



## ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness & co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, marine & freshwater pollution by plastics, promoting technical development and professional competency, & to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals. ISCO holds consultative status at the International Maritime Organisation & Observer Status at the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

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- Ms Mary Ann Dalglish, VP M'ship (USA)
- Mr John Wordrop (Australia)

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### IMO - KEY MARITIME ISSUES FLAGGED IN MEETINGS WITH EUROPEAN UNION

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez has set out key issues on the IMO agenda in a series of meetings in Brussels, Belgium (13 February), including the presidency of the EU Council, with Members of the European Parliament and the European Commission.



The meeting with Belgium's Director General for Shipping, Mr Peter Claeysens, in charge of the EU Council Presidency, provided an opportunity to raise the situation in the Red Sea, and the Secretary-General reiterated his priorities with regard to the protection of seafarers, freedom of navigation and de-escalation in the region. IMO / [Read more](#)

### LANDMARK UN REPORT REVEALS SHOCKING STATE OF WILDLIFE: THE WORLD'S MIGRATORY SPECIES OF ANIMALS ARE IN DECLINE, AND THE GLOBAL EXTINCTION RISK IS INCREASING

February 12 - The first-ever State of the World's Migratory Species report was launched today by the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), a UN biodiversity treaty, at the opening of a major UN wildlife conservation conference (CMS COP14).

Until now, no such comprehensive assessment on migratory species has been carried out. The report provides a global overview of the conservation status and population trends of migratory animals, combined with the latest information on their main threats and successful actions to save them. CMS int. / [Read more](#)

## ISCO AMBASSADORS

(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)


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Matthew Sommerville UK London  
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## ISCO NEWS

### Response to “Forever Chemicals” Pollution

From John McMurtrie – I am not aware of how many ISCO members are involved in “Forever Chemicals” mitigation efforts and have little knowledge of this activity. Because of this, I have put very little info on this subject in the newsletter. It would be good to hear from members who are active in this field. If some members are involved, a Contributed Article on the subject would be appreciated also any relevant reports for publication, including items for publication in the Member News section.

### Resilience of ISCO members to the downturn in frequency of oil spills

I started to write about potential of members to expand their range of products and services and was planning to continue to elaborate with further thoughts and ideas. The aim would be to help members to maintain cash flow and help secure the employment of staff. So far I have not found much interest from members and would appreciate feedback from interested members.

### Spill Response to incidents involving new alternatives to use of HFO and Diesel in shipping.

This is an area of operations that must be taxing the “little grey cells” of members and will be of considerable interest to our members. In the newsletter I would like to publish more info about the experiences of members, potential response techniques, and new technology that may be useful. Contributions from members would be appreciated in order to help expand knowledge in dealing with spills of the new alternative fuels coming into the market.

### Issue of new Membership Certificates – Change of procedure.

Until now ISCO has always sent new members a hard copy of their Membership Certificate by air mail. We will in future be sending new Membership Certificates electronically by email. We are aware that many members like to frame their Membership Certificates for display in public areas of their offices. The change means that you will now need to print a copy of the electronically transmitted Certificate of Membership. This change will save ISCO quite a lot of money at a time when budgets are tight. International air mail postage is expensive.

### ISCO Executive Meeting on 15th February 2024

As soon as the meeting minutes are available the ISCO Newsletter will appraise you of new developments and progress being made on our ongoing transition process.

## REGIONAL NEWS

### RUSSIA'S SHADOW TANKER FLEET RUNS INTO TROUBLE

February 12 - Every day, millions of barrels of oil are being transported by ships with obscured ownership and origin. But is the game up? - An interesting article in The Maritime Executive / [Read this article.](#)

### MEDITERRANEAN : VISIT TO REMPEC BY MR ARSENIO DOMINGUEZ

February 14 - On February 14th 2024, the Centre welcomed Mr. Arsenio Dominguez on his first official visit to the Centre as newly appointed Secretary General of IMO. Mr. Dominguez was welcomed by Head of Office Ivan Sammut and met with all REMPEC staff.

His visit was an opportunity to discuss the important role that REMPEC plays in the Mediterranean region and to better understand the Secretary General's vision for IMO and REMPEC. REMPEC/ [Read more](#)

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### ARGENTINA: REWILDING IN ARGENTINA HELPS GIANT ANTEATERS RETURN TO SOUTH BRAZIL

February 12 - Recent giant anteater sightings in Rio Grande do Sul state indicate the species has returned to southern Brazil, where it had been considered extinct for more than a century.  
Mongabay / [Read more](#)

### AUSTRALIA: RARE TENDER OPPORTUNITY FOR AUSTRALIAN BUSINESSES TO PRESERVE HERITAGE MARITIME ARTEFACTS

February 13 - The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) has announced a rare tender opportunity for Australian storage and warehousing businesses for a contract for the preservation and logistical management of hundreds of heritage maritime artefacts. These artefacts, ranging from original lighthouse lenses to ship models and lighthouse blueprints, are integral to Australia's maritime history. AMSA / [Read more](#)

### BRAZIL: IBAMA RESCUES MORE THAN A HUNDRED WILD ANIMALS IN RONDÔNIA

February 14 - In 120 operations carried out in Rondônia over the past year, the Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama) rescued 123 wild animals. About 90% of them were in the urban area of the capital, Porto Velho.

Of the total rescued, 32 animals are currently being recovered and/or treated at the state's Wild Animal Screening Center (Cetas). Among them, a jaguar and two tapir cubs, one that was run over in the urban area of Candeias do Jamari, in the Metropolitan Region, and another from Apuí, in Amazonas, which had been domesticated, but voluntarily surrendered by the owner. The superintendent of the Institute in Rondônia, Cesar Luiz Guimarães, reported that in a recent operation that investigated the trafficking of wild animals, Ibama rescued 10 animals, including snakes, alligators and iguanas. Gov.br / [Read more](#)

### CANADA: PROTESTERS PRESS OTTAWA TO BLOCK NUCLEAR WASTE SITE UPRIVER

February 14 - Protestors backed by opposition parties on Wednesday pressed the government to overturn regulatory approval for a nuclear waste dump upriver from Canada's capital, fearing the contamination of its drinking water. Barrons / [Read more](#)

### CANADA: GOVERNMENT INVESTS \$3 MILLION IN CITIZEN SCIENCE AND OPEN DATA FOR BIRDS AND BIODIVERSITY

February 14 - Birds are the most accessible and effective indicators of the health of air, water, and land. They are at the heart of Canada's biodiversity and play an essential role in maintaining healthy, resilient ecosystems in communities. When bird populations and their habitats are thriving, communities also benefit. When birds forage for food, build nests, and perform other necessities, they disperse plants and seeds that can reduce flooding and erosion, better filter groundwater, and provide more spaces to appreciate nature.

