



---

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

---

Webinar to enhance regional cooperation in responding to marine  
Oil and HNS pollution in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020)

REMPEC/WG.47/3  
Date: 16 October 2020

27-28 October 2020

Original: English

Agenda Item 3

### **MARINE HNS RESPONSE MANUAL MULTI-REGIONAL REMPEC, HELCOM, BONN AGREEMENT: CONSULTATION PROCESS AND WAY FORWARD**

**Note by Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution  
(Cedre)**

#### **SUMMARY**

**Executive Summary:** This document reports the main outcome of the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual drafting by Cedre, ISPRA and ITOFF.

**Action to be taken:** Paragraph 19

**Related documents:** REMPEC/WG.47/INF.2

#### **Introduction and background**

1. The need to update the guidelines and manuals related to Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) spill response produced at different Regional Seas (Baltic Sea, North Sea and Mediterranean Sea) was expressed during the Thirteenth Inter-Secretariat Meeting between Regional Agreement Secretariats, European Commission Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection (DG ECHO) and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) (Lisbon, Portugal, 16 February 2017).

2. The Twelfth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (St. Julian's, Malta, 23-25 May 2017) formally requested the OPRC-HNS Correspondence Group established under the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) to contribute to a joint inter-regional effort aiming at updating response manuals for HNS spills considering the latest developments in the field of response to chemical spills, through the possible production of a joint manual based on existing guides and tools on HNS response.

3. The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre (REMPEC), the Secretariat of the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM), and the Secretariat of the Agreement for cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances (Bonn Agreement) agreed to develop in a coordinated manner an Interregional HNS Response Manual with no regional specificities based on existing regional, European and international manuals and tools. This was further discussed during the Regional workshop on response to spill incidents involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) (MEDEXPOL 2018) (Valletta, Malta, 20-21 June 2018).

4. During the 74th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 74) (London, UK, 13-17 May 2019), the Committee was invited by Turkey to consider the development of an operational guide on the response to spills of HNS in the marine environment. This manual could be included in the 2020-2021 biennial agenda of MEPC, assigning the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) as the associated organ.

5. In the framework of the Western Mediterranean Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) project co-funded by the European Union / European Commission Humanitarian Aid & Civil Protection, the Work Package 3 includes the draft of a Response Manual for HNS spills.

6. The main contributors for the drafting of the Manual are Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre), Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA) and International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF) who are working in collaboration, optimising their respective experiences and knowledge, in order to produce a manual containing relevant and updated technical issues.

7. A Correspondence Group was identified by HELCOM and Bonn Agreement, to contribute to the development of the Manual and to encourage Contracting Parties and observers to send comments and inputs for the manual. A similar process was carried out in the Mediterranean region with Contracting Parties and IMO contributions coordinated by REMPEC through the MTWG.

### **State of Progress and consultation process**

8. The writing of the manual was carried out according the following steps:

**.1 Phase 1: April 2019 - June 2019:** definition and adoption of the working methodology, scope of the manual and manual structure.

- **18 April 2019:** meeting of Cedre, ISPRA and ITOPF in ITOPF premises to define the methodology and working programme as well as to have a first discussion on its structure. Main outcomes from this meeting were presented during the thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the REMPEC.
- **11-13 June 2019:** during the thirteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the REMPEC in Malta, the main features of the future HNS manual were discussed and agreed:
  - Working methodology,
  - Working programme (approval of the draft Manual by the Regional Secretariats and their respective national focal points representative),
  - Manual structure and characteristics (User-friendly and interactive document with intralinks and weblinks, response sheets, illustrative pictures, drawings and schema, side tabs for quick access to relevant information, A4 Format and portrait as orientation),
  - Scope of the manual: HNS definition, environment considered (marine waters and harbours, inland waters, mangroves excluded as well as hydrocarbons or radiological materials),
  - Targeted end-users (both decision-makers and first responders),
  - Manual structure (first part on the main points of the methodological approach, second part with operational sheets, annexes on the specificities of the 3 different regions (traffic, vulnerability, risk, agreements...), glossary and definitions, references),
  - Deliverable format (PDF format downloadable from the West MOPoCo website),
  - Title of the manual: Marine HNS response manual (with subtitle multi-regional indicating REMPEC, HELCOM and OSPAR logos).

**.2 Phase 2: June 2019 - February 2020: beginning of the writing process/Version 1.**

9. During this period, Cedre, ISPRA and ITOPF have made progress on the following points:

- Detailed Manual structure and content definition,
- Definition of a first list of operational sheets,
- Research of cases studies, pictures, schemes,
- Writing of the first section of the Manual and first operational sheets,
- Definition of the layout of the Manual.

