



Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

# **Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Viability Analysis**

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**United States Delegation to EPPR**

**U.S. – Canada Northern Oil and Gas Research Forum**

**October 11, 2017**

**“To promote safety, protect the environment and conserve resources offshore through vigorous regulatory oversight and enforcement.”**



# Study Objectives

- Assess the ability of oil spill response systems to operate in the Arctic marine environment
- Estimate the percentage of time conditions for oil spill response are:

**Favorable**

**Marginal**

**Not favorable**

# Study commissioned by the Emergency Preparedness, Prevention, and Response Working Group (EPPR) and co-sponsored by Denmark, Norway, and the United States

**DNV GL** and **Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC** under contract to the Norwegian Coastal Administration and U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement





Wind  
Sea ice  
Sea state  
Air temperature  
Wind chill  
Structural icing  
Light conditions  
Horizontal visibility  
Vertical visibility

## Response strategy

## Baseline systems

### Mechanical Recovery

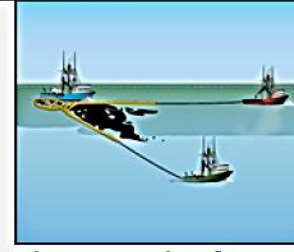
Contain and collect oil from the water's surface for disposal.



Two vessels operating containment boom



Single vessel with outrigger and containment boom



Three vessels-of-opportunity with boom



Single vessel in ice (no boom)

### Dispersants

Add chemicals to the slick to speed the dispersion of oil droplets into the water column.



Vessel application



Fixed-wing aircraft application



Helicopter application

### In-situ Burning

Conduct a controlled burn of oil on the water's surface. The slick may need to be contained using vessels and boom in order to achieve a thickness adequate for ignition and burning.



