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Bulgarian National Oil Pollution Response System

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Country profile



- The Bulgarian Black Sea coast from Romanian to Turkish border is 378 km;
- Three districts along the coastline
- The population in the coastal area amounts to 800,000 people;
- Two major bays - Varna and Bourgas

Ports



- 2 major ports – Varna and Bourgas

- A few smaller ports

2 shipyards in Varna and Bourgas

- 2 big shiprepair yards and a number of small ones

- oil refinery in Bourgas

Resorts

- more than 30 resorts
- extensive sand beaches
- average air temperature in the summer is about 28°C
- water temperature is 25°C

- The largest resorts:

- Golden Sands
- Sunny Beach
- Albena



Legal Basis

International conventions

- **MARPOL 73/78** - International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships, 1973, as modified by the Protocol of 1978 relating thereto
- International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (**OPRC'90**) - 5 April 2001;
- International Convention on Civil Liability for Oil Pollution Damage – **CLC** 1992 - 28 November 2003;
- International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage – **FUND** 1992 - 18 November 2005;

Legal Basis (2)

Regional agreements

- **Bucharest Convention, 1992** - Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution;
- **Odessa Declaration, 1993** - Ministerial Declaration on the Protection of the Black Sea;
- **BS-SAP, 1996** - Strategic Action Plan for the Rehabilitation and Protection of the Black Sea (as amended in 2002 by Ministerial Resolution);
- **Sofia Declaration, 2002** - Declaration of the Ministers of Environment of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Black Sea against Pollution
- **Regional Oil Spill Contingency plan**

Legal Basis (3)

Convention on the Protection of the Black Sea Against pollution (BUCHAREST CONVENTION), 1992;

Objective: "...to prevent, reduce and control the pollution in the Black Sea in order to protect and preserve the marine environment..."

The Convention provides the legal framework for actions concerning regional co-operation in combating marine pollution incidents.

In accordance to the article 9 of the Convention and its Emergency Protocol (Protocol on Cooperation in combating pollution of the Black Sea Marine Environment by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations), the 6th countries in the region participate in a "Regional Contingency Plan for combating oil spills in the Black Sea" (RCP).

Legal Basis (4)

National legislation

- Law on Sea Spaces, Inland Waterways and Ports;
- Crisis Management Law;
- Regulation on Organizing Emergency Mitigation Activities;
- National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

National Contingency Plan

- Developed during 2000 – 2001;
- Approved by Minister of Transport in December 2001;
- “National Contingency Plan On Combat of Oil Spills in the Black Sea”;
- Detailed abstract sent to IMO;
- Part VIII of the National Contingency Plan for protection of the population in case of natural disasters and major industrial accidents.

National Contingency Plan (2)