Today, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, announced an investment of \$3 million to Birds Canada over five years. The funding will support citizen science programs and open data, providing access to hundreds of millions of data records gathered by volunteers and professional biologists on the distribution, abundance, and population trends for birds in Canada. Canada.ca / [Read more](#)

### EGYPT: WMRA, CEDARE AND UNEP CO-CONVENE THE SECOND ROUND-TABLE ON "PLASTIC POLLUTION CONTROL" IN CAIRO

February 13 - As part of Egypt's restless efforts to align with the international actions led by UNEP to eliminate plastic pollution, today's round-table over-viewed the potential implications of operationalizing a legally binding international instrument and the resolutions that could be taken to address the full life cycle of plastic and achieve sustainable consumption and production of plastic products.



Discussions also involved the different views of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC) negotiations representing the Egyptian side from the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Petroleum and Mineral Resources, and the Ministry of Trade and Industries. CEDARE / [Read more](#)

### **FINLAND: COMPETITIVE TENDERING STARTS FOR OIL REMOVAL FROM THE ILMARINEN SHIPWRECK**

February 12 - The Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) is launching the competitive tendering for removing the oil from the wrecked coastal defence ship Ilmarinen. The tendering process is part of Syke's statutory monitoring of high-risk shipwrecks. Sttinfo / [Read more](#)

### **FRANCE: CEDRE JANUARY ACTIVITY OF DUTY TEAM**

February 13 - Monitoring of the release of plastic pellets off the coast of Spain (containers lost overboard by the Toconao): discussions with the local authorities, information provided to the French authorities. A two-person team also travelled to Galicia to hold discussions with local stakeholders. Samples were also sent out to us to attempt to identify a marker for these plastic pellets;

Discussions with the municipality of Siouville (Manche) in relation to the presence of sheen in a stream that flows into the sea. Samples were received for analysis;

Call from a joint union in Pas-de-Calais after oil was observed in a crater left by a bomb from the Second World War following episodes of rain in the municipality of Helfaut. Samples were received for analysis;

Advice provided to VNF relating to pollution on the banks of a canal after an industrial settling tank overflowed;

Advice provided to the Côtes-d'Armor fire brigade (SDIS 22) in relation to pollution (sheen) in a watercourse, apparently caused by an overflowing heating oil tank;

Advice provided during a spill simulation exercise at an offshore wind farm. CEDRE / [Read more in the CEDRE newsletter](#)

### **INDIA: ITOPF INVITED TO INDUSTRY WORKSHOP IN INDIA**

January 30 - We were pleased to be invited by the Indian Director General (DG) of Shipping and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) to deliver a series of presentations as part of a workshop organised on behalf of the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways (India) in January.

During the workshop, David Champion, gave insight on the role of experts during marine pollution response, a case study from the Asia-Pacific region and an explanation of claims processes under the international compensation regimes for preventative measures, clean-up, and costs for damage incurred to fisheries. ITOPF / [Read more](#)

### **JAPAN: PETROLEUM ASSOCIATION OF JAPAN (PAJ) OIL SPILL WORKSHOP**

The 2024 PAJ Oil Spill Workshop took place on 15<sup>th</sup> February with the theme "Oil Spill Prevention during a Civil War, Recent Oil Spill Response and Effective Public Relations"

More details are available at <https://www.pcs.gr.jp/p-kokusai/work-11-e.html>

## KUWAIT: EXHIBITION : DO YOUR PART TO CONTINUE SUSTAINABILITY

February 9 - Under the patronage and presence of the Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority, Eng. Samira Al-Kandari, The Kuwait Sustainability Exhibition was opened under the slogan (Do your part to continue sustainability), which is held over three days from Thursday to Saturday in Murooj EPA gov. / [Read more](#)

## NICARAGUA: HUNDREDS OF BABY SEA TURTLES RELEASED OFF COAST IN CONSERVATION EFFORT

February 12 - Nicaraguan authorities and volunteers released hundreds of tiny baby turtles on the country's Pacific coast over the weekend as part of the government's efforts to protect endangered species. Reuters / [Read more](#)

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO MULLS HISTORIC DISASTER DECLARATION AFTER 'GHOST SHIP' OIL SPILL

February 11 - "Right now the situation is not under control," the prime minister said Sunday on the eve of the Caribbean nation's world-renowned Carnival. Common Dreams / [Read more](#) For timeline reports see INCIDENTS Section in this issue.

## TRINIDAD & TOBAGO OIL SPILL – COMMENTS FROM IOPC FUNDS

February 12 - The IOPC Funds is sorry to learn of the oil pollution incident currently affecting Trinidad and Tobago.

Trinidad and Tobago is a 1992 Fund Member State, however, a number of significant details regarding the incident and the vessel remain unconfirmed at this stage, including the type of vessel and whether it was carrying persistent oil as cargo. It is therefore not possible to determine whether the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions would apply to this incident at this stage.

The IOPC Funds will continue to monitor developments, and remains ready to assist the Government, should it be called upon to do so. IOPC Funds / [Source document](#)

## USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

February 12 – Please click on the links below to read these reports

### **OR&R Announces West Coast and Pacific Islands Regional Preparedness Coordinator**

OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) is expanding west. Kyla Breland, the former Southeastern and Caribbean Regional Preparedness Coordinator, is now our first West Coast and Pacific Island Regional Preparedness Coordinator (RPC).

### **Community Meeting Held for Puerto Rico Aquatic Debris Strategic Plan**

On January 17-19, the NOAA Marine Debris Program, within the Office of Response and Restoration, coordinated an annual meeting to discuss the progress of the actions related to the [2023-2028 Puerto Rico Strategic Plan to Reduce Aquatic Debris](#) (Strategic Plan), and to establish the 2024 actions.

## USA: EPA PLANS TIGHTENING OF RULES ON 'FOREVER CHEMICALS' TO COMBAT HEALTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL THREATS



February 13 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced its intention to tighten regulations on hazardous waste, specifically targeting nine 'forever chemicals' under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act.

