EMSA NEWSLETTER No. 199

EMSA ACADEMY OFFERS FIRST EDITION TO LEARNERS OUTSIDE THE CLASSROOM

EMSA Academy’s e-learning platform includes a comprehensive range of courses that cover a wide range of topics including safety, sustainability, digitalisation and simplification. Experts from EMSA share their knowledge and experience through sessions per day, for up to a maximum of two hours per day from nine weeks, with learners attending one or two live-broadcasting sessions per day. The platform includes a document repository, a recommendation section, and learners can participate in discussions and interact with their peers. EMSA Academy’s e-learning platform offers a flexible learning experience that allows learners to pursue their learning material as well as to the delivery of the course which was

PASCAL PROJECT ON THE REDUCTION OF NOISE IN THE MARITIME ENVIRONMENT

The 11th Pollution Response Services User Group (PRS-UG) HELD ONLINE

During the virtual meeting, EMSA outlined its role in coordinating and facilitating the activities of international and national spill response services. The meeting included a presentation on the benefits of the European Maritime Security Network (EMSNet), which aims to improve coordination between national and international spill response services. The meeting also discussed the importance of establishing clear communication channels to ensure that all stakeholders are aware of the latest developments in the field of oil pollution response. The meeting concluded with the emphasis on the need for continuous improvement and the importance of collaboration between all stakeholders.

EMSA ATTENDS BALLAST WATER EXERCISES IN THE SPAIN AND PORTUGAL BAY

EMSA's participation in the ballast water exchange exercise run by the Spanish Port Authority in Algeciras was aimed at improving the efficiency of the ballast water exchange process and enhancing the effectiveness of Ballast Water Management Plan. EMSA provided technical support and assistance to the exercise, which involved the ballasting and unballasting of vessels and the exchange of ballast water. The exercise also included the use of new technologies and equipment to improve the efficiency of the process. EMSA's participation in the exercise highlighted the importance of collaborating with national and international partners to address the challenges associated with ballast water exchange.

EMSA was invited to observe a Ballast Water Sampling Exercise run by the Spanish Port Authority in Algeciras. This exercise was aimed at improving the effectiveness of ballast water management and reducing the spread of invasive species. EMSA provided technical support and assistance to the exercise, which involved the collection of ballast water samples from vessels and the analysis of the samples in laboratories. The exercise also included the use of new technologies and equipment to improve the accuracy of the sampling process. EMSA's participation in the exercise highlighted the importance of collaborating with national and international partners to address the challenges associated with ballast water management.

PASSENGER SHIP SAFETY: FIELD VISIT TO THE MOUNT AGALLO REPORT

On 10 September, after vessel preparations were complete and the vessel was delivered to EFCA in the port of Piraeus in Greece, the back-up vessel now engaged in fisheries control and surveillance activities, was contacted by the Maritime Surveillance Centre (MSC) in Crete to perform an emergency oil pollution response operation. The vessel performed the emergency oil pollution response operation and, decide whether or not the ship was authorised to discharge oil pollution. The purpose of this exercise was to test the efficiency and effectiveness of the emergency oil pollution response procedure and to ensure that the back-up vessel was prepared to respond to oil pollution incidents in the Aegean Sea. The exercise was successful, and the back-up vessel is now ready to respond to oil pollution incidents in the Aegean Sea.

NON-REGISTERED USERS GOES LIVE

The European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) launched the EU Vessel Tracking Service (VTS) and related IT infrastructure for non-registered users. The purpose of the launch is to enhance the transparency and security of the European Union’s maritime activities. The system is designed to monitor and control vessels, and to provide information to stakeholders, such as law enforcement agencies and customs. The launch of the system is a significant step towards improving the efficiency of the European Union’s maritime activities and ensuring the safety of vessels and the security of the European Union.

STUDY ON INVENTORY OF EXISTING FISHING VESSELS

The study on inventory of existing fishing vessels is an important initiative that aims to reduce the impact on the marine environment. The analysis of the study looks at the implementation of three EU Directives: safety, sustainability, digitalisation and simplification. Experts from 22 EU/EEA member states and the University of Strathclyde provided an update on the state-of-the-art and possible mitigation measures. The study is to be endorsed and then applied by EU agencies and observers from EU maritime administrations and equipment. The study is also further impetus to make progress on the issue within the context of the new European Green Deal. Find out more by visiting the EMSA website.

CONTINUOUS UNDERWATER NOISE STUDY ON INVENTORY OF EXISTING FISHING VESSELS

The study on continuous underwater noise in the context of the new European Green Deal is an important initiative that aims to reduce the impact on the marine environment. The analysis of the study looks at the implementation of three EU Directives: safety, sustainability, digitalisation and simplification. Experts from 22 EU/EEA member states and the University of Strathclyde provided an update on the state-of-the-art and possible mitigation measures. The study is to be endorsed and then applied by EU agencies and observers from EU maritime administrations and equipment. The study is also further impetus to make progress on the issue within the context of the new European Green Deal. Find out more by visiting the EMSA website.

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EMSA DIRECTOR APPEARS IN PERSON BEFORE THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT’S TRANSPORT COMMITTEE ON HIGHLIGHTS OF AGENCY’S WORK IN 2020

On 27 October, Director of EMSA, Ms Marina de Witte, appeared in person before the European Parliament’s Transport Committee on the main activities and achievements of the agency in 2020. Ms de Witte highlighted the significant progress made by EMSA in the field of maritime safety, security and environmental protection. She underlined with its basis in EMSA’s Integrated Maritime Services and, decision on whether the ship was authorised to discharge oil pollution. The purpose of this exercise was to test the efficiency and effectiveness of the emergency oil pollution response procedure and to ensure that the back-up vessel was prepared to respond to oil pollution incidents in the Aegean Sea. The exercise was successful, and the back-up vessel is now ready to respond to oil pollution incidents in the Aegean Sea.

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