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

Regional Workshop on Data Sharing, Monitoring and
Reporting (MEDEXPOL 2024)

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Agenda Item 3: Monitoring: A new challenge for Enhancing Mediterranean Quality Status

- **Evaluation of impact of Offshore exploration and exploitation activities on the marine environment**
- **Guidance document for IMAP CI 19 and the monitoring of the impact of accidental spill of shipping and offshore activities on the biota**
- **Contribution to the development of the periodic Quality Status Report and other assessment related topics**

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Note by the Secretariat

This document presents a summary of the monitoring obligations relative to maritime transport and offshore activities, of the Mediterranean countries in the framework of the Barcelona Convention, including reference to formats and guidance documents available. The document also includes two “to-do-lists” aiming at easing consultation and application of guidance documents, standards and supporting documents, in relation to monitoring offshore activities and shipping incidents, and their related pollution. It also recalls the usefulness of the results of monitoring of pollution related with maritime transport and offshore activities for the preparation of the periodic Quality Status Report of the Mediterranean. Finally, some considerations concerning the possibility to provide additional guidance to support CPs in fulfilling their monitoring obligations, and on the need to improve monitoring and assessment of CII9, particularly in relation to impacts on biota of acute pollution events, are provided.

Background

1. The Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (the “Barcelona Convention”), including its Protocol concerning cooperation in preventing pollution from ships and, in cases of emergency, combating pollution on the Mediterranean Sea (the “Prevention and Emergency Protocol”) and its Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (the “Offshore Protocol”), establish monitoring obligations under Articles 23, 5, and 19 respectively. In this context, the 4th Meeting of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (OFOG) – Sub-group on Environmental Impact (Malta, May 2023), hereinafter referred as the 4th OFOG Meeting, endorsed five core Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme for the Mediterranean Sea and Coast (IMAP) Common Indicators (CIs) for continuous monitoring of offshore activities ([REMPEC/WP.55/11](#)). The 15th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, June 2023), hereinafter referred to as the 15th Meeting, considered the IMAP CI 19, which covers both maritime transport and offshore activities ([REMPEC/WG.56/8](#)).

2. The CIs to be applied within the framework of the Offshore Protocol and the Prevention and Emergency Protocol are:

- .1 CI1: Habitat distributional range, CI2: Condition of the habitat’s typical species and communities, CI15: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations, CI17: Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix and CI18: Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause-and-effect relationship has been established; and
- .2 CI19: Occurrence, origin, and extent of acute pollution events and their impact on biota affected by this pollution is the one relative to monitoring of spills and their impact.

3. It is recalled that reporting on the five CIs is ongoing under:

- .1 the protocols to the Barcelona Convention - namely, the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Biological Diversity in the Mediterranean (the “SPA Protocol”), the Protocol on Integrated Coastal Zone Management in the Mediterranean (the “ICZM Protocol”), and the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities (the “LBS Protocol”); and
- .2 the supervision of the competent UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centres (RACs): SPA RAC, PAP RAC and MEDPOL respectively.

4. Reporting on CI19 is limited to the contribution made by REMPEC to the Mediterranean Quality Status Reports MED QSR 2017 and Med QSR 2023.

5. In addition, three thematic Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups (CORMONs) have been established in the context of the EcAp to provide guidance on specific topics regarding monitoring of IMAP indicators. IMAP indicators have started to be regularly monitored in the region, under the Barcelona Convention monitoring obligations, and they constitute the basis for the periodical preparation of the MED QSR. However, their application to monitoring of offshore installations under the Offshore Protocol has not been implemented yet. No specific guidance is available at regional level to assist Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (CPs) in fulfilling this obligation.

6. The present document aims to support the CPs in the fulfilling their Monitoring obligations under both Protocols, by:

- i. Proposing two draft “To-do-lists” presenting a recap of monitoring obligations and practical support on the use of the CI accompanying documents, the Guidance Fact sheets

- and the Data Dictionaries and Data Standards (DDs and DSs), in relation to monitoring offshore activities, shipping and offshore incidents, and acute pollution;
- ii. Outlining opportunities to improve the assessment of the impact on the environment from acute pollution events and the monitoring of accidental and illicit discharge; in cooperation with the CPs and CleanSeaNet; and
 - iii. Making reference to the use of results from monitoring of CI19 to continue contributing to the development of the MED QSR.