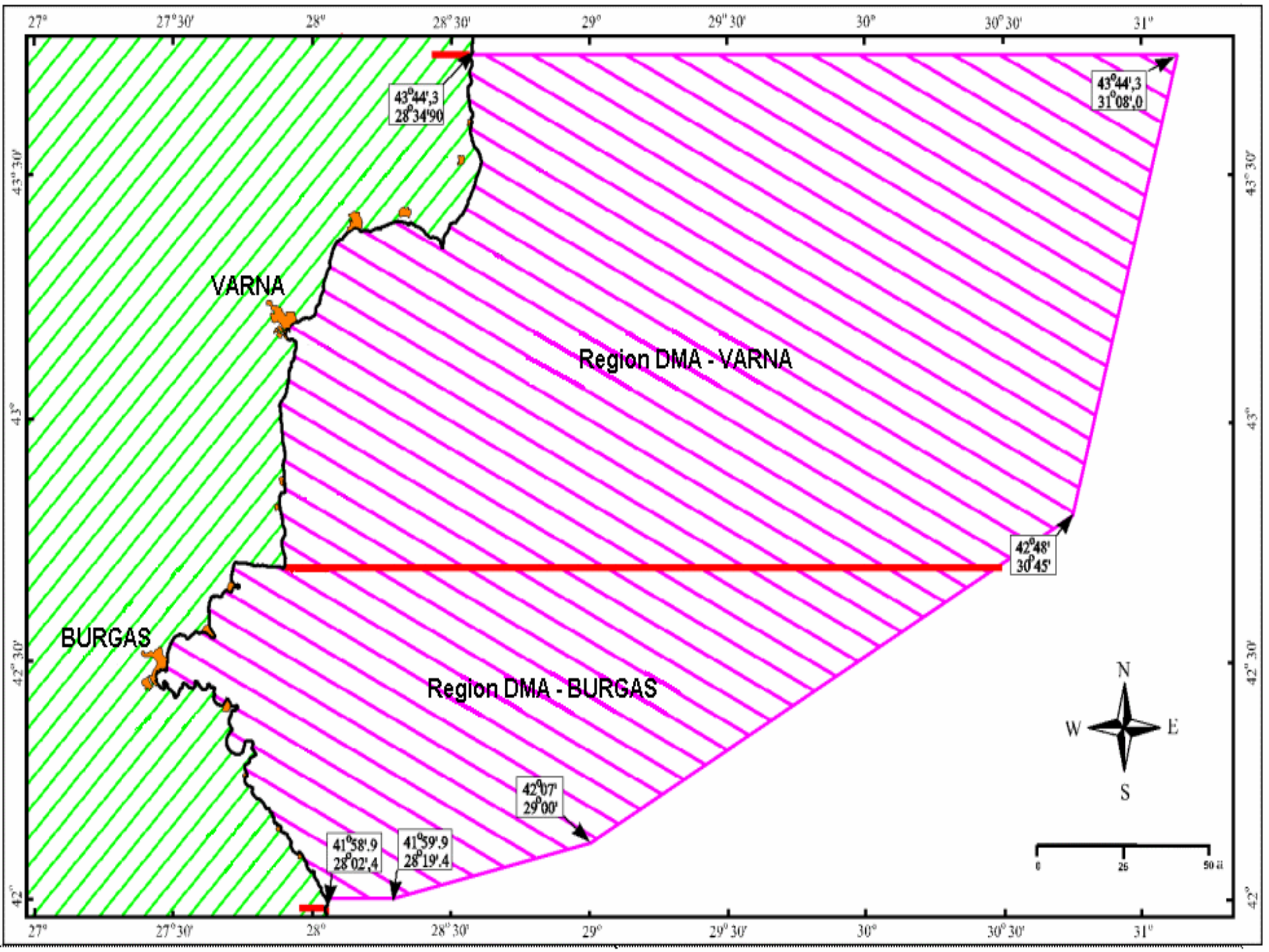
Structure

- 5 chapters
- 59 pages
- 19 annexes
- Developed in compliance with Section II Manual on Oil pollution, Contingency planning, 1995, IMO edition

Scope

Geographical coverage

- **Bulgarian Marine Region of Responsibility for Search and Rescue (BMRRSR);**
- **The boundaries of BMRRSR are determined in 1984 by an act of IMO;**
- **Divided into two regions – North and South.**



Organization and responsibilities

Permanent Commission for Protection of Population in Case of Natural Disasters and Significant Industrial Accidents to the Council of Ministers

- analysing national-level readiness for preventing and mitigating the consequences of disasters and accidents, including oil pollution;
- approving of and organising the execution of programmes, plans and measures for increasing this readiness;
- preparing proposals to the CM for inclusion in the state budget the necessary funds
- activates and deactivates NCP;
- taking decision for requesting international support;

Organization and responsibilities (2)

State Agency Civil Defence

- proposing a National Plan for Civil Defence in Emergencies to the CM;
- co-operating with ministries, departments and territorial units in mitigating, limiting and eliminating the consequences of accidents and disasters;
- responsible for on-shore response activities through Coastal Emergency and Rescue Squadron (CERS)

Organization and responsibilities (3)

Executive Agency Maritime Administration, Ministry of Transport

- organising and carrying out oil spill response activities in the Bulgarian region of the Black Sea;
- conducting off-shore operations through Marine Emergency and Rescue Squadron (MERS);
- carrying out activities for determining the source of pollution and sanctioning offenders if the pollution is caused by navigation.

Organization and responsibilities (4)

Navy, Ministry of Defence

- organising and carrying out radio location surveillance;
- observing oil slicks, including air surveillance;
- fire fighting;
- providing additional communications

Organization and responsibilities (5)

Regional Inspectorates on Environment and Waters, Ministry of Environment and Waters

- organising the monitoring and the supervision of the condition of waters in case of oil pollution;
- carrying out activities for establishing the source of pollution;
- give directions for mitigating of the pollution and its consequences;
- sampling and analysing for determining the extent of environmental pollution;
- carrying out prevention control on potential land based sources of pollution.

Organization and responsibilities (6)

Border Police, Ministry of Interior

- carrying out regular inspections of the purity of sea waters, and in case of pollution inform the relevant institutions;
- rendering assistance to EAMA for arresting vessels

Organization and responsibilities (7)

Ministry of Health

- Hygiene and Epidemiology Inspection Offices take samples of polluted waters and prohibit their use;
- preparing plans/instructions for providing medical assistance in case of activating the respective Contingency Plan.

MERS

Marine Emergency Rescue Squadron

- national coordinator of MERS;
- commander of MERS;
- headquarter of MERS;
- on-scene commander.

