



POLAND

SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (for Oil & HNS)	Tel: +48 58 620 55 51
Maritime Search & Rescue Service	+48 58 661 0197
Hryniewickiego 10	+48 58 621 68 11
81-340 Gdynia	Fax: +48 58 660 76 40
	E-Mail: polratok.1@sar.gov.pl

COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Ministry of Transport, Construction & Maritime Economy	Tel: +48 22 630 1000
Maritime Transport and Shipping Safety Department	+48 22 630 1639
4/6 Chalubińskiego St.	Fax: +48 22 630 1497
00- 928 Warsaw	+48 22 830 02 61 (24 hrs)
	E-Mail: Info@mi.gov.pl

RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

Under the Act of Maritime Areas and Administration, the ministry responsible for maritime economy acts as the general competent maritime authority. It delegates responsibility for oil spill preparedness and response to the Director of the Maritime Search and Rescue (SAR) Service based in Gdynia. This is a government service, which acts under the direct supervision of the Minister for Transport, Construction & Maritime Economy. The SAR Service maintains the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre, the national contact point for spill response. Spills in port areas are the responsibility of the port authority under the direction of the local maritime office. The National Contingency Plan was developed by the Maritime Search & Rescue Service and local contingency plans are coordinated by the SAR Service and approved by the Director of one of three regional maritime offices.

The National State Fire Service has responsibility for operational response for pollution on land, including beach and coastal clean-up.

RESPONSE POLICY

Mechanical containment and recovery are the primary response options. The use of dispersants is limited in accordance with the Helsinki Commission and requires specific permission from the local maritime authorities (harbour masters).

Sufficient temporary storage capacity is available, according to the NCP. The Gdansk Refinery is also prepared for waste oil disposal.



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EQUIPMENT

Government & Private

The Maritime SAR operates several vessels equipped for at sea containment and recovery. Other equipment is also stockpiled for a nearshore response and is located at Gdynia, Swinoujscie and Ustka. The main ports have limited spill response equipment but would in all likelihood call on the SAR for additional support in the event of an incident. Limited vessel dispersant spraying capability and limited dispersant stock is available in Poland.

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

There have been no major spills in Polish waters.

HAZARDOUS & NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES (HNS)

The competent authority for dealing with marine pollution involving HNS is the Director of the relevant Maritime Office (either Gdynia, Slupsk or Szczecin), assisted by the Maritime Search and Rescue Service. In case of an incident, there would be direct operational cooperation with the chemical response team from the Provincial State Fire Service units of the cities of Gdansk, Gdynia and Szczecin. Poland's capability for responding to marine incidents involving HNS is rather limited and mainly relies on the same resources as for oil pollution response. A National System for Detection and Warning of Hazardous Contamination (SWS) is in preparation. The NCP and port/facility contingency plans for large harbours cover response to HNS. As part of local contingency planning, a threat identification analysis has been made for particular chemicals, including the type of chemical and probable quantity involved, which covers the ports of Gdansk, Gdynia, Szczecin and Swinoujscie. Additionally, there is a list of HNS cargo handling terminals which are obliged to have their own preparedness and response systems. For areas with heavy traffic, the VTS systems are established where the Dangerous Goods Manifest is obligatory. The Maritime SAR are able to search and recover HNS in packaged form. Poland has a number of over drums for the containment of chemicals and has access to multipurpose 20' containerised storage tanks for about 70 different chemicals. Poland has some specialised equipment for monitoring HNS spills at sea. Poland's main response vessel has an installation for detecting some substances but it is not gas tight. Some navy vessels have gas tight citadels and are prepared for quick escape from a hazardous atmosphere. Poland has not been involved in any previous marine incidents with HNS, but did conduct a national table top exercise in 2007. (Information from EMSA, 2008)

CONVENTIONS

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

* not yet in force



POLAND

COUNTRY PROFILES
A Summary of Oil Spill Response Arrangements
& Resources Worldwide

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Helsinki Convention (with countries bordering the Baltic Sea).
Bilateral agreement with Russia.
Bilateral agreement with Germany.

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