

Case Study on the Hebei Spirit: Response Actions and Impacts

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On the 7th December 2007, the fully laden tanker HEBEI SPIRIT was involved in a collision off the coast of Taean, Republic of Korea. The incident resulted in the largest oil spill in Korean history during which approximately 10,800 tonnes of crude oil contaminated a significant proportion of the country's western coastline and caused wide-scale socio-economic hardship, particularly to the fisheries and aquaculture industry. The oil spill response was undertaken on a huge scale and involved clean-up contractors, local inhabitants, the Korean military and thousands of volunteers. Over one million mandays of work were completed in the first six weeks of the response. A clean-up response on this scale will inevitably have impacts on the coastal environment and these are briefly discussed.



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