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Africa Oil SA Corp SOUTH AFRICA

Well Drilling in
Block 3B-4B

OIL SPILL DRIFT MODELLING
Condensate and Crude Oil

TECHNICAL REPORT
V07

Date: April 5th 2024

Identification page

Title	:	Exploration Well Drilling in Block 3B-4B off the West Coast of South Africa - Oil Spill Drift Modelling
Author(s)	:	Benjamin LIVAS
Location - Date	:	Pau – April 2024

- **Study's reference:** OPP-2023-01-0100
- **Number of volumes**: 1

Keywords: Oil spill modelling, condensate, stochastic, trajectory, oil fate, release point.

Geographical references: South Africa / Offshore / Block 3B-4B

This study, based on best available information and industry-standard numerical modelling methods, describes possible fates and trajectories of an oil spill from a subsea blowout of a well in Block 3B-4B located off the West Coast of South Africa. The two Release Points selected for the study scenarios (refer to 1.1) represent the worst-case of the potential five well locations identified. Two different release types are tested in this study: a condensate (only for Point D) and a crude oil (for Point D and Point A).

Here is a summary of the results with a general conclusion:

Main conclusions of this study are as follows:

✓ DRIFT DIRECTION:
The general direction of the surface oil drift is NW for the all the Quarters in this marine area, for the Condensate as for the Crude Oil, and for the 2 releases points A and D studied.

✓ DRIFT DISTANCE:

- For Condensate release, the maximum distance of the 80 to 100% oil surface probability contour is 42 km NNW from Release Point during the Quarter 1 (January to March).
- For Crude Oil release, the maximum distance of the 80 to 100% oil surface probability contour for the release Point D is 687 km NW from future well during the Quarter 1 (January to March), and for the Point A is 580 km NW from future well during the Quarter 1 too.
- For the stochastic cases run where a spill is capped within 20 days, there is no oil reaching the shore for Release points A or D, for any of the 4 seasons.
-

✓ SURFACE PRESENCE PROBABILITIES:

- For Condensate release: there is almost no oil or condensate on surface due to large evaporation and dispersion processes on this condensate, but the Namibian and International Waters could be impacted by surface oil with very low probabilities (3.3%). This means that probabilistically, out of 100 spills that could occur during each quarter period, only 3 cases would have oil on the surface which would cross the Namibian border and international waters. **There is no oil or condensate onshore at the end of the simulations for release points A or D, for any seasons.**
- For Crude Oil Release: For Crude Oil Release: In a 20 day capping scenario, after 60 days the main part of oil is evaporated, biodegraded and dispersed. There is no oil onshore at the end of the simulations for release points A or D, for any seasons. However, for any remaining oil at surface not recovered within 60 days after the start of the spill, some remaining oil could reach the South African coastline. The highest concentrations of oil remaining at surface after 60 days for simulated releases occurs in Quarters 2 and 3 at release point D and in Quarter 2 for release point A. Given the northwestern direction of prevailing currents, simulations indicate a high probability (>80%) of surface oil from a potential release affecting Namibian and International waters.

✓ WATER COLUMN CONTAMINATION:

- For the Condensate release: the most contaminated layer is between 725 to 900 m depth for capping only and 775 to 875 m for full response deployed. This is probably due to the large amount of gas contained in the release, making the condensate rise quickly in the water column, and then accumulates in the mid water column before continuing to rise more slowly to the surface.
- For the Crude oil release: as the dispersion and dissolution during the rise of the oil is very low compared to Condensate, the impact of the crude oil release is not significant for the water column, and has to be focused on the surface, and all the processes involved after (natural dispersion, biodegradation, evaporation).

✓ COASTAL IMPACT: there is **no coastal impact** for the two types of release modelled for any Quarter of the year, due to the currents in the area driving the release drift towards NW, opposite to the coastal area. **However attention should be paid to Quarters 2 and 3 for release Point D and for Quarter 2 for release Point A in that if the oil on surface is not recovered 60 days after the start of the spill, some remaining oil on surface could reach the South African coastline.**

✓ SURFACE RESPONSE: The surface response was studied for the Quarter 3 for the Condensate release case, (initial planned Drilling period). There is a very light effect of the response deployed: the dispersed part varies very slightly, the atmospheric part is a little reduced, thanks to the very light increase in dispersion. The biodegradation is higher with the response, mainly due to the slight increased dispersion in the water column with the SSDI (these two parameters are always positively correlated).

Because of the properties of the condensate, the SSDI deployment has a very slight effect on the dispersion. The surface response which consists of dispersing and recovering oil slicks is of no use because all the condensate disperses in the water column or evaporates upon arrival at the surface. In this kind of release, the better choice would be to deploy the capping stack as soon as possible instead of trying to increase the dispersion that is already high for this type of product.

Concerning the Crude Oil release, only the Quarter 3 for Point D was studied (considered as the worst case), and there is **significant positive effect of the response deployed for the environment**: There is an increase of the dispersed part because of the SSDI deployment, allowing to disperse the oil directly from the release point in the water column, and with the surface dispersion deployed once the oil reached the surface. The biodegraded part increased too with the response deployed. With the response deployment, there is a **significant decrease of the surface part** (because more oil is dispersed, so less oil rises to the surface), and the evaporation part. Some oil is recovered by the surface response skimmers and boats deployed with the full response scenarios. There is no oil onshore, and the oil amount in sediment is negligible. The same interpretation can be applied to the seasons 1, 2 and 4 for this area. One of the most important conclusions of this response deployment testing is that reducing the quantity of oil on the surface by dispersion allows to minimize the risk of an oil slick reaching the coasts.

Distribution list of complete report:	
EIMS	GP KRIEL, Liam WHITLOW

Table of content

1. **Introduction** 10

1.1 **Release Points Selection and Location** 10

2. **Material and Method** 13

2.1 **OSCAR Modelling Tool** 13

General presentation of the model 13

Deterministic approach and visualization 14

Stochastic approach and visualization 15

2.2 **Environmental data** 17

2.1.1

2.1.1 Seasons and Environmental Average Data 17

2.1.2 Metocean Dataset (3D Currents & 2D Wind Data) 18

Bathymetry 18

2.2.1

2.2.2 2.3 **Scenario Parameters** 19

2.2.3 Hydrocarbon Profiles 19

2.3.1.1 CONDENSATE 19

2.3.1

2.3.1.2 CRUDE OIL 20

Oil spill response – Only for one Quarter of Condensate & Crude oil Cases 21

2.3.2

2.3.3 Study scenarios summary 22

2.3.4 OSCAR Model Parameters 23

2.4 **Results Interpretation** 24

2.4.1

Thresholds used in the post-processing of modelling results 24

2.5.1 2.5 **Model Limitations** 24

2.5.2

Limitations of the modelling process 24

Limits of use of the modelling results 25

3.1.1 3. **Modelling Results** 26

3.1.2

3.1.3 3.1 **CONDENSATE – RELEASE POINT D** 26

3.1.4 Capping Only Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – 4 Quarters 26

3.1.5

Surface Probability 26

Water Column Probability of Contamination – Quarter 3 32

Conclusion for Stochastic Simulations for all Quarters for Condensate 33

Response Deployment Testing: SSDI + Surface Response + Capping Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – Quarter 3 34

3.1.6

3.1.7

3.1.5.1 Surface Results – Oil Presence Probability – Capping only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping 34

3.1.5.2 Water Column Results – Probability of Oil Contamination - Capping only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping 39

3.2.1

3.2.2

3.1.5.3 Conclusion – Response Testing - Stochastic Simulation – Quarter 3 40

Capping Only Scenarios - Deterministic Simulation – 4 Seasons 41

Response Deployment Testing: Deterministic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Full Response deployment for Quarter 3 43

3.2 **CRUDE OIL – RELEASE POINT D** 45

Capping Only Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – 4 Quarters 45

Conclusion for Stochastic Simulations for all Quarters for Crude oil 51

Response Deployment Testing: SSDI + Surface Response + Capping Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – Quarter 3 51
3.2.3.1 Surface Results – Oil Presence Probability – Capping only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping 51
3.2.3.2 Conclusion – Response Testing - Stochastic Simulation – Quarter 3 51
Capping Only Scenarios - Deterministic Simulation – 4 Seasons 52
Response Deployment Testing: Deterministic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Full Response deployment for Quarter 3 54
3.2.3
3.3 CRUDE OIL – RELEASE POINT A 56
Capping Only Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – 4 Quarters 56
3.2.4 Conclusion for Stochastic Simulations for all Quarters for Crude oil 62
3.2.5 Capping Only Scenarios - Deterministic Simulation – 4 Seasons 63

4. Conclusion 66
3.3.1
3.3.2
3.3.3
5. Bibliographic References 68
5.1 **Appendix 1 - Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code (BAOAC) 70**
5.2 **Appendix 2 – CV of the H-ES Expert 71**

Figures

Figure 1: Release points locations, area of interest and sensitivity map....11

Figure 2: Physical and chemical processes included in the model (OSCAR)....14

Figure 3: Schematic illustration of stochastic approach....16

Figure 4: Bathymetry used within the model (*Source: Synbap / MEMW*)....18

Figure 5: Quarters 1 to 4 - Capping Only – Stochastic Simulation: Surface Presence Results....27

Figure 6: Quarters 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Stochastic Simulation: Surface Arrival Time Results....29

Figure 7: Quarter 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Stochastic Simulation: Emulsion Thickness Results....30

Figure 8: Capping Only: Mass balance at the end of simulation vs. Release start time for 2019 to 2021....31

Figure 9: Q3 – Capping only – Water Column Probability of Contamination....32

Figure 10: Surface Presence Probabilities - Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping....35

Figure 11: Arrival Time - Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping....36

Figure 12: Emulsion Thickness- Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping....37

Figure 13 Release Point 1 – Stochastic Simulations - Oil quantity on surface vs. Release Start Time – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping....38

Figure 14: Q3 – Capping only – Water Column Probability of Contamination....39

Figure 15: Surface slick drift (in white) and particles inside the water column at day 20 (end of spill) for the 4 quarters (deterministic simulations)....41

Figure 16: Mass Balance for each quarter – Deterministic simulations....42

Figure 17: Deterministic Simulation with Surface thickness and dissolved particles for Capping Only....43

Figure 18: Quarter 3 - Deterministic Simulation – Mass Balance – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping....44

Figure 19: Quarters 1 to 4 - Capping Only – Point D - Stochastic Simulation: Surface Presence Results....46

Figure 20: Quarters 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Point D - Stochastic Simulation: Surface Arrival Time Results....48

Figure 21: Quarter 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Point D - Stochastic Simulation: Emulsion Thickness Results....49

Figure 22: Capping Only – Point D: Mass balance at the end of simulation vs. Release start time for 2019 to 2021....50

Figure 23: Surface Presence Probabilities - Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping....51

Figure 24: Arrival Time - Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping....51

Figure 25: Emulsion Thickness- Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping....51

Figure 26 Release Point D – Stochastic Simulations - Oil mass balance vs. release start time – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping 51

Figure 27: Point D: Surface slick drift and particles inside the water column (bottom left windows) at day 20 (end of spill) for the 4 quarters (deterministic simulations) 52

Figure 28: Point D: Mass Balance for each quarter – Deterministic simulations of crude oil release 53

Figure 29: Deterministic Simulation with Surface thickness and dissolved particles for Capping Only 54

Figure 30: Quarter 3 - Deterministic Simulation – Mass Balance – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping 55

Figure 31: Quarters 1 to 4 - Capping Only – Point A - Stochastic Simulation: Surface Presence Results 57

Figure 32: Quarters 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Point A - Stochastic Simulation: Surface Arrival Time Results 59

Figure 33: Quarter 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Point A - Stochastic Simulation: Emulsion Thickness Results 60

Figure 34: Capping Only – Point A: Mass balance at the end of simulation vs. Release start time for 2019 to 2021 61

Figure 35: Point A: Surface slick drift and particles inside the water column (bottom left windows) at day 20 (end of spill) for the 4 quarters (deterministic simulations) 63

Figure 36: Point A: Mass Balance for each quarter – Deterministic simulations of crude oil release 64

Tables

Table 1: Release points depth and currents and winds trends 12
Table 2: Environmental average data. 17
Table 3: Properties of condensate profile used in the model (source MEMW/OSCAR Oil Database) 19
Table 4: Properties of the release including gas products used in the model 20
Table 5: Properties of crude oil profile used in the model (source MEMW/OSCAR Oil Database) 20
Table 6: Properties of the release including gas products used in the model 21
Table 7: Summary of study scenarios 22
Table 8: CONDENSATE Modelling Parameters (Point D) 23
Table 9: CRUDE OIL Modelling Parameters (Point A & D) 23
Table 10: Threshold used in the post-processing of modelling results 24
Table 11 Summary of the results of the Stochastic simulations for Capping Only / All Quarters 33
Table 12: Main Stochastic Simulation Results for Q3 – Comparison Capping only vs. Full Response 40
Table 13 Summary of the results of the Stochastic simulations for Capping Only / All Quarters for Point D 51
Table 14: Main Stochastic Simulation Results for Q3 – Comparison Capping only vs. Full Response 51
Table 15 Summary of the results of the Stochastic simulations for Capping Only / All Quarters for Point A 62
Table 16: Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code 70

1. Introduction

This study, based on best available information and industry-standard numerical modelling methods, describes possible fates and trajectories of an oil spill from a subsea blowout of a well in Block 3B-4B located off the West Coast of South Africa. The two Release Points selected for the study scenarios (refer to section 1.1) represent the **worst-case of the potential five well locations identified**, and two types of products released are simulated: a condensate, and a crude oil.

To perform this project, the Oil Spill Contingency and Response (OSCAR) module from MEMW software (v 14.1) was used to undertake the modelling. This tool is among the best in its class for oil spill modelling, considering its capabilities to determine how a slick will drift and how oil components will interact with the marine environment. An oil slick is represented by many independent particles drifting according to oceanic currents and winds and whose positions and mass are recorded in a defined timeline.

Four modelling periods are considered (*i.e.* each quarter of the year) for the study. The release locations, release duration, discharge rate, are the same for all the scenarios for each type of product released. The scenarios considered for this study were based on best available input data at the time of the study and are discussed in section 2.2.

This modelling study considers two approaches, namely:

- Stochastic simulations → which is a statistical calculation/analysis based on results from many sets of similar releases under a wide range of weather and/or seasonal conditions.
- Deterministic simulations → which studies the trajectory and fate of an individual oil slick.

1.1 Release Points Selection and Location

The Applicant is proposing to drill up to five exploration wells within an AOI within Block 3B/4B. The exact locations of the wells to be drilled within the area of interest in Block 3B-4B are not yet known, however indicative target points have been identified, namely Points A to E (refer to Figure 1).

As several well locations were proposed, the two locations were selected for modelling based on:

- Distance from the coast: it will directly influence the travel time and quantities that may be stranded on the shoreline.

- Proximity of marine protected areas (MPAs) and critical biodiversity areas (CBAs) that might be impacted especially by drilling discharges which are more localized than oil spill (refer to separate drilling discharges modelling study) (see Figure 1).

- Winds and Currents directions that could potentially cause the oil slick to drift ashore.

- Within the northern area, Location A corresponds to the most likely area for initial drilling.

Two locations are retained, considered as the worst-case locations inside the area of interest, and are presented on Figure 1.

The Point D was selected as the worst-case release point for Condensate cases and Crude Oil cases.

The Point A was selected as an additional worst-case release point for the Crude Oil cases only. This point was selected north from the D point, to verify if some differences in the winds and currents speeds and directions could bring oil to the shoreline.

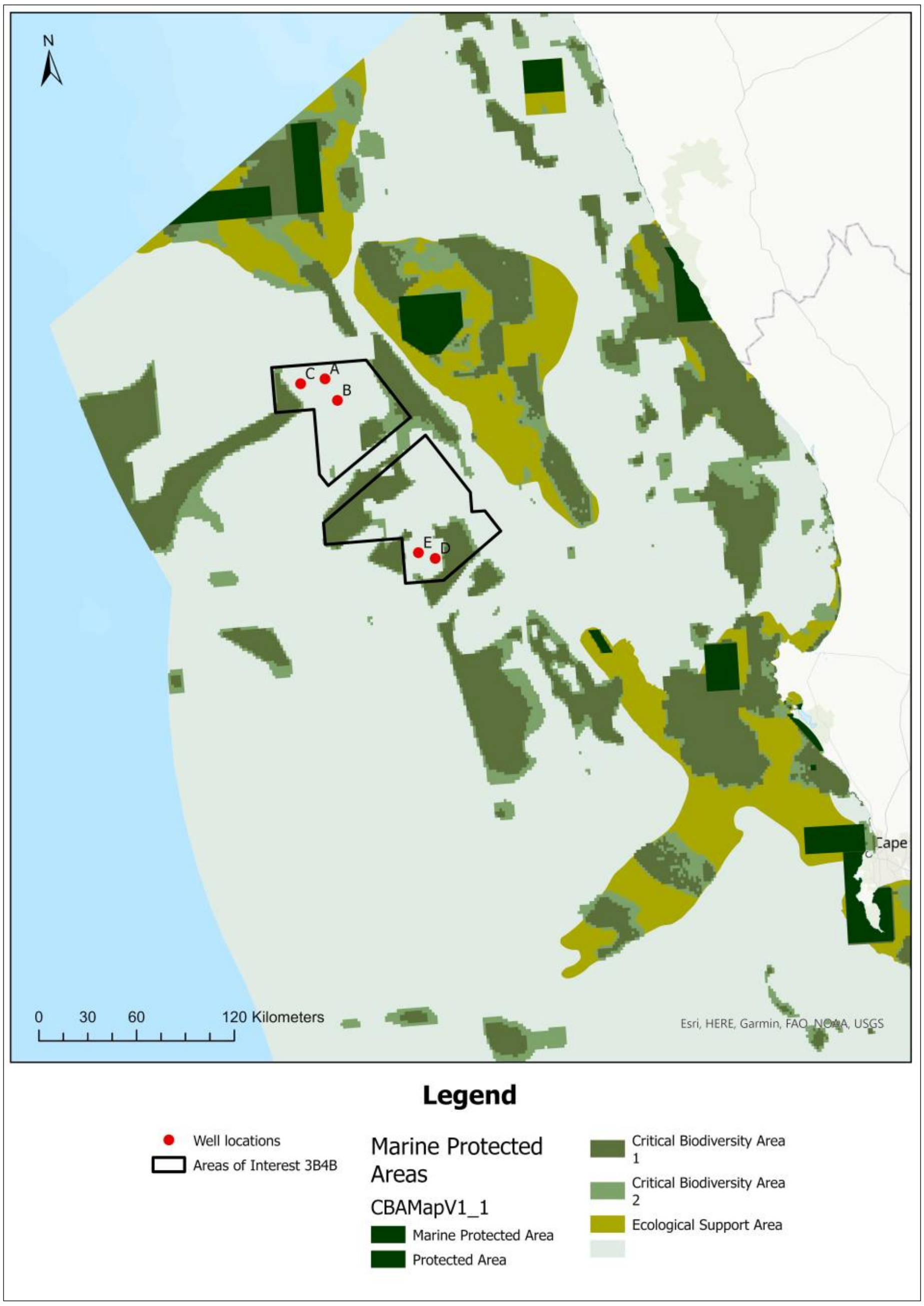

Figure 1: Release points locations, area of interest and sensitivity map

The characteristics of the selected location are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Release points depth and currents and winds trends

RELEASE POINT	Coordinates (WGS84)	Water Depth (m)	Surface currents main directions (to)	Winds main directions (from)
D	Longitude: 15° 42’ 19.51”E Latitude : 32° 07’ 33.38” S	1499	WSW to NNE	S to SE
A	Longitude: 15° 5’ 10.52”E Latitude : 31° 05’ 13.79” S	1626	WSW to NNE	S to SE

2. Material and Method

2.1 OSCAR Modelling Tool

2.1.1 General presentation of the model

The Oil Spill Contingency and Response (OSCAR) application is a modelling tool to support decision making and helps estimate oil spills interaction with the marine environment. OSCAR computes the fate and weathering of oil, to simulate the oil's drift, concentration, and extent, on the sea surface and/or water column and/or the shoreline. This tool offers the means to quantify potential environmental impacts caused by hydrocarbons spills and to identify the appropriate spill response strategy (dispersants, containment, and mechanical recovery).

OSCAR considers the following processes affecting the oil spill (Figure 2):

- **Spreading**: the fact for the slick to become thinner over a larger area.
- **Emulsification**: water droplets are incorporated to the oil, increasing the density and viscosity of the emulsion.
- **Evaporation**: light components of the oil go to the gas phase.
- **Advection**: the oil slick, dispersed oil droplets and dissolved oil components move according to currents and winds. Some random movements are modelled as well to consider small and local scale phenomena that are not incorporated in the current and wind dataset.
- **Entrainment** (natural dispersion): under the action of waves, the slick is broken in small droplets and entrained into the water column. Depending on the droplet size, the droplet will resurface at different speeds if they resurface at all.
- **Dissolution**: soluble components of the oil will be dissolved in water.
- **Sedimentation**, when oil or emulsion density are high enough, they can sink and lay on the sea bottom.
- **Stranding**: oil can reach the shore and strand.
- **Biodegradation**: the various components of oil can be degraded by bacteria. The biodegradation modelling considers only the first step of biodegradation. Moreover, no lag time for the bacteria colonies activation is considered.

The modelling of these various processes is well described in the Chapter 22 "technical description" in MEMW user guide (SINTEF, 2021). In the water column, horizontal and vertical advection and dispersion of entrained and dissolved hydrocarbons are simulated by random walk procedures. Degradation in water and sediments is represented as a first order decay process. The algorithms used in the model to simulate these physical processes are described in the literature ((Reed *et al*., 2000), (Reed, French, Rines, & Rye, 1995), (Reed & Hetland, 2002), (Pan *et al*., 2020)).

Wind drift coefficient is 3.5% and Coriolis deflection angle is 0.

Near-field blowout model in OSCAR

The near-field blowout model in OSCAR representing the behaviour of the oil rising with its associated gas in the water column in case of a subsea blowout is Deepblow (Johansen, 2000), referred to as Plume3D in OSCAR. The model is based on a Lagrangian model concept, like earlier models developed for aqueous discharges (e.g., JETLAG model), which were later extended to multi-component discharges (sub-sea blowouts with oil and gas) (Zheng, Yapa, & Chen, 2003). In the model, the Lagrangian concept is extended further to include relevant phase transitions in each plume element, e.g., gas dissolved in seawater. The rise velocity of gas bubbles depends on the size of the bubble and the density difference between the gas and ambient water. Since the gas bubbles may contract as well expand, the rise velocity is subject to changes in the blowout model.

It must be emphasized that an oil slick may form at the sea surface even in cases where the plume is trapped below surface. The spreading of such slicks will depend on the size distribution of the oil droplets formed in the outlet jet, and the strength and variability of ocean currents in the region of concern.

For more details about the OSCAR model and a comparison between a real case refer to Pan, *et al*., 2020.

