



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community
Issue 360, 12 November 2012

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International news



VISIT ISCO AT CLEAN GULF 2012 IN NEW ORLEANS

BOOTH 1047

David Usher and Mary Ann Dalgleish will be on hand to answer questions about current ISCO initiatives

- Supporting creation of the International Response Resource Inventory
- Working to improve continuity of at-sea oil spill recovery operations
- Providing a career development path via Professional Membership
- Improving response outcomes by application of scientific knowledge

and you can learn why individuals, companies and organizations in over 40 countries are members, and the advantages you can secure by joining.

MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE TO COOPERATE IN OIL SPILL CONTROL

November 9 - Malaysia and Singapore today agreed to further enhance collaboration in the prevention and control of oil spills in the Straits of Johor, and continue to organise a joint emergency response exercise to counter chemical spill at the second crossing.

These are among the cooperation discussed and agreed upon between Malaysian Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Seri Douglas Unggah Embas and his counterpart Singapore Environment and Water Resources Minister Dr Vivian Balakrishnan at the two-day 25th Malaysia-Singapore Annual Exchange of Visits held here today, said a joint statement by both ministers. [Mysin Chew.com](#) [Read more](#)

EUROPE: IMDatE OPERATIONAL TESTS START EARLY 2013

October 31 - The second Integrated Maritime Data Environment (IMDatE) user group meeting was held at EMSA on 19 October. Representatives of 23 European coastal states and the European Commission attended the meeting. The goal was to present an update of the IMDatE project, to give a live demonstration of the prototype and to show potential uses of integrated maritime data for the maritime community. *EMSA Newsletter* [Read more](#)

EUROPE: CLEAR GUIDANCE OVER MARITIME CLAIMS



EMSA Newsletter [Read more](#)

October 31 - Claim handler experts from 21 European coastal states gathered in EMSA on 10-11 October for the EU States Claims Management workshop. The workshop was led by six experts from Belgium, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Spain and UK who developed the EU States Claims Management Guidelines. The aim of the workshop was to present the updated guidelines, to run through a practical case scenario of cost recovery using the guidelines, and to share experiences.

EUROPE: OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSEL GETS NEW HIGH CAPACITY SKIMMER

October 31 - EMSA's contracted vessel Aktea OSRV is now better equipped for oil spill recovery, thanks to a recent upgrade by the contractor Environmental Protection Engineering.

This Greece-based response vessel has been fitted with a high capacity skimmer whose advantages over more traditional offshore skimmers include increased recovery capacity, an integrated telescopic crane and a flowmeter to monitor oil recovery rate. The new device is an autonomous one person operation system, equipped with two different skimmer heads (weir and brush) for optimal use in various oil viscosity levels and weather conditions. *EMSA Newsletter* [Read more](#)



ARGENTINA & ECUADOR: ARGENTINE COURT ORDERS SEIZURE OF CHEVRON'S ASSETS TO ENFORCE \$19-BN ECUADORAN RULING

November 8 - An Argentine court has ordered to seize US oil giant Chevron Corp's assets in the country in order to carry out an Ecuadorean court ruling that awarded \$19 billion to plaintiffs in an environmental damage lawsuit in the Amazon, a lawyer representing Ecuadorean plaintiffs yesterday said.

Argentine lawyer Enrique Bruchou told reporters in a conference call that Judge Adrian Elcuj Miranda ordered the seizure of Chevron's assets in Argentina so that the plaintiffs could collect the proceeds of a court order in a court in Ecuador last year. *Domain-b.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnson of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: TIME RUNNING OUT FOR KIDS POISONED BY LEAD

November 9 - The medical aid group [Doctors Without Borders](#) estimates that 1,500 children are suffering from lead poisoning in a northern Nigerian village, and can not be treated until the lead is cleaned up. The organization says if the cleanup does not begin soon, it may not be able to treat the children when, or if the cleanup ever happens.

"All the state agencies, all the community leaders, people that are involved in various aspects of mining. They're all joining forces with one message: There's no more time left," Fox explains. "Children are suffering and dying from lead poisoning. Further government delay will have catastrophic effects for a group of children that have already been victims for two years."

