



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community  
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<http://www.spillcontrol.org>



## ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO has Consultative Status at IMO, Observer Status at IOPC Funds and is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

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## International news

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## OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS FOR THE WIDER CARIBBEAN



October 5 - Any state with offshore oil interests needs to be ready to respond to an oil spill. With this in mind, an IMO workshop (2-5 October) in Cartagena, has covered how to assess, identify and acquire oil spill response equipment. A simulated table-top exercise provided hands-on practical experience in how an incident might play out. Participants also gained knowledge in how to develop and implement national and regional exercise programmes. Lessons learned from the exercise and workshop may be incorporated into future revisions of the Wider Caribbean Island and Central American Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Plans.

The workshop was conducted by the Regional Marine Pollution, Emergency, Information and Training Center - Wide Caribbean Region (RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe) and attended by representatives from The Bahamas, Barbados, Colombia, Cuba, Curacao, Guyana, Honduras, Jamaica, Mexico, Panama, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago. It was hosted by the Colombian Maritime Authority (SIMAR) and supported including course materials and equipment demonstration was provided by representatives from: Oil Spill Response Limited; Shell Exploration and Production Co.; Exxon Mobil Biomedical Sciences, Inc; T&T Salvage; LAMOR Corporation AB; VARICHEM de Colombia G.E.P.S.; and RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe. <http://www.imo.org>

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## International news (continued)

### UK&USA COLLABORATION STUDY: OIL SPILL OUTCOMES

October 13 - HR Wallingford is one of a team of six research institutions led by Florida State University (FSU) which has been awarded a \$2.8 million grant to expand our understanding of how the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill affected the ecology of the Gulf of Mexico.

Prof Eric Chassignet, director of FSU's Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Studies (COAPS), will lead the team of scientists who will use the grant from the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative to study the role that microbes play in determining the fate of oil and its impact on marine ecosystems.

The Consortium for Simulation of Oil-Microbial Interactions in the Ocean (CSOMIO) is an interdisciplinary team brought together by the project's Scientific Director at FSU, Dr Steve Morey. Consisting of experts in physical oceanography, ecology, biology, chemistry and marine sediments, the group will investigate how microbes influence the biodegradation and accumulation of petroleum in the water column and marine sediments of the deep ocean and shelf.

When the 2010 spill occurred, an estimated 130 million gallons of oil flowed into the Gulf of Mexico from a damaged well below the Deepwater Horizon platform. Scientists and emergency personnel scrambled to predict where the released oil would go and how it would affect the circulation, ecology and biogeochemistry of the Gulf. Florida State University has been at the forefront of this work, studying the area to understand the Gulf of Mexico circulation, ecology, and biogeochemistry, and how the spill affected marine life.

Prof Andrew Manning from HR Wallingford said: "One of the key issues is to understand how oil is transported through the waters, and the

deep ocean and shelf, and this requires understanding of how oil interacts with the natural process of flocculation – that is, the clumping together of the most mobile fine sediment particles or 'flocs' - and, in particular, the rate at which these flocs settle to the seabed. In order to develop numerical models of how oil affects this fine sediment transport, it is vitally important to understand more about the flocculation process itself, including its sensitivity to turbulence, particle concentration, floc size and the role of organic content."

HR Wallingford will be measuring the properties of natural and oil-affected floc in situ using a unique floc camera system known as the LabSFLOC system. The floc camera was developed by Prof. Manning and utilizes a low-intrusive, high magnification video camera to observe flocs as they settle.

The team of research institutions also includes Texas A&M University, the University of Delaware, the University of Maryland and the Virginia Institute of Marine Science. Scientists from the six institutions will use recent model developments, and results from field- and laboratory-based microbial and sediment studies, to develop simulations to investigate the impacts of potential future oil spills under different scenarios and conditions (temperatures, oxygen levels, particulate matters and transport).

Prof Eric Chassignet, Director of FSU's Center for Ocean-Atmospheric Studies, said: "It is critical to have the ability to predict the eventual fate of oil and its impact on ecosystems because toxic oil constituents pose unknown threats to organisms, many of which are harvested in the Gulf for human consumption. There's also a greater likelihood of large spills in the future due to oil and gas extraction activities taking place over the shelf and increasingly in deep water."

Prof Richard Whitehouse, HR Wallingford Chief Technical Director in Sediment Dynamics, said: "We are delighted to be able to contribute our specialist know-how on sediment transport and deposition processes to the cross-disciplinary expertise of the FSU-led consortium. I believe this new research will play a crucial role in working to address this important ecological problem." For further information, visit <http://www.hrwallingford.com/news>

### JUST TEN RIVERS CONTRIBUTE MOST PLASTIC POLLUTION

October 15 - A group of scientists have found that up to 95 percent of plastic polluting the world's oceans comes from just 10 rivers, eight of which are in Asia.

