

A diagram illustrating the environmental fate of an oil spill. On the left, a ship is shown at sea. A plume of oil is released, which then disperses into the atmosphere and the water. The atmosphere shows evaporation of light components and aerosols. The water surface shows oil slicks (manchas de chapapote) and degradation by light and oxygen. Below the surface, emulsified fuel (fuel emulsionado con agua) is shown, along with heavy particles (partículas pesadas) and fuel emulsifying with water (auga emulsionando con fuel). On the seabed, fuel is sedimented (fuel sedimentado) and asphalt balls (bolas de alcatrán) are visible. The sun is shown in the upper right corner.

Evaporación
dos compoñentes
máis lixeiros

Degradación
do fuel pola
luz e osíxeno

Aerosois

Manchas de
chapapote flotando

Fuel emulsionado
con auga

Bolas de
alcatrán

Auga
emulsionando
con fuel

Partículas
pesadas

Volta á
superficie

Fuel sedimentado