

Report of BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012 EXERCISE

(14.12.2012)

Introduction.

According to the Black Sea Contingency Plan (Annex IX - Long term plan for Oil Spill Exercises) and the decisions of the 20th ESAS AG meeting (11-13 October 2011) Georgia was responsible for conducting the Black Sea BRAVO Exercise in the second decade of December 2012.

MRCC Georgia on behalf of Georgia has arranged and conducted a quarterly Black Sea BRAVO Exercise in 14 of December 2012.

The goal of the exercise was to test the agreed procedures and lines of communication (e-mail, fax, telephone) for reporting, requesting and providing assistance, and to get a picture of the current response readiness of the Black Sea Contracting Parties when called to assist.

The following entities participated in the exercise:

1. MRCC Ankara (Turkey);
2. MRCC Constanta (Romania);
3. MRCC Varna (Bulgaria);
4. MRCC Odessa (Ukraine);
5. ERAC Varna;
6. BS Commission PS;
7. MRCC Novorossiysk (Russia);
8. SMRCC Moscow (Russia).

1. SCENARIO:

On the 14th of December 2013, at 06:00 UTC Oil Product tanker "UNITED BANNER" (flag Greece, TDW: 73584, LOA 228,6 m, IMO No. 9307097, Call sign SVAJ8) which sailed from Batumi port oil terminal was loaded with Azeri Crude oil, in position 41° 46.8' N ; 041° 22.4' E, offshore collided with the Ro-Ro vessel "SEBNEM" .

As a result of collision, Oil Product tanker "UNITED BANNER" had a serious tear, crude oil spilled into the sea. No damage in Ro-Ro vessel "SEBNEM". DISTRESS signal was received by MRCC Georgia in Batumi from both ships at VHF channel 16 and collision position determined from VHF DSC.

Approximately 350 tons of AZER light crude oil has been spilled at sea from Oil Product tanker "UNITED BANNER".

Weather condition:

- Wind direction and speed - NE 10.0 knots;
- Current - 112.5° - 2.0 knots;
- Sea state and visibility - Wave height 0.7 m, visibility 3-5 Nm.

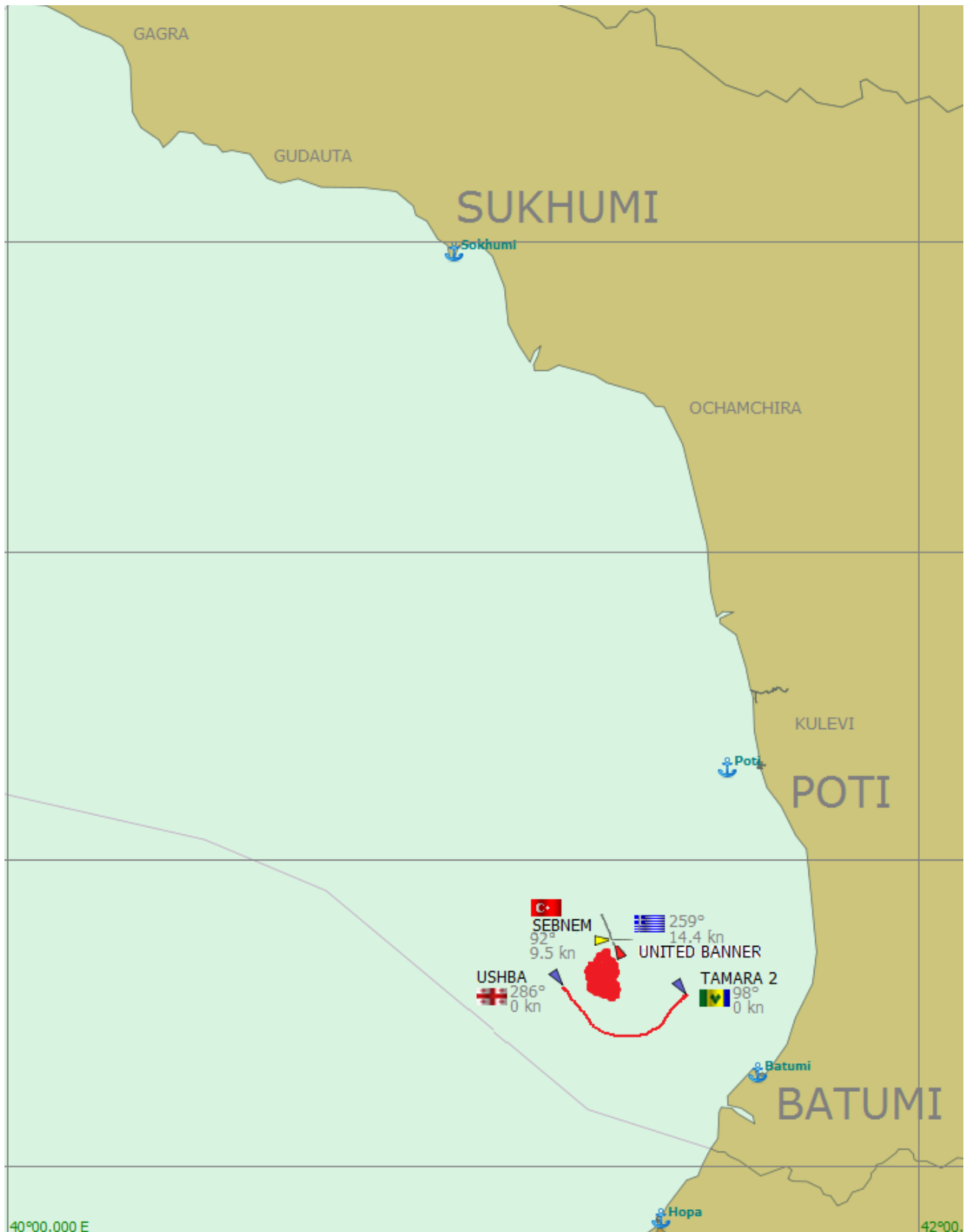
Characteristics of pollution - AZER light crude oil; density 0,8503 g/cm³; viscosity 8,31 cSt at 20°C, API:31,1. Pour point: 2 °C, density 0,840-0,864 g/cm³;

