



Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

MV BENITA - LE BOUCHON - MAURITIUS





Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping



MV BENITA run aground
on 17/06/2016 on the
outer reef of Ilot Brocus.



Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Immediate Actions after the incident:

- Assemble National Coordination Committee and collect all necessary info about the incident
- Prepare an Oil pollution response plan and consider worst case scenario
- Implementation of required actions as far as
 - a. Oil pollution prevention
 - b. Actual Salvage of the vesselis concerned
- Dealing of the incident on a day by day basis



Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping



Coordination Committee Meeting at the Head Offices of the Ministry

The Coordination Committee consisted of the following Governmental and Private bodies:

- ✓ Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping & Outer Islands (MOMFSO)(Shipping Division)
- ✓ MOMFSO (Fisheries Division)
- ✓ Mauritius Oceanography Institute
- ✓ National Coast Guard
- ✓ SMF (Explosive Unit)
- ✓ Mauritius Police Force
- ✓ Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management
- ✓ Mauritius Fire & Rescue Services
- ✓ Civil Aviation
- ✓ Metereological Services
- ✓ Agents of various parties
- ✓ Five Oceans Salvage (Salvors)
- ✓ Owner's P&I
- ✓ ITOPF



Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping



Coordination Committee Meeting at the Head Office of the Ministry

- ✓ Owners
- ✓ Lawyers of various parties
- ✓ Prime Minister's Office
- ✓ MPA
- ✓ Foreign Affairs
- ✓ Hydrographic Unit
- ✓ Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection
- ✓ MRA Customs



Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Identification of environmental sensitive areas near the vicinity

Stakeholders Involved



- ✓ Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries, Shipping & Outer Islands (MOMFSO)(Shipping Division)
- ✓ MOMFSO (Fisheries Division)
- ✓ Mauritius Oceanography Institute
- ✓ National Coast Guard
- ✓ Ministry of Environment, Sustainable Development, Disaster and Beach Management

- ✓ Metereological Services
- ✓ ITOPF
- ✓ Five Oceans Salvage (Salvors)
- ✓ Owner's P&I
- ✓ Hydrographic Unit
- ✓ Prime Minister's Office
- ✓ Local Fishermen



Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Deployment of oil booms by Salvors, National Coast Guard and SMF under the overall supervision of National Coast Guard





Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Shore Cleanup





Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Shore Cleanup





Challenges faced during the oil removal process from the casualty and Ilot Brocus

➤ Transportation of IBC's (1 cub-m containers) could only be feasible by helicopter

➤ Coordination with

Civil Aviation (due to casualty's close proximity to the airport),

Mauritius Police Helicopter Squadron (schedule of flights, service hours of the helicopters, other emergency commitments),

Metereological Services (prevailing weather conditions for the intended flights)

Salvors (preparing/filling IBCs from casualty & Ilot Brocus)

Logistics (finding a suitable area to land the IBCs and onward transportation to treatment plant)

MRA Customs (any regulatory procedures with regards to the bunker treatment)



Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

- Removal of Bunkers and other solid & liquid pollutants from vessel





Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

- Suitable landing site was made available to the salvors to place the IBCs removed from casualty





Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

- Coordination with local laboratories, customs, salvors, ITOPF and P&I Club for the disposal of pollutants removed.





Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

➤ Day to day coordination of the incident

1. Approval of the minutes of the meetings of the previous day
2. Injuries
3. Status of the casualty
4. Daily works carried out for the bunker removal / refloating operation
5. Weather forecast / current surveys
6. Antipollution equipment and booms deployment / Cleanup operations
7. Media handling
8. Any other issues



Dealing with Balsatic Rock protruding through cargo hold's No. 5 tank top preventing vessel to be pulled free

- ✓ Collaboration between special mobile forces and salvors for inspecting the rock inside the cargo hold
- ✓ Establishing that the balsatic rock could be removed either by explosives or by other means
- ✓ Obtaining necessary licenses and approvals from various departments for performing controlled explosions on balsatic rocks in a designated quarry (special mobile forces and salvor's demolition expert)
- ✓ Confirming that the option of using the explosives to remove the rock was not possible and contemplating other solutions



Ministry of Ocean Economy, Marine Resources, Fisheries and Shipping

Dealing with Balsatic Rock protruding through cargo hold's No. 5 tank top preventing vessel to be pulled free





➤ Post – Refloating Planning

1. Helicopters on standby (evacuation purposes, etc.)
2. National Coast Guard and Special Mobile Forces on standby for emergency response
3. Contingency Planning
4. Coordination with MRCC (Mauritius and Reunion) for destination voyage