



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 404, 30 September 2013

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International news

OIL & GAS PRODUCERS RECOMMENDATIONS FOLLOWING MACONDO FORM FOUNDATION OF PERMANENT CHANGE IN WELL CONTROL TRAINING AND ASSESSMENT, SAYS IWCF

September 24 - International Well Control Forum (IWCF) is rolling out a raft of new measures that will improve the competence of people involved in well operations to prevent future major oilspill incidents.

The forum, which sets international training standards for well control, has been working closely with the human factors task force of the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (OGP) on recommendations to enhance existing well control training, examination and certification. IWCF believes the recommendations will now be the foundation for a permanent change across the whole oil and gas industry.

As part of its strategic approach to implementing these recommendations, IWCF has reviewed its syllabus and launched new subjects within key areas identified as root cause findings from major incidents. IWCF has also introduced role specific training to that the learning is more relevant to individual roles rather than the current more generic approach.

David Price, chief executive officer of IWCF, said: "As the only independent body, wholly focused on well control training and accreditation, representing all stakeholders across the industry, we take our guidance from OGP and are raising our game to meet the recommendations in full. The ultimate goal for everyone in the industry is to deliver a step-change in competence assurance of well control knowledge and understanding so that we can avoid another tragedy on the scale of Macondo. *Your Oil & Gas News* [Read more](#)

PUTIN: RUSSIA COMMITTED TO ARCTIC ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

September 27 - The Arctic region holds huge economic potential but Russia also wants to cooperate with others to preserve its fragile environment, President Vladimir Putin says.

Putin, speaking Wednesday at the Third International Arctic Forum in the sub-polar city of Salekhard, pledged to work with the other "Arctic Five" nations to

International news (continued)

keep the polar region clean, even as the event was overshadowed by the arrest of 30 Greenpeace demonstrators attempting to storm a Russian oil rig in the Arctic Ocean.

The Russian president referred to the 2008 Ilulissat Declaration signed in Greenland by Russia, the United States, Denmark, Canada and Norway, in which they pledged in part to protect the Arctic's marine environment should new shipping routes be opened due to global warming. *TerraDaily* [Read more](#)

THE WINNER OF THE 2ND ITOPF R&D AWARD IS ANNOUNCED

ITOPF has announced that the beneficiary of the 2nd annual ITOPF R&D Award is the Swansea Laboratory for Animal Movement (SLAM), based in Wales. The Award will be used to fund a 1 year post-doctoral study to develop a novel 'back-pack' system to track rehabilitated oiled birds without compromising their wellbeing.

The R&D Award Committee recognised that currently, obtaining information about the behaviour of birds after their release is challenging. If a system can be designed that enables electronic devices to be attached to wild birds without affecting their normal behaviour, this would increase the possibility of obtaining more reliable and meaningful data. In the future, such a system could provide for better data banks of information to be established, which can then be used to make better decisions about the benefits or otherwise of rehabilitating certain bird species following an oil spill. The project already has a strong foundation, with a doctoral thesis and several papers already published in key journals.

ITOPF's Managing Director, Dr Karen Purnell, said that 'the pros and cons of rehabilitating oiled birds has always been an emotive topic. Having a methodology that could enable better decisions to be made would benefit both the wildlife care network and the birds. I am pleased that our Award is being used to fund such a worthwhile project.'

More information on ITOPF's 2014 R&D Award can be found on the ITOPF website: www.itopf.com/RD-Award

Potential candidates should not hesitate to contact us if they have any questions regarding the Award or if they are unsure that their project will qualify by emailing us at rdaward@itopf.com

Incident reports

USA: 2 MORE OIL SPILLS CAUSED BY FLOODING IN COLORADO



Photo: Oil workers try to lift a storage tank for condensate that was knocked over by floodwaters from the Platte River at an oil well site near LaSalle, Colo., on Friday, Sept. 20, 2013. Condensate is the mix of oil and water that is pumped out of the ground. The tank was intact and had not leaked. Numerous oil and gas well sites have been damaged by floodwaters throughout Colorado with several reports of spills. Photo: Chris Schneider

September 23 - A total of 27,000 gallons of oil — the equivalent of about two storage tanks — have been spilled into the South Platte River from flood-damaged tanks as of Monday.

The latest spills are a 36 barrel release at a Noble Energy location between Evans and LaSalle and a 26 barrel spill at an Anadarko Petroleum site near Johnstown, the [Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission](#) said.

About 1,300 wells remained shut down because of the flooding, down from 1,900 last week.

In its update, the commission said the spills would have to be cleaned up though it would be difficult to tie the spills to the different companies that had the releases since the spills have been swept away with the flood waters. *SFGate* [Read more](#)

CUBA: OIL SPILL AFFECTS CIENFUEGOS BAY

September 25 - Putting to the test Cuban emergency response systems developed since the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico three years ago, a fuel oil spill has affected Jagua Bay. The spill has been contained, official media reported Wednesday in a sparsely worded news item.

The fuel leaked into the bay from a boiler at a local pediatric hospital, according to AIN. The official report didn't say what caused the spill, nor how much fuel oil ended up in the water. According to its postal address, the Hospital Provincial Pediátrico Paquito

Incident reports (continued)

González Cueto is located near the historical center of Cienfuegos, nearly half a mile from the Bay.

