

# Caribbean Regional Response Team Brief



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(CG-MER)



# Agenda



- CG-MER Background
- NRT/Interagency
- International
- RAC/ REMPEITC Updates
- Questions



# CG-MER Background



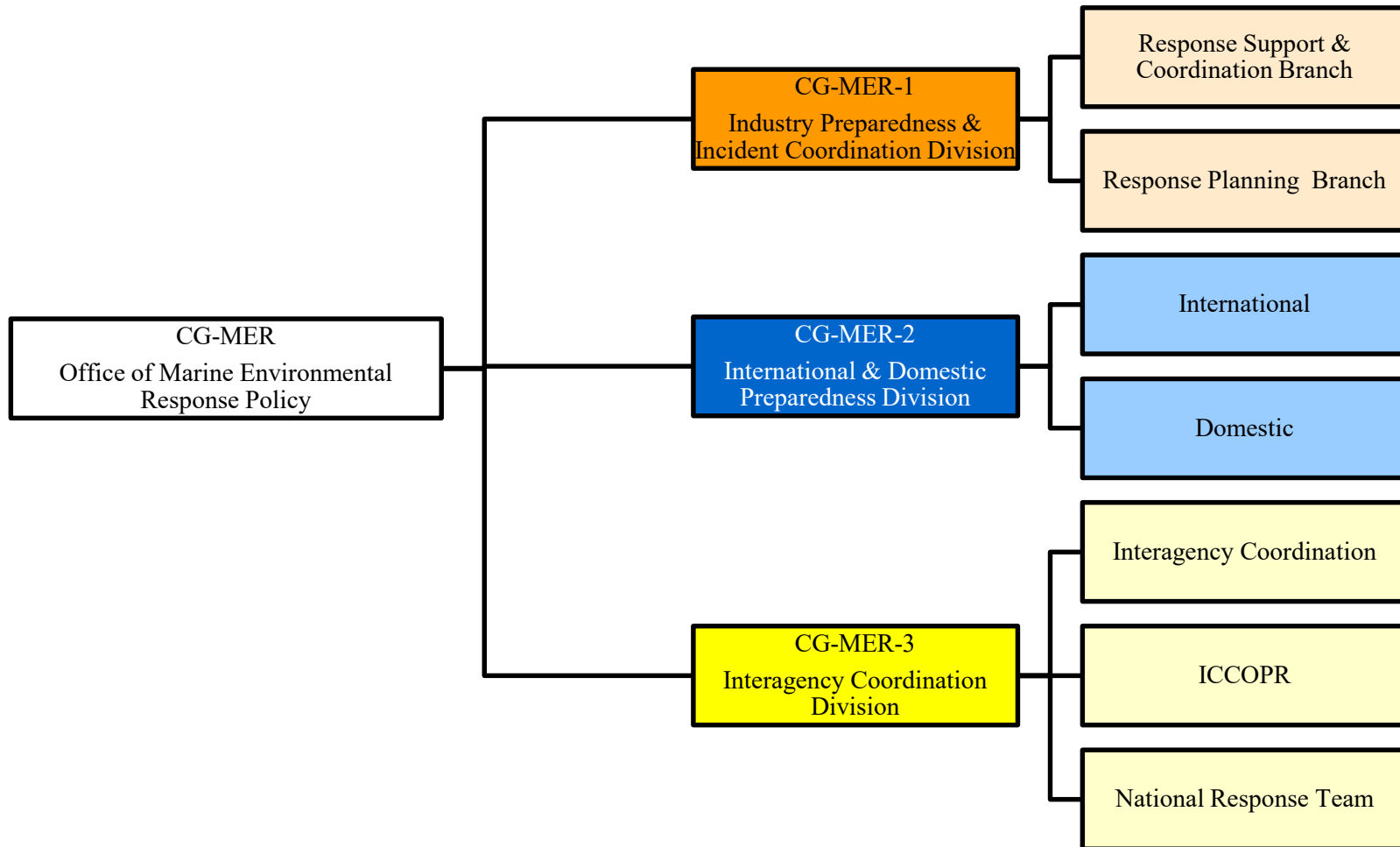
## Mission Statement

- Provide guidance, policy, and tools for Coast Guard Marine Environmental Response planning, preparedness, and operations to prevent, enforce, investigate, respond to, and to mitigate the threat, frequency, and consequences of oil discharges and hazardous substance releases into the navigable waters of the United States.



