

MARINE POLLUTION CRIME: FIRST GLOBAL MULTI-AGENCY OPERATION

13 Nov 2018

[Press Release](#)





An international law enforcement operation against maritime pollution has revealed hundreds of violations and exposed serious cases of contamination worldwide.

Codenamed 30 Days at Sea, the month-long (1 to 31 October) operation saw some 276 law enforcement and environmental agencies across 58 countries detect over 500 offences, including illegal discharges of oil and garbage from vessels, shipbreaking, breaches of ship emissions regulations, and pollution on rivers and land-based runoff to the sea.

Steered by a global network of 122 national coordinators, 30 Days at Sea involved environmental, maritime and border agencies, national police forces, customs, and port authorities.

VIOLETIONS DETECTED WORLDWIDE

More than 5 200 inspections have resulted in at least 185 investigations with arrests and prosecutions anticipated.

Serious contamination was found in Germany, where a vessel discharged 600 litres of palm oil into the sea. Ghana uncovered gallons of waste oil in large bottles thought to be illegally dumped at sea.

Authorities prevented an environmental disaster in Albania by securing waters around a sinking vessel containing some 500 litres of oil. Similarly, the pollution threat resulting from the collision of

two ships in French waters was contained thanks to preventive action during the operation.

Innovative technologies were used to detect offences including satellite images (Argentina, Sweden), aerial surveillance (Canada, Italy), drones (Indonesia, Nigeria and Pakistan) and night vision cameras.

ACTION THROUGH GLOBAL COOPERATION

“This is why law enforcement must team up on a global scale to build strong international links with specialised experts so we can tackle this devastating crime while ensuring a healthier, safer planet for all,” responded Wil van Gemert, Deputy Executive Director of Europol, Operations Directorate.

“Criminals believe marine pollution is a low-risk crime with no real victims. This is a mistake and one which [INTERPOL](#) and our partners are addressing as demonstrated by this operation,” said INTERPOL Secretary General Jürgen Stock. “Marine pollution creates health hazards worldwide which undermine sustainable development and requires a multi-agency, multi-sector cooperative response within a solid global security architecture,” added the INTERPOL Chief.

UN Environment Executive Director Erik Solheim said that the issue of illegal marine pollution is one that global communities may well be able to tackle successfully in the next decade. “But we need the help of our law enforcement partners to make sure that there is no impunity for the perpetrators of marine pollution crime.” added the UN Environment Executive.

Coordinated by INTERPOL’s Environmental Security Programme in close partnership with Europol, 30 Days at Sea was driven by a range of cooperative enforcement actions, involving pre-operational intelligence meetings, with domestic and regional training to strengthen tactical planning and international cooperation. Europol coordinated the actions in the Euro-Mediterranean region including two operational meetings and operational analysis support. In total, 3 323 actions were carried out including 120 prosecuted and 210 pollution incidents detected.

UNDERSTANDING POLLUTION CRIME

30 Days at Sea is followed by an awareness campaign in partnership to illustrate the impact marine pollution has on economic development and human and environmental security.

A global response – collectively and individually – is an effective way to tackle pollution crime. From 13 November to 13 December, look for the hashtag #PollutionCrime, along with #CleanSeas on Twitter, and retweet to show support in combating marine pollution crime and raise awareness.

CRIME AREAS

[Environmental Crime](#)

TARGET GROUPS

[General Public](#) • [Law Enforcement](#) • [Academia](#) • [Professor](#) • [Students](#) • [Researcher](#) •

[Press/Journalists](#) •

[Other](#)

COUNTRIES

[Albania](#) • [Canada](#) • [Germany](#) • [Italy](#)

Source URL: <https://www.europol.europa.eu/newsroom/news/marine-pollution-crime-first-global-multi-agency-operation>