

**ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON PROTECTION OF THE SEA
LIMITED BY GUARANTEE**

TRUSTEES' REPORT

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2012

DEVELOPMENTS, ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE YEAR

During the current and previous years the charity's activities have been reduced to a level that may be sustainable over the longer term.

ACOPS continues to have observer status with the United Nations, The Arctic Council and OSPAR which are useful for guiding ACOPS activities.

Annual Survey of Reported Discharges Attributed to Vessels and Offshore Oil & Gas Installations Operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone 2010 (published January 2012):

Since 1965 the Advisory Committee on Protection of the Sea (ACOPS) has compiled statistics and other information on different types of marine pollution in the waters around the British Isles. The competent authorities and other stakeholder groups have used this information for a wide range of purposes including policy and planning decisions, evaluations of particular programmes, assessments of regulatory compliance levels, development of risk assessment models and to support educational campaigns. Examples of organisations that have consulted the survey data include the Department for Transport, European Commission, International Maritime Organization, Local Authority Associations, the Scottish Government and the Welsh Assembly Government.

The Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) exercises the Central Government's statutory responsibilities for taking action when oil or other hazardous and noxious substances emanating from any at-sea activity threatens the United Kingdom or its surrounding waters. As part of its commitment to provide cleaner seas around the United Kingdom the MCA publishes, via ACOPS, an annual survey of reported discharges attributed to vessels and offshore oil and gas installations operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone (UKPCZ). The survey results complement historical data and records and enable MCA's Counter Pollution and Response (CPR) Team to monitor trends in the number of incidents, the amount of oil and chemicals spilt, the geographical distribution of spills, the source of pollution and the nature of the pollution.

Following analysis of 1,445 incident reports and supporting information, 582 separate accidental discharges from vessels and offshore oil and gas installations were identified in the survey area during 2010. An overall reduction of 7.5% was evident in the total number of incidents reported from all sources over the previous year's total.

P1 Marine Foundation:

ACOPS has entered into a voluntary partnership with the P1 Marine Foundation to help deliver their marine environment protection objectives. ACOPS has helped to create and manage the P1 Marine Foundation Awards Scheme for Universities.

International Maritime Organization(Marine Environment Protection Committee) (www.imo.org) and the Office of the London Convention and Protocol for the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of wastes and other Mater (LC/LP), hosted by IMO:

Dr. Philomène Verlaan joined ACOPS in 2011 as a representative to attend London Convention sessions in particular. In 2011 she attended 1 Conference of the Parties and one intercessional Legal and Technical Working Group of the LC/LP, as well as contributing to an intercessional LC/LP Correspondence Group of Ocean Fertilization.

Asian Climate Change workshop in Bangalore:

The workshop was held in July 2011 along with the Divecha Centre. The workshop brought together experts from India, China, Pakistan, Europe, and the United States, and other regions of the world to identify key areas of uncertainty for science and policy over the short and long term for Asian climate and develop consensus conclusions on policies to minimise regional and local impacts of climate change. It was a particularly timely event, following the highly unusual weather patterns of the last decade caused by climate trends or random extremes.

The outputs of this conference will be to produce a report on gaps in knowledge of climate change adaptation that can be filled through joint research projects, as well as ways to improve decision making at the regional/local levels based on such research, to be delivered to the natural and social science research

communities in the region. We will also consider the feasibility of a joint website or programme for sharing Asian climate metadata and knowledge between the Divecha Centre and other centres of expertise on Asian climate change.

The History of the Met Office by Malcolm Walker:

ACOPS held a reception with John Hirst Chief Executive of the Met Office to launch the 'History of the Meteorological Office' by Malcolm Walker, published by Cambridge University Press in 2011. Malcolm Walker tells the fascinating story of how the Met Office emerged and of its great achievements in weather forecasting. This volume, with forewords by a former Director General and deputy Director General, will be of great interest to professional and amateur meteorologists, atmospheric scientists, and anyone interested in the prediction of weather and climate

Sea Change- A Review of Current Marine Policies in the UK and EU:

In December 2011, along with the Group of Legislators for a Balanced Environment (GLOBE) International, ACOPS brought together leading experts with a range of standpoints to explain and debate the biggest legislative changes that have taken place in the last five years in marine policy.- The pace of change has been unprecedented and implementation has been made even more complex by the current constraints on the public purse. Discussions took place as to how collaboration might be improved and to suggest directions for further policy development to contribute to the UK's important work in this area. ACOPS and GLOBE hosted this event as a public service in furtherance of their mission to support the responsible use of the oceans.

Meta-data centres for climate/environment data in African countries:

In October 2011 ACOPS submitted a funding request to the Gates Foundation , Unfortunately the bid was unsuccessful but ACOPS continues to search for support for the project as such data sources are needed for vigorously assessing and dealing with the adverse impacts and risk of climate change and extreme weather events, and environmental degradation

FUTURE PLANS AND DEVELOPMENTS :

- The Natural Disasters and Climate Change workshop November 2012
- To continue with the search for support for the Meta-data centres for climate/environment data in African countries project.
- Annual Survey of Reported Discharges Attributed to Vessels and Offshore Oil & Gas Installations Operating in the United Kingdom Pollution Control Zone 2011 (to be published late 2012).
- Continue work with the C/LP on the international regulation of ocean fertilization.