



4th April 2013

Regional Oil Pollution Preparedness Response and Co-operation Workgroup on Oversight of offshore Units

Activity Report

**19-20 March 2013
Nassau, Bahamas**

Summary: This is the 5th regional meeting related to offshore oil pollution preparedness, response and co-operation conducted by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe. Delegates from The Bahamas, Cuba, Mexico and the USA attended to this event. The objective of the workgroup was to complete the drafting of Multilateral Technical Operating Procedures for Offshore Oil Pollution Response.

**Regional Activity Center / Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Center
Wider Caribbean Region**

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1. Background and Workshop Objective

1.1 This activity is the fifth following the workshops held in The Bahamas (7-9 December 2011), Curacao (31 January – 2 February 2012), Jamaica (11-13 April 2012) and Mexico (29-31 August 2012).

1.2 During the first four workshops, the participants had the opportunity to exchange information on offshore oil pollution prevention, preparedness, response and cooperation and to test existing notification protocols through a scenario driven exercise. These meetings lead to the development of multilateral technical operating procedures for offshore oil pollution response. The very first draft was shared on the listserv right after the workshop in Mexico.

1.3 The Bahamas, Cuba, Jamaica, Mexico and the USA provided comments and edits to this first draft during the following months on the listserv. RAC/REMPEITC compiled these remarks into a single working document and it was agreed that the participants should meet again in order to finalize the draft.

1.4 The Government of The Bahamas agreed to host the workgroup tasked to finalize the drafting of the multilateral technical operating procedures for offshore oil pollution response. This activity was not in RAC/REMPEITC budgetary plan and the IMO could not provide additional funding but was supportive of this meeting. Each participant to the workgroup was funded by their own government. See **Annex 1** for a detailed participant list.

2. Program Overview

2.1 The workgroup session was organized and facilitated by RAC/REMPEITC. The agenda is included as **Annex 2**.

2.2 The session started with opening remarks from the Honorable Glenys Hanna-Martin, Minister of Transport and Aviation of The Bahamas, and RAC/REMPEITC. The workgroup then began a line by line review of the working document. The two days were also interspersed with nation to nation conversation to allow further discussion and settlement of potential disagreements.

2.3 At the end of the meeting, an evaluation form was distributed to each participant. The results are summarized and attached in **Annex 3**.

2.4 Lorraine Armbrister, Permanent Secretary in the Ministry of Transport and Aviation of The Bahamas gave a few words to conclude this workgroup session, thanking all the delegates for their active participation as well as RAC/REMPEITC, IMO and the Ministry of Transport and Aviation for the help and support provided in implementing this activity. RAC/REMPEITC also thanked the delegates and the Ministry of Transport and Aviation for this fruitful and successful activity and encouraged the delegates to keep moving forward. Each participant received a certificate.

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3. Support

The Government of Bahamas, through the Ministry of Transport and Aviation provided excellent support in preparation and throughout the workshop. Amongst other things, The Bahamas identified the hotel and meeting room facilities, negotiated the preferential rate, provided the audio/visual equipment, name tags and cards, and made arrangements for the coffee breaks. Mr. Montez Dudley Williams' assistance in preparing the workshop and throughout the proceedings was highly appreciated and most helpful.

4. Logistics

4.1 Arrangements for participants' accommodation and workgroup venue were made at Super Clubs Breezes Bahamas.

Super Clubs Breezes Bahamas
Sea Breeze Ballroom
PO Box CB 1349
Nassau, Bahamas
Phone: 001-242-327-5356
Fax: 001-242-327-3650
Email: sales.bahamas@superclubs.com
Website: <http://www.breezes.com/resorts/breezes-bahamas>

4.4 Instructors/facilitators for the workshop included:

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5. Outcomes and recommendations

- 5.1 This meeting was a great success. By the end of day two, the delegates had agreed to a near-final text of the MTOP which will be presented to each government for final review and approval.
- 5.2 Overall, there was broad consensus on most of the document edits.
- 5.3 The delegates agreed to entitle the document *Wider Caribbean Region Multilateral Technical Operating Procedures for Offshore Oil Pollution Response (MTOP)* and the geographic scope of the MTOP will be the same as the Cartagena Convention.
- 5.3 Among other things, delegates agreed to organize a notification exercise (June 2013) and to conduct multilateral technical visits (operational command centers, emergency response centers, response equipment inventory/staging areas).
- 5.4 The MTOP is not a treaty or a legal binding document signed by any country. The intent of the workgroup was to create procedures and guidelines that were already vetted and could be put in place for use in the event of an emergency response.
- 5.5 Once the final version of the MTOP is available, it will be posted on REMPEITC's website.
- 5.6 The MTOP will be presented to both the Caribbean Islands and the Central American OPRC for inclusion as working template in an annex of their Regional Response Plans. The MTOP could also potentially serve as a model to other regions around the globe



Annex 1 – Participants List

Annex 2 – Agenda

Annex 3 – Workgroup Evaluation Results

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Annex 1 – Participants List

1. Cuba

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Annex 2 - Agenda

Day 1: Document Review and Amendment

0830 - 0900	Participants Registration
0900 - 0930	<p>Opening and Introduction to the Forum - REMPEITC/Host Calls to Order</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welcoming Remarks <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Ministry of Transport and Aviation ○ REMPEITC • Introduction of Workgroup Participants - Heads of Delegation • Misc. Housekeeping - Host (Ministry of Transport and Aviation) • Workgroup Agenda - REMPEITC
0930 - 0945	Presentation of Multi-lateral Response Document and Compilation of all Delegate's Submissions and Comments from the Forum Webpage - REMPEITC
0945 - 1000	Coffee-Break
1000 - 1215	Begin line item review and amendment of working document - REMPEITC
1215 - 1330	Lunch Break
1330 - 1500	Nation to nation appendix discussion
1500 - 1545	Review/Amendment Contd.
1545 - 1600	Coffee-Break
1600 - 1650	Review/Amendment Contd.
1650 - 1700	<p>Day's Conclusion</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Summary of workgroup's progress - • Decisional instructions for Day Two's continuation - • Misc. guidance - Host (MTA)



Day 2: Document Review and Table Top Exercise Consideration

0815 - 0830	Workgroup's Gathering
0830 - 1000	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Call to order - REMPEITC/Host • Review of first days accomplishments and any "parking lot items" - REMPEITC • Continued line item review and amendment of working document
1000 - 1015	Coffee-Break
1015 - 1130	Nation to nation appendix discussion
1130 - 1215	Finalization of document and review for posting to forum's webpage.
1215 - 1330	Lunch-Break
1330 -1400	Completion of any outstanding immediate concerns of group on document - REMPEITC
1400 - 1545	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consideration of virtual table-top: Goals/Objectives/Recommend Proposed date and Time - REMPEITC • Summary of discussed matters and Outstanding matters / Future Plans and recommendations - REMPEITC
1545 - 1600	Coffee-Break
1600 - 1630	Conclusion of Workgroup: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Host - Ministry of Transport and Aviation • REMPEITC



Annex 3 – Workshop Evaluation Results

A Arrangements prior to the activity		Yes	No
1	Was the invitation received in good time?	100	0
2	Did you receive information on the objective, scope and subject areas and programme of the activity before your participation?	89 %	11%
3	Were the instructions for completing the nomination form and the profile required for the activity clear and easily understood?	100 %	0 %
4	Did you receive logistical information on venue, travel arrangements, DSA payments, and accommodation?	100 %	0 %
5	Were you given any pre-event assignment?	68 %	32 %
6	If yes, was the pre-event assignment practical?	100 %	0 %

B During the activity		Too long	Just right to cover topics fully	Too short	
7	Was the event	7 %	86 %	7 %	
8	How do you rate the event as regard to the following	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
	Venue	42 %	54 %	4 %	0 %
	Facilities	50 %	42 %	8 %	0 %
	Equipment	45 %	48 %	7 %	0 %

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		Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
9	Quality of written documentation provided				
	Clarity	29 %	63 %	4 %	4 %
	Technical content	39 %	46 %	15 %	0 %
	Relevance	35 %	58 %	7 %	0 %
	Comprehensiveness	35 %	50 %	15 %	0 %
10	Quality of presentations	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
	Clarity	33 %	63 %	4 %	0 %
	Technical content	38 %	54 %	4 %	4 %
	Relevance	38 %	58 %	4 %	0 %
	Comprehensiveness	35 %	58 %	7 %	0 %
11	Quality and use of:	Excellent	Good	Satisfactory	Poor
	Course materials	33 %	63 %	4 %	0 %
	IMO references materials	31 %	50 %	19 %	0 %
	Other resource materials	16 %	60 %	24 %	0 %
	Group or practical activities	46 %	42 %	12 %	0 %
	Excursions			n/a	

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At the end of the activity

Excellent

Good

Satisfactory

Poor

12 Please rate each individual lecturer in regard to the following

Anne Réglain

Content of the lecture	29 %	67 %	4 %	0 %
Presentation	43 %	57 %	0 %	0 %
Ability to transfer knowledge	43 %	48 %	9 %	0 %
Effectiveness in answering questions and suggesting solutions to problems	43 %	52 %	5 %	0 %

Eric Dawicki

Content of the lecture	48 %	48 %	4 %	0 %
Presentation	59 %	41 %	0 %	0 %
Ability to transfer knowledge	63 %	30 %	7 %	0 %
Effectiveness in answering questions and suggesting solutions to problems	59 %	33 %	8 %	0 %

Joel Whitehead

Content of the lecture	35 %	61 %	4 %	0 %
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Presentation	38 %	54 %	8 %	0 %
Ability to transfer knowledge	42 %	46 %	12 %	0 %
Effectiveness in answering questions and suggesting solutions to problems	46 %	38 %	15 %	0 %



Most interest to you

1. Legal aspects of MARPOL. Implementation and enforcement. 2. All the topics were interesting. 3. All the topics covered were of relevance for me. 4. Reception facility. PSC. 5. Opportunity for income generation, enforcement of MARPOL, GISIS. 6. The group discussions on the different topics. 7. Ratification & Implementation, waste reception facilities. 8. Enforcement. 9. Reception Facility. 10. Implementation of MARPOL (I-IV). 11. Details of compliance issues. 12. Group work. 13. The group discussion and interaction on all the topics. 14. Waste reception facilities & the current status of the islands. 14. Implementation and port reception facilities. 15. Legal aspects, rights & obligations. 16. All topics were of equal interest however the topic of garbage collection ties in with what we do in my country.

Least interest to you

1. Everything was interesting. 2. None. 3. Introduction to IMO. 4. All were practical. 5. Concept, implementation & enforcement of annex VI

Yes

No

14 Are there any topics which should be added?

8 %

92 %

If yes, please list them

1. Field trip should always be organized. 2. Model legislation on MARPOL

Yes

No

15 Do you consider that the objective of the event was met?

92 %

8 %

16 Comments

1. In terms of enforcement of MARPOL, the objectives were met. However, in terms of implementation, the owe is really on the member state. Impediments to implementation were identified and solutions highlighted. The success of these solutions is to be determined. 2. Yes, the objectives were met because everybody's input was listened to and we got more information from each other. 3. Very good workshop, course content was comprehensive and relevant. Good opportunity for collaboration and exchange of ideas/best practices. 4. The meeting place was of good standard with good eats. The staff must be complimented. The delegates' hotel was left wanting. The info was relevant, the instructors knowledgeable, a worth withy workshop. 5. The workshop was very comprehensive and it exceeded my expectations. The scenarios were appropriate as this allowed for the sharing of information between the countries. The workshop reinforced the fact that all the countries have similar issues however we can work together to achieve a common goal. 6. This was an excellent presentation. 7. More of these types of workshops would be welcomed for other pollution conventions. 8. This workshop was extremely informative & interactive. It gave participants an opportunity

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to network & share ideas. 9. Efforts should be made to further the synergies of trade and environmental issues (pollution) at the regional policy level mechanisms eg CARICOM, Council on Trade and Development (COTED) or the Organization of Eastern Caribbean (OECS). 10. I really enjoyed this conference as it was the first one for me. Would love to return again. 11. Must comment that the secretariat was extremely helpful, efficient and accommodating. 12. The workshop was a success. The lecturers were very clear on the matter. Maybe the IMO should look at doing a follow up on this workshop, whereby the IMO should look at what happened after the workshop. 13. This was a good workshop but it made clear that we still need a lot of capacity building on this subject. 14. The objectives of the event were realised. As a region, we all are willing to comply with the requirements of MARPOL but the resources are clearly lacking, without a regional approach the region will be unsuccessful at complying with MARPOL. 15. Effective workshop. Good lecturers. 16. I had a great time at the workshop as it met my expectations. The course material was adequate and the lecturers were excellent. I was very pleased with the facilities and all other members who supported and facilitated the workshop did a fine job. The atmosphere was one of cooperation and everyone participated fully. Conclusion: we had a wonderful group and I truly enjoyed being there. Great lecturing team.

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