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

Seventh Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law
Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the
framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS)

REMPEC/WG.64/5
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Lija, Malta, 2-3 November 2026

Agenda Item 5: Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report

Updating of the 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.

Note by the Secretariat

This document provides an update on the latest amendments adopted by the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM to the Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report in 2025 and proposes a revised draft of the Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report to maintain alignment with the reporting framework used by the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM.

Background

1 The Sixteenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, 13-15 May 2025) endorsed the Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report (hereinafter referred to as “the Common Report”, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.61/6/8/2, and requested the Secretariat to continue liaising with the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM, as well as to promote further practical use during future operations.

Amendments to the Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report

2 The Common Report, endorsed by the REMPEC Focal Points at their 16th Meeting, was designed and intended to be compatible and interoperable with the corresponding forms used by the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM.

3 Since the 16th Meeting of Focal Points of REMPEC, the Secretariat continued with technical exchanges with the regional agreement secretariats, the European Commission and EMSA. The discussions confirmed the continued importance of such interoperability, and at the 22nd Inter-Secretariat Meeting between Regional Agreement Secretariats, European Commission and EMSA (Lisbon, 3-4 February 2026), the amendments, adopted by BONN 2025,¹ to the Bonn Agreement Aerial Operations Handbook, specifically to the Annex B – Standard Pollution Reporting Log Completion Guide, were presented.

4 These amendments include elements to align the terminology with MARPOL Convention substance classification, (while discussions are ongoing for further alignment with the EU Ship-Source Pollution Directive)², and subsequently to improve consistency and data usability, without changing the operational purpose of the common report. More specifically they introduce an update of the pollution type classification as follows:

- OIL - mineral oil (relating to MARPOL Annex I);
- OS - other substances, noxious liquid substances, as chemicals, animal and vegetable oils (MARPOL Annex II substance);
- GAR - garbage (MARPOL Annex V);
- LIT - litter (observed litter in general terms);
- OTH – other (such as observed floating objects, wood, containers, floating industrial pipes, drums hatches ...); and
- UNK - unknown (not visually verified detection).

5 The existing categories, CHEM, FISH and VEG have been rationalised under OS, with the substance specified in the relevant descriptive field or remarks. GAR has been maintained as a distinct category, to be used for observations of MARPOL Annex V substances at sea. LIT distinguishes solid waste of uncertain source, that cannot be attributed with certainty to a ship-source or an operational discharge thereof, e.g. floating plastics, garbage of an unknown source, but also ghost nets (which can have been accidentally lost at sea). OTH captures floating objects and other observations not appropriately classified as an operational discharge, that either pose a maritime safety risk, or are known to be materials released as a result of an accident/incident, e.g packaging materials, floating wood, floating containers, or industrial pipes. UNK remains available where the substance cannot be identified or the detection cannot be visually verified.

¹ 37th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Bonn Agreement (BONN 2025 - Spain 16-18 September 2025)

² Directive (EU) 2024/3101 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 27 November 2024 amending Directive 2005/35/EC as regards ship-source pollution and on the introduction of administrative penalties for infringements

Next steps

6 In order to ensure a continuous updating and preserve the relevance of the common report already endorsed by the 16th Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points, while maintaining interoperability and compatibility, to the greatest extent practicable, with the forms used in the other regional framework, technical alignment is needed.

7 To this purpose, the Secretariat proposes to consider and approve the amendments to the common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report, as contained in the revised draft of the common report as set out, tracked changes version, in the **Annex** to the present document, for use within the framework of the Barcelona Convention, for subsequent submission to the Seventeenth Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points, to be held tentatively in May 2026.

8 Finally, the Secretariat proposes to continue liaising with the Secretariats of the other relevant Regional Agreements, as appropriate, with a view to ensuring that any future updates to the common report continue to be undertaken through a coordinated process, thereby maintaining its relevance, consistency and interoperability across the regional frameworks.

Actions requested by the Meeting

9 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document;
- .2 **comment** as deemed appropriate.

Annex

Revised draft of the Common Marine Oil Pollution Detection/Investigation Report

ANNEX B

☐ HELCOM ☐ BONN AGREEMENT
☐ BARCELONA CONVENTION

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		TIME OVER THE SEA		TOTAL	
					DAY		NIGHT		TIME OVER THE SEA	
					hrs	mins	hrs	mins	hrs	mins

No	AREACODE	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	POLLUTION TYPE	DETECTION AND DOCUMENTATION									WEATHER						SATELLITE CONFIRM				
		SLAR	IR	UV	VIS	MW	LF	PHOTO	VIDEO	FLIR	WIND		CLOUD		VIS (km)	SEA STATE	W _x	Mineral oil	Other pollution	Natural phen.	Nothing found
											DEG	KTS	TYPE	BASE							
											0			FT							
											0			FT							
											0			FT							
											0			FT							
											0			FT							

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

ANNEX B

STANDARD POLLUTION REPORTING 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	31
Norway	47	Spain	34
Sweden	46	United Kingdom	44

Helcom

Estonia	372	Denmark	45
Finland	358	Germany	49
Latvia	371	Lithuania	370
Poland	48	Russia	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	34
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:

$$\begin{aligned} &\text{Length} \times \text{Width} \times \text{Cover \%} \\ &2 \text{ Km} \times 1 \text{ Km} \times 50\%, \text{ gives...} \\ &[2.0] \times [1.0] \times [0.5] \\ &= \text{Oiled Area} = 1 \text{ Km}^2 \end{aligned}$$

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].

$$[1 \text{ Km}^2] \times [0.3 \text{ m}^3/\text{km}^2] \times [0.50] = 0.15 \text{ m}^3$$

$$[1 \text{ Km}^2] \times [5.0 \text{ m}^3/\text{km}^2] \times [0.25] = 1.25 \text{ m}^3$$

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

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

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, Mineral oil (relating to MARPOL Annex I)~~CHEM~~ - Chemical~~FISH~~ - Fish Oil or Waste~~VEG~~ - Vegetable Oil or WasteOS - Other Substances- noxious liquid substance, as chemicals, animal and vegetable oils (MARPOL Annex II substance)GAR - Garbage ((MARPOL Annex V substance)LIT - Litter (observed 'litter' in general terms - cf. OSPAR definition)OTH - Other (such as observed floating objects, wood, containers, floating industrial pipes, drums, hatches, ...).UNK - Unknown (not visually verified detection)**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

SATELLITE CONFIRM: Satellite confirmation. Indicate by X if observation is:
Mineral Oil Other Pollution Natural phenomenon or
Nothing found

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