are included. For a fixed site plan, there will be only one spill location to consider.

Answer the following questions for each of the selected spill locations:

Where should equipment be stored?

- 1 Select Mode > Response Time Analysis
- 2 Select Level of Protection > 100%.

This means you will be looking at how long it takes the fastest of all 500 of the modeled spills used in TAP to impact the receptor sites. This is a starting probability for the analysis. Remember, this may not be a reasonable value to eventually plan for. You will have to decide after viewing the information. Note that this is 100% of the spills modeled, not 100% of all possible spills. While the 500 spills included span the possible spill space well, it is possible that an extreme event has been missed. (See FAQ #8)

The results show how long you have to respond to any spill before it impacts each of the receptor sites. For example, the areas labeled 24 hours mean that you can expect the first oil to arrive after 24 hours and before the next time period.

Use this information to decide and review where to store response equipment. The equipment should be stored close enough to be deployed within the times shown in order to protect against any spill before it comes ashore.

Now suppose that you don't have enough equipment to protect against all spills as shown. You need to prioritize. This can be done in several ways.

Prioritizing method 1

- 1** Select the arrow tool.
- 2** Select Level Of Protection > 90%.

This will show you first-arrival times of oil for 90% of the spills instead of all of them. Now you can use this information to decide where to store equipment. This may be a reasonable compromise if you can't afford to protect against all spills. Experiment with different values for Level Of Protection to find the best compromise.

Prioritizing method 2

- 1** Select Mode > Shoreline Impact Analysis.

This mode will give you a maximum estimate of the probability of finding oil at a receptor site at the time selected. For example, you would like to know where to store equipment to protect against spills that could impact after 6 hours.

- 2** Select Time > 12.

The 6-hour setting would show you where oil will be by hour 6, not after hour 6. The resulting picture will show you the probability of finding oil along any receptor site at hour 12. You pick out the highest probability areas from the Shoreline Impact Analysis that are within your 6-hour response time areas from the Response Time Analysis and prioritize areas to be protected by storing your equipment closest to those areas. By combining the Response Time Analysis with the Shoreline Impact Analysis, you will be able to select the areas that you must protect within the first six hours after a spill because they have the highest probability of being impacted after hour 6.

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What type of equipment should be stored?

The type of equipment that should be stored depends on how much oil you expect to impact the resources, the type and nature of the oil spilled, and the resources that you need to protect. You can use the Response Time Analysis, Site Oiling Analysis, and Resource Analysis modes to help decide what kind of equipment to store.

By selecting the Site Oiling Analysis and clicking along the shoreline receptor segments, you get graphs that display in descending order the spills reaching that receptor site. Each point on the x-axis represents the percentage of modeled spills that brought more than a given amount of oil to that receptor site. The highest value is displayed above the y-axis, and corresponds to the largest amount of oil brought to that site by any of the modeled spills.

The nature of the oil that you need to plan for depends on how weathered the oil will be when it's cleaned up. For example, the equipment needed to deal with light fuels such as gasoline and jet fuel will be very different than what will be needed to deal with emulsified crude oil or weathered tar balls. By using the Response Time Analysis mode you can determine how long it will take the oil to impact the resource and by using this information in an oil fate model such as NOAA's ADIOS model, you will get an idea of what type of oil to expect.

The last part of the analysis, the resources that need to be protected, can be determined by using the Resource Analysis mode. This mode will help you decide if you need to store equipment for rocky headlands, marshes, or sandy beaches. This in turn will dictate what type of equipment you will need, and what type of protection and cleanup strategies you need to have in place.

How much equipment should I store?

The amount of equipment that you store is based on the number of resources to be protected and the amount of oil you can expect to impact them. Use the Resource Analysis and Site Oiling Analysis modes to help you decide and review how much equipment you will need.

Select the Resource Analysis mode to check how much of each type of shoreline will be impacted by any one spill. Similarly to Site Oiling Analysis, Resource analysis presents a graph of how much of the given resource is impacted by each of the modeled spills. Each point on the x-axis represents the percentage of modeled spills that impacted more than that amount of shoreline.

