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Note that this document was submitted after the established deadline. It will be decided by the Meeting whether the document can be discussed or is postponed to the next meeting.

### Background

This document contains information by Estonia on developments regarding response at sea, on shore and for oiled wildlife response as an addition to document 5-3 of 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:<sup>1</sup></b>	
<b>Legal and organizational</b>	<p>The Ministry of the Interior is the Competent National Authority for marine pollution response at sea and at shore. The Estonian Police and Border Guard is responsible for oil pollution response at Estonian Exclusive Economic Zone, territorial and internal waters. On the shore, the Rescue Board is responsible for oil pollution response.</p> <p>Oil recovery equipment and vessels are owned by the Estonian Police and Border Guard (hereinafter EPBGB) and Estonian Transport Agency. Rescue Board has oil recovery equipment for shore protection.</p> <p>The responsible authority for oiled wildlife response is the Environmental Board. In addition, NGO's (Estonian Fund for Nature) have a role in oiled wildlife response.</p> <p>EPBGB is responsible for aerial surveillance of marine pollution.</p> <p>National Contact Point for requesting and providing assistance is JRCC Tallinn.</p>
<b>Strategic/policy level</b>	<p><b>Past</b></p> <p>A national emergency response plan for large search and rescue and oil spill response (including shore response) accidents was approved by director general of EPBGB in March 2021 by the head of EPBGB.</p> <p>EPBGB renewed in the end of 2020 and beginning of 2021 police events risk analyses and one of them was about large search and rescue and oil spill response (including shore response) accidents. Due to that in 2022 police events national emergency response plans will be renewed, updated.</p> <p>Estonian Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter MoI) has made new internal security development plan (STAK 2.0) which was approved by Estonian Parliament in 2021 Spring. That document also contains paragraph about faster help and under that are future developments in the field of oil pollution and response to pollutions.</p>

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

	<p><b>Ongoing</b>  Mol is renewing Estonian Government 23.07.2020 regulation nr 237 (“Procedure for search and rescue work, including detection and elimination of marine pollution in the Estonian maritime area and transboundary waters”). Renewed regulation must be approved by the Estonian Government at the latest 30.05.2022.</p> <p>Due to approval of renewed HELCOM Response Manual EPBGB has started to renew national oil spill contingency plan.</p> <p>Environmental Board is renewing Estonian oiled wildlife plan.</p> <p><b>Future</b>  In the end of 2022 Estonia will have new Estonian Government 23.07.2020 regulation nr 237 and approved by director general of EPBGB new national oil spill contingency plan. Also, in the end of 2022 there will be in Estonia new oiled wildlife plan approved by director general of Environmental Board.</p>
<p><b>Operational</b>  (plans and agreements, state and international)</p>	<p><b>Past</b>  Project “SAFE SEA” between Estonia and Latvia. The standard operational procedures (SOP). Countries of the Baltic Sea region share the responsibility for the protection of the marine environment. In case of environmental accident it is crucial to have a coordinated cross-border responding. The aim of the border-crossing cooperation is about Estonian and Latvian responders know the drill in emergencies and are informed about action plan of the other country.</p> <p>25.08.2020 “Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Finland on Co-operation in Combating the Effects of Marine Pollution Incidents“</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Volunteer agreement between NGO’s and governmental authorities (Ministry of Environment) regarding oiled wildlife response.</p> <p>Maritime co-operation between Estonia and Finland Mol border guard departments work involves and goes now also under 25.08.2020 signed MOU umbrella.</p> <p>EPBGB is analysing involving volunteer sea rescuers to oil response on sea and if would be possible and beneficial makes that proposal to Mol to add that info legal acts (Police and Border Guard Act).</p>

	<p>EPBGB is working out unmanned aerial vehicles concept and they are analysing there how using those can cover also the needs of oil pollution response on sea.</p> <p><b>Future</b>  EE-FI 25.08.2020 MOU sub agreements (if agencies need them).  EE-FI Aviation Group agreements about air surveillance.  EPBGB has to renew their co-operation agreements/protocols with Environment Board and Transport Agency (former Maritime Agency).  EPBGB has to renew co-operation agreement/protocol between JRCC Tallinn and ARCC (FI).</p>
<b>Exercises</b>	<p><b>Past</b>  “Clean Sea” in May 2019 between Estonia and Finland.  Project “Safe Sea” exercises August 2019 in Estonia and October 2019 in Latvia.  “Balex Delta 2019” Estonia participated in the exercise with EPBGB flag ship PVL-101 “Kindral Kurvits” in August 2019 at Bornholm, Denmark.  “Balex Delta 2020” was held in Tallinn, Estonia between 25.-27.08.2020 (sea and shore, EET team members).  EE-FI-EE trilateral annual meeting and SAR exercise in June 2021 in RU waters. Main component of exercise was SAR, but they also tested oil pollution response activities.  EST-LAT Oil recovery Exercise OILEX in Roja, Latvia 28.06.2021  “Balex Delta 2021” Estonia participated in the exercise with EPBGB flag ship PVL-101 “Kindral Kurvits” and surveillance plane Beechcraft King Air 350ER in August 2021 at Kotka, Finland. Also, Estonia was the head of HEDMOT team and leading the exercise evaluation.  Surveillance plane Beechcraft King Air 350ER participated in Super CEPCO exercise in Norway 21-23.09.2021.</p>