It is too early to quantify the spill or assess the direct damage to sea fauna and flora, an official with the Ministry of Science, Technology and Environment (CITMA) said, according to AIN. [CubaStandard.com](#) [Read more](#)

USA: STORAGE TANK CRACKS LEADING TO OSHKOSH CHEMICAL SPILL? CAUSTIC CLOUDS FLOATS OVER CITY FORCING THOUSANDS TO EVACUATE! [VIDEO & REPORT]

September 14 - An Oshkosh chemical spill at Hydrate Chemical led to massive evacuations after a storage tank cracked and 60,000 to 70,000 pounds of muriatic acid spilled, leaving a giant caustic cloud to float over the city, Inquisitr reported Friday.

Reports said that the Oshkosh Fire Department crews worked with the company to contain the 60,000 to 70,000 pounds of muriatic acid spill, and although the spill has been cleaned up by 4 p.m., officials ordered for an evacuation of the Oshkosh Corp. manufacturing plant as well as its company headquarters. The company, which was formerly called Oshkosh Truck, is famous for being the leading manufacturer of specialty vehicles. [Jobs&Hire](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: MORE ON THE SOUTH RIVER TRAIN DERAILMENT



September 19 - Area residents are considering themselves lucky after train cars containing methanol and sulfuric acid residue derailed.

Crews are cleaning up after 11 cars of 31-car train derailed on Monday morning, Sept. 16 around 11 a.m. almost 3 km from Summit Road.

Lindsay Fedechyshyn, communications officer for CN, states the derailment took place in a fairly remote area with no impact to the public. There were no injuries or environmental issues stemming from the crash.

The South River Machar Fire Department was called to the scene shortly after 1 p.m. by the OPP. The fire crew worked with CN police and their hazardous materials team to assess whether it was safe for CN work crews to enter the area. No leaks were found. [North Bay Nipissing.com](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: AGIP OIL LEAK POLLUTES BAYELSA CREEKS

September 20 - A breach in an underwater manifold in Agip's Brass Swamp location, Bayelsa State, has been discharging crude oil into streams and adjoining creeks, SaharaReporters has learned. "Crude oil is floating on the water, and the members of our communities are anxious," said a community leader.

A correspondent of SaharaReporters visited the spill site and reported seeing heavy oil equipment deployed by Agip's contracting firm, Deck Oil and Gas. A community source said the community suspected that the equipment might have caused the spill as two earth-moving machines were abandoned at the construction sites near the spill site.



"An Agip engineer told us that the oil leak may have emanated from an underwater valve at the company's pipeline network," a member of the community said.

In a brief chat with SaharaReporters, Collins Adikoko, the deputy paramount ruler of Ikeinghenbiri in Olodiama clan, stated that his community was distressed by the leak. He added that the oil had spread into the creeks and natural fish ponds where most members of the surrounding communities fished. [Sahara Reporters](#) [Read more](#)

BAHAMAS : FUEL TANKER RUNS AGROUND IN GRAND BAHAMA

September 27 - Statement from Glenys Hanna-Martin, Minister of Transport and Aviation - At approximately 2:30 p.m. on 26th September 2013, The Motor Tanker-Formosa Falcon, a 39,307 ton vessel ran aground off the coast of Grand Bahama.

Incident reports (continued)

Reports are that the vessel was altering her position at Freeport anchorage due to her proximity to another vessel. Whilst altering its position, the vessel's captain reported that westerly winds of 15 knots forced the vessel aground. The vessel is a fuel tanker with 12,796 tons of alkylate. There is no evidence of emission of this product into the waters and the hull is reported intact.

An Inspector from the Port Department along with personnel from the Freeport Harbour Company and the agents for the vessel were dispatched to the grounded vessel and reported that the vessel was grounded at the bow. It was reported that there was no evidence of any breach of the vessel's hull. *Tribune 242* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DH & Hazmat Group]

Other news

USA: COLORADO FLOOD OIL SPILLS UPDATES

September 23 - Colorado floods 'completely overwhelm' search for oil and gas leaks



A 100-year flood event has caused a growing environmental disaster in Colorado. Photograph: Jeffrey Barbee/The Guardian

Inspectors hunting for [oil](#) pipelines and oil drums damaged in [Colorado's epic floods](#) are being "completely overwhelmed" by the sheer scale of destruction, a member of Congress has warned.

Jared Polis, a Democratic representative from [Colorado](#), said the state's regulatory agency was struggling to reach flooded areas and arrive at a full accounting of the damage and potential leaks to its 50,000 oil wells. Inspectors have so far reached about a third of the flooded oil fields. Last week, aerial surveys of the flooded area showed dozens of overturned storage tanks.

"Inspectors are completely overwhelmed. There are only a couple of dozen in the state and some areas remain inaccessible even today," Polis told the Guardian. "The number of inspectors is insufficient to reach all the sites." *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

September 23 - Governor tours oil facilities damaged by the Colorado floods

Gov. John Hickenlooper said 26,000 gallons of oil spilled by Colorado's epic floods was 26,000 gallons too much — but given the size and power of the storm, he was pleased it wasn't worse.

"It could have been a hundred times worse," the governor said after he toured two Anadarko Petroleum Corp. tank facilities Sunday with company crews and Matt Lepore, director of the Colorado Oil and Gas Conservation Commission. *The Denver Post* [Read more](#)

September 28 - After the Floods in Colorado, a Deluge of Worry About Leaking Oil

There are about 20,000 oil and gas wells across Weld County, and about 1,900 of them had to be closed off — "shut in" in industry parlance — as the floodwaters coursed down from the mountains and spread out across the plains, inundating entire communities.

Images of toppled oil tanks and dark sheens on the water created impressions of an environmental calamity, but state officials say the damage appears to be limited. About 37,380 gallons have spilled so far — an amount, energy officials point out, that would fill up about five per cent of an Olympic-size swimming pool.

