Talking, trialing and working together to deliver practical response solutions

Mark J Orr

UK and Ireland Spill Association

Plastic Pollution Working Group

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THE VOICE OF THE SPILL INDUSTRY

Plastic Pollution Working Group

- Formed 2021
- UK National Response Plan agreed with regulator later that year
- X-Press Pearl incident May 21 gave live learning for members of PPWG
- Evolved goals and deliverables for 2022-23
- Objective is to produce best practice, available to download at no cost and to be regularly updated

Imperative to share knowledge and experience

- We have no way of predicting where the next container to fall off a ship that contains a billion nurdles will land on shore.
- Not every nation has the resource; human, equipment and technology, to know how to deal with it when it arrives.
- PPWG is starting to give them a toolbox of knowledge that will culminate in a Field Practice Guide which will enable all to plan for, equip and deliver solutions that have worked in other incidents. It will be updated as experience builds

Linking academic energy to responder need

- Students need projects
- Responders know the knowledge gaps
- Support students to develop solution that can be trialed, developed and in time deployed.
- Avoid duplication in academic research

Progress in delivering our PPWG Goals

- 5 delivered
- 2 ongoing
- 3 to deliver

- Field Practice Guide to deliver following a further set of field trials

Plastic Pollution Working Group - Goals

- Goal 1: Understand the problem – Understand the sources, pathways and impacts of plastic pollution from rivers to the oceans
- Goal 2: Identification of the most effective equipment for the recovery of macro and microplastics from shorelines and nearshore environments
- Goal 3: Establish agreed methods for the assessment of ecological impact of plastics recovery operations
- Goal 4: Establish agreed methods for qualitative (e.g. SCAT) and quantitative (e.g. laboratory analysis) assessment of macro and microplastics in sediments and waters and effective sampling and monitoring techniques
- Goal 5: Assessment of environmental and health risks associated with macro and micro plastics to assist in clean up end point determination
- Goal 6: Develop effective approaches for the surveillance and modelling of macro and microplastics to aid in response efforts, prediction of plastic movement and source identification
- Goal 7: Develop approach to sustainability assessment with respect to plastics recovery endpoints and final destination of recovered plastics / debris
- Goal 8: Share information gained through the group through webinars, demonstration days, technical publications and liaison with other appropriate organisations (e.g. EA, IMO, Councils, NGOs)
- Goal 9: Work with International Spill Accreditation Scheme (ISAS) to ensure the Module for Shoreline Plastic Pollution and Marine Debris Recovery is formally released
- Goal 10: Identification of effective tools and equipment for controlling plastics at source (e.g. on site, in drains and in rivers)

Questions

https://ukeirespill.org/plastic-pollution-working-group/

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