



Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response in the Arctic

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Arctic conditions and oil spills

Challenging Arctic conditions:

- Spill response enormously challenging
- Difficult to clean up and slow to disperse
- The Arctic's ecology is unique



Oil spills – implications for food security

- Many Arctic coastal communities highly dependent on the marine environment for livelihoods.
- Cultural and spiritual well-being tied to the environment.
- Consequences mainly borne by the communities, not the responsible parties.
- Communities ill-prepared to handle oil spills

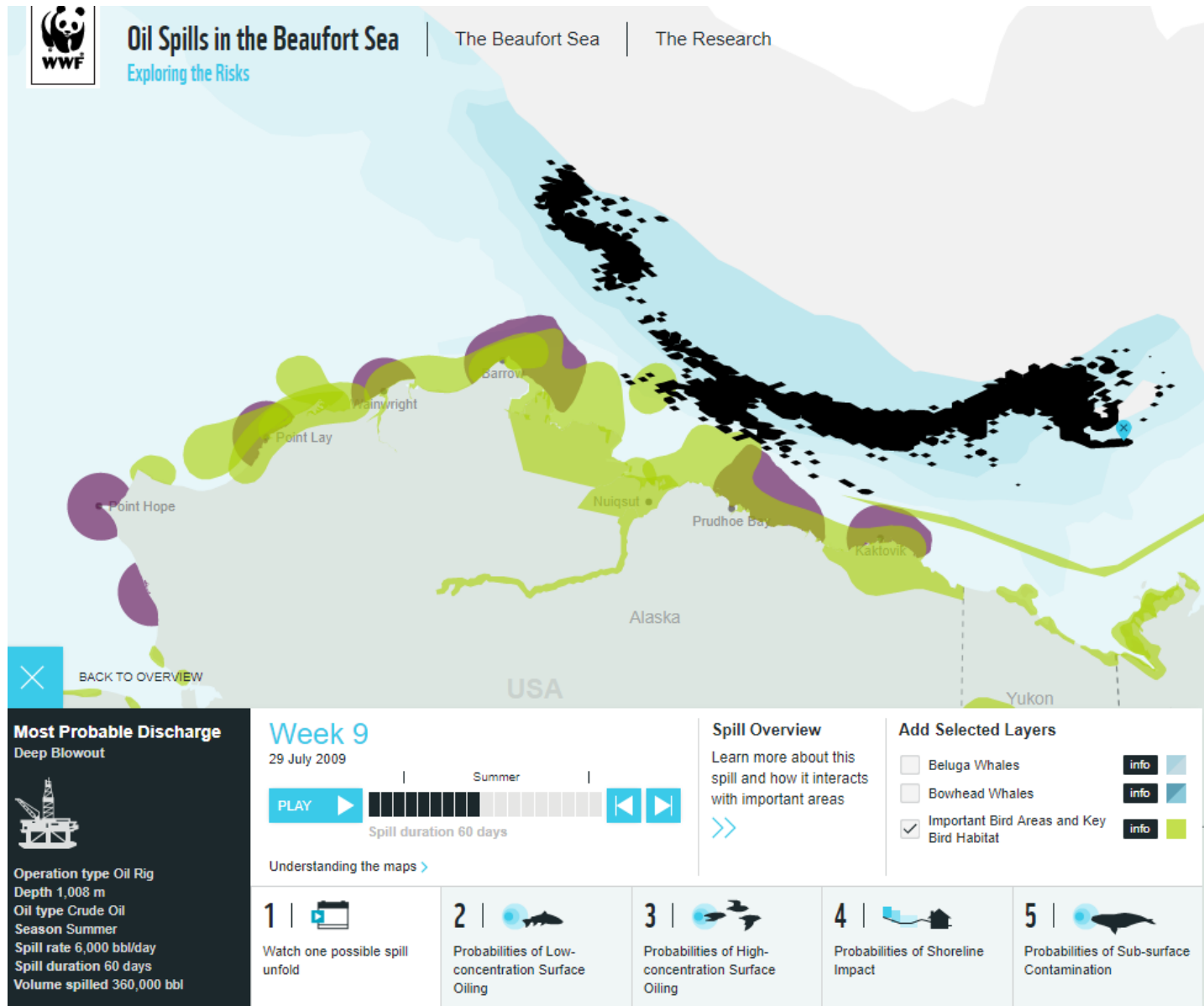


Oil Spills in the Beaufort Sea

Exploring the Risks

The Beaufort Sea

The Research



WWF's work:
Understanding
impacts of oil spills
in the Arctic



WWF's work: Defining gaps in oil spill response

- Equipment is irregularly maintained
- Harsh weather conditions
- Remote locations
- Lack of reliable communications infrastructure



WWF's work: Building response

WWF Finland: oil spill response and oiled wildlife cleaning forces

- Founded in 2003
- Over 8500 registered volunteers, 2300 trained
- Established for a trained voluntary aid for the public officer in case of a large-scale emergency
- Troops work always for the public officer and under its supervision



WWF's work: Building response

Why are voluntary forces needed?

- Shoreline is nearly always affected when a larger oil spill occurs
- Oil shore cleaning is extremely slow work
- Clean-up after massive oil spill can take months, even years
- Resources of the public officer are not adequate for a long-term shoreline clean-up after the disaster



- WWF Finland in operations:
 - Tammisaari 2003
 - Inkoo 2003
 - Raahe 2014
 - Oulu 2017

WWF's work: Building response capacity

Oil pollution response forces in action for 15 years

- WWF Finland has established its status as a voluntary service provider
- WWF Finland's troops are mentioned in regional rescue plans
- Finnish Environment Institute WWF Finland have agreed on taking care of oiled bird response



Paul Nicklen/National Geographic

Solutions

- No new oil in the Arctic – this is WWF's position
- Better management of existing O&G operations
- Shipping: phase out the use and carriage by ships of HFO
- Including Indigenous peoples in decision making



In Today's session:

Risk assessment and subsequent mitigation

Jens Peter Host-Andersen

Understanding impacts

Geir Morten Skeie

Effective clean up of spills in the Arctic

Paul Foley

Coastal remediation

Vladimir Myazin

Capacity building

Alexey Knizhnikov



Thank You!

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