Voice of America [Read more](#)

USA: UPDATES ON AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE SANDY

Fuel spill reported at New Jersey refinery

November 5 - Some 7,700 gallons of fuel spilled from Phillips 66's Bayway refinery in Linden, New Jersey, after Hurricane Sandy, the U.S. Coast Guard said on Monday, reporting an apparent second leak at the New York harbor oil trading hub.

The spill was reported after residents in nearby Bayonne, New Jersey, complained about diesel fumes. New Jersey environmental protection officials said they were not aware of a major spill at the Bayway plant, however. *Chicago Tribune* [Read more](#)

Officials Respond to Numerous Environmental Threats

November 5 - The Hurricane Sandy Pollution Response Unified Command is responding to numerous areas throughout New York and New Jersey with environmental threats caused by Hurricane Sandy.

Responders with the unified command are assessing affected areas and environmentally sensitive areas for pollution and hazardous materials. The assessments will be used to appropriately respond to the identified areas of pollution.

This report contains detailed information on actions being taken at several affected sites *Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

NOAA captures a changed coastline from 5,000 feet up



November 6 - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration has been sending airplanes along the East Coast capturing the shoreline's changes.

The planes fly at 5,000 feet, taking high-resolution images of the coast. The resulting [composite](#) offers a virtual tour of the altered coastline, allowing viewers to enter a specific address or simply scroll up and down the shore at will.

The purpose is not for sightseeing, the agency notes. The images are detailed enough for emergency managers to conduct search-and-rescue operations, city officials to route personnel and machinery, and for

insurance assessors and land managers, among others, to conduct cost-effective damage assessments of the coast, according to the agency.

"Aerial imagery is a crucial tool used by federal, state, and local officials as well as the public when responding to natural disasters," the agency said in a statement. "Many areas may be inaccessible due to the volume of debris." *Daily Climate* [Read more](#)

INDIA: PIPELINE SPILLAGE AND TANKER GROUNDING

Jayanthi rushes to TN to inspect ONGC oil leak

November 6 - Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan rushed to Nagapattinam in Tamil Nadu on Monday night to inspect a massive crude oil spill from a pipeline belonging to the Oil and Natural Gas Commission. The Environment Ministry received reports that around 100 acres of farmland in a village in Nagapattinam were destroyed due to the spill from the pipeline.

Ministry officials said that the leak had been there since August, but people of Manjavadi village detected it only now after they found their farmlands flooded with oil. *The Indian Express* [Read more](#)

ONGC to pay Rs 47,500/acre relief to farmers

November 7 - Taking stock of the oil spill in Nagapattinam district in Tamil Nadu where a leak from an abandoned ONGC pipeline affected a large area of under-cultivation farmland, Union Environment Minister Jayanthi Natarajan said Tuesday she would apprise Petroleum Minister Veerappa Moily of the losses suffered by the farmers and also the impact the spill would have on their livelihood in the coming years.

Invoking relevant sections of the Environment Protection Act, the ministry is also going to ask the ONGC to probe all the pipelines that are lying unused and decommissioned and file a report. The incident has left officials in the Environment Ministry and Central

Incident reports (continued)

Pollution Control Board worried that there could be many more such pipelines going undetected mainly because the oil company does not have a computerized system of detecting such leaks.

Later in the evening, ONGC agreed to pay a compensation of Rs 47,500 per acre within 15 days. It was decided at a meeting between company officials, farmers and the district administration. *The Indian Express* [Read more](#)

Jayanthi lays stress on safety protocols to address oil spills

November 7 - The Union Environment and Forests Ministry will take up with the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas the issue of according systemic protocol for monitoring pipelines to prevent oil spill, Union Minister of State for Environment and Forests Jayanthi Natarajan said here on Tuesday.

The extensive operations of the ONGC, with over 30,000 km of pipeline in the country and over 675 km in the State, must be backed by safety protocols to address issues of spills, leaks and corrosion. *The Hindu* [Read more](#)

Cyclone Forces Oil Tanker to Ground Off India, 1 Mariner Dead



October 31 - Cyclone Nilam barreled through India bringing heavy downpours and intense winds with it.

