

وزارة البيئة والشؤون المناخية

MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE AFFAIRS

# Framework for Oil Spill Response in Oman

FOR

Defense Environmental International Cooperation (DEIC)  
and Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Center (MEMAC)

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# Introduction

- The Sultanate of Oman possesses over 3165 km of spectacular and unique coastline.
- There are rapid developments occurring along its coastline, including the construction of large ports with industries areas, hotels, fisheries harbors and aquaculture projects.
- In accordance with the policies of the government of the Sultanate of Oman to prevent, abate and eliminate all forms of pollution that may affect the Oman environment:
  - Declared the Law for Conservation of Environment issued by Royal Decree 114/2001.
  - The Oman National Oil Spill Contingency Plan has been prepared together with assistance and guidance of MEMAC ,ITOPF and IMO.



# Threats and Risks

The region is experiencing considerable growth in marine traffic. Over 50,000 ships per Year pass through the Straits of Hormuz, of which 17,000 are oil tankers.

The main sources of pollution :

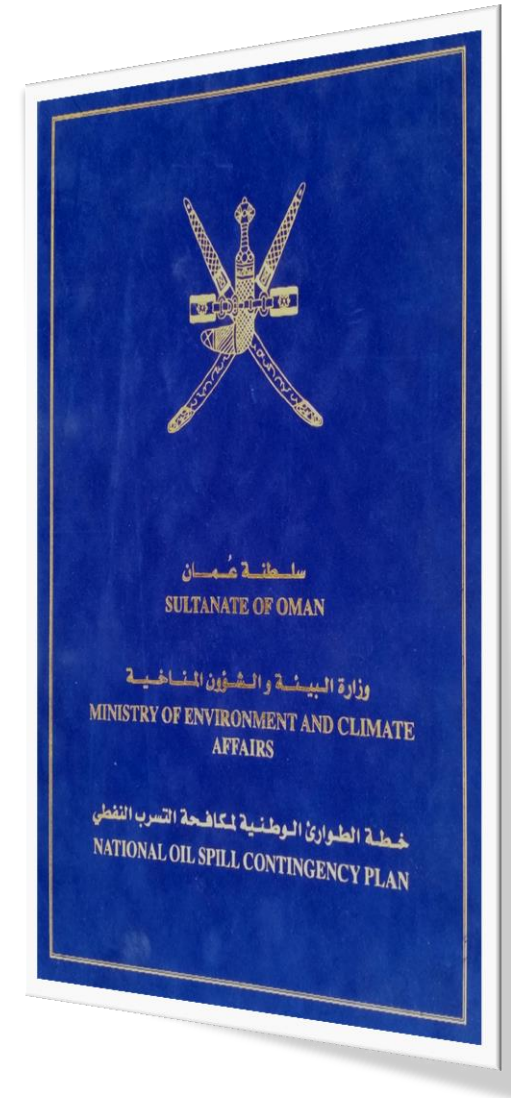
1. Pollution from ships (intentional and accidental).
2. Pollution caused by dumping from ships
3. Pollution from land-based sources.
4. Pollution resulting from exploration and exploitation of the territorial sea and its subsoil and the continental shelf.
5. Pollution from other human activities (land reclamation suction, dredging and coastal dredging).

The risks associated with this traffic require the ability to co-ordinate the emergency response resources at both a national and a regional level.

# National Oil Spill Contingency Plan

***The primary objectives of the NOSCP are as follows :***

- ❖ To provide a definitive guide to the oil spill response policy of the Sultanate of Oman.
- ❖ To define the organizational structure within the oil spill response operations will be conducted.
- ❖ To identify the various Government agencies and organizations which will be actively involved in oil spill response operations and define their responsibilities.
- ❖ To provide guidelines for reporting, assessing and responding to oil spill incidents.
- ❖ To provide basic information on the availability and location of oil spill response equipment and material resources in Oman.
- ❖ Training .



