



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community
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WOW II WRECKS OF THE WORLD II

*Evaluating & Addressing Potential Underwater Threats
Washington DC – June 6-7, 2011*

News

DENMARK IS FIRST TO SIGN 2010 HNS PROTOCOL



IMO Secretary-General Efthymios E. Mitropoulos looks on as Mr. Kasper Høeg-Jensen, Minister Counsellor, Royal Danish Embassy, London, signs the HNS Protocol 2010 on behalf of Denmark

Denmark has become the first country to sign, subject to ratification, the Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and

Noxious Substances by Sea, 1996. [Read more](#)

JAPAN: NUCLEAR CRISIS RAISED TO LEVEL 7

Japanese authorities have raised the severity rating of their nuclear crisis to the highest level, seven.

The decision reflects the total release of radiation at the damaged Fukushima Daiichi power plant, which is ongoing, rather than a sudden deterioration.

Level seven previously only applied to the 1986 Chernobyl disaster, where 10 times as much radiation was emitted.

Japanese Prime Minister Naoto Kan said radiation leaks at the plant were declining. [Read more](#)

SINGAPORE CONDUCTS MULTI-AGENCY CHEMICAL SPILL EXERCISE



A multi-agency exercise, showing Singapore's readiness to respond to major chemical spills, was carried out Wednesday, observed by over 60 delegates at the International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition.

Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) Group Director (Hub Port), Captain M Segar, said with the Straits of Malacca and Singapore being heavily used by vessels, it is essential to be operationