

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA
(A Company Limited by Guarantee)**

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2014

The Trustees, who are also directors of the charity for the purposes of the Companies Act, have pleasure in presenting their report and the audited financial statements for the year ended 31 March 2013. In preparing this report the Trustees have complied with the Companies Act 2006, the Accounting and Reporting by Charities: Statement of Recommended Practice (revised 2005) and applicable accounting standards.

OBJECTS, PRINCIPAL ACTIVITIES AND ORGANISATION

The charity is a registered charity, number 290776. The charity's object and principal activity continues to be that of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting and conducting research into its causes and effects.

Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea ("ACOPS") is broadly concerned with environmental policies and scientific issues. It also promotes high level seminars, meetings and lectures on critical marine policy issues, such as held with Globe in the Houses of Parliament.

The charity continues to monitor marine pollution and collaborates with other national and international organisations concerned with environmental policies.

The Trustees have complied with their duty to have due regard to the guidance on public benefit published by the Charity Commission in exercising their powers. The Trustees believe that the Charity's provision of encouraging the prevention of marine pollution and promoting research is of huge benefit to the public.

The charity is a company limited by guarantee, company number 01867863, and is therefore governed by its Memorandum and Articles of Association.

Trustees may be appointed under the terms of the Articles of Association only with the power to co-opt until subsequent general meetings to fill casual vacancies as and when they may arise. Newley appointed trustees are given sufficient training and instruction as to complete their necessary duties.

The charity is administered by its Executive Committee, which includes the Trustees.

DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

ACOPS continues to have observer status with the United Nations, The Arctic Council, OSPAR and the London Convention and London Protocol which is useful for guiding ACOPS activities.

ACOPS have hosted or been a partner in the following events:

Annual Survey of Reported Discharges Attributed to Vessels and Offshore Oil & Gas Installations Operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone 2011 (published January 2013):

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) exercises Central Government's statutory responsibilities for taking action when oil or hazardous and noxious substances emanating from any at-sea activity threatens the United Kingdom or its surrounding waters. As part of its commitment to provide cleaner seas around the United Kingdom, the MCA publishes, via ACOPS, an annual survey of reported incidents attributed to vessels and offshore oil and gas installations operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone (UKPCZ). The annual survey results complement historical data and records and enable MCA's Counter Pollution and Response (CPR) Team to monitor trends in the number of incidents, the amount of oil and chemicals spilt, the geographical distribution of spills, the sources of pollution and the nature of the pollution.

Following analysis of 1,553 incident reports and supporting information, 632 accidental discharges from vessels and releases from offshore oil and gas installations were identified in the survey area during 2012. An overall reduction of 5.5% was evident in the total number of incidents reported from all sources over the previous year's total.

A total of 155 vessel-sourced discharges were reported during 2012 which was 5 more than the previous year's total but significantly fewer than the mean annual total of 196 reported discharges between 2000 and 2011.

A total of 475 releases were reported by offshore oil and gas installations during 2012 representing an 8% reduction on the previous year's total.

Further analysis of these statistics showed that the total of 246 oil reports from oil and gas installations operating in the

open sea during 2012 was the lowest recorded since 2004 and 33 fewer than the mean annual total of 279 releases reported between 2000 and 2011.

The total of 229 non-mineral oil reports by offshore installations during 2012, primarily those involving chemical substances, was 11 fewer than the total recorded during the previous year.

The reported incidents from all sources during 2012 comprised 62.7% mineral oils, 36.5% chemicals (including oil-based mud) and 0.8% other substances (including vegetable and animal oils).

Approximately 84% of all reported discharges and releases were in the open sea, 14% were in ports and harbours and 2% were across the remaining marine environmental zones. Survey respondents submitted details of 91 incidents involving accidental discharges from vessels and oil rigs located in ports and harbours during 2012 which was 16 fewer compared with the mean annual total of 107 discharges between 2000 and 2011.

Estimated volumes of discharges and releases were recorded in 583 incident reports, or 92% of the total. The modal class for oil discharges and releases was less than 455 litres but larger volumes of between 456 litres and approximately 605.5 tonnes were recorded in 7 of the 11 survey enumeration areas. In total, 8% of all oil discharges and releases were greater than 455 litres, where this information was recorded, compared with 7% during the previous year.

The largest reported oil discharge, with an estimated maximum volume of 605.5 tonnes and occupying a maximum area of approximately 141 km², was reported by the Tartan installation on 28 August. The surface sheen was attributed to an unidentified passing vessel and later dispersed naturally without posing a risk to the shoreline.

The modal class for chemical incidents was also less than 455 litres but 47 releases, or 20% of the total, were of 1 tonne or more. The largest chemical incident, involving a release of 138,829 kg of water-based mud from the **Noble Byron Welliver** installation, was caused by a fracture in the formation on 17 December. Lost circulation material was re-circulated and a cement plug set to prevent further release.

At least 23 confirmed discharges were attributed to vessel casualties including 13 pleasure craft and workboats, 8 fishing vessels, a general cargo vessel and a tug. The vessel-casualty spills occurred in all enumeration areas with the exception of the Bristol Channel & South Wales and the UKCS enumeration areas. The largest vessel-casualty spill of 7 tonnes of diesel occurred after the general cargo vessel MV **Carrier** (1,584 gt, built 1985) ran aground in a strong gale near Rayes Jetty in Llanddulas on 3 April. Approximately 24 tonnes of remaining fuel oil, along with oily water and other hazardous materials, were removed from the grounded vessel which was later cut into sections and removed from the shoreline for recycling.

Reporting organisations submitted details of a single successful prosecution brought by the competent authorities during 2012. The owners of the oil/chemical tanker **Ganges Star** (8,537 gt, built 2010) were fined £4,015 with costs totalling £11,136 following a 1- tonne diesel oil discharge during a bunkering operation in Falmouth Bay on 8 July.

Observations from air surveillance patrols and a satellite surveillance programme were again employed by the MCA and DECC to help identify discharges at sea.

The 2013 Arctic Council Kiruna Ministerial Meeting. Report for Advisory Committee on the Protection of the Sea Dr Tavis Potts¹

Summary of proceedings:

On the 13-14th of May 2013, the eight Arctic Council (AC) states, the six permanent indigenous representatives, the twelve observer and two ad-hoc observer states, and non-governmental observers (including ACOPS) gathered for the biennial Arctic Council Ministerial meeting in Kiruna, Northern Sweden.² This event saw the first full cycle of the Arctic Council chairmanships, with Canada now chairing the council for the next two years.

The Arctic is one of the most rapidly warming places on the planet. CO₂ emissions and associated warming is shifting the region into a new and unpredictable territory characterised by huge reductions in summer sea ice extent and thickness, snow cover, and extensive melting of the Greenland ice sheet. Arctic summer sea ice distribution has been on a downward spiral since satellite records begin in 1978, and in recent years has suffered from unexpected and severe declines. The September 2012 minimum set a new and disturbing record at 3.29 million square kilometres (1.27 million square miles) or 49% below the 1979-2000 average. The US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)

¹ Dr Potts is employed by the Scottish Association for Marine Science and represented ACOPS at the Ministerial Summit. A commentary on the summit is available from: <http://theconversation.com/all-eyes-turn-to-the-prize-as-the-arctic-opens-for-business-15116>

²A web cast of the proceedings is available from: <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/events/meetings-overview/kiruna-ministerial-2013>

recently commented that it is not a case of 'if' but 'when' the Arctic will be ice free in summer, likely in the next few decades.

In terms of the institutional infrastructure and role of the AC, it appears the Council is strengthening its position and viewing itself as a global institution. It has established a permanent secretariat in Tromsø and reformed its procedures for the participation of observers. This was reinforced by the sense of anticipation and one of the dominant themes of the meeting - the entry of new permanent observers, alluded to, and eventually announced by the Arctic nations. At the conclusion of the meeting China, India, Japan and South Korea, all major importers of minerals and key interests in developing shipping and maritime trade through the Arctic, have been admitted as permanent observers. The bid by the EU to become a permanent observer was 'affirmed' but a final decision deferred. This decision is observed in the context of the on-going debate and trade conflict over imported seal products from Canada, which highlights differences between the Arctic and non-Arctic States, and is a key determinant of the eventual acceptance of the EU into the Arctic tent.

The meeting confirmed that the Council is embracing a new role as a policy making rather than policy shaping organisation. This will likely with the Canadian chairmanship with the priorities of sustainable circumpolar communities, responsible resource development and safe Arctic shipping topping the agenda.³ The Council emphasized repeatedly the increasing threat of climate change and appears unified on increasing the focus on the issue within fora such as the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. There is a clear mandate for the Arctic Council to be more aggressive on the international stage, in particular with a commitment for all Arctic states to work together with other countries to secure a legal agreement on climate change no later than 2015.

The Council is continuing to develop legal 'teeth' and act as a broker between Arctic States concerning binding treaties over Arctic relevant issues. The Kiruna meeting signed off on a (2nd) legally binding Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response.⁴ This framework agreement, while still lacking many details on operational mechanisms, will build capacity across the Arctic states to prevent spills from occurring and to coordinate in the case of a spill. There is some way to go to develop this capacity across Arctic countries and significant technical and political work is needed before this is an effective response to potential oil spills. This new agreement is shadowed by the increasing dialogue over the access and development of Arctic resources. The Canadian chair intends to establish a Circumpolar Business Forum to foster circumpolar economic development – an issue that will be watched closely by the permanent participants and non-state observers. The recent US National Strategy for the Arctic Region makes it clear that development for the region and harnessing energy resources is the long term priority, which states that the US must "respond effectively to challenges and emerging opportunities arising from significant increases in Arctic activity due to the diminishment of sea ice and the emergence of a new Arctic environment." What remains to be seen is how the priorities for sustainable Arctic communities, climate mitigation and adaptation and resource development can be reconciled in the Arctic context.

Key points made by Ministerial Meeting Participant statements:

Canada

- Key focus will be the people of the north, integrating environmental protection and sustainable development with an emphasis on opportunities;
- Integration of traditional knowledge with scientific research;
- Continuing to clarify the role of observers - observers have value and their policies have an impact on northern peoples. The core permanent member's work should not be diluted by the inclusion of more observers;
- Cultural social and economic well-being of Arctic peoples is tied to the health of the environment.

Denmark (representing Greenland)

- Arctic is now tied to global politics;
- **Welcomes the contribution by** China, India, Republic of Korea and the EU to the Arctic council;
- Denmark to host oil spill response meeting and exercise in 2013;
- Advocating that Greenland play a more prominent role in the AC. Faroe Is. Indicate that they have a major role to play in terms of the NSR, port development, and with exploitation of oil resources. Back the signing of the SAR and Oil response agreement.

Finland

- Oil and gas development is a great challenge. More research is needed on how Arctic marine systems respond to a potential oil spill.
- Oil agreement needs to be complimented by agreement on prevention and IMO code for ships operating in the Polar Regions.
- Increasing international role for the Arctic Council – what does this mean in practice?

Iceland

- UNCLOS the dominant instrument for the Arctic, also strengthening the role of AC with formalising the functions;
- Oil spill agreement is a first but necessary step and a starting point. Substantial technical work to be done on oil pollution response and impact;
- Climate change is the most significant threat to the region and underpins AC engagement in the international

³ The Canadian program and objectives are available from: <http://www.arctic-council.org/index.php/en/document-archive/category/425-main-documents-from-kiruna-ministerial-meeting#>

⁴ Ibid.

system.

Norway

- Reiterated the strengthening role of the AC. Has established 2 legal agreements, a permanent secretariat and is the primary body for cooperation in the Arctic.
- The involvement of observers is an important step and considerable effort has been to clarify the role of observers within the council. Principles set out for observers including involvement with permanent participants, respecting the environment and endorsing the principles of the AC.

Russia

- Did not capture extensive comments due to the headset malfunctioning.
- Russia emphasised the North pole as a pole of peace, sustainable development and cooperation. The number of issues is diminishing and the international framework is the way to resolve issues.

USA

- Overlapping interests and priorities. Northern regions are critically important for the earth, threat of climate change is ominous, tangible, and the AC must face up to this change.
- Noted that fisheries issues are still important with too many boats chasing too few fish. Indiscriminate development, ocean acidification, climate change, pollution all undermine the sustainability of the region.
- Need shared partnerships and guidelines for an oil spill – need to prevent crisis from happening in the first place.
- US Government is concerned over the new 400ppm CO2 emissions levels and the impacts of emissions on habitats and marine environments. The erosion of natural barriers that protect communities from the sea and permafrost melting is affecting coastal Arctic communities.
- US confirms that it is committed to being a productive and engaged partner, that it needs to address climate issues, that it respects the culture and knowledge of indigenous people who should be involved in all aspects of decision making.
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Permanent Observers

Aleut International Association

- The Aleutian people are resilient and adaptable and wholly reliant on marine environment;
- The AC is unique because the AC brings together indigenous people at the same table as nation states. This is unique and is what distinguishes the AC from other intergovernmental forums. This should continue to be strengthened within the AC under the Canadian chairmanship;
- Permanent participants can bring new ideas and perspectives and strengthen the role of indigenous people and bring sound science to the table.