Monitoring under the Offshore Protocol

7. Monitoring obligations under the Offshore Protocol are contained in Article 19: they concern the operators and the CPs competent authorities:

- .1 The operator shall be required to measure, or to have measured by a qualified entity, expert in the matter, the effects of the activities on the environment in the light of the nature, scope, duration and technical methods employed in the activities and of the characteristics of the area and to report on them periodically or upon request by the competent authority for the purpose of an evaluation by such competent authority according to a procedure established by the competent authority in its authorization system.
- .2 The competent authority shall establish, where appropriate, a national monitoring system in order to be in a position to monitor regularly the installations and the impact of the activities on the environment, so as to ensure that the conditions attached to the grant of the authorization are being fulfilled.

8. In this context the 4th OFOG Meeting agreed about the CIs to focus the monitoring effort, as the key indicators for the Oil and Gas industry:

- Common Indicator 1: Habitat distributional range, to also consider habitat extent as a relevant attribute (EO1);
- Common Indicator 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities (EO1);
- Common Indicator 15: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7);
- Common Indicator 17: Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (EO9, related to biota, sediment, seawater);
- Common Indicator 18: Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (EO9); and
- Common Indicator 19: Occurrence, origin (where possible), and extent of acute pollution events (e.g., slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (EO9).

9. The following considerations were also provided:

- Regarding CIs 1, 2, 15, 17 and 18, monitoring parameters to be monitored by O&G operators should be limited to seabed sediment data (grain size, color and texture; potential metal/organic contaminants; biota numbers and species for community structure analysis);
- CI 15 should be mapped as part of the Marine Environment Baseline Survey (MEBS) and subsequently be monitored on regular intervals, depending on location, and before any changes to the development (e.g., installation of new subsea infrastructure, such as pipelines);
- CI 17 should also focus on seabed parameters and only use sedentary species living in the local seabed (benthos) and on the offshore installation itself (e.g., mussels on platform legs or in cages), as these can be directly linked to a specific installation;
- CI 19 relates to unplanned or accidental pollution events, and these should be monitored, on a case-by-case basis, when such events occur.

Supporting documents

10. To facilitate the reporting on monitoring, supporting documents were developed within the work of the other RACs, as detailed in paragraph 3 above. These consist of the Guidance Factsheets of the five CIs, providing a common reference to support the implementation and improvement of national monitoring programmes of CPs, and of Data Standards and Data Dictionaries (DSs and DDs) which are Excel spreadsheets setting the basic information on data reporting within IMAP. Both documents are provided as Information Documents of the 4th OFOG Meeting: [REMPEC/WG.55/INF.3](#) and [REMPEC/WG.55/INF.4](#), respectively.

11. It is recalled that the first meeting of the OFOG, held in Greece in April 2017, developed the working documents [UNEP\(DEPI\)/MED WG.434/5](#) on 'Minimum requirements for the establishment of a National Offshore Monitoring Inspection Programme' and document [UNEP\(DEPI\)/MED WG.434/4](#) on 'List of parameters'. The latter provides inter alia methodological guidance for monitoring, by the Operators of offshore installations, and the environmental impact of offshore oil and gas activities.

12. In this context, the draft "To-do-list" presented in **Annex 1** aims to provide a basic support to the competent authorities of the CPs, which have to ensure regular monitoring by the Operators of Offshore installations. The "To-do-list", considers i.a. elements from the document 'List of parameters' referred in paragraph 11 above and offers indications to easier consultation and application of the supporting documents of the paragraph 10.

Monitoring under the Prevention and Emergency Protocol

13. The Prevention and Emergency Protocol, indicates, under Article 5, monitoring obligations: "the Parties shall develop and apply, either individually or through bilateral or multilateral cooperation, monitoring activities covering the Mediterranean Sea Area in order to prevent, detect and combat pollution, and to ensure compliance with the applicable international regulation".

14. With the worldwide and regional decrease in the number of major spills caused by ship accidents, the issue of small but very numerous spills has become an important element to be considered when assessing the state of this indicator in the Mediterranean.