# CG-MER Background

## Organization





# CG-MER Background

## CG-MER-1

- Vessel Response Plan Governance (VRP)
  - [VRP@uscg.mil](mailto:VRP@uscg.mil)
- Policy Development
- MERMAN update 2
- Pre-Positioned Equipment Initiative
- Next Steps/Action Items





# CG-MER Background



## CG-MER-2

- Arctic
  - U.S. Arctic Strategic Outlook
  - Arctic Council
  - Other fora (Arctic CG Forum)
- Bi-Lateral Engagements (JCPs, LOI)
- Domestic Preparedness
  - ACP, PREP, Interagency Preparedness (NRT/PREP4C)
- Upcoming Events



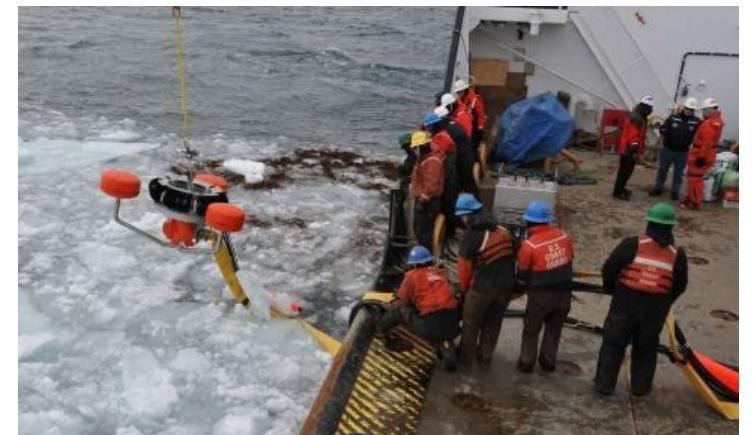


# CG-MER Background



## CG-MER-3

- Spill of National Significance
- ICCOPR and Research & Development
- National Response Team
- Upcoming Events/Other Items of Interest





# Interagency Preparedness



## ACPanama Incident Response Guide (IRG)

- Participants
  - U.S. National Response Team (Activation)
  - Autoridad Canal de Panamá
- Annual Exercise Cycle







# Interagency Preparedness

## NRT International Offer of Assistance Guide

- Nexus: NRT Activation for NW Brazil Oil spill in October 2019
- Follows same format as other NRT guides (NRT-ACP IRG)
- Defines battle rhythm during an international request
- Next Steps:
  - Conference Call on Thursday, 30JAN
  - Propose draft guide at NRT Co-Chairs in April 2020





# International Preparedness

## Bilateral Plans

- Canada
- Mexico
- Russian Federation
- Cuba (draft)

## Multilateral Plans

- Artic Council
- Wider Caribbean Region  
Multilateral Technical  
Operating Procedures for  
Offshore Oil Pollution  
Response (MTOP)
- Pacific Islands Regional  
Marine Spill Contingency Plan  
(PACPLAN)





# International Preparedness

## Southern Portfolio

- United States – Mexico Joint Contingency Plan
- United States – Cuba Bilateral Plan
- Wider Caribbean Region Multilateral Technical Operating Procedures for Offshore Oil Pollution Response (MTOPO)
- Pacific Islands Regional Marine Spill Contingency Plan (PACPLAN)



SPREP  
PROE





# CG-MER Role in FEMA NRCC

- The National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) is a multiagency center that coordinates the overall Federal support for major incidents and emergencies.
- Two permanent USCG Liaison Officers
- MER stands ESF-10 watch with EPA.
  - Facilitate information flow from local USCG responders to FEMA decision-makers.
  - Answer ESF-10 RFIs
  - Update relevant briefing documents.
    - Senior Leadership Brief: Hazardous Materials lifeline.

