

Biennial Report 2003 –2005

Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC)



Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME)

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Member States



Kingdom of Bahrain
General Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife Environmental Affairs



I. R. Iran
Department of the Environment



Republic of Iraq
Ministry of Health



State Kuwait
Environment Public Authority



Sultanate of Oman
Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources



State of Qatar
Supreme Council for the Environment and Natural Reserves

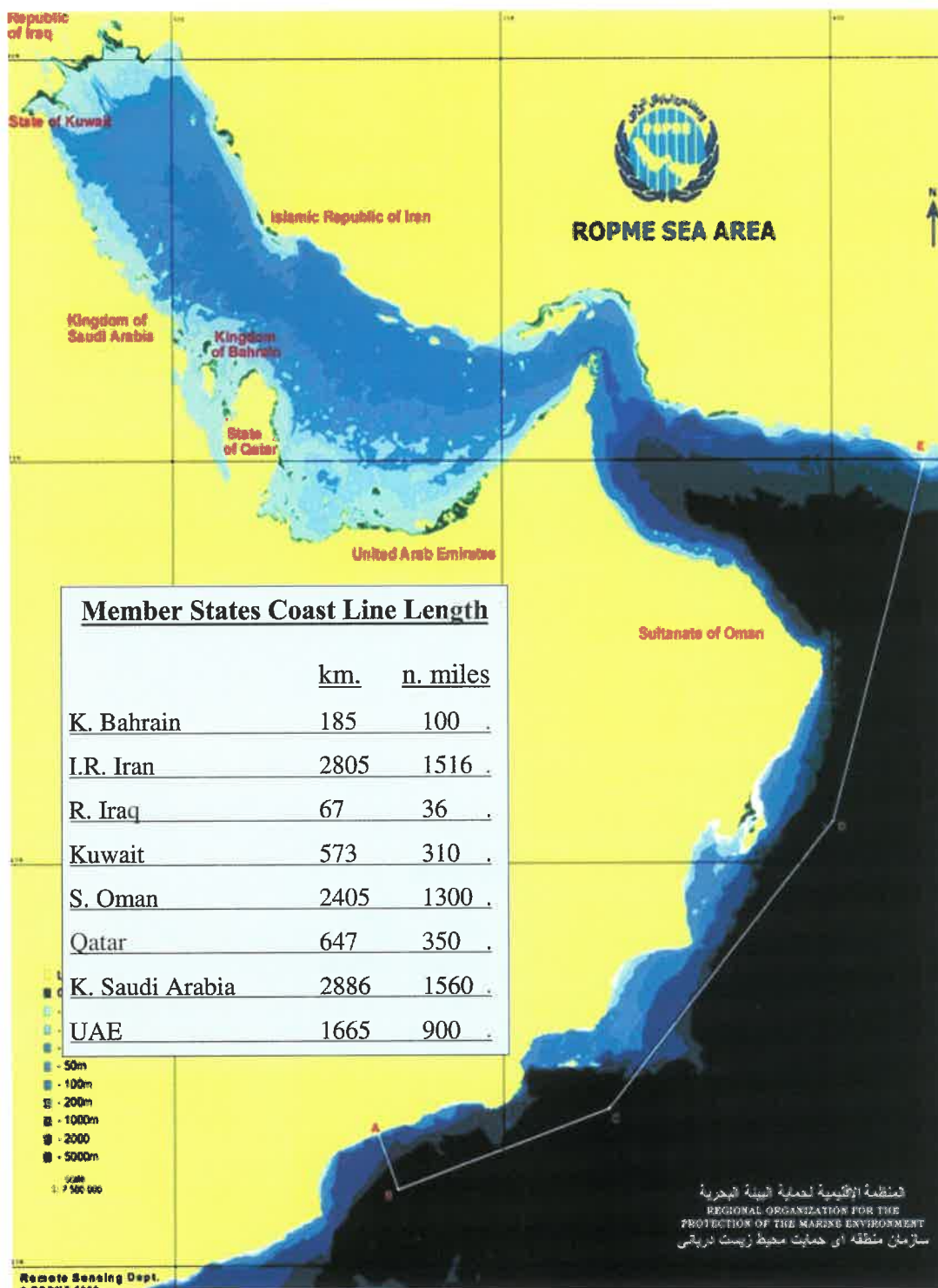


Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Presidency of Meteorology & Environment (PME)
Ministry of Defense and Aviation

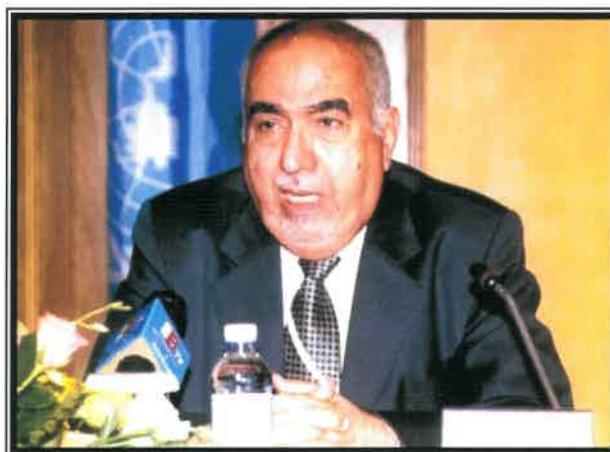


United Arab Emirates
Federal Environmental Agency

ROPME Sea Area



FOREWORD



It is very remarkable that the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC), as the right arm of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME), is enthusiastic to achieve the tasks entrusted to it by the Protocol of the Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution (1978).

MEMAC has already managed to fulfill its objectives and carry out its functions very successfully. This is clearly reflected on its different programme activities such as :

- Regional Oil Response Contingency Plan,
- Follow-up of international conventions and protocols, and make arrangements for the Member States to ratify these conventions and get benefit from them,
- Build-up the Regional cadres' capabilities, standardization of oil response equipments,
- Liaison with regional and international organizations as well as the private sector,



- Mobilization of equipment and personnel from Member States during any oil emergency situation.

It is MEMAC's policy of strengthening coordination and cooperation with the ROPME Member States on one hand, and with the relevant regional and international organizations on the other hand, which led MEMAC to its success in achievement of its programmes.

Beside the achievement of its main objects and functions successfully, MEMAC has also successfully carried out several by-activities supporting these objectives and functions. One of these by-activities is the issuance of this MEMAC Biennial Report which is full of useful information on different aspects of the protection of the marine environment.

The Report with the information included in it should not be taken as a publication of propaganda or publicity for MEMAC's activities in the Region. MEMAC does not need such propaganda. The Report should be taken as a source of information on how to organize work, how to face difficulties and how to solve problems by giving factual accounts of events and practical activities carried by MEMAC during the last two years.

Dr. Abdul Raman Al-Awadi

ROPME Executive Secretary

PREFACE



This is MEMAC's first Biennial Report which focuses on activities carried out by MEMAC during the last two years starting from September 2003 to December 2005, reflecting the period of 13th Council Meeting of the Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME).

In fact, the Report highlights the achievements of MEMAC during this period, reflecting the solid construction and excellent cooperation and assistance rendered by the Member States and the regional and international organizations to the Centre.

This comprehensive biennial Report, which is published by MEMAC, is distributed not only to the ROPME Member States, but also to other interested institutions and bodies in order to have them be acquainted with the activities carried out by MEMAC.





The Report is divided into several sections each of which focuses on a relevant definite item related to MEMAC's field of work such as general information on the objectives and functions of MEMAC, its activities, projects, training courses, oil spill incidents, statistics on oil spill incidents, the role of Oil Spill Response Officers , and ROPME/ MEMAC publications.

To make the Report more comprehensive, it is provided with photos and graphics, illustrating different topics and activities such as oil spill incidents, training courses, meetings...etc.

Needless to say that MEMAC welcomes any comments and suggestions related to this Report, as well as any requests asking for more information about each activity or event mentioned herein.

Captain Abdul Munem Al-Janahi

As this is our first issue, we would like to give general identification of MEMAC's objectives and its functions in the Region.

The Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) is a regional intergovernmental organization representing the ROPME Member States in the Region. It was been established in accordance with Article III of the Protocol to the Kuwait Convention (1978) with the following main objectives:

Objectives

- To co-operate in taking measures to protect the coastlines and related interest of the Contracting States.
- To maintain and promote the Contingency Plans and means of combating marine pollution.



Functions

- * To collect and disseminate information regarding laws, regulations, methods, techniques, researches and experts;
- * To assist the Contracting States in the preparation of laws and regulations and marine emergency contingency plans; transportation of personnel and equipment and material; transmission of reports concerning marine emergency and promoting and developing training programmes;
- * To prepare anti-pollution manuals and periodical reports;
- * To develop a communication/information system;
- * To establish liaison with regional and international organizations.

