



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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PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



IMO ANNOUNCES NEW GROUP OF EMERGING LEADERS TO JOIN GREEN SHIPPING TRAINING PROGRAMME

Maritime professionals from 14 small island developing states (SIDS) and least developed countries (LDCs) will join IMO's flagship training programme this year to promote the global transition to net zero shipping.

The IMO-Republic of Korea Sustainable Maritime Transport Training Programme (GHG-SMART) aims to build the capacity of SIDS and LDCs to decarbonize their shipping sectors, by training professionals in the industry to develop and execute national-level strategies, as well as raise finance for green shipping projects.

This year 23 participants, including 12 women, have been enrolled from the following countries: The Bahamas, Cook Islands, Fiji, The Gambia, Grenada, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Mozambique, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Lucia, Samoa, Senegal, and Timor Leste. IMO / [Read more](#)

EMERGENCY RESPONSE GUIDEBOOK (ERG)



The 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook and mobile application is now available! Quickly Identify Hazardous Materials Emergency Procedures

The 2024 Emergency Response Guidebook provides first responders with a manual intended for use during the initial phase of a transportation incident involving hazardous materials/dangerous goods. DOT's goal is to place an ERG in every public emergency service vehicle nationwide. To date, more than 18 million free copies have been distributed to the emergency response community through state emergency management coordinators. Members of the public may purchase a copy of the ERG through the GPO Bookstore and other commercial suppliers. PHMSA / [Read more](#)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

BIMCO – REDUCING MARINE PLASTIC LITTER

Reducing the amount of plastic litter in the oceans is a shared responsibility and requires a collective effort. By taking steps to reduce single-use plastics onboard ships, the shipping industry can contribute to addressing the global plastic litter problem.

Established in early 2022 the informal single-use plastics task force brings together representatives from across the BIMCO membership to support the development of the campaign and to look at the practicalities of the basket of solutions that might exist. BIMCO / [Read more](#)

IGP&I - CELEBRATING 125 YEARS OF THE GROUP'S POOLING ARRANGEMENTS

The Group welcomed many leading shipping industry organisation and other distinguished guests at a celebration on the 125th anniversary of the International Group of P&I Clubs on 10 April, International Group Chair Andrew Cutler, who is also CEO of the Britannia P&I Club, commented on the recent DALI incident and bridge collapse in Baltimore:

“I confirm that my thoughts and condolences remain with all involved and that Britannia P&I and its Member continue to work closely with, and co-operate with, the US authorities.”

He added: “Whilst recognising the challenges ahead, I feel this will be another example of the strength of the International Group system and the unparalleled cover it provides to the world's shipping community.”

Lloyd's CEO, John Neal echoed the same theme, commenting on the 75 year relationship between Lloyd's and the International Group, and saying that the recent Baltimore event provided “a very real and poignant reminder of the crucial role our industry plays in responding to loss, recovering from disaster and rebuilding resilience. Our collective response provides us with a rare and important opportunity to reinforce the global insurance industry's value proposition.” IGP&I / [Read more](#)

IPIECA INSIGHTS FROM RECENT IMO MEETINGS

Ipieca delegates attended the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response 11 (PPR11) (February), the Intersessional Working Group on Reduction of GHG Emissions from Ships 16 (ISWG-GHG 16) and the Marine Environment Protection Committee 81 (MEPC 81) (March) and participated in expert working groups and provided input on a number of topics.

As an observer of the IMO, Ipieca helps the IMO to assess the science surrounding proposed changes to the marine fuel regime, including marine spill and a GHG reduction focus. It also identifies ways to make cleaner marine fuels

more readily available to ship owners around the world, whilst considering safety around the use of these fuels. IPIECA / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

From ISCO Chairman, Rupert Bravery “Following discussions with other members of the Board, it has been decided to confer the title of Technical Manager on Mike Watson. This appropriately describes the work he is currently undertaking for ISCO as he supports the various working groups in their endeavours to streamline, modernise and grow ISCO”. Next week: Report on Clean Waterways.

NEWS FOR ISCO STUDENT MEMBERS

From AMSA in Australia - AMSA sponsors AMC's Engineering our Future campaign, to help address a critical skills shortage in the sector. We also encourage careers in the maritime sector via mentoring, networking, and our own scholarships program. Applications for the AMSA Scholarships 2025 intake will open in August 2024. Find out more about [AMSA's scholarship program](#).

REGIONAL NEWS

The latest News and Press Releases collated from websites of Regional Organisations on ISCO's checking list. To add a website to this list please send the link to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org If your website's News releases are not being kept up-to-date, you can send information directly to the Editor.

CARIBBEAN: BUILDING SMALL ISLAND RESILIENCE THROUGH SHARED LEARNING: INSIGHTS FROM THE CARIBBEAN

April 8 - Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Caribbean face significant environmental challenges, compounded by their vulnerability to climate change impacts. Addressing wide-ranging challenges including biodiversity loss, land degradation, deforestation, water scarcity, food insecurity, and waste management concerns in a lasting way are critical imperatives for these nations.