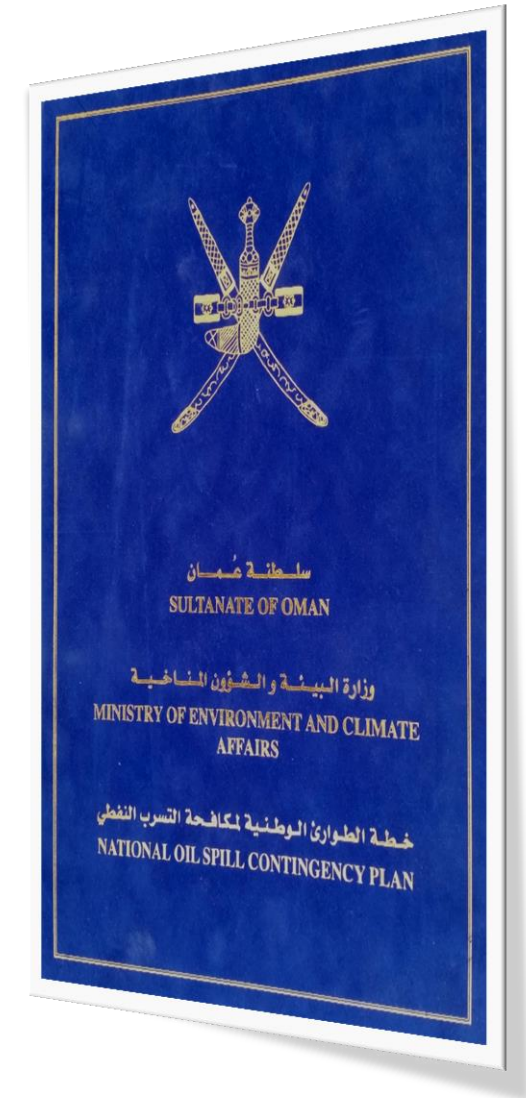
# OIL POLLUTION COMBATING EQUIPMENT

The existing oil spill response equipment which is presently available in Oman like booms, skimmers, pumps, containments, high-pressure cleaners , generators, antipollution workboats, air blowers, oil spill kits and sorbents , Dispersants , Ship Spraying , Aerial Surveillance , Airborne Spraying , ...



## Represented in the national plan to combat oil pollution

- Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs.
- Ministry of Defense
- Ministry of Transport and Communications
- Ministry of Regional Municipalities.
- Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.
- Ministry of Health.
- Ministry of Oil and Gas.
- General Authority for Electricity and Water.
- Royal Oman Police.
- Muscat Municipality. Municipality of Dhofar.
- General Authority for Defense and Ambulance.
- Petroleum Development Oman Company.



# Maritime Security Center

Maritime Security Center is assigned to manage and command the maritime security operations over the ports, establishments and coasts against any maritime security threats such as **illegal immigration, organized crime, illegal trade, sea piracy, marine environment pollution** and **impending the international navigation routes, terrorism, climate change, current disputes, infiltration, smuggling and protecting the fisheries and search and rescue** operations in coordination with the authorities relevant to maritime security in Omani marine environment.

## **The Maritime Security Center is assigned to the following tasks:**

- To respond immediately and timely to the environment and humanitarian disasters by employing all state's capabilities and potentials.
- To provide the required capabilities and potentials of equipment, systems, surveillance aircrafts, ships and fast crafts.
- To gather regional and international information on the status of marine environment such as pollution and any change may occur regularly.
- To enhance and maintain the joint coordination between the concerned authorities to encounter the risks and illegal activities by strict and effective actions.
- To participate in the planning for crisis management of disasters and prepare for future scenarios of maritime threat.
- To observe the maritime accidents and gather information on the challenges and risks of military, security, environment, economic and humanitarian nature that may occur in Omani territorial waters and other adjacent expansions according to the instruction and authorization issued in this regard.
- To follow up any reports on environmental violations such as dumping of solid and liquid wastes and goods which may cause risk to the security, environment and maritime safety.



## Service Provider Companies

Since 2005, Two Qualified Service Provider Companies Combating Pollution by Oil and other Harmful Substances in Cases of Emergency



All Companies in the Oil/Gas Industry to have minimum access to Tier 2 capabilities for environmental incidents response .