How MEMAC deals with incidents

Upon receiving notification of an oil spill incident from any source, the following steps are taken immediately:

- * Verification of the incident.
- * Collect complete data about the incident.
- * Notifying and transmission of all data to all Member States.
- * Notifying local, regional and international private sectors working in the field of combating marine pollution to be on standby in case of necessity



Introduction



- * Continuous exchange of incident data and follow-up.
- * Updated information about the incident status is continuously provided to all Member States
- * Legal and technical advice is continuously provided to the Member States
- * Oil Spill Trajectory Model is used for early prediction
- * In case of any assistance in needed, MEMAC liaises with the Member States as well as with other regional and international firms.
- * A record about the incident is kept for studying and as a lesson to be learnt for future avoidance of any similar incident.



Damage Assessment Guidelines

ROPME Sea Area is a virtual marine paradise where a great variety of marine creatures exist. The shore lines and the sea waters in the region form a unique ecosystem in which fish, birds, mammals, and many different types of plants interact for their existence. Besides, there are the oil and gas resources. All of these form productive resources for the human and for the marine environment. Thus the region with its natural resources is considered one of the richest regions in the world. Such type of nature needs a great effort of assessment of damages followed by any oil spill incidents for reinstatement and rehabilitation. A Damage Assessment Guidelines was processed and published after a lengthy study by Regional and International experts who carried it out to cover this important issue. The Guidelines covers all the resources such as the Coral Reefs, Sands, Mangroves, Birds, Turtles, Breeding and Nursery areas as well as Industrial areas and Tourism areas, which all are given in brief with method of reinstatement.



The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation, 1990 (OPRC 90)

Recognizing the importance of OPRC in facilitating international cooperation in preparing for and responding to major oil spill incidents and with a view of enhancing the regional capabilities in addressing marine emergencies effectively to minimize environmental damage and to save human life, it is no doubt that an international instrument will be in need to work along with the Regional Kuwait Convention to preserve these resources. MEMAC invited all the Member States experts, on the 29th and 30th March 2005, to discuss the OPRC Convention and the Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances, 2000 (OPRC-HNS Protocol). The meeting was also attended by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), where a verification for the existing oil spill combating system and the readiness in the region had been verified.

The meeting concluded that all Member States had already met all the obligations of the Convention and it would be of great benefit to have accessions to the OPRC Convention. The recommendations were forwarded to Member States for further process, where I. R. Iran is already a party to the Convention and the Sultanate of Oman is on final stage of ratifying while the other States are in different levels of process as it has been reported.

PROJECTS



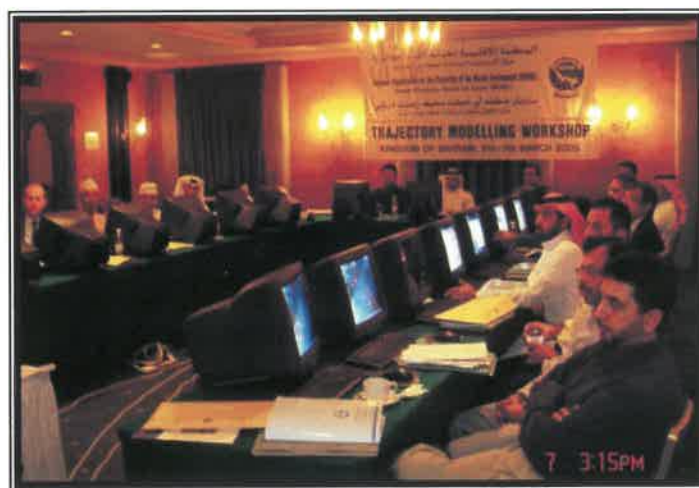
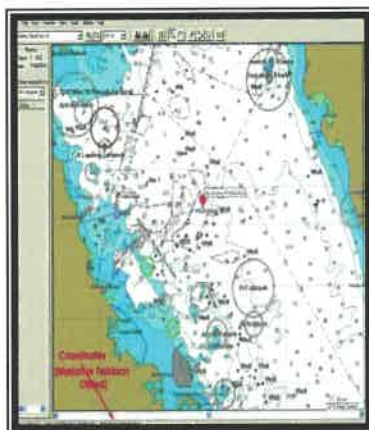
Search and Rescue



*F*or several years MEMAC has dealt with this subject based in humanitarian aspect, where in some occasions the rescue was associated with the oil spill incidents and many lives had been salvaged. But the mandate of MEMAC is different and it is purely to deal with oil spills. For this reason a meeting for the Member States' experts and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) representatives was convened in the Kingdom of Bahrain on the 19th and 20th November 2005 to study this matter. The meeting recognized that all ROPME Member States have their fairly adequate existing plans for maritime search and rescue services and they need to consider the International Search and Rescue Convention. The Member States I.R. Iran, Sultanate of Oman and United Arab Emirates are already parties to the Convention. It is strongly recommend that a regional framework to be established along with a regional organization for this subject. The meeting recommended MEMAC to take over this initiative due to its vast regional experience. The subject is left with the Member States for deep study and decision.

Trajectory Modeling

The modeling is one of the important tools to predict oil slicks whenever an oil spill incident occurs. The model is of great assistance for the protection strategy plans. This has been exercised by MEMAC and the Member States. For several years MEMAC and the Member States have been using the NOAA model which was prepared by NOAA, ROPME and MEMAC for the Region. As the existing model is of a large scale and more general in covering the Region data, the Member States decided to have a more up-dated model with details as the activities and the offshore installations in the Region had increased. A project contract with BMT, as a well known experienced company in the field, was established in order to provide the Region with a model which is known as OASIS Model. This model is still under trial period to the satisfactory of the Member States.



The Reception Facilities and MARPOL 73/78

The special hydrographic and ecological characteristics of the fragile marine environment of the Region and its particular vulnerability to pollution due to high shipping traffic density, along with the coastal and offshore human activities, require a highly effective and strong approach. The Region produces over 56% of the world energy and receives over 30,000 vessels of different types transiting in a semi-close sea per annum. It is a challenge and an effective major should take place. The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollutions from Ships (MARPOL 73/78) has been taken seriously by ROPME Council.



PROJECTS



A feasibility study has been carried out for about five years for establishing the **Reception Facilities** in the Region as a main obligation towards ratifying the **MARPOL 73/78 Convention**. The study has been carried out and it is still under follow-up by the **Regional steering Committee** as well as by each of the Member States National Steering Committee.



PROJECTS



The joint Regional efforts have lead the Member States of I.R. Iran and Kingdom Saudi Arabia to ratify the MARPOL 73/78 Convention while the other Member States are on the final stages of ratification process. The early ratification of the Convention by the Sultanate of Oman for and the joint efforts of the Member States during the IMO Meeting of the Marine Environment Protection Committee, have assisted the Region in expanding the Special Area of the Region by about 200 nautical miles from the Omani coast towards the Arabian Sea to cover all the ROPME Sea Area.



The main target of ratifying the Convention is to declare the area as a "Special Sea Area" which means no oil or any other substances would be discharged from ships, and shipping must follow the IMO standards.

PROJECTS



The ROPME Member States Council met in Jeddah, K. Saudi Arabia in its Twelfth Meeting on 24th September 2003. Their Excellencies, the Region's Ministers, Members of this Council meet every two years in order to discuss the organization programme. This includes revision of the progress made towards different environmental programmes, discussion and exchange of views towards different environmental issues and challenges in order to have a regional approach. Accordingly, the new Regional programme for the organization was assigned which was executed during the period of 2004 and 2005.

The years 2004 and 2005 witnessed several programme activities carried out by MEMAC as assigned by the Council towards the protection of the marine environment in the ROPME Region.

These programmes can be classified as project programmes, training programmes and monitoring.



ASRY Dry Dock
Reception Facility
K. Bahrain

The Loan and Transboundary Movement of Personnel, Equipment, and Materials in Cases of Emergency and Technical Assistance

MEMAC has laid this important subject guidelines which have been a good reference in use by Member States.

Through MEMAC, a regional and international expert was designated to assist damages occurred to the marine environment and the coastal areas of the State of Qatar and K. Bahrain.

Further, equipment in the form of oil booms was transported from K. Saudi Arabia to K. Bahrain

Oil Pollution Manual

As one of the main functions of MEMAC is to prepare an Oil Pollution Manual for the Region, MEMAC has offered the IMO Oil Pollution Manual Section IV for the Region's utilization. This is because of the active role of MEMAC and ROPME Member States in preparing the IMO manual where the regional requirements are reflected. The specific regional information is to be published separately and in addition to the IMO Manual.

Development of Safety Programme for Harmful/ Hazardous Substances

*T*his Programme is dedicated mainly for chemical spills where it is divided into two parts: the training and the tools. The tools aims to assist and support in taking a decision during the chemical spills. The tools consists of :

- √ Comprehensive list of equipment recommended for the combating of the chemical spills.
- √ A Publication listing all the possible available chemicals world wide ranking all the chemical toxicity, properties, atmospheric plum dispersion and safety emergency procedures.
- √ This is made available also electronically by means of CD Format for prompt enquiries.
- √ A well known model, such as TNO, is made available for the Member States use also.
- √ Further, a link is made to Chemical Response and it has been made available within MEMAC web site.

PROJECTS



Marine Environmental High Risk Areas (MEHRA's)

MEHRA's is one of the main and highly important project under the process by MEMAC. A number of ROPME Member States' Experts and Experts from ANATEC Company, which had an excellent experience in such type of projects, met on the 12th and 13th June 2005 in Bahrain. They launched the project after discussion and agreement of each Committee Member's role.

