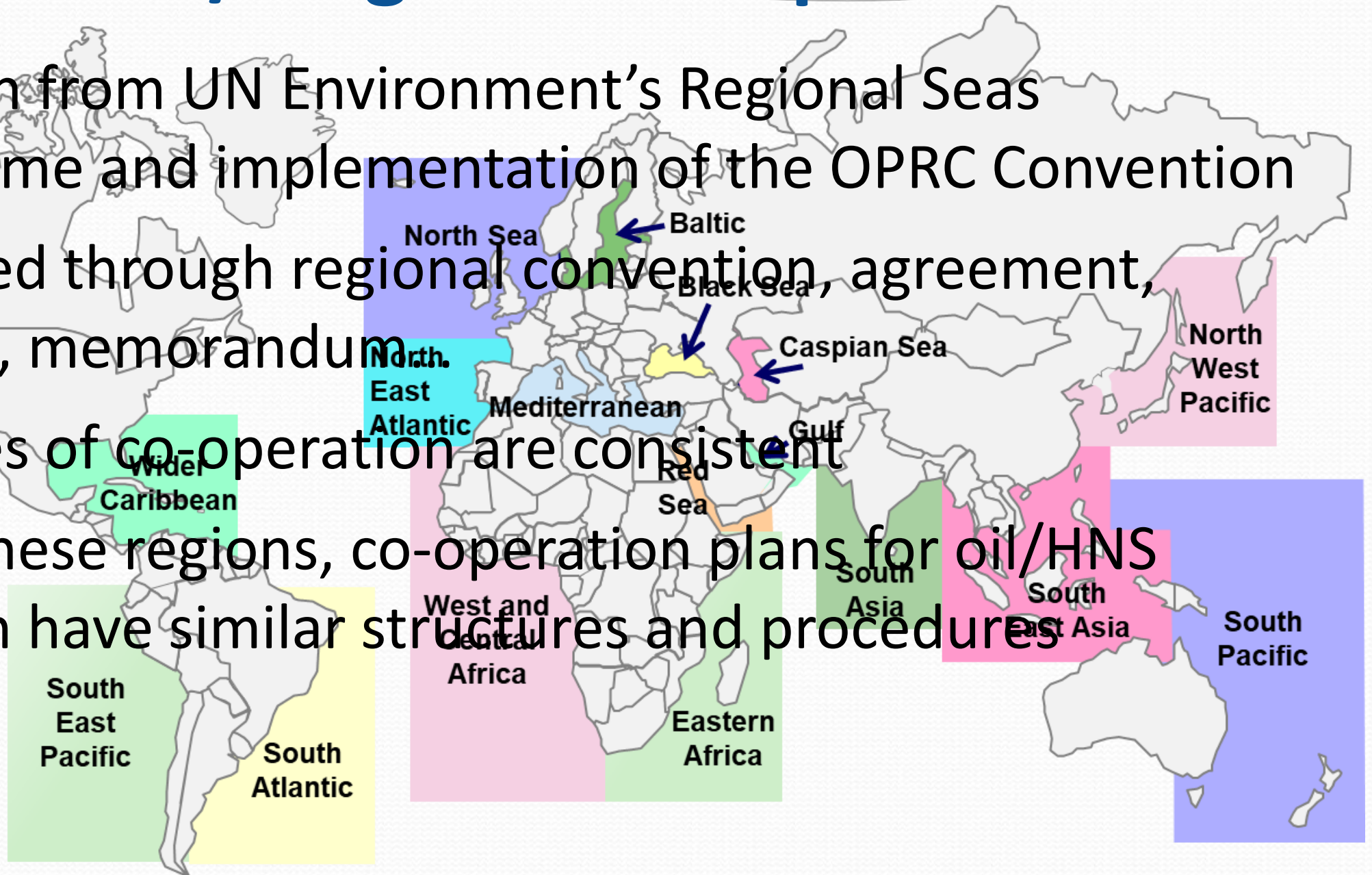


Examples of regional cooperation in spill preparedness and response

Regional Workshop on Cooperation in Preparedness and Response to Marine Spills
March 2020, Zanzibar

Multi-lateral / Regional Co-operation

- Evolution from UN Environment's Regional Seas Programme and implementation of the OPRC Convention
- Mandated through regional convention, agreement, protocol, memorandum
- Principles of co-operation are consistent
- Across these regions, co-operation plans for oil/HNS pollution have similar structures and procedures





Black Sea example

Regional Framework

Bucharest Convention

Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution

Emergency Protocol

Protocol on Co-operation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations

Black Sea Contingency Plan of Co-operation

Operational document to implement the Protocol by co-ordinating national response systems



How does it work?

Commission

- Secretariat
- Administration

Advisory Group(s)

- Technical experts: Country representatives / invited observers
- Share information
- Implement regional plan of co-operation



Regional exercise guidelines

- Developed in 2005
- Based on Baltic Sea model and published IMO/IPIECA guidance
- Three main exercise types:
 - ALPHA Synthetic or Table-top
 - BRAVO Alarm or Communication
 - DELTA Operational (Full-scale)

BLACK SEA CONTINGENCY PLAN
TO THE PROTOCOL ON COOPERATION IN COMBATING
POLLUTION OF THE BLACK SEA BY OIL AND OTHER HARMFUL
SUBSTANCES IN EMERGENCY SITUATIONS

VOLUME I

RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS

**Guidelines for Oil Spill Exercises under the
Black Sea Contingency Plan**

Introduction

These guidelines have been developed by the Black Sea Commission (BSC) Advisory Group on the Environmental Safety Aspects of Shipping (AG ESAS) and were adopted by the Contracting Parties to the Emergency Protocol of the Bucharest Convention at the BSC session [??] held in [location] on [date]. They are to be used in the development and implementation of regional cooperation under the Black Sea Contingency Plan (the 'Regional Plan') in conformance with its Section 2.4 on Joint Training and Exercises.

