



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

Country Profile 2015

COUNTRY	United States of America
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Introduction

Thank you for taking the time to complete this important questionnaire. The thorough and accurate information you provide will be used by RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe to:

1. fulfill the exchange of information requirements of the Cartagena Convention and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Prevention, Response and Cooperation, 1990 (OPRC 90),
2. determine your country's specific training and exercise expectations and needs,
3. determine the regional training and exercise needs within the Wider Caribbean Region (WCR),
4. inform the working group currently developing RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe's new, 10-year strategic plan,
5. share with other organizations like UNEP, IMO and ITOFF.

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe has been serving the marine environmental training, communication and exercise needs of the Wider Caribbean Region for over 20 years. Completing the questionnaire below will ensure RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe meets your needs and expectations well into the future. Thank you.

Person responsible for this questionnaire

Last Name	Jensen
First Name	Roxanne
Title/Position	LT
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1. Conventions and Agreements Ratified and/or Implemented

	Oil Spill Response			Prevention and Safety						Compensation						Other				
	OPRC 90	OPRC HNS	Cartagena Conv. Oil Spill Protocol	MARPOL 73/78, protocol 97 Annexes						CLC			Fund			HNS Conv	HNS Prot.	Anti fouling	Bunkers Conv.	Ballast water
				1	2	3	4	5	6	'69	'76	'92	'76	'92	'03					
Year of ratification	1992		1983	X	X	X		X	X									X		
Year of implementation	1995		1984																	
Expect to Ratify (yes / no)																				

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

1.2 Additional Comments

2. National Focal Points

2.1	MINISTRY OF LEAD AGENCY	U.S. Coast Guard Director of Incident Management and Preparedness Policy (CG-5RI)	POC: TEL: 1-202-372-2240 CELL: FAX: 1-202-372-8402 EMAIL:
		Address: 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE STOP 7516 Washington, D.C. 20593	
2.2	LEAD AGENCY	U.S. Coast Guard District Seven	POC: TEL: 1-800-874-7561 / 1-305-415-6800 CELL: FAX: 1-305-415-6809 EMAIL:
		Address: Brickell Federal Building 909 SE 1 st Avenue Miami, FL 33131-3050	
2.3	SPILL NOTIFICATION POINT	National Response Center U.S. Coast Guard	POC: TEL: 1-800-424-8802 / 1-202-267-2675 CELL: FAX: 1-202-267-1322 EMAIL:
		Address: STOP 7713 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE Washington, DC 20593	
2.4	RESPONSE AGENCY	U.S. Coast Guard District Seven	POC: TEL: 1-800-874-7561 / 1-305-415-6800 CELL: FAX: 1-305-415-6809 EMAIL: D07-SMB-CMDCENTER@uscg.mil
		Address: Brickell Federal Building 909 SE 1 st Avenue Miami, FL 33131-3050	
2.5	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR MARPOL	National Response Center STOP 7713 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE Washington, DC 20593	POC: TEL: 1-800-424-8802 / 1-202-267-2675 CELL: FAX: 1-202-267-1322 EMAIL:

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		U.S. Coast Guard District Seven Brickell Federal Building 909 SE 1 st Avenue Miami, FL 33131-3050	POC: TEL: 1-800-874-7561 / 1-305-415-6800 CELL: FAX: 1-305-415-6809 EMAIL:
2.6	NATIONAL OPERATIONAL CONTACT FOR BALLASTWATER	CG-OES	POC: TEL: CELL: FAX: EMAIL:
		Address: STOP 2703 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave. SE Washington, DC 20593	

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3. Risk Assessment

3.1	What is your Countries greatest risk for an oil spill?	Off-shore drilling operations.
3.2	Date of last oil spill risk assessment?	The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management conducts oil-spill risk analyses. These reports can be found at: http://www.boem.gov/Oil-Spill-Risk-Analysis-Reports/
3.3	Topics covered?	Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sales and developmental activities.
3.4	Geographic area?	These analyses cover various geographic regions of the U.S.
3.5	What area is considered a priority?	The Gulf of Mexico holds the greatest risk as it possesses the greatest number of off-shore drilling rigs.
3.6	Additional comments / Difficulties encountered?	

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?	ESI maps are updated as needed in conjunction with the updating of related Area Contingency Plans.
4.3	Geographic area covered?	Coastline of the United States to include the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, Hawaiian Islands, American Samoa, and Guam
4.4	Format used: paper or electronic?	Electronic ESI Maps can be downloaded from NOAA's website: response.restoration.noaa.gov
4.5	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	
4.6	Will you share with RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe data layers for your sensitivity maps if any?	Data layers can be accessed via NOAA's Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA). http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/maps-and-spatial-data/environmental-response-management-application-erma