Project Objectives

To identify areas within the ROPME Sea which should be designated as Marine Environmental High Risk Areas.

To establish a tool kit i.e. GIS Model, which can be updated as new information on environmental sensitivity.



PROJECTS



Scope of Work

Collection of data such as shipping traffic and environmental data

Analysis of accident data

Risk Assessment

Identification of Marine Environmental High Risk Areas

Software Implementation and training the trainers.



MEHRAS team are dealing with all type of data such as shipping traffic, incidents, sensitive area, different type of coastal zone,



PROJECTS

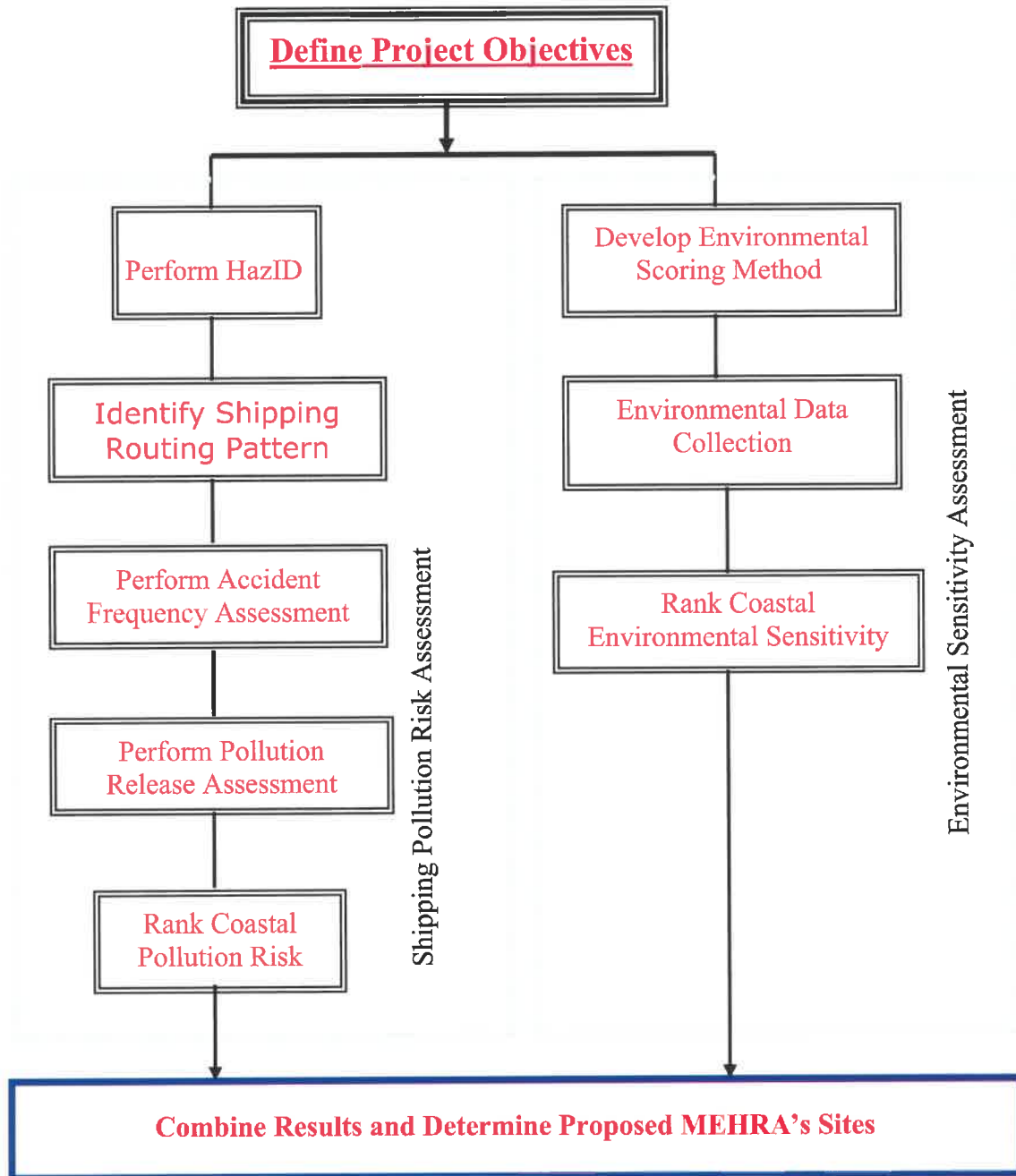


MEHRA's

The main issues tackled by MEHRA's will be as follows:

- * Understanding of the risk of marine pollution to sea areas and coastlines in the Region and identifying areas of highest risk.
- * Development of a database of shipping movements, which can be utilized to assess the risk or impact associated with future offshore developments taking place in the region.
- * Development of a GIS system on all coastal environmental sensitivity, which can be used to keep information up to date for future environmental impact assessment being carried out in the region.
- * Identification of areas of highest environmental sensitivity.
- * Identification of Marine Environmental High Risk Areas for the region based on pollution risk and environmental sensitivity.
- * Use of the system to identify where pollution response and traffic management measures require to be focused.
- * System can be used for any of the Member States in the region, applying to IMO for a Particularly Sensitive Area (PSSA)

Methodology Overview for MEHRAs for ROPME Member States



PROJECTS



Port State Control (PSC)

During the period of the years 1996 – 2002 the Region witnessed a number of oil pollution resulted from serious forms of coastal vessels casualties. As a normal procedure, accident investigation and analysis, the importance of the PSC was concluded. MEMAC took the initiative and convened a regional meeting in co-operation with IMO and with the attendance of GCC Secretariat along with the Member States' concerned Ministries and Experts, where the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) of the Port State Control for ROPME Region was laid – The MOU was ratified by all Member States in May 2003. As the MOU falls within the specialty of Ministries and Port Authorities, the matter is left with the GCC Secretariat in order to form the Information Centre which was decided to be in Muscat-Sultanate of Oman. MEMAC will keep its commitments towards the execution and co-operation.



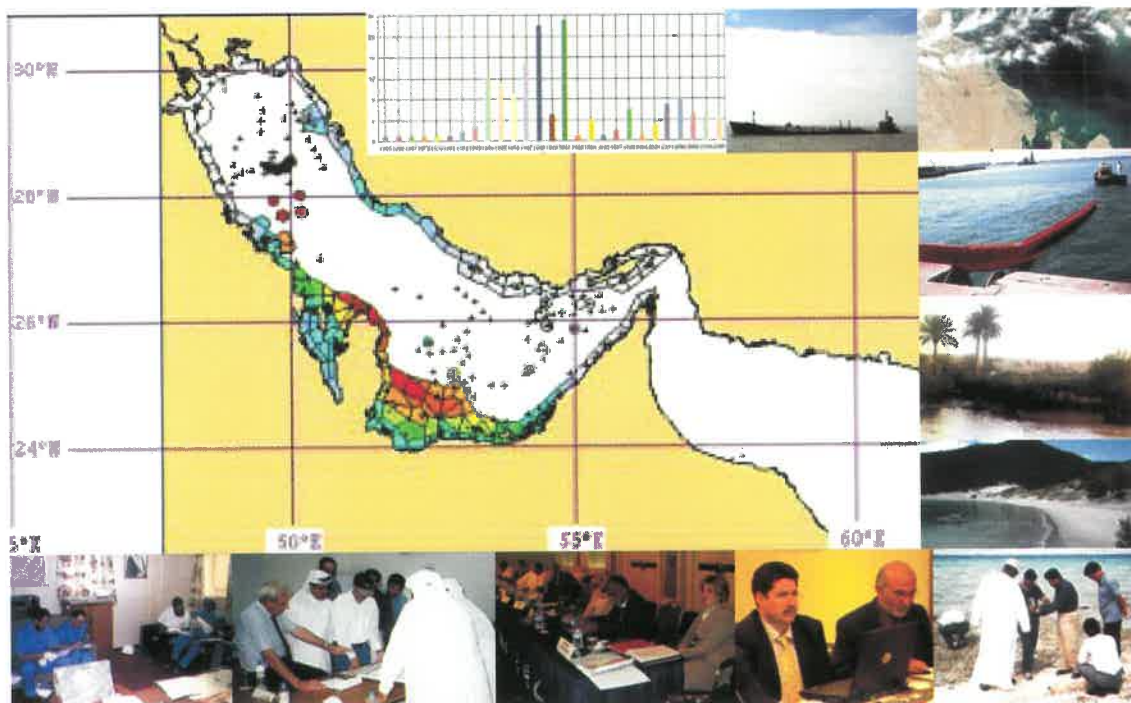
PROJECTS



MEMAC Database

A tremendous amount of data is collected by the Regional Oil Spill Equipment manufactures and companies working in the field as well as by environmental experts and institutions and there is still much more to come.

A special form is made available for companies, experts and institutions for registration within ROPME Region's Data-base aiming to make all these services available for the Member States' utilization to protect the marine environment.