Increasing regulation aims to address the environmental and health challenges posed by these specific [PFAS](#) substances, and could have far-reaching consequences, including the potential for extensive legal actions.

The EPA announced the move in late January when it proposed modifications to the RCRA and plans to broaden the scope of what is considered a hazardous substance. This would include per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), a group of man-made chemicals that are known for their long-lasting presence in the environment and accumulation in humans and animals. EPA / [Read more](#)

### USA: FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE INCREASES CIVIL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF FEDERAL WILDLIFE PROTECTION LAWS

February 14 - On February 2, 2024, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) published a final rule increasing civil monetary penalties for violations of several federal wildlife and natural resource protection laws (Final Rule). The Final Rule updates penalties for violations of the Endangered Species Act, Marine Mammal Protection Act, Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act, Lacey Act, and other statutes concerning federally protected animal species.

Under section 4 of the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990, 28 U.S.C. 2461, as amended by the Inflation Adjustment Act, Public Law 114-74, 129 Stat. 584 (2015), each federal agency is required to issue annually a rule adjusting the statutory civil monetary penalties that can be imposed under the respective laws the agency administers. The Office of Management and Budget (OMB) provides agencies an adjustment multiplier that is based on the rate of inflation. In the preamble to the Final Rule, the Service states that periodically increasing the penalties' dollar amounts ensures that these laws retain their deterrent effects and further the policy goals of the underlying statutes. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

### USA: GROUP CALLS FOR STRICTER LEGISLATION AFTER TWO HAZARDOUS SPILLS IN METRO DETROIT

February 15 - Environmental advocates and residents across Metro Detroit are calling on Michigan lawmakers to get tougher on polluters.

During a news conference on Thursday, the Sierra Group, along with local officials, want lawmakers to pass a package of bills referred to as Polluter Pay Laws to crack down on those who pollute the environment and ignore cleaning up toxic spills. The action was prompted after two separate incidents involving toxic spills in Metro Detroit, one in Warren and one in Trenton. CBS / [Read more](#)

### USA: CALIFORNIA CONFRONTS PLASTIC RECYCLING CHALLENGES UNDER NEW LAW

February 15 - A recent report challenges California's approach to plastic recycling, citing concerns over illegal exports and the state's "Truth in Labeling" law. James Bruggers reports for Inside Climate News. In short:

California's recycling law, aimed at accurate recyclability claims, faces scrutiny for potentially allowing misleading labels and illegal plastic waste exports.

Environmental groups criticize the state's preliminary data, arguing it could mislead consumers and exacerbate plastic pollution.

The controversy highlights the complex issues surrounding plastic recycling, including contamination and the global trade in waste. EHN / [Read more](#)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### STINNE TAIGER IVØ APPOINTED DEPUTY SECRETARY GENERAL AT BIMCO



Ivø joined BIMCO in early 2022 to lead the Contracts & Support department. The Contracts & Clauses team develops and provides the shipping industry with contracts and clauses in close collaboration with industry representatives, and the Support & Advice department answers members' queries about charter parties and other contracts.

Prior to working at BIMCO, Ivø headed the claims department of marine insurer Skuld (Copenhagen), worked at Danish Shipping (formerly known as the Danish Shipowners' Association) and as a lawyer at Gorrissen Federspiel's department for Shipping/Offshore/Transportation.

She holds a PhD in international company law and a Master of Laws, both from the University of Copenhagen.

As part of the leadership team, Ivø will be representing one of the major business areas at BIMCO, Contracts & Clauses, as the shipping industry is facing an increase in new regulations from the International Maritime Organization and the European Union on the road to decarbonisation.

Søren Larsen, Deputy Secretary General responsible for BIMCO's contractual work, will be retiring in May after 39 years of service. BIMCO / [Read more](#)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

### NEW SEPA CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBERS ANNOUNCED

From Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) - We're pleased to welcome Lisa Tennant as the new SEPA Chair of our Agency Board, who replaces our outgoing Chair, Bob Downes.

Lisa brings a wide range of experience across the private, public and charitable sectors. She's committed to leading a collaborative culture, emphasising the power of collective efforts aligned to a clear strategic vision. Integrating ecological considerations with economic growth, Lisa is committed to fostering a cleaner, greener Scotland for all.

We also welcome the appointment of six new members to our Board. Our new members bring a diverse range of expertise from backgrounds across the public, private and third sectors.

Appointments include Dr Carol Evans, David Hunter, Lindsay MacDonald, Lorraine McMillan, Dr Sue Paterson and Keith Rosser. SEPA / [Read more](#)



## RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS

### A COLUMN CREATED BY DR. MERV FINGAS, MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL FOR CANADA



*This is part of a weekly column which provides the references and abstracts of new peer-reviewed scientific publications on oil spills. These references are selected on the basis of those papers that provide new insights into the fate, effects and control of oil spills. Readers may choose to obtain the full publications and to do so, one of three methods is suggested; contact your library, search the internet with the DOI (digital object identifier) provided, or search the internet for the exact title. These are given in the order of likely success in obtaining the article. Merv Fingas, ISCO Colleague.*

#### 36. Micronucleus Induction in *Vicia faba* Root Tips by Crude Oil-Polluted Soil from Ecuadorian Amazon

Coronel Vargas G., Izzotti A., Rosano C., La Maestra S.  
(2023) *Environments* - MDPI, 10 (11), art. no. 195,  
DOI: 10.3390/environments10110195

**ABSTRACT:** In the past four decades, the Amazon rainforest has emerged as a crucial zone for crude oil extraction in the South American region. In the Ecuadorian Amazon rainforest, hydrocarbon blocks (called “bloques”) cover vast zones, including agricultural and livestock farms, protected natural regions and the territories of uncontacted indigenous tribes. This study proposes a micronuclei assay on *Vicia faba* following a 24 h exposure to various soil samples collected from Bloque 57 in Ecuador. Sampling was conducted between the Dayuma and Aguarico zones, approximately 30 km from Nueva Loja city. The research aimed to assess the impact of different soil samples, particularly those from areas affected by crude oil spills, to induce micronuclei and mitotic index changes in *V. faba* roots. Results: The soil pollution caused by crude oil is not the sole factor contributing to cytotoxicity and genotoxicity in *V. faba*. Most samples from areas polluted by crude oil outside the small-scale farm showed no significant difference in micronuclei rate compared to negative control and Amazon unpolluted soil. Conversely, samples from the small-scale farm displayed a statistically significant genotoxic effect. Furthermore, samples collected from open-air wastewater pools demonstrated higher levels of cytotoxicity compared to the controls and those from small-scale farms. The mitotic index was lower in seedlings exposed to wastewater in open-air pools, especially for the 20 cm deep samples. This phenomenon could be linked to bitumen-like substances and oils floating on the surface, attaching to the small roots and causing suffocation.

