

U.S. Department of
Homeland Security

United States
Coast Guard



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27 August 2019

MEMORANDUM

From: Ms. Carol A. Baillie
Executive Director, Interagency Coordinating
Committee on Oil Pollution Research

Reply to: 202-372-2269
Attn of: Ms. Carol A. Baillie

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

Subj: Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 THIRD QUARTER ICOPR MEETING MINUTES

1. General: ICOPR held a meeting at General Dynamics Information Technology (GDIT) in Arlington, VA on June 12, 2019. CDR Wes James (USCG) called the meeting to order at 9:00 am and it continued until 12:00 pm. CDR James reviewed the agenda (enclosure 1). Representatives of ICOPR agencies that were in attendance or on the phone were:

Mr. Kevin Sligh, ICOPR Chair (acting), U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)

Mr. Scott Lundgren, ICOPR Vice Chair, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

CDR Wes James, ICOPR Executive Director (acting), USCG

Ms. Carol Baillie, Incoming ICOPR Executive Director, USCG

CAPT Kirsten Trego, Outgoing ICOPR Executive Director, USCG

CDR JoAnne Hanson, USCG

Ms. Karin Messenger, USCG

CAPT Greg Hall, USCG

Mr. Alex Balsley, USCG

Ms. Elena Melchert, Department of Energy (DOE)

Dr. Candi Hudson, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE)

Dr. Walter Johnson, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM)

Dr. Zhen Li, BOEM

Dr. Jeff Ji, BOEM

Dr. Barry Forsythe, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS)

Mr. Tom Thompson, U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) Maritime Administration (MARAD)

Mr. Robert Smith, DOT Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA)

Mr. Nate Lamie, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Mr. Dan Eldredge, U.S. Navy, Naval Sea Systems Command, Office of the Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV)

Ms. Vanessa Principe, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

Dr. Greg Wilson, EPA

Mr. Michael Lengle, GDIT

Guests:

Mr. Shannon Jenkins, USCG

Mr. John Farrell, U.S. Arctic Research Commission (USARC)

Ms. Kathy Farrow, USARC

2. Welcome and ICCOPR Opening Remarks

a. Mr. Kevin Sligh (USCG) and Mr. Scott Lundgren (NOAA) opened the meeting, welcomed ICCOPR members and guests, and noted that the ICCOPR meeting was shortened due to a Spill of National Significance (SONS) Executive Steering Committee (ESC) meeting.

- Mr. Sligh was sitting in for CAPT Ricardo Alonso (USCG) as ICCOPR Chair.
- ICCOPR Executive Director – Ms. Carol Baillie (USCG), incoming ICCOPR Executive Director, was introduced and participated as an observer pending completion of the onboarding process. CAPT Kirsten Trego (USCG) is on a 2-year Active Duty contract serving as the USCG Deputy Director, Emergency Management.
- The National Response Team (NRT)-Regional Response Team (RRT) Co-Chairs Meeting was April 29-May 2, 2019, in Chicago, IL. It included a session on interagency unmanned aerial systems and remote sensing research and development (R&D).

3. Updates and Announcements: ICCOPR members provided the following remarks:

- International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) 2020 – Reviewers are evaluating abstracts, and the Program Committee will meet in July 2019 to build an agenda. Questions regarding IOSC 2020 should be submitted to CDR James.
- USCG Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy (MER) staffing – CDR JoAnne Hanson (USCG) was introduced and is the new Interagency Coordination Division Chief. CDR James, former Interagency Coordination Division Chief, is the new International and Domestic Preparedness Division Chief. The R&D Liaison will transition from LT Rebecca Brooks (USCG) to LT Omar Borges (USCG) in summer 2019. The new USCG NRT Coordinator is Laura Casillas (EPA) and her tentative start date is June 24, 2019.
- NOAA Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) staffing – Mr. Dave Westerholm (NOAA) will continue as OR&R Director until the hiring process for the new Director is completed in the late summer or fall of 2019.
- ICCOPR members recognized and thanked Mr. Walter Johnson (BOEM), who is retiring in July 2019, for his 20 plus years of government service to advance physical science, modeling, and R&D.
- The report on the BSEE-NOAA MC-20 study, which was briefed at the last GoMOSES 2019 MC-20 session, is nearing release.

Action Items:

- Ms. Candi Hudson (BSEE) will forward information on the ExxonMobil sponsored oil spill response training and workshop to CDR James for dissemination to ICCOPR members.
- Dr. Barry Forsythe (USFWS) will forward job announcements for the Environmental Response and Restoration Branch Chief and the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) National Coordinator to the ICCOPR Executive Director for dissemination to ICCOPR representatives.