15. In 2023, REMPEC developed the IMAP CI 19 to contribute to the preparation of the MED QSR 2023, as published in Annex 3 to document [REMPEC/WG.56/3/4/Rev.1](#) on Data Sharing, Monitoring, and Reporting of the 15th Meeting, considering particularly MEDGIS-MAR and Lloyd List Intelligence respective database. In this regard the 15th Meeting:

- .1 requested the Secretariat to continue working on the development of IMAP CI 19, with a view to considering information from CleanSeaNet, and
- .2 invited the CPs to provide data using the revised DSs and DDs for IMAP CI 19, as developed by the Regional Activity Centre for Information and Communication (INFO/RAC), in cooperation with REMPEC, according to the established criteria for oil and HNS spills, as set out in Annex 2 to document [REMPEC/WG.56/3/4/Rev.1](#) on Data sharing, monitoring and reporting.

16. In relation to the accidental release of oil or other substances, these can result from human decision, error or technical failure. Accidental release and, most importantly illicit discharges, are recognized as a major problem in the region. Monitoring of illicit discharge is conducted to detect violations of requirements of MARPOL and collect evidence for prosecuting ships offenders.

17. At European Union level, the CleanSeaNet service is in operation. CleanSeaNet is a European satellite-based service for oil spills and vessel detections managed by the European Maritime Safety

Agency (EMSA). The information retrieved by satellites includes among others: spill location, spill area and length, confidence level of the detection and supporting information on the potential source of the spill (i.e. detection of vessels and oil and gas installations).

Supporting documents: a continuous improvement process

18. To facilitate the monitoring of Oil and HNS spills, as a result to shipping and offshore activities, REMPEC developed the following IMAP supporting documents:

.1 the Guidance Factsheets of the IMAP CI 19, provided in document [REMPEC/WG.51/9/1](#) of the 14th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC (Malta, May-June 2021);

.2 the revised DSs/DDs for the IMAP CI 19, prepared in coordination with INFORAC, based on the conclusions of the MED QSR 2017, referred in paragraph 15.2 above, and other references, in particular the on multi-scale approach for monitoring and assessment and the definition of “significant acute pollution” events under the Bonn Agreement, as well as the results of the REMPEC’s Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean, presented to as information document [REMPEC/WG.51/INF.3](#).of the 14th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points; and

.3 the document ‘Best practice review of Descriptor 8 (D08C04, 2018 Reporting) of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD)’, as laid down in document [REMPEC/WG.56/INF.6](#) illustrating the monitoring activities required after pollution events due to ship and offshore activities to be considered in the review of the CI 19. It also provided recommendations for the revision of the DS and DD of the CI 19.

19. It is worth noting that the notes by the Secretariat accompanying the revised version of the DS&DD for CI19, referred in paragraph 15.2 above, clarify that these templates cannot provide, alone, a complete guidance to countries on how to operate in case of need for monitoring of environmental impact of a spill. They should be complemented with indications about spatial and temporal features of the monitoring program: number and location of sampling stations, suggestions about the number of samples to be collected (replicates, sampling depths, etc.), indications about the expected duration of the monitoring programs for the different environmental matrices. Such elements could be provided in a revised version of the Guidance Factsheet for this indicator.

20. In this context, the draft “To-do-list” presented in **Annex 2** aims to provide a draft basic support on this topic, offering some indication to easier consultation and application of the standards available for CI19 under IMAP.

Monitoring results: contribution to the development of the periodic Quality Status Report

21. The Initial assessment findings related to IMAP CI 19 to contribute to the preparation of the 2023 MED QSR, referred to in paragraph 15 above, illustrates the results of the related Good Environmental Status (GES) assessment. Different databases have been considered, particularly MEDGIS-MAR, Lloyd List Intelligence, and CleanSeaNet. The assessment also considered the frequency of spills in the period 2018-2021 and its variation in comparison to the previous assessment period in 2013-2017, as well as the sub-regions and the relative sub-divisions identified in the Mediterranean Sea.