In designing, developing and executing oil spill exercises the following eight guiding principles have been agreed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association (IPIECA). It is recommended that all exercises carried out in the Black Sea adopt these same principles:

1. Ensure that management from the top down supports the exercise activity.
2. Set clear, realistic and measurable objectives for an exercise.
3. The thrust of exercising is to improve—not to impress.
4. Simpler, more frequent exercises lead to faster improvements initially.
5. Do not tackle complex exercises until personnel are experienced and competent.
6. Too many activities, locations and participants can overcomplicate an exercise.
7. Evaluating the exercise successfully is as important as conducting it successfully.
8. Planning and conducting a successful exercise is a significant accomplishment.

Types of Exercises

Under the framework of the Black Sea Contingency Plan the following types of combating exercises have been agreed upon:

BSC ALPHA: Synthetic or Table-top Exercise
BSC BRAVO: Alarm or Communication Exercise
BSC CHARLIE: Equipment Deployment Exercise
BSC DELTA: Operational Exercise
BSC ECHO: State-of-the-art Exercise

Decisions on the yearly exercise programme including the types of exercises, aims and goals for the exercises, time for the execution and appointment of Lead Countries are taken during the meetings of the AG ESAS. Whilst this Group focuses on shipping issues this does not exclude exercises involving other potential oil spill risks such as pipelines or offshore units.

BSC BRAVO, CHARLIE, DELTA and ECHO exercises can be executed independently or in combination with each other.

Synthetic or Table-top Exercise (BSC ALPHA)

This exercise type is a 'paper exercise', the aim of which is to create a base for discussion on matters relating to organization, communication, logistics, etc. in combating actions involving two or more Contracting Parties.

The exercise will normally take place during meetings of the AG ESAS.

The outline of the exercise is pre-planned in such a way that the players will be presented with a scenario of a pollution incident giving such facts of the incident that most probably would be at hand in the initial phase.

Implementation

- Various national and regional OPRC Model training course held in the 00s
- Capacity building activities under MoUs between Black Sea Commission and IMO 2012-15
- ALPHA table-top exercises
 - aim to hold annually
- BRAVO alert/notification exercises
 - aim to hold three times per year
- DELTA (full-scale) exercises
 - aim to hold biennially



POLREP (exercise)		
Introductory Part		
Address	From:	
	To:	
Date Time Group		
Identification	POLREP BLACK SEA	
Serial Number		
Part I POLWARN		
1 Date and time	1	
2 Position	2	
3 Incident	3	
4 Outflow	4	
5 Acknowledge	5	
Part II POLINF		
40 Date and time	40	
41 Position	41	
42 Characteristics of pollution	42	
43 Source and cause of pollution	43	
44 Wind direction and speed	44	
45 Current or tide	45	
46 Sea state and visibility	46	
47 Drift of pollution	47	
48 Forecast	48	
49 Identity of observer and ships on scene	49	



Exercising principles

1. Ensure management support
2. Set clear, realistic and measurable objectives for an exercise
3. The thrust is to improve - not to impress
4. Simpler, more frequent exercises = faster improvements
5. Do not tackle complex exercises until personnel are experienced and competent
6. Too many activities, locations and participants can overcomplicate an event
7. Evaluating successfully is as important as conducting successfully.
8. Planning and conducting a successful exercise is a significant accomplishment



Exercise features

ALPHA table-top

- Held as part of meeting
- Typically two national experts from each country
- Scenario-based 'paper' exercise
- Encourages discussion without incident pressures
- Address matters relating to organization, logistics, communication etc...

BRAVO alert

- Tests the procedures for reporting, requesting and providing assistance
- Familiarizes personnel with the use and national handling of the POLREP reporting form
- Equipment and its handling personnel not activated

DELTA full-scale

- Tests the communication procedures and response capability of the Contracting Parties under a host's national system
- Exercise the co-operation between response units (including the response equipment) under Joint Operations

International dimension

- Private sector and international (out of region) organizations have participated in DELTA exercises
- Oil and shipping industries have contributed assets and personnel to pollution scenarios
- International organizations have assisted in elements such the inclusion of compensation and claims procedures and provided evaluation support



Lessons learned

- ✓ Demonstrates commitment to preparedness
- ✓ Facilitates network building
- ✓ Tests regional co-operation mechanism
- ✓ Needs clear objectives to measure success and progress
- ✓ Encourage preparatory activities that are inherently valuable
- ✓ Requires political and financial support

RUDELTA
2016



GEODELTA
2011



RODELTA
2009



SULH
2007



Summary

- The Black Sea exercise programme has run for >10 years
- It enables countries around the Black Sea to co-operate and coordinate in case of major oil pollution incidents
- The region is better prepared through this programme
- The programme is evergreen and needs to be sustained into the foreseeable future to maintain preparedness