

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.

ISCO COMMITTEE & COUNCIL

ISCO is managed by an elected executive committee members of which are **Mr David Usher** (President, USA), **Mr Matthew Sommerville** (Secretary, UK), **Mr John McMurtrie** (Editor of ISCO Newsletter, UK), **Mr Marc Shaye** (USA), **Mr Dan Sheehan** (USA), **M. Jean Claude Sainlos** (France), **Mr Kerem Kemerli** (Turkey), **Lord Peter Simon Rickaby** (UK), **Mr Li Guobin** (China), and **Captain Bill Boyle** (UK)

The Register of ISCO Members is maintained by **Ms Mary Ann Dagleish** (Membership Director). She is also responsible for collecting membership dues.

The Executive Committee is assisted by the non-executive ISCO Council composed of the following national representatives – **Mr John Wardrop** (Australia), **Mr Osman Tarzumanov** (Azerbaijan), **Mr John Cantlie** (Brazil), **Dr Merv Fingas** (Canada), **Captain Davy T. S. Lau** (China, Hong Kong), **Mr Li Guobin** (China, Mainland), **Mr Darko Domovic** (Croatia), **Eng. Ashraf Sabet** (Egypt), **Mr Torbjorn Hedrenius** (Estonia), **Mr Pauli Einarsson** (Faroe Islands), **Prof. Harilaous Psarafitis** (Greece), **Captain D. C. Sekhar** (India), **Mr Sanjay Gandhi** (Kenya), **Chief Kola Agboke** (Nigeria), **Capt. Chris Richards** (Singapore), **Mrs Fatima B. Shaik** (South Africa), **Dr Ali Saeed Al Ameri** (UAE), **Mr Kevin Miller** (UK), **Dr Manik Sardessai** (USA), **Mr Dennis van der Veen** (The Netherlands), **Mr Carlos Sagrera** (Panama), and **Major Ben Benny** (Israel)

For more info on Executive Committee and Council Members go to www.spillcontrol.org

INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

Click on these links to view websites

[EQUIPMENT & MATERIALS](#)

[RESPONSE ORGANISATIONS](#)

[TRAINING PROVIDERS](#)

[CONSULTANTS](#)

International news

For more information on the event featured below, click on the banner



UN MARITIME ORGANIZATION CELEBRATES 70 YEARS WITH HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II



Seventy years to the day since the treaty establishing the United Nations International Maritime Organization (IMO) was adopted, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II marked the occasion at IMO Headquarters in London on Tuesday (6 March).

Accompanied by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II unveiled a commemorative plaque and cut an anniversary cake. Her Majesty also met some of the guests attending the event, including representatives of IMO Member States, inter-governmental and international non-governmental organizations, and IMO Secretariat staff.

“We are celebrating 70 years of achievement, in which the truly vital industry of shipping has become safer, cleaner and greener, thanks to the work of IMO. We are also looking ahead to the exciting new challenges on the horizon,” said IMO Secretary-General Lim.

“Billions of ordinary people, all over the world, rely on shipping every day of their lives – even if they don’t realise it or understand it. It is our role to ensure shipping can continue to make this vital contribution to global well-being,” Mr Lim added.

The Convention on the International Maritime Organization (IMO) was adopted on 6 March 1948 at the United Nations Maritime Conference held in Geneva, Switzerland.

The convention entered into force 10 years later, on 17 March 1958, when the 21st State ratified the treaty. IMO’s first meeting was held in London on 6 January 1959, at Church House in central London.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP

Advance your career by gaining Professional Recognition.

Professional recognition is a visible mark of quality, competence and commitment, and can give you a significant advantage in today's competitive environment.

All who have the relevant qualifications and the required level of experience can apply for Professional Membership of ISCO.

The organization offers independent validation and integrity. Each grade of membership reflects an individual's professional training, experience and qualifications.

