



FRANCE

SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

Notification should be made to the nearest Centre Régional Opérationnel de Surveillance et de Sauvetage (CROSS):

CROSS GRIS-NEZ - Manche Est - Pas de Calais
de la frontière Belge au cap d'Antifer
Audinghen, 62179 WISSANT
Tel: 03.21.87.21.87
Fax: 03.21.87.78.55
Telex: 130680

CROSS JOBOURG - Manche centrale
du cap d'Antifer au Mont St Michel
Boite postale 5, 50440 BEAUMONT HAGUE
Tel: 02.33.52.72.13
Fax: 02.33.52.71.72

CROSS CORSEN - Manche Ouest
du Mont St Michel à la pointe de Penmarc'h
Pointe de Corsen, 29229 PLOUARZEL
Tel: 02.98.89.31.31
Fax: 02.98.89.65.75
Telex: 940086

CROSS A ETEL - Atlantique
de la pointe de Penmarc'h à la frontière Espagnole
Avenue Louis Bougo, chateau de la Garenne,
56410 ETEL
Tel: 02.97.55.35.35
Fax: 02.97.55.49.34
Telex: 950519

CROSS MED LA GARDE - Méditerranée
tout le littoral Méditerranéen
Fort Sainte-Marguerite, 83130 LA GARDE
Tel: 04.94.61.71.10
Fax: 04.94.27.11.49
Email : cross-la-garde@equipement.gouv.fr

SOUS CROSS CORSE - BN Aspretto BP. 104
20184 AJACCIO
Tel: 04 95 20 13 63

The nearest Prefecture Maritime should also be notified:

Préfecture Maritime de l'Atlantique
B.P. 46
29240 Brest Armées
Tel : +33 2 98 22 12 23
Fax : +33 2 98 22 13 19

Préfecture Maritime de la Méditerranée
Division de l'Action de l'Etat en Mer
BP 921
83 800 Toulon Armées

Préfecture Maritime de la Manche et de la Mer du
Nord - Division "action de l'Etat en mer"
BP 1 - 50115 Cherbourg Armées"



COMPETENT NATIONAL AUTHORITY

Secrétariat Général de la Mer
16 Bd Raspail
75007 Paris

Tel: +33-142756600
Fax: +33-142756678

RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

Under the national contingency plan (Plan POLMAR) the three maritime regions and the 26 coastal Departments have established spill response arrangements - POLMAR-Mer for the maritime regions and POLMAR-Terre for the shoreline. The responsibility of preparing for and conducting clean-up operations at sea lies with the Maritime Préfet of each region who reports to the Prime Minister.

For shoreline clean-up, small-scale incidents can be handled by the coastal Communal authorities directly affected. In the case of a major pollution incident, the Préfet of the affected Département would take charge and is authorised to implement the Plan POLMAR-Terre.

In each case, the Préfet will work in cooperation with the Secrétariat Général de la Mer who has the authority, amongst others, to access the various stockpiles of equipment. Central coordination of the POLMAR-Mer & Terre operations is provided by the Minister of the Interior with advice from various Ministries and the Secrétariat Général de la Mer in the operational centre of Civil Defence and Security (CODISC). Coordination of sea and shoreline clean-up will be supervised locally by a permanent Conference with representatives of the Maritime Préfet and the Préfet of the particular Département concerned.

RESPONSE POLICY

The French clean-up policy advocates mechanical recovery of spilled oil as the most preferable response. However, the use of dispersants is permitted in certain areas, with consideration being given to effective dissipation of the oil/dispersant mixture. Authorisation to spray is obtained only after consultation with CEDRE (Centre for Documentation, Research and Development on Accidental Water Pollution) and IFREMER (French Institute for Research into Exploitation of the Sea) who provide technical advice to the French authorities and hold a list of approved dispersants.

