

## Paper 21: OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE BRIEFS

Department of Transport and Communications

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### EXERCISE NO. 1 (MACKAY • WHITSUNDAY AREA)

#### Scenario

At 2130 Wednesday 23 November 1988 the 25,000 DWT bulk carrier Black Gold experienced main engine problems whilst transiting Cumberland Channel bound Newcastle from Singapore. On the advice of his Chief Engineer the Master decided to stop his vessel so that repairs could be made to the engine. At 2215 Black Gold anchored 1.5nm north of Carlisle Island.

Repairs to the main engine were completed at 0900 Thursday 24 November and recovery of the port anchor commenced shortly afterwards. At 0925 the anchor snagged the starboard side of the vessels bulbous bow before freeing suddenly. As a result of the sudden release the anchor swung, one of the ~~flukes striking the vessels shell plating and punching a hole in the port forward deep tank.~~ This tank contained 1200 tonnes of heavy fuel oil bunkers, with an estimated 650 tonnes located above the level of the hole.

Immediately the damage occurred the Master ordered a bunker transfer **from** the port tank to the empty starboard deep tank. The transfer pump has a capacity of 30 tonne per hour.

Early indications are the bunkers are escaping from the hole at the rate of 45 • 55 tonne per hour. Crew of Black Gold are unable to plug the leak externally.

#### Task

The Scientific Support Co-ordinator is to assist the OSC in planning his response. The SSC will assess environmental protection priorities and provide balanced advice to the OSC. The SSC will be assisted by other environmental officers.

**The task of the OSC is to respond to this incident. He will:**

indicate first actions taken on receipt of this report

assess the threat. Determine the area which will be affected by the spill

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- determine specific areas which he considers have features and assets which need to be protected. Provide reasons.

indicate what equipment is required to combat the oil spill and to protect the areas identified above

if specialist response equipment is not immediately available, what other measures can be taken to mitigate the effects of pollution. Indicate actions taken.

Further update advice for this and the other exercise is not reproduced here.

## EXERCISE NO. 2 (BASS STRAIT AREA)

### Scenario

At 0635 24 November 1988 the following message was received at Melbourne Radio/VIM from the Cypriot oil tanker **ALLENISS**

"Have structural damage to ship starboard side. Lose some oil. Am changing course now to 'Marshall Bay at Flinders Island and look at problem. Position **3940S** 14705E. Speed slowed to 10 Knots. Wind force 6 from NE. Strong sea from east. Reply soon please.

Rgds Karranopolis

Master **24/0630"**

Melbourne Radio advises that **ALLENISS** is **enroute** to New Zealand from the middle east. Ship is 35,000DWT fully **laden** with Arabian Light crude.

Weather conditions are expected to remain force 6 from NE for the next 12 hours before abating to force 4 from the east.

### Task

The Scientific Support Co-ordinator is to assist the OSC in planning his response. The SSC will assess environmental protection priorities and provide balanced advice to the OSC. The SSC will be assisted by other environmental officers.

The task of the OSC is to respond to this incident. He will:

- indicate first actions taken on receipt of this report
- assess the threat. Determine the area which will be affected by the spill

- indicate what equipment is required to combat and mitigate the effects of the oil spill and protect the areas identified above.