Oil herders have been available to the spill response industry for many years. As long ago as 1975, Shell Oil Company developed, and for a while, sold a product called “Shell Oil Herder”. Exxon Corporation also produced and marketed a product called OC-5. Neither was commercially successful. Others have developed materials for similar functions, but to date, none have been commercialized.

Applied Fabric Technologies, Inc., working in conjunction with S.L. Ross Environmental Research, has determined that herding products would be a worthwhile accessory to have available. Testing has shown that herders can provide significant enhancements to an in situ burn, especially in ice-choked waters.

A number of activities and tasks are being undertaken which are necessary to take these products from their current research state to a point where they will be acceptable to industry and regulators should the opportunity arise to use them in a spill response.

These tasks include but are not limited to:

1. Identify a chemical blending company to manufacture the Span 20/2-ethyl butanol (US Navy herder) and obtain a quantity of the USN herder for EPA NCP Product Schedule testing and submission to Environment Canada.
2. Work with Siltech Corporation to run a parallel program for the Silsurf product.
3. Interface with a Testing laboratory selected to conduct the testing.
4. Design and test several prototype application systems, build the prototypes, and work with the potential end users to determine that the systems are appropriate for the intended use.
5. Work with the blending companies to produce a commercially suitable quantity for packaging into the application systems.
6. Procure, build and fill the systems determined to be suitable for long term storage, and application.
7. Develop an MSDS for the USN herder (the Siltech product is already commercially produced and has an MSDS), application technique instructions, storage and handling recommendations and disposal of residual quantity information.
8. Work with potential end users in operational level tests.