4. USARC: Dr. John Farrell (USARC) and Ms. Kathy Farrow (USARC) provided an overview of the USARC (www.arctic.gov) and its “2019-2020 Arctic Research Goals and Objectives” report (enclosure 2). The following bullets capture discussion points and question and answer.
- USARC is a small federal agency responsible for developing a national Arctic research policy and is recommending Arctic research goals and objectives to the Executive Branch. USARC’s scope is broad nature and its duties include the following:
 - Assist the Interagency Arctic Research Policy Committee in establishing a national Arctic research program plan to implement the policy;
 - Facilitate cooperation in Arctic research among federal, state, and local governments and with international partners;
 - Review federal Arctic research programs and recommend improvements for coordination;
 - Recommend advances in Arctic research logistics; and
 - Recommend improved methods for data sharing among research entities.
 - Dr. Farrell explained key recommendations from the USARC’s “2019-2020 Goals and Objectives for Arctic Research” report and other activities related to oil spill R&D.
 - 2019-2020 report, Goal #1. Advance arctic infrastructure – Recommended funding demonstration projects for arctic infrastructure and engineering design. USARC found that engineers were missing or using outdated environmental data to inform the design of infrastructure used in the Arctic environment. Second, the USARC worked with the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC) to conduct microbial research. Third, USARC observed additional opportunities for joint industry and government research and, in 2012, documented its observations in the “Oil Spills in Arctic Waters: An Introduction and Inventory of Research Activities and USARC Recommendations” report.
 - 2019-2020 report, Goal #2. Assess Arctic natural resources – Recommended fingerprinting natural oil seeps, which is being conducted by BOEM.
 - The USARC participated in the development of the “Use of Dispersants in Marine Oil Spill Response” report published by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (NASEM).
 - USARC works with the Arctic Research Policy Committee, Arctic Council working groups, and other researchers through cooperation agreements.
 - The “8th Symposium on the Impacts of an Ice-Diminishing Arctic on Naval and Maritime Operations” is scheduled for July 17-18, 2019, at the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center, in Washington, DC.
 - Can you provide an example of an Arctic research question or recommendation focused on oil spill prevention (e.g., testing dispersant performance in Arctic climates)?
 - Mr. Farrow noted that oil spill prevention is one of many topic areas examined by USARC. For example, Goal #1 (advance Arctic infrastructure) could be inclusive of designing oil infrastructure for the Arctic environment for the purpose of preventing a spill.
 - Mr. Shannon Jenkins (USCG) suggested building risk communication/public information specialists’ awareness of Arctic activities and emphasized the importance of documenting activities and discussion points. Communication and information specialists will need to

address questions or statements stemming from reports or federal department/agency activities related to the Arctic.

Action Items:

- CDR James will forward the website for the 8th Symposium on the Impacts of an Ice-Diminishing Arctic on Naval and Maritime Operations (<https://www.wilsoncenter.org/event/8th-symposium-the-impacts-ice-diminishing-arctic-naval-and-maritime-operations>) to ICCOPR representatives.

5. USCG Arctic Strategic Outlook (ArcSO): Mr. Jenkins presented on USCG Arctic Policy (enclosure 3) and initiative #10 (enhance marine environmental prevention, preparedness, and response in the Arctic) and initiative #12 (develop and implement an Arctic research plan) of the USCG Arctic Strategy Implementation Plan (enclosure 4). The “USCG 2019 ArcSO” outlines the USCG perspective for national security interests for the Arctic (e.g., sovereignty, stewardship, and safety). The ArcSO frames 3 lines of effort. ICCOPR activities to increase preparedness and resiliency align with the third line of effort to “innovate and adapt to promote resilience and prosperity.” Lastly, ‘research activities’ is mentioned in a few other places in the ArcSO and Implementation Plan. The following bullets capture discussion points and question and answer.

- Responding to questions regarding implementation of Arctic Strategy Implementation Plan initiatives and resource requirements, Mr. Jenkins noted that initiatives are assigned to an appropriate USCG office that coordinates internally to address the initiative. USCG offices are prioritizing commitments based on existing activities and resources. In addition, USCG is developing metrics to quantify activities or results for the 2013 Arctic Strategy and the 2019 ArcSO. However, some metrics are difficult to quantify (e.g., number of accidents prevented). Lastly, USCG is communicating initiatives, progress, and needs to USCG leadership, Congress, Executive Branch, and other federal departments/agencies.
- What are some of the key challenges facing the oil spill community in the Arctic?
 - Mr. Jenkins noted that current information indicates that offshore oil and gas drilling is not economically feasible at this time. This is due in part to the abundance of onshore oil and gas resources. The challenge to both onshore and offshore drilling is the logistics of transporting products out of the region. Second, many communities rely on micro-grids and facility inspections continue to be a challenge, specifically, logistics and time requirements (e.g., multiple days) to travel to remote communities to conduct the inspections.

Action Items:

- Mr. Jenkins will forward links to the USCG and Department of Defense (DOD) Arctic strategies to CDR James. Mr. Jenkins will forward a PowerPoint presentation on the challenges of oil/tank farm inspections in the Arctic to CDR James.
 - CDR James will distribute the information to ICCOPR representatives.

6. Arctic Council Emergency Prevention, Preparedness, and Response (EPPR) R&D Workshop: CDR James presented on the EPPR oil spill R&D workshop (enclosure 5) and the EPPR white paper “Multi-lateral Coordination on Arctic Oil Pollution R&D” (enclosure 6).

The purpose of the day-long workshop was to build EPPR Working Group members' understanding of Arctic oil spill response R&D efforts, such as current activities, national coordination models, and possible next steps to leverage best practices and resources of member states. The following bullets capture discussion points and question and answer.