As a result, a massive oil tanker ran aground off the Chennai coast in churning waters, leaving one crewman dead and five or six are still missing. Strong winds with speeds of up to 80kmph triggered huge waves.

The Times of India reported that the captain of the oil tanker, MT Pratibha Cauvery, ordered his crew to abandon ship after the vessel lost anchor and drifted within 50 meters of Besant Nagar beach, where it ran aground. It appeared to be in impending danger of sinking. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

Stranded Oil Tanker "Should Not be Moved"

November 8 - The Madras High Court has stated that the oil tanker, MT Pratibha Cauvery, which ran aground off the coast near Elliots Beach on October 31st, should not be relocated from the territorial authority of the court.

Suggesting that the vessel be moved either to Ennore Port or Kattupalli Port, a senior official stated that by blocking one of the berths in Bharthi Dock, productivity of oil firms might be highly affected. Moreover, one berth has already been lost to the Korean vessel, OSM Arena.

Kattupalli officials stated that they are not keen on taking the vessel in for repairs. They are doubtful of recovering money spent on the ship. The ship is not in good condition. It does not have fuel or water and food was only distributed once a day. It has been reported that six engineers have already died of starvation. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

FINLAND: OIL SPILL AND LEAKAGE OF URANIUM CONTAMINATED WATER

Origin of oil spill remains a mystery

November 4 - Surveillance flights made by the Finnish Frontier Guard indicate the oil spillage off the coast of Helsinki has diminished significantly as a result of clean-up operations. The oil has also dissolved and drifted southwards. No further measures to clear the oil took place on Sunday.

Officials still have no clue as to the origins of the oil. Frontier Guard officials took samples of oil from the sea and from vessels that passed off the coast near Helsinki between Friday and Saturday. *Yle* [Read more](#)

Finnish mine struggles to fix leak, high uranium found

November 9 - Finnish nickel miner Talvivaara said on Friday it was still trying to fix a waste water leak at its mine in Sotkamo, eastern Finland, which resulted in high levels of uranium in nearby waters.

Uranium more than 50 times higher than normal levels were found in streams this week near Talvivaara's nickel and zinc mine, according to nuclear safety officials, although they said they did not see any risk to public health. The ore from the mine also contains uranium. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

EGYPT: NILE OIL SLICKS DRIFT DOWNSTREAM

November 4 - Two separate oil slicks are currently moving down the Nile, the sources of which are currently unknown to the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA). A source from within the agency admitted on Sunday that they had no clue as to the origin of the oil, but were working closely with the water and environmental police to investigate the source and to contain the damage.

"The minister of state for environmental affairs [Mustafa Hussein Kamel] has also set-up a special task force designed to combat the spread of the spill," the source, who requested anonymity, said. A statement released Sunday by the EEAA said the role of the new task force, known as the Rapid Intervention Unit, will be to combat pollution of the Nile. *Daily News* [Read more](#)

CANADA: COLQUITZ RIVER IN SAANICH HIT BY THIRD OIL SPILL IN YEAR

November 9 - Just when it looked like it was safe for fish to go back in the water, there has been another oil spill in the Colquitz River - the third in a year.

A sheen was noticed on the creek Wednesday during a routine inspection by Saanich public works staff, who found an oily substance seeping from a bank near Interurban Road and Columbine Way. *The Vancouver Sun* [Read more](#)

USA: BP TO PAY \$255 MILLION TO ALASKA OVER 2006 OIL SPILL

November 8 - BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc. will pay \$255 million to Alaska to settle a dispute over lost oil production for the state after the company's 2006 spills at Prudhoe Bay.

The state's legal department announced the arbitrated award against BP on Thursday, bringing to an end a six-year dispute over the largest oil spill in the history of the North Slope and how it impacted Alaska financially.

