



**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION
EMERGENCY, INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

Country Profile 2015

COUNTRY	THE BAHAMAS
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1.1 What, if any, International Convention is your Country most likely to ratify next?

Presently the Ballast Water Management Convention is being reviewed

1.2 Additional Comments

Comprehensive maritime legal review is in process.

2. National Focal Points

2.1	MINISTRY OF LEAD AGENCY	<p>Mrs. Lorraine Armbrister Permanent Secretary Ministry of Transport and Aviation</p> <p>Address: P.O. Box N-7132 3rd Floor, West Wing, Dockendale House West Bay Street New Providence, The Bahamas</p>	<p>POC: Brent E. Williamson TEL: 242-397-5501/ 242-322-4546 CELL: 376-1316/ 376-0223 FAX: (242) 328-2123 EMAIL: lorrainearmbrister@bahamas.gov.bs brentwillbah@gmail.com</p>
2.2	LEAD AGENCY	<p>Captain Stephen Russell National Disaster Coordinator National Emergency Management Agency</p> <p>Address: Cabinet Office, P.O. Box N-7145 Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas</p>	<p>POC: Ms. Gayle Moncur TEL: (242) 322-2805 CELL: 242-376-0207/ 242-376-6362 FAX: (242) 326-5456 EMAIL:nema@bahamas.gov.bs:</p>
2.3	SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT	<p>Port Department Commander Patrick McNeil Port Controller</p>	<p>POC: Patrick McNeil/ Cyril Roker TEL: 242-322-8832 CELL: 242- 376-6022/ 242-376-6032 FAX: 242-322-5545</p>

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		Address: P.O. Box N-8175 Prince George Wharf Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas	EMAIL: patrickmcneil56@live.com cyrilroker@hotmail.com
2.4	RESPONSE AGENCY	Port Department Commander Patrick McNeil Port Controller	POC: Patrick McNeil/ Cyril Roker TEL: 242-322-8832 CELL: 242- 376-6022/ 242-376-6032 FAX: 242-322-5545
		Address: P.O. Box N-8175 Prince George Wharf Nassau, N.P., The Bahamas	EMAIL: patrickmcneil56@live.com cyrilroker@hotmail.com
2.5	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR MARPOL	The Bahamas Maritime Authority Commodore Davy Rolle Managing Director and CEO	POC: Captain Dwain Hutchinson Deputy Director TEL: +44 (20) 7 977-471220 CELL: FAX: +44 (20) 7 614-1300
		Address: 120 Broad Street London EC2N 1AR United Kingdom	EMAIL: tech@bahamasmaritime.com dhutchinson@bahamasmaritime.com
2.6	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR BALLASTWATER	Mrs. Lorraine Armbrister Permanent Secretary Ministry of Transport and Aviation	POC: Brent E. Williamson TEL: 242-322-4546 CELL: 242-376-1316/ 242- 376-0223 FAX: (242) 328-2123
		Address: P.O. Box N-7132 3 rd Floor, West Wing, Dockendale House West Bay Street New Providence, The Bahamas	EMAIL: lorrainearmbrister@bahamas.gov.bs brentwillbah@gmail.com

3. Risk Assessment

3.1	What is your Countries greatest risk for an oil spill?	Marine Traffic in maritime territory and vessels calling at one the largest Oil Storage Facilities in the Region.
3.2	Date of last oil spill risk assessment?	September 2014
3.3	Topics covered?	Sensitive environments, sensitivity mapping, remote island territories, coordination of personnel and resources
3.4	Geographic area?	
3.5	What area is considered a priority?	All coastline and beaches and the extensive coastline
3.6	Additional comments / Difficulties encountered?	Coordination of relevant agencies

4. Sensitivity Maps

4.1	Sensitivity Maps exist?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to 4.5)
4.2	Date of map or last update?	October 2013
4.3	Geographic area covered?	25°04'N 77°20' W 24°30'N, 76°20'W
4.4	Format used: paper or electronic?	Paper and Electronic
4.5	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	Coordination of all relevant stakeholders and agencies in obtaining vital information.
4.6	Will you share with RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe data layers for your sensitivity maps if any?	Yes