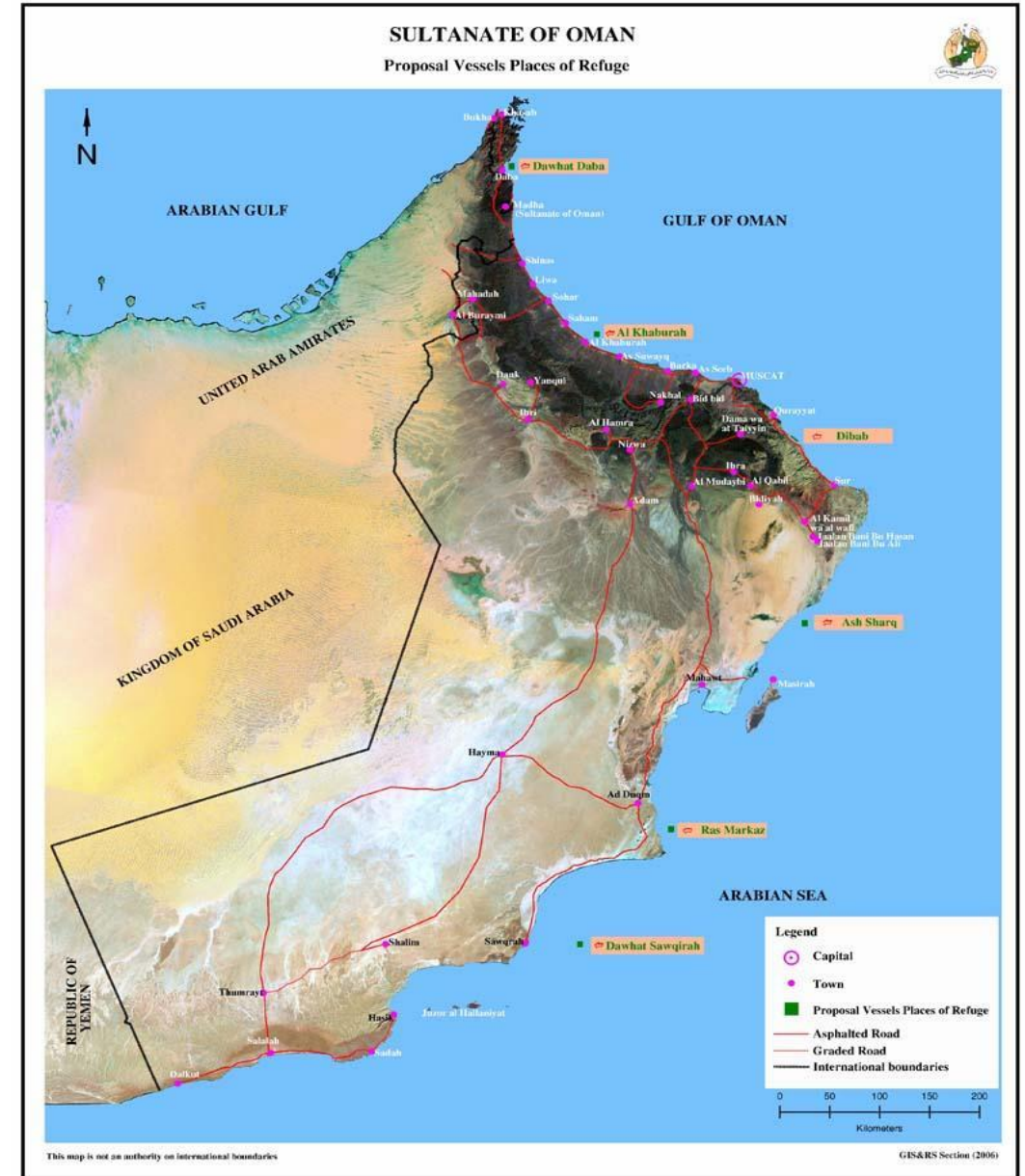
Service Provider Companies providing assistance to Oil Companies, Ports, Power & Desalination Plants and other vulnerable sites in the event of an oil spill and Training



# Refuge Areas

The Sultanate of Oman has designated (6) specific refuge places for vessels in need of assistance along Oman coastline, according to IMO resolutions (A.949) and (A.950).