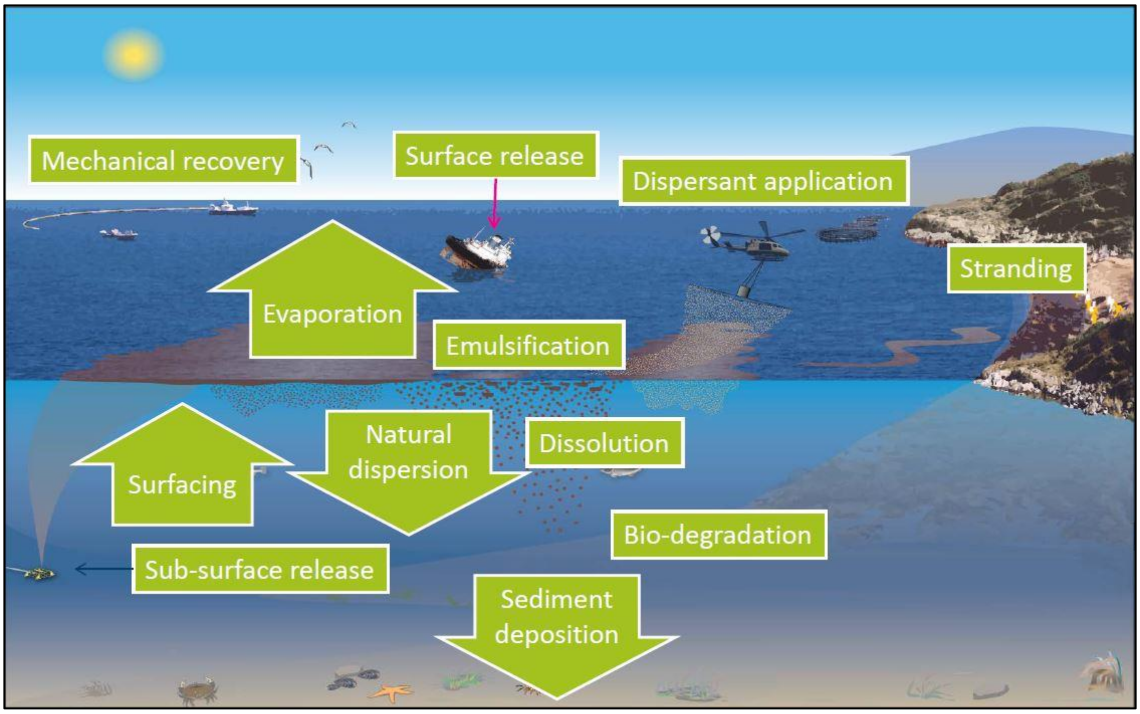

Figure 2: Physical and chemical processes included in the model (OSCAR)

Careful consideration needs to be given to the distinction between stochastic and deterministic modelling (see sections below to understand that **stochastic modelling does not represent a single oil spill)**.

2.1.1 Deterministic approach and visualization

The Deterministic modelling (or single spill trajectory analysis) is the modelling of the trajectory (where the oil travels) and fate (what it becomes: evaporation, biodegradation, stranding) of a **single oil spill at one moment in time** under predefined hydrodynamic and meteorological conditions.

In these types of studies, deterministic simulations are used to provide an example of what could be the evolution of one single spill. Usually a conservative case (worst-case) is chosen, showing for example the shortest time of impact to the coast, or the largest quantity of hydrocarbons to the coast. The outcomes of deterministic modelling provide a reasonable approximation of what a single oil spill event could look like under certain prevailing conditions, but not the probability of those conditions being prevalent. Conversely, stochastic modelling provides a probabilistic analysis, but not an accurate prediction of what an individual spill could look like.

Representations: In the maps representing the surface spill drift evolution, oil presence above the threshold value (0.04 µm) per grid cell are represented. The cut-off is applied only to the graphic representation of these quantities: in the model there are cells with a thickness (= a quantity of oil per unit area) less than 0.04 µm, and these hydrocarbons will cause the potential impacted coast areas to appear larger if there is a coastal impact. In the present study, there is no oil reaching the shoreline for all the periods simulated, for both oil types and from both release Points.

2.1.2 Stochastic approach and visualization

OSCAR allows the performance statistical modelling providing insight into how typical oil spill scenarios unfold under a wide range of weather or seasonal conditions.

- Stochastic oil spill modelling is created by overlaying several individual, computer-simulated, hypothetical oil spills (results of deterministic simulations). **The focus here is not on the quantities of oil, but on the presence of oil on the surface or in the water column at any moment above the threshold.**

- The simulated oil spills for a stochastic model start from the same location (e.g., a drilling location in this study) but each oil spill scenario will have a different release starting date and are thus subject to a different set of metocean (wind and currents) conditions drawn from historical records (which are from 2019 to 2021 for this study). The map below is an example of the stochastic simulation principle, with spill footprint superposition. Depending on the start date, the oil slick will not have the same surface area and/or direction from the release point and potential impacted areas, due to the different directions of the winds and currents.

- The principle can be explained in three steps (illustrated in the Figure 3 below):

  - ✓ STEP 1/ Modelling software calculates for a given simulation where, at any time during this simulation, there is oil above the threshold (= spill footprint) for each deterministic run.
  - ✓ STEP 2/ The software then calculates at each point how many simulations have oil above the threshold, and then calculates the associated probability.

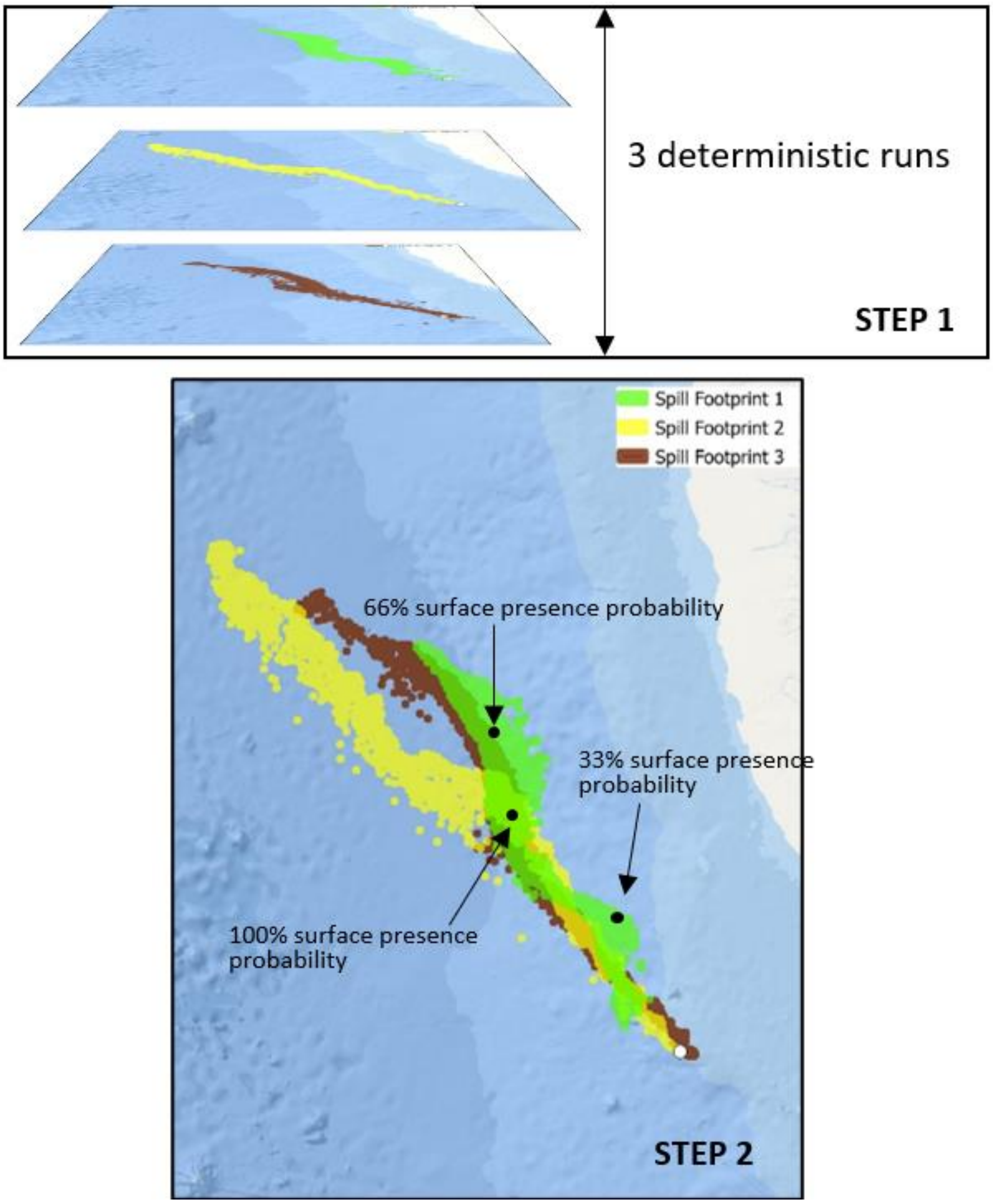

Figure 3: Schematic illustration of stochastic approach

In this study, as onshore oiling never occurs, the focus was made on the oil dispersed quantity at the end of the simulations for the Condensate cases and oil amount on surface for the Crude Oil cases to select the deterministic cases to study. This allows one to see the variability of the impact of the spill in the water column or on the surface depending on its release date.

These types of results can be useful for informing preparedness and response arrangements as it shows which areas are more or less likely to be impacted in the unlikely event of an oil spill.

2.2 Environmental data

Seasons and Environmental Average Data

The 4 Quarters of the year are studied in this project.

Environmental data used for the modelling simulations are detailed in Table 2:

2.2.1

Table 2: Environmental average data.

Upper water column temperature (°C)	Season 1: 20.2 Season 2: 19.2 Season 3: 16.4 Season 4: 16.9
Lower water column temperature (°C)	2.5
Salinity (‰)	35
Seawater oxygen content (mg/l)	5.2
Suspended sediment (mg/l)	4

Temperature and salinity data detailed in the table above are sourced from Copernicus global-reanalysis-001-030-monthly dataset over 1993-2020 at the release location. Oxygen content and suspended sediment is a synthesis between data from TEPNA 2913B-Venus EBS (2018) and - TEPSA 567 EMPr update seismic (2013).

2.2.2 Metocean Dataset (3D Currents & 2D Wind Data)

The current data used are based on a 3-year dataset (1st of January 2019 – 31st of December 2021) which comprises 3D currents and 2D Winds from the continuous current hindcast at each grid point:

- 3D Currents and 2D Winds
  - NetCDF format (OSCAR compatible)
  - 3 years of data (1st of January 2019 – 31st of December 2021)
  - Spatial resolution at least 1/32°
  - Vertical resolution: 32 layers with different resolutions (5m layers at surface, 500 m layers at 5500 m) for the current
  - For the wind dataset, a blend of wind observations by satellite and model was used on a single layer.
  - Time step: 3 hours.

2.2.3 Bathymetry

The Synbap depth database (Figure 4), integrated in the OSCAR Software, was used for the simulations in this study.

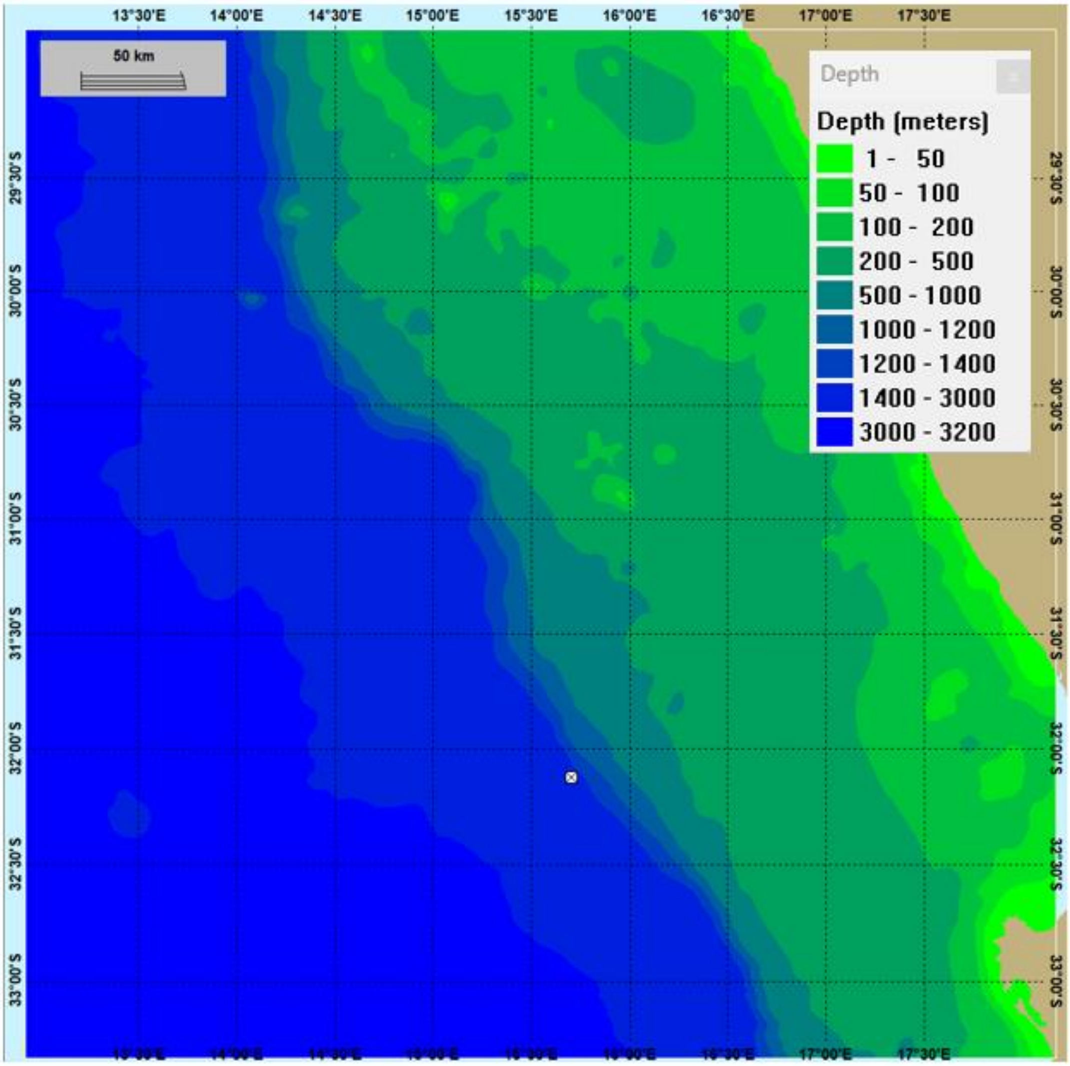

Figure 4: Bathymetry used within the model (*Source: Synbap / MEMW*)

2.3 Scenario Parameters

Hydrocarbon Profiles

Based on regional subsurface studies of source rocks in the area of Block 3B/4B and the expected reservoir depths, pressures, and temperatures of the prospects to be drilled, any hydrocarbons that may be encountered are expected to be similar to the condensate and wet gas accumulations encountered in the Brulpadda and Luiperd discoveries in Block 11B/12B offshore South Africa, or the light oil accumulations encountered in the Venus and Graff discoveries in Blocks 2913B and 2914B, respectively.

2.3.1

While not all of the fluid and testing data has been released into the public domain, these discoveries have been described as light oil and condensate discoveries, and the expected API gravity range is from 39 to 49 degrees API. When these hydrocarbon accumulations are produced to the surface, both condensate, light oil and wet gas are recovered. Important in this play is that the temperature within the source sequence is controlled by the variable overburden which is very thick in the block thinning outboard towards the west into the Orange Basin, and for this reason only light oils, condensates and wet gas are expected to be recovered in Block 3B/4B.

Since lower gravity API (heavier) crude oils or condensates take longer to disperse or evaporate when released, this report includes models for both a condensate with a 39 API degree gravity, and a crude oil with a 37 degree API gravity. While these modelled fluid types are heavier than any scenario that is expected in Block 3B/4B, they have been included here to represent the most-conservative model scenarios.

2.3.1.1 CONDENSATE

Condensate fields like the Brulpadda and Luiperd discoveries on the South Coast of the RSA are a good analog Block 3B/4B. For this reason, a condensate with similar properties was selected within OSCAR database to perform the modelling as illustrated in Table 3. The condensate selected from SINTEF'S OSCAR Database as an analogue is "Condensate SKARV 13 DEG -2014". This weathering characteristic of this oil (emulsification, evaporation…) were measured in a laboratory and better allow to simulate behaviour and fate of condensate in the marine environment.

Table 3: Properties of condensate profile used in the model (source MEMW/OSCAR Oil Database)

Release Product Properties	
Selected Analogue (from model oil database)	Condensate SKARV 13 DEG -2014
°API	39.2
Viscosity (cP) @13°C	3.0
Pour Point (°C)	6
Wax Content (%)	2.18
Asphaltenes (%)	0.01

Table 4 details the release properties used for the modelling study, including the gas associated to the release.

Table 4: Properties of the release including gas products used in the model

Release Information	
Flow Rate	238.8 cu.m / day
Oil Temperature At Release Point (°C)	70°C
Gas Rate at Release point (sm^3/day)	930000
Gas Density at atmospheric conditions (Kg/Sm^3)	0.7
Release Hole Diameter (m) (equivalent diameter to the area of flow for annulus flow)	0.31115

All the scenarios associated with the condensate release thus simulate a continuous blowout with **238.8 cu.m/day of condensate and 930 000 Sm^3/d of gas.**

2.3.1.2 CRUDE OIL

Light oil accumulations like the Venus and Graff discoveries in Namibia are also good analogs for Block 3B/4B. API gravities are expected to be very light and in the 43-49 degree API range, however the crude model used here is matched to a heavier 37.2 degree API crude to represent a most-conservative case and was used as a basis for selecting an appropriate match within the OSCAR database to perform the modelling as illustrated in Table 5. The crude oil selected from SINTEF'S OSCAR Database as an analogue is "OSEBERG BLEND 2006". This weathering characteristic of this oil (emulsification, evaporation…) were measured in a laboratory and better allow to simulate behaviour and fate of condensate in the marine environment.

Table 5: Properties of crude oil profile used in the model (source MEMW/OSCAR Oil Database)

Release Product Properties	
Selected Analogue (from model oil database)	CRUDE OSEBERG BLEND 2006
°API	37.2
Viscosity (cP) @13°C	7.0
Pour Point (°C)	-24
Wax Content (%)	2.67
Asphaltenes (%)	0.20

Table 6 details the release properties used for the modelling study, including the gas associated to the release.

Table 6: Properties of the release including gas products used in the model

Crude Oil Release Information	
Flow Rate	34 000 bopd (5405.57 cu.m / day)
Oil Temperature At Release Point (°C)	120°C
Gas Rate at Release point (sm^3/day)	1 443 243
Gas Density at atmospheric conditions (Kg/Sm^3)	0.8
Release Hole Diameter (m) (equivalent diameter to the area of flow for annulus flow)	0.216

All the scenarios of this study thus simulate a continuous blowout with **34 000 bopd of crude oil and 1 443 243 Sm^3/d of gas.**

2.3.2 Oil spill response – Only for one Quarter of Condensate & Crude oil Cases

The spill response strategies (including associated operational start and end times) listed below were applied to the study scenarios. These assumptions are based on the Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP) prepared for exploration drilling campaign in Block 11B/12B in 2020 and adjusted for the Block 3B-4B location.

I. **Capping Stack deployed at the end of the 20th day stopping the release.**

The capping stack would be mobilized from Saldanha Bay in both cases. The capping time would be 13 days and 20 days respectively. Here the most conservative duration was considered.

II. **Subsea Dispersant Injection Kit (SSDI) deployed after the 15th day.**

The subsea dispersion consists of injecting a surfactant that reduces the oil droplet size in the water column. The new droplet sizes are calculated for a Dispersant Oil Ratio (DOR) of 1% according to Brandvik *et al.,* 2019. The dispersant efficiency use is the default value of 80%.

III. **Surface dispersion with the following resources (only tested for Condensate / Quarter 3):**

N.B.: Only Quarter 3 of the condensate case for the release point D was studied, corresponding to the worst case for the condensate release. As the condensate mainly evaporates, the surface response was not very significant on the results, and not necessary to test on the other Quarters.

- **2 aircraft for chemical dispersion** operations, deployed 24 h and 72 h after the start of the spill, respectively.
- **10 vessels for chemical dispersion** operations with the following deployment times:

- 2 vessels 24 h after the start of the spill.
- 1 vessel 48 h after the start of the spill.
- 2 vessel 96 h after the start of the spill.
- 3 vessels 168 h after the start of the spill.
- 2 vessels 216 h after the start of the spill.

➢ **5 pairs of vessels for containment and recovery** operations with the following deployment times:
- 1 pair 24 h after the start of the spill.
- 1 pair 48 h after the start of the spill.
- 3 pairs 96 h after the start of the spill.

Study scenarios summary

Study scenarios for both Release Points are summarized in Table 7.

2.3.3

Table 7: Summary of study scenarios

STOCHASTIC SCENARIOS PER SEASON						
Scenario Number	**Simulation duration (days)**	**Release duration (days)**	**Cause of the end of release (capping stack, relief well, reservoir depressurisation)**	**Number of days between start of release and start of SubSea Dispersion (SSDI)**	**SSDI DOR (dispersant oil ratio: 1% will be used if blank)**	**Response surface (Y /N)**
STO-A	**60**	**20**	**Capping stack**	**-**	**-**	**N**
STO-B	**60**	**20**	**Surface Response + SSDI + Capping stack**	**15**	**1%**	**Y**

ESIA Modelling: DETERMINISTIC SCENARIOS PER SEASON						
Scenario Number	**Simulation duration (days)**	**Release duration (days)**	**Cause of the end of release (capping stack, relief well, reservoir depressurisation)**	**Number of days between start of release and start of SubSea Dispersion (SSDI)**	**SSDI DOR (dispersant oil ratio: 1% will be used if blank)**	**Response surface (Y /N)**
DET-A	**60**	**20**	**Capping stack**	**-**	**-**	**N**
DET-B	**60**	**20**	**Surface Response + SSDI + Capping stack**	**15**	**1%**	**Y**

2.3. OSCAR Model Parameters

Modelling parameters for both release points and both hydrocarbon types are presented in Table 8 and Table 9.

Table 8: CONDENSATE Modelling Parameters (Point D)

Product Type	CONDENSATE	
Scenario	Stochastic	Deterministic
Grid size (in km)	500 East x 500 North	
Cell size (in m)	500 m x 500 m	
Vertical resolution	1st layer of 2 m (by default in OSCAR) and 19 layers from 2 m to 1600 m depth	
Number of liquid/solid particles	10 000	
Number of dissolved particles	10 000	
Calculation parameters	Time step = 60 minutes / Output interval = 3 hours	
Release depth	At seabed	

Table 9: CRUDE OIL Modelling Parameters (Point A & D)

Product Type	Crude Oil	
Scenario	Stochastic	Deterministic
Grid size (in km)	1700 East x 1700 North	
Cell size (in m)	1700 m x 1700 m	
Vertical resolution	1st layer of 2 m (by default in OSCAR) and 19 layers from 2 m to 1800 m depth	
Number of liquid/solid particles	10 000	
Number of dissolved particles	10 000	
Calculation parameters	Time step = 60 minutes / Output interval = 3 hours	
Release depth	At seabed	

The choice of the number of particles is a trade-off between a good representativity and a reasonable calculation time (especially for the stochastic simulations). 10 000 liquid particles ensure that at each calculation time step, 5 particles are released allowing for a certain variability in their trajectories.

