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# **Implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol through Regional Agreements**

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# Overview

- **Obligations under the OPRC Convention/OPRC-HNS Protocol**
- **The role of IMO**
- **Importance/Modalities of Regional Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills**
- **Conclusions**

# Background

## The OPRC Convention

- The International Convention on Oil Preparedness, Response and Cooperation 1990 (OPRC 1990)
- adopted in 1990 following the Exxon Valdez disaster
- entered into force five years later in May 1995

## The HNS Protocol

- The Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000)
- adopted in 2000, in recognition of the increasing threat of pollution incidents involving chemicals
- entered into force on 14 June 2007

# OPRC 1990 & HNS Protocol 2000

## Purpose

- Mitigate the consequences of major oil/HNS pollution incidents

## Objectives

- Encourage States to develop national and regional capacity to prepare for and respond to oil/HNS pollution incidents
- facilitate international co-operation and mutual assistance for pollution response

# OPRC/HNS Current Status

	<i>Number of Contracting Parties</i>	<i>% of world's tonnage</i>
OPRC 1990	100 (EOF 13 May 95)	68.20
HNS Protocol 2000	24 (EOF 14 June 2007)	32.83

# Obligations of Parties - National level

## Pollution emergency plans for

- Ships (SOPEPs)
- Offshore oil units
- Ports and oil/HNS handling facilities

## Reporting

### Who reports?

Ships, offshore installations,  
sea ports, oil handling facilities  
States

### What?

Actual/probable discharge

### To whom?

Nearest coastal State or  
competent national authority

### What form?

MARPOL, IMO guidelines



# Obligations of Parties - National level

- **A national system for responding to Oil/HNS pollution incidents**
  - ✓ National contingency plan
  - ✓ Designated national authority
- **Preparedness and response capacity**
  - ✓ Equipment
  - ✓ Trained personnel
  - ✓ Exercise programme
  - ✓ Communications plans & capabilities
  - ✓ Coordination mechanism

# International Co-operation and Mutual Assistance

- 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
- Financing of assistance – requesting Party reimburses costs of assisting Party



# The Role of IMO

- **Information Services**
- **Education & Training**
- **Technical services**
- **Technical assistance**

**Article 12, OPRC 1990**  
**Article 10, HNS Protocol 2000**

# Mutual Assistance – basic provisions

## Article 10 – OPRC 1990

- Promote bilateral & multilateral cooperation
- Financing of assistance
- Promote technical co-operation
- Involve industry in preparedness & response

# Examples of Regional Agreements

- North Sea (1969)
- Baltic Sea (1974)
- Mediterranean Sea (1978)
- ROPME Sea Area / Kuwait Action Plan (1979)
- Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (1985)
- Caribbean Region (1986)
- 13 regional seas covered by UN sponsored agreements

# Regional Centre: A Valuable Tool

- **Maintain focus of Member States**
- **Strengthen national and regional capabilities**
- **Facilitate co-operation and mutual assistance**
- **Information exchange**
- **Co-ordinate mobilization of regional and international resources**
- **Co-ordinate regional capacity-building activities**

