



Document title	National developments in Estonia
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Category	INF
Agenda Item	3 – Recent developments regarding on-shore response
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Background

Contracting Parties have been invited to fill in the reporting template for compiling information on national developments regarding response at sea, on shore and for oiled wildlife response, as found in [document 3-1](#), and send it to the Secretariat prior to the meeting.

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

Action requested

The Meeting is invited to take note of the information.

Information on national developments response at sea, on shore and for oiled wildlife response

Country: Estonia ¹	
Legal and organizational	<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 Maritime Administration. 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>
Strategic/policy level	Past
	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>A national emergency response plan for large search and rescue and oil spill response (including shore response) accidents is under development and is awaiting approving by the head of EPBGB.</p> <p>EPBGB is renewing their police events risk analyses and one of them is about ship accidents on sea and border lakes, rivers. This includes also oil pollution topic. After that all police events national emergency response plans will be renewed again.</p>

¹ Relevant information should also be updated in the HELCOM Response Manual.

	<p>Estonian Ministry of the Interior (hereinafter MoI) has made new internal security development plan (STAK 2.0) is ready and waiting Estonia Parliament approval. This contains paragraph about faster help and under that are future developments in the field of oil pollution and response to pollutions.</p> <p>Future</p> <p>After approval of HELCOM Response Manual new version national oil spill contingency plan will be renewed.</p> <p>MoI has started 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>Operational (plans and agreements, state and international)</p>	<p>Past</p> <p>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>Ongoing</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 MoI 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 MoI 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>Future</p> <p>EE-FI 25.08.2020 MOU sub agreements (if agencies need them)</p> <p>EE-FI Aviation Group agreements about air surveillance</p> <p>EPBGB has to renew their co-operation agreements/protocols with Environment Agency and Transport Agency (former Maritime Agency)</p> <p>EPBGB has to renew co-operation agreement/protocol between JRCC Tallinn and ARCC (FI).</p>
Exercises	<p>Past</p> <p>“Clean Sea” in May 2019 between Estonia and Finland</p> <p>Project “Safe Sea” exercises August 2019 in Estonia and October 2019 in Latvia</p> <p>“Balex Delta 2019” Estonia participated in the exercise with Estonian Police and Border Guard Board flag ship PVL-101 “Kindral Kurvits” in August 2019 at Bornholm, Denmark.</p> <p>“Balex Delta 2020” in Tallinn, Estonia between 25.-27.08.2020 (sea and shore, EET).</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Annual exercises 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 participating in BALEX 2021 planning and evaluating process.</p>

	<p>Future</p> <p>BALEX DELTA 2021 LIVEX in Kotka, Finland BALEX 2021 exercises evaluation lead by Estonian Republic. Evaluation report will be ready at the latest 30.10.2021.</p> <p>Annual exercise between Estonia and Latvia – TBD Annual exercise between Estonia and Finland (Puhas Meri) – TBD (possibly due to BALEX exercise in 2021 in Finland it will not happen).</p> <p>National units ongoing trainings and local exercises. When possible participating in different trainings and exercises as offers come.</p>
<p>Equipment and distribution of the equipment</p>	<p>Past</p> <p>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 accident with bird in September 2019 Beechcraft King Air ER350 was out of duty approx. 11 months. Flights were partly covered with the smaller plane Cessna.</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.</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>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>Mol and EPBGB are making preparatory actions for the procurement of a ship with oil pollution localization and response capabilities.</p>

	<p>Future</p> <p>Replacing PVL-103 “Pikker” with a new oil response capability vessel.</p> <p>Applying state budget or finding budget to replace 1 km of open sea booms which are in the end of their lifecycle.</p> <p>EPBGB wish and plan to use EMSA RPAS service to detect oil pollutions. Plan is to use EMSA service 3 months starting from March 2021. After that Finland and Sweden. While in Estonia or other countries, the service also covers other nearby countries.</p>
<p>Projects</p>	<p>Past</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 www.estlat.eu.</p> <p>Ongoing</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. Seminars, workshops and trainings are going to take place in 2020 and 2021.</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”</p> <p>Future</p> <p>Investigate and analyse wrecks in Estonian waters.</p>

Highlights/summary (for publishing on the HELCOM web page)	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” Balex Delta 2020 movie
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