



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 211 14th December, 2009

Email info@spillcontrol.org Web <http://www.spillcontrol.org>



IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER HIJACKED TANKER



December 10: IMO Secretary-General Efthimios E. Mitropoulos today expressed concern that adverse weather conditions and other contributing factors may bring about an accident to the supertanker *Maran Centaurus* – hijacked by pirates on 29 November 2009 with a cargo of 2 million barrels of crude oil – possibly resulting in an environmental catastrophe off the coast of Somalia, where the vessel is currently being held.

The vessel, with a 28-member crew, was some 800 miles from the Seychelles Islands when it was hijacked and then taken to an area off the port of Hobyo in Somalia. Weather conditions are said to be changing for the worse in the area which, coupled with reported unsafe anchorage conditions, has led to concerns that the vessel might be damaged by grounding, leading to its cargo being spilled and resulting in serious ecological damage.

Mr. Mitropoulos is concerned that, while any hijacking incident is to be deplored because of its impact on the seafarers on board, the potential for ecological disaster, in an area of the world that presently lacks the infrastructure, equipment, resources and expertise to cope with it, makes this a particular case.

Accordingly, in a letter to the Prime Minister of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Mr. Omar Abdirashid Sharmarke, Mr. Mitropoulos has expressed concern that any accident to the ship might, because of the large quantity of oil carried in its tanks, cause serious environmental damage, with repercussions to the nearby fishing grounds and consequent negative economic impact on the livelihood of the population in the area.

UK: NEW CROSS-GOVERNMENT INITIATIVE TO CO-ORDINATE POST-SPILL INCIDENT MONITORING



The PREMIAM (Pollution Response in Emergencies: Marine Impact Assessment and Monitoring) project is aiming to produce guidelines for post-incident monitoring and also provide a co-ordinating mechanism to ensure that this is conducted efficiently (both with respect to cost and scientific robustness).

PREMIAM is a Defra funded project running for 3 years (2009-12) and is being co-ordinated by emergency response and impact assessment experts from Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science). It has wide support from all the main government stakeholders and will fully engage the scientific and emergency response community in delivering its aims.

The PREMIAM programme will fulfil two fundamental objectives – (1) The development of marine assessment and monitoring guidelines (The PREMIAM Plan) and (2) The development and maintenance of a network of scientific and logistical partners to deliver the plan (The PREMIAM Network). It will also provide an ongoing mechanism for delivery of monitoring capability and a focus for scientific development and logistics management for this important area. For more info: <http://www.premiam.org>

USA: DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ANNOUNCES GRANT GUIDANCE FOR MORE THAN \$2.7 BILLION IN FISCAL YEAR 2010 GRANT PROGRAMS

December 8 - Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Secretary Janet Napolitano today announced the release of fiscal year 2010 grant application guidance kits for 13 DHS grant programs totaling more than \$2.7 billion—funds for state, local, tribal and territorial governments and private sector entities to strengthen our nation's ability to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from terrorist attacks, major disasters and other emergencies. Read more: http://www.dhs.gov/ynews/releases/pr_1260283102665.shtm

AUSTRALIA: QUEENSLAND OIL SPILL SPARKS CALLS FOR TOUGH POLLUTER PENALTIES

Australia is lobbying to make maritime polluters pay more to clean up after themselves in the wake of the Pacific Adventurer oil slick off Moreton Island.

[Transport Minister Anthony Albanese](#) yesterday began a campaign at a meeting of the [International Maritime Organisation](#) in London to beef up the industry's pollution compensation regime. "Australia strongly supports the principle that the polluter should pay for pollution clean-up costs," he told the IMO yesterday. [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group] <http://www.news.com.au/couriermail/story/0,23739,26436168-953,00.html>

IRELAND: "WIRED" IRISH RIVER DETECTS POLLUTION IN REAL TIME



Sensors recently placed at various points in the River Lee, near the city of Cork, send information on pollution levels back to a data center. Water managers can keep tabs on pollutants entering the river and, if need be, mount an immediate response.