The National Marine Oil Spill contingency plan was activated; National On-Scene Commander was a head of MRCC.

This report includes all information gathered during the exercise as:

1. Scenario;
2. First Announcement of conduct of BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012 EXERCISE;
3. Texts of messages send;
4. Summary table message;
5. Notes;
6. Proposals;
7. Conclusion.

Position of Incident



2. First Announcement of conduct of BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012 EXERCISE

საქართველოს
ეკონომიკისა და მდგრადი
ბანკითარების სამინისტრო

სახელვაო ტრანსპორტის
სააგენტოს

სახელვაო სამაშველო საკოორდინაციო
ცენტრი



MINISTRY OF ECONOMY
AND SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT OF GEORGIA

MARITIME TRANSPORT
AGENCY

MARITIME RESCUE COORDINATION
CENTER

№ 01-08-001

„ 10 „ 12 2012წ.

From: MRCC Georgia.

To: BSC Permanent Secretariat;
MRCC of BS Littoral States.

Subject: BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012 Exercise.

Dear colleagues,

According to the Black Sea Contingency Plan (Annex IX - Long term plan for Oil Spill Exercises) and the decisions of the 20th ESAS AG meeting (11-13 October 2011) MRCC Georgia will conduct the BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012 exercise 13-14 of December 2012.

Exercise will run and end during working hours. The main way of communication will be e-mail and fax, with an option for confirmation receiving. Time should be stated as GMT.

The aim of this exercise is to test the agreed procedures and lines of communication for reporting, requesting and providing assistance, and to get a picture of the current response readiness of the Contracting Parties when called to assist. The exercise further aims at familiarizing the personnel with the use and national handling of the adopted POLREP reporting form.

After the termination of exercise the participating Contracting Parties must submit a report containing the time reception and transmission of reports and evaluations of the MRCC Georgia. MRCC GEORGIA should compile this information in a report, which should be sent to the BSC Permanent Secretariat for further circulation to other Contracting Parties in order to have the report presented and discussed at the 21th ESAS AG meeting (January 2013).

