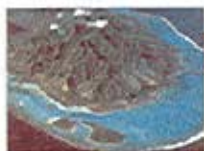


# Modified Version of Sensitivity Ranking for Coastal Ecosystems and Habitats (Malacca Straits Environmental Profile, 1997).



## 1 Coral Reef

Delicate coral-algal symbiosis and diverse associated reef flora and fauna; recovery of coral from severe oiling may take up to 5-10 years for reestablishment of complete reef ecosystem; sensitive to dispersants.



## 2 Mangrove

Important nursery areas for commercial shrimp species and supports detritus-based food chain; protects shoreline from erosion; oil may persist in mangrove habitat, especially where tidal flushing is reduced; recovery may take several years; sensitive to dispersants.

1 is the most sensitive, 8 the least sensitive; this is a qualitative order and not based on quantitative criteria



## 3 Estuaries

Important productive habitat for aquatic organisms; high socioeconomic importance for large estuaries; difficult to adequately mitigate oil spills in estuaries.



## 4 Tidal Flats

Productive biological habitat; high organic matter content of sediment will increase persistence; natural clean-up recommended.



## 5 Seagrass Beds

Productive habitat and diverse associated fauna and flora; usually located in subtidal and not affected directly; contaminated bottom sediments may cause most damage; recovery may take several years; sensitive to dispersants



## 6 Upwelling Zones

Upwelling zones nutrient-rich waters support concentrations of pelagic and benthic organisms; sensitive to dispersants.



## 7 Sandy Shores

Shores impacts vary according to substrate type, etc.



## 8 Rocky Shores

Shores wave action and tidal flushing reduce the impacts associated with oil spills

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Our grand business is not to see what lies dimly at a distance,  
but to do what lies clearly at hand.

Thomas Carlyle  
*Historian and Philosopher*

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