

Abstract

Coastal and Marine Resource Atlas: A Tool for Maritime Contingency Planning and Response

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The coastal and marine resource atlas can be used in oil spill contingency planning and wildlife emergency incidents. The atlas was commissioned through a partnership with a wide range of UK Government organisations in recognition of the need to update the 1990 Government and Industry sponsored coastal sensitivity maps produced by the Nature Conservancy Council. The Atlas contains environmental and other resource data sets covering the Great Britain coastline and marine areas of the UK Continental Shelf. The atlas is designed as a web based tool to access a wide range of information on coastal and marine resources. Specific to wildlife response incidents the map contains data on seabird vulnerability and marine mammal distribution and abundance for all UK waters and can be easily accessed online. This Atlas does not substitute the requirement for expert environmental advice during an incident. The coastal and marine resource atlas could be a useful template for other European countries to follow, as this allows rapid dissemination of environmental data useful for improving oil spill contingency planning and wildlife response capabilities. The Coastal and Marine Resource Atlas can be accessed through the UK Governments' Magic website www.magic.gov.uk