

Marine pollution response OPRC national implementation

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The Finnish Border Guard HQ

Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation

- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC Convention) was implemented in Finland in 1995 (Treaty Series 32/1995).
 - Decree 789/1995
- Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-operation to pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol) was implemented in Finland in 2015 (Treaty Series 65/2015).
 - Act 98/2015
 - Decree 12 1238/2015
- Essential obligations related to pollution preparedness, response and cooperation are laid down in Rescue Act (379/2011).
 - Essential provisions not available in English: [Pelastuslaki 379/2011 - Ajantasainen lainsäädäntö - FINLEX®](#)
- Obligations on the ship and its master are laid down in Act on Environmental Protection in Maritime Transport (1672/2009).
 - Unofficial English translation: [en20091672_20191537.pdf](#) (amendments up to 1537/2019 included)

National arrangements and resources

- The Ministry of the Interior directs, guides and monitors the response to oil and chemical spills from ships.
- The Finnish Border Guard handles response operations for any oil and chemical spills from ships which take place in Finland's territorial waters or exclusive economic zone, and it also coordinates preparedness for such operations.
 - FBG HQ four persons on the strategic level, two maritime lawyers + several persons assisting in supporting functions such as financial and logistical issues
 - Two Coast Guard Districts with immediate 24/7 readiness for command, alerting, international assistance and response actions (same as MRCC and MRSC).
 - 14 FBG officers on a rota, all trained to tasks of the Response commander
 - 32 persons on a rota, all trained to task of Supreme On Scene Commander
 - 2 aircraft, 13 response vessels, about 200 boats and personnel available 24/7
- Rescue Departments are responsible for coastal water and on the shore response, 24/7 readiness
- The overall command is always with one authority only – either FBG or Rescue Department based on the location of the incident
 - The border line for commanding the operations has been agreed in regionally
- Other actors involved in marine pollution preparedness and response include the Finnish Defence Forces, the Finnish Environment Institute, the Finnish Transport and Communications Agency, Metsähallitus, the ELY Centres and private companies

Oil or HNS discharge - subtasks



Supporting actions

- Logistics
- Claims issues, legal support
- Data recording
- Safety issues – of responders and the citizens
- Restricting maritime traffic



International alerts and assistance

- Experts, equipment
- Information sharing

Oiled wildlife response.

- Catching, treating, freeing. Euthanasia
- Authorities, veterinaries, volunteers

Environmental experts

- National, regional, local
- International

Mapping by aircraft, boat patrols and SCAT teams

- Authorities, volunteers
- Aircraft, drone, satellite
- Patrols at sea and on shore

Waste management and treatment

Oil or HNS discharge in the EEZ or in the open sea area on territorial waters



The Finnish Border Guard's Coast Guard District leads the response



Advisory board

Chaired by the Commander of the Coast Guard District

Rescue Departments

- 10 have Baltic Sea coastline
- Responsibility for shallow water response and on shore response

Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)

- Environmental experts
- Responsible for oiled wildlife response

Environmental experts

- Regional environmental authorities

Defence forces

- Navy recovery vessels + Navy tugs etc.
- Personnel for mapping the oiled areas (coastline, islands)

Other actors

- Transport and Communications Agency
- Metsähallitus
- Volunteers
- Private contracted companies

Planning centre

Operations planning – including logistics and maintenance as well as financial administration and documentation - at a time-scale of more than 24 hours.

Specialists from different organisations are invited to participate in the work of the Planning Centre

Oil or HNS discharge in the coastal waters or from the shore

The Rescue Department leads the response



Advisory board

The Finnish Border Guard

- 2 Coast Guard Districts

Finnish Environment Institute (Syke)

- Environmental experts
- Responsible for oiled wildlife response

Environmental experts

- Regional environmental authorities

Defence forces

- Navy recovery vessels + Navy tugs etc.
- Personnel for mapping the oiled areas (coastline, islands)

