

SHANNON ESTUARY ANTI POLLUTION TEAM

“ *EXERCISE STURAMUS* ”

- Oil Spill Response Annual Training Exercise 2018 -



Hosted by :

Shannon Foynes Port
and
Limerick City & County Council

To take place on :

18th and 19th April 2018

at

Shannon Foynes Port
and
Limerick City & County Council Offices

Table of Contents

1.0 OVERVIEW	3
2.0 SHANNON FOYNES PORT	3
3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES	4
3.1 Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)	4
3.2 River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077)	5
3.3 Aquaculture	6
3.4 Amenity Value	6
4.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION	7
4.1 Health & Safety	7
4.1.1 Personal Protective Equipment	7
4.1.2 First Aid	7
4.2 Tidal State	7
4.3 Accommodation	7
4.4 Oil Spill Scenario	8
5.0 EXERCISE OBJECTIVES.....	8
6.0 EXERCISE TIMETABLE.....	9
6.1 Day 1 18 th April 2018 - Practical Element – Foynes Port	9
6.2 Day 1 18 th April 2018 - Presentations – Limerick City & County Council	9
6.3 Day 2 19 th April 2018 - Limerick City & County Council Offices.....	10
7.0 CONCLUSION	10
8.0 Appendix 1- SEA-PT Store Location	11

SEA-PT ANNUAL EXERCISE 2018

1.0 OVERVIEW

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 is held in order to train and test response capabilities of SEA-PT members – the simulated event relates to responsibilities on local authorities in the event of oil spill occurring and how this is managed by the Local Authority.

This year Shannon Foynes Port Company and Limerick City a County Council are tasked with hosting the event which will include a simulated oil spill occurring as a result of an incident involving a vessel whilst entering the port resulting in an oil spill impacting the port and immediate surrounds.

The event will take place on the 18th & 19th of April and will include a Practical Session involving equipment deployment and a Desktop Exercise simulating management of the clean up operation arising from the incident scenario.

The practical element will take place in Shannon Foynes Port on the morning of Day 1 and comprise a simulated event utilising SEA-PT plant and equipment for General Operatives, Supervisors and Area Engineers.

Day 2 will consist of the management of a simulated large scale event (desktop) for Senior Management of Local Authorities, SEA-PT members and the Coastguard. It will be held at the offices of Limerick City & County Council in Limerick.

2.0 SHANNON FOYNES PORT



Shannon Foynes Port Company, Ireland's second largest port operation, has statutory jurisdiction over all marine activities on a 500km² area on the Shannon Estuary, stretching from Kerry/Loop

Heads to Limerick City. The strategic location of our terminals offers access to the vibrant economy and population of a large part of Ireland.

The company provides a variety of services, from controlling navigation and marine safety, to warehousing, logistics and cargo handling. We handle the largest vessels entering Irish waters, up to 200,000 dwt, and have a track record of continuous growth and innovation.

The company was formed in 2000, resulting from the merger of the former Shannon Estuary Ports and Foynes Port companies; these in turn were originally formed in 1996 following the Harbour's Act of that year, which provided for the establishment of statutory port companies, free to operate independently with a strong commercial remit, while ownership was retained by the State.

SFPC specialises in bulk cargoes, which constitute more than half the cargoes transiting Irish ports. SFPC accounts for more than 37% of all bulk cargoes in the Republic (IMDO 2016). Typical cargoes include liquid fuels and chemicals, ores, coal and other energy products, agri-business inputs such as animal feedstuffs and fertilisers, recyclable materials and various project cargoes, including wind turbines for wind energy projects.

The cargo-handling capacity at specific terminals is available at the Marine Operations section of the SFPC website which can be found at www.sfpc.ie.

For more comparative information on SFPC activity in context of the overall Irish port sector, please see the Irish Maritime Transport Economist which can be viewed or downloaded at www.imdo.ie.

All of the company's operations and services are fully certified to ISO 9001:2008 and OHSAS 18001 standards.

3.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITIES

The River Shannon is the longest river in Ireland at 386km. The source of the river, known as the Shannon Pot, is located in Co. Cavan. It flows through ten counties before reaching the Atlantic Ocean at Kilrush in Co. Clare.

In 1999, Dúchas nominated the Shannon Estuary as the first marine Special Area of Conservation (SAC) to ensure the protection of cetaceans (whales, dolphins and porpoises) in Ireland.

3.1 Lower River Shannon SAC (002165)

This very large site stretches along the Shannon valley from Killaloe in Co. Clare to Loop Head/ Kerry Head, a distance of some 120 km. The site thus encompasses the Shannon, Feale, Mulkear and Fergus estuaries, the freshwater lower reaches of the River Shannon (between Killaloe and Limerick), the freshwater stretches of much of the Feale and Mulkear catchments and the marine area between Loop Head and Kerry Head.

This site is of great ecological interest as it contains a high number of habitats and species listed on Annexes I and II of the E.U. Habitats Directive, including the priority habitats lagoon and alluvial woodland, the only known resident population of Bottle-nosed Dolphin in Ireland, the only resident group of bottlenose dolphins in Irish waters, one of only six such groups in Europe as well as all three Irish lamprey species.