An estimated eight million of tons of plastic waste enter the world's oceans every year, and rivers are major transporters of the pollution.

## International news (continued)



Dr Christian Schmidt, a hydrogeologist from the Helmholtz-Centre for Environmental Research in Germany, and colleagues analyzed existing research involving 79 sampling sites along 57 rivers around the world to come up with the top 10 polluting rivers. The researchers' calculations indicated that the amount of plastic in rivers was related to the mismanagement of plastic waste in their watersheds.

The 10 Most Polluting Rivers -

Yangtze - East China Sea, Asia  
Indus - Arabian Sea, Asia  
Yellow - Yellow Sea, Asia  
Hai He - Yellow Sea, Asia  
Nile - Mediterranean Sea, Africa

Ganges - Bay of Bengal, Asia  
Pearl - South China Sea, Asia  
Amur - Sea of Okhotsk, Asia  
Niger - Gulf of Guinea, Africa  
Mekong - South China Sea, Asia

It is estimated that the amount of plastic rubbish in the world's oceans will outweigh fish by 2050 unless drastic action is taken. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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### EUROPE: THIRD BIENNIAL EXERCISE ON PLACES OF REFUGE FOR SHIPS IN NEED OF ASSISTANCE HELD IN NORWAY IN CONJUNCTION WITH A CHEMICAL/OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE

October 16 - The third biennial table top exercise on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance took place on 28-29 September in Horten, Norway.

EMSA held the first such exercise in Rotterdam in 2013 and the second in Malta in 2015, always in cooperation with the European Commission and hosting member state. Each edition of the event focuses on a set of specific objectives. In the case of this third event, the emphasis was on the continued testing of the Operational Guidelines on Places of Refuge, the tools available through EMSA to counteract pollution by hazardous substances, and the issue of insurance and compensation claims arising from a place of refuge situation.

The event took place over one and a half days and was attended by representatives of 15 EU and EEA states, relevant industry sectors covering salvage, class, insurance and port operators, as well as the European Commission and EMSA. At the same time, on 25-28 September, EMSA participated in an extensive chemical/oil spill pollution exercise in Norway in conjunction with the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) and the European Commission. The at-sea exercise simulated a collision between an oil tanker and a chemical tanker. EMSA participated — together with maritime and aerial units from Denmark, Germany, Norway and Sweden — with the involvement of the oil spill response vessel Norden and the North Sea Equipment Assistance Service. *EMSA Newsletter* [Read more](#)

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### INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS WILL BE OPENING AN OFFICE IN GREECE FOR THE FIRST TIME



October 19 - The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) will be opening an office in Greece for the first time, Deputy Shipping Minister Nektarios Santorinios announced on Thursday, saying the agency will address claims from businesses that incurred losses as a result of the recent Agia Zoni II oil spill.

Santorinios was speaking at the reopening of two beaches in Piraeus after an oil-spill cleanup operation, in a ceremony that was also attended by Piraeus Mayor Yiannis Moralis and other government and coast guard officials.

Asked whether compensation will be granted to businesses that suffered losses as a result of the spill, the deputy minister said the Greek branch of the IOPC Funds, which operates under the auspices of the International Maritime Organization, is expected to significantly facilitate claims. Santorinios did not clarify when the agency's branch would open, but said it will mean "people won't have to go to court and become involved in lengthy procedures nor will they have to go to London to claim compensation." "Small and medium-sized business owners will be able to submit their claims right here in Piraeus," he added. *Ekatherimerini* [Read more](#)

## Incident reports

### USA: WASHINGTON - COAST GUARD WORKING OIL SPILL IN LAKE WASHINGTON

October 11 - The Coast Guard is on the scene of an oil spill in Plaquemines Parish. It happened earlier today in Lake Washington, just south of Port Sulphur. Officials say about 1,300 gallons of oil and water were discharged from a casing line on an oil well, causing a heavy rainbow sheen and pockets of brown oil to form over a two-mile area. *KATC* [Read more](#)

### PHILIPPINES: OIL SPILL SPOTTED IN ZAMBOANGA CITY

October 14 - An oil spill has affected parts of the shoreline of the Sangali port area. The spill, seen Saturday, was detected to have come from one of the old pipelines of the Western Mindanao Power Corporation (WMPC) which has been operating a bunker-fueled power plant in the city. Dennis Aguilar, safety officer of WMPC said the leak was due to wear and tear of the pipe, which has not been replaced for nearly 20 years. The leak however was also immediately fixed with specialized rubber and clamps. *ABS-CBN News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### UK: ROYAL NAVY BOMB DISPOSAL DIVERS SAVE TANKER PACKED WITH 1,000 TONS OF FUEL AFTER ITS ANCHOR SPEARS A TEST TORPEDO ON THE SEA BED OFF THE BRITISH COAST

October 14 - A navy underwater demolition team has destroyed a historic test torpedo which was speared by the anchor of a tanker carrying 1,000 tonnes of oil into Portland Harbour in Dorset.

