



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

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CLEAN GULF ANNIVERSARY

## USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL UPDATES

June 14: More than 400 skimmers are currently deployed to remove an oil-water mix from the Gulf—a more than 300 percent increase over recent days. New skimming equipment, including “Current Buster” skimming systems and a “Big Gulp” weir skimmer, is being deployed offshore. Current Busters can be towed at higher speeds than conventional boom and are ideally suited to high seas and ocean currents. The Big Gulp is a barge that has been converted into a large-capacity skimmer. Another technique in use employs a shrimp boat with outriggers on each side drags mesh oil-collection bags made of perforated webbing near the ocean surface. As the boat trawls to collect oil patches, the bags, attached to an aluminum frame, collect oil. When filled, the bags are disconnected from the frame by crew on support vessels, and then towed to a lift barge for hoisting into a collection barge.

June 14: Federal On-Scene Coordinator Rear Admiral James Watson today issued the following statement regarding BP’s latest containment strategies: “After being directed to move more quickly, BP is now stepping up its efforts to contain the leaking oil. They have now outlined a path to contain more than 50,000 barrels of oil per day by the end of June, two weeks earlier than they originally suggested. Their revised plan also includes methods to achieve even greater redundancy beyond the month of June, to better allow for bad weather or unforeseen circumstances.

June 14: A new federal website is live providing real time information about the Deepwater Horizon BP Oil spill into one customizable, interactive map. The site integrates the latest data on the oil spill’s trajectory, fishery closed areas, wildlife data and place-based Gulf Coast resources, such as pinpointed locations of oiled shoreline and daily position of research ships. The interactive map also includes data from Homeland Security, the Coast Guard, the Fish and Wildlife Service, EPA, NASA, U.S. Geological Survey and the Gulf states. <http://www.geoplatform.gov/gulfresponse/>



June 15: At the authorization of the President and Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano, National Incident Commander Admiral Thad Allen has directed the establishment of three Deputy Incident Commanders to lead oil impact mitigation and cleanup efforts in Alabama, Mississippi and Florida.

June 15: Working together, U.S. government and independent scientists estimate that the most likely flow rate of oil today is between 35,000 and 60,000 barrels per day. The improved estimate is based on more and better data that is now available and that helps increase the scientific confidence in the accuracy of the estimate.

June 15: At the direction of the federal government, BP is deploying today a second containment option, called the Q4000, which could expand total leak containment capacity to 20,000-28,000 barrels per day. Overall, the leak containment strategy that BP was required to develop projects containment capacity expanding to 40,000-53,000 barrels per day by the end of June and 60,000-80,000 barrels per day by mid-July.

June 15: A fire believed to be caused by a lightning bolt forced the shutdown Tuesday of an oil-capturing system near the gushing Gulf oil well, BP said. The fire aboard the drill ship Discoverer Enterprise was spotted around 9:30 a.m. Although it was quickly extinguished without injuries, the capture operation was halted as a precaution. Operations are expected to recommence this afternoon.

June 16: BP has agreed to set up a \$20 billion fund in an escrow account to help expedite payment of claims for economic damage.

June 17: Approximately 52.6 miles of Gulf Coast shoreline is currently experiencing impacts from BP's leaking oil—34.8 miles in Louisiana, 0.9 miles in Mississippi, 9.9 miles in Alabama, and 7 miles in Florida.

June 17: As of yesterday we have the added capacity now what we call the Q4000 mobile drilling units on scene. It is actually drawing oil up through the choke line. In the first 12 hours of production yesterday, they got about 1,200 barrels. So we're looking at probably around between 2,000 and 3,000 barrels a day added on to the about 14,000 barrels we got out of the other production from the Discoverer Enterprise. [From Admiral Allen's press briefing]

June 17: Development Driller III is at a depth of 9,967 feet. Development Driller II, the second driller on scene, is now at a depth of 4,560 feet below the sub surface. They're going to be very close to the well in the next couple of weeks. The last thousand feet and then drilling through the casing are is very, very tricky and has to be done very, very carefully and precisely. Interception is still forecast for August but may be sooner as progress is ahead of schedule.

[Note from editor – Publication of this Newsletter has been brought forward because your editor will be on holiday from close of business on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. Updates from 18<sup>th</sup> June onwards will be in the next issue]

## **NIGERIA: LEAD CLEAN-UP IN NIGERIAN VILLAGE IS LIFE-OR-DEATH RACE AGAINST TIME**

In remote northern Nigeria, it is now a race against time to prevent a catastrophe in the world's worst-ever recorded outbreak of lead poisoning. Officially 163 people have already died in Zamfara state -- 111 of them children. But no one knows the true figures.