You can apply for Student Membership, Associate Membership (AMISCO), MEMBERSHIP (MISCO) or FELLOWSHIP (FISCO)

[All about Professional Membership](#)

[Application Form](#)

To receive the free ISCO Newsletter

Go to <http://www.spillcontrol.org> and enter your name and email address in the Registration Form (located on the right hand side of the home page) then click on "subscribe".

ago by Lincoln Laboratory and the Department of Homeland Security Science and Technology Directorate (DHS S&T), is used today around the world for emergency response. In its latest development, NICS has been implemented in the southeastern European nations of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Macedonia, and Montenegro. Through a four-year partnership with the NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme, Lincoln Laboratory and DHS S&T will work with local and federal response agencies in these countries to adapt and enhance NICS for the specific needs of this multinational community.

"We are working with each country to best decide how NICS can be adapted to meet their disaster-response needs and also how NICS can improve communication across country borders," says Stephanie Foster, a staff member in the Laboratory's Humanitarian Assistance and Disaster Relief Systems Group and the program manager for the NICS NATO project. Foster notes that NICS will help the countries build a standardized method of response to large-scale disasters, such as the cyclone and ensuing floods that devastated the region in 2014.

MIT News / [Read more](#)

ATRAC HAS JOINED MOIG AS A TECHNICAL PARTNER

29 March - Following on Interspill 2018, the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) is delighted to welcome the new technical partner, the Adriatic Training and Research Center for Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (ATRAC). The institution was established by Primorje-Gorski Kotar County within the EU financed project Strengthening common reaction capacity to fight sea pollution of oil, toxic and hazardous substances in Adriatic Sea" – HAZADR.

ATRAC's key role is to provide training and education to the personnel from all Adriatic countries in all matters related to oil spill preparedness and response and its main goal is to improve cross-border cooperation and communication, so as to prevent the risk of oil spills and manage the crisis situation resulting in marine pollution. The Centre strives to harmonize national legislations within the region, by continuously monitoring all the activities related to prevention, preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in the whole Adriatic-Ionian region.

MOIG will benefit through ATRAC accession the technical support in the form of technical assistance, knowledge transfer and capacity building on oil spill preparedness and response, receipt of ATRAC newsletters and other benefits.

MOIG Newsletter / [Read more](#)

International news (continued)

Since then, IMO Member States have pursued their mission to develop the global regulatory framework for international shipping.

Today, IMO continues its work to improve maritime safety and security, the efficiency of navigation and the prevention and control of pollution from ships, as well as the fair and effective implementation of its regulations.

IMO Source document and more photos -

<http://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/PressBriefings/Pages/05IMO70.aspx>

SOUTHEASTERN EUROPEAN NATIONS ARE LATEST TO ADOPT EMERGENCY-RESPONSE SYSTEM

Lincoln Laboratory, in partnership with NATO, is modifying the system to help the region co-ordinate disaster response across borders.

April 4 – On a Google map of Modrac Lake, located near the city of Tuzla in Bosnia and Herzegovina, icons in the shape of boats move across the water. A commander, looking at the map on a monitor, watches their progress. Each boat in real life holds a disaster response unit that is heading toward the site of a disaster — in this case, a chemical spill. The same interface that provides the map also shows images from the scene, messages between responders, social media posts from observers, and other real-time information that the commander uses to direct people and resources. The interface is one big picture, created and viewed by everyone involved, of the scene as it unfolds.

The platform enabling this coordination is called the Next-Generation Incident Command System (NICS). NICS, developed nearly a decade

Incident reports (in chronological order)

MEXICO: CYANIDE SPILL TRACED BACK TO CANADIAN MINING COMPANY

March 24 - Two hundred liters of cyanide solution are polluting the waters of Mexico's Piaxtla River in San Dimas, Durango, where the Canadian Primero Mining Corporation has been drilling for gold and silver reserves. The toxic spill was caused "by an oversight in the closing of the valve of a pipe that carried remnants of cyanide solution, which remained without fuel in sloping terrain, causing the solution to drain into the Piaxtla River," said the Federal Office of Environmental Protection (Profepa). Telesur / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: MISSISSIPPI - COAST GUARD: CREWS CONTAIN BIO DIESEL LEAK ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEAR NEW ORLEANS

March 25 - The Coast Guard and local agencies have responded to a barge leaking bio diesel on the Mississippi River near New Orleans, Sunday. Crews were called out to the location near mile marker 93 at 6 a.m.

