



GUATEMALA

SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

For the: Caribbean Sea Comando Naval del Caribe Santo Tomás de Castilla Izabal	Tel: +502-7948 3127 Fax: +502-7948 3102
For the Pacific Ocean: Comando Naval del Pacífico Puerto Quetzal Escuintla	Tel: +502- 7881 1056 +502- 7881 1057 Fax: +502- 7881 1056
For the Central Country: Departamento Marítimo Ciudad Capital de Guatemala	Tel: +502 2334 4575

COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARN) (Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources) 20 Calle 28-58, Zona 10,Edificio	Tel: +502 24230500
---	--------------------

RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

Although the ports of Guatemala are the overall responsibility of the Comision Portuaria Nacional (CPN), the competent authority for spill response is the Ministerio de Ambiente y Recursos Naturales (MARN) (Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources). A port captain answerable to the navy is assigned the duty of policing the port and would be involved in any spill from a vessel in the port area. However, neither the limits of the port nor the responsibility for dealing with oil spills are clearly defined.

Although the navy has operational responsibility for dealing with spills at sea, it relies on technical advice from the Ministerio de Energía y Minas (MEM) (Ministry of Energy and Mines). A special unit was created by the Ministerio de la Defensa Nacional (Ministry of National Defence), called the Departamento Marítimo, to act as the focus within the government for pollution prevention and national oil spill contingency planning. There is no plan at present, but a project to formulate one is being undertaken. Following an earthquake in 1976, the government established the Comité Nacional de Emergencia (CONE) now called Coordinadora Nacional para la Reduccion de Desastres (CONRED) (National Coordination for Disaster Reduction) for dealing with natural and man-made disasters. It is possible that CONRED would come into play during a major oil spill.

RESPONSE POLICY

There is no defined government policy for the combating of oil spills. There are no government resources dedicated to oil spill control and clean-up would concentrate on manual removal techniques.

GUATEMALA

Virtually all fishing on the Caribbean coastline is of a subsistence nature rather than commercial enterprise. A few shrimp trawlers operate from Puerto Barrios but the bulk of the fleet work on the Pacific coast. In general, fishing is of local importance in providing a living for a few coastal communities but the contribution to the national economy is small. Marine animals are protected by law.

EQUIPMENT

Government:

The government has no specialised clean-up equipment.

Private:

Private oil companies hold small quantities of boom, dispersant, spray gear and skimmers, primarily at terminals. In a recent spill, large quantities of equipment were flown to the country by a US clean-up contractor.

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

Guatemala has experienced some small spills such as the SHELL BARGE No 11 which sank in 1975 in Amatique Bay, spilling heavy fuel oil and the EDYTH L which collided with a berth in Puerto Barrios in 1992.

CONVENTIONS

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

* not yet in force



GUATEMALA

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Cartagena Convention (with states of the Wider Caribbean Region).
Convention on Cooperation in the Protection and Sustainable Development of the Marine and Coastal Environment of the Northeast Pacific (with other central American countries)

Date of issue: June 2007

Terms & Conditions

These Country & Territory Profiles are provided in good faith as a guide only and are based on information obtained from a variety of sources over a period of time. This information is subject to change and should, in each case, be independently verified before reliance is placed on it. Country & Territory Profiles may have been re-issued solely to incorporate additional or revised information under one heading only. Each Profile has therefore not necessarily been completely verified or updated as at the stated Date of Issue.

ITOPF Limited ("ITOPF") hereby excludes, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any and all liability to any person, corporation or other entity for any loss, damage or expense resulting from reliance on or use of these Country & Territory Profiles.

©ITOPF Limited 2018

These Country & Territory Profiles may be reproduced by any means for non-commercial distribution without addition, deletion or amendment, provided an acknowledgement of the source is given and these Terms & Conditions are reproduced in full.

These Country & Territory Profiles may not be reproduced without the prior written permission of ITOPF either for commercial distribution or with addition, deletion or amendment.