Issue Number 055 – November 2022

Newsletter

FIRST COORDINATION MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN STRATEGY FOR THE PREVENTION, PREPARDNESS AND RESPONSE TO MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

29 November - 01 December 2022, the MOIG Director participated to the First Coordination Meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, Preparedness, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) held at REMPEC premises in Floriana-Malta.

The main objectives of this meeting were to report and assess the progress made in the implementation of the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031), to define priority actions and propose related activities for the following biennium 2024-2025 and beyond, to define roles and responsibilities for the implementation of the proposed activities as well as to establish operational and strategic synergies, through specific partnership agreements, if required. The meeting gathered experts on the prevention of, and response to marine pollution from ships from Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, relevant national, regional and international organizations, institutions and agencies; and accredited UNEP/MAP Partners; as observers.

Seven CSOs were discussed during the meeting which were the following ones: CSO1 - Prevention, preparedness and response to operational, illegal and accidental oil and hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution from ships, CSO2 - Climate change, CSO3 - Air emissions from ships, CSO4 - Marine litter; CSO5 - Non-indigenous species, CSO 6 - Protected areas, CSO 7 - Emerging issues, including underwater noise.

For each COS, a working groups were formed to follow and implement the recommendations of the first meeting before the second coordination meeting on the Mediterranean Strategy (2022-2031) expected to be held in 2024 , In addition, this meeting reiterated the urgency of ratification; transposition and effective implementation of Annex VI to the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), particularly in view of the Mediterranean Sea Emission Control Area for Sulphur Oxides and Particulate Matter (Med SOx ECA) expected to enter into effective application on 01 May 2025. All the documents of the meeting are currently displayed in REMPEC website: www.rempec.org

This meeting was also a good opportunity to undertake fruitful discussions with technical partners and international organizations on oil spill preparedness and response in the Mediterranean region and identify scope for future co-operation. The Management Committee Members would like to thank REMPEC for its kind invitation.

TPR SEMINAR SERIES: OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE

09 November 2022, the MOIG Director participated to TPR Seminar Series: Oiled Wildlife Response; organized by Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL); technical partner;via electronic conferencing platform.

This webinar was animated by Paul Kelway - OSRL's Wildlife Preparedness & Response Manager, Dr. Michael Ziccardi - Oiled Wildlife Care Network and Hugo Nijkamp - General Manager of the Sea Alarm Foundation.

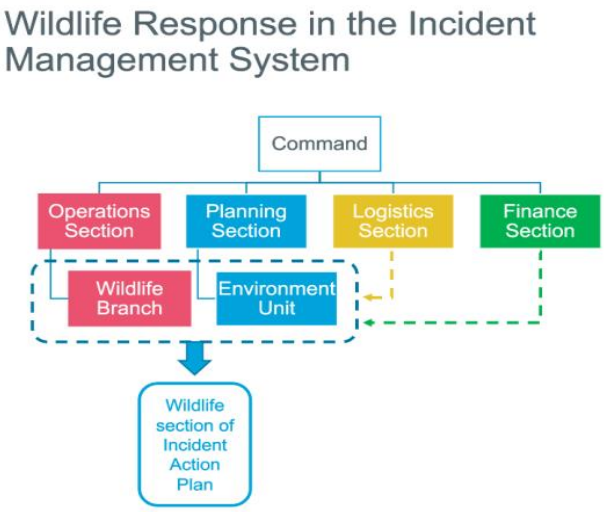
Paul Kelway started by explaining that oiled wildlife incidents can have complex problems such as the poor level of preparedness, the animal welfare issues/local legislation, humanitarian issues, the large number of volunteers and the high media/Social media coverage as well as the number and types of wildlife casualities; highlighting that a small spill can have a large impacts on wildlife.

Paul Kelway stated that oiled wildlife response was included in the model of Tiered Preparedness and Response (TPR) Weel which is one of the fifteen capabilities requirements that make up good practices. He also underlined that wildlife response is the combination of activities that aim to minimize the impacts of an oil spill on wildlife (such as birds, mammals and reptiles) by both prevention of oiling where possible mitigating the effects on individuals when oiling has taken place.

