

How Enretech helped carry out the southern hemisphere's biggest ever oil & fuel clean up



When a decommissioned navy ship needed to be sunk, it had to be cleaned of harmful materials first. Enretech's sustainable absorbents proved to be the only products up to the challenge.

When the HMAS Swan (a former destroyer escort approximately the size of a football field) was decommissioned, it was decided it would be scuttled to provide an artificial reef and recreational diving opportunity off the coast of Western Australia.

But sinking a 100+ metre long ship is not simple. The Geographe Bay Artificial Reef Society, who was responsible for the scuttling, had to meet stringent environmental conditions and pressure from government, media, and environmental groups.

These requirements meant that the Swan needed to be completely cleansed of all oil, fuel and diesel contaminants before it could go down. Due to the size of the ship and the extensiveness of contamination, the clean-up would become the largest project of its type ever undertaken in the southern hemisphere.

Removing oil and other contaminants

"There were many different residues all over the ship - hydraulic fluids, heavy engine oil, diesel, grease, some very fine lubricating oils," said Geoff Paynter, Project Manager at Geographe Bay Artificial Reef Society. "They were everywhere - we had to clean through the engine and boiler rooms, steering compartments, the shell hoists, and on all the decks..."

It was without a doubt the hardest part of the whole process - made no easier by the fact many of the products they tried previously couldn't get the job done. After many frustrating experiments with different products, the team came across Enretech's products - Kleen Sweep, Remediator and XtraSorb.

"The Enretech products simply outperformed the other products in their ability to get the job done in one go."

A complete clean from bow to stern

Enretech's industrial absorbents outperformed all the other products on every front. Geoff highlighted a number of benefits they found that Enretech's products had over other alternatives:



Easy to use

Not only was it easy for the team to use Enretech's products to clean up the hydrocarbons, but they required only a few applications.



More cost-effective

Because of the reduction in labour required when using Enretech's products, the entire job was more cost-effective. The products were then disposed of easily.



Sustainable solutions

Simply, Enretech's products did what other products couldn't - completely removed 100% of hydrocarbon spills quickly and easily using recycled cotton-waste technology.

But the real moment of truth came at the time of scuttling, there was also no detection of any hydrocarbons in the water.

"As the Swan sunk, there was not a single trace of hydrocarbon on the surface of the water," said Geoff. "And six months later, independent analysis found no increase whatsoever in the amount of hydrocarbons or heavy metals at the site."

Even with Enretech's products, the clean-up took almost 4 months to complete. But there's no doubt that timelines - and the results - would have been much worse if they hadn't discovered Enretech.

"Everyone was amazed at just how thorough the cleaning was. It was a huge achievement that would not have been possible without the use of Enretech's products."



Sustainable environmental and economic benefits

Being able to carry out this significant environmental remediation project successfully has prevented further environmental contamination from occurring, and has also contributed to positive environmental change – with the artificial reef leading to a massive increase in marine life in the protected area.

In addition, the new diving opportunity has stimulated the tourism industry and contributed more than \$1million to the local economy in Western Australia.

Overall, it's been a win for the whole community - in no small thanks to Enretech's sustainable products.

"I can honestly recommend Enretech's products to anyone who has to be extremely thorough with any sort of oil, fuel or diesel clean-up."

If you are interested in exploring Enretech's sustainable solutions, or for more information on the most effective approach to spill management for your business, get in touch below.



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