ABSTRACT

Over the past five years, SL Ross Environmental Research has analyzed seventeen crude oils with a suite of laboratory tests and controlled burns to determine, for each oil, the likelihood of successfully using in situ burning as a response tool. These studies provided valuable spill-response information by indicating which of the oils would respond well to in situ burning and which would not.

When the results of the separate tests were grouped together, trends in suitability were noted. In particular, API gravity was shown to be a reasonably good predictor of success with in situ burning for heavy and light oils (below 21° and above 38°, respectively); however, success with oils of intermediate API gravities was varied, and further testing of these oils is warranted.