

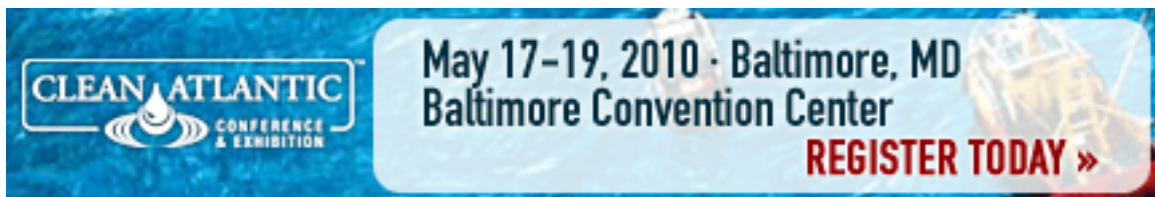


ISCO NEWSLETTER

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ISCO DELEGATION TO IMO OPRC-HNS TECHNICAL GROUP MEETING

TG10, the tenth meeting of the IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group takes place over the week of Monday 15th March to Friday 19th March, 2010 at IMO Headquarters in London. The ISCO delegation will include David Usher (ISCO President), John McMurtrie (ISCO Secretary), Rear Admiral M. L. Stacey (Member of ISCO Executive Committee) and Dr Douglas Cormack (Honorary Member of ISCO).

SINGAPORE WARNS OF THREAT TO TANKERS IN MALACCA STRAIT



A third of global crude oil shipments pass through the Malacca Strait

Singapore has learned that an unnamed group may be planning to attack oil tankers in the Malacca Strait, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes.

"The terrorists' intent is probably to achieve widespread publicity and showcase that they remain a viable group," the country's navy warned. Other large vessels with dangerous cargoes were also at risk, it said. The navy recommended ships strengthen their

onboard security measures, remain vigilant and report unusual incidents.

Past cases of successful attacks on tankers were carried out using small vessels such as dinghies, speedboats and fishing boats, which are common in the Malacca Strait, the Navy advisory said.

About 33% of global seaborne crude oil shipments pass through the 965km (600-mile) channel - which is shared by Malaysia, Indonesia and Singapore. The seaway is almost six times busier than the Suez Canal.

A Singapore Navy spokesman could not provide further details of the new threat when contacted by the Bloomberg news agency, but said it had started "operation co-ordination with our regional partners". Malaysia's maritime enforcement agency said it was aware of

the alert and was stepping up security in the shipping lane. [Thanks to Dr Gerald Graham for passing on this report from the BBC] <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/world/asia-pacific/8549053.stm>

Also very concerning is this extract from another report - "The attacks are becoming more dangerous for crew members, though. More than 20 ships were fired on with rocket-propelled grenades last year, including tankers and chemical tankers. In one incident, two grenades lodged in the door of a ship's bridge—the area where the captain steers from. Many other ships were damaged by small-arms fire, according to reports from IMB. Read more at: http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_14510934?nclick_check=1

ADRIATIC: FIRST REGIONAL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION ON SPILL PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

The first Adriatic Oil Spill Conference and Exhibition will be held between 12 and 14 May 2010 in Opatija, Croatia.

The idea to organize a regional gathering dedicated exclusively to various aspects of accidental oil spills, including prevention, preparedness for and response to such marine pollution incidents, was born in discussions among a group of experts involved in marine environment protection in the Republic of Croatia. An additional incentive was certainly the initiative taken by competent national administrations of six Adriatic coastal States, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia, to declare the Adriatic Sea a particularly sensitive sea area (PSSA).

The Ministry of Sea, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia offered its support to the Conference, and a number of relevant international organizations and institutions such as IMO, REMPEC, EMSA, IOPC Funds, Cedre, ITOPF etc. also expressed their interest and confirmed their participation in it.

