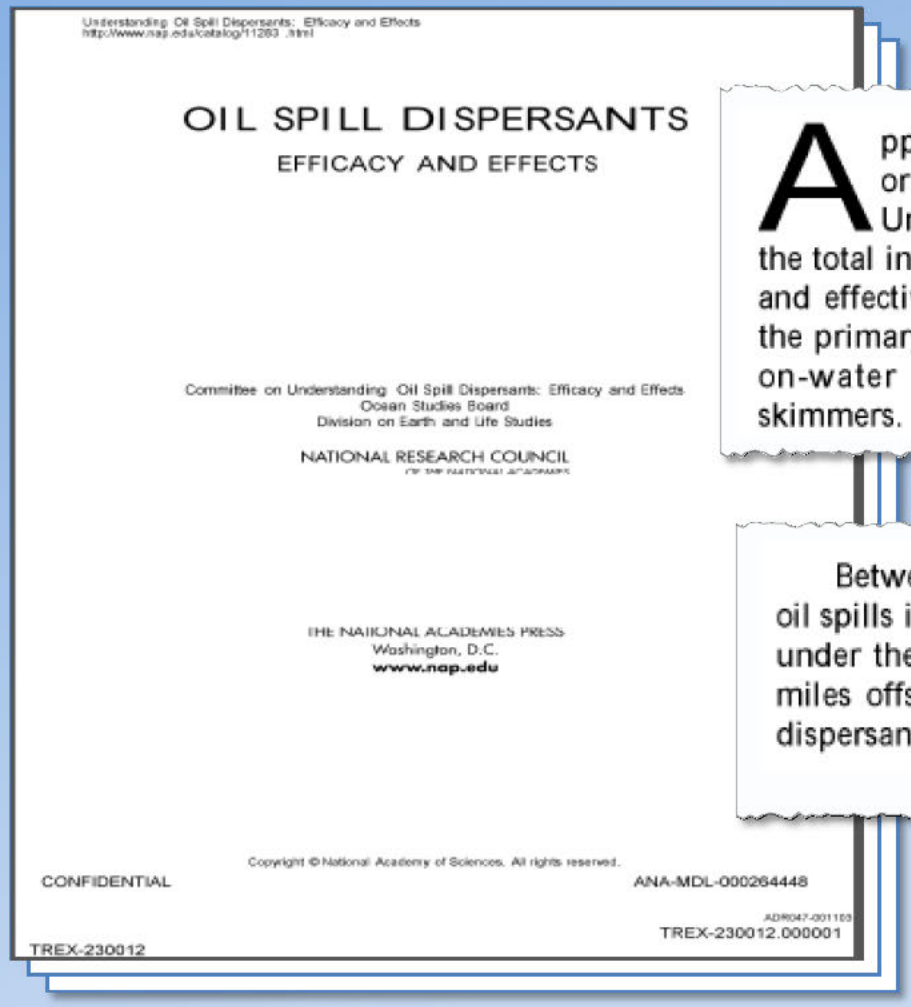
Skimming and Dispersing are NOT New Response Technologies



Understanding Oil Spill Dispersants: Efficacy and Effects
http://www.nap.edu/catalog/11283.html

OIL SPILL DISPERSANTS

EFFICACY AND EFFECTS

Committee on Understanding Oil Spill Dispersants: Efficacy and Effects
Ocean Studies Board
Division on Earth and Life Studies

NATIONAL RESEARCH COUNCIL

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Approximately 3 million gallons (10,000 metric tons [tonnes]) of oil or refined petroleum product[1] are spilled into the waters of the United States every year (NRC, 2003). This amount represents the total input from hundreds of spills, many of which necessitate timely and effective response. When these oil spills occur in the United States, the primary response methods consist of the deployment of mechanical on-water containment and recovery systems, such as booms and skimmers.

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Between 1999 and 2004, dispersants were used seven times to combat oil spills in the Gulf of Mexico. In six of these cases, dispersants were used under the existing pre-approval plan for oil spills greater than 3 nautical miles offshore and in waters of greater than 10 m depth. Four of these dispersant cases are summarized below.

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