

IMPACT OF OIL SPIILLS OCCURRING ALONG THE VALDEZ ALASKA -
STATE OF WASHINGTON, SUPER TANKER ROUTE ON FISHERIES

Pollution with crude oil and oil fractions damages the marine ecology through several effects. These are:

1. Direct kill of organisms through coating and aphyxiation.
2. Direct kill through contact poisoning of organisms.
3. Direct kill through exposure to the water soluble toxic components of oil at some distance in space and time from the source of the spill.
4. Destruction of the generally more sensitive juvenile forms of the organism.
5. Destruction of the food sources of the higher species.
6. Incorporation of sub-lethal amounts of oil and oil products into the organisms resulting in reduced resistance to infection and other stresses.
7. Destruction of food values through incorporation of oil and oil products into fisheries resources.
8. Incorporation of carcinogens into the marine food chain and human food resources.
9. Disruption of any of the numerous events necessary for the propagation of marine species.

For all the above effects the severity will depend on the type, magnitude and location of any oil spillage. It