



Oil spill response and prevention

Several industry-sponsored cooperatives and agencies provide immediate oil spill response capabilities along the California coast. These cooperatives provide 24-hour stand-by response services to deal quickly with any type of marine release – whether from a vessel, pipeline or platform.

- “Based on my experience, California has accumulated some of the largest, best-trained, and capable oil response capabilities in the United States,” according to Captain Edward Page, of the United States Coast Guard.
- The oil industry spends more than \$11 million per year to maintain a constant spill prevention and response capability.
- The Santa Barbara Channel is serviced by Clean Seas. Clean Coastal Waters provides similar services in Southern California and Clean Bay serves the San Francisco Bay area.
- In addition to industry-sponsored co-ops, the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) provides emergency response capability from the Central Coast and far-offshore waters.
- According to Clean Seas, “In actual practice, Clean Seas has answered only a few call-outs per year, all of them minor and frequently not associated with offshore oil activities. Oftentimes, they involve small spills by private boat owners at harbor moorings or drills called by federal or state regulatory officials.”
- Clean Seas, Clean Coastal Waters and Clean Bay now utilize advanced “Lowry Brushes” to skim oil from the water. This method is far more effective than the old skimmer technology.
- Currently, Clean Seas has state-of-the-art equipment at seven locations from Port Hueneme to Morro Bay.
- The cooperatives are mutual aid organizations, meaning they will promptly provide equipment and other resources to each other in the event there is a significant or potentially significant spill.