"You read about it in the literature but several hundred children have died here as a result of what happened here," says Ian von Lindern from the environmental engineering organization the Blacksmith Institute, which is heading the clean-up operation in the region.

Children began to die in January, but only now in June has the clean-up operation begun in the mud-hut village of Daret. Using the only tools available -- crude metal hoes normally used for farming -- local villagers are trying to clear the contaminated topsoil from the worst-affected housing compounds. Dug up, the soil is put into plastic bags and buried far from the village. Read more at: <http://edition.cnn.com/2010/WORLD/africa/06/13/nigeria.lead.clean.up/>

## **USA/CANADA: ST. LAWRENCE SEAWAY TESTS ABILITY TO RESPOND TO HAZARDOUS SPILL**

As the Gulf region deals with the aftermath of the BP oil spill, officials here are working to ensure they are equipped to manage an oil or hazardous material spill on the St. Lawrence Seaway.

"The Seaway has had an emergency response plan and worked very closely with the Coast Guard for a number of years," Seaway Deputy Associate Administrator Carol A. Fenton said. "We exercise our plan at least once a year, and this year we decided to do something locally."

Federal, state, St. Lawrence County, Jefferson County and local agencies ran through two disaster scenarios — a hazardous cargo spill at the Eisenhower Locks and an oil spill near the Massena Intake, which feeds drinking water to the Massena community.

Seaway and Coast Guard officials explained the strategies they would take in dealing with the scenarios and the resources they could deploy to address the spills. Read more: <http://www.watertowndailytimes.com/article/20100610/NEWS05/100619996>

## USA: LAKEVIEW GUSHER – THE LARGEST EVER US OIL SPILL



On 14th March, 1910 an oil well blew out in Kern County, California, and caused the flow of millions of barrels of oil. Unlike today's modern blowout prevention equipment and strategies, in the twentieth century there were no apparent procedures for handling a situation like this. The gushing oil flowed through a path downhill and oil crews rushed to stop the flow and contain the oil.

The drilling was originally done by the Lakeview oil company on 1st January, 1909. At first only natural gas was found, but after further drilling was done in collaboration with Union Oil Company, the sudden incident happened a year later. It is in history that the oil spouted out when the drill bit hit the 2440 foot level. A part of the well casing was blown out due to the tremendous pressure of the oil. It is estimated that 9 million barrels of oil flowed out of the gusher in the 18 months that it was out of control. After 18 months it was brought in control in September 1911. The gusher gave out 18,800 oil barrels per day in the beginning and in the peak days the flow went to as much as 90,000 barrels per day.

The oil company workers tried to contain the flow of oil throughout its gushing time period with sandbags. One can imagine how difficult it would've been at that time to try and stop a whole river of oil with just sandbags. The most remarkable thing about the oil gusher is that of all the oil that it gave out there was never a single incident when the oil caught fire. <http://news.puggal.com:80/lakeview-gusher-41021/> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member DG & Hazmat Group for passing on this story]

## BP TO TEST OUT ACTOR KEVIN COSTNER'S OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP MACHINE FOR POSSIBLE USE IN GULF COAST SPILL

[Kevin Costner](#) hopes his invention can make the oil spill saga have a Hollywood ending. The "Field of Dreams" actor called his oil separator a "life preserver," saying that his device can help clean up the Gulf and that it's not too late to put it into action.

[Costner told ABC's Sam Champion on "Good Morning America"](#) that [BP](#) has already purchased 32 of the machines. The device, which is designed to be brought to the spill site on barges, can separate 99% of oil from water and recycle up to 2,000 barrels per day. Costner spent 15 years and \$20 million of his own money to develop the machine. Read more: [http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2010/06/14/2010-06-14\\_bp\\_to\\_test\\_out\\_actor\\_kevin\\_costners\\_oil\\_spill\\_cleanup\\_machine\\_for\\_possible\\_use\\_i.html#ixzz0r238zQET](http://www.nydailynews.com/news/national/2010/06/14/2010-06-14_bp_to_test_out_actor_kevin_costners_oil_spill_cleanup_machine_for_possible_use_i.html#ixzz0r238zQET)



## NIGERIA: SHELL TO CLEAN UP 268 OIL SPILL SITES

Minister of Environment John Odey has asked Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) to ensure that its plan to carry out the clean-up of some 268 sites in the Niger Delta conforms with the Federal Government's guidelines on environmental standards.

