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Background

A request to the Response Working Group for reporting of significant response operations at sea and on the shore in 2020 was sent by the Secretariat on 15 April 2021 with the reporting deadline on 31 May 2021. The reported data will be included in the HELCOM report on shipping accidents during 2020 (to be submitted to the meeting at a later stage).

The attached document contains information on significant response operations in 2020 as reported by Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden. No significant response operations at sea nor on the shore took place in 2020 in Germany. No information has been received from Russia.

Annex 1 to this document contains the instructions for filling-in the HELCOM reporting form for pollution response as agreed on by RESPONSE 21-2016.

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note and discuss lessons learnt from response operations. Russia is invited to report any significant response operations at sea and on the shore in 2020.

Table 1

Country	Year	Date	Time	Place	Latitude (DD)	Longitude (DD)	Source	Type of pollution	Amount of pollution (m3)	Amount recovered at sea (m3)	Amount recovered on shore (m3)	Polluted coastline (km)	Amount and state of affected wildlife	Affected species	Action taken for collection and/or treatment of wildlife	Recovery operation at sea (days)	Recovery operation on shore (days)	Responsible organization	Further details
Denmark	2020	04.01.2020	09:45	Ensted	N55.025	E009.445	Oil Terminal	Heavy atmospheric gasoil	30	Mixed water and oil 15,5	Mixed sand and oil 20	2.1	NIL	NIL	NIL	2	1-10 days	Royal Danish Navy Command, N3	
Estonia	2020	19.09.2020	08:20	At sea	58° 8'	023° 7'	Not identified	Fuel oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	11.09.2020	15:30	At sea	59° 32'	027° 35'	Wreck	Fuel oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	18.08.2020	17:10	At sea	59° 29,9'	024° 48'	Ship	Fuel oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	18.08.2020	17:05	At sea	59° 29'	024° 49'	Not identified	Fuel oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	20.07.2020	21:30	At sea	59° 27'	024° 6'	Wreck	Fuel oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	28.05.2020	19:20	At sea	59° 27,6'	023° 25,15'	Ship	Fuel oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	15.05.2020	08:00	At sea	58° 25,5'	020° 53,2'	Not identified	Fuel oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	30.04.2020	19:05	At sea	59° 30,9'	027° 31,9'	Not identified	Fuel oil	0.64										
Estonia	2020	16.04.2020	08:30	At sea	58° 51'	021° 15'	Ship	Palm oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	10.03.2020	07:15	At sea	59° 19'	021° 59'	Not identified	Mineral oil	0.00										
Estonia	2020	10.01.2020	18:20	At sea	59° 35'	023° 47'	Ship	Fish oil	0.00										
Finland	2020	31.01.2020	11:00	Inkoo	N60°00.935'	E023°54.910'	Land based oil storage tank	Light fuel oil	10		7500 m3 of oiled coastline material was taken to the treatment	Varying, as the response operation ended only 16.4.2020 and oil was drifting in a narrow bay.	none			75	10-300 days	East Uusimaa Rescue Department	On the shore response ended in October 2020
Latvia	2019-2020	31.12.2019-19.01.2020	13:10	Shoreline 10nm N from Ventspils port	57.539	21.659	Barge TRIAS IMO 8606018	Risk of pollution by 2 tons of diesel fuel										Coast Guard Service, http://www.mrcclv	Barge refloated and towed to Riga port for scrapping
Latvia/Lithuania	2020-2021	28.12.2020	10:00	Butinge offshore oil terminal (Lithuania)	56.051	20.951	Butinge offshore oil terminal	Crude Oil Rebco	480 liters (~412 m3)	None	None	No	No	No	No	No	No	Coast Guard Service, http://www.mrcclv	Part of oil drifted across border into Latvian territorial sea, 40 m of oil loading hose lost at sea
Lithuania	2020	28.12.2020	10:11	Butinge	56 02 7 N	020 57,8 E	Butinge SPM buoy	Crude oil	2,8 t							1		MRCC of the Lithuanian NAVY	
Lithuania	2020	09.08.2020	06:53	Klaipeda port	55 45.3 N	020 34.4 E	Unknown from port	Diesel oil	1 t							1		MRCC of the Lithuanian NAVY	
Poland	2020	31.03.2020	11:25	Port of Gdansk			ship	Fuel oil	0.3	0.15	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	Maritime Office in Gdynia	no data
