



Technical lessons of the Erika and other spills

THE ERIKA SPILL COMPARED TO OTHERS

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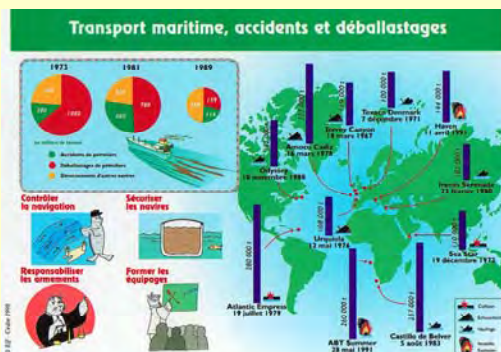


Not an Exceptional Incident

One more rupture in a storm of a passing ship under a flag of convenience



Not a Top 30 Ship Spill



But a spill with particular aspects

A passing ship breaking in two far offshore

- See the Nakhodka incident, Japan, 1997



A cargo loaded in France, property of the n°1 industrial group

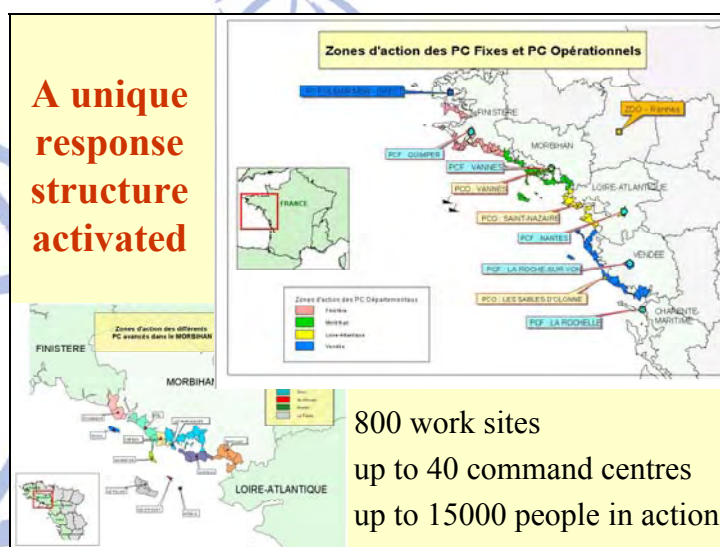
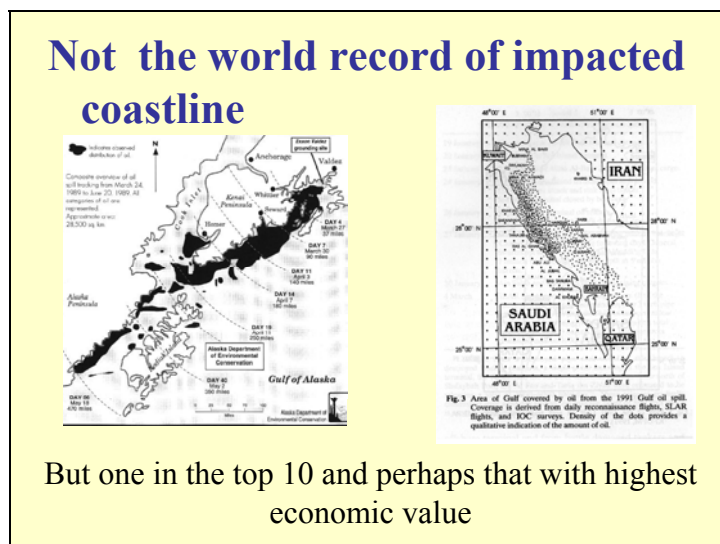
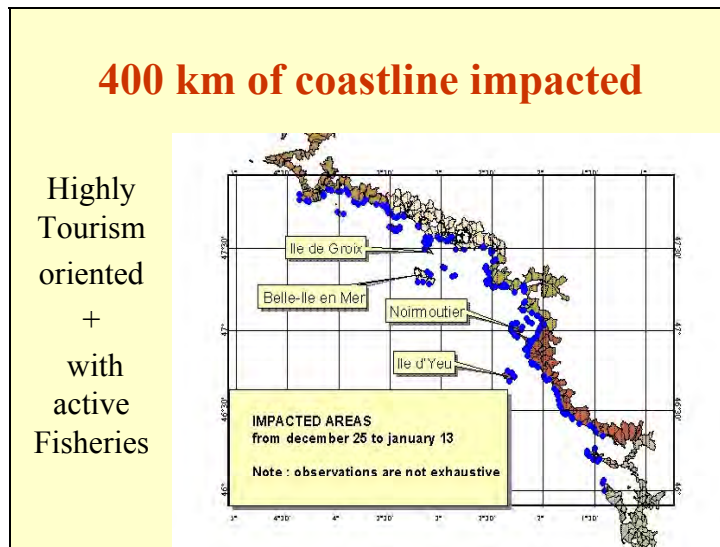
- See the Exxon Valdez incident, USA, 1989