- **Early February** the secretariats of the regional agreements were provided with a proof of concept of the HNS Manual, an extract from the first part of the manual and some corresponding operational sheets. Some hyperlinks were introduced to illustrate a possible navigation with cross-references in the document. At least, an example of the graphical presentation of the guide was proposed.
- **26-28 February 2020:** during the 27<sup>th</sup> meeting of the HELCOM Response Working Group in Vejle, Denmark, the proof of concept of the manual was discussed and agreed.

### **.3 Phase 3: March 2020 - May 2020: Consideration of comments and drafting of version 2.**

10. The feedbacks from the regional secretariats, their contracting parties, EMSA and DG-ECHO were provided in March 2020. The comments were discussed by Cedre, ISPRA and ITOPF and taken into account to review the first section of the manual and for further drafting of the manual.

11. The version 2 of the manual was forwarded to the regional secretariats on the 15<sup>th</sup> May 2020. They were kindly invited to compile all comments from contracting parties, to send photos to illustrate the manual and to propose tips and tricks to add value to operational sheets.

- **26-28 May 2020: OTSOPA 2020 meeting, webex:** during the meeting, the detailed structure and content of the manual were agreed. The following points were also introduced:
  - Draft of the conceptual map introduced in the chapter on Response,
  - Example of sheet on behaviour G/E (SEBC classification),
  - Example of flowchart to support decision-making,
  - Example of sheet on hazard-based approach,
  - Template for case studies.

12. Regional secretariats and contracting parties were invited to provide comments on these documents.

### **.4 Phase 4: May 2020 - July 2020: Consideration of comments and drafting of version 3**

13. The feedbacks from the regional secretariats, their contracting parties, EMSA and IMO were provided Mid-June 2020. Many observations and considerations related to the user-friendly and layout of the manual, the content of the different sections, the structure of the sheets, the figures and pictures were compiled by the secretariat and were very useful for Cedre, ISPRA and ITOPF for the preparation of the version 3 of the manual and for the definition of the final layout of the manual.

14. On the 13<sup>th</sup> July 2020, the version 3 of the manual was forwarded to regional secretariats for a last review during the summer period. The secretariats were also provided with two versions of the layout of the manual and were invited to indicate their preference.

### **.5 Phase 5: July 2020 – October 2020: Finalisation of the manual / Version 4**

15. During the summer period, a detailed review of the manual was done by Cedre, ISPRA, ITOPF, regional secretariats and their contracting parties on the version 3 of the manual. All feedbacks were received at the beginning of September.

16. The main change in the structure of the manual was to gather all the sheets at the end of the manual and not to include them chapter by chapter.

17. As many comments as possible have been taken into account in the version 4. Some adjustments are still possible.

#### **Way forward:**

18. The finalisation of the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual will follow the steps below:

- .1 Endorsement of the version 4 of the manual (Word document) through the appropriated governing bodies,
- .2 Finalisation of the annex on regional specificities,
- .3 Integration of the 5 case studies,
- .4 Selection of the pictures to be included in the manual,
- .5 Desktop publishing by the end of 2020,
- .6 Final check of the document by the secretariats in the beginning of 2021,
- .7 Proofreading of the manual by an English native consultant,
- .8 Last correction and Publication of the manual on West MOPoCo website by the end of March 2021,
- .9 Delivery to the secretariats of the Word version of the manual for further up-dating,
- .10 Adoption by the regional secretariats and contracting parties during Spring/Summer 2021.

**Actions requested:**

19. The participants to the present workshop are invited to:
  - .1 **to endorse** the Template on general information and regional specificities reproduced in **Annex** to the present document,
  - .2 **to provide** through HELCOM, the Bonn Agreement and REMPEC:
    - Relevant weblinks to be included in Annex to the present document and,
    - high resolution pictures related to the topics to be presented at this Workshop
  - .3 **to review and provide comments**, as appropriate on the final version of the Joint Inter-Regional HNS Response Manual, early 2021 before its publication by the end of March 2021.

