

Clare County Council

Chomhairle Chontae an Chláir

SEA-PT ANNUAL TRAINING EXERCISE 2017

27th April 2017



Exercise Report

Pollution & Waste Services		SPILL consult
• Oil & Chemical Spill Products • Grease Traps & Interceptors • Oil Water Separators • • Emergency Response • Clean Up & Disposal • Site Remediation •		
Approved	Name	Date
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1. Introduction

The purpose of this document is to provide a debriefing and feedback in relation to the Shannon Foynes Anti-Pollution Team (SEA-PT) Annual exercises hosted by Clare County Council and conducted on the 26th and 27th April 2017.

Pollution & Waste Services Limited (PWS) participate in the exercise each year as part of its responsibilities under the Callout, Maintenance and Service Agreement for Pollution Response Equipment held with SEA-PT.

In addition to its obligations under this service and maintenance agreement, on this occasion PWS Ltd were specifically retained to take a more overarching role in the desktop element of the exercise including planning, development, preparation, facilitation, and debrief for the chosen scenario and to provide a suitably qualified and experienced Incident Commander to fulfil the role during the desktop exercise.

Whilst the brief relates to the desktop element of the exercise, for the sake of completeness reference is included to the OSR Operative Training course held on Tuesday 25th of April 2017 and the Practical Element of the exercise undertaken on 26th of April 2017.

2. Exercise Background

The Shannon Estuary Anti-Pollution Team (SEA-PT) comprises of the Shannon Foynes Port Company, Local Authorities (including Clare County Council), and other organisations who operate in the vicinity of the estuary. A simulated event involving a pollution incident is held annually in order to exercise the response capabilities of SEA-PT members. This year Clare County Council were tasked with hosting the event which took place on the 27th April 2017.

In light of planned exploration activities being undertaken during the year, off Ireland's west coast, the scenario for this exercise was based upon a well blow out during exploration drilling with a potential for shoreline impact on the Clare coast. This exercise specifically focused on the planning processes of the Incident Management Team (IMT) in preparation for an imminent shoreline impact the following day at Spanish Point.

3. OSR Operative Training Course

In conjunction with the exercise Clare County Council made the decision to take the opportunity to provide training for personnel that may be involved in clean-up operations if an incident were to occur. Whilst the training course did not form part of the exercise itself it is considered that it is worth mentioning in that the exercise afforded an ideal opportunity to conduct the training as well as being of interest generally.

The training course took place in Spanish Point on Tuesday 25th April 2017 immediately preceding the SEA-PT annual 2 day exercise.

3.1. Course Description

This course is intended for operatives that will be expected to take part in the practical and physical tasks involved in oil spill clean-up operations. It is focused on land based spill response activities rather than marine or on the water clean-up operations although some of the knowledge and skills will be applicable in any spill response situation. The emphasis of the course is thus on oil spill response strategies/options spill response procedures/techniques, spill response equipment with practical hand-on training in and demonstration of the appropriate equipment.

3.2. Course Structure

The course incorporates two distinct parts with Session 1 being classroom based covering theoretical aspects of oil spill response whilst Session 2 is practical training in a setting where equipment can be observed, set up and used.

3.3. Training Objectives

The primary aim of the course is to equip delegates with the skills & knowledge to take a part in an oil spill response and to foster an appreciation of the systems approach.

Additional Objectives & Areas of knowledge include;

- Providing an overview of oil spill matters
- Familiarising participants with OSR plans & procedure
- Familiarising participants with OSR equipment
- Enabling participants to function as a team member on a response

3.4. Attendance

The course was attended by sixteen delegates from Clare County Council made up of personnel from across a number of departments/sections with varied previous training and/or experience in oil spill response.

3.5. Training Course Evaluation/Feedback

Feedback on the course via evaluation forms completed by delegates was positive with delegates indicating that the course met objectives and with their individual expectations.

4. Practical Demonstration/Exercise

4.1. Overview

The practical element of the exercise took place on Wednesday 26th April at Spanish Point, Co Clare. This took the form of the set-up, demonstration and use of a selection of various item of equipment mobilised from the SEA-PT stockpile base in Foynes.

The purpose of the practical element of the exercise was to compliment the Desktop Element of the exercise contributing the objectives for same by familiarising delegates with resources/equipment that mat be called upon in implementing the O&HNSCP including the SEA-PT stockpile and to demonstrate a selection of the equipment in use.

The briefing document for the exercise included at Appendix A outlines the specific objectives for the exercise as well as a timetable and further details.

Initial assembly and briefing took place at the Armada Hotel where delegates received an introduction and health and Safety Briefing.

Demonstration of the equipment took place at Spanish Point Beach and car park.

4.2. Attendance

Approximately fifty people attended the practical exercise/demonstration consisting of delegates from Clare County Council, other SEA-PT members and other agencies/organisations.

