

Abstract

Commonly we hear about the biggest oil spills but oil spills occur every day. Some spills are unintentional while others are deliberate illegal discharges of bilge oil ship's waste.

As long as society depends on oil and petroleum products, spills are a substantial risk. Understanding environmental impacts along contingency planning is needed to mitigate the affects of oil spills.

Oil spilled at sea has numerous environmental impacts affecting everything from seabirds to sea life to life on land.

The coast of Bangladesh stretching to about 710 km where approximately 12% of the country's 150 million population live is known as a zone of multiple vulnerabilities as well as opportunities. It is prone to several natural disasters such as cyclones, Storm surges, floods and river erosion. In combination with the other natural hazards, man-made hazards in various forms like land based pollution from agricultural chemical, industrial residues, farm effluents, solid waste, sewage disposal and top of all. pollution from ships due to both operational and accidental oil spillage, pose the coasts of Bangladesh with greater and larger threats of devastation and inexpressible damage to lives, properties, livestock, infrastructures, life support chain and environment.

The fate and behaviour of oil on shorelines is influenced by many factors. Some of which relate to the type of oil, some to characteristics of the shoreline and others to conditions when the oil is deposited on the shoreline such as weather and waves. For example, an oil slick could be carried by surface currents or winds to areas where it causes the greatest damage to wildlife habitat. On the other hand, a slick could be carried out to the deep sea where it disperses naturally and has lesser direct effect on the environment.

Contingency planning is an important step in ensuring of effective response to oil Spills-Response teams include operations, science and communications personnel. Action planning includes stopping the flow of oil, containing the oil, and cleaning it up.

About five thousand ships including a number of oil tankers come and operate in our ports every year. There are several thousand other mechanized trawlers and coastal vessels and boats that spill oil. Sea is also polluted severely polluted by oil spill because of accidents of ships. The authority fails to check pollution as they do not have provision for receiving or collecting oil related wastes and vessels facing emergency situation during oil spillage. Even our Port Authorities have no laboratory nor required surveillance facilities to check the pollution. Foreign and local ships find our ports and its outer anchorages a safe dumping heaven for disposal of wastes, taking advantage of poor laws and their lax implementation due to poor logistic support. The authority fails to take action against the ships as they lice the scenes very quickly after dumping waste in our territorial waters. Besides, ship breaking industry is located in Chittagong and incidents like dumping of wastes into the sea from ships also happening.

Coast of Bangladesh, the life line of the land opens up the opportunity of development and prosperity for the country. The funnel shaped coast lacing Bay of Bengal provides Bangladesh in one hand one of the best locations geographically for sale recluse of ports and resorts and habitation and similarly on the other hand poses a serious threat of hazards due to oil spillage from ships and their accidents.

The coast of Bangladesh has already experienced a number of oil tanker accidents but being in small scale has failed to draw any public concerned or attention. With rise in frequency of transportation of crude oil in particular has prompted even larger tankers to come to Bangladesh Coast posing possibility of accidents due to grounding, collision and explosion spilling huge amount of crude oil to the sea sufficient to cause devastation to lives, properties and environment.

Where the oil spillage from ships has already drawn great concerns to developed countries formulating and implementation of a series of international conventions to control and mitigate the risk, it is ironical that the hazard of oil spillage from ships have not been able to draw any meaningful public concern for taking concerted efforts of mitigation

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This dissertation study work is an effort to create understanding of the whole issue in the overall context of Bangladesh and create awareness to prepare the country being a maritime nation for possible and appropriate mitigation and response measures.