

SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT

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RESPONSE ARRANGEMENTS

It is not exactly known which agencies in Haiti are responsible for addressing marine oil pollution matters. However, Caribbean inter-governmental meetings on oil spill contingency planning, under the auspices of the United Nations Environment Programme, have usually been attended by representatives from either the Natural Resources Division of the Department of Agriculture or the Maritime and Navigation Service of Haiti. The latter, part of the national port authority, is designated as the lead agency responsible for dealing with marine pollution incidents under the Sub-Regional Contingency Plan (Caribbean OPRC Plan) developed by the IMO and under revision by the Regional Activity Centre REMPEITC-CARIB. It is understood that the port authorities normally investigate oil spills in ports and impose fines on the offending vessel.

Due to Haiti's position as one of the poorest countries in the western hemisphere and a prolonged period of recent political and civil unrest in the country, there has been very little development of both the oil industry or any framework for responding to marine oil pollution.

RESPONSE POLICY

For similar reasons, there has been little formulation of an oil spill response policy.

EQUIPMENT

Government & Private

Currently, it is believed that there is no equipment for combating oil spills in Haiti. The nearest equipment, located in the Dominican Republic, is owned by the oil industry and is unlikely to be available for spills outside that country. However, equipment and expertise may be made available under the Caribbean OPRC Plan via REMPEITC-CARIB although the lack of required infrastructure may limit its use.

PREVIOUS SPILL EXPERIENCE

No major spills are believed to have occurred in Haitian waters.

CONVENTIONS

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

* not yet in force

Haiti is not a party to any of the above conventions.

REGIONAL AND BILATERAL AGREEMENTS

Cartagena Convention (with states of the Wider Caribbean Region).

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