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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.61/6/8/2  
25 March 2025  
Original: English

Sliema, Malta, 13-15 May 2025

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

**Final draft 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 final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report developed within the framework of MENELAS.

## **Background**

1 The Fourth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) within the framework of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (“the Barcelona Convention”) (MENELAS), hereinafter referred to as the Fourth Meeting of MENELAS, which was organised remotely by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) from 21 to 22 April 2021, agreed to include the finalisation of the draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report, hereinafter referred to as the draft common report, in the MENELAS Programme of Activities for the period 2022-2023, amongst others.

2 The Fourth Meeting of MENELAS noted with interest that relevant regional and international organisations, namely the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors (NSN)<sup>1</sup>, the Bonn Agreement<sup>2</sup>, as well as the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (Helsinki Commission or HELCOM)<sup>3</sup>, adopted similar, if not identical, standard forms to report detected pollution, and also agreed to take the following standard forms as a basis for the finalisation of the draft common report, for use within the framework of the Barcelona Convention:

.1 the Standard Pollution Observation/Detection Log and Completion Guide, as jointly developed and used as a common form by the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM; and

.2 the Pollution Observation/Detection Report on Polluters and Combatable Spills (IMO), as developed by IMO, and as used as a common form by the Bonn Agreement and HELCOM<sup>4</sup>.

3 The Fifteenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points endorsed the final draft common report, as set out in the Appendix to document REMPEC/WG.56/3/1, consisting of:

.1 the Standard Pollution Observation/Detection Log and Completion Guide, as set out in Part A and Part B respectively of the Appendix thereto; and

.2 the Pollution Observation/Detection Report on Polluters and Combatable Spills (IMO), as set out in Part C of the Appendix thereto.

4 The Fifteenth Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points further requested the Secretariat to liaise with the OSPAR Commission/Bonn Agreement Secretariat and the HELCOM Secretariat to explore the possibility to jointly endorse the final draft common report for use in the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and Mediterranean Sea areas and to liaise with the Secretariat of the RAMOGE Agreement with a view to ensuring that the final draft common report be used during OSCAR-MED 2023 to obtain further practical experience in the Mediterranean region.

## **First-hand experience of the draft common report in the Mediterranean region**

5 In this context, the Secretariat liaised with the Secretariat of the RAMOGE Agreement<sup>5</sup> with a view to ensuring that the draft common report be used during a forthcoming coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges in the Mediterranean (OSCAR-MED).

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<sup>1</sup> a body associated with the Commission established by the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (OSPAR Convention), the latter referred to as the OSPAR Commission.

<sup>2</sup> Agreement for Cooperation in Dealing with Pollution of the North Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances, 1983.

<sup>3</sup> the governing body of the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (Helsinki Convention).

<sup>4</sup> REMPEC/WG.48/2.

<sup>5</sup> Accord relatif à la Protection de l'Environnement Marin et Côtier d'une Zone de la Mer Méditerranée.

6 The draft common report could not be used operationally during OSCAR-MED 2022 that was nonetheless a successful operation between Italy and France, with no pollution identified. However, it was used during a table-top exercise organised in the margins of OSCAR-MED 2022 by the French CROSS Med (Centre régional opérationnel de surveillance et de sauvetage de la Méditerranée), together with French magistrates, whilst an Italian helicopter pilot also made use of it. It was concluded that the use of the draft common report should not pose a problem, subject to further practical experience (if possible) and the approval by the relevant authorities.

7 In 2023, further practical experience was obtained in the Mediterranean region with the use of the final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report during the OSCAR-MED 2023 coordinated aerial surveillance operation for illicit ship pollution discharges by the RAMOGE Agreement.

### **Cooperation with other Regional and International Organisations**

8 Pursuant to the request of the Fifteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC for the Secretariat to liaise with the OSPAR Commission/Bonn Agreement Secretariat and the HELCOM Secretariat to explore the possibility to jointly endorse the final draft common report for use in the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and Mediterranean Sea areas, the Secretariat held various discussions with the respective Secretariats on the matter.

9 The HELCOM Secretariat, informed that in view of the revision of the EU Ship Source Pollution Directive (SSPD) that may also lead to changes in the reporting formats, it was recommended that the three Secretariats should jointly discuss possible needs of updating and harmonising the reporting forms after the revised SSPD has been adopted. Furthermore, it was of the view that it was crucial to maintain the “Satellite Confirmation” in the form.

10 The Bonn Agreement Secretariat has informed that the forms used for the final draft common report, as endorsed by the Fifteenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points were not the latest version adopted by the HELCOM and Bonn Agreement, which was last updated in November 2022. They also informed that once agreed in principle, the forms need to be approved by the approval process under the Bonn Agreement, tentatively by September 2025.