Preparedness and planning

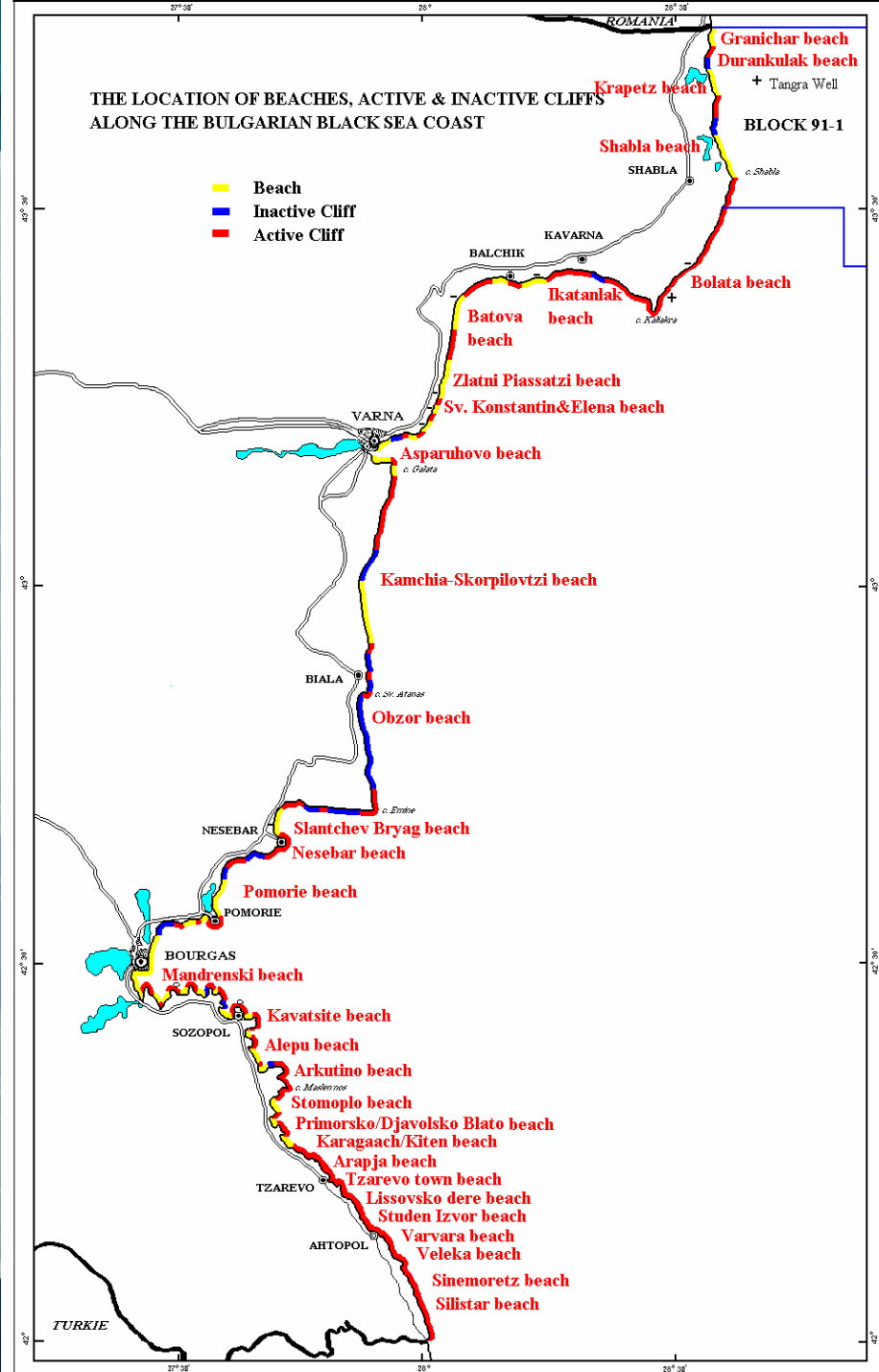
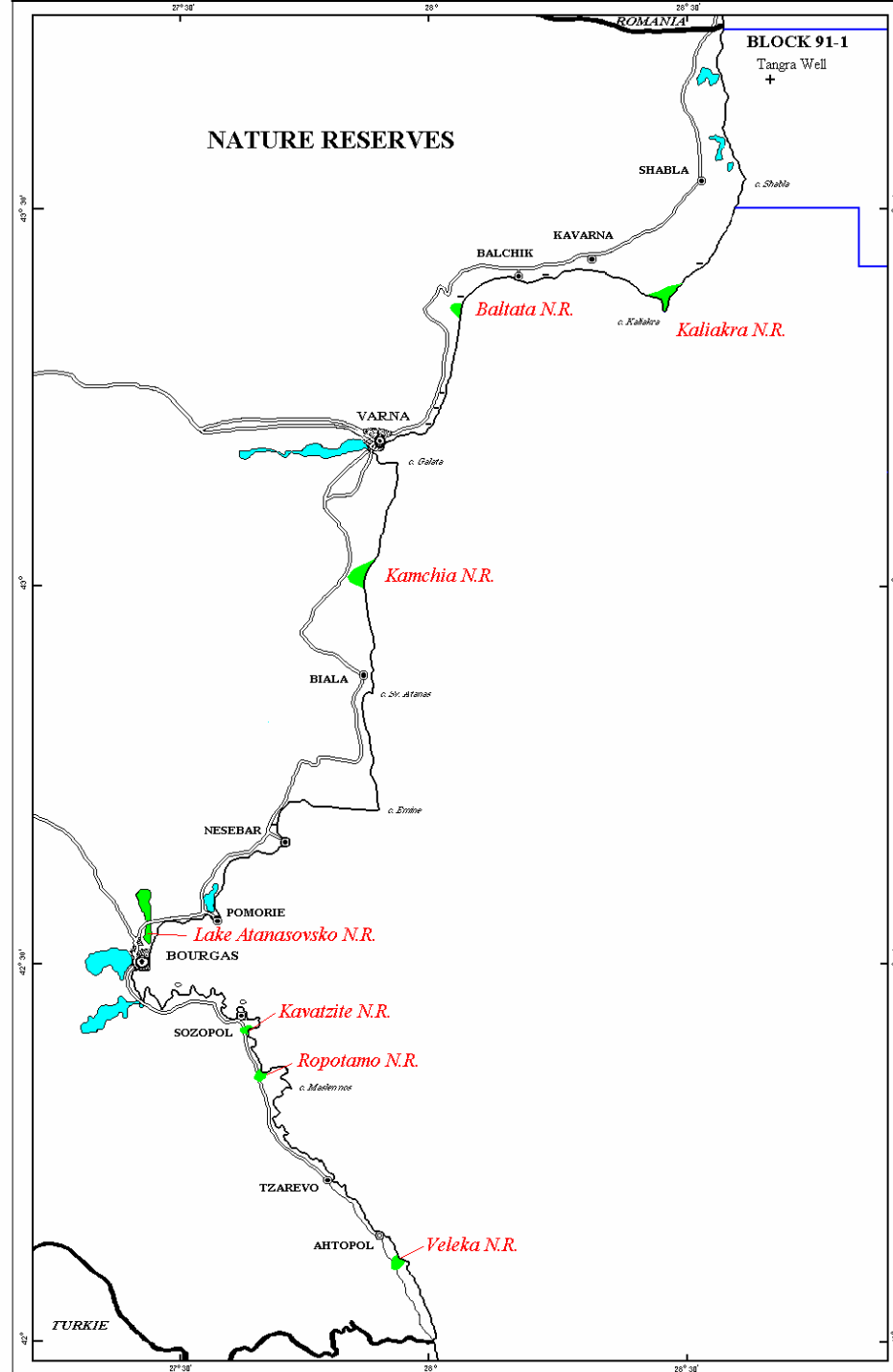
National system for counteraction

- Level 1 – Municipality and industrial/local plans;
- Level 2 – Regional (District) plans;
- Level 3 – National plan.

