

The number of accidental oil spills affecting the Atlantic coast of Europe in the last decades has led to a growing concern regarding oil spill preparedness and response, and has motivated the development and implementation of different tools to be used in these emergency situations. Close to shore, most damage occurs in sheltered bays and inlets, where oil is concentrated.

In the last years different national and international administrations have promoted environmental directives aimed to protect these aquatic ecosystems (e.g. Water Framework Directive (2000/60/CE); Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)).

To fulfil the legislation and to prevent, prepare for, and respond to oil spills, two different approaches exist: planning tools to promote an integrated and sustainable oil spill response capability in the regions, and operational oceanography systems that provide real-time forecast of oceanographic variables and oil spill trajectories both of which are key elements in oil spill forecasting.



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INVESTING IN OUR COMMON FUTURE



SPRES / OIL SPILL
PREVENTION AND
RESPONSE AT
LOCAL SCALES

OBJECTIVES

The main objective of the project is to generate both operational forecasting systems and planning tools, at local scale (estuaries and ports) by developing a set of high resolution operational oceanographic systems in Santander Bay, Aveiro Lagoon, Belfast Lough and Port of Falmouth, establishing local oil spill response plans for these local areas based on risk assessment.



PARTNERS AND ASSOCIATES

The partners of the project are research institutions and non-profit organisations from Spain, France, Portugal and United Kingdom.

The project has as associated partners, the Ministry of Environment of the Government of Cantabria, the Directorate of Civil Protection of Cantabria, the Aveiro Port Authority, the Centre Hydrographic Region of Portugal, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development for Northern Ireland, the Northern Ireland Environment Agency the African Maritime Safety and Security Agency, Belfast Harbour, Santander Port Authority and SASEMAR.

BENEFITS

SPRES will provide an array of operational oceanography products, planning, and response measures to combat oil spills:

Operational/ Response outputs:

- Daily forecast of sea level and currents
- Daily forecast of salinity and sea temperature
- Oil spill trajectory forecast

Planning outputs:

- Oil spill risk maps
- Oil spill vulnerability maps

POTENTIAL USERS

- Port Authorities
- Search and rescue agencies
- Oil spill responders
- Commercial and sport fishing
- Marine sports: Sailing, diving, stand paddle, etc
- Oil spill companies
- Tourism managers