22. Based on the outputs of the 15th Meeting, referred to in paragraphs 18.2 and 18.3, and the Initial assessment, ([UNEP/MED WG.550/Inf.14](#)) presented to the Integrated Meeting of the Ecosystem Approach Correspondence Groups (CORMONs), held in Athens Greece 27-28 June 2024, COP 23 adopted the [Decision IG.26/3](#) *Mediterranean Quality Status Report and a Renewed Ecosystem Approach Policy in the Mediterranean*.

23. The requirements to enhance the quantity and quality of data for CI19 and consequent ongoing and future developments are summarized in the decision as follows:

- .1 *REMPEC to continue soliciting the submission of the report on incidents and spills from the CPs, underlining the importance to make use of the latest version of the DS and DDs, referred in paragraph 15.2 above, providing to any extent possible all the data required in DDs and DSs, including estimation of quantity and volume of oil or other substances released.*

Ongoing/ Future developments

- i. The Annex 2 to the present document, as well as elements referred in paragraph 20 above, considered and contribute to achieving this requirement.
 - ii. As recommended by the 15th Meeting, REMPEC developed a survey prided in Annex 3 of the present document, also accessible through this - [link](#) - to facilitate periodic collection of data on oil and HNS spills occurring in the Mediterranean region. Although the survey was distributed, online on 21 February 2024, it didn't receive response from the CPs. It is noted that the 15th Meeting agreed to conduct a preliminary assessment of the received feedback to be considered by the present Workshop.
- .2 *The Countries to start collecting data on impacts on biota with reference to the above-mentioned updated version of DDs and DSs for CI 19.*

Ongoing / Future developments

- i. As recommended by the 15th Meeting, the Correspondence Group on Data Sharing Monitoring and Reporting was established by Circular letter No 7 /2024 dated 28 May 2024. The task of the Group is to enhance the contribution of the CPs to activities related to Data Sharing; Monitoring, and Reporting on Oil and Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS) Spills in the Mediterranean, and to contribute to the preparation of MEDEXPOL 2024 with a focus on raising awareness and visibility of the tools available for reporting, data sharing and monitoring to better assist CPs in fulfilling their commitments in these three topics.
 - ii. The extended version of the Initial assessment, referred in paragraph 22 above, will serve as a key reference for future efforts to evaluate the impacts of accidental massive spills and acute pollution on the marine environment and biota, in coordination with the SPA RAC.
- .3 *The UNEP/MAP – REMPEC to align the definition of the minimum threshold for reporting with the one used under other regional sea conventions and in the framework of MSFD:*

Ongoing / Future Developments

- i. The document 'Best practice review of Descriptor 8 (D08C04, 2018 Reporting)' of the MSFD, referred in paragraph 18.3 above, could serve as a guiding principle for applying the Bonn Agreement threshold, with necessary adaptations to suit the context of the Mediterranean.
- .4 *UNEP/MAP - REMPEC to continue to integrate newly available Lloyd's data in MEDGISMAR database - UNEP/MAP - REMPEC to prepare a comprehensive, integrated database, considering also old data, based on these two databases, cross-checking and resolving data duplication and inconsistencies.*

Ongoing / Future Developments

- i. The 15th Meeting considered already this topic. It agreed to organize the present

Workshop to enhance the ownership of REMPEC datasets and country profiles by the CPs. The output will be addressed under Agenda Item 4 on data sharing as detailed in document REMPEC/WG.57/4.

- .5 *UNEP/MAP - REMPEC to continue acquiring information and understanding about CleanSeaNet dataset and assessing the feasibility to integrate CleanSeaNet data for the Mediterranean in MEGIS-MAR.*

Developments

- i. Exchanges in this regard were initiated in February 2023 while preparing for the MED QSR 2023.

Conclusions and way forward

24. With regards to CI19, there is still an insufficient response by the CPs to reporting obligations. Most of the data on spills recorded in MEDGIS-MAR come from the integration of Lloyd's Lloyd List Intelligence data. Therefore, it is confirmed that improving quantity and quality of data for CI19 is needed. Revised DD and DS for CI19 are available and should be extensively used by the Countries. In the case of CI19 too, additional practical and operational guidance should be provided to CPs. The To-do-List provided in **Annex 2** represents a first, preliminary example on how such guidance should be prepared.