PROJECTS

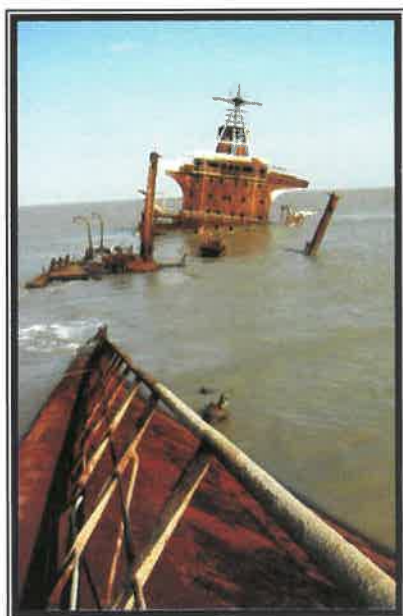


Survey of Wreck

A Task Force was established with the participation of I.R. Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, UNEP, UN Representatives, IAEA, CEDRE, ROPME/MEMAC and UNDP which took the lead afterwards.. Several meetings took place in ROPME Headquarters for this Task.

The Task Force supervised, co-operated and executed a survey for covering a 42 wrecks starting from North Bubian Is. Up-to UM-Al-Qasser and Khor Al-Zubair. The main concern was of this pollutant content of the wrecks, where over 150 samples were taken for analysis and wrecks location were surveyed for safe vessels traffic passage.



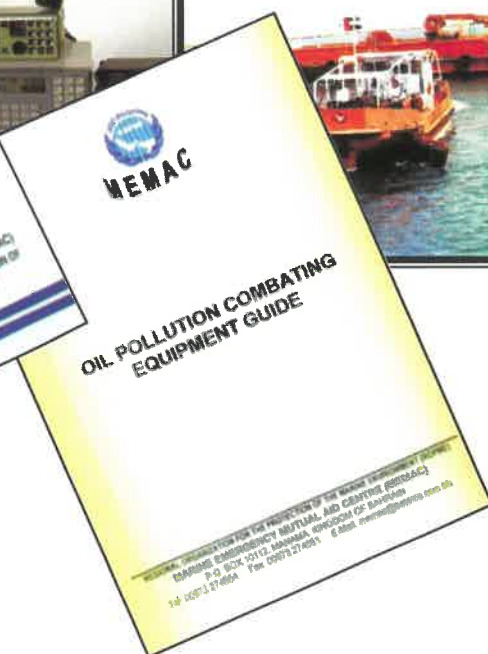
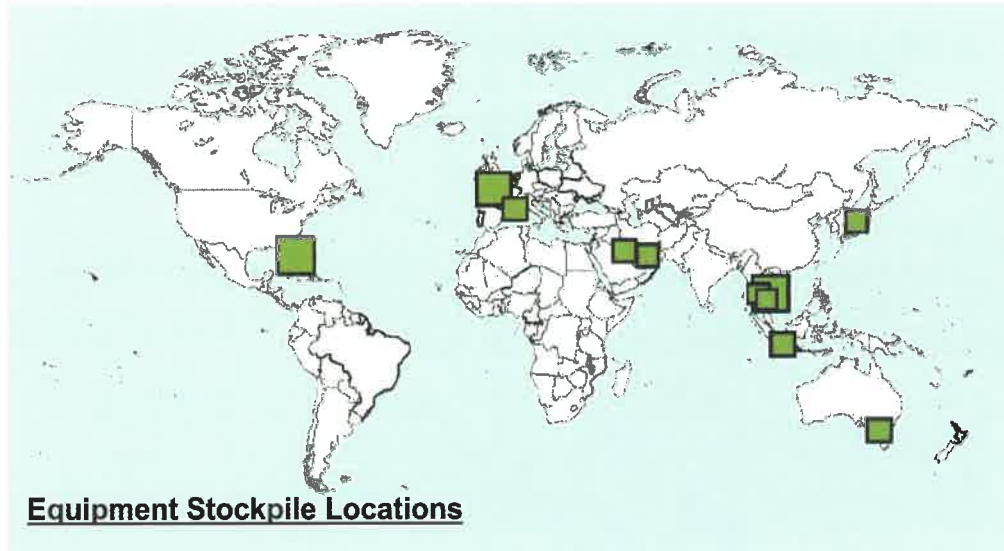


The Regional and National Contingency Plans

As the Regional and National Contingency Plans are the main objectives and functions of MEMAC, a main framework for the Regional Contingency Plan was established few years ago. This plan was under frequent annual revisions by the Region Response Officers to fulfill its main elements.

Further, MEMAC had continuous follow-up the National Contingency Plan for each Member State through the Oil Spill Response Officers in the Region. Beside providing the technical assistance in order to achieves the compatibility with the Regional Contingency Plan.





The National Contingency Plan and the Region's Response

*I*n accordance with the Council Decision, a drill exercise was conducted in Muscat-Sultanate of Oman on the 5th and 6th December 2005 exercising the Sultanate of Oman's National Contingency Plan.

The drill was executed by all the Omani Ministries and Authorities, SAUDI ARAMCO, Saudi Vela Shipping and the Response Officers in the Region assist and test the Region capabilities and response. The exercise was observed by several regional and international observers such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF).

Previous oil spill drill exercises had been carried out in Sharjah, UAE and then Bahrain while the next drill exercise will be carried out in Kuwait.



EXERCISING



HE Abdulla Bin Salem Al-Rawas, Minister of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources and HE Lt. General Malik Bin Sulaiman Al-Maamary, Inspector General of Police and Customs, participated in the Drill exercise.



Press Conference of the exercise



The exercise support site

Training



Regular and continuous training programmes and drill exercises were convened for personnel involved in the spill response. The different training programmes were designed for all levels of personnel, starting from the top management and ending in the operator levels, including the government bodies, industries and the private sectors.

The training courses covered all major aspects starting from the marine environment protection, operation, administration and media coverage.

The training workshops and courses were either IMO standard courses or were those which were designed by MEMAC Experts who tailored them to RSA needs and to high standards.



Training



As the Training is of highly important for the Regional cadres a theoretical and practical training provided covering all type of information, data and techniques in order to deal with all the circumstances.



Training



During the end of the years 2003 and 2004 till the end of 2005 the following training programmes, associated with practical exercises, were carried out:

- √ Response to marine oil spill
for operators
IMO Standard Course Level-1
(5 days) 17th January 2004.



- √ Response to Marine Oil Spill
for Supervisors
IMO Standard Course Level-2
(5 days) 5th February 2005.



- √ Response to Marine Oil Spill
for Managerial and Senior
Administrators
IMO Standard Course Level-3
(2 days) 3rd December 2005



Training



- √ Shoreline Response and Clean-up (3 days)
11th October 2003.



- √ Marine Pollution Damage Assessment and Compensation Claims, (3days), 21st November 2004.



- √ Trajectory Modeling (2 days), 6th March 2005.



Training



- √ Chemical and Hazardous Spill Emergency Response for Operator MEMAC Level -1 Standard (2 days), 18th October 2003.



- √ Chemical and Hazardous Spill Emergency Response for Team Leaders, MEMAC Level -2 Standard (3 days), 20th October 2003.



- √ Chemical and Hazardous Spill Emergency Response for Incident Commander and Administrative MEMAC Level -3 Standard (5 days), 5th June 2004.



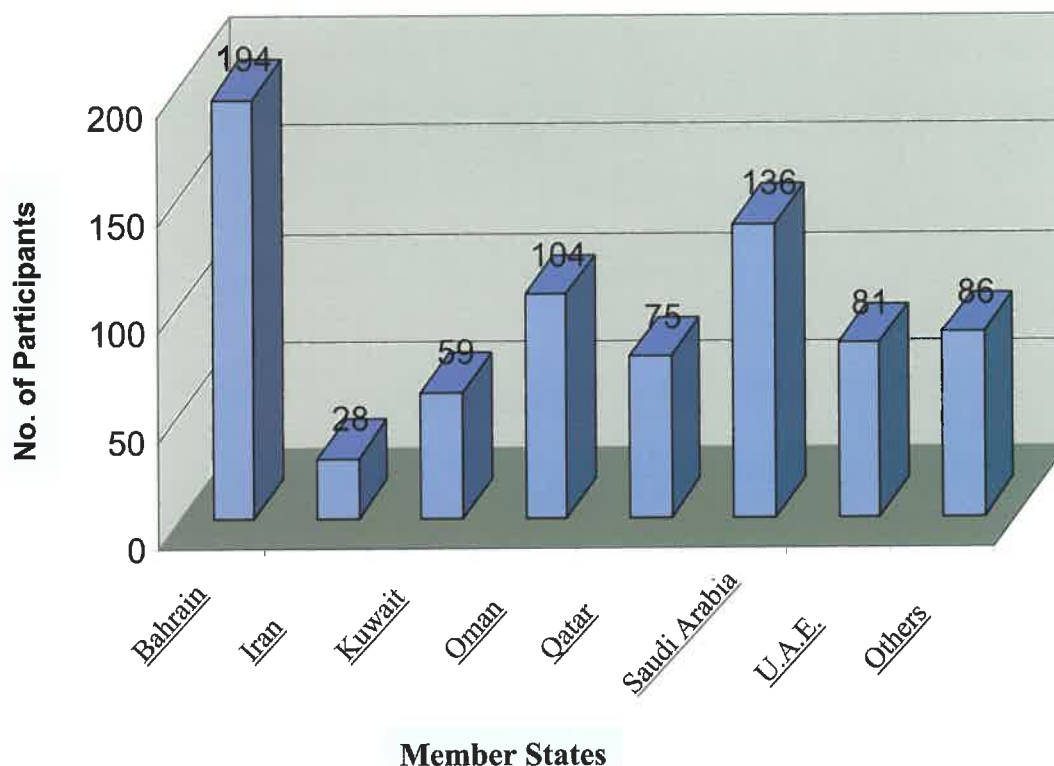
Training Statistics



During the period of 2003—2005, a sum of 10 training programmes were convened, where as the last ten years witnessed 29 theoretical and practical training programmes associated with an oil pollution Regional drill. These training programmes varied in duration from two days to 15 days of continuous training, covering the following important subjects:

- * Oil Pollution Combating for Operators, Supervisors and Administrators.
- * Chemical Pollution Combating for Operators, Supervisors and Administrators.
- * Beach Cleaning.
- * Damage Assessment and Claim Procedures.
- * Port State Control.
- * Trajectory Modeling.
- * Marine Environment High Risk Areas.

