



## ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

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MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA  
12-16 APRIL 2010  
International Oil Spill Conference  
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### **BALTIC SEA: HELCOM RESPONSE GROUP TO APPROVE A NEW REGULATION FOR OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE**

Helsinki, 16 February (HELCOM Information Service) – The Response Group of the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM RESPONSE) will hold its regular Meeting 17-19 February in Helsinki\* to discuss further measures to enhance the capacity of the Baltic Sea coastal countries to respond to major marine pollution incidents in the region, including oil spillages, as well as to improve the detection of offenders of anti-pollution regulations. The major focus of the Meeting will be on finalizing the input to the HELCOM Ministerial Meeting, which will be held 20 May in Moscow.

Representatives of the coastal countries are expected to agree on a new HELCOM Recommendation (regulation) setting the standards for planning of oiled wildlife response on national level. “HELCOM procedures for international oil spill response operations have already been amended to enable mutual assistance when dealing with oiled wildlife. Following the agreement in the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan, the new Recommendation specifies how HELCOM countries should put an integrated oiled wildlife response plan in place as part of the overall contingency plan to guarantee swift mobilization of resources, the use of appropriate response, rehabilitation and health and safety protocols, and likelihood of successful claim to international compensation funds”, says Peter Poulsen, Chairman of the HELCOM Response Group. Strengthening of co-operation in shoreline response is another topic to be discussed by the Meeting, including proposals for amendments to the HELCOM Response Manual and Annex VII to the Helsinki Convention. More [http://www.helcom.fi/press\\_office/news\\_helcom/en\\_GB/Response\\_Meeting\\_12/](http://www.helcom.fi/press_office/news_helcom/en_GB/Response_Meeting_12/)

\*Note from editor – have not yet been able to find any report on the outcome of this meeting.

### **USA: EPA UNVEILS PLAN TO RESTORE GREAT LAKES**

February 23, 2010 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency officials on Sunday unveiled an action plan to guide federal efforts to restore the Great Lakes. The plan, which EPA Administrator Lisa P. Jackson unveiled at a Sunday meeting with governors from the Great Lakes states, lays out the most urgent threats facing the Great Lakes and sets out goals, objectives and key actions for the next five years to help restore the lakes, according to a news release the EPA issued Monday.

“We have an historic opportunity to restore and protect these waters. This action plan

outlines our strategy to protect the environmental, human health and economic interests of the millions of people who rely on the Great Lakes,” Jackson states in Monday’s release. “We’re committed to creating a new standard of care that will leave the Great Lakes better for the next generation.”

More: [http://www.michiganstumb.com/articles/2010/02/23/news/local\\_news/doc4b83c90ae10c7225700955.txt](http://www.michiganstumb.com/articles/2010/02/23/news/local_news/doc4b83c90ae10c7225700955.txt)

## **AUSTRALIA: SEA POLLUTION LEVY TO INCREASE BY 25%**

Shipping companies using Australian waters will be forced to pay extra maritime taxes to help pay for the clean-up of a major pollution incident. Last March, the Pacific Adventurer spilled huge quantities of oil and fertiliser off the Queensland coast, resulting in one of the worst environmental disasters in Australian history.

While the company that owned the vessel, Swire Shipping, agreed to pay AU\$25m towards the clean-up operation, the total cost is likely to be considerably higher, with current estimates at around AU\$31m.

More: [http://www.edie.net/news/news\\_story.asp?id=17696&channel=0&title=Australia+hikes+taxes+to+pay+for+pollution](http://www.edie.net/news/news_story.asp?id=17696&channel=0&title=Australia+hikes+taxes+to+pay+for+pollution)

## **ITALY'S LONGEST RIVER FACING CATASTROPHE AFTER OIL SPILL**



A view of workers cleaning up the Lambro river, on a walkway leading to the San Zenone power plant, near Milan, northern Italy Photo: AP

Italy's longest river, the Po, faces an environmental catastrophe after saboteurs deliberately released an estimated 2.5 million litres (660,000 gallons) of oil and diesel into one of its tributaries.

The black tide of fuel moved down the Lambro river, reached the Po near the city

of Piacenza on Wednesday and is expected to hit the Adriatic coast by the weekend, authorities warned.

Italian prosecutors in the town of Monza, near Milan, opened an investigation into the spill and called it "a true act of environmental terrorism".

The oil was stored in a former refinery which is now used as a storage depot. It was sabotaged on Tuesday when someone opened the main valve and allowed the fuel to empty into the Lambro, a tributary of the Po.

Read more: <http://www.telegraph.co.uk:80/news/worldnews/europe/italy/7315220/Italys-longest-river-facing-catastrophe-after-oil-spill.html>

## **USA: SUNKEN CANADIAN SHIP SPEWING OIL OFF ALASKAN COAST: U.S. COAST GUARD**

A storied Canadian steamship that offered luxury cruises for decades along the British Columbia coast, then served a crucial role during the Second World War transporting troops, supplies and Jewish refugees is now adding an unfortunate chapter to its rich history: the polluting of a major Pacific Ocean inlet.

The Princess Kathleen, a Canadian Pacific cruise ship that sank in a storm off southeast



Alaska nearly 60 years ago, has been identified as the source of a persistent oil slick in waters north of Juneau after U.S. Coast Guard officials dived to the wreck site last week.

