



# Resultater fra storskalatesting av Subsea Mekanisk Dispergering (SSMD)

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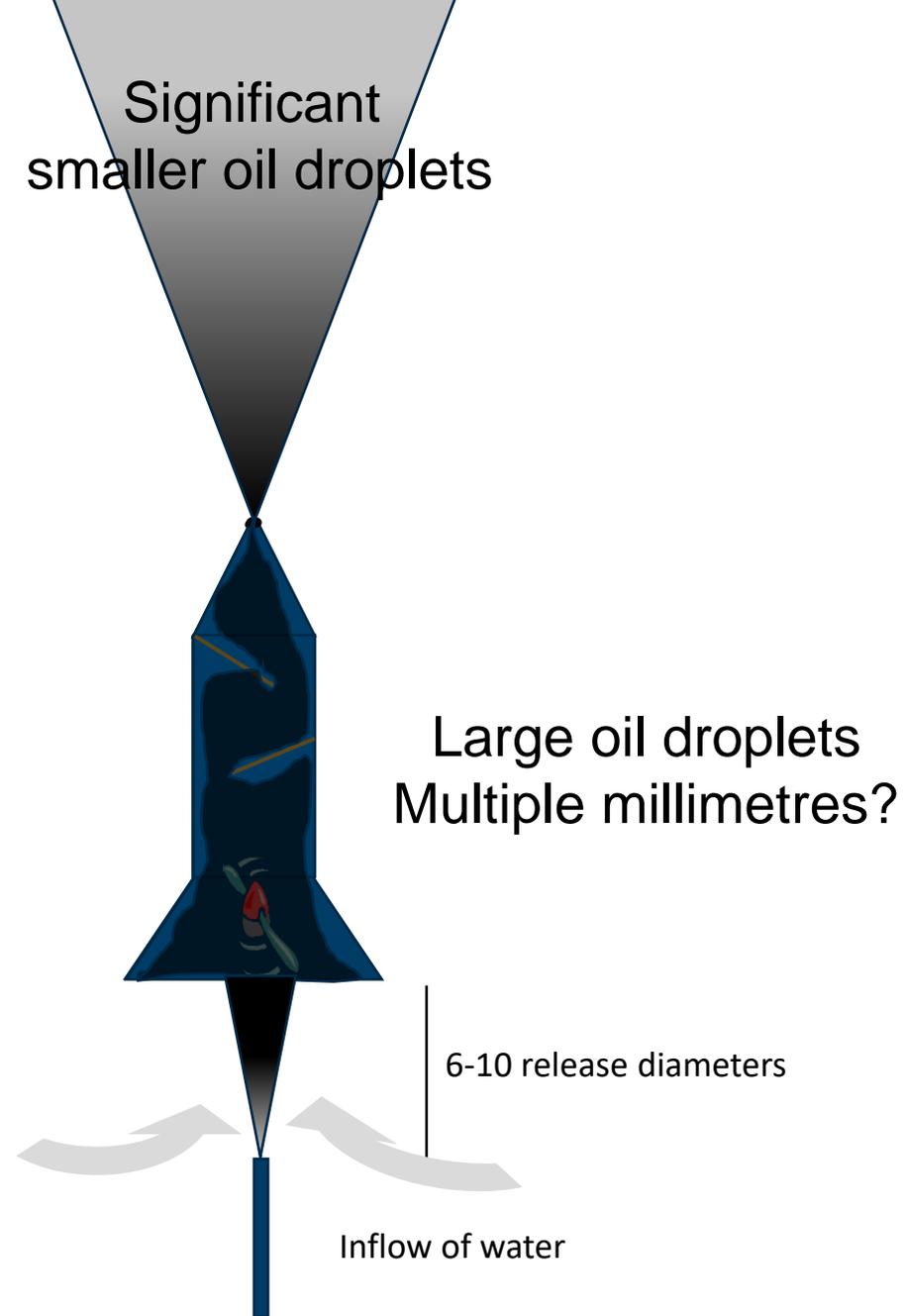
Grethe Kjeilen-Eilertsen and Anatole Cramer, Total

Axel Kelley, Lundin Energy Norge

# Basic concept Subsea MECHANICAL dispersion - SSMD

Oil droplets from a subsea release are significantly reduced in size by mechanical forces.

Several feasible concepts are tested at SINTEF Ocean



# SSMD R&D Program History

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**2012:** R&D Project initiated by BP

**2017:** Feasibility-I (Oil + Water jetting)

**2018:** Feasibility-II (Oil & Gas + HP)

**2019:** Large-scale testing at Ohmsett

**2020:** Final nozzle optimisation → Full-scale design

**Next...?**

Design & construction of full-scale prototype and operational field testing...?

## Funders



Zachary Owens, Lindsey Gilman and Min Yun



Torleif Carlsen, Leiv-Ove Nordmark and Michal Koranek

# Why pursue SSMD...?

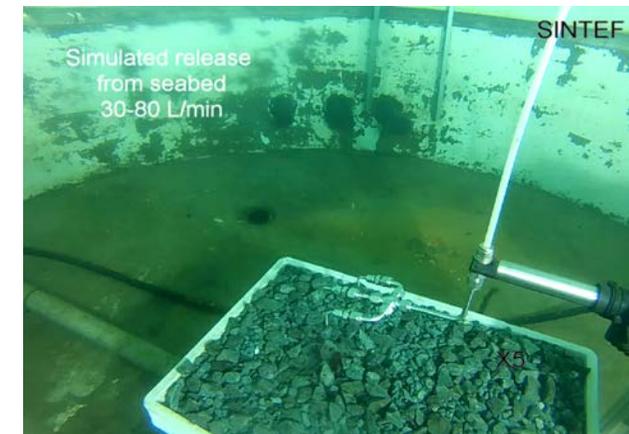
1. Challenging logistics using chemicals
2. Subsea dispersant injection (SSDI) challenging due to local legislation
3. Too low turbulence for dispersant-oil mixing & droplet formation



