

### **NORWAY: NOSCA 2009 SEMINAR ON OIL SPILL TECHNOLOGY AND RESPONSE**



The final programme for the 2009 NOSCA Seminar can be viewed at <http://www.nosca.no/index.php?eid=18&mid=29>. The seminar is taking place in Bergen - Arrival: pm on Monday 14th Sept. Seminar days: Tuesday 15th through Thursday 17th Sept. Departure: am on Friday 18th Sept.

The highlight of an interesting programme of events will be "Exercise Bergen" - Norway's largest oilspill exercise, involving 1 helicopter, 40 vessels and 300 people. This year's seminar is sponsored by Frank Mohn Flatøy AS, NOFO, NorLense, StatoilHydro, Miros og AllMaritim.

### **BALTIC: HELCOM FLEET TO HOLD A MAJOR DISASTER RESPONSE EXERCISE IN THE GULF OF RIGA**

The Helsinki Commission for the protection of the Baltic marine environment will conduct its annual maritime exercise BALEX DELTA 2009 on 26 August outside Riga, Latvia, to test the Baltic Sea countries' preparedness to jointly respond to a major oil spill accident at sea. This operational exercise, the largest maritime emergency and counter-pollution drill of its kind in the Baltic Sea area and one of the largest worldwide, will involve the release of simulated oil, the deployment of pollution response vessels from the coastal countries, the establishment of a unified command structure and communication system, and a full-scale oil recovery operation at the site of the accident, including actual deployment of oil containment booms and skimming equipment.

It is expected that nine oil-pollution-combating ships and smaller vessels from six HELCOM Member States - Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Sweden, as well as a Latvian Air Force surveillance plane will take part in the exercise. Also, the European Commission (which is one of the HELCOM Members) will be represented by one response vessel chartered by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA). In addition, over 30 observers from Estonia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Russia, Sweden, as well as EMSA will be monitoring the actions of the response units. The Exercise Evaluation Team will consist of representatives of Latvia, Lithuania and Russia.

Read more: [http://www.helcom.fi/press\\_office/news\\_helcom/en\\_GB/BALEX\\_DELTA\\_2009/](http://www.helcom.fi/press_office/news_helcom/en_GB/BALEX_DELTA_2009/)

### **USA, ALASKA: RESEARCHERS DROP 'DRIFTERS' INTO PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND**

Fishermen beware: Two strange-looking fish are swimming around in parts of Prince William Sound.

They are man-made fish, actually. Scientists with the Cordova-based Prince William Sound Science Center, along with researchers from the University of Alaska Fairbanks, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., and California Polytechnic State University are

working with two controlled underwater vehicles as part of a two-week project to gather field data on conditions in the Sound.

The research group will use other instruments too, including "drifters," or devices that float with currents and are retrieved later.

Scott Pegau, research director at the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, a part of the Prince William Sound Science Center, says the open-water field data - gathered from July 19 through Aug. 3 - will help scientists verify models used by several federal and state agencies for a variety of purposes, including weather, currents and wave conditions in the Sound.



Researchers Daniel Wood and Ian Robbins of California Polytechnic State University ready an underwater research vehicle for use in Prince William Sound. *Photo courtesy of Prince William Sound Science Center*

"We want to know how well the models are predicting atmospheric changes, wave buildup and water circulation," he said. "At the Oil Spill Recovery Institute, we are very interested in surface water circulation and the circulation at various layers of depth, which is important in understanding how deeply dispersed oil will circulate into the water column."