Number of Participants in Training Programmes 1995 - 2005



Oil Spill Incidents



This outlet valve on board the sub-standard vessel could cause incident which could result in a severe damage to the marine environment and properties.



Fishing Traps (Hadrah) are always under threat and the first victims of oil slicks.



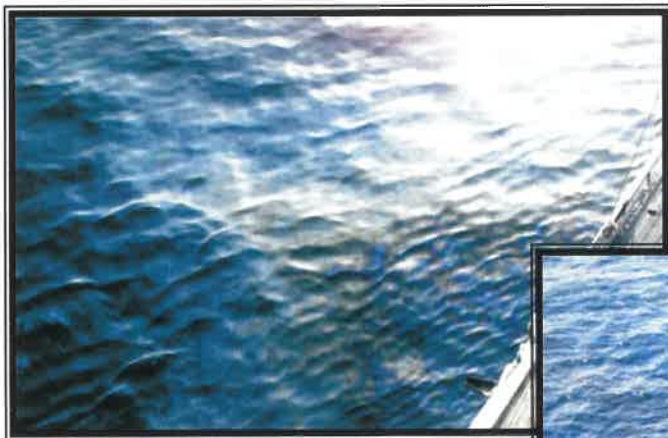
Then the coastal line



Oil Spill Incidents



Several incidents took place within the Region during the last two years, but their number was much less than those which had taken place during the previous years. This is because each and every incident occurred was followed by a sequence of investigation, precaution and monitoring process, and action was promptly taken by the Member States. This cooperation system which was carried out by MEMAC and its Member States resulted in having many action programmes which had positive results towards enhancing safety and marine environment protection.



2nd November 2003

Omani Navy observed Tanker "GULF LION" in illegal discharge of oil waste resulted from tanks wash.

MEMAC informed all the National Focal Points. Regional Cooperation resulted in arresting the vessel and imposing the fine.

Oil Spill Incidents



15th February 2004

Barge under the name "HEYLA-1", which was unclassified and was not under command, drifted in Shatt Al-Arab and leaked a small amount of oil.

MEMAC managed to contact Iraqi authorities and control the barge which was partially loaded with fuel oil.



16th February 2004

Nowruz Oil Field had a crude oil leakage, which was immediately brought to control and clean-up operation took place.

Oil Spill Incidents



22nd March 2004

A fishing vessel collided with Tanker "EVERTON" and ran away, causing fire on board and a small amount of Iranian crude oil leaked. All crew members abandoned the tanker while one was missing. There was excellent cooperation and coordination between the Omani Ministry of Regional Municipalities, Environment and Water Resources Response Officers, MEMAC and all the regional and international parties that controlled the situation and salvaged the vessel successfully. The Tanker was fully loaded with an amount of 90000 MT. of crude oil and it was a very serious threat as the situation was similar to the incident of tanker ERIKA in 2002.

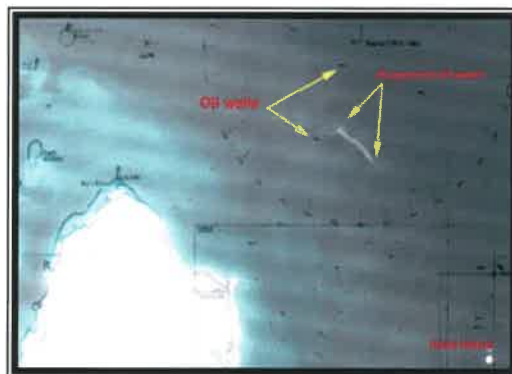


Oil Spill Incidents



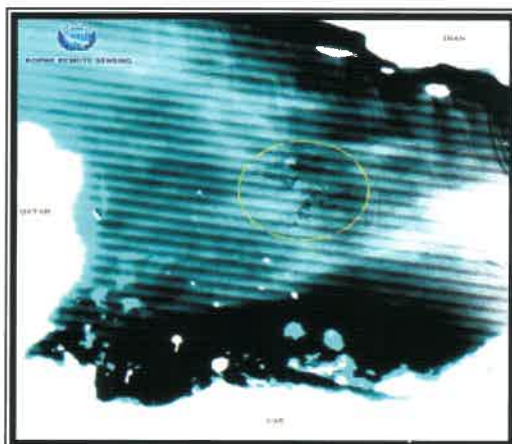
10th April 2004

Oil spill was resulted from production of offshore rigging in the north Halul Island.



25th May 2004

Oil slick was observed within Rustom oilfield, resulting from the offshore operation.

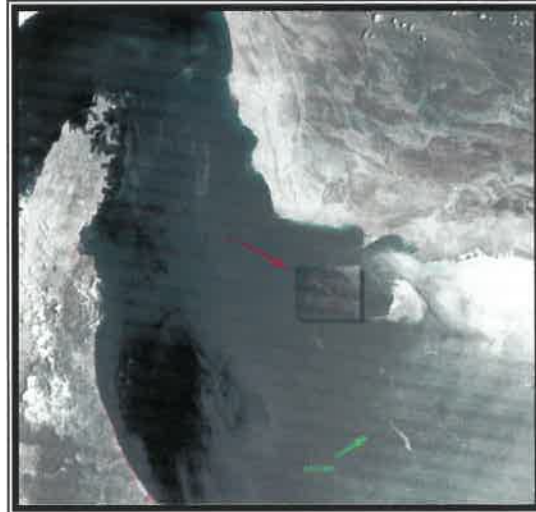


25th April 2005

Oil slick was observed near Al-Khafji, resulting from the Al-Khafji offshore operation.



Oil Spill Incidents



24th May 2005

Collision between Tanker "ASTRO LUPUS" of 257589 DWT and M/V. "SAFAI" of 3336 DWT about 75 n. miles south of the Strait of Hormuz.

Tanker "ASTROLUPUS" was carrying on board over 150,000 MT of Iranian crude oil. An amount of 620 MT was spilled.

MEMAC asked FAIRDEAL CO. to assist the I. R. Iran combating team in combating the oil spill.

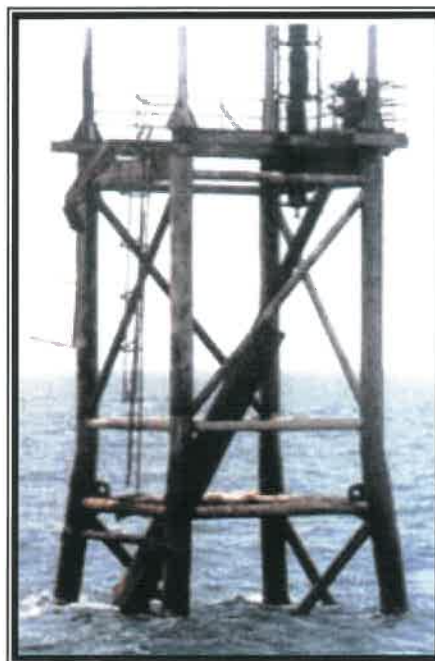


Oil Spill Incidents



30th May 2005

Soroosh oil field started leaking an average of 20 barrels a day. A continuous oil spill combating operation was carried out till the 5th June 2005 where all was sealed and leakage stopped.



Description

4 leg jacket , Top of jacket 15 ft.
Base dimension 52.5 ft.
Height 165 ft.
1 conductors (30")



IR. Iran----PSO SAR boat
"NAJI" which carried
out the salvage operation

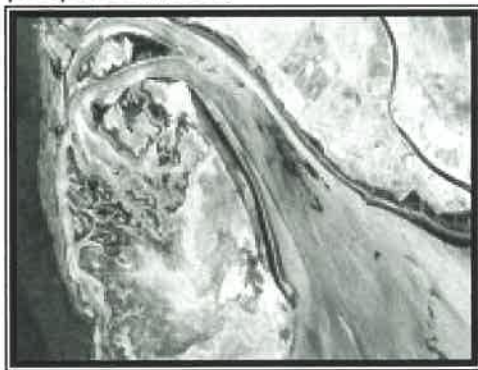
8th July 2005

Small coastal vessel "NABAH" sank when on its trip from Bushehr to Abu Dhabi in South ROPME Sea Area. Only an oil sheen was observed, while the full 11 crew members were salvaged by Motor tanker "ASIAN JEWEL" through MEMAC coordination and I.R. Iran Port and Shipping Organization.

