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#014 BRISK
6th Meeting
Copenhagen, Denmark, 11-12 April 2011

Minutes of the 6th BRISK Meeting

2011-04-11-12, Copenhagen, Denmark

Introduction

0.1 The Sixth Meeting of the Project on Sub-regional risk of spill of oil and hazardous substances in the Baltic Sea (BRISK) was held in Copenhagen, Denmark, 11-12 April 2011.

0.2 The Meeting was organized by the Admiral Danish Fleet, Lead Partner of the BRISK Project.

The aim of the meeting was to discuss:

- the Risk analysis;
- the Investment program
- the status and development of the sub-regional response agreements;
- financial reporting and
- communication issues.
- the Mid-Term Self-evaluation Report
- Extension of the project

0.3 All Project Partners were represented at the Meeting. The List of Participants is included in **Annex 1**.

0.4 Mr. Peter Poulsen, Project Manager of BRISK acted as Chairman of the Meeting. Mr. Ib Corneliussen Nielsen, BRISK Project Coordinator, and Ms. Monika Stankiewicz, Professional Secretary of the Helsinki Commission, acted as Secretaries of the Meeting.

1. Opening

1.1 The Meeting was opened and chaired by Mr. Peter Poulsen, the Project Manager. A special welcome was expressed to Mr. Linus Karlsson for coming to give a presentation about the Baltic Master II project.

2. Approval of the Agenda

2.1 The Meeting adopted the Agenda. **Annex 2**.

3. BRISK-RU event at the Baltic Sea Day Conference

Mr. Peter Poulsen informed about the BRISK-RU round table event "Risk of transportation activities and the need for response capacities" in St. Petersburg 22-03-2011 in connection with the Baltic Sea Day Conference. The program and the presentations can be found on the HELCOM Meeting Portal. The meeting noted that Mr. Peter Poulsen and Mr. Arne Grove – Head of the

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Nordic Council of Ministers' Information Office in Kaliningrad - found the round table event valuable with participation many experts. Mr. Arne Grove recommended repeating the event next year.

4. Risk analysis ¹

4.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Carsten Jurgensen, COWI, on the final sensitivity maps, including maps made according to the alternative weighting matrix developed by Working Group 2 chaired by SYKE (**Presentation 1**).

4.2 The Meeting noted that there is only slight seasonal variation in sensitivity.

4.3 The Meeting clarified that the sensitivity maps will be used for estimating damage by oil in the modeling and recognized that for operational purposes, other sources information on environmental sensitivity is used on national level.

4.4 The Meeting agreed that the maps of alternative matrixes, while not meant for modeling of damage by oil, should be included in the final report on risk assessment and used for assessing uncertainties of the methodology for sensitivity mapping.

4.5 The Meeting preliminary approved the sensitivity maps, including the environmental parameters maps as contained in **Presentation 1**. The Meeting requested the Lead Partner to send out the Presentation, accompanied by a note explaining how the maps have been created, and together with the Minutes of the Meeting, to the Project Partners shortly after the Meeting and requested the Project Partners to tacitly adopt the outcome on sensitivity mapping **by 29 April 2011 at the latest**.

4.6 The Meeting considered the outcome of Working Group 3 led by HELCOM on relocation of response capacities (**Presentation 2**) and agreed on the recommendations with the following comments:

- German vessels should be excluded from the list of alternative home ports,
- the model already takes into account reduced oil recovery capabilities (wave height limit has been introduced), thus there is no need to introduce an additional reducing factor,
- for high-viscosity oil, an average reduced recovery rate will be modeled, taking into account the overall (and reduced by 50%-75%) recovery capacity of vessels able to handle high-viscosity oil comparing to the recovery capacity of the whole fleet,
- storage capacity will be taken into account in the model (reduction by 50% when tanks are full).

4.7 The Meeting agreed to fine-tune the wording of some terms used in the report of Working Group 3, e.g. cruising speed-> operational speed, alarming-> request for assistance.

4.8 Russia expressed the view that the needed improvements in response resources should be discussed in sub-regions which should form the input for the model.

4.9 The Meeting took note of the information on the work of Working Group 4 on increased response capacities and requested Poland to distribute the outcome of WG 4, including background information on how the scenarios were developed, to the Project Partners as soon as possible and shortly after the meeting.

¹ Russia reserves its position on para 4.1 – 4.5 as the Russian expert unfortunately was not able to participate in the meeting. The subject will be discussed within work group 2.

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4.10 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Sweden on the outcome of the work of Working Group 5 (**Presentation 3**) and agreed to use a scenario of response in darkness improved by 50%.

