



UNIVERSITY OF WYOMING

Wyoming Technology Transfer and Research Products Center



A Method of Retracting Spilled Crude Oil on Water Surface and a Method of Maintaining the Spill Control Boom Free of Crude Oil

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Patent Status:

Utility Patent Issued

Description of Technology

This technology can be used to reverse the spreading of crude oil spilled in an aquatic area. It can also be employed in the collection and containment of such oil spills. The technology allows clean-up crews to deploy a small amount of surfactant through the spill control boom causing the spilled crude oil to retract toward the center of the deployed boom. The retraction of the crude oil causes the oil layer at the center of the boom to become thick enough to be removed mechanically.

Applications

This technology is designed to be used in oceanic or open water oil spills. It is designed to help control, reverse, and clean oil spills. While the technology is intended to be used on a large scale, it may be possible to apply the technology in a small-scale setting.

Features & Benefits

One of the benefits of this technology is the ability to reduce the oil spill area while facilitating clean-up. Also, the discharge of surfactant from the spill control boom keeps the oil from flowing outside of the control boom. Clean-up time and the area affected by the oil spill are reduced because the oil retracts and accumulates at the center of the deployed boom.

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