

CUBA/US OIL RESPONSE UPDATE

Forest Willis
USCGD7

CURRENT INFORMATION

Cuba currently conducting horizontal drilling offshore from mainland

Cuban Land-based crude is very sour and cannot be refined

Seeking partner and Acceptable Drilling rig- Winter 2017
(proposed)

Area of Strike Promise is very close to main tourism beach

Prevention is a major priority with Cuba

Still a lot of uncertainty between USG and Cuban Government

RECENT EVENTS

Sept15: NOAA Marine Sanctuaries & Cuba Agreement

Oct15: Clean Seas, Safe Seas Conference

Nov15: Signed Agreement on Environmental Cooperation

Dec15: Bilateral USCG/DOS/CUBA Meeting at Clean Gulf

Jan16: Letter of Environmental Cooperation Signed

Jan16: CG-MER Instructed by DOS to draft bilateral Joint Contingency Plan (JCP) on Oil Spills

RECENT EVENTS

13Feb16: DOS priority change

20Feb16: NSC Orders CG to draft immediate MOU with Cuba.

29Feb16: NSC/DOS Deliver draft agreement to Cuba

- Close Call in Marine Sanctuary with Tug & T/V
- District Commander orders a study of salvage capability ISO vessels around Cuba & Florida Straits

Fall 2016: Potential Mass Rescue/Pollution TTX

PROJECTED FUTURE PATH

- Monitor political fall out from US elections
- Continue C-175 Negotiations on Bilateral Agreement
- Development of Joint Contingency Plan (Unified Coordination vice Unified Command; MEXUS Model)
- Cuban visitation/observation of PREP Exercise
- Cuban Participation in Spill & ICS Training in US
- Development of Exercise Program with Cuba (like MEXUS)

**Explore how we bring Cuba, Bahamas, etc., into the RRT Family.