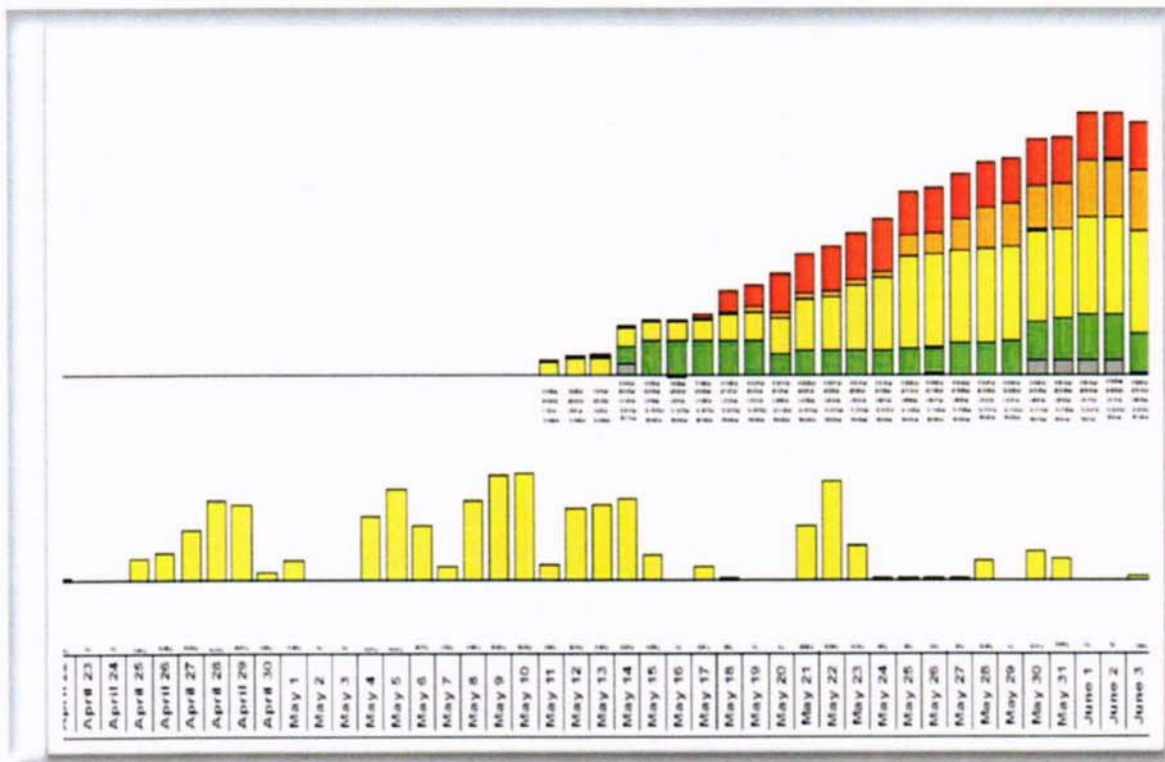


3. Operations

Figure 3.7: Shoreline impact Graph – Top graph shows cumulative shoreline impact, the bottom graph depicts aerial dispersant use.



hopes of a quick intervention and well shut-in had faded. Sub-sea dispersant injection at the source provided two major advantages over aerial application—greater efficiency, and lack of daylight restrictions. The proposed method required less dispersant to oil dose ratios. The FOSC immediately forwarded this plan to the RRT VI for consideration. The plan consisted of a test application at the BOP stack leak, using a coiled tubing supply line from the merchant vessel *Skandi Neptune*, to inject 3,000 gallons of Corexit 9500A at 5,000 feet below the sea surface, using a remotely operated vehicle. During Test 1, one ROV held the injection wand into the plume and injected 9 gallons per minute of dispersants, while a second ROV collected samples and took video of the operation. During this test, the RP used 2,151 gallons of dispersant.

Test No. 1 resulted in a confirmation that dispersant could be injected into the plume at the source

without complication. It also provided qualitative observations of SONAR images taken before and after the dispersant injection, indicating that the density of the plume at depth was diminished. Overall results were difficult to interpret given the unique application of the technology, which was not calibrated. During Test No. 1, samples of the plume prior to and during dispersant application were not collected. Observers could not perform aerial observations of the test dispersed plume at the surface due to weather and visibility problems.

In addition, the captured video of the operation did not demonstrate the effectiveness of the oil dispersion. Observers requested a subsequent test with criteria for monitoring and sampling, which the RRT authorized on May 1, 2010.

The RRT approved a second test that included taking four samples at various depths. The RP did not apply aerial dispersants during the sub-surface test. The aerial observation of the spill