

Guidance for Developing an Oil Spill Contingency Plan

California State Lands Commission (CSLC) staff has prepared this guidance document to help Geophysical Survey Permittees prepare an Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) for approval by CSLC staff. Permittees are encouraged to prepare a “generic” OSCP for CSLC staff review and comment prior to scheduling specific surveys in order to facilitate prompt review of survey-specific OSCP and help the Permittee avoid survey delays. In accordance with the Low Energy Offshore Geophysical Permit Program (OGPP) General Permit requirements, Permittees must submit an OSCP at least 21 calendar days prior to each OGPP survey. The goal of the OSCP is to ensure that the accidental release of petroleum and/or non-petroleum products during survey operations is minimized by following operational protocols and implementing protective measures identified in Exhibit H (Mitigation Monitoring Program) of the General Permit.

OSCPs are required to include the following information for each vessel to be involved with the survey (see General Permit Exhibit H, Mitigation Measure [MM] HAZ-1):

- Specific steps to be taken in the event of a spill, including notification names, phone numbers, and locations of: (1) nearby emergency medical facilities, and (2) wildlife rescue/response organizations (e.g., Oiled Wildlife Care Network);
- Description of crew training and equipment testing procedures; and
- Description, quantities, and location of spill response equipment onboard the vessel.

Development of a survey-specific OSCP and adherence to equipment requirements and response protocols will guarantee some level of spill preparation and response and will reduce accident-related impacts; further, implementation of MM HAZ-2 and MM HAZ-3 will minimize the potential for a spill during fueling, and will ensure that sufficient spill response equipment is on board to adequately implement the OSCP:

- Vessel fueling shall only occur at an approved docking facility. No cross vessel fueling shall be allowed (see General Permit Exhibit H, MM HAZ-2).
- Onboard spill response equipment and supplies shall be sufficient to contain and recover the worst-case scenario spill of petroleum products as outlined in the OSCP (see General Permit Exhibit H, MM HAZ-3).

Development and adherence to an OSCP and the implementation of the MMs above would reduce the potential for an accidental release of diesel fuel or other hazardous material products.