

## 4.8 Oil Spills

Data on oil spills in Galveston Bay were collected and maintained by the Texas General Land Office (GLO). The oil spills database describes twelve categories of spills that occurred in the Galveston Bay estuary during the time period of January 1998 - April 2002. The oil spill data set is dependent upon non-randomly, non-evenly distributed observers who must report a spill for it to be recorded.

Due to the relatively short period of record for this data set, it is not practical to use trends to analyze the data. It is more useful to report on the number and volume of spills that occurred. Of the twelve categories of spills included in the database, two are described in Table 4.8.1 below. Information on other spill categories will be made available in the final report.

Some records in the oil spill database were excluded from the tallies below. Data on spills reported from the location, "Gulf of Mexico" were deemed as lying outside of the GBEP study area as were data reported from the location, "Brazos River".

As seen in Table 4.8.1, the greatest number of crude oil spills (11) was reported in 1999. However, the largest volume of spills (14,364 gallons) was reported in 2001. This volume was a sizeable increase in the amount of crude oil spilled when compared to previous years and was mostly the result of one very large spill by a facility located in the Texas City Ship Channel in March of 2001. That spill alone constituted 14,196 gallons of crude oil.

Data on diesel fuel spilled in Galveston Bay shows that the greatest number (122) and volume of spills (15,958 gallons) occurred in 2001. As with the data on crude oil, the very large volume in 2001 can be attributed to a 14,616 gallon diesel fuel spill by a facility along Greens Bayou in June 2001.

Table 4.8.1. Number and volume of crude oil and diesel fuel spills reported in the Galveston Bay Estuary 1998-2002. It should be noted that data for 2002 contains only the data collected in January through March of that year.

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Spills</b>	<b>Volume of Spills (gallons)</b>
<b>Crude Oil</b>		
1998	6	54
1999	11	1,854
2000	9	654
2001	8	14,364
2002	2	82
<b>Diesel</b>		
1998	88	6,804
1999	104	7,535
2000	117	14,406
2001	122	15,958
2002	23	123