Logistics



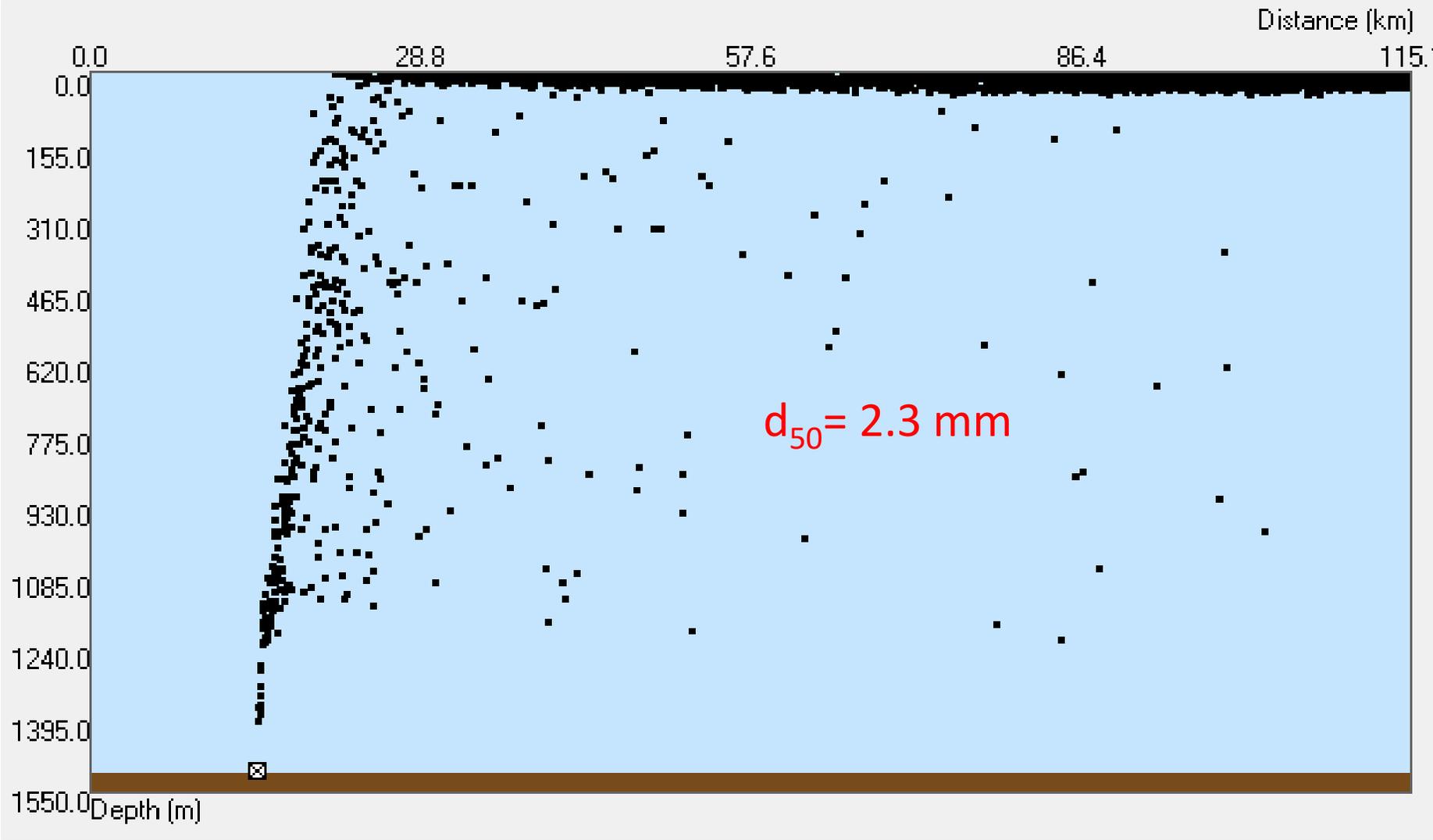
Dispersant use challenging in eg. Russia



Low turbulence in release from seabed

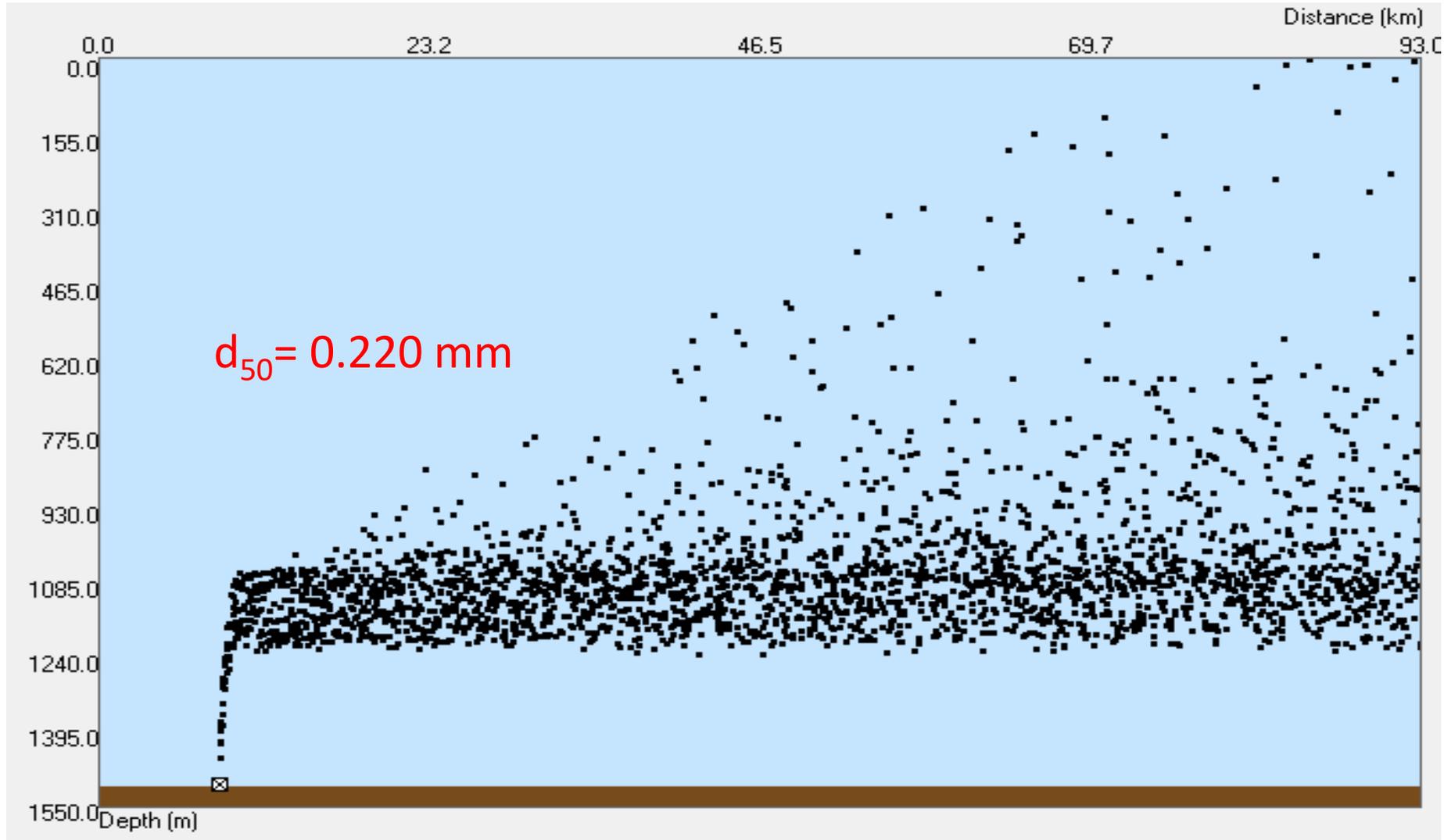
Click for video

# Subsurface release – With NO Treatment



Release conditions: D: 0.20 m, 6000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, waxy crude, temp: 54°C and GOR: 500