4.11 The Meeting considered the outcome of Working Group 6 led by Finland (**Presentation 4**) and agreed on the presented approach on how to reflect the current efficiency of oil recovery in ice and that 20% of recovery rate in open waters, during a three-months period and in areas covered by ice during an average winter, would be a good estimate to reflect recovery in ice.

4.12 The Meeting agreed that the model should estimate how much could be gained if efficiency of oil recovery in ice is doubled.

4.13 The Meeting welcomed the information that SYKE will prepare a short report of the outcome of WG 6.

4.14 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Albrecht Lentz, COWI, comparing the risk picture for spills of up to 5000 tonnes and of all sizes. The Meeting discussed the frequency of spills of different sizes based on an example of the Gulf of Finland and agreed that a similar return period (how often the spill will occur) could be used to define a “target” spill size in each sub-region of the Baltic. Instead of exact spill sizes, ranges of spills and accumulated probability should be shown.²

4.15 The Meeting referred to some previous risk assessments done for different parts of the Baltic Sea and took note of the explanation that the results of the risk assessments, due to different methodology and assumptions, are not always comparable and while absolute numbers are always uncertain, the model can quite precisely indicate the relative magnitude of spills and their spatial distribution.

5. Investments programmes

5.1 The Meeting agreed on organizing meetings on sub-regional level with the aim to discuss the risks and how to optimize the response capacities. Outcome of response scenarios to be modeled by COWI and to be made available in September 2011 should be utilized in these discussions. The Meeting invited the lead countries of specific sub-regions to arrange for such meetings accordingly, bearing in mind that the results of the project should be presented for consideration by the Baltic Sea countries and be ready in advance of the BRISK Final Conference in December 2011.

5.2 The Meeting agreed that sub-regional meetings could also discuss the need for aerial surveillance capacities.

6. Agreements

6.1 The Meeting took note of the information on the ongoing work to sign bilateral agreement between Germany and Poland, including ongoing translation of the agreement into English and the decision to sign the agreement on a ministerial level.

6.2 The Meeting took note of the information that a bilateral agreement between Latvia and Estonia is expected to be signed either during this year or next year. After signing of the agreement, it will

² Comment from Russia: HELCOM recommendations 31/1 and 28E/12 and national legislation should be basement for decision. In this case will be more easy to have real investment plan. If we want to accept an criteria different from the HELCOM recommendations and BSAP provisions we shall prepare appropriate ground for corrections of them..

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be considered to extent the area coverage of the SWESTLAT agreement as discussed at earlier meetings.

6.3 The meeting took note of the information that when the agreement between Poland and Germany (POLGER) has been signed, it will be considered to include this agreement in the agreement between Sweden, Denmark, and Germany (SWEDENGER).

6.4 The meeting took note of the information that a bilateral agreement between Estonia and Russia has been prepared and is pending approval on political level.

7. Financial issues

7.1 The Meeting noted the extended deadline of 16 May 2011 for submitting the IV Progress Report.

7.2 The Meeting urged the Project Partners to report on time and observe the deadlines for reporting.

7.3 The Meeting considered the proposal for relocation of the BRISK budget between the Project Partners (**Presentation 1**) and requested the Project Partners to confirm the changes they wish to make to their budgets. Following this confirmation, the Lead Partner will prepare a refined proposal for how to reallocate the budget.

7.4 The Meeting considered a proposal for increasing the shared costs, which is e.g. due to some extra work put into the sensitivity mapping and delayed collection of data. The Meeting requested the Lead Partner to provide additional and more detailed information on activities and items that would be covered by these additional shared costs and a tentative plan for spending the shared costs.

7.5 The Meeting requested the Project Partners to consider and approve both the refined proposal for budget reallocation as well as the proposed shared costs **by 6 May 2011**.

7.6 Once the relocation to the budget is agreed, the changes between specific budget lines of each Project Partner will be discussed.

7.7 The Meeting noted with concern the obstacles the Estonian Project Partner is facing to meet their budget and requested the Lead Partner to address the JTS Secretariat regarding this specific issue with the aim to raise the discussions at appropriate level in Estonia and to find a possible solution. Other countries have had this problem about understanding the financing mechanism.

7.8 The Meeting noted that such and similar difficulties with meeting the budgets would be avoided if the BSRP was foreseeing pre-payments for project activities, which could be recommended for consideration by the BSRP decision-makers.

8. Information and communication

8.1 The Meeting took note of the information presented by HELCOM on information and communication activities (**Presentation 5**), including a BRISK seminar on 18 May 2011 in Sopot, a BRISK session during the Maritime Spatial Planning event on 20 May 2011 in Gdansk, to be conducted as part of the European Maritime Day, and a preliminary outline of the BRISK Final Conference on 8 December 2011, as included in documents 8/1 and 8/2, respectively.

