

## OIL & FUEL SPILL IDENTIFICATION

### Spill Identification

In the event of a spill or discharge of oil or fuel into the environment, the source of the contaminant needs to be identified to determine the cause and decide if any action is required to be taken against a responsible party.

### Sample Assessment

The standard process for assessment of the spill sample(s) and samples obtained from suspected sources is –

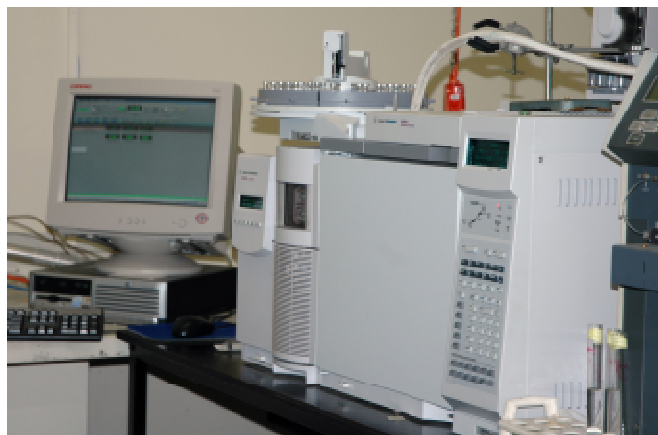
- Gas chromatography, mass spectrometry (GC/MS) of each of the whole samples, whereby obviously 'non-matched' samples can be ruled out.
- Further gas chromatography coupled with mass spectrometry operated in the selected ion monitoring mode, on various hydrocarbon fractions isolated from the samples. This determines the content and distribution of a suite of biomarkers and aromatic compounds to allow for correlation between samples.
- Correlation is performed taking into consideration any potential weathering of samples whilst in the marine environment.

### Potential Sources

A range of potential sources can be assessed, dependent upon the ability to take samples from the likely

- Natural seep
- Bilge discharge
- Fuel leakage
- Intentional illegal disposal of fuels
- Well site spill

Intertek Geotech has significant expertise in oil and fuel spill identification and correlation with suspected sources.



**For additional information and enquiries, please contact:**

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