4.3. Equipment Deployed

Equipment was mobilised to site in one of the SEA-PT secure mobile container units.

These units facilitate the transport and deployment of equipment to site whilst at the same time providing a secure lock up unit for use on site.

Equipment mobiles included a selection of containment booms, a variety of skimmers, temporary storage tanks and miscellaneous accessories for site set up as well as use and support of the equipment.

PWS Limited mobilised and set up site access control and decontamination equipment essential in real life situations to control access to/from the work site as well as ensuring that contamination is not inadvertently or unnecessarily spread beyond the actual impacted area itself.

Equipment was demonstrated to groups of delegates in turn rotating through groups until each had attended at all items.

The Oiled Wildlife Network established an incident post and gave delegates an overview of their work and dealing with oiled wildlife.

The Civil Defence were in attendance and demonstrated use of drones highlighting how useful they can be in assisting with the response to incidents.

Jack O'Sullivan of environmental Management Services took groups through the ecology and environmental sensitivities of the site describing the range of strategies/techniques available for dealing with the variety of contrasting environments experienced in quick succession across the site.

4.4. Feedback/Observations

Feedback received on the practical element of the exercise was positive. In many cases delegates were seeing items of equipment in the field for the first time. For those having previous experience of the equipment, its demonstration/use in a different, and in this case very open environment highlighted some of the challenges that are faced in the event of an incident.

Issues associated with mobilisation, site access and site security typically arise with most incidents but are emphasized where sites are remote, open or exposed. The practical element of the exercise highlighted to the issues involved particularly when it is considered that in the event of an incident such operations may need to be maintained over a considerable period at multiple sites

Assessment of the exercise site identified the nature and or volume of equipment that might be required to mount an effective response which in turn highlighted the strain that this would place on the SEA-PT stockpile which could be exhausted very quickly particularly given that in the exercise scenario clean-up operations could be ongoing at numerous sites/locations within its jurisdiction.

The practical exercise also drew attention to the importance of effective contingency planning which should include provision for dealing with incidents such as the exercise scenario. As well as setting out the responsibilities and arrangements for dealing with incidents, the plan should identify the resources available and potential sources of same. Scenario planning or tactical cards should be drawn up for specific situations and used in identifying and filling any gaps.

The plan should be updated to take account of learning points from the practical element of the exercise.

5. Desktop Exercise

The desktop element of the exercise was conducted at Clare County Council Head offices in Ennis, Co Clare on 27th April 2017. This element of the exercise specifically focused on the planning processes of the Incident Management Team (IMT) in preparation for an imminent shoreline impact the following day at Spanish Point arising from the scenario where an escape of oil had taken place as a result of an incident at an offshore drilling platform.

5.1. Desktop Exercise Objectives

The exercise was developed based around a particular scenario and to meet specific exercise objectives. For details of the scenario please see the briefing document issued in respect of the exercise included at Appendix A. The specific objectives for the exercise were as follows;

- Increase awareness and familiarity with the O&HNSCP.
- Provide an opportunity to practice skills required in managing an Oil Spill Response (OSR) Incident.
- Identify challenges in executing roles & responsibilities.
- Check the suitability/effectiveness of the O&HNSCP, equipment and capabilities of the response team.
- Use exercise debrief to identify recommendation for improvements to the O&HNSCP
- Capture any lessons learned/areas for improvements.

The briefing document also outlines the time table as well as other supporting information for the exercise.

A timeline for the Desktop Element of the exercises is included at Appendix B.

5.2. Presentations

A series of presentations were given in advance of the simulated exercise itself. The presentations included the following;

Irish Coast Guard – Dave McMyler
SEA-PT, – Captain Hugh Conlon, Shannon Foynes Port Company
Oil Spill at Spanish Point, The Ecological Effects – Jack O’Sullivan

Oiled Wildlife Network – Pauline Beades

Event Overview – John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Clare County Council

Exercise Introduction – Brian McGonagle/Rob Self, PWS Ltd/SpillConsult

Presentations provided background/supporting information for the exercise as well as useful information of wider interest in dealing with incidents.

5.3. Key Observations & Learning Points

The following table lists the key observations and recommendations identified throughout the exercise and debrief session. Note – actions to be assigned for each recommendation by Clare County Council.

