INTRODUCTION
Application of chemical dispersants to marine oil spills is an important response option that yields net environmental benefits in many instances - particularly for large offshore spills. When properly applied, the dispersion process quickly dilutes the dispersed oil droplets to concentrations below standard toxicity thresholds and allows naturally occurring microorganisms to rapidly biodegrade the oil. Conventional chemical dispersants have limitations that may reduce their effectiveness for viscous oils. This poster describes the development and testing of a new gel dispersant that expands the circumstances under which dispersants may be effective and improves application efficiency.

CONCLUSIONS
• The new dispersant gel triples the capacity of existing delivery equipment because DORs lower than 1:60 are possible
• The new dispersant gel enables effective dispersant use across a broader range of conditions, including Arctic temperatures, viscous oils, and larger window of opportunity
• The dispersant gel is more efficient
  – Enables visual feedback during application
  – Oleophilic and buoyancy properties of the gel provide potential for recontact with the oil slick from adjacent water