The Arctic Athabaskan Council

- Strongly encourages US to ratify the Convention on Biodiversity and supports the findings of the completed Arctic Biodiversity Assessment;
- Emissions of black carbon should be regulated and are a serious threat to the Arctic. Supports action under Canadian chair to develop an agreement to regulate black carbon. Cites Russia as delaying progress on this issue.
- AAC concerned about the integrity of the Council as the result of new permanent participants. However, new observers offer opportunity to address pollution issues that arise from non-Arctic states.

Gwich'in Council International

- Highlights that education is a key goal for people of the north to manage their own resources.
- Flagged issues over how to involve the next generation in the work of the Arctic Council.

The Inuit Circumpolar Council

- ICC supports resource development that is sensitive and involves indigenous and northern people.
- Further work needed to reduce contamination, implement the marine oil spill agreement, implement the recommendations of the Arctic shipping assessment, and understand the marine environment through traditional knowledge.
- Supports Danish moves to raise the profile of Greenland in AC.

Saami Council

- Conduct business in the right way that respects indigenous people human rights. Increasing focus on human rights by private sector should not diminish State practice on human rights. The State has the legal responsibility to uphold human rights.
- Highlighted mining impacts in Sweden on local reindeer herders. Stated the emphasis is on investing in mining and minimal investment in Saami development.
- The Saami council looks forwards to the Canadian chair and is optimistic over Canada involving the Saami from

the outset.

Emerging issues that are relevant for ACOPS

- The signing of the Agreement on Cooperation on Marine Oil Pollution Preparedness and Response is a key opportunity for ACOPS to expand involvement in Arctic Council affairs. ACOPS experience in OSPAR and in the offshore maritime industry would be useful as independent observers of the progress and performance of the Agreement.
- ACOPS is a valued member of the Arctic Council and is increasingly invited to meetings such as the Senior Arctic officials meetings (next meeting is October 2013 in Canada). Further resourcing of capacity is necessary to maintain ACOPS valued independent position in Arctic affairs.
- In light of capacity and resources ACOPS should identify the priority Arctic issues that are of interest to the organisation and focus ACOPS science capacity on them.

The Asian Network on Climate Science and Technology (ANCST)

Funded by the Cambridge Malaysian Education and Development Trust (CMEDT) and Malaysian Commonwealth Studies Centre (MCSC), with SEADPRI of University Kebangsaan Malaysia (SEADPRI-UKM) serving as the coordinating centre. The formal launch of ANCST was held at 3 p.m. on 19 November at Hotel Pullman. The launch was held after signing of the agreement between YAB Tun Ahmad Sarji Abdul Hamid acting on behalf of CMEDT and MCSC, and the Vice Chancellor of UKM, Professor Tan Sri. Dato' Seri Dr. Sharifah Hapsah Syed Hasan Shahabudin. Witnesses for the respective parties were Emeritus Professor Lord Julian Hunt and Professor Datuk Dr. Noor Azlan bin Ghazali, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Academic & International Affairs) and Incoming Vice-Chancellor of UKM.

ANCST consists of self-funded research collaborations and top-down flagship collaborations, which will be mobilised through strategic science workshops. The ANCST will be supported by the ANCST Local Administration Committee, ANCST International Steering Committee and the Scientific Advisory Committee. The inaugural meeting of the Local Administration Committee of ANCST (ANCST-LAC) was held on 19 November 2013. In addition, side discussions were held over 19-20 November 2013 with interested researchers, academics, current and former Malaysian government officials and co-chairs and leading member of ANCST in particular Professors Pereira (UKM), Chan (City Univ HK), Hunt (University of Cambridge) and Srinivasan (Divecha Centre, IISc. Bangalore).