In 2006, BP experienced two spills at Prudhoe Bay caused by small holes in transit pipelines that went undetected for quite some time. All told, the spills amounted to more than 200,000 gallons -- more than 5,000 barrels -- that leaked onto the tundra and into a nearby lake. *Alaska Dispatch* [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: RENA COULD SPILL MORE, LOCALS TOLD

October 31 - The Rena has more mess in store for the Bay of Plenty, with locals being warned the wrecked container ship could release more oil, hazardous chemicals and container debris.

Residents were yesterday given an overview of the possible risks surrounding each of the three options being investigated to deal with the vessel, lying in two mangled chunks on the Astrolabe Reef off the Tauranga coast. *The New Zealand Herald* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnson of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: MOBIL SHUTS PIPELINE DUE TO OIL SPILL

November 11 - Mobil Producing Nigeria Unlimited (MPN), operator of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC/MPN) Joint Venture, has confirmed that on 9 November, an oil release occurred around its operation offshore Akwa Ibom State.

In a statement by the company, signed by its spokesman, Mr. Nigel Cooney-Gam, and made available to Sunday Tribune on Saturday, the source of the leak was identified and the pipeline was isolated and shutdown.

"Emergency response personnel and equipment have been deployed. Regulatory and community representatives have been notified," it stated.

It said arrangement had been made for representatives of Department of Petroleum Resources (DPR), National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), Akwa Ibom State Ministry of Environment and local community to overfly the area.

Oil spills are common in onshore Niger Delta due to widespread theft by oil gangs tapping into pipelines and the poor maintenance of some ageing infrastructure. But offshore spills are less common. Last December, an accident at Shell's offshore Bonga facility spilled an estimated 40,000 barrels, one of the largest in Nigeria's history. *Sunday Tribune* [Read more](#)

ISCO AT CLEAN GULF 2012 IN NEW ORLEANS (BOOTH 1047 IN EXHIBITION HALL)

This week ISCO President, David Usher, and Membership Director, Mary Ann Dalgleish are attending Clean Gulf.

They look forward to seeing many of our members at the event and to meeting others who have not yet joined ISCO.

Topics likely to be discussed will include some of ISCO's current initiatives –

- **Supporting creation of the International Response Resource Inventory**

As reported in previous issues of this Newsletter, ISCO joined with other delegations at the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group meeting in London earlier this year in supporting an initiative introduced by the US delegation to apply lessons learned during the Macondo spill response in improving the ways that International Offers of Assistance (IOA) will be handled in future.

Part of this initiative is the creation of an international Response Resource Inventory (RRI). The IOA project aims to streamline the process under which available response resources can be identified, sourced and rapidly mobilised to a major oil spill event in any part of the world. The term "resources" means equipment, materials, and people with relevant knowledge and experience.

ISCO has joined the IOA Core Group of interested delegations and has set up a correspondence group amongst its members to help progress the organization's contribution. Currently we are identifying kinds of equipment and materials that should be included in the RRI. So far, ISCO members have identified around 70 different categories of equipment /materials to be added to an initial listing of large, high capacity items compiled by the initial IOA ad hoc group.

ISCO's focus is on resources that can be provided by the private sector (private sector to private sector; private sector to governments; and private sector - through – government to government). This is aligned with the interests and capabilities of our members.

The RRI project is a work-in-progress but we anticipate it will become a tool that will be used by governments and other organisations to quickly find urgently needed resources in major spill events.

Members of the ISCO RRI Correspondence Group should note that a new post has been made on the RRI Project page on the ISCO website. Members who would like to join the Correspondence Group should contact the Secretary.

- **Working to improve continuity of at-sea oil spill recovery operations**

ISCO is continuing its efforts to make it easier for responders engaged in at-sea oil skimming operations to decant settled-out water instead of halting oil recovery because available tank capacity is topped-up. Several of our members have very strongly voiced their frustration at being refused permission to decant settled-out water in a responsible way despite it being so obvious that consideration of net environmental benefit clearly indicates that decanting and continuation of productive skimming is the only sensible option.

- **Providing a career development path via Professional Membership**

Students, apprentices and trainees can join ISCO as student members and pursue a career development path that, as qualifications and experience are gained, can lead to eligibility for Associate Membership (AMISCO), Membership (MISCO) and, eventually, Fellowship (FISCO). The key word is "professional" when applied to men and women who are making a success in their careers and have the necessary levels of knowledge and expertise.