Read more: [http://www.alaskajournal.com:80/stories/072309/loc\\_3\\_017.shtml](http://www.alaskajournal.com:80/stories/072309/loc_3_017.shtml)

## PERSGA COUNTRIES SIGN A NEW PROTOCOL



July 1st 2009 has witnessed the adoption of a new regional protocol on 'Movement of Personnel and Equipment in Case of Emergency' at PERSGA HQ in Jeddah. The approval of this new regional protocol will facilitate exchange of experts and equipment, and their prompt movement to reach any oil/ chemical spill site in sea in case of

emergency and requesting assistance by the concerned member country. [PERSGA's member states include: Djibouti, Egypt, Jordan, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen.] Read more: <http://www.persga.org/calender.php?id=25>

## UK: MSC NAPOLI SALVAGE OPERATION COMPLETE

THE lengthy and complex operation to remove the wreck of the container ship MSC Napoli is over. Hugh Shaw, the UK's Secretary of State's Representative for Maritime Salvage and Intervention (SOSREP) officially declared an end to the salvage and wreck removal operations of the MSC Napoli on Thursday 29 July, 924 days after it all began.

The MSC Napoli was beached at Branscombe on Saturday 20 January 2007 and since then there have been several salvage and wreck removal phases aimed initially at removing her fuel oil, then her cargo, and ultimately the wreck of the MSC Napoli itself. The final stage of the operations involved removing the stern section of the MSC Napoli from the sea bed and this work was undertaken by Global Response Maritime, a salvage and wreck removal company based in Holland. They had been contracted by the P&I insurance underwriters, The London P&I Club, to lift the final section from the sea bed, cut it up, and remove the scrap to an approved disposal contractor. Following completion, a multi-beam survey of the seabed was carried out to clearly demonstrate that there was no further risk to safety or risk of pollution from hazardous substances.

This has now been successfully completed and the contractors, their barges and tugs have now left the site to return to Holland – well ahead of the expected completion schedule of the end of August.

Ian Ferguson, director of A Bilbrough & Co, the managers of the London P & I Club, said: "The Club is delighted that the two and a half year operation to remove the MSC Napoli has come to a very successful conclusion. The Club extends its thanks and appreciation to all those who have worked so hard to make this possible.

<http://www.mgn.com/newsletter.cfm?#story10132>

## **USA: USE OF CAMERAS COVERED IN PROPOSED ASTM OIL SPILL RESPONSE STANDARD**

Vessel-mounted cameras can be effectively and economically used by ship crews investigating and responding to an oil spill. ASTM International Committee F20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response is currently developing a proposed new standard on use of cameras in this realm.

WK24607, Specification for the Design and Use of Vessel-Mounted Camera Systems for Oil Spill Response, is under the jurisdiction of Subcommittee F20.16 on Surveillance and Tracking.

According to Mervin Fingas, senior scientist, Spill Science, and a longtime member of Committee F20, the primary users of the proposed new standard will be managers of spill cooperatives who will use it to purchase and optimize recovery vessel camera systems, as well as suppliers of such equipment.

"The purpose of these cameras is to help direct the crews toward the oil and toward the thicker oil on the sea surface," says Fingas. "Viewers on the decks, nearer to sea level, cannot see oil sufficiently to navigate toward it. The motivation for putting forward the proposed standard is to guide the potential user in the purchases, advantages, limitations and applications of such technology." Read more: <http://news.thomasnet.com/companystory/563348>

## **NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR A LONG-STANDING PROBLEM: SWELLABLE GLASS-NANO ZVI COMPOSITE MATERIALS FOR THE REMEDIATION OF TCE AND PCE IN GROUNDWATER**

Edmiston, P.L., Absorbent Materials Company, LLC, Wooster, OH. Ohio Brownfield Conference, 12-14 May 2009, Wilmington. 46 slides, 2009