2.4 Results Interpretation

2.4.1 Thresholds used in the post-processing of modelling results

Threshold values used for this study to illustrate modelling output results are detailed in Table 10:

Table 10: Threshold used in the post-processing of modelling results

Threshold	Threshold Value	Justification
Surface Oil Thickness	0.04 µm	10 µm corresponds to the thickness that would impart a lethal dose to an intersecting wildlife individual (French McCay 2009). But as the case studied was condensate, the minimum value of 0.04 µm was chosen to keep a margin and because it is also the minimum thickness visible as rainbow sheens in Bonn Agreement. 5µm is the thickness at which response equipment can skim/remove oil from the surface, surface dispersants are effectively applied, or oil can be boomed/collected. Fresh oil at this thickness corresponds to a slick being a dark brown or metallic sheen (refer to Appendix 1 - Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code (BAOAC)).
Water-Column	58 ppb	Based on extensive toxicity tests of crude oils and oil components on marine organisms, the OLF (the Norwegian Oil Industry Association) Guideline for risk assessment of effects on fish from acute oil pollution (2008) concluded that the threshold concentration for an expected No Observed Effect Concentration (NOEC) for acute exposure for THC ranges 0.05 to 0.3 ppm. Work undertaken by Neilson et al (2005, as reported in OLF, 2008) proposed a value for acute exposure to dispersed oil of 58 ppb, based on the toxicity of chemically dispersed oil to various aquatic species, which showed the 5% effect level is 58 ppb.
Shoreline Oiling	0 g/m^2	Shoreline oiling calculated for deterministic scenarios assuming that a certain surface is affected by kilometre of shoreline, depending on the shoreline type. For various shoreline types, a set of maximum oil "holding capacities" is estimated along with a set of removal rates. The holding capacities are intended to reflect both shoreline slope and permeability. 10 g/m^2 provides normally a more conservative screening threshold used for potential ecological effects on shoreline fauna. Assumed as a sublethal effects threshold for birds on the shoreline (French et al. 1996; French McCay 2009; French McCay 2016). **BUT to be sure to detect any amount of oil onshore, even a very low one, a threshold of 0 g/m² was applied to be sure to detect any oil amount on the coast.**

2.5 Model Limitations

All modelling results and other information provided in this document are generic and demonstrative, based on the scenarios specifically defined for the present study. Main limitations are intrinsic to the process itself or associated with the use of modelled results.

2.5.1 Limitations of the modelling process

The OSCAR software is only suitable for offshore or coastal marine environments. Nevertheless, modelling parameters (grid size and fixed shape, water depth gridding) are less adapted to shallow waters and shorelines areas, leading to edge effects to be considered when interpreting the raw results.

Models in general cannot precisely predict the changes oil undergoes; they can only indicate whether oil is likely to dissipate naturally or whether it is likely to reach the shoreline.

As with any model, the quality and reliability of the results are dependent on the quantity and accuracy of the input data, such as:

- Resolution of tidal and oceanic metocean dataset (and especially the existence of calibration points that often do not exist for seabed currents), ambient data, and depth of release point.
- The properties of the oil in the model's database might not precisely match those expected for the exploration well of Block 3B-4B. The properties and behaviour of the oil spilled in a dynamic marine environment may vary slightly to those outputs produced using data held within OSCAR. This variation is likely with all oils in the database and is intrinsic to any modelling.

Limits of use of the modelling results

There are several limitations to consider when interpreting the outputs, in particular:

- This software is only suitable for the offshore or coastal environment
2.5.2
- The modelling is a simplification of reality, so it is not possible to take into account all the external parameters during the modelling, because of the limitation due to metocean data resolution, the small-scale environmental parameters variations, etc.
- The results provided in this report are trends of potential consequences of a subsea blow-out and does not aim at predicting drifts at a future time but rather give indications where a slick could go linked to:
  - ✓ The selected oil profile used for the study scenarios
  - ✓ The proposed wells coordinates
  - ✓ Past (hindcast) Metocean data from 2019 to 2021
  - ✓ Modelling results can be used as a guidance tool to build an oil spill response strategy, nevertheless, oil spill response deployment should not be based and developed solely on modelling results alone but continuously reassessed in case of accidental event
- Careful consideration needs to be given to the distinction between stochastic and deterministic modelling (stochastic modelling is not generating a picture of single oil spill, but an imprint of the passage of several slicks from different spills to determine probability).

3. Modelling Results

3.1 CONDENSATE – RELEASE POINT D

The following sections present the results for stochastic and deterministic scenarios for release point D (1 499 m depth), with a release of Condensate, for the 4 seasons considered for the modelling study. Some results (Water column concentration and Response deployment testing) are only studied for the Quarter 3 (initial drilling period planned).

Release Point Coordinates (WGS84):

Longitude: 15° 42' 19.51"E

Latitude: 32° 07' 33.38" S

3.1.1 Capping Only Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – 4 Quarters

These scenarios simulate a continuous blowout of 238.8 m^3 /day of condensate, through a set of 30 individual spill simulations for the 4 Quarters of the year. Each simulation duration is 60 days under a wide range of metocean conditions.

The results of all the scenarios are summarized in the Table 11 at the end of this part.

3.1.2 Surface Probability

IMPORTANT: Surface results presented in this section do not represent a single spill but the combination of the statistical results of the 30 individual trajectories composing the Stochastic Scenario for each season. Threshold values applied for the interpretation results is 0.04 µm for the surface as detailed in Section 2.4.1; there is no shoreline impact for this Release Point.

Figure 5 presents the **probability of presence** of oil above the threshold at sea surface for 4 Quarters.

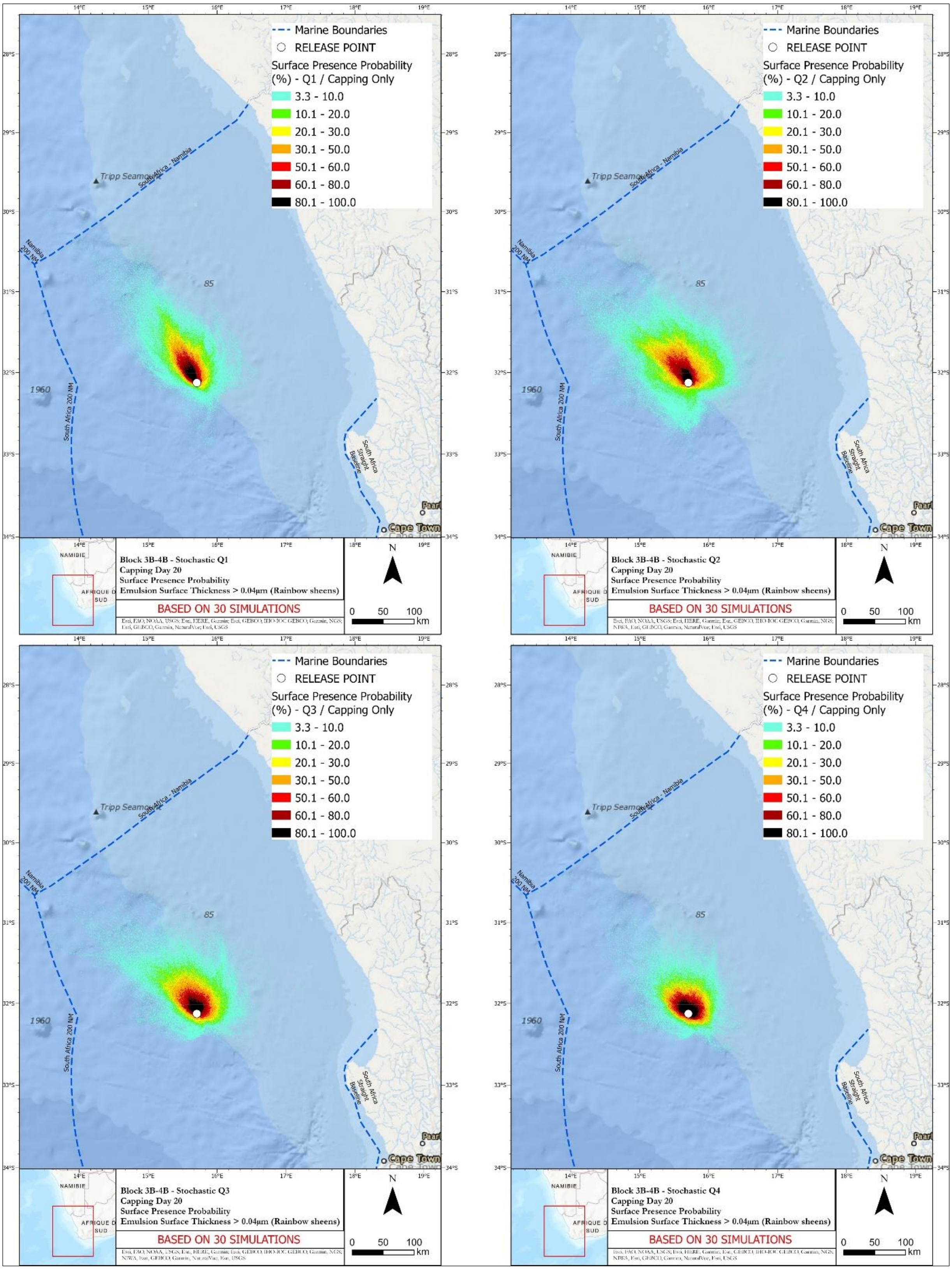

Figure 5: Quarters 1 to 4 - Capping Only – Stochastic Simulation: Surface Presence Results

Based on the Figure above, one can notice that:

- The main drift direction of the spill simulated is towards N to NNW for all quarters. This is due to the main surface currents towards NW and winds from S to SSE in this area.

- In consequence, there is no oil reaching the shore for all these seasons.

- The maximum distance for the 80 to 100% oil surface probability is 42 km N from release point for Quarter 1 (January to March).

To select the deterministic cases to study, the focus was made on the quantity of oil dispersed at the end of the simulations (as there is no oil onshore or on surface because of the condensate release). These results allow one to see the variability of the impact of the spill in the water column depending on its release date.

The Figure 6 below shows the minimum arrival time of oil on surface.

The Main direction of the drift is NNW, with a minimum Surface Arrival Time of 3 hours 45 km SW from release point during Quarter 2 (April to June).

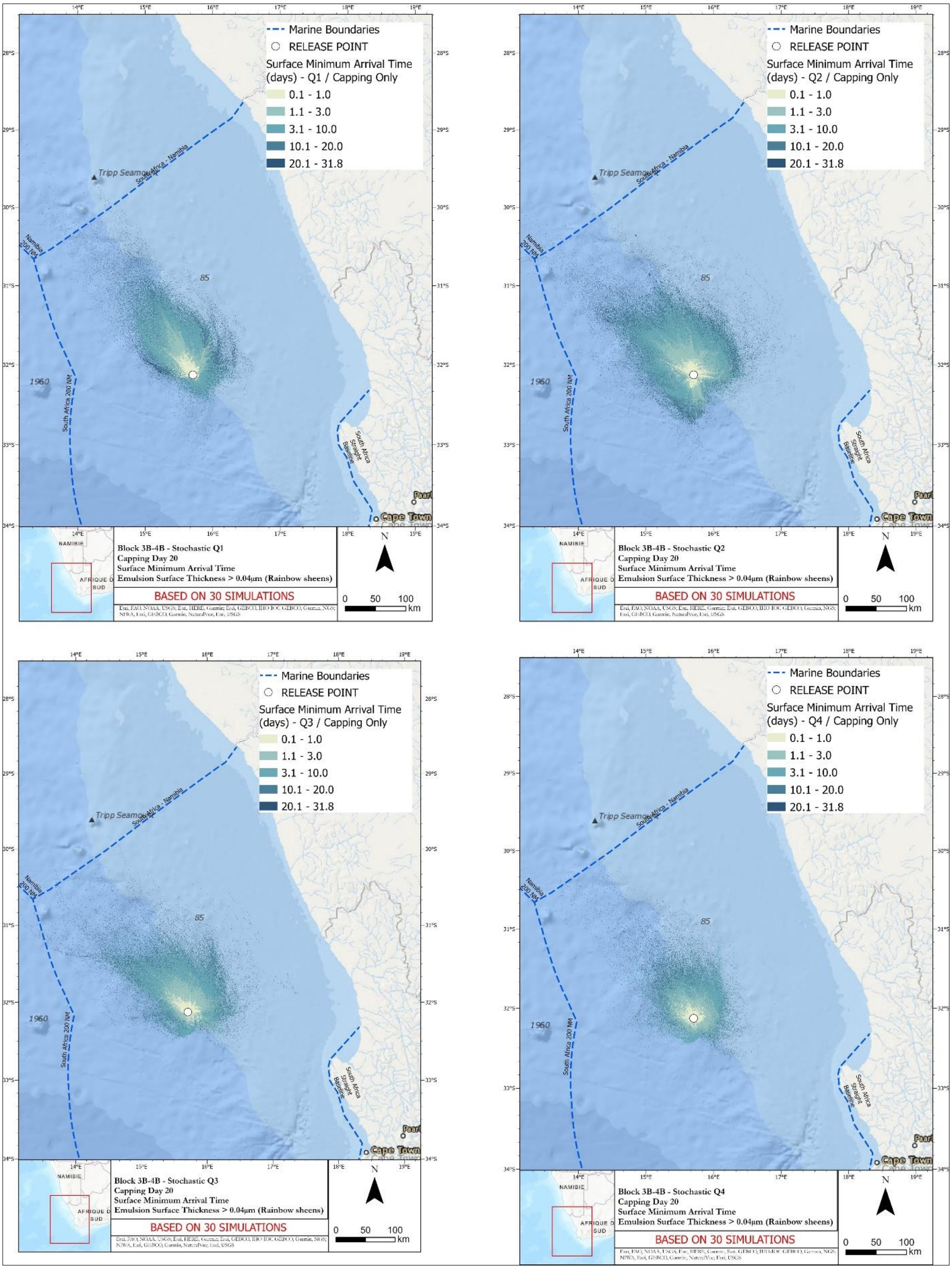

Figure 6: Quarters 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Stochastic Simulation: <u>Surface Arrival Time Results</u>

The Figure 7 below shows the maximum emulsion thickness on surface.

The maximum emulsion thickness reached is 76 µm reached on some spots between precisely above the release point during Quarter 2 (April to June). It represents a discontinuous true oil colour appearance, but most of the slick appears as Sheens and rainbows, due to the high evaporation of the condensate.

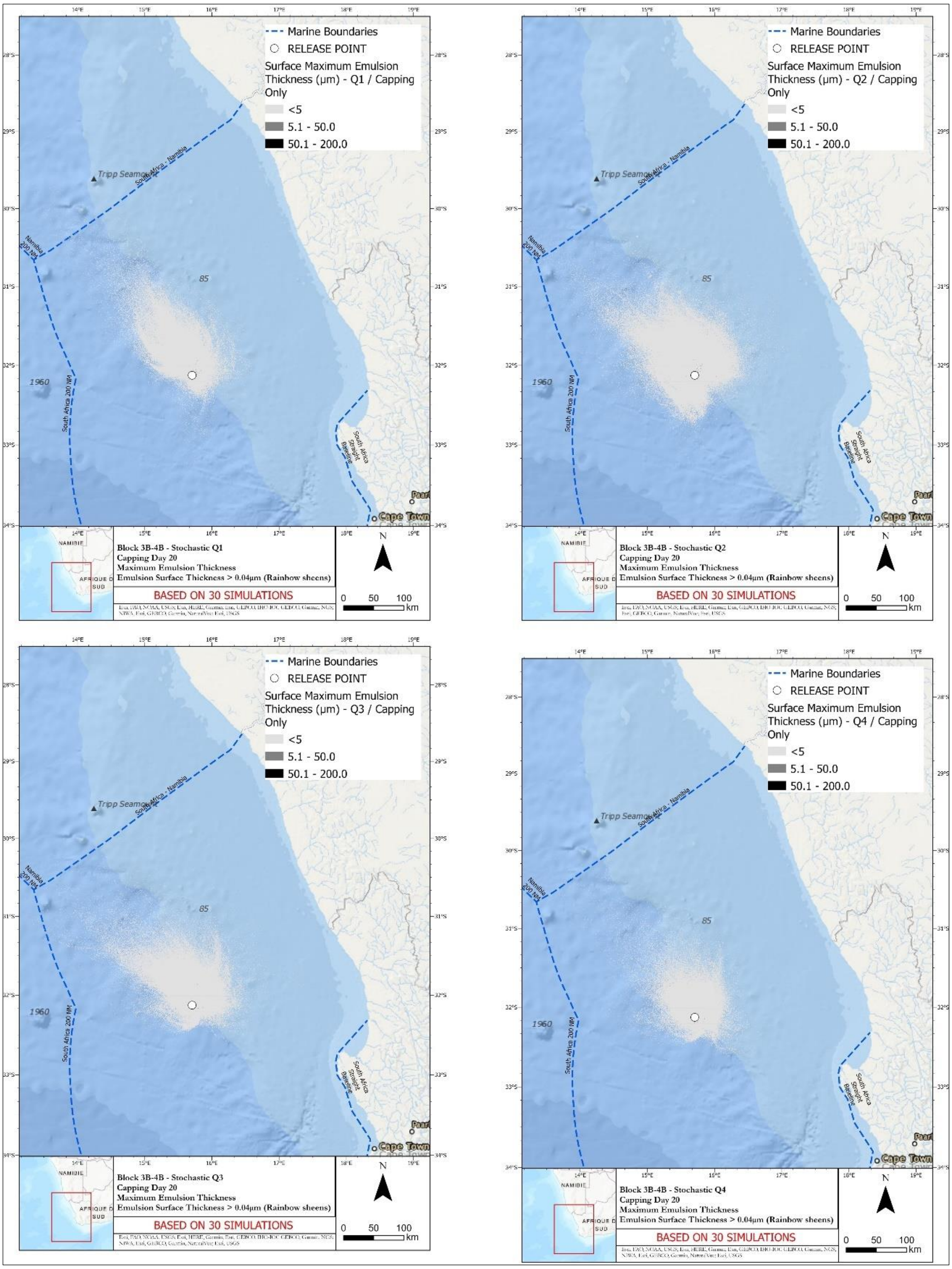

Figure 7: Quarter 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Stochastic Simulation: <u>Emulsion Thickness Results</u>

Figure 8 displays the mass balance at the end of the simulations depending on the starting time of the release for the 4 Quarters of the years (for 3 years from 2019 to 2021), to show some correlations between the different compartments.

Some observations can be made:

- The condensate is only evaporated, dispersed and biodegraded. There is no oil onshore or remaining at the surface at the end of the simulations, for all seasons.
- Dispersion and biodegradation are positively correlated, and negatively correlated with the evaporation.
- Evaporation and Biodegradation are clearly negatively correlated, with highest peaks of evaporation during August and September of each year studied.

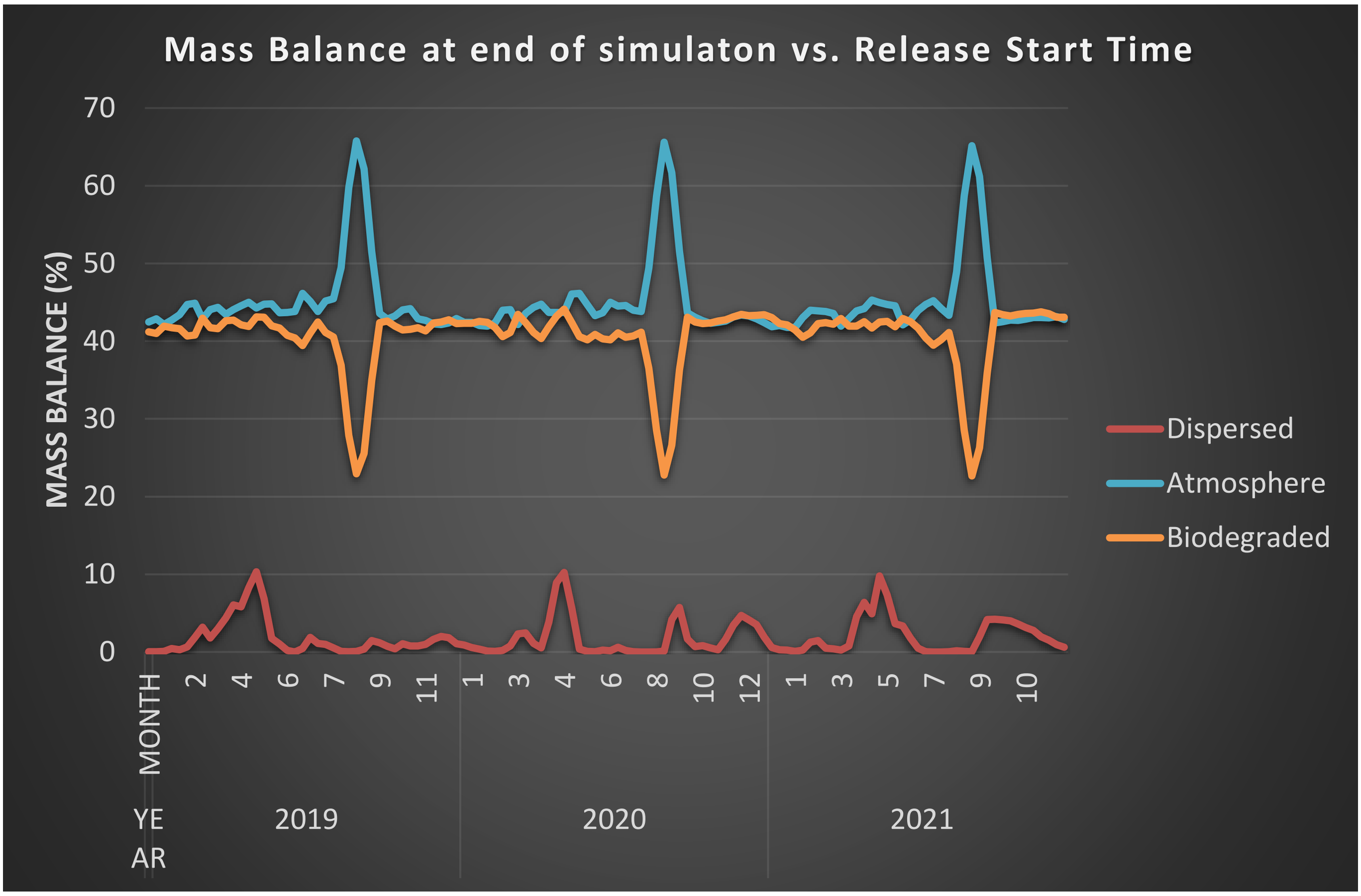

Figure 8: Capping Only: Mass balance at the end of simulation vs. Release start time for 2019 to 2021

Water Column Probability of Contamination – Quarter 3

Only Quarter 3 is presented because the results are similar for all the scenarios.

Figure 9 presents the water column probability of contamination for Quarter 3 studied with the Capping Only case, above the threshold of 58 ppb.

3.1.3

The most contaminated layer is between 725 to 900 m depth. This is probably due to the large amount of gas contained in the release, making the condensate going up very quickly in the first 600 m, and then accumulates in the mid water column before continuing to rise more slowly to the surface. There is no oil presence in the surface of the water column, due to the high dispersion and biodegradation of the condensate before rising the surface.

