

ABSTRACT

Title of Dissertation: Implementation of a Contingency Plan for Effective Marine Pollution Prevention in Sri Lanka

Degree: MSc

An early preparedness is the internationally recognized approach for the prevention of ship source marine pollution. The designated land based institutions will assist and undertake the control and prevention of marine pollution from ships when those are out of control under the distress.

In major oil spill situations, when state institutions are not well organized to deal with the problem it can cause more damage to the environment and also will cost more than of organizing of Institutions for the job. Sri Lanka is not an oil producer or major importer but it is situated near the major oil tanker route between the Middle East and the Far East. This presents a risk of oil pollution to the Sri Lanka waters. The implementation of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan is therefore of vital importance for the protection of all coastal regional resources as well as of the marine environment.

The vast amount of technical capabilities belonging to different resources groups needs to be coordinated within a limited time period in combating oil pollution and presents a challenging task for the lead agency of the contingency plan. This dissertation will examine what might be one of the best approaches to handling oil spill problems and will look at necessary reforms in the maritime sector administration in improving the effectiveness of the contingency plan of Sri Lanka.

Key Words: Marine pollution, Prevention, Coastal, Lead Agency, Effectiveness, Contingency, Sri Lanka