Yours sincerely,

Avtandil Gegenava
Head of MRCC Georgia

3. Texts of Messages Send by MRCC Georgia

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

POLREP (Exercise BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012)

Introductory Part				
Addresses Georgia Maritime Transport Agency Batumi Ninoshvili st. 23 Georgia	From:	MRCC Georgia	Faxes 995 422 27 39 05	E-mails mrcc@mta.gov.ge
	To:	MRCC Bulgaria	359 52 603 265	mrcc_vn@marad.bg
		MRCC Romania	40 241 60 60 65	mrcc@rna.ro
		MRCC Russia	7 861 767 64 20	od_smrcc@morflot.ru mrcc3@ampnovo.ru
			7 861 761 94 24	
			7 495 623 74 76 7 495 626 13 46	
		MRCC Turkey	90 312 232 08 23	trmrcc@denizcilik.gov.tr
SE "MSRS" Ukraine	380 48 777 66 10	mrcc_ukraine@sar.gov.ua		
Cc: ERAC Varna BSC ESAS	359 52 633563 90 212 299 29 44	erac_temp@abv.bg secretariat@blacksea-commission.org valeria.abaza@blacksea-commission.org		
Date Time Group		14.12.2012 0600UTC		
Identification		POLREP BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012		
Serial Number		GE BRAVO 1		
Part I POLWARN				
1	Date and time	1	14.12.2012 0600UTC	
2	Position	2	41° 46.8' N ; 041° 22.4' E	
3	Incident	3	Collision between oil product tanker and Ro-Ro vessel	
4	Outflow	4	350 tones, AZER light crude oil	
5	Acknowledge	5	Acknowledge	

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

POLREP (Exercise BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012)

Introductory Part				
Address: Georgian Maritime Transport Agency Batumi 6000 Ninoshvili st.23 Georgia	From:	MRCC Georgia	Faxes 995 422 27 39 05 E-mails mrcc@mta.gov.ge	
	To:	MRCC Bulgaria	359 52 603 265	mrcc_vn@marad.bg
		MRCC Romania	40 241 60 60 65	mrcc@rna.ro
		MRCC Russia	7 861 767 64 20	od_smrcc@morflot.ru
			7 861 761 94 24	mrcc3@ampnovo.ru
			7 495 623 74 76	
		MRCC Turkey	90 312 232 08 23	trmrcc@denizcilik.gov.tr
SE "MSRS" Ukraine	380 48 777 66 10	mrcc_ukraine@sar.gov.ua		
Cc: ERAC Varna BSC ESAS	359 52 633563 90 212 299 29 44	erac_temp@abv.bg secretariat@blacksea-commission.org valeria.abaza@blacksea-commission.org		
Date Time Group		14.12.2012 0648UTC		
Identification		POLREP BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012		
Serial Number		GE BRAVO 2		
Part II POLINF				
40	Date and time	40	14.12.2012 0648UTC	
41	Position	41	41° 46.8' N ; 041° 22.4' E Size of the spill: 2.1 km long and 1 km wide	
42	Characteristics of pollution	42	AZER light crude oil; density 0,8503 g/cmc; viscosity 8,31 cSt at 20°C, API:31,1	
43	Source and cause of pollution	43	Source: Oil Products tanker "UNITED BANNER" (flag Greece, TDW:73584, LOA 228,6 m, IMO No. 9307097, Call sign SVAJ8)	
44	Wind direction and speed	44	NE 10.0 knots	
45	Current	45	112.5° - 2.0 knots	
46	Sea state and visibility	46	Wave height 0.7 m, visibility 3-5 Nm	
47	Drift of pollution	47	130° - 2.1 knots	
48	Forecast	48	Expected to reach Chorokhi river after approx. 6.1 hours and after 8-9 hours of cross-border Turkish coast	
49	Identity of observer and ships on scene	49	Observer: Coast Guard Department (three highspeed boats), Ministry of Defense (helicopter), Batumi Sea Port Ltd (Tug) "USHBA"	
50	Action taken	50	Georgian National Contingency Plan Activated.	
51	Photographs or samples	51	Photos and samples taken of the spill.	
52	Names of other States informed	52	States – parties to the Black Sea Regional Contingency Plan, PS-BSC and ERAC.	
53	Spare	53	Results of laboratory analyzes oil samples: type of oil – AZER light, pour point: 2 °C, density 0,840-0,864 g/cmc; viscosity 8,4-9 cSt at 20°C	
55	Spare	55	No SAR operations needed	
56	Spare	56	Black Sea Contingency Plan activated. Lead country – Georgia.	
60	Acknowledge	60	Acknowledge	

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

POLREP (Exercise BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012)

