

## System to track oil spills

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Nov. 29: To counter the effects of increasing oil spills in Indian waters, the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOSIS) is in the developmental stage of forecasting oil spill trajectories which will help mitigating the hazards and cautioning locals.

During a user interaction session on Monday, the director of INCOSIS, Dr C. Sheno, said, "We are in the process of building mathematical capability and are going step by step. We will be able to get the trajectory of an oil spill and can alert the teams so that they know the exact location and can prevent it from further spreading."

Dr Sheno also said that INCOSIS has launched a new service which gives high wave alerts to the user community during storms. "We are providing information through e-mails, SMS, radio and television and fishermen are being benefited by this during storms. Electronic display boards are installed in all coastal areas and the information is displayed in the local language," he said. The director also said that information provided to fishermen regarding fishing zones and the nature of the sea has helped fishermen. "A recent study observed that a lot of fuel is saved by fisherman and the revenue has grown three times," he said.

Discussions to exploit the dependable "green power" and prospects of wind farming were also discussed in the meeting.

Mr Harshavardhan Bhatnagar, the V-P of Offshore Project Development, said, "India certainly has the potential to generate power through wind. But other factors like availability of grid and installation of turbines have to be taken into consideration."