Learning from what neighboring islands are doing, including through work funded by the Global Environment Facility, can help Caribbean SIDS find durable solutions to the similar challenges they face. This was the focus of a [GEF Expanded Constituency Workshop and Regional Adaptation Workshop for the Caribbean](#), which in March brought together more than 120 people from 16 Caribbean countries, for five days of workshops focused on South-South learning. GEF / [Read more](#)

ARCTIC: HARSAT - A NEW ASSESSMENT TOOL

April 10 - The Arctic Monitoring and Assessment Programme ([AMAP](#)), the Helsinki Commission ([HELCOM](#)) and the OSPAR Commission ([OSPAR](#)) are responsible for monitoring and assessing the state of the marine environment in adjoining, and partly overlapping, sea areas of the Arctic Ocean, Baltic Sea, and North-East Atlantic, respectively. All three organisations have expert groups responsible for conducting assessments of monitoring data; many of the involved experts participate in the work of more than one organisation. The resulting assessments provide the basis for policy-relevant products that support sound, science-based decision making.

In 2023 a new collaborative effort was implemented by AMAP, HELCOM and OSPAR, supported by ICES, as well as consultants and members of the relevant expert groups, to upgrade the existing tools used for statistical analysis of data on contaminants in marine media. The result of this work is now available in a new *Harmonised Regional Seas Assessment Tool* (HARSAT), an Open-Source R-based statistical package that is publicly available on [GitHub](#). OSPAR / [Read more](#)

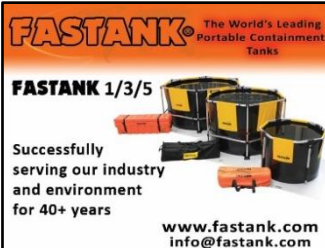
EUROPE: EMSA FACTS & FIGURES 2023

The EMSA Facts and Figures 2023 publication is a shortened account of the Consolidated Annual Activity Report which details how EMSA has implemented the annual tasks set out in the work programme ... EMSA / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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CANADA: GOVERNMENT SUCCESSFULLY REMOVES THE TUG CRAIG TRANS FROM THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT

March 25 - The Government of Canada is committed to addressing problem vessels that impact our marine environment and communities on our coasts. Earlier this month, the Canadian Coast Guard operation to remove and safely dismantle the tug Craig Trans near Marie Joseph, Nova Scotia was successfully completed. The tug Craig Trans had been moored near Marie Joseph, N.S. since 2017. In May of 2023, the Canadian Coast Guard received a report of pollution in the vicinity of the vessel, and following an onsite assessment, confirmed there was oil pollution entering the marine environment. The Canadian Coast Guard proceeded to contain and remove any recoverable pollutants while beginning to work towards a permanent solution.

Canadian Coast Guard / [Read more](#)

EGYPT: ENVIRONMENTAL TAXES FUELING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT IN EGYPT

April 4 - In recent years, the global community has witnessed a significant shift in consciousness towards environmental issues, spurred by alarming trends such as climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution. As nations grapple with the urgent need to address these challenges, one avenue gaining traction is environmental taxation. In Egypt, a country with its unique ecological landscape and developmental aspirations, the discourse around environmental taxation is gaining

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momentum, reflecting a growing recognition of the critical role taxation can play in promoting sustainable practices and mitigating environmental degradation.

The concept of environmental taxation revolves around the principle of internalizing the external costs associated with environmental degradation into the pricing mechanism. By imposing taxes on activities that generate pollution or deplete natural resources, governments aim to incentivize environmentally friendly behavior while generating revenue to fund environmental conservation efforts and sustainable development initiatives. Mondaq / [Read more](#)



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EGYPT: PROTECTION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE MEDITERRANEAN - (BARCELONA CONVENTION)

April 7 - Dr. Ali Abu Sunna, CEO of the Environmental Affairs Agency (EAAA), headed the delegation of Egypt to attend the meeting of the Executive Council of the United Nations Convention for the Protection of the Environment of the Mediterranean - (Barcelona Convention), which is being held in Slovenia, which chairs the 23rd session of the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Area of the Mediterranean Sea. Dr. Ali Abu Sunna stressed that

Egypt's participation comes within the framework of a series of meetings during the current and next years, in preparation for Egypt's hosting of the next Conference of the Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Zone of the Mediterranean, scheduled to be held in 2025, and as a member and vice president of the current Executive Bureau of the Convention (Slovenia) until Egypt assumes the presidency of the next session. EAAA / [Read more](#)

GREECE: REMPEC - CYPEX 2024 TABLETOP EXERCISE

April 10 - The second day of CypEx2024 featured a Tabletop Exercise to test the communication plan of the East Mediterranean Marine Pollution Incident Contingency Plan. The Tabletop Exercise which was held back-to-back to the Workshop, was held in Athens., Greece and was attended by representatives from all Contracting Parties in the Sub Region and the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). REMPEC / [Read more](#)