It is a known calving area where new-born calves are born between May and August each year, and they can easily be identified in the estuary due to their small size.

A good number of Red Data Book species are also present. A number of species listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive are also present, either wintering or breeding. Indeed, the Shannon

and Fergus Estuaries form the largest estuarine complex in Ireland and support more wintering wildfowl and waders than any other site in the country.

Most of the estuarine part of the site has been designated a Special Protection Area (SPA), under the E.U. Birds Directive, primarily to protect the large numbers of migratory birds present in winter,

3.2 River Shannon and River Fergus Estuaries SPA (004077)

The estuaries of the River Shannon and River Fergus form the largest estuarine complex in Ireland. The site comprises all of the estuarine habitat west from Limerick City and south from Ennis, extending west as far as Killadysert and Foynes on the north and south shores respectively of the River Shannon (a distance of some 25 km from east to west). Also included are several areas in the outer Shannon estuary, notably Clonderalaw Bay and Poulnasherry Bay, as well as the intertidal areas on the south shore of the Shannon between Tarbert and Beal Point.

The site has vast expanses of intertidal flats. The main macro-invertebrate community present is a *Macoma-Scrobicularia-Nereis* community which provides a rich food resource for the wintering birds. Other species occurring include Common Cockle, Lugworm, the polychaete *Nephtys hombergii*, the gastropod *Hydrobia ulvae* and the crustacean *Corophium volutator*.

Eelgrass is present in places, along with green algae

Salt marsh vegetation frequently fringes the mudflats and this provides important high tide roost areas for the wintering birds. Characteristic species occurring include Common Saltmarsh-grass, Sea Aster, Thrift, Sea-milkwort, Sea Plantain, Red Fescue and Saltmarsh Rush.

In the innermost parts of the estuaries, the tidal channels or creeks are fringed with species such as Common Reed and club-rushes. Also found is the nationally rare Triangular Club-rush.

Elsewhere in the site the shoreline comprises stony or shingle beaches.

The site is the most important coastal wetland site in the country and regularly supports in excess of 50,000 wintering waterfowl (mean of 59,183 for the 4 seasons 1996-97 to 1999/00), a concentration easily of international importance. Also of note is that three of the species which occur regularly are listed on Annex I of the E.U. Birds Directive, i.e. Whooper Swan, Golden Plover and Bar-tailed Godwit.

The site has internationally important populations of Dunlin (14,987), Black-tailed Godwit (706) and Redshank (1,983). A further 16 species have populations of national importance.

The Shannon / Fergus system was formerly frequented by a Greenland White-fronted Goose population but this declined during the 1980s and 1990s and the birds now appear to have abandoned the area. The site provides both feeding and roosting areas for the wintering birds. Habitat quality for most of the estuarine habitats is good. Some species, particularly Whooper Swan and Greylag Goose, utilise areas outside of the site for feeding.

Apart from the wintering birds, large numbers of some species also pass through the site whilst on migration in spring and/or autumn. Regular species include Black-tailed Godwit, Whimbrel and Greenshank.

Much of the land adjacent to the rivers and estuaries has been reclaimed and improved for agriculture and is protected by embankments (especially along the River Fergus estuary). Further reclamation, especially near to the urbanised and industrial areas continues to pose a threat. The site receives pollution from several sources, including industry and agriculture, but it is not known if this has any significant impacts on the wintering birds.

Aquaculture occurs in some areas of the site – future increases in this activity could cause disturbance to the habitats and the associated birds. Common Cord-grass (*Spartina anglica*) is well-established and may threaten some of the estuarine habitats. Some disturbance occurs from boating activities.

3.3 Aquaculture

There are four aquaculture sites in the vicinity of the port. These comprise both intensive and extensive mussel and oyster sites, the closest of which is located approx. 3Km to the east. The closest designated shellfish waters are ca. 24km to the west at the Ballylongford.

A study of the marine atlas showed that the closest fishing ground is Pot fishing for shrimp ca.19.6 Km west of the Port. The marine atlas does not show any spawning grounds inside of the Shannon estuary (Aquafact , 2016).

Many islands are studded throughout the Shannon estuary, the chief of which is the important heritage site of Scattery Island. It was here that St. Senan founded a monastery and died in 554

3.4 Amenity Value

The Shannon estuary is also an important recreational and tourist resource due to its location between two popular tourist areas in the Burren, Co. Clare and scenic areas in Co. Kerry.

The estuary has become more popularly known for its great inshore sea angling with its many sheltered bays are proving an attractive alternative for deep-sea charter boats when bad weather prohibits going out to sea. The estuary is especially good for tope fishing either from a boat or from the shore.

Charter boats that fish the estuary operate from Kilrush Marina and Carrigaholt, on the Clare side, and Glin on the Limerick.

There are a range of boating options to Dolphin watch, including boat trips from Carrigaholt, at the mouth of the Shannon Estuary on Loop Head Peninsula and from Kilrush Creek, with both locations being on the Wild Atlantic Way driving route.