The minister advised the company to conduct the clean-up exercise in collaboration with the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), the regulatory agency that ensures oil companies maintain environmental standards.

He made these comments while receiving the Managing Director of Shell Mutiu Sumonu over the weekend. "We acknowledge your recent reaction to government's quest for remediation plan for all oil impacted sites; we are aware of your plan to remediate 268 sites and particularly the earmark for clean-up of 185 sites for next year 2011. I will charge NOSDRA to do this in collaboration with you and urge that we build capacities by involving rural communities so that we can transfer skills," he stated. Read more: <http://www.thisdayonline.com/nview.php?id=175749>

## **IRELAND: INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL RESPONSE CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION TO BE HELD IN CORK**

The first International Oil Spill Conference and Exhibition to be held in Ireland will take place in the beautiful city of Cork in early April, 2011. The three day event is being organised by the International Spill Accreditation Association at the National Maritime College of Ireland (NMCI), a 14,000m<sup>2</sup> facility built on a 10 acre waterside campus. It was purpose built to serve the training requirements of the School of Nautical Studies, Cork Institute of Technology and the Irish Naval Service. At the ISAA meeting held earlier this month John Dawes, Chairman of the event organising committee, said "the college has one of the best conference facilities I have seen in the UK and Ireland".

The main auditorium has seating for 130 and is fitted out with the very latest audio-visual and other facilities. There are several adjacent meeting rooms that will allow for side meetings. The very large and brightly lit glass-fronted foyer will be used as the exhibition area. The core facility has easy access to the harbour and inland waterway, both providing ideal facilities for live demonstrations of oil spill equipment.

More information about this forthcoming event will be released in later editions of the ISCO Newsletter.

## **SEAFOOD SAFETY AFTER AN OIL SPILL**

The following publications provide information about monitoring seafood for contamination after an oil spill.

[Managing Seafood Safety after an Oil Spill Guide](#) - A 2002 guide to help seafood managers and other spill responders determine appropriate seafood management actions in response to a spill. (Document format: PDF, size: 1.1 M)

[Guidance on Sensory Testing and Monitoring of Seafood for Presence of Petroleum Taint Following an Oil Spill](#) A 2001 guidance document describing how to conduct sensory testing on seafood suspected of petroleum taint. (Document format: PDF, size: 1.8 M)

[http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/type\\_topic\\_entry.php?RECORD\\_KEY%28entry\\_topic\\_type%29=entry\\_id,subtopic\\_id,topic\\_id,type\\_id&entry\\_id\(entry\\_topic\\_type\)=455&subtopic\\_id\(entry\\_topic\\_type\)=13&topic\\_id\(entry\\_topic\\_type\)=1&type\\_id\(entry\\_topic\\_type\)=2](http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/type_topic_entry.php?RECORD_KEY%28entry_topic_type%29=entry_id,subtopic_id,topic_id,type_id&entry_id(entry_topic_type)=455&subtopic_id(entry_topic_type)=13&topic_id(entry_topic_type)=1&type_id(entry_topic_type)=2)

## **INLAND OIL SPILLS : OPTIONS FOR MINIMISING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF FRESHWATER SPILL RESPONSE**

A useful guide for inland spill responders dealing with oil spills in lakes, rivers and streams.

Selecting appropriate protection, response, and cleanup techniques, both before and following an oil spill, affects the ultimate environmental impact and cost resulting from a spill. The American Petroleum Institute (API) and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) jointly developed this guide as a tool for contingency planners and field responders to identify response techniques that have minimal ecological impacts and also minimize the impact of the oil. The guide provides information on 29 response methods and classifies their relative environmental impact for combinations of four oil types and twelve freshwater environments and habitats. Spill topics of special concern in freshwater settings are also discussed, including public health, conditions under which oil might sink in freshwater, oil behavior in ice conditions, permafrost, and use of firefighting foams. You can download this guide at [http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/PDFs/freshwater\\_countermeasures.pdf](http://www.dfg.ca.gov/ospr/PDFs/freshwater_countermeasures.pdf)

## **ISCO RECEIVES MESSAGE OF THANKS FROM US NATIONAL INCIDENT COMMANDER, ADMIRAL THAD ALLEN**

Earlier this week ISCO received an email message of thanks from Admiral Allen. There has been an excellent response to the appeals for support for the ongoing response efforts in the Gulf of Mexico. The ISCO Committee thanks all the companies and professionals in a great many countries who have responded to appeals for ideas and information.

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.