



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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North America's Largest
Oil Spill Training Event & Exhibition
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Register
Today

CLEAN GULF
ANNIVERSARY

EUROPE: BONN AGREEMENT DUBLIN DECLARATION EXPECTED IN NOVEMBER

The meeting of the Bonn Agreement working group [OTSOPA](#) for the protection of the North Sea was held in Antwerp from 25 to 28 May 2010, hosted by the Belgian authorities. The 25 representatives of the member States along with guest speakers discussed technical and strategic aspects of pollution response in the North Sea.

To reinforce its action, the Bonn Agreement, which recently celebrated its 40th anniversary and has lately added Ireland to its list of members, is organising a ministerial meeting to be held in Dublin in late November 2010. The highlight of this meeting will be the final adoption of the 2010-2013 Bonn Agreement Action Plan, BAAP, which provides a strategic approach in terms of pollution prevention, preparedness and response in the North Sea.

The adoption of this action plan will be accompanied by the signing of a ministerial declaration (the Dublin Declaration). In the action plan, priority is given to response to hazardous and noxious substances. http://www.cedre.fr/en/publication/newsletter/2010/180_E.pdf

USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON UPDATE



By June 9 oil recovery being achieved with the containment cap had increased to 15,800 bbl/day and was approaching the 18,000 bbl/day handling capacity of the *Discovery Enterprise*. Production capacity is being increased with the addition of the processing vessel Q4000 and the combined capability will be 28,000 bbl/day. BP has been required to produce a plan that will not only increase production capacity but also provide redundancy cover in case of equipment failure. Adverse sea conditions during

the hurricane season are also a major concern. Larger vessels will have better sea-keeping characteristics and to meet this need the *Toisa Pisces* and *Loch Rannoch* are en route. Admiral Allen commented “the tankers that have the dynamic positioning system they can use with this floating production platform that we talked about are actually being brought from the North Sea, but because the way they produce oil in the gulf—and that a lot of it is piped in—we don’t use the same type of shuttle tankers that they do in the North Sea and they’re going to be required to kind of handle this production”. It is also planned to replace the existing riser with a floating riser which will be attached to a surface buoy and fitted with a flexible hose for product transfer to the tanker. Once these changes are made, production capacity will be around 40,000 to 50,000 bbl/day.

On June 9 it was advised that the estimate of the rate of oil leakage from the well had been further revised to 25,000 to 30,000 bbl/day (possibly as much as 40,000 bbl/day). Replacement of the existing containment cap by a more effective version is being planned and this should increase the amount of oil and gas recovery.

NOAA survey vessels are continuing to investigate, map and quantify underwater "plumes" or "clouds" of emulsified oil. Results of sampling at three sites have indicated a very low oil concentration of 0.5 ppm.

All of the activities described in last week's Newsletter are continuing and BP has announced that all of the proceeds from the recovered oil (skimmed and from production) will be donated to a new wildlife fund.

SPAIN: PRESTIGE OIL DISASTER TRIAL CAN START AT LAST



The Prestige oil tanker sank off the Galician coast carrying 77,000 tonnes of fuel oil in 2002. Photograph: AP

Nearly eight years after an [oil](#) tanker broke up off the coast of Galicia with 77,000 tonnes of fuel oil on board, the investigation into [Spain's](#) worst environmental disaster has finally been completed, lawyers said today.

Organisations representing 14,000 fishermen and others affected by the spill are demanding a nine-year jail sentence for the ship's captain,

Apostolos Mangouras, and two other crew members, who are accused of committing "crimes against natural resources" and "disregard for the [law](#)".

The ship's owner and insurer are being charged with "civil responsibility", though they face fines rather than prison. The state counsel is also claiming €1.2bn (£1bn) in damages to the environment and the local economy.

The prosecutor in the case, Álvaro García Ortiz, said today the investigation, summarised in 266,650 pages, had been formally completed on Monday. The "mega-trial", as it has been called, is expected to take place later this year in La Coruña. Under Spanish law, only individuals working for companies, not the companies themselves, may be put on trial.