According to a Coast Guard spokesperson, the towing vessel Dixie Express had two loaded red flag barges moored at industrial locks. A vessel reportedly caused a wake which caused one of the barges to break away from the Dixie Express. The barge then hit a concrete wall at a nearby wharf puncturing the barge and causing an estimated 9,700 gallons of bio diesel to spill. The maximum that could spill is over 21,000 gallons. Fox News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CYPRUS: PETROL SPILLAGE DAMAGES POLICE BOATS

March 27 - Hundreds of litres of petroleum ended up in Limassol port on Monday, damaging four vessels of the port police. The incident occurred while oil was being transported between two barges via two pipelines which were not properly connected. Only after several hundred litres leaked into the sea did the spill become apparent and the operation was aborted. Cyprus Mail / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

THAILAND: BARGE SANK AFTER COLLISION WITH TANKER, BANGKOK

March 31 - Product tanker collided with 900-ton barge loaded with ceramics on Mar 30 on Chao Phraya river, Bangkok area, being out of control after mechanical failure. Barge sank, tanker reportedly didn't sustain damages. No injuries, no casualties reported. Barge rests on bottom, partially above waterline, off fairway, so traffic isn't affected. Barge is guarded off by buoy, she's to be salvaged as soon as possible. Maritime Bulletin / [Source document](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

COLUMBIA: MAJOR OIL SPILL FROM ECOPETROL WELL HAS BEEN CONTAINED, SAYS COMPANY

March 31 - An oil spill that began nearly a month ago in the eastern Colombian department of Santander, forcing the evacuation of at least 79 people and wreaking major environment damage surrounding the nation's largest river, has finally been controlled, according to state-controlled oil company Ecopetrol. Finance Colombia / [Read more](#)

INDONESIA: BORNEO OIL SPILL: FISHERMEN AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS CONCERNED OVER SPREAD OF SLICK



Photo: Fishermen and environmentalists are sceptical about the company's claim it is not responsible for the slick.

April 2 - An Indonesian oil company has denied responsibility for a major oil slick off the coast of Borneo, which appears to be spreading and contaminating new stretches of coastline and local fisheries.

At least four fishermen died in Balikpapan Bay on the weekend when part of the slick ignited. A fifth fisherman is missing.

The toxic slick is at least 4 kilometres long and fishermen say it has already killed at least one protected dugong that washed up on a local beach yesterday.

ABC News / [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

Indonesia Oil Spill Updates

April 3 - Borneo oil spill: Police question bulk coal carrier crew after four people killed, water polluted Radio Australia / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

April 4 – State of Emergency declared over Indonesia Oil Spill – ClickonDetroit / [Read more](#)

April 4 - Pertamina Admits Responsibility for Balikpapan Bay Spill The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

April 5 - Indonesia blames coal ship for oil spill, not state energy firm Reuters / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

YEMEN: HOUTHİ REBELS ATTACK SAUDI TANKER



April 3 - On Tuesday, an unnamed Saudi oil tanker came under attack by Houthi rebel forces off Hudaydah (Hodeidah), Yemen.

According to Saudi coalition spokesman Col. Turki al-Maliki, Houthi armed militias conducted an unspecified attack on the tanker at 1330 hours Tuesday, and a coalition naval vessel intervened.

The tanker suffered "a slight but ineffective hit" and continued on its northbound course with a naval escort.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

Attack on Saudi Tanker - More reports

April 3 - Saudi Oil Tanker Hit in Houthi Attack Off Yemen –Coalition gCaptain / [Read more](#)

April 4 - Confirmed: Saudi Supertanker Attacked in Southern Red Sea; Tanker Reported Safe After 'Explosion' gCaptian / [Read more](#)

USA: COMPANY BLAMES STRAITS OF MACKINAC SPILL ON 'EXTRAORDINARY' CIRCUMSTANCES

April 3 - An unknown quantity of coolant oil has leaked from a transmission cable that carries electricity underwater across the Straits of Mackinac. The leak has yet to be located and repaired.