IRAN: UNEP WELCOMES ANNOUNCEMENT OF IMPENDING RELEASE OF NILOUFAR BAYANI AND CONSERVATIONISTS IMPRISONED IN IRAN

April 7 - The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) welcomes the announcement of the impending release of four conservationists imprisoned in the Islamic Republic of Iran, including former UNEP colleague Niloufar Bayani. According to the announcement, Ms. Bayani will be released along with Taher Ghadirian, Houman Jokar and Sepideh Kashani. UNEP looks forward to their effective release in the coming days. UNEP / [Read more](#)

MARSHALL ISLANDS: U.S. COAST GUARD, REGIONAL PARTNERS LAUNCH OIL SPILL TASK FORCE IN MAJURO



Photo courtesy of US Coast Guard

April 4 - In a landmark collaboration, five Hawaii-based active duty members of the U.S. Coast Guard's 14th District and the Marine Environmental Response team from the newly established Regional Activities Center, alongside a scientific support coordinator from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Association (NOAA), joined forces with the Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Republic of the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Authority (RMIEPA) to initiate an Oil Spill Task Force in Majuro the first week of April 2024.

Over the course of a productive week, the team made significant progress in

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

developing a National Contingency Plan for the Marshall Islands.

"This plan is a major step forward in preparing for future oil spill responses in the region, providing a foundation to revisit national laws and further enhance the protection of the RMI against the backdrop of increasing vessel traffic and associated risks," stated Lt. Cmdr. Jesse Harms, the U.S Coast Guard 14th District chief of marine and environmental response. Dvidshub / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dan Sheehan, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Council]

MAURITIUS: JAPAN DONATES OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT TO MAURITIUS

April 4 - The Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) proceeded, today, to the handing over of oil spill combat equipment to the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change under the technical assistance entitled 'Enhancement of institutional capacity on oil spill response for the Republic of Mauritius' at the Pollution Response Unit of the National Coast Guard in Quay B, Port Louis. All Africa / [Read more](#)

TURKIYE: TURMEPA 30 YEARS OLD



April 8 - Today, we are celebrating our 30th anniversary on the road we set out by saying "If There Is Sea, There Is Life". TURMEPA, which started its blue struggle exactly 30 years ago with the great foresight and vision of our founders, has grown into a huge family by growing in waves. In our 30th anniversary, which we welcome with great excitement and enthusiasm, we will continue to protect our common heritage, our seas, by multiplying every day and joining hands. Turmepa / [Read more](#)

UK: AERIAL DISPERSANT SPRAY SERVICE QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

April 5 - Document containing questions from industry and answered by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency Gov.UK / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE SCHEDULE

The purpose of the online exercise schedule is to raise awareness of when oil spill response exercises are occurring, to allow exercise planners to proactively schedule exercises, and to raise awareness of when oil spill response exercises are occurring to avoid scheduling multiple exercises on the same day. The exercises listed on the schedule are those exercises that DEC plans to either conduct or participate in. For additional information regarding coordinating exercise scheduling with DEC, please refer to DEC's Oil Spill Response Exercise Manual, A Guide for Planning, Conducting, and Evaluating Exercises. Dec.Alaska / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS FROM NOAA OR&R

April 15 – Please click on the links below to read the latest news.



OR&R Readies for 2024 International Oil Spill Conference

In a few weeks time, spill response community professionals from around the nation and the world will gather at the 2024 International Oil Spill Conference ([IOSC 2024\(link is external\)](#)), to be held May 13-16 in New Orleans, Louisiana.

The Ocean Odyssey Marine Debris Awards For Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, And Accessibility (DEIJA) for Fiscal Year 2024 Announced

Following a competitive review process, the NOAA Marine Debris Program and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation are pleased to announce the 12 recipients of the Ocean Odyssey Fiscal Year 2024 Marine Debris Awards for Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Accessibility (DEIJA).

Emergency Restoration Protects Sea Turtles and Corals from a Drug Runner Semi-submersible Grounded in Mona Island, Puerto Rico

On August 31, 2023, while monitoring an active hawksbill and green sea turtle nesting beach, the [Puerto Rico Department of Natural and Environmental Resources\(link is external\)](#) (PRDNER) found and reported a 40-foot drug runner sailboat modified to operate as a semi-submersible (low profile vessel) [grounded on Mona Island, Puerto Rico](#).

Settlement Proposed for Oil Spill in Corpus Christi Bay, Texas

On April 8, 2024, the [U.S. Department of Justice proposed a settlement\(link is external\)](#) to restore natural resources impacted by the [Flint Hills Dock #5 oil spill](#). Per the consent decree, the responsible party will pay \$427,000 for restoration and future costs, plus \$162,213 of remaining trustee assessment costs, and a \$400,000 [Clean Water Act](#) civil penalty.

OR&R Presents at the 2024 National Hurricane Conference

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

On March 26, OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program Regional Coordinator William Whitmore shared emergency preparedness and response information during a presentation at the National Hurricane Conference in Orlando, Florida.

