

Geographic Information Systems (GIS): It's Role in Oil Spill Response

GIS is a basic tool for oil spill response because of the inherent data management, analysis, and display capabilities. For oil spill preparedness GIS is used for generating contingency plans and also supports industry and government lead oil spill response drills and exercises. In an actual oil spill GIS maps are used to display environmental data such as sensitive areas, species, habitat, and other resources at risk. For operational purposed GIS is used to generate base maps depicting operational divisions, response strategies as well as basic regional infrastructure. Aerial and satellite remote sensing imagery can also be imported into the GIS. All of these individual GIS “layers” can be displayed individually, or combined for real time analysis and situational awareness.