25. With reference to monitoring of accidental pollution and illicit discharges, complementarity between the information provided by incident recording (MEDGIS-MAR, Lloyd) and satellite services (CleanSeaNet) should be further explored and operationalized, including a precise uncertainty assessment of satellite data.

26. Further work should be undertaken by the CPs but also in collaboration with other regional sea conventions, mainly the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the North-East Atlantic (the 'OSPAR Convention'), and the Bonn Agreement on operational criteria for the identification of acute pollution events.

27. In view of the preparation of QSR 2028 CPs should start working on towards the definition of assessment criteria for CI19, including biota as a component, if possible, in coordination with other regional sea conventions.

Actions requested by the Workshop

28. **The workshop is invited:**

- .1 **to examine** Annex 1, **to decide** on its content and format; and **to agree** on the approach for its finalisation and submission for approval by the 16th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC;
- .2 **to recognize** the need to develop additional, detailed and updated guidance for monitoring of the five key indicators in relation with offshore installations;
- .3 **to examine** Annex 2, **to decide** on its content and format and **to agree** on the approach for its finalisation and submission for approval by the 16th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC;
- .4 **to review and finalise** the template for the Survey on Acute Pollution and **to agree** on continuing the process until April 2025 to conduct a preliminary assessment of the feedback received for consideration by the 16th Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC

- .5 **to take note** of the information about threshold and **to comment** on the suggestion on the application of the Bonn Agreement threshold as a guiding principle, with necessary adaptations to suit the context of the Mediterranean;
- .6 **to agree** on the requirement for data cross-cutting (MEDGIS-MAR, Lloyd and Clean SeaNet) and **to assist** the Secretariat in this work;
- .7 **to examine and evaluate** the latest developments in operational criteria for acute pollution events, as well as the definition of assessment criteria for CI19 within other regional sea conventions, including the monitoring of impacts on biota.; and
- .8 **to assist REMPEC** to operationalize the use of satellite data to monitor accidental and illicit discharges, in collaboration with CleanSeaNet.

Annex 1

Monitoring of offshore activities: draft To-do list

DRAFT To-do list on monitoring of offshore activities

This To-do-list is developed by the Secretariat, revised by MEDEXPOL 2024, and approved by the 16 Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, May 2025). In accordance with Article 19 of the Offshore Protocol.

The following indicators were identified by the 4th OFOG Meeting (Malta, May 2023).

Step 1: Consider the following list of indicators (to be monitored by operators)

- Common Indicator 1: Habitat distributional range, to also consider habitat extent as a relevant attribute (EO1)
- Common Indicator 2: Condition of the habitat's typical species and communities (EO1)
- Common Indicator 15: Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations (EO7)
- Common Indicator 17: Concentration of key harmful contaminants measured in the relevant matrix (EO9, related to biota, sediment, seawater)
- Common Indicator 18: Level of pollution effects of key contaminants where a cause and effect relationship has been established (EO9).

Step 2: Consult and provide to the operator the following Guidance Factsheets and Reference documents of relevance for monitoring the indicators under operators' responsibility

Specifically, the following **Guidance Factsheets** are of interest:

- Common Indicators 1 and 2: IMAP Common Indicator Guidance Factsheets (Biodiversity and Fisheries) - UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.444/6/Rev.1 (2017) (available in English and French)
- Common Indicator 15: IMAP Guidance Factsheet for Common Indicator 15 "Location and extent of the habitats impacted directly by hydrographic alterations" (available in English and French)
- Common Indicator 17 and 18: IMAP Common Indicator Guidance Facts Sheets (Pollution and Marine Litter) - UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG. WG.439/12 (available in English and French).

Guidance Factsheets for monitoring are available:

- Guidance Factsheets [REMPEC/WG.55/INF.3](#) (PDF version)
- Online version from the [IMAP Info System Web page](#).

In addition, the following **Reference documents** are of interest:

- Common Indicators 1 and 2: Monitoring Protocols for IMAP Common Indicators related to Biodiversity and Non-Indigenous species - UNEP/MED WG.467/16 (2019) (available in English and French). Session F – Guidelines for monitoring marine benthic habitats in the Mediterranean (Chapter 3 is dedicated to Guidelines for monitoring dark habitats in Mediterranean and is the one of outmost interest for monitoring offshore installation).
- Common indicator 17 and 18: Monitoring Protocols for Common Indicators related to Pollution (Chapter 4.1 is dedicated to CI17 Heavy metals, trace elements and organic chemicals; Chapter 4.2 is dedicated to CI18: Common Indicator 17: Standard H1).

