

OUTLINE ON THE ACTIVITIES OF THE REGIONAL OIL
COMBATING CENTRE (ROCC) IN 1979 AND PROPOSED
WORK PROGRAMME FOR 1980

Submitted by the Regional Oil Combating Centre

Introduction

It may be recalled that at the Intergovernmental Review Meeting of Mediterranean Coastal States and the First Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution and its related Protocol (Geneva 5 - 10 February 1979 UNEP/IG/A/9) the work programme and the budget of the Centre were subject to comprehensive review. At that time it was agreed that the Centre's efforts should be focussed on information exchange and communication, assistance in the development where appropriate of bilateral and multilateral contingency plans and training. With regard to training, the Centre was asked to help make available to the Mediterranean States concerned the methodological and technological experience and knowledge acquired by other countries or international bodies such as IMCO.

Notwithstanding the fact that pending the establishment of the Mediterranean Trust Fund the Centre operated on a reduced budget, substantially less than that approved by the Mediterranean Coastal States, the Centre made considerable progress in achieving the priorities set by the Mediterranean Coastal States.

However the Mediterranean Coastal States should be aware of the difficulties in programme planning and implementation caused by the uncertainty and limitations of funding and the constraints this situation imposes on fulfilling the objectives of the Centre.

Main activities carried out in 1979

The Centre has dedicated its full capacity to the following fields:

1) Development of Communication and information exchange

- arranging for communication with the Centre on a 24-hour basis;
- executing a second oil pollution communication exercise involving simulated emergency messages sent to the eighteen Mediterranean Coastal States;
- nearly tripling its contacts in the Mediterranean Coastal States;
- exchanging more regularly information with the Coastal States through wider distribution of circulars and questionnaires.
- creating an informal quarterly newsletter named "ROCC News" now published both in English and French language;
- updating existing inventories.

2) Training

- organizing the IMCO/UNEP Training Course in Control and Combating of Oil Pollution with the assistance and support of SOGESTA and the Italian Government. The Course, which included a practical demonstration of oil combating, as well as class room lectures, was organized with the technical assistance of IMCO pursuant to the Mediterranean Coastal States recommendation that the Centre should make available technological experience and knowledge acquired at the international level;
- financing support to participants to INFOPOL 1979
- informing the Coastal States of other training courses available outside the Mediterranean region.

3) Contingency Planning

- assisting Tunisia with its National Contingency Plan;
- disseminating a questionnaire of existing National Contingency Plans and agreements within the Mediterranean;
- Proposing to France, Greece, Italy, Libya, Malta, Tunisia and Yugoslavia to hold a subregional meeting on Central Mediterranean.

4) Alerts and accidents

- collecting alerts and reports of oil spills and accidents (a summary report covering 1977-78-79 has been prepared);
- offering assistance whenever requested or feasible (e.g. Messiniaki Frontis and Independenta).

Proposed Work Programme for 1980

The following is an outline of proposed activities for 1980:

FUNCTIONS FACILITIES	INFORMATION	COMMUNICATION	TRAINING	CONTINGENCY PLANNING	TECHNICAL COOPERATION
Present capacity of the Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Publication of Rocc News (Bilingual - 4 times) - Circulars - Updating list of <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focal points - experts - equipment and products - Inventory of services - Report of accidents - Annual oil spill statistics - Brochure on ROCC 	Communication exercise <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - updating alert procedure 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training questionnaire - information of coastal states on existing training courses (INFOPOL 80, URBINO, etc.) - Fellowship - Inventory of trainees - Working on training needs in the region 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Reminder of questionnaire on contingency planning - Report on the state of contingency planning in the region - Dissemination to the coastal states 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Exchange of technical information - Participation to technical meetings - Attendance demonstration
With technical staff and related additional budgetary and clerical provision And/Or Additional direct support of coastal states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Directory of the oil combating organizations and facilities in each of the coastal states - Technical documents 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Alert exercise 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of a training course on specific aspect of oil pollution control. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Organization of a subregional meeting - Answer to requests of assistance from coastal states 	Regional Studies <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Teledetection - Prediction of movement of oil slick - Tagging of oil slicks