Preparedness and planning (2)

National priorities for protection

- power plants
- resorts and amenity areas;
- areas for fishing and aquaculture farming;
- ports and marinas;
- natural reserves and protected areas;
- other ecological sensitive areas.



Preparedness and planning (3)

Risk assessment

- the risk of ship collision, grounding, etc.;
- size and the type of vessels;
- areas that pose a high level of difficulty to safe navigation, hazards to navigation, traffic density, trading patterns;
- oil tankers frequency, sizes, shipping patterns and quantities shipped, type/amount of oil carried, properties of oil shipped as cargo;
- location of offshore production and pipeline facilities, amount and properties of oil produced offshore and transported by pipeline;
- location of ports, oil terminals, etc;

Preparedness and planning (4)

Training and exercises

- training on different elements of the NCP- annually. The training concerns communications, alerting, reporting, fire-fighting, etc.
- training to the NCP – every 2 years. The Plan is activated for one specialized team of MERS and/or CERS.
- overall training to the NCP – every 4 years. The Plan is activated for all of the institutions involved.

Response actions

- Reporting and alerting;
- Spill surveillance and assessment;
- Forecasting of the movement of the spill;
- Assessment of the possible contamination of the sensitive zones and protected areas;
- Methods for oil spill combating;
- Temporal and final disposal of recovered oil and oily debris;
- Record keeping;

Response actions (2)

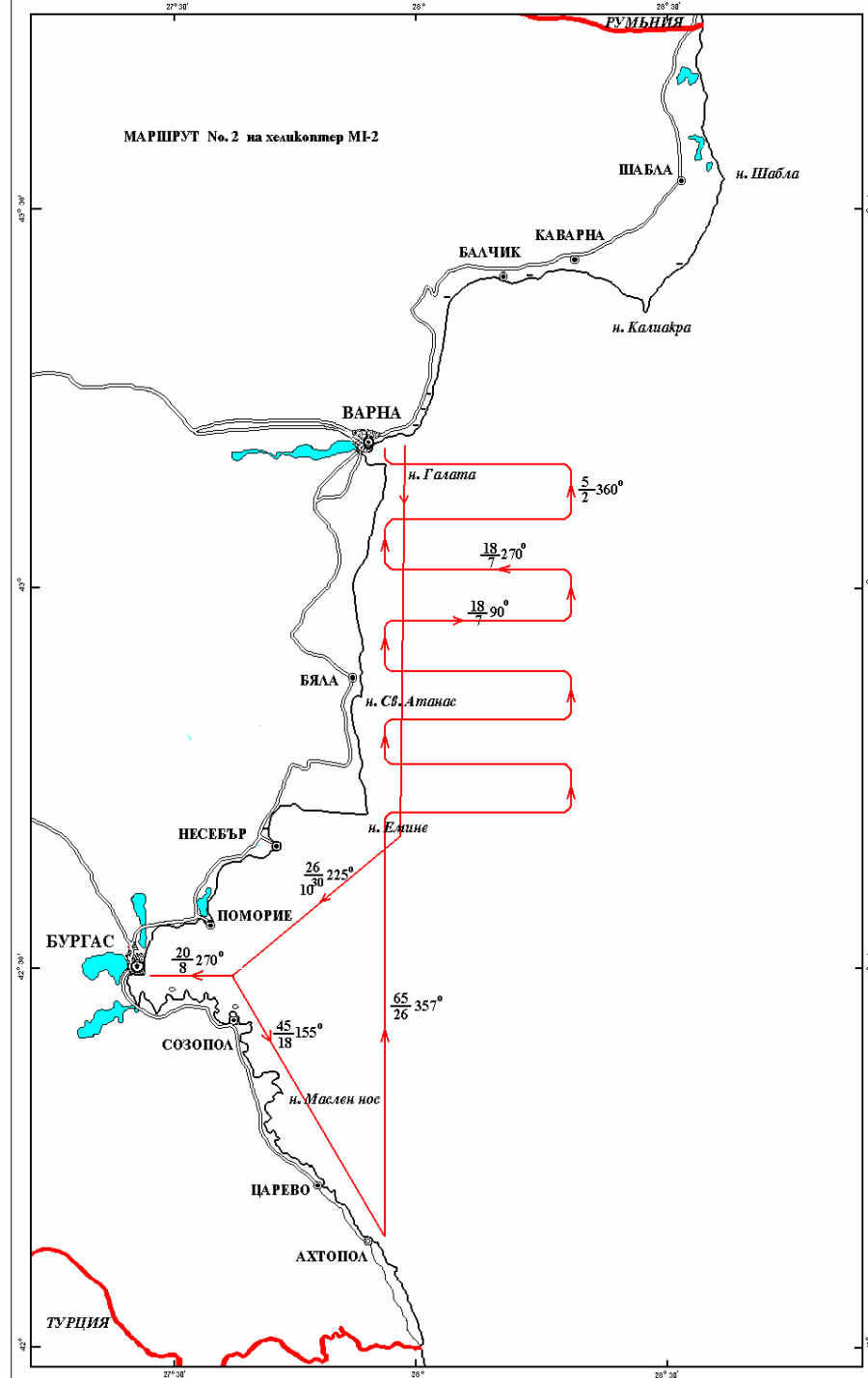
Reporting and alerting

- oil pollution incident shall be reported immediately to MRCC
- as more detailed as possible
- POLREP

Response actions (3)

Spill surveillance

- determining position of the slick – 1 helicopter
- estimation of spill size
- determining the direction of movement
- any other information – natural dispersing, effectiveness of spill response, etc.



