



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE

Oil Spill Responses: New Zealand's experience

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Rebecca Barnes-Clarke
New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

Since 1990

- 1998 ***Don Wong 529*** – Stewart Island (with 400 tonnes of automotive gas oil spilled)
- 1999 ***Rotoma*** – Poor Knights Island (oily bilge discharge of approx 7 tonnes spilled)
- 2000 ***Sea Fresh*** – Chatham Islands (60 tonnes of diesel spilled)
- 2002 ***Jody F Millennium***– Gisborne (25 tonnes of fuel oil spilled)
- 2002 ***Tai Ping*** – Bluff (no oil spilled)
- 2011 ***Rena*** – Tauranga (approx 350 tonnes of heavy fuel oil spilled)

New Zealand's Strategy

- A strategy is required under the Maritime NZ under the Maritime Transport Act 1994.
- New Zealand Marine Oil Spill Response Strategy 2015-2019
- Information about how New Zealand responds to oil spills but also sets the vision, principles, goals and objectives for New Zealand's marine oil spill readiness and response.

Responses

- New Zealand has a three tier approach :
 - Tier One Oil Spills – responded to and resolved by the operator
 - Tier Two Oil Spills – response led and resolved by the local regional council
 - Tier Three Oil Spills – complex, longer duration and impact and beyond the response capability of either Tier One or Tier Two, response is nationally led and coordinated by Maritime New Zealand

A Tier Three Response

- National On Scene Commander – appointed (Five NOSCs available across NZ). NOSCs run the oil response and have their own legislative powers.
- Emergency Coordination Centre – established in a place where NOSC deems most appropriate.
- Maritime NZ has responsibility for the response activity and regulatory oversight

Most recent experience: Rena

- 2011 – Rena off the coast of Tauranga, New Zealand
- Maritime NZ Capability Plan that will flow on from the Strategy will incorporate and advance initiatives under way in the wake of the Rena incident and the upturn in offshore gas and oil activities

Lessons learnt

- The oil response went well – establishing National On Scene Commander and Emergency Coordination centre.
- Better coordination required within government and with some stakeholders – including Māori (NZ indigenous population)
- Strategy provides a wider framework for the non-oil aspects of spills, e.g. beads