An estimated 550 gallons of liquid dielectric fluid has already leaked from near the midpoint of the cable's crossing west of the Mackinac Bridge, U.S. Coast Guard Lt. Rachel Wellman said. The line still may be leaking the fluid, but spill response teams are already on scene, Wellman said. MLive / [Read more](#)

April 5 - Response continues to mineral oil spill in Straits of Mackinac - The Unified Command has isolated the impacted utility lines and is monitoring the removal progress of the remaining mineral oil from those lines, Thursday.

The Oil Spill Response Organization, contracted by the American Transmission Company, removed approximately 10 percent of the mineral oil from one of the utility lines yesterday. The Unified Command will continue to consult with oil recovery experts and engineers today to ensure the oil extraction process is effective. Coast Guard News / [Read more](#)

USA: LOUISIANA - CRUDE OIL STORAGE TANK LEAKS 4,200 GALLONS INTO BAY JACQUES

April 4 - A crude oil storage tank owned by Covington-based Summit Oil and Gas, LLC, leaked 4,200 gallons of crude oil into Bay Jacques, just south of Buras in Plaquemines Parish, the U.S. Coast Guard announced Wednesday (April 4).

The leak was reported to Coast Guard officials at 11:54 a.m. Tuesday, and Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Houma personnel immediately conducted an assessment of the spill, said a Coast Guard news release. Incident management personnel and an oil spill response team from OMI Environmental Solutions, hired by Summit, remain at the spill site. Nola.com / [Read more](#)

April 4 - The Coast Guard says in a news release that the spill in Bay Jacques was reported just before noon Wednesday. The cause of the leak, reported by Summit Oil and Gas, LLC, was not immediately known.

The release says Summit has contracted with OMI Environmental Solutions to respond to the spill. The company deployed boom and absorbent material to contain and collect the oil. Kansas City Star / [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

SAUDI ARABIA INTERCEPTS MISSILE FROM YEMEN TARGETING ARAMCO OIL STORAGE TANKS

April 5 - Saudi Arabia's air defense has allegedly intercepted a missile fired by the armed Houthi movement from Yemen towards storage tanks in the port city of Jizan, which belong to the Aramco oil company.

Storage tanks belonging to Saudi Aramco oil company in the southwestern province of Jizan were reportedly the targets of the attack. The company confirmed its plants and facilities were all operating "normally and safely" following the incident. No casualties or damage have been reported.

The missile was destroyed around 9:30 pm local time, according to coalition spokesman Colonel Turki al-Malki. Debris fell on residential areas but no casualties or damage has been reported from there. RT / [Read more](#)

USA: PENNSYLVANIA THOUSANDS OF PLASTIC PELLETS HAVE SPILLED INTO WATERWAYS IN POCONOS

Photo: Plastic pellets spilled from a semi-truck after a crash on I-80 on Saturday. Those pellets have floated miles downstream of Sand Spring Run, here pictured more than three miles from the crash site in Pocono Creek. (Courtesy of Bob Heil, Broadhead Water Association Executive Director)

April 5 - Bright blue pellets pooled along the edge of Pocono Creek on Monday, days after and miles away from the site of a tractor-trailer crash that spilled thousands of pounds of plastic into a nearby stream.

Many of those pellets are on their way through the streams in eastern Pennsylvania, making their way through the Lehigh Valley and toward the Atlantic Ocean. Cleaning them up won't be easy — the pieces are small, the water is fast and the crash site is hard to reach.

The Morning Call / [Read more](#)



NAMIBIA: FOREIGN VESSELS NEAR WALVIS SUSPECTED OIL LEAKERS



Photo: Oil stains at Afrodite Beach where the water meets the shore

April 6 - One or two suspected foreign vessels – one passing by Walvis Bay and one inside port limits – may have been responsible for the oil pollution at Afrodite Beach and Walvis Bay last month.

In a statement on Wednesday, the works ministry's spokesman Julius Ngweda said significant progress had been made in identifying the vessels.

“Using a combination of satellite images and an automatic identification system (AIS), we were able to focus

our investigations on one or two potential sources. “It may take a while to finalise the investigations and hold the offending party responsible as multiple jurisdictions are involved,” said Ngweda. Namibian / [Read more](#)

April 6 - No new oil spills detected at Afrodite beach and Walvis Bay Lagoon - The Ministry of Works and Transport this week reported that no new oil pollution have been detected at the Afrodite beach and the Walvis Bay lagoon or any other location in Walvis Bay.