Poland	2020	15.05.2020	no data	Port of Ustka			ship	Fuel oil	0.01	0.005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	Maritime Office in Gdynia	no data
Poland	2020	27.05.2020	no data	Port of Ustka			shipyard	Chemical	unknown	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	Maritime Office in Gdynia	no data
Poland	2020	16.08.2020	no data	Port of teba			ship	Fuel oil	0,01-0,02	0.001	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	Maritime Office in Gdynia	no data
Poland	2020	28.10.2020	no data	Port of Ustka			ship	Fuel oil	0.01	0.005	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	1	0	Maritime Office in Gdynia	no data
Sweden	2020	23.02.2020		The Swedish coast was hit by the pollution in April-May 2020. Norway a few weeks earlier.			Sea-Cargo, Seatrans Ship Management. Container vessel. On route from Rotterdam to Tanager, Norway. During a storm there was damage to a container containing plastic pellets. The incident occurred on Danish waters. No informations of the spill until the pellets started floating on shore into the Oslo Fjord a couple weeks later. Only then a link between the shipping incident was established with the pollution. The responsible shipping company has been cooperative.	Plastic pellets (polypropen)	>13 tonnes	n/a	Unknown in Sweden (considered as litter). 3,5 tonnes in Norway	Large areas in Norway, Denmark and almost the entire Swedish westcoast. Detections are mapped here https://www.oslofjorden.org/oppdatering-pa-plastutslippet/	Unknown	Unknown	n/a	0		Municipalities	In Sweden the plastic spill was handled as littering and thus there was no response operation at sea or on shore. Simultaneously, Norway did regard it as a response operation. There is a legal gray zone for "HNS spills" and responsibility is unclear for substances other than mineral oil, particularly if the substance is non-toxic and does not pose an immediate threat. The spill was also discussed at Response-28-2020, agenda item 5 Matters related to recent response operations. Presentation (in Swedish) https://www.msb.se/siteassets/dokument/arnesomraden/skydd-mot-olyckor-och-farliga-amnen/cbrne/nationell-konferens-for-oljeskadeskydd/2020/04_udda-utslapp_2020.pdf
Sweden	2020	October 2020		Norway and Sweden			Unknown	Paraffin wax (presipitate from a ULFSO fuel?)	unknown	n/a	Unknown (considered as litter and thus not weighed)	Unknown	Probably low impact on wildlife and humans. Mainly a cosmetic problem	unknown	n/a	0		Municipalities	Similar situation, different pollution. Again Norway and Sweden responded differently to the spill. A response operation under Kystverket in Norway while Swedish municipalities included it in their ordinary procedures for cleaning litter on the shores as the paraffin is non-toxic. Presentation in Swedish (same link as above) https://www.msb.se/siteassets/dokument/arnesomraden/skydd-mot-olyckor-och-farliga-amnen/cbrne/nationell-konferens-for-oljeskadeskydd/2020/04_udda-utslapp_2020.pdf

Annex 1

Instructions for filling-in the HELCOM reporting form for pollution response

All response operations of spills of significant character (severity, size, actual or potential impact), should be reported to the HELCOM Secretariat using the agreed reporting format.

The reporting format is provided as an excel file and includes the following information entries. The predefined entries should be used!

Country	Where the incident took place
Year	Year of incident
Date (dd.mm.yyyy)	
Time (hh:mm)	When (local time) the incident happened
Place	Name of place
Latitude (DD)	Please provide latitude in decimal degrees, e.g. 57.123
Longitude (DD)	Please provide longitude in decimal degrees, e.g. 18.456
Source	Please provide e.g. factory, installation, ship
Type of pollution	Please, specify e.g. fuel oil, chemical, paraffin
Amount of pollution	m ³
Amount recovered at sea	m ³
Amount recovered on shore	m ³
Polluted coastline	km
Amount and state of affected wildlife	
Affected species	
Action taken for collection and/or treatment of wildlife	
Number of days spent on recovery operation at sea	
Number of days spent on recovery operation on shore	Categories 1-10 days, 10-300 days, over 300 days
Responsible organization	Name of organization and contact details for further information
Further details about incident	Any other relevant information, e.g. needed to evaluate the limitation of data, links to web pages or report etc.