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 checked="" 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%;">NCP</th> <th style="width: 50%;">NCP for HNS incidents</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td></td> <td>Developed 1968; last revision 1994.</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	NCP	NCP for HNS incidents		Developed 1968; last revision 1994.
NCP	NCP for HNS incidents					
	Developed 1968; last revision 1994.					
5.3	Date approved?	1994				
5.4	Is the Plan in electronic format?	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tbody> <tr> <td style="width: 50%;"><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> <td style="width: 50%;"><input type="checkbox"/> Yes</td> </tr> <tr> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> <td><input type="checkbox"/> No</td> </tr> </tbody> </table>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes					
<input type="checkbox"/> No	<input type="checkbox"/> No					
5.5	Date of the last evaluation with the assessment tool, the “Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™)”					
5.6	What is the National policy on dispersant use and in-situ burning?	The use of dispersants for certain areas has been pre-approved but may require final consultation and approval of the appropriate Regional Response Team. <u>The applicable Regional and Area Contingency Plans must be consulted.</u>				
5.7	Agreements with other organizations for response? (Please provide details)	In addition to the use of government resources, the U.S. Coast Guard utilizes Basic Ordering Agreements with commercial oil and hazardous substance response organizations.				
5.8	Does the country have regulations for managing waste? (Please provide details)	Waste management is outlined in Area Contingency Plans.				
5.9	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?					

6. Exercises / Training / Incidents

6.1	What is the national agency in charge of personnel training?	Each government agency provides training opportunities for their own personnel.
6.2	Does a national center exist to train personnel?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
6.3	Date of last national exercise?	
6.4	Has there been any experience of ship-source Oil pollution related incidents?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details) Most recent significant incident: Texas Y incident in Galveston Bay, March 2014. A vessel collision resulted in an oil spill of approximately 168,000 gallons. <input type="checkbox"/> No
6.5	Has there been any experience of ship-source HNS related incidents?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes (Please provide details) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
6.6	Additional comments/ Difficulties encountered?	

7. Regional Cooperation

7.1	What are the bilateral or multilateral agreements for the country?	For the Caribbean Region: U.S. – Mexico Joint Contingency Plan (MEXUS Plan) and Wider Caribbean Region Multilateral Technical Operating Procedures for Offshore Oil Pollution Response (MTOPT)
7.2	What are the opportunities in developing a regional exercise in the country?	Under MTOPT with five participating nations, there is opportunity for a regional exercise.
7.3	Is there a mechanism in place to facilitate the clearance of equipment through Customs in an emergency situation? What is the process?	<p>Under the MEXUS Plan, Gulf Annex, there are procedures developed to expedite the clearance of equipment and personnel for pollution response through an exchange of information with U.S. Customs and Border Protection and/or the Mexican Navy.</p> <p>Under MTOPT, nations may submit to a list of equipment and personnel arriving to foreign waters to the U.S. Department of State, Cuban Ministry of Foreign Affairs, or Mexican Navy as applicable for expedited processing.</p>
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 <input type="checkbox"/> No (go to 8.4)
8.2	Is this equipment list in electronic format?	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Yes

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		<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).	The U.S. Coast Guard Response Resource Inventory, maintained by the National Strike Force Coordination Center, contains a listing of all response resources available in the U.S. Locally available resources can be found in respective Area Contingency Plans.
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 U.S. Coast Guard Response Resource Inventory, maintained by the National Strike Force Coordination Center, contains a listing of all response resources available in the U.S. Locally available resources can be found in respective Area Contingency Plans.
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, through Oil Spill Response Organizations.
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.

9. Technical Support

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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.	<p>1. Strengthen international coordination and cooperation.</p> <p>2. Facilitate exchange of scientific information amongst.</p> <p>3. Strengthen overall capacity to respond to oil and hazardous substance incidents.</p>	
9.2	What guidelines or technical manuals does your country use in regards to pollution response preparedness (title & author)?		
9.3	What guidelines or technical manuals does your country use in regards to pollution response (title & author)?		
9.4	How does your country stay informed of the latest response guidelines or obtain updates to the technical manuals (seminars, internet, personal relationships)?	International Maritime Organization participation.	
9.5	How does your country access these updates (mail order, internet, seminars)?	Internet	
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 type="checkbox"/> Risk Assessment <input type="checkbox"/> Sensitivity Maps <input type="checkbox"/> Response Techniques (<i>conventional / alternative</i>) <input type="checkbox"/> National Contingency Plan <input type="checkbox"/> MARPOL (<i>specify Annex</i>)	<input type="checkbox"/> Waste Management <input type="checkbox"/> Ballast Water Management <input type="checkbox"/> Anti-fouling Systems <input type="checkbox"/> International Cooperation <input type="checkbox"/> Research & Development <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ...

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9.7	Why did you choose these topics?	
9.8	How would you like these topics to be presented (technically, practically, theoretically, etc.)?	
9.9	What are your expectations from the international technical groups?	
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	Manage entire incident at local level with local resources.
	TIER 2	Manage entire incident at regional level with regional resources and solicit at national level as necessary.
	TIER 3	Manage entire incident at national level with potential response equipment from external parties under the IMO International Offers of Assistance Guidelines.
10.2	What are your expectations in regards to bilateral or multilateral agreements?	Operate under bilateral and multilateral agreements when an incident actually impacts, or potentially could impact, the waters of another nation.
10.3	What are your expectations in regards to the Caribbean Island OPRC Plan?	Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands continue to operate under the Caribbean OPRC Plan.
10.4	Additional comments?	

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