

Maryland-National
Capital Region
Area Contingency Plan
(MNCR-ACP)

Geographic Response Strategies

Annex CC
May 2021.3

Record of Changes

Change Number	Change Description	Part Number	Change Date	Name
1				
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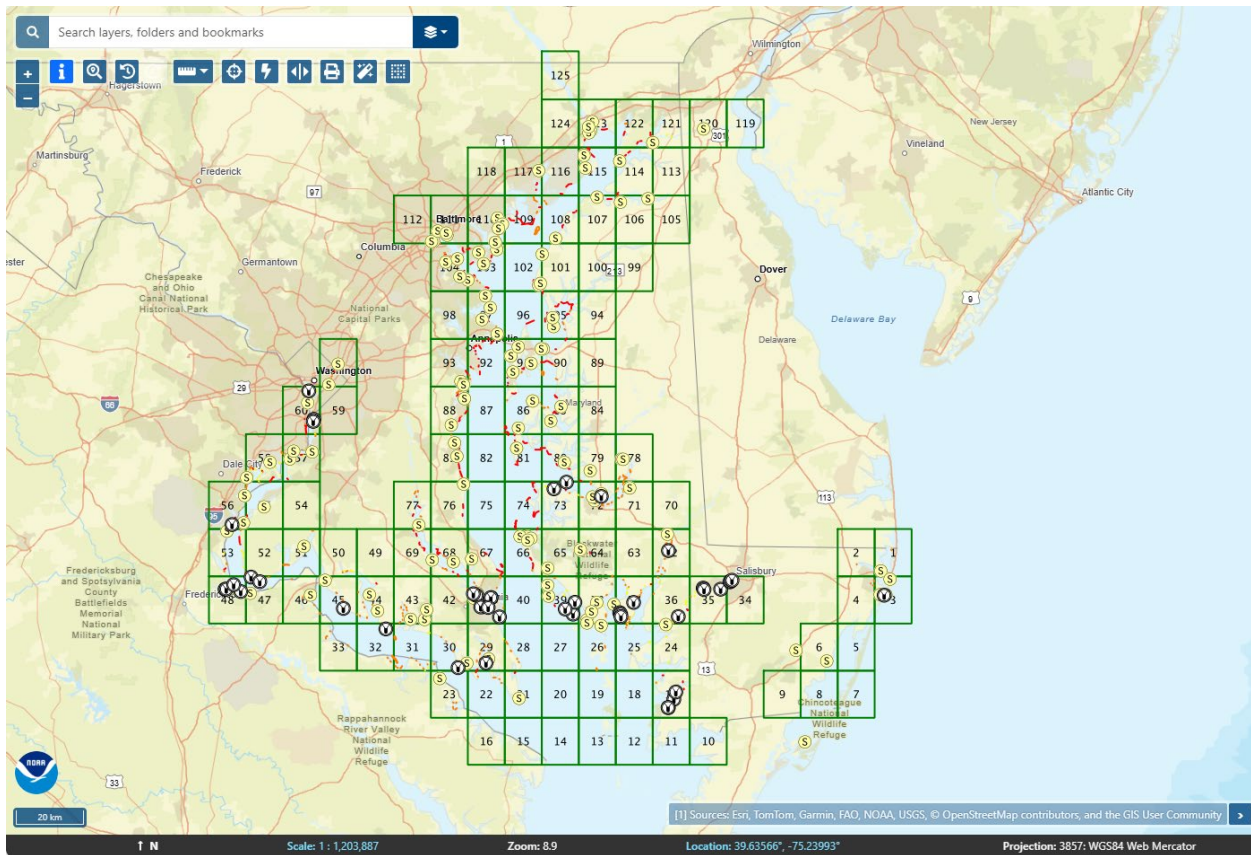
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1000 Introduction

Geographic Response Strategies (GRS) provide a menu of tactical options that help inform the development of Incident Action Plans. More specifically, GRS provide initial time sensitive response strategies and tactics (i.e., prioritization, booming, and collection techniques) for the first 24-48 hours of a response and help in rapidly determining areas to be prioritized for protection.

In addition to this brief overview on the use and importance of GRS, the table below details the tiered process in which GRS information can be validated. GRS data can be found within NOAA’s Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA). The following link [ERMA - Atlantic](#) brings one to the GRS data for the Maryland-National Capital Region. Additionally, the screenshot below provides a quick look into the strategies for the region.



2000 Purpose

Incidents involving oil and hazardous substances require planning and response personnel to mobilize resources and develop objectives, strategies, and tactics to mitigate the impact to the community and environment. The geographic response strategies are a planning tool to assist response personnel to quickly identify sensitive areas or species that may be affected by an incident.

To ensure response personnel have the most accurate data, the geographic response strategies should be validated on an annual basis as needed. The GRS Subcommittee within the Maryland-

National Capital Region Area Committee will determine the priority in which the strategies are validated annually. The tiered validation levels for GRS data can be found on the table below.

Validation Level	Name	Description	Requirements
I	Desktop	Evaluation of GRS data by subject matter experts (i.e., natural resource trustees) in an office or workshop setting. Can be supplemented with computer simulations.	All data should attain Level I validation.
II	Visual Confirmation	Deployment of subject matter experts to specified geographic area. Visual inspection of operational environment and verification of tactical strategies. No equipment deployment. Can be supplemented with computer simulations.	Targeted for moderate to high-risk areas where a degree of uncertainty exists.
III	Equipment Deployment	Deployment of identified equipment to verify its performance in the specified operating environment.	Targeted for inconclusive Level II validation strategies. Performed in high-risk areas where rapid and efficient response is critical.
IV	Full Scale Exercise (FSE)	Deployment of all appropriate response personnel and equipment under an area full scale exercise setting.	As dictated by the area exercise design/objectives.
V	Incident	Deployment of all appropriate response personnel and equipment for an actual incident.	Real world event.

3000 Scope

While GRSs are developed and available for use during the planning and response phases, the IC/UC and OSROs must remain flexible and utilize on-scene initiative and their experience and competence in determining actual pollution mitigation “tactics” for a particular incident. GRSs are developed using neutral weather conditions and mean-average tidal data and assume an incident response location. The scenarios for pollution incidents are nearly limitless; every spill is different and there are no absolutes. As a result, GRS locations should be reviewed and considered, but with the understanding that incident-specific mitigation tactics will likely be developed and executed on-scene. Factors such as current and projected winds, water currents/flows, tidal cycles,

equipment limitations, bottom conditions, seasonal implications, exact incident location, potential hazards, and the type of oil can have a significant effect on any proposed strategy and should be carefully considered. If applicable, modifications to any preplanned strategies should be expected.