- 1- Dawhat Deba ( N: 25 43 0 E: 055 19 0
- 2 - AL Khaburah ( N: 24 05 0 E: 057 10 0
- 3 - Dibab ( N: 23 03 0 E: 059 05 0
- 4 - Ash Sharq ( N: 21 15 0 E: 059 10 0
- 5 - Ras Markaz ( N: 25 15 0 E: 057 52 0
- 6 - Dawhat Sawqirah ( N: 18 08 0 E: 052 00 0



# Oman Coastal Sensitive Maps

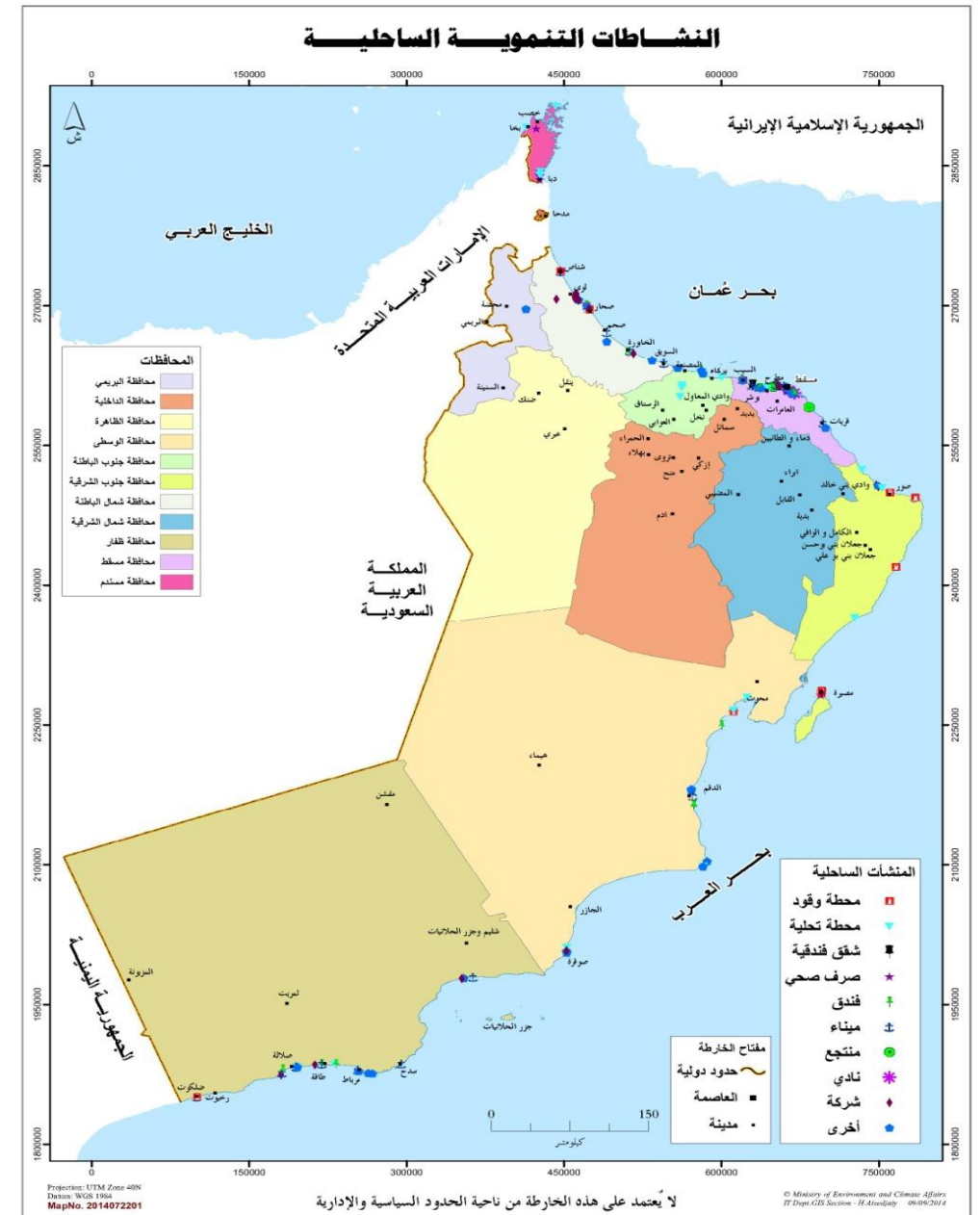
Coastal Sensitive Maps includes the environmental sites designated as Marine Environment High Risk Areas