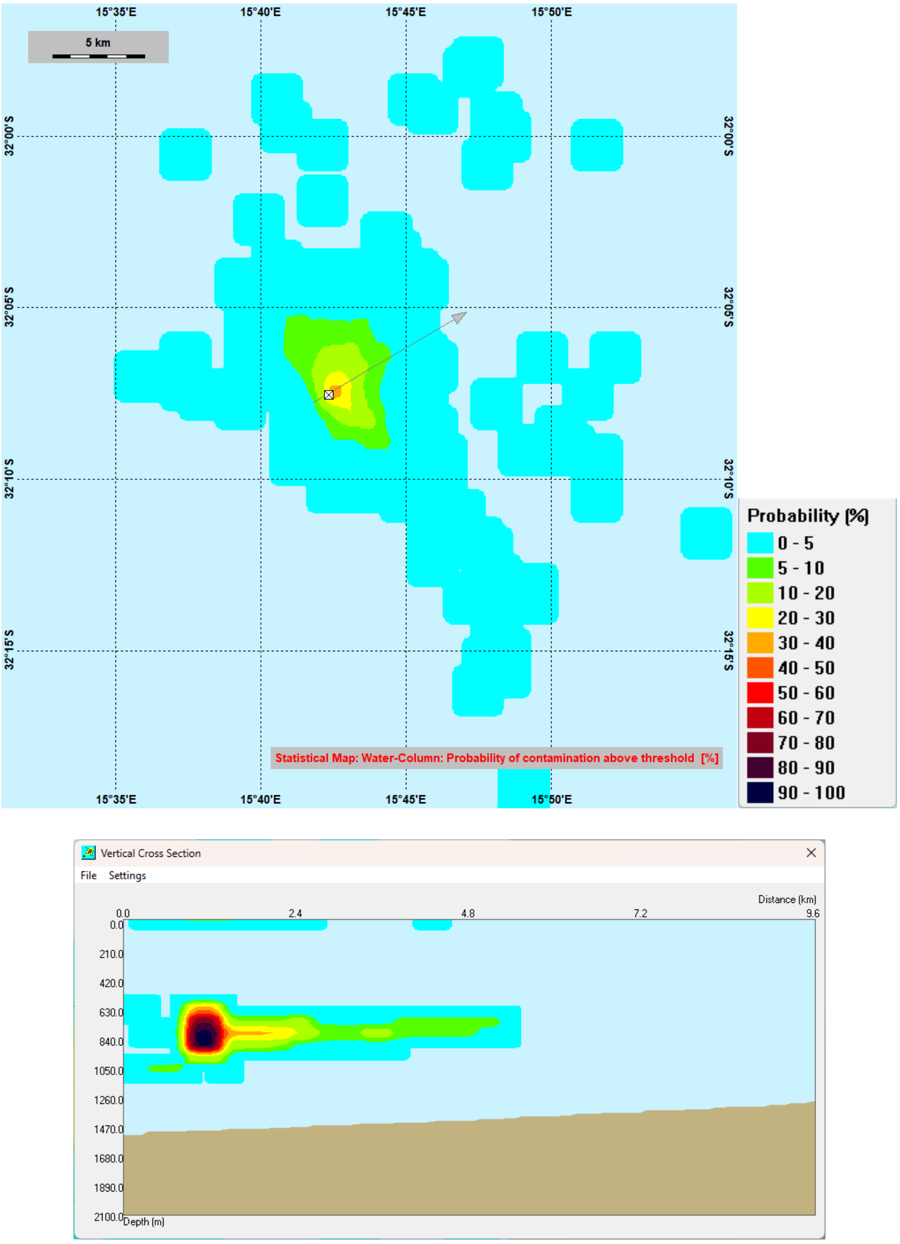

Figure 9: Q3 – Capping only – Water Column Probability of Contamination

Conclusion for Stochastic Simulations for all Quarters for Condensate

The Table 11 below presents the main results of the Oil Spill stochastic Scenarios for all the Quarters.

Table 11 Summary of the results of the Stochastic simulations for Capping Only / All Quarters

Quarter	Max Distance of Oil Presence Probability 80 to 100% in 60 days / Drift Direction (Thickness >0.04µm)	Minimum Surface Arrival Time	Max. Distance Surface Arrival Time in 1 day	Maximum Emulsion Surface Thickness	MAX. % shoreline impact probability	Offshore surface waters reached by a spill
Q1	42 km NNW	3 hours	32 km NNW	21 µm at 5.7 km NE	NA	**South African Waters for the highest probabilities** **Namibia and International Waters only with 3.3 % of probabilities**
Q2	29 km NNW		71 km NW	76 µm above the release point		
Q3	32 km NNW		69 km NW	8 µm at 6 km NE		
Q4	29 km NNW		51 km NW	10 µm at 17 km E		

3.1.5 Response Deployment Testing: SSDI + Surface Response + Capping Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – Quarter 3

The following section presents a comparison of the probability of presence of oil on sea surface and in the water column between the Capping only cases compared to the Surface Response + SSDI + Capping cases, for Quarter 3 (initial planned drilling period). The results will be similar for all other Quarters.

Reminder: Time of response deployment after the start of the spill:

- *The surface response: 24h*
- *SSDI: 15 days*
- *Capping Stack: 20 days (end of release)*

3.1.5.1 Surface Results – Oil Presence Probability – Capping only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping

The Figure 10 present the Surface Oil Presence Probability maps for the Quarter 3, comparing Capping Only cases with the deployment of the Surface Response, SSDI and Capping.

The surface response and SSDI have an unsignificant effect on the surface presence probability. This is because a condensate is naturally well dispersed in the water column and evaporates arriving on the surface, explaining why the SSDI could have a little impact on the dispersion, and the surface response is almost useless compared to a crude oil release. The maximum distance of oil presence probability (80 to 100%) is 33 km N from the release point versus the 30 km of the scenario with capping only, due to the SSDI allowing the oil to drift more far in the water column before rising to the surface.

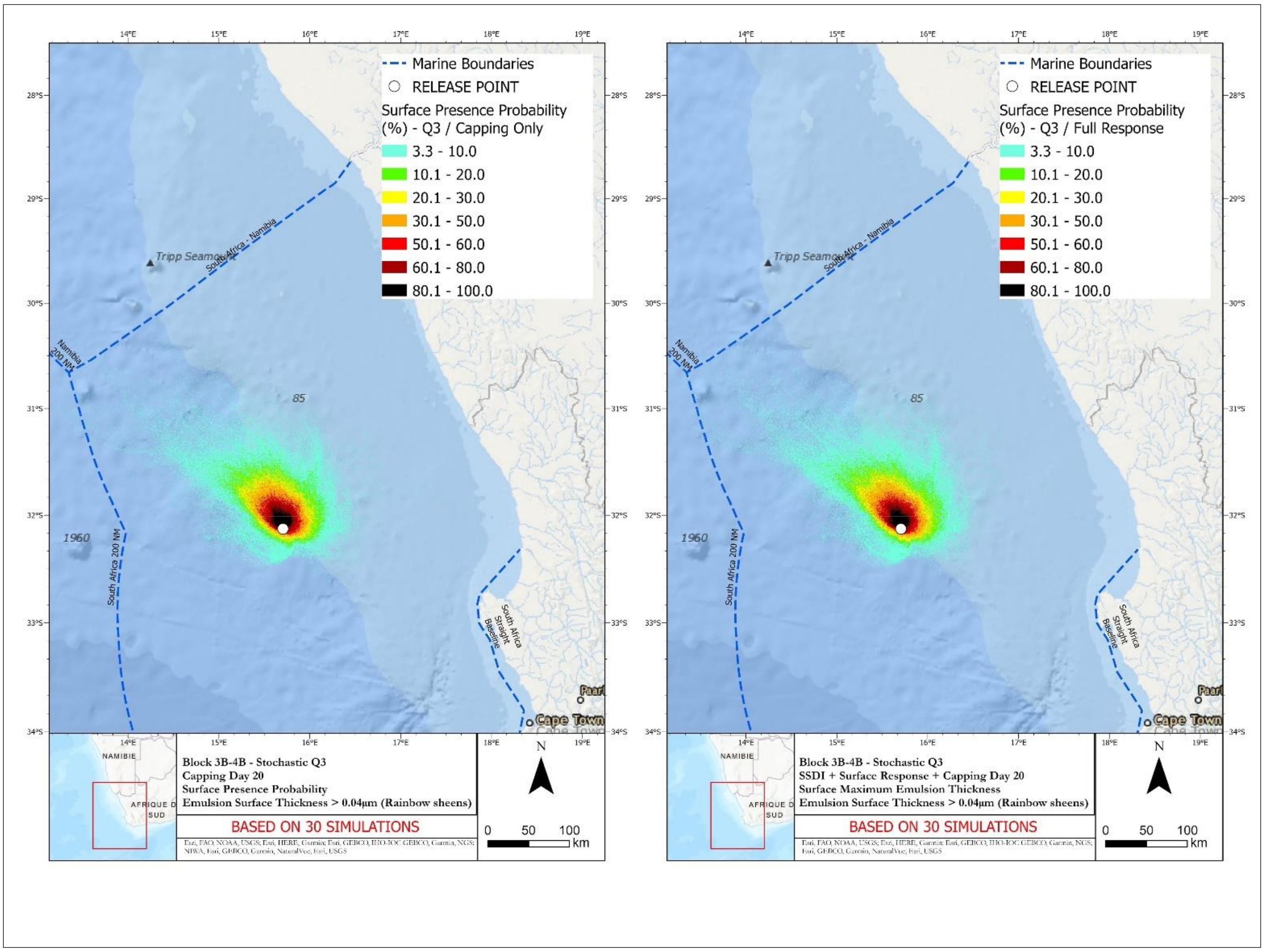

Figure 10: Surface Presence Probabilities - Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping

The Figure 11 present the Minimum Surface Arrival Time maps for the Quarter 3, comparing Capping Only cases with the deployment of the Surface Response, SSDI and Capping.

There is no effect of the response deployed on the minimum arrival time on surface, which is 3 hours in both cases.

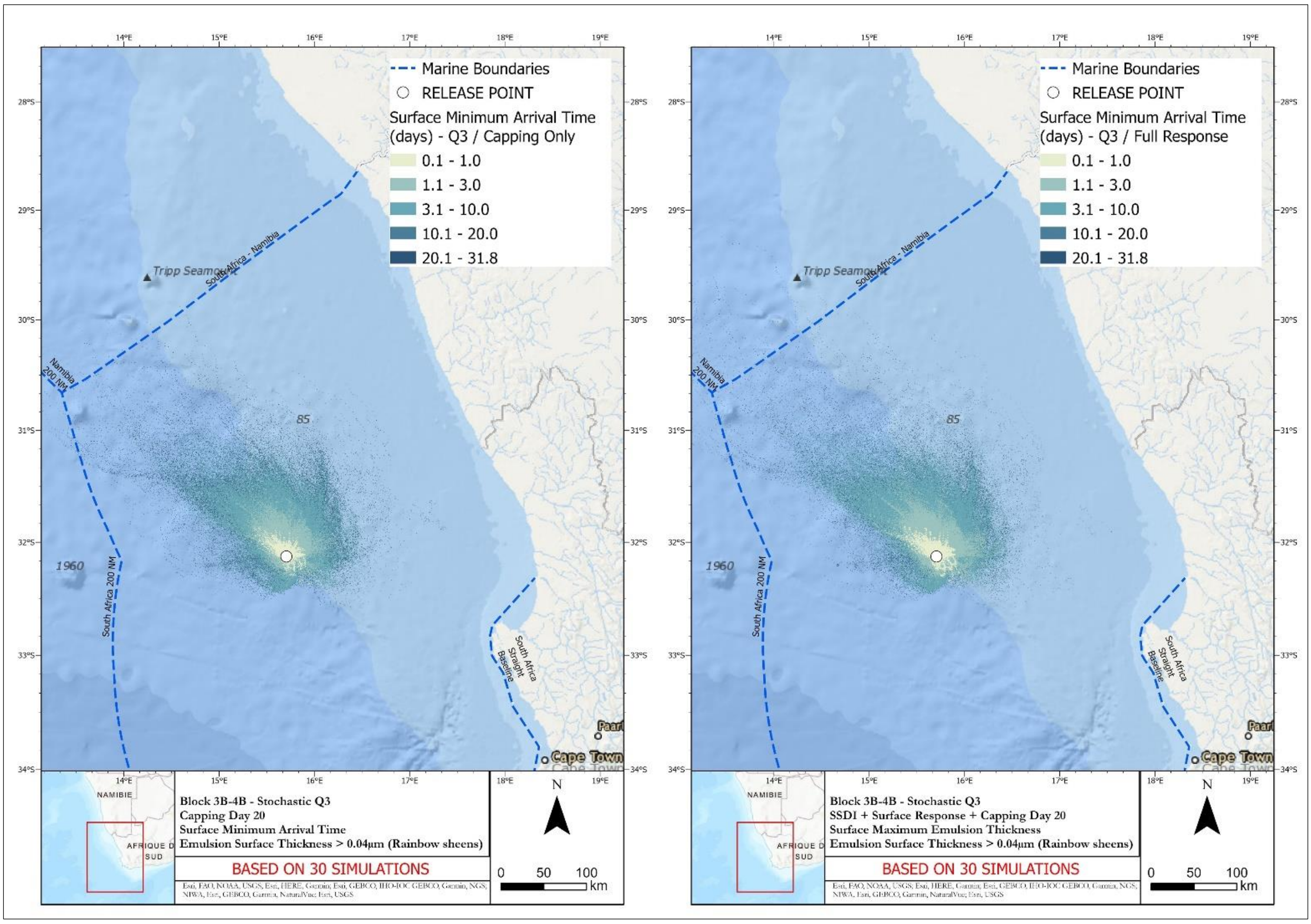

Figure 11: Arrival Time - Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping

The Figure 12 present the Maximum Emulsion Thickness maps for the Quarter 3, comparing Capping Only cases with the deployment of the Surface Response, SSDI and Capping.

There is no major effect of the response deployed on the Maximum Emulsion Thickness on surface. There is a light increase of the maximum thickness (consisting only in some spots) with the full response deployed, with 8µm 20 km W from the release point (vs. 7.5 µm with capping only). This difference is negligible and can be attributed to the effects of random software calculations used to represent the variability of actual environmental conditions.

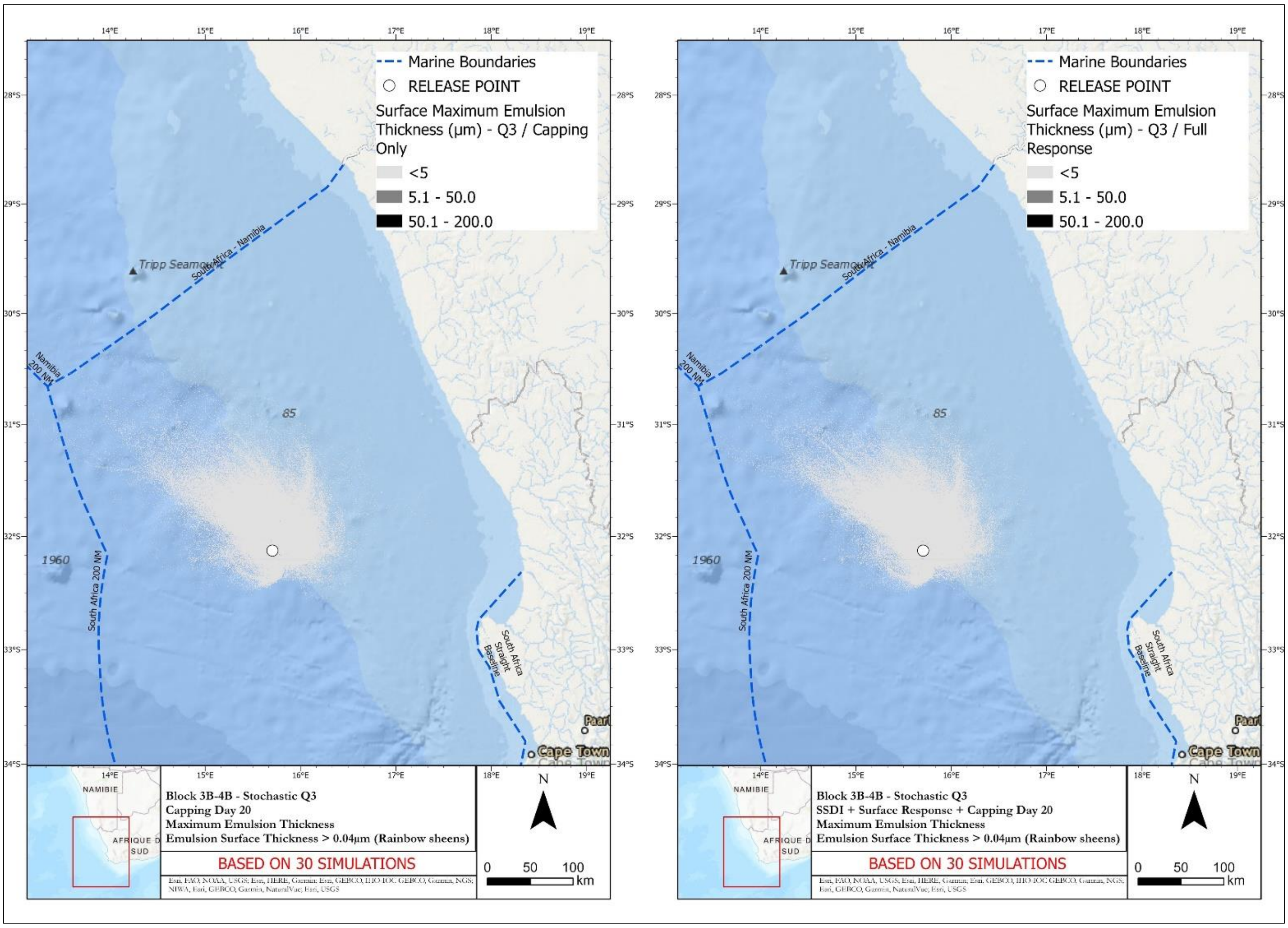

Figure 12: Emulsion Thickness- Stochastic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping

The Figure 13 displays a comparison of oil quantity on surface vs. the release start time between the Capping only cases and the Surface Response + SSDI + Capping cases.

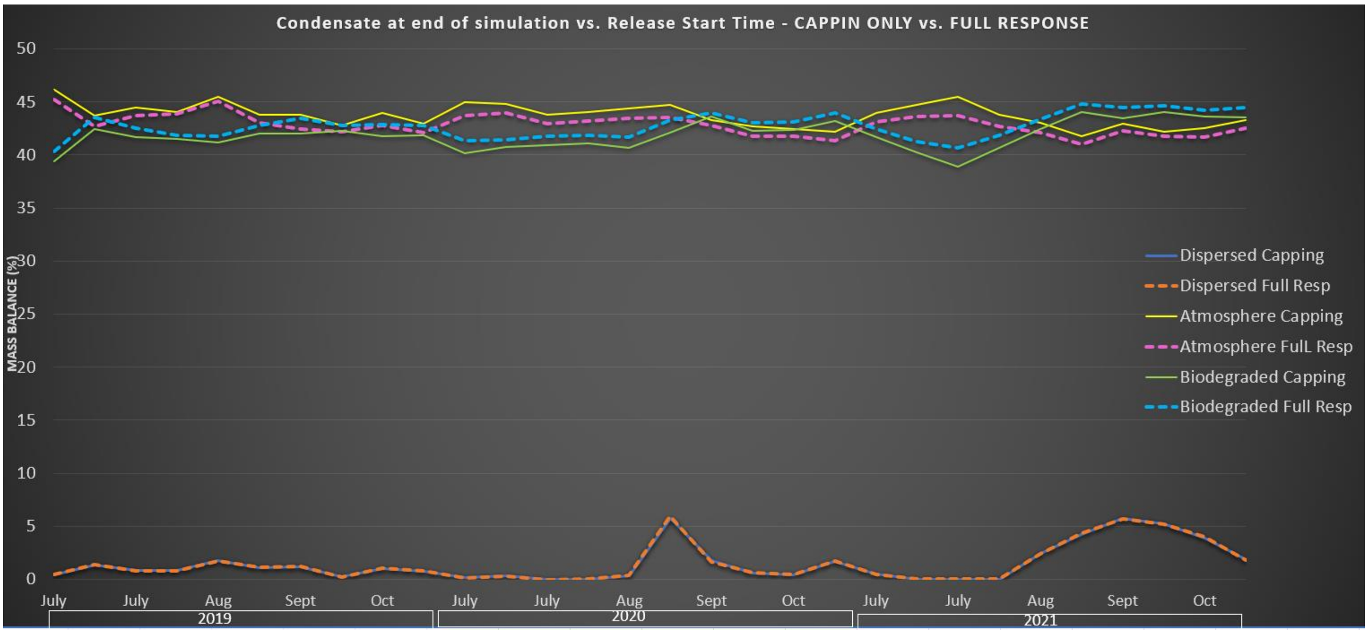

Figure 13 Release Point 1 – Stochastic Simulations - Oil quantity on surface vs. Release Start Time – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping

To summarize, for this quarter 3, there is very light effect of the response deployed:

- The dispersed part is varying very slightly but not even visible on the graph. This is because the release consists in condensate with a lot of gas, with a high natural dispersion in the water column.
- The Atmosphere part is a little reduced, thanks to the very light increase in dispersion.
- The biodegraded part is higher with the response, mainly due to the light increase dispersion in the water column with the SSDI (these two parameters are always positively correlated).

3.1.5.2 Water Column Results – Probability of Oil Contamination - Capping only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping

Figure 14 presents the water column probability of contamination for Quarter 3 studied with the full response deployed, above the threshold of 58 ppb.

The most contaminated layer is between 775 to 875 m depth, compared to 725 to 900 m with capping only. This is probably due to the slight positive effect of the SSDI deployed at the beginning of the blow-out, allowing to disperse quickly the release in the water column, with less accumulation in the mid water column.

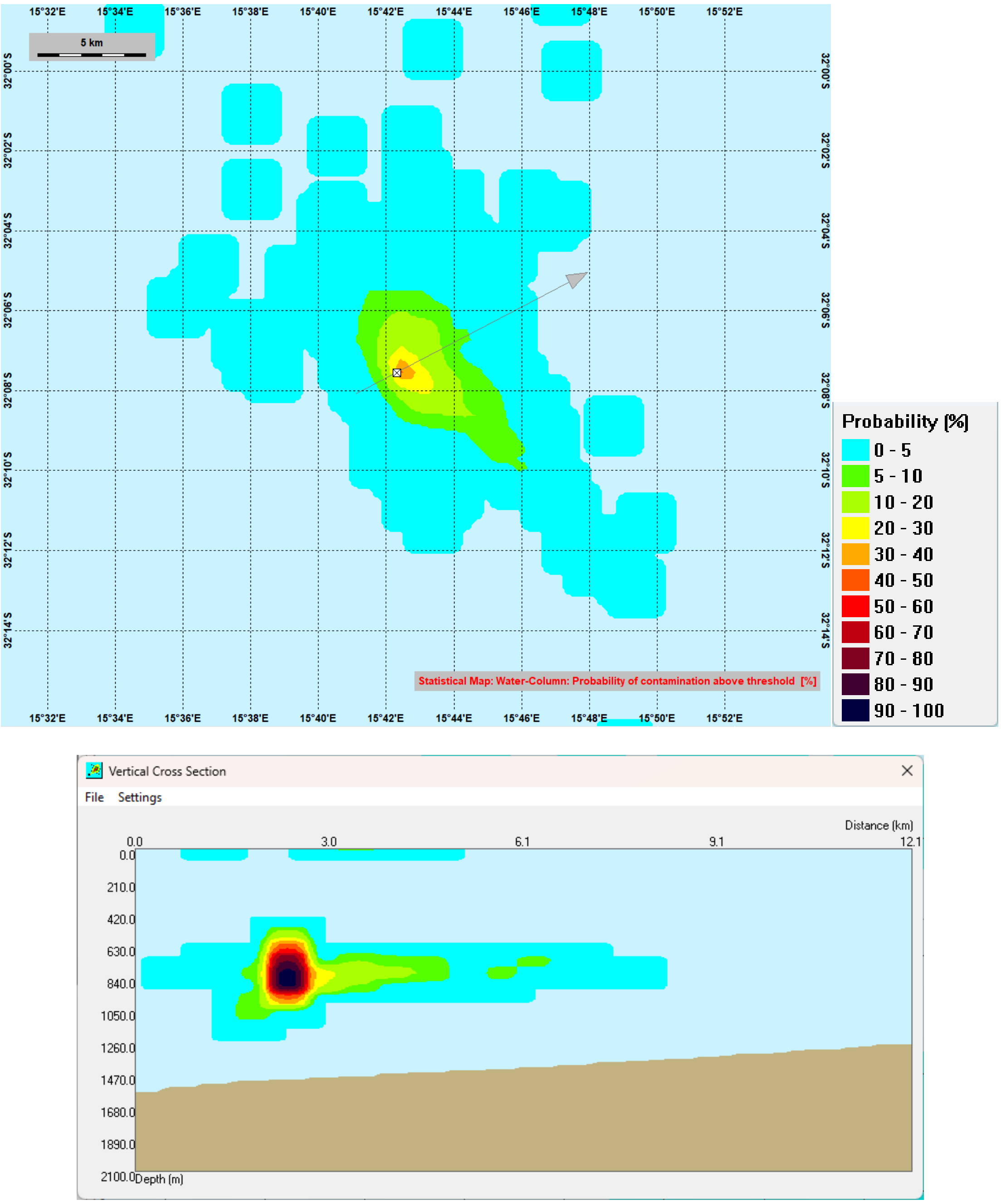

Figure 14: Q3 – Capping only – Water Column Probability of Contamination

The purpose of the response is to disperse the oil into the water column, but despite the Surface Response and SSDI deployment, the oil presence probability seems to be lower in the upper water column at a certain distance from the Release Point. This can be explained by the fact that the SSDI Deployment induces more oil dispersed in the water column directly from the spill point, so less oil reaching the upper layers.