NOAA's Southeast Region Hosts Texas Trustee Summit on Natural Resource Damage Assessments

From April 2-3, 2024, Texas and federal trustees met at the South Texas Ecotourism Center in Laguna Vista, TX for the bi-annual Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) Texas Trustee Summit. Trustees included members from NOAA, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the Department of Interior, Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Texas Office of Attorney General, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, and Texas General Land Office.

OR&R Supports Microplastics Issue at 2023-2024 Great Lakes AquaHacking Challenge

From March 8-10, 2024, finalists of the 2023-2024 Great Lakes AquaHacking Challenge and its Water Issue Leaders convened in Traverse City, Michigan for a water innovation expedition. Haley Dalian, Great Lakes Regional Coordinator for the NOAA Marine Debris Program, within OR&R, serves as one of two Water Issue Leaders for the Microplastics topic.

Derelict Fishing Gear Processing Day 2024 at Stockton University Marine Field Station

On Monday, April 8, 2024, the NOAA Marine Debris Program, within OR&R, participated in a derelict fishing gear processing day organized by Stockton University as part of their FY22/23 Inflation Reduction Act award. Participating in the gear processing event were Stockton University researchers and staff, roughly 20 undergraduate students, several commercial crabbers, and a member of Senator Cory Booker's staff. Marine Debris Program Deputy Director MaryLee Haughwout and Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator Katie Morgan also participated.

A "One NOAA" Approach to Recovering Shoreline Debris from Lost Shipping Containers

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) is busy at work to address container spills on both coasts. On February 7, the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) contacted the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator for California to report the loss of 24 shipping containers from the M/V President Eisenhower the prior night, approximately 64 nautical miles southwest of Monterey, California.

OR&R Supports Oil Spill Preparedness with Republic of the Marshall Islands

NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator for Oceania, Ruth Yender, joined a U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) team in meetings held in Majuro, Marshall Islands on April 1-5 with the Republic of the Marshall Islands Environmental Protection Agency (RMI EPA) to assist with oil spill response planning and preparedness.

OR&R Completes 2023 Hurricane Season After-Action Report for the National Ocean Service

After hurricane season came to an end on November 30, 2023, OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) started continuous improvement efforts to prepare for the 2024 season. Every year, OR&R leads the National Ocean Service (NOS) Incident Management Team (IMT) through a hotwash review following the season. Staff were able to express what went well, what could be improved, and record any additional lessons that were learned.

OR&R Prepares for Coastal Oiling through Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Training

When oil spills into the ocean and washes up on coastal shorelines, spill response teams survey the status of the affected shorelines using a systematic method known as [Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique \(SCAT\)](#). Assessment of these shorelines generates a large amount of data, which is used to map and characterize the extent of the shoreline oiling, prioritize cleanup, and to document the effectiveness of response measures.

Tank Fire Settlement to Fund Restoration Projects in Galveston Bay, Texas

On April 2, 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) announced a [proposed settlement](#) valued at approximately \$6.65 million to compensate for natural resource injuries resulting from a tank fire in Deer Park, Texas. The event involved the release of thousands of barrels of hazardous substances and oil.

Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps and Data Now Available for ArcGIS Online

One of the key tools used in oil spill response, [Environmental Sensitivity Index \(ESI\)](#) maps and data, is now available on NOAA GeoPlatform, a cloud GIS application based on Esri's ArcGIS Online. NOAA GeoPlatform provides access to a wide suite of trusted geospatial data, services, and applications that help support NOAA's mission.

VIETNAM & INDIAN COAST GUARDS CONDUCT JOINT OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE

April 6 - The Coast Guard Region 3 Command under the Vietnam Coast Guard (VCG) and the Indian Coast Guard (ICG) on April 5 jointly held a drill on emergency oil spill response, environmental pollution treatment, search and rescue, and firefighting at sea. Vietnam Plus / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

Corporate Members of ISCO can by submitting news about new products and services in the “News from ISCO Members” section of the ISCO Newsletter. This is a free facility for Members. Given that the ISCO Newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in over 60 countries, it’s a cost-effective way to promote your company. If you have some news you would like to share with readers of the ISCO Newsletter, send it to John.McMurtrie@spillcontrol.org Members who would like to place a regular advertisement in the ISCO Newsletter can also benefit from preferential discounted rates. For more info please contact Mike Watson at mike@mwadigital.com He will be happy to help you.



OIL SPILL RESPONSE – FORTHCOMING OSRL UK AND WORLDWIDE TRAINING COURSES

[More info](#)

LAMOR AND REMEO SIGN AN AGREEMENT ON THE SUPPLY OF PLASTIC WASTE FOR FEEDSTOCK TO THE LAMOR RECYCLING FACILITY IN KILPILAHTI, PORVOO, FINLAND

Lamor Recycling has signed an agreement with a Finnish waste management company Remeo on the supply of sorted plastic waste as feedstock to the Lamor Recycling’s chemical recycling facility in Kilpilahti, Finland. Remeo will provide the full amount and quality of plastic waste that the facility requires once it is completed later this year. With an initial annual processing capacity of 10,000 metric tons, it will be the first industrial-size facility for chemical recycling of plastic in Finland, and a proof-of-concept plant for Lamor’s plans to have a 100,000 metric ton portfolio in chemical plastic recycling. Lamor / [Read more](#)

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS

A COLUMN CREATED BY DR. MERV FINGAS, Hon.FISCO, MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL



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.