Called the DEPLOY project, the program was developed as a cheaper alternative to sending out scientists to collect water samples several times a day. In addition, the technology can identify a disastrous influx of pollution, such as toxic industrial-chemical spills, before fish go belly up. Read the complete article at - <http://news.nationalgeographic.com/news/2009/12/091205-wireless-river-water-pollution.html>

KENYA: TIER 3 OIL SPILL AVERTED

Liberian flagged oil tanker 'Voge Trust' listed as it entered the port of Mombasa, causing panic over a possible oil spill.

MT Voge Trust, a Liberia-flagged oil tanker, tilts at the Likoni Channel connecting the east Kenyan port of Mombasa and the Indian Ocean after developing mechanical problems Dec. 3, 2009. A swift action by the Kenya Navy and Kenya Ports Authority saved the ship with 35,000 tons of diesel oil from sinking and averted an ecological disaster. (Xinhua Photo) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member DG & Hazmat Group for sending this news alert]



Read the full report at <http://english.sina.com/world/p/2009/1203/290311.html>

CANADA: PCB CLEAN-UP LEADS TO QUICK RECOVERY OF ARCTIC WILDLIFE

PCBs at a contaminated military site in northern Canada were once high enough to affect the reproduction of nearby fish and fish-eating birds. Now, only eight years after the area was cleaned up, the levels in wildlife have dropped remarkably, researchers now report. The findings are the first to show that Arctic wildlife can recover from intense pollution if the contaminated sites in these very cold-weather regions are remediated. A paper by Brown, TM, TA Sheldon, NM Burgess and KJ Reimer. 2009. *Reduction of PCB contamination in an Arctic coastal environment: A first step in assessing ecosystem recovery after the removal of a point source*. Read the paper at: [Environmental Science and Technology doi:10.1021/es900941w](http://www.environmentalscienceandtechnology.com/doi/10.1021/es900941w).

LOOKING FOR AN INTERESTING CHALLENGE ?

ISCO is looking for volunteers to help develop its programme – admin, research, technical support, web development and other areas.

Whether you are young or old, if you can find a few hours and feel that you'd like to assist in the work we do, we'd like to hear from you. Perhaps you have recently retired and feel that, with all the knowledge and experience you've acquired, you can make a useful contribution.

It's also a networking opportunity and a way to keep in touch with others in the international spill response community. If you're interested send an email to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

FRANCE: NEXT CEDRE "INFORMATION DAY"

The Cedre Information Day 2010 will be held on Thursday 11 March at [INHES](http://www.inhes.fr). The chosen theme is "Pollution response equipment stockpiles" The programme is available at <http://www.cedre.fr/fr/publication/colloque/2010/programme2010.pdf>

UAE, DUBAI: OFFSHORE ARABIA 2010 ENVIRONMENTAL AWARDS

Nominations are being invited for the 2010 Offshore Arabia Environmental Awards. The award categories are Excellence in Environmental Applications; Excellence in Environmental Technology; Excellence in Capability and Response; Excellence in Incident Command Structure; Excellence in Environmental Projects and Products; Regional Environmental Personality.

The deadline for receiving nominations is 15th February, 2010. For more information go to - http://www.offshorearabia.ae/download/pdf/2010/Environmental_Awards_2010.pdf

USA: "GOVSEC" GOVERNMENT SECURITY EXPO AND CONFERENCE

A wide-ranging programme includes disaster preparedness, response and recovery. March 23-24 at Washington DC. For more info: <http://govsecinfo.com/events/govsec-2010/home.aspx>

UK: OIL AND CHEMICAL SPILL RESPONSE COURSES JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2010

The following has been announced by ISCO Member, Braemar Howells Ltd.

- January 25-28th MCA 4/5p/IMO Level 2 Oil Spill Response, Gatwick
- February 01-05th HazWoper/HNS 40 Hour Chemical Course, Gatwick
- February 22-25th MCA 4/5p/IMO Level 2 Oil Spill Response, Gatwick

For further information or to book a place on the course, contact – Karen Faircloth- karenfaircloth@braemarhowells.com, Tel 01293 544482

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.