3.1.5.3 Conclusion – Response Testing - Stochastic Simulation – Quarter 3

Table 12 summarizes the surface results of the stochastic simulations for the Capping Only Scenario and Full Response scenario performed on the Quarter 3.

Table 12: Main Stochastic Simulation Results for Q3 – Comparison Capping only vs. Full Response

Quarter 3	Capping Only	Surface Response + SSDI + Capping
Spill	**Blow-out - Condensate Release**	
Flow Rate / Amount	Qcondensate = 1500 bbl/day or 238.8 m^3/day Qgas = 930 000 Sm3/day	
Max Distance of Oil Presence Probability in 60 days / Drift Direction (Thickness >0.04µm)	30 km N	33 km N
Minimum Surface Arrival Time	3 hours	3 hours
Maximum Emulsion Surface Thickness	7.5 µm / 4 to 9 km around the release points	7 to 8 µm / Until 20 km W from release point
MAX. % shoreline impact probability	0	0
Offshore surface waters reached by a spill	**South Africa** for the highest probabilities Namibia and **International Waters** only with 3.3 % of probabilities	
Water Column Maximum Probabilities contaminated layer	725 m to 900 m depth	775 m to 875 m depth

There is **no oil onshore for the Quarter 3** due to main currents and wind driving the spill toward the NW, away from the coasts. The oil travels further, with only3% probability of crossing the Namibian-South African offshore border (even with surface response and SSDI deployment), and even enters the international waters (with the same very low probabilities around 3.3% for both scenarios). The maximum distance for the 80% to 100% oil surface probability is from 30 to 33 km N from the release point, remaining in the South African Waters.

The most contaminated layer is between 725 to 900 m depth for capping only and 775 to 875 m for full response deployed. This is probably due to the large amount of gas contained in the release, making the condensate going up very quickly, and then accumulates in the mid water column before continuing to rise more slowly to the surface.

There is very light effect of the response deployed: the dispersed part is varying very slightly, the atmosphere part is a little reduced, thanks to the very light increase in dispersion. The biodegradation is higher with the response, mainly due to the light increase dispersion in the water column with the SSDI (these two parameters are always positively correlated).

Capping Only Scenarios - Deterministic Simulation – 4 Seasons

a. **Slick drift**

Figure 17 presents the oil slick drift evolution for day 20 (capping stack deployment) for the 4 quarters of the year studied.

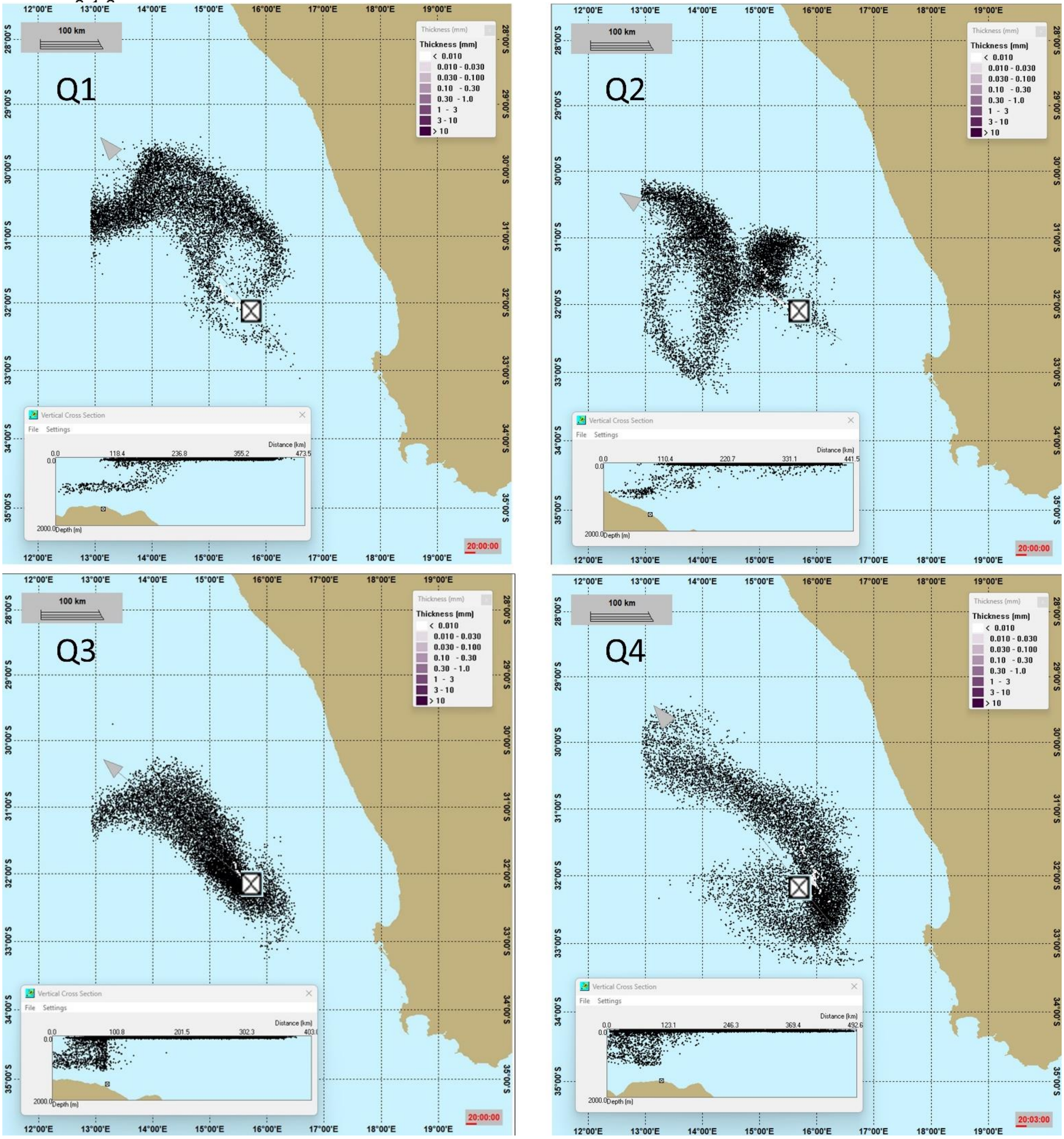

Figure 15: Surface slick drift (in white) and particles inside the water column at day 20 (end of spill) for the 4 quarters (deterministic simulations)

The surface slick and the particles main drift direction is towards NW, avoiding the shoreline located on the East side from the release point.

The main part of oil visible on the maps above **are dissolved in the water column**, because of the properties of the condensate and the natural dispersion.

At the end of simulation, day 60, there is no more oil on surface, but some oil is remaining in the water column, dispersed, present in the International and Namibian Waters.

Here are the time steps after the start of the spill for which the dissolved particles inside the water column crosse the international waters boundary:

- Quarter1: Day 8 and 6 hours;
- Quarter 2: Day 6 and 18 hours;
- Quarter 3: Day 14;
- Quarter 4: Day 11 and 18 hours.

b. **Mass Balance**

The Figure 16 presents the mass balance (each process involved for the oil weathering) for each quarter.

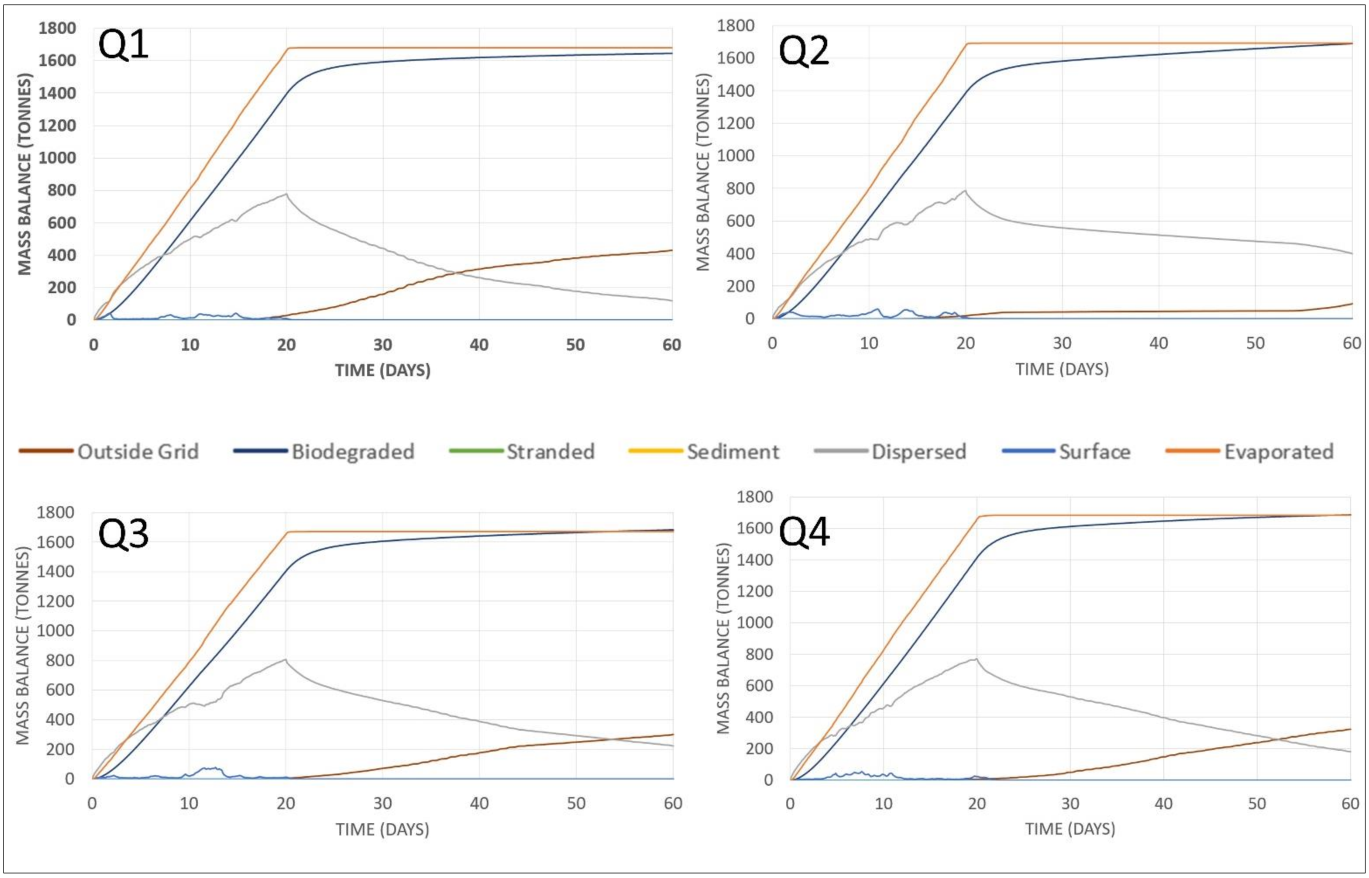

Figure 16: Mass Balance for each quarter – Deterministic simulations

All the graphs show the same trend concerning the oil weathering, no matter the season studied.

Most of the fluid is evaporated, then naturally dispersed and biodegraded in the water column, with very little oil remaining on the surface.

Response Deployment Testing: Deterministic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Full Response deployment for Quarter 3

The selected scenario starts the 13th of September 2021 (9:00 local time) for 20 days of release on 60 days of simulation.

3.1.7 a. Slick drift

Figure 17 presents the oil slick drift evolution for day 1, day 14 (international waters boundary crossing), day 20 (capping stack deployment) and end of simulation (day 60).

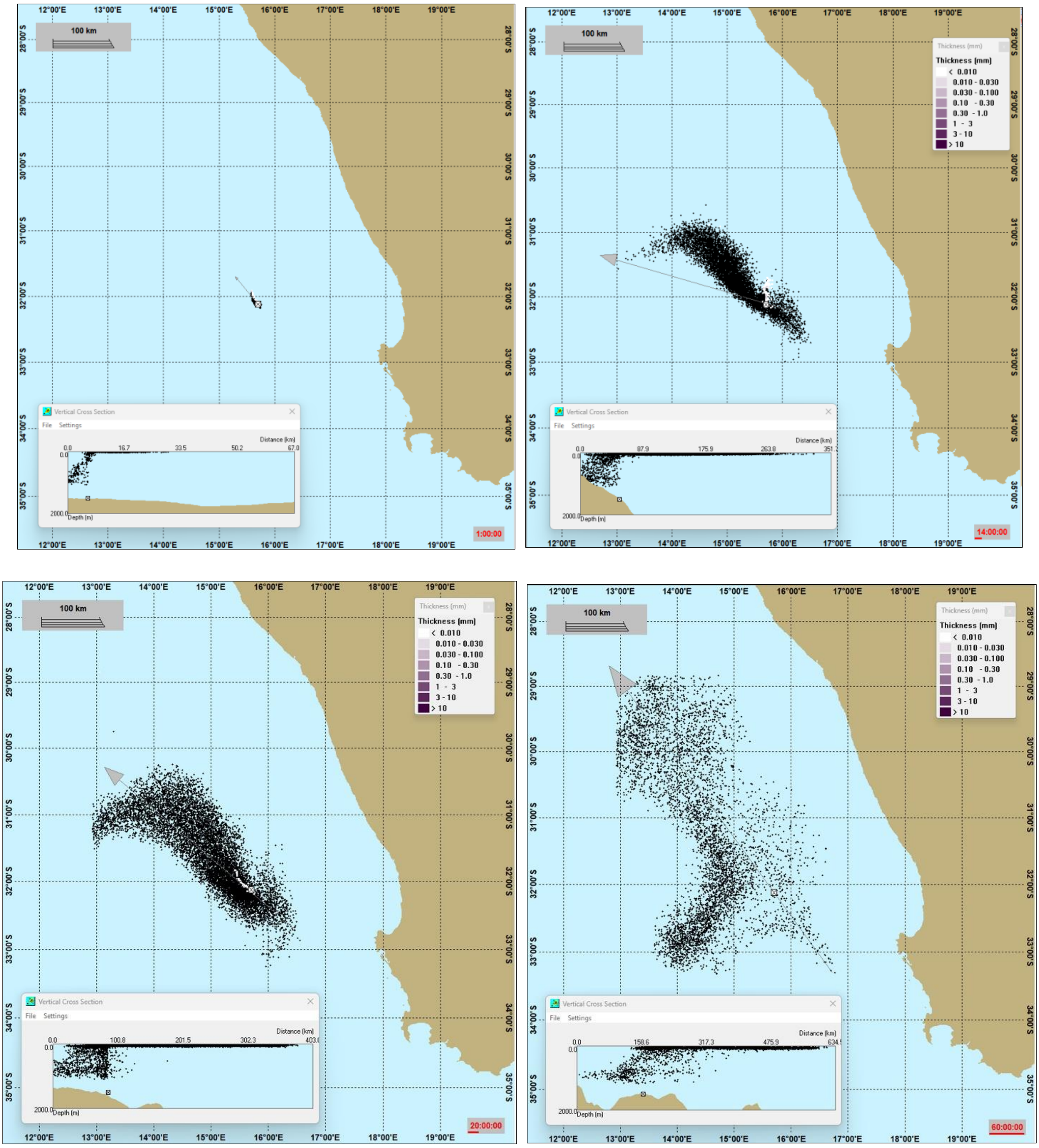

Figure 17: Deterministic Simulation with Surface thickness and dissolved particles for Capping Only

The main drift direction is towards NW and W from the release point, avoiding the impact on the coastline.

The main part of oil visible on the maps above **are dissolved in the water column**, because of the properties of the condensate and the natural dispersion.

At the end of simulation, day 60, there is no more oil on surface, but some oil is remaining in the water column, dispersed, present in the International and Namibian Waters.

The oil is crossing the International Waters boundary **but dissolved inside the water column**, NW from the release point, 14 days after the start of the release.

b. **Mass Balance and Correlations with winds**

Figure 18 shows that the Surface Response and the SSDI deployment has almost no effect on this scenario. That is because of the properties of the condensate, the SSDI deployment has a very light effect on the dispersion which is already important; the surface response which consists of dispersing and recovering oil slicks is of no use because all the condensate disperses in the water column or evaporates upon arrival at the surface.

In this kind of release, the better choice would be to deploy the capping stack as soon as possible instead of trying to increase the dispersion that is already high for this type of product.

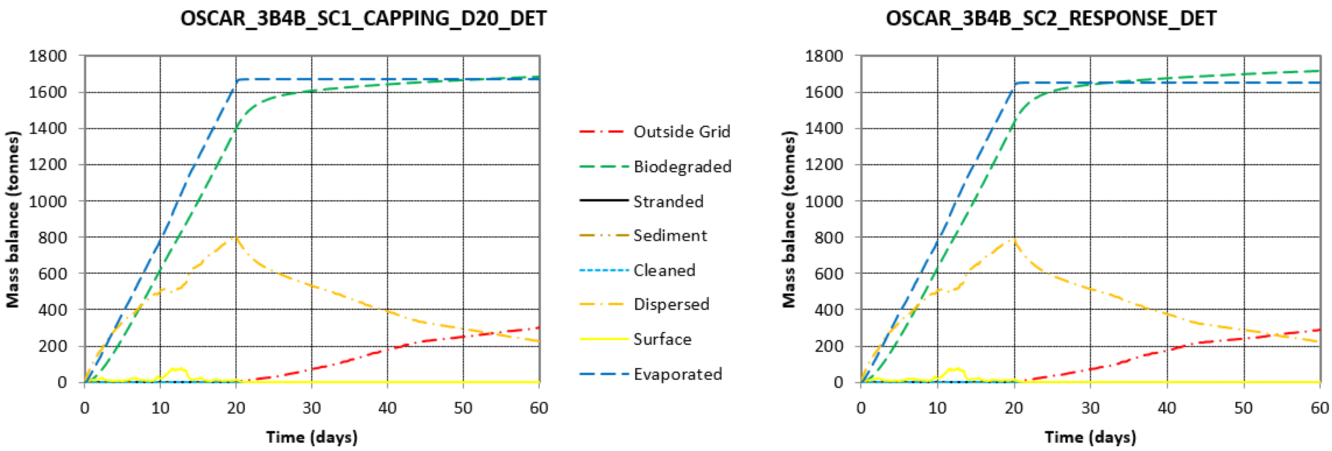

Figure 18: Quarter 3 - Deterministic Simulation – Mass Balance – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping

3.2 CRUDE OIL – RELEASE POINT D

The following sections present the results for stochastic and deterministic scenarios for release point D (1 499 m depth), with a release of Crude Oil, for the 4 seasons considered for the modelling study.

Release Point Coordinates (WGS84):

Longitude: 15° 42’ 19.51”E

Latitude: 32° 07’ 33.38” S

3.2.1 Capping Only Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – 4 Quarters

These scenarios simulate a continuous blowout of 34 000 barrels per day of crude oil during 20 days, through a set of 30 individual spill simulations for the 4 Quarters of the year. Each simulation duration is 60 days under a wide range of metocean conditions.

The results of all the scenarios are summarized in the Table 11 at the end of this part.

IMPORTANT: Surface results presented in this section do not represent a single spill but the combination of the statistical results of the 30 individual trajectories composing the Stochastic Scenario for each season. Threshold values applied for the interpretation results is 0.04 µm for the surface as detailed in Section 2.4.1; there is no shoreline impact for this Release Point.

Figure 19 presents the **probability of presence** of oil above the threshold at sea surface for 4 Quarters.

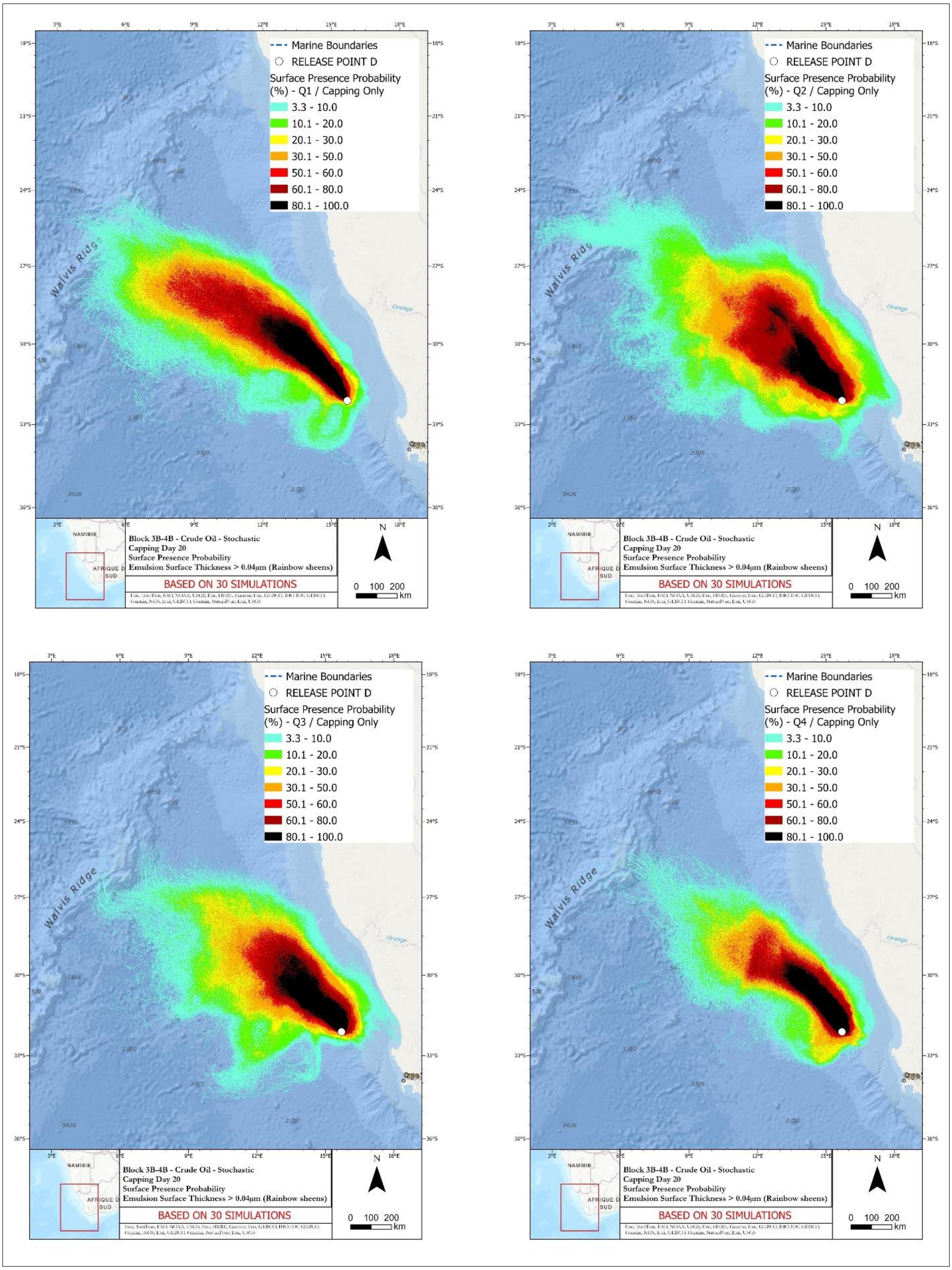

Figure 19: Quarters 1 to 4 - Capping Only – Point D - Stochastic Simulation: Surface Presence Results

Based on the Figure above, one can notice that:

- The main drift direction of the spill simulated is towards WNW to NNW for all quarters. This is due to the main surface currents towards NW and winds from S to SSE in this area.