EQUIPMENT

Government

The Maritime Prefects and Department Prefects rely on the resources provided under PLAN POLMAR by the Ministry of Defence through the Navy, the Ministère des Transports and the independent port authorities. Stockpiles of shoreline response equipment and materials, maintained by DTMPL (Direction du Transport Maritime des Ports et du Littoral) of the Ministry of Equipment are located at 11 major ports (Dunkerque, Le Havre, Cherbourg, Brest, Le Verdon, St. Nazaire, Lorient, Marseille, Sète, Toulon and Ajaccio). The size and nature of these stockpiles varies but most consist of a mixture of containment & recovery and shoreline cleaning equipment, high pressure pumps, storage tanks etc. At Le Havre, Cherbourg, Brest, Lorient, Port de Bouc, Toulon and Ajaccio these are coupled with POLMAR-Mer stockpiles under the responsibility of the Ministry of Defence through the Navy. These include large ocean skimmers, heavy boom, dispersant spraying equipment and stocks of dispersants. Dispersant is also stockpiled at a number of other coastal sites and on vessels, most of which rely on their fire monitors as a means of application. Several strike teams of 30 trained men of the Civil Defence Corps, equipped with a selection of response equipment, are situated at Nogent (Paris), Rochefort, Brignoles and Corte on permanent standby. They will initiate an onshore clean-up operation and subsequently train local people in the use of equipment.

Private

Most major oil terminals and port authorities have some equipment for operational spills. A large industry-owned stockpile (FOST - Fast Oil Spill Team) consisting of inshore and shoreline clean-up equipment, in Marseille, may be used outside the port area. A salvage company also owns some clean-up stocks in addition to lightering facilities and has its tugs on permanent standby for the Maritime Préfet.

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

Major incidents in French waters have occurred on the Atlantic seaboard in the vicinity of Brest or Le Havre. The first serious spill to affect French beaches was the TORREY CANYON (1967). The AMOCO CADIZ (1978) provided the impetus for the revision of the Plan POLMAR which was later implemented during the TANIIO (1980) incident. The sinking of the HAVEN (1991) off Genoa led to a small amount of oil entering French waters. Booms and netting systems with weir skimmers were used. Beached oil was recovered manually. Major clean-up operations were launched following a spill of Heavy Fuel Oil from the ERIKA (1999), which broke in two in the Bay of Biscay contaminating 400km of French coastline. This incident led to international discussions on tanker safety and the adequacy of the current compensation regimes. Other major incidents include the LYRIA (1993) off Fos and the GINO (1979) & AMAZZONE (1988) off Brest.

HAZARDOUS & NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES (HNS)

The competent authority for dealing with marine pollution involving HNS is one of the 3 maritime Prefectures in the Mediterranean, Atlantic and North Sea/Channel. Contingency arrangements for HNS spills are integrated in with the POLMAR plans. POLMAR stockpiles include specific equipment for response to spills of HNS (protective suits, containers for leaking barrels etc). France has some specialised equipment for monitoring marine spills of HNS and a specialised vessel for HNS response. Specialised advice is available from CEDRE and IFREMER. France has been involved in a number of HNS incidents, including IEVOLI SUN (2000, Styrene, methyl ethyl ketone, isopropyl alcohol) and BOW EAGLE (2002, Ethyl acetate). (Information from EMSA, 2008).

CONVENTIONS

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

* not yet in force

The conventions are extended to the following dependent territories: Clipperton; French Guiana; French Polynesia; Guadeloupe; Martinique; Mayotte; New Caledonia; Reunion; St. Pierre and Miquelon; Southern and Antarctic Territories; Wallis and Futuna Islands and various Indian Ocean islands including Tromelin, Juan de Nova, Bassas de India, Glorieuse and Europa (see separate Profiles where appropriate).



FRANCE

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Barcelona Convention (with states bordering the Mediterranean).
Bonn Agreement (with countries bordering the North Sea).
Lisbon Agreement (with Portugal, Spain & Morocco).
Manche Plan (a bilateral agreement with United Kingdom).
Mediplan (a bilateral agreement with Italy) covering the Tyrrhenian Sea and Ligurian Sea.
RAMOGE (a trilateral agreement with Italy and Monaco).
Member of the European Community Task Force.

For further information see also REMPEC (Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea) Country Profile (http://www.rempec.org/country.asp?cid=7&IDS=2_1&daNme=General%20Information&openNum=1)

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