

# Counting the cost of avoidable disaster

Four oil tanker disasters in less than two months have convinced shipping experts that safety regulations must be enforced more strictly.

Conceding that bad weather, mechanical problems and human error played their part, they believe each accident could have been prevented had tanker traffic guidelines been observed

Jan 5  
1993

## SHETLANDS

Liberian-registered tanker 'Braer' washed onto rocks in Quendale Bay. Extreme weather conditions prevent salvage efforts as the ship breaks up. 85,000 tonne cargo leaks into North Sea. Bird nesting and fishing grounds devastated. Full extent of damage not yet

Shetlands

Jan 16  
1993

## ESTONIA

Tanker 'Kinhu' runs aground in the Gulf of Finland, 200 metres from Estonian coast. Salvage team pumps more than 1,300 tonnes of crude oil and diesel fuel from stricken tanker but estimated 60 tonnes spill. Ship taken into dry dock Thursday, January 21

Gulf of Finland

La Coruna

Sumatra

Dec 2  
1992

## SPAIN

Tanker 'Aegean Sea' runs aground on reef and catches fire off La Coruna, Northwest Spain, spilling 75,000 tonnes of light crude. Oil slick stains 200 km of coastline killing hundreds of oil-soaked birds. Cost to the local fishing industry is

Jan 21  
1993

## INDONESIA

Danish-managed supertanker 'Maersk Navigator', carrying 253,000 tonnes of light crude oil, collides with empty tanker 100 km north of Sumatra, near Malacca Straits. Undetermined amount of oil spills from ship and ignites. 24-man

SOURCES: World Information Systems, Associated Press, Oil Spill Intelligence Report

GRAPHIC NEWS