

U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

United States  
Coast Guard



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## MEMORANDUM

From: Ms Elizabeth Petras\*  
Executive Director, Interagency Coordinating  
Committee on Oil Pollution Research

To: Members, Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research (ICCOPR)

Subj: FY 2023 THIRD QUARTER ICCOPR MEETING MINUTES, May 23, 2023

General: ICCOPR members, member agency representatives, and invited guests met via Microsoft teams on Wednesday May 23, 2023. LCDR Cliff Graham (USCG) called the meeting to order at 12:33am and it continued until 12:03pm. LCDR Graham (USCG) reviewed the agenda (Enclosure 1). Representatives of ICCOPR agencies that were in attendance via phone and/or video were:

CAPT Trey Wirth, ICCOPR Chair, USCG  
Mr. Aaron Parker, ICCOPR Vice Chair, NOAA  
Ms. Elizabeth Petras, new ICCOPR Executive Director, USCG\*  
LCDR Cliff Graham, Acting ICCOPR Executive Director, USCG  
CAPT. Greg Hall, USCG  
Mr. Alex Balsley, USCG  
Ms. Karin Messenger, USCG  
Mr. Marion Lewandowski, USCG  
Dr. Benedette Adewale, USCG  
Mr. John Tarpley, NOAA  
Dr. Robyn Conmy, EPA  
Dr. Kiara Lech, EPA  
Mr. John Schiff, BOEM  
Dr. Eric Miller, BSEE  
Mr. Bill Vocke  
Ms. Robyn Conmy, EPA  
Dr. Karen Stone, BSEE  
Dr. Steven Wong, DOE  
Dr. Sailendra Mahapatra, DOE  
Mr. Barry Forsythe, USFWS  
Mr. Robert Smith, PHMSA  
Ms. Jo Ellen Hinck, USGS

Mr. Brendan Booker, USACOE

Guests:

Senate CST invited, not present. Dr. Michel Bouefadel, New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), Dept. of Civil and Environmental Engineering

1. Welcome and ICCOPR Opening Remarks

CAPT Trey Wirth (USCG) and Mr. Aaron Parker (NOAA) opened the meeting and welcomed both ICCOPR members and guests. There were a number of USCG personnel changes. LCDR Graham's will be departing CG-MER 3 and ICCOPR work in June; CDR Alberto Martinez arrives in July as the new CG-MER 3 Division Officer (DIV-O). Ms. Elizabeth Petras was hired in late April to serve as Executive Director of the ICCOPR. The MER lead on international work, CDR Wes James' will be retiring from CG-MER 2 in June and LCDR Jason Scott will serve as the new DIV-O and international lead.

CAPT Wirth expressed appreciation to NOAA & BSEE for hosting the 08 MAY 2023 Shoreline Oil Spills Response Knowledge Gaps and Technological Development Opportunities workshop in Seattle. He also described attending the Canada and U.S. summit, presenting about the Canada U.S. Joint Contingency Plan and associated Preparedness and Response for oil and hazardous materials cross boundary incidents.

2. General Updates/Announcements

LCDR Graham (USCG) provided general updates to ICCOPR and went over ground rules for the meeting. Dr. Ken Lee is unable to attend as scheduled.

3. Great Lakes Center of Expertise (GLCOE) Overview

Dr. Sarah Bowman presented an overview of the GLCOE.

- Purpose of the GLCOE is to operationalize innovative ideas that improve freshwater and arctic oil spill responses as an independent, non-operational body with a legislative mandate to conduct research in oil spill response.
- The GLCOE was established from funding provided in 2016, and is now fully staffed in its two (2) locations at Lake Superior State University and the NOAA Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory (GLERL)
- Collaborative partnerships include NOAA OR&R, NOAA GLERL & Cooperative Institute for Great Lakes Research (CIGLR), ICCOPR, NOAA Sea Grant Collaboration, USCG Ninth District/local Sectors, and Canadian Stakeholders
- Funded projects to date include:
  - o Oil Spill Modeling: Evaluation of General NOAA Operational Modeling Environment (GNOME) for predicting Great Lakes and incorporate Great Lakes Coastal Forecasting Systems (GLCFS) surface currents forecast
  - o ROV/UAS purchases and field testing
  - o Great Lakes Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps in Lake Eerie
  - o Great Lakes Spill Response Capability and Gap Analysis for partnerships
  - o Detection of Oil in Ice with manned Systems: field trails