Dr Fingas’ column has moved to the ISCO website. Following discussion within the ISCO Council, the agreement of Dr Fingas and ISCO website manager, Mr Mike Watson, your Editor has decided to relocate this column to the ISCO website.

Instead of printing the complete text of the column every week we are providing you with a “one-click” link that you can use to access and read Dr Fingas’ column. A positive benefit will be that readers will be able to easily access and read past issues of the column without having to search through previous issues of the newsletter.

To read Dr Merv Fingas’ weekly column, please click on –

<https://spillcontrol.org/interesting-peer-reviewed-oil-spill-publications-collated-by-dr-merv-fingas-member-of-isco-council-for-canada/>

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

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RECENT ADVANCEMENTS IN BIOCHAR AND ITS COMPOSITE FOR THE REMEDIATION OF HAZARDOUS POLLUTANTS

Biochar has garnered considerable attention in recent times due to its potential uses in the environmental field. In this study, we comprehensively examine and condense information on biochar production, characteristics, and adsorption mechanisms, with a focus on its economic applications for remediating hazardous contaminants. Our assessment is based on over 200 publications from the past decade. Researchgate / [Read more](#)

HONDURAS - An article forwarded by Carlos Sagrera, MSc., IMO External Advisor, Hon. FISCO, ISCO Representative in Latin America and ISCO Council Member.



Carlos writes “I am attaching the first part of a new article for the ISCO Newsletter on the paradigmatic case of Honduras written by Dr. Juan Carlos Rivera, as it is the first country in the Central American region that has completed its legislation on oil and HNS spill control with a Regulation for the Prevention and Control of Marine Pollution by Spills and Dumping of Waste, Oil and HNS, as well as the Regulation for the qualification of OSROs in the marine waters of Honduras. The article develops the strategy and conformation of the legal pillars with which the Honduran Maritime Authority, together with its (<https://marinamercante.gob.hn/proteccion-del-medio-marino/plan-de-contingencias/>), managed to consolidate its prevention and response schemes for oil and HNS spill incidents in Honduras”. [Photo: Dr Juan Carlos Rivera speaking at an IMO Assembly meeting

CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES IN MANAGING MARINE POLLUTION FROM OIL SPILLS AND HNS: THE CASE OF HONDURAS – PART ONE

Author: Dr. Juan Carlos Rivera, IMLI (Malta)

In the global maritime context, developing countries face considerable challenges in the management of oil and HNS. In this regard, this article highlights the importance of designing practical and enforceable regulations that are adapted to the Honduran reality and can serve as a model for other countries with similar challenges. Emphasis is placed on balancing economic development and port competitiveness with the protection of the marine environment, proposing realistic strategies that allow for continuous improvement based on experience and adaptation of regulations to the maritime reality of Honduras and similar contexts.

Having said that, the effective implementation of international regulations for oil spill management and HNS in Honduras and the Central American region historically faces significant challenges related to economic, legal, institutional and operational constraints in both the public and private sectors. The lack of financial resources and the high turnover of government personnel hinder the efficient management of maritime emergencies and the continuous training of trained personnel, while the absence of a specific ad hoc legal framework applicable to the private sector complicates the planning and execution of effective actions in the face of marine pollution. This situation underscores the need for a structured "tailor made" framework that fosters the development of effective response capabilities for both public and private entities, thus overcoming the tendency to improvisation and ensuring more effective marine environmental management.

In Honduras, the "polluter pays" principle has influenced the development of regulations regarding oil spill preparedness and equipment responsibility. However, assessments of response capabilities have revealed a significant gap between requirements and the actual capacity for effective maritime emergency management, a discrepancy between theory and practice. Both public and private sectors lack adequate equipment, trained personnel, and 24/7 availability of preventive or reactive capabilities. This situation emphasizes the need for a more practical approach to spill management, going beyond mere documental compliance and focusing on operational efficiency. The absence of specific regulations for implementing international conventions, such as OPRC 90, in Honduras has underscored the importance of creating a regulatory framework that is tailored to local realities, improving marine pollution response, and meeting international obligations.

Thus, on November 24, 2009, Puerto Cortés, the main port of Honduras, established through its municipality the first national "ad hoc" legislation aimed at combating marine pollution from oil spills and HNS, representing a milestone in the country's environmental policy. Although its initial application was limited to Puerto Cortés, its success motivated its expansion nationwide through DGMM Agreement 022/2015 (<https://marinamercante.gob.hn/wp-content/uploads/2019/01/Acuerdo-021-022-y-023-2015.pdf>). This regulation is based on the "polluter pays" principle, and includes the prevention, containment, recovery and remediation of spills in Honduran jurisdictional waters. It also involves all relevant actors in the management of these substances, promoting a comprehensive and systematic approach to the protection of the marine environment.

