

2016-2017 - OI and MSRC Adapt OI's TRACS for Deployment on Helicopters



In the latter part of 2016 as part of a NOAA- and BSEE-funded research project to further develop technologies to map and quantify emulsified oil, Ocean Imaging (OI) developed a custom mount in order to fly the TRACS sensor package on a Robinson R44 helicopter and successfully completed several overflight missions acquiring TRACS data of oil in the Ohmsett test tank from several altitudes. Simultaneously the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC) in partnership with OI designed, built and tested a TRACS mount for a Sikorsky S-76 helicopter. Later in April of 2017 OI and MSRC utilized the Sikorsky-mounted TRACS and part of the same NOAA/BSEE funded project to map oil in the Gulf of Mexico. Now TRACS exists as a system ready for immediate use on most any aircraft of opportunity whether a fixed wing or rotary aircraft.

Sikorsky S-76 aircraft used for the Gulf of Mexico oil thickness research overflights (top left). TRACS mounted in the cabin of the Sikorsky S-76 (top right). TRACS side-mounted on the Robinson R44 helicopter (bottom left).