

## **A comparison of shoreline response techniques in significant incidents**

**Tim Wadsworth Technical Support Manager. R Johnson International Tankers Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF), UK**

The aim of any shoreline clean-up should be to remove the oil in as short a period as possible, in an effective manner whilst causing minimal damage to the substrate and preventing recontamination of surrounding areas. However, the method by which these aims are achieved can vary widely and cleaning is invariably dependant on many factors. The level of contamination and quantities of material for disposal, the nature of the shoreline, the type and number of available resources and the composition of established contingency plans all have a bearing. These factors can themselves vary according to the social, political and legislative environments in which the response is undertaken. As a consequence, the effort and duration of the response is likely to be influenced by the location of the spill, rather than technical criteria.

The shoreline clean-up activity arising from three significant oil spills is compared. For each incident a common oiled shoreline type has been identified. The clean-up methods undertaken are compared to determine the level of effort required. Where available, the numbers of workers and plant involved over the period of response have been considered to determine how the shoreline response was effected. The factors affecting the techniques will then be considered to determine the basis for any differences the incidents to gauge which may be considered as the more effective and efficient.

For this exercise, we have looked at the shoreline clean-up undertaken in response to three significant tanker incidents SEA EMPRESS, PRESTIGE and HEBEI SPIRIT.