- In consequence, there is no oil reaching the shore for all these seasons. An oil presence with low probabilities (<10%) can be noted on the East direction from the release Point D, towards the shoreline, for Quarters 2 and 3. This may correspond to a short episode of wind coming from the west, but which does not last long enough to drift the oil to the coast.

- The maximum distance for the 80 to 100% oil surface probability is 687 km NW from the release point for Quarter 1 (January to March).

To select the deterministic cases to study, the focus was made on the quantity of oil on surface at the end of the simulations (as there is no oil onshore, the maximum amount on surface is considered as the worst-case scenario). These results allow the assessment of the maximum amount of oil to be treated on surface, and could potentially reach the shoreline if it is not treated and / or recovered.

The Figure 20 below shows the minimum arrival time of oil on surface.

The Main direction of the drift is NW, with a minimum Surface Arrival Time of 3 hours between 900 m and 1200 m South to South-West from release point during all the quarters. It corresponds to the time for oil to reach the surface from the wellhead located on the seabed.

There is still some oil remaining on surface 60 days after the start of the blowout.

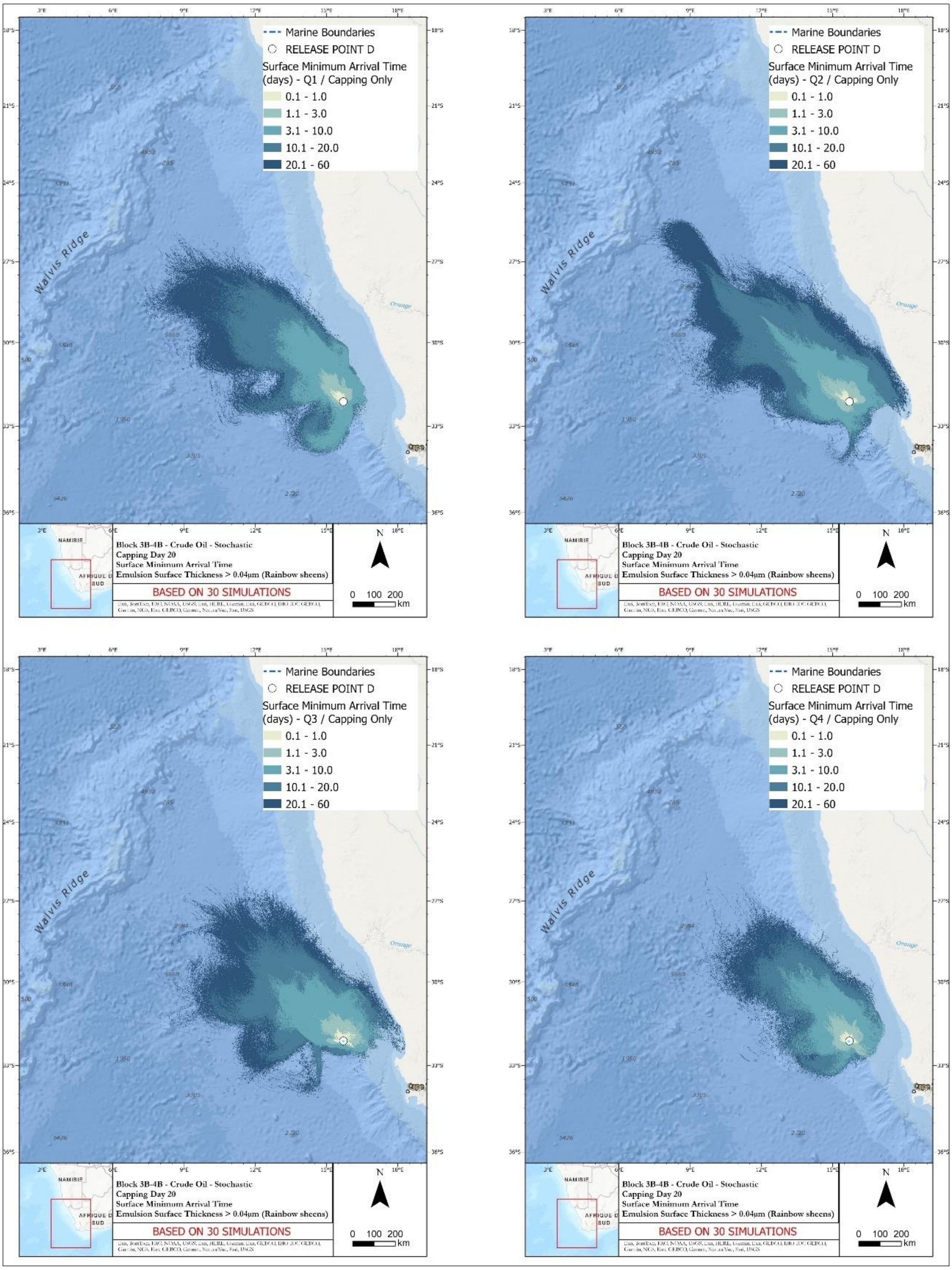

Figure 20: Quarters 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Point D - Stochastic Simulation: Surface Arrival Time Results

The Figure 21 below shows the maximum emulsion thickness on surface.
The maximum emulsion thickness reached is 619 µm at some spots between 40 km W from the release point during Quarter 2 (April to June). It represents a continuous true oil colour appearance, the highest scale range of the Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code (Appendix 1 - Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code (BAOAC)). All the values for the other quarters are available in Table 11.

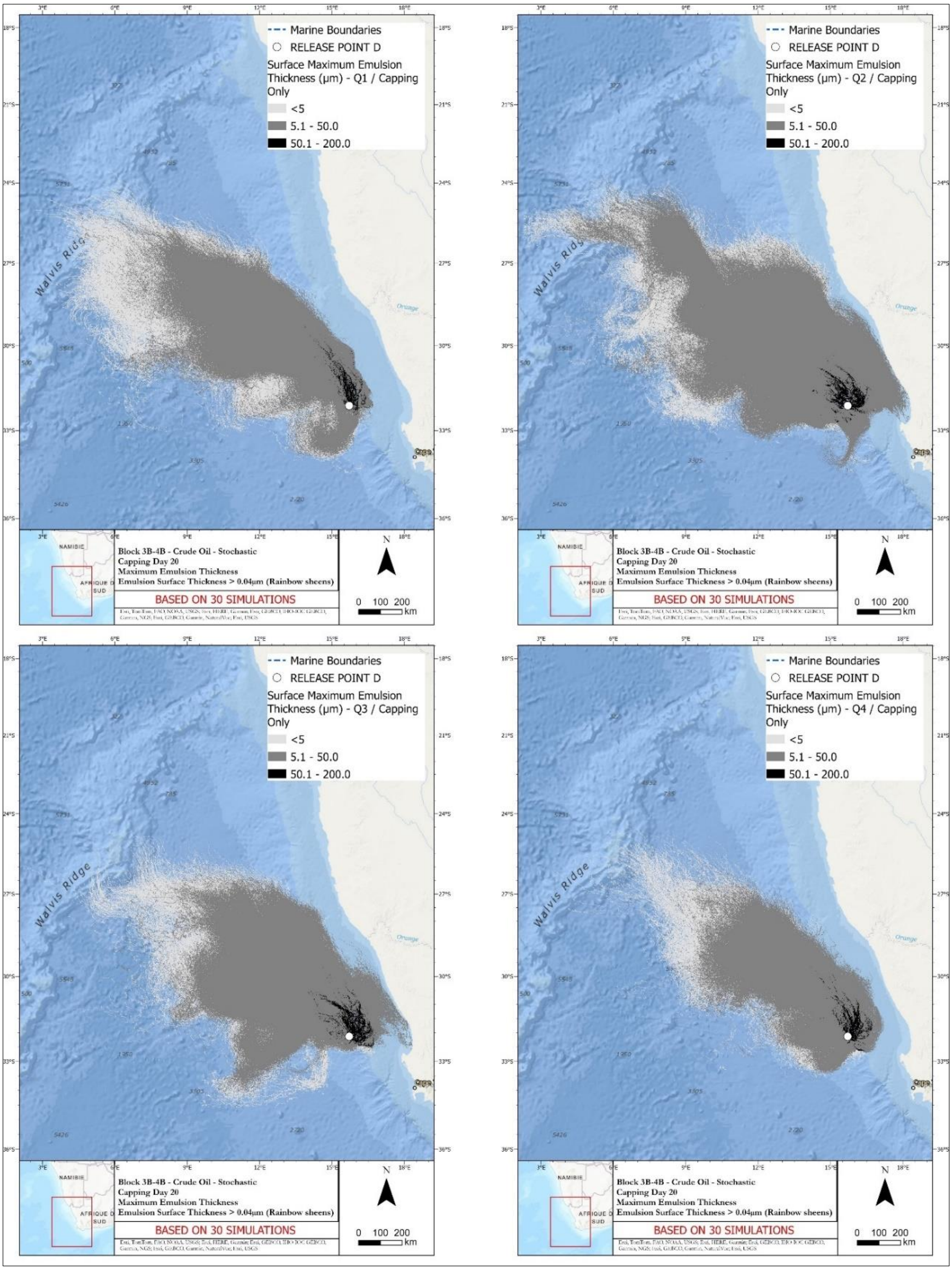

Figure 21: Quarter 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Point D - Stochastic Simulation: Emulsion Thickness Results

Figure 22 displays the mass balance at the end of the simulations depending on the starting time of the release for the 4 Quarters of the years (for 3 years from 2019 to 2021), to show some correlations between the different compartments.

The following observations can be made:

- After 60 days, the main part of oil is evaporated, biodegraded and dispersed. Some oil is remaining at the surface, the main part between 700 km and 1000 km NW from the release Point D, but attention should be paid for the Quarters 2 and 3 if the oil on surface is not recover 60 days after the start of the spill, some remaining oil on surface could reach the South African coastline, North from Saldanha Figure 20).
- **There is no oil onshore at the end of the simulations, for all seasons.**
- Dispersion and biodegradation are positively correlated, and negatively correlated with the evaporation.
- Evaporation and Biodegradation are clearly negatively correlated.
- The highest amount of oil remaining on surface after 60 days happened for a start time of spill during the month of April for each year studied (Quarter 2).

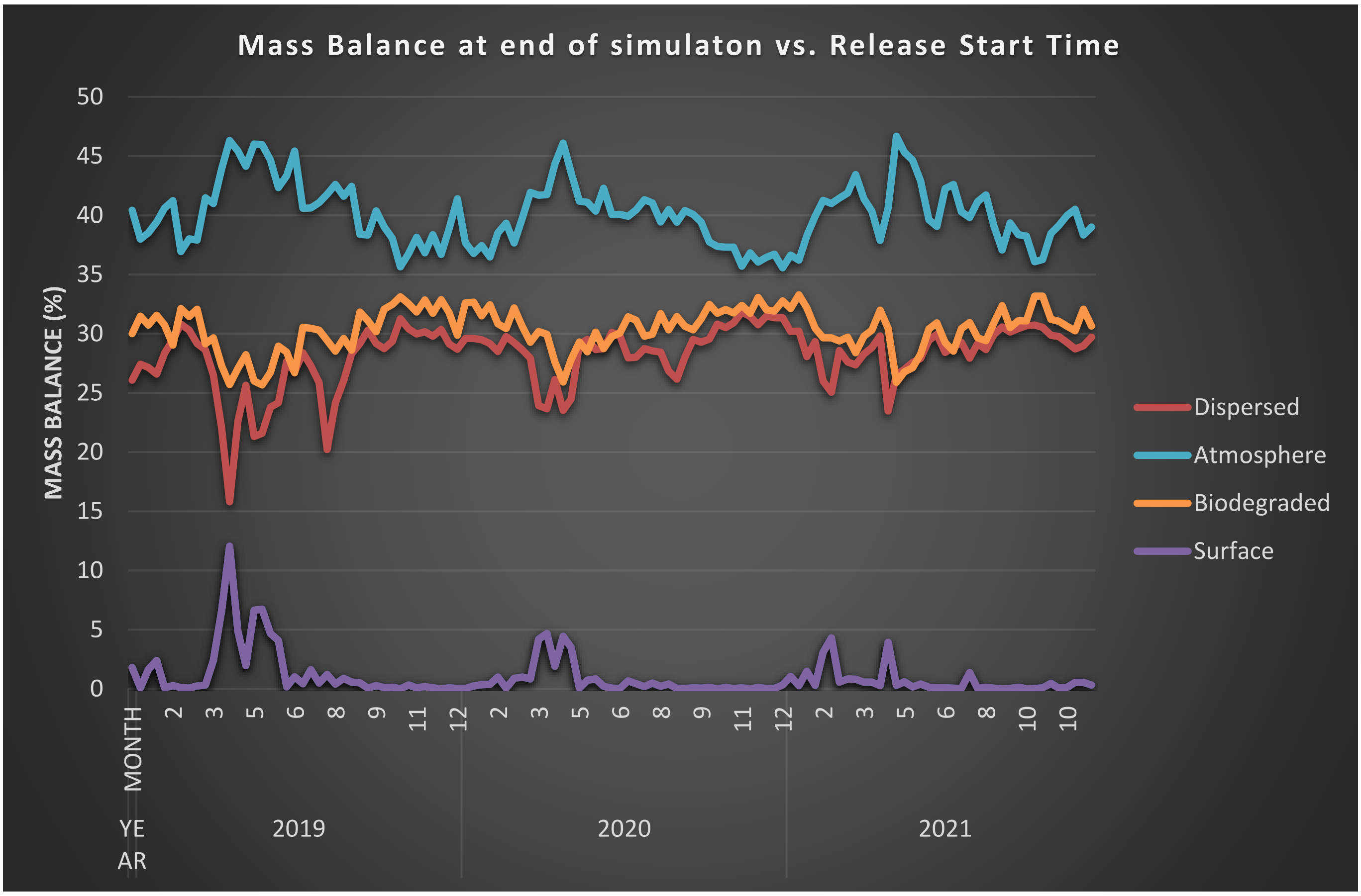

Figure 22: Capping Only – Point D: Mass balance at the end of simulation vs. Release start time for 2019 to 2021

3.2.2 Conclusion for Stochastic Simulations for all Quarters for Crude oil

Table 11 below presents the main results of the Crude Oil Spill stochastic Scenarios for all the Quarters.

Table 13 Summary of the results of the Stochastic simulations for Capping Only / All Quarters for Point D

Quarter	Max Distance of Oil Presence Probability 80 to 100% in 60 days / Drift Direction (Thickness >0.04µm)	Minimum Surface Arrival Time	Max. Distance Surface Arrival Time in 1 day	Maximum Emulsion Surface Thickness	MAX. % shoreline impact probability	Offshore surface waters reached by a spill
Q1	687 km NW	3 hours	83 km NW	412 µm at 80 km NNE from release point	NA	**South African Waters for the highest probabilities** **Namibia and International Waters**
Q2	589 km NNW		80 km NW & 38 km E	619 µm 40 km W from release point		
Q3	510 km NNW		70 km NW & 60 km SE	589 µm 33 km ENE from release point		
Q4	452 km NNW		65 km NW & 38 km SE	464 µm 51 km NE from release point		

3.2.3 Response Deployment Testing: SSDI + Surface Response + Capping Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – Quarter 3

Capping Only Scenarios - Deterministic Simulation – 4 Seasons

a. **Slick drift**

Figure 27 presents the oil slick drift evolution for day 20 (capping stack deployment) for the 4 quarters of the year studied.

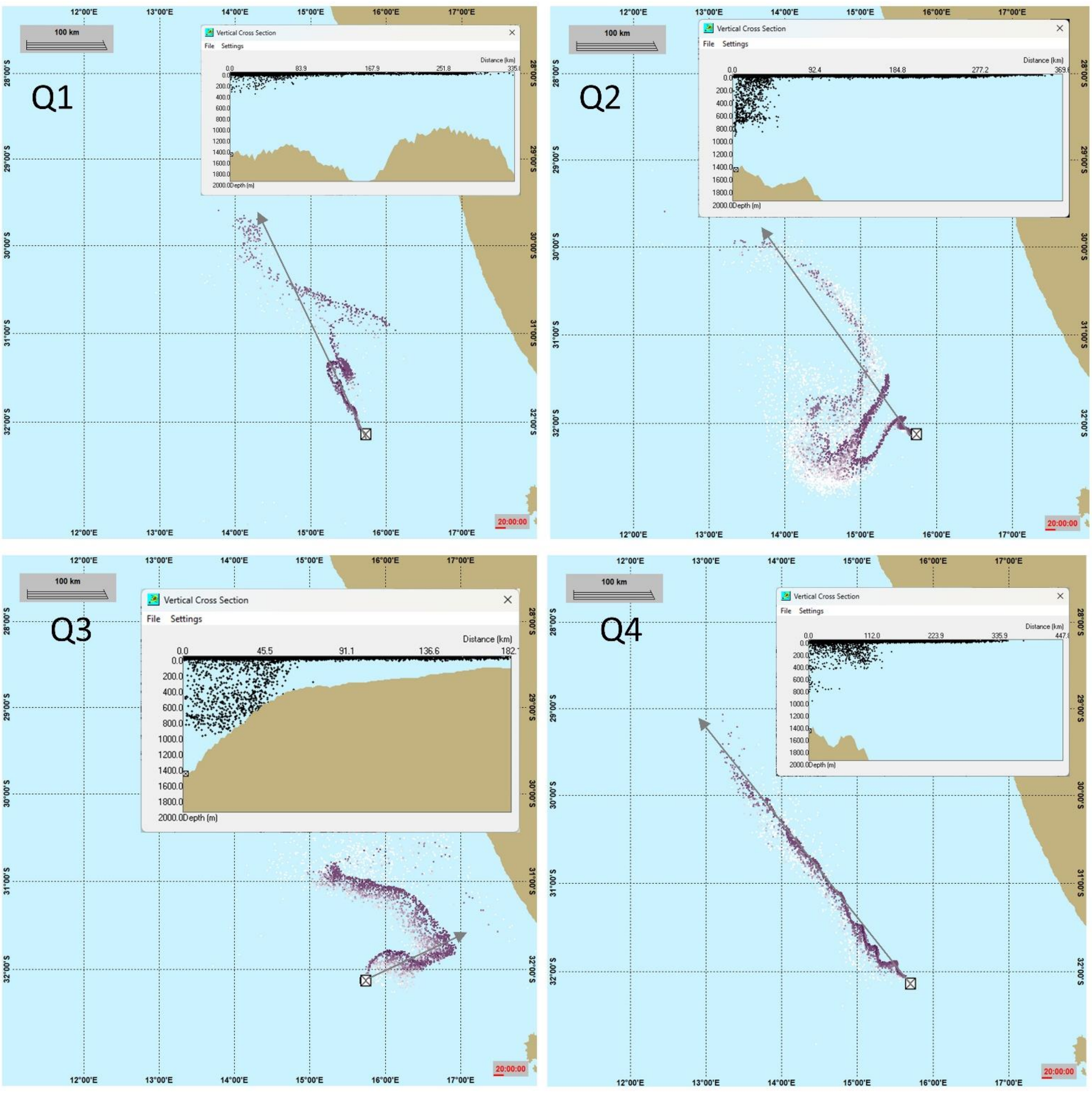

Figure 27: Point D: Surface slick drift and particles inside the water column (bottom left windows) at day 20 (end of spill) for the 4 quarters (deterministic simulations)

The surface slick and the particles main drift direction is towards N and NW, avoiding the shoreline located on the East side from the release point. During the Quarter 3, around day 20 the oil slick drifts towards ENE (shoreline direction), but then changes direction to go seaward again, to the NW, avoiding the shoreline.

The main part of oil is on surface for the crude oil release unlike the cases of condensate release, which was dispersed in the water column.

At the end of simulation, day 60, there is still oil on surface, with low thickness, mainly in the Namibian and International Waters.

Here are the time steps after the start of the spill for which the dissolved particles inside the water column cross the International and Namibian Waters boundary:

- Quarter1: Namibian Waters: Day 7 and 21 hours; International Waters: Day 12 and 12 hours.
- Quarter 2: Namibian Waters: Day 6 and 21 hours; International Waters: Day 8 and 15 hours.
- Quarter 3: Namibian Waters: Day 14 and 21 hours; International Waters: Day 15 and 03 hours.
- Quarter 4: Namibian Waters: Day 14 and 00 hours; International Waters: Day 23 and 12 hours.

b. **Mass Balance**

The Figure 28 presents the mass balance (each process involved for the oil weathering) for each quarter.

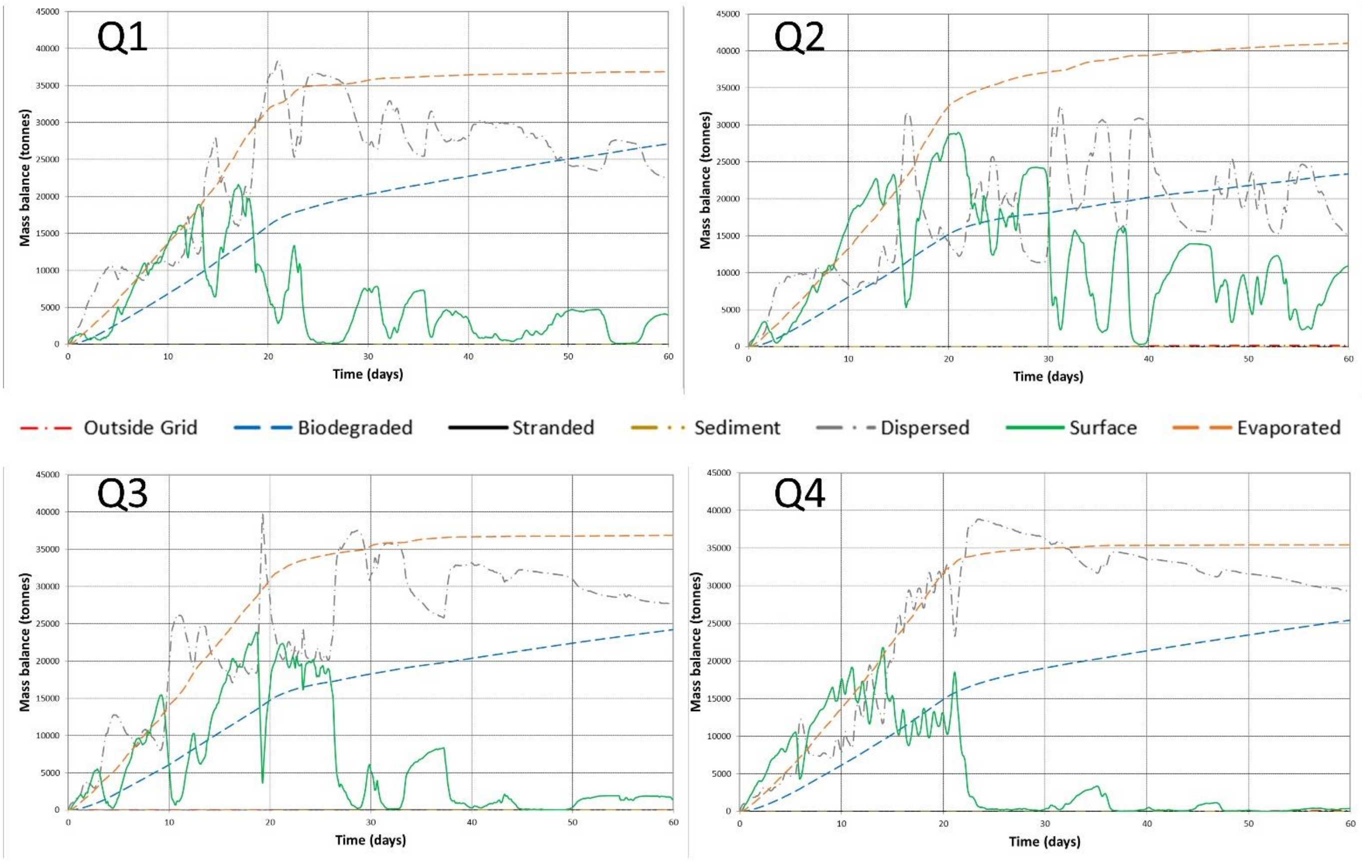

Figure 28: Point D: Mass Balance for each quarter – Deterministic simulations of crude oil release

All the graphs show the same trend concerning the oil weathering, no matter the season studied.