11 REMPEC also presented the final draft common report at the 21<sup>st</sup> Inter-Secretariat Meeting between Regional Agreement Secretariats, European Commission and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) held in February 2025. The Inter-Secretariat Meeting, noted that in view of the recently adopted SSPD, it would be beneficial to hold an online meeting between the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM, REMPEC, EU Commission -DG MOVE and EMSA to clarify the scope and various elements of the report’s format and to also exchange views with regards to possible change in reporting in view of the adopted SSPD.

12 An online meeting was held on 14 March 2025, whereby it was confirmed that the final draft common report, as endorsed by the Fifteenth Meeting of the REMPEC Focal Points was not the latest version adopted by the HELCOM and Bonn Agreement. It was further agreed that if the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention agree to the latest version of the report, this may be further considered by HELCOM and the Bonn Agreement respectively, with a view to jointly endorse the final draft common report for use in the Bonn Agreement, HELCOM and Mediterranean Sea areas.

### **Next steps**

13 Considering the outcome of the consultations undertaken with the HELCOM and Bonn Agreement Secretariats, the Secretariat proposes that the final draft common report, taking into consideration the most recent version used by HELCOM and the Bonn Agreement and showing highlighted changes in the **Appendix** to the present document, is endorsed by the Meeting.

14 The Secretariat also proposes to liaise with the Secretariat of the RAMOGE Agreement with a view to ensuring that the final draft common report be used during future OSCAR-MED operations to obtain further practical experience in the Mediterranean region, also in view of the adoption of the revised SSPD.

**Actions requested by the Meeting**

15 **The Meeting is invited to:**

- .1 **take note** of the information provided in the present document;
- .2 **consider** the proposals put forward by the Secretariat, as laid down in paragraphs 13 and 14 of the present document; and
- .3 **examine** and **endorse** the final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report, as set out in the **Appendix** to the present document, for use within the framework of the Barcelona Convention.

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**Appendix**

**Final draft common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report**

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
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FLIGHT TYPE	ROUTE / AREA	TIME OVER THE SEA DAY		TIME OVER THE SEA NIGHT		TOTAL TIME OVER THE SEA	
		hrs	mins	hrs	mins	hrs	mins

No	AREA CODE	TIME UTC	POSITION		DIMENSIONS		AREA COVER %	OILED AREA Km <sup>2</sup>	OIL APPEARANCE COVERAGE (PERCENTAGE - %)						MINIMUM VOLUME m <sup>3</sup>	MAXIMUM VOLUME m <sup>3</sup>	COMBAT Y / N
			LATITUDE 'NORTH'	LONGITUDE 'EAST/WEST'	LENGTH Km	WIDTH Km			1	2	3	4	5	Oth			

Nog g	POLLUTION TYPE	DETECTION AND DOCUMENTATION									WEATHER					SATELLITE CONFIRM						
		SLAR	IR	UV	VIS	MW	LF	PHOTO	VIDEO	FLIR	WIND		CLOUD		V/S (km)	SEA STATE	Wx	Mineral oil	Other pollution	Natural phen.	Nothing found	
											DEG	KTS	TYPE	BASE								

No	REMARKS	OIL APPEARANCE TABLE			
		No	OIL APPEARANCE DESCRIPTION	MINIMUM VOLUME m <sup>3</sup> / km <sup>2</sup>	MAXIMUM VOLUME m <sup>3</sup> / km <sup>2</sup>
		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

**PART B - STANDARD POLLUTION OBSERVATION/DETECTION 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:

<b>Bonn Agreement</b>			
Belgium	32	Denmark	45
France	33	Germany	49
Ireland	353	Netherlands	31
Norway	47	<u>Spain</u>	<u>34</u>

**Commented [IS1]:** Spain has been added. It had not been included after the accession of Spain to the Bonn Agreement



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	346
Syrian Arab Republic	963	Tunisia	216
Türkiye	90		

Commented [IS2]: Code for Spain is 34

- 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:  
Length x Width x Cover %  
2 Km x 1 Km x 50%, gives...  
[2.0] x [1.0] x [0.5]  
= Oiled Area = 1 Km<sup>2</sup>
- 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 Km<sup>2</sup>] x [0.3 m<sup>3</sup>/km<sup>2</sup>] x [0.50] = 0.15 m<sup>3</sup>  
[1 Km<sup>2</sup>] x [5.0 m<sup>3</sup>/km<sup>2</sup>] x [0.25] = 1.25 m<sup>3</sup>  
[1 Km<sup>2</sup>] x [200 m<sup>3</sup>/km<sup>2</sup>] x [0.25] = 50 m<sup>3</sup>  
Minimum Total Quantity = [0.15] + [1.25] + [50] = 51.4 m<sup>3</sup>
- MAXIMUM VOLUME:** Maximum Quantity of Oil Pollution in cubic metres.

Calculated as follows:

[Oiled Area] x [Appearance Code Maximum Thickness Value]  
X [Decimal Percentage of Appearance].