- During the workshop, CAPT Trego presented an overview of ICCOPR and was asked by Norway to provide a detailed ICCOPR presentation to Norwegian representatives. Norway is particularly interested in building a better approach for coordinating R&D among government agencies and non-government organizations (NGOs). The United States could learn about Norway's five-year research plan and practices for integrating research outcomes into operations and managing intellectual property rights during cooperative projects.
- Through the EPPR, the USCG and Canadian Coast Guard (CCG) have identified areas of coordination and started to bridge gaps with other nations. Specific to USCG, USCG Arctic exercises have focused on mass casualty incidents and that oil spill response is proposed for a future exercise. Also, EPPR nations are discussing how to transition from a search and rescue mission to an oil spill response mission.
- Did workshop discussions address differences in ice, infrastructure, etc., within different areas of the Arctic? CDR James noted that EPPR discussions did not address in any detail how to align missions/services across variables such as infrastructure and ice conditions.

Action Items:

- None.

7. State-of-the-science of Dispersants and Dispersed Oil (DDO) in U.S. Arctic Waters: Mr. Doug Helton (NOAA) presented on the State-of-the-Science of DDO in U.S. Arctic Waters (enclosure 7). He provided background information (e.g., mandate from Arctic SONS Executive Seminar, preauthorization zones in Alaska), key questions examined, and key findings related to efficacy and effectiveness, physical transport and chemical behavior, degradation and fate, eco-toxicity and sub lethal impacts, and public health and food safety. The following bullets capture discussion points and question and answer.
- The Alaska Regional Response Team (ARRT) is talking about seafood safety and oil spills because of the amount of seafood exported from Alaska and Arctic regions.
 - Mr. Greg Wilson (EPA) stated that release scenarios in many studies addressing duration of toxicity and impacts of dispersants tend to use an instantaneous, one-time release and overlook a continuous release. Mr. Helton noted that in addition, studies also tend to focus on crude oil and dispersants. In Alaska, fuel oil releases may be more common.
 - Mr. Helton and ICCOPR representatives agreed that logistical challenges will impact the ability of responders to conduct dispersant operations, monitoring activities, and pre- and post-application data gathering.
 - Responding to a question regarding how the report could inform future R&D plans, Mr. Helton noted that more research is needed on the relationship of dispersants and exposure to oil through airborne aerosols and nanodroplets.

Action Items:

- None.

8. ICCOPR Business Meeting: CDR James highlighted key activities for awareness purposes (enclosure 8), to include ICCOPR Biennial Report timeline and data submissions, upcoming ICCOPR meetings and themes, and the Government Accountability Office (GAO) audit.
 - a. ICCOPR Biennial Report Timeline and Data Submissions
 - No changes were proposed to the timeline or milestones.
 - Regarding data submissions, as of June 12, 2019, 3 submissions were received, 2 member agencies indicated nothing to report, and 3 member agencies were granted extensions.

Action Items:

- ICCOPR representatives should submit their Biennial Report data submissions (or indicate that they have nothing to report) to CDR James and Mr. Michael Lengle (GDIT) as soon as possible.
 - ICCOPR representatives should review the PowerPoint slides (enclosure 8) for clarification on evaluating and answering question #10 in the data call spreadsheet.
 - Revisions to previously submitted data call spreadsheets should be sent to CDR James and Mr. Lengle as soon as possible.
- b. Upcoming ICCOPR Activities and Meetings
 - Mr. Lundgren suggested adding “human health” as a theme for an upcoming ICCOPR meeting. It would also provide ICCOPR an opportunity to solicit input on whether ICCOPR membership/participation would be beneficial to human health agencies. Input could also be incorporated into ICCOPR’s efforts to respond to the GAO audit.

Action Items:

- As a reminder, ICCOPR members should maintain awareness of information needs and initial steps for developing the Research and Technology Plan.
 - ICCOPR representatives should propose additional meeting themes or site visits.
 - Dr. Candi Hudson (BSEE) will begin scoping logistics for a Fire Whirl demonstration and meeting room at the University of Maryland in September 2019.
- c. GAO Audit
 - For general awareness, CDR James reminded ICCOPR members of the need to address and compile information related to the GAO audit.

Action Items:

- None.
9. Closing Comments:
 - Mr. Sligh and Mr. Lundgren thanked ICCOPR representatives for participating in the meeting and encouraged ongoing communication among agencies.
 - The next ICCOPR meeting is tentatively scheduled for September 10, 2019, at the University of Maryland (pending confirmation of site visit and meeting room).

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- Enclosures:
- (1) Meeting Agenda
 - (2) USARC Goals 2019-2020
 - (3) USCG Arctic Policy
 - (4) USCG Arctic Strategy Implementation Plan
 - (5) EPPR Oil Spill R&D Workshop
 - (6) EPPR White Paper: Multi-lateral Coordination on Arctic Oil Pollution R&D
 - (7) State-of-the-Science of Dispersants and Dispersed Oil in U.S. Arctic Waters
 - (8) ICCOPR Business Meeting Brief