



Mediterranean
Action Plan
Barcelona
Convention



INTERNATIONAL
MARITIME
ORGANIZATION



REMPEC

50 YEARS OF PROTECTING THE
MEDITERRANEAN SEA

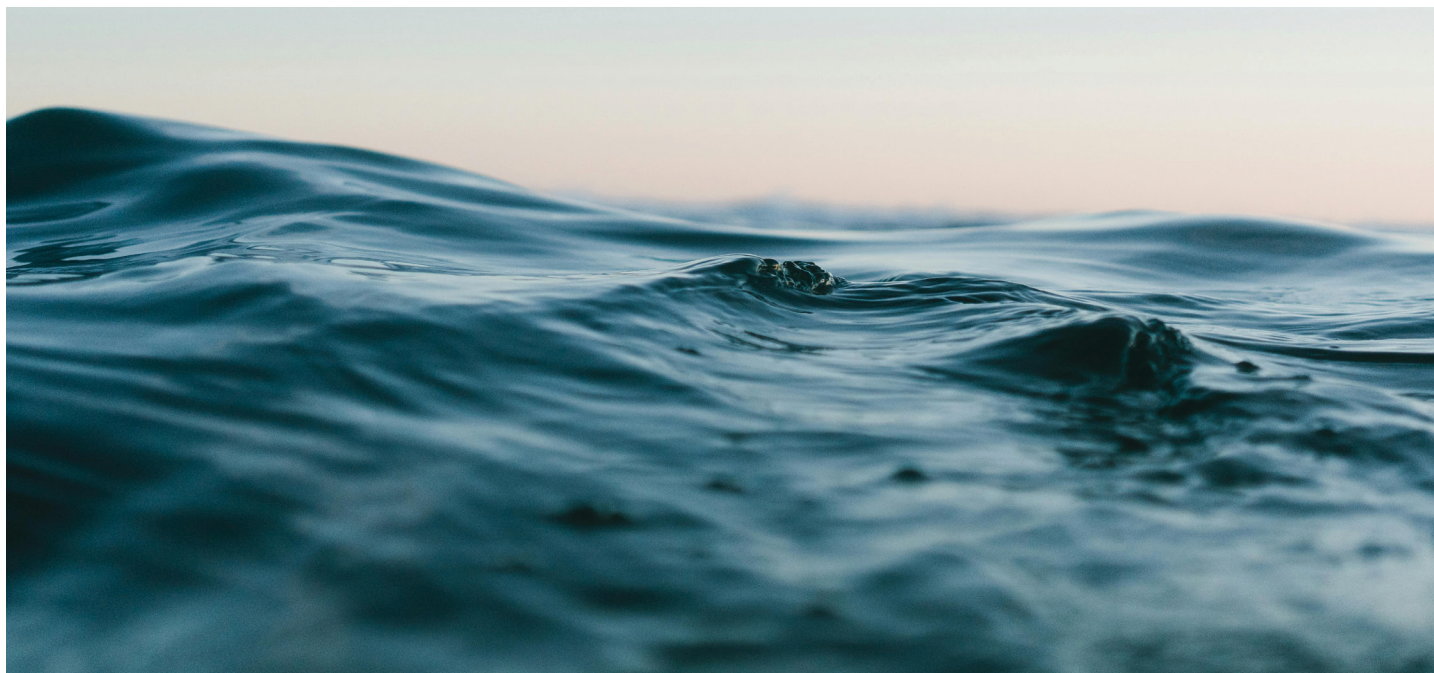
*Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response
Centre for the Mediterranean Sea*

1976 – 2026

*Safeguarding marine environments through prevention,
preparedness, and response from shipping activities.*



OUR MEDITERRANEAN
OUR RESPONSIBILITY



Introduction

For five decades, REMPEC has stood at the forefront of protecting the Mediterranean Sea from pollution caused by shipping activities.

Established in 1976, the Centre has evolved from focusing solely on oil spills to addressing a wide spectrum of marine pollution challenges.

Through regional cooperation, technical expertise, and capacity-building, REMPEC supports Mediterranean coastal States in safeguarding one of the world's most vital and vulnerable marine ecosystems.

Marking 50 years of impact, REMPEC continues to play a pivotal role in shaping a cleaner, safer, and more resilient Mediterranean.

REMPEC at a Glance

REMPEC is administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with UNEP/MAP.

Mission

To assist Mediterranean coastal States in ratifying, transposing, implementing and enforcing international maritime conventions related to the prevention, preparedness and response to pollution from ships.

Core Functions

Strengthening
national capacities

Facilitating
information exchange

Supporting emergency
response systems

Promoting
regional cooperation

Assisting with
international compliance



Historical Evolution

REMPEC's journey reflects the growing environmental awareness in the Mediterranean region.



