



Directorate General of Shipping

SITREP – 39, 1800 hrs on 14/07/2025

Sinking of MSC ELSA 3 (IMO no. 9123221, Flag Liberia) South West of Kochi

The contents of this SITREP are based on both written and verbal inputs received from the stakeholders

1. Incident Overview:

Refer to SITREP – 6

2. Response Actions Initiated:

Refer to SITREP – 6

3. Present Status:

The MERC remains actively engaged in both shoreline monitoring and nurdle recovery efforts. On 14 July 2025, a floating object was reported off Fort Kochi Beach. MERC personnel were immediately mobilised and successfully secured the item. Upon inspection, it was assessed that the object is not associated with MSC ELSA 3. The structure appears to resemble a floating platform component and no identifying container number or vessel markings were found. MERC has confirmed that the item does not belong to the MSC ELSA 3 wreck.

Onshore cleanup and transportation of nurdles continue with momentum. On 14 July, truck was dispatched from Perumathura and Kovalam beaches to Kollam Port, carrying a total of 365 bags, weighing 8,400 kilograms. The subsequent disposal or recycling of nurdles in accordance with the guidelines are being finalised with Customs and the Pollution Control Board. The cumulative volume of plastic pellets recovered and transported from affected beaches between until 14 July 2025 now stands at 169.459 metric tons. MERC and the District Administration have ensured a steady operational tempo despite occasional weather-related constraints, with volunteers continuing to play an instrumental role in the daily cleanup efforts.


EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: NURDLE WEIGHT RECOVERY FOR DG SHIPPING								
Sl. No.	Date	Location	Segregated (Kg)	Non-Segregated (Kg)	Segregated and Transported to Warehouse (Kg)	Total (Kg)	No. of Volunteers	No. of MERC personnel
1		Thiruvananthapuram	26,280	1,89,126	1,61,059		469	312
2		Kanyakumari	345	980	31,425		0	69
3		Rameshwaram	0	69,711	6,875		0	112
4		Kollam	0	0	33,647		0	54
			26,625	2,59,816	2,33,006	5,19,447	469	547

Figure 1: Detailed volunteer deployment and nurdles recovery as on 13.07.2025

4. Situation Assessment:

The shoreline response operations continue to show effective coordination between district authorities and MERC, with swift mobilisation and clearance of reported items along the coastline.

The progressive increase in nurdle recovery and the smooth transport logistics underline a well-executed plan led by the Trivandrum District authorities and MERC, supported by volunteers.

The offshore mobilisation for oil removal operations remains on track, with the Diving Support Vessel (DSV) scheduled to berth in Singapore for equipment loading on 17 July and depart for Kochi by 24 July. The offshore team is expected to be mobilised from Kochi with operations beginning by 1 August 2025. Preparatory arrangements for crew visas and offshore deployment is being coordinated by the salvors and the owners and no bottlenecks have been reported.

MERC has confirmed that the vessel Canara Megh continues to perform 24/7 caretaking duties at the wreck site, with no fresh sightings of oil sheen reported in the vicinity.

5. Environmental Risks:

Refer to SITREP – 6, 1800 hrs on 28/05/2024

6. Coordination Measures

Refer to SITREP – 6 for the overall coordination measures being undertaken



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