

Promoting working together – The UK NCP and National Exercises



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Counter Pollution Operations in UK

- The Secretary of State for Transport has overall responsibility for:
 - Taking or co-ordinating measures to prevent, reduce and minimise the effects of marine pollution
- MCA is the National Competent Authority for OPRC in the UK and is tasked to:
 - Minimise the risk of pollution from ships and offshore installations, where pollution occurs, minimise the impact on UK waters, coastlines and economic interests
 - Takes the lead in response to pollution at sea from ships



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UK Maritime Incident Management

Shipping –
Incident Management Framework

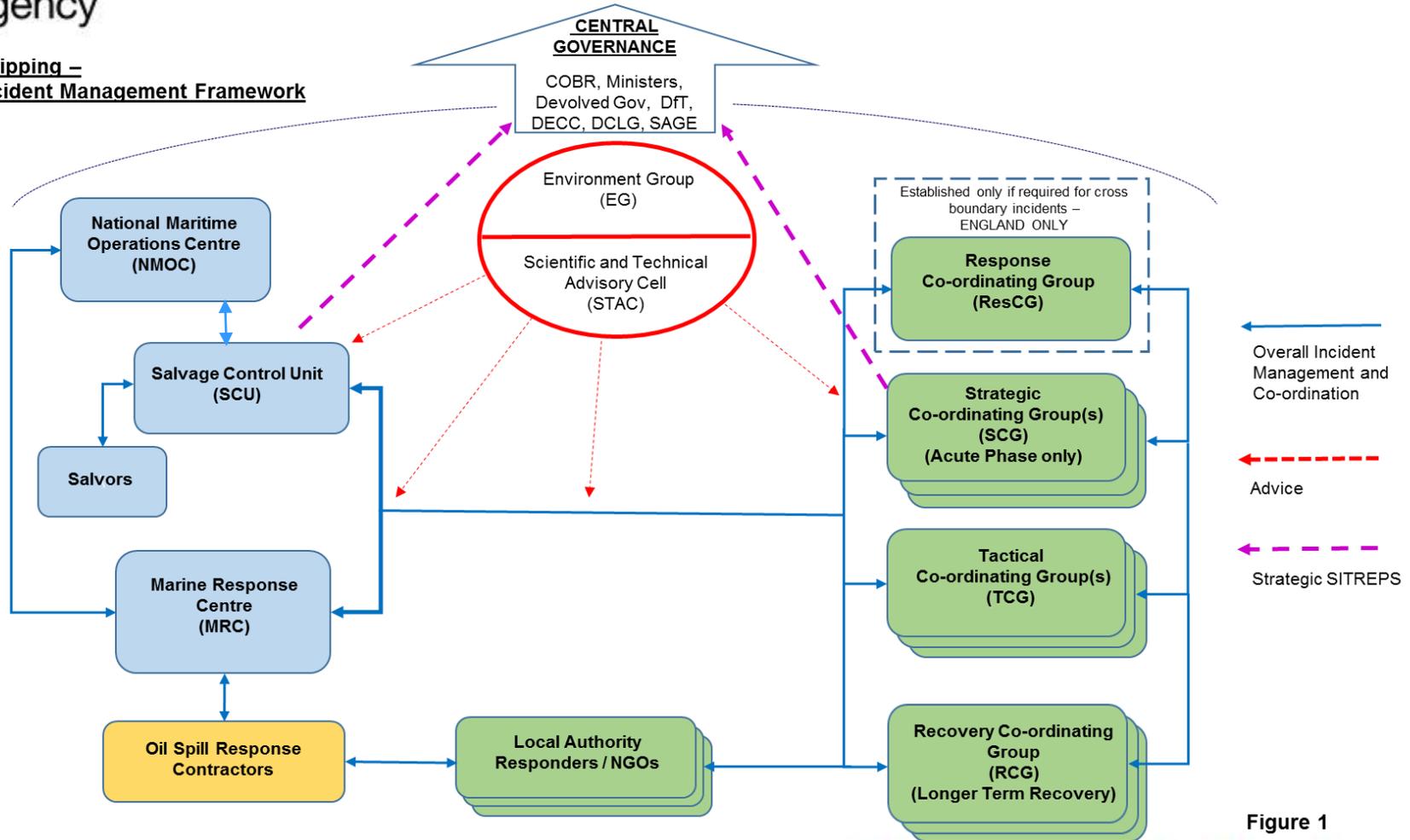


Figure 1



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Counter Pollution Operations in UK