It is important to understand that failure to fully comply with all of the principles set out in the 22/2015 Agreement is considered as full non-compliance. This means that if a company has a contingency plan in place, but does not have adequate resources for spill recovery, it will be considered fully non-compliant. This approach highlights the importance of all participating companies having effective capabilities in place to ensure a comprehensive and effective response to an incident. TO BE CONTINUED NEXT WEEK

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-emsa-training-catalogue-2019.html>
- **FRANCE - CEDRE** - 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 & WORLDWIDE – SIGMA ENVIRONMENTAL** <http://www.sigma-environmental.com>
- **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

Members who would like to be listed here, please contact your editor – 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

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

APRIL 2024

- TUNISIA – MOIG TRAINING COURSE – IMO Level 3, 22-25 April 2024, South Hammamet
- UK – IOPC Funds Meeting of the Governing Bodies, IMO London. 29 April to 2 May

MAY 2024 Onwards

- USA – International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition, 13-16 May 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana
- AUSTRALIA – ALGA – Contaminated Land & Groundwater Conference, 16th – 17th May 2024, Perth
- UK – HAZMAT 2024 Forum for Hazmat Professionals, 22nd May 2024, Stratford-upon-Avon
- UK – UK & Ireland Spill Association – Marine Spill & Plastic Conference, 11th-12th June 2024, Southampton
- USA – AHMP – EHS HAZMAT SUMMIT, 14-17 July, 2024, Kansas City, Missouri
- CANADA – International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Montreal, 5-6 August 2024
- GERMANY – “14th International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation”, Berlin, August 25-27, 2024
- SPAIN & ONLINE – “14th International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Barcelona, August 25-27. 2024
- CHINA / ONLINE – WSH Asia Awards 2024, 5th September 2024
- UAE - SPE International Health, Safety, Environment, and Sustainability Conference and Exhibition 10–12 September 2024, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- USA – Elastec River Spill Workshop, Carmi, Indiana, 8-10 October 2024
- UK – Water, Waste & Environmental Monitoring – 9-10 October 2024, NEC, Birmingham, UK
- CHINA – 8th East Asian Seas Congress, Xiamen, 6-8 November 2024
- UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, London, 11-12 December 2024

SOME OTHER INFORMATION

- IOPC Funds has released a calendar of its upcoming events – to view, click on <https://iopcfunds.org/news-events/events/>

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- 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
- 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](#)
- Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange – A Workshop Series chaired by Ed Levine, Hon.FISCO – [More information](#)
- IG P&I Podcast - Exploring some of the topics discussed at the Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference - [Listen](#)

UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

USA: THERE’S STILL TIME TO REGISTER FOR IOSC 2024

[International Oil Spill Conference \(IOSC\)](#) in New Orleans, May 13-16, 2024 Click on links for updated info – [LISTEN TO TESTIMONIALS](#) [LATEST UPDATED INFO](#) [EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM](#) [EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS PROVIDE PRIME VISIBILITY AND IMPACT](#) [COMPLETE PROGRAM](#) [FILM FESTIVAL & PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST](#)

Take your 2024 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) to the next level by adding access to our day 1 Short Courses* to your registration! Register today to secure your seat as these sessions will fill up quickly.

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.

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](#)

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 for questions or additional information. Interested in exhibiting or sponsorship? Please reach out to: exhibits@iosc.org

USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2024

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

PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED! THERE IS STILL TIME TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR CLEAN GULF 2024 [MORE INFO](#)

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 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

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

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/>
Preliminary Programme & Call for Papers - Closing deadline 4 June 2024 – [More info](#) [PARTICIPATION UPDATE](#)

UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

The Interspill conference is recognised for its excellence, focus on emerging research and depth of scientific content. It is organised by the Conference Committee that has new chairs Rob Holland and Richard Johnson, who were appointed at the Conference Committee Meeting held in London on 20 February 2024.

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



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NEW PUBLICATIONS

EAST ASIA - PEMSEA BROCHURE 2024

This PEMSEA e-brochure provides a quick introduction to the partnerships, its role, its networks and the services it offers. [More info](#)



OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM NEWSLETTER

[Access and read the March 2024 Newsletter](#)

USA: TRI-STATE BIRD RESCUE & RESEARCH



[Access and read the Spring 2024 issue of Tri-States OWL \(Oiled Wildlife Log\)](#)

SPECIAL ITEM – HISTORY OF ISCO – PART 3

In 2014 ISCO was pleased to be awarded Observer Status with the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds. The organization provides financial compensation for oil pollution damage that occurs in Member States, resulting from spills of persistent oil from tankers. ISCO attends IOPC Funds meetings in London and provides technical advisory input.