Oil Spill Incidents



A continuous threat of the oil slick in northern ROPME Sea Area specially Shat Al-Arab resulted from ship wreckages and sub-standard vessels where there was less control and lack of preparedness.



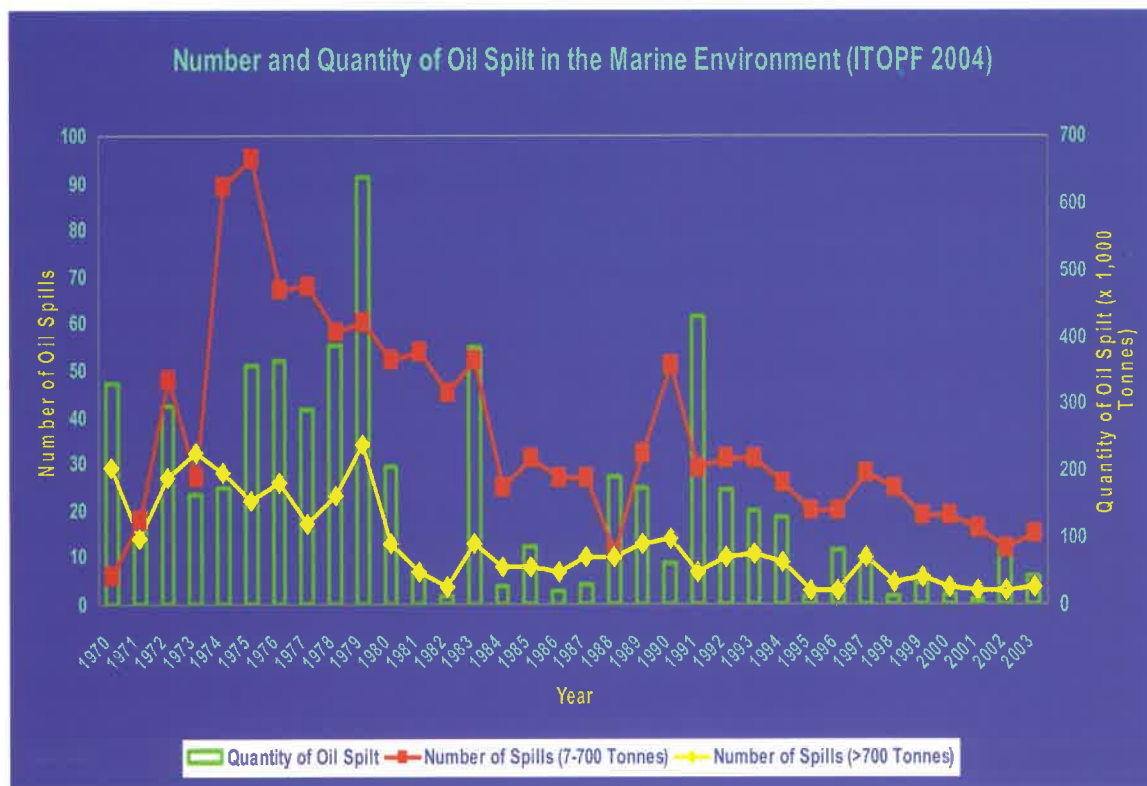
Oil Spill Incident Statistics



M/V. KHALID-J



Oil Spill Incident Statistics



World's Tonnage according to Lloyd's Statistical Tables

31st December 2004

The total Gross Tonnage of merchant shipping registered in IMO Member States = **625,960,153**

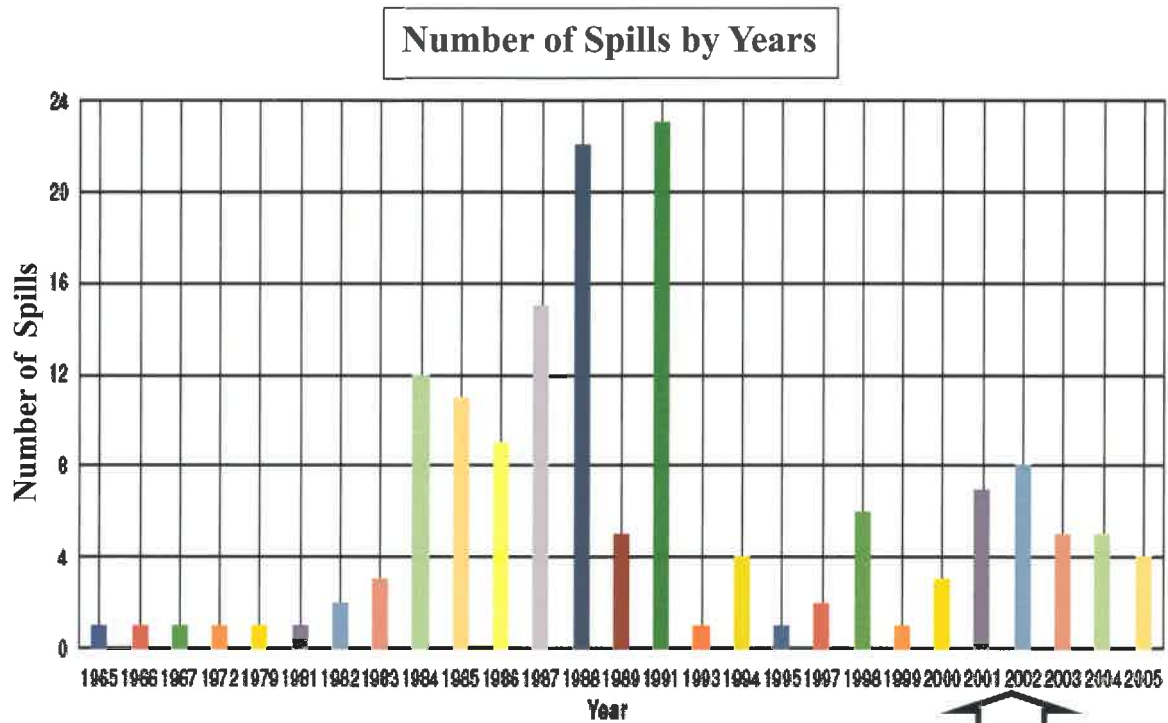
The total Gross Tonnage of merchant shipping registered in ROPME Member States = **11,228,750**

