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

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

REMPEC/WG.61/6/4  
04 April 2025  
Original: English

Sliema, Malta, 13-15 May 2025

**Agenda Item 6: Illegal and accidental oil and HNS pollution from ships**

**Update of Guidelines and Tools**

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 presents a proposal for reviewing and updating of the manuals and guidelines developed by REMPEC, as well as their development, or parts thereof, to electronic versions. It refers to a concrete example consisting of the electronic version of the 'Oiled Shoreline Assessment Form' of the Mediterranean Oiled Shoreline Assessment Guidelines (2009) developed in 2024 and accessible for use on REMPEC Website.

## **Background**

1 One of the key areas of REMPEC when providing capacity building to prevent environmental marine pollution from ships, and preparing strategies and responses to accidental marine pollution, involves the development of regional cooperation in the field to pro-actively prevent marine pollution from ships, whilst facilitating cooperation among Mediterranean coastal States to efficiently respond to pollution incidents. Among its main functions, REMPEC is dedicated to preparing and updating operational arrangements and guidelines, aimed at facilitating co-operation between Mediterranean Coastal States for preparedness and response to marine pollution.

2 Considering the predominantly operational and technical nature of the guidance documents, their development is undertaken within the framework of the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG), as detailed in document REMPEC/WG.61/6/5 of the present meeting.

3 With the emergence of new technologies, and the need for digital adaptation and as requested by the Sub-regional Workshop on the Shoreline Cleanup Assessment (Israel, 2022), the Fifteenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, June 2023), recommended the development of the electronic version of the *Oiled Shoreline Assessment Form* of the *Mediterranean Oiled Shoreline Assessment Guidelines (2009)*, aiming at enhancing its usability and supporting its integration into tabletop and real-case exercises

4 REMPEC has developed the electronic version of the Form, in collaboration with a consultant and close coordination with members of the correspondence groups under the Mediterranean Technical Working Group (MTWG) as well as members of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU). The Electronic version of the [Oiled Shoreline Assessment \(SCAT\) Form](#) is available on REMPEC Website

## **Guidelines Review / Digitalization**

5 The Mediterranean Strategy 2022-2031 sets seven (7) Common Strategic Objectives (CSOs). Its Action Plan sets out four (4) specific actions to achieve these objectives, including the Action for information and knowledge sharing covering the standards and guidelines. To support the Contracting Parties in achieving the Strategy CSOs, the Secretariat conducted an initial review of the Mediterranean Guidelines developed by REMPEC over the years, to identify those requiring a full or partial update, taking into account developments since their respective adoption and publication.

6 Previous Meetings of the REMPEC Focal Points have already requested the updating of the following Guidelines, namely:

- .1 [Risks of gaseous releases resulting from maritime incidents \(1996\), updated in 2018;](#)
- .2 Practical Guide For Marine Chemical Spills (2000), replaced by the [Marine HNS Response Manual - Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC \(2021\)](#); and
- .3 [Guidelines for the use of dispersants for combating oil pollution at sea in the Mediterranean region \(2008\)](#), first update in 2011, second update: Part II on Basic Information on Dispersants and their Application (2025) to be approved by the present meeting.

7 The review conducted by the Secretariat further concluded that the following Guidelines need to be updated, namely:

- .1 Guidelines to be updated:
  - i. [Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response \(1992\)](#)
  - ii. [Guide for combating accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean \(2000\)](#)
  - iii. [The significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet \(2001\)](#)

- iv. [Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies \(2003\)](#)
  - v. [Guidelines concerning pleasure craft activities and the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean \(January 2008\)](#)
- .2 The update will integrate the developments from the recently published Guidelines on:
- Oil Pollution
- i. [Condensates – Chemical intervention Guide extended to the Mediterranean \(2022\)](#)
  - ii. [Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents \(2018\)](#)
- HNS Pollution
- i. Marine HNS Response Manual - Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC ([2021](#))

