

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

**TRUSTEES' REPORT**

**FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2013**

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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 discharges 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 1,600 incident reports and supporting information, 669 separate accidental discharges from vessels and offshore oil and gas installations were identified in the survey area during 2011. An overall increase of 14.9% was evident in the total number of incidents reported from all sources over the previous year's total.

A total of 150 vessel-sourced discharges was reported during 2011. Which was 1 more than the previous year's total but significantly fewer than the mean annual total of 200 reported discharges between 2000 and 2010.

A total of 519 accidental discharges was reported by offshore oil and gas installations during 2011 representing a 19.9% increase on the previous year's total and the highest annual total since the survey commenced.

Further analysis of these statistics showed that the total of 279 oil discharge reports from offshore oil and gas installations during 2011 was the same number as the mean annual total reported between 2000 and 2010.

The total of 240 non-mineral oil discharge reports by offshore installations during 2011, primarily those involving chemical substances, was 73 more than the total recorded during the previous year.

The reported incidents from all sources during 2011 comprised 62.9% involving mineral oils, 36.2% involving chemicals (including oil-based mud) and 0.9% involving other substances (including vegetable and animal oils).

Approximately 84% of all reported accidental discharges were in the open sea, 13% were in ports and harbours and 3% were across the remaining marine environmental zones. Survey respondents submitted details of 89 incidents involving accidental discharges from vessels operating in ports and harbours during 2011. Which was 20 fewer compared to the mean annual total of 109 discharges between 2000 and 2010.

Estimated volumes of accidental discharges were recorded in 618 incident reports, or 92% of the total. The modal class for oil discharges was less than 455 litres but larger spill volumes of between 456 litres and approximately 25 tonnes were recorded in 5 of the 11 survey enumeration areas. In total 7% of all oil discharges were greater than 455 litres, where this information was recorded, compared with 6% during the previous year.

The largest reported oil discharge, with an estimated maximum volume of 25 tonnes and occupying an area of 5km<sup>2</sup>, was reported by the Byford Dolphin Mobile Offshore Drilling Unit on 21 November. 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 spills was also less than 455 litres but 44 releases, or 18% of the total, were of 1 tonne or more. The largest chemical incident involving a release from the Hunter Pipeline of 189,840 kg of methanol and 121.6 kg of KI-5351 was caused by a pipeline failure during an integrity pressure test on 10 November. The pipeline was subsequently removed from service and a replacement installed.

At least 31 confirmed discharges were attributed to vessel casualties including 21 fishing vessels, 8 pleasure craft and workboats, a tug and a barge. The vessel-casualty spills occurred in all enumeration areas with the exception of the UKCS.

**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.

2nd April 2013	Article by Julian Hunt: <a href="#">More freezes will melt Climate Change doubts</a>	The Times
14th March 2013	<a href="#">Obituary : Patricia Birnie</a>	The Guardian
10th January 2013	<a href="#">Article by Julian Hunt and Baroness Worthington : The Oceans offer proof of what's happening to our climate.</a>	The House Magazine
11th December 2012	<a href="#">Book on the History of the Met Office wins Prestigious Prize</a>	Rmets.org
5th December 2012	<a href="#">Article by Julian Hunt and Johnny Chan: Urgent preparation needed for storms</a>	The Straits Times
26th November 2012	<a href="#">Article by Julian Hunt and Joy Pereira: When access to information may mean the difference between life or death</a>	South Morning China Post

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.