## • Environmentally sensitive areas

- Mangrove swamps
- Salt marsh
- Muddy shores
- Turtle nesting sites
- Dugong areas
- Fisheries especially spawning areas and shell fisheries
- Bird nesting and feeding areas

## • Socio-economic sensitivity

- Desalination plants
- Power station water intakes
- Other industrial water intakes
- Mariculture facilities
- Tourist facilities
- Tourist beaches



# Reception Facility

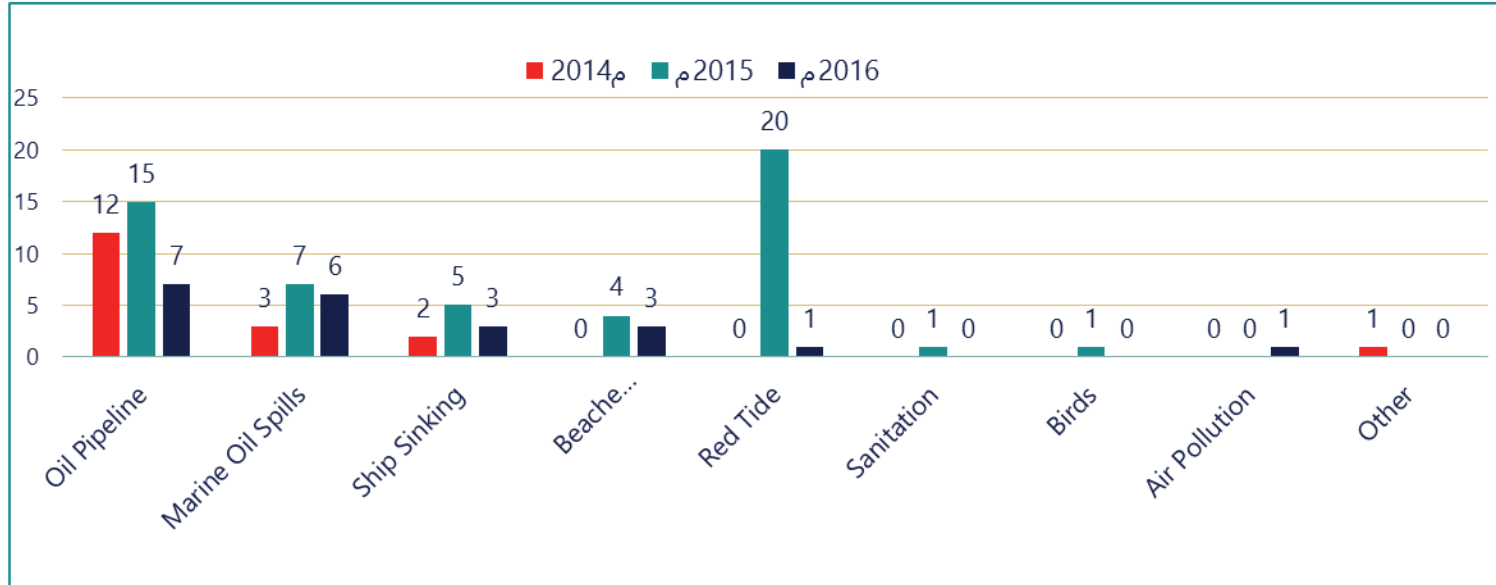
Oman planning to build 3 waste reception facility (Salalah, Duqum, Sohar) compliance with the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

Sohar port reception facility has been started in 2016 , With the introduction of maritime waste collection services in Sohar, no longer need to visit other ports to discharge their MARPOL waste.

Salalah and Duqum waste reception facilities still under discussions to determinate the locations and companies which will invest to build and manage the facilities, as well as to consider establishing one at Sultan Qaboos Port if required.