This presentation introduces a new class of chemically inert, nano-engineered, silica-based material that swells to eight times its dry volume in organic liquids. The technology can be used for in situ remediation of chlorinated solvent contamination in groundwater. Osorb (trademark and patent pending) is a silica-based glass that instantaneously swells when it comes in contact with organic molecules, such as those found in gasoline, natural gas, acetone, ethanol, pharmaceuticals, and solvents. Although Osorb does not swell in water, it swells in the presence of organic gas or liquid, including organics dissolved in water. Osorb floats on water, which makes it useful for recovery of oil spills. Organics trapped in the Osorb matrix can be recovered by exposing the product to heat, upon which the sorbed compounds evaporate. Nanoscale zero-valent iron can be incorporated into Osorb to create Iron-Osorb for effective treatment of chlorinated contaminants, such as trichloroethene (TCE). Iron-Osorb can be injected directly into aquifers. Founded in 2008, ABS Materials has completed laboratory tests of a revolutionary class of reactive glass and engineered sands that are highly stable, hydrophobic, and capable of capturing and recovering a range of hydrocarbons and pervasive solvents. The first group of field-ready products is now in pilot testing for TCE remediation and recovery. For more information about the Osorb product family—Iron-Osorb TCE, Osorb Water Mesh, Osorb Air Mesh—contact ABS at [Information@absmaterials.com](mailto:Information@absmaterials.com) or (330) 234-7999. Presentation at [http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/Brownfield\\_Conference/docs/NewTechnologyOSORB.pdf](http://www.epa.state.oh.us/derr/Brownfield_Conference/docs/NewTechnologyOSORB.pdf)

## **ESTONIA: PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME FOR THE 10<sup>TH</sup> INTERNATIONAL EFFECTS OF OIL ON WILDLIFE CONFERENCE**

The conference, which will be held in the Tallink Spa and Conference Centre, Tallinn, Estonia from 5-9 October, has a main focus on *Science, Planning and Cooperation to Minimise the Effects of Oil on Wildlife* (Conference theme) and will have the following highlights:

- The scientific programme includes over 60 scientific papers from the world's leading experts in oiled wildlife preparedness and response. These papers will be presented from Tuesday 6 to Thursday 8 October as part of 15 plenary and parallel sessions with an emphasis on topics like Case histories, Response, Planning, Rehabilitation, Post Release and Prevention.
- The pre-conference programme on Monday October 5<sup>th</sup> includes four short courses, moderated by leading experts, on: *Facility Design for Hands-on Oiled Wildlife Response*, *Oil Spill Response Basics*, *Issues of Oiled Wildlife Response* and *Principles of Oiled Bird Impact Assessment*.
- A post-conference programme on Friday October 9<sup>th</sup> includes three labs on: *Advanced Training on Oiled Bird Cleaning*, *Oiled Bird Post-mortem Analysis* and *Bird Capture Techniques* (outdoors).

To download the programme please visit the [EOW website](#).

## **USA: ASTM TO HOST MEETING ON HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES, OIL SPILL RESPONSE**

West Conshohocken, Pa.-based ASTM International announced that its Committee F20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response will host a two-day meeting, Sept. 30-Oct. 1 at the Fountainebleau Hotel in Miami. ASTM meetings are open to all interest individuals.

Committee F20 was formed in 1975 and meets twice a year to develop and update documents relevant to hazardous substances and oil spill response. The committee, with a current membership of about 100, has jurisdiction of over 55 standards, published in the Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Volume 11.05. Committee F20 has nine technical subcommittees that maintain jurisdiction over these standards. Information on this subcommittee structure, the upcoming two-day meeting in Miami, and F20's portfolio of approved standards and work items under construction are available at [www.astm.org/COMMIT/F20.htm](http://www.astm.org/COMMIT/F20.htm) <http://ohsonline.com/articles/2008/07/astm-host-meeting-hazardous-oil-spill-response.aspx>

## **USA: 2009 PETROLEUM ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH FORUM WORKSHOP**

Chevron and BP will host the 2009 PERF remediation workshop at the Chevron Briarpark facility on September 9-10. This meeting will be the occasion for all the professional of remediation to discuss new technologies and best practices and to follow up the work that has been done since the [2008 PERF remediation](#) workshop. Download the [agenda](#) and the [registration form](#) to participate in this event.

## **USA: FALL 2009 APICOM MEETING**

The Fall 2009 meeting of the Association of Petroleum Industry Co-op Managers will take place over September 16-18, 2009 at the River Place Hotel in Portland, Oregon. More info: <http://www.apicom.org/upcomingevents.html>

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate, unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter.