



SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

Marine Officer Falkland Islands Fisheries Department FIPASS Stanley	Tel: +500 27260/27266 +500 21578/27222 (24hr) Fax: +500 27265 Tlx: 2426
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COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

As for spill notification point.

RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

The Falkland Islands Fisheries Department is the lead agency charged with managing the marine environment, responding to marine oil spills within the 12 nautical mile (nm) territorial limit and 200 nm EEZ.

Currently, no national oil spill contingency plan exists for the Falklands. However, the recent granting of oil exploration licences has prompted a review of oil spill response arrangements in the country. In order to upgrade arrangements, a National Contingency Plan is currently in draft and due to be completed at the end of 1997. This aims to establish the necessary framework for future arrangements to combat marine oil pollution in the islands and will define the roles and level of interaction between all the relevant organisations, including the definition of the exact nature of future military involvement in spill response in the islands. Until it is completed, interaction between the different organisations in the event of a spill, will occur, as and when it is needed and deemed to be appropriate by those organisations.

Spills within the military port of East Cove would be responded to in the same manner as those occurring on MoD bases in the UK. Members of the 2,000 strong military garrison based on the islands may be employed to help in any shoreline clean-up that was required.

Marine and Scientific expertise can be supplied by the Fisheries Department and Falklands Conservation can provide environmental advice in the event of a spill. However, at present, there are no sensitivity maps for the islands, although it is envisaged that such maps will be a priority in the future.

RESPONSE POLICY

Under the newly proposed National Contingency Plan it is envisaged that the primary method of combating offshore marine oil pollution will involve the application of dispersants, provided that the types of oil spilled are amenable to spraying and environmental conditions are suitable. Those dispersants that will be approved under the new contingency plan are likely to be the same as that for the UK.

In nearshore environments and on the shoreline, it is envisaged that defensive booming will be the prime method of response. The lack of available labour on the islands and difficult access to much of the coastline may prove a problem.

Disposal options for recovered oil and oily waste are limited. Any oil or oily waste recovered at present would have to be temporarily stored and burnt by incinerator or transported elsewhere. However, a waste disposal consultancy firm is currently identifying the best options to revise the islands current waste disposal strategy.

EQUIPMENT

Government & Private

The MoD and Stanley Services Ltd., a local bunker company, possess limited specialised equipment to deal with a marine oil spill. It is envisaged that the level of response equipment in country will greatly increase in the next one to five years, with the presence of the incoming oil companies and the implementation of the National Contingency Plan. Under the exploration licensing conditions, the oil industry is obliged to provide equipment and contingency plans to mount an effective response to oil spilled from their facilities. The Falkland Islands Government Fisheries Department will in future also hold increased stocks of response equipment commensurate with the National Contingency Plan. The MoD is currently in the process of updating its equipment stockpile.

The Islands Government also has well established contacts with the UK Marine Pollution Control Unit (MPCU) and with Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) in the UK, both of whom would provide advice regarding the clean-up.

Aerial surveillance of a spill would be possible via the Falkland Islands Air Service who operate two aircraft for fisheries surveillance work. United Kingdom armed forces garrisoned on the islands a local air charter company may also provide aircraft for this purpose. Any ship-borne surveillance or monitoring of fish stocks could be carried by the Fisheries Department.

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

Over the last ten years there have been several minor operational spills of Marine Gas Oil. However the largest of these amounts to only about 100 litres. There have been no major spills recorded in the islands in the last 20 years.

CONVENTIONS

Prevention & Safety					Oil Spill Response	Compensation					
MARPOL Annexes					OPRC	CLC			Fund		
73/78	III	IV	V	VI*	'90	'69	'76	'92	'71	'76	'92
✓	✓	✓	✓		✓			✓			✓

* not yet in force



REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

The Falkland Islands is not a party to any regional or bilateral agreements. However, due to the Islands status as a dependent territory of the UK, experts or equipment from this country may be made available to aid in the clean-up.

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