Additionally, no reports of affected coastal or seabirds or other sea animals have been received since the last oil pollution reported the areas a few weeks ago. This follows extensive shoreline assessment and aerial investigation exercises involving members of the National Marine Pollution Contingency Plan as well as members of the general public. Economist / [Read more](#)

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

COLOMBIA: ATTORNEY GENERAL TO INVESTIGATE ECOPETROL OIL SPILL

April 3 - Colombia's attorney general's office on Monday launched an investigation to determine whether officials from state-run oil company Ecopetrol could be held criminally responsible for a oil spill of 550 barrels in Santander province. Reuters / [Read more](#)

CROATIA: ADRIATIC TRAINING & RESEARCH CENTRE RESPONSE CO-ORDINATION MEETING

April 1 - Co-ordination Meeting of County Operational Centres, Krk, Primorje-Gorski Kotar County on April 11-12 - In several former meetings the representatives of various Croatian coastal counties expressed the need for co-ordination and harmonization of preparedness and response systems in their counties.

Consequently, ATRAC will organise the Co-ordination Meeting for the improvement of preparedness and response to oil spills, which is to be held once a year, each time in a different coastal county. The initiative is supported by the Croatian Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, whose delegates will participate in the event.

The goal of this Co-ordination Meeting is to identify the differences between the existing preparedness and response systems of various counties, to exchange experience and subsequently define uniform standards in preparedness and response at the national level. ATRAC Newsletter / [Read more](#)

GREECE: NEW BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF HELMEPA

March 28 - On Tuesday, 27 March, the candidates elected by the 36th General Assembly of HELMEPA, the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association, met as a Body and with a secret ballot formed the new Board of Directors, as follows:

Chairman: Dr George Gratsos; Vice Chairman: John Xylas; General Secretary: Irene Daifas; Special Secretary: Aikaterini Los; Treasurer: Nicolas Bafaloukos; Deputy Treasurer: Michael Dalacouras; Members: (in alphabetical order); Athanassios Beis, Marietta-Antonia Chandris, John Chalas, George Karageorgiou, Ilias Ladas, Dimitrios Matthaïou, Semiramis Paliou, Aristidis Pittas, Panagiotis Zachariadis

Assuming his duties, the Chairman thanked his Colleagues for honoring him with their vote and stated that the Board and he personally will make every effort so that HELMEPA continues its voluntary work of informing and mobilizing the human element in Shipping and the wider society. HELMEPA / [Read more](#)

INDIA: TELANGANA WAKES UP TO PROTECT LAKES



April 8 - Thanks to the National Green Tribunal (NGT), which reprimanded the Telangana government for its failure to protect lakes from pollution and extinction, for the government's swift action to safeguard the lakes under threat in industrial areas and also encroached upon mainly in Greater Hyderabad and other municipalities.

Following NGT's strict directions for the restoration of dying lakes issued on October 24 to the state, the government constituted an expert committee with scientists and engineers from both the state and central government agencies. The Hans India / [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

NEW CALEDONIA: SALVAGE CREWS GETTING READY TO REMOVE KEA TRADER WRECK IN SOUTH PACIFIC



April 3 - Shanghai Salvage Company has started moving personnel and resources to New Caledonia to carry out the final removal of the stricken cargo ship Kea Trader from a reef now eight months after its initial grounding, the shipowner Lomar Shipping said in an update Tuesday.

In addition to mobilizing assets, Shanghai Salvage has now started the handover from Ardent to ensure all safeguards are in place to protect the environment during the recovery phase. This work expected to be completed this month, the update said.

Shanghai Salvage's structural experts have also started to assess the status of the vessel, which has

majorly deteriorated from the direct impact of two back-to-back cyclones earlier this year, causing a shift on the reef. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: '6,600 OIL SPILL INCIDENTS REPORTED TO DPR IN NINE YEARS'

April 3 - Over 6,600 oil spill incidents were reported to the Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR) in the last nine years, it's Director, Mr. Modesai Ladan has said.