8.2 The Meeting requested the Project Partners to advertise the events mentioned above on their home pages and through other information channels.

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8.3 The Meeting discussed the need for interpretation of the risk assessment to have a common understanding among the Project Partners, also when conveying the assessment outcome to national stakeholders and wider audience.

8.4 The Meeting took note that the results of modeling of the response scenarios will be available in autumn, after which more in depth discussion on the risk assessment interpretation could be done.

8.5 The Meeting took note that the risk assessment documentation, including a summary will be ready in advance of the final BRISK Conference in December 2011.

8.6 The Meeting suggested that it would be useful to produce a brochure on the risk assessment outcome and took note of the information by HELCOM that production of such a brochure is pending available financial resources.

8.7 The Meeting took note of the remark by the Secretariat that according to its view some possible mistakes might have been made by the Project Partners when reporting the communication and information indicators. The Secretariat has made an attempt to rectify some of the mistakes regarding C&I indicators, if possible, by requesting the partners' progress reports for RP IV, and more specifically its Communication and Information part, to be submitted to the Secretariat before the approval by a First Level Control. However, the majority of the Project Partners have not submitted the reports as requested. The Meeting requested the Project Partners to carefully report the communication and information activities in the future and according to the instructions given by HELCOM.

8.8 The Meeting took note of the information that Ms. Ulla Ahonen will continue as the BRISK Project Officer by the end of June 2011 after which she will return to her home organization. The Meeting thanked Ms. Ahonen for her good work in conducting information and communication activities of the BRISK Project.

9. Mid-term Self-evaluation Report

9.1 The Meeting considered the draft Mid-term Self-evaluation Report presented by Mr. Ib Corneliussen Nielsen, BRISK Project Coordinator, as contained in the document submitted for the meeting, and agreed to:

- add the name of the NCM project (BRISK-RU) in the report,
- add a remark to table 1.3 on the status of 'common results' indicators referring to a different understanding of the indicators at the time when the targets for them were set and that the NCM is a political body which involvement should also be taken into account,
- make the text in section 6 more general, indicating that there was a different interpretation of reporting procedures between a Project Partner First Level Controller and the Project First Level Controller,
- delete milestones after 1 March 2011.

9.2 The Report will be updated accordingly and distributed to the Project Partner for their tacit approval, and submitted to the JTS with the 4th Progress Report.

9.3 The Meeting took note of the remark by the Secretariat that according to its view some possible mistakes might have been made by the Project Partners when reporting the 'common results' indicators.

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10. Extension of the Project

10.1 The Meeting took note of the information on a letter sent to the JTS requesting a postponed deadline for filing an application for a BRISK Extension Stage as contained in the document submitted for the meeting.

10.2 The Meeting welcomed the information by the Nordic Council of Ministers that they are ready to support the extension stage of BRISK-RU and an interest of Finland to participate in the BRISK extension stage.

11. Other issues

11.1 The Meeting took note of the presentation by Mr. Linus Karlsson on the Baltic Master II Project (**Presentation 7**), including on the Final Project Conference "Safety and Security" planned for 26-27 October 2011 in Gdansk/Karlskrona. Mr. Linus Karlsson invited to cooperate between BRISK and Baltic Master II. Information on a number of Baltic Master II events can be found on their web-site for consideration of the BRISK participation.

11.2 The Meeting thanked the Lead Partner for the well-organized meeting.

12. Next meetings and closing of the meeting

12.1 The Meeting decided to organize the next meeting during week 36 (5-9 September 2011) and welcomed the offer by Latvia to investigate its possibility to host the meeting in Riga.

Esbjerg 2011-04-14

Place, Date



Ib Corneliussen Nielsen, Project Coordinator

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Annex 1

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Annex 2

Agenda

Day 1

- 10:00-10:20 *Coffee*
- 10:20-10:40 1. Opening
2. Approval of the agenda
3. BRISK-RU event at the Baltic Sea Day Conference
- 10:40-11:00 12. Other issues - Results of the Project Baltic Master II
- 11:00-12:00 4. Risk analysis
- 12:00-12:45 *Lunch*
- 12:45-14:30 4. Risk analysis – continuation
- 14:30-15:00 5. Investment programmes
- 15:00-15:20 *Coffee break*
- 15:20-16:00 6. Agreements
7. Financial issues
- 19:00-22:00 *Dinner*

Day 2

- 9:00-10:00 8. Information and communication
9. Mid-term Self-evaluation Report
- 10:00-10:20 *Coffee break*
- 10:20-12:00 10. Extension of the project
11. Other issues - continuation
- 12:00-12:45 *Lunch*
- 12:45-14:00 12. Next meetings and closing of the meeting