



REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY,
INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION

NINTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE
RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe STEERING COMMITTEE
Agenda item 7

OSC 9/7/1
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Original: English

OPRC Convention Recommendations for the 2018-2020 Work Plan Submitted by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe

SUMMARY

Executive Summary: This document provides important recommendation generated over the 2016-2017 Work Plan regarding implementation of the OPRC Convention in the Wider Caribbean Region.

Action to be Taken: Paragraph 3

Related documents: RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe OSC 9-1-1

General

1. The following recommendations were generated by facilitated discussions, findings and lessons learned from the focal points, participants and facilitators of the following workshops and activities conducted during the 2016 and 2017 Work Plan:
 - 1.1. **Sub-Regional Level 2 IMO Training Course on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC)**, conducted 14-18 Nov 2016 in Pointe-à-Pitre, Guadeloupe.
 - 1.2. **IMO Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Contingency Planning**, conducted 13-16 Dec 2016 in Nassau, Bahamas.
 - 1.3. **Sub-regional Level III Workshop on OPRC and IMO's Guidance on the Implementation of an Incident Management System**, conducted 20-25 May 2017 in Nassau, The Bahamas.
 - 1.4. **IMO Sub-Regional OPRC Workshop on Oil Spill Response Equipment, Simulation Exercises & Co-ordination with Neighboring Countries**, conducted 2-6 Oct 2017 in Cartagena, Colombia.
 - 1.5. **The Regional Support Provided by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to Aruba, Curaçao, Bonaire, Venezuela and Trinidad and Tobago, Following the Oiling Events in the Southern Caribbean, April to June 2017.**

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Recommendations

2. The below recommendations should be considered for future technical assistance and capacity building efforts throughout the Wider Caribbean Region.
 - 2.1. Conducted Oil Spill Response (OSR) risk assessments throughout Wider Caribbean Region:
 - 2.1.1. Assess Regional Equipment Stockpiles and Availability in each State
 - 2.1.2. Assess ability of the Governments to attain OPRC Tier 1 capabilities for most probable spills, either nationally or with bi-lateral, multi-lateral and/or any existing regional agreements
 - 2.1.3. Utilize ARPEL's Manual and Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOSi) to conduct assessments and identify critical gaps in national oil spill preparedness and response programs throughout the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR).
 - 2.2. Add Detailed National Information & Offshore Planning to the Regional Plans:
 - 2.2.1. Integrate offshore oil preparedness information into the two Regional Wider Caribbean OPRC Plans and/or enhance offshore oil response planning in plans where already existing, using the information collected during the 2016-2017 Work Plan and additional assessment conducted throughout the region.
 - 2.3. Add detailed lists of all equipment stockpiles and response contact information to the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan.
 - 2.4. Efforts should be made to better connect the Central American OPRC and Caribbean Island OPRC Regional Plans:
 - 2.4.1. Have regional and national oil spill contingency plans translated in the primary working languages of the region (English, Spanish and French)
 - 2.4.2. Ensure availability of information between COCATRAM and RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe (National Plans, ESI maps, etc.)
 - 2.4.3. Link/merging the Plans under a common framework and easily accessible online network.
 - 2.4.4. Explore how CARICOM, CDEMA or other regional groups may be used to facilitate the legal frame work to connect the plans
 - 2.5. Support Wider Caribbean Region States in:
 - 2.5.1. Setting up multi-lateral and bilateral agreements to improve oil spill preparedness and response efforts before, during and after spills.
 - 2.5.2. Development of sub-regional Joint Communication Plans
 - 2.5.3. Writing implementing, compensation & liability legislature
 - 2.6. Facilitate regional exercises on a regular basis:
 - 2.6.1. At least one Regional Tier 3 Table Top Exercise every 2 years to establish communication, identify resources and resource gaps, facilitate cross-border dispersant policies, increased understanding of offshore oil operations.
 - 2.7. Focus training efforts on
 - 2.7.1. Incident Management, OPRC, financial mechanisms, claims, compensation, civil liability, legislation development, spill monitoring, National Level & use of online software for spill trajectories

- 2.8. Form a Regional Emergency Response Advisory Team to include:
 - 2.8.1. Regional Assistance Agreements;
 - 2.8.2. Contacts for Technical Assistance

- 2.9. Fully established RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe as a Regional Spill Reporting, Notification and Coordination Centre by:
 - 2.9.1. Establish partnerships with other regional coordination centers in the Region such as:
 - 2.9.1.1. The Caribbean Disaster Emergency Management Agency
 - 2.9.1.2. Maritime Search and Rescue Centers in the Caribbean
 - 2.9.1.3. The Caribbean Dewetra Platform
 - 2.9.1.4. The Panama Humanitarian

- 2.10. Develop a regional online information platform that will be connected to/within RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's website and contain.
 - 2.10.1. A Web-based Caribbean Pollution Reporting Form
 - 2.10.2. National spill contact / notification information
 - 2.10.3. Technical assistance links and contact information
 - 2.10.4. A Webchat system to activate in times of spills
 - 2.10.5. ALL National contingency plans
 - 2.10.6. National and regional equipment stockpiles;
 - 2.10.7. All Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps connected on a single Google Platform
 - 2.10.8. Identification of oil platform, terminals, pipelines and wrecks locations
 - 2.10.9. Relevant documentation such as best practices.

Action

3. The Steering Committee is invited to approve the information presented in this document as well as the presentation provided by Mr. Keith Donohue; and incorporate these recommendations into the 2018-2020 Work Plan and future amendments to the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Long Term Strategic Plan.