Percentage of ROPME Member States' fleet to the world's fleet = **1.79 %**

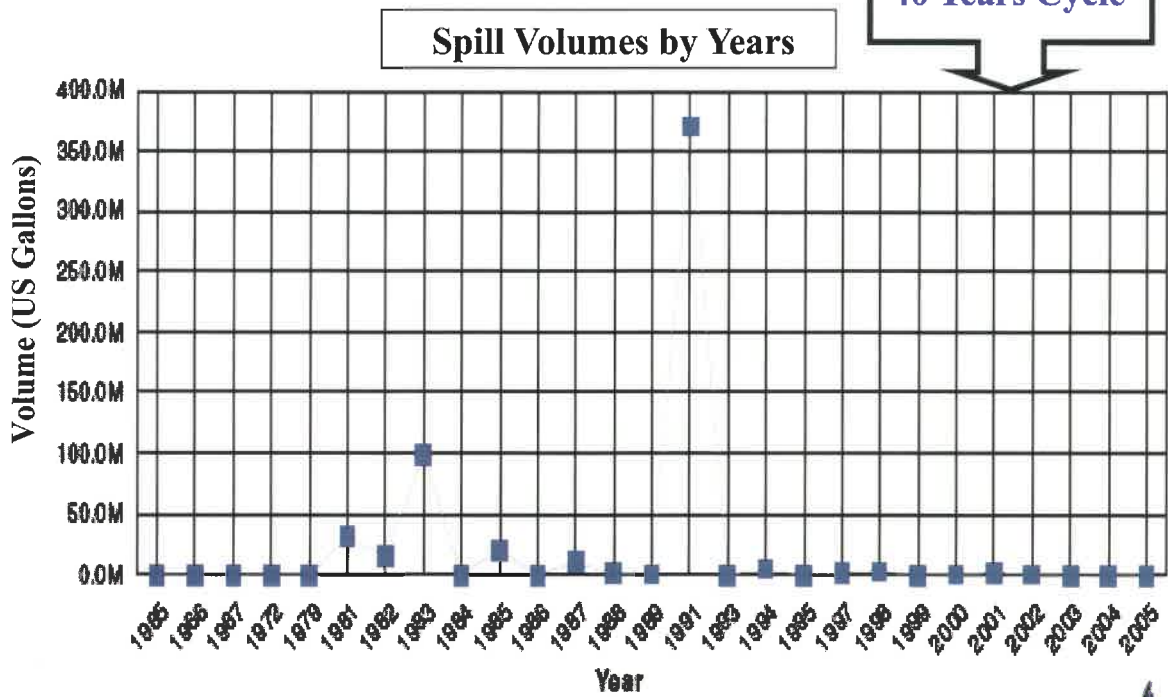
Oil Spill Incident Statistics



Oil Spill Incidents in ROPME Region 1965–2005



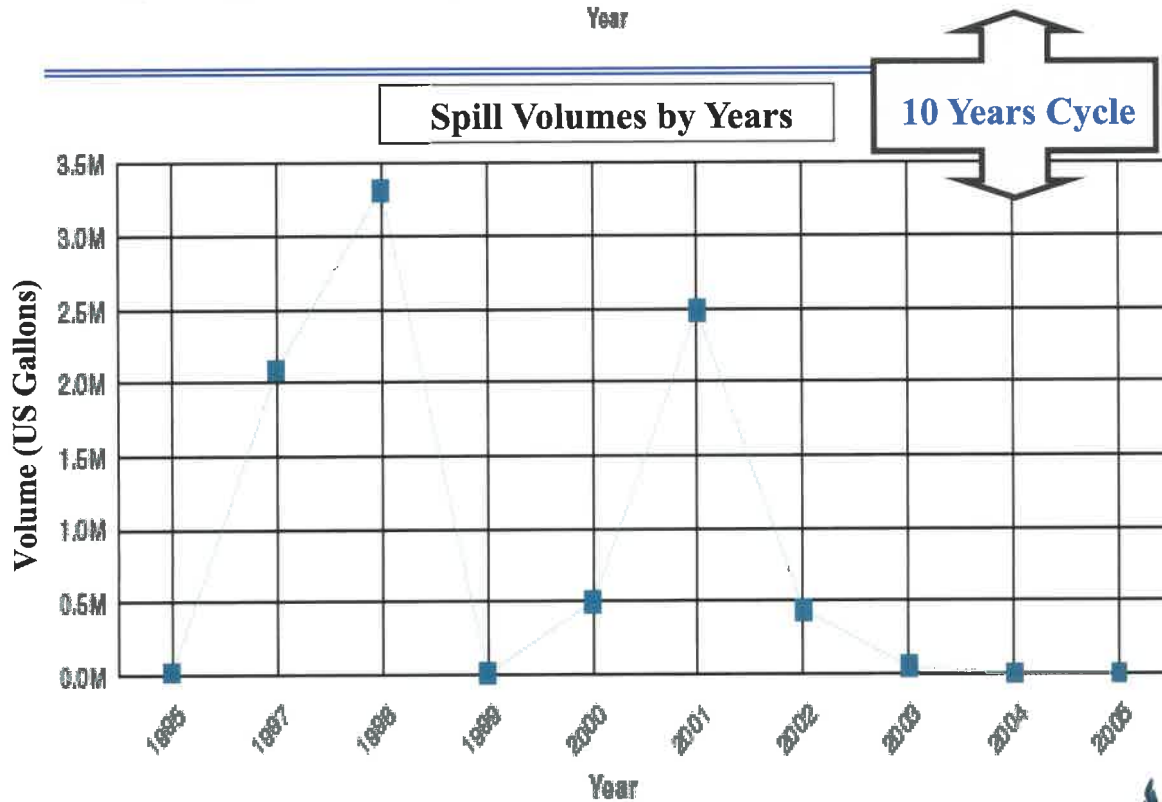
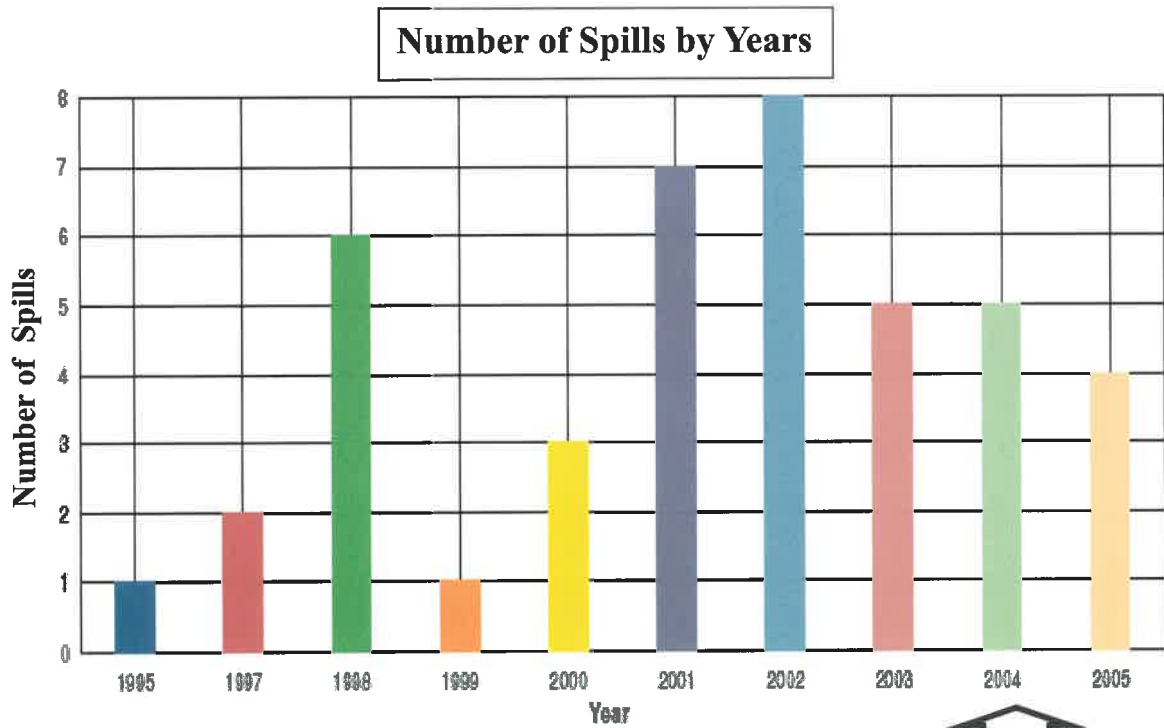
40 Years Cycle



Oil Spill Incident Statistics



Oil Spill Incidents in ROPME Region 1995–2005



Oil Spill Incident Statistics



Oil Spill Incidents in ROPME Region 2003–2005

Number of Oil Spills per Year

<u>Years</u>	<u>Number of Incidents</u>
2003	5
2004	5
2005	4

Sources of Spills by Years

<u>Years</u>	<u>Others</u>	<u>Tankers</u>	<u>Total</u>
2003	3	2	5
2004	2	3	5
2005	1	3	4
Total	6	8	14

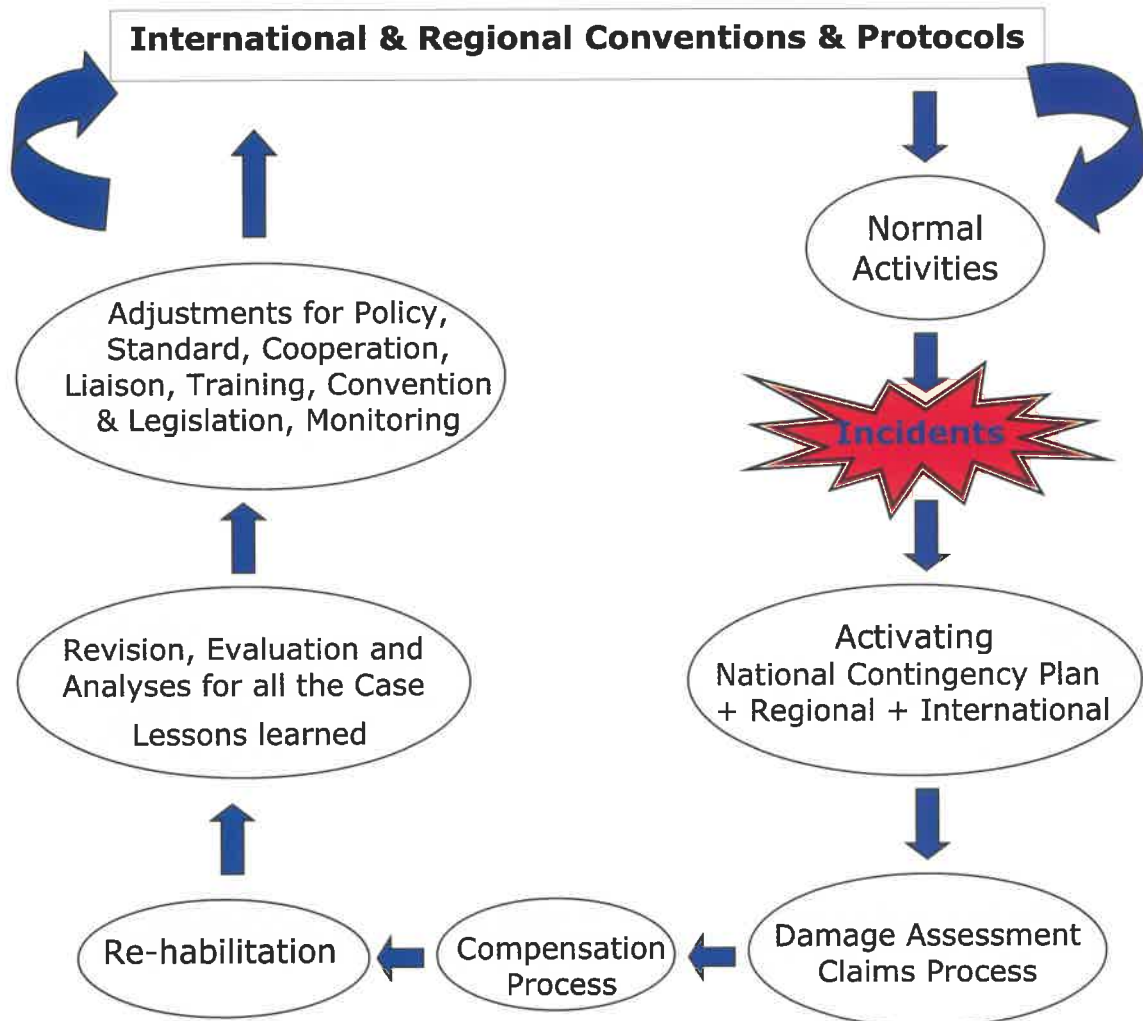
Primary Causes of Oil Spills from Vessels by Years