### **Proposal for Digitalization of Guidelines**

8 Building on the experience with the SCAT form, the Secretariat's review also focused on identifying operational parts of the Mediterranean Guidelines, which could potentially be converted into electronic formats to facilitate better use by officers in the respective Contracting Parties. The proposed guidelines and related forms that have been identified, are as follows:

#### **.1 Marine HNS Response Manual - Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC (2021)**

The Manual has been developed by Cedre, ISPRA and ITOPF in the framework of the West MOPoCo project 2019-2020 at the request of the Secretariat of the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and REMPEC. It provides state-of-the-art information on HNS pollution preparedness and response. The content of this Manual is also available through the decision trees of MIDSIS TROCS 4.0. The Manual is complemented by a set of Fact sheets including decision trees on different topics, that may be digitalised:

- Decision tree based on hazards [Page 64]
- Decision tree to access flowchart based on behaviour [Page 65]
- Decision tree regarding release of LNG [page 143]
- Wreck response decision tree [page 229]
- HNS response in the water column [page 248]
- HNS response on the seabed [page 253]
- Packaged goods response decision tree [page 265]

#### **.2 Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents (2018)**

Developed by REMPEC to assist Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention in managing requests and offers of assistance from other countries and organisations when confronted with large, complex or significant marine pollution incidents. The Guide is complemented by a set of three (3) annexes including Annex II on 'Forms for pollution reporting, request for assistance', which may be digitalised:

- The Pollution Reporting System (POLREP) is divided into three parts:
  - Part I or POLWARN: gives first information or warning
  - Part .2 Part II or POLINF: Gives detailed supplementary report as well as situation reports
  - Part III or POLFAC: is used for requesting assistance from other Contracting Parties and for defining operational matters related to the assistance

- Standard Form for Request of Equipment, Products and Specialized Personnel
- Standard Form for Request of MAU Experts
- Situation Report (Sitrep)

### **.3 Guidelines on Risk of Gaseous releases resulting from Marine Accidents (2018)**

The Guidelines are intended to provide emergency-planning personnel with informative background on the issues related to the release of gases. The Guidelines deal with the following topics: aspects of the chemistry of gases pertaining to their carriage at sea, container systems for packaged gases, layouts of gas carriers, hazardous properties of gases, behaviour of airborne gas releases. The Guidelines includes three (3) Chapters, among them Chapter 4 'Response measures applicable to gaseous releases' complemented by three (3) annexes among them Annex III 'Evacuation Vs In-Place Sheltering' and its Appendix I, which may be digitalised:

- Response measures applicable to gaseous releases Response measures applicable to gaseous releases
- Characteristics, Facilities and Services of Shelters/Rest Centres: Provides some characteristics, facilities and services which should be available at shelter/rest centres.

### **.4 Guidelines concerning pleasure craft activities and the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean (January 2008)**

These Guidelines were developed to assist the Contracting Parties to develop and improve laws to prevent marine pollution from pleasure craft, to guide users of pleasure crafts and marina managers in adopting environmental best practices and compliance, and to support planning and enhancing marinas' environmental performance. The Guidelines are completed by four (4) appendixes to its Chapter 3.2 'Implementation Measures' among them the following Appendixes which may be digitalised:

- Appendix 3: Self-evaluation of the environmental management of pleasure craft.
- Appendix 4: Self-evaluation of the environmental management of Mediterranean marinas.

### **.5 Guide for Combating Accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea (2000)**

This Guide contains practical information on various aspects of response to oil spills. It consists of fourteen (14) Chapters on contingency planning, communications and reporting, observation of oil spills, various oil spill response techniques, storage, transportation and disposal of collected oiled material, storage and maintenance of equipment and products, among them Chapter Six (6) on 'Lightering vessels in peril' and Chapter Eleven (11) on 'Shoreline Clean up.