Most of the fluid is evaporated, then naturally dispersed and biodegraded in the water column. There are however some differences concerning the oil on surface from one season to another, especially for Quarters 3 and 4, during which there is almost no oil on the surface after day 30, probably due to strong winds and waves, causing an increase in natural oil dispersion.

Response Deployment Testing: Deterministic Simulation – Capping Only vs. Full Response deployment for Quarter 3

The selected scenario starts the 13th of September 2021 (9:00 local time) for 20 days of release on 60 days of simulation.

3.2.5

a. Slick drift

Figure 29 presents the oil slick drift evolution for day 20 (capping stack deployment) for capping only and full response deployment.

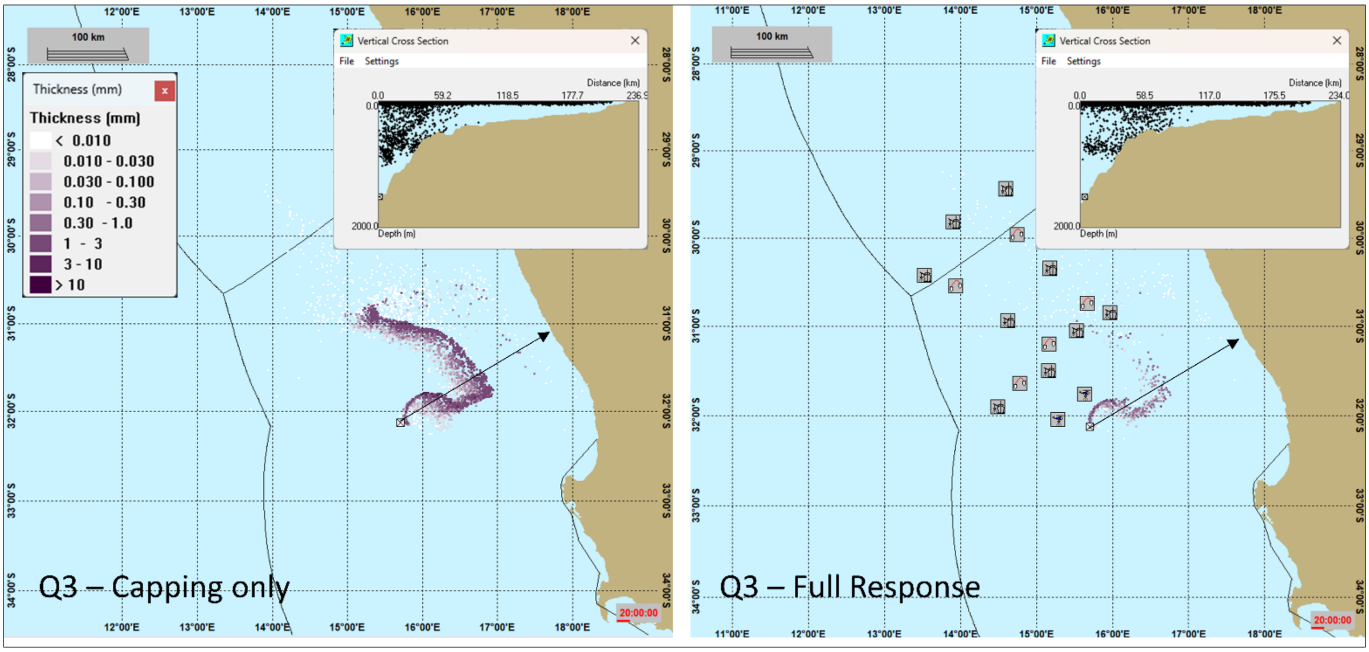

Figure 29: Deterministic Simulation with Surface thickness and dissolved particles for Capping Only

The main drift direction does not change with the response deployment, avoiding the impact on the coastline. There is a significant decrease of the oil slick thickness on surface and of the dissolved particles thanks to the response deployment.

The edge of the oil slick with significant thickness closest to the coast is located at 41 km from the shoreline (ENE from the release point) for the capping only case, and is located at 121 km from the coast for the full response case (E from the release point). The surface response coupled with the SSDI allow significant reduction of the thickness of the slick.

At the end of simulation, day 60, there is still oil on surface, with low thickness, mainly in the Namibian and International Waters.

Here are the time steps after the start of the spill for which the surface oil slick cross the International and Namibian Waters boundary (with low thickness):

- **Quarter 3 for capping only**: Namibian Waters: Day 14 and 21 hours; International Waters: Day 15 and 03 hours.

- **Quarter 3 for full response**: Namibian Waters: Day 14 and 21 hours; International Waters: Day 14 and 12 hours.

The time steps are shorter for the full response case due to the lower thickness of oil slick on surface, drifting faster than for the capping only case.

b. **Mass Balance**

Figure 30 shows that the Surface Response and the SSDI deployment allows to significantly reduce the oil amount on surface and evaporated and increase the dispersion of oil in the water column for the season 3.

The biodegradation increases because of the higher quantity of oil dispersed with the Surface Response and SSDI deployment. There is no oil onshore, and the oil amount in sediment is negligible. The same interpretation can be applied to the seasons 1, 2 and 4 for this area.

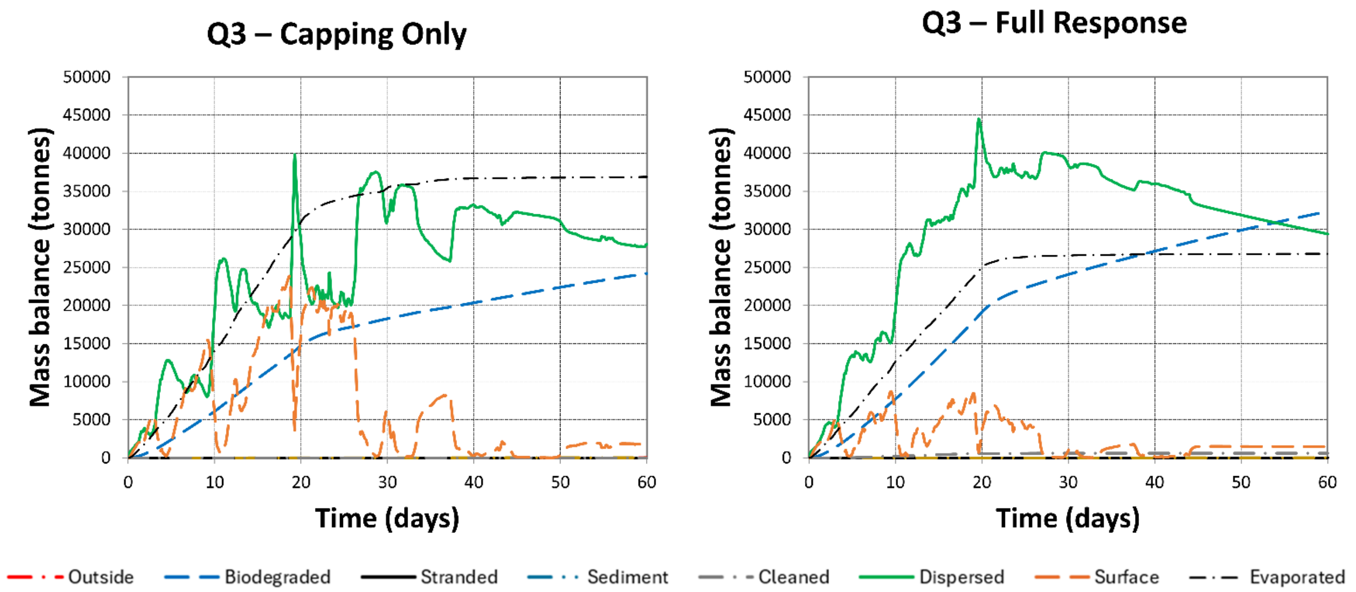

Figure 30: Quarter 3 - Deterministic Simulation – Mass Balance – Capping Only vs. Surface Response + SSDI + Capping

3.3 CRUDE OIL – RELEASE POINT A

The following sections present the results for stochastic and deterministic scenarios for release point A (1 626 m depth), with a release of Crude Oil, for the 4 seasons considered for the modelling study.

Release Point Coordinates (WGS84):

Longitude: 15° 5’ 10.52”E

Latitude : 31° 05’ 13.79” S

3.3.1 Capping Only Scenario - Stochastic Simulation – 4 Quarters

These scenarios simulate a continuous blowout of 34 000 barrels per day of crude oil, through a set of 30 individual spill simulations for the 4 Quarters of the year. Each simulation duration is 60 days under a wide range of metocean conditions.

The results of all the scenarios are summarized in the Table 15 at the end of this part.

IMPORTANT: Surface results presented in this section do not represent a single spill but the combination of the statistical results of the 30 individual trajectories composing the Stochastic Scenario for each season. Threshold values applied for the interpretation results is 0.04 µm for the surface as detailed in Section 2.4.1; there is no shoreline impact for this Release Point.

Figure 31 presents the **probability of presence** of oil above the threshold at sea surface for 4 Quarters.

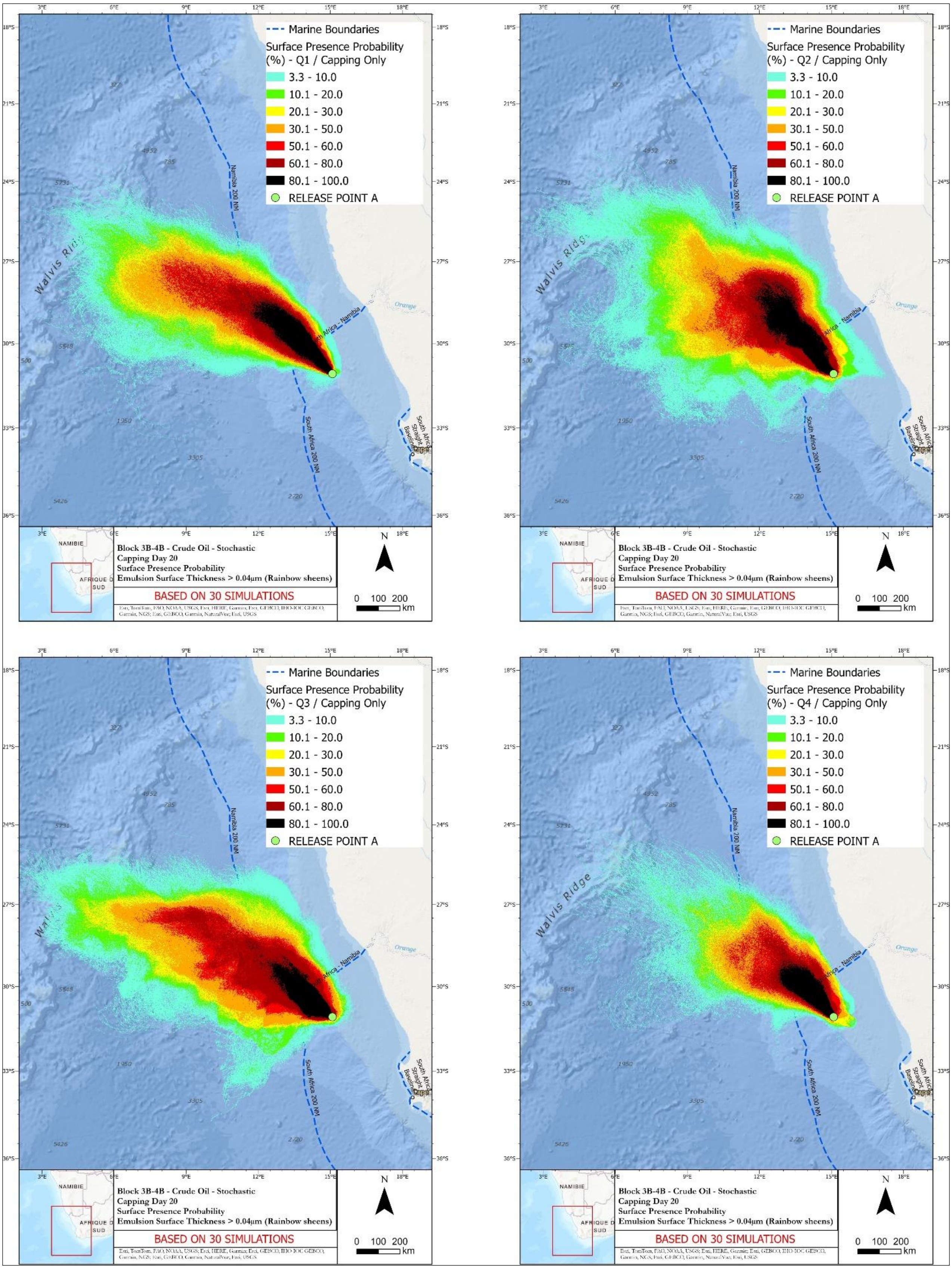

Figure 31: Quarters 1 to 4 - Capping Only – Point A - Stochastic Simulation: <u>Surface Presence Results</u>

Based on the Figure above, one can notice that:

- The main drift direction of the spill simulated is towards WNW to NNW for all quarters. This is due to the main surface currents towards NW and winds from S to SSE in this area.

- In consequence, there is no oil reaching the shore for all seasons. An oil presence with low probabilities (<10%) can be noted in the East direction from the release Point A for Quarter 2 only, towards the shoreline. This may correspond to a short episode of wind coming from the west, but which does not last long enough to drift the oil to the coast.

- The maximum distance for the 80 to 100% oil surface probability is 580 km NW from release point for Quarter 1 (January to March).

To select the deterministic cases to study, the focus was made on the quantity of oil on surface at the end of the simulations (as there is no oil onshore, the maximum amount on surface is considered as the worst-case scenario). These results allow the assessment of the maximum amount of oil to be treated on surface, and could potentially reach the shoreline if it is not treated and / or recovered.

The Figure 32 below shows the minimum arrival time of oil on surface.

The Main direction of the drift is NW, with a minimum Surface Arrival Time of 3 hours between 3000 m South and 7000 m North (for the maximum distances, occurring for Quarter 1) from release point during all the quarters. It corresponds to the time for oil to reach the surface from the wellhead located on the seabed.

There is still some oil remaining on surface 60 days after the start of the blowout.

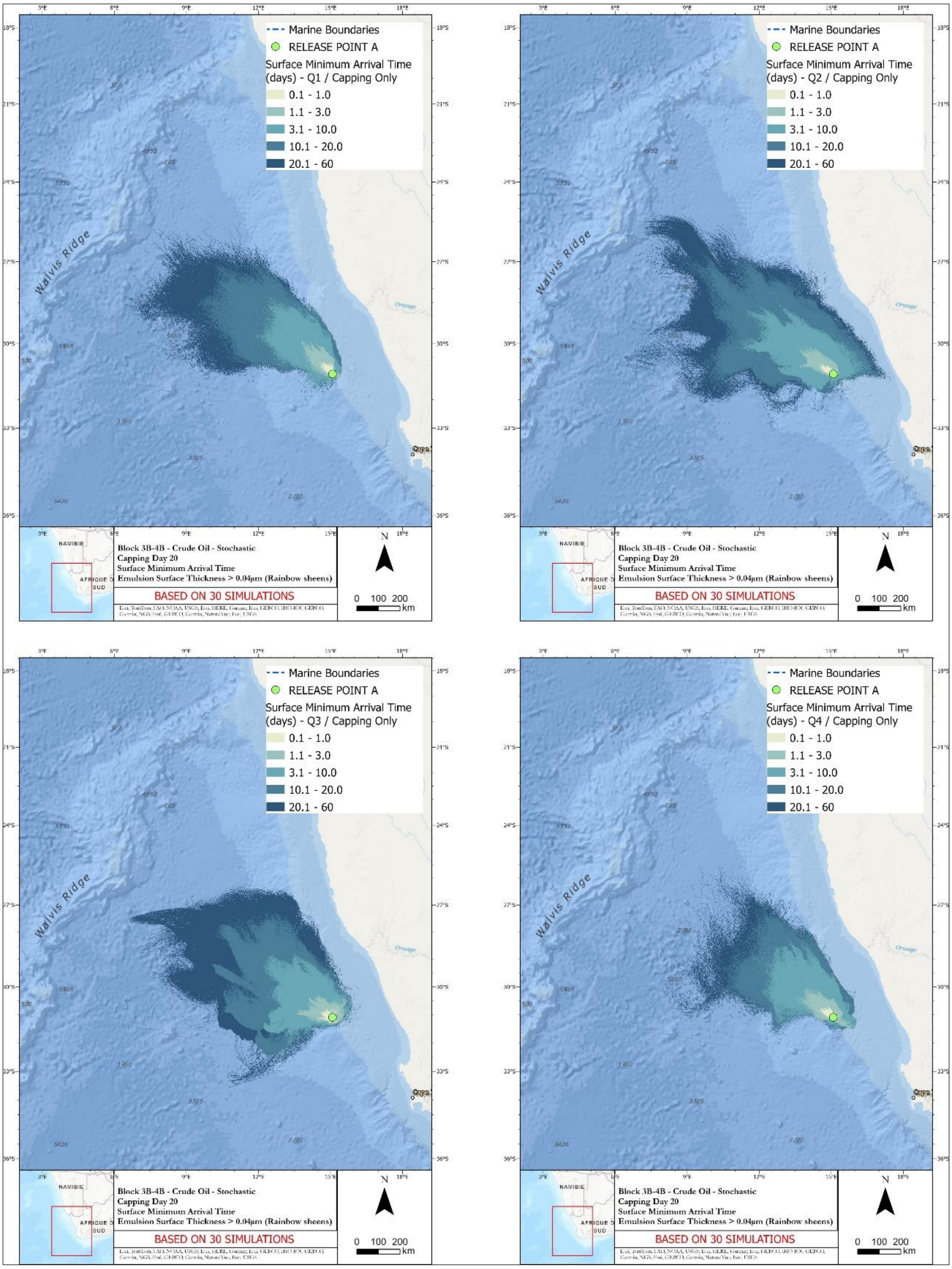

Figure 32: Quarters 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Point A - Stochastic Simulation: Surface Arrival Time Results

The Figure 33 below shows the maximum emulsion thickness on surface.
The maximum emulsion thickness reached is 574 µm reached on some spots 40 km W from the release point during Quarter 2 (April to June). It represents a continuous true oil colour appearance, the highest scale range of the Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code (Appendix 1 - Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code (BAOAC)). All the values for the other quarters are available in Table 15.

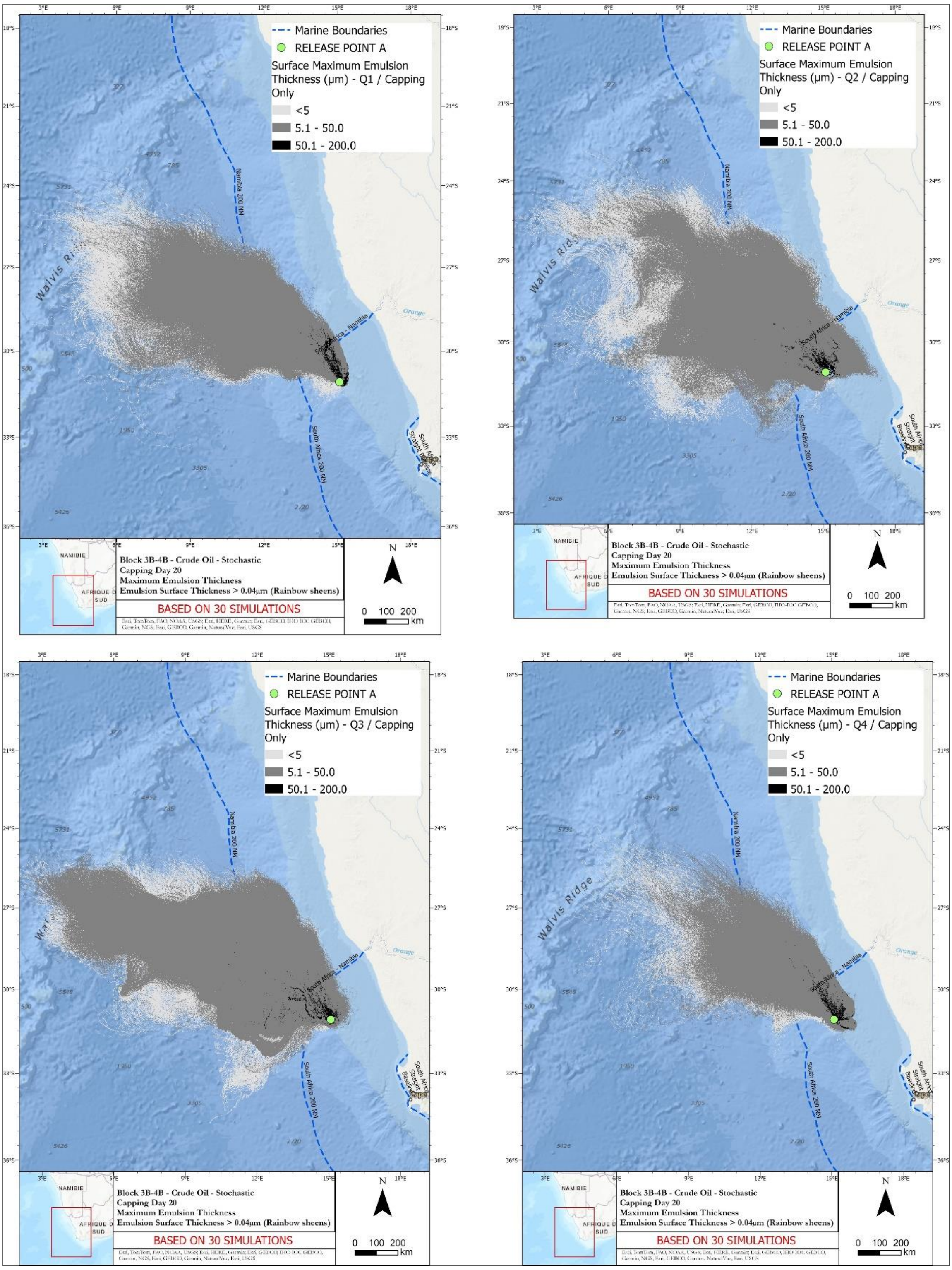

Figure 33: Quarter 1 to 4 – Capping Only – Point A - Stochastic Simulation: <u>Emulsion Thickness Results</u>

Figure 34 displays the mass balance <u>at the end of the simulations</u> depending on the starting time of the release for the 4 Quarters of the years (for 3 years from 2019 to 2021), to show some correlations between the different compartments.

The following observations can be made:

- After 60 days, the main part of oil is evaporated, biodegraded and dispersed. Some oil is remaining at the surface, the main part between 920 km and 1090 km NW from the release Point A, but attention should be paid to Quarter 2. If the oil on surface is not recovered 60 days after the start of the spill, some remaining oil on surface could reach the South African coastline, in front of the Western Cape / Northern Cape boundary, Figure 32).
- **There is no oil onshore at the end of the simulations, for all seasons.**
- Dispersion and biodegradation are positively correlated, and negatively correlated with the evaporation.
- Evaporation and Biodegradation are clearly negatively correlated.
- The highest amount of oil remaining on surface after 60 days happened for a start time of spill during Quarter 2 compared to Point D for which the maximum of oil remaining on surface was for a start of spill during Quarters 2 and 3.

