

COMMISSION - HELSINKI COMMISSION -  
Second Meeting  
Helsinki 16-19 February 1981

ANNEX 15

### **HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 2/4**

adopted 17 February 1981, having regard to Article 13, Paragraph b) of the  
Helsinki Convention

### **RECOMMENDATION CONCERNING ESTABLISHING OF AN EARLY WARNING REPORTING SYSTEM FOR POLLUTION INCIDENTS**

#### **THE COMMISSION,**

**RECALLING** the provisions of Regulation 5, para 5, of Annex VI to the Convention on the  
Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area, 1974 , (Helsinki Convention),  
concerning the transmit of information on a casualty or the presence of spillages of oil or  
other substances to any other Contracting Party which may be affected,

**RECOGNIZING** the importance of an early warning reporting system in the Baltic Sea  
Area as a means of facilitating early and effective pollution combatting action by  
Coastal States,

**BEING AWARE** of the great value of a simple and standardized reporting system,

**RECOMMENDS** that Governments of the Contracting Parties to the Helsinki  
Convention:

a) in case of an actual or impending pollution incident should, in order to give a quick  
and easily understood notice to any other contracting party which may be affected, use  
the POLLUTION WARNING BALTIC Procedure with the provisions set out in Attachment 1  
to this Recommendation and

b) for the exchange of information more detailed than that given by the POLLUTION  
WARNING BALTIC procedure should use the POLLUTION REPORT BALTIC procedure in  
accordance with the provisions set out in Attachment 2 to this Recommendation.  
POLLUTION WARNING BALTIC (POLWARN BALTIC)

The purpose of this report - see Appendix I - is to give easily understood first notice of a pollution incident as well as information about the occurrence of an imminent pollution threat. The report must be self explanatory so that anyone receiving the report will understand its contents without difficulty. Consequently, abbreviations and letter codes are omitted as far as practicable. The report should be in English.

"FROM, TO" The report should be used for transmission per telex. In order to enable the telex operator to transmit the telex without delay, the telex No. (or telex Nos. if there is a distinction between normal working hours and outside normal working hours) of the Baltic countries should be printed on the report.

"POLLUTION WARNING BALTIC" This is the identification of the report. "POLLUTION" indicates that the report might deal with all aspects of pollution (such as oil as well as other harmful substances). "WARNING" indicates that the report is an initial notice only, to be followed by detailed information as to the incident, for instance as stated in the attached POLREP. (Please refer Attachment 2.)

"BALTIC" is the only codeword of the report and is included to identify the agreement in question.

"INCIDENT" The nature of the incident should be stated here such as BLOWOUT, TANKER GROUNDING, TANKER COLLISION, OIL SLICK, etc.

"OUTFLOW" The nature of the pollution should be stated here such as CRUDE OIL, CHLORINE, DINITRO PHENOL, -etc. If there is no pollution, but a pollution threat, the words NOT YET followed by substance for example NOT YET FUELOIL should be stated.

"POSITION" The position should be stated for instance in latitude and longitude, or bearing and distance from a location known by the receiver such as 56 00 N, 03 00 E or 270-KULLEN-4,0.

"DATE AND TIME" The day of the month as well as the time of the day when the incident took place or an observation was made (cause of pollution unknown), should be stated with 6 figures. Time should be stated as GMT, for example

091900 GMT (i.e. the 9th of the relevant month at 19.00 GMT).

EXAMPLES

- 1) FROM 64471 SOK DK  
TO 17198 TULLSTH S  
POLLUTION WARNING BALTIC  
INCIDENT TANKER COLLISION  
OUTFLOW CRUDE OIL  
POSITION 5750N 1040E  
DATE AND TIME 172100 GMT
- 2) FROM 17198 Tullsth S  
TO 64471 SOK DK  
POLLUTION WARNING BALTIC  
INCIDENT TANKER GROUNDING  
OUTFLOW NOT YET CHLORINE  
POSITION 27 0-LANDSKRONA-1  
DATE AND TIME 020200 GMT
- 3) At exercises the following wording should be used  
FROM.....  
TO .....  
EXERCISE  
POLLUTION WARNING BALTIC  
INCIDENT.....  
OUTFLOW.....  
POSITION..... DATE AND  
TIME.....  
EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

ATTACHMENT I Appendix 1

POLLUTION WARNING BALTIC

FROM.....

DENMARK: 64 471 SOK DK

FINLAND:

12-4865 RULE SF

GDR: 0318526/0318559

FRG: 02 32154

POLAND: 054-285 PL

SWEDEN: 17982 COASTG S (17198 Tullsth S GMT 1500-0700)

USSR: 501, 502, 503

HELCOM:

12-5105 HLCOM

POLLUTION WARNING BALTIC

INCIDENT.....  
 OUTFLOW..... " " " " "  
 POSITION.....  
 DATE AND TIME .....

ATTACHMENT 2  
 POLLUTION REPORT BALTIC (POLREP BALTIC)

1. For the exchange of detailed information the attached report format should be used (please refer Appendix 1).
2. The report can be used for information about oil and other harmful substances as well as for requesting assistance from other Contracting Parties.
3. The individual report should be easily identified, and the receiver should be able to check that he has received all reports of the pollution in question. This can be done by using a stroke system as follows: POLREP 1/1 relates to the first report of the pollution in question.  
 POLREP 1/3 relates to the third report of the same r

*pollution.*

If the *pollution splits up* in separate areas, the following wording should be adopted:

POLREP 1 now splitting in POLREP 2 and POLREP 3.

The stroke system can hereafter be applied as follows:

POLREP 2/5 is the fifth report of the pollution area with identification number 2.

ATTACHMENT 2

Appendix 1

\_ POLREP BALTIC

| Identification No.   | Example        |
|--|----------------|
| 1. Date and time (in GMT)  | 1. 120930 GMT  |
| 2. Position (Latitude & Longitude)                               | 2. 5510N 1400E |
| 3. Pollution Source<br><br>(Spell out or use Single Letter Code) | 3. A           |
| A. Heavy Oil   |                |
| B. Crude Oil   |                |
| C. Light Oil   |                |
| D. Other Harmful Substances (specify if possible)                |                |
| 4. Length & Width of Slick                                       | 4. 5 x 0.5     |

(in nautical miles)

5. Course and Speed of Slick 5. 090-0.6 (Degrees and Knots)
6. Wind Direction and Speed (Degrees and m/sec)
7. Current Direction & Speed (Degrees & Knots)
8. Polluter

(Name, Flag and Call-sign) 9. Reporting Ship or Ships on (Name, Flag and Call-sign)

10. Oil Sample

(if yes, state telex No. of sampling authority)  
6. 270-12

7.090-0.2

8: DISCHARGER/ FARAWAY/OILY Scene 9. ESSO BALTICA/

DANISH/OVQZ 10. 64471 SOK DK

11. Action taken: 11. M (Letter Code)

N:

A:

B:

M:

D:

F:

SD:

No action Sorbents Booms Mechanical Recovery Dispersants Burning

Se if dispersing

12. Other information including

request for assistance

ESTIMATED AS THREATENED

12. WEST COAST OF  
BORNHOLM