The goal of the Conference is to facilitate an exchange of experience and knowledge in the fields of prevention, preparedness for and response to marine oil pollution incidents among the participants from the Adriatic coastal States - Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia, as well as with their counterparts from other parts of Europe and the Mediterranean. More info at: <http://www.adriaspillcon.com/index.html>

FRENCH POLYNESIA: TANKER CARRYING XYLENE AGROUND AND LEAKING

Reports from Clipperton Island, the French-owned territory about 800 miles southwest of Mexico, indicate a tanker is leaking toxic xylene and is placing the area's 115 species of fish in danger.

Tahiti Press reports a chemical tanker carrying xylene - a flammable solvent which is refined from crude oil - ran aground on Clipperton Island. The ship, according to the report, contains 10,000 tons of xylene. At first it appeared the tanker was in tact, but the High Commissioner of French Polynesia has cancelled a project to collect fish because xylene and other toxic substances are leaking out of the ship.

The report indicates the French island territory is being cordoned off and all ships are banned from approaching. Clipperton Island is home to many fish species, including the famous Clipperton Island angel, and has been the destination of many long-range boats out of San Diego. [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group for forwarding this report] Read more at: <http://www.signonsandiego.com:80/weblogs/san-diego-outdoors-blog/2010/mar/03/clipperton-danger/>

Update: Efforts are underway to remove 10,000 tonnes of toxic Xylene from a ship that ran aground on the uninhabited atoll of Clipperton Island earlier this month. The Maltese chemical tanker 'Sichem Osprey' was also carrying crates of soy sauce and animal oil from Panama to South Korea when it hit the French-owned territory, one-thousand kilometres south-west of Mexico. The French High Commission in French Polynesia is co-ordinating the salvage operation but several attempts to tow the vessel have failed. <http://www.radioaustralia.net.au/pacbeat/stories/201003/s2837155.htm>

NIGERIA: COMMUNITIES GIVE 14-DAY ULTIMATUM TO NOSDRA

Oil communities in Warri, Delta State, have issued a 14-day ultimatum to the headquarters of the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) to expedite action on the process leading to the payment of compensation for last June's oil spill from a sunken oil vessel, J.S. Amazing, or face the wrath of the people.

In a letter addressed to the Director-General of NOSDRA by Meyiwa Erewa & Co, a consulting firm on behalf of the affected communities, they said having complied with NOSDRA rules and regulations and a Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) conducted and concluded, they were at a loss as to why NOSDRA has suddenly developed cold feet over issues of compensation. Read more at: <http://www.vanguardngr.com/2010/03/06/communities-give-14-day-ultimatum-to-nosdra/>

USA: WITH CLEAN WATER IN JEOPARDY, TIME FOR CONGRESS TO TAKE A STAND

More than 200 oil spill cases were delayed as of 2008, according to a memorandum written by an E.P.A. official and collected by Congressional investigators. And even as the number of facilities violating the Clean Water Act has steadily increased each year, **E.P.A. judicial actions against major polluters have fallen by almost half** since the Supreme Court rulings, according to an analysis of E.P.A. data by The New York Times. [emphasis added] Read the complete article at: <http://www.ombwatch.org/node/10801>

USA, ALASKA: PANEL CALLS FOR BETTER ARCTIC SPILL RESEARCH

The U.S. Arctic Research Commission says the federal government is not meeting its obligation to pay for enough oil spill research in the Arctic. A new draft report from the commission contrasts the lack of research dollars with the billions spent by the oil industry in recent years to purchase oil and gas exploration leases in U.S. waters in the Arctic. Read more at: <http://www.adn.com/2010/03/06/1170536/panel-calls-for-better-in-arctic.html>

USA: POLLUTION LEGACY OF LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

"The boom in automobile sales following World War II was closely followed by the construction of thousands of gasoline stations across the country. At these new stations, bare steel tanks were installed underground to store gasoline. The average life expectancy of a steel tank was 30 to 50 years depending on the rate of corrosion of the steel. Since the early 1980s, corrosion of steel tanks, along with faulty installation and operation, have resulted in nearly ubiquitous groundwater contamination by gasoline. Because nearly half of all Americans depend on groundwater for their drinking water ([map](#)), leaking gasoline tanks represent a significant public health hazard. Leaking gasoline tanks can also present the risk of fire and explosion because vapors from leaking tanks can travel through sewer lines into buildings. The majority of underground storage tanks (USTs) contain petroleum products (gasoline, diesel, heating oil, kerosene, jet fuel), but many other substances classified as hazardous by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act ("Superfund") are stored in USTs. Leaking USTs are called LUSTs."

