

Surveillance of oil pollution on the sea

The danish experiences

The purpose of the examination

- To assess, whether:
- The state`s effort is organised so that the oil spills are discovered,
- The pollution source is identified, and
- Offenders are penalized.

Audit results-1

- Observation of oil spills:
- Surveillance by state`s aircraft and satellite.
- The aircraft surveillance included from 1995 450 propeller hours and as an supplement a permanent satellite surveillance.

Audit results-2

- Identification:
- The examination showed that it was difficult to discover reliable research methodology.
- The share of identified polluters has been between 12-22 % in the period 1995-2000.

Audit results-3

- Prosecution:
- The number of penalised oil polluters have not increased in the examined period.
- Only very few cases have been presented to the State Prosecuting Attorney.

Audit results-4

- The total effort in relation to oil pollution at sea is not effective.
- It is relatively unimportant that more oil polluters are discovered by the Defence's surveillance system, as long as the pollution sources are not identified.

Audit Benefits-1

- Environmental radio calls.
- Introduction of so called environmental radio calls to ships from The Danish Navy Operative Command sailing through the Danish seas.

Audit Benefits-2

- Helcom initiatives:
- Initiatives are underway to preventively call all the ships in the Baltic Sea region.
- Most likely the system will be introduced all over the Baltic Sea.