As the vessel raised its anchor, a member of the crew spotted the badly corroded weapon attached to the fluke before stopping the operation.

Members of the Portsmouth-based Southern Diving Unit led by Lieutenant Commander Jonathan Campbell raced to the scene to assess the danger posed by the munition. *Daily Mail* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

October 16 - Tanker Raises Anchor, Finds Torpedo off England [gCaptain](#)

October 16 - Tanker Spears Unexploded Test Torpedo with Anchor [The Maritime Executive](#)

### USA: OIL RIG EXPLODES IN LOUISIANA'S LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN, CASUALTIES REPORTED



October 15 - At least six people were injured Sunday night after an oil rig exploded in Louisiana's Lake Pontchartrain and ignited a fire, authorities said. Ramon Vargas with the New Orleans Advocate also reported that oil spilling in the lake was a possibility after the explosion. He tweeted citing officials that the cleanup of the lake could be facilitated by the shallow nature of the water.

*International Business Times* [Read more](#)

October 15 - Coast Guard searching for missing man after explosion on oil platform [Coast Guard News](#)

October 15 - Photos: Scenes from Lake Pontchartrain oil rig explosion near Kenner [New Orleans Advocate](#)

October 16 - One person missing, at least seven are injured after oil rig explodes in Louisiana lake [Daily Mail](#)

October 16 - Search Continues for Missing Man after Platform Explosion on Lake Pontchartrain [gCaptain](#)

October 16 - [Updated] Platform Explodes in Gulf of Mexico [The Maritime Executive](#)

[Thanks to ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville and Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## Incident reports (continued)

### USA: OIL SPILLS INTO GULF OF MEXICO AFTER UNDERWATER PIPE BURSTS OFF COAST OF LOUISIANA



October 14 - The U.S. Coast Guard is responding to an oil spill off the coast of Louisiana.

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement said in a news release Friday that oil spewed out of an underwater fractured pipe in the Gulf of Mexico about 40 miles southeast of Venice, Louisiana.

The offshore oil and gas operator, LLOG Exploration Offshore, says between 7,950 and 9,350 barrels of oil were released before the spill was halted. There were no reports of injuries. *Chicago Tribune*  
[Read more](#)

- October 14 - Coast Guard Responding to 300,000 Gallon Crude Oil Spill in Gulf of Mexico [gCaptain](#)
- October 14 - Coast Guard, federal agencies continue response to offshore oil spill [Coast Guard News](#)
- October 14 - Gulf of Mexico Spill Not Likely to Reach Shore [The Maritime Executive](#)
- October 15 - Up to 9,350 barrels of oil released in Gulf 40 miles SE of Venice [Nola.com](#)
- October 15 - Cleanup Under Way After Large Oil Spill Off Louisiana Coast [Wall Street Journal](#)
- October 16 - Oil no longer leaking from pipe after spill in Gulf Of Mexico – LLOG [Reuters](#)
- October 16 - Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill May Be Biggest Since 2010 [gCaptain](#)
- October 16 - Gulf Coast Oil Spill May Be Largest Since 2010 BP Disaster [Bloomberg](#)
- October 19 - Oil spill in Gulf twice as big as first reported [WGNO](#)
- October 20 - Estimate for Gulf of Mexico Pipeline Spill Rises [The Maritime Executive](#)
- October 20 - New Estimate Doubles the Size of Last Week's Oil Spill in the Gulf of Mexico [gCaptain](#)

[Thanks to Matthew Sommerville (ISCO Secretary), Marc Shaye (Member of ISCO Committee) and Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### USA: OHIO - CREWS WORK TO CONTAIN OHIO RIVER FUEL SPILL AT WELLSVILLE

October 16 - Hazmat crews and other first responders are on the scene of a diesel fuel spill on the Ohio River near Wellsville.

Dispatchers tell 21 News they received a call from the site manager of a business in the Intermodal Facility at around 8 am Tuesday that a sheen had been spotted floating on the surface of a creek that enters the river. Wellsville Fire Chief Barry Podwel said they traced the leak to Anchor Drilling, a company located on Clark Avenue. They had a tank that overflowed and it went into the storm sewer system. That went into the ponding area and then it leaked into the creek and into the river," said Podwel. *WFMJ* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### USA: HAWAII - SALVORS STRUGGLE TO REFLOAT GROUNDED LONGLINER NEAR HONOLULU



*Photo: Responders continue work, Oct. 12, 2017, to remove potential pollutants from the 79-foot fishing vessel Pacific Paradise currently aground off Honolulu, prior to the onset of larger swells and surf. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Air Station Barbers Point/Released*