# Incidents

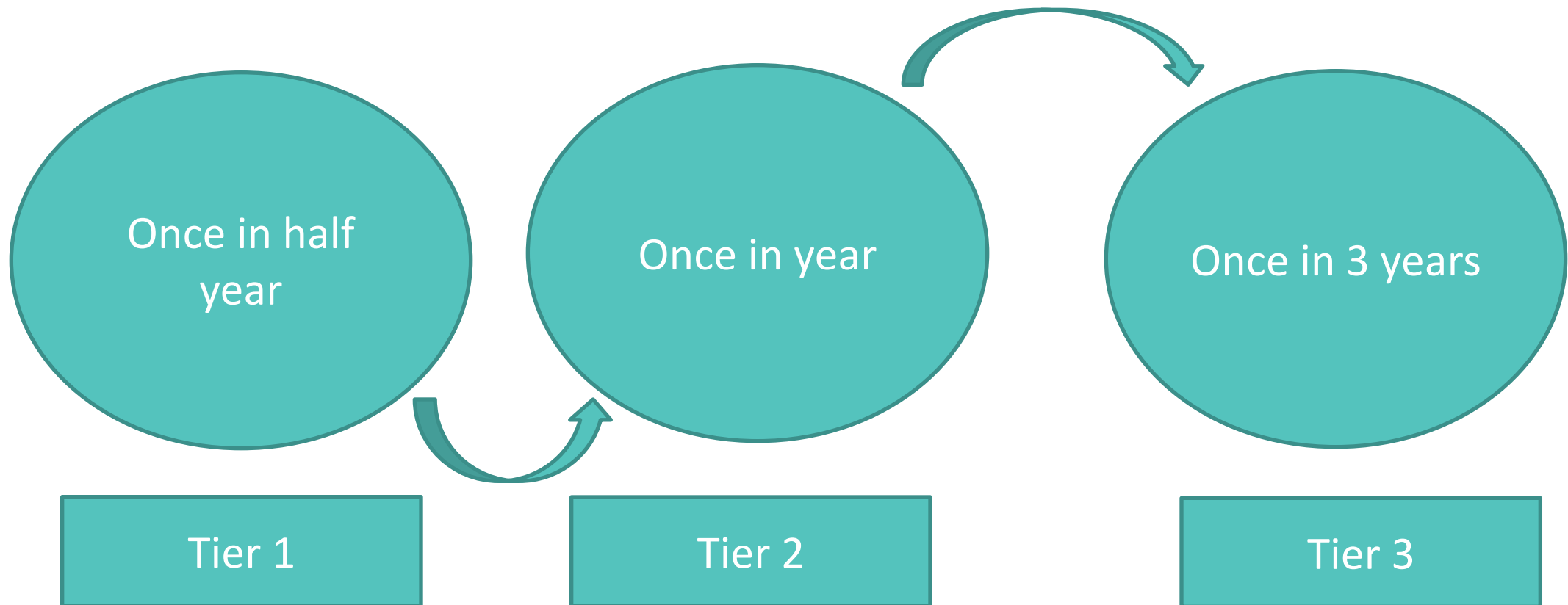


## Summary of *Nesa R3* incident

Ship	<i>Nesa R3</i>
Date of incident	19.06.2013
Place of incident	About 1.4 nautical miles off Port Sultan Qaboos, Muscat, Oman
Cause of incident	Sinking
Quantity of oil spilled	In excess of 250 tonnes
Area affected	Some 40 kilometres of shoreline
Gross tonnage	856 GT
Impact	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>the ship was carrying 840 tones of bitumen as cargo and five tones of bunkers.</li> <li>some cargo and bunkers were spilled and spread by wind and currents along some 40 kilometers of the Omani coast.</li> <li>recovered a total of 250 tones of the cargo.</li> <li>clean-up operations were carried out the following three months.</li> </ul>



# Marine Pollution Response Exercise



# Tier (3) National Oil Spill Exercises

**AL Nawras 2005**

**Wave 2008**

**AL Ghattas 2011**


**AL Nawras 2017**




**AL Nawras 2017**



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THANK  
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