Introductory Part					
Address: Georgian Maritime Transport Agency Batumi 6000 Ninoshvili st.23 Georgia	From:	MRCC Georgia	Faxes	E-mails	
				995 422 27 39 05	mrcc@mta.gov.ge
	To:	MRCC Bulgaria	359 52 603 265		mrcc_vn@marad.bg
		MRCC Romania	40 241 60 60 65		mrcc@rna.ro
		MRCC Russia	7 861 767 64 20		od_smrcc@morflot.ru
			7 861 761 94 24		mrcc3@ampnovo.ru
			7 495 623 74 76		
		7 495 626 13 46			
MRCC Turkey	90 312 232 08 23		trmrcc@denizcilik.gov.tr		
SE "MSRS" Ukraine	380 48 777 66 10		mrcc_ukraine@sar.gov.ua		
Cc: ERAC Varna BSC ESAS	359 52 633563 90 212 299 29 44		erac_temp@abv.bg secretariat@blacksea-commission.org valeria.abaza@blacksea-commission.org		
Date Time Group			14.12.2012 0755UTC		
Identification			POLREP BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012		
Serial Number			GE BRAVO 3		
Part III POLFAC					
80	Date and time	80	14.12.2012 0755UTC		
81	Request for assistance	81	Georgia need assistance from Turkey for equipment's: - beach cleaning equipment - storage barges - transfer pumps and hoses - skimmers suitable for Azer light crude oil characteristics - offshore booms - one boom lying vessel		
82	Cost	82	Georgia asked Turkey to inform about daily rates (for stand-by and in-use) for requested equipment's.		
83	Pre-arrangements for the delivery of assistance	83	Georgia provides customs clearance and free access to its territorial waters of the requested equipment.		
84	To where assistance should be rendered and how	84	Turkish support equipment's/ships are expected at Port of Batumi, where further instructions shall be given by NOSC (ch. 16 and work ch. 06).		
85	Names of other States requested	85	No other request		
86	Change of command	86	Not required		
87	Exchange of information	87	All copies of documents from Georgian NOSC will be given to Turkey NOSC when transfer occurs.		
88	Spare	88	-		
99	Acknowledge	99	Acknowledge		

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

EXERCISE EXERCISE EXERCISE

POLREP (Exercise BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012)

Introductory Part				
Addresses Georgia Maritime Transport Agency Batumi Ninoshvili st. 23 Georgia	From:	MRCC Georgia	Faxes	E-mails
			995 422 27 39 05	mrcc@mta.gov.ge
	To:	MRCC Bulgaria	359 52 603 265	mrcc_vn@marad.bg
		MRCC Romania	40 241 60 60 65	mrcc@rna.ro
		MRCC Russia	7 861 767 64 20 7 861 761 94 24 7 495 623 74 76 7 495 626 13 46	od_smrcc@morflot.ru mrcc3@ampnovo.ru
		MRCC Turkey	90 312 232 08 23	trmrcc@denizcilik.gov.tr
		SE "MSRS" Ukraine	380 48 777 66 10	mrcc_ukraine@sar.gov.ua
		Cc: ERAC Varna BSC ESAS	359 52 633563 90 212 299 29 44	erac_temp@abv.bg secretariat@blacksea-commission.org valeria.abaza@blacksea-commission.org
Date Time Group			14.12.2012 0835UTC	
Identification			POLREP BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012	
Serial Number			GE BRAVO 4	
PART IV END of Exercise				

Dear colleagues,

This is announcing the END of the Black Sea BRAVO GE BRAVO 3/2012 EXERCISE.

Thank you for prompt co-operation.

Please, you are kindly asked to fill in attached form to make conclusion of held exercise and send results to MRCC Georgia and Black Sea Commission for further proceeding.

POLREP (Exercise)

Black Sea BRAVO GE BRAVO 3/2012 EXERCISE – 14.12.2012

FINAL REPORT TO THE LEAD STATE

	BY FAX		BY E-MAIL	
	Time of receipt (UTC)	Time of acknowledge (UTC)	Time of receipt (UTC)	Time of acknowledge (UTC)
POLWARN				
POLINF				
POLFAC				
END - message				

Comments:

4. Summary Table Messages

TIME (UTC)

PART I POLWARN

Time		Send		Acknowledgement	
		e-mail	fax	e-mail	fax
06:00					
	MRCC - Russia	06:00	06:02	06:01	06:19
	MRCC - Bulgaria	06:00	No Dial Tone	06:04	No Akno.
	ERAC - Bulgaria	06:00	N Not Correct	07:34	-----
	MRCC - Ukraine	06:00	06:04	No Akno.	07:18
	MRCC - Romania	06:00	No Dial Tone	06:22	No Akno.
	MRCC - Turkey	06:00	06:10	06:08	06:24
	BSC PS	06:00	06:12	07:56	No Akno.