	<p><b>Ongoing</b> Annual exercises (during summertime) in each Rescue Centre and joint exercises with all shore response equipment and special shore response teams.</p> <p>Annual exercises in four prefectures and oil recovery ships. Joint exercises to test overall readiness and oil spill response equipment.</p> <p>Mol and EPBGB people leading the HEADMOT and evaluation report (due date 30.10.2021).</p> <p><b>Future</b> Annual exercise between Estonia and Latvia 2021 – TBD</p> <p>Annual exercise between Estonia and Finland (Puhas Meri) 2021 – TBD (possible time in May 2022)</p> <p>National units ongoing trainings and local exercises in shore and sea.</p> <p>When possible participating in different trainings and exercises as offers come from international partners.</p>
<b>Equipment and distribution of the equipment</b>	<p><b>Past</b> In 2018 new surveillance aircraft (Beechcraft King Air ER350) and multipurpose vessel “Raju” were delivered and taken into use by Estonian Police and Border Guard Board. Both were co-funded by EU. Due to bird strike collision incident in September 2019 Beechcraft King Air ER350 was out of duty approx. 11 months. Flights were partly covered with the smaller backup plane Cessna (without SLAR oil radar).</p> <p>Volunteer Rescue Association project (4 trailers with response equipment for the oil spill liquidation on the coast).</p> <p>Latvia and Estonia “SAFE SEA” project (2 trailers with response equipment for the oil spill liquidation on the coast).</p> <p>Due to the shipwreck “T-30” oil pollution in Narva Bay through the year 2020 EPBGB bought approx. 1 km of absorbent booms to replace booms which were used in the oil pollution site. Before the wreck was conserved (holes closed) in October 2021 approx. 20 t of fuel were pumped out from there.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b> Mol representatives (one from Mol and one from EPBGB) are participating in Ministry of the Economic affairs and Communications new work ship project for Transport Agency and Maritime Academy where we would like to add oil pollution response capability.</p>

	<p>EPBGB is using since March 2021 EMSA RPAS service in Kõpu, Hiiumaa. Project is planned to end in the end of October 2021. EMSA RPAS has also been beneficial in detecting and confirming oil pollutions in its work area.</p> <p><b>Future</b>  There is a need to replace in upcoming years PVL-103 "Pikker". Plan is to replace vessel with a new vessel which would have oil response capability.</p> <p>There is a need in upcoming years to replace 1 km of EPBGB open sea booms which are in the end of their lifecycle.</p> <p>EPBGB wishes and plans to use EMSA RPAS service also in the year 2022. EMSA RPAS would also support detecting and confirming oil pollutions in its work area.</p>
<b>Projects</b>	<p><b>Past</b></p> <p>Volunteer Rescue Association project. Collaboration for the oil spill liquidation on the coast, volunteer training and new equipment for liquidation of pollution on the shore.</p> <p>Safe coast and sea in Latvia and Estonia "SAFE SEA". Estonian Rescue Board investments will be stored in Saaremaa Estonian Rescue Board units or in Ports. In Saaremaa ERB units are located in Kuressaare, Orissaare and Kihelkonna and it covers all Saaremaa effectively. The information is available on the programme's website at <a href="http://www.estlat.eu">www.estlat.eu</a>.</p> <p><b>Ongoing</b></p> <p>Interreg project "OILSPILL", Ministry of Environment and Estonian Maritime Academy are Estonian partners. Project involves partners from most of the Baltic Sea countries, administrations, universities and NGO's. Project seeks to identify and find solutions to existing gaps between oil spill response on sea, shoreline and oiled wildlife response. In 2021 under the project seminar of claims was carried out in August and training for advanced volunteers in oiled wildlife response in September. In October there will be seminar for institutions of awareness raising in planning and organizing of oiled wildlife response. The study of oil spill risk in Estonian marine area is currently ongoing.</p> <p>Mol representatives (one from Mol and two from EPBGB) are participating in Finish leaded INTERREG project "OILART".</p>

	<p>EPBGB wrote a project proposal about potentially hazardous wrecks in Estonian waters to NEFCO. Project name "Environmental risk assessment of potentially hazardous wrecks in Estonian marine area". Project was approved by NEFCO in June 2021 and EPBGB is making preparations for starting the project implementation. The project goal is to examine the oil leak risks on the hazardous historic wrecks in Estonian marine area and estimate via underwater surveys the actual risk and cost of possible de-contamination works.</p> <p>MoE has procured an update of 2017 wreck assessment. Work should be completed by the end of year 2021.</p> <p><b>Future</b> Investigate and analyse more wrecks in Estonian waters.</p> <p>Look different EU funding and EU project possibilities to strengthen co-operation between neighbouring countries and national partners, work out SOP-s and implement best practices</p>
<p><b>Highlights/summary</b> (for publishing on the HELCOM web page)</p>	<p>25.08.2020 "Memorandum of Understanding between the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Estonia and the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Finland on Co-operation in Combating the Effects of Marine Pollution Incidents".</p> <p>Balex Delta 2020 movie.</p>