#### 37. Method development for forensic oil identification by direct analysis in real time time-of-flight mass spectrometry

Tikkisetty K., Filewood T., Yan J., Kwok H., Brunswick P., Cody R., Shang D.  
(2023) *Analytical Methods*, 15 (44), pp. 6040 - 6047,  
DOI: 10.1039/d3ay01282d

**ABSTRACT:** The current well-established chromatography and mass spectrometry based oil spill identification procedures, such as those outlined by the European Committee for Standardization, are highly reliable as methods, highly defensible in the court of law, and widely applicable to the majority of oil spill situations. Nevertheless, the methodology is time consuming and labour intensive, which may not be ideal when dealing with an emergency oil spill situation. In this study, direct analysis in real time time-of-flight mass spectrometry (DART/TOFMS) was used to successfully develop an efficient oil identification method. To confirm the accuracy of this method spilled oil samples were tested from five previous years of blind round robin testing organized by the oil spill identification

network of experts (OSINET) under the Bonn Agreement. Heatmap inspection, principal component analysis and finally discriminant analysis of principal components were used to arrive at final predictions regarding the identities of the spilled oil samples. The results were compared with the results of previous gas chromatography flame ionization detection (GC/FID) and gas chromatography triple quadrupole mass spectrometry (GC/MS/MS) analyses of the same oils. While taking only about a tenth of the time, the DART/TOFMS analysis produced results similar to those of classical GC/FID and GC/MS/MS (EI+) procedures. The ability of DART/TOFMS to display this level of validity exemplifies its potential to be a new tool for supplementing classical analyses for oil spill forensics.

### **38. Seychelles Plateau's oil spill vulnerability**

Verhofstede A., Dobbelaere T., Harlay J., Hanert E.  
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 196, art. no. 115652,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115652

**ABSTRACT:** Small Island Developing States, such as Seychelles, are highly susceptible to oil pollution incidents, with limited infrastructure for detection and mitigation. While an oil spill could significantly impact Seychelle's tourism industry, contributing to ~40% of its GDP, the archipelago's vulnerability remains largely unknown. Here, we developed a high-resolution ocean circulation model for Seychelles Plateau, simulating currents over three years (2018–2020) to model oil spill dispersal to six ecologically and economically significant coastal areas. Our findings reveal distinct seasonality in offshore risk distribution, driven by seasonal fluctuations in atmospheric and oceanic circulations. We show that an oil spill originating from any part of the plateau could potentially impact a sensitive coastal site in less than five days. By identifying high-risk areas, including the major north-south shipping route, we emphasize the importance of close satellite and airborne monitoring for early warnings to protect Seychelles' coastal ecosystems and tourism industry.

### **39. A century-long record of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon deposition in the Old Yellow River Estuary, China**

Guo W., Luo X., Hou G., Liu F., Yin Y., Li J., Shi X.  
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 196, art. no. 115643  
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115643

**ABSTRACT:** Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) are potential geochemical indicators for assessing the impact of human activities and can be used to reconstruct historical human activities. This study collected a 108 cm sediment core from the 5th lobe of the Yellow River Delta for the first time and analyzed the historical distribution characteristics of PAHs in this area. The results showed that the sedimentation history of the core was from 1908 to 2014. The average value of PAHs was 28.93 ng/g. Biomass and coal combustion sources were the main sources of PAHs in the low-value areas, while oil spill sources were the main sources in the significantly higher PAHs areas in the 1960s, mid-1980s, late 1990s, and late 2010s, which was consistent with the development history of Shengli Oilfield. Compared with global estuaries, the historical industrial activity intensity in this area was weaker.

### **40. Polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in aquatic ecosystem exposed to the 2020 baghjan oil spill in upper assam, India: Shortterm toxicity and ecological risk assessment,**

Singh V., Negi R., Jacob M., Gayathri A., Rokade A., Sarma H., Kalita J., Tasfia S.T., Bharti R., Wakid A., Suthar S., Kolipakam V., Qureshi Q.  
(2023) *PLoS ONE*, 18 (11 November), art. no. e0293601,  
DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0293601

**ABSTRACT:** This study focuses on the short-Term contamination and associated risks arising from the release of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) due to the 2020 Baghjan oil blowout in upper Assam, India. Shortly after the Baghjan oil blowout, samples were collected from water, sediment, and fish species and examined for PAHs contents. The results of the analysis revealed  $\sigma$ PAHs concentrations ranged between 0.21-691.31  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  (water); 37.6-395.8  $\mu\text{g Kg}^{-1}$  (sediment); 104.3-7829.6  $\mu\text{g Kg}^{-1}$  (fish). The prevalence of 3-4 ring low molecular weight PAHs compounds in water (87.17%), sediment (100%), and fish samples (93.17%) validate the petrogenic source of origin (oil spill). The geographic vicinity of the oil blowout is rich in wildlife; thus, leading to a significant mass mortality of several eco-sensitive species like fish, plants, microbes, reptiles, amphibians, birds and mammals including the Gangetic River dolphin. The initial ecological risk assessment suggested moderate to high-risk values ( $RQ > 1$ ) of majority PAHs concerning fish, daphnia, and algae species. This study highlights the need for recognizing the potential for short-Term exposure to local species. To safeguard local ecosystems from potential future environmental disasters, it is imperative for the government to adopt a precautionary strategy.

### **41. A fully Eulerian two-layer model for the simulation of oil spills spreading over coastal flows**



## RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Echeverribar I., Brufau P., García-Navarro P.  
(2023) *Physics of Fluids*, 35 (11), art. no. 116602,  
DOI: 10.1063/5.0169493

**ABSTRACT:** Nowadays, the vast majority of coastal oil spill simulation models are based on Lagrangian methods focused on particle tracking algorithms to represent the oil slick fate. In this work, a fully Eulerian numerical model for the simulation of such environmentally significant disaster is implemented by means of a two-dimensional two-layer shallow water model. A very thin oil layer over a thicker water layer is considered in order to neglect the pressure term that the oil layer exerts over the water. Friction terms between layers are responsible for the layers coupling so that the oil layer flows over a moving water volume. To complete this dynamic model, the temperature transport and evolution under heat exchange for the oil upper layer is considered and the weathering process of evaporation is included. The numerical solution adopted is based on a finite volume upwind scheme with a Roe solver for both oil and water layers. Special care has been taken on the numerical treatment of the two-layer wet-dry boundaries (oil-water-land) and friction terms, since the objective of the model is to compute the oil slick front advancing near the coast.