A particularly viscous fuel

Spilled at the start of winter, in an exceptional storm : see again the Nakhodka and Braer incidents





A highly diverse manpower

- Flow of volunteers the first 2 months (10 000 at peak time ?)
- Average state force of 3000 military and civil defence for the first 8 months
- A total in excess of 400 000 man.days over 2 years

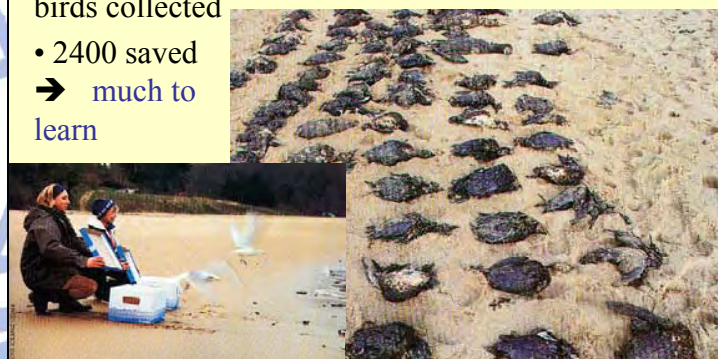
Requiring equipment, training, service and management

Part of the response stockpiles useless against a chewing-gum like emulsion



The largest known bird toll

- 67 000 oiled birds collected
 - 2400 saved
- ➔ much to learn



But not the calculated world record bird toll

- Erika : 64 000 birds collected
→ about 150 000 estimated oiled
- Exxon Valdez : 37 000 birds collected
→ 150 000 to 300 000 estimated oiled

A strong but not extraordinary media turmoil



- Spill unacceptable.
- Should have been avoided
- Authorities do not say all

But a unique Web fed controversy on cancerogenicity

- targeting charterer and authorities
- impacting volunteer response force, tourists bookings, shellfish marketability and salt exploitation



An unpleasant and rare surprise

Fuel stuck on sunken rocks, to be removed by hand



200 000 tonnes of Oily Waste :
a regrettable word record, a unique solution



A unique threat taken care of :
Pumping 11 000 t of heavy fuel, from wrecks 120 m deep, in 2 months



- Plus taking care of oil slicks buried in sandy bottoms under low tide level

A tourism oriented cleaning strategy

First of all, saving the summer season



Followed by coastline combing

A long, painful task, faced with occasional repollution

How clean is clean ?



Including cleaning remotest places

Still going on 2 years after the spill

→ reasonable or unreasonable ?



No overall impact assessment scheduled shortly

- Surveys not all started in first year
- No Impact assessment committee nominated



As a whole, a milestone pollution and a major warning

The threat remains

**The public will expect plans, stockpiles,
manpower, scientific expertise, etc.**

to respond better next time

Hopefully, next one will not be ours

