



Document title	National developments in Latvia
Code	3-6
Category	INF
Agenda Item	3 – Recent developments regarding on-shore response
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Submitted by	Latvia
Reference	SHORE Network 5-2021, document 3-1

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 Latvia.

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: Latvia 1	
Legal and organizational	<p>The Ministry of Defence is the competent national authority for marine pollution response at sea up to the shoreline . Coast Guard Service is competent authority, that responds in this regard. For the Emergencies from the shoreline (e.g. seashore), responsibility lays on Ministry of Interior, and all response actions are performed by State fire and rescue service (SFRS). Rescue service has possibility to involve other emergency or municipal services according to Civil protection plans.</p> <p>Oil recovery equipment and vessels for operations on the sea are owned by the Coast Guard Service. SFRS has oil recovery equipment for shore protection, such as absorbing booms, skimmers, hand tools etc.</p> <p>The responsible authority for oiled wildlife response is the State Environmental Service. In addition, NGO's (such as Association of Ornithologists, World Wildlife Fund in Latvia) have a role in oiled wildlife response as well.</p> <p>National Contact Point for requesting and providing assistance is MRCC Riga.</p>
Strategic/policy level	<p>Past</p> <hr/> <p>Ongoing State civil protection plan (including response plan for oil spill response) has been adopted and entered into force on 26.08.2020.</p>

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

	<p>Future</p> <p>The Ministry of the Interior shall evaluate the fulfilment of the State civil protection plan, submit the respective informative report to the Cabinet until 1 May each year and, if necessary, draft amendments to the State civil protection plan</p> <p>The local government council shall approve the civil protection plan of the local government at least once every four years</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>Ongoing</p> <p>Monitoring of access roads from in-land to coastline, that has been developed during “SAFE SEA project”. Strengthening capacity of SFRS.</p>
	<p>Future</p>
<p>Exercises</p>	<p>Past</p> <p>Project “Safe Sea” exercises August 2019 in Estonia and October 2019 in Latvia</p>
	<p>Ongoing</p>

	<p>Future BALEX DELTA 2021 LIVEX in Kotka, Finland (from SFRS observers programme only)</p>
Equipment and distribution of the equipment	Past
	<p>Ongoing For daily emergencies, SFRS developed UAV (Drone) unit and in total more than 40 drones (with dual cameras IR/Optical) has been shared among fire stations in Latvia. Drones can be used as aerial surveillance for assessment during emergencies on shoreline. At the moment State material reserves consist of different equipment for response on shoreline (e.g. absorbing booms , shovels, etc.)</p>
	Future
Projects	Past
	Ongoing

	Future
Highlights/summary (for publishing on the HELCOM web page)	