Professional recognition is a visible mark of quality, competence and commitment, and can offer a significant advantage in today's competitive environment. More information can be found on the ISCO website at www.spillcontrol.org Look under Membership and click on Professional.

The ISCO Secretariat is now receiving applications for Professional Membership and the submission deadline for applicants wishing to be included in the first tranche of applications to be considered by the Membership Standards Committee is 31 December 2012. Applicants are reminded that applications must be accompanied by the required assessment fee.

- **Improving response outcomes by application of scientific knowledge**

Readers of *Cormack's Column* will be very much aware of the number of beliefs and prejudices that currently inhibit or prevent the most effective response to oil and HNS pollution events. ISCO argues that response plans and operations should be based on knowledge that has been proven by scientific experimentation and observation.

ISCO is currently working on the development of improved knowledge-based contingency planning for marine incidents. This will fully take into account the fate of oils and HNS as controlled by their physical and chemical properties and their interaction with atmosphere, sea and shorelines. The means by which spills may be curtailed and the effectiveness of response techniques assisted by natural evaporation, dispersion, solution, and degradation will be fully addressed.

The overall aim is to make spill response more cost-effective and to achieve high quality clean-up outcomes by eliminating options that increase environmental damage and/or unnecessarily add to the cost and amount of work needed.



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 102 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Member of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the [International Spill Accreditation Association](#)

CHAPTER 102: KNOWLEDGE OF SHORELINE CLEANING

In principle, oil recovered from water surfaces and shorelines by the processes previously reviewed, could be processed with normal feed-stocks at oil refineries or combusted to produce steam for heating and power generation. However, it must be recognised that while refineries would accept oil salvaged from casualties by cargo transfer to lightening tankers, they do not recycle their own wastes, preferring instead to degrade them on site by land-farming, which when practiced elsewhere is now known as bioremediation. Land-farming capacity is, of course, scaled to the needs of individual refineries and cannot accommodate the quantities of recovered oil potentially available by the processes of oil/water and oil/solid separation reviewed in the foregoing articles. In any case, what would be the point of recovering oil in these ways only to biodegrade them to carbon dioxide and water in natural or assisted *in situ* ways previously reviewed. Thus, with refinery acceptance being inadequate for oils other than those salvaged by cargo transfer, the only useful outlet for most oily beach material not cleaned *in situ* by natural weathering/degradation processes and not transported to surf-lines for natural or dispersant assisted dispersion to natural degradation, is to combust it for heat and power generation.

Combustion of oil on water surfaces as a means of destruction has been reviewed in previous articles and clearly it is possible on solid surfaces. However, early combustion of collected tar balls in driftwood fires on beaches caused melted oil components to penetrate and solidify in the underlying beach material and thus WSL devised a small scale burner to avoid this disadvantage though without the advantage of heat utilisation. This burner was designed to combust solid oils/tar balls at a rate commensurate with their collection by such as the Brighton Beach Cleaner to avoid having to transport them from the beach.

It consisted of a rimmed and perforated plate positioned above a funnel leading to a 45 gallon drum, the plate being on three 35mm legs to promote an under-draught and the drum being the collector of un-combusted though melted oil components. The unit is preferably of stainless steel, as mild steel was found to be subject to thermal buckling. Douglas Milton Enterprises subsequently produced the Infernus 500 equipped with an air-blower to minimise soot formation. This commercially available unit had dimensions of 1.8 x 1.3 x 1.5m and weighed 900kg while the blower unit weighed 120kg and a modified version for the convenient combustion of liquid oils and sludge became available later.

