

Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT): A decision making tool



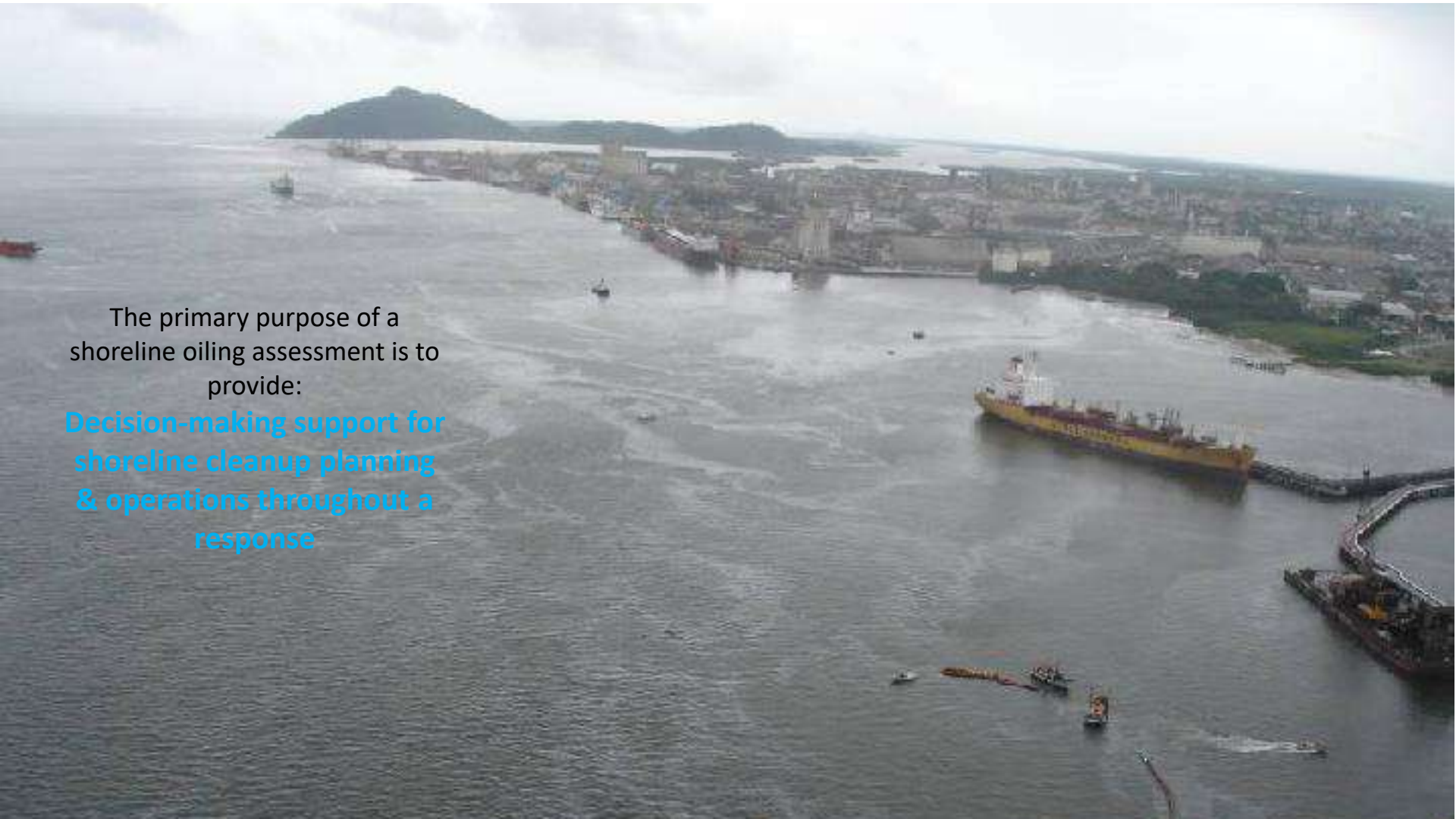
Triox Environmental Emergencies



- Offers emergency preparedness, training and response services for oil and chemical spills.
- UK, Canada, Singapore

www.triox.ca



An aerial photograph of a coastal city and harbor. A large yellow and red oil tanker ship is docked at a pier on the right. The harbor is filled with water, and several smaller boats are visible. The city extends along the coast, with buildings and infrastructure visible. In the background, there are hills and a cloudy sky.