The number above the y-axis indicates how much shoreline was impacted by the one "worst" spill. If you expect to plan for the "worst" spill, you will need enough equipment to protect against this "worst" spill. You need to choose a level to protect against. It may not be reasonable to plan to protect against all possible spills.

Resource Analysis is a powerful tool for response equipment shortfall analysis. Once a response plan for each sensitive location in a bay has been developed, the data from

that plan can be entered into a resource data file, indicating, for example, the quantity of boom required to protect each sensitive site (See the Resource Manager documentation for how to do this). Because it is unlikely that every location included in a plan would need protecting at the same time, Resource Analysis can be used to compute the total quantity of boom required to respond to any of the modeled spills in the data set. The total costs can be computed for any of a number of different time frames, so that one could know that one quantity would be needed within 24 hours, and more within 3 days, allowing time for long-distance transport of the equipment to the site.

While, at first glance, Shoreline Impact Analysis and Resource Analysis appear to answer similar questions, they are fundamentally different. Although site A and site B may both be impacted by about 30% of the spills modeled, the two sites are probably not impacted by the same 30% of spills. In fact, it's possible that two given sites are never impacted simultaneously, such that protecting both of them simultaneously would never be required. The Resource Analysis mode computes the total cost of each spill individually, so that these two sites would not both contribute to the total cost.

To see how much oil you can expect at any given time:

Site Oiling Analysis will tell you how much oil you can expect at any given time. This, in turn, will determine how much protection, cleanup, and disposal equipment you should plan for. For example, if the Site Oiling Analysis indicates that a hatchery could be impacted by a large amount of oil, your plan may call for multiple layers of boom to be used to protect the hatchery.

What type of strategies will be effective?

You can use TAP to develop and review large-scale protection strategies as part of your ACP. TAP will show you what to expect and when to expect it. The Shoreline Impact Analysis, Site Oiling Analysis, and Response Analysis modes will help you determine what to expect, and the Response Time Analysis mode will tell you when to expect it.

By entering your strategies (see the separate manual on the Resources Manager) into the Resource files for the Resource Analysis mode you can get an indication of how often your response strategy will be triggered for any given spill source.

A word of caution.

TAP doesn't know how long it will take to implement a strategy or how effective the strategy will be. For example, if you have a strategy to boom off a harbor, TAP will not know the difference between a spill inside the harbor or one outside the harbor. TAP will say that the strategy to boom off the harbor will be triggered for both cases even though it will be futile to protect the harbor from a spill inside the harbor by booming the entrance. TAP will also not tell you whether you have enough time to implement the strategy or whether it's even feasible, given local weather conditions.

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4

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQs)

What do I use TAP for?

TAP is a statistical planning tool for oil spills. It analyzes the results from about 100,000 modeled oil spills that could have occurred over a 10 to 15-year period and helps answer the following planning questions:

- Where should equipment be stored?
- How much equipment should be stored?
- What type of equipment should be stored?
- What would be the cost of having a spill?
- What type of protection and cleanup strategies would be effective.

Why is TAP's statistical planning better than "worst case" scenario planning?

It is a false assumption that, if you can deal with a worst case scenario, you can deal with any spill. For example, suppose you pick a worst case scenario that moves oil to the west and impacts an endangered species. You plan for that by storing your protection equipment to the west, near the endangered species habitat. Now what happens when a spill moves oil to the east? Can you move all the protection equipment to the eastern shore in time to protect a harbor or tourist beach?

With TAP you can plan for a range of probable spills: 50%, 75%, 90% of all possible spills, instead of planning for a single scenario that is unlikely to occur or may occur only very rarely. There are at least three reasons why planning for a singular "worst case" scenario is an ineffective approach.

First, it is very difficult to select "the" worst case. The worst case oil spill for hotel owners will be different than a worst case scenario for the birds. A worst case scenario for nesting birds will be different than a worst case scenario for rafting birds. A worst case scenario for spawning fish will be different than a worst case scenario for human health issues. There is no single worst case scenario.

56 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Second, there are very small odds that a spill will unfold like a predetermined worst case scenario. If you plan for a worst case scenario, you will be planning for something that will probably never happen.