# Subsurface release – With Treatment



**NB:** Surfacing of oil dependent on depth!

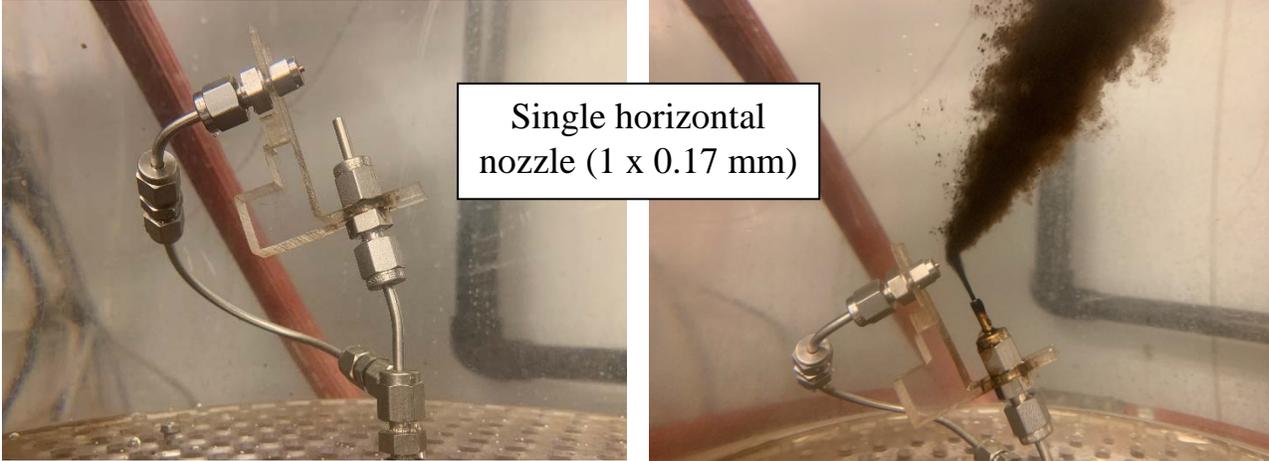
Release conditions: D: 0.20 m, 6000 m<sup>3</sup>/day, waxy crude, temp: 54°C and GOR: 500

# Phase-I: Mechanical shearing device



The mechanical shearing device used in the MiniTower (80 liters of natural sea water)

# Water Jetting - Nozzle configuration

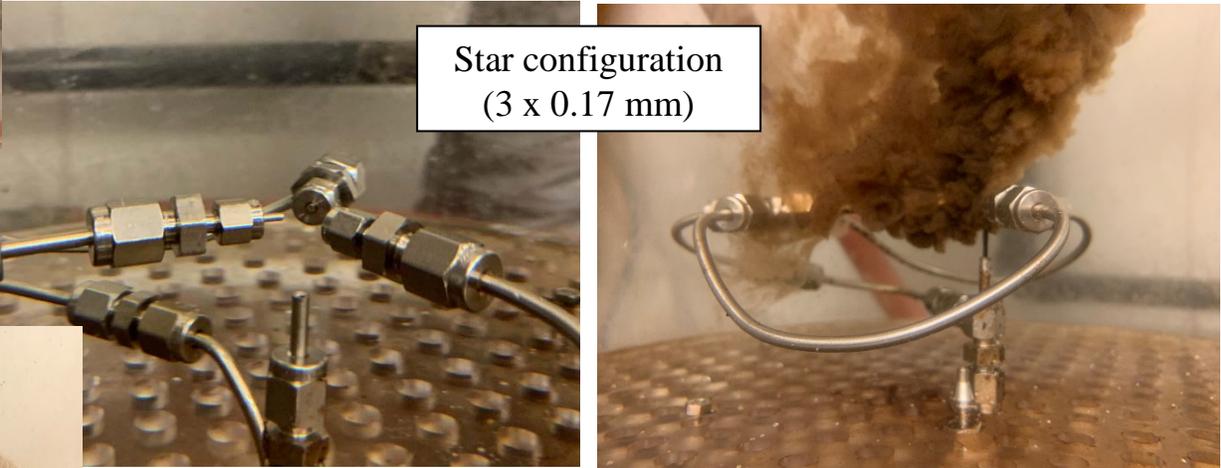


Single horizontal  
nozzle (1 x 0.17 mm)

The image shows a close-up of a single horizontal nozzle assembly. The nozzle is mounted on a metal plate with a grid pattern. A red hose is connected to the side of the nozzle. The nozzle is positioned horizontally, and a dark, dense spray of water is being emitted from the tip.

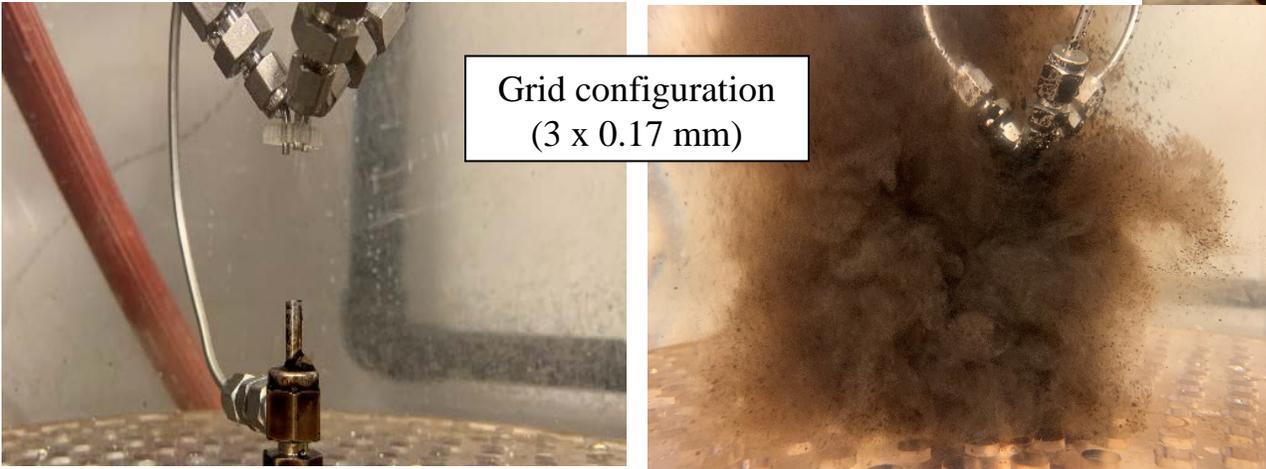
## Three designs tested:

- Single (horizontal) nozzle
- Star configuration
- Grid Configuration



Star configuration  
(3 x 0.17 mm)

The image shows a star configuration nozzle assembly. The nozzle is mounted on a metal plate with a grid pattern. A red hose is connected to the side of the nozzle. The nozzle is positioned horizontally, and a dark, dense spray of water is being emitted from the tip.



