


# THEME 5

## PROTECTION OF THE ARCTIC MARINE ENVIRONMENT



Clive Cole, WMU



There are two kinds of  
problems in the Arctic; the  
imaginary and the real  
Of the two, the imaginary  
are the most real

Vilhjalmur Stefansson (1879–1962)

# KEYWORDS



**CUMULATIVE IMPACT ASSESSMENT**  
**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**  
**OFFSHORE OIL ACTIVITIES**  
**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT**

**ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE OPERATIONS**  
**ARCTIC OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS**  
**CONTAINMENT & RECOVERY DISPERSION**  
**IN-SITU BURNING**

**ARCTIC ENVIRONMENT**  
**EMISSIONS CONTROL**  
**LNG FUEL**  
**OIL RESPONSE**

# KEYWORDS

**ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE  
AGREEMENT  
ENVIRONMENTAL RISK BASED  
RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS  
ASSESSMENT  
INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION  
OIL POLLUTION PREVENTION  
OIL SPILL RESPONSE**

**ARCTIC  
HIGH SEAS  
INTEGRATED APPROACH  
INTERVENTION  
MARINE PROTECTION  
OIL SPILL**

**CROSS-BORDER COOPERATION  
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT  
EXTREME ENVIRONMENTS  
INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEMS  
MASS EVACUATION  
SAR OPERATIONS**

9 Abstracts

30 Keywords

0 Identical Keywords

# 1: PREVENTION

- The OIL SPILL fear
  - ▣ Vulnerability... Remoteness
  - ▣ Implications & Difficulties
  - ▣ Intervention, Integrated Approach
- Fuel types... heavy fuel bans/ LNG
- Accidents/Impact... Torrey Canyon, Horizon etc
- Unpredictable changes



Prevention is better  
than cure!

## 2: RESPONSE

- Much research but a scarcity of concrete experience... local/ global issues
  - ▣ *In situ* burning...
  - ▣ Preparedness... the ready capacity to respond
  - ▣ Options
  - ▣ Data collection priorities
  - ▣ Retention times



Busy at being busy?

# 3: COLLABORATION

- Good but could be (much) better!
  - ▣ Agreements
  - ▣ Mass evacuation... cross-border cooperation
  - ▣ Positive: data collection
  - ▣ Negative: *Kursk* submarine disaster
  - ▣ Partnerships: short-term, long-term
  - ▣ Resilient commitment?



Having the political will

## 4. INDUSTRY

- Oil, Tourism, Cruise etc
- Infrastructure gap issues
- Self-policing activities
- Untried technical aspects
  - ▣ eg how best to anchor a rig



Is the private sector  
able to take care of  
itself?



# 5. INVASIVES

- A real threat; regime shifts, fish communities *North*
- Not only through Ballast Water
  - ▣ Marine Debris
  - ▣ Diseases
  - ▣ Noise
- Sensitive areas



No rats, no roaches!

# *Finally, an invasive species?*

*"After the spill the authorities were looking for an escaped goat!"*

