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.