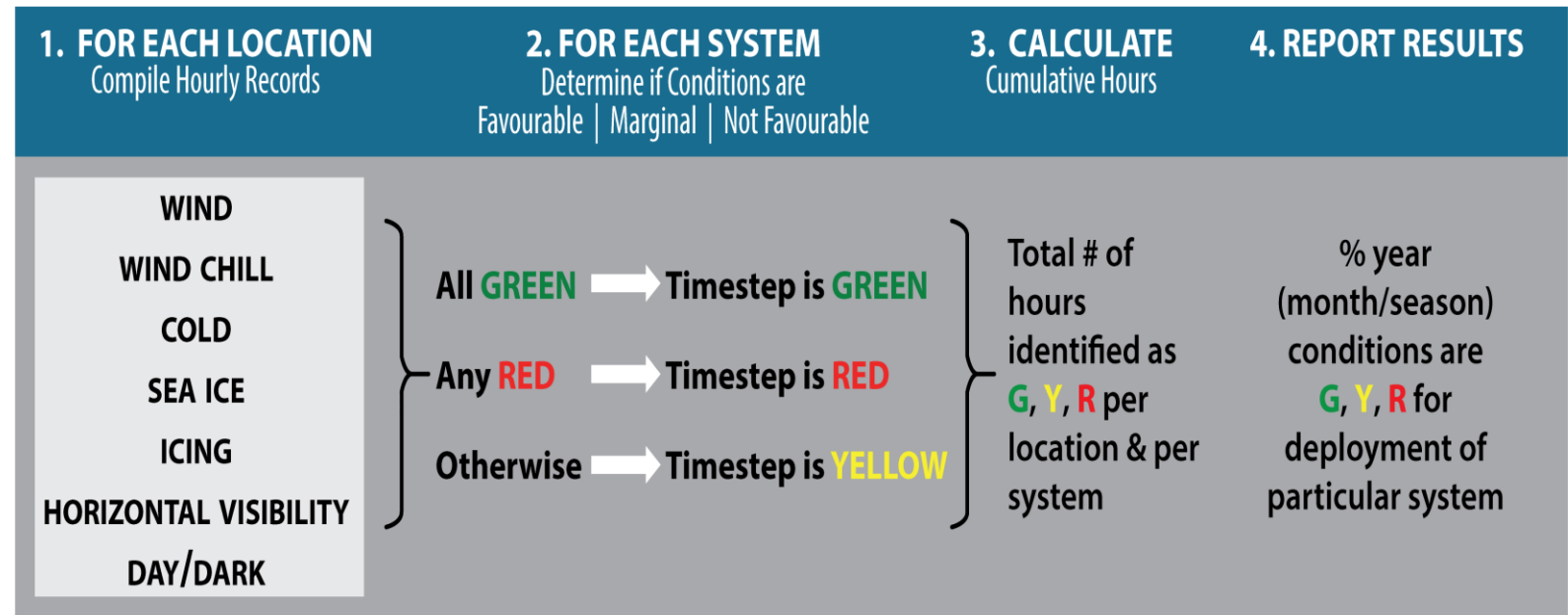
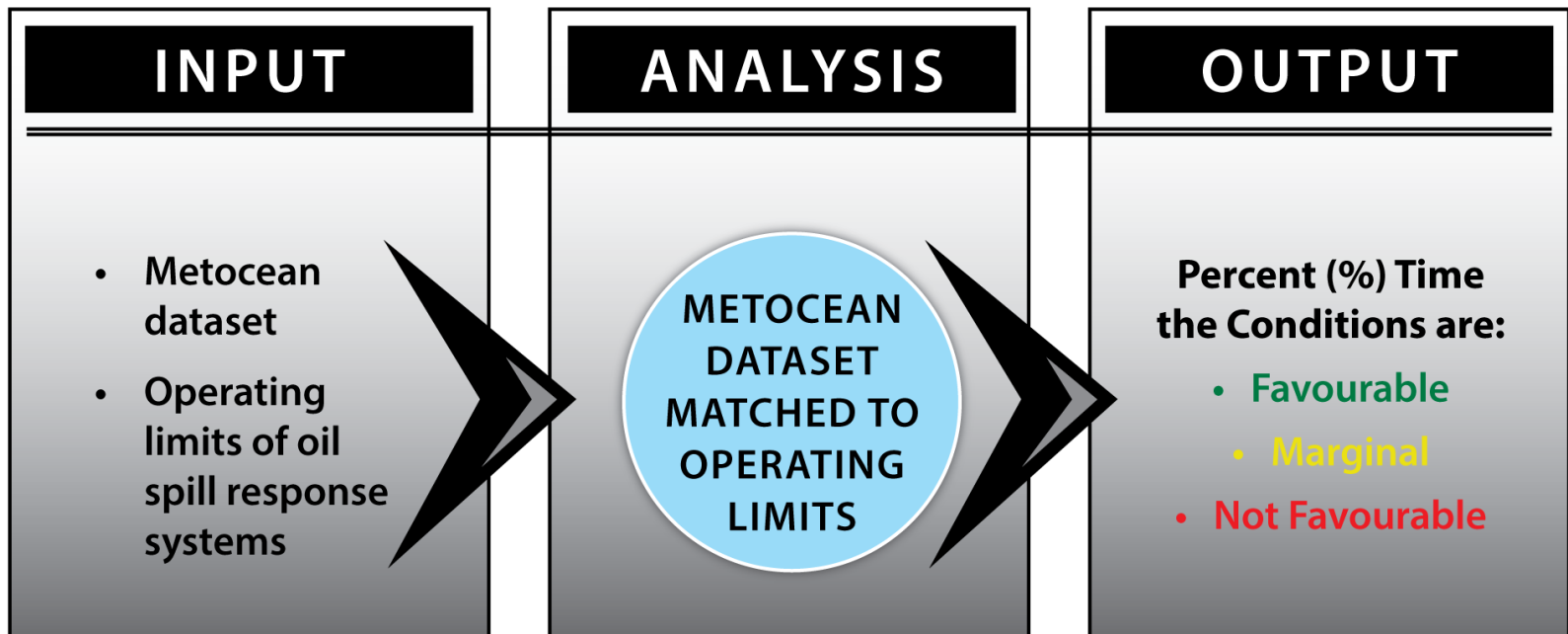
Vessel-based ignition with fire boom for containment



