

COMPUTERIZED (GIS) SENSITIVITY MAPPING IN ALASKA

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Shoreline sensitivity mapping involves the classification of shore types as most or least sensitive, taking into account the localities and seasonality of wildlife, primary socio-economic features (such as hatcheries), and spill-response facilities (such as staging areas and boom locations). These maps are an integral part of all contingency plans.

Two projects, one sponsored by the Minerals Management Service (MMS), the other done as part of the Exxon Valdez response by the Alaska Department of Natural Resources (ADNR), provide basic sensitivity information in a computerized GIS (geographic information system) format so that information can be readily updated and queried on demand.

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