

‘Workshop addressing the Use of Oil Spill Dispersants
following the Deepwater Horizon incident’

26-27 November 2012, EMSA premises, Lisbon

Session 5: Main ‘lessons learned’ from dealing with large scale dispersant applications, such as the DWH spill

This final session will be a discussion moderated by EMSA, on the basis of the questions identified below, with the active participation of the workshop’s participants and all the speakers.

This discussion aims at identifying the main ‘lessons learned’ from dealing with such large scale dispersant applications, the knowledge gaps and how to address these.

Questions to be addressed

1. What are the main operational challenges during such large scale dispersant applications, including health and safety considerations?
2. Which factors should be considered when selecting specific dispersants during such large oil spill response operations? (There was mention during the workshop of dispersant availability; efficacy and toxicity – are these the main/only factors to be considered and in that order?)
3. What are the particular differences/considerations regarding environmental impacts of surface and sub-sea dispersant application?
4. Final comments on toxicity testing of dispersed oil vs. dispersant alone (for product approval)?
5. How challenging will the toxicity and effectiveness testing of dispersants for approval for sub-sea applications be?
6. Is the use of sub-sea dispersant application an option in case of a well blow-out in European waters? Regulatory aspects in EU Member States?

7. The US plans to develop Guidelines for dealing with industry (for guidance only, not regulatory). What would be the scope and aim of these guidelines, based on the experience from the DWH spill?
8. Is there a clear interest from EU Member States for EMSA to further facilitate the exchange of information on sub-sea dispersant application?
9. What are the main 'lessons learned' from the DWH incident in your view?
10. What are the main areas of interest / identified gaps for EU Member States?