Dr. Michael Ziccardi started by talking about the effects of oil on wildlife explaining that the impacts can be direct or indirect exposure to oil. He underlined that there's two different types of direct effects: External and internal. He explained that the external effects are being from the physical coating, dermal contact (skin and mucus membranes) and chemical bums increasing egg mortality. For internal effects, He clarified that they are usually caused by either inhalation of the fumes and ingestion and can create damage to respiratory system, blood and digestive/Immune system.

Dr. Michael Ziccardi talked about wildlife response strategies highlighting that there's three different types: Primary, secondary and tertiary. He explained that the primary response strategy is designed to keep oil away from animals and the secondary one for keeping animals away from oil. He indicated that the tertiary response strategy will be used when the two first two strategies are not successful and it is designed to mitigate impact on oiled animals.

Dr. Michael Ziccardi stated that the integration of wildlife response with an Incident Management System is a key indicator to a successful response. He explained that oiled wildlife response activities are focused in the wildlife branch within the operations section and is responsible for all wildlife operations.



Hugo Nijkamp presented the main conclusions and recommendations of Cyprus Workshop; held in 2019; highlighting the effective response requires trained local response capabilities, equipment and facilities as well as the involvement of various local authorities.

Hugo Nijkamp also highlighted the importance and necessity of planning, training and exercises (In the form of seminars, workshops, table-tops, drills, functional and full scale exercises) on oiled wildlife preparedness and response.

Paul Kelway concluded by stating that oiled wildlife response is an integral part of oil spill preparedness and it's a fantastic development that it's now recognized as part of TPR good practices in terms of oil spill preparedness and response.

CONGRATULATORY MESSAGE

03 November 2022, On behalf of the Management Committee Members, I am very pleased to congratulate our colleague Houcine Mejri, MOIG Director for his progression from the grade of engineer senior 3 to expert grade, according to ETAP expertise system.

The Management Committee Members were extremely thrilled once they heard the news.

These few words will be not enough to praise for your achievements. You worked so hard and pushed your abilities to the limit to make this upgrade happen. Everything you have done and accomplished at ETAP and MOIG has led to this point and you truly deserve it. Congratulations and wish you all the best in your future career!

Mahmoud Abdessalm Kamour – MOIG Chairman

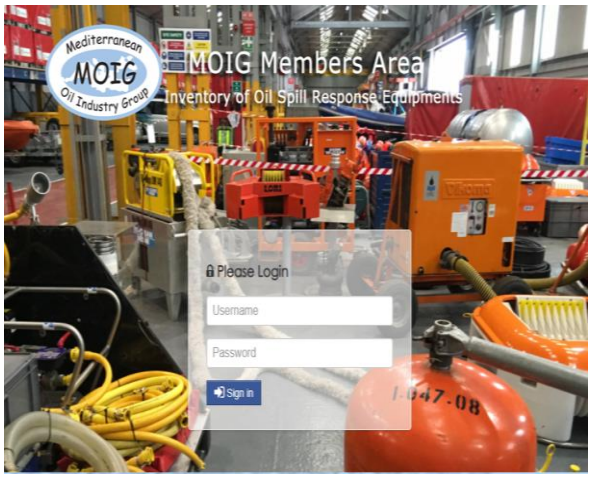
UPDATE OF MOIG BROCHURE

02 November 2022, MOIG produced its brochure version - November 2022, aimed at providing general information and an overview on its background. The new version contains six (06) pages including information related to Framework, Guiding Principles, Mission and Vision, Membership, Members and Technical Partners, benefits, contacts and Useful Links.

The update has been made on the members section comprising inserting the new versions of member logos.

The update has been made on the members section comprising inserting the new versions of member logos.

OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT DATABASE



As announced in the previous Newsletters, all the claims received from members related to the handling and data storage of the Oil Spill Response (OSR) equipments have been processed.

We would like to underline that the OSR equipments database constitutes a key limestone and an invaluable source of information for members to communicate and share their resources in case of oil spill incidents.

The Management Committee is looking forward on member's valuable collaboration to complete the database; as soon as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact MOIG secretariat by mail at: houcine.mejri@moig.org.tn for any issue encountered during the loading of the OSR equipments data.