



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUND

SEVENTH INTERSESSIONAL
WORKING GROUP
Agenda item 2

FUND/WGR.7/20/3
26 April 1994

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IMPACT STUDIES

Note by the United Kingdom Delegation

- 1 The United Kingdom delegation believes that the IOPC Fund should review its policy not to participate in, or fund impact studies.
 - 2 Such studies offer valuable opportunities to gather information relevant to each incident, and also to add to the Fund's existing knowledge about the effects of incidents generally. If properly conducted, they are of benefit to both claimants and the Fund and can help to reduce uncertainty following an incident.
 - 3 Impact studies generally have two main purposes: they help to assess the effect an incident has had, and they can suggest possible preventive measures to mitigate damage or loss.
 - 4 This delegation is not suggesting that impact studies should be used after every incident. Each case will have to be considered on its own merits. In complex situations, such as the sinking of the Braer off the Shetland Islands, it can be very difficult to assess the nature of the spillage, the likely scale of any pollution and the effect it will have on the local population. It can also be especially hard for claimants to be aware of all the possibilities for mitigating loss. It would be appropriate for the Fund to contribute to impact studies which were designed to address such problems.
 - 5 The Fund would however have to be assured that the studies would be effective. To achieve this, the Fund should be involved in the study at an early stage, including helping to set the terms of reference and being represented on any steering group.
 - 6 It could be argued that the Fund has already become involved in limited impact studies, for example the testing of salmon sample following the Braer. This delegation believes that the principle of seeking timely and expert information is essential.
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