Oil-spill study

Experimental oil spills, approved by the Department of the Environment, are being conducted in the nearshore waters of Baffin Island. The experiments began this summer and will continue through to October and then resume next summer. The spills are part of a four-year study to assess the impact of oil spills on Arctic coasts and to test clean-up measures.

The study is being conducted near the northern tip of Baffin Island on Cape Hatt, 70 kilometres (43 miles) from Pond Inlet, the nearest settlement. All participants in the study are satisfied that the environmental effects of the oil spills will be confined to a very small area.

A 30-man camp was set up on Cape Hatt, and scientists are gathering data and releasing a small amount of oil on a limited section of shoreline in order to begin studying the long-term fate of oil on Arctic beaches.

The major part of the study will take place in the summer of 1981. Up to 275 barrels of oil will be discharged in the nearshore waters of several small bays. About 100 barrels of crude oil will be spilled into one bay, and a similar volume of crude oil with a dispersant, which breaks up oil and mixes it into the water, will be discharged into another bay. A third bay will remain uncontaminated as a control.

In an intensive sampling and analysis program that will continue through 1983, scientists will study the fate of oil in the water and sediments and determine its effects on bottom-dwelling plants and organisms such as seaweed and clams.

Fish, birds, or mammals will not be purposely exposed to the oil spills. Bird-scaring devices will be used and project personnel will attempt to ensure that no sea or land mammals enter the shoreline test areas.

International supervision

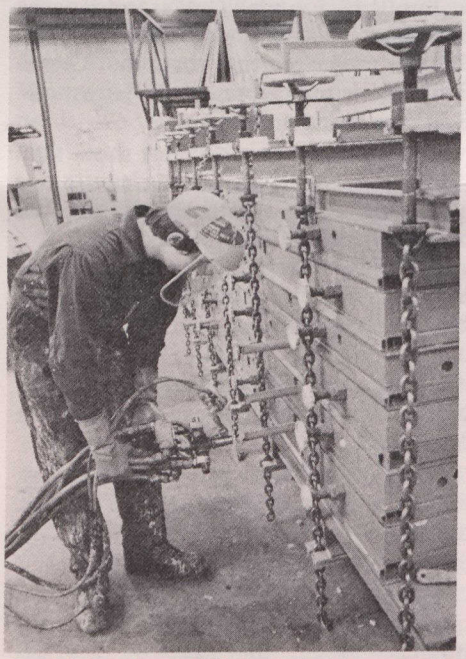
The Baffin Island Oil Spill (BIOS) project, initiated by the Federal Government's Arctic Marine Oil Spill Program, is the culmination of several years of planning. The $4-million project is managed by an international committee composed of representatives from the Department of Environment, the Department of Indian and Northern Affairs, the Department of Fisheries and Oceans, the Canadian oil industry, the Norwegian Government, and the United States Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. Northern residents have been consulted throughout the planning of BIOS and support the aims of the project; in fact, the test site selected was suggested by the Pond Inlet Council.

The BIOS project will significantly improve Canada's ability to clean up oil spills in Arctic waters, said Environment Minister John Roberts. "In view of recent discoveries of oil in the Arctic and the possibility that this oil may be shipped through the Northwest Passage, Canadian officials must know the best method for dealing with spilled oil: attempting to clean it up from the shoreline, dispersing it with chemicals, or allowing it to degrade in the environment by natural weathering processes. These controlled spills give us the opportunity to determine the most effective countermeasure techniques."

Company makes things cooler abroad

Canadian-made refrigeration equipment is solving cold-storage problems in the Caribbean, Africa, Asia, South and Central America.

Foster Refrigeration of Canada Limited of Drummondville, Quebec has been building refrigeration equipment, reach-in and walk-in refrigerators and cold-storage rooms in Canada since 1961.



Daniel Leclerc of Foster Refrigerator injects urethane foam between panels. This foam is the insulating agent for all Foster refrigeration units.

The company began exporting its product in the 1960s and the Caribbean was the first export market studied.

After a number of Caribbean sales, the company made a concerted effort in Central and South America. "In the Venezuelan market, we obtained some good business volume in sales of mortuary room and blood bank refrigerators for hospitals. Recently we were able to sell a complete kitchen and storage installation to a large hotel in Panama, built by Canadians and financed by the Export Development Corporation (EDC)," said Alain Boyer, the company's advertising and sales promotion manager.

Foster participated in a major exhibition in Senegal in 1978 to test markets in Africa. The company has also participated in a number of major projects in Singapore, Senegal, Tunisia, Cameroun, Burma, Indonesia, the Philippines and Saudi Arabia.

Foster are suppliers to such EDC-financed transactions as the Hotel School in Abidjan, Ivory Coast, and portable housing, school and hospital units sold through Canadian export houses to Sonatrach in Algeria.

Stock trading soars

Trading volume on Canada's five major stock markets during the first six months of 1980 was almost double the volume recorded during the same period last year, reports the Toronto Stock Exchange.

Preliminary figures compiled by the exchange show volume of trading on the Toronto, Montreal, Vancouver, Alberta and Winnipeg markets was 2.02 billion shares, compared with 1.1 billion for the first six months of 1979 – an increase of 82.5 per cent.

The value of the shares traded jumped 79.4 per cent to $18.41 billion from $10.26 billion.

The small Winnipeg market had the largest increase in volume, with 700,000 shares traded in the first half of this year compared with 100,000 during the same period of 1979 – a 600 percent gain.

Vancouver, meanwhile, experienced the largest increase in value. The value of shares traded so far this year is estimated at $1.68 billion, up 251.7 per cent from $478 million in the first six months of 1979.