

---

**Cuba, USA Strengthen Oil Spill Cooperation**

10/01/2017



Cuba and the United States signed a cooperation agreement on the preparation and response to pollution caused by spills of hydrocarbons and other potentially dangerous noxious substances.

This bilateral and legally binding instrument, covering the Gulf of Mexico and the Florida strait, will facilitate the coordination for a rapid and effective response to minimize the damages that oil spill may cause to marine and coastal ecosystems, as well as to health and public welfare.

Jeffrey DeLaurentis, Chargé d'affaires a.i. of the United States Embassy in Havana, stated the document is another step forward in the common effort to protect the marine environment in the Strait and Gulf.

Establishing a mutual framework that includes diplomatic, legal and technical elements to be ready and respond to oil spills in the marine environment is particularly important for neighbors within 90 miles, he said.

In his opinion, this agreement strengthens the relation and 'helps ensure that coastal lines, marine environments and communities that depend on maritime trade, are better protected for future generations'.