In September 2014 ISCO held its first International Forum with the theme on response to spills involving sinking oils. The timing of the event, held in Detroit, USA, was particularly apposite with the then current concern about spills of diluted bitumen. The forum was very successful thanks to a formidable array of first class speakers from government agencies, R&D organizations and industry. The quality of lively debate was first class. A policy of holding forums with foci on matters of special concern is something that should be in the interests of ISCO members and it is hoped to hold more events of this kind.

In a new development at ISCO's 2015 AGM in Amsterdam a motion was approved that will help youngsters (and others) to "kick-start" their career development - lecturers at training establishments and relevant managers at companies that carry out their own internal training were invited to nominate candidates for a free one year trial student membership of ISCO.



Early in 2016, following on ISCO's participation in a major exercise conducted by the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) involving a simulated major pollution incident in Korean waters, ISCO's Emergency Assistance facility was activated to ascertain response resources available from ISCO members. Several ISCO members responded, offering availability of equipment, personnel and specialist know-how.

In post-exercise discussion with the then ISCO Secretary John McMurtrie, the Korean Coastguard commented on the non-availability of an internationally available standard contract for mobilisation of spill response resources. ISCO followed up by initiating discussions with BIMCO and this led to the formation of a joint ISCO-BIMCO Working Group.

Following on this ISCO initiative a series of meetings were convened by ISCO and BIMCO, together with invited representatives from the International Group of P&I Clubs (IGP&I) and the International Salvage Union (ISU), also joined by ITOPF and SCAA. After several months of work and an extensive consultation process the end results were two new contracts – RESPONSECON (International) and RESPONSECON (USA).

During the IOSC in 2017, ISCO together with the Spill Control Association of America (SCAA) and the Association of Petroleum Industry Co-operative Managers (APICOM) held a reception at which Tony Paulson of the West of England P&I Club introduced the new RESPONSECON (International and USA) contracts.

SPECIAL ITEM – HISTORY OF ISCO – PART 3 (CONTINUED)

The new contracts were subsequently introduced at IMO and International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds). Good progress was made with the adoption of the contracts by governments and industry.

At the 2017 AGM, held during the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) in Long Beach, California, the Secretary, John McMurtrie, retired from this position and Matthew Sommerville was formally appointed as his successor. The new Secretary gave a presentation to members, sharing his thoughts on the future development of the organisation.

In June 2017 the new Response Contracts were presented to the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee in a joint paper submitted by ISCO, BIMCO, ISU, IG P&I Clubs, and ITOFF. They were well received and subsequent feedback confirmed that they had been adopted by many P&I Clubs including all 13 members of the International Group. Numerous governments and response contractors were also looking at integrating the new contracts into their procedures for spill response.

In the picture: (left) Lee Guobin, then a Member of the ISCO Executive Committee; (centre) Matthew Sommerville, Secretary of ISCO and (right) Mr. Zhao Shaozhen, Deputy director of PetroChina Emergency Responding Center at 2018 Oil Spill Workshop in Beijing, China



During this time and following – Secretary-General Matthew Sommerville, and/or other ISCO Committee or Council Members gave presentations at other events in the UK (ITAC Meeting and Contamination Expo) and at conferences in Azerbaijan, India, China and Turkey. ISCO continued to field delegations to IMO's MEPC and PPR meetings, with active participation in several associated working groups.

The next part of ISCO's History is under preparation and will be published before ISCO celebrates its 40th Anniversary in September 2024.

INCIDENT REPORTS

MEXICO: FIRE AND EXPLOSION OF PEMEX OFFSHORE PLATFORM AKAL-B AND SATELLITE OBSERVATION OF SUBSEQUENT OIL SPILL.

April 6 – The following report received on April 13 from Carlos Sagrera, ISCO Representative for Latin America.

On 6 April, PEMEX reported a fire and explosion on its Akal-B oil platform in the Gulf of Campeche. This incident resulted in the death of 1 subcontracted worker from the company COTER, although there are later reports that 2 people have died so far, as well as one missing person and up to 10 injured workers from different entities. In a subsequent statement, Pemex said that the fire broke out in the process center in the area where the pipes that handle fuel gas for the turbomachinery are located, noting that it immediately activated the emergency response plan and controlled the fire in just over an hour.

Subsequently, a number of Mexican environmental NGOs reported with satellite images that since 22 March there has been an oil spill in the area of the incident and that it has not stopped spreading after the incident on the Akal-B platform, occupying the oil slick until 9 April, when they made the public complaint, about 390 km² of surface area. It also denounces the lack of transparency of the ASEA (Energy and Environmental Security Agency) in the handling of the issue and that it is a repeated situation in the management of these incidents that have multiplied in the last two years and it is alleged that it is related to the lack of adequate infrastructure maintenance by PEMEX, due to the reduction of assigned budgets (ISCO Newsletter N°901 - August 2023). As of Saturday 13 April, there have been no official reports or information from PEMEX on the possible spill reported after the fire, nor has the ASEA requested the reactivation of the new PNC by SEMAR (ISCO Newsletter N°930 - March 2024), so the tools of the CIGoM (<https://spillcontrol.org/2024/04/13/el-consorcio-de-investigacion-del-golfo-de-mexico-cigom/>) have not come into operation for possible evaluations of the possible impacts reported by the denouncing NGOs and from the satellite images that have been presented to the public. Mexican links are attached with news in Spanish and photos published by the local press.