No	Observations / Recommendation
1	<p>Observation: Whilst communication within individual sections was good, information was not flowing between sections. For example, during notifications from the Planning and Logistics sections, the estimated slick size was stated as unknown. This information had already been given in the initial overflight report which was held by Planning.</p> <p>Learning Points: Display critical information in the room, utilising the boards and flipcharts more efficiently. Use of coloured vests with position on the back would be extremely useful. This would make communication within the IMT a lot easier as everyone would be aware of who was who.</p> <p>NB - Incident Command Display Posters & High-Visibility Coloured ICS Section/Key Personnel Identification Vests are available as part of the SEA-PT Stockpile.</p>
2	<p>Observation: Crucial/urgent information was not shared within the IMT promptly. For example, the IMT were informed of travellers in the car park, where equipment was due to arrive, who refused to move location. The exercise ended with the equipment arriving on scene with no arrangements made and no notifications made to Garda.</p> <p>Learning Points: Better use of time outs to share critical information within the IMT. Critical information should be relayed to the Incident Commander (IC) immediately.</p>
3	<p>Observation: On this occasion for exercise purposes use was made of the SEA-PT Tetra radio System to familiarise teams and personnel with use of same as the system would be critical to operations in situations where network coverage is poor or non-existent or where privacy is essential. This obviously hampers communications to some degree and in order to eliminate any potential delay with crucial notifications/communications and ensure the IMT can communicate efficiently with external/internal bodies the ICP should be equipped with suitable telecoms etc. In this particular instance this was not really an issue as given the location in Clare Co Co head office arrangements could readily be put in place with the in house IT department. However the O&HNS CP should be given as to how this could be achieved in the case of an On Scene/On Site Command post set up in the field.</p> <p>Learning Point: Develop and include in the OS&HNS the arrangements in place or to be put in place that would enable the IMT to communicate effectively as soon as they are mobilised.</p>
4	<p>Observation: Feedback from the Operations section revealed members of the team felt they lacked technical expertise and the Planning section felt that further training was required to be better prepared for such an incident.</p> <p>Learning Point: Further exercises and training, supported by clear identification in the plan as to where technical expertise can be obtained.</p>

No	Observations / Recommendation
5	<p>Observation: Feedback from the IMT revealed that the exact roles of the Operations, Planning, Logistics and Finance sections were unclear to them. For example the Operations Section was not initially aware they were responsible for planning the response to the incident.</p> <p>Learning Point: Further exercises and training, supported by the distribution of this information via an Incident Management Handbook and/or inclusion of this information within the plan.</p>
6	<p>Observation: There was no one in house available to run the Shannon Estuary Oil Spill Model and it was not clear within the IMT who is responsible for running the model or where the IMT may turn to for such modelling.</p> <p>Learning Point: Clarity should be made in the plan/checklists as to who is responsible for modelling within the IMT and identification of key contacts for modelling services external to Clare County Council. This responsibility may be suitably assigned to an Environment Unit within the Planning Section as per p9/94 of the ResponseConsult - Incident Management Handbook (IMH).</p>
7	<p>Observation: The debrief revealed many in the IMT felt that the sections were too large, whereas the Section Chiefs and certain members were incredibly busy.</p> <p>Learning Point: Clear delegation of tasks and roles within teams would result in better utilisation of the personnel available.</p>
8	<p>Observation: Feedback from the Operations, Planning, and Logistics Sections was that a scribe or someone tasked with recording information would have been helpful.</p> <p>Learning Point: Identification of a Documentation Unit, as outlined in the IMH p9/93, within the IMT organisation.</p>
9	<p>Observation: During the debrief, the Logistics section requested prioritisation of resource requests. In addition to this the Finance section requested greater clarity on who is responsible for orders and for a standard template.</p> <p>Learning Point: Use of a standard resource request form such as ICS 213RR would help to prioritise and organise resource requests, with sections on the form that must be completed by each section in a standard order.</p>
10	<p>Observation: The IMT was unaware of important information within the plan, such as lists of notifications or oiled wildlife procedures, or such information was not utilised. For example, many of the bodies on the notification list (Section 2.1.5 of the O&HNSCP) were not notified until the list was highlighted to them by exercise facilitators.</p> <p>Learning Points: Greater awareness of the O&HNSCP and its content coupled with revision of the O&HNSCP to a clearer operational format. Key information such as notifications and checklists should have greater prominence within the plan. Again effective set up & use of situation display boards would help identify the necessary information, keep updated during the incident have available for reference at any time.</p>

No	Observations / Recommendation
11	<p>Observation: During the exercise, and preparation for the exercise, several updates/recommendations needed in the O&HNSCP were noted including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Information on the roles of each section (Command, Operations, Logistics, and Finance) is needed • Checklists for Section Chiefs would be beneficial • The following terms are used interchangeably in places or are sources of confusion; “on-scene Coordinator”, “on-site coordinator”, “on-scene commander” and “on-site commander” • The holding statement was deemed insufficient by the Public Information Officer • Exercise findings and feedback from observers was that the format and size of the plan was not suited for use in a response • Great detail is needed on the organisational structure of the IMT • There is a need to identify where technical expertise can be acquired within the plan, with contact details. <p>Learning Point: The O&HNSCP should be updated.</p>
12	<p>Observation: Many members of the IMT struggled to focus and communicate due to the high noise levels from the large number of people in the room.</p> <p>Learning Point: In planning future exercises, in addition to arranging suitable facilities for an Incident Command Post (On Scene Co-ordination centre) additional suitably sized rooms should be available for updates, briefings, break-out sessions and ancillary activities.</p>

5.4. Desktop Exercise Summary

The exercise was a positive and successful learning experience for the IMT and participants.

