

Discharge of Oil Prohibited

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The Federal Water Pollution Control Act prohibits the discharge of oil or oily-waste into or upon the navigable waters of the United States (3 miles), or the waters of the contiguous zone (3 - 12 miles), or which may affect natural resources belonging to, appertaining to, or under the exclusive management authority of the United States (200 miles), if such discharge causes a film or discoloration of the surface of the water or causes a sludge or emulsion beneath the surface of the water. Violators are subject to substantial civil penalties and/or criminal sanctions including fines and imprisonment.