García Ortiz said the case of the Prestige was complicated by the fact that it sailed under the Bahamian flag, was insured in Britain, and was registered in the US as part of a Swiss fleet that has its headquarters in London, while the registered owner and the 73-year-old captain were Greek. Read more: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/world/2010/jun/08/prestige-oil-disaster-investigation-spain>

MOZAMBIQUE: WORLD BANK TO CONTRIBUTE TO MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION PROGRAMME

Maputo, Mozambique, 8 Jun – The World Bank will contribute US\$11 million to Mozambique's National Contingency Plan for Fighting Marine Hydrocarbon Pollution, to be drawn up by the National Marine Institute (Inamar) and budgeted at US\$26 million.

At the end of a Maputo seminar, Inamar's director of maritime pollution prevention services, Mario Guilherme, said the plan was an instrument that would allow the country to react faster in marine hydrocarbon pollution incidents. The Inamar plan should be ready this coming November, he added.

"The most difficult pollution case, and which can affect Mozambique, is identified as level one, similar to the 1992 Katina P incident. Although not frequent, we have to be prepared," Guilherme explained.

In April 1992, the Katina P, a Maltese-flagged tanker run by a Greek company, spilled 3,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil in Maputo Bay and adjacent areas. The ship was on its last trip to India where it would be broken up when the crew received orders to load 66,000 tonnes of heavy fuel oil in Venezuela for transport to the United Arab Emirates.

Read more at: <http://www.macauhub.com.mo/en/news.php?ID=9567>

INDIA: BHOPAL: 25 YEARS FOR JUSTICE, EVEN MORE FOR CLEAN-UP

India's justice system took 25 years to deliver a verdict on the company executives blamed for the 1984 Bhopal gas disaster, but the pollution clean-up operation is taking even longer.

On Monday, seven managers from the local subsidiary of US chemical group Union Carbide were sentenced to two years in prison for criminal negligence in the first convictions in the case. They will appeal and were released on bail.

The sentences, perceived as too lenient by rights groups and survivors, have shone a spotlight on simmering grievances at the way the disaster was handled by the company and authorities.

Union Carbide settled all liabilities related to the accident, including the clean-up costs, with a 470-million-dollar out-of-court deal with India's government in 1989, after years of wrangling about the amount.

Ever since, campaign groups, environmental groups and scientists have warned that local authorities have never adequately sanitised the site, meaning toxins continue to cause illnesses and birth defects among residents.

"Nobody wants to clear the poison that is lying in the yard and all our protests demanding safe disposal have failed," said Satinath Sarangi, a member of a voluntary medical organisation, Sambhavna, in Bhopal. Read more: <http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5h-asKjnBMEve1NeK9-B3kwyrlx2g>

TECHNOLOGY: PREDICTING AMOUNT OF OIL IN CONTAMINATED SOILS

Scientists are reporting a new technique for mapping and testing oil-contaminated soils. Traditionally, samples need to be collected from the field and returned to a lab for extensive chemical analysis, costing time and money when neither is readily available during a clean-up operation. The new method can take measurements in the field and accurately predict the total amount of petroleum contaminants in moist, unprepared soil samples.

The research team led was by soil scientists David Weindorf from Louisiana State University, Cristine Morgan of Texas Agrilife Research, and John Galbraith from Virginia Tech. The method they investigated used visible near infrared light with diffuse reflectance spectroscopy, shining a light on a sample and reading the reflecting wavelengths. This allowed the researchers to rapidly evaluate soils for the presence and amount of oil contamination quickly while in the field, without sending a sample to a laboratory and waiting for test results. The technique was used to predict total petroleum hydrocarbons in a variety of soils in southern Louisiana.

Read more at: <http://www.environmental-expert.com/resultEachPressRelease.aspx?cid=4301&codi=174239>

TECHNOLOGY: PITT RESEARCHER SAYS SIMPLE POLYMER-BASED FILTER SUCCESSFULLY CLEANS WATER, RECOVERS OIL IN GULF OF MEXICO TESTS

In response to the massive oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico, a University of Pittsburgh engineering professor has developed a technique for separating oil from water via a cotton filter coated in a chemical polymer that blocks oil while allowing water to pass through. The researcher reports that the filter was successfully tested off the coast of Louisiana and shown to simultaneously clean water and preserve the oil.

