

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

REMPEC/WG.16/5/2
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Agenda Item 5.2

DATABANKS, SIMULATION MODELS AND A DECISION-SUPPORT SYSTEM

Note by REMPEC

TROCS database

1. In order to assist the Mediterranean coastal States build their own information capabilities, REMPEC developed a small maritime transported-oriented database (TROCS) to assist a first responder in the decision taking process during marine spill situations.
2. It must be recalled that the TROCS database was constructed mainly on information contained in established publications in the field of response giving the recipient easy access to such information without having to refer to such documentation during the crucial first instances of a spill situation. Information sources from the International Maritime Organization, the North Sea Directorate of the Ministry of Transportation and Public Works, the U.S. Department of Transportation, Transport Canada and the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration have been used in the preparation of the database. The TROCS database was distributed each time significant changes were made: the first version was distributed in 1991 and the last (fourth version) in 1994.
3. The last Meeting of Focal Points was informed that further development in the database was envisaged but due to staffing problems, namely the absence of in-house computer expertise, this development had to be suspended indefinitely.
4. In December 1997, a consultancy agreement was signed between REMPEC and the Malta University Services (MUS), Tal-Qroqq, Malta. The main objective was the operational enhancement of the current TROCS system using an appropriate Microsoft visual environment taking advantage of advances in graphical user interface and modern P.C. platforms. Currently under development, it is envisaged that a data originator and end-user version will be available. The data originator version will allow full maintenance by REMPEC as well as the generation of the end-user version. Changes to the TROCS database will include:
 - restructuring the database of oils and chemicals with an emphasis on the parametrising part of the current structure to separate data dependencies from procedural ones;

- incorporation of:
 - a link of existing chemicals to their trade names/synonyms;
 - updating of the schedules for land and sea response;
 - a calculation to determine TNT equivalents of explosive substances;
- a multi-lingual presentation;
- tool tips to facilitate the end-user.

Simulation models and a computerized decision support system for hazardous substances

5. The previous Meeting of Focal Points was informed of the Centre's efforts to establish a computerized system as a tool to aid decision-makers deal with preparedness and response to emergencies involving hazardous substances. In this regard, the Meeting was informed of the steps taken by the Centre to utilize the Computer-Aided Management Emergency Operations (CAMEO) Programme developed by the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency as a tool to aid decision-makers deal specifically with preparedness for and response to maritime related accidents in port areas and their approaches.

6. The re-engineered version of the CAMEO system available on the WINDOWS platform was received by the Centre in February 1998.

Action requested of the Meeting of Focal Points

7. The Meeting is invited to:
- a) comment and express its views on the status of TROCS;
 - b) take note of the CAMEO system.