### 42. Analysis of Kazakhstan Crude Oil Biomarkers by Gas Chromatography in Combination with Mass Spectrometry

Alimzhanova M., Abdykarimov B.  
(2023) *Separations*, 10 (11), art. no. 561,  
DOI: 10.3390/separations1011056:

Kazakhstan ranks as the 12th largest oil producer globally and boasts a diverse range of crude oils. This research introduces a method for distinguishing between the different types of crude oils based on biomarker analysis of 28 crude oils from Western and Southern Kazakhstan using gas chromatography-mass spectrometry. Biomarkers serve as valuable tools, especially in forensic investigations of oil spills. These biomarkers effectively retain a significant portion of the original natural product's carbon structure, providing crucial evidence regarding the origin and identity of the oils under examination. This study identifies a set of biomarkers, including pristine, phytane, n-C17 and n-C18 alkanes, hopanes, bisnorhopanes, iso-copalanes, pregnane, androstane, allopregnane, homopregnane, cholestane, and stigmastane. By examining ratios such as pristane/phytane, pristane/n-C17 alkane, tricyclic/pentacyclic terpanes, and hopane, as well as the distribution of steranes, it was deduced that crude oils from West Kazakhstan exhibited resilience to biodegradation. These findings showed that gas chromatography-mass spectrometry is an effective method for oil biomarkers determination, especially because it provides efficient separation and identification. Additionally, this study delved into the origin conditions and maturity of these oils, contributing to a deeper understanding of their characteristics and analysis that is simple to use and available worldwide.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

*If you are interested in new technology you will find it useful to visit Technology Innovation News Survey at <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> and Tech Direct at <https://clu-in.org/techdirect/archive/>*

### THE PURSUIT OF ENVIRONMENTAL SOLUTIONS THROUGH BIOTECHNOLOGY

The Institute of Biosciences & Biotechnologies in Aix-Marseille (BIAM) is a collaborative effort bringing together 180 professionals from 24 different countries. Their shared objective? Developing innovative concepts to address various environmental challenges, such as soil decontamination, water pollution, medical advancements, and the production of high-value molecules like third-generation biofuels. These scientific explorations serve practical purposes, focusing on finding tangible solutions to real-world problems.

One particular area of focus for BIAM is soil decontamination. Through their research, they are developing innovative techniques to remove pollutants and restore soil health. These methods not only have the potential to address current pollution concerns but also contribute to preventive measures that can mitigate future contamination.

In addition to their work on soil decontamination, BIAM is actively involved in studying water pollution, aiming to develop advanced filtration systems that can remove toxic substances and improve water quality. These advancements have the potential to significantly impact industries such as wastewater treatment, agriculture, and public health. ISP Today / [Read more](#)

### HOW A SINGAPORE STARTUP CONVINCED FIRMS THAT WASTE PLASTIC CAN BE USED TO PAVE ROADS

Oh Chu Xian's decision to launch a startup that utilises waste plastic to pave roads was born out of sheer frustration when she saw how Singapore handled its rubbish.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

Her family experimented with incorporating plastic into asphalt mix, replacing the bitumen with depolymerised plastic, which they called NEWBitumen. The highly durable mix could match the robustness of traditional bitumen-based roads, explained Oh. We have since successfully paved 10 roads using our new technology, and in doing so, recycled 50 tonnes of plastic. We have paved roads for clients such as DBS, Keppel, Sentosa, and Singapore’s Ministry of Defense. Our upcoming projects will divert almost 200 tonnes of plastic waste from incineration. Eco-Business / [Read more](#)

## GROUNDWATER CHLORINATED SOLVENT PLUMES REMEDIATION FROM THE PAST TO THE FUTURE: A SCIENTOMETRIC AND VISUALIZATION ANALYSIS

This study evaluated 1619 publications related to this field using VOSviewer and CiteSpace visual tools. An extensive quantitative analysis and global overview of current research hotspots, as well as potential future research directions, were performed by reviewing publications from 2000 to 2022. Over the last 22 years, the USA has produced the most articles, making it the central country in the international collaboration network, with active cooperation with the other 7 most productive countries. Additionally, institutions have played a positive role in promoting the publication of science and technology research. In analyzing the distribution of institutions, it was found that the University of Waterloo conducted the majority of research in this field. This paper also identified the most productive journals, Environmental Science & Technology and Applied and Environmental Microbiology, which published 11,988 and 3253 scientific articles over the past 22 years, respectively. The main technologies are bioremediation and chemical reduction, which have garnered growing attention in academic publishing. Our findings offer a useful resource and a worldwide perspective for scientists engaged in this field, highlighting both the challenges and the possibilities associated with addressing groundwater chlorinated solvent plumes remediation. Researchgate / [Read more](#)

## INTERESTING ARTICLE

### OIL POLLUTION ACT: TIPS FOR SPILL RESPONSE, COMPLIANCE, AND ENFORCEMENT

Oil spills commonly occur when least expected and, even in smaller quantities can significantly disrupt business operations and create risks for enforcement and/or litigation. It’s important that companies are prepared and know the environmental requirements for when the least expected happens, including understanding what actually is “oil” (hint: it’s broader than you might think!), who to notify, legal authorities at play, and best practices to ensure compliance and minimize exposure to regulators and/or private parties. J D Supra / [Read more](#)

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

### CANADA’S LARGEST SPILL RESPONSE SHIP INSTALLS AQUA-GUARD’S RBS TRITON 150 OS OIL SKIMMING SYSTEM



## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

"We are pleased to announce that we have recently supplied a large, offshore oil skimming system onboard the K.J. Gardner, 74-metre long oil spill response vessel destined to operate off the BC Coast. Working closely with key WCMRC personnel, Aqua-Guard has custom-designed the oil skimming system specifically for the vessel to be ready on standby in the event of an emergency oil spill."  
- Aqua-Guard's Production Manager (Lee Marshall) AquaGuard / [Read more](#)

## SUCCESSFUL REMEDIATION OF HYDROCARBON-CONTAMINATED SITES IN ECUADOR



Addressing environmental liabilities has become a concern in today's industrial landscape, and Lamor has taken significant steps in this direction through a four-year contract dedicated to remediating sites contaminated with hydrocarbons in Ecuador.

