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Ecology MUST require the strongest possible protections from oil spill impacts by doing the following:

Improving oil spill response time is the most important tactic to limit the impacts of a nonfloating oil spill.

Additional equipment and personnel must be prepared to be deployed more quickly to contain and collect the spill of nonfloating oil — before it begins to submerge and sink.

Update the table in WAC 173-182-324 (2) to include accelerated timeframes and details on the amounts and types of resources and equipment needed to respond to a worst-case spill of nonfloating oil.

Wildlife response operations require additional detail and capacity. The wildlife response operations need to include pre-emptive capture and relocation as well as the removal of oiled wildlife carcasses in addition to the identified operations of impact assessment, reconnaissance, deterrence, capture, stabilization, and rehabilitation. Updates to the wildlife response sections also need to specifically address response operations for the water column and benthic species that could be impacted by a nonfloating oil spill.