# Regional Centres

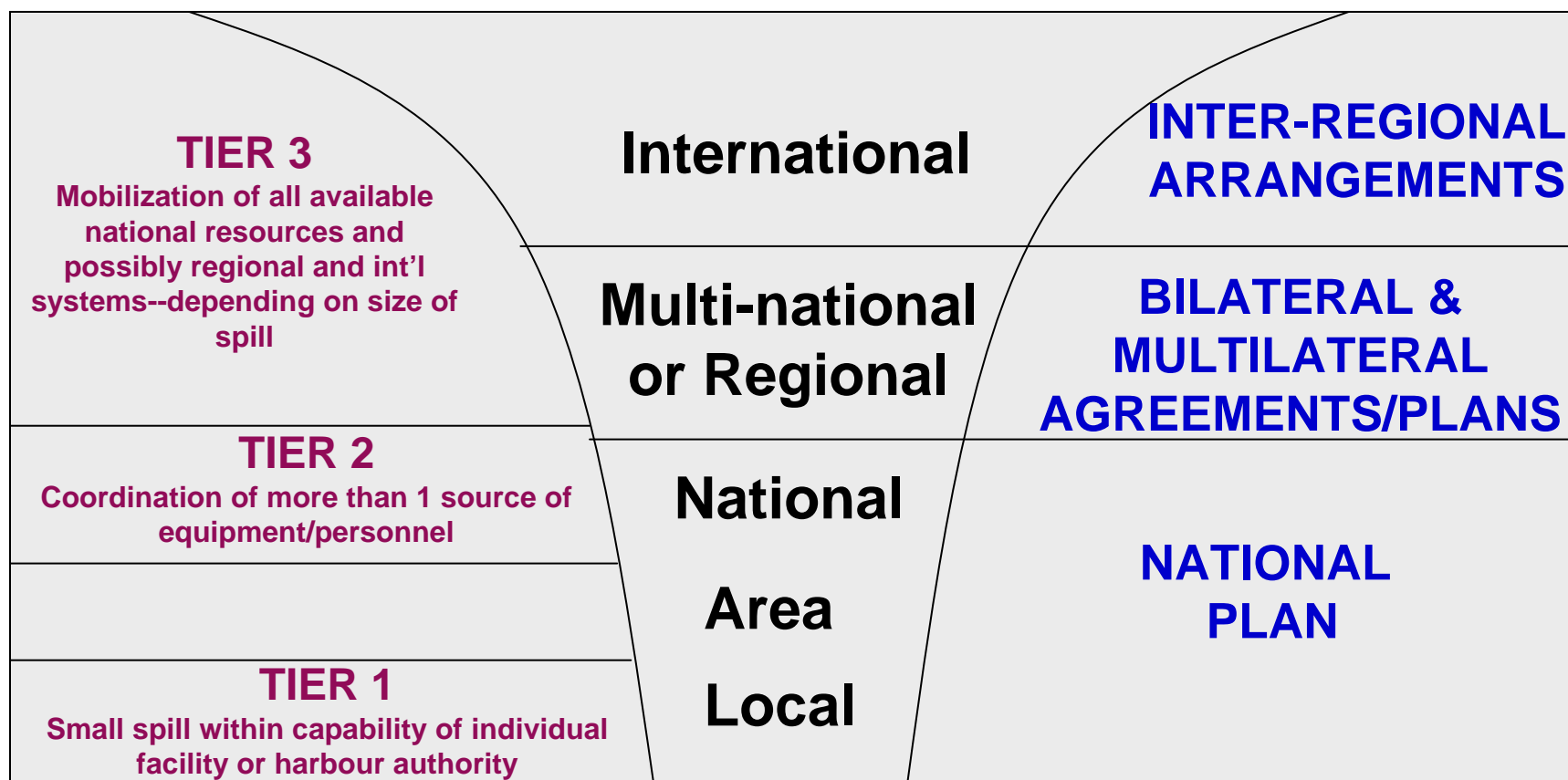
- **Mediterranean: REMPEC, Malta**
- **Persian Gulf: MEMAC, Bahrain**
- **Caribbean: REMPEITC-Carib, Curacao**
- **Northwest Pacific: NOWPAP/MERRAC, Korea**
- **Red Sea: PERSGA/MEMAC, Egypt**

# Co-operation Governments and Industry

## - a tiered approach

- **National**
  - Shipping, ports, offshore oil, industry, government (local, regional, national), academia
    - **National Oil Spill Contingency Plans**
- **Bilateral**
  - **Neighbouring States - Bilateral agreements**
- **Regional**
  - Regional seas, agreements, organizations, institutions
    - **ROPME-MEMAC Regional Contingency Plan**
- **Global**
  - International Co-operation and Assistance
    - **OPRC Convention and Assembly Resolution A.869(20)**

# Global Response Framework



**INDUSTRY  
APPROACH**

**INTERNATIONAL  
FRAMEWORK**

# The Global Initiative

A joint programme through which IMO and IPIECA work together to:

- encourage and facilitate the development and implementation of oil pollution response capacity and
- Support activities to assist countries in ratifying and implementing the provisions of related international Conventions

# Conclusions

## 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)

