

Glossary

Absorption

Any process that causes one substance to penetrate the inside of another substance. In the case of oil spill clean-up, oil is drawn into porous sorbent materials.

Accute effects

Effects having a sudden onset and lasting a short time.

Aromatic hydrocarbon

Carbon-hydrogen compound characterized by the presence of at least one six-carbon ring structure.

Bilge water

The bilge is the parts of a vessel between the lower-most floorboards and the bottom, where oil-contaminated wastewater - bilge water - drains until further processing. Bilge water is produced when the machinery spaces of a vessel are cleaned.

Bioaugmentation

The adding of microorganisms to the existing native oil-degrading population (also known as *seeding*, *fertilization*, *bio-stimulation* or *bioremediation*).

Biostimulation

Also known as nutrient enrichment, the method of adding nutrients such as phosphorus and nitrogen, to a contaminated environment to stimulate the growth of the microorganisms capable of biodegradation. See also *bioaugmentation*, *bioremediation*, *fertilization*, and *seeding*).

Black oil

A black or very dark brown layer of oil. depending on the quantity spilled oil tends to quickly spread out over the water surface to a thickness of about 1 millimeter.

However, from the air, it is impossible to tell how thick a black oil layer is.