Step 3: Ask the operator to prepare a specific monitoring programme for each installation (including spatial and temporal scale), responding to IMAP requirements, and revise it

Guidance on how to develop a monitoring program is available in UNEP(DEPI)/MED WG.434/4, including a list of parameters to be monitored, guidance on the number of stations and monitoring frequency. Therein the following steps are indicated that can be incorporated in the present to-do-list:

- Step 3.1: Undertake an evaluation of the baseline marine environmental conditions of the area of potential impact from the planned activities, conducted via a desktop review and supplemented by field-based studies if required, based on lifecycle stage of the planned activity and the availability of existing information.
- Step 3.2: Prepare an Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and Environmental Management Plan (EMP), Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP), and other documentation required to be submitted to relevant regulatory authority for environmental approvals/permits

- (such as chemical use, drilling mud use, allowable discharges, etc.) as required per the proposed activity and addressing requirements per relevant sections of the Offshore Protocol.
- Step 3.3: Submit the above documentation to the relevant Competent Authority(s) for appropriate Authorisation(s) and overall Environmental License prior to commencing the activity, addressing the requirements per relevant sections of the Offshore Protocol.
 - Step 3.4: Design, undertake and assess the performance of an Operator Environmental Monitoring Program throughout the lifecycle of the project activity per requirements of the Environmental License, which is to include a structured approach for the assessment and reporting of the Operator's environmental performance in meeting the monitoring requirements. These requirements will be determined based on location-specific and activity-specific information as submitted by the operator to the Competent Authority

With regard to CIs 1, 2, 15, 17 and 18, it is further advised to limit monitoring parameters to be monitored by oil and gas operators to seabed sediment data (grain size, color and texture; potential metal/organic contaminants; biota numbers and species for community structure analysis). The monitoring must cover sufficient sampling locations over the full area of potential zone of impact in order to provide a statistical representation of the baseline conditions in the area, as well as from sampling locations further afield for use as points of regional reference (4th OFOG Meeting, 2023). Further guidance on monitoring surveys can be found in Chapter 5 of Output 3: Common offshore standards and guidelines on the disposal of oil and oily mixtures, the use and disposal of drilling fluids and cuttings and analytical measurements (REMPEC/WG55.2 – Annex).

Step 4: Ask the operator to compile the information acquired through monitoring in the Standard documents (Data Dictionary - DD and Data Standard - DS)

Standard documents are available:

- Data Standards/Data Dictionaries (DS/DD) [REMPEC/WG.55/INF.4](#) (PDF version)
- Online version from the [IMAP Info System Web page](#).

Specifically, the following **DD/DS** are of interest:

- Common Indicators 1 and 2: Standard B1
- Common Indicator 15: Standard H1
- Common Indicator 17: Standard H1
- Common Indicator 18: Standard PMO1.

Annex 2

Monitoring of spills: draft To-do list

DRAFT To-do list on monitoring of spills

This To-do-list is developed by the Secretariat, revised by MEDEXPOL 2024, and approved by the 16 Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points (Malta, May 2025).

Step 1: Consider the following indicator

- Common Indicator 19: Occurrence, origin (where possible), and extent of acute pollution events (e.g., slicks from oil, oil products and hazardous substances) and their impact on biota affected by this pollution (EO9).

Step 2: Consult Guidance Factsheet for CI19

Guidance Factsheets for monitoring CI19 is available from [REMPEC web site](#).