Energy officials said that no wells failed during the floods, and that they responded quickly to minimize any spills or contamination from broken pipes or damaged storage tanks. They said they laid out floating booms to absorb and contain oil slicks, and have vacuumed up spilled oil products and removed contaminated soil for testing. *New York Times* [Read more](#)

BP AGAIN ASKS FEDERAL JUDGE TO SUSPEND DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL PRIVATE CLAIMS PAYMENTS

September 23 - BP has asked a federal judge in New Orleans to suspend payment of private claims stemming from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill until new anti-fraud measures are implemented in the claims process.

The request marks the third time that BP has asked U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier to suspend the multi-billion-dollar claims payment program. Barbier has so far refused to do so.

In the filing, BP asked that payments stop until former FBI Director Louis Freeh is done helping the claims office develop and implement anti-fraud measures, and until other problems with the claims payment program are resolved. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#)

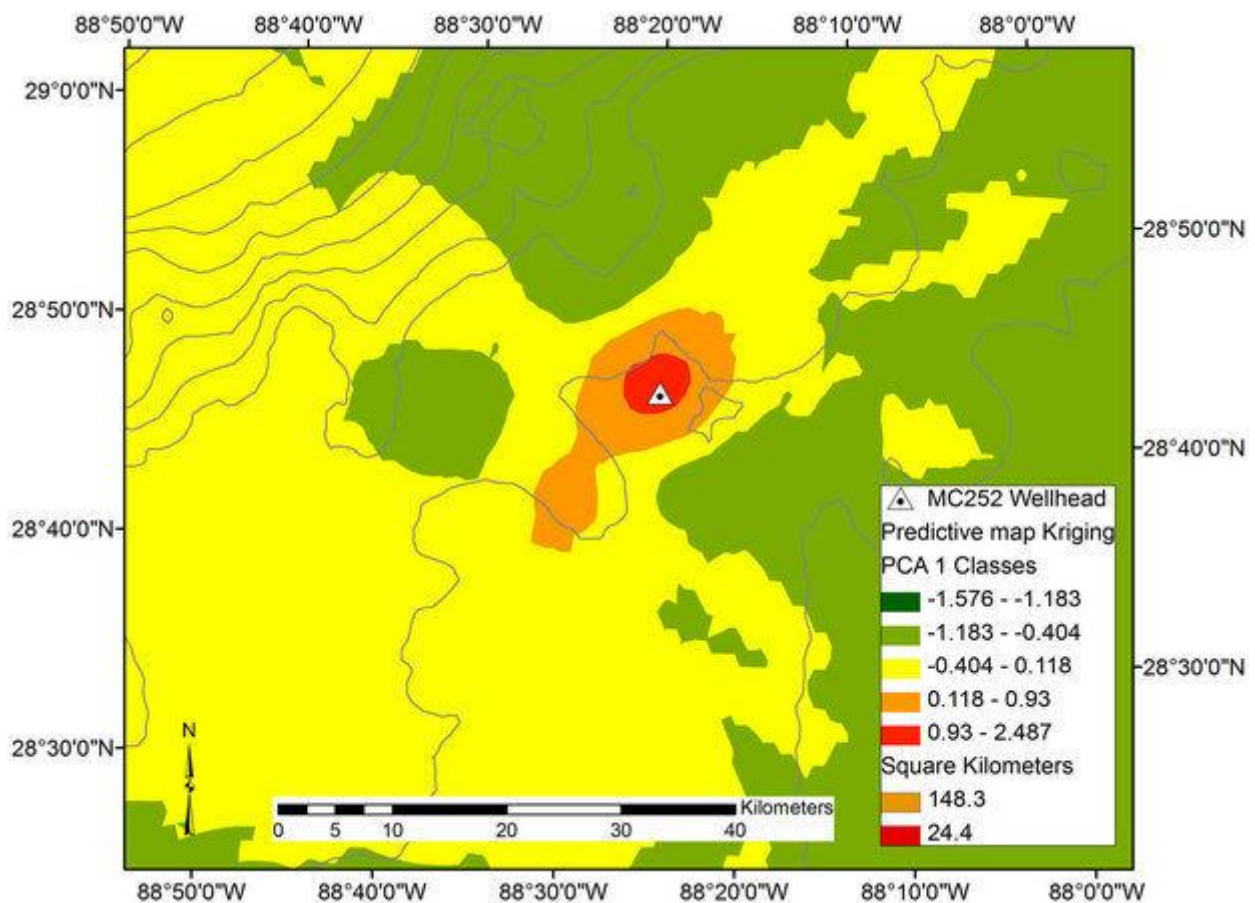
CANADA: CANADIAN NATURAL TOLD TO DRAIN ALBERTA LAKE DUE TO OIL SANDS LEAK

September 24 - Canadian Natural Resources Ltd has been ordered to drain a lake on the site of its northern Alberta oil sands project so that contamination on the lake's bottom, from a leak that has been spilling tar-like bitumen for months, can be cleaned up.

The province of Alberta's environment department issued an environmental protection order on Tuesday that compels the company to drain a two-thirds of the 53-hectare (131-acre) lake on its Primrose East thermal oil sands site before the onset of winter to prevent further contamination.

