



NEWSLETTER #1
SOUTH BALTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE
THROUGH CLEAN-UP WITH BIOGENIC OIL BINDERS



Universität
Rostock



Traditio et Innovatio

In late summer 2016 the implementation phase of the project SBOIL officially began. Contracting with the EU and setting up a partnership agreement within the consortia was the most important task in the early project phase. After the Kick-off meeting was held in September 2016 at the University of Rostock the actual implementation began. A flyer was designed to briefly summarize the project, the project website was prepared and brought online and first meetings with relevant stakeholders were held in the South Baltic Area. Different Associated partners showed great interest in the project and possible practical interaction (Swedish Coast Guard, Polish Search and Rescue, Port of Gdynia, Klaipeda State Seaport Authority). Based on existing spill response capacities it was started to develop different response scenarios using biogenic sorbents by modifying parameters like spill size, stationing location and application possibilities.



The second half of 2016 was very busy for the team of the Maritime University of Szczecin establishing the working team and internal methods of communication and workflow. Special focus was put on the storage container design which will hold the netboom on board of a response ship. Taking into consideration given boundary conditions the standard TEU container was identified as optimal solution for boom and winch devices storage on a recovery ship. A handling concept was developed and discussed with practitioners. The team was also engaged into the identification of main players in oil spill response in Poland and Lithuania. Available software for the simulation of oil spill response operations in a nautical simulator was analyzed to prepare the integration of netboom deployment and towage. This includes the physical behavior of the netboom and the floating behavior of the sorbents. Plans for the creation of a new software module were made as well.



Dr Jonas Pålsson from World Maritime University publicly

announced the project in Sweden for the first time at the annual Swedish Oil Spill Conference. The conference was held in Helsingborg 29-30 November 2016. As there have not been any oil spill projects in the South Baltic since Baltic Master II ended in 2012, SBOIL was met with great interest from the Swedish oil spill community. The project aims to help build momentum for oil spill preparedness in the South Baltic again. This will be done by assisting in updating oil spill contingency plans in the south of Sweden. Updated contingency plans will help to prepare the region for the BALEX DELTA oil spill exercise, which will take place in the south of Sweden during 2018. Preparations are also underway for the SBOIL tabletop exercise in the same year. The exercise will focus on accepting and sending international equipment across borders. The procurement process of finding a professional team to plan and manage the tabletop exercise is now being finalized.

Implementation will continue in 2017: The Table Top Exercise will be developed assisted by professional trainers. Specifications for the spill response training kit using biodegradable sorbents and innovative methods of application and recovery will be finalized and offers caught up. Meanwhile intense communication will be held with relevant stakeholders from different administrative levels.

Are you a citizen of the South Baltic, a professional working in the oil spill industry or an employee at an administration and interested in the project don't hesitate to contact us.

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