

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe is a Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre which contributes to the sustainability of the marine environment in the Wider Caribbean Region.

The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre is one of four Regional Activity Centres of the Caribbean Environment Programme (UNEP-CAR/RCU). Established in 1995, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe is hosted by the government of Curaçao and staffed with subject matter experts voluntarily seconded by states signatory to the Cartagena Convention of 1983.

Activities are largely funded by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe assists countries in the Wider Caribbean Region to prevent and respond to pollution in the marine environment through:

- Developing and assessing national and multilateral contingency plans
- Training and workshops
- Technical support and consultancy
- Information and public awareness



Work Area

Antigua and Barbuda * Bahamas * Barbados * Belize * Colombia *
Costa Rica * Cuba * Dominica * Dominican Republic * El Salvador *
France * Grenada * Guatemala * Guyana * Haiti * Honduras * Jamaica *
Mexico * Kingdom of the Netherlands * Nicaragua * Panama *
St. Kitts and Nevis * Saint Lucia * St. Vincent and the Grenadines *
Suriname * Trinidad and Tobago * United Kingdom *
United States of America * Venezuela *



Activities

To promote its objectives, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe conducts national and regional activities throughout the Wider Caribbean Region.

Developing and assessing national and multilateral contingency plans:

- Simulation exercises
- Use of gap analysis tool such as ARPEL's Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™)
- Promote bilateral and multilateral agreements, government-industry partnerships or regional strategies

Training and Workshops:

- IMO Level I/II/III OPRC training courses
- Information and exchange on ballast water management and BWM Convention
- MARPOL and port reception facilities trainings
- Anti-fouling systems seminars
- Liability and compensation regimes for pollution damage seminars

Technical support and consultancy:

- Environmental sensitivity index mapping
- Risk assessments tools
- Monitoring and participation in government and industry projects

Information, public education & awareness:

- Develop and maintain regional spill data
 - Develop public awareness materials
 - Geographic information system database for maritime traffic in the WCR
- <http://cep.unep.org/racrempeitc/maritime-traffic>

Conventions

Through its activities the Centre is assisting countries of the WCR to establish legislation that implement international conventions.

Cartagena Convention and Protocols

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region and its three Protocols (Protocol Concerning Cooperation in Combating Oil Spills, Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPA), Protocol Concerning Pollution from Land-Based Sources and Activities) constitute a legal commitment by the participating governments to protect, develop and manage their common waters individually and jointly.

OPRC 1990

The aim of the International Convention on Oil pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC) is to provide a global framework for international cooperation and mutual assistance in combating major oil spill incidents. In 2000, a Protocol to the OPRC 1990 was adopted to encompass hazardous and noxious substances (OPRC-HNS Protocol).

Civil Liability and Fund Conventions

Under the auspices of IMO, a 3-layer compensation system was developed. The primary layer is the International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage.

MARPOL

The International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL) is the main international convention covering prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from operational or accidental causes. It also covers atmospheric pollution under Annex VI.

Anti-fouling systems Convention

The International Convention on the Control of Harmful Anti-fouling Systems on Ships prohibits the use of harmful organotins in anti-fouling paints used on ships and establishes a mechanism to prevent the potential future use of other harmful substances in anti-fouling systems.

Ballast Water Management Convention

The Centre is also the Regional Coordinating Organization for the Global Ballast Water Management Partnership Programme (Globallast). This GEF/UNDP/IMO project aims to reduce the transfer of harmful aquatic organisms and pathogens in ships'ballast water, through assisting countries to implement the IMO ballast water guidelines and prepare for the entry into force of the International Convention for the Control and Management of Ships Ballast Water & Sediments, 2004 (BWM Convention).

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