To build successfully on the desktop exercise the learning points identified during the course of the exercise should be taken on board in continuing to develop and put in place effective contingency arrangements for dealing with potential incidents.

This can be effectively achieved by adopting a two pronged approach where on the one hand the O&HNS CP is revised and updated as appropriate to provide for the learning points identified and on the other by continuing to assess and test the O&HNS plane through a adopting a schedule of exercises with individual exercises tailored to examine individual aspects of the that have been put in place as well as the overall response capability.

Some key points for consideration both in terms of updating the O&HNS CP and running future exercises include;

- Further training on the section/individual roles within the IMT
- Updates to the O&HNSCP, regarding the delegation of tasks and clarity of section/individual roles, as previously referred to in the learning points highlighted in the table in section 5.3 above.
- Better ICP set up to facilitate the IMT

Implementation of the above will help to develop/demonstrate the preparedness of Clare County Council in responding to pollution incidents, continue to build the IMT and its in house capability as well as improving/enhancing the working relationships with external bodies/agencies such as the Irish coast Guard, Neighbouring local Authorities, Shannon Foynes Port company and the Shannon Estuary Anti-pollution team.

6. Recommendations

- 1) Clare Co Co should use the learning gained from the exercise to update the O&HNS contingency plan as appropriate.
- 2) Clare Co Co should adopt an exercise regime/schedule to build on the work done on this occasion and continue to assess/develop the contingency arrangements in place for dealing with potential incidents.

A typical schedule of exercises is detailed in Appendix C.

- 3) As well as setting out the responsibilities and arrangements for dealing with incidents, the plan should identify the resources available and potential sources of same. Scenario planning or tactical cards should be drawn up for specific situations and used in identifying and filling any gaps.
- 4) In planning future exercises consideration should be given to striking the right balance in satisfying the objectives of the host organisation and providing the best outcomes for other SEA-PT members, Observers and attendees.
- 5) In planning future exercises consideration should be given to the format, structure and integration of the elements of the exercise.
- 6) In conducting exercises use should be made of the Incident Command System and in particular key elements such as Team Structure, Designated Team Member Roles, and of critical importance effective use of Situation Display Boards.
- 7) SEA-PT and Individual Local Authorities and organisations should give consideration to how an event such as the exercise scenario impacts on available resources and how adequate/available resources to deal with such an incident are.
- 8) Government Agencies, Local Authorities, Individual organisations and stakeholders should consider and prepare for situations such as the exercise scenario where they will be required to work together and may be looking to make use of the same resources which, as highlighted in this case, may not always be available.

For future continued improvements these recommendations should be adopted or implemented in a timely manner and incorporated into individual programs/plans as appropriate. The recommendations/actions, when incorporated into an ongoing schedule of exercises and/or training will continue to enhance the capabilities for dealing with potential incidents within the SEA-PT catchment area.

7. Conclusion

The exercise played out broadly in line with expectations and in accordance with the details outlined in the briefing document.

On this occasion the exercise can be considered a success in that it delivered fully in terms of the objectives set down at the outset.

Feedback on the exercise was received from the host organisation, participating bodies/agencies, individual participants, observers and attendees. Feedback was typically very positive particularly for those involved directly in the exercise. This applied equally to the training event, the Practical Element and the Desktop Element. A principle factor in attracting positive feedback was the learning experienced or obtained during the course of the exercise and which can be put to positive use in the future.

In addition to learning for the exercise host and direct participants, the annual SEA-PT exercise is also intended to provide experience for other SEA-PT members, participating bodies/agencies, observers, attendees and other organisations. Based on feedback on this occasion this is one area that could benefit from improvement going forward.

The desktop Element of the exercise focused on the IMT and the incident management cycle and this coupled with limitations in terms of the ICP and facilities along with a higher attendance than expected made it difficult to keep observers and attendees updated and briefed.

A number of time outs were conducted for this purpose but this was balanced with the need to avoid interrupting the IMT too frequently and presenting a distraction, breaking concentration or taking over matters.

For future events consideration need to be given as to how this can be managed and balanced in order that the desired outcomes can be achieved for hosts, participants and observers/attendees alike.

Another point that could be considered is how to better integrate the Practical and Desktop Elements of the exercise. An example would be completing SCAT Reports during the practical element for use during the Desktop Element.

Again this is a balancing act which must take into account the fact that attendance on each day differs, and that the individual elements may take place/be based different locations.

In many cases field staff attend the Practical Element whilst supervisory or management staff attend the Desktop Element with a quite a small number attending both.

