

Oil Spill Disaster Risk Management Communication: Lessons Learnt from Coastal Communities in British Columbia, Canada

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This poster paper will present the oil spill disaster risk management strategies and policies discussed during the Transport Canada Transport Safety Review Panel (TSRP 2013-2015). Identifying different stakeholders' references to: a) oil spill risk prevention, preparedness and response, liability and compensation; b) perceptions of adequacy of the public consultation process; and, c) how information is transferred is important for improving the efficacy of oil spill disaster risk management communication.

Empirical evidence for this study is from the following sources:

- Interviews with marine based industry key informants
- Marine emergency response plans and policies prepared by First Nations, nongovernmental organizations such as Living Oceans Society, Union of British Columbia Municipalities (UBCM), the provincial Government of British Columbia, Government of Canada Agencies, the Oil and Gas Industry, and many others
- An extensive literature review on coastal hazards, risk analysis and vulnerability assessments.

These recent reports, letters, workshops and public statements reveal precisely how vulnerable coastal communities are to marine hydrocarbon transport risk. These results tally well with other empirical findings suggesting that oil spill disaster risk management is a politicized topic. These findings have implications for communicating how to build up community oil spill disaster risk management initiatives. The importance and effectiveness of initiating a Transport Safety Review Panel (TSRP) - during a time when oil spill disaster risk management was a highly politicized topic (public opinion polls, media headlines, and social media) - suggests how to use a marine hydrocarbon transport risk management communication strategy to further build up Canadian communities' resilience to future oil spills, as it has been over the past decade.