Tours of the estuary are operated out of Foynes taking in Foynes Island parts of the Fergus Estuary with longer tours to the outer Estuary and the historic Scattery Island.

Foynes itself has a rich maritime and aviation history and was once the last port of call on the eastern shore of the Atlantic for flying boats as it became the centre of the aviation world from 1939 to 1945. Nearby is the village and Foynes Flying Boat & Maritime Museum.

Foynes Yacht club is located at the western ends of the town/port with active fleets in categories ranging from dinghies up to yachts of over 9 metres.

4.0 ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

4.1 Health & Safety

For the Practical element All delegates will be required to register their attendance on arrival at the SEA-PT Store in Foynes Port. A site specific safety briefing will then be given. It is mandatory that all delegates attend the briefing before the exercise starts. For activities based at Limerick City & County Council Offices delegates will be required to report to reception and sign in/out on arrival and leaving.

4.1.1 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;

- Hard Hat
- High visibility clothing
- Safety boots Shoes
- Safety Gloves

Please note if delegates have personal flotation devices they should bring them with them as some activities will take place on or adjacent to the slipway beside the port entrance. Access to this area will be restricted to those wearing PFDs. There will be a limited no of PFDs available on the day.

4.1.2 First Aid

Details of First aid facilities and nominated First Aiders will be made known to delegates attending the day during sign in and briefing.

4.2 Tidal State

For the period of the exercise the details of tidal state at Foynes Island are as per the table below;

	LW		HW		LW		HW	
18/04/17	02.03	0.10m	08.24	5.34m	14:22	0.16m	20:48	5.28m
19/04/17	02.41	0.16m	09:05	5.23m	15.01	0.37m	21:27	5.14m

4.3 Accommodation

For those requiring accommodation during the course of the exercise at a discounted rate is available to delegates from the South Court Hotel. Rate for Bed and breakfast is €79.00. Delegates wishing to avail of same should book directly with the hotel referencing Hugh Conlon of Shannon Foynes Port/SEA-PT annual exercise.

4.4 Oil Spill Scenario

The exercise is based on the scenario where a ship, the "Annalene" a 26,000 DWT Oil Tanker, has been involved in an incident whilst approaching the port with the principle details as follows;

- The incident took place at 11.30 on 17th April 2018
- A tug has had a minor collision with the ship whilst manoeuvring on the approach to the port.
- The incident took place at the following location;

N 52° 37' 05"

W 009° 08' 48"

Geographic: Approximately 2Km West of Foynes Island.

- As result of the impact the ships bunker tank has been holed.
- There are no casualties as a result of the incident and all personnel are safe and accounted for.
- As a result of the damage a significant quantity of Heavy Fuel Oil has leaked from the ship.
- The ship continued to come alongside and be secured in Foynes Port at No 3 berth.
- No other damage to the vessel has been observed.
- Initial estimates on quantity of oil spilled are put at 50 metric tonnes.
- The exercise will focus on impact within the port and surrounding area as a result of the escape of oil.

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

5.0 EXERCISE OBJECTIVES

The overall objectives of the exercise are:

- Exercise Phase 2 of the SEA-PT Oil Spill Contingency Plan
- Increase awareness and familiarity with the O&HNSCP
- Provide an opportunity to practice skills required in managing an 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 in leading to recommendation for improvements to the O&HNSCP.

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

6.0 EXERCISE TIMETABLE



SEA-PT STORE, Foynes Port.



Western Entrance, Foynes Port.

6.1 Day 1 18th April 2018 - Practical Element – Foynes Port

This will consist of a practical element on site at Foynes Harbour involving demonstration and /or operation of equipment.

- 0930 - Assemble at Foynes Port for registration.
- 1000 - Start of Marine and Shoreline Exercise.
- 1200 - End of Exercise with debrief and refreshments.

6.2 Day 1 18th April 2018 - Presentations – Limerick City & County Council

Presentations will be made at the Limerick City & County Council Offices, Dooradoyle Rd, Limerick Co Limerick.

Topics covered will provide some background information on the oil spill response regulatory framework and requirements in Ireland, information on aspects of spill response relevant to the exercise and some introductory information on the exercise itself. Itinerary is as follows;

1400 - Meet at offices of Limerick City and County Council.

1415 - Presentations by :

- ❖ Irish Coast Guard.
- ❖ Jack O’Sullivan - Shoreline environmental assessment.
- ❖ Hugh Conlon - SEAPT and marine response.
- ❖ Brief on exercise by Brian McGonagle.
- ❖ Brief on wildlife response.
- ❖ IOPC funds??

1630 - End of Day 1.

6.3 Day 2 19th April 2018 - Limerick City & County Council Offices



Limerick City & County Council
Dooradoyle Rd,
Limerick,
County Limerick.

0930 - Assemble at offices of Limerick City and County Council and registration.

1000 - Commence table top exercise.

1230 - Break for lunch.

1330 - Continue table top exercise

1430 - Exercise Completed and debrief.

1500 - End of Day 2.

7.0 CONCLUSION

We hope that you enjoy the events over the two days and 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.

8.0 Appendix 1- SEA-PT Store Location



SEA-PT Store Location