The challenge at hand was the remediation of hydrocarbons-contaminated sites, a task that required a specific plan to achieve the objectives. The soil at these sites exhibited a Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentration between 40.000 to 10.000 mg/kg, significantly surpassing the acceptable limit of 150 mg/kg, a highly stringent requirement of Ecuadorian environmental law. This presented a complex challenge as the remediation process needed to be thorough and efficient to meet the stringent target criteria.

Lamor's scope extended beyond conventional approaches, delivering both in-situ and ex-situ activities tailored to suit the unique challenges posed by specific contaminated sites. This flexibility allowed for adapting remediation strategies, ensuring optimal results in diverse environmental conditions. By employing a combination of in-situ and ex-situ activities, Lamor maximized efficiency, offering a comprehensive solution to address a wide range of hydrocarbon-contaminated environments.

The positive impact of Lamor's remediation efforts is significant. To date, more than 30.000 m<sup>3</sup> of contaminated soil has been successfully treated, surpassing the initial challenge. The remediation brought the TPH levels down from more than 40.000 mg/kg to the target criteria of not more than 150 mg/kg. LAMOR / [Read more](#)

## TRAINING COURSES

*Training Course Providers – Please check entries below and advise editor on any necessary updates*

### USEFUL LINKS

- **INTERNATIONAL – IMO E-LEARNING PLATFORM** [e-learning platform](#)
- **AUSTRALIA – AMOSC** - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA** - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- **CHINA** - <http://www.sioetc.com>
- **EUROPE –** <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/3609-ems-a-training-catalogue-2019.html>
- **FRANCE - CEDRE** - [https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023\\_EN.pdf](https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023_EN.pdf)
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD.** - <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/courses/>
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – BRIGGS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.** - <https://www.briggsmarine.com/services/training/>
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – AMBIPAR GROUP** <https://ambipar.com/uk/training/>
- **UK – NCEC HAZMAT ACADEMY** – [More info](#)
- **USA – TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – NATIONAL SPILL CONTROL SCHOOL** <https://www.tamucc.edu/research/nscs/>
- **USA – MPC, DETROIT** - <https://marinepollutioncontrol.com/services/training-and-compliance>
- **USA – ALLIANCE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROFESSIONALS** - [https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event_list.asp)
- **CANADA - CONTAMINATED SITES HEALTH & SAFETY REFRESHER (8-HOUR HAZWOPER) – FROM ECONEXT – [MORE INFO](#)**
- **ONLINE - LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY – CERTIFICATE IN MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT. Starts on 14<sup>th</sup> March 2024** - <https://email.informaconect.com/q/12ErXbQNGaNK08lQrkPeq62v/wv>

Members who would like to be listed here, please contact your editor – [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS CLICK ON [HTTPS://SPILLCONTROL.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS/](https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/)**

To see ALL of the posted events you will need to click on “LOAD MORE” at the foot of each opened “upcoming events” page. Event organisers are requested to notify ISCO immediately if a listed event is cancelled or postponed. Your Editor does his best to keep the listing up-to-date but it should not be assumed that listed events have not been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended that you check with event organisers before finalising your attendance plans. Please advise the Editor if any of the entries require correction or updating. If you are holding an event you would like to be featured here, please send details to [John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

The listings below give only very basic details – To get access to all information visit <https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/>

### FEBRUARY & MARCH 2024

- AUSTRALIA – Alga – “Chlorinated Hydrocarbons Groundwater Fate & Transport Symposium”, Adelaide, 22-23 February 2024
- PORTUGAL – Economist – “11th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo”, Lisbon, 11-13 March 2024

### APRIL 2024 AND ONWARDS

- USA – Conference & Exhibition – Clean Waterways – April 9-11, Cincinnati, Ohio
- TUNISIA – MOIG TRAINING COURSE – IMO Level 3, 22-25 April 2024, South Hammamet
- USA – International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition, 13-16 May 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana
- USA – AHMP – EHS HAZMAT SUMMIT, 14-17 July, 2024, Kansas City, Missouri
- GERMANY – “14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation”, Berlin, August 25-27, 2024
- SPAIN & ONLINE – “14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Barcelona, August 25-27, 2024
- UAE - SPE International Health, Safety, Environment, and Sustainability Conference and Exhibition 10–12 September 2024, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- UK – Water, Waste & Environmental Monitoring – 9-10 October 2024, NEC, Birmingham, UK

### SOME OTHER INFORMATION

- IOPC Funds has released a calendar of its upcoming events – to view, click on <https://iopcfunds.org/news-events/events/>
- Econext has released a programme of upcoming courses and webinars. This can be viewed at [https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/product-category/webinars/?orderby=date&mc\\_cid=9c2c758fcd&mc\\_eid=6a430f153](https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/product-category/webinars/?orderby=date&mc_cid=9c2c758fcd&mc_eid=6a430f153)
- Recordings of past ExxonMobil OSR Knowledge Transfer Webinar Recordings – [Access and Download](#)
- UK & Ireland Spill Association Alternative Marine Fuels and their Implications For Spill Response Webinar is [available to watch on YouTube](#). All six of UK & Ireland Spill Association’s Webinar Series on the Wakashio Spill are also available to watch. [More info](#)

## ONLINE PODCASTS

### SALVAGE & WRECK PODCAST

Welcome to the Group's podcast. In this series, we will be exploring some of the topics discussed at the Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference. Our aim is to make these discussions accessible to everyone, even those unable to attend the event. We've invited some of the Club panellist that participated at the event.

Episode 1: In the first episode, we are joined by Nick Shaw CEO of the International Group, exploring the intricacies of effective casualty management and examining the optimal ways in which authorities, salvors, and insurers can collaborate. IG P&I / [Read more](#)

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS 2024 – REGISTRATION OPEN - CLICK ON LINKS BELOW

Still thinking about registering for the upcoming CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference, taking place April 9-11 in Cincinnati? We could list all the reasons this is a must-attend event for anyone involved in incident prevention and response in the inland environment, but we will let your peers do the talking! [Read more](#)

[CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference](#), April 9-11 in Cincinnati, OH. We are accepting exhibit/ sponsorship applications and registration is open.