Canadian Natural, Canada's largest independent oil producer, reported in late June that bitumen was coming to the surface on the bottom of the lake. [Reuters](#) [Read more](#)

USA: DECADES NEEDED FOR RECOVERY OF TINY LIFE ON GULF SEABED AFTER BP OIL SPILL, NEW STUDY SAYS



Organisms living in sediment on the Gulf floor surrounding the failed BP Macondo well are expected to take decades to recover from damage caused by the oil spill. The triangle marks the well, while red marks the severely impacted area and orange indicates the moderately impacted area. (PLOS one)

September 24 - The damage from oil during the BP Deepwater Horizon disaster to communities of tiny organisms living in and on the soft sediment on the floor of the Gulf of Mexico surrounding BP's Macondo well will take decades to repair, according to a new scientific study conducted by NOAA, BP and university researchers.

According to the study published in the online scientific journal PLOS One, the most damage to the abundance and diversity of tiny animal organisms extends 1.9 miles from the wellhead in all directions, covering a 9.3-square-mile area. Moderate damage was seen up to 10.6 miles to the southwest of the wellhead and 5.3 miles to the northeast, representing an area of 57 square miles, the researchers found.

It's the first time a study has attempted to outline the breadth of damage to life on the sea floor around the ill-fated well. The results meaning will be used as part of the federal effort to determine how much damage has been done to natural resources by the oil, which could lead to BP and others responsible for the accident developing a project to mitigate the damage. [The Times Picayune](#) [Read more](#) Another report in [The Maritime Executive](#)

USA: WEST COAST SEATTLE TASK FORCE MEETING REPORTS

September 25 - Officials meet in Seattle to discuss oil spill prevention, energy transportation

Environmental regulators from the Northwest deliberated Wednesday about the dramatic changes in the way oil and other energy products are carried through the region.

At a task force meeting of West Coast states, Linda Pilkey-Jarvis of the Washington Department of Ecology described the sudden increase in oil trains coming into the state and traveling along the Columbia River. She said oil-spill response resources have typically focused on tanker traffic off the coast or pipeline routes, so the new transport strategies will require new tactics, new technologies and new personnel around inland water resources. "We have quite a lot of work today as we start shifting our focus inland," Pilkey-Jarvis said.

Meanwhile, officials from British Columbia described how a proposed expansion of the Trans Mountain Pipeline and other ways of moving crude oil could lead to an increase in tanker traffic along the province's west coast and in water bodies close to Washington and Alaska. That increased traffic will also bring increased risk, officials said. *The Republic* [Read more](#)

September 25 - Officials: More Spill Response Capacity for Oil Trains Needed

The rapid rise in crude oil shipping by rail means Northwest states need to bulk up their oil spill response capacity. That's according to members of a task force of Pacific states and British Columbia which met in Seattle Wednesday.

Environmental regulators heard from BNSF Railway that mile-long crude oil trains from North Dakota could cross the Northwest around five times a day in coming years. That makes the Washington Department of Ecology's Linda Pilkey-Jarvis especially concerned about the inland Northwest, which hasn't been much of a focus when it comes to oil spills before. She says her agency would like to see railroads "contribute" to a spill readiness fund like marine tankers have to. *KPLU* [Read more](#)

MADAGASCAR: EXXON MOBIL'S HUNT FOR OIL KILLED 100 MELON HEADED WHALES



Photo: Antsohihy residents in western Madagascar carry a melon-headed whale, a species of dolphin, which was found dead among the mangroves, a site where ExxonMobil carried out seismic surveys. Source: AFP

September 27 - An independent panel of scientists found that seismic airgun surveying by Exxon Mobil in late May 2008 led to the sudden displacement of the whales, which became stranded and died.

"This is the first known such marine mammal mass stranding event closely associated with relatively high frequency mapping sonar systems," said the report released by the International Whaling Commission.

"Earlier such events may have been undetected because detailed inquiries were not conducted." The researchers described a "highly unusual event" in which about 100 melon headed whales became stranded in shallow waters in the Loza Lagoon system in northwest Madagascar in May and June 2008. *Herald Sun* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: FLORIDA OVERHAULS LEAKY-TANK PROGRAM THAT'S SLOW, COSTLY

September 12 - Florida taxpayers have spent hundreds of millions of dollars since the 1980s to clean up thousands of gas-station petroleum tanks leaching fuel into the groundwater people drink.

But almost 30 years later, more than 25,000 of the leaking tanks remain — including more than 1,500 in Central Florida alone. Now lawmakers angry at the tortoise pace of the cleanup — and by a recent audit by the Department of Environmental Regulation citing high costs and "personal relationships" between the owners of the property being cleaned up and the contractors cleaning it — have forced a restructuring of the program.

A legislative budget-writing committee Thursday signed off on DEP's proposal to target dollars to sites where leaks are an "imminent threat" to groundwater supplies, require competitive bids for the often-lucrative contracts and speed the pace of cleanup efforts. *Orlando Sentinel* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: AS OIL THIEVES BLEED NIGERIA, REPORT SAYS, OFFICIALS PROFIT



Photo: A worker at a makeshift production camp in Nigeria's swamps processed crude oil at an illegal oil refinery site near the river Nun in Bayelsa.

September 19 - Oil is being stolen on an "industrial scale" in Nigeria, the world's 13th largest producer, and the country's politicians and security officials are among those profiting, according to a new report from a prominent British research group.

Thieves steal an estimated average of 100,000 barrels a day, the report said; working in elaborate networks and protected by corrupted security officials, they tap into the huge and isolated network of pipes that crisscross the country's swampy southern Niger Delta region. The price of oil fluctuates, but a hypothetical per-barrel price of \$100 would mean an annual loss of \$3.65 billion. Oil closed at \$107.28 per barrel on Thursday.

