Introduction
The Republic of Slovenia is bordered on the north by Austria, to the east by Hungary, to the south by
Croatia and to the west by Italy and the Adriatic Sea (Gulf of Trieste or Slovenian Sea).
At slightly less than 47km, Slovenia’s coastline is one of the shortest of any country in the world. The Gulf
of Trieste is shallow (less than 26m deep) with significant coastal shoals near Cape Savudrija. Steep cliffs,
coral reefs, shingle beaches, tidal mudflats and salt pans/marshes occupy various parts of this coast,
much of which is difficult to access by land or sea.
A border dispute with Croatia regarding the coastline is under international arbitration.

At Risk Wildlife
In this section, some individual wildlife species are mentioned followed by a letter in parentheses. These
are species included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species within the top three categories of risk -
Vulnerable to extinction (V), Endangered (E) and Critically Endangered (CR).

Avian Species – despite the limited coastline a significant number of threatened ducks, shorebirds,
seabirds and other aquatic species either breed or winter on the Gulf of Trieste/Slovenian Sea. Within the
Gulf of Piran is the Secoveljske Soline (Secovlje salt pans) a Ramsar recognised wetland of international
importance with tidal mudflats, saltpans and salt marsh/reedbed habitats important for breeding, wintering
and migrating waterbirds.
Of particular concern are the long-tailed duck (V), velvet scoter (V), common pochard (V), horned grebe
(V), and Yelkouan shearwater (V). While not IUCN listed, the local subspecies of the European shag, or
Mediterranean shag, also found in this area, is Annex 1 listed under the EU Birds Directive (Directive
2009/157/EC).

Marine mammals – bottlenose dolphins are the only species found consistently in the Adriatic, with a
permanent population in the North Adriatic regularly found in the Slovenian Sea which is considered a
separate population from that found in the South Adriatic. Other species reported include sperm and fin
whales, and striped, short-beaked common, and Risso’s dolphins.

Marine Reptiles – the loggerhead turtle (V) is the most commonly seen in the Slovenian Sea with green (E)
and leatherback (V) turtles reported less frequently. The largest numbers are present in summer and are
mostly foraging juvenile turtles.

Regional Seas
Mediterranean Sea (Adriatic Sea/Gulf of Trieste)

Past experience
There have been no major spills in Slovenian waters. An incident in a shipyard in 1983 resulted in a small
amount of fuel being spilled and in 1990 oil spread from a spill in Italian waters. In neither case were there
any reports of affected wildlife.

Response: the role of the authorities
Under the national response plan, the Civil Protection Commander oversees oil spill response, working
with the Coastal Region Civil Protection Headquarters, the Ministry of Defence, Administration of the
Republic of Slovenia for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief (ACPDR), the Ministry of the Environment and
Spatial Planning, and a variety of other agencies and organisations, dependent on the scope of the spill.
Coastal Region Civil Protection Headquarters responds to intermediate spills with the agency’s Republic
Headquarters being brought in for larger spill incidents.
Spills are reported to the Slovenian Maritime Administration in the Ministry of Infrastructure and the
Regional Notification Centre (RNC) at Koper. The ACPDR in the Ministry of Defence is the competent
national authority.
Oiled wildlife response

Formal guidelines?
The Slovenian Birdlife International partner, Drustvo za opazovanje in proucevanje ptic Slovenije (DOPPS-Birdlife Slovenia) the Slovenian Environment Agency, the Administration for Civil Protection and Disaster Relief, the Slovenian Maritime Administration, the Veterinary Clinic and Refuge for Wildlife Species in Koper and the company Komunala Koper d.o.o. have developed guidelines for oiled wildlife response, which comply with requirements for inclusion in the national plan. The process of including these guidelines in the Slovenian National Emergency Response Plan is expected to be completed in 2018.

Response objectives and strategy
Oiled wildlife response objectives and strategy will be based on the Action Plan under consideration, with rescue and rehabilitation a primary component.

Euthanasia or rehabilitation?
Rehabilitation would be the primary response, with euthanasia considered on a case by case basis for welfare reasons.

Impact assessment
The Ministry of Environment’s Environment Directorate is responsible for assessment of environmental impacts. The Marine Biology Station Piran (part of the Nacionalni Inštitut za Biologijo or NIB) is listed as a response organisation within the Emergency Response Plan and would likely be utilised in impact assessment.

It is also likely that the Institute of the Republic of Slovenia for Nature Conservation (IRSNC) would also be involved in impact assessment. The University of Primorska has ongoing projects monitoring sea turtles and cetaceans and may be involved in impact assessment for these species.

Notification and early response
There is no system for notification of impacts of oil on wildlife and no provisions for early response to affected animals at this time, however, the guidelines which are under development are expected to be incorporated into the national plan and would address these issues (see Formal Guidelines above).

Wildlife responders
There are no active oiled wildlife rehabilitation organisations in Slovenia however there are now approximately 40 people from a variety of organisations involved in wildlife conservation who have received POSOW Oiled Wildlife Response training through two courses presented in 2013 and another course presented in 2015. The Adriatic countries are developing cooperative systems for oil spill response which will likely include wildlife response.

Cooperation between stakeholders
ACPDR, DOPPS-Birdlife Slovenia and the Marine Biology Station Piran worked together in developing and presenting POSOW courses in Slovenia. Slovenia, in particular the Marine Biology Station Piran, participated in the HAZDR project (with Albania, Croatia, Italy and Montenegro) and has sent individuals to the Adriatic Training and Research Centre (ATRAC) in Croatia for training, including POSOW Oiled Wildlife Response courses. DOPPS-Birdlife Slovenia works cooperatively with other NGOs in the Balkan region on conservation issues and IRSNC has been involved in a number of cooperative projects nationally and within the EU.

Slovenia is a signatory to the Barcelona Convention (Mediterranean Sea) and has a Sub-Regional Agreement with Croatia and Italy for joint response.

Permanent facilities
There are no permanent oiled wildlife rehabilitation facilities in Slovenia.

Current processes
The Oiled Wildlife Response Guidelines are expected to be included in the national plan in 2018. Slovenia will continue to be involved in cooperative oil spill and oiled wildlife response preparedness activities, including trainings and exercises, with other Adriatic Sea nations.
Documentation and references
General references
General References
ITOPF Country Profile
Birdlife International Country Profile
Ramsar Country Profile

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