- Port, Harbour and Oil Handling Facilities ashore have a statutory responsibility for clean-up of their areas
- Local Authorities & Local Resilience Fora (including those within Devolved Administrations) - Have a statutory responsibility to plan for incidents impacting the shoreline

**ALL MUST PREPARE POLLUTION RESPONSE CONTINGENCY
PLANS**

AND MUST

**BE COMPATIBLE WITH THE POLICIES AND PRINCIPLES OF
THE NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN (NCP)**



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The UK NCP and STOp notices

- Generic, roles and responsibilities, + which cells are set up
- Does not provide explicit guidance
- Thin on Environment and cross border
- 4 lines on long term impact assessment
- But supported through STOp Notices:
- Each UK Administration has differing process – making STOp notice scripting difficult!



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STOp notices:

- Environment Group – more detail on PREMIAM / SERG? At least a link?
- Shoreline Response – perceived difficulties with:
 - CCA complexities
 - Across devolved administrations
- Waste Management
- Booming
- **Suggestions for additional guidance??**



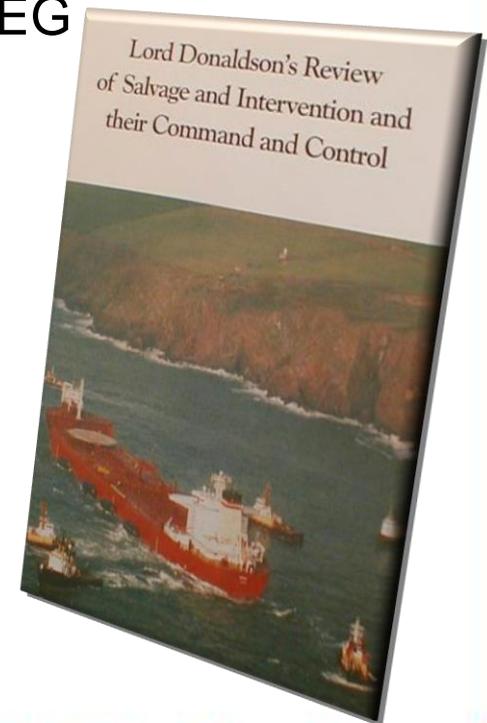
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UK Standing Environment Groups – key resource

The concept of an ENVIRONMENT GROUP (EG),
followed a recommendation by Lord Donaldson.

Environmental advice provision EG
has primacy

- 1 Northern Ireland
- 2 Scotland
- 3 North East
- 4 Tees
- 5 Humber
- 6 Norfolk, Suffolk and The Wash
- 7 Greater Thames
- 8 Kent and Sussex
- 9 Solent
- 10 Dorset
- 11 Devon
- 12 Cornwall
- 13 Bristol Channel
- 14 West Wales
- 15 North Wales
- 16 North West





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UK Standing Environment Groups

- UK EG's Network – all know each other
- Members meet and exercise regularly
- Annual Chairs meeting – consistency across the UK
- Core membership plus additional specialists according to challenges faced
- Possible reorganisation of the number of Groups under discussion.



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English Standing Environment Group Model



From 12 Groups
down to 5.

Many pros and
cons!



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Major Incident Working together

- SCU, MRC, SCG all supported by:
- EG, STAC, SAGE all operational
- PREMIAM working in parallel with ops cells
- Cooperation between EIA and Operational essential
- Potential for duplication?



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UK NCP and Exercising

- One UK annual National Exercise
- Many offshore exercises
- Many Ports and Harbours exercises
- Resilience Fora exercises
- Standing Environment Groups exercised
- Cross border rarely exercised
- EIA rarely exercised – Why not?

