

whale are best known. The latter venturing into the Strait of Georgia. Oil spills fall into two broad categories, high sea spills and confined area spills. However the former type of spill, because of its distance from observation is also more effected by the time lapse between the spill and the reporting of the same let alone the length of time required by any clean up group to reach the spill area. Because of this the area which may be covered by a high sea spill could be vast. Adding to this, evidence from the Arrow incident has shown that not all birds die in situ because there the major avian mortality occurred in the vicinity of Sable Island, some 150 miles southeast of the Arrow. The magnitude of a major spill on the high seas and its effect on ocean birds and surface moving marine mammals would be extremely difficult, if not impossible to measure, let alone predict.

A major spill in the Gulf of Alaska or off the Queen Charlottes would be directly in the area utilized by two to three million slender-billed sheerwaters and the ten million alcids. Both species only come to land to breed. The effect of an oil spill on these birds would directly effect the Peale's falcon which preys upon the smaller alcids and, as stated previously, breeds only along the coast of British Columbia. Further to this, the distribution of pelagic birds at sea approximates that of major fishing areas and certainly that of major marine upwellings.