Di Gao, an assistant professor and William Kepler Whiteford Faculty Fellow in the Department of Chemical and Petroleum Engineering in Pitt's Swanson School of Engineering, created his filter as a possible method to help manage the spreading oil slick that resulted from the April 20 explosion of BP's "Deepwater Horizon" drilling platform. Gao has submitted his idea through the Deepwater Horizon Response Web site managed by the consortium of companies and government agencies overseeing the disaster response. A video of Gao testing his filter with oil and water samples from the Gulf of Mexico spill is available on YouTube at www.youtube.com/watch?v=kfRKjiOXVWE

Gao's filter hinges on a polymer that is both hydrophilic-it bonds with the hydrogen molecules in water-and oleophobic, meaning that it repels oil. When the polymer is applied to an ordinary cotton filter, it allows water to pass through but not oil. The filter is produced by submerging the cotton in a liquid solution containing the polymer then drying it in an oven or in open air, Gao explained.

For the massive slick off the U.S. Gulf Coast, Gao envisions large, trough-shaped filters that could be dragged through the water to capture surface oil. The oil could be recovered and stored and the filter reused. Read more: <http://www.pollutiononline.com/article.mvc/Researcher-Says-Simple-Polymer-Based-Filter-0001?user=2116810&source=nl:27806>

USA, ALASKA: NAVY PROJECT PRODUCES SHIP WITH OIL-RESPONSE APPLICATION

The Alaska owners of a brand-new ship with oil spill response capabilities are offering the vessel to assist with Gulf coast operations as the Deepwater Horizon spill edges closer to Florida beaches.

To be formally christened Friday at Alaska Ship & Drydock in Ketchikan, Ak., the M/V Susitna is a twin-hull vessel 195 feet long that can function at high speeds offshore in deep water, but then lower its center cargo section and navigate shallow inland coastal areas.



Doug Ward, director of shipyard development, said the vessel could give response teams access to coastal areas that larger boats are unable to reach.

The Susitna is to be used in ferry operations in Anchorage, but not until next year. In the meantime, it's available for operations in the Gulf. "It would bring some unique possibilities there and we'd like to help out," Ward said.

Read more: <http://www.tallahassee.com/article/20100607/BUSINESS02/100607013/Navy-project-produces-ship-with-oil-response-application>

PUBLICATIONS: MARITIME INDUSTRY EXPLOSIVES SAFETY GUIDE

The incidental discovery of munitions at sea during fishing, scuba diving and other evolutions has been an occasional problem for decades. Any such discoveries, handling of and or landing of any unknown weaponry or components onboard vessels can have catastrophic results. To additionally complicate the situation, these items can be well encrusted with marine growth and barely recognizable. Thus, the discovery of any unknown / unidentifiable objects must be treated with extreme care and caution.

The U.S. Army Technical Center for Explosive Safety provides a Maritime Industry 3Rs Explosives Safety Guide at the following URL. <http://aec.army.mil/usaec/cleanup/images/mmrp-maritime.pdf> It emphasizes Recognizing, Retreating and Reporting when munitions (unexploded ordnance) are found and provides useful imagery to assist in identifying these objects. Read more at: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/uscg-explosives-safety-guide/>

LATVIA: INTERNATIONAL OIL AND CHEMICAL SPILL RESPONSE CONFERENCE

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. More info: <http://www.blogcatalog.com/search/frame?term=chemical+spill&id=a6a47af5b44c3f132a9df233440f1bc6>

TURNER DESIGNS PROVIDE CRUDE OIL TRACKING EQUIPMENT FOR GULF SPILL

RS Aqua Ltd, UK distributors for California based fluorometer specialists Turner Designs Inc, report that many Turner in-situ and laboratory fluorometers are being used by government agencies and commercial organisations to monitor crude oil movements resulting from the BP Gulf of Mexico spillage. Equipment being used includes the C3 Submersible Crude Oil sensor (as specified in the US Coast Guard SMART protocol) coupled to the Databank handheld logger, the Cyclops -7 Submersible Crude Oil sensor and the Trilogy laboratory fluorometer. Further information on all items, including videos links from US television programmes, can be viewed via the Turner Designs website at www.turnerdesigns.com. [With acknowledgement to Oceanbuzz Newsletter]

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.