5. National Contingency Plan

5.1a	National Contingency Plan exists?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – Status of Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> To be developed Details: ...				
5.1b	Is there a National Contingency Plan for HNS incidents? (& if so, is this an extension of the oil spill contingency plan or a separate document?)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No – Status of Plan <input type="checkbox"/> Extension of the NCP <input type="checkbox"/> Separate document <input type="checkbox"/> Draft <input type="checkbox"/> To be developed Details: ...				
5.2	Date Plan was developed or updated?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <thead> <tr> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">NCP</th> <th style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">NCP for HNS incidents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td style="text-align: center;">January 2000</td> <td style="text-align: center;">Under the National Emergency Management Agency Act</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	NCP	NCP for HNS incidents	January 2000	Under the National Emergency Management Agency Act
NCP	NCP for HNS incidents					
January 2000	Under the National Emergency Management Agency Act					
5.3	Date approved?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">January 2002</td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;">Legislation approved in 2009</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	January 2002	Legislation approved in 2009		
January 2002	Legislation approved in 2009					
5.4	Is the Plan in electronic format?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </td> <td style="width: 50%; text-align: center;"> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No </td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No					
5.5	Date of the last evaluation with the assessment tool, the “Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™)”	July 2014				
5.6	What is the National policy on dispersant use and in-situ burning?	The policy is in line with that with the Caribbean Plan and application must be made to the Department of Environment Health Services for permission to use dispersants. Only certain dispersants are approved for use.				
5.7	Agreements with other organizations for response? (Please provide details)	Clean Caribbean Americas, Local Oil Spill Companies, private companies via memorandum of understanding				
5.8	Does the country have regulations for managing waste? (Please provide details)	Yes, Details are provided in the Environmental Health Act on management of waste. Country is also party to MARPOL and this has been incorporated into national legislation.				
5.9	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	Presently reviewing all environmental regulation and policies. There are also other national mechanisms in responding to HNS				

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		incidents. These protocols have been established by the National Emergency Management Agency.
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6. Exercises / Training / Incidents

6.1	What is the national agency in charge of personnel training?	Department of Public Personnel/ National Oil Spill Advisory Committee
6.2	Does a national center exist to train personnel?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details) <input type="checkbox"/> No
6.3	Date of last national exercise?	January 2015
6.4	Has there been any experience of ship-source Oil pollution related incidents?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details)- Groundings and accidental in releases in near coastal areas <input type="checkbox"/> No
6.5	Has there been any experience of ship-source HNS related incidents?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details)- <input type="checkbox"/> No
6.6	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	There are been reported incidents which are jointly investigated by the Department of Environmental Health Services and the Port Department.

7. Regional Cooperation

7.1	What are the bilateral or multilateral agreements for the country?	There are many multilateral agreements from the United nations and the International Maritime Organisation. Presently the Bahamas is part of the multi-lateral group concerned with offshore emergency planning and response with Cuba, Jamaica, the United States and Mexico.
7.2	What are the opportunities in developing a regional exercise in the country?	Marine Safety, Awareness and Environmental Protection
7.3	Is there a mechanism in place to facilitate the clearance of equipment through Customs in an emergency situation? What is the process?	Pre-clearance mechanisms are listed in the plan and listing of personnel and equipment are forwarded to the Customs Department periodically.
7.4	Additional comments?	

