

MULTIPURPOSE MARITIME OPERATION 2025 IN LA MANCHE AND THE SOUTHERN NORTH SEA CONCLUDES

The 2025 edition of the Franco-Belgian Multipurpose Maritime Operation (MMO) officially concluded on 23 September with a high-level closing event at the premises of the *Secrétariat Général de la Mer (SG Mer)* in Paris. The event gathered key maritime stakeholders from both France and Belgium, including Xavier Ducept, *Secrétaire Général de la Mer*, and Nathalie Balcaen, CEO of the Maritime and Coastal Services Agency (MDK). Representatives from the participating authorities, EMSA as lead agency, EFCA and Frontex as observer also attended. Running from 28 May to 23 September, the MMO MSNS 2025 focused on one of Europe's busiest maritime zones: La Manche and the Southern North Sea. EMSA delivered a wide-ranging portfolio of maritime safety and surveillance services to support the operation and strengthen national capabilities, including more than 150 RPAS flights in support of joint aerial surveillance for ship emissions monitoring, maritime domain awareness and fisheries control, as well as underwater operations with the ROV service, and satellite imagery via CleanSeaNet. A dedicated operational layer within EMSA's Integrated Maritime Services enabled real-time sharing of data such as vessel positions, behavioural anomalies, and incident reporting. In parallel, EMSA delivered training to ensure that all operational teams were proficient with EMSA's tools and services. During the MMO, the pollution response exercise POLEX 2025 took place, with EMSA's stand-by vessel *Interballast III* joining French and Belgian national assets. A search and rescue exercise and a CISE trial exercise also formed part of the MMO activity.



Delegates from the French and Belgian authorities gather at the closing ceremony of the EMSA-led Multipurpose Maritime Operation in La Manche and the Southern North Sea. ©Benoît GRANIER / Matignon

EMSA PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL COAST GUARD FORA IN ROME

From 9-12 September 2025, EMSA participated in a week of international gatherings hosted by the Italian Coast Guard in the year of its 160th anniversary: the European, Mediterranean and Global Coast Guard Forums. The European Coast Guard Functions Forum (9 September) focused on enhancing cooperation at EU level and developing a common approach to shared maritime challenges. This year's edition took place under EMSA's chairmanship of the Tripartite Working Arrangement on European Coast Guard Cooperation, the framework for collaboration between EMSA, EFCA and Frontex. On 10 September, the Mediterranean Coast Guard Functions Forum (MCGFF) provided a platform for dialogue among institutions and operational agencies in the region. EMSA highlighted its role in particular through the EU-funded SAFEMED programme supporting capacity building and cooperation among Mediterranean partners. The 4th Coast Guard Global Summit (11-12 September) concluded the week, co-chaired by the Italian and Japanese Coast Guards. With participants from more than 120 countries and 40 international organisations, discussions addressed navigational safety, environmental protection, maritime domain awareness, decarbonisation and alternative fuels, as well as emerging threats such as cyber risks and shadow fleets.



The Executive Director of EMSA, Maja Markovčić Kostelac, led the EMSA delegation at the Coast Guard Fora events in Rome.

19TH CONSULTATIVE TECHNICAL GROUP FOR MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE (CTG MPPR) MEETING AT EMSA

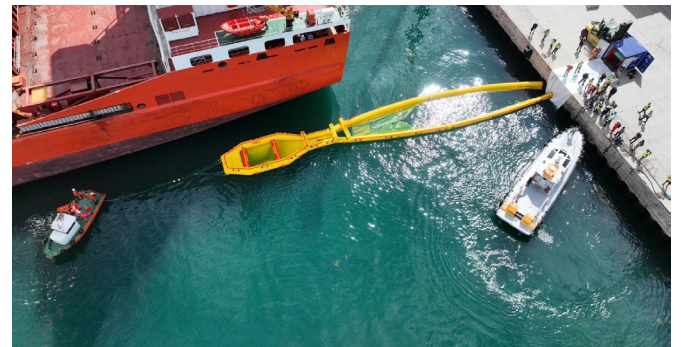
Marine pollution response experts from EU and EEA coastal states and the European Commission gathered at EMSA headquarters and online on 10–11 September for the 19th meeting of the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (CTG MPPR). On the first day, a dedicated consultation workshop was held, focusing on technical discussions around the evolution of EMSA's pollution response services. The aim was to explore how the existing toolbox can be adapted to remain future-proof and effectively address emerging challenges and environmental risks. The second day was dedicated to reviewing relevant national and EU-level operational and R&D developments. The group also discussed the CTG MPPR work programme, which is designed to foster the exchange of experience and strengthen collective knowledge on marine pollution response actions of common interest.



The CTG MPPR meeting gathered delegates from all over the EU at EMSA's headquarters

OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE IN TÜRKİYE

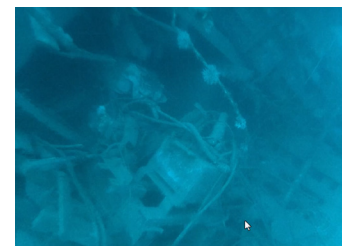
In the context of the EU financed project BCSEA II, EMSA organised an oil pollution response exercise which took place from 15 to 17 September 2015 in Türkiye. Participants from the BCSEA II, SAFEMED V and IPA project implemented by the Agency were invited to attend. The three-day exercise aimed to familiarise participants with the theoretical and practical aspects of an oil pollution response operation, including the use of oil pollution response equipment, and to enhance cooperation between the EMSA and national oil pollution response means. EMSA's chartered oil spill response vessel Aktea II took part in the exercise, and the EMSA Equipment Assistance Service equipment system from the EMSA stockpile in Varna, Bulgaria was also deployed.



The oil pollution response exercise organised by EMSA gets underway

UNDERWATER SERVICES USER GROUP MEETING AT EMSA

The second Underwater Services (UWS) User Group meeting was held at EMSA on 16 September 2025. Member State authorities shared feedback on the current ROV service provided by EMSA in support of accident investigations and the Coast Guard community, and discussed topics related to underwater surveys. The Agency also presented the forthcoming next-generation UWS which will significantly enhance the service portfolio offered to Member States.



EMSA's ROV service in action underwater

emsa.europa.eu

VACANCIES: Reserve List for an Officer - Integrated Maritime Traffic Services (07/10/2025); Reserve List for an Officer - Maritime Security (09/10/2025); Reserve List for an Officer - Sustainability (Alternative Fuels) (09/10/2024); Reserve List for an Officer - Pollution Response (Alternative Fuels) (23/10/2025) See website for more.

PROCUREMENT: THETIS Enhancement and Maintenance (06/10/2025), EMSA Housing/Hosting Services for a Business Continuity Datacentre (08/10/2025), Study on the application of Risk Based Assessment Tool (RBAT) to alternative fuels technologies (13/10/2025), Interpretation services (23/09/2025), Study on the application of Risk Based Assessment Tool (RBAT) to alternative fuels technologies (13/10/2025), Service contracts for oil spill recovery vessel(s): Northern Baltic Sea (20/10/2025). See website for more.