Much of this oil winds up being exported globally, said the report, which was released Thursday by the London-based organization Chatham House. The problem has reached such proportions that major oil companies operating in Nigeria have recently complained that theft is cutting significantly into production. *The New York Times* [Read more](#)

USA: MAYFLOWER MAYOR 'PLEASED WITH' EXXONMOBIL OIL SPILL PROGRESS

September 27 - Six months after the ExxonMobil oil spill in Mayflower, the city's mayor is commenting on what cleanup has been like and how her city is recovering.

"Sunday, September 29th will mark the six (6) month anniversary, and as the summer months have passed, we are now revolving into fall. So too has the cycle for ExxonMobil revolved from emergency response, to recovery and cleanup, and now the remediation process.

Nearly all of the Northwoods homes have now been cleared for reentry and most of the heavy work has been completed. Yes, the ExxonMobil oil spill has been a disruption, but we are a resilient community. Each season or cycle will reveal that we are continuing to grow and becoming a better and stronger community with a future that I believe will be bright for the City of Mayflower. I am pleased with the cycle ExxonMobil has taken concerning the oil spill and applaud their efforts and teamwork." *THV11* [Read more](#)

MALTA: OIL SPILL TECHNOLOGY MAY HELP MIGRANT SEARCH AND RESCUE OPERATIONS

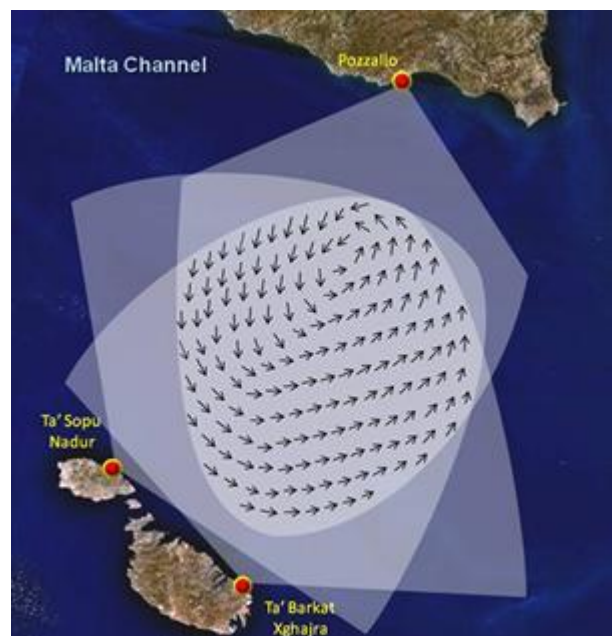
August 29 - Oil spill tracking technology might play a vital role in migrant search and rescue operations, the Sicilian focal point of a project being carried out between Malta and Italy said today.

The Calypso project involves the setting up of high-frequency radar installations on the northern shores of Malta and southern Sicily to record surface sea currents in the channel between the two islands in real time and updated on an hourly basis.

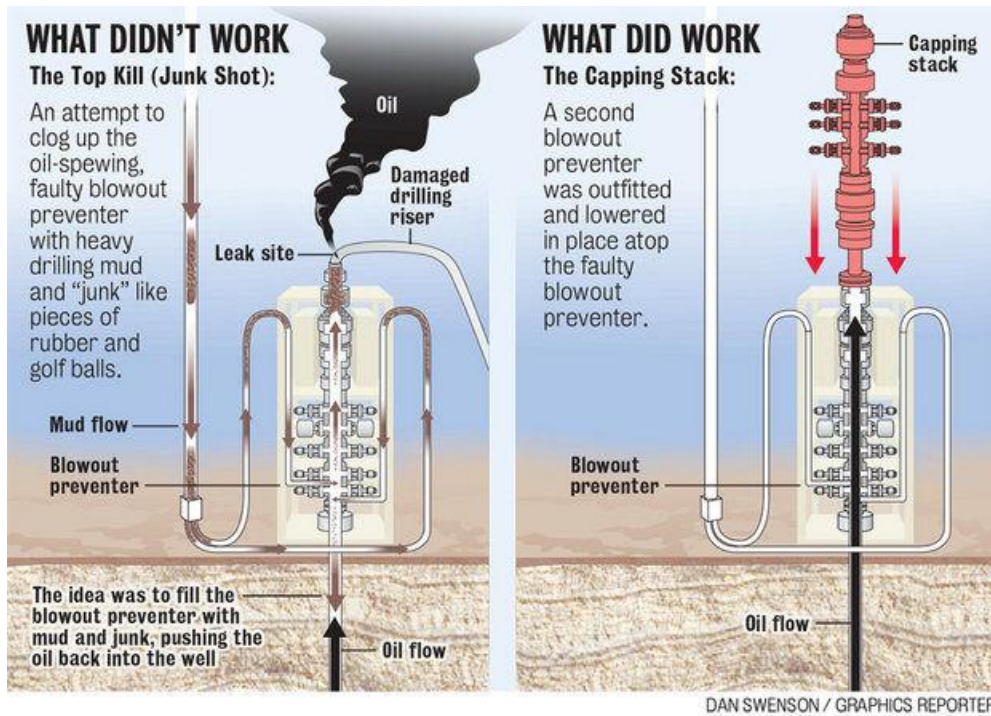
Transport Malta's Ports Director Richard Gabriele said the next step would be to create an operational working plan which would fit within the existing protocol between Malta and Italy in search and rescue operations.

Environment Minister Leo Brincat hoped the technology would allow decisions to be taken promptly and without delay on the sensitive migrant issue.