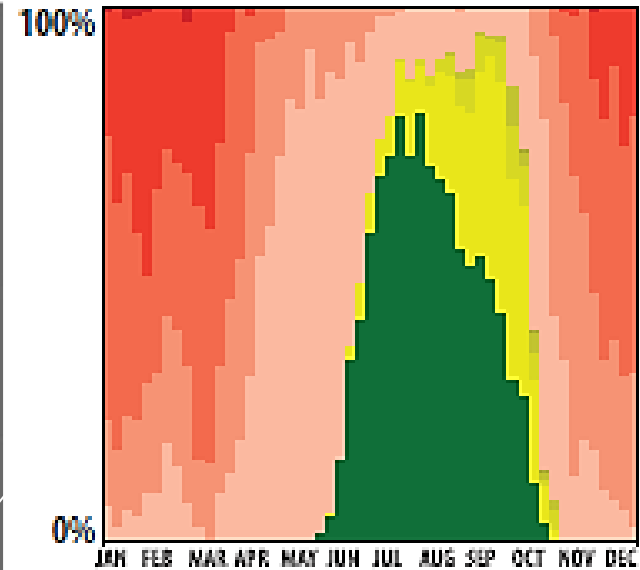
Helicopter-based ignition, using ice for containment (no boom)



Helicopter-based application of