Again, at relatively small scale, land-farming as conducted by oil refineries is a final disposal route for waste liquid oils and oil-contaminated solids. However, were it decided to use this process at a scale commensurate with incident response on other than refinery land, pre-planning would be essential. The process as conducted at refineries involves spreading the oily waste on land followed by ploughing as on farm-land when surface ceases to be wet and sticky. Application and spreading aims at about 10kg m² and after the initial ploughing it is ploughed at monthly intervals decreasing to seasonally after two years, soil pH being adjusted to 6.5 when necessary by lime application. As to planning for such operations on non-refinery land as part of a large-scale incident response, the timescales and the associated accumulation of heavy metals would rule out the use of agricultural land, though cropped forestry land is a possibility. Again, while waste oils such as arise from automobile maintenance have been used for many years in the USA for dust control on dirt roads and unpaved parking lots in a balance of need and availability without long term storage, the quantities potentially available from incident response would be unlikely to find use on local roads and parking lots without long-term storage and its attendant difficulties. Yet again, waste oil recovery contractors who normally collect lubricating oils and process them to a product consisting of 40-50% refined lubricating oil and fuel oil are generally operating at full capacity and even with prior notification would likely be overwhelmed by the potential demands of incident response.

In theory, recovered oil from incident response could be used in oil-fired power stations, but here again feed-stock quality specifications are stringent as they would be were these oils to be mixed with coal in coal-fired power stations where problems can be foreseen from salt-corrosion and the presence of foreign solids. A more likely route of advantageous disposal is in fluidised bed incinerators which could take emulsions or separated oils directly to raise steam for heating or power generation from heat capacity inputs accessible from the recovered materials under consideration here, while solid waste oils could be compatible with rotary kiln furnaces and liquid waste oils with municipal incinerators. Again, while industrial waste incinerators can deal with all classes of wastes, their capacities for inadvertent/ emergency-generated wastes are limited.

Thus, it would appear that full advantage must be taken of the natural or dispersant-assisted tendency for oil to disperse and degrade to carbon dioxide and water at sea or in surf lines; that otherwise, oils and emulsions either separately or in association with beach material must be recovered, transported, stored and processed though emulsion/water separation or emulsion/solid separation, emulsion-breaking and oil/water separation in order to make the oil even potentially acceptable to receivers who do not want or need it; have little or no free capacity to take it, and little or no additional use for it; that those who have waste oils of their own get rid of them by natural/assisted degradation to carbon dioxide and water by land-farming; that those who normally burn fuels for heat and power generation will only burn recovered oils to oblige; that those who operate incinerators will only burn such waste oils for payment; and that the only alternative is to pay to dispose of them to land-fill which formerly took oils at the rate of 1-

Cormack's Column (continued)

2% of the total tonnage tipped to minimise the risk of leachate-contamination of ground water, though this is now encumbered by environmentalist belief-based legislation.

1 *The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at www.authorsonline.co.uk

2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

Correspondence

UNMANNED AERIAL SYSTEM (UAS) – ROLE IN SPILL RESPONSE

Greetings,

As you may be keenly aware, the environmental impact, equipment and manpower costs associated with any oil spill clean-up can be dramatic. We have designed and manufacture an Unmanned Aerial System (UAS) which can greatly enhance the capabilities of companies and organizations involved with clean-up efforts. By use of our UAS (Attached), companies and organizations will be able to use the IR camera system on the UAS to accurately view the contaminated area.

The IR cameras system, with its GPS capability can guide clean-up equipment on a 24/7 basis. With the ability to operate safely on land and at sea, our aircraft can be utilized without personnel being placed in harm's way versus operating a manned aircraft. The cost comparison by utilizing a UAS vs. a manned aircraft is significantly less and gives operators much more operational flexibility. Our hover capability and ability to plot up to 99 way points, can accurate establish flight plans for clean-up management as well as recorded those locations for future review.

We will be attending the Clean Gulf conference in New Orleans on November, 13-15 and if you would like to meet with us and discuss our capabilities or for further information on our UAS, you can contact me below.

Regards, Hank Kulesza kulesza@vanguarddefense.com

EDITOR – Thank you for your letter. I think many of our readers would like to know more about the capabilities of the UAS and invite you to contribute a short article for publication in our Science & Technology Section.