He also said 53 per cent were attributed to acts of sabotage, accounting for about 57 per cent of total volumes of oil spill. He spoke in Lagos at the Tertiary Education Trust Fund, TetFund sponsored petroleum hydrocarbon containment groundwater remediation seminar on Baruwa underwater contamination, cautioned of the consequences of sabotaging oil infrastructure which has damaged the environment in Niger Delta area. Independent / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: NIGERIAN GOVERNMENT INVITES TENDERS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION PROJECT

April 4 - The Federal Government of Nigeria (FGN) is seeking to appoint environmental remedial contractors for Phase 1 of its Remediation of Hydrocarbon Impacted Sites in Ogoni project. This project forms part of FGN's overhead Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation project (Hyprep), which stems from government's commitment to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme.

FGN has invited suitably qualified international or Nigerian companies, as well as consortia, with experience in the environmental remediation of soil and/or groundwater in hydrocarbon-polluted sites to tender for the project. Engineering News / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - NEW OIL TANKER ESCORT TUGS ARRIVE IN VALDEZ

April 3 - A major change is coming to the system that protects the waters of Prince William Sound from another catastrophic oil spill, such as the Exxon Valdez disaster in 1989.

Crowley, the company that has escorted oil tankers coming in and out of Valdez Harbor, and through the sound, for 20 years, is being replaced by vessels and crews from Louisiana-based Edison Chouest Offshore.

The first of Edison Chouest's new tugs, a tanker escort vessel named Commander, and a general-purpose tug named Erlington, arrived in Valdez Harbor on March 11, and their



News reports from around the world (continued)

crews are now undergoing training.

The new company is schedule to take over tanker escort and oil spill response duty on July 1.

"The vessels are newer, more powerful, specifically built for this arena, Prince William Sound," said Andres Morales, director of SERV, Alyeska Pipeline's Ship Escort/Response Vessel System. The new tanker escort tugs, according to Alyeska Pipeline, will have 12,300 horsepower, which is 23 percent more power than the existing tugs.

KTUU / [Read more and watch video](#)

USA: NOAA OR&R INCIDENT RESPONSES FOR MARCH 2018

April 4 - Every month our Emergency Response Division provides scientific expertise and services to the U.S. Coast Guard on everything from running oil spill trajectories to model where the spill may spread, to possible effects on wildlife and fisheries, and estimates on how long the oil may stay in the environment.

NOAA OR&R / [Continue reading to learn more about some of March's notable incidents:](#)

USA: NOAA OR&R OR&R CONTINUES TO PARTNER TO ENHANCE METHODS FOR DETECTING FLOATING OIL



Photo: Outdoor Lab setup at the University of South Florida. OR&R Lead Scientist Lisa DiPinto explaining sampling work to Dr. Steve Murawski (University of South Florida) with Dr. Robyn Conmy (EPA) and Dr. Chuanmin Hu (University of South Florida). Image credit: NOAA.

April 6 - During the week of March 26, researchers from OR&R and EPA's Office of Research and Development collaborated with WaterMapping, LLC, and University of South Florida researchers to support a Department of Interior Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement -funded research project focused on system and algorithm development for floating oil and emulsion characterization, using radiometry and a multi-spectral array.

The team set up large outdoor sea water tanks and prepared oil slicks and floating oil emulsions of various oil types, thicknesses, and degrees of weathering to test various oil detection sensors and to prepare for future work at [Ohmsett \(National Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility\)](#) (link is external). In addition to detection and characterization of floating oil, NOAA is working with the research team to advance our capabilities to conduct faster data intake, processing and data product development in response-operational time frames. The goal is to have this data available for response and assessment decision making during an actual incident. NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

ISCO news

THIS WEEK - IMO MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE

The MEPC meeting runs from April 9-13 in London this week. ISCO Secretary Matthew Sommerville and Honorary Member Dr Douglas Cormack will be attending. A report on the meeting will be published in a forthcoming issue of the ISCO Newsletter.

WORK ONGOING TO GIVE THE ISCO NEWSLETTER A NEW MASTHEAD AND FORMAT

These improvements are "a work in progress" and it is planned to introduce the new format in the near future.

