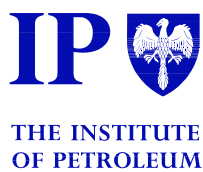


INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM

BOOMING IN OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING

A GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR DEVELOPING OPERATIONAL  
COASTAL AND ESTUARINE BOOMING PLANS  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM





INSTITUTE OF PETROLEUM

**BOOMING IN OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

A GUIDANCE DOCUMENT FOR DEVELOPING OPERATIONAL  
COASTAL AND ESTUARINE BOOMING PLANS  
IN THE UNITED KINGDOM

June 2002

Published by  
**The Institute of Petroleum, London**  
A Charitable Company Limited by Guarantee

Copyright © 2002 by The Institute of Petroleum, London:  
A charitable company limited by guarantee. Registered No. 135273, England

All rights reserved

No part of this book may be reproduced by any means, or transmitted or translated into a machine language without the written permission of the publisher.

ISBN 0 85293 355 X

Published by The Institute of Petroleum

Further copies can be obtained from Portland Customer Services. Commerce Way,  
Whitehall Industrial Estate, Colchester CO2 8HP, UK. Tel: +44 (0) 1206 796 351  
email: [sales@portland-services.com](mailto:sales@portland-services.com)

# CONTENTS

	<b>Page</b>
<b>Acknowledgements</b> .....	vii
<b>Introduction</b> .....	ix
The National contingency plan and the integration of a local authority plan and organisational responsibilities .....	x
Oil spill contingency plan components and procedures for spill response .....	xi
<b>1 General plan issues</b> .....	1
1.1 Health and safety .....	1
1.2 Weather .....	1
1.3 Tidal conditions .....	2
1.4 Definition .....	2
<b>2 Specific plan elements</b> .....	3
2.1 Name of plan .....	3
2.2 Associated plans .....	3
2.3 List of sites .....	3
2.4 Chart or map references .....	3
2.5 Date of validation .....	3
<b>3 Site specific</b> .....	5
3.1 Physical description of the site (s) .....	5
3.2 Site access .....	5
3.3 Equipment list .....	6
3.4 Communications .....	6
3.5 Manpower .....	7
3.6 Boom deployment .....	7
3.7 Oil recovery and oil storage .....	8
3.8 Boom recovery .....	8
<b>4 Validation</b> .....	9

Contents Cont....	Page
<b>Annexes</b>	
<b>Annex A - Operational booming plan – Components checklist</b> .....	11
<b>Annex B - Charts, maps, plans, photographs and illustrations</b> .....	13
<b>Annex C - Health, safety and protective equipment checklist</b> .....	17
<b>Annex D - Weather and tidal information on the day of deployment</b> .....	19
<b>Annex E - Logistics and equipment checklist</b> .....	21
<b>Annex F - Boom site supervisor checklist</b> .....	23
<b>Annex G - Boom types and application – <i>Aide memoire</i></b> .....	25
<b>Annex H - Boom selection matrix</b> .....	27
<b>Annex I - Common points for consideration</b> .....	29
<b>Further reading</b> .....	31

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This document was produced jointly by the Institute of Petroleum, the Maritime Coastguard Agency and the Environment Agency for England and Wales. The principal author was Capt. A Greenwood of A G Greenwood and Associates and Chairman of the IP's Oil Spill Working Group. The Steering Group was the Oil Spill Working Group, members of which are listed below.

Capt. A G Greenwood	A G Greenwood and Associates (Chair)
Capt. S Barber	Shell UK
Mr B Bennett	BP Exploration Ltd.
Mr T Bracher	ChevronTexaco
Mr K Colcomb	Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Mr M Cowan	ExxonMobil
Dr T Lunel	AEA Technology
Mr C McArthur	Environment Agency
Mr C Morris	IPIECA
Mr H Parker	The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited
Mr D Salt	Oil Spill Response Ltd.
Mr J Thornborough	BP Shipping Ltd.

BOOMING IN OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING



# INTRODUCTION

In 1998 the Environment Agency published a series of technical reports which assessed and quantified the contingency plans that currently exist for protection from oil pollution, by booming, of tidal rivers and estuarine areas. This included ports and harbours. One clear conclusion from this exercise was that booming plans and their place within overall contingency planning are not handled consistently across the United Kingdom.

The Institute of Petroleum, supported by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and Environment Agency (EA), subsequently sponsored a workshop on booming plans. This was widely attended by Local Authorities and Port and Harbour Authorities, and served to reinforce the view that considerable inconsistencies existed in the layout, content and effectiveness of operational booming plans. It established the need for some generic template or model plan and guidance to address operational booming and its place within an overall contingency plan.

This document builds on the discussion at the workshop and aims to set out a model operational booming plan based on best practice. It recognises that an operational booming plan is not a stand-alone document, but is an integral working part of an overall oil spill contingency plan. It is supported by a number of annexes that cover, in more detail, aspects such as health and safety, boom selection and weather considerations.

Common inconsistencies and inadequacies which have been found by the Environment Agency in booming plans developed across the UK have been listed and classified as issues for consideration to provide the reader with an awareness of the many pitfalls that exist. The guidelines also recognise the EA initiative to prioritise sites for protection across England and Wales.

The format for an operational booming plan is provided as a recommended minimum standard, and it is intended that these guidelines are used in conjunction with the MCA Scientific Technical and Operational Advice Notice (STOp 5/99).

A booming plan is the operational component of a two part Shoreline Protection Plan. Part one details overall strategy for the Shoreline Protection as part of the County/Area plan. Part two provides a stepwise guide for the boom deployment at individual sites for the boom technicians. This document addresses issues relating to Part two.

The Institute of Petroleum cannot accept any responsibility for injury to persons or damage to or loss of property however arising out of, or in conjunction with, the application of these guidelines.