The above is an extract from the introduction to a University of Colorado report on the problem of leaking underground storage tanks. This is not only a USA problem and response organisations everywhere that may become involved in the remediation of these problems will find useful background information in a number of articles and reports identified by Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group. The University of Colorado report is at <http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-tanks-link-4,0,2655974.hyperlink> and other links given below -

How USTs affect groundwater: http://www.gwpc.org/CallToAction/finalpdfs/GWR_7.pdf Other useful links are : <http://www.epa.gov/OUST/> and <http://www.mcall.com/news/local/all-tanks-link-3,0,2590437.hyperlink> and <http://www.chicagotribune.com/topic/environmental-issues/water/06010000.topic> and <http://www.mcall.com/topic/environmental-issues/environmental-pollution/06005000.topic>

USA: COAST GUARD TO HOLD HEARING ON COLLISION, OIL SPILL

The Coast Guard will hold a formal hearing to receive testimony concerning the collision between the Eagle Otome and the Dixie Vengeance in Port Arthur, Texas. The hearing will be open to the public but seating is limited.

The Coast Guard is investigating the incident to develop conclusions and recommendations that improve vessel and waterway safety. The facts collected at this hearing along with the lead investigator's conclusions and recommendations will be forwarded to Coast Guard Eighth District in New Orleans and Coast Guard Headquarters for approval. Once approved the final investigative report will be made available to the public. No analysis or conclusions will be presented during the hearing. The National Transportation and Safety Board will generate an independent report on this incident. Read more at: <http://www.kfdm.com/news/coast-36864-guard-hearing.html> [See ISCO Newsletter of Jan 25, 2010]

UK SPILL ASSOCIATION ANNOUNCE NEW BOARD APPOINTMENTS

Glyn Humphries of Briggs Environmental has taken over as Chairman of the UK Spill Association. Simon Valentine of Braemar Howells and Mark Orr of LCM have been elected to the Board.

UPDATED INFORMATION LINKS

TechDirect: From US EPA, TechDirect's purpose is to identify new technical, policy and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments and ground water. Latest edition at: <http://www.clu-in.org:80/techdirect/td032010.htm>

Soil and Groundwater Newsletter: From *Environmental Expert* http://www.environmental-expert.com/newsletter/News_Soil_Groundwater_04032010.htm

UK: INLAND SPILL 10 WORKSHOP

A UKSpill Workshop on EDR, product accreditation, the role of emergency planners and formation of a new UKSpill Technical initiative that will benefit spill contractors - At the Fire Service College, Moreton in Marsh on Tuesday 30 March 2010 More info: <http://www.ukspill.org/>

UK SPILL 10 MARINE OIL SPILL SEMINAR UPDATE

The UKSPILL10 Marine Oil Spill Seminar will now be held in London on 14-15 June at IMO Headquarters. The theme of the event will be to review 20 years of OPRC, and how this has affected Responders and Manufacturers. Speakers are confirmed from IMO, EMSA, MCA and ITOPI. To view the programme go to: <http://www.ukspill.org/>

DUBAI, UAE: OFFSHORE ARABIA 2010 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

March 29-31, 2010 – The conference programme and exhibition have a strong focus on oil & HNS spill preparedness and response, plus other topics related to the protection of the environment. More info at: <http://www.offshorearabia.ae/index.php>

IRAQ: BASRA OIL & GAS CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

November 25-28, 2010 - Iraq is opening its doors. International Basra Oil and Gas Conference & Exhibition will take its place as the first and foremost gas and oil exhibition of the region. Events will have support from Iraq Government. More at: <http://www.basraoilgas.com/>

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.