Abstract

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Modelling of oil spill impacts on shoreline in Egypt

During the last few years, oil spills attracted the attention of both the public and the media, and created a global awareness of the risks of oil spills and the damage they do to the environment. In spite of the recognized great value of the marine environment, it still receives different types of pollutants from different sources. Recognition of spilled oil at sea on the shoreline may be the first indication of an oil spill. The effect of oil spills can be far reaching, posing both an environmental and an economic threat. Recreational activities, local industry, fisheries, and marine life are among the resources that can be adversely affected by oil spills. The severity of environmental damages caused by oil spillage depends on the quantity and type of oil involved, location of the spillage area/environmental sensitivity, time of year and weather conditions. Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA) implements its own methodology to estimate the environmental and economical impacts as a result of oil spills. According to the EEAA approaches used in Egypt, this paper focuses on and presents the modelling of the shoreline damage assessment in case of oil spills in the Egyptian coastal water.