October 16 - A salvage team and other response crews are continuing efforts to remove the 79-foot fishing vessel Pacific Paradise which ran aground last Tuesday off Honolulu. The vessel remained grounded as of Sunday despite several attempts to tow it from the reef off Waikiki's Kaimana Beach during high tides. The vessel is located about 1,000 feet from shore. To make matters worse, a fire broke out aboard the vessel over the weekend forcing all seven members of the salvage team to abandon ship. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)  
[Thanks to ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville]

## Incident reports (continued)

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: OUTRAGE OVER MASSIVE OIL SPILL IN T&T'S CHAGUARAMAS PENINSULA

October 15 - In a more than one-minute long video posted on Facebook early this morning, attention was drawn to waters in an area which appeared to be black. "There is an oil spill here and it's so massive. This is all like a porridge of oil..the whole place is covered in oil," Gary Aboud, secretary for Fishermen and Friends of the Sea in the Twin Island Republic, appearing in the video, said. Amid his outrage, he further pointed out that the oil spill spanned miles into the sea and called for the Government to immediately react to the disaster.

Meanwhile, the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) in Trinidad and Tobago said it was advised this morning of reports of an oily substance in the waters between Carrera Island and the Chaguaramas Peninsula. The EMA said a team is on site investigating this incident with the assistance of the Air Guard of the Trinidad and Tobago Defense Force (for aerial surveillance) and a vessel provided by the IMA. *Jamaica Gleaner* [Read more](#)

**October 16 – Wildlife rescue underway, as oil spill clean-up starts** [Trinidad Express](#)

**October 16 - Chaguaramas oil spill spreading to Cocorite** [Loop TT](#)

**October 18 - Offshore rig possible source of oil leak** [T&T Guardian](#)

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### GREECE: CONTAINER SHIP OIL SPILL, PIRAEUS

October 17 - Oil slick of some 40 sq. meters was spotted at Keratsini harbor, Piraeus, on Oct 16. Oil leaked from berthed container ship KATHERINE BORCHARD, after fuel oil tank overflow. Volume of spilled oil assessed as small, anti pollution company was contracted for clean-up operation. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

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### USA: NEW YORK - DEC HANDLES OIL SPILL IN SARANAC RIVER

October 19 - State Department of Environmental Conservation staff worked to contain a mysterious oil spill in the Saranac River Thursday afternoon.

The spill, which spread from the Broadway Bridge past the pedestrian bridge behind Left Bank Cafe, smelled like and appeared to be fuel oil. DEC spokeswoman Erin Hanczyk said the Harrietstown town supervisor called in the spill around 2 p.m. DEC staff contained the spill with 16 floating booms. *Adirondack Daily Enterprise* [Read more](#)

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### USA: TEXAS - ONE DEAD IN OIL BARGE FIRE OFF PORT ARANSAS

October 20 - The U.S. Coast Guard reported Friday that the oil barge B255 caught fire early on Friday at a position about three miles off the harbor entrance at Port Aransas, Texas. The barge was under tow by the ATB tug Buster Bouchard at the time of the incident. One of the tug's eight crewmembers has been confirmed dead and one remains missing. The USCG has not released information on whether any of the survivors sustained injuries.

The barge is carrying approximately 130,000 barrels of crude oil, and initial reports indicate that there is an unknown amount of oil in the water. The USCG has deployed booms around the vessel to prevent the spread of pollution, and air monitoring is being conducted. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

**October 21 - Oil barge explosion and fire, Texas VIDEO** [Maritime Bulletin](#)

**October 21 – The Latest: Offshore barge fire out, USCG containing oil spill, crew still missing** [KRIS TV](#)

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## News reports from around the world (countries listed in alphabetical order)

### AUSTRALIA: SPILL CONTROL AUSTRALIAN STANDARD PROPOSAL

October 12 - AusSpill Association (AA) members are seeking spill control industry stakeholder support for the establishment of an Australian Standard for spill kits & absorbents. This follows the positive reaction to AA's adoption of an industry standard for spill kit colouring and labelling, to provide consumers with easier and safer identification – to be phased in by late 2017.

Established in 2012, AusSpill Association (AA) represents Australian spill control manufacturers, resellers/wholesalers & importers as a single voice to government, the Australian public and the environment protection industry.

Chairman Scot Abernethy, said AA had already begun lobbying industry stakeholders for their support for an Australian Standard. Mr. Abernethy said there are currently a broad range of suppliers and manufacturers in Australia for spill response kits and materials used for the control of liquid spills. These companies supply their products mainly to industrial organisations over a wide range of industries including construction, manufacturing, transportation, mining, oil and gas, energy, utilities and local government.

## News reports from around the world (continued)

“These products are used to clean up spills for oils and fuel, non-aggressive liquids as well as hazardous chemicals. Regrettably, many of the products used to clean up some spills are incompatible with other spills, for example, cellulose products are commonly used to clean up spills of general liquids such as oils and paints, but can create a fire hazard if used to clean up strong acids or oxidising liquids.”