- Spills of Opportunity: developing a framework for soliciting, selecting and updating an annual list of potential spills of opportunity projects to allow for rapid deployment during an incident.
- Proof of Concept- Polaris Oil Spill Detection Systems (PODS): Literature and market research to provide a comprehensive report of available technologies on results and outcomes of the best for detecting and monitoring oil spills and detecting oil at night.
- Fiscal Year 24 Call for Proposals (due 20 JUN 2023) for three (3) main themes: Freshwater Oil Spill Preparedness; Freshwater Oil Spill response; Alternative Response Measures' Application in Freshwater

#### 4. Underwater Release of Oil

Dr. Michel Bouefadel provided a presentation on the research he is conducting on the underwater release of oil:

- Research is being conducted as a collaboration between NJIT, Dept of Fisheries and Oceans, Canada; Texas A&, Johns Hopkins, University of Miami, Exxon Mobil, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), Multi Partner Research Initiative (MPRI), Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GOMRI), and the Center for Offshore oil and Gas Research (COOGER)
- Research focused on the effect of dispersant injection during an underwater release, including the droplet size distribution, vortical structure of droplets when they are formed, different flow types, (e.g., bubbly vs churn), as well as gas bubbles on the effect of oil droplet size and various flowrate and other flow structures (e.g., crossflow, iso flow)
- Results include an indication that primarily large oil particles of oil are transported out of a well during a blow-out scenario, and that subsurface mechanical dispersion may have little affect on producing smaller oil droplets; the larger particles persist.

#### 5. ICCOPR R&D Update

5-minute R&D updates were provided by all participating agencies.

- Mr. Alex Balsley, USCG Research and Development Center (RDC), provided updates four (4) projects and one new funding opportunity through the Department of Homeland Security (DHS):
  - Behavior of Diluted Bitumen (Dilbit) in Fresh Water, with a report due in August 2023.
  - Emerging Pollution Response Technology Evaluation to understand the capability of emerging mechanical pollution – response technology coming out with the final report in July or August.
  - Maritime Environmental Common Operating Picture (COP), using ERMA and OilMap, integrated to provide details on Endangered Species Act protected species distributions and critical habitats, response options, and potential impacts of various response activities. Final report expected in fall 2023
  - Nearshore and Inland Evaluation of the Estimated Recovery System Potential (ESRP) Calculator. NASEM completed their review in Sept 2022. RDC in discussions with potential contractor to integrate NASEM recommendations.

- New DHS Center of Excellence: Notice of funding for the COE for Homeland Security in the Arctic to cover all DHS components, not just CG. There is \$45 million available over the next ten years. Applications for funding due June 19<sup>th</sup> with selection in late 2023. Karin Messenger is the POC.
- Mr. Aaron Parker, NOAA
  - Several projects currently in progress at the GLCOE in Ann Arbor, MI.
  - ICCOPR SSDI WG continues progress with NOAA members.
  - NOAA is interested in research of opportunities this hurricane season.
- Ms. Karen Stone, BSEE
  - Ohmsett National Oil Spill Response and Renewable Energy Testing Facility
  - OSRR #1127 - Development of an Advancing Skimmer Test Protocol
  - OSRR #1153 - Shoreline Response Gaps and Opportunities Workshop (Steve Buschang)
- Ms. Robyn Conmy, U.S. EPA
  - New Subpart J final rule to be published soon (June 12, 2023, with an effective date of Dec 12, 2023). The rule will require testing by EPA which they are currently preparing to do.
- National Response Team (NRT) brief out (Mr. Roger Fernandez)
  - Chemical discharge issue regarding various shipping vessels in Guinea, gathering technical experts from the NRT technical experts and will have a meeting with the embassy in Guinea. The NRT will send an email out to ICCOPR members requesting any technical expertise that may be able to assist, if appropriate.
- Mr. Steve Wong, Dept. of Energy
  - Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI) is collaborating to work on process safety and the offshore. RFPs are forthcoming from OESI.

#### 6. Closing Comments and Meeting Adjournment

- CAPT Trey Wirth expressed his appreciation for agency input for ICCOPR. Next quarterly meeting is in SEPT 2024, and may be at a hybrid virtual/in person location.

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Enclosures: (1) Meeting Agenda