Thirdly, in many cases planning for the worst case spill volume coupled with the worst case spill trajectory offers little value. Under such circumstances it would likely not be possible to significantly mitigate the scale of environmental damage. The protection, containment, and recovery of oil spills is limited by a myriad of technologic and economic factors.

How is TAP different from GNOME?

GNOME (General NOAA Oil Modeling Environment) is an oil spill trajectory model that will show you where oil from one particular oil spill will go, given one particular set of oceanographic and wind conditions. The Puget Sound TAP is a program that will take results from over 300,000 individual oil spill trajectories and give you probabilities and statistics of where any oil spill might go.

How do I use TAP during an oil spill?

TAP was not designed for use during an oil spill. However, it will tell you the probability of where oil could go from any spill. If you have no information about a spill except where it occurred, TAP's Shoreline Impact Analysis will give you the best analysis. However, if you have any details about the spill and the environment (e.g., winds, tides, currents), an oil spill trajectory model such as GNOME will be more helpful to narrow the probabilities of where the oil will go.

How do I run my worst-case scenario with TAP?

Instead of giving you the results of The Big One that is unlikely to occur, TAP allows you to plan for 50%, 75%, or 90% of all possible spills. From any given spill location, TAP will look at the results from 500 different spills in each season and tell you how quickly oil can get to certain areas, the most oil you can expect, and the cost of the oil impacts.

Can I get TAP for other areas of the world?

Not easily. We have a priority list of U.S. ports for which we will do TAP. There are no foreign ports on the list yet. If you have a port that you wish added to the list, let us know via email at tap@hazmat.noaa.gov. It takes us about three to four months to complete an area. In the future we hope to reduce that time to about one month depending upon the availability of data.

How can I use TAP for my own areas of interest?

To learn how to create a TAP dataset, you will have to come to our office in Seattle for training. If you are interested in scheduling such a session, please let us know at tap@hazmat.noaa.gov.

How accurate are TAP's answers?

We are not sure.

The answers are as accurate as the data and the assumptions used to generate the statistics. The availability of data along with the assumptions used for the model runs will vary from place to place.

Typically, the data used span about 10 years. This means that events that occur every summer will be accurately represented in the statistics, but events that occur on a longer time period such as a one hundred year storm will not be represented properly.

The data and assumptions used for a particular location are documented in the location-specific technical documentation that is available.

The accuracy of the answers are also affected by assumptions made concerning the evaporation and dispersion of the oil, how the oil interacts with the shoreline, and how the currents and winds are represented in the model runs.

Additional discussion on accuracy is discussed in the Puget Sound TAP Technical Document.

Why doesn't TAP have more oil types?

To keep the interface simple, TAP focuses on six types of oils. These six have evaporation and dispersion properties that span the evaporation/dispersion properties of most oils that would be encountered during a spill. TAP does include a non-weathering oil, however. This type of oil does not age or evaporate throughout the entire threat time period.

Why are the months grouped together?

The monthly groupings represent statistical seasonality in the wind data. You cannot change this or reanalyze the data with a different set of months.

Can I pick different times than the time shown on the menu?

No. In order to change the times, the data files that TAP uses have to be regenerated. We selected times that represent the time scales relevant for the area. Small areas were analyzed on a smaller time scale than larger areas.

How are the data files for TAP created?

Each data file represents 500 independent trajectories that start from one location at different times in the 15 year wind and current record. To generate these files for several hundred start sites within a region, we have 12 Macintosh computers set up on a rack all running at the same time.

58 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

For the Puget Sound TAP it took several months to gather all the wind and current data and setup the model runs. The model runs took weeks to several weeks for each of the sub-region areas. Additional technical documentation required several weeks. In all the Puget Sound TAP took approximately one year to complete.

What does the OPA (Oil Pollution Act) require for ACPs?

"Oil Pollution Act (OPA) requires that each Area Committee (AC) prepare an Area Committee Plan (ACP) which, when implemented, shall be adequate to remove spills ranging from most probable to worst case discharge, and to mitigate or prevent a substantial threat or release from a vessel, offshore facility or onshore facility operating in the Area.