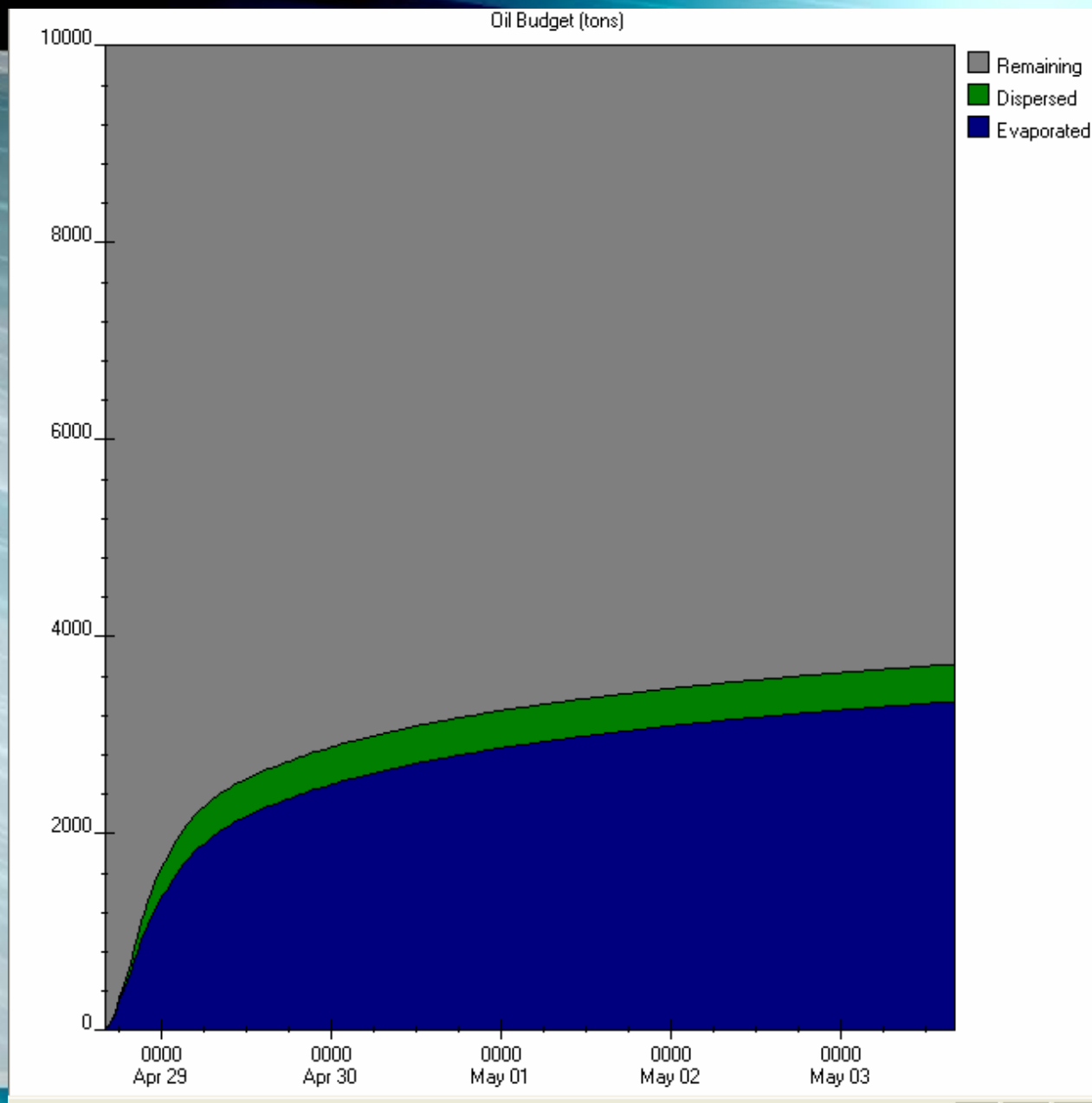
Response actions (4)

