

EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

EQUIPMENT PROCUREMENT

Small Weir Skimmers - Foilex

Three Foilex mini skimmers were purchased for distribution to ports.

Towable Storage Bladders

To further increase the on water storage capacity of the National Plan, Canflex towable storage bladders were purchased under AMSA's current three year contract:

Qty	Capacity	Location
1	50 tonne	Brisbane QLD
2	25 tonne	Fremantle WA
4	10 tonne	Brisbane QLD, Dampier WA, Fremantle WA (two)

Boom

In the early part of 2000-2001 tenders were called for the supply of shoreline and general purpose boom for a three year period. Structurflex Limited of New Zealand was awarded the contract. Table 1 shows boom purchased under the contract during 2000-2001.

Vessel mounted Dispersant Rigs

The National Plan sought quotations from oil spill response equipment suppliers for the supply of two vessel mounted dispersant application rigs.

Quotations were received from four suppliers offering a number of imported and Australian manufactured products. The successful tenderer was Mentanza Pty Ltd who offered a locally manufactured product.

The two pumps will be delivered to the ports of Cape Cuvier and Derby in Western Australia.

Table 1
Boom purchased under the Structurflex contract during 2000-2001

Shoreline boom		General Purpose boom	
Location	Qty	Location	Qty
Geraldton WA	100 m	Exmouth WA	300 m
Point Samson WA	120 m	Portland VIC	195 m
Onslow WA	180 m	Onslow WA	195 m
Eden NSW	120 m	Lucinda QLD	300 m
Karumba QLD	60 m	Karumba QLD	255 m
Cape Flattery QLD	100 m	Cape Flattery QLD	300 m

Oil Spill Dispersants

AMSA purchased 20,000 litres of Dasic LTSW dispersant during the year for placement in the following ports:

Fremantle, WA	5,000 litres
Cairns, QLD	10,000 litres
Launceston, TAS	5,000 litres

This purchase complements existing National Plan dispersant stocks.

Decontamination Station

A second remote location decontamination station was purchased and is stored at the National Plan central stockpile in Brisbane, Queensland.

The additional station allows for the provision of full decontamination facilities at two separate locations during the one response.

Dispersant Transfer Pump

An additional fixed wing dispersant transfer pump was purchased for Dampier, Western Australia.

Anchor Kits

The purchase of anchor kits for supply to ports continued with an additional 10 kits consisting of five anchors each being obtained. The kits are used in conjunction with shoreline and general purpose boom.

VESSEL REFURBISHMENT

In addition to the procurement of new equipment, the National Plan program of ongoing maintenance included the replacement of engines and refurbishment work on the following vessels.

EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

Marco Oil Recovery Vessel Cowrie - Dampier, WA

The *Cowrie* underwent replacement of the existing 70 hp two-stroke outboards with new Honda 90 hp four stroke outboards. The vessel also underwent some minor modifications to meet Class 2C survey.

GRP Clean Cat Tigris - Brisbane, QLD

The *Tigris* underwent a major refurbishment including replacement of deteriorated deck segments and re-coating with a non-slip surface. The vessel's hulls were stripped, repaired and repainted.

Work boats

The following National Plan workboats also received new motors during 2000–2001:

- Slogger punt in Westernport, VIC - 25 hp Honda 4 stroke;
- Slogger punt in Geelong, VIC - 30 hp Mercury 4 stroke;
- Kayfa punt Adelaide, SA - 40 hp Yamaha 4 stroke; and
- Kayfa punt Darwin, NT - 50 hp Honda 4 stroke.

NATIONAL PLAN EQUIPMENT AUDITS

During the reporting period AMSA officers carried out audits of National Plan equipment held at:

- Adelaide, Port Lincoln, Port Pirie, Wallaroo, and Thevenard in September;
- Lord Howe Island in October;
- Mourilyan and Townsville in November;
- Westernport, Geelong, Melbourne, Portland and Thursday Island in December;
- Cairns in January;
- Fremantle, Wyndham, Broome and Dampier in February;
- Devonport, Launceston, Burnie and Hobart in March;
- Eden and Port Welshpool in April; and
- Brisbane in June.

TRAINING

The National Plan training program for 2000–2001 included AMSA courses shown in Table 2.

The Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSC) conducted 13 specific workshops for 200 personnel, as set out in Table 3.

Table 2
AMSA training courses conducted in 2000–2001

Course	Location	Date	Number of Participants
State Marine Pollution Controller	Geelong, VIC	July 2000	18
Oil Spill Management	Adelaide, SA	October 2000	22
ESC Workshop	Queenscliff, VIC	February 2001	25
Oil Spill Management	Coolangatta, QLD	March 2001	20
Equipment Operator	Darwin, NT	May 2001	14

Table 3
Training Programs Conducted by AMOSC during 2000–2001.

Course	Date	Number of Participants
Shoreline Cleanup	August 2000	9
Management Overview	September 2000	10
Response	November 2000	18
	March 2001	18
	June 2001	15
Operators	November 2000	11
Client specific programs (7)		119

EQUIPMENT AND TRAINING

Spillcon 2000

In August, the eighth biennial oil spill conference, Spillcon 2000, was held in Darwin. The conference's theme was "Be Prepared - Stay Aware" and was organised by AMSA and AIP. The Northern Territories Minister for Resource Development, the Honourable Daryl Manzie was among the delegates at the conference.

An on water display of oil spill response equipment was held on the second day of the conference. The demonstration involved people representing Darwin Port Corporation, the Northern Territory (NT) Department of Transport and Works (Marine Branch), AMSA, AMOSC, local oil companies, NT Emergency Services, Nabalco, GEMCO, the Royal Australian Navy and members of the National Plan Response Team. The on water display also included a demonstration of aerial dispersant spraying equipment using a helicopter.

Exercise 2000

Exercise 2000 was the fourth biennial oil spill response exercise conducted by the National Plan. It was held at the beginning of September 2000 in the Port of Dampier, Western Australia. This was the first National Plan exercise to be conducted using the Oil Spill Response Incident Control System (OSRICS).

The exercise was designed as a two-day event to test the responding agencies abilities to plan for a lengthy response. This involved issues such as equipment requirements and personnel planning. The scenario was that of a motor vessel colliding with a tanker in Dampier port limits and was designed to introduce oil types other than diesel and bunker fuel. The collision resulted in an 800 tonne oil spill, which impacted areas of environmental sensitivity.

Although there were some initial difficulties at the beginning of the exercise, Exercise 2000 was a success and achieved its primary objective.

Details of specific exercises conducted by States/ NT and including industry, are covered in the sections later in the report on a State by State basis.

OVERSEAS ATTENDANCE - TREASURE SPILL

Following the sinking and subsequent release of oil from the 140,000DWT bulk carrier *Treasure* off Melkbosstrand approximately 25 kilometres north of Cape Town on 23 June 2000, two AMSA officers from the Authority's Environment Protection Group travelled to South Africa in early July 2000 to observe oil spill response arrangements.

The two AMSA representatives spent seven days in South Africa with the South African Maritime Safety Authority observing a range of oil spill response related activities. These activities included participating in oil surveillance overflights, observing operations associated with the rescue and rehabilitation of 42,000 penguins, shoreline cleanup and salvage operations. The latter included a visit to the sunken vessel to observe the removal of oil from the wreck.

The experience gained and lessons learned from their visit and participation in the *Treasure* response will be used to enhance the National Plan's ability to respond to marine oil spills in the Australian environment.



Aerial dispersant spraying equipment demonstration at Spillcon 2000