

Salcombe Harbour Board - 19 October 2004**BOOMING EXERCISE AND OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE TRAINING 22-23 November 2004****Report by the Salcombe Harbour Master**

Statutory Powers: The Pier and Harbour Order (Salcombe) Confirmation Act 1954

Financial Implications:- None for the purpose of this report.

Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to inform Members that Salcombe Harbour will play host to an oil pollution exercise on 22 & 23 November 2004. The Maritime Coastguard Agency and Devon County Council who are organising the event will be supported by a number of government agencies to test the existing booming plan.
2. The Salcombe Harbour Authority has been asked to play a supportive role as it would if an oil pollution incident occurred for real.
3. The two day event is linked to CP 6 – ‘the improvement of core services in a cost-effective way’.

Recommendation

That the Board RESOLVES:-

- (i) to note the report.
- (ii) Members who wish to observe the training exercise to register their interest with the Harbour Master.

Background

4. This 2-day training exercise forms part of Devon County Council's and the Maritime Coastguard Agency's (MCA) commitment to provide training to officers of Local Authorities likely to be involved in the shoreline response to a shipping incident off the Devon coast. Salcombe has been chosen to host the next exercise due to lobbying by the Harbour Master. It has been 12 years since the plan was last exercised.
6. The configuration that is now being suggested for the boom alters from that which was agreed in 1992 and the exercise will provide an opportunity to test the theory that the altered location of the anchor point will produce a better result.

7. The event is open to all Devon Local Authorities, statutory agencies and other organisations that may be involved in a Tier 2 or Tier 3 incident. It is important that plans are regularly exercised to ensure that they meet up to date thinking and are updated as improvements to equipment occur. With regard to Salcombe Harbour, a number of key personnel were not employed in 1992 and therefore it will be an important familiarisation exercise.
8. Should any member wish to observe the deployment of the boom on day two, they are welcome to do so and should register their interest with the Harbour Master.

Risk Assessment

9. The threat of an oil spill at sea affecting the coastline and estuaries of the South Hams is real and the potential damage that could be caused to the environment would have severe consequences for the community. With the relevant agencies working together at regular intervals to test plans and equipment the threat from pollution will be minimised.

Human Rights Act

10. There are no obvious human rights issues arising from this report, other than the right to life, which could be threatened by inadequate preparation to deal with certain events.

Conclusion

11. Salcombe has been chosen by the MCA and Devon County to play host to a oil pollution training exercise and boom deployment on 22-23 November 2004. Since it has been well over a decade since the existing oil pollution plan was exercised it will be an ideal opportunity for the relevant organisations and Council staff to get involved.

Stephen Tooke
Harbour Master

Salcombe Harbour Board
19 October 2004

Paula Brooks
Strategic Director, Operations

Background Documents

Environment Agency Sercombe Kingsbridge Estuary Booming Response Plan 1992.