

## **Numerous Arctic experts agree that the Arctic's extreme conditions pose challenges to cleaning up and responding to a spill in America's Arctic Ocean**

National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill and Offshore Drilling, Deep Water – <http://www.oilspillcommission.gov/final-report>.

Page 302 – “The icy conditions during the rest of the year pose severe challenges for oil and gas operations and scientific research. And oil-spill response efforts are complicated year-round by the remote location and the presence of ice, at all phases of exploration and possible production.”

Page 303 – “The remoteness and weather of the Arctic frontier create special challenges in the event of an oil spill. Successful oil-spill response methods from the Gulf of Mexico, or anywhere else, cannot simply be transferred to the Arctic.”

Page 304 – “Current federal emergency response capabilities in the region are very limited: the Coast Guard operations base nearest to the Chukchi region is on Kodiak Island, approximately 1,000 miles from the leasing sites. The Coast Guard does not have sufficient ice-class vessels capable of responding to a spill under Arctic conditions: two of its three polar icebreakers have exceeded their service lives and are non-operational.<sup>32</sup> In addition to overseeing spill response, the Coast Guard provides search and rescue capabilities in other areas. Without a presence in the Arctic, it would be very difficult for the Coast Guard to conduct any emergency search and rescue operations.”

U.S. Arctic Research Commission – [http://www.arctic.gov/publications/usarc\\_oilspill\\_2-24-10.pdf](http://www.arctic.gov/publications/usarc_oilspill_2-24-10.pdf)

Page 1 – “The Arctic is a venue with particular need for oil spill prevention and response. Unique risks in the North include protracted darkness, cold, ice cover, and powerful storms, all of which complicate prevention and response efforts for spills in ice-covered waters.”

Arctic Council – <http://www.pame.is/amsa/amsa-2009-report>

Page 5 – “The current lack of marine infrastructure in all but a limited number of areas coupled with the vastness and harshness of the environment, make conduct of emergency response significantly more difficult in the Arctic.”

U.S. Department of the Interior – <http://www.boemre.gov/tarprojectcategories/PDFs/MMSArcticResearch.pdf>

Page 24 – “Field deployment tests of booms and skimmers in broken ice conditions in the Alaskan Beaufort Sea highlighted the severe limitations of conventional equipment in even trace concentrations of broken ice.”