People in the news

NEW SECRETARY GENERAL FOR INTERNATIONAL SALVAGE UNION



The International Salvage Union has selected Roger Evans as its new Secretary General. He will succeed Mark Hoddinott who is retiring later this year after six years in the post. It follows a comprehensive recruitment process which attracted a strong field of well-qualified candidates.

Mr Evans is expected to join ISU during July to begin the handover with Mr Hoddinott before assuming the role at some point in the fourth quarter.

Mr Evans is a former master mariner who sailed on a variety of vessels including reefers, bulk carriers, container and general cargo ships. Mr Evans came ashore in 1985 to join Smit International and has served the Dutch offshore, towage and salvage firm in a number of roles including as contracts manager in London for Smit International, senior contracts manager for Smit Salvage in the Netherlands and, since 2013, as Manager for Smit Salvage in the UK. Marine Salvage / [Read more](#)

NEW APPOINTMENT TO BOARD OF UK SPILL

March 27 - Lee Barber, Regional Managing Director, Braemar Response won the election by 1 vote on a 50% turnout.

Eligible members voted to elect Lee Barber, the vote was approved by the Board and members at the Annual Members Meeting held at Interspill on 14th March.

It has also been announced that Nick Ashworth of RAW Group, has been invited by Mark Orr, co chair of UKSpill, to join the Technical Committee. <https://www.ukspill.org/index.php>



Technical support

NOAA OR&R - SPILL CONTAINMENT METHODS



Photo: Boom surrounds a set of floating net pens at a salmon hatchery in Prince William Sound, Alaska, to protect the pens from oil spilled from the Exxon Valdez.

During a spill response, sensitive locations threatened by an advancing oil slick can be protected with various kinds of equipment and tactics.

This useful article gives a good introduction to various spill containment techniques.

Also given are links for accessing other OR&R publications giving more detailed Information about Spill Containment Methods

<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/spill-containment-methods.html>

Publications

MICROBIAL BIOTECHNOLOGY IN ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND CLEAN-UP

March 30 - A new book on the advances in microbial biotechnology in environmental monitoring and clean-up has just been published by IGI Global. The book is part of the Advances in Environmental Engineering and Green Technologies Book Series. In the book, the authors state that pollutants are increasing day by day in the environment due to human interference. Thus, it has become necessary to find solutions to clean up these hazardous pollutants to improve human, animal, and plant health.

Microbial Biotechnology in Environmental Monitoring and Cleanup is a critical scholarly resource that examines the toxic hazardous substances and their impact on the environment. Featuring coverage on a broad range of topics such as pollution of microorganisms, phytoremediation, and bioremediation, this book is geared towards academics, professionals, graduate students, and practitioners interested in emerging techniques for environmental decontamination. Hazmat Magazine / [Read more](#)

Publications (continued)

CEDRE - CHEMICAL RESPONSE GUIDES - FIRST LINE INFORMATION IN CASE OF CHEMICAL SPILLS INTO WATER

Cedre's chemical response guides can be used during emergency response in the event of an incident involving hazardous substances liable to cause water pollution.

These documents are designed to enable rapid access to the necessary initial information (first line emergency data), in addition to providing relevant bibliographical sources to obtain further information. They also contain the results of scenarios relating to incidents in the Channel, the Mediterranean and in rivers.

These guides form an updated and expanded collection based on an initial collection of "mini response guides" published by Cedre in the early 1990s. Fifteen commonly transported products are listed with links for downloading the chemical-specific response guides. <https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Resources/Publications/Chemical-Response-Guides>

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

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2017
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	April 2018 issue
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request via email
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	February 2018
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	October 2017
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	March 2018 issue
EUROWA Newsletter	European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module	October 2017
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Winter 2017 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	March 2018
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	April 6, 2018
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q1 2018 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Jan-Feb, 2018
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	April 2018 issue
NOWPAP Quarterly	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 2, 2017 issue
Ocean Orbit	Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	August 2017
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	March 2018 issue
PEMSEA E-Updates	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	January 2018
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	April 4, 2018
Safe Seas, Clean Seas	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	August 2017 issue
Salvage World	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current & past issues
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Spring 2018 issue
Spill Alert	Newsletter from the UK Spill Association	December 2017 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Feb 16-28, 2018
Transport Canada Newsletter	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	June 2017 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	April 1, 2018