"OPA required the ACPs to address the following information:

- A description of the area covered, including sensitive areas.
- Detailed description of the responsibilities of the owner/operator and the federal, state and local agencies in removing a discharge and in mitigating or preventing a substantial threat of a discharge.
- A list of equipment, to include fire fighting, dispersants, and other mitigating devices.
- A list of personnel available to an owner/operator or federal, local and state agencies.
- Procedures for obtaining an expedited decision regarding the use of dispersants.
- A description of how the plan is integrated into other response plans.
- A detailed annex, prepared in consultation with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), to provide a coordinated, immediate and effective protection, rescue and rehabilitation of, and minimum risk to fish and wildlife resources and habitat.

"The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 amended section 311 of the Federal Water Pollution control Act to require the preparation and submission of oil spill and response plans by the owners or operators of certain facilities and vessels as identified in references (1) and (b)."

"...the facility response plan is intended for the use of the facility's personnel and its owner or operator to increase their level of preparedness...The information contained in these plans is based upon national planning standards and the response scenarios are intended to be used to develop a planning document and not establish a performance document or standard."

"The emphasis in reviewing response plans should be on ensuring that the owner or operator has gone through the planning process to prepare facility personnel to

respond, to the maximum extent practicable, to an actual or threatened discharge of oil. OPA 90 identifies a number of elements considered key to effective preparedness. These include: identifying properly trained personnel, prearrange private response resources, and a system to allow the timely and efficient activation and employment of equipment and personnel...The Coast Guard's objective however, is to see if the owner or operator has realistically prepared for the different spill scenarios..."

"During this preliminary review, the following items must be checked...(3) identifies the worst case discharge scenario, (4) identifies the resource [is] ... available to respond to a worst case discharge (although at this time, the response capability of the resources is not evaluated)..."

"Vessel Response Plan Review"

"...Further, due to the transitory nature of operations, the geographic specific appendices in the vessel's response plan are not as detailed as in the geographic information section within a facility plan. For these reasons, more reliance will be placed on the Area Contingency Plan (ACP) for guidance on resources at risk and other response considerations in the event of an oil spill involving a vessel."

What does the State of Washington Require for Oil Spill Contingency Plans?

As this manual was written Washington State's rules for Oil Spill Contingency Plan's WAC 173-181 were undergoing a revision process. RCW 90.56.210 states that "Each onshore and offshore facility shall have a contingency plan for the containment and cleanup of oil spills.....for the protection of fisheries and wildlife, natural resources, and public and private property from such spills....."

The Department shall require contingency plans, at a minimum, to meet the following standards:

(a) Include full details of the method of response to spill of various sizes....
(b) Be designed to be capable in terms of personnel, materials, and equipment, of promptly and properly , to the maximum extent practicable, as defined by the department removing oil and minimizing any damage to the environment resulting from a worst case spill;....

(i) Provide arrangements for the propositioning of oil spill containment and cleanup equipment and trained personnel at strategic locations from which they can be deployed to the spill site to promptly and properly remove the spilled oil;

Could TAP be used by terrorists?

Since the September 11, 2001 tragedy caused by acts of terrorism, many are concerned about the release of information that might be used by terrorists to maximize human casualties. In short TAP is ill suited for this purpose:

- 1) TAP does not evaluate the potential to maximize human casualties. It is a planning tool designed primarily for ecological and environmental protection.
- 2) TAP is not a trajectory model. TAP does not answer the question: under what specific environmental conditions (winds, tides, and time) will a spill go where the terrorist wants it to go?

60 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

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GLOSSARY

Oils react during an oil spill depending on how their physical characteristics react to weather, water, and shoreline conditions. The six types of oil listed below span the evaporation/dispersion properties of most oils that would be encountered during a spill.

Amount Released

Amount of oil that is released instantaneously. Basically, the oil is released within 15 minutes for the model runs. TAP does not allow continuous releases.

GRPs or Geographic Response Plans

Serve as appendices to the Northwest Area Contingency Plan (NWACP), i.e., where environmental protection strategies are identified for a particular region.