Publications

AN ANALYSIS OF THE EFFECTIVENESS OF THE USE OF THE INCIDENT COMMAND SYSTEM IN THE DEEPWATER HORIZON (DWH) INCIDENT

Summary of how the Incident Command System functioned during DWH, with recommendations for improvement

Following the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) offshore drilling rig on April 20, 2010, federal, state, and local governments and the responsible party (RP) faced an unprecedented challenge in the Gulf of Mexico. Never before had a subsea drill unit malfunction of that magnitude occurred in U.S. waters. This incident called on the existing governing frameworks for offshore activities and disaster response, both of which cut across every level of governance, from national to local, and involved multiple actors at each of those levels.

Section 496 of Chapter 2011-142 of the Laws of Florida created the Commission on Oil Spill Response Coordination. The commission was charged with preparing a final report that identifies potential changes to state and federal laws and regulations, which will improve response capabilities and processes, and protect Florida's people and resources. This report is one of several reports that will help form the basis for the final report. The analysis conducted for this report tries to answer the question of whether existing federal and state utilization of the Incident Command System (ICS) for oil spill planning and response are adequate to deal with a large-scale spill matching the volume and/or duration of the DWH incident which may or may not be designated as a spill of national significance (SONS).

Future governmental activity could be influenced by several factors, including conditions in the Gulf region, independent inquiries, judicial actions and the availability of data for further study. As multiple state and federal agencies seek to better improve emergency preparedness and response capabilities, it will be important to understand the current framework for addressing such incidences.

This report recommends considering the following items for improved response capabilities in future incidents:

- Set clearer guidelines on span of control and flexible nature of ICS for earlier involvement of local ICS structures
- Implement training for government officials on ICS and emergency response protocol, specifically for oil spills, to help distinguish between the National Response Framework (NRF) and the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Contingency Plan (National Contingency Plan, NCP) [Download this report](#)

ANALYSIS OF CURRENT STATE AND FEDERAL LAWS ADDRESSING OIL SPILL PLANNING AND RESPONSE

Summary of applicable statutes, identifying strengths/weaknesses and noting how—and by which agency—laws are implemented

Following the explosion of the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) offshore drilling rig on April 20, 2010, federal, state, and local governments and the responsible party (RP) faced an unprecedented challenge in the Gulf of Mexico. Never before had a subsea drill unit malfunction of that magnitude occurred in U.S. waters. This incident called on the existing governing frameworks for offshore activities and oil spill and disaster response, both of which cut across every level of governance, from national to local, and involved multiple actors at each of those levels.

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While the general framework of statutes and implementing regulations for oil spill response and cleanup is sound, there are some notable gaps—and it is clear that some significant improvements in operating policies and procedures are needed to address these complex issues. As was noted in the National Commission's Report to the President, "complex systems almost always fail in complex ways. . . . If we are to make future deepwater drilling safer and more environmentally responsible, we will need to address all [the] deficiencies together; a piecemeal approach will surely leave us vulnerable to future crises in the communities and natural

environments most exposed to offshore energy exploration and production."¹ The analysis and recommendations in this report are framed with this complexity in mind.

Future governmental activity could be influenced by several factors, including conditions in the Gulf region, independent inquiries, judicial actions, and the availability of data for further study. As multiple state and federal agencies seek to better our oil spill preparedness and response capabilities, it will be important to understand the current framework for addressing such incidences.

This report recommends considering the following for improved response capabilities in future incidents:

- Update or amend Area Contingency Plan (ACP) policy guidance to include the use (or restriction) of dispersants, qualifications of response personnel, and when various components of the plan are to be implemented following a spill/release.
- Amend ACP documents to allow for better identification and prioritization of environmentally sensitive areas/habitats (e.g., maps depicting marsh habitat along interior bays near tidal inlets).
- Improve participation in ACP development process by state, local (county, city, and town) and the public.
- Integrate viable scientific knowledge and technology into planning process (e.g., knowledge of currents, tidal variations).

[Download this report](#)

Training

OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD (OSRL) PUBLISHED COURSE DATES 2013

New courses, dates and venues - To satisfy the Oil & Gas Industry's demand for further management level training we have introduced three excellent new courses to our published training portfolio for 2013 - '**Shoreline Spill Response and SCAT**', '**ICS300 - Applied Incident Management System Training**' and '**Dispersant Awareness and Monitoring Workshop**'. Details of these course options are provided in this newsletter and further details will be included in our 2013 Training Course Directory which will be distributed before the end of November.

