

Marine Oil Pollution in the Arctic

Prevention, Preparedness and Response

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NUUK DECLARATION
On the Occasion of the Seventh Ministerial meeting
of the Arctic Council
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Arctic marine environment

Decide to establish a Task Force, reporting to the SAOs, to develop an international instrument on Arctic marine oil pollution preparedness and response, and **call for** the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR) and other relevant working groups to develop recommendations and/or best practices in the prevention of marine oil pollution; the preliminary or final results of both to be presented jointly at the next Ministerial meeting in 2013,

Track One: Prevention

EPPR (Emergency, Prevention, Preparedness and Response) Working Group Project “Recommended Practices in the Prevention of Marine Oil Pollution“

- **EPPR work has included:**
 - Workshop to identify most relevant issues to be covered
 - Review of available experience, studies, current projects, accident reports etc
 - Drafting of Main Report
- **Report will outline and suggest best practice in four main areas of activity:**
 - Offshore oil and gas
 - Land based activities
 - Arctic shipping
 - Maritime surveillance/monitoring
- **A brief report for the 2013 Ministerial will be prepared and include recommendations and possible observations to the Ministers.**

Track Two: Preparedness and Response

“The Arctic is likely to see increased shipping and efforts to exploit the natural resources of the region in the coming decades. This, in turn, increases the potential for harm to both human life and the Arctic environment.

Arctic Council working groups have developed various oil-related and emergency response-related products, but there is no marine oil pollution response instrument specific to the Arctic.

The International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC) is a framework for international cooperation in combating incidents or threats of marine oil pollution, to which all eight Arctic States are parties. Article 10 of the OPRC promotes the development of bilateral and multilateral agreements for oil pollution preparedness and response, such as on a regional basis.”

(Senior Arctic Officials’ Report to Ministers in May 2011)

Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response in the Arctic

- **Negotiations concluded in Reykjavik, October 2012**
- **Legally binding international agreement**
- **In conformity with i.a. the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea (UNCLOS) and the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC)**
- **Contents:**
 - Mutual commitments to provide assistance in case of marine oil pollution
 - Increased cooperation, training and sharing of information
 - Operational guidelines
- **Signature in Kiruna, May 2013**

The Context

- **International Law**
- **Protection of the Arctic environment**
- **Prevention - Preparedness - Response**
- **Arctic Council as a forum for cooperation**