- Common Indicators 19: Revised Guidance Fact Sheets for IMAP Common Indicators 6 and 19 - UNEP/MED WG. 482/21 (2020)

Step 3: Report on spills

When the spill exceeds 50 tonnes reporting is obligatory but you can also opt to report on spillages of lower amount (recommended):

- **report to REMPEC using POLREP** (POLWARN, POLINF, POLFAC) (ref. Art. 9 P&E Protocol)
- **report to BCRS using MED-GIS MAR**

Step 4: Monitor spills

Compile the revised DSs/DDs for CI19 ([available on REMPEC web site](#)) and provide it to IMAP. The Sheets have the following meaning:

- DD_Stations: provides general information on the occurrence of the spill
- DD_OnBoardOil: to be compiled based on information collected during a survey at sea, or directly onboard of the ship causing the spillage and regarding oil spills
- DD_OnBoardHNS: to be compiled based on information collected during a survey at sea, or directly onboard of the ship causing the spillage and regarding HNS spills
- DD_OnShoreOil: to be compiled based on information collected on land, in the area affected by the spillage
- DD_Impact: to be compiled is monitoring of impacts is undertaken (see next step).

Step 5: Monitor the impact of spills

So far, no threshold has been defined to define whether monitoring of impacts should be undertaken. This is based on the Country decision.

A **monitoring plan** should be prepared including spatial and temporal features: number and location of sampling stations, number of samples to be collected (replicates, sampling depths, etc.), expected duration of the monitoring programs for the different environmental matrices. No guidance documents are available so far on these aspects.

The revised Data Standard / Data Dictionary for CI19 (Sheet DD_Impact) provides indication on **parameters to be monitored**, namely on the environmental matrix (water, sediment, biota), on the contaminants to be assessed¹ (Sheet List of Contaminants)

Step 6: Share the results from monitoring of the impact

¹ Petroleum hydrocarbons

Heavy metals - aggregated

Total PAHs (4 PAHs: Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(k)fluoranthene, Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene)

Total PAHs (Benzo(a)pyrene, Benzo(b)fluoranthene, Benzo(k)fluoranthene, Benzo(ghi)perylene, Indeno(1,2,3-cd)pyrene)

REMPEC/WG.57.3

Annex

The revised Data Standard / Data Dictionary for CI19 should be used to share with IMAP the results of monitoring of impacts.

Annex 3

Template of the Online Periodical Survey to update on oil and HNS spills

Survey / Questionnaire

Request of information on spills at sea occurring in [Month 2024] / Demande d'informations sur les déversements en mer survenus au [mois de 2024]

[LINK](#)

This survey has been developed by REMPEC in accordance with the conclusion and agreed approach of the 15th Meeting of REMPEC Focal Points about the periodic update of database on spills at sea (paragraphs 64 and 66 of the report of the Meeting REMPEC/WG.56/8). / Cette enquête a été élaborée par le REMPEC conformément à la conclusion et à l'approche convenues pendant la 15e réunion des correspondants du REMPEC sur la mise à jour périodique de la base de données sur les déversements en mer (paragraphes 64 et 66 du rapport de la réunion REMPEC/WG.56/ 8).

Submit one form per incident / Veuillez remplir un formulaire par incident
Required / Requis

1.Pollution incident / 1.Incident de pollution

Yes, if yes please continue to question 2 / Oui, si oui, veuillez passer à la question 2

No / Non

2.Source of pollution / 2. Source de pollution

Ship/offshore installation / Navire / installation offshore

Land-based / Terrestre

Unknown / Inconnu

3.Type of pollutant / 3.Type de polluant

Oil / Hydrocarbure

HNS / SNPD

4.If type of pollutant is oil, please tick relevant box. / 4. Si le type de polluant est de l'hydrocarbure, veuillez cocher la case correspondante.

Crude oil <50m3 / Pétrole brut <50m3

Oil (Fuel, Diesel, Gas, etc) / Pétrole (carburant, diesel, gazoil, etc.)

Bunker / ~~Bunker~~ hydrocarbure de soute

Other / Autre

4. If type of pollutant is HNS, please tick relevant box / 4. Si le type de polluant est de l'SNPD, veuillez cocher la case correspondante.

Gas / Gaz

Liquid / Liquide

Solid bulk / Vrac solide

Package / Emballage

5.Location of incident / 5. Lieu de l'incident

Harbour / [Port](#)

Offshore / [En mer](#)

Coastline / Littoral

6.Action taken and lessons learnt (optional) / 6. Mesures prises et enseignements tirés (facultatif)

Enter your answer / [Entrez votre réponse](#)

Submit / [Soumettre](#)