Abstract

The development of a simple and inexpensive standard test protocol to determine a realistic nameplate capacity for oil skimmers is underway within the American Society of Testing and Materials (ASTM); however, there are differing opinions on how these tests should be conducted. A significant point of contention has been whether to test skimmers using oil only or using an oil layer on water. A test protocol using both methods was drafted and the United States Minerals Management Service (MMS) funded a series of experiments to ‘test the tests’ in July and August 2007 at Ohmsett - National Oil Spill Response Test Tank Facility.

The data and results from the Ohmsett tests allowed stakeholders within an ASTM F-20 subcommittee on skimmers to reach a consensus on a general test methodology and the draft protocol is currently being finalized and balloted as a new ASTM standard. This paper discusses the test series that was conducted at Ohmsett during July and August 2007.