

TRAINING TARGETS GREATER SAFETY ON BOARD FISHING VESSELS

EMSA held its first training course on fishing vessels on 11-12 July in response to a clear need to increase safety levels and environmental awareness. The many deaths and injuries reported on board **fishing vessels** has led EMSA to work more closely with member state experts to create a targeted training plan to cover all the relevant legal, European and international requirements. The course also includes the use of case studies and real life examples and encourages the exchange of experience among participants. The training is geared towards officials dealing with compliance and the enforcement of safety and environmental protection rules. In the spirit of interagency cooperation, a representative of EFCA, the European Fisheries Control Agency, was invited to the course. The practical approach is appreciated by participants and further initiatives in the field are expected.



EMSA PARTICIPATES IN POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE IN BLACK SEA

Two of EMSA's contracted standby oil spill response vessels in the Black Sea – the Galaxy Eco (based in Varna, Bulgaria) and the Amalthia (based in Constanta, Romania) – participated in the oil spill response activities held as part of the 'Breeze 2018' exercise. This international exercise, organised by the Bulgarian navy and maritime administration, took place in Burgas Bay on 19 July. The scenario envisaged an incident during an offshore drilling operation resulting in a spill of 20 000 tonnes of crude oil. The **pollution response vessels** deployed by the Agency and under the control of the Bulgarian authorities were tasked to recover the oil using sweeping arms and heavy duty offshore booms and skimmers. The scenario was chosen for its relevance, given the potential threats associated with the current development of offshore drilling activities in the Black Sea. This development recently prompted Bulgaria to request additional dispersant capacity from EMSA as part of the available response arrangement.



STRENGTHENING EMSA'S EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICE IN THE BALTIC SEA

In an effort to enhance the oil pollution response capacity available to member states through the Equipment Assistance Service (EAS), EMSA commissioned two high capacity skimmer systems in July. These systems will be stored and integrated in the **Equipment Assistance Service** stockpile in the Baltic Sea (Gdansk, Poland). The equipment comprises a skimmer unit with a brush adapter and screw pump, an umbilical hose system and a containerised hydraulic diesel power pack. It can be used standalone on board non-dedicated oil spill response vessels. Its capacity is 140m³/h at 12 bars (screw pump) which makes the equipment suitable for the recovery of heavy oils.



ENERGY INTERCONNECTION SUMMIT SEES HIGH LEVEL GROUP VISIT EMSA

Prime Minister of Portugal António Costa, President of France Emmanuel Macron, and President of the Government of Spain Pedro Sánchez attended the second Energy Interconnection Summit in Lisbon on 27 July in the presence of Commissioner for Climate Action and Energy Miguel Arias Cañete and European Investment Bank Vice President Emma Navarro. The summit provided a forum to press forward the development of energy interconnections between the three countries. Held in EMSA, the summit was followed by a tour of the Maritime Support Services operations centre and a presentation giving insight into EMSA's main maritime monitoring services.



EMSA FACTS & FIGURES 2017 JUST PUBLISHED

The recently issued **EMSA Facts and Figures 2017** publication presents a condensed account of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report, summarising how EMSA implements the tasks set out in its annual work programme. Visuals are used to cover everything from staff numbers and nationalities, automated detection of ship behaviour patterns, THETIS-MRV's role in the EU's CO₂ emission reduction strategy, STCW and RO inspections, maritime casualties, ship safety, maritime training sessions, EMSA standby oil spill response vessels, and equipment and dispersant stockpiles. This broad overview of the year's activities helps to show how EMSA is effectively contributing to the member states by coordinating and aggregating expertise and knowledge, harmonising the implementation of legislation and practice, and, not least, by topping up national capabilities.



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VACANCIES: ICT systems and applications security officers (deadline: 16/9/2018)

PROCUREMENT: Supply of oil storage craft (deadline: 3/9/2018); Supply of skimmers to recover oil in ice covered waters (deadline: 29/8/2018); call for experts to implement capacity building activities (deadline: 31/10/2020); see website for more.