

Enhancing Oil Spill Response Capability in the Baltic Sea Region – Finnish point of view

Final seminar of the OIL SPILL project
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Border Guard tasks



➤ BORDER MANAGEMENT

- Border checks
- Border surveillance (incl. territorial integrity)
- Crime prevention and pre-trial investigation
- Immigration monitoring
- Customs duties
- Urgent police tasks

➤ COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS

- Search and rescue
- Oil spill response
- Control and surveillance of waterborne traffic

➤ MILITARY DEFENCE



Finnish Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) responsibilities



- Ministry of the Interior has the overall responsibility
- The Finnish Border Guard is the national competent authority responsible for national preparedness and also international cooperation
- Finnish Border Guard is responsible for leading the response actions at open sea (EEZ and outer archipelago)
- The Rescue Departments are responsible for leading the response actions in archipelago, in coastal waters and on the shore.
- The post spill restauration, environmental impact assessment and waste management are under the responsibility of the Ministry of Environment and environmental administrations



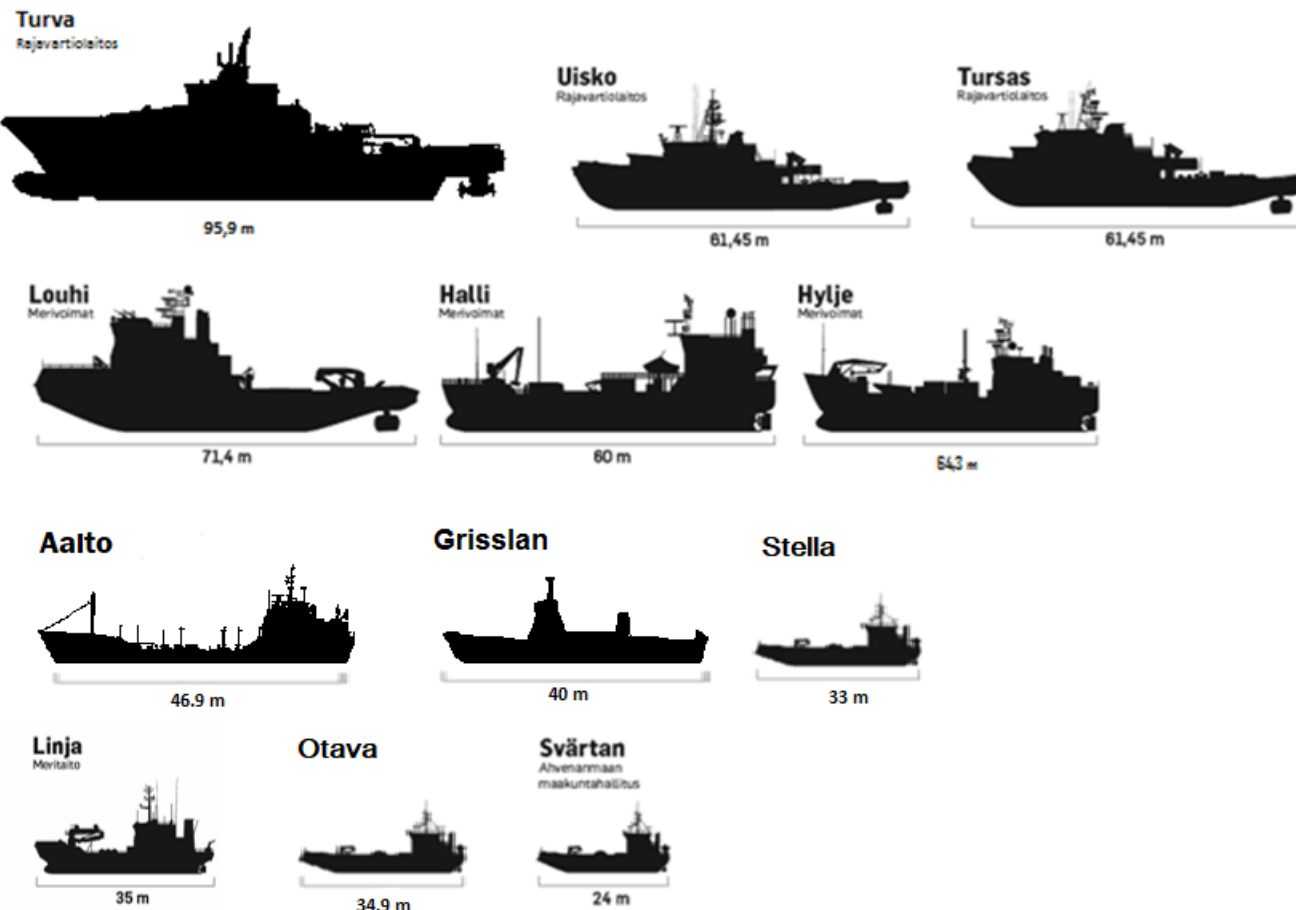
Few facts about our operating environment

- Finland has long coastline (46 000 km), vast archipelagos (97 000 islands) and heavy sea traffic.
- Our waters have annually ice cover. Very limited daylight in winter months.
- At any given moment about 2,000 vessels sail in the Baltic Sea
 - 25% of these vessels have oil or chemical cargo.
- Gulf of Finland annual oil transportation volume: 180 million t in 2019 and 160 million t in 2020.
- About 200 ships sail in the territorial waters of Finland every day.
- Regional, national, areal/local risk analyses as basis for the preparedness

Contingency plans

- HELCOM Manual defines the principles for regional cooperation (regional implementation of the OPRC)
- Coast Guard Districts' plans
- Joint plans of the Coast Guard and Rescue Departments
- Rescue Departments' plans
- Plans of the harbours and other actors, who have large storages of oil or other HNS

The readiness of the recovery vessels



At least two OPVs always at sea i.e. in instant readiness 24/7/365.

One Navy ORV always in 4 hour readiness 24/7/365.

Readiness of private contracted response vessels varies, average is 6 hours.

Some are contracted only for the ice free months of the year.

The rescue departments have about 150 boats, that can be used for oil response in archipelago and in coastal waters. About 30 of these boats have collecting capability, the others are used for boom laying, transportation tasks etc. They are in instant readiness during the open sea seasons.



Preparedness and readiness

- The equipment depot network is under development, the Finnish Border Guard will have four central depots which are complemented by the Rescue Departments' depots as well as the FBG's Coast Guard Stations' equipment.
- The 18 Coast Guard Stations are in constant readiness. During year 2022 ten CGSs will be equipped with containers that will have 800 metres of high sea boom with anchors, power packs etc.
- FBG's Air Patrol Squadron is in readiness to support also the pollution response tasks
- Cooperation between the authorities, research institutes, private sector and NGOs is a necessity in marine pollution response
- Our national preparedness is good, but still needs to be enhanced. The finances for maintenance and renewal of the equipment has to be secured. Exercises and development projects are vital to ensure the capability.

International cooperation

- The Helsinki Convention defines the international pollution response cooperation in the Baltic Sea area.
 - At sea response
 - On the shore response
 - Aerial surveillance
 - Oiled wildlife response
- Other international fora such as the Copenhagen Agreement, MOSPA, EMSA and IMO also have a big role in developing the capabilities.
- Common operational procedures form the corner stone for successful joint operations.
- Information exchange between different States contributes to enhancing also the national capabilities and procedures.
- Joint exercises, development project and meetings help us to get better and better in our joint tasks.



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