PART II POLINF

Time		Send		Acknowledgement	
		e-mail	fax	e-mail	fax
06:48					
	MRCC - Russia	06:48	06:52	06:49	07:00
	MRCC - Bulgaria	06:48	No Dial Tone	06:58	No Akno.
	ERAC - Bulgaria	06:48	N Not Correct	07:36	-----
	MRCC - Ukraine	06:48	07:18	No Akno.	07:30
	MRCC - Romania	06:48	No Dial Tone	07:02	No Akno.
	MRCC - Turkey	06:48	07:04	06:57	No Akno.
	BSC PS	06:48	07:07	07:59	No Akno.

PART III POLFAC

Time		Send		Acknowledgement	
		e-mail	fax	e-mail	fax
07:55					
	MRCC - Russia	07:55	07:56	07:56	08:07
	MRCC - Bulgaria	07:55	No Dial Tone	07:59	No Akno.
	ERAC - Bulgaria	07:55	N Not Correct	08:18	-----
	MRCC - Ukraine	07:55	08:14	No Akno.	08:21
	MRCC - Romania	07:55	No Dial Tone	08:03	No Akno.
	MRCC - Turkey	07:55	08:06	08:01	No Akno.
	BSC PS	07:55	08:16	08:01	No Akno.

PART IV END

Time		Send		Acknowledgement	
		e-mail	fax	e-mail	fax
08:35					
	MRCC - Russia	08:35	08:36	08:50	08:52
	MRCC - Bulgaria	08:35	No Dial Tone	08:52	No Akno.
	ERAC - Bulgaria	08:35	N Not Correct	10:54	-----
	MRCC - Ukraine	08:35	08:37	No Akno.	08:49
	MRCC - Romania	08:35	No Dial Tone	08:47	No Akno.
	MRCC - Turkey	08:35	08:39	08:53	No Akno.
	BSC PS	08:35	08:41	08:51	No Akno.

5. NOTES

- The main goal of the exercise was to test the agreed procedures and lines of communication (e-mail, fax, telephone) for reporting, requesting and providing assistance, and to get a picture of the current response readiness of the Black Sea Contracting Parties when called to assist- but not all fax confirmation were received from BS countries;
- Only MRCC Russia confirm all Polrep messages by e-mail and fax;
- Send to MRCC Bulgaria and MRCC Romania Fax-messages it was impossible;
- Fax number ERAC Varna is not correct;
- From MRCC Turkey we received only one confirmation (POLWARN) by fax;
- MRCC Ukraine has been problem with communication to e-mail and we received all Polrep messages confirmation only by fax;

6. PROPOSALS

- Most of all confirmation we received only by email, in spite of the fact that we sent Polrep messages to all the Black Sea countries by e-mail and fax. In future it is necessary to decide the issue of using the fax;
- From MRCC Turkey we received the following information: "We arrange: 1 multi-purpose offshore vessel; 2 boom laying vessel and oil spill combat equipment; 2 Skimmer of an appropriate type for heavy fuel oil; Transfer pumps and hoses; 1 sea slug, storage barges and portable containers from Trabzon Port; All national bodies are on stand by and ready for immediate departure; Approximate time to reach incident position more than one day if weather permits" – but it would be good specify daily rates for;
- Until the next BLACK SEA BRAVO EXERCISE it is necessary know who is responsible from Ukraine the oil spill responses and address where must be send Polrep messages.

7. CONCLUSIONS

- Any MRCC from Black Sea countries have to involve all personnel in BRAVO exercises, everybody should become familiar with the rules established in Black Sea Region marine Spill Response Exercise Manual, in order to be well prepared for real incidents;
- In general - BLACK SEA GE BRAVO 3/2012 EXERCISE has passed successfully. The agreed procedures and lines of communications have been tested. All participants expressed their satisfaction with scenario and organization of exercises.