Mr. Abernethy added that there is currently no consistent system for the labelling and identification of the products or the spill kits in which they are typically supplied. This makes it very difficult for the individuals that are required to use these products, to select the appropriate product or kit to clean up a spill safely.

“Suppliers and manufacturers of these products currently make claims regarding the performance of their products, such as the absorbent capacity, which are not based on a consistent testing methodology to support these claims. “This makes comparing the performance and value of different products difficult for the consumer.

“An Australian Standard for spill kits and absorbents would provide consistency for the labelling and identification of these products to ensure that they are used appropriately and to assist consumers to make informed decisions”, Mr. Abernethy concluded.

For further information: Please contact AusSpill Secretary Kevin Herbert on 0418 679131 The AusSpill Website is at <http://ausspill.com.au/>

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### CANADA: NEW RULES IN EFFECT TO TRANSPORT LIQUID PETROLEUM IN B.C

October 13 - New regulations are in place for companies that transport liquid petroleum in B.C.

Companies must now have a provincial spill preparedness plan in place for pipelines, as well as rail and trucking operations that are transporting more than 10,000 litres. The owner of the product and the transporter are now also liable for the full cost of the response and recovery to a spill.

“These initial regulations increase responsibility, transparency and accountability for those who own as well as transport potentially dangerous products through our province,” said Environment Minister George Heyman in a news release Friday. *Surrey Now-Leader* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

**October 13 - Carriers to pay for oil spills** - New pollution prevention regulations will hold transport companies and pipeline operators moving petroleum products across British Columbia responsible for spill response and recovery costs.

Provincial Environment Minister George Heyman says the new regulations apply to pipeline, railway and truck operators transporting more than 10,000 litres of products.

He says the regulations increase responsibility, transparency and accountability for operators who transport potentially dangerous products through B.C.

But Heyman says the new rules do not apply to marine vessels carrying petroleum products along B.C.'s coastline. *Castanet* [Read more](#)

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### MALAYSIA: ADVANCED HANDLING OF CENTRIFUGAL PUMPS

October 16 – A new training course will cover the fundamentals of centrifugal, reciprocating and rotary pumps and compressors. Moreover, their operation, troubleshooting, maintenance, performance and fields of applications will also be thoroughly covered. The training course will take place on 7th – 8th December 2017 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. For more information contact Bryan - Tel: (65) 6225 7909 or Email: [bryan@yf-asia.com](mailto:bryan@yf-asia.com)

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### NAMIBIA TO ESTABLISH MARINE POLLUTION RESPONSE COMMITTEE

October 20 - Namibia will inaugurate a National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan Committee next week to enhance responsiveness, the Ministry of Works and Transport said on Monday.

Namibia is a coastal state and a party to the 1990 International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation.

Parties to the convention are required to establish measures for dealing with pollution incidents, either nationally or in cooperation with other countries.

Namibia approved a new national plan in April which included new marine pollution threats in addition to oil spills. *News Ghana* [Read more](#)

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## News reports from around the world (continued)

### NEW ZEALAND: THE RUPTURED PIPELINE THAT CAUSED SO MUCH TROUBLE FOR AIRLINES HAS NOW BEEN FIXED, BUT IS THE SAGA ALL OVER?

October 16 - On September 14, the pipeline from Marsden Point Oil Refinery to Wiri, a lifeline for the aviation industry, burst. It caused major disruption to flights and financial losses for Air New Zealand and a loss of around \$10 million for refining New Zealand.

For residents still evacuated and Ruakaka locals there is a lot of speculation about why things have gone quiet around the incident. "There are a lot of questions and not a lot of answers," Bob Hislop told Q+A. "We're not getting a lot of clarity about the process from here on in." TV NZ [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### SINGAPORE: THIS DAY IN HISTORY - OCTOBER 16, 1997: OIL SPILL AS TANKERS COLLIDE



*In the picture: Huge gash in the 75,000-tonne tanker Evoikos after it collided with the 130,000-tonne crude carrier, Orapin Global in the Strait of Singapore. - Gulf News Archives*

October 16 - 1997 An empty Thai supertanker and a ship half its size collided in the Singapore Strait, causing one of the worst oil spills Southeast Asia has ever seen.

Singapore authorities said the Cyprus-registered tanker Evoikos spilled 25,000 tonnes of fuel oil after colliding with the supertanker Orapin Global.

The Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) said helicopters would be brought in to help 34 boats tackling the slicks and that Australia, Japan and the United States had been asked for equipment to speed the clean-up. *Gulf News* [Read more](#)

### SPAIN SIGNS UP TO UN CLEAN SEAS CAMPAIGN

October 18 - The Government of Spain officially announced its support to the UN Clean Seas campaign today at the Volvo Ocean Race Ocean Summit being held in Alicante.

As the world's 14th largest economy, Spain's declaration of support is a significant boost to the UN's global campaign, which now boasts 32 member states and aims to "turn the tide on plastic" by inspiring action from governments, businesses and individuals.