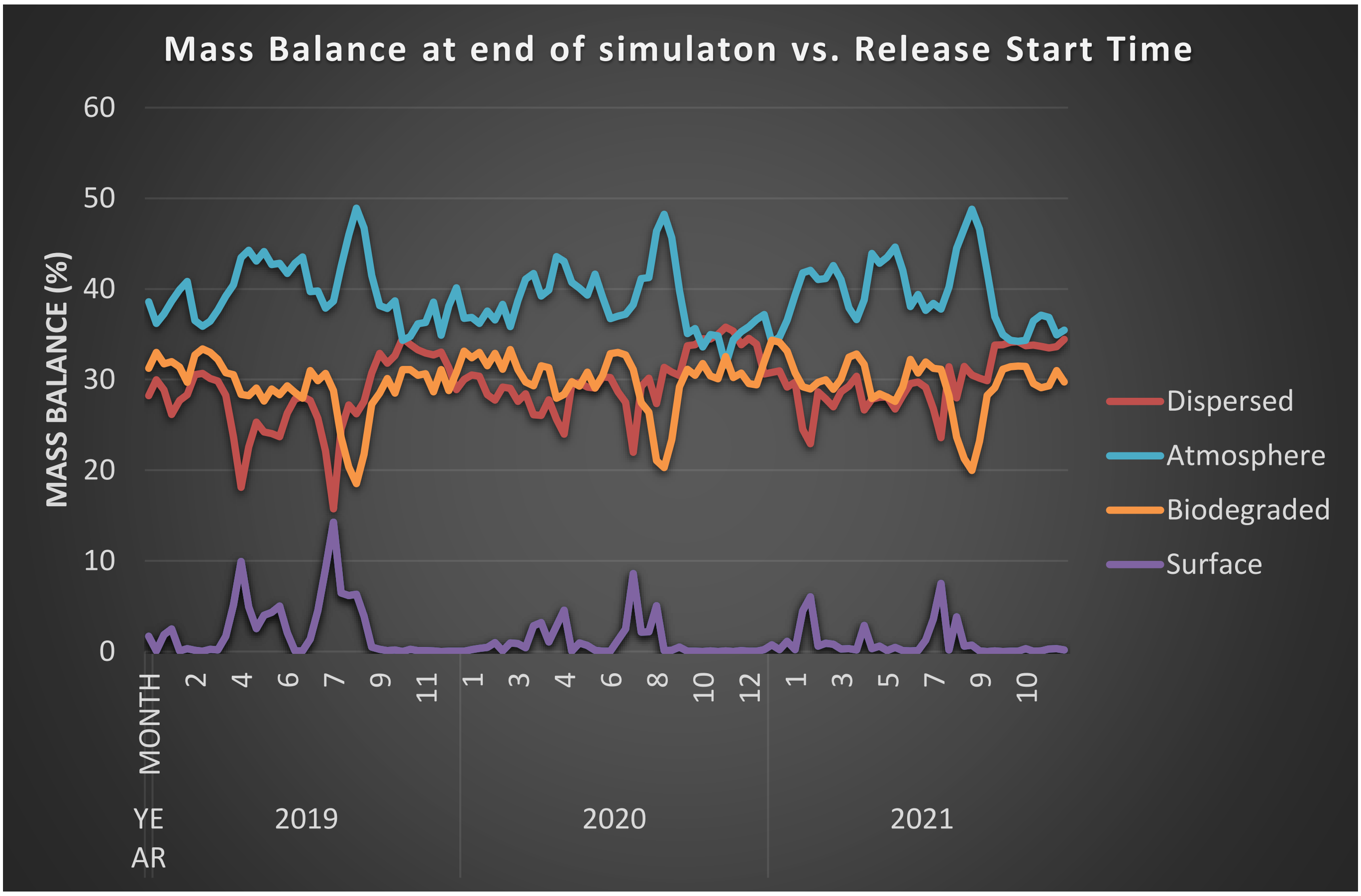

Figure 34: Capping Only – Point A: Mass balance at the end of simulation vs. Release start time for 2019 to 2021

3.3.2 Conclusion for Stochastic Simulations for all Quarters for Crude oil

The Table 15 below presents the main results of the Oil Spill stochastic Scenarios for all the Quarters.

Table 15 Summary of the results of the Stochastic simulations for Capping Only / All Quarters for Point A

<table>
<tr><th>Quarter</th><th>Max Distance of Oil Presence Probability 80 to 100% in 60 days / Drift Direction (Thickness >0.04µm)</th><th>Minimum Surface Arrival Time</th><th>Max. Distance Surface Arrival Time in 1 day</th><th>Maximum Emulsion Surface Thickness</th><th>MAX. % shoreline impact probability</th><th>Offshore surface waters reached by a spill</th></tr>
<tr><td>Q1</td><td>580 km NW</td><td rowspan="4">3 hours</td><td>79 km NW</td><td>424 µm at 19 km N from release point</td><td rowspan="4">NA</td><td rowspan="4">South African Waters for the highest probabilities

Namibia and International Waters</td></tr>
<tr><td>Q2</td><td>571 km NNW</td><td>78 km NW &</td><td>574 µm 19 km W from release point</td></tr>
<tr><td>Q3</td><td>536 km NNW</td><td>69 km W</td><td>341 µm 23 km N from release point</td></tr>
<tr><td>Q4</td><td>407 km NNW</td><td>86 km NW</td><td>302 µm 72 km NW from release point</td></tr>
</table>

Capping Only Scenarios - Deterministic Simulation – 4 Seasons

a. **Slick drift**

Figure 35 presents the oil slick drift evolution for day 20 (capping stack deployment) for the 4 quarters of the year studied.

3.3.3

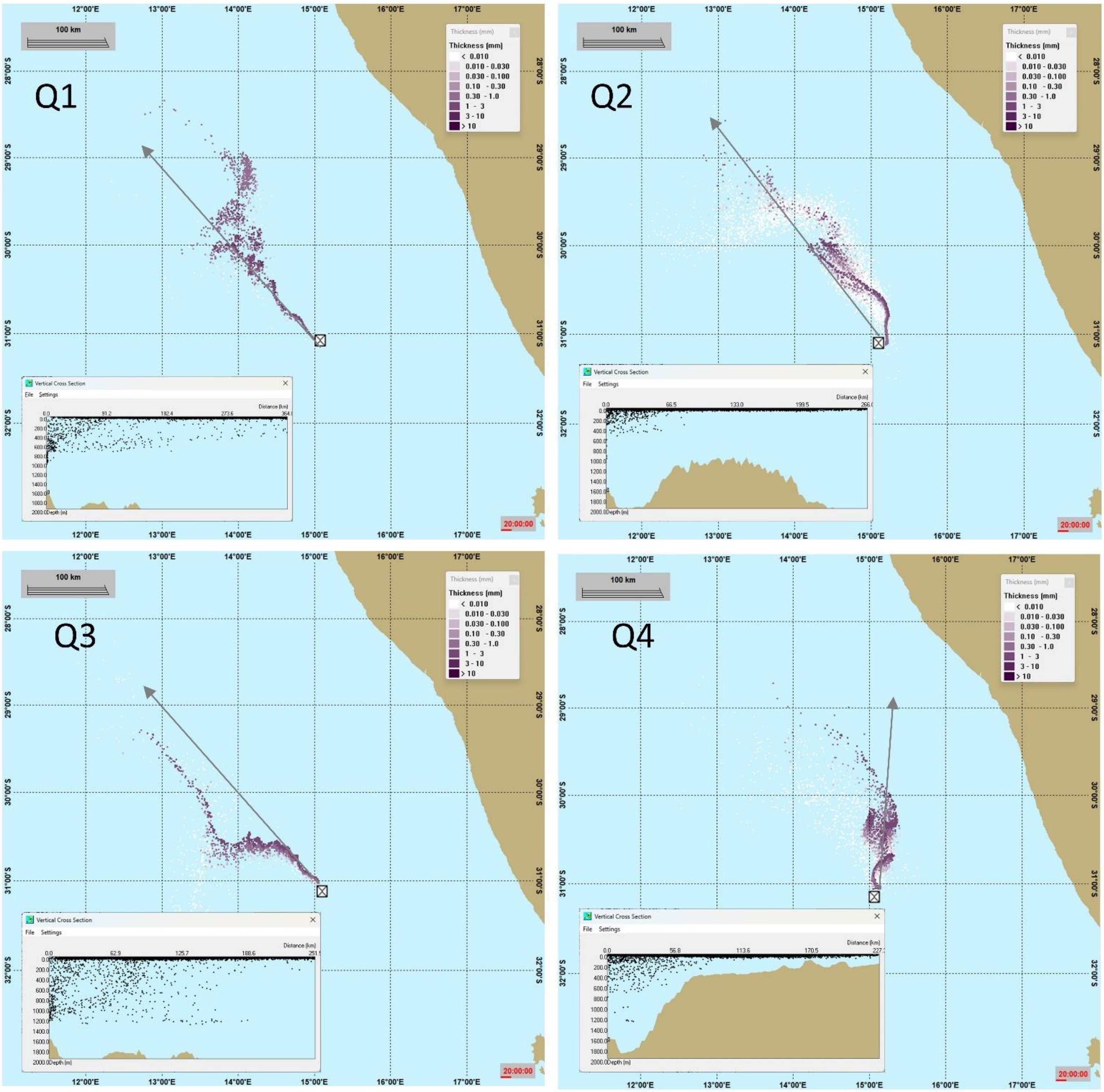

Figure 35: Point A: Surface slick drift and particles inside the water column (bottom left windows) at day 20 (end of spill) for the 4 quarters (deterministic simulations)

The surface slick and the particles main drift direction is towards N and NW, avoiding the shoreline located on the East side from the release point.

The main part of oil is on surface for the crude oil release unlike the cases of condensate release, which was dispersed in the water column.

At the end of simulation, day 60, there is still oil on surface, with low thickness, mainly in the Namibian and International Waters.

Here are the time steps after the start of the spill for which the dissolved particles inside the water column crosse the International and Namibian Waters boundary:

- Quarter1: Namibian Waters: Day 2 and 12 hours; International Waters: Day 4 and 12 hours.
- Quarter 2: Namibian Waters: Day 3 and 15 hours; International Waters: Day 10 and 3 hours.
- Quarter 3: Namibian Waters: Day 7 and 9 hours; International Waters: Day 12 and 12 hours.
- Quarter 4: Namibian Waters: Day 4 and 12 hours; International Waters: Day 12 and 3 hours.

b. **Mass Balance**

The Figure 36 presents the mass balance (each process involved for the oil weathering) for each quarter.

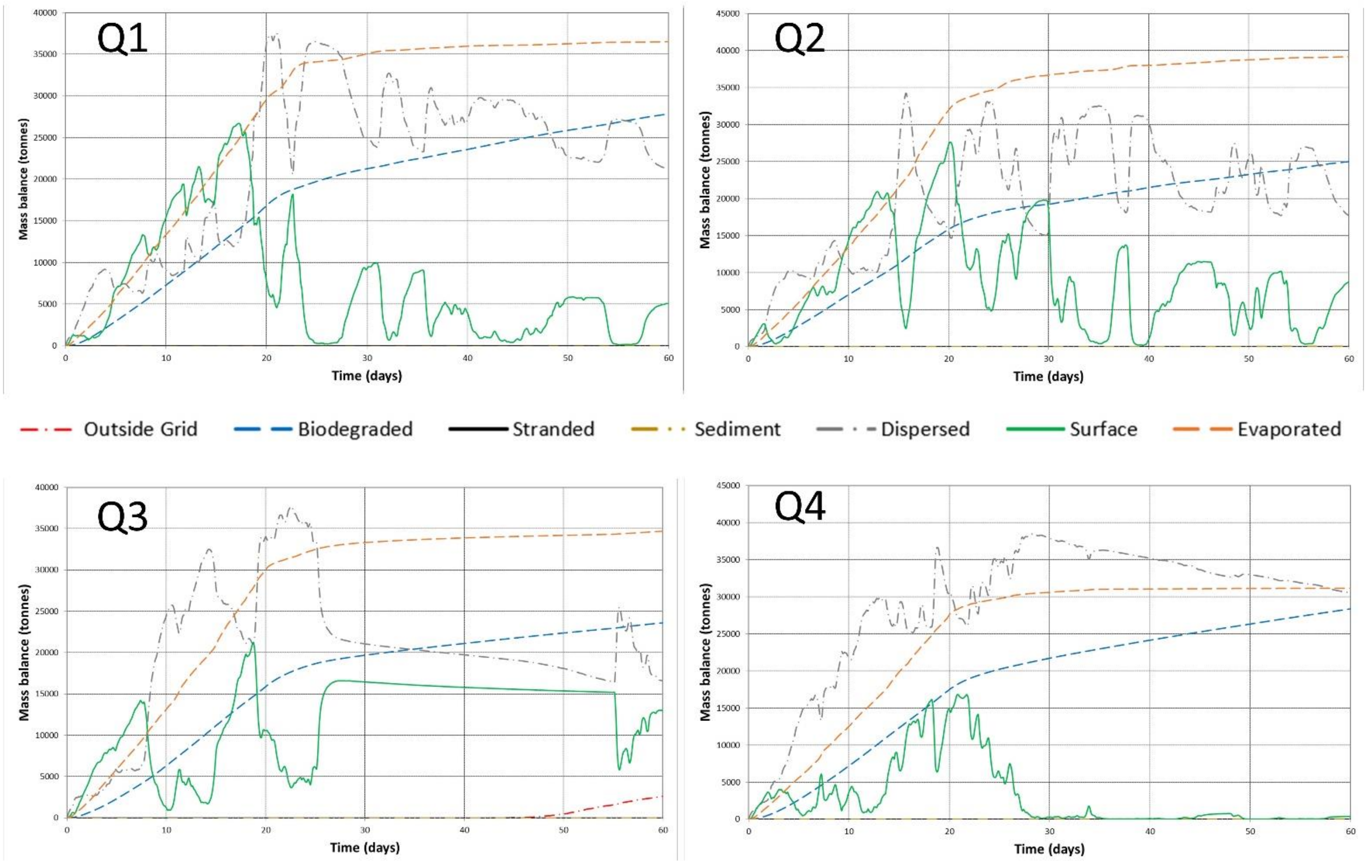

Figure 36: Point A: Mass Balance for each quarter – Deterministic simulations of crude oil release

All the graphs show the same trend concerning the oil weathering, no matter the season studied.

Most of the fluid is evaporated, then naturally dispersed and biodegraded in the water column. There are however some differences concerning the oil on surface from one season to another, especially for Quarters 3 and 4: the oil remaining on surface for a long time for Quarter 3 after day 25, due to a low natural dispersion. On the contrary, for

Quarter 4 there is almost no more oil on surface after 28 days, due to a strong natural dispersion (induced by strong winds and waves).

4. Conclusion

Main conclusions of this study are as follows:

✓ DRIFT DIRECTION:
The general direction of the surface oil drift is NW for the all the Quarters in this marine area, for the Condensate as for the Crude Oil, and for the 2 releases points A and D studied.

✓ DRIFT DISTANCE:

- For Condensate release, the maximum distance of the 80 to 100% oil surface probability contour is 42 km NNW from Release Point during the Quarter 1 (January to March).
- For Crude Oil release, the maximum distance of the 80 to 100% oil surface probability contour for the release Point D is 687 km NW from future well during the Quarter 1 (January to March), and for the Point A is 580 km NW from future well during the Quarter 1 too.
- For the stochastic cases run where a spill is capped within 20 days, there is no oil reaching the shore for Release points A or D, for any of the 4 seasons.

✓ SURFACE PRESENCE PROBABILITIES:

- For Condensate release: there is almost no oil on surface due to large evaporation and dispersion processes on this condensate, but the **Namibian and International Waters could be impacted by surface oil with very low probabilities (3.3%). This means that probabilistically, out of 100 spills that could occur during each quarter period, only 3 cases would have oil on the surface which would cross the Namibian border and international waters. There is no oil or condensate onshore at the end of the simulations, for any seasons.**
- For Crude Oil Release: After 60 days the main part of oil is evaporated, biodegraded and dispersed. There is no oil onshore at the end of the simulations for release points A or D, for any seasons. However, for any remaining oil at surface not recovered within 60 days after the start of the spill, some remaining oil could reach the South African coastline. The highest concentrations of oil remaining at surface after 60 days for simulated releases occurs in Quarters 2 and 3 at release point D and in Quarter 2 for release point A. Given the northwestern direction of prevailing currents, simulations indicate a high probability (>80%) of surface oil from a potential release affecting Namibian and International waters.

✓ WATER COLUMN CONTAMINATION:

- For the Condensate release: the most contaminated layer is between 725 to 900 m depth for capping only and 775 to 875 m for full response deployed. This is probably due to the large amount of gas contained in the release, making the condensate going up very quickly, and then accumulates in the mid water column before continuing to rise more slowly to the surface.
- For the Crude oil release: as the dispersion and dissolution during the rise of the oil is very low compared to Condensate, the impact of the crude oil release is not significant for the water column, and has to be focused on the surface, and all the processes involved after (natural dispersion, biodegradation, evaporation).

✓ COASTAL IMPACT: there is **no coastal impact** for these two types of release for any Quarter of the year, due to the currents in the area making the release always drifting towards NW, opposite to the coastal area. **However attention should be paid for the Quarters 2 and 3 for the release Point D and for the Quarter 2 for the release Point A if the oil on surface is not recover 60 days after the start of the spill, some remaining oil on surface could reach the South African coastline.**

✓ SURFACE RESPONSE: The surface response was only studied for the Quarter 3 for Condensate release case, (initial planned Drilling period) there is very light effect of the response deployed: the dispersed part is varying very slightly, the atmosphere part is a little reduced, thanks to the very light increase in dispersion. The biodegradation is higher with the response, mainly due to the light increase dispersion in the water column with the SSDI (these two parameters are always positively correlated).

Because of the properties of the condensate, the SSDI deployment has a very light effect on the dispersion which is already important, and the surface response which consists of dispersing and recovering oil slicks is of no use because all the condensate disperses in the water column or evaporates upon arrival at the surface. In this kind of release, the better choice would be to deploy the capping stack as soon as possible instead of trying to increase the dispersion that is already high for this type of product.

Concerning the full response for a Crude Oil release, only the Quarter 3 for Point D was studied (considered as the worst case), and there is significant positive effect of the response deployed for the environment: There is an increase of the dispersed part because of the SSDI deployment, allowing to disperse the oil directly from the release point in the water column, and with the surface dispersion deployed once the oil reached the surface. The biodegraded part increased too with the response deployed, because the dispersion allows easier biodegradation of oil in the water column and on subsurface (positively correlated with dispersion). With the response deployment, there is a significant decrease of the surface part (because more oil is dispersed, so less oil rises to the surface), of the evaporation part (positively correlated with the decrease of oil on surface). Some oil is recovered by the surface response skimmers and boats deployed with the full response scenarios (no oil is recovered obviously with capping only). There is no oil onshore, and the oil amount in sediment is negligible. The same interpretation can be applied to the seasons 1, 2 and 4 for this area. One of the most important conclusions of this response deployment testing is that reducing the quantity of oil on the surface by dispersion allows to minimize the risk of an oil slick which could reach the coasts.

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5.1 Appendix 1 - Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code (BAOAC)

➢ **Concept behind oil slick appearance**

The visible spectrum ranges from 0.40 – 0.75 µm. Any visible color is a mixture of wavelengths within the visible spectrum. White is a mixture of all wavelengths; black is absence of all light. The color of an oil film depends on the way the light waves of different lengths are reflected off the oil surface, transmitted through the oil (and reflected off the water surface below the oil) and absorbed by the oil. The observed color is the result of a combination of these factors; it is also dependent on the type of oil spilled. An important parameter is optical density: the ability to block light. Distillate fuels and lubricant oils consist of the lighter fractions of crude oil and will form very thin layers that are almost transparent. Crude oils vary in their optical density; black oils block all the wavelengths to the same degree but, even then, there are different 'kinds of black', residual fuels can block all light passing through, even in thin layers.

➢ **Bonn Agreement**

Since the color of the oil itself as well as the optic effects are influenced by meteorological conditions, altitude, angle of observation and color of the sea water, an appearance cannot be characterized purely in terms of apparent color and therefore an 'appearance' code, using terms independent of specific color names, has been developed. The Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code (cf. "Bonn Agreement Aerial Operations Handbook, Part 3, Annex A, The Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code, Section 11 p - Revision April 2016") has been developed as follows:

- In accordance with scientific literature and previously published scientific papers,
- Its theoretical basis is supported by small scale laboratory experiments,
- It is supported by mesoscale outdoor experiments,
- It is supported by controlled sea trials.

Due to slow changes in the continuum of light, overlaps in the different categories were found. However, for operational reasons, the code has been designed without these overlaps.

Using thickness intervals provides an estimated range of oil volumes that is commonly used both for legal procedures (minimum figure) and for response (maximum figure). Again, for operational reasons, grey and silver have been combined into the generic term 'sheen'.

Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Codes are detailed in the following Table 16.

Table 16: Bonn Agreement Oil Appearance Code

Code	Description – Appearance	Thickness Interval (µm)	Liters per km^2
1	Sheen (silvery/grey)	0.04 to 0.3	40 – 300
2	Rainbow	0.3 to 5.0	300 – 5000
3	Metallic	5.0 to 50	5000 – 50000
4	Discontinuous True Oil Color	50 to 200	50000 – 200000
5	Continuous True Oil Color	> 200	> 200000

The appearances described above cannot be related to one thickness; they are optic effects (codes 1 – 3) or true colors (codes 4 – 5) that appear over a range of layer thickness.

There is no sharp delineation between the different codes; one effect becomes more diffuse as the other strengthens. Appearance codes here explained, are use as guidance by OSCAR for interpretation of surface thickness results.

5.2 Appendix 2 – CV of the H-ES Expert

HES EXPERTISE SERVICES

Benjamin LIVAS

Environmental Modelling Expert

Marine Environmental Project Engineer with 10 years of experience in modelling

SINTEF certified user (MEMW Softwares developers)

PROFILE

- 12 years of experience in Marine and Coastal Environment
- Specialized in Marine Environmental Modelling and GIS

EXPERIENCE

H-Expertise Services S.A.S

- **Since February 2019 - Marine Environmental Modelling Expert – PAU (France)**
  - Operational marine environmental modelling studies for Oil & Gas Companies (accidental oil leaks, chemical product releases, drilling cuttings, environmental impact of the marine environment, etc.)
  - Environmental R&D studies for pollution response research centers and Oil & Gas Companies (comparison of oil slick drift models at sea, supplying databases, etc.)
  - Modelling trainer in oil subsidiaries
  - Site supervision facilitator (STORENGY)

MODIS

- **2010 - 2019 – Project Environmental Engineer – PAU (France)**
  - Certified user (SINTEF) in offshore environmental modelling on the MEWM OSCAR & DREAM modules: oil spill, produced waters, chemicals, drill cuttings and particulate discharges (more than 30 studies carried out)
  - Assistant for modelling deployment training in the deployment of MEWM software for TotalEnergies's HSE teams (Angola, UK, UAE, Nigeria)
  - Team leader on several environmental impact study studies for offshore Oil & Gas installations (Congo, Gabon, Angola): management, HSE, logistics, etc.

CNRS

- **2009 - 2010 - Assistant Engineer – DINARD (France)**
  Coastal geomorphology, GIS, digital terrain models, spatial statistics, field training

HES EXPERTISE SERVICES

EDUCATION

- **2007 - 2008 Master II Biodiversity and Sustainable Development**

  Université des Sciences de PERPIGNAN via Domitia, FRANCE

- **2006 - 2007 Master I Dynamics of aquatic ecosystems**
  Université de Pau et des Pays de l'Adour, UFR Côte Basque, ANGLET, FRANCE

SKILLS

- MEMW Software – OSCAR, DREAM & ParTrack modules (SINTEF certified user)
- GIS (ArcGIS)
- Microsoft Office Environment

LANGUES

- French (Mother tongue)
- English (Fluent)
- Spanish

MISCELLANEOUS

- BOSIET (Basic Offshore Safety Induction and Emergency Training), HUET (Helicopter Underwater Escape Training)
- Response in case of Accidental Hydrocarbon Pollution at Sea and on the Coast (Cedre, BREST)