herders as well as ignition



# Geospatial Analysis and Location Specific Analysis

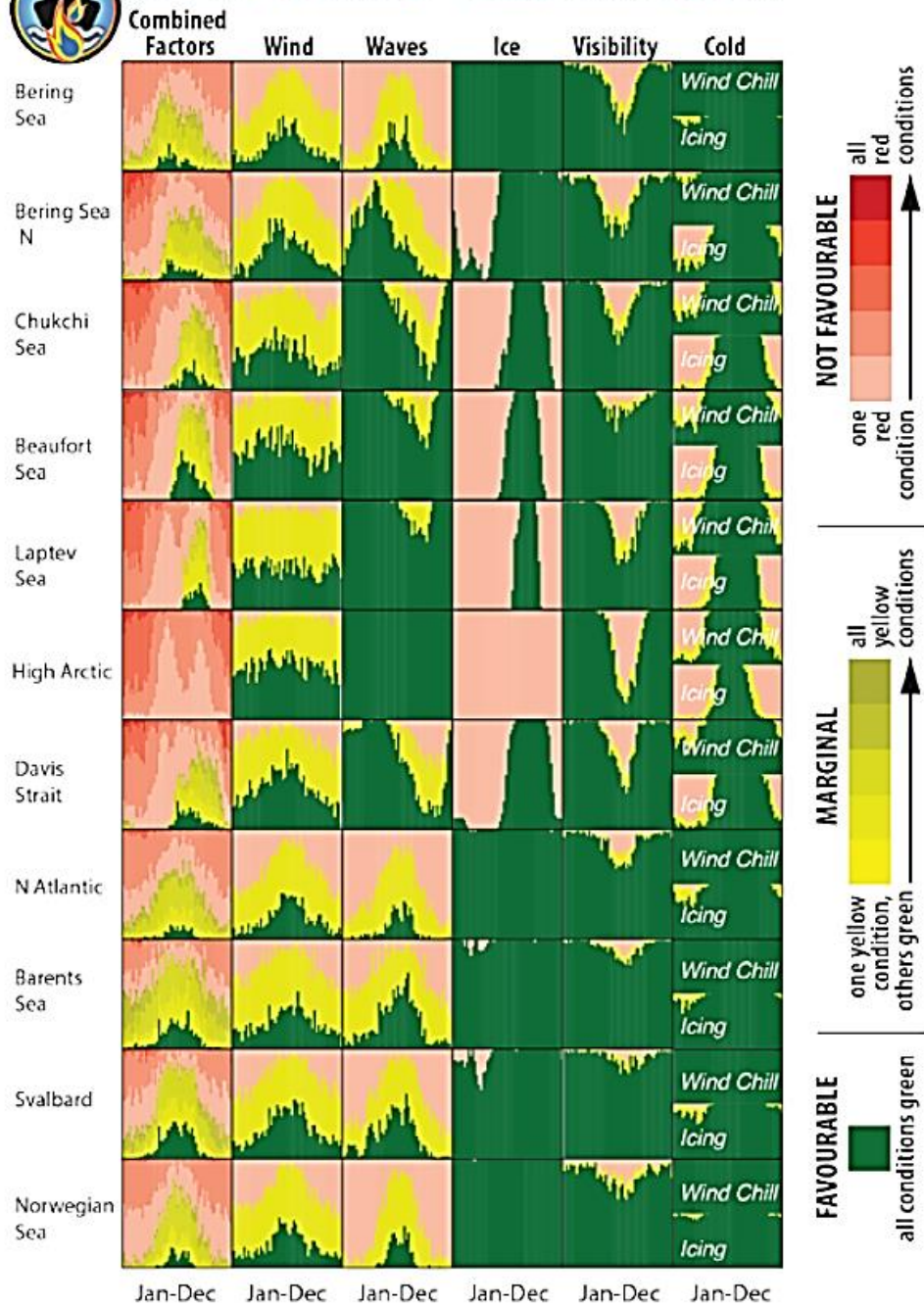


Two Vessels with Boom

