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<b>Document title</b>	National developments
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<b>Agenda Item</b>	5 - . National preparedness at sea and on shore
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### Background

The attachment to this document contains national information on developments regarding response at sea, on shore and for oiled wildlife response in Finland.

The template used for collecting information on recent developments is presented in document 5-1 of RESPONSE 29-2021

Information has been provided only by Finland as set out in the attachment to this document. Other Contracting Parties are kindly invited to provide the filled in template to RESPONSE 29-2021

### Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

## Template for compiling information on national developments response at sea, on shore and for oiled wildlife response

<b>Country: FINLAND</b> 1	
<b>Legal and organizational</b>	<b>Past</b> -
	<b>Ongoing</b>  An Advisory Board for the oil and ship based HNS response has been established. The AB has established working groups for 1) updating the national PPR strategy, 2) for wrecks and 3) for OWR.  The responsibilities regarding the oiled wildlife response are still not defined, but the Ministries are working to agree on this issue by the end of year 2021. The national contingency plan for oiled wildlife response is under revision (will take into account the principles set by the EUROWA).  New regulations for STS operations in Finnish territorial waters and the EEZ will enter in force in 2022. New legislation will regulate also transfers of hazardous or harmful cargo other than just the transfer of oil cargo between oil tankers (eg. harmful liquid substances other than oil: MARPOL annex II, waste, dangerous bulk cargo). The rules shall also apply to bunkering outside the port area. A multi authority process to establish these new STS areas is ongoing.
	<b>Future</b> Finland is in process to terminate the national Oil Pollution Fund function.  The legislation regarding the cleaning of the contaminated soil after the response operation is being updated.  The legislation regarding the waste management and handling after a major pollution event is being updated.
<b>Strategic/policy level</b>	<b>Past</b> -
	<b>Ongoing</b> The national strategy for oil and ship based HNS PPR is under revision and draft should be ready by the end of 2022, when it will be presented to the Advisory Board and will be finally approved by the Government.

<sup>1</sup> Relevant information should also be updated in the HELCOM Response Manual.

	<p><b>Future</b> It has been decided, that as part of the health and social services reform the responsibility for organizing the Rescue Services (as well as the will be transferred from beginning of year 2023 to 22 health and social services counties.</p>
<p><b>Operational</b> (plans and agreements, state and international)</p>	<p><b>Past</b></p> <p>“Suomen Leijona” oil recovery operation in June 2019 was presented in an earlier RESPONSE meeting. Border Guard issued an administrative oil pollution fee of 28.000€ to a foreign flag ship, that is suspected of discharging min. 9 m<sup>3</sup> of oil in Finnish EEZ. The shipping company has made an appeal to the Helsinki maritime court and the handling of the case will start at the end of this year.</p> <p>Border Guard vessel Merikarhu has been sold and is no longer in active pollution response duty.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> Contract between Finnish Government and Meritaito LTD for oil pollution response vessel pool has terminated on 31.12.2019. A new tender process for the pollution response vessel services was launched and as outcome three new oil recovery vessels have been contacted (for Eastern Gulf of Finland, for Kvarken and for Bay of Bothnia areas).</p> <p>After signing these new contracts, the Finnish marine pollution response fleet consists of eleven oil recovery vessels that all are equipped with fixed oil recovery equipment.</p> <p>The Rescue Service Districts continue with the same readiness as they have had before.</p> <p><b>Future</b></p>
<p><b>Exercises</b></p>	<p><b>Past</b> BALEX 2021 was conducted in Finland (to be reported to RESPONSE 29-2021)</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> -</p> <p><b>Future</b> Annual exercises with in Copenhagen agreement and FI-RU agreement are planned for autumn 2021 as well as for year 2022.</p>

	Finland is planning to organize a large response exercise in 2023, duration is planned to be one week and different elements of oil and HNS response are planned to be covered.
<b>Equipment and distribution of the equipment</b>	<b>Past</b> -
	<b>Ongoing</b> Finnish Border Guard will build two new multipurpose patrol, oil recovery and HNS recovery vessels. These vessels are planned to be ready in 2025, and they will replace Uisko, Tursas and Merikarhu.  Finnish Border Guard will renew its recovery depot network. The plan is to have 4 big central depots, and a “first aid container” on each coast guard stations.
	<b>Future</b> A project to replace current Dornier 228 surveillance aircraft is ongoing.
<b>Projects</b>	<b>Ongoing</b> OILART project will be finalized by the end of year 2021 (result will be presented to RESPONSE 29-2021). OILSAREX project will be finalized in May 2022 (result will be presented to RESPONSE 30 or 31).  (For description of these project, please see documents of the RESPONSE 28-2020)
	<b>Future</b> -
<b>Highlights/summary</b> (for publishing on the HELCOM web page)	