"Over the past six years we have been developing Spain's new Marine Strategy, and one of its main goals is to tackle marine litter," said Raquel Orts Nebot, Spain's Director General for Coast and Sea Sustainability. "In this regard, I confirm that Spain is joining the UN Clean Seas Campaign, with the firm purpose of supporting this global initiative and contributing to its impact worldwide." *UNEP* [Read more](#)

### UK: A NEW ERA FOR MARINE SCIENCE: GREEN LIGHT FOR NEW CEFAS HEADQUARTERS IN LOWESTOFT



October 13 - A new era of marine science is set to become a reality, with planning permission granted to the Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) to redevelop its headquarters site in Lowestoft. The proposals will invest £16 million to create a leading centre for applied science by building a new and modern office facility and by refurbishing existing laboratory facilities. The project will provide Cefas and Defra with significant running cost savings, greatly enhanced scientific collaboration and innovation workspace and improved environmental performance. *CEFAS* [Read more](#)

## News reports from around the world (continued)

### USA: TEXAS - FAILURES OF FLOATING-ROOF OIL TANKS DURING HARVEY RAISE CONCERNS

October 11 - As Hurricane Harvey swept across the Houston area, torrential waves of rain built on top of crude oil storage tanks at Valero Energy's Houston refinery, causing one of the roofs that float atop the oil to flip almost on its side and release more than 235,000 pounds of toxic vapors and other pollutants into the atmosphere.

The collapse at Valero was one of more than 15 floating roof storage tanks that failed during the record-setting storm, allowing a combined 3.1 million pounds of volatile chemicals to spew into the air across the region, according to reports the companies filed with environmental agencies. *Houston Chronicle* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### USA: PRESERVE FUNDING FOR AGENCY THAT INVESTIGATES CHEMICAL ACCIDENTS

October 11 - As part of his reordering of priorities away from science and social spending and toward defense and border security, President Donald Trump had called for defunding the agency that investigates chemical accidents. The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board is an independent federal agency investigating chemical accidents to protect workers, the public and the environment.

The agency occupies a ludicrously small line in the national budget, \$11 million in fiscal 2017. With this minuscule budget — far less than the property loss from a single industrial accident — the investigative body accomplishes big things. *St. Louis Post-Dispatch* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### USA: ETHANOL HAS REPLACED OIL TRAINS AS HIDDEN SAFETY RISK IN N.J.

October 13 - The volume of crude oil shipped by rail may have declined in recent months, but communities in New Jersey and other states face another hazard: ethanol.

The flammable biofuel is transported in trains that look virtually identical to the oil trains that have attracted so much attention, and controversy, in the country's energy boom of the past decade.

But according to federal data, 1 million gallons more ethanol spilled from derailed trains than crude oil from 2005 to 2015. *NorthJersey.com* [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### USA: CALIFORNIA - OILAPALOOZA! AN OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE WORKSHOP

October 20 - California's [Oiled Wildlife Care Network \(OWCN\)](#) ([link is external](#)) is world renowned for its response, rescue, rehabilitation, and research capabilities.

This week (October 18-19), OR&R's Emergency Response Division was invited to participate in OWCN's eighth Oilapalooza Workshop to give a talk on on-line tools for spill response for 170 attendees representing 48 different wildlife rehabilitation organizations and primary care facilities across the state. *NOAA OR&R* [Read more](#)

### USA: ALASKA - OIL SPILL RESPONSE FACILITY TO BE BUILT AT SHEPARD POINT



October 16 - An oil spill response facility at Shepard Point, a deep-water access site near Cordova, with access to the all-weather airport, has received construction approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Native Village of Eyak announced on Oct. 16. Approval came after more than 16 years of study by federal and state agencies. The project has the support of NVE, Chugach Alaska Corp., the city of Cordova, the Eyak Corp. and Alaska's congressional delegation, NVE officials said.

Once completed, the facility will significantly improve oil spill response times and allow for docking and resupply of the same type of deep-draft emergency response vessels that were employed for cleaning up after the Exxon Valdez disaster of March 24, 1989. It will allow large vessels from SERVS (Ship Escort/Response Vessel System) to dock during drills, regardless of tide. *The Cordova Times* [Read more](#)

## News reports from around the world (continued)

### USA: ALASKA - COOK INLET OIL SPILL RESPONSE TOOL TO INTEGRATE SUBSISTENCE RESOURCES

October 17 - Responding to oil spills can be hectic. Just finding the source of the oil and containing the spill is a job of its own, but responders also have the surrounding areas to contend with, taking into account what marine life might be nearby or what fisheries might be in the path of uncontained oil. Scientists have created a comprehensive tool for Cook Inlet to help responders understand the region, but data on important subsistence and personal use resources will now be integrated into the response tool within the next year.

