# Products tanker collides with vessel off Belg

Seven men died and two were missing last week after a British Petroleum Co. plc products tanker collided with a bulk carrier as it left the Belgian port of Antwerp in fog on the morning of June 3.

BP's British Trent was carrying 24,000 metric tons of unleaded gasoline to Italy on charter to Petrofina SA. It collided with Western Winner, a Panamanian registered vessel carrying printing dyes.

British Trent had just dropped off a pilot, and the master was about to move into a shipping separation lane when the vessel was struck on the port side by the Western Winner.

Fire broke out immediately, and the Trent was rapidly engulfed in swirling smoke, vapor, and flames. The crew mustered on the starboard side but could not launch lifeboats in near-zero visibility.

The crew jumped into the sea. Most were rescued by the pilot launch, which was still alongside, but some died as spilled petroleum caught fire.

Western Winner's crew escaped casualties, staying on board the vessel as it struggled into the Netherlands port of Flushing.

About 2,000 bbl of petroleum was believed to have poured from the tanker. Most of it burned quickly. A 2 mile long 200 ft wide slick was reported by nightfall June 3, but there was thought to be no pollution risk because of evaporation of the gasoline.

Cargo and fuel remaining on British Trent were lightered June 7 in readiness for towing of the vessel into Europort.

Belgian and British official inquiries will be launched into the cause of the collision. BP said it also will conduct an investigation.

### Safety testimony

The collision occurred only days after the International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (Intertanko), Oslo, testified before the British government's Donaldson inquiry into tanker safety off the U.K.

The inquiry was spurred wreck of the Braer crude oil t the Shetland Islands in thought to be the worst oil incident off Britain (OGJ, Ja 26).

Intertanko recommended:

- Regulated traffic program sitive areas around coasts, alc checks for illegal dumping.
- Increased availability of tugs.
- Tighter controls on subs tankers and better training f inspectors.
- Better training for mariner

International solutions were be required for sea pollution. U al action by individual gover would create more problem they solved.

Intertanko said shore res should be strengthened by inv tanker operators, coast guard brigades, oil companies, and s in contingency planning.

# Sakhalin Island slates bidding on large block in Sea of Okhotsk

Russia's Sakhalin Island tender committee plans a competitive bidding round on tracts in a large area in the Sea of Okhotsk.

Details of bidding terms and available geological and geophysical data are to be presented next month in Denver by tender committee members, including the Russian Federation and regional petroleum associations Sakhalinmorneftegaz and Dalmorneftegeophysica.

Acreage to be offered lies in the East Odoptu offshore area, which covers more than 20,000 sq km in the North Sakhalin basin on Sakhalin Island's northeast contintental shelf. Several fields in the East Odoptu area, each with reserves estimated at more than 2 billion bbl of oil equivalent (BOE), are to be excluded from the tender.

The Sakhalin Island tender committee plans to divide East Odoptu into tracts as large as 5,000 sq km. Companies will be allowed to bid on one or more tracts, with work commitments based on a federally approved model contract.

A bidding deadline has not been announced. Also not reported is the type of agreement under which exploration and development is to occur.

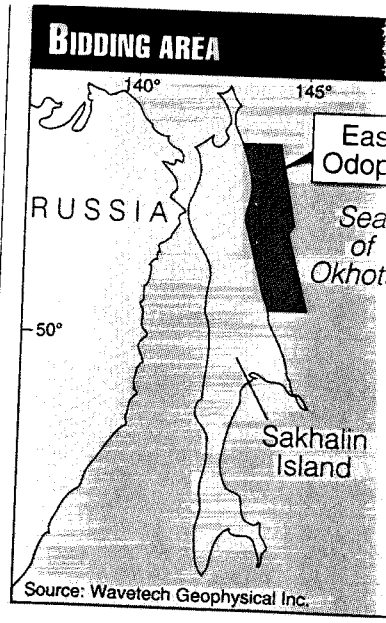
### Reserves estimated

Among acreage to be excluded from the tender are Piltun-Astokhskoye and Lunskoe fields, subject of a feasibility study by the 4M/S international multicompany group led by Marathon Oil Co., and Chaivo and Odoptu fields.

However, prospective oil and gas structures in the East Odoptu area are found as shallow as a few hundred meters to as deep as 5,000 m, and areas to be included in the tender are believed to hold reserves of more than 20 billion BOE, said Wavetech Geophysical Inc., Denver. Reserves include both oil and gas, with some tracts likely to be more gas prone than oil.

The North Sakhalin basin's offshore reservoirs appear to be better quality than those onshore. Offshore reserve estimates are based on undrilled structures adjacent to and with features analogous to fields included in 4M/S's feasibility study. About 15 wells have been drilled in East Odoptu in areas not included in the tender, Wavetech estimates.

"There's no doubt in anybody's mind about the prospectivity and enormous reserve potential of the area," Wavetech said. "The only drawback is the




extremely difficult conditions in wh companies will be operating there.

"Drilling season is 4½ mon long. The rest of the time the land is iced in. At times, ice the area can deeply scour the seab so production facilities must be signed to withstand extemely hos conditions."

With the southern tip of Sakha Island about 25 miles from Japan, di cult operating conditions in the E Odoptu are offset in part by the nea ness of a possible market.