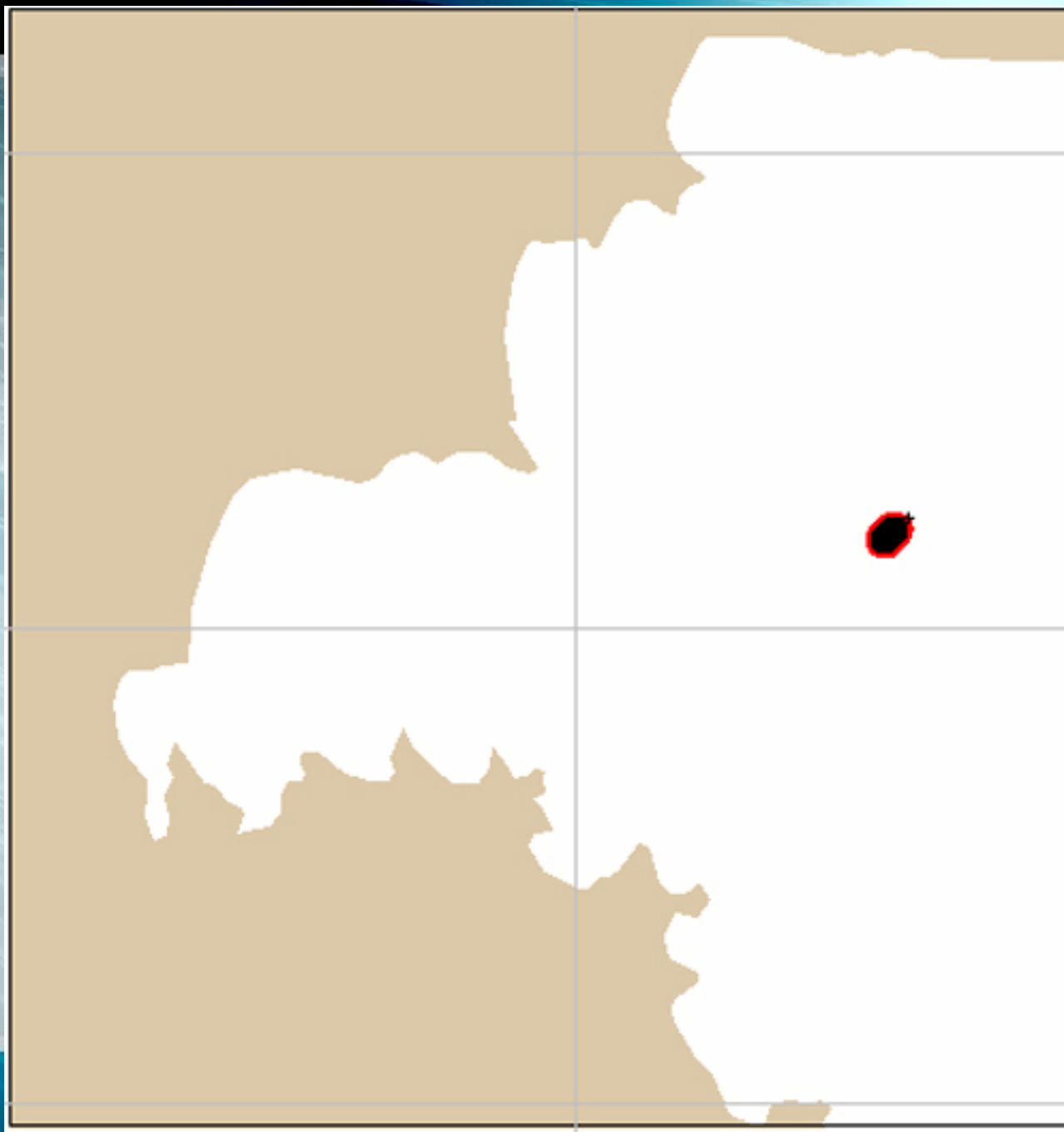
Forecasting movement of the spill

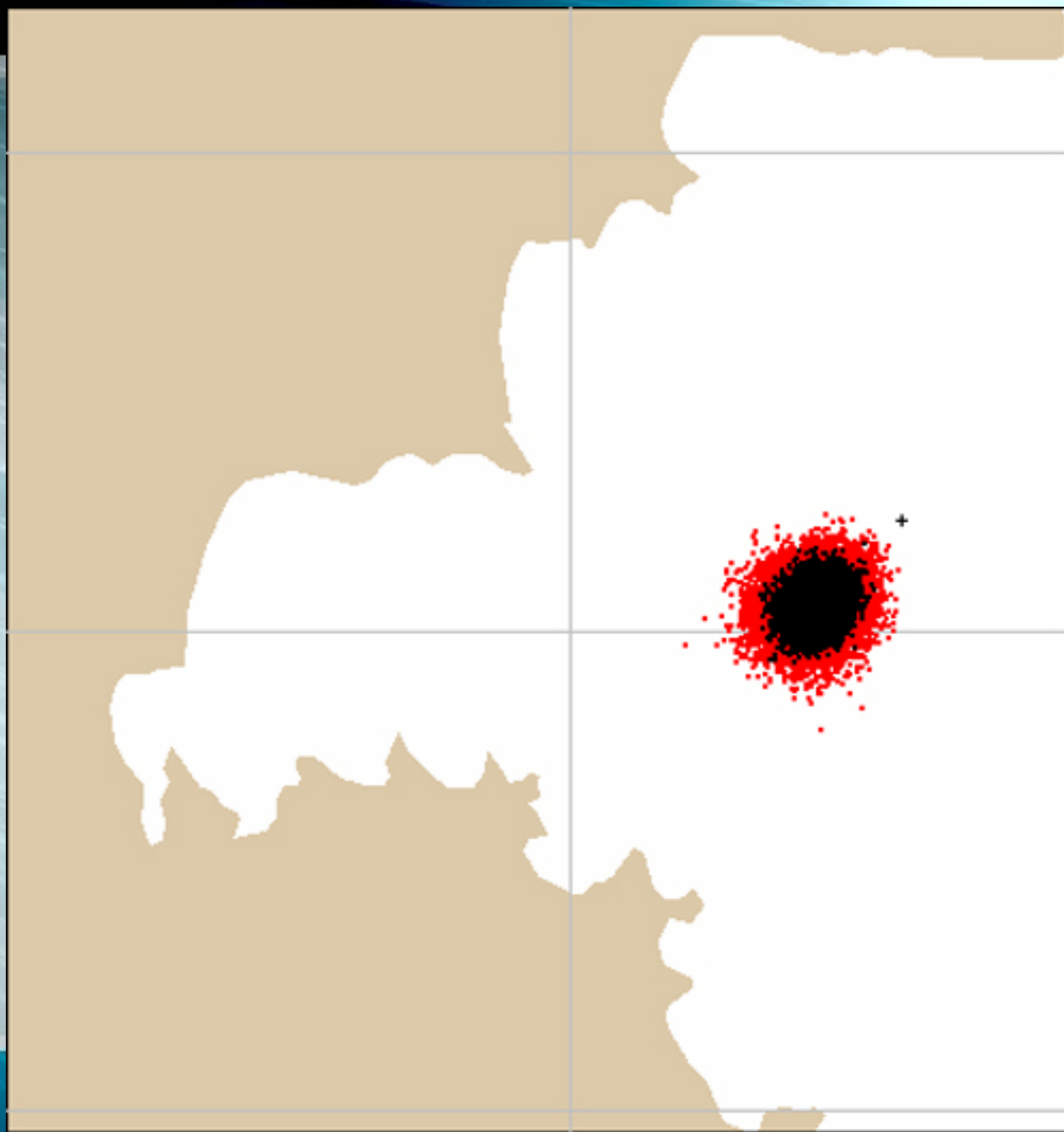
Oil Spill Modeling Software (NOAA)