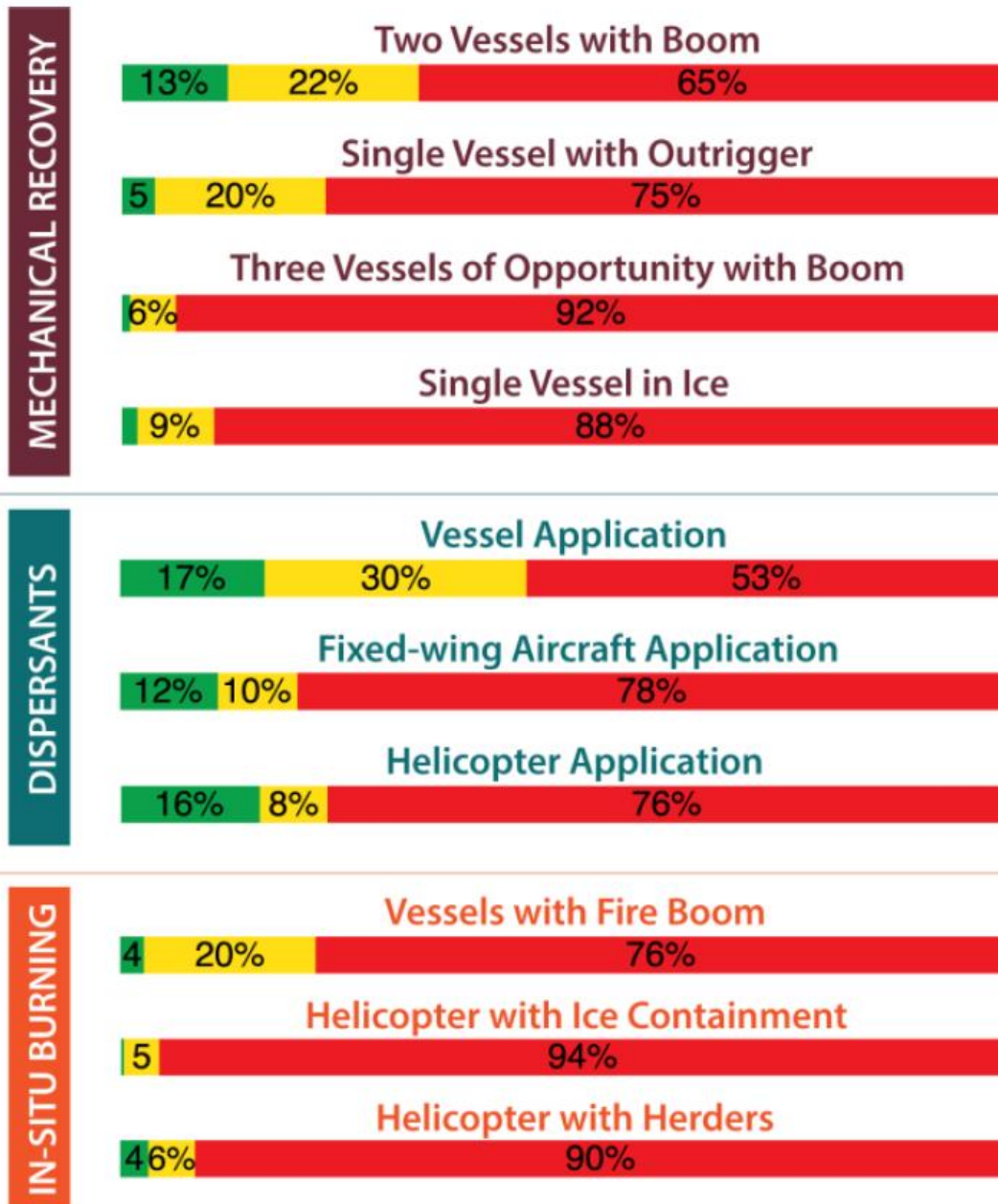




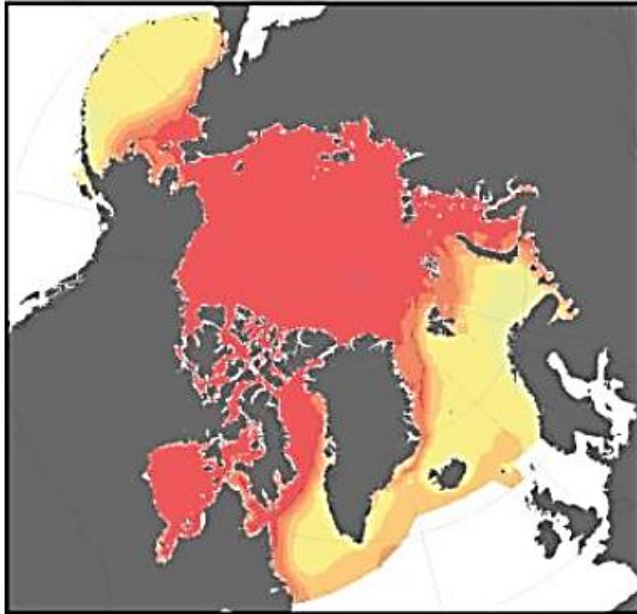
# IN-SITU BURNING - Vessels with Fire Boom



