
**MEDITERRANEAN ACTION PLAN (MAP)
REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY RESPONSE CENTRE FOR THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA (REMPEC)**

Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine
Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the
Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)

REMPEC/WG.56/3/1*
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Kappara, Malta, 13-15 June 2023

Agenda Item 3: Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships

Final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report

For environmental and cost-saving reasons, this document will not be printed and is made available in electronic format only. Delegates are encouraged to consult the document in its electronic format and limit printing.

REMPEC
Malta, 2023

* reissued for technical reasons.

Note by the Secretariat

This document provides information on the final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report developed within the framework of MENELAS.

Background

1 The Fourth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”) (MENELAS), hereinafter referred to as the Fourth Meeting of MENELAS, which was organised remotely by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) from 21 to 22 April 2021, agreed to include the finalisation of the draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report, hereinafter referred to as the draft common report, in the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2022-2023, amongst others.

2 The Fourth Meeting of MENELAS noted with interest that relevant regional and international organisations, namely the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors (NSN)², the Bonn Agreement³, as well as the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM)⁴, adopted similar, if not identical, standard forms to report detected pollution, and also agreed to take the following standard forms as a basis for the finalisation of the draft common report, for use within the framework of the Barcelona Convention:

- .1 the Standard Pollution Observation/Detection Log and Completion Guide, as jointly developed and used as a common form by the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM; and
- .2 the Pollution Observation/Detection Report on Polluters and Combatable Spills (IMO), as developed by IMO, and as used as a common form by the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM⁵.

3 The Fourth Meeting of MENELAS further stressed the importance to obtain first-hand experience in the Mediterranean region with the implementation of the standard forms referred to in paragraph 2 above.

First-hand experience of the draft common report in the Mediterranean region

4 In this context, the Secretariat liaised with the Secretariat of the RAMOGE Agreement⁶ with a view to ensuring that the draft common report be used during a forthcoming coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED).

5 The draft common report could not be used operationally during OSCAR-MED 2022 that was nonetheless a successful operation between Italy and France, with no pollution identified. However, it was used during a table-top exercise organised in the margins of OSCAR-MED 2022 by the French CROSS Med (Centre régional opérationnel de surveillance et de sauvetage de la Méditerranée), together with French magistrates, whilst an Italian helicopter pilot also made use of it. It was concluded that the use of the draft common report should not pose a problem, subject to further practical experience (if possible) and the approval by the relevant authorities.

² a body associated with the Commission established by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention), the latter referred to as the OSPAR Commission.

³ Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances, 1983.

⁴ the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention).

⁵ REMPEC/WG.48/2.

⁶ Accord relatif à la Protection de l’Environnement Marin et Côtier d’une Zone de la Mer Méditerranée.

Finalisation of the draft common report

6 Pursuant to the request of the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (online, 31 May-2 June 2021) to finalise the draft common report, the Secretariat explored the possibility to adapt the standard forms referred to in paragraph 2 above to the Mediterranean Sea area by adding appropriate references to the Barcelona Convention therein and subsequently submitted it to the Fifth Meeting of MENELAS (Floriana, Malta, 22-23 February 2023) organised by REMPEC.

7 The Fifth Meeting of MENELAS further agreed that the draft common report should consist of the standard forms referred to in paragraph 2 above, as amended, and requested the Secretariat to carry out final editing and any editorial corrections, which might be identified, as appropriate.

8 The Fifth Meeting of MENELAS also stressed the importance to obtain further practical experience in the Mediterranean region with the use of the draft common report and recommended that it was further used during a forthcoming OSCAR-MED operation to be organised by the Secretariat of the RAMOGE Agreement, with the possible participation of interested Mediterranean coastal States, as observers.

Next steps

9 Considering the outcome of the first-hand experience of the draft common report in the Mediterranean region, as well as the experience gained by relevant regional and international organisations, namely the IMO, the OSPAR Commission and the NSN as well as the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM, in using the standard forms referred to in paragraph 2 above to report detected pollution, and in line with the outcome of the Fifth Meeting of MENELAS, the Secretariat proposes that the final draft common report consists of:

- .1 the Standard Pollution Observation/Detection Log and Completion Guide, as set out in Part A and Part B respectively of the **Appendix** to the present document; and
- .2 the Pollution Observation/Detection Report on Polluters and Combatable Spills (IMO), as set out in Part C of the **Appendix** to the present document.