[The Cook Inlet Response Tool](#) is designed to help oil spill responders understand important environmental factors and resources in the area surrounding an oil spill, such as commercial fisheries, nearby marine mammals and wildlife. *KBBI* [Read more](#)

### USA: FLORIDA - USCG REMOVES HUNDREDS OF BOATS WRECKED BY HURRICANES



October 19 - Coast Guard crews have been working with local authorities in Florida and across the Gulf coast to clean up hundreds of wrecked boats that were cast adrift or sunk during this year's powerful hurricanes. The USCG is working in concert with other agencies through a unified command structure, alongside representatives from the EPA and from state agencies like the Texas General Land Office and the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission.

"We're working hard and we're working together to remove vessels that are causing pollution and hazardous threats to the environment," said Lt. Quentin Long, who is responsible for overseeing the removal process in the Florida Keys.

*The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

## People in the news

### NEW MEMBERS JOIN THE ITOPF TEAM

October 13 – ITOPF has recently welcomed three new members of staff to the team. Julke Brandt and Duarte Soares joined as Technical Advisers in October and Vanessa Holliday as HR Manager in September (pictured left to right).

Julke holds a Master Mariner Certificate of Competency, a BSc in Nautical Science and an MSc in International Marine Environmental Consultancy.

Duarte has an MSc in Petroleum Geoscience and a PhD in seismic stratigraphy. Before joining ITOPF, he worked as a geologist evaluating the hydrocarbon potential of several basins around the world and doing international business development focused on South and Central America.

Vanessa has a business studies degree, a post graduate diploma in people management and is a Chartered Member of the CIPD, the professional body for HR and people development. *ITOPF* [Read more](#)



## ISCO news

### ISCO WELCOMES CROIERG AS A NEW CORPORATE MEMBER

The Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group, Incorporated is a new member of ISCO.

CROIERG is an incorporated organisation whose membership is drawn from petroleum distributorships, specialist petroleum product transporters, oil companies and other organisations associated with fuels distribution and storage. Product recovery, vehicle or plant salvage and site restoration are facilitated by CROIERG's well maintained store of equipment that includes a large number of specialised spill response trailers.

There are 34 spill response trailers available in strategic locations in Australia, across New South Wales, the ACT, Victoria and Queensland. CROIERG's website is at <http://croierg.com.au>

## Ten years ago

### SOUTHERN SOUTH AFRICA WATERS DESIGNATED AS SPECIAL AREA BY IMO MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING

Amendments to MARPOL designating the waters off Southern South Africa as a Special Area under the MARPOL Convention for the prevention of pollution by ships, have been adopted by the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), which met for its 55th session from 9-13 October, at Westminster Central Hall, London. [ISCO Newsletter 52, 25<sup>th</sup> October 2006]

## Publications

### AUTUMN 2017 ISSUE OF NAVIGATE RESPONSE NEWSLETTER

Proactive Media Planning – In this issue, an article by Matthew Moore: Crisis communications: The P&I club perspective - Crisis communications are a key component of effective incident management in the aftermath of a shipping casualty. *Navigate Response* [Read more](#)

## Links for recent issues of other publications (in alphabetical order)

<a href="#">AMSA Aboard</a>	News from the Australian Maritime Authority	December, 2016
<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request via email
<a href="#">Bow Wave</a>	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	September 2017
<a href="#">CROIERG Enews</a>	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	October 2017
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	October 2017 issue
<a href="#">Environmental Technology Online</a>	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	September 2017 issue
<a href="#">EUROWA Newsletter</a>	European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module	October 2017
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2017 issue
<a href="#">IMO Publishing News</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	September 2017
<a href="#">Intertanko Weekly News</a>	International news for the oil tanker community	October 20, 2017
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q3 2017 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	July-August 2017
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	October 2017 issue
<a href="#">NOWPAP Quarterly</a>	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 1, 2017 issue
<a href="#">Ocean Orbit</a>	Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	August 2017
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	September 2017 issue
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for prevention & control professionals	October 18, 2017
<a href="#">Safe Seas. Clean Seas</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	August 2017 issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Spring 2017 issue
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Sept. 1-15, 2017
<a href="#">Transport Canada Newsletter</a>	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	December 2016 issue
<a href="#">UK NCEC</a>	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	July 2017 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	October 1, 2017
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech News &amp; Trends</a>	Contaminated site clean-up information	Spring 2016 issue
<a href="#">WMU Newsletter</a>	News from the World Maritime University	December 2016

*Your editor depends on regular receipt of updated links for listed publications. If these are not received, relevant entries may be discontinued*

## Events

### UK: REMINDER - UK SPILL SEMINAR: 8<sup>th</sup> NOVEMBER 2017 AT SOUTHAMPTON, UK

This free Seminar will include Keynote presentations from both UK and European Agencies, with the EA, NRW, SEPA, NIEA and the MCA and a review of the UK Spill Accreditation Scheme. Keynote speakers include Mark Kirby a Director of CEFAS, Stephan Floch of French agency CEDRE, joined by former UKSpill chairman Jon Burton MD of Oracle Environmental.