1976

Established as Regional Oil Combating Centre (ROCC)



1989

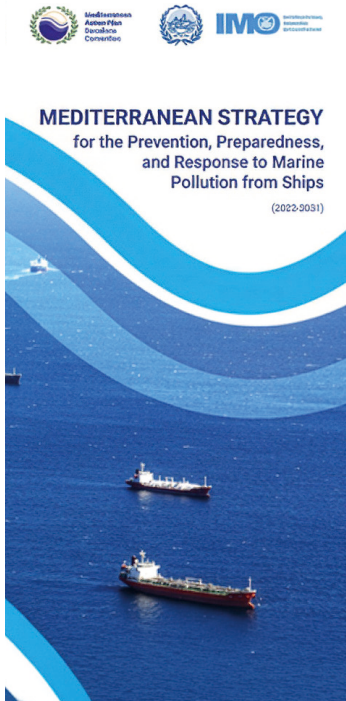
Renamed REMPEC



1993 onwards

Expanded to prevention of pollution from ships

Over time, REMPEC has adapted to emerging risks including hazardous substances, emissions, marine litter, and climate-related challenges.



2002

Adoption of Prevention and Emergency Protocol

2016

Adoption of updated Regional Strategy

2026

Celebrating 50 years of regional cooperation and environmental protection



Legal Framework

REMPEC operates within a strong international and regional legal structure:

- Barcelona Convention
- 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol
- Key IMO Conventions (MARPOL, SOLAS, OPRC)

This framework ensures coordinated action across Mediterranean countries for prevention, preparedness, and response to pollution incidents.

Prevention of Marine Pollution

Prevention is a cornerstone of REMPEC's work.

Key Initiatives Include:

- Strengthening maritime administrations
- Monitoring illegal discharges
- Supporting port reception facilities
- Managing ballast water to prevent invasive species
- Promoting reduction and prevention of air pollution from ships

These efforts aim to reduce pollution risks before incidents occur and promote sustainable maritime practices across the region.

Preparedness

Effective preparedness determines how well countries respond to marine pollution.

REMPEC supports:

National contingency plans

Sub-regional cooperation agreements

Training programmes (4,000+ participants)

Simulation exercises

From just 2 national plans in 1976, the region now has 21 operational systems; demonstrating significant progress over five decades.

Emergency Response

REMPEC provides rapid assistance during marine pollution incidents.

Capabilities include:

- 24/7 emergency support
- Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)
- Coordination of regional and international aid

Notable responses:

- Jiyeh oil spill (Lebanon, 2006)
- Deepwater Horizon coordination (2010)
- Numerous regional spill incidents over five decades



Tools & Innovation

REMPEC has developed advanced tools to support decision-making:

- MEDGIS-MAR (risk and response mapping)
- MIDSIS-TROCS (decision support system)
- MENELAS (law enforcement network)
- Waste management planning tools

These systems enhance preparedness, coordination, and operational efficiency while supporting innovation in marine environmental protection.

The Way Forward

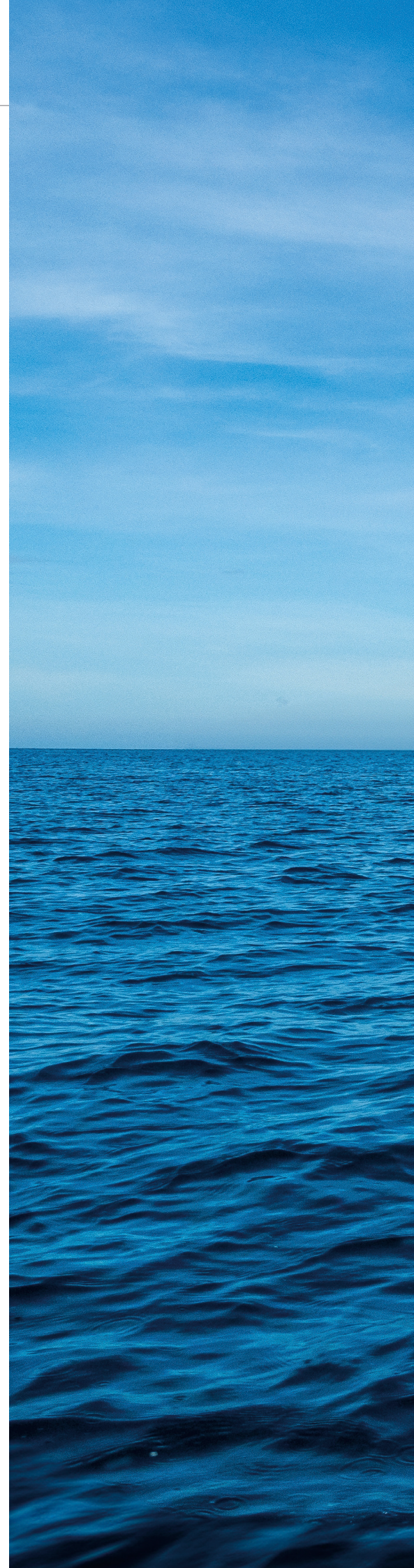
Looking ahead, REMPEC continues to address evolving challenges:

- Increasing maritime traffic
- Offshore exploration risks
- Climate and environmental pressures
- Emerging pollution threats

Through ongoing regional strategies and cooperation, REMPEC aims to:

- Strengthen regional collaboration
- Improve environmental standards
- Support sustainable development

Celebrating 50 years of impact, REMPEC remains committed to protecting the Mediterranean for future generations.



A full-page background image featuring a deep blue ocean with gentle ripples in the foreground, extending to a flat horizon line. Above the horizon is a bright blue sky filled with soft, wispy white clouds. Centered in the upper half of the image is a white text quote.

“Individually we are one drop.
Together we are an ocean.”



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