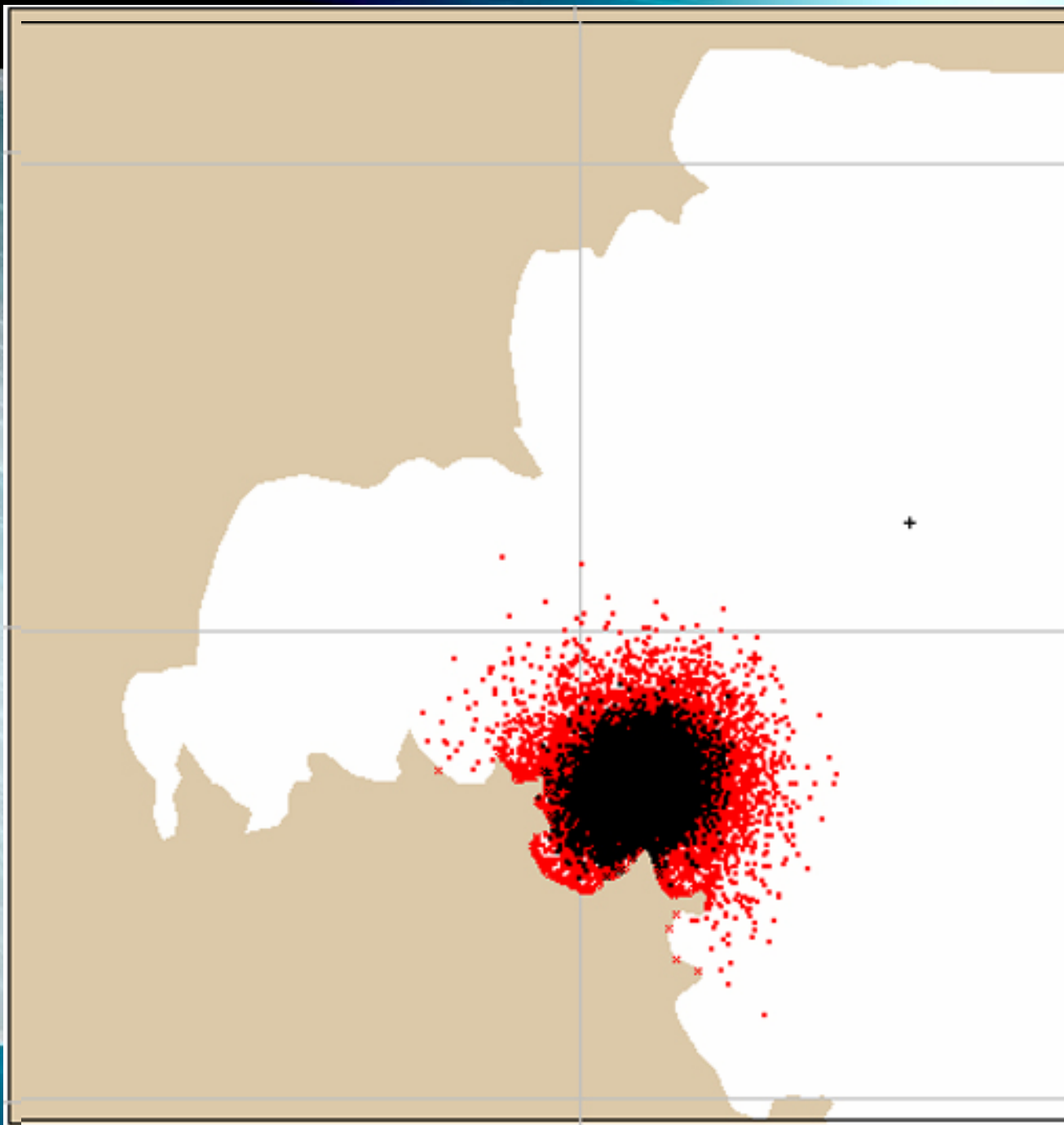
- Adios 2
- CATS
- GNOME
- GNOME Analysis

