

HELSINKI COMMISSION

Baltic Marine Environment
Protection Commission



HELCOM RECOMMENDATION 24/7 *)

Adopted 25 June 2003
having regard to Article 20, Paragraph 1 b)
of the Helsinki Convention

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT AND USE OF DRIFT FORECASTING FOR OILS AND OTHER HARMFUL SUBSTANCES IN THE BALTIC

THE COMMISSION,

RECALLING the need for accurate and swift prediction of the drift of oil and other harmful substances in connection with accidental or illegal spills for the efficiency of response measures, law enforcement and for the protection of the marine environment;

BEING AWARE of

- the enhanced threats due to increasing maritime traffic and oil transport in the Baltic Sea
- new big oil terminals requiring efficient forecasting tools
- the need for optimisation due to limited response resources in relation to big accidents
- the need to increase the ability to secure environmentally sensitive areas from accidental contamination
- the need to extend the existing open water drift forecasting system to include local and coastal forecasting requirements;

BEING AWARE ALSO of

- improved scientific and technological means to detect oil and to forecast its drift, including the enhanced ability of weather and sea circulation forecasting systems
- new opportunities given by modern development in information technology in presentation and dissemination of results;

MINDFUL of the potential to use results from drift modelling systems when hind-casting the drift of an oil slick for use in cases of illegal discharges;

TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION that the implementation of improved systems for the support of response operations in the Baltic Sea should be accelerated by co-operation between the Parties. Each user should contribute to the development of the joint drift forecasting system;

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

- a) to further develop existing drift forecasting systems and to co-operate closely in doing so, bearing in mind new requirements;

*) This Recommendation supersedes HELCOM Recommendation 12/6 "Development of a drift forecasting system to respond to spills of oil and other harmful substances".

- b) to, in particular, focus the development on
- modules for different types of oils, chemicals and also prediction of movements of oils and chemicals in ice;
 - linking the outcome of the drift modelling with GIS system, containing data of environmentally sensitive areas and other protective areas in order to better estimate the real threats and to guide the response operations and minimize the damages; and
 - higher resolution in coastal areas and archipelagos;
- c) to use drift modelling as a mean to facilitate prosecution of offenders of oil and chemical discharge regulations,

RECOMMENDS FURTHER that the Governments of the Contracting Parties report on the implementation of this Recommendation in accordance with Article 16, Paragraph 1 of the Helsinki Convention;

AUTHORISES the HELCOM Response Group to adopt technical guidelines for the implementation of this Recommendation and to supplement Volume I of the HELCOM Manual on Co-operation in Combatting Marine Pollution by a new chapter regarding oil drift forecasting.