



OIL SPILL INCIDENT

AERIAL VIEW
BROADKILL COASTLINE
EST. YEAR-ROUND
POPULATION:
UNDER 1,000

Photo by USACE

LOCATION:

Broadkill Beach, Delaware

TIMELINE:

OCT. 19, 2020

Oil Reported. DNREC's Emergency Response Team and Delaware State Police's Aviation Unit are dispatched to the scene.

Nov. 13, 2020

Declared "cleared" by Unified Command (USCG and DNREC)

DELAWARE SEA GRANT (DESG) SUPPORT DURING THE OCTOBER 2020 SPILL INCLUDED:



Launching a special seven-day series of 15 *Second Science* videos to educate the public on frequently asked questions



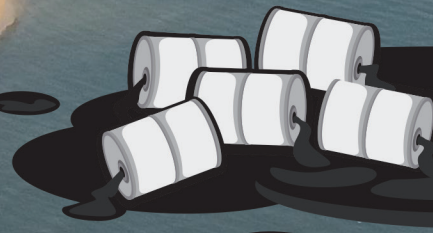
Connecting the public with agencies and resources to report oil and follow the progress of the oil spill



Answering questions from K-12 students and the media about oil spill impacts and how to help



Funding quick-response research on whether the oil reached the seafloor of a 500-acre area off Broadkill Beach



ESTIMATED AMOUNT OF OIL SPILLED:

5 barrels or 215 gallons



85 tons of oiled debris cleared

from beaches (sand, plant material, marine debris/trash, tar balls, oil patties)

DISPOSAL DESTINATION:

Special landfill designed for petroleum-contaminated material

IDENTIFYING THE SOURCE ASSIGNED TO THE USCG:

Unknown as of February 2021

ID Method: chemical fingerprinting

Active investigation is underway by the U.S. Coast Guard and Marine Safety Lab New London, CT

ENVIRONMENTAL & ANIMAL IMPACTS:

Though Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc. and the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service did observe lightly oiled gull and shorebird species, none were deemed in distress and all were flighted (capable of flight). The Marine Education, Research, and Rehabilitation (MERR) Institute reported oiled sea turtles, but none of these individuals were living and oil was not the cause of death.



DO NOT TOUCH

Never try to clean up oil yourself.



AREA AFFECTED BY SPILL:

87 miles/140 km
Bowers Beach, DE to Assateague Island, VA

Report any sizable sightings of oil, oily debris, or oiled wildlife to **DNREC's environmental hotline 800-662-8802**

For more resources, visit deseagrant.org/oil-spill

OIL SPILL *RESPONSE*

Delaware Sea Grant (DESG) works with state and federal partners to serve as a link between first responders, researchers, and Delaware stakeholders. DESG contributes to oil spill response along four independent but interrelated tracks:

Communication

In the immediate aftermath of a spill, DESG amplifies communications from DNREC and others about ways the public can help and information local residents need to know.



Research

DESG also has the unique ability to quickly fund small-scale research projects to examine important questions during an oil spill to help determine its source, its trajectory, and its ultimate impacts.



Education

Both during oil spills and on an ongoing basis, DESG educators provide context on the region's oil industry and its environmental impacts through classroom outreach, teacher workshops and resources for interested members of the public.



Connection

DESG can help connect agencies and others with experts at the University of Delaware, whether for media comment or research collaboration, covering a wide range of topics, from fisheries impacts to the use of chemical dispersants and more.



UD Professor Art Trembanis examines oil-covered saltmarsh grasses found near Lewes Beach.

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