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Faroes lack equipment to tackle oil pollution

Faroes lack equipment to tackle oil pollution The Faroe society lacks equipment to tackle oil pollution in the sea. This is confirmed in a report, which was handed the Faroe PM on Friday. The report is about the Faroes seen in relation to the arctic area. The report points to a proposal regarding contingency plans for dealing with oil pollution in the sea, which was drafted by the Public Works office together with the Environmental Institute, some years ago. The plan determined the liability area for the Faroe Islands as a nation, which comprises the whole area inside of a 200 nautical zone area, including communal harbours etc. The contingency plan pointed out that the Faroe society lacks equipment totalling D.kr 14 million. The new report confirms that quote: -The contingency plan demands a level of equipment, which is currently not present in the Faroes, as the light communal equipment is only suitable for harbour spills and other small scale incidents, end of quote. In one of the several conclusions contained in this latest report; The Faroes a land in the Arctic, it is confirmed that quote: -It is quite evident that the current situation is unsatisfactory, regarding oil pollution at sea. With the growing shipping activity in the region in mind, the requirement for a fully functioning national contingency becomes even more necessary. Marine environmental issues became a Faroe responsibility in 2003, and since then money has only been set aside once on the national budget. Therefore, this area has not been financially prioritised, end of quote. It now remains to be seen if the political establishment will act on this information and acquisition the necessary equipment - only time will tell. Photo: Kaj Leo Johannesen, primeminister of The Faroes with the new report "Faroes - a country in the Arctic", her together with Margretha Nónklett from the foreign office. Picture oljan.fo/Jan Müller