# Comparison of Response Systems



JANUARY

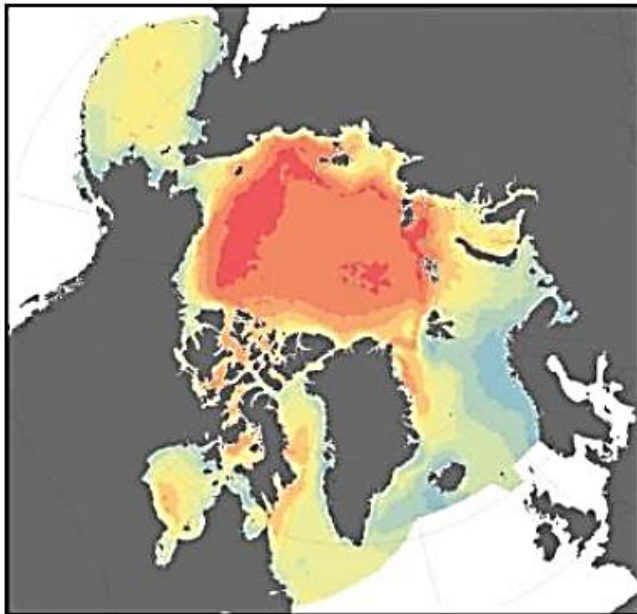


APRIL

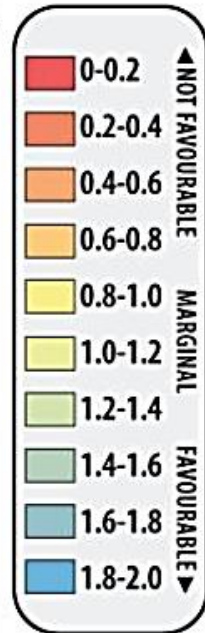
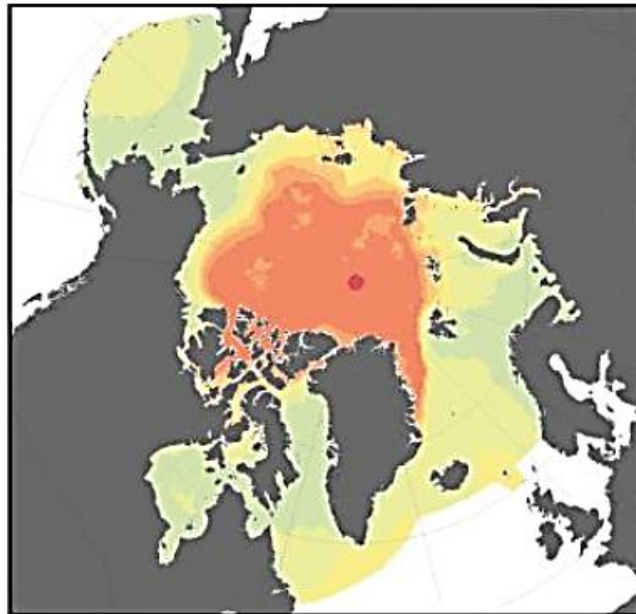


**RESPONSE  
VIABILITY  
INDEX**

JULY



OCTOBER



# Conclusions

- Response viability varies considerably with system, season and location.
- Optimization of strategies and systems to the local conditions can significantly benefit response.
- Subsequent analyses could also explore changes to response viability as the Arctic environment changes, or inform technological development.
- Response viability based on metocean conditions is an important aspect of the overall risk profile for the Arctic, as response represents the last intervention between hazard and consequences.

# Access this study at:

<https://oaarchive.arctic-council.org/handle/11374/1928>



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## Circumpolar Oil Spill Response Viability Analysis; Technical Report



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This study considers the comb... (13.3 Mb)

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Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR)

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### Subject

EPPR; Fairbanks Ministerial; Oil spill; Oil

The purpose of this circumpolar Arctic response viability analysis is to better understand the potential for different oil spill response systems to operate in the Arctic marine environment. The EPPR Working Group commissioned this study of oil spill response viability for the circumpolar Arctic region, co-sponsored by Norway, the United States, and Denmark. DNV GL and Nuka Research and Planning Group, LLC conducted the study under contract to the Norwegian Coastal Administration and the U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

### Description

This analysis estimates how often different type of oil spill systems could be deployed in the Arctic based on defined operational limits and compares these to a hindcast of metocean data.

### URI

<http://hdl.handle.net/11374/1928>

### Collections

Safety Projects, Map Products, and Other Work  
10. Ministerial meeting in Fairbanks, USA, May 11 2017

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