Activation Level	Conditions	Staffing Guidelines
Level 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on public health, welfare, and infrastructure, the incident requires an extreme amount of direct Federal assistance for response and recovery efforts for which the capabilities to support it do not exist at any</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Full staffing,</li><li>• All Emergency Support Functions and interagency liaisons</li></ul>
Level 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A disaster which, due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on public health, welfare, and infrastructure requires a high amount of direct Federal assistance for response and recovery efforts.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Mid-level staffing</li><li>• Most but not all Emergency Support functions and liaisons</li></ul>
Level 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• A disaster which, due to its severity, size, location, actual or potential impact on public health, welfare, and infrastructure requires a moderate amount of direct Federal assistance.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Moderate staff</li><li>• Only Select Emergency Support Functions and inter-agency liaisons</li></ul>
Enhanced Watch	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• National Watch Center and select members of the National Response Coordination Center Activation team maintains situation awareness. The National Response Coordination Center is not activated.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Anticipation of Federal Assistance and/or immediate response to disaster</li></ul>
Watch Steady state	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• No event or incident anticipated</li><li>• National Watch Center maintains situation awareness</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Normal office staff</li></ul>



# RAC/REMPEITC

## Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Center

Established under the Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean – The ‘Cartagena Convention’ – (Cartagena, 1983)

- Hosted by the Government of Curaçao
- 28 Country Parties
- 4 languages
- Coastline of 55,383 km





# RAC/REMPEITC – Recent Activities

2018:

IMO (ITCP) funded technical assistance implemented by RAC-REMPEITC:

- OPRC: 4 National Contingency Plan Workshops (Suriname, Trinidad & Tobago, Cuba, and Mexico)
- AFS and Biofouling: regional Workshop (Trinidad & Tobago)

RAC-REMPEITC participation:

- COCATRAM/REPICA Ports meeting (Dominican Republic)
- CARIBMEPA World Maritime Day celebration (Mexico)
- Sargassum and Oil Monitoring Workshop (Mexico)
- Florida Straits Conference
- Annual meeting Port Management Association of the Caribbean

2019:

IMO (ITCP) funded technical assistance implemented by RAC-REMPEITC:

OPRC:

- 3 National Contingency Plan Workshops (Guyana, Jamaica & Curacao)
- 1 Env. Sensitivity and Geographic Response workshop (St. Lucia)
- 1 Cross-border Exercise (Suriname/Guyana)
- 1 Regional OPRC Workshop (St. Kitts)
- Regional Exercise Workshop (Belize)

MARPOL:

- 2 national workshops (Haiti & Grenada)





# RAC/REMPEITC – Planned Activities

## Contingency Planning Workshops

- Sint Maarten
- Panama
- Nicaragua
- Grenada
- Dominican Republic

## Regional Port Reception Facilities

- Location TBD

## Regional Workshop on National Response Framework

- Antigua and Barbuda

## Anti Fouling Systems

- Cuba

## Ballast Water Management

- Location TBD

## General:

- Update country profiles
- Conduct a regional Risk Assessment

## OPRC:

- Commence an OPRC(-HNS) ratification campaign
- Develop an on-line regional notification system and integrated GIS database.
- Update OPRC equipment lists
- Carry out a regional Risk Assessment

## MARPOL:

- Finalize the Regional Port Reception Facilities Plan (RPRF)
- Address MARPOL related IMO Audit findings

## Ballast Water Management/AFS-Biofouling

- Follow-up of regional Caribbean Ballast Water Management Strategy
- Support implementation of IMO's GloFouling project in the Caribbean



# RAC/REMPEITC – Way Forward

- RAC/REMPETIC can be a tool during international spills.
  - Can help coordinate with affected countries
- Please Keep RAC/REMPETIC informed of training opportunities.
- RAC/REMPETIC POC – [mrichards@cep.unep.org](mailto:mrichards@cep.unep.org)





# How We can Support



- NRT guidance/support
- USCG/MER policy support/questions
  - VRPs
  - FRPs
  - ESA/NHPA
  - MISLE
  - PREP
- Interagency coordination at the HQ level
  - DoS, DoC, DoT, EPA, FEMA, etc.

# Questions ?