Chapter Six (6) considers the difficulties and cost of oil pollution combating both at sea and on shore, and accordingly the necessity, whenever possible, to remove the potential pollutant from a vessel in peril if there is a threat of its spillage. This concerns both fuel as cargo as well as fuel oil of all other types of vessels. It is completed by a checklist that may be digitalised:

- Checklist for Commercial Lightering Operations [page 58-59]

Chapter Eleven (11) considers that, despite of the various methods and techniques deployed to combat an oil spill while the oil is still afloat offshore, it is most likely that smaller or greater part of the spilled oil, will reach the shoreline. The decision to clean the affected shoreline (and to what extent) will depend on different factors. It provides a table listing different clean up methods, that may be digitized:

- Compatibility of various clean-up methods with main coastline types [page 111]

**.6 Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW) Project 2012-2013, 2015-2016**

POSOW Project supported the establishment of a regional cooperation synergy in the field of marine Oil pollution through the enhancement of knowledge and capacities of professional and volunteer operators working in civil protection services, in municipalities and in NGOs. A set of six (6) Manuals were developed to serve as guidelines on the topics of the project and provide the professional and volunteer operators with the basic knowledge needed during an emergency situation with particular emphasis on safety related issues. Similar to the SCAT form of the Oiled Shoreline Assessment Manual, the other following manuals contain forms, which could be digitalised:

Oiled Shoreline Cleanup Manual:

- Daily work Site Form [page 53]

Oil Spill Volunteer Management Manual: Oiled:

- Volunteer registration form [39]
- Example of site safety survey checklist [45]

Oiled Wildlife Response Manual [page 41]

- Medical record form
- Dealing with live oiled Sea turtles [page 50]

Fishermen's Support in Oil Spill response Manual

- Alert – Operational Procedure / Protocol [page 36]
- Surveying – Shoreline / Coastal Survey Form [page 38]
- Daily Data Collection [page 62]

**9 The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document; and
- .2 **comment and agree** upon the list the guidelines to be updated and/or digitalised, as provided in the Annex of the present document.

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**Annex**

**Proposed Priority List of Guidelines for updating and/or digitalisation**

**List of Guidelines update**

Guide for combating accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean (2000)

Guidelines concerning pleasure craft activities and the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean (January 2008)

The significance of a Material Safety Data Sheet (2001)

Theory and practice of foams in chemical spill response (1992)

Personal protective equipment and monitoring devices for maritime chemical emergencies (2003)

**List of Guidelines or part of them to be digitized**

Marine HNS Response Manual - Multi-regional Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC (2021)

- Decision tree based on hazards
- Decision tree to access flowchart based on behavior
- Decision tree regarding release of LNG
- Wreck response decision tree
- HNS response in the water column
- HNS response on the seabed
- Packaged goods response decision tree

Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents (2018)

- The Pollution Reporting System (POLREP) is divided into three parts:
  - Part I or POLWARN: gives first information or warning
  - Part .2 Part II or POLINF: Gives detailed supplementary report as well as situation reports
  - Part III or POLFAC: is used for requesting assistance from other Contracting Parties and for defining operational matters related to the assistance
- Standard Form for Request of Equipment, Products and Specialized Personnel
- Standard Form For Request of MAU Experts
- Situation Report (Sitrep)

Guidelines on Risk of Gaseous releases resulting from Marine Accidents (2018)

- Appendix I: Response measures applicable to gaseous releases
- Appendix 1: Characteristics, Facilities and Services Of Shelters/Rest Centres: Provides some characteristics, facilities and services which should be available at shelter/rest Centres.

Guidelines concerning pleasure craft activities and the protection of the marine environment in the Mediterranean (January 2008)t

- Appendix 3: Self-evaluation of the environmental management of pleasure craft.
- Appendix 4: Self-evaluation of the environmental management of Mediterranean marinas

Guide for Combating Accidental Marine Pollution in the Mediterranean Sea (2000)

- Checklist for Commercial Lightering Operations [page 58-59]
  - Compatibility of various clean-up methods with main coastline types [page 111]
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