

# **Preparedness, Response and Cooperation to Marine Oil Spills**

## **International Maritime Organization**

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### **The Instruments**

- The International Convention on Oil Preparedness, Response and Cooperation 1990 (OPRC 1990)
- The Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000)

## The OPRC Convention & OPRC-HNS Protocol

- **The OPRC Convention, as the parent document, provides the template for the OPRC-HNS Protocol**
- **As such...**
  - The two are mirror pieces of international legislation;
  - structured and worded very similarly;
  - covering oil and HNS spill preparedness and response, respectively.

## OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol

### **Both provide...**

- a framework for the development of national and regional capacity to prepare for and respond to oil/HNS pollution incidents, and...

### **A platform to:**

- facilitate international co-operation and mutual assistance in preparing for and responding to major oil/HNS pollution incidents

## Background

- The OPRC Convention was initially established in 1990 following the March 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster
- Entered into force five years later in May 1995.
- The HNS Protocol followed in 2000, in recognition of the increasing threat of pollution incidents involving chemicals
- The HNS Protocol entered into force on **14 June 2007**

## Current Status

	Number of Contracting Parties	% of world's tonnage
<b>OPRC 1990</b>	<b>90</b> (EOF 13 May 95)	<b>65.17</b>
<b>OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000</b>	<b>18</b> (EOF 14 June 07)	<b>17.83</b>

## Obligations of parties - National level -

1. Pollution emergency plans
2. Reporting requirement
3. A national system for responding to Oil/HNS pollution incidents
4. Preparedness and response capacity



## Obligations of Parties - International level -

### Requirement for...

- Informing neighbouring States of spills which could affect them
- Providing assistance if requested by another party
- Parties agree, to the extent of their capability, to provide international assistance to other State parties, and;
- Requesting Parties agree to facilitate the receipt of such assistance in-country
- Involve oil, chemical & shipping industries in preparedness & response activities



## The Role of IMO

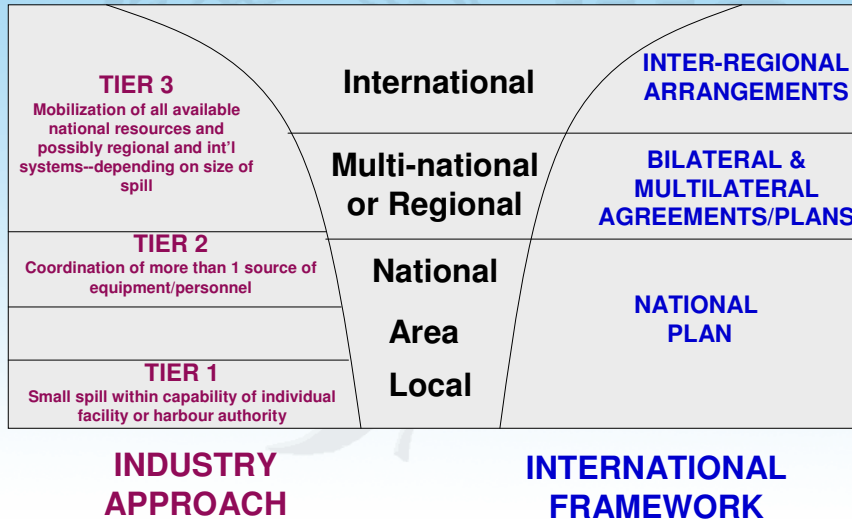
1. Information Services
2. Education & Training
3. Technical services
4. Technical assistance

Article 10 (1), HNS Protocol 2000

## Co-operation - a tiered approach

- **National**
  - oil, industry, government (local, regional, national), academia  
Shipping, ports, offshore
    - National Oil Spill Contingency Plans
- **Bilateral**
  - Bilateral agreements
- **Sub Regional/Regional**
  - Regional seas, agreements, organizations, institutions,
    - e.g. Tehran Convention
- **Global**
  - International Conventions
    - OPRC 1990, OPRC-HNS Protocol

# Global Response Framework



## Mutual Assistance - basic provisions

- Recognize the importance of and promote bilateral & multilateral co-operation (agreements, conventions, other...)
- Financing of assistance
  - Follows the principle that the Party requesting assistance shall reimburse the assisting Party
- Promote technical co-operation

## Mutual Assistance - basic provisions cont'd

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- Important to involve the oil & shipping industries
- 'Global Initiative' – A Joint initiative between IMO and industry

## Co-operation

- IMO promotes and supports a **regional** approach to pollution preparedness and response
- This can be achieved through a regional instruments, such as regional protocols and agreements
- Further reinforced and supported by regional centres

## Caspian Sea - Tehran Convention

- This regional approach is embodied by instruments such as the Tehran Convention and its Protocols
- Strongly supported by IMO
- Notably, the draft Emergency Protocol

## The OPRC-HNS Technical Group

- A subsidiary body of the IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC)
- The OPRC-HNS Technical Group that meets in conjunction with MEPC to:
  - Share experiences among a network of partners – Member States, Regional Agreements and Industry
  - develops tools, resources, manuals, guidance documents and training courses to help assist countries in building capacity

## Ingredients for long-term success

- **Co-operation involving government, industry and other stakeholders who share the risk and responsibilities for:**
  - assessment of the risk and potential economic, social & ecological impacts
  - development of credible response strategies
  - clear definition & allocation of responsibilities
  - commitment to exercise, maintain and update (*sustainability*)