The primary purpose of a shoreline oiling assessment is to provide:

Decision-making support for shoreline cleanup planning & operations throughout a response

Why do we need SCAT?

How do we:



- a. describe the shoreline?
- b. describe the oiling?
- c. describe where it is?
- d. describe how much there is?
- e. decide if we need to clean?
- f. decide how to clean?
- g. decide how much to clean?
- h. decide how to end cleanup?



A guide to oiled shoreline assessment (SCAT) surveys

Good practice guidelines for incident management and emergency response personnel



NOAA Shoreline Assessment Manual

4th Edition



DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
National Ocean Service
Office of Response and Restoration
Emergency Response Division
August 2012



SHORELINE CLEANUP
ASSESSMENT TECHNIQUE
(SCAT) MANUAL
THIRD EDITION

Canada

THE UK SCAT MANUAL

Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique

A Field Guide to the Documentation
of Oiled Shorelines in the UK
adapted and reproduced from

Owens, E.H. and Sergy, G.A. 2004. The Arctic SCAT Manual: A Field Guide to the Documentation of Oiled Shorelines in Arctic Environments, Environment Canada, Edmonton, AB, Canada.

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POSOW

Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline Cleanup and Good Wildlife Interactions

OILED SHORELINE ASSESSMENT MANUAL



POSOW is a project co-funded by the EU under the 2004-2006 Project Proposal Agreement No. B4001 in cooperation with EPA, CAH, Sea-Action and CEMC and membership of the ERDC, original concept of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

Shoreline assessment surveys are carried out to:

- Collect accurate data on shoreline type and oiling conditions
- Identify environmental, cultural and operational constraints for cleanup
- Identify shoreline cleanup techniques that provide a Net Environmental benefit
- Help develop shoreline cleanup criteria ('endpoints')
- Monitor progress

Key SCAT Principles

- A **systematic** survey of all shorelines in the affected area
- Division of shoreline into geographic **segments**
- Use of **standard terms and definitions** for documentation and data entry
- Provide **management and operational support** until all treatment activities and inspections completed
- An objective and trained team of **interagency** personnel represents responsible party, government agencies, land ownership, land use/management or other interests

Key information from SCAT

- Shoreline types
- Description of shoreline oiling
- Description of the environment and land use