[1 Km<sup>2</sup>] x [5.0 m<sup>3</sup>/km<sup>2</sup>] x [0.50] = 2.5 m<sup>3</sup>

[1 Km<sup>2</sup>] x [50 m<sup>3</sup>/km<sup>2</sup>] x [0.25] = 12.5 m<sup>3</sup>

[1 Km<sup>2</sup>] x [>200 m<sup>3</sup>/km<sup>2</sup>] x [0.25] = > 50 m<sup>3</sup>

Maximum Total Quantity = [2.5] + [12.5] + [>50] = > 65 m<sup>3</sup>

**No:** The same number as previously allocated to the pollution detection.

**POLLUTION TYPE:** Pollution Type as follows:

- OIL - Oil
- CHEM - Chemical
- FISH - Fish Oil or Waste
- VEG - Vegetable Oil or Waste
- OTH - Other (Amplify in Remarks, Garbage, Litter)
- UNK - Unknown

**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

**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

**POLLUTION OBSERVATION / DETECTION REPORT ON POLLUTERS AND COMBATABLE SPILLS (IMO)**

1. REPORTER:
  - a. Reporting State: : .....
  - b. Observer (Organization/Aircraft/Platform) : ..... Call Sign.....
  - c. Observer(s)(Family Name(s)) : 1..... 2.....
2. DATE AND TIME:
  - a. Date (yyymmdd) b. Time of Observation (UTC) : Date..... Time.....UTC
3. LOCATION OF THE POLLUTION:
  - a. Position of the Pollution (Lat/Long) : Begin.....N, .....W/E
  - .....W/E : End.....N, .....W/E
  - b. Inside/Outside Territorial Waters:  Inside  Outside
4. DESCRIPTION OF THE POLLUTION:
  - a. Type of Substance Discharged : .....
  - b. Estimated Quantity : .....m<sup>3</sup>
  - c. Length (km)d. Width (km) e. Coverage (%) : Length.....km Width.....km Coverage.....%
  - f. Oiled Area (km<sup>2</sup>) : Oiled Area.....(km<sup>2</sup>)
  - g. Percentage of Oiled Area by Appearance (%)
 

1:.....%	4:.....%
2:.....%	5:.....%
3:.....%	Other:.....%
5. METHOD OF DETECTION AND INVESTIGATION:
  - a. Detection (Visual, SLAR, IR, UV, Video, MW LFS, Identification Camera, Other) :  Visual  SLAR  IR  UV  Video  MW,  LFS  Video  Ident.Cam  Other
  - b. Discharge Observed c. Photographs Taken : Observed: Yes / No Photos Yes / No
  - d. Samples Taken e. Need of Combating : Samples: Yes / No Combat: Yes / No
  - f. Other Ships/Platforms in Vicinity (Names) : .....
6. WEATHER AND SEA CONDITIONS:
  - a. Wind Direction b. Wind Force c. Visibility : Direction.....Degrees Force.....Bft/Kts Vis.....kms
  - d. Cloud Coverage e. Wave Height : Cloud.....Octa Wave Ht.....m
  - f. Current Direction : Current Direction.....Degrees

**OBSERVATION OF A DISCHARGE OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES BY A SHIP UNDER ARTICLE 6(3) OF MARPOL 73/78**

7. SHIP INVOLVED:
  - a. Name : .....
  - b. Callsign c. Flag State : Callsign..... Flag State.....
  - d. Home Port : .....
  - e. Type of Ship : .....
  - f. Position (Lat/Long) : .....N, .....W/E .....UTC
  - .....N, .....W/E .....UTC
  - g. Heading h. Speed : Heading.....Degrees Speed.....kts
  - i. Colour of the Hull : .....
  - j. Colour of the Funnel and Funnel Mark : .....
  - k. Colour / Description of Superstructure : .....
  - l. Vessels IMO Number : .....
8. INFORMATION BY RADIO CONTACT:
  - a. Radio Contact b. Means of Communication : Contact: Yes / No Means VHF / Teleph, .....Ch / Freq
  - c. Last Port of Call : .....
  - d. Cargo e. Last Cargo : .....
  - f. Next Port of Call, ETA (yyymmdd) : .....ETA.....
  - e. Statements of Captain/Officer on Duty : .....

**OBSERVATION OF A DISCHARGE OF HARMFUL SUBSTANCES BY AN OFFSHORE INSTALLATION**

9. OFFSHORE INSTALLATION INVOLVED:
  - a. Platform Name : .....
  - b. Position (lat/long) : ..... N .....W/E
  - c. Type of Platform (Production/Drilling etc) : .....
  - d. Company Name : .....
10. INFORMATION BY RADIO CONTACT:
  - a. Radio Contact b. Means : Contact Yes / No Means VHF / Teleph, .....Ch / Freq
  - c. Contact with (position) : .....
  - d. Statements : .....

11. REMARKS AND ADDITIONAL INFORMATION:  
 .....  
 .....