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

Events

UK: 9TH PREMIAM CONFERENCE 2018

April 4 – PREMIAM has great pleasure in announcing the 4th Premium conference which is to be held on 21st of June 2018 at the Flett Theatre, Natural History Museum, London. Registration is now open. [More info](#)

BELGIUM: EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PORTS CONFERENCE 2018

Location: Antwerp – Belgium - The European Environmental Ports Conference 2018 will take place on 16-17th May 2018. The event will bring together senior representatives from the global port community and shipping companies, as well as environmental policy-makers, academic experts, consultants, and technology providers.

Given the increasing focus on environmental regulations from the IMO and policy makers in the maritime sector, there is a growing responsibility and requirement of ports to reduce their environmental impact; it is an important time to share best practices and explore new technologies and methodologies in order to advance daily operations of a port with minimal ecological consequences. The two-day event features informative presentations on the very latest challenges, solutions and developments in reducing emissions, pollution and energy consumption, as well as engaging discussion around the exciting potential of co-operation and symbiosis. [More info](#)

Upcoming events summary

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
UK	April 9-13	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
Lithuania	April 10-12	HELCOM Response Working Group Meeting	Klaipeda
UK	April 11-12	Castle Archdale 2018 Inland Response Training	Enniskillen, N.I.
LITHUANIA	April 10-12	HELCOM Response Working Group Meeting	Klaipeda
UK	April 9-13	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
UAE	April 16-18	SPE Int'l Conference HSE & SR	Abu Dhabi
FINLAND	April 17-20	Arctic Shipping Forum	Helsinki
UK	April 26-27	IMO & IOPC Funds w'shop on the HNS Convention	London
UK	Apr 30-May 2	April 2018 IOPC Funds meetings	London
NEW ZEALAND	May 1-3	NZ 5th Contaminated Land Conference	Christchurch
CHINA	May 3-5	Environmental Technology Conference & Exhibition	Shanghai
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	May 7-10	National workshop on contingency planning	Malabo
USA	May 7-11	13th Int'l Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference	Baltimore, MD
UK	May 15	IMO 70 High Level Forum	London
BELGIUM	May 16-17	European Environmental Ports Conference 2018	Antwerp
USA	May 22-24	Inland Boom Shop 2018 (Hands-on Training)	Carmi, IL
UK	May 23-24	HAZMAT 2018	Stratford on Avon
NAMIBIA	May 29 – June 1	Sub-regional w'shop shoreline response to oil spills	Namibia
TURKEY	June 6-8	Regional Workshop & Oil Spill Response Exercise	Istanbul
USA	June 11-15	NOAA Science of Oil Spills (SOS) Classes	Seattle WA
ITALY	June 20-22	INTERTANKO Annual Event 2018	Rome
USA	June 19	Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Annual Meeting	Portland OR
USA	June 19-21	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Portland, OR
UK	June 21	9th Premium Conference 2018	London
USA	June 25-28	NOAA Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) class	Mobile AL
UK	June 25-28	Int'l Harbourmasters Assoc. Congress & Exhibition	London
INDIA	July 5-6	Oil Spill India 2018 Conference & Exhibition	New Delhi
SWEDEN	August 27-30	HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2018 spill recovery ex'cise	Karlskrona Area
UK	Sept. 12-13	9th Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response	London
UK	Sept. 12-13	Flood Expo	Birmingham
UK	Sept. 12-13	Spill Response Expo	Birmingham
SINGAPORE	Sept. 25-26	Salvage & Wreck Asia	Singapore
CANADA	October 2-4	AMOP Tech. Seminar on Env. Contam'n and Response	Victoria, BC
UAE	October 2-4	EI Middle East HSE Forum	Dubai
AUSTRALIA	October 2-4	Ecoforum Conference & Exhibition	Sydney
UAE	October 9-10	RECSO EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition	Abu Dhabi
UK	October 22-26	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
TURKEY	Nov. 6-8	Regional Workshop & Oil Spill Exercise	Istanbul
USA	Nov. 13-15	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	New Orleans, LA
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following issue of this newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org