



High Risk Areas for Oil Spills in The Eastern Mediterranean

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Motivation

- Determination of areas which are at high risk for oil spill may assist in:
 - oil combat resource allocation,
 - preparing oil spill scenarios for contingency planning,
 - planning marine protected area, offshore structures, etc`.

Scope

- Region: East Mediterranean
- Time domain: 2013



Data

- Ship traffic information
- Oil transport information
- Offshore platform information

Ship Traffic Information

- Data obtained from Shipcon
- Data contained global data on ship calling
 - calling records: 4,475,514 non tanker , 4316 tanker
 - 19,911 ships (including 3854 tankers)
 - 9190 waypoints (328 in the East Med.)
- Calling record ship, waypoint, date of calling, time of calling, date of departure, time of departure

Oil Transport Information

- Data obtained from Shipcon
- 4316 Records
 - ship
 - departure waypoint and date
 - amount loaded
 - arrival waypoint and date
- Oil type is not specified
- Unloaded amount not specified

- Quality control per ship:
 - Sort records by date
 - Remove records contradicting more than one record (i.e. overlapping time interval, reverse time interval, duplicate record)
 - Remove waypoints with NaN coordinates
- Assume ship routes are the shortest possible, while trying to keep distant from land.
- Assume ship travels at constant speed.

 Distances from Gibraltar and Suez allow to determine if a ship going between two waypoints outside the Mediterranean, passes through the Mediterranean or not





- Compute routes between waypoints inside the East Mediterranean.
- Count the number of times a route is repeated in a year per ship class:
 - 21 ship types, 3 tanker types and 17 nontanker types.
 - Oil tankers are subdivided to 8 categories according to the amount of oil being carried :
 0 10kt, 10 25kt, 25 45kt, 45 80kt, 80 120kt, 120 160kt, 160 320kt

- The computed Routes are gridded on a 0.1° x 0.1° grid
- The average velocity is computed for each ship type



Total Probability



- The leading cause is spill from ship-rig and ship-ship collision
- High risk define as at least once in a century (p>0.01)
- Highest probability at rigs and on routes away from Suez and Dardanelles

Information Required to Improve the Estimates

- AIS density maps instead of virtual paths will solve the following problems:
 - Erroneous paths due to missing or bad waypoints
 - Routes do not consider navigational warning
 - Partial information on STS, no information on bunkering
- Additional information on maritime connectors (i.e. location, type, pipe size, annual use)
- Information on location and type of rigs
- Information on oil types

GIS Tool

- Calculate probability estimates
- Users can
 - update datasets
 - use higher resolution
- ESRI and qGIS versions