In this instance each element was conducted remotely and this presented some advantages with feedback generally viewing this as a positive, however having both elements on the same site could in itself add a new dimension, present various challenges and ultimately deliver practice and learning in untested areas.

Appendix A – Exercise Briefing Document



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1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Shannon Estuary Anti - Pollution Team (SEA-PT) comprises of the Shannon Foynes Port Company, Local Authorities and other organisations who operate in the vicinity of the estuary. Each year a simulated event involving a pollution incident is held in order to practice the response capabilities of SEA-PT members.

The simulated event relates to the regulatory framework, responsibilities of Incident Owners, responsibilities of local authorities in the event of an incident occurring and how this is managed by the Incident Owner.

This year Clare County Council is tasked with hosting the event which will take place on the 26th & 27th April.

1.1 EXERCISE OUTLINE

On this occasion the basis for the exercise is an oil spill incident occurring off the west coast with resulting in impact to the coastline impact and oil coming ashore at Spanish Point.

The exercise is taking place over two days incorporating both practical and desk top elements.

Day 1 being the practical element of the exercise will take place on site at Spanish Point and will entail site set up, display, deployment and hands on use of various items of oil spill response equipment utilising SEA-PT plant and equipment as well as site familiarisation and characterisation.

Day 2 will be a live desktop exercise entailing the management of the given scenario in line with recognised incident management principles using Clare County Council's Oil and Hazardous & Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan (OHNSSCP).

1.2 EXERCISE OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the exercise are:

- Increase awareness and familiarity with the OHNSSCP and arrangements therein.
- Provide an opportunity to practice both practical hands on skills and management skills required for dealing with an Oil Spill Response Incident.
- Identify challenges in executing the roles & responsibilities involved.
- Check the suitability/effectiveness of the OHNSSCP, Equipment and capabilities of the response team.
- Use exercise debrief in leading to recommendation for improvements to the OHNSSCP.

The objective should be readily achievable within the context and scope of the proposed exercise.

Please note that this exercise is not a test of personnel but is to exercise and practice elements of the Oil and Hazardous & Noxious Substances Spill Contingency Plan and procedures therein.



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1.3 PARTICIPATING ORGANISATIONS

On this occasion Clare County Council is the host and subject of the exercise. In addition a number of other organization are participating in the exercise. The exercise will involve the following;

Participating Organisations	
Clare County Council	
Shannon Estuary Anti - Pollution Team	
Irish Coast Guard	
Shannon Foynes Port Company	
Pollution & Waste Services Limited	
Spillconsult Ltd	
Environmental Management Services	
Oiled Wildlife Network	

2.0 SPANISH POINT



Fig 1: Location of Day 1 of the exercise 26th April at Spanish Point, Co. Clare
 Co-ordinates: -9.43497, 52.8446 IRG: easting 103310 northing 178020

Spanish Point is located on the west coast of county Clare; 3 km/2 miles west of Milltown Malbay; 20km/12miles west of Ennis along the N85 and R460 via Inagh or R474 via Kilmaley and Connolly; 13km/8miles South of Lahinch on the N67, and, 26km/16miles north of Kilrush along the R486 and N67. Be advised that while there are no road closures along the routes towards Spanish Point presently there are however traffic light systems in place on the R474 due to road works currently under way.



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2.1 Environmental Sensitivities

Spanish Point has developed into a picturesque bustling seaside resort welcoming many visitors each year. It is on the route of the Wild Atlantic Way and its clean beach boasts the 'excellent' standard of statutory-compliance under bathing water regulations with the Blue Flag being retained year after year. The beach itself and surrounding coastline is protected under Irish law and EU Directives being within the protected sites of Special Area of Conservation (SAC) 001021 *Carrowmore Point to Spanish Point Islands*, and, Special Protection Area (SPA) 004182 *Mid-Clare Coast* in terms of their species, habitat and birds.

2.2 Amenity Value

Spanish Point's main amenity is the sandy beach which attracts hundreds of beachgoers during the summer season and is also a very popular surfing site throughout the year. The immediate area provides services for tourists and visitors with two hotels, caravan parks/camp sites, holiday homes and pitch and putt course. Of course there are also many full time residential homes in the area including a secondary school located within 500m of the beach. One major attraction for the area is the famous Willie Clancy Traditional Music Festival that is held annually in Miltown Malbay which also includes many of the festivities being held in Spanish Point each July. It is Ireland's largest traditional Summer Music-School and welcomes visitors from all over the world. Therefore the reputation of this County Clare amenity is hugely important on the international scene as well as locally in terms of our ability and pride to provide a high standard of service in order to host such events within an environment of such high quality and value in terms of its resources, and, natural and cultural heritage.