Shoreline Types

- Impermeable
 - Bedrock
 - Man-Made Impermeable

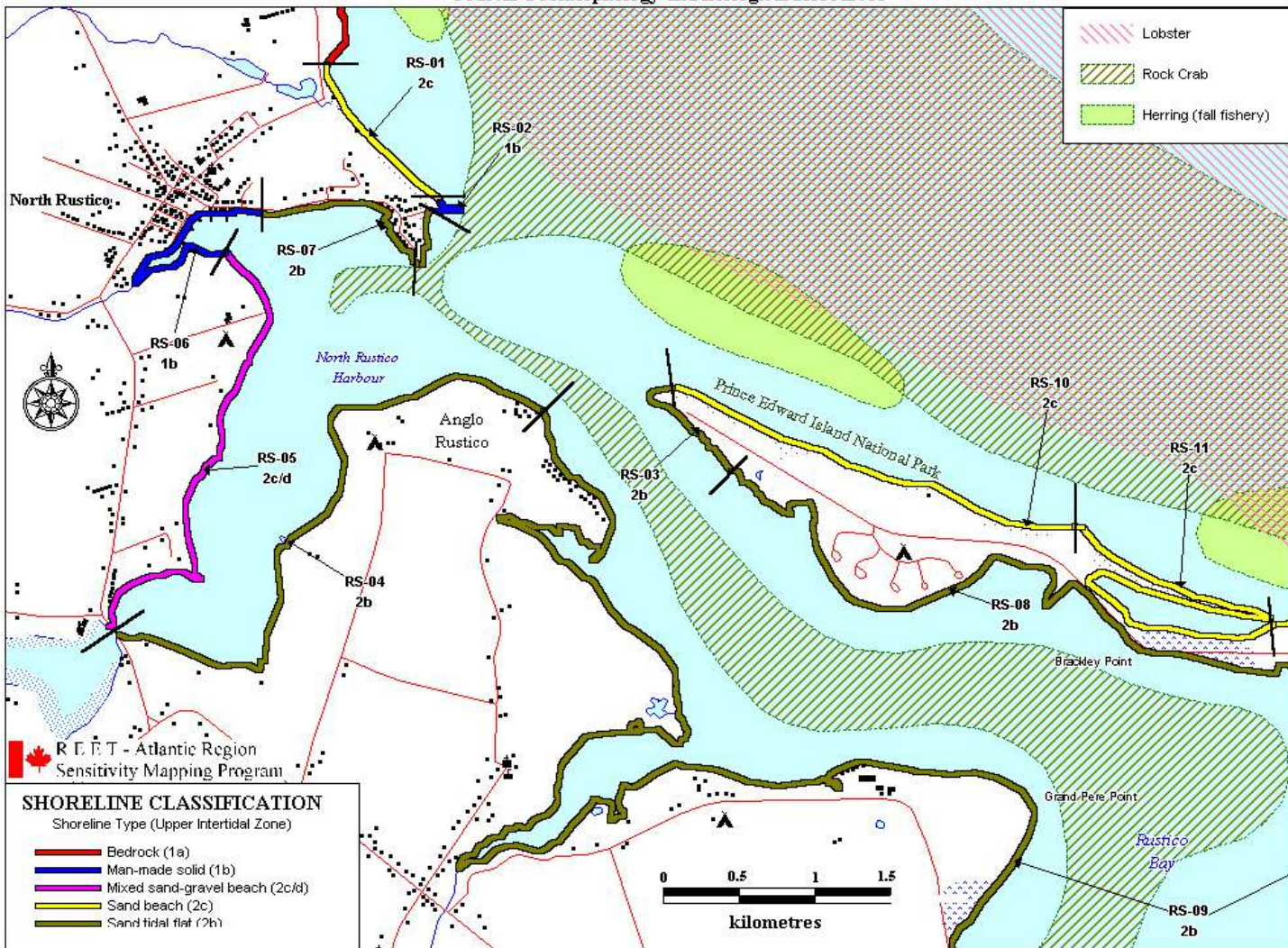


- Permeable
 - Man-made Permeable
 - Sand Beach
 - Mixed-Sediment Beach
 - Pebble-Cobble Beach
 - Boulder Beach
 - Mud Flat
 - Sand Flat
 - Mixed-Sediment Flat

- Vegetated Shores
 - Wetlands/marsh
 - Salt Marshes (grasses)



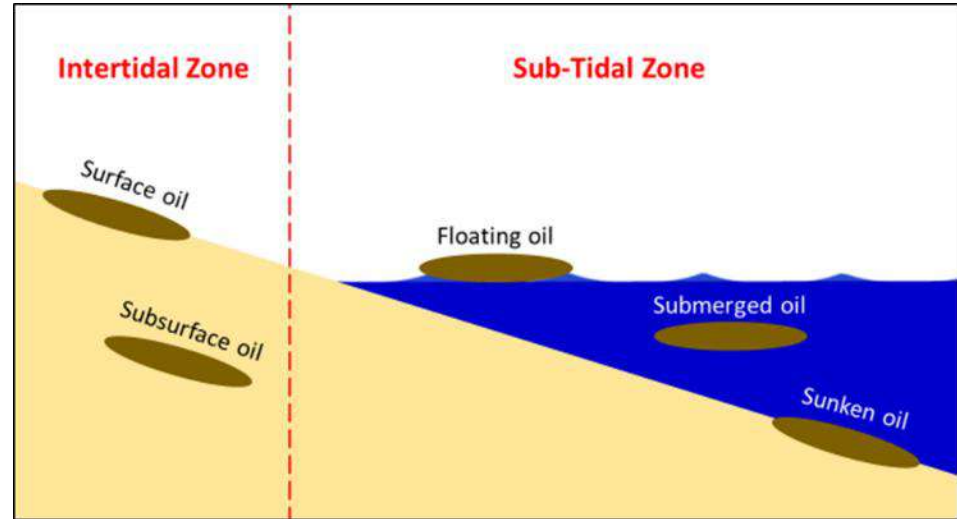
Coastal Geomorphology and Biological Resources



General Location of Oil

Oil Locations

Surface	Oil on surface of the shoreline substrate
Subsurface	Oil in a beach that has penetrated the sediments or been buried by sediment movement due to wave or wind action
Floating	Oil floating at or near the water's surface
Submerged	Oil within the water column of near neutral buoyancy; may also be temporarily submerged due to entrainment by water turbulence so that the oil floats to the surface in calmer conditions
Sunken	Oil deposited on the ocean/lake bottom, typically negatively buoyant



