

National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan-2015

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In news- The Madurai Bench of the Madras High Court has sought response from the Centre and the State on a PIL that sought a direction for constitution of **Oil Spill Crisis Management Groups** at State and district levels as per the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan-2015.

About National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP):

- The NOS-DCP was originally **promulgated in 1996** and subsequently updated to include additional information, **latest update being in 2014.**
- The **Indian Coast Guard is the designated national authority** for oil spill response in Indian waters under the Plan.
- It comes under the purview of the **National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), Ministry of Home Affairs.**

Objectives of the plan:

- To establish an effective system for detection and reporting of spills;
- To establish adequate measures for preparedness for oil and chemical pollution;
- To facilitate rapid and effective response to oil pollution;
- To establish adequate measures for crew, responders, and public health and safety, and protection of the marine environment;
- To establish appropriate response technique to prevent, control and combat oil pollution and dispose-off the recovered material in an environmentally sound manner;
- To establish record-keeping procedures to facilitate recovery of costs;

- To maintain the evidence for the purpose of identifying the polluter and taking suitable administrative, civil or criminal action against the polluter.

The plan assigned **task-based responsibilities to government departments and agencies**. The government of every coastal State should constitute a State-level Oil Spill Crisis Management Group. It also mandated the constitution of district and local level crisis management groups in order to protect the livelihood of fishermen and marine resources.