[DISCOUNTS](#)

[PRELIMINARY AGENDA](#)

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

Registration has officially opened for the 2024 CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference, taking place at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH, April 9-11.

[Registration information](#) April 9-11, 2024, Cincinnati, OH – “Incident Prevention & Response for Inland Regions & Waterways”

[View the website](#) The CLEAN WATERWAYS program is developed by a government/industry-based committee of approximately 50 professionals, and the committee is looking for leaders to help shape the conference.

All abstracts submitted are reviewed for content and relevance by the committee and are selected by consensus

### USA: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR IOSC 2024

[International Oil Spill Conference \(IOSC\)](#) in New Orleans, May 13-16, 2024

Click on links for more info – [EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS PROVIDE PRIME VISIBILITY AND IMPACT](#) [COMPLETE PROGRAM](#)  
[FILM FESTIVAL & PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST](#)

To qualify for a discounted registration rate, you MUST reserve a room at an [IOSC Hosted Hotel](#). Your room must be booked by the Hosted Hotel cutoff date to receive the discounted rate. Please note that each hotel has their own cutoff date. IOSC will perform an audit on the housing block on April 15. Those that have not booked within the block by the respective hotel cutoff date will have their registration rate changed to reflect the difference.

Registration has officially opened for the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), May 13-16, 2024 at the New Orleans Convention Center in New Orleans, LA USA.

In order to make it as easy as possible for you to join nearly 2,000 members of the international oil spill response community, IOSC has put together a Justification Toolkit to help you illustrate the value of attending this conference. Use the tools in this kit to explain to your supervisor how attending IOSC will be a smart investment in both your personal career growth and the growth of your organization. [Download the Justification Kit](#)

Meet Dr. Leonard Marcus, IOSC 2024 Keynote Speaker. Join us, May 13 - 16, 2024 in New Orleans, LA for the 2024 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) and be inspired by our opening keynote speaker, Dr. Leonard Marcus. [Read about Dr. Marcus](#)

[Why are Sponsorships at IOSC So Valuable?](#) Click to read more

**IOSC** provides a vital forum for professionals from the international response community, private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations to come together to tackle the greatest challenges facing us with sound science, practical innovation, social engineering and imagination.

Mark your calendars and start planning your trip to join over 1,500 attendees from over 50 countries, representing government agencies, contractors, researchers, industry, and other stakeholders as they exchange ideas and lessons learned from actual spill responses and research around the world.

**Learn More about IOSC 2024** Be sure to follow IOSC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for updates and announcements about #IOSC2024. Please contact [registration@iosc.org](mailto:registration@iosc.org) for questions or additional information. Interested in exhibiting or sponsorship? Please reach out to: [exhibits@iosc.org](mailto:exhibits@iosc.org)

### USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2024

**November 18-20, 2024** George R. Brown Convention Center | Houston, TX

Registration for the 2024 event will open in April and Exhibit and Sponsorships are already available! Contact Renie Mayfield at 720-289-7008 or [rmayfield@accessintel.com](mailto:rmayfield@accessintel.com) to discuss how you can make an impact on buyers from oil & gas, maritime, rail, environmental companies and regulatory agencies with an Exhibit space or Sponsorship. [More info](#)

Do you have real-world solutions for evolving environmental emergencies? Don't miss your chance to be heard at this year's CLEAN GULF Conference! Submit your abstract for review and your chance to take the stage this November at CLEAN GULF. Abstracts are due by **March 1, 2024**. [More info about submitting abstracts](#).

### INDIA: OIL SPILL INDIA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION, NEW DELHI, 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2024

In the backdrop of the recent oil spill incident, caused during cyclone Michaung in Chennai's Ennore Creek, it is with a sense of urgency and shared responsibility that we announce that the 7th edition of Oil Spill India (OSI 2024), the region's flagship conference & exhibition on the Oil Spill Prevention, Planning, Preparedness, Response & Restoration industry, will be organised during 11th & 12th September 2024 at Hotel JW Marriott, Aerocity, New Delhi, India. [View the OSI 2024 website](#)

### EUROPE – INTERSPILL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – 8-10 APRIL 2025 – ExCel, LONDON

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

This internationally respected triennial event (which connects global stakeholders involved in marine oil spill research, prevention, preparedness, response and restoration) will return on 8-10 April 2025 at ExCeL London. <https://www.interspill.org/2025/>

## JOB VACANCIES

### IMO – VACANCY FOR TECHNICAL OFFICER

Deadline for Applications 29/02/2024

Contract Information: Fixed-term for two years (first year is probationary) with the possibility of further extension, subject to satisfactory performance.

Salary - US\$ 77,326 net per annum, plus post adjustment (currently US\$ 59,155). Salary is free of income tax in the United Kingdom.

Purpose of the Post - The Technical Officer will serve as the institutional focal point for all policy and operational matters related to oil/HNS pollution preparedness and response (OPRC/HNS). In this capacity, the Technical Officer will be responsible for oversight and management of joint oil pollution preparedness projects with the petroleum industry (GI), to implement an array of technical capacity building activities worldwide, and to provide concrete technical guidance and assistance in the event of major pollution incidents.

This vacancy is open to all qualified candidates. IMO seeks to increase the number of women at senior levels and, therefore, qualified women are particularly encouraged to apply. IMO will make every effort to facilitate the employment of persons with disabilities.

IMO / [View Main Duties & Responsibilities, Required Competencies, and other requirements](#)

## CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATIONS

This is a subscription service. <https://www.tender247.com/keyword/oil+spill+tenders+global>

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: USA & EUROPE

US Government solicitations are frequently posted in Technology Innovation News Survey <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/>

US Federal Contract Opportunities are posted at <https://clu-in.org/Federal-Contract-Opportunities>

European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter at -

<https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/newsletters.html> ISCO Members can post requests for submission of invitations to tender for supplies / services in this section.

