

SCOPE

Substrates: sand
Pollution: very heavy
Pollutant: fluid to slightly viscous
Sea: tidal



EQUIPMENT NEEDED

Basic equipment:

- Tractor or loader with front blade

Extra equipment:

- Front-end loader (for removal)
- Front blade fitted with a rubber scraper, snow plough design.

DESCRIPTION/PRINCIPLE

Consists of bringing the pollutant together in order to facilitate its removal from the beach. Scraping is carried out using a tractor or earthmoving equipment fitted with a front blade in an oblique position. According to the viscosity of the pollutant, two options are available:

- (case 1) fluid pollutant: radial or converging scraping towards a collection point on the foreshore; removal by pumping
- (case 2) more viscous pollutant: concentration to form windrows, by successive slightly curving passes parallel to the water line; removal of windrows using a loader.

CONDITIONS OF USE

Pollution: heavy pollution, continuous slick, fluid to slightly viscous oil.

Substrate: vast, flat foreshore with wet fine-grain sand (very damp to saturated), and a good load-bearing capacity, without ripple marks).

Site: accessible to earthmoving equipment, sufficiently vast to allow vehicles to manoeuvre.

IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT

Physical: normally only removes the pollutant, but some sediment may also be taken with it (if the operator is poorly supervised or inexperienced), especially if used on light pollution or an unsuitable site; high risk of disturbance due to traffic and mixing of oil with sediment.

Biological: limited disturbance (except in the case of excessive removal of sediments or a lot of oil and sediment mixing).

PERFORMANCE

Yield: variable

Minimum workforce required: 2 people per vehicle (1 driver + 1 assistant)

Waste: oil mixed with a varying quantity of sediment; but can very rapidly become unselective if scraping is carried out on moderate pollution (should be avoided).

OBSERVATIONS

- Should only be carried out on heavy pollution; do not use on moderate to light pollution.
- Restricted window of use.
- Inform and supervise operators; use experienced operators.
- Work methodically.
- Set up traffic lanes on the beach in order to reduce oil and sediment mixing.
- The bucket of the loader used to evacuate the pollutant should be filled no more than 2/3 full to prevent spillages during transportation.
- Ensure safety on the worksite.