Network Establishment: The discussion on establishment of the Asian Climate Change Research Network was co-chaired by Emeritus Professor Lord Julian Hunt and Prof. Joy Jacqueline Pereira, representing the Deputy Vice-Chancellor of UKM, Professor Dato Rahmah Mohamed. Panellist included the key representative from East Asia (Prof. Johnny Chan, City University of Hong Kong) and from South Asia (Prof. Anil Kulkarni, representing Prof. J. Srinivasan of the Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore). The Workshop participants were informed that UKM supports in principle, the establishment of the Asian Climate Change Research Network, which would be coordinated by SEADPRI; and any funds received for the Network from the Cambridge side via MCSC/CMEDT would be matched by UKM subject to approval of the proposed plan by UKM.

In the Press:

Throughout the year Professor Hunt writes article for various newspapers.

24th March 2014	Article by Julian Hunt: The Great Debate UK, changing weather patterns mean meteorology is more important than ever	Thomas Reuters Foundation
22th March 2014	Global warming to hit Asia hardest, warns new report on climate change	The Observer/ The Guardian
18th December 2013	Article by Julian Hunt and Jimmy Fung: China seeks to curb worst air pollution in 50 years	The House Magazine

11 th November 2013	Article by Julian Hunt: Post – Haiyan, A new paradigm is needed to prepare for storms of the future	Rmets.org
29th October 2013	Article by Julian Hunt and Horia Hangan : New storm patterns require new wind engineering	The Straits Times
16th October 2013	Article by Julian Hunt and Johnny Chan : We must face up to the rising threat from costal storm	Thomas Reuters Foundation
17th September 2013	Article by Julian Hunt: Green Economy: Will it ever be people, planet and profit?	The Guardian
2nd September 2013	Article by Julian Hunt: Innovation holds key to green growth	Insight: South China Morning
28th August 2013	Article by Julian Hunt: Preserving Natural Capital	South China Morning Post
13th May 2013	Cambridge scientist who alerted the world to ozone layer crisis dies	New York Time

For more articles please check the website : <http://www.acops.org.uk/in-the-press/>

Update on the GXC :

Lord Hunt continues to speak about this in Parliament. But contact is being kept with contacts in Ghana.

Update on Ocean Fertilization and Marine Geo-engineering

ACOPS was represented in the Correspondence Group on Ocean Fertilization, at the Fourth Meeting of the Intersessional Working Group on Ocean Fertilization under the London Convention and Protocol (Bonn, Germany, 3-6 July 2012) and at the 34th Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter (London Convention) and the 7th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the 1996 Protocol to the London Convention (London Protocol), London , United Kingdom, 29 October - 2 November 2012, by Dr. Philomène Verlaan. The proposal by ACOPS for a mechanism to make the Assessment Framework for Ocean Fertilization Activities legally binding was one of three taken forward by the Contracting Parties to both Conventions for consideration at the 35th/8th Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the London Convention/Protocol, respectively, to be held in London, UK, 14-18 October 2013. The ground-breaking work by the Contracting Parties to these two treaties on ocean fertilization activities is developing the international law applicable to marine geo-engineering activities in general, as well as to ocean fertilization in particular. It is also defining marine scientific research in international law for the first time. Dr. Verlaan's work on this topic also resulted in an invitation by Professor Emeritus David Freestone, George Washington University, to address marine scientific research in a chapter for the book: The 1982 Law of the Sea Convention at 30: Successes, Challenges and New Agendas, Martinus Nijhoff Publishers, Leiden/Boston (2013), edited by Professor Freestone. The title of her chapter is: Marine Scientific Research: Its Potential Contribution to Achieving Responsible High Seas Governance, and can be found at pp. 131-138. This chapter originally appeared as an invited article in the International Journal of Marine and Coastal Law 27(4):805-812 (2012).

FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS :

- To continue with the search for support for the Meta-data centres for climate/environment data in African countries project.
- Annual Survey of Reported Discharges Attributed to Vessels and Offshore Oil & Gas Installations

Operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone 2012(to be published late 2014).

- Continue work with the London Convention and London Protocol on the international regulation of ocean fertilization and marine geoengineering.
- Develop a program of regular topical Climate seminars in Cambridge.
- To hold meetings in Parliament and the Scottish parliament.
- To continue working in a voluntary partnership with the P1 Marine Foundation to develop their university awards scheme.