Grid configuration  
(3 x 0.17 mm)

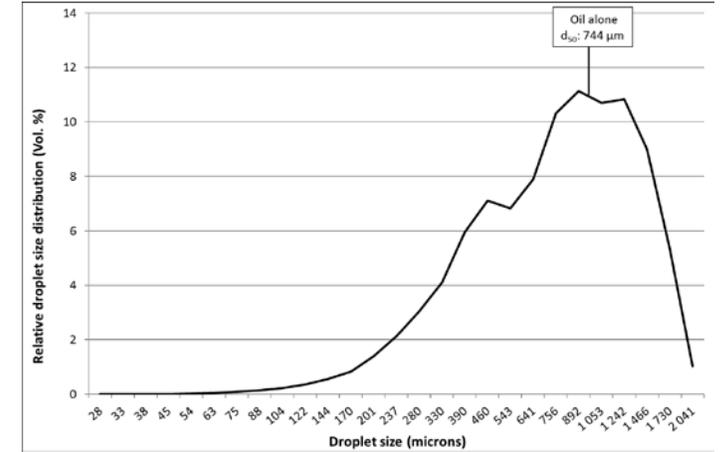
The image shows a grid configuration nozzle assembly. The nozzle is mounted on a metal plate with a grid pattern. A red hose is connected to the side of the nozzle. The nozzle is positioned horizontally, and a dark, dense spray of water is being emitted from the tip.

# Phase-III: Combined releases (oil & gas)



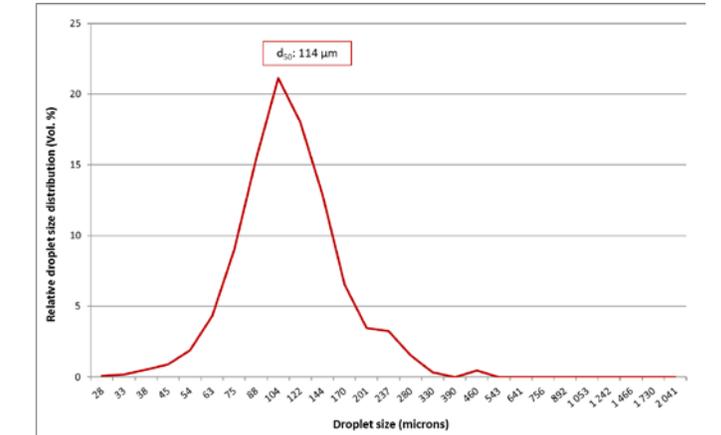
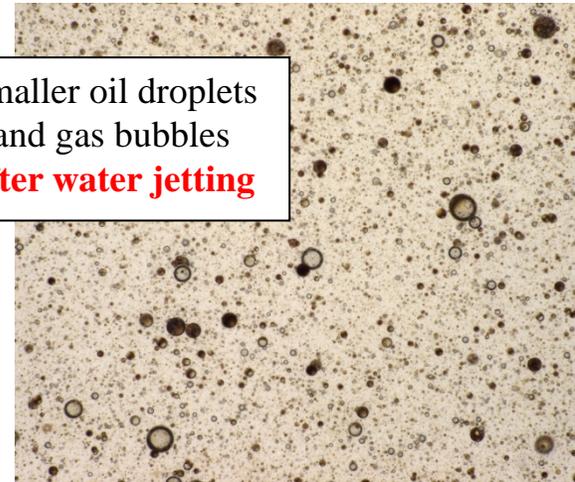
Click for video