'**Oil Spill Management Workshop - IMO Level 3**' - we are excited to be presenting our most popular training course in two new countries, Tanzania and the USA. '**Oil Spill Refresher (IMO Level 1 to IMO Level 3)**' - our Africa-based delegates will now have an opportunity to refresh their training more conveniently by attending our Nigeria or Gabon-based courses.

First Responder to Senior Manager, OSRL provides the best value, range and standard of training available globally. If you require any advice regarding your oil spill training options please contact us. We are always pleased to help and look forward to hearing from you.

For Asia Pacific enquiries, vincentgoh@oilspillresponse.com and for all regions except Asia Pacific stevewoods@oilspillresponse.com [Download the 2013 OSRL Course Calendar](#)

Events

OIL SPILL CONFERENCE NIGERIA

Accra International Conference Center - June 12-14, 2013

The conference is organized by Kaku Professional Engineers Limited(Nigeria), with the collaboration of and assistance from the National Spill Control School of the Texas A & M University(USA) to promote the United Nation's Millennium Development Goal (MDG) for environmental sustainability in Nigeria. It is to provide valuable overview of the problems created by incessant oil spills, effects of such spills/ compensation and develop clean up strategies, aimed at restoration of the Nigerian environment.

We have identified the need for Nigerian oil industry to expeditiously develop the capacity to deal with oil spills that have poignantly led to unsustainable environmental quagmire. Despite over 50 years of high oil industry activities in Nigeria, the technology to deal with oil spills is relatively undeveloped. The conference is planned to attract international response community, oil industry experts and the public to discuss and issue communique on that best environmental practice to be adopted to clean-up Nigerian lands, estuaries/coastlines of oil and create a robust oil industry, restored and sustainable environment that attracts eco-tourism.
[More info](#)

UK: SOCIETY OF MARITIME INDUSTRIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE 2013

Southampton - 9 & 10 April, 2013

A national conference that looks at the application of advanced technology across the spectrum of the UK's maritime engineering enterprise and the business opportunities that are emerging. Speakers from the highest echelons of the industry will promote debate on these topics and discuss the critical issues.

Preceded by an industrial visit to the National Oceanography Centre at Southampton and with the opportunity to visit [Ocean Business](#), the showcase exhibition for advanced technology in the maritime environment, that runs in parallel with the conference, the event also includes a structured programme of one-on-one meetings and a conference reception and dinner.

It promises to be a "must attend & unmissable" networking opportunity. [More info](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE INFORMATION DAY 2013

Direction de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité, Grande Arche, Paroi Sud -Paris-La-Défense
Wednesday 27 March, 2013

The 2013 *Cedre* Information Day will be dedicated to spill modelling. [More info](#)

Company news

SPILL TECH PTY. LTD. WINS CONTRACT TO SUPPLY LARGE AMOUNT OF EQUIPMENT TO AMSA

ISCO Corporate Member, Spill Tech, based in Queensland, Australia, will be supplying a substantial part of the \$13.5 M AMSA purchase of new state-of-the-art oil spill response equipment (see report in last week's ISCO Newsletter).

John Eddy established Spill Tech in 1981, determined to find the most proven and effective ways to support those organisations that operate in the front line to protect Australia's environment when oils slicks occur. Today, his company is the exclusive representative of many of the world's best known oil spill response equipment manufacturers including Norway's Allmaritim, Denmark's Desmi and Dasic, Ayles Fernie and Fasteng in the UK, Kvichik/Marco and Canflex in the US as well as Canadyne in Canada. John Eddy knows his subject very well and has been involved in the marine industry since the seventies. [More info](#)

EVOLUTION SORBENT PRODUCTS & R. C. BREMER MARKETING ASSOCIATES JOIN FORCES

ESP and Bremer Marketing have formed a partnership that will strengthen service support and expertise, helping to grow sales.
[More info](#)

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