10 The Secretariat also proposes to liaise with the OSPAR Commission/Bonn Agreement Secretariat and the HELCOM Secretariat to explore the possibility to jointly endorse the final draft common report referred to in paragraph 9 above for use in the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and Mediterranean Sea areas.

11 The Secretariat further proposes to liaise with the Secretariat of the RAMOGE Agreement with a view to ensuring that the final draft common report referred to in paragraph 9 above be used during OSCAR-MED 2023 to obtain further practical experience in the Mediterranean region.

Actions requested by the Meeting

12 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document;
- .2 **consider** the proposals put forward by the Secretariat, as laid down in paragraphs 9, 10 and 11 of the present document; and
- .3 **examine** and **endorse** the final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report, as set out in the **Appendix** to the present document, for use within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

Appendix

Final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report

HELCOM BONN AGREEMENT BARCELONA CONVENTION **PART A - STANDARD POLLUTION OBSERVATION/DETECTION LOG** NO POLLUTION DETECTED

REPORTING AUTHORITY	AIRCRAFT REG	MISSION No	CAPTAIN	CO PILOT	OPERATOR	OBSERVER	DAY	DATE	MONTH	YEAR

FLIGHT TYPE	ROUTE / AREA	TIME OVER THE SEA DAY		TIME OVER THE SEA NIGHT		TOTAL TIME OVER THE SEA	
		hrs	mins	hrs	mins	hrs	mins

No	AREA CODE	TIME UTC	POSITION		DIMENSIONS		AREA COVER %	OILED AREA km ²	OIL APPEARANCE COVERAGE (PERCENTAGE - %)						MINIMUM VOLUME m ³	MAXIMUM VOLUME m ³	COMBAT Y / N
			LATITUDE 'NORTH'	LONGITUDE 'EAST/WEST'	LENGTH km	WIDTH km			1	2	3	4	5	Oth			

No	POLL TYPE	DETECTION						PHOTO	VIDEO	FLIR	WEATHER					REMARKS	
		SLAR	IR	UV	VIS	MW	LF	Y / N	Y / N	Y / N	WIND	CLOUD	VIS	SEA	Wx		
											°						
											°						
											°						
											°						
											°						

No	REMARKS	OIL APPEARANCE TABLE			
		No	OIL APPEARANCE DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM VOLUME m ³ / km ²	MAXIMUM VOLUME m ³ / km ²
		1	SHEEN	0.04	0.30
		2	RAINBOW	0.30	5.00
		3	METALLIC	5.00	50.0
		4	DISCONTINUOUS TRUE COLOUR	50.0	200
		5	TRUE COLOUR	200	>200

PART B - STANDARD POLLUTION OBSERVATION/DETECTION LOG COMPLETION GUIDE

HELCOM:	Tick HELCOM Box if the flight is in HELCOM Area
BONN AGREEMENT:	Tick BONN AGREEMENT Box if flight is in BA area
BARCELONA CONVENTION:	Tick BARCELONA CONVENTION Box if flight is in Med Area
NO POLLUTION DETECTED:	Tick NO POLLUTION DETECTED if no pollution is detected
REPORTING AUTHORITY:	National Authority Responsible for Pollution Control.
AIRCRAFT REG:	Aircraft Registration Letters / Numbers.
MISSION No:	Nationally Assigned Mission Number.
FLIGHT TYPE:	National Designation for Flight Type as follows: NAT - National REG - Regional EXER - Exercise OPS - Operational Flight. RIG - Oil Rig Patrol SHIP - Shipping Patrol TDH - Tour de Horizon Flight CEPCO - Co-ordinated Extended Pollution Control Operation
CAPTAIN OF AIRCRAFT:	Name of Captain
CO PILOT:	Name of Co Pilot
OPERATOR:	Name of Operator
OBSERVER:	Name of Observer
DAY:	Number Assigned to the Day of the Week as follows: Monday - 01 Tuesday - 02 Wednesday - 03 Thursday - 04 Friday - 05 Saturday - 06 Sunday - 07
DATE/MONTH/YEAR:	Two number designation for each of date/month/year of Flight
ROUTE/AREA:	Flight Route or Area
TIME OVER THE SEA – DAY:	Time over the Sea during Daylight
TIME OVER THE SEA – NIGHT:	Time over the Sea at Night
TOTAL TIME OVER SEA:	Total time between Coasting Out and Coasting In.
No:	Number allocated to pollution detection.
AREA CODE:	The international telephone code for the country (Area) in which the pollution is located:

Bonn Agreement

Belgium	32	Denmark	45
France	33	Germany	49
Ireland	353	Netherlands (Kingdom of the)	31
Norway	47	Sweden	46
United Kingdom	44		

HELCOM

Estonia	372	Denmark	45
Finland	358	Germany	49
Latvia	371	Lithuania	370
Poland	48	Russian Federation	7
Sweden	46		

Barcelona Convention

Albania	355	Algeria	213
Bosnia and Herzegovina	387	Croatia	385
Cyprus	357	Egypt	20
France	33	Greece	30
Israel	972	Italy	39
Lebanon	961	Libya	218
Malta	356	Monaco	377
Montenegro	382	Morocco	212
Slovenia	386	Spain	36
Syrian Arab Republic	963	Tunisia	216
Türkiye	90		

TIME UTC:	Time of pollution detection.
POSITION:	Latitude and longitude of pollution (degrees, minutes and seconds // WGS / 84 Datum).
DIMENSIONS:	Length and width of pollution in kilometres.
AREA COVER %:	Observer's assessment of the percentage of the boxed dimensioned area (length x width), covered with pollution.
OILED AREA:	Oiled Area covered with pollution; calculated by multiplying length, width and cover % Example: <u>Length x Width x Cover %</u> 2 km x 1 km x 50%, gives... [2.0] x [1.0] x [0.5] = Oiled Area = 1 km ²
OIL APPEARANCE COVERAGE %:	Allocation of Percentage of the 'Oiled Area' to the Appearance of the pollution. Example: 1/2 cover - Rainbow - Column 2 = 50% 1/4 cover - Metallic - Column 3 = 25% 1/4 cover - True Colour - Column 5 = 25%
MINIMUM VOLUME:	Minimum Quantity of Oil Pollution in cubic metres. Calculated as follows: [Oiled Area] x [Appearance Code Minimum Thickness Value] X [Decimal Percentage of Appearance]. [1 km ²] x [0.3 m ³ /km ²] x [0.50] = 0.15 m ³ [1 km ²] x [5.0 m ³ /km ²] x [0.25] = 1.25 m ³

$$[1 \text{ km}^2] \times [200 \text{ m}^3/\text{km}^2] \times [0.25] = 50 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Minimum Total Quantity} = [0.15] + [1.25] + [50] = 51.4 \text{ m}^3$$

MAXIMUM VOLUME:

Maximum Quantity of Oil Pollution in cubic metres.

Calculated as follows:

$$[\text{Oiled Area}] \times [\text{Appearance Code Maximum Thickness Value}]$$

$$\times [\text{Decimal Percentage of Appearance}].$$

$$[1 \text{ km}^2] \times [5.0 \text{ m}^3/\text{km}^2] \times [0.50] = 2.5 \text{ m}^3$$

$$[1 \text{ km}^2] \times [50 \text{ m}^3/\text{km}^2] \times [0.25] = 12.5 \text{ m}^3$$

$$[1 \text{ km}^2] \times [>200 \text{ m}^3/\text{km}^2] \times [0.25] = > 50 \text{ m}^3$$

$$\text{Maximum Total Quantity} = [2.5] + [12.5] + [>50] = > 65 \text{ m}^3$$

No:

The same number as previously allocated to the pollution detection.

POLLUTION TYPE:

Pollution Type as follows:

OIL - Oil

CHEM - Chemical

FISH - Fish Oil or Waste

VEG - Vegetable Oil or Waste

OTH - Other (Amplify in Remarks)

UNK - Unknown

DETECTION:

Detection Sensor.