Large **untreated** oil droplets and gas bubbles

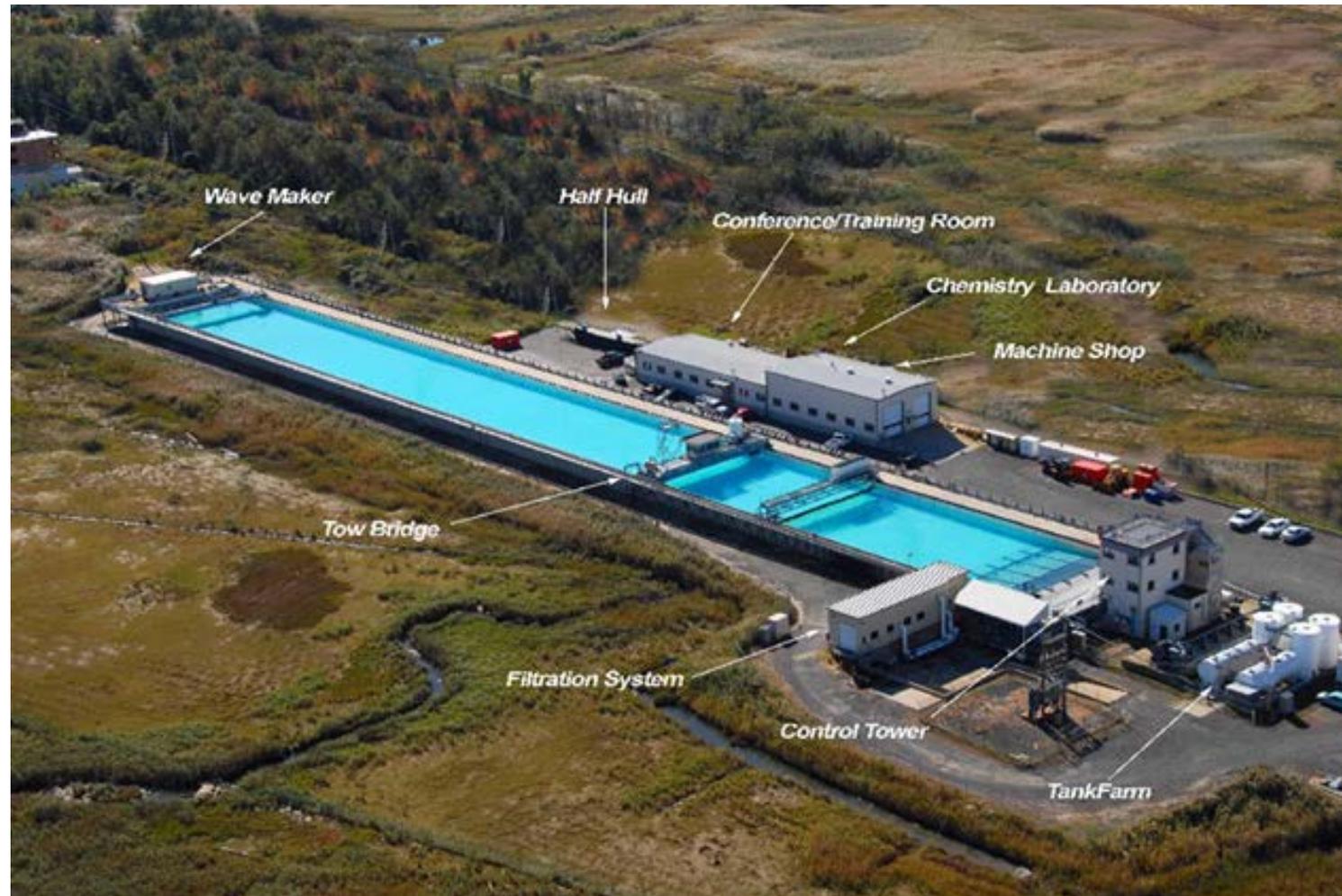


Click for video

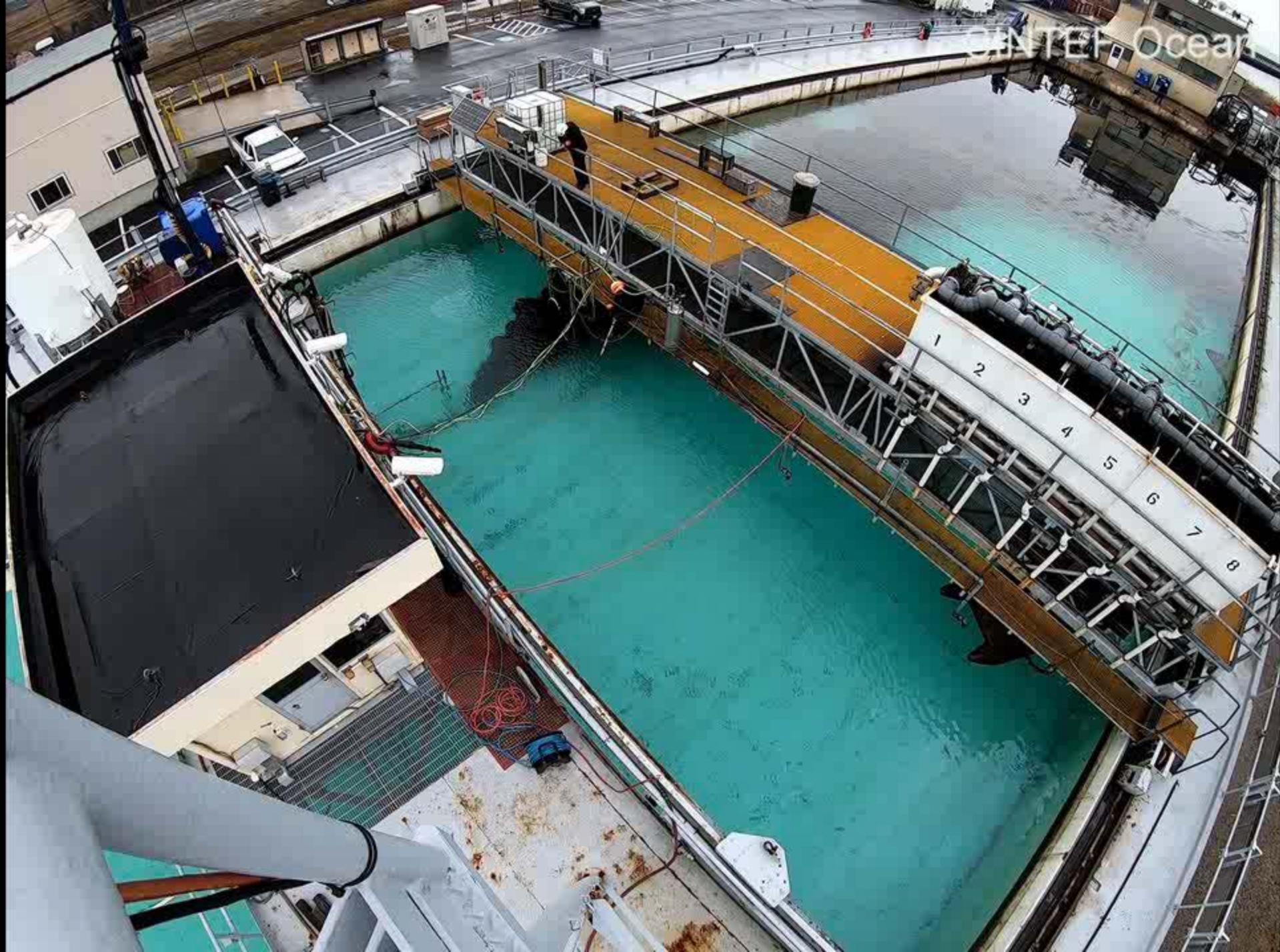
Smaller oil droplets and gas bubbles **after water jetting**



# Phase-IV: Large-scale testing, Ohmsett, US

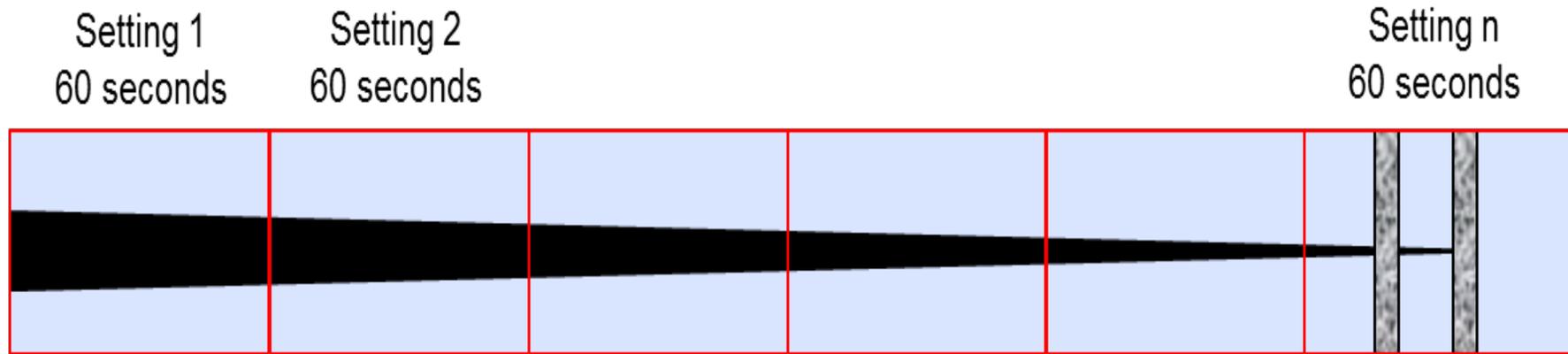


Ohmsett test tank: Length 200 m, width 20 m, depth 2.4 m and 9 500 m<sup>3</sup> of salt water.