## ANNEX

## Template proposal for the HNS manual annex on general information and regional specificities:

## GENERAL INFORMATION

International level	<p><b>IOPC</b>  <a href="https://www.hnsconvention.org/">https://www.hnsconvention.org/</a></p> <p><b>IMO</b>  - List of conventions:  <a href="http://www.imo.org/fr/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/Default.aspx">http://www.imo.org/fr/About/Conventions/ListOfConventions/Pages/Default.aspx</a>  - Technical information on Chemical response:  <a href="http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/PollutionResponse/Inventory%20of%20information/Pages/Chemical%20Response.aspx">http://www.imo.org/en/OurWork/Environment/PollutionResponse/Inventory%20of%20information/Pages/Chemical%20Response.aspx</a>  - Global Integrated Shipping Information System  <a href="https://gisis.imo.org/Public/Default.aspx">https://gisis.imo.org/Public/Default.aspx</a></p> <p><b>EQUASIS</b>  <a href="http://www.equasis.org/EquasisWeb/public/HomePage">http://www.equasis.org/EquasisWeb/public/HomePage</a></p> <p><b>UNECE</b>  - <a href="http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.html">http://www.unece.org/trans/danger/danger.html</a></p> <p><b>INTERSPILL Conference&amp;Exhibition</b>  <a href="https://www.interspillevent.com/">https://www.interspillevent.com/</a></p>
European level	<p><b>European Commission</b>  - Transport Data Hub:  <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/transport/facts-fundings/statistics_en">https://ec.europa.eu/transport/facts-fundings/statistics_en</a>  - Chemical substances:  <a href="https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/scientific-tool/european-union-system-evaluation-substances">https://ec.europa.eu/jrc/en/scientific-tool/european-union-system-evaluation-substances</a></p> <p><b>EMSA</b>  - MAR-ICE  <a href="http://www.emsa.europa.eu/chemical-spill-response/mar-ice-network.html">http://www.emsa.europa.eu/chemical-spill-response/mar-ice-network.html</a>  - Vessel traffic monitoring in EU waters (SafeSeaNet)  <a href="http://www.emsa.europa.eu/ssn-main.html">http://www.emsa.europa.eu/ssn-main.html</a>  - Clean Sea Net  <a href="http://emsa.europa.eu/csn-menu.html">http://emsa.europa.eu/csn-menu.html</a>  - Port State Control inspection Database –THETIS  <a href="http://www.emsa.europa.eu/ship-inspection-support/thetis.html">http://www.emsa.europa.eu/ship-inspection-support/thetis.html</a></p>
Regional level	<p><b>REMPEC</b>  - HNS Preparedness and Response Guidelines  <a href="https://www.rempec.org/en/our-work/pollution-preparedness-and-response/response/tools/copy_of_guidelines-tools">https://www.rempec.org/en/our-work/pollution-preparedness-and-response/response/tools/copy_of_guidelines-tools</a>  - MIDSIS-TROCS  <a href="https://www.rempec.org/fr/resources/outils-d2019aide-a-la-decision/midsis-trocs">https://www.rempec.org/fr/resources/outils-d2019aide-a-la-decision/midsis-trocs</a>  - HNS Accident database: MEDGIS-MAR  <a href="https://www.rempec.org/en/knowledge-centre/decision-support-tools/medgis-mar-test">https://www.rempec.org/en/knowledge-centre/decision-support-tools/medgis-mar-test</a>  - Country profiles  <a href="https://www.rempec.org/en/knowledge-centre/country-profiles">https://www.rempec.org/en/knowledge-centre/country-profiles</a>  - MEDEXPOL 2018 recommendation addressing the outstanding challenges related to the ratification and implementation of the OPRC-HNS Protocol  <a href="https://www.rempec.org/en/knowledge-centre/online-">https://www.rempec.org/en/knowledge-centre/online-</a></p>

	<a href="https://www.rempec.org/catalogue/rempec-wg-43-9-report-meeting-medexpol-2018-en.pdf">catalogue/rempec-wg-43-9-report-meeting-medexpol-2018-en.pdf</a>
<b>Other useful tools or manuals</b>	<p><b>SAR</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://www.raja.fi/chemsar">https://www.raja.fi/chemsar</a></li> </ul> <p><b>Emergency Response Guide</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <a href="https://tc.canada.ca/en/dangerous-goods/canutec">https://tc.canada.ca/en/dangerous-goods/canutec</a></li> <li>- <b>Chemical response guides</b> <a href="https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Resources/Publications/Chemical-Response-Guides">https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Resources/Publications/Chemical-Response-Guides</a></li> </ul> <p>- Knowledge tool to access projects related to HNS: <a href="http://knowledgetool.mariner-project.eu/">http://knowledgetool.mariner-project.eu/</a></p>

**REGIONAL SPECIFICITIES**

<b>Preparedness</b>	
<b>Maritime traffic :</b>	
<b>- HNS transported</b>	Weblink to the updated version
<b>- Maritime lines</b>	Weblink to statistics or real time AIS or report on traffic
<b>Regional plans:</b>	Weblink to the updated version
<b>Training courses:</b>	Weblink(s) to training centers, training programme, contact details...
<b>Exercises:</b>	Weblink(s) to the programme of exercises, reports, contact details...
<b>Operational concern</b>	
<b>SAR :</b>	Contact(s) for emergency Existence of special rescue team (for instance MIRG)
<b>Emergency response on HNS :</b>	Contact(s) for emergency
<b>Environmental Sensitive Index</b>	Weblink to online ESI, wildlife...
<b>List of Equipment</b>	Weblink(s), contact(s) to access to list of equipment + contact or procedure for mobilization...