Maltese focal point Aldo Drago said that around 20 per cent of global oil was transported in the Mediterranean with many of the routes forming a hot spot around Malta. Malta was at a real risk of oil spills as the Atlantic-Ionian current could mean that an oil spill could hit Malta more than once. *Times of Malta* [Read more](#)



USA: BP OIL SPILL TRIAL'S SECOND PHASE, STARTING MONDAY, WILL PLAY KEY ROLE IN DECIDING MASSIVE FINES



September 27 - Dozens of lawyers return to a federal courtroom in New Orleans on Monday to begin a month-long argument over whether BP's efforts to stem the 87-day flow of oil from its April 2010 Macondo well blowout were adequate and how much oil was released.

Billions of dollars in federal fines will be at stake in this second phase of a complex trial aimed at determining the liability of BP, Anadarko Petroleum Corp., which owned 10 percent of the Macondo well, and their drilling partners for the accident -- one of the nation's worst environmental disasters.

On Monday, U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier will be presented with conflicting testimony over BP's success at "source control," the halting of the flow of oil from the well after the blowout. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#)

No news reports from your part of the world? You can help correct this by sending interesting stories in English language to the editor at info@spillcontrol.org Contributions will be acknowledged.

ISCO News

SON OF ISCO COMMITTEE MEMBER, CAPTAIN BILL BOYLE, MNI, FISCO, TO DO COAST-TO-COAST BIKE RUN TO RAISE MONEY FOR CHARITY



Josh Boyle is doing a sponsored UK Coast to Coast cycle from Whitehaven to Tynemouth (140 miles) in aid of Maggie's Cancer Centre's at which Stephanie my wife is a volunteer. Maggie's is a charity which helps not only the patients dealing with cancer but there families too.

If you would like to help Josh helping others please click on the link below. Anything from £1 upwards would be appreciated!

His target is £1000 however if he doubles it he'll shave his hair off !!!!!!!

Maggie's Centres are for anyone affected by cancer. They are places where people are welcome whenever they need us – from just being diagnosed, or undergoing treatment, to post-treatment, recurrence, end of life or in bereavement.

<https://www.justgiving.com/Josh-Boyle/>

A FULL PAGE PROFILE OF YOUR COMPANY IN THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

Corporate Members of ISCO can have their company profiles (text and photos) published in the ISCO Newsletter.

ISCO is, for a trial period only, offering its Corporate Members a full page for only £150. With a large and highly targeted audience, this is a great way to tell the spill response community about your company and what it does.

For more information, please contact the editor at john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 146 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Fellow 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 146: CAMPAIGN FOR KNOWLEDGE-ONLY ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY

With encounter rates being too low for mechanical recovery to prevent evaporation, dispersion or solution of oils/HNS; with atmospheric and seawater concentrations being too low to be toxic; with biodegradation of entire cargo/bunker releases being thus uninterrupted by toxicity as confirmed by the absence of species-extinction/ecological-disaster from the *Torrey Canyon Incident* till now, and with LC₅₀ values confirming the extent of oil/dispersant non-toxicity, we know that dispersant-use can help restore environments to their pre-incident states simply by enhancing natural dispersion/biodegradation rates prior to stranding, unless viscosity necessitates mechanical recovery despite its downstream need for separation of co-collected free-water and of oil droplets from demulsified-water prior to decanting. However, despite species-extinction/ecological-disaster being thus an unreal problem, belief in it still prohibits dispersant-use in inshore waters and on shorelines, thwarts use of safe havens for cargo/bunker transfer, prohibits *in situ* decanting of separated water, and requires all processing to be at such locations as oil refineries despite their capacities being approved only for their own waste streams.

Further to shorelines where natural surf action may be too slow in dispersing contaminants to the sea for natural biodegradation, we know that dispersant-use is the most cost-effective means of thus restoring sand, shingle, pebbles and rocks; cliffs and manmade structures to their pre-incident states; that hard-packed sand permits recovery of wind-thickened emulsion layers by scraping with rubber attachments to the blades of earth-moving equipment, though removal of residual contamination from such sand does add a further separation to the above processing unless landfill is permitted; that active re-floating for natural or dispersant-induced dispersion is an option for sands and mudflats; and that contaminated salt marsh vegetation can be burned without damage as is heather for maintenance of grouse-moors.

As to physical coating of organisms, we know that no believer in species-extinction/ecological-disaster has yet reality-evaluated this belief by comparing the numbers thus dying at incidents with the numbers dying and birthing annually in maintaining species populations. However, with shores continually being re-colonised by the planktonic life-stages of their normally resident organisms, with manmade structures being continually cleared of re-colonising organisms for pedestrian safety, and with inshore seawater concentrations being too low to be toxic, we know that species-extinction/ecological-disaster is no more present onshore than in seawater; and that while physical coating reduces amenity and/or fishing activities, no toxicity arises and the physical effects thereon are localised, temporary or zero.

As to why anthropogenic global warming remains only belief and the alleged problem remains unreal, we know that while individual releases of organic compounds are biodegraded to carbon dioxide and water, the entire biomass of land and sea continuously recycles through the atmosphere as carbon dioxide by photosynthesis and biodegradation, the latter being only rarely interrupted by the oxygen-depletion which transforms intermediate degradation products to so-called 'fossil' fuels; that carbonate rock continuously recycles through the atmosphere as carbon dioxide by tectonic plate movement, the Urey synthesis and volcanic decomposition; and that increased concentrations of carbon dioxide in controlled atmospheres produce heavier crops by increased uptake. Again,, we know that no believer in anthropogenic global warming has yet reality-evaluated any hypothesis as to whether an increase in carbon dioxide release in one of the above cycles might increase its uptake in the other or sequentially in itself; and that until such hypotheses are reality-evaluated it remains unlikely that global temperature could be changed significantly by combustion of part of a 'fossilisation' but for which all of its carbon dioxide equivalent would already be recycling through the atmosphere biologically and geologically.