SCAT surveys focus primarily on **surface & subsurface oil** that has stranded on the shoreline




Oil Distribution and Thickness

Category	Percentage Distribution	Schematic Examples		
Sporadic	1-10%			
Patchy	11-50%			
Broken	51-90%			
Continuous	91-100%			




Surface oil thickness

Category		Thickne SS	Description
TO	Thick Oil	> 1 cm	Generally consists of fresh oil or mousse accumulations, or asphalt pavements
CV	Cover	> 0.1-1 cm	-
CT	Coat	> 0.01-0.1 cm	Can be scratched off easily with fingernail on coarse sediments or bedrock ("black paint")
ST	Stain	≤ 0.01 cm	Cannot be scratched off easily with fingernail on coarse sediments or bedrock
FL	Film	-	Transparent or translucent film or sheen

Oil Character (surface)

Oil Character		Description	E.g. Photos
FR	Fresh	Typically, un-weathered, low viscosity oil	 A photograph showing a dark, viscous oil spill on a rocky shoreline. The oil is thick and black, coating the rocks and extending into the water.
M S	Mousse	Emulsified oil (oil and water mixture) existing as patches or accumulations, or within interstitial spaces	 A photograph showing a large, brownish, foamy mass of oil mousse on a sandy beach. The mousse is thick and irregular in shape, with some darker patches of oil visible within it.
TB	Tar balls	Discrete oil balls on a beach or adhered to rock or coarse-sediment substrate. Tar ball diameters are generally <10 cm	 A photograph showing a single, small, dark, irregularly shaped tar ball resting on a sandy beach. The tar ball is dark and appears to be made of a thick, sticky substance.

Oil Character (sub-surface)

Oil Character		Description	E.g. Photos
AP	Asphalt Pavement	Cohesive mixture of weathered oil and sediment situated completely below a surface sediment layer(s); photograph shows partially exposed subsurface asphalt	
OP	Oil-Filled Pores	Pore spaces in the sediment matrix are completely filled with oil; often characterized by oil flowing out of the sediment when disturbed	
PP	Partially-Filled Pores	Pore spaces are filled with oil, but generally does not flow out when exposed or disturbed	

The Phases of SCAT



SCAT Team

- Usually 2-3 members
 - One qualified SCAT lead
 - One government representative
 - One local representative (land owner/local authority/stakeholder)
- Equipment
 - GPS, Camera, notebook
 - Health and Safety
- Logistic
 - Transportation
 - Car
 - Boats
 - Helicopters



Initial Phase – Reconnaissance SCAT

- Aerial or boat-/ground-based observations
- Rapid data collection + turnaround
- Provides “big picture” – scales the problem



Second Phase – Ground SCAT

- Systematic ground surveys
 - Walk, boat, ATV
- Provide **detailed information** for operations
- Usually 3 to 5 teams
- Aerial surveys continue to provide **“big picture”**



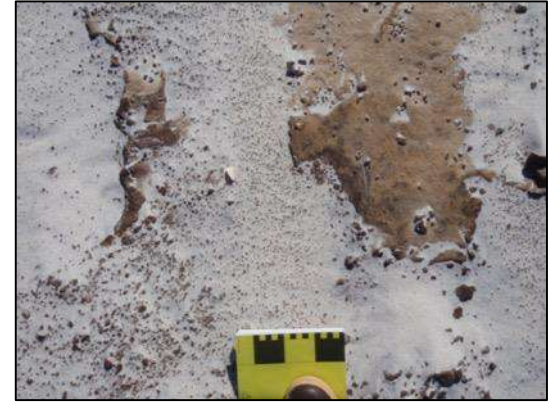
Later SCAT Phases

- **Post-treatment assessment** to validate that segment meets endpoint
- **Monitoring** to track oiling conditions and weathering
- **Completion inspections** with representatives of key parties and stakeholders involved in response



Without SCAT....

- Effective response planning and prioritisation for a shoreline response program would not be possible
- Operations would have to make spontaneous, on-site decisions regarding treatment.
- Potential for under- or over-utilisation of resources
- Potential for negative environmental effects due to excessive treatment



Conclusion

- The SCAT method allows the systematic collection of information for shoreline cleanup.
- Facilitates the identification of appropriate clean-up methods according to the conditions of the spill by providing operational information.
- Allows the end of clean-up operations to be determined in a systematic manner.