The programme for the day will also include Bruce McGlashan of the EA and Kerry Anderson of the NIEA giving updates on Agency policy, together with Technical, Operational, Legal and Insurance case studies. The Co-chairman of UKSpill, Mark Orr will lead a presentation about the upgrade to the UK Accreditation Scheme, and introduce its new Assessor, Alan Furlong.

The seminar will take place at and hosted by OSRL, Lower William Street, Southampton, and will include a dinner for speakers and delegates on the previous day. An opportunity will exist to tour this global oil spill response base. All members of the UK Spill Association and Accredited Contractors are invited to attend the seminar. Delegates must be booked in advance, and registration will take place on arrival at OSRL reception. The seminar, hosted by OSRL, is free to registered delegates, subject to space, the seminar dinner is £40 per person, excluding wine. BOOK NOW – email UKSpill at [info@ukspill.org](mailto:info@ukspill.org)

## Events (continued)

### USA: CLEAN GULF 2018 - NEW CONFERENCE TRACK JUST ADDED: HURRICANE HARVEY RESPONSE LESSONS LEARNED

CLEAN GULF recognizes the need to come together as an industry after Hurricane Harvey and discuss lessons-learned so we've added a dedicated conference track covering the emergency activities related to the Harvey response. [Register now](#) and receive advance registration savings of up to \$100! Discount expires 11/3/17.

## Upcoming events summary

COUNTRY	2017	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
CANADA	Oct.30-Nov.1	<a href="#">Arctic Shipping North America Forum</a>	Montreal
UK	Oct.30-Nov.2	<a href="#">IOPC Funds Meetings</a>	London
UK	Nov. 1-2	<a href="#">Offshore Decommissioning &amp; Operations Seminar</a>	London
CHINA	Nov. 1-3	<a href="#">Oceanology International China</a>	Qingdao
IVORY COAST	Nov. 6-9	<a href="#">GI WACAF Regional Conference</a>	Abidjan
UK	Nov. 8	<a href="#">UK Spill Seminar</a> <a href="mailto:info@ukspill.org">info@ukspill.org</a>	Southampton
UAE	Nov. 13-16	<a href="#">Abu Dhabi Int'l Petroleum Exhibition &amp; Conference</a>	Abu Dhabi
AZERBAIJAN	Nov. 20-22	<a href="#">Oil Spill Control Caspian – Onshore &amp; Offshore</a>	Baku
UK	Nov. 29-30	<a href="#">11th Arctic Shipping Summit</a>	London
USA	Dec. 5	<a href="#">SCAA Reception at CLEAN GULF</a>	Houston, TX
USA	Dec. 5-7	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition</a>	Houston, TX
UK	Dec. 6-8	<a href="#">Salvage &amp; Wreck Removal Conference</a>	London
UK (N. Ireland)	Dec 12	<a href="#">ISAA Christmas Meeting and Lunch</a>	Hillsborough
<b>2018</b>			
CANADA	Feb. 21-22	<a href="#">12<sup>th</sup> Arctic Shipping Summit</a>	Montreal
UAE	Feb 28 – Mar 1	<a href="#">Offshore Arabia Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Dubai
UK	March 13-15	<a href="#">2018 INTERSPILL Conference and Exhibition</a>	London
UK	March 13-15	<a href="#">Oceanology International 2018</a>	London
USA	March 20-21	<a href="#">SCAA Annual Meeting &amp; Conference</a>	Arlington VA
USA	April 4-5	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference</a>	St. Louis, MO
FINLAND	April 17-20	<a href="#">Arctic Shipping Forum</a>	Helsinki
NEW ZEALAND	May 1-3	<a href="#">NZ 5th Contaminated Land Conference</a>	Christchurch
UK	May 23-24	<a href="#">HAZMAT 2018</a>	Stratford on Avon
ITALY	June 20-22	<a href="#">INTERTANKO Annual Event 2018</a>	Rome
USA	June 19-21	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition</a>	Portland, OR
INDIA	July 5-6	<a href="#">Oil Spill India 2018 Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	New Delhi
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

## Company news

### USA: GLOBAL DIVING HELPS REFLOAT BOATS AFTER HURRICANE HARVEY



The fishing vessel R&R is floating once again after spending a month at the bottom of Conn Brown Harbor in Aransas Pass, Texas. The 100-ton shrimp boat got entangled with another vessel and sank during Hurricane Harvey. She was refloated by Global Diving and Salvage, which was contracted by the Coast Guard and the Texas General Land Office (GLO) to remove her from the waterway. Approximately 6,000 gallons of diesel fuel and other pollutants were pumped off before de-watering the vessel. *Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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