June 8 - We just finished today a very successful 9th Ordinary Meeting of RAC /REMPEITC Caribe here in Curacao, on the World Environment Day 2018 and with the presence of the Ministry of Traffic and Transport of Curacao, Mrs. Zita Jesus-Leito.

We had an important Agenda with topics including the MARPOL and the OPRC Conventions, Activities in the Region, the Regional Reception Facility Plans, the BWM Convention with a Regional Task Force on the ratification & implementation and a new BWM Portal with the Direction of DIMAR in Colombia, the tool for the Contingency Planning of ARPEL’s RETOS, and the lessons learned from the 2017 Southern Caribbean Oil Spill (Trinidad Tobago & Venezuela).

Presentations were given by senior speakers on technical matters from ITOPF, ASA, Anadarko, Lamor, NRC, the Caribbean Shipping Association, COCATRAM and IMC of Panama. We had the opportunity to present on behalf of ISCO and BIMCO the new RESPONSECON contract and the Honduran requirement regarding its mandatory use.

For the first time at an IMO meeting we talked about a new kind of pollution in the region: the floating sargassum seaweed that is hitting the Honduran Caribbean and the small islands of the west part of the Caribbean Sea. In the coming days the Final Report and some of the presentations will be available as usual on the website of RAC/REMPEITC (<http://www.racrempeitc.org/>).