8. Equipment

8.1	Does your country maintain a list of oil spill cleanup equipment and materials?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes
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		<input type="checkbox"/> No (go to 8.4)
8.2	Is this equipment list in electronic format?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
8.3	What equipment is available for Oil pollution incident response? (a general indication of the types and amounts of response equipment and materials available from both government agencies and private companies within the country).	Over 10,000 feet of boom, absorbent booms, skimmers (heavy fuel and light fuel), oil absorbent pads, numerous work boats, tug vessels, temporary storage containers,
8.4	What equipment is available for HNS incident response? (a general indication of the types and amounts of response equipment and materials available from both government agencies and private companies within the country).	The has been extensive training involving incidents involving hazardous and noxious substances at the National Level arranged by NEMA
8.5	Are there agreements in place to facilitate additional support (i.e. aerial support, medical support, manpower, communications) (possibilities for deploying dispersants with planes or helicopters)?	Yes arrangements are in place to conduct aerial support and other support services. NEMA is the primary agency that coordinates all activities relative to emergency response in The Bahamas. All support functions are arranged by the Emergency Management Agency.
8.6	Additional comments?	

FUTURE EXPECTATIONS
Expectations

Introduction

The objective of this part is to identify a country's needed support from various regional and international organizations (activities, manuals, guidelines, etc). This will allow RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to update their strategic plan to meet the country's expectations and to further develop the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan. While RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe will consider all proposed recommendations, there may be cases where certain expectations will not be met due to financial constraints and/or other commitments.

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9. Technical Support

9.1	With respect to the activities developed by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, list three activities that are needed in order to improve your country's pollution response posture.	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Training of personnel and capacity Building especially regarding the offshore industry; 2. Technical Cooperation 3. Coordinated Responses
9.2	What guidelines or technical manuals does your country use in regards to pollution response preparedness (title & author)?	<p>Responding to Oil Spills- International Maritime Organisation;</p> <p>Incident Management Hand Book- Oil Spill Response</p> <p>Contingency and Response Planning- International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation</p> <p>Hazardous and Noxious Substances- International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation</p>
9.3	What guidelines or technical manuals does your country use in regards to pollution response (title & author)?	<p>Responding to Oil Spills- International Maritime Organisation;</p> <p>Incident Management Hand Book- Oil Spill Response</p> <p>Contingency and Response Planning- International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation</p> <p>Hazardous and Noxious Substances- International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation</p>
9.4	How does your country stay informed of the latest response guidelines or obtain updates to the technical manuals (seminars, internet, personal relationships)?	Manuals, seminars, internet, networking with neighboring countries and regional bodies
9.5	How does your country access these updates (mail order, internet, seminars)?	Internet, seminars and networking

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9.6	Which of these topics would your country need more guidance on? <i>Note: Please be specific and add more comments if necessary.</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Legislation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity Maps <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Response Techniques (conventional / alternative) <input type="checkbox"/> National Contingency Plan <input type="checkbox"/> MARPOL (specify Annex)	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ballast Water Management <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-fouling Systems <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> International Cooperation <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Research & Development <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ...
9.7	Why did you choose these topics?	These areas are crucial to sustainable development in The Bahamas and are key to preserving the marine environment.	
9.8	How would you like these topics to be presented (technically, practically, theoretically, etc.)?	They should be based on theory followed up with technical and practical aspects.	
9.9	What are your expectations from the international technical groups?	To build capacity for The Bahamas and assist other countries in developing their emergency preparedness protocols.	
9.10	Additional comments?		

10. Expectations

10.1	During an actual oil spill situation, what are your response expectations at each of the below levels (i.e. initial intervention, organization, coordination, equipment, waste management, compensation, etc.)?	
	TIER 1	Nationally, The Bahamas is capable of responding to tier one spills. There would not be any expectations but to ensure that information is relayed to all stakeholders.

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	TIER 2	The Regional bodies would be placed on stand-by in the event assistance is required. Assistance to be rendered if required via human and physical resources
	TIER 3	Regional and International assistance required.
10.2	What are your expectations in regards to bilateral or multilateral agreements?	Build capacity nationally and to share information with relative States.
10.3	What are your expectations in regards to the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan?	To see the plan enhanced and to ensure that other countries in the region develop and implement plan based on the Caribbean Plan
10.4	Additional comments?	There should be a move to ensure that Caribbean people are utilized and trained where necessary to assist in the development of the Caribbean. There are many resources in the Region that should be utilized as regards human resources.