2.3 Beach Characterisation

Spanish Point Beach extends along a north to south orientation, i.e. running from the rocky shoreline at the Armada Hotel towards the rocky shoreline south of the mouth of the Annagh River. Much of Spanish Point Beach is denoted with its golden sandy beach running along approx. 1.4km framed on its upper shoreline and intertidal zones by rounded sea stones, cobbles and larger sea boulders. Heading towards the southern part of the beach, the gradient starts to lift along the upper shoreline forming cliffs of approx. 5m in height, interrupted only by the mouth of the Annagh River with a splaying of sea stones and larger boulders in its wake as it meets and merges into the Atlantic Ocean. The bathing area at Spanish Point is delineated over a section close to the car park, toilets and lifeguard hut where the beach is easily and safely accessible here for swimmers, bathers and water sports activities.

The rocky shoreline at the northern and southern ends of the beach are dynamic ecosystems with its littoral zonations evident according to the array of organisms and plant life found here including its rock pool habitats. Access to the rocky shoreline at the northern side of the beach is easy, to an extent, but not at all advisable due to the dangers of tides, waves, very slippery seaweed laden rocks and the extreme probability of falls and injury.



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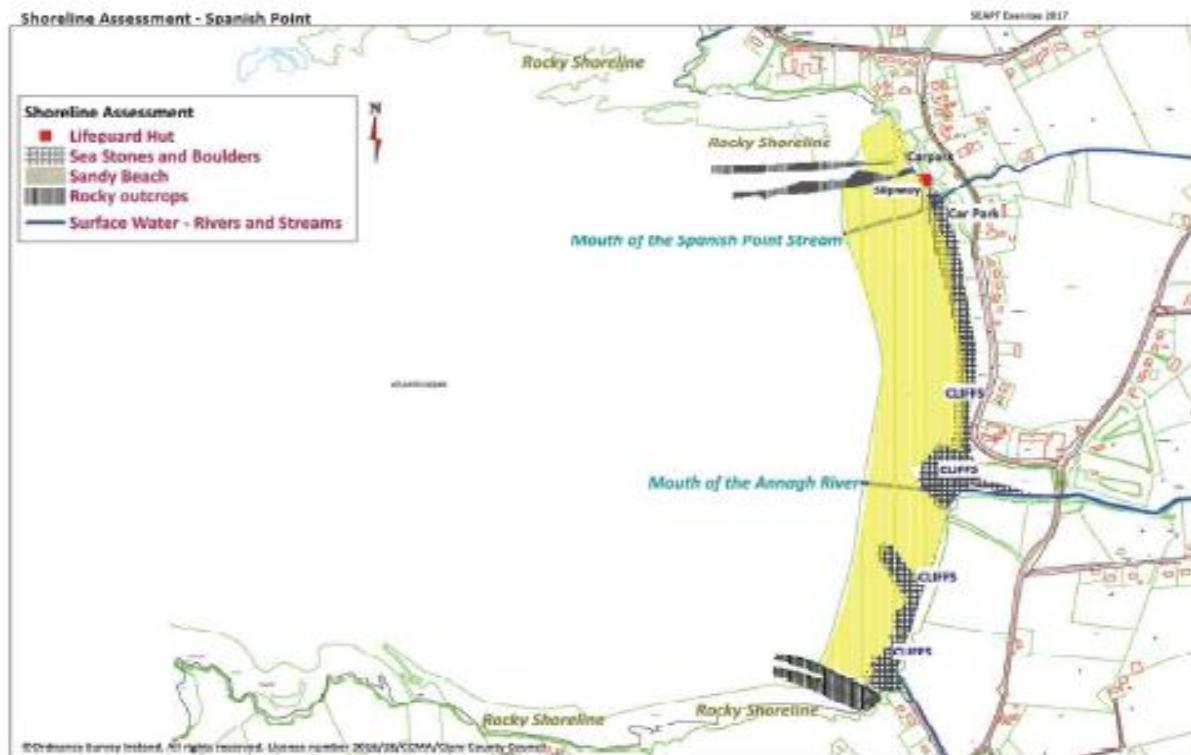
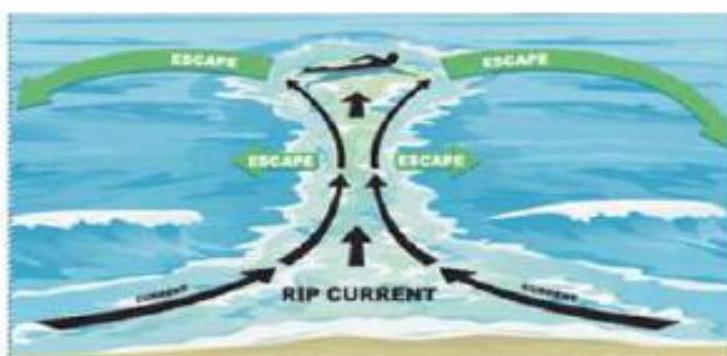


Fig 2.0 Shoreline Assessment for Spanish Point
 Please refer to Appendix A for site photographs

2.4 Additional Beach Information

Spanish Point Beach is an extensive stretch of sandy beach which forms a straight face onto the open Atlantic sea at Mal Bay. Spanish Point is a popular beach for swimmers and surfers. It faces west and is subject to large breaking waves that may from time to time be a substantial hazard on the beach. During the bathing season the tidal ranges vary between 2m and 5.2m with depth of water increasing slowly and steadily westward.