Level of Concern (LOC)

This is the minimum amount of oil on a shoreline segment that you will be concerned about. We use 1,000 particles to represent the oil. This means that the smallest increment of oil we can resolve is 1/1000 of the total amount that you spill. For example, if you spill 10,000,000 (10 million) gallons like the Exxon Valdez did, the smallest amount of oil we can track is $10,000,000 / 1,000 = 10,000$ gallons. So if you ask for a Level of Concern of 1 gallon, or 10 gallons, or 100 gallons, or 1,000 gallons, or 10,000 gallons, TAP will still compute the answer using 10,000 gallons.

Non-Weathering

The term non-weathering is used by the Oil Type popup menu to describe a pollutant that does not evaporate or disperse into the water column. This can be used to study the potential movement of objects other than oil or it can be used to get a conservative estimate of how oil will move.

Note, the model runs were done with the assumption that the pollutant would interact with the wind and waves like oil. If you use TAP's non-weathering option for non oil

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products (i.e. garbage, flotsam) you should keep this in mind as a potential source for error.

Percent of Spills

The percent of spills term is used to describe the color bar in the Shoreline Impact Analysis and Threat Zone Analysis. It is computed from the 500 random, hypothetical spills from several hundred start sites. For example, if a receptor site is color coded as being in the 90% of spills range, it means that about 450 of the spills ($90\% * 500$), brought oil to the receptor site.

Receptor Site

In TAP, the entire shoreline was broken down into individual receptor sites. A receptor site is an area that was used to keep track of how much oil impacted that region as each spill was modeled. All the receptor sites are about the same size, so that a given amount of oil in each site means about the same thing. Receptor sites are sometime located in sensitive offshore regions, such as coral reefs.

Resource

A resource is something that is linked to one or more receptor sites. This is used by the Resource Analysis Option. Examples of resources are beach type (i.e. marsh, rock headlands), biological critters (nesting turtles, crabs), economic assets (hotels, tourist beaches), and response equipment (booms, sorbent pads, boats).

Response Time

The response time used in the Response Time Analysis mode indicates how many hours you have to respond before oil arrives. For example, if the contour indicates 12 hours, then you can expect oil to impact the receptor site sometime after 12 hours.

Season

The seasons were selected by analyzing the wind statistics. Monthly correlations were done on approximately 10 years of wind statistics. From this analysis seasons were picked out. There are two seasons for some areas and four seasons for others.

Time

This is the time setting that you use to represent time lapsed since the spill (all spills in TAP are assumed to be instantaneous). The time setting is used to determine how much oil is evaporated and dispersed into the water column as well as to determine how far the oil has moved.

Oil Types

Light Refined Products Light oils such as gasoline, jet fuels, and diesel tend to be problem pollutants for only a few hours to a few days because they evaporate into the atmosphere quickly and disperse into the water column easily. These light refined products are often fire hazards and cause fish kills due to their volatility and solubility.

Gasoline All types of gasoline including leaded, unleaded, premium, regular

Kerosene/Jet Fuel

All Jet Fuels (JP-1 through JP-8)

All Fuel Oil #1s

Diesel

All Fuel Oil #2s

Home heating oil

Heavy Refined Products Heavy refined products such as Intermediate Fuel Oils (IFO) and Bunker C (Fuel Oil #6) tend to persist in the marine environment for weeks. These oils are not as toxic to the marine organisms as the lighter oils but they tend to be a threat to beaches and birds that can be impacted from the floating oil for weeks.

Fuel Oil #4

IFO 180

IFO 280

IFO 380

Fuel Oil #6

Bunker C.

Note there are some #6 oils that will sink, especially in fresh water. TAP does not deal with these oils.

Crude Oil Crude oil is a mixture of heavy and light oils. Often, they will have the toxicity of the lighter refined products early in a spill and the persistence of the heavier refined products later in a spill.

Try using several of the modes and compare the results between gasoline and #6.

Medium Crude Most Crude oil including Alaska North Slope Crude and Arabian Medium Crude

Non Weathering

Conservative products that don't evaporate or disperse

Weathered tarballs

Garbage (tires, Styrofoam, etc)