All 400 passengers and crew were rescued when the 120-metre, 5,900-tonne vessel ran aground on Sept. 7, 1952. But an estimated 580,000 litres of fuel went down with the ship. <http://www.montrealgazette.com/news/Sunken+Canadian+ship+spewing+Alaskan+coast+Coast+Guard/2607616/story.html>

### **USA: FIRST RESPONDERS RECOGNIZED FOR SPILL CONTAINMENT, CLEAN UP**

Six weeks after being called to a hazardous material spill at the Morehead City port, a team of first responders was back at their former command post with a new mission. This one only required a handshake.

The Town of Morehead City held a ceremony Friday to recognize the many local, state and federal agencies that were involved in responding to the Jan. 12 spill of the potentially explosive chemical pentaerythritol tetranitrate, or PETN, during vessel operations. The hazardous chemical, transported as slurry, was released from several barrels that were punctured by a forklift. Read more: <http://www.enctoday.com/news/span-73278-jdn-recognized-city.html>

### **U.S. EUROPEAN COMMAND OIL SPILL RESPONSE CONFERENCE TO BE HOSTED BY LATVIA**

The United States European Command and the Latvian Coast Guard will host an international oil and chemical spill response conference on August 23-27, 2010, to take place around BALEX DELTA 2010, an annual exercise on the Baltic Sea. The aim of this annual exercise is to check the Baltic Sea countries' readiness to respond to major oil accidents at sea.

This year, with the cooperation of EUCOM, the conference will host participants from Croatia and Montenegro representing various ministries and departments. Those countries represented will attend in order to observe and potentially adopt similar methods, technologies and practices that aid oil and chemical spill response. The conference serves as a forum for teamwork and information sharing among nations who face the same challenges in obtaining new technology, maintaining staff resources in a suffering international economy and collaborating effectively across many governments in order to maintain environmental quality. Read more: <http://www.eucom.mil/english/fullstory.asp?art=%7B015666E5-4C7C-458D-8310-71B69A725E1C%7D>

### **AUSTRALIA: TEST REVEALS OIL SLICK REACHED WEST TIMOR**



Water testing off the coast of West Timor has confirmed for the first time that oil from the disastrous Montara spill disaster reached the fishing waters vital to a number of poor Timor villages.

Greens Senator Rachel Siewert asked the Montara Commission of Inquiry to test water samples collected from locations off West Timor, close to 1km off Roti Island and 2km from the Montara wellhead. The results have revealed that the profile of the sample taken from West Timor was "similar to the whole oil ratios of the fresh Montara crude oil". Read more at <http://au.news.yahoo.com/thewest/a/-/breaking/6848782/test-reveals-oil-slick-reached-west-timor/> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, Dg & Hazmat Group for providing this news item]

### **USA: MAINE SELECTED FOR MAJOR COAST GUARD DRILL**

The U.S. Coast Guard in South Portland is gearing up for a major multi-agency drill called the Spill of National Significance. It will test of the Coast Guard's emergency response to a large-scale oil spill. Each year the massive exercise is assigned to a different region. This year, the command center in South Portland was chosen to run the drill. Read more: <http://www.wmtw.com/news/22650935/detail.html>

## UK: OPEC CELEBRATES 30 YEARS IN BUSINESS



OPEC was founded by Mr. Peter Ilsley on February 1st 1980. Before the Company was founded Peter worked on the design and build of several oil pollution recovery machines during the late 1970's. Peter's background in the textile industry gave rise to the OPEC Mop Skimmer which cleans oil from the surface of the water.

Peter first came up with the concept having dealt with an oil spill in the textile mill he worked in during the 1970's using their own product to do the clean up. Peter recalls: 'The spill occurred in the boiler room of the factory. We had left out waste fibres from the carpet production line which quickly adsorbed the oil'

After 4 more years of development OPEC was born. Since then OPEC has successfully sold more than 2000 machines and associated equipment for dealing with oil spills all across the world. From the USA, S.America, Europe, Africa and to the Far East, and Australasia. More info: <http://www.opec.co.uk/>

## GREECE: POSIDONIA: THE INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING EXHIBITION



The biennial Posidonia exhibition is yet again on our doorstep with only a few months remaining before the 21st edition of the world's most prestigious shipping forum opens its gates at the 30.700 square metre, one-level Hellenikon Exhibition Centre from June 7-11. Some 20,000 trade visitors are expected to attend the exhibition according to organisers' early estimates, breaking the previous record set in 2008. This number is likely to grow as the world is emerging from the recession with many of them expected to focus on three key growth areas, shipbuilding, ship equipment and service industries. More info at: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/pressrelease/posidonia-international-shipping-exhibition/>

## USA: NAMEPA'S SEMINAR SERIES: ENVIRONMENTAL INTELLIGENCE IN SHIPPING



The debut of NAMEPA's Seminar Series, Environmental Intelligence in Shipping, being held on March 9th at the Marine Memorial Club in San Francisco, CA. The purpose of NAMEPA's Seminar Series is to bring together stakeholders in the marine community to discuss concerns and actions that address marine environment protection. The goal of these discussions is to create greater awareness of the issues and the work that is being undertaken to mitigate potential problems, and to foster collaboration amongst the stakeholders. More info: <http://www.namepa.net/events.html>

## UK: LLOYD'S MARITIME ACADEMY MARINE POLLUTION SEMINAR



Wednesday 19th & Thursday 20th May 2010 - Marine Pollution: legal, technical and practical update on handling oil and chemical incidents – civil liability, spill management response and claims assessment.

More info: <http://www.lloydsmaritimeacademy.com/pdf/Feb-2010/4/ks0196.pdf>