There are a number of rip currents on this beach; a strong rip current is evident in the centre of the beach with a lesser one that runs along the south side of the Blackrock, especially prevalent during the incoming tide.



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Rip currents most typically form at low spots or breaks in sandbars, and also near structures such as groins, jetties and piers. Rip currents can be very narrow or extend in widths to hundreds of yards. The seaward pull of rip currents varies: sometimes the rip current ends just beyond the line of breaking waves, but sometimes rip currents continue to push hundreds of yards offshore.

3.0 Health & Safety

All delegates will be required to register their attendance on arrival at The Armada Hotel in Spanish Point. A site specific safety briefing will then be given by Clare County Council staff. It is mandatory that all delegates attend the briefing before the exercise starts.

3.1 Personal Protective Equipment

Delegates are responsible for providing their own personal protective equipment (PPE) for the event. The minimum required is as set out below;

- High visibility clothing
- Safety boots \shoes – EN ISO 20345
- Safety gloves – EN 420

Please note delegates are not required to wear floatation devices as all activities will take place away from the sea at low water.

3.2 Tidal state

	LW		HW		LW		HW	
26/04/17	-	-	06:14	5.2	12:23	0.1	18:43	5.2
27/04/17	00:46	0.1	06:57	5.3	13:06	0.0	19:25	5.3

3.3 First Aid

Clare County Council will provide the nominated First Aiders for the event. These are;

- Patrick Mullane
- Mary Eustace

The First Aiders will be made known to delegates on the day.



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4.1 Day Schedule

This will consist of a practical element on site at Spanish Point involving operation/demonstration of equipment. In the afternoon a technical briefing will be carried out on the equipment on site.

The site for the demonstration event is as shown above. This area will be cordoned off for the duration of the event

09.30 - 10.30

Tea/Coffee & Registration at Armada Hotel

10.30 - 10.45

Health & Safety Briefing

10.45 - 11.00

Divide into Groups and proceed to Beach/Work Site

11.45 - 13.00

Demonstration and Operation of Equipment. Groups rotate to attend at each set of equipment.

13.00 - 14:00

Lunch in Armada Hotel

14.00

On Site Briefing on Equipment for Technical/Management Staff

15.00 - 16.00

Demobilisation



SEA-PT ANNUAL TRAINING EXERCISE 2017

5.0 DAY 2: Incident Command Exercise – Clare County Council Headquarters



Co-ordinates: -8.97530, 52.84923 IRG: easting 134300 northing 178028

5.1 Day Schedule

This will take place at Aras Contae an Chláir, located on New Road, Ennis. The initial briefing/presentations will take place in the Council Chamber with the simulation event taking place downstairs in the main training room.

This will act as the Incident Command Centre.

09.00 – 09.30

Registration and Tea/Coffee

09.30 – 09:40

Address by Chief Executive

09:40 – 11.00 - Presentations

09:40 – 09:50- Irish Coast Guard – Dave McMyler

09:50 – 10:00 – SEA-PT, – Captain Hugh Conlon, Shannon Foynes Port Company

10:00 – 10:20 – Oil Spill at Spanish Point the Ecological Effects- Jack O'Sullivan, Environmental Management Services

10:20 – 10:35 – Oiled Wildlife Network –Pauline Beades

10:35 – 10:45- Event Overview – John Leahy, Senior Engineer, Clare County Council

10:45– 11:00- Exercise Introduction – Brian McGonagle/Dave Nielson, PWS Limited/Spill consult

11:00 – 15:30 Stimulated Event

12:15 – 13:15 Lunch –Canteen for Observers/Attendees/Visitors

15:30 – 16:00

Event Review

16:00 Q&A and close.



SEA-PT ANNUAL TRAINING EXCERCISE 2017

5.2 Oil Spill Scenario

The scenario to be simulated is based on the following parameters;

- A major spillage of crude oil has occurred from an oil exploration platform.
- The platform is located approx. 220km off the south west coast of Ireland.
- A significant oil slick is moving towards the coast of Ireland.
- This exercise will focus sole on the Spanish Point location.
- The source of the pollution has been brought under control.
- There are no casualties on the platform.
- Use of dispersants will not be an option.

Please note these parameters may change or be revised during the course of the simulation.