[Click for video](#)

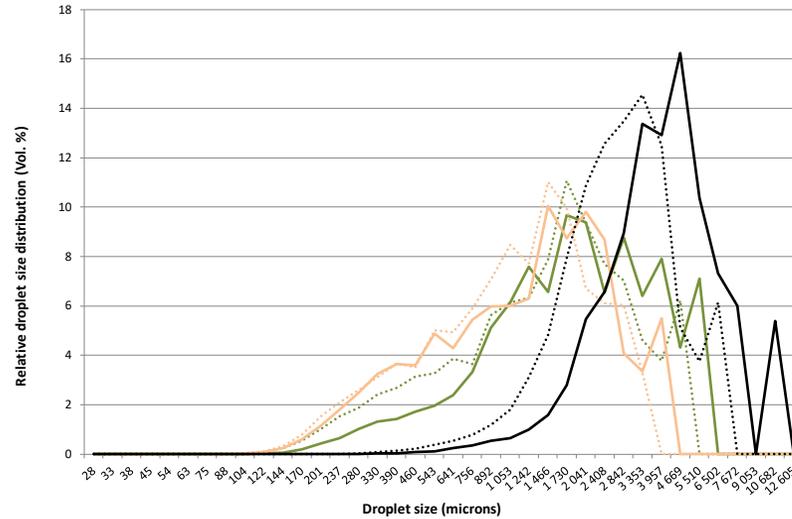
# Ohmsett Experiments – Experimental Design



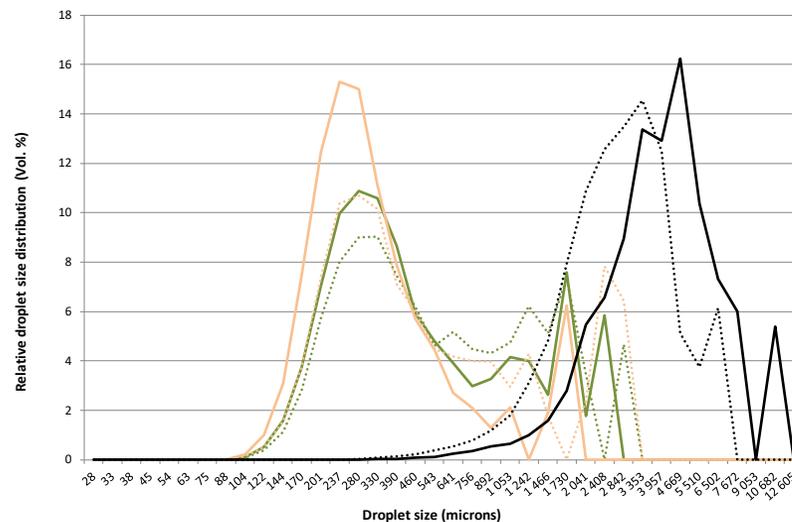
Ohmsett is 200 meter long (5-7 minutes of experimental time) for these towed experiments. Multiple experimental conditions (e.g. increased water velocity/rate) can be tested during one experiment.

# Single nozzle "the winner" vs. Star configuration

Star nozzle  
(exp. 9)

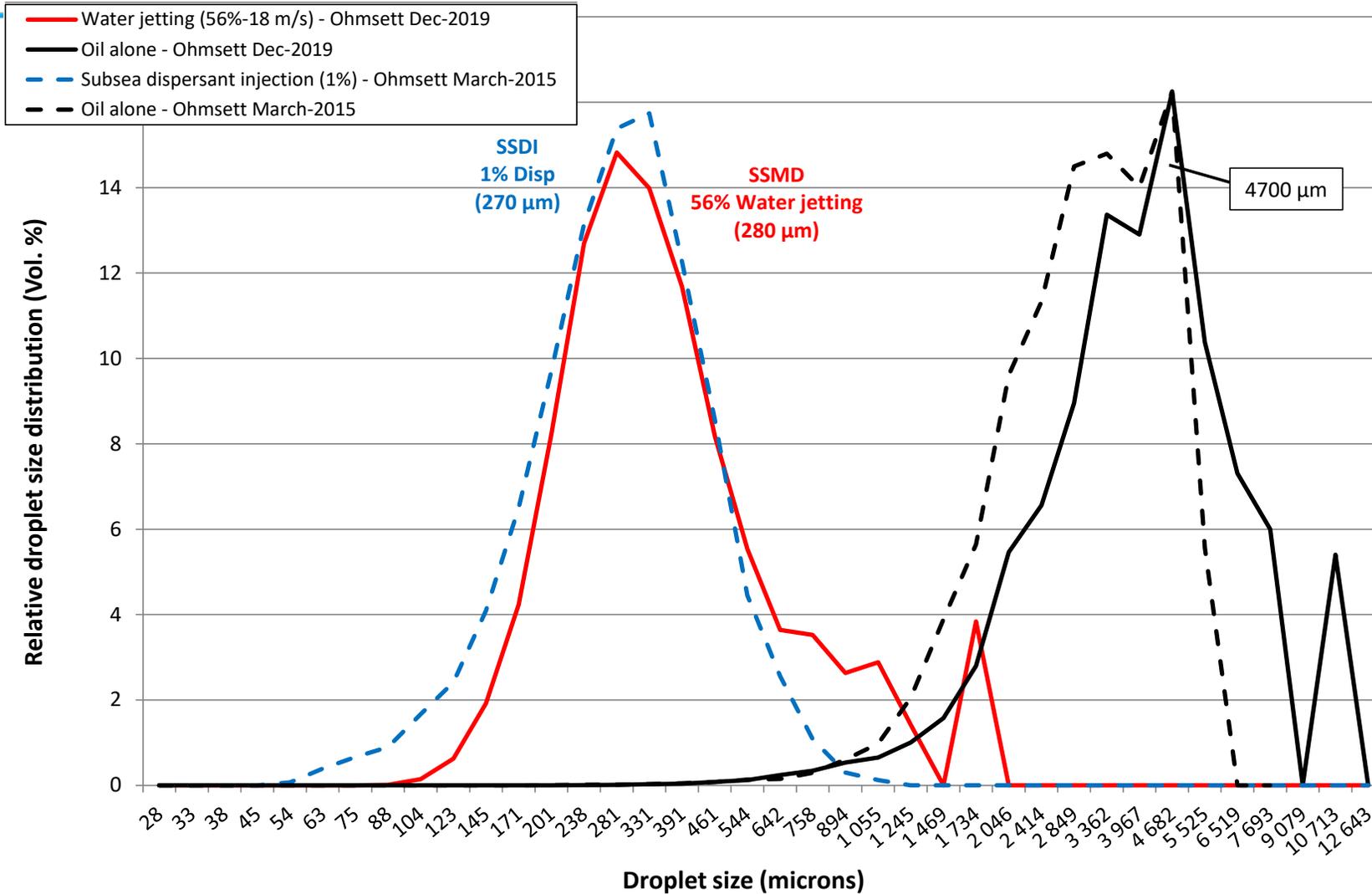


Single nozzle  
(exp. 10)



Tom will  
present  
the next  
slides!

