



PREMIAM

Pollution Response in Emergencies – Marine Impact Assessment and Monitoring

What's the problem?

Spills of oils and chemicals in the marine environment remain a significant threat. Therefore, the requirement for response capability, improved preparedness and effective post-incident monitoring and assessment remains undiminished.

Why the need for better and more effective post-incident monitoring?

- We need to ensure we provide early evidence of potential impact to government and the general public.
- We need to have an appropriate and effective way of investigating the impact on the wider marine environment.
- Impact assessment methodology needs to be considered that not only assesses the short-term impacts, but also allows the prediction of potential longer-term impacts.
- We need to ensure a more effective use of resources so that unnecessary procedures are avoided but that potentially useful ones are not overlooked.
- We need provide important information about the effectiveness, or not, of spill response activities including the use of dispersants.

However, there are no established expert guidelines in the UK for post-incident monitoring and impact assessment nor, indeed, is there a fully co-ordinated mechanism for overseeing the practical aspects of the programme (e.g. survey design, sampling, analysis, interpretation etc.).

Project Aims

Essentially the PREMIAM programme will fulfil two fundamental objectives:

1. The development of marine assessment and monitoring guidelines (The PREMIAM Plan)
2. The development and maintenance of a network of scientific and logistical partners to deliver the plan (The PREMIAM Network)

Results and their use

In addressing the project aims PREMIAM will introduce and co-ordinate a professional, efficient and fit for purpose post-incident monitoring and impact assessment mechanism. Through the production of expert guidelines and the generation and maintenance of a national network of experts and service providers the project will result in an approach that will ensure:

- *Speed – Fast response in order to gain early impact information or baseline information concerning areas at threat.*
- *Cost effectiveness*
- *Expertise identification and availability*
- *Use of appropriate techniques*
- *Use of best-practice and the ability to learn from previous responses*
- *Co-ordination and integration*

The project will be overseen by a steering group comprising representatives from all the main government stakeholders (including those with regulatory, response and conservation interests) to ensure an integrated approach.

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