Thus, as part of my general campaign for knowledge-only response to real problems, I am reporting progress on my knowledge-only response plan for all aspects of marine incident response to the IMO, having already invited environmentalist NGOs to reality-validate the beliefs I will otherwise reject in finalising my response plan. This new response plan will identify the physicochemical properties which determine fate, effect and cost-effective response in general, thus enabling insertion of incident specific property values to determine cost-effective action/inaction for any future oil/HNS incident.

Meanwhile, industrial NGOs might wish to support my incident response plan at IMO, while inviting IMO member states to invite the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change to reality-validate specific hypotheses as to global warming/cooling mechanisms and their sensitivity to anthropogenic influence, the belief itself being meanwhile suspended/rejected for resource-allocation to real problems.

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.

INTEGRATED BOOMING PLANS, EMERGENCY BOOMING STRATEGIES OR JUST THE THIN RED LINE?



First part of a two part article contributed by Mark Francis of Oil Spill Solutions.

Mark Francis has been involved with the oil industry since 1975. He attended his first oil spill in 1976, the Tanker Elaine V incident. He became head of response for inland spills within the UK for British Petroleum E & P in 1980 for 10 years responding to well, storage tank and pipeline spills throughout the UK. Over the next 20 years he continued to build his international operations experience and has also specialised in spill response training, delivering IMO and other courses in more than 20 countries. Mark's website is at <http://www.oilspillsolutions.org>

Have you encountered contingency plans that include oil booming strategies that really don't make sense?

This is a good idea that went wrong, usually because the people involved in positioning red lines on a map have never had to physically deploy a boom in this position.

These people may have done training exercises but there is a difference between this and real responses. Training is usually done in good weather with a large group of people of whom many do not want to get involved.

A real response involves a small group of people who have a job to do as effectively as possible in a given time, whether it is in the Arctic or a rainforest.

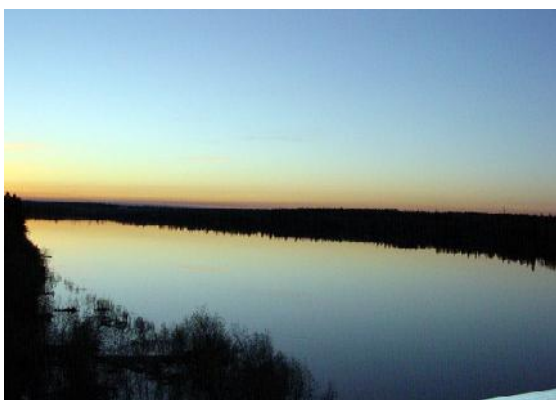
Lack of real experience leads to red lines being drawn on maps of plans in the wrong places e.g. the narrowest part of a river, this uses less boom but it is where the strongest current will be, especially if it rains or when the tide turns.

Red lines have found their way onto maps in plans around the globe. A large proportion of these are in the wrong place which will be found out the hard way when the incident happens and often when the media are taking photos.

Let's visit a few places:

North of Usinsk, Komi, in the Russian Federation is an oil field. When I visited it belonged to a joint venture called Komi Arctic.

The nearest river is 250m wide with the water knee deep during the summer, frozen solid during the winter and full of broken ice during the spring.



A red line was drawn at 90° to the river flow, tied off to the bridge stanchions where the photos were taken.

Anyone who knows the basics of boom deployment knows that booms positioned at 90° to the current will fail.

There is a big sweeping bend about a kilometer down stream. This is where we placed the anchor blocks and built a collection area in the river bank for the day when the spill happens.

I have been in a boat trying to connect a boom at a mid-channel buoy where the bend in the boom below is. This could only be done at slack tide.

Because of various factors the tide started to turn before we could complete the connection, this put extra force on the boom which parted and broke a responder's arm at the same time.



During training courses we are often asked to carry out the practical exercise at the first most critical point on the company's plan.

In this case the river current could be between 0.5mps (meters per second) and 1.5 mps.

The access was good and the exercise went well on the day.

It was later found out that the company had no equipment at the site and relied on another company supplying it from 200 km. away or 4 hours by road.

The basic problem is a mathematical one, worst case 1.5mps x 4hrs = 21,600m + 1 hour for deployment. i.e. 21,600m + 5400m = 27,000m or 27km from the supposed critical point.

With no equipment on site 27kms downstream would be the first potential booming point. Did anyone do a recce to see if there is access at this now first point of response?

It is probably too late to change these red lines into circles. A circle around an area indicated as a recovery point does not allow anyone one to say the boom is at the wrong angle. It allows for flexibility which is the most important thing.

Throughout the development process consultation with other relevant bodies such as neighbouring local authorities, fisheries departments, tourist boards and nature conservation bodies is essential to ensure their co-operation and input.