# SSMD vs. SSDI effectiveness (32 mm nozzle)



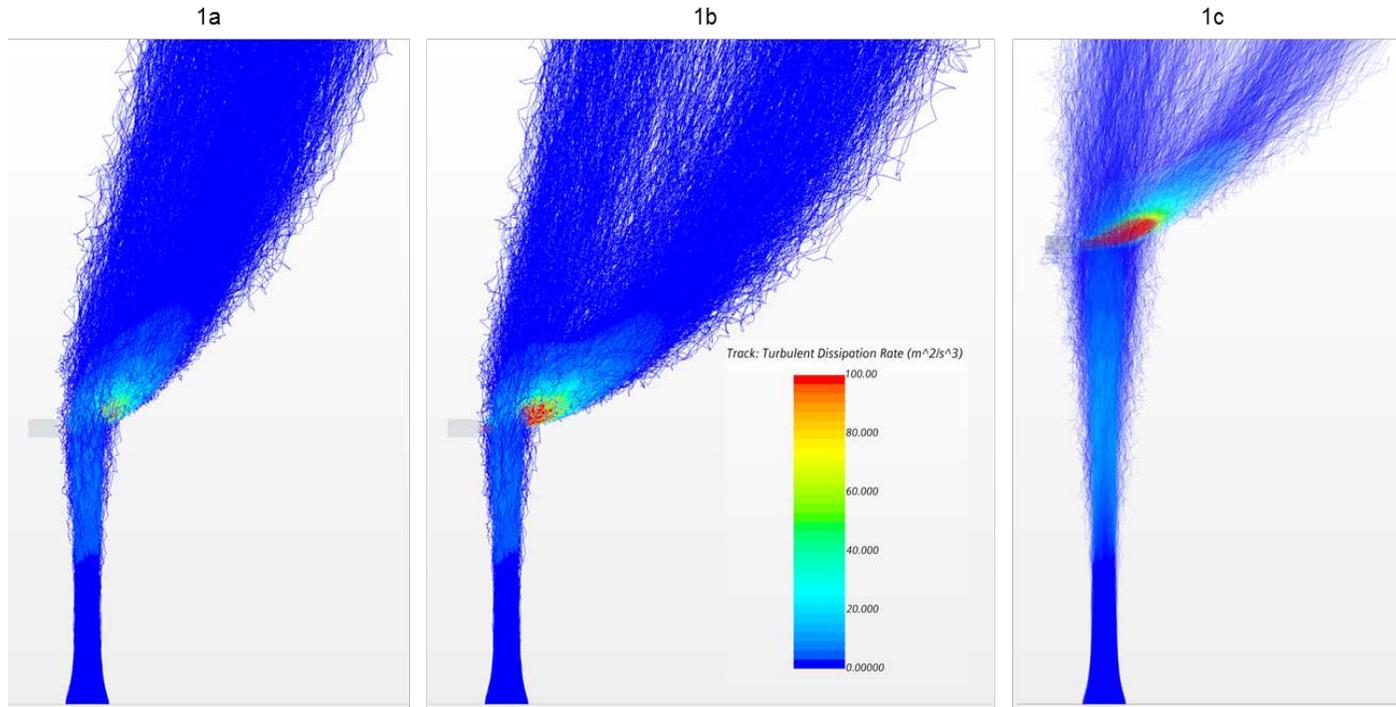
SSMD effectiveness comparable to SSDI effectiveness

# Full-Scale single nozzle - CFD Predictions

Case #	Nozzle Configuration	Oil Release Diameter (mm)	Oil Flow Rate (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Methane Flow Rate (m <sup>3</sup> /day) @ release depth of 350 m	Water Nozzle Equivalent Diameter (mm)	Water Total Flow Rate (m <sup>3</sup> /day)	Water Jet Exit Velocity (m/s)	Water Jet Distance above Oil Release (Oil Release Diameters)	Water Jet Lateral Offset from Edge of Oil Release (mm)	Water/Oil Flow Ratio
1a	Cylindrical	500	11,500	11,500	56	4,600	21.7	6	75	0.4
1b	Cylindrical	500	11,500	11,500	56	5,750	27.0	6	75	0.5
1c	Cylindrical	500	11,500	11,500	56	5,750	27.0	10	75	0.5

**Release diameter: 0.50 m**  
**Release rate: 11 500 m<sup>3</sup>/day**  
**Gas to oil ratio: 50%**

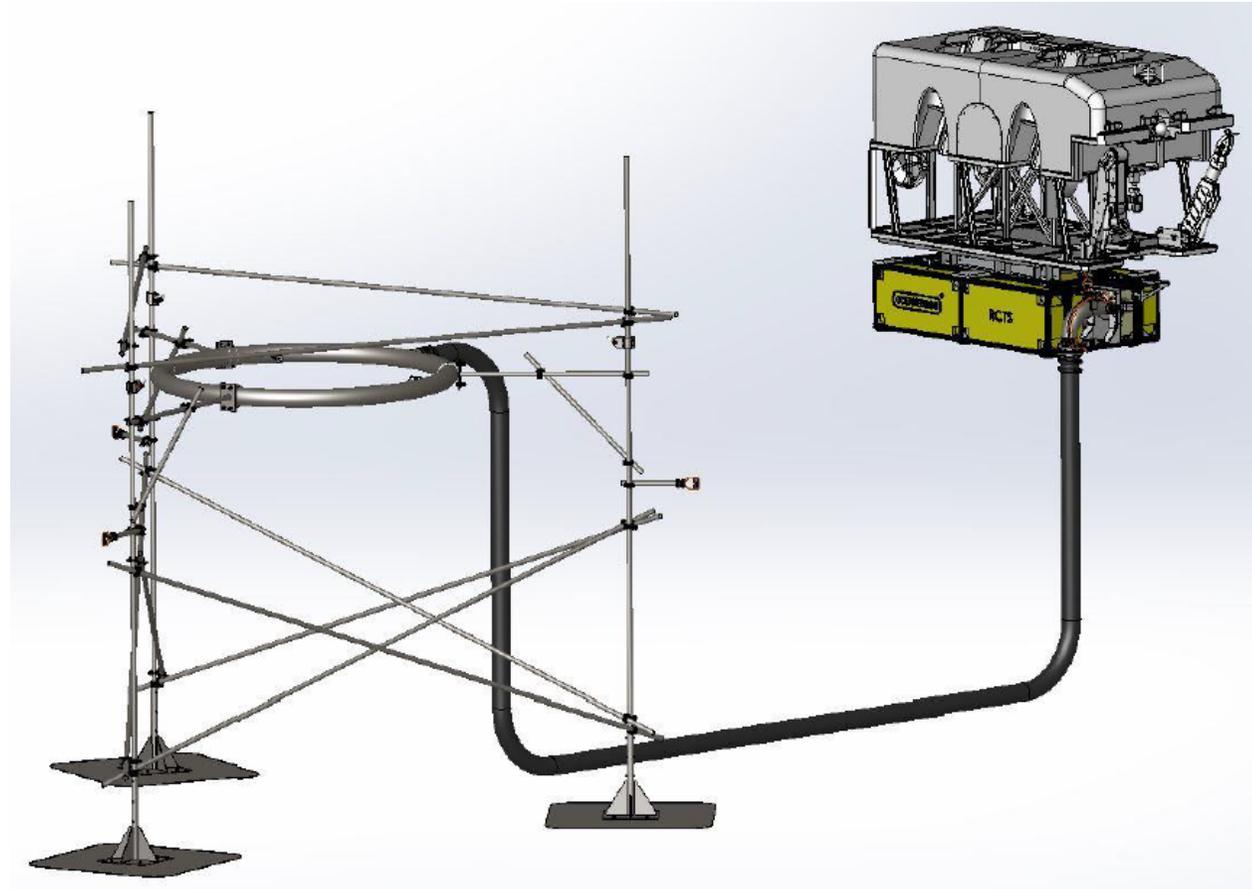
**Single water treatment nozzle: 56 mm**  
**Water velocities: 22 – 27 m/s**  
**Water consumption: 40-50%**