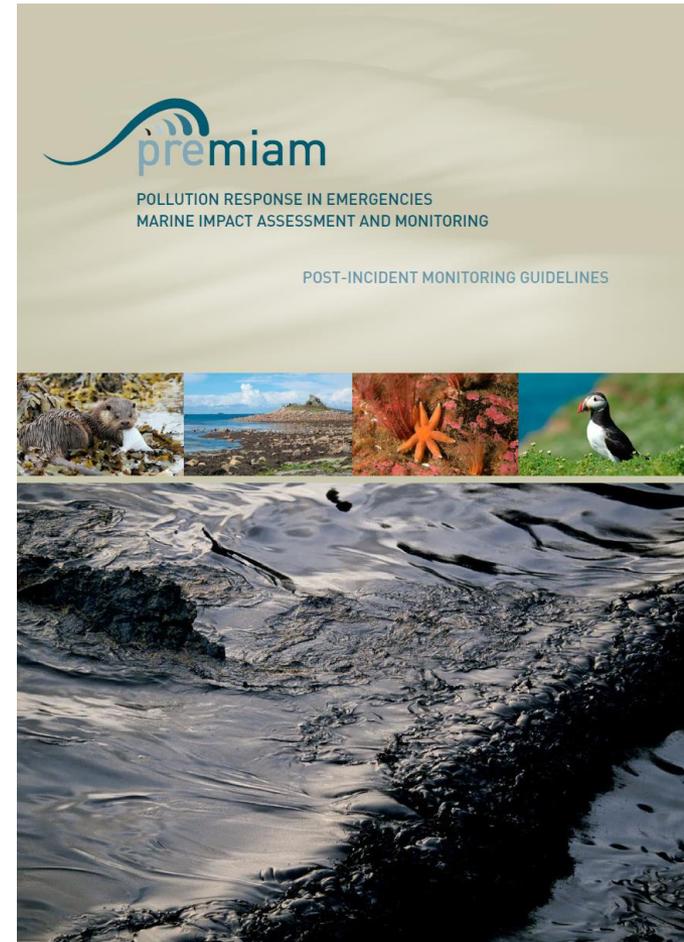
- Who will promote incorporation of PREMIAM?
- Should MCA coordinate?



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Premium management and coordination

- Robust management and coordination essential – not least cost recovery. Management to design and coordinate studies.
 - Best practise monitoring, scientific rigour and objectivity
 - Technical reasonableness, proportionate
 - Avoid duplication
 - Involve compensation bodies with planning and methodology
 - PREMIAM – sound game plan in place
 - Importance of documentation





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Exercising Premium: Some questions for you

- Only significant UK National exercises?
- Premium exercise to run parallel to formal NCP Cells?
- Real engagement with senior Department Officials?
- Limit scope to manageable EIA set-up – ready to go?
- Limit exercise artificiality, key questions/actions real play?
- Invite technical reasonableness players?
- Test validity of “reasonableness” for the main EIA activities against the IOPC guidelines?
- Next National exercise: November 2016.



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Exercise Grey Seal November 2016

- MCA Annual Counter Pollution Exercise
- Southern North Sea
- Significant oil spill
- MRC, SCU, TCG/RCG, EG – 2 full days
 - EG – PREMIAM CELL
 - How many players?
 - Detail of play level?
- Planning team open to suggestions now



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PREMIAM across the Devolved Administrations and Civil Contingencies

- EIA: Differences across UK Administrations
- Incident affecting 2 or more Administrations – Coordination and Management?
- Potential for mutual assistance?
- Wales EIA to sit with SEG(s)?
- Scotland EIA lead with Marine Scotland Science?
- Issues of funding and cost recovery across Administrations – joined up approach?



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Scottish Evidence Response Group

- In Scotland the monitoring function will be led by the SERG staffed by Marine Scotland Science.
- The SERG will advise the Operational Environment Group on any environmental monitoring requirements based on the principles laid down by PREMIAM.
- The SERG will be chaired and co-ordinated by MSS, with staff from JNCC and FSS in an offshore incident, and SNH, FSS and SEPA in the event that the coastal area is threatened.



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Post Incident Studies: Cost Recovery

- Will Premium be eligible for cost recovery?
- For which activities?
- Under which recovery regime?
- Can we prepare in peacetime?
 - Establishment of eligible activities and confidence levels?

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MCA web site: www.dft.gov.uk/mca/

- UK National Contingency Plan
- Environment Group STOp notice