



An Assessment of Environmental Emergencies Arising from Activities in Antarctica

CEP V Agenda Item 7 ATCM XXV

IAATO was asked to provide to CEP V an update on environmental emergencies that have occurred in the last two years.

There were no significant incidents during the 2000-2001 season in Antarctica. Two incidents occurred during the 2001-2002 season, neither of which created any type of significant environmental damage.

One incident was transport-related and the second was equipment failure with one litre of fuel having been spilled.

Background

Resolution 6 of ATCM XXII requested that COMNAP undertake an assessment of the risks of environmental emergencies arising from activities in Antarctica, including, but not limited to, an analysis of incidents, which have occurred over the past ten years within the Antarctic Treaty area. CEP II requested that IAATO provide relevant information with regard to environmental emergencies resulting from tourist vessels. IAATO provided XII SATCM IP11 to CEP III.

1. Professor Molchanov-Tourist Vessel

Type of Incident: Transport

1. INFORMATION FOR IDENTIFICATION

1.1 LOCATION: LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE *62°11'0 S and 052°01'0 W.*

1.2 DATE *18 January 2002.*

1.3 LOCATION DESCRIPTION (e.g. station, land, glacier ice, sea, etc) *Sea.*

1.4 NATIONAL OPERATOR/OTHER *Oceanwide Expeditions subcharter to Quark Expeditions, Inc.*

2. TYPE OF ACCIDENT:

2.1 OIL SPILL: TYPE OF OIL: *No oil spilled. Vessel nudged an iceberg.*

Volume of spill *Nil.*

Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident)

2.2: CHEMICAL SPILL: Type of Chemical: Volume of Spill, Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident) *No chemical or oil spilled –*

2.3 FIRE: Environmental hazard caused: Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident) *No fire.*

2.4: TRANSPORT ACCIDENT (Air/land transport/transport on glacier/sea transport)

Environmental damage/hazard: Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident)

Vessel, Professor Molchanov, was moving in dense fog with a large iceberg in front of the ship. The iceberg was approximately 17 miles in length. The vessel was in lee of the iceberg and there appeared to be misunderstanding on the bridge as to the navigational commands between officer on watch and the helmsman. By the time the ship was put in full astern mode, the moving iceberg was too close to the ship and the vessel could not keep sufficient distance from touching the ice. No lives were in danger and only repairs were needed to the bow bulwark.

2.5 ANY OTHER INCIDENT NOT COVERED ABOVE: Environmental hazard caused: Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident.) *As above.*

3. RESPONSE ACTION TAKEN: *The crew repaired the damage and the vessel passed surveyor inspection.*

4. OTHER MEASURES TAKEN (including remediation, etc) *On return to her homeport, Professor Molchanov will go into dry dock for further repairs.*

5. WAS THE ENVIRONMENT RESTORED TO ITS CONDITION PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT? (Yes/No, or other comments) *No damage to the environment.*

6. ESTIMATED COST OF: Damage to property Response action (i.e. Labor and materials etc other measures): *Unknown.*

7 WERE THERE INJURIES OR DEATHS TO HUMAN BEINGS?

Injured persons: *None.* Deaths: *None*

8. WERE THERE INJURIES OR DEATHS TO WILDLIFE? species and number: *None.*

9. ANY COMMENTS (e.g. Potential accidents or incidents that may cause an environmental impact but have not been included in this questionnaire.) *None.*

2. MV Vista Mar-Tourist Vessel

Reported by GAUSS mbH, Bremen / Germany, Captain Thomas Reincke

Type of Incident: Minor oil spill

Events/Incidents Leading to Environmental Hazard

1. INFORMATION FOR IDENTIFICATION

1.1 LOCATION: LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE: *63°24'S and 56°59'W*

1.2 DATE *28 December 2001*

1.3 LOCATION DESCRIPTION (e.g. station, land, glacier ice, sea, etc Anchorage off scientific station). *Esperanza*

1.4 NATIONAL OPERATOR/OTHER: *Tourist Ship*

2. TYPE OF ACCIDENT: *Oil Spill*

2.1 OIL SPILL: Type of Oil: *Gland oil (propeller shaft)*

Volume of spill: *< 1 litre.*

Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident)

The ship was manoeuvring on the anchorage of Hope Bay off the scientific station "Esperanza" on 28 December 2001 at 0700 hrs. During manoeuvres the port propeller was damaged. Although the connection from the supply tank to the gland was shut down immediately a small amount of oil escaped to the sea. The amount of oil was too small to be responded. The station Esperanza was informed immediately about the incident.

2.2: CHEMICAL SPILL: Type of Chemical: Volume of Spill, Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident) *None*

2.3 FIRE: Environmental hazard caused: Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident) *None*

2.4: TRANSPORT ACCIDENT (Air/land transport/transport on glacier/sea transport)
Environmental damage/hazard: Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident) *As above*

2.5 ANY OTHER INCIDENT NOT COVERED ABOVE: Environmental hazard caused:
Description of the Event (i.e. circumstances, weather, cause, details of the accident) *None*

3. RESPONSE ACTION TAKEN: *None, see above*

4. OTHER MEASURES TAKEN (including remediation, **etc**) Station personnel were informed: *Yes as above*

5. WAS THE ENVIRONMENT RESTORED TO ITS CONDITION PRIOR TO THE ACCIDENT? (Yes/No, or other comments) *No*

6. ESTIMATED COST OF: Damage to property *None*
Response action (i.e. Labor and materials etc. other measures): *None*

7 WERE THERE INJURIES OR DEATHS TO HUMAN BEINGS?
Injured persons: *No* Deaths: *No*

8. WERE THERE INJURIES OR DEATHS TO WILDLIFE? species and numbers-- *No*

9. ANY COMMENTS (e.g. Potential accidents or incidents that may cause an environmental impact but have not been included in this questionnaire.) *None*