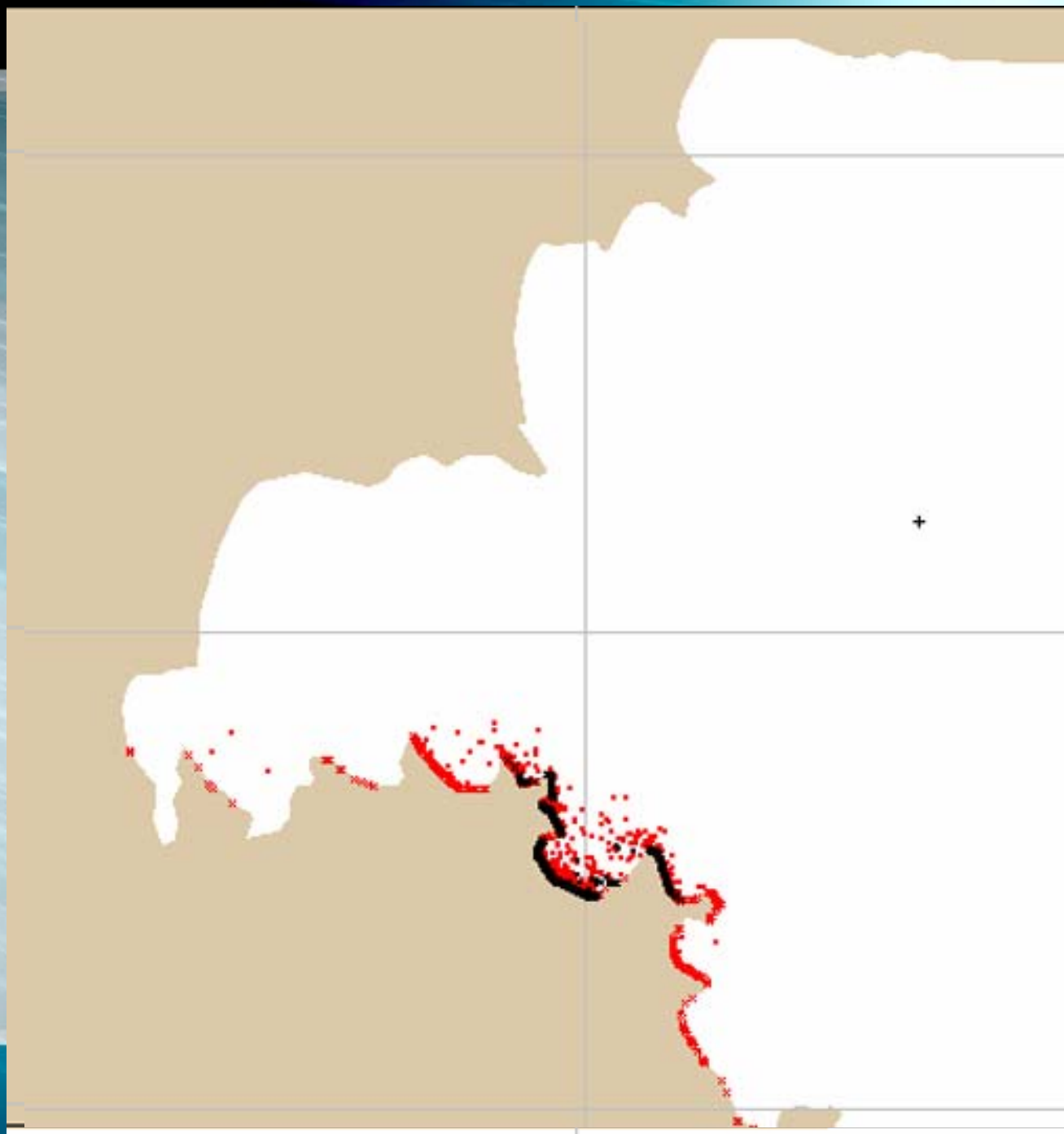
Assessment of the possible contamination of the sensitive zones and protected areas











Response actions (5)

Methods for oil spill combating

- containment and recovering
- dispersant and sorbents
- preserving of protected areas
- on-shore clean-up

Response actions (6)

Inventory

Oil collector ship “Roussalka” – territorial sea

- Oil collecting vessels – 6 – harbour areas
- Storage vessels – 3
- Booms – 2000 m
- Skimmer
- Other – auxiliary vessels – boats, tugs, etc

The existing equipment is suitable for dealing with small oil spills

In case of a medium or big oil spill it is planned assistance to be requested from the other Black Sea countries (in accordance with RCP) and/or OSRL, Southampton, UK

Response actions (7)

Dispersants

- Generally forbidden up to 20 meters depth
- Use of dispersants could be allowed in special circumstances
- Case-by-case co-ordinated with MOEW
- No available stockpile
- No formal methods for testing and approval

Response actions (8)

On-shore clean up

- Civil Defence is responsible for shore clean up
- Local municipality teams
- Equipment available – trucks, fadromas, bulldozers, cranes, etc.

Response actions (8)

Temporal and final disposal of recovered oil and oily debris

- disposal sites determined by MOEW, local authorities, Ministry of Health

Response actions (9)

Record keeping

- strict record keeping of all operations, meteo conditions, equipment used, other events;
- logbook for alerting and reporting – obligatory for MERS, CERS and the OSC;
- logbook for orders and decisions – obligatory for PCPPND-SIA on all levels;
- map for oil spill trajectory – obligatory for the MERS headquarter.

Issues

- Lack of adequate specialized equipment for oil spill response;
- Lack of exercises of personnel;
- OPRC Plans;

Regional Contingency Plan

- The work on contingency planning and emergency response problems in the Black Sea region began in 1994.
- Initial step: Preparation of National Contingency Plans in the 6th coastal states
 - the framework was distributed to all Black Sea countries in 1996
 - (strong support and assistance from IMO – requirements, guidance, theoretical trainings).
- At present all the countries in the Black Sea Black Sea region have their National Oil Spill Contingency Plans that are the basis for the development of a Regional Contingency Plan.

Regional Contingency Plan (2)

- The RCP was approved in 2003 by the Commission on Protection of the Black Sea Against Pollution (Black Sea Commission) and it was **signed in October 2003.**
- "Black Sea Contingency Plan to the Protocol on Cooperation in Combating Pollution of the Black Sea by Oil and Other Harmful Substances in Emergency Situations"
- At present **Bulgaria, Romania and Turkey** are parties to the plan:
- Bulgaria signed the RCP in October 2003.
- It is expected it to be ratified soon by the Parliament.

Regional Contingency Plan (3)

- It was decided that the present RCP, related to response to oil pollution would have to be considered as its Part I – combating pollution by OIL
- The next Part II, related to response to HARMFUL SUBSTANCES other than oil, will be developed on the next stage (2006-2007)

As an interim measure in case of an accident with harmful substances other than oil, the Contracting Parties have agreed that to the extent possible, to apply the requirements for exchange of information between them according to the Communication and Operational principles as set out in Part I of the RCP.

The background is an abstract composition of various geometric elements. It features a series of parallel, slightly curved lines in shades of light blue and white, creating a sense of depth and movement. Overlaid on these are several translucent, wireframe-like cubes and rectangular prisms. The top of the image has a dark blue gradient, while the bottom is a solid, darker blue. The overall effect is modern and technological.

Thank you for your kind attention!