<u>Causes</u> <u>Years</u>	<u>Collision</u>	<u>Mechanical</u> <u>Failure</u>	<u>Intentional</u> <u>Discharge</u>	<u>Leakage</u>	<u>Unspecified</u>	<u>Unknown</u>
2003	0	1	1	1	0	2
2004	1	0	0	1	3	0
2005	2	0	0	1	1	0
Total	3	1	1	3	4	2

General Strategy Layout



The main strategy in protecting the marine environment is the implementation of the Kuwait Regional Convention for Cooperation on the Protection of the Marine Environment from Pollution (1978) and its Protocol. Continuous follow-up and analyses are carried out towards all the Regional developments related to the marine environment along with all the incidents occurred. This strategy could be briefed as the following diagram which shows the circle of process.



The Oil Spill Response Officers (OSRO)

The Oil Spill Response Officers in the Region have frequent annual meetings, or whenever it is deemed necessary, and as it is assigned to them by Their Excellencies. In these meetings they discuss each National Contingency Plan, presenting all the obstacles and updating all the main elements of the National Contingency Plans.





During their meeting they discuss and review several important regional issues executed by MEMAC such as:

- * Revise all the main elements of the Regional and National Contingency Plans, precautions and the Regional preparedness
- * Providing technical assistance to some Member States in order to update their National Contingency Plans
- * Ratifying the oil preparedness Convention, OPRC 1990
- * Search and Rescue Regional Arrangement
- * Preparing and collecting oil finger printings.

Regional and International Events



MEMAC has always sought the Regional and International cooperation which has been reflected on different activities aiming to protect the Region's marine environment. These activities have reflected on MEMAC's participation in IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee regular meeting (MEPC). It also participated in the IMO working group in order to reflect the Region's concern to the new International instruments. This includes the updating of the training courses and manuals, beside the support of the Member States' representatives during the MEPC meetings where continuous meetings and exchanging of views among the representatives take place.



During the IMO/MEPC meeting.



Member States Representatives on a side meeting during the IMO/MEPC

Regional and International Events



Further, MEMAC participated in those important events held Internationally and Regionally, highlighting MEMAC's activities, expressing its concern towards the protection of the marine environment and exchanging views with other experts. These events include:

- * The RECSO event "The Offshore Arabia" in UAE, Dubai on the 29th November to the 1st December 2004.

HRH Prince Tyrki Bin Nasser and HE Dr. A. Al-Awadi during the opening ceremony.



Member States
representatives.

Regional and International Events



- * Bahrain Workshop on the 4th January 2005 under the title of "Our Environment".
- * I. R. Iran Seminar and Drill conducted by the Ports and Shipping Organization in Bander Abbas during the period of the 19th – 20th January 2005 for Search and Rescue and oil spill combating.



- * Under Sea to Sea cooperation, MEMAC participated with PERSGA in "Sea to Sea" event in Cairo – Egypt during 13th – 16th February 2005.



HE Dr. A. A. Al-Awadi, ROPME Executive Secretary, HE Captain Said Al-Yafai, Yemen previous Minister of Transport, currently Shewrah Member and Dr. Z. Abu Ghararah, PERSGA Secretary General.

Regional and International Events



HE Dr. A. Al-Awadi, ROPME Executive Secretary and Dr. Z. Abu Ghararah, PERSGA Secretary General.

- * "The International Oil Spill Conference" (IOSC-2005) was conducted at IMO headquarters during the period of 21st-23rd September 2005. Several experts from different Regions Worldwide attended to exchange views and experience .



Regional and International Events



- * Liaisons, visits and exchange of experience with the National, Regional and International authorities and organizations were carried out frequently in order to fulfill the Protocol requirements.

Regional Clean Sea Organization (RECSO) Chairman of the board Mr. Khamis Abu-Amim and staff members.

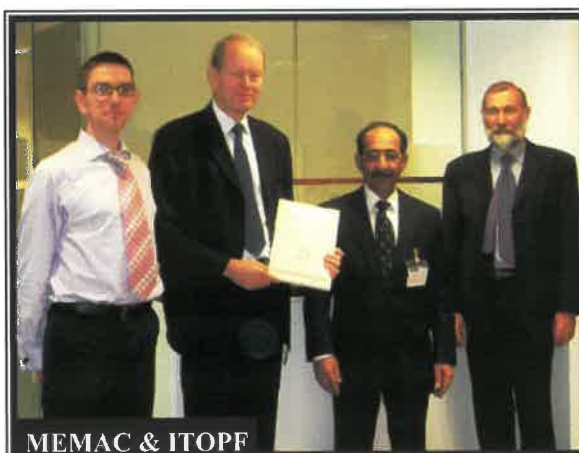


International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPC FUND) role is always appreciated where technical support is extended to the Region.

Regional and International Events



International Maritime Organization (IMO) Secretary General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos.



International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd. (ITOPF), Managing Director Dr. Tosh Moller, Technical Team Leader Mr. Hugh Parker and Senior Technical Support Coordinator Mr. Tim Wadsworth.



International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), Chairman Mr. Lars Carlsson and Managing Director Peter Swift.

Regional and International Events



Their Excellencies on a site visit to the Sultanate of Oman coast during the 25th ROPME Senior Executives Committee Meeting, which convened in Muscat on the 30th May 2005.



UNEP Geneva and ROPME/MEMAC.



Regional and International Events



The High-level meeting of the Restoration of Al-Ahwar was the result of cooperation of UNEP, ROPME and MEMAC. The meeting was held in K. Bahrain under the patronage of HH Shaikh Abdulla Bin Hamad Al-Khalifah, President of Public Commission for the Protection of Marine Resources, Environment and Wildlife.



During the Oil Spill Response Officers' meeting Col. S. Al-Busaidi, Oman representative, presenting the 20 years appreciation trophy to MEMAC's employee Mr. Mirza Ahmed.



Mr. Henning Brathehw retired in 2005, after several years of service as a consultant for MARPOL 73/78 implementation in ROPME Sea Area.

ROPME PUBLICATIONS



- ROPME REGION FROM SPACE
- REGIONAL REPORT OF
The State of the Marine Environment 2003
- USE OF OIL SPILL CHEMICALS IN THE ROPME SEA AREA
- INTEGRATED COASTAL AREAS MANAGEMENT
GUIDELINES FOR THE ROPME REGION
- MANUAL OF OCEANOGRAPHIC OBSERVATIONS AND
POLLUTANT ANALYSES METHODS (MOOPAM)
- ROPME/PERSGA/IHB WORKSHOP ON HYDROGRAPHIC
ACTIVITIES IN THE ROPME SEA AREA AND THE RED SEA



Recently Published

[GUIDELINES FOR THE MANAGEMENT OF INDUSTRIAL WASTEWATER FOR THE ROPME REGION](#)

[GUIDELINES FOR THE JOINT AND/OR COMBINED EFFLUENT TREATMENT FOR THE ROPME REGION](#)

[GUIDELINES ON SEWAGE TREATMENT AND DISPOSAL FOR THE ROPME REGION, INCLUDING GUIDANCE FOR SUBMARINE OUTFALL STRUCTURES](#)

MEMAC PUBLICATIONS



All of our publications are tailored to the ROPME Region needs, to meet the highest standards and to fulfill Member States obligations towards the Regional and International conventions and protocols. It has been prepared by the assistance of an International and Regional experts.

[Oil Pollution Combating Equipment Guide](#)

[Marine Environment Protection Legislation Guide](#)

[Oil Spill Response Safety Guide](#)

[Pocket Directory of Oil Pollution
Emergency Contacts](#)

Frequently published and updated.



Recently Published

REGIONAL OIL SPILL DAMAGE ASSESSMENT GUIDELINES

This Guidelines is intended to be a ready reference for personnel working and responsible for oil spill assessment. Also its provide a measures for restoration of resources that are damaged by oil spills.





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