6.0 CONCLUSION

We hope that you enjoy the events over the two days find it of benefit to you and your organisation. We endeavour to help meet your needs on the day so please let us know if you have any particular requirements.

APPENDIX A (Spanish Point Photos)

Shoreline Assessment Photos

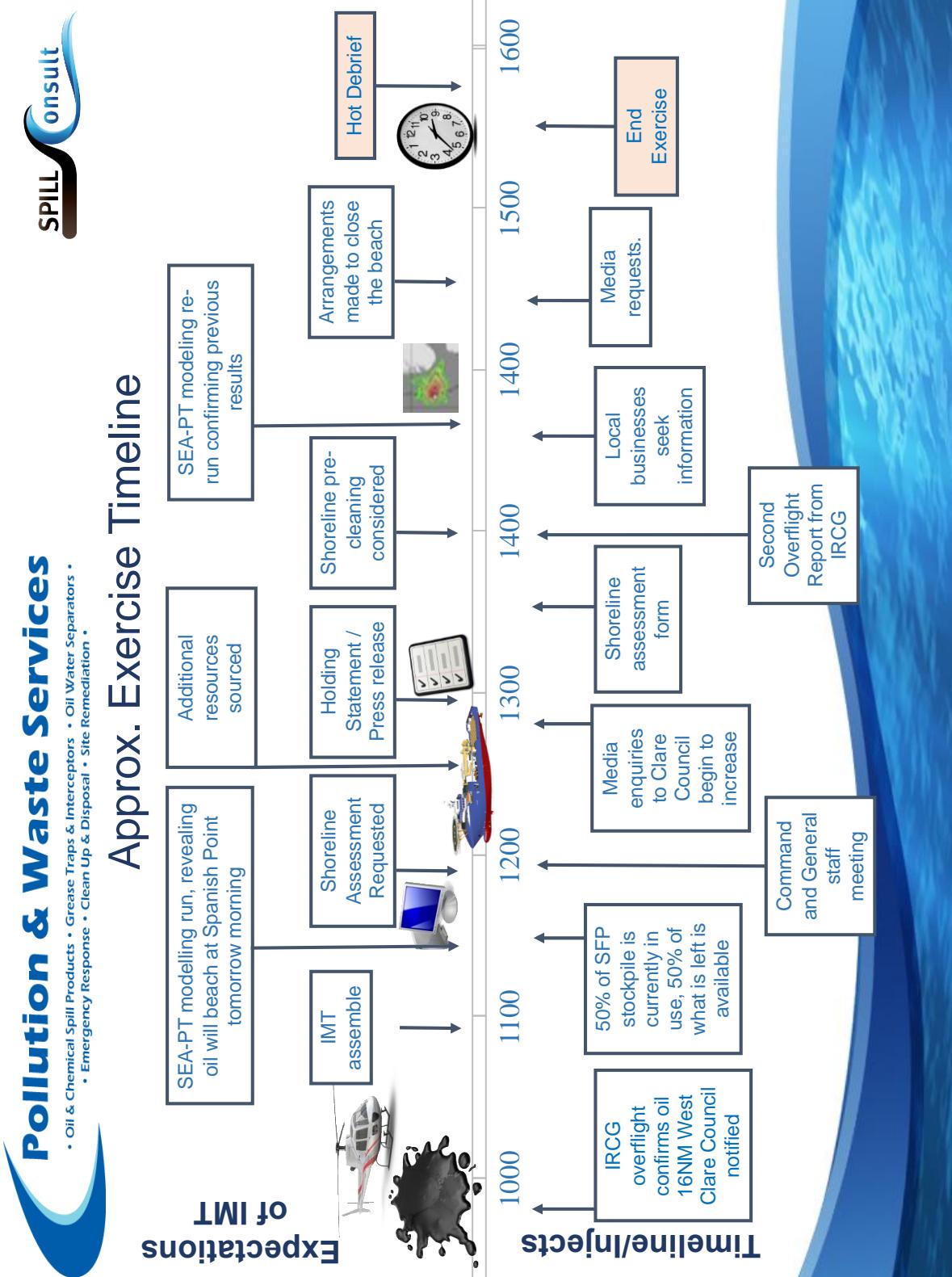


Fig A: Boulders and sea stones in the upper shore level – tidal and intertidal zones



Fig B: Rocky Shoreline

Appendix B – Exercise Timeline



Appendix C – Typical Exercise Schedule

A typical schedule of exercises to be adopted as part of the O&HNS CP would include the following;

Exercise Type	Frequency
Notification exercise	Twice per year
Mobilisation exercise	Twice per year
Table-top Exercise	Once per-year (may incorporate mobilisation & deployment of local response equipment)
Incident Management Exercise	Once every 3 years (will incorporate mobilisation & deployment of resources up to Tier 2 level)

This exercise schedule can be adapted to best suit individual circumstances and take into account exercises run in conjunction with outside agencies or other organisations