



Marine Environmental Response



U.S. Coast Guard

Marine Environmental Response Overview

2026

USCG SECTOR SAN DIEGO

Federal On Scene Coordinators Representative (FOSC-R)

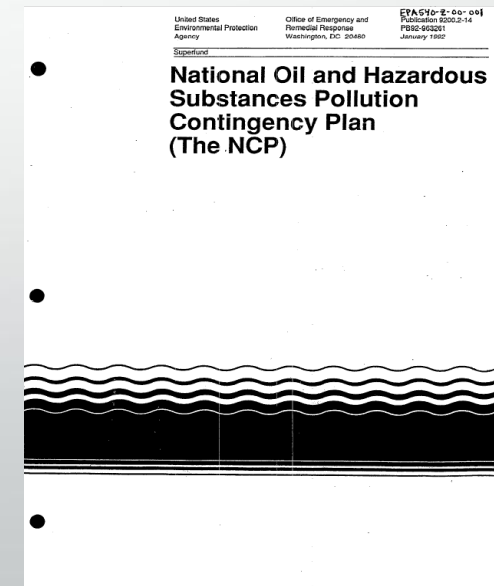
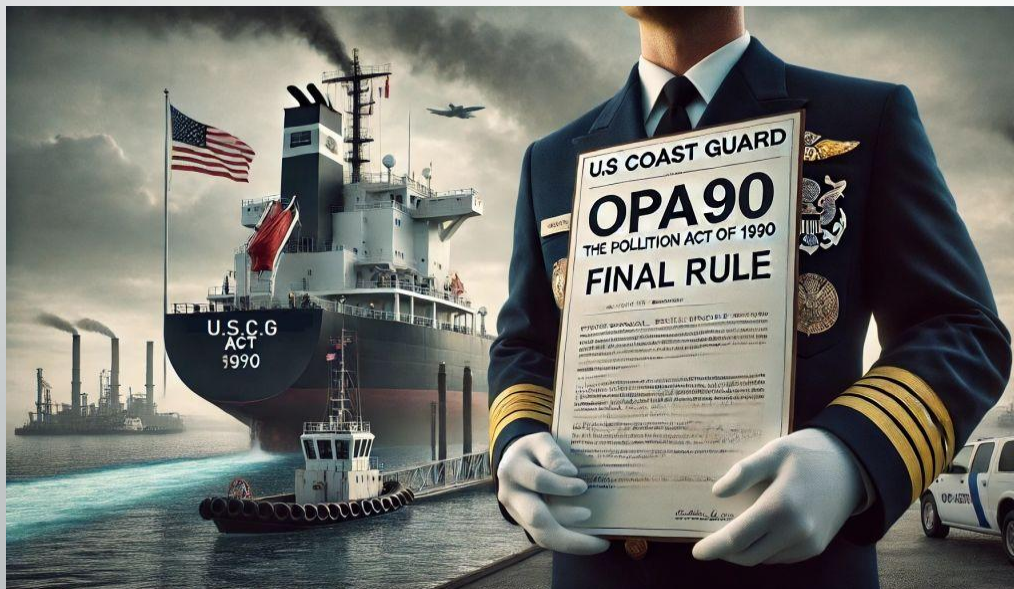




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- The Oil Pollution Act (OPA) and National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (aka “National Contingency Plan” or NCP) directs Federal On-Scene Coordinators (FOSC) to clean up oil & hazardous substance spills.
- Costs incurred by involved government agencies are reimbursed via Pollution Removal Funding Authorizations (PRFAs), but only for FOSC-authorized activities with a specified funding ceiling & timeframe.





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- Notification of a pollution incident:
 - Public citizen reporting an incident to a federal, state, local, or tribal government
 - National Response Center the federal pollution reporting center for the United States
- If the pollution is in the coastal zone:
 - A Coast Guard duty Environmental Response Investigator (ERI) will provide an assessment as part of their initial investigation (can be over the phone or in person)
- A duty ERI will often take the below factors into determining the most appropriate federal response actions:
 - Is there an effective way to clean up the spill?
 - Is there a Responsible Party (RP), what actions have they taken, do they have insurance?
 - Safety considerations





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- If the Responsible Party (RP) is unable to take action to remove the threat to the environment there are two unique funding sources to prevent or stop further environmental damage.
- Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF) or The Fund = oil/petroleum removal
- Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) = hazardous substance removal
- A Notice of Federal Assumption (NOFA) is issued to the RP - If available or known.
- Accessing OSLTF/CERCLA allows the Coast Guard FOSCR to hire contractors to begin pollution response actions for the incident.





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- Natural resource trustees (designated by the President of the United States, state, territorial governor, or Indian tribal governing authority) have several tools for accessing the OSLTF to pay for natural resource assessments and restoration.
- Pollution Removal Funding Authorization (PRFA).
 - Other Federal, State, Local, and Indian tribal government agencies assisting the FOSC get reimbursable funding authority via an FOSC-approved PRFA.
 - The National Pollution Funds Center (NPFC) works with the FOSCs and the agencies to set PRFAs in place.
- The RP may directly hire personnel (historic property specialist/tribal monitors) to fill needed positions.
- The Contractors of the RP may also subcontract personnel (historic property specialists/tribal monitors) to fill needed positions.

Accessing the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund (OSLTF)

- Eligibility
 - Tribes impacted by oil spills in U.S. navigable waters
- Claim Types
 - 🧹 Removal Costs
 - 🌿 Natural Resource Damages
 - 🐟 Loss of Subsistence Use
 - 🏠 Property Damage
 - 💼 Loss of Profits / Government Revenue
- Claim Process
 - 📁 Submit claim to Responsible Party (RP) ⌚ Wait 90 days for response 📁 If denied/no response → Submit to NPFC
- Submission Requirements
 - ✅ CG-7199 Claim Form 📁 Documentation of incident & costs 📁 Proof of RP claim presentation
- Contact NPFC
 - 🌐 uscg.mil/npfc ✉️ uscg.npfc@uscg.mil ☎️ (800) 280-7118



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Has anyone had to use the cost recovery process following an oil spill?





Thanks for your time, any questions?