The Problem - 1

- The potential for short and long-term effects of an on-water oil spill that reaches a shoreline is substantial.
- Shoreline cleanup has the greatest gain when oil is first deposited as this reduces the:
  - Effects of the oil in the shore zone,
  - Exposure time for shoreline resources at risk, and
  - Level of effort and time required to cleanup the oiled shorelines.
- Shoreline response is deferred to on-water control and recovery.

The Problem - 2

- Shoreline response and SCAT typically are not a significant part of planning, training, drills and during the First ( Reactive) Phase of a response.
- With the result that:
  - there is little development of organizational capability and problem recognition
  - the need to quickly implement a shoreline response is not always appreciated and prioritized.

The Problem - 3

- Competition for management attention and resources is greatest during the initial response when:
  - shoreline oil removal can be most effective, and
  - damages in the shore zone can be minimized.
- This competition declines with time, but this is after the opportunity is missed.
Shoreline Response

- Typically, shoreline operations involve the major resource effort and cost component of most response operations (large or small: coastal or inland), as
- the onshore response continues far longer than the higher profile on-water phase.

The Driving Force

- Lessons from recent spills (over the past 25 years) have shown that response to oil on the shoreline has typically been a lower priority compared to on-water activities with the result that:
  - the mobilization of a shoreline response has been delayed or underestimated,
  - oil has been remobilized or buried,
  - shoreline cleanup has not been as effective as it could have been, and
  - opportunities to minimize impacts have been missed, and
  - cleanup efforts and costs have been greater than they could have been.

Understanding the Problem Better

- Many planners and managers think that SCAT “solves the shoreline problem”.
- In reality, SCAT is simply a tool to collect data and information and to develop recommendations – SCAT does not do strategic planning nor make decisions
- SCAT is not the solution but is a very integral part of a Shoreline Response Program
The Solution

• Rethinking how to plan for and manage a shoreline response using a Shoreline Response Program (SRP)
• Requires a paradigm shift that creates a planning and preparation culture and a management structure to elevate shoreline response to a higher priority and a higher level of support.
• Development of an SRP within the existing spill management systems addresses these challenges by harnessing the recognized strengths of SCAT within an integrated and focused team.
• Does not require changing the system - a readjustment.

A Shoreline Response Program

• If a potential exists for shoreline oiling, the EUL should immediately implement an SRP to minimize short- and long-term impacts to shorelines.
• The SRP should be initiated and run aggressively in parallel with the offshore/nearshore response, rather than following on after oil is on shore.
• Part of the SRP is a Shoreline Assessment (SCAT) survey to generate data and information that are the foundation for all decisions developed by the EU/SMT.

The 3 Key Components of an SRP

1. Information generated by Shoreline Assessments (SCAT) and a dedicated data management system.
   – First Response recommendations for shoreline response priorities.
2. Support for decision makers in the Planned Phase with recommendations on cleanup strategies, priorities, end points, Best Practices, and tactics.
3. Engagement with Operations to implement cleanup and a monitoring and inspection process to confirm that end points are achieved.

An SRP and the Environmental Unit - 1

• A vital function of the Environmental Unit (EU) is to develop consensus between specialists and stakeholders on environmental issues.
• This decision process defines shoreline response objectives, priorities, constraints (Best Practices), end points, and the inspection process.
• An SRP creates and manages an SRP Plan based on those decisions developed within the EU and works with Operations on the implementation.
The SRP and Operations

- The SRP liaises with Operations in the Command Post and in the field to ensure that the SRP Plans, the Best Practices and the STRs (Shoreline Treatment Recommendations) are understood and implemented.
- This is a vital bridge between the Command Post (SRP/SCAT) and Operations.

Key Features of the SCAT Component

- Systematic field surveys provide data for the decision process in the EU/SMT.
- Based on these decisions, generate Shoreline Treatment Recommendations (STRs) which are basically a “work order” for the Operations.
- SCAT teams support Operations in the field throughout the response to understand the STRs, especially the end points and the Best Practices (constraints).
- SCAT teams conduct inspections to determine and verify when end points are met (a completed Shoreline Inspection Report (SIR) = “closure”)

An SRP and the Environmental Unit - 2

- The EU focuses on technical and environmental issues and consensus in the decision process.
- The SRP focuses on SCAT, the STRs, the SRP Plan, and the SIRs (closure).
- The SRP integrates shoreline planning, STR generation and implementation, Operations support, and close-out inspections within one team. This elevates shoreline response to a higher priority and a higher level of support, particularly during the First Response Phase.

SRP/SCAT

- These are not “optional” or simply initiated once offshore/nearshore operations are finished.
- SRP/SCAT is an integrated “cradle to grave” involvement with decision makers on one hand and Operations on the other hand.
- The SRP/SCAT process provides a strategy for completion.
**A Dedicated SRP**

- An SRP addresses the need for prioritizing a quick shoreline response during the initial “competition for attention” (management time as well as people and resources)
- Supports the EU and integrates the various components involved in an SRP (SCAT, SCAT Data Management, STRs, BMPs, the SRP Plan, Operations Liaison, SIRs).

**Fits in Easily**

- No need to restructure to integrate an SRP: can be in the Planning Section or the EU.
- The SRP can be prepared and managed by a Deputy EUL.
- As an example.....

**SUMMARY**

- A SCAT reconnaissance and an SRP developed at the start of a response enable rapid decisions and mobilizations that are critical to minimizing environmental, economic, cultural resource, and social impacts and the long-term response effort.
- A dedicated and separate SRP provides an optimal approach to strategy integration and management of the SCAT/STR, SRP Plan, and SIR (decision-implementation-closure) process throughout the response.
Advantages of an SRP

• Elevates SRP activities to a higher level of recognition and resource allocation, particularly in the First Response Phase.
• Dedicates resources to the shoreline component.
• Enables first response actions when those can be most effective.
• Integrated, focused program that combines the necessary management, planning, implementation, operational support and closure elements of a shoreline response.
• Creates a vehicle for long-range strategic planning.
• Builds on the proven attributes of the SCAT process.

Conclusion - 1

• Plan and prepare now for a shoreline response:
  – with the same commitment that we currently place on on-water responses, and
  – assume that oil will end up on the shore.

Conclusion - 2

• Shoreline cleanup has the greatest gain when oil is first deposited as this reduces the:
  – Effects of the oil in the shore zone,
  – Exposure time for shoreline resources at risk, and
  – Level of effort and time required to cleanup the oiled shorelines.

Owens et al.