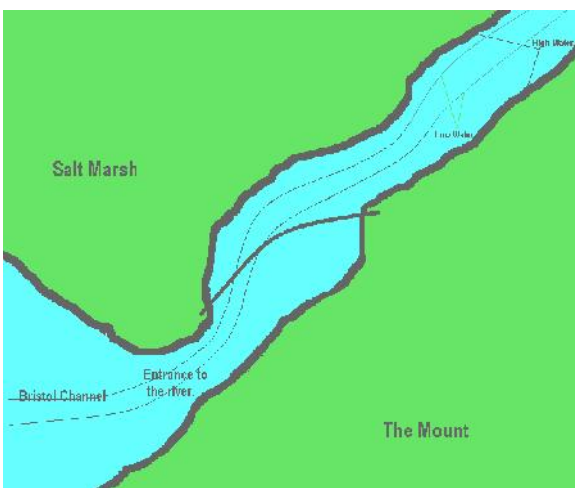
Plans must be flexible and allow for seasonal variations.

When a plan has been completed it should be evaluated by a full-scale trial. This is very important because the failure of a boom in an incident can waste valuable time and resources. In addition an unsuccessful deployment will appear incompetent to the public and media.

However, there will be some sensitive locations where the planning or validation may show that booming is not possible.

In these cases it is essential to keep detailed records to demonstrate that booming has been considered but would not work in that particular location.

Here is an example from what is considered one of the best response plans in the country.



The Bristol Channel has one of the largest tidal ranges in Europe at approx 9m. When the tide rises it rises slowly but when the tide turns the current increases dramatically especially from small inlets like this one.

The boom above left was drawn between two points with difficult access. It would be better to accept a bit of contaminated shoreline to a point where there is good access than putting the boom in this position.

Concluding part next week. You are invited to comment and share your own experiences.

Publications

FOR YOUR INTEREST – LINKS FOR RECENT ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

| | | |
|---|--|----------------------|
| ASME EED EHS Newsletter | News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday | Most recent issue |
| Bow Wave | Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters | Current issue |
| Cedre Newsletter | News from Cedre in Brittany, France | July-August 2013 |
| The Essential Hazmat News | Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals | August 19 issue |
| USA EPA Tech Direct | Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater | September 1 issue |
| USA EPA Tech News & Trends | Contaminated site clean-up information | May 2013 issue |
| Technology Innovation News Survey | From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination | July 1-31 issue |
| Intertanko Weekly News | International news for the oil tanker community | No. 39 2013 |
| CROIERG Enews | Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group | September 2013 issue |
| IMO Publishing News | New and forthcoming IMO publications | Aug-Sept 2013 |
| IMO News Magazine | News from the International Maritime Organization | No 3, 2013 |
| Pollution Online Newsletter | News for prevention & control professionals | September 25 issue |
| EMSA Newsletter | News from the European Maritime Safety Agency | September 2013 issue |
| JOIFF "The Catalyst" | Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management | July 2013 issue |
| Environmental Technology Online | Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis | September 2013 issue |
| HELCOM Newsletter | Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission | May 2013 issue |

USA EPA: VAPOUR INTRUSION

This web site provides some key information on vapor intrusion for members of the public who may be interested in this topic, including teachers and students, homeowners, community leaders, and environmental professionals.

On this website, you'll find basic information about vapor intrusion, technical and policy documents that may be used to support environmental investigations, and highlights of current and upcoming Agency activities related to vapor intrusion.

<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/vaporintrusion/> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Job vacancies

TWO JOB VACANCIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL PROJECT MANAGERS / EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Conestoga-Rovers & Associates (CRA) provides comprehensive engineering, environmental consulting, construction, and information technology solutions for its clients.

With more than 30 years of experience in providing high quality and responsive services, CRA has grown to over 90 offices and 3,000 employees working on projects worldwide.

Conestoga-Rovers & Associates has two openings, in Dallas, TX and Topeka, Kansas, for Environmental Project Managers / Emergency Response to support project work, who aspire to become an active employee in a vibrant, well-established company.

For details click on <http://www.spillcontrol.org/index.php/2013-02-05-11-11-41/job-vacancies>

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations. ISCO is managed by an elected executive committee members of which are **Mr David Usher** (President, USA), **Mr John McMurtrie** (Secretary, UK), **Mr Marc Shaye** (USA), **Mr Dan Sheehan** (USA), **M. Jean Claude Sainlos** (France), **Mr Kerem Kemerli** (Turkey), **Mr Paul Pisani** (Malta), **Mr Simon Rickaby** (UK), **Mr Li Guobin** (China), and **Captain Bill Boyle** (UK). The Executive Committee is assisted by the non-executive ISCO Council composed of the following national representatives – **Mr John Wardrop** (Australia), **Mr Namig Gandilov** (Azerbaijan), **Mr John Cantlie** (Brazil), **Dr Merv Fingas** (Canada), **Captain Davy T. S. Lau** (China, Hong Kong), **Mr Li Guobin** (China, Mainland), **Mr Darko Domovic** (Croatia), **Eng. Ashraf Sabet** (Egypt), **Mr Torbjorn Hedrenius** (Estonia), **Mr Pauli Einarsson** (Faroe Islands), **Prof. Harilaous Psarftis** (Greece), **Captain D. C. Sekhar** (India), **Mr Dan Arbel** (Israel), **Mr Sanjay Gandhi** (Kenya), **Mr Joe Braun** (Luxembourg), **Chief Kola Agboke** (Nigeria), **Mr Jan Allers** (Norway), **Capt. Chris Richards** (Singapore), **Mr Anton Moldan** (South Africa), **Dr Ali Saeed Al Ameri** (UAE), **Mr Kevin Miller** (UK), and **Dr Manik Sardessai** (USA). More info on Executive Committee and Council Members can be found on the ISCO website at www.spillcontrol.org

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