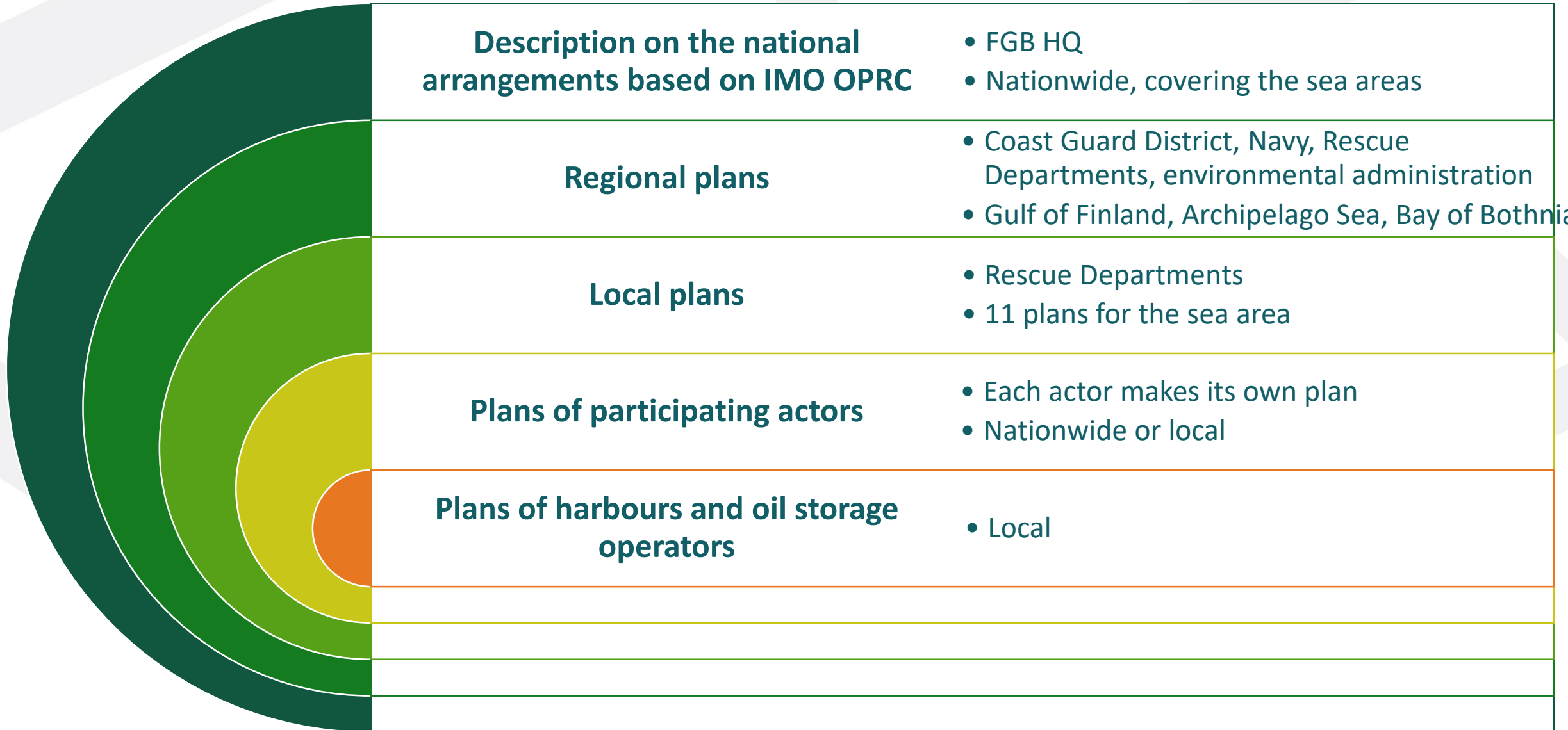
Other actors

- Transport and Communications Agency
- Metsähallitus
- Volunteers
- Private contracted companies

Functions and tasks

- The pollution response actions will be initiated without delay 24/7
- The principle for defining the leadership of the response operations is defined as is the commanding structure
- Pollution response is carried out by governmental authorities, the polluter needs to assist
- Single point of contact for international assistance is MRCC Turku (defined in the Rescue Act)
- Coast Guard District commands the open sea operations, the functions of the FBG HQ support in e.g. financial, legal, logistical, technical etc. issues
- Rescue Departments command the coastal and on the shore operations, FBG assists.

The contingency plans



National Strategy for the Prevention of and Response to Environmental Damage extending to 2035

- The main objective of the strategy is to guide and support authorities' preparedness work in relation to pollution events occurring both now and in the future. The strategy has been prepared through broad-based collaboration with key actors with a basis on the operating environment
- 27 development points which the authorities need to enhance
- Follow up of the development during the meetings of *the National Advisory Board for the Prevention of Oil and Vessel Chemical Damage*
- https://julkaisut.valtioneuvosto.fi/bitstream/handle/10024/164946/S_M_2023_20.pdf?sequence=1&isAllowed=y