

AMPERA - European Concerted Action to foster prevention and best response to Accidental Marine Pollution

Susana Moreira, CIIMAR

Marine pollution, in general, and accidental marine pollution (AMP), in particular, are issues of major concern from the standpoint of their impacts on the health and socio-economic use of the marine environment. These issues, which originate largely from shipping and offshore and coastal installations, have placed increased pressure on the need for the better protection of the world's marine ecosystems through the implementation of new or improved methods of prevention and response, based on sound scientific principles. Research in the area of accidental marine pollution is largely undertaken by those European countries most at risk from oil spills. Considering such environment issues are trans-boundary by definition, greater collaboration is essential if Europe is to successfully protect all of its coastlines and its maritime economies effectively.

In this context, AMPERA (European Concerted Action to foster prevention and best response to Accidental Marine Pollution), an ERA-NET project with a total funding of 1.57 million euros for the years 2005-2009, endeavors to create a platform where governmental policy developers and scientists from European coastal countries can meet to discuss all aspects of AMP and to implement EU-wide measures as required. By moving towards the coordination and eventual integration, of national and regional AMP research programmes, the project will maximise the EU's research output and make important contributions to the protection of Europe's coastal ecosystems and economies.

A brief introduction to the AMPERA project (objectives, workpackages and milestones) will be given during this presentation.