

Ocean Imaging

JANUARY 2019 - OCEAN IMAGING RECEIVES FUNDING TO IMPROVE OIL DETECTION CAPABILITY USING A PORTABLE, UAS-BASED SCAT RECONNAISSANCE SYSTEM

Ocean Imaging was awarded funding for a two-year project to develop Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (sUAS) designed to help detect and map oil in coastal and inland zones. Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) operations are a fundamental part of oil spill response for both marine and inland spills. The project funded by California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Oil Spill Prevention and Response (OSPR) division aims to incorporate sophisticated sensors/cameras into a portable and water-resistant sUAS, so that responders and SCAT teams can more quickly and accurately identify and assess oiled areas in shoreline and inland waterway habitats.



The work also aims to build upon and expand results of OSPR's initial efforts by enhancing OSPR's present imaging system's accuracy of separating true oiled areas from false targets through the addition of a specially configured cameras. The project team will also conduct additional experiments for algorithm development not only with artificially created oil targets but with actual, naturally formed oiled shoreline targets originating

from natural oil seeps in California.