Turbulent Dissipation Rate (TDR) metrics indicate high SSMD effectiveness in full-scale scenarios

A single-nozzle approach will be efficient for a full-scale scenario.

# Phase-III: Design & cost study (full-scale)



OCEANEERING

Full-scale equipment operated by a ROV designed by Oceaneering.

# Conclusions - SSMD

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- Water jetting significantly reduce oil droplet size (10-fold with 50% water jetting).
- Nozzle configuration optimized by CFD modelling.
- Full-size concept based on submersible pumps and ROVs.
- Large-scale testing (Ohmsett) show comparable results to SSDI.

# Way forward - SSMD

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## Technical – Operative verification

- Final design of concept; ROV, subsea pump and vessel requirement
- Design and detailed engineering of optimized nozzle design and nozzle frame
- Production and acceptance testing
  - Finalize acceptance criteria (secure required TRL for implementation)
- Field testing

# Way forward - SSMD

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## Planning of next project phase

- Feedback from regulators
- Discussing several ways of organizing next step
  - Engage more partners for collaboration and cost sharing
  - Demo 2000 application?
  - How to develop technology through our global response providers

# SSMD a new tool in the Oil Spill Contingency Toolbox...?

Dispersant application  
on surface oil slicks

Mechanical recovery

Subsea Mechanical  
Dispersion - SSMD



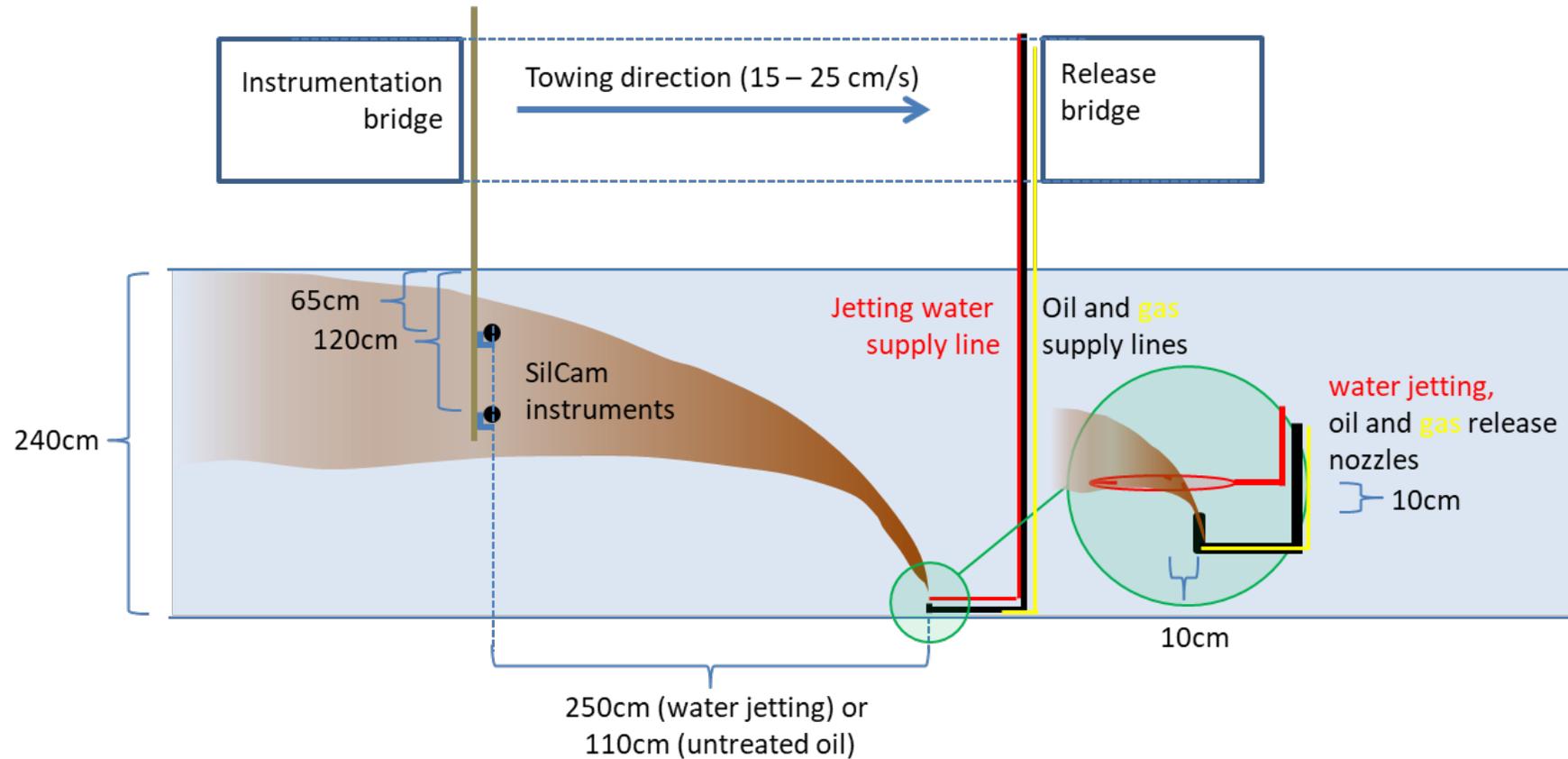
In-situ Burning

Mechanical  
Surface Dispersion

Bioremediation

Subsea Dispersant  
Injection - SSDI

# Ohmsett Experiments – Experimental Design



Arrangement for the combined releases of oil & gas and the water jetting