

Living and Working near Munitions Sites

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First International Conference, Chemical &
Conventional Munitions Dumped at Sea

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- Conventional ordnance
- Explosives from conventional ordnance
- Chemical munitions
- Bulk chemical agent
- Other chemical warfare materiel

- Dropped
- Fired
- Buried
- Abandoned
- Deep-sixed
- Rolled off a wharf or a ship

First Reaction:

“DO SOMETHING!”

If engaged in a problem-solving process, people are likely to ask:

- Will the hazards migrate or be transported to shore?
- Does ordnance pose a risk to fishers, divers, and other users of water bodies?
- Will explosive constituents enter the food chain?
- Has anybody studied the problem?

Questions about remedies

- How risky is cleanup?
- Would cleanup damage vulnerable ecosystems, such as coral reefs?
- Which methods most accurately locate underwater ordnance?
- Which methods reliably remove them?

Disposal Issues

- What is the best way to dispose of recovered conventional ordnance?
- What is the best way to dispose of recovered chemical warfare materiel?
- How about secondary wastes?
- Where does it make sense to leave the hazards in place?

Number one factor:

TRUST

Trust is about...

- Involve as early as possible.
- Don't hide information.
- Don't play "decide-announce-defend."
- Don't expect the public to accept compartmentalization.
- Recognize other issues.

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