

Bulletin

February 1994

Great Barrier Reef Region

OIL SPILL REPORTING PROCEDURES for MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Should you observe an oil spill, or what you believe to be an oil spill, you should:

1 Gather and record as much of the following information as possible.

- Date and time incident observed:
- Location of incident (be as specific as possible, eg latitude and longitude):
- Spill source:
- Has discharge stopped?:
- Cause of spill:
- Type of oil (if known):
- Size of spill:
- Appearance of spill (colour, smell etc). Especially note if there are rainbow colours and silvery sheen:
- Is spill moving, if so in what direction and how fast?:
- Weather, wind, tide and sea conditions:
- Identity of any vessels in the area (name, number, colour etc):
- Your name and contact details:

2 Report this immediately to:

Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) Canberra.

Phone 06 247 5244 (24hrs)

Fax 06 257 2036 (24hrs)

or via Telstra Maritime Radio Station on normal Maritime Safety Frequencies

3 Collect a sample of the oil in a glass jar, seal and label properly and keep in a safe place until directed by Authorities

4 Obtain photographs of the spill if possible

SAMPLING PROCEDURES

The following requirements should be adhered to enable meaningful examination of oils and oil spill samples to be undertaken.

Such analysis may be vital in identifying the offending vessels (or shore source).

1. It is necessary to take a minimum of 100 millilitres of oil or fuel for analysis. Preferably samples of up to one litre should be obtained. In the case of sea samples or samples from effluent drains etc., this means at least 100 millilitres of the pollutant in addition to the water which is sampled.
2. All samples must be placed in glass containers (no plastic or metal containers).
3. Containers should be clearly labelled showing:
 - Description of sample
 - Time and date of collection
 - Place of collection
 - Description of incident
4. Containers should be properly sealed with adhesive sealing strips, kept upright and packed securely against breakage.