



Conference
“REDUCTION OF OIL SPILLS IMPACT ON BALTIC SEA
ENVIRONMENT AND DEVELOPMENT OF RESPONSE OPERATIONS”

Oil Spill Response at Sea in Latvia

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INTERNATIONAL LEGISLATION

- **HELSINKI CONVENTION** *Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (+HELCOM Recommendations)*
- **MARPOL 73/78** *International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships*
- **OPRC** *Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation*
- **OPRC-HNS** *Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances*

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law

Competence of Latvian Coast Guard

- 1) In co-operation with the Marine and Inland Waters Administration (MIWA), control environment protection and compliance with the regulatory enactments regulating fishery
- 2) Eliminate the consequences of ship accidents and disasters, consequences of the spill of oil, dangerous and hazardous substances into the sea
- 3) Coordinate and perform marine search and rescue operations
- 4) Ensure the operation of the GMDSS, AIS and the operation of the vessel traffic monitoring and information data exchange system

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law

Competence of State Environmental Service

- 1) Control environment protection in Latvian waters
- 2) Co-ordinate implementation of the National contingency plan
- 3) Organise the investigation of environmental pollution incidents
- 4) Develop standard requirements for ports, berths and terminals regarding plans for the elimination of the consequences of accidents involving oil
- 5) Develop guidelines for the collection of oil products

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law

Competence of State Environmental Service

- 6) Approve plans for the elimination of the consequences of oil accidents for ports, berths and terminals
- 7) participate in the work of the International Maritime Organisation, Helsinki Commission and European Commission regarding marine environment protection matters
- 8) control compliance with regulatory enactments regulating fishery in Latvian waters and port areas
- 9) control the reception and management of ship generated waste in ports
- 10) co-ordinate port regulations in the field of environmental protection

NATIONAL AUTHORITIES INVOLVED

- Latvian Naval forces, Coast Guard
- Ministry of Environment, Marine and Inland Waters Administration
- Ministry of Transport, Maritime Administration
- Ministry of Interior, Firefighting and rescue service

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law

Elimination of Marine Pollution

- 1) In accordance with OPRC Convention, Helsinki Convention and the National contingency plan for cases of oil pollution in the sea
- 2) The Coast Guard shall ensure and co-ordinate the work of pollution elimination
- 3) The Co-ordination Centre (MRCC) has the right to permit foreign ships and warships to enter Latvian territorial waters

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law

Action in Case of Marine Pollution

- 1) The Coast Guard in co-operation with other competent institutions shall take such measures as it considers necessary to prevent, reduce or eliminate the pollution, as well as any measures in relation to the ship involved and the cargo thereof
 - relocation;
 - rescue;
 - sinking or destruction; and
 - taking over control of the ship.

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law

Action in Case of Marine Pollution

- 2) The Coast Guard after co-ordination with a ship-owner may issue an order to the master of a Latvian ship to proceed to the place of an accident and perform necessary activities for the prevention, reduction or elimination of marine pollution

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

National oil spill contingency plan

Consists of:

- predetermined alerting
- evaluation
- communication
- command
- control and response action sequence

Based on:

- Maritime Administration and Marine Safety Law
- Helsinki Convention
- OPRC Convention

NATIONAL LEGISLATION

National oil spill contingency plan

Purpose and objective

- ✓ The general objective of this Plan is to organize an early and effective response to oil spills affecting or likely to affect the area of responsibility and area of interest of Latvia and facilitate national and international co-operation in the Baltic Sea

LEVELS OF RESPONSE

- I level- Coast Guard response units used their resources to eliminate consequences of oil spill at sea
- II level- Oil spill exceeds 10 tons. Coasts Guard response units use their resources to eliminate consequences of oil spill at sea and involve additional National recourses. Response Commander call together MRCC Committee
- III level – Oil spill exceed abilities of National resources. MRCC Committee have rights to ask International assistance from HELCOM contract parties

OIL SPILL CONTROL STRATEGY

- Oil pollution is mainly linked to ship traffic and oil transfer activities in ports and terminals, in particular Riga, Ventspils, Liepaja
- In accordance with the Plan Naval forces established Operational response groups in ports of Riga, Ventspils, Liepaja
- Each response group has it's own area of responsibility

RESPONSE UNITS

ALERTING

- 1st response unit must to start from their base within 20 minutes
- Response units maintain preparedness permitting them to start within 2 hours after being alerted
- Response units have to reach any faraway points at sea within 6 hours
- Response units must organize effective response actions on scene of oil spill as soon as possible but not later than 12 hours
- Response units must eliminate consequences of oil spill not later than 2 days

RESPONSE UNITS

- Name of vessel ***KA-14 ASTRA***
- Location *Ventspils*
- Length *25 m*
- Width *6 m*
- Draught *1.2 m*
- Call sign *YLON*
- Recovery system *LAMOR Brush Skimmer
Box system 2 x 80 m³/h*

RESPONSE UNITS



RESPONSE UNITS

- Name of vessel ***A-90 VARONIS***
- Location *Riga*
- Length *59.5 m*
- Width *11.12 m*
- Draught *3.69 m*
- Call sign *YLNS*
- Recovery system *LAMOR advancing system
+ free-floating skimmer*

RESPONSE UNITS



RESPONSE UNITS

- Name of vessel ***Barge JL – 1***
- Location *Liepaja*
- Length *19.85 m*
- Width *5.7 m*
- Draught *1.3 m*
- Call sign *-*
- Recovery system ***LAMOR OPC-4***

RESPONSE UNITS

- Name of vessel ***RK-12 VALPAS***
- Location *Riga*
- Length *48.3 m*
- Width *8.66 m*
- Draught *4.3 m*
- Call sign *YLRS*
- Recovery system ***DESMI TERMINATOR***
skimmer head

RESPONSE UNITS



SHORELINE RESPONSE UNITS



STAND-BY EQUIPMENT

- ✓ 8 sets of RO-BOOM 1500 With powerblocks (2200m)
- ✓ 1 set of RO-BOOM 800 (120m)
- ✓ Absorbent boom (5400m)
- ✓ HEDROBOOM MP 1100 (500m)
- ✓ 4 sets of LAMOR
- ✓ 3 sets of skimmers DESMI TERMINATOR
- ✓ Primary oil storage bags RO-TANK (6x1.5 m³, 1x10 m³, 2x50m³)



**THANK YOU
FOR YOUR ATTENTION!**