## LINKS FOR OTHER PUBLICATIONS

### TO VIEW LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS PLEASE CLICK ON

<https://spillcontrol.org/2021/10/19/links-for-downloading-and-reading-other-publications/>

As a service to its Members ISCO provides a listing of publications that may be of interest to our community. This page provides details and links for downloading more than 40 publications most of which can be accessed at no cost. This page is managed by Mike Watson [mike@mwadigital.com](mailto:mike@mwadigital.com)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### CEDRE NEWSLETTER FOR JANUARY 2024

To kick off the new year, Cedre signed a partnership with Cerema and received a visit from a group of former students at the Ecole Polytechnique, including a former Director of Cedre. Cedre travelled to Marseille for Euromaritime as well as for the final conference of the IRA-MAR project, but also abroad: to Finland for the IBAIA project, Spain for the Free LitterAT project and the Republic of the Congo, at the request of GI WACAF for technical assistance in relation to the country's national contingency plan. More details about these events are available on our website [www.cedre.fr](http://www.cedre.fr)

### IPIECA PUBLISHES SET OF DISPERSANTS WEBPAGES

The new set of webpages provide oil spill responders, incident management teams, regulators, researchers and general knowledge

## NEW PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

seekers with easy access to accurate, up-to-date information on dispersants, all in one place, spread over four webpages:

- About dispersants
- Dispersants guidance
- Technical information
- Source of dispersants information

These webpages include a mix of media and formats, including video explainers, FAQs, quick facts, good practice guidance, peer reviewed papers and technical studies.

The 'sources of dispersants information' section provides descriptions and links to the International Maritime Organization (IMO), oil spill response organizations, environmental protection agencies and scientific and research bodies.

Dispersants can usually be applied quickly to offshore oil slicks, helping to protect human health and mitigate environmental impacts. Dispersants can often treat a larger proportion of oil slicks than other techniques, making them an effective oil spill response strategy.

These webpages aim to support responders, incident management teams, regulators, researchers and others find the information they need on dispersants, quickly and easily. IPIECA / [Read more](#)



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## INCIDENT REPORTS

### USA: NEW YORK - MASSIVE TRAIN DERAILMENT SPILLS PLASTIC BEADS IN HOOSIC RIVER

February 8 - Officials say that 10 of the 94 cars pulled by the freight train derailed from Berkshire & Eastern Railroad tracks, with two of them landing in the Hoosic River. There were no injuries in the crash. No hazardous materials are known to be involved in the wreckage, as the cars derailed were carrying plastic beads and rapeseed oil which did spill into the river. B95.com / [Read more](#)

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: MAJOR OIL SPILL

**February 8** - Tobago oil spill disaster worsens. Tobago House of Assembly (THA) Chief Secretary Farley Augustine says he may declare the oil spill on the island a tier three disaster by today. Guardian.tt / [Read more](#)

## INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

**February 9** - Efforts ongoing to contain Tobago oil spill. "We are focused on containment at this time. We are ensuring that important assets are protected by deploying booms. Tonight we cordoned off the Port in Scarborough to ensure the harbour/docking area remains free from the oil. The main area for containment will be around the overturned vessel itself, notwithstanding its precarious positioning and the choppy waters in that area". Loop News tt / [Read more](#)

**February 12** – Oil Spill threatens Trinidad & Tobago Coastline. Ship & Bunker News / [Read more](#)

**February 14** - Massive oil spill hits beaches of popular Caribbean tourist destination. Independent / [Read more](#)

**February 14** - Tobago IDs Tug and Barge in Oil Spill as Search for Missing Tug Continues. Officials in Tobago announced that they have identified a tug that is believed to have been moving the barge that later capsized causing the national emergency and still growing oil disaster onshore and in the Caribbean Sea. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

**February 15** - Tobago oil spill spreads to Grenada waters and could affect Venezuela. Fuel continues to leak from overturned and abandoned barge as stain spreads into the Caribbean Sea. Guardian tt / [Read more](#)

**February 15** - The overturned vessel continues to leak fuel, but the situation is now under control with a 40-foot (12 m) perimeter supported by booms around the wreckage, Augustine said. "We are unable to plug the leak and unless we have information on how much fuel is in the barge or what exactly it contains we cannot move forward, except containment and skimming," he added. Reuters / [Read more](#) [Thanks to John Wardrop Hon.FISCO]

**February 16** - Tobago Oil Spill Spreads Across Southeastern Caribbean Sea. New information emerged when, as part of the investigation, Caricom IMPACS contacted the authorities in Panama and Aruba for photographs of the tug and the barge. The Dutch authorities in Aruba provided images of the tug towing the barge, and these images were used to confirm the identity of both vessels and the fact that the barge was being towed to Guyana, on South America's northeastern coast. ENS Newswire / [Read more](#)

**February 16** - Brazil, Venezuela Offering Help With Oil Spill, Says Trinidad Prime Minister US News / [Read more](#)

**February 16** - Grenada activates oil spill protocol amid spillage in T&T Caribbean National Weekly / [Read more](#)

**February 16** - Image: Sentinel-1 captures Tobago oil spill. Before and after satellite images from the Copernicus Sentinel-1 mission show the scale of the oil spill that occurred off the shores of Trinidad and Tobago's coastline earlier this week. The final image of the animation, captured on 14 February at 23:18 CET (22:18 UTC), shows the oil spill has traveled more than 160 km westwards. The spill is moving out of Trinidad and Tobago's marine area and into Grenada's southernmost marine area—which could affect neighboring Venezuela. Phys Org / [Read more](#)

### **USA: MICHIGAN - EGLE: 'NO IMMEDIATE HUMAN HEALTH RISK' FROM BEAR CREEK SPILL IN WARREN**

February 13 - The chemical spill last week from a shuttered former electroplating business into the Bear Creek Drain in Warren poses no immediate health risks to the public and did not affect local drinking water. But aquatic life in the creek may be harmed, according to agencies involved in the containment, testing and cleanup of the spill. Detroit Free Press / [Read more](#)

### **USA: CALIFORNIA - UNIFIED COMMAND CONTINUES RESPONSE TO GROUNDED VESSEL NEAR BODEGA BAY**

February 13 - Initial efforts on Sunday and Monday to refloat the vessel at high tide were unsuccessful and an unknown volume of diesel discharged into the water during the tug operation on Monday February 12. Contractors under the direction of a unified command began petroleum removal Tuesday morning. Crews were able to remove diesel from one storage tank before tidal conditions made further operations unsafe. USCG / [Read more](#)

### **VIETNAM: MYSTERY OIL SPILL HITS CENTRAL VIETNAM COAST**

February 17 - Oil has been washing up along 500 m of coastline in central Vietnam's Ha Tinh Province. On Saturday, authorities deployed dozens of people to the site to clean up the beach, with the process lasting around four hours. VnExpress / [Read more](#)

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