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Country Reports**

Provision of 2,147 Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Maps*

* Prepared by the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Department of Japan

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Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps can provide a concise summary of coastal resources that are at risk if an oil spill occurs nearby. When an oil spill occurs, ESI maps can help responders meet one of the main response objectives: reducing the environmental consequences of the spill and the cleanup efforts. Additionally, ESI maps can be used by planners before a spill happens to identify vulnerable locations, establish protection priorities, and identify cleanup strategies. Furthermore ESI maps are informative and helpful to preservation of the marine environment.

The Japan Coast Guard (JCG) has been making on-the-spot surveys on the ESI of coastlines in Japan and has been producing ESI maps based on the surveys since 2002. The JCG has just finished the mapping. The JCG furnishes 2,147 ESI maps of all over the Japan.

The JCG provides ESI maps on the Internet. You can get ESI maps for your interested area by downloading PDF files from either of the following WEB addresses:

<http://www2.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/>

<http://www1.kaiho.mlit.go.jp/JODC/CEIS/pdf-top-page.htm>

Notes: Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) of coastlines are ranked into 10 general types according to their sensitivity to oil, the natural persistence of oil, and the expected ease of cleanup after an oil spill. Furthermore ESI of coastlines was classified further into 18 types of characteristics of shorelines (such as sand and flats).

Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) map

