

### Background:

In 2007, there was a major maritime disaster in the Aegean Sea, which resulted in the sinking of a large cruise vessel. The vessel had significant quantities of fuel oil as well as other hydrocarbons, lubrication oil and cooking oil etc.

As the vessel slowly decays oil is being released to the surface and there is risk of pollution to the local environment, including tourist beaches and sensitive wildlife habitats.

A major Greek responder has been contracted to protect the area and keep any escaping oil contained and recover it. The booms are permanently deployed using a boom mooring arrangement of floats and anchors.

Up to 250m of Vikoma HI Sprint boom, at each time, has been permanently deployed around the sunk vessel since 2007. The booms are deployed from 3 to 6 months before they are removed for cleaning and maintenance and any damaged booms are repaired or replaced.



*Above: Vikoma Hi sprint deployed above sunken cruise ship*

### Environmental conditions:

The area can see significant bad weather. The worst weather is W, SW, SSW winds. Typically there are at least 15-20 days of strong SW winds of up to Beaufort 8. Twice since 2007 there has been SW winds of Beaufort 11Bf.

Despite the weather, causing damage to the local port the HI Sprint boom remained in position and only required some minor repairs.

## Maintenance and repair:

During deployment, the boom had been damaged by contact with vessels and weather. It has been easy and quick to repair the booms using a portable press to effect vulcanised repairs. Vulcanised repairs use the same method as the original manufacturing process and give a repair as strong as the original supply.

Every few months the booms are recovered and taken ashore for cleaning with high-pressure washers and any marine growth is removed. The booms are then inflated, tested and redeployed to the site.



*Left: Hi sprint boom being deployed, quickly with single point inflation*

*Below: Oil contained by HI Sprint*

## Benefits of HI Sprint boom:

- Strong neoprene material
- Easy to repair
- Easy to clean
- Can be steam cleaned
- Very long life
- Excellent UV resistance
- Excellent hydrocarbon resistance
- Excellent resistance to high and

