

Interspill 2012 Science Workshops

Spill Detection and Tracking (SW4)

The workshop was chaired by Guido Ferraro from the European Commission Joint Research Center and two additional presentations were provided by Olaf Trieschmann from the European Maritime Safety Agency and Nils Robbe from Optimare Sensorsysteme GmbH & Co. KG.

The biographies of the speakers and their presentations are provided in PDF version.

The workshop was held on Wednesday 14th March at 14:00. The participation was good with approximately 40 people attending.

During the debate with the attendance, several interesting issues were raised and in particular the following ones:

- The problem of oil spill detection and tracking needs to be analyzed in a global perspective. Three basic pillars have to be assessed: the legal framework, the operational needs and the research and technological developments;
- The rate of confirmation of probable pollutions transmitted to Member States by CleanSeaNet is of approximately 65% of investigated cases;
- The question of using satellite spill detections as proof elements as part of a court record was raised. The answer is difficult as the mandatory content of a court record depend on the national legislation of Member States, some of them requiring samples of pollution while some others do not. CleanSeaNet pictures are never used as the single element in a court record, but CleanSeaNet detections are often the first element in a chain for the constitution of records. In addition, information from CleanSeaNet enable Member States to better focus administrative measures such as Port State Control even if no judiciary measures are taken;
- The coordination between EMSA and Member States for programming satellite pictures is essential for the efficiency of CleanSeaNet. Indeed, the availability of aircraft for investigating possible spill detections from CleanSeaNet and confirming identification of ships drawn from AIS system is necessary;
- CleanSeaNet is an EMSA pollution detection service that can be used for both illegal discharge detection and accidental pollution observation and tracking. The flexibility of programming pictures brings an adequate answer to both cases;

- Regarding airborne sensors for oil or chemical spill observations, the current set includes mainly SLAR, Laser Fluorosensors (LFS), Microwave Radiometers (MWR) as well as IR and UV sensors (the latter two are often combined in one instrument). In the past ten years, the R&D efforts have concentrated on the development of data fusion systems, of adequate HMI and on communication systems, much more than on development of sensors. Today, the effort on sensor development is starting again, in particular new laser fluorosensing techniques. The effort on real time communication systems is also important.