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Twentieth Intergovernmental Meeting on the Action Plan
for the Caribbean Environment Programme and
Seventeenth Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the
Convention for the Protection and Development of the
Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region.

Oranjestad, Aruba

05 October 2023

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe REPORT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2021-2023

For reasons of public health and safety associated with the COVID-19 pandemic, this meeting is being convened virtually. Delegates are kindly requested to access all meeting documents electronically.



**REGIONAL ACTIVITY CENTRE / REGIONAL MARINE POLLUTION EMERGENCY,
INFORMATION AND TRAINING CENTRE - WIDER CARIBBEAN REGION**

Activities carried out by RAC/REMPEITC Caribe 2021 - 2022

2021 Activities

Regional Ballast Water Management/Invasive Species/Biofouling Seminar – Virtual

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe delivered a virtual Regional Ballast Water Management, Invasive Species and Biofouling Seminar, with the participation of 40 representatives from Antigua, Bahamas, Barbados, Belize, British Virgin Islands, Dominica, French Antilles, Guatemala, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Saint Kitts, St. Vincent, Suriname and Trinidad and Tobago. The objective of the three-day seminar was to provide training on Ballast Water and Invasive Species, Stony Coral Tissue Loss Disease and Action against Marine Pollution, as well as broaden the knowledge of the participants on the applicable Conventions and the benefits to be gained from Regional Cooperation.

National Contingency Plan Workshop Panama – Virtual

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe delivered a Virtual National Contingency Plan Workshop for Panama. The objective of the three-day workshop was to provide training on oil spill preparedness and contingency planning, as well as developing hands-on working knowledge of the use, and the advantages of the ARPEL Manual and Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™).

National Contingency Plan Workshop Dominican Republic – Virtual

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe delivered a Virtual National Contingency Plan Workshop for the Dominican Republic. The objective of the three-day workshop was to provide training on oil spill preparedness and contingency planning, as well as developing hands-on working knowledge of the use, and the advantages of the ARPEL Manual and Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™).

National Contingency Plan Workshop Nicaragua – Virtual

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe delivered a Virtual National Contingency Plan Workshop for Nicaragua. The objective of the three-day workshop was to provide training on oil spill preparedness and contingency planning, as well as developing hands-on working knowledge of the use, and the advantages of the ARPEL Manual and Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™).

National Contingency Plan Workshop Sint Maarten/Anguilla – Virtual

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe delivered a Virtual National Contingency Plan Workshop for Sint Maarten and Anguilla. The objective of the three-day workshop was to provide training on oil spill preparedness and contingency planning, as well as developing hands-on working knowledge of the use, and the advantages of the ARPEL Manual and Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™).



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National Contingency Plan Workshop Grenada - Virtual

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe delivered a Virtual National Contingency Plan Workshop for Grenada. The objective of the three-day workshop was to provide training on oil spill preparedness and contingency planning, as well as develop hands-on working knowledge of the use, and the advantages of the ARPEL Manual and Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™).

2022 Activities

RAC/REMPEITC Steering Committee Meeting

Members of the RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee met in Willemstad, Curacao in order to review the activities from the last 4 years and to review and approve the workplan for the following 2 years. In addition, new and ongoing initiatives were presented and reviewed by the members of the Steering Committee.

Regional Meeting of Directors and Heads of Maritime Administrators

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe participated in the Regional Meeting of Directors and Heads of Maritime Administrators which took place in Paramaribo, Suriname, where recent and upcoming activities were presented to the participants.

National Contingency Plan Workshop Dominica

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe delivered a National Contingency Plan Workshop for Dominica in Soufriere, Dominica. The objective of the three-day workshop was to provide training on oil spill preparedness and contingency planning, as well as developing hands-on working knowledge of the use, and the advantages of the ARPEL Manual and Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™).

National Contingency Plan Workshop Dominican Republic

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe delivered a National Contingency Plan Workshop for the Dominican Republic as a follow up from the virtual workshop in 2021. The objective of the three-day workshop was to provide training on oil spill preparedness and contingency planning, as well as conducting an Oil Spill Risk Assessment in order to facilitate the development of a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan draft.

Guyana Basin Summit

A representative from RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe attended the Guyana Basin Summit which took place in Georgetown, Guyana, where he presented on the importance of international coordination during an oil spill that affects or potentially affects multiple countries or territories of the region.



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Regional Ballast Water Management Workshop – Cartagena, Colombia

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe, in coordination with the government of Colombia and DIMAR, coordinated and delivered a regional level workshop for Ballast Water Management, with the participation of approximately 20 different countries from the region and representatives from IMO, the government of Singapore, and a subject matter expert from the United States, reviewing the status of implementation of the Ballast Water Management convention within the region and the steps to follow to further drive this important initiative.

Regional Coastal Eutrophication Workshop (July 2022)

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe participated in a two-day workshop entitled 'Regional Workshop on the Index of Coastal Eutrophication and Harmful Algal Blooms. This virtual workshop was organized by the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA), one of the Regional Activity Centers (RACs) to the Cartagena Convention's Protocol concerning Land Based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol). Technical support was provided by the Centre of Research and Environmental Management of Transport (RAC CIMAB) and the RAC for the Protocol Concerning Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife for the Wider Caribbean Region (SPAW RAC).

Meeting of the RACs (July 2022)

RAC/REMPEITC - Caribe participated in meetings and discussions with the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and the Regional Activity Centers, RAC-IMA, RAC-CIMAB and SPAW RAC. The primary objective of this effort was to foster greater collaboration amongst the four RACs to the Cartagena Convention, as it relates to working to implement the various protocols throughout the region. These for also allowed for contribution to and finalization of the Regional Activity Center - Regional Activity Network (RAC-RAN) Work plan for 2022 - 2023. This activity is an ongoing one.

IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum 2022

RAC/REMPEITC- Caribe participated in this virtual event in the 3rd quarter of 2022. This activity was linked to the IMO World Maritime Day theme 2022 "New Technologies for Greener Shipping", with a special emphasis on inclusive innovation for decarbonization of maritime sector and to address the needs of developing countries, especially Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

The Collaboration for Oil Satellite Tracking in the Americas program (COSTA) (October 2022 - present) RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe participated and supported the execution of the COSTA Project. This project is a collaborative effort to coordinate, train and set up operational oil spill monitoring and reporting for the Wider Caribbean region and Americas. RAC/REMPEITC's contribution included coordinating with its focal points to establish a system for the communication of oil spills to affected parties within the defined project area. This project is expected to continue into 2023.

Quarterly Newsletter (2nd quarter 2022 - present)

The Cartagena Convention Secretariat launched its quarterly newsletter in 2022. RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe was pleased to contribute to the section allocated for RACs as this



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allowed for public education and information sharing, as it relates to the Centre's activities. Contribution to this important initiative is expected to continue into the next year.

Regional Workshop on MARPOL Annexes III-V

This activity was initially scheduled for the last quarter of 2022 but was postponed to the first quarter of 2023. Despite the postponement, RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe made significant progress in developing the proposed workshop and making arrangements for its execution in 2023.

Other major activities in 2022:

In the third quarter of 2022, RAC/REMPEITC Caribe said farewell to one of its consultants, LCDR Floyd Patterson. LCDR Patterson diligently contributed to the work of the center for a period of four years, through a secondment from the Government of Jamaica. Also in the third quarter of 2022, the centre welcomed Ms. Nadia Gour as an incoming consultant through secondment from Trinidad and Tobago.