SLAR - Radar

UV - Ultra Violet

IR - Infrared

VIS - Visual

MW - Microwave

LF - Laser Fluorosensor

PHOTO:

Photographs of pollution

VIDEO

Video of the pollution

FLIR

Forward Looking Infrared of the pollution

WEATHER:

Weather at the time of pollution observation/detection

Surface Wind: Direction and Speed (knots or beaufort as required by national authorities),

Cloud: Coverage in Octas or aviation description (scattered / overcast) and Base in feet,

Visibility: Nautical Miles or Kilometres

Sea State: Using the description code given in the Abbreviations

Weather: Rain, Snow, Haze, Mist etc

REMARKS:

Any Amplifying Remarks.

Note:

For all Detections / Observations Boxes write:

'Y' Sensor used and pollution detected

'N' Sensor used but pollution not detected

'-' Sensor was not used or not available

PART C - POLLUTION OBSERVATION/DETECTION REPORT ON POLLUTERS AND COMBATABLE SPILLS (IMO)

1. REPORTER:
 - a. Reporting State: :
 - b. Observer (Organization/Aircraft/Platform) : Call Sign.....
 - c. Observer(s)(Family Name(s)) : 1.....2.....
2. DATE AND TIME:
 - a. Date (yymmdd) b. Time of Observation (UTC) : Date..... Time.....UTC
3. LOCATION OF THE POLLUTION:
 - a. Position of the Pollution (Lat/Long) : Begin.....N,
.....W/E
: End.....N,W/E
 - b. Inside/Outside Territorial Waters: Inside Outside
4. DESCRIPTION OF THE POLLUTION:
 - a. Type of Substance Discharged :
 - b. Estimated Quantity :m³
 - c. Length (km)d. Width (km) e. Coverage (%) : Length.....km Width.....km Coverage.....%
 - f. Oiled Area (km²) : Oiled Area.....(km²)
 - g. Percentage of Oiled Area by Appearance (%)

1:.....%	4:.....%
2:.....%	5:.....%
3:.....%	Other:.....%
5. METHOD OF DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION:
 - a. Detection (Visual, SLAR, IR, UV, Video, MW : Visual SLAR IR UV Video MW,
LFS, Identification Camera, Other) : LFS Video Ident.Cam Other
 - b. Discharge Observed c. Photographs Taken : Observed: Yes / No Photos Yes / No
 - d. Samples Taken e. Need of Combating : Samples: Yes / No Combat: Yes / No
 - f. Other Ships/Platforms in Vicinity (Names) :
6. WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS:
 - a. Wind Direction b. Wind Force c. Visibility : Direction.....Degrees Force.....Bft/Kts Vis.....kms
 - d. Cloud Coverage e. Wave Height : Cloud.....Octa Wave Ht.....m
 - f. Current Direction : Current Direction.....Degrees

OBSERVATION OF A DISCHARGE OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES BY A SHIP UNDER ARTICLE 6(3) OF MARPOL 73/78

7. SHIP INVOLVED:
 - a. Name :
 - b. Callsign c. Flag State : Callsign:..... Flag State:.....
 - d. Home Port :
 - e. Type of Ship :
 - f. Position (Lat/Long) :N,W/EUTC
:N,W/EUTC
 - g. Heading h. Speed : Heading.....Degrees Speed.....kts
 - i. Colour of the Hull :
 - j. Colour of the Funnel and Funnel Mark :
 - k. Colour / Description of Superstructure :
 - l. Vessels IMO Number :
8. INFORMATION BY RADIO CONTACT:
 - a. Radio Contact b. Means of Communication : Contact: Yes / No Means VHF / Teleph,Ch / Freq
 - c. Last Port of Call :
 - d. Cargo e. Last Cargo :
 - f. Next Port of Call, ETA (yymmdd) :ETA.....
 - e. Statements of Captain/Officer on Duty :

OBSERVATION OF A DISCHARGE OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES BY AN OFFSHORE INSTALLATION

9. OFFSHORE INSTALLATION INVOLVED:
 - a. Platform Name :
 - b. Position (lat/long) : NW/E
 - c. Type of Platform (Production/Drilling etc) :
 - d. Company Name :
10. INFORMATION BY RADIO CONTACT:
 - a. Radio Contact b. Means : Contact Yes / No Means VHF / Teleph,Ch / Freq
 - c. Contact with (position) :
 - d. Statements :

11. REMARKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:

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