

**CANADIAN-U.S. SPILL RESPONSE COOPERATION
ALONG THE GREAT LAKES**

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Abstract

The United States and Canada share more than 1,400 miles of aquatic border between the St. Lawrence River and western Lake Superior. To effectively deal with regional oil and hazardous material spills that can equally affect either side of the border. Canadian and U.S. agencies have formed a cooperative agreement under the CANUSLAK plan to share resources and information before and during spill occurrences. Primary agencies involved include the Canadian and U.S. coast guards, U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and the Canadian Environmental Protection Service (Emergencies Program). Examples of pre-spill cooperation, as discussed in this paper, include the joint preparation of contingency plan annexes and shoreline sensitivity atlas for the St. Lawrence River, Detroit-St. Clair River area, and St. Mary's River. Cooperation during spills, also discussed, is illustrated by the exchange of information either by direct participation of both countries during response and clean up or by advisory representation.