<https://www.milenio.com/estados/murio-empleador-incendio-plataforma-pemex-campeche>

<https://twitter.com/Pemex/status/1776786952542462462>

<https://www.greenpeace.org/mexico/noticia/54028/denuncian-organizaciones-nuevo-derrame-de-crudo-cerca-de-la-plataforma-siniestrada-el-6-de-abril-en-la-sonda-de-campeche/>

<https://www.eluniversal.com.mx/cartera/caso-pemex-organizaciones-denuncian-derrame-de-crudo-tras-explosion-en-plataforma-akal-b/>

<https://laverdadnoticias.com/mexico/Ambientalistas-denuncian-derrame-de-petroleo-tras-la-explosion-en-la-plataforma-Akal-B-20240411-0122.html>

USA: LOUISIANA - GULF OF MEXICO PIPELINE REPAIRED AFTER MYSTERY OIL SPILL OFF LOUISIANA

April 8 - A Unified Command has successfully completed an integrity test on the Main Pass Oil Gathering (MPOG) company's pipeline system, located southeast of New Orleans in Plaquemines Parish. This procedure was carried out in response to an oil release that was first detected on November 16, 2023. The integrity test revealed a failed subsea connector on the MPOG line that did not maintain pressure. It is still undetermined whether this connector was associated with the November oil release, and additional potential sources are being investigated. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

USA: NEW YORK - CLEAN-UP UNDERWAY IN BRONX RIVER AFTER MAJOR OIL SPILL

April 8 - Efforts to clean up an accidental oil spill in the Bronx River, originating from a Con Edison transmission feeder in Yonkers, are ongoing. The spill occurred last Monday, and approximately 1,000 gallons of non-hazardous insulating fluid, similar to mineral oil, leaked into a storm drain leading to the river.

The Department of Environmental Conservation is overseeing the cleanup process, with Con Edison crews deploying fluid-absorbing booms along the river, stretching from McLean Avenue to Fordham Road in the Bronx. These booms aim to contain the spread of the fluid and prevent further contamination downstream. Longisland News 12 / [Read more](#)

THAILAND: GOVERNMENT ALERT OVER MEKONG RIVER SULPHURIC ACID SPILL FROM LAOS

April 8 - Thailand's government is on high alert following a sulphuric acid spill in the Mekong River on the Lao border. The contamination, which took place in Laos's Luang Prabang town, occurred when a lorry carrying over 30 tonnes of the acid toppled over, causing the hazardous substance to leak into the Nam Khan River, which flows into the Mekong. Residents in seven provinces along the Mekong River, including Loei, Nong Khai, Bueng Kan, Nakhon Phanom, Mukdahan, Amnat Charoen, and Ubon Ratchathani, have been instructed to vigilantly monitor the water quality. The Office of the National Water Resources predicts that the chemical will flow past Loei's Chiang Khan district between April 8 and April 10. Aseanow / [Read more](#)

USA: NEW YORK - CENTRAL HUDSON AND DEC ARE MONITORING OIL SPILL IN LAKE KATRINE

April 10 - A pair of reported spills at Central Hudson Gas & Electric's district headquarters in Lake Katrine has concerned some residents, but the utility company is pushing back. The spill incidents database of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) listed a hydraulic oil spill occurring at 2001 Route 9W in Lake Katrine on Thursday, January 11. It cited human error coming from a commercial vehicle.

A second spill in early March was recorded by the DEC on March 24 at a Central Hudson facility at 2229-2271 Route 9W, roughly a half-mile north of the first spill. Though the cause was listed as unknown, this spill is recorded as from an unknown petroleum. Hudson Valley One / [Read more](#)

CANADA: TORONTO - CHEMICAL SPILL FROM CONCERT VENUE SPILLS INTO ETOBICOKE CREEK, SPREADS TO 3 LOCATIONS DOWNSTREAM

April 11 - A chemical spill from a basin located at the Rockpile, a music venue in Etobicoke, has leaked into the creek and spread to three locations. The Ministry of the Environment, Conservation and Parks says that the spill happened on Tuesday, April 9, in which staff have conducted observations with the region and Toronto Water. Toronto CTV News / [Read more](#)

BALTIC: GREENPEACE PROTESTS DARK FLEET TANKERS, TARGETING BALTIC BUNKER VESSEL

April 12 - Activists for Greenpeace Nordic this morning April 12 targeted a bunker vessel in the Baltic for their latest protests over the Russian oil trade and their assertions that it is a "ticking environmental bomb" for the Baltic. Using two small rubber boats, the activists painted the messages "Oil is War," and "People Want Peace," on the hull of the MT Zircon (8,000 dwt). The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

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