

Pollution Prevention



USCG

Sector

Puget Sound

(206)-217-6002

Report Oil & Chemical Spills

1-800-424-8802

The National Response Center

What NOT to do:

Do not use dispersants!

Attempting to clean up the oil with liquid detergent or soap is not only **ILLEGAL**, it increases the amount of damage done to the environment. The detergent breaks up the oil, allowing it to sink into the water column and may harm a greater number of organisms. Failure to follow prescribed methods and procedures for the removal of discharged oil can result in fines of up to \$40,000 per day or an amount equal to three times the cost incurred by the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund.

(Clean Water Act)

Fail to notify the proper authorities:

Failure to provide notification of a discharge of oil or a hazardous substance is a federal offense, with a maximum penalty of \$250,000.

(18 U.S. Code 3571 (b) (3) and
33 U.S.C. 1321 (b) (5))

Notification

In the event oil products or hazardous substances enter the water or as soon as you have knowledge of a discharge call:

- National Response Center

1-800-424-8802

or

U. S. Coast Guard
(Sector Puget Sound)

1-206-217-6002

- Washington State
Emergency Operations
Center

1-800-258-5990

The discharge of even a small amount of oil into the water is illegal and potentially harmful to the marine environment.

Photo credit: NOAA

Discharge of Oil is Prohibited

The Federal Water Pollution Control Act **prohibits the discharge of oil or oil waste into or upon the navigable waters of the United States**, or the waters of the contiguous zone, or which may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States, if such **discharge causes a film or discoloration of the surface of the water or causes a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water**. Violators are subject to substantial civil penalties and/or criminal sanction, including fines and imprisonment.

As the responsible party in an oil pollution incident, under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 there are several items that are important to know:

- You are responsible for removal costs and damages resulting from the pollution to the environment.
- If you fail to properly carry out the removal of the discharge as directed and comply with any administrative orders necessary to protect the public health and welfare you may be subject to civil penalties.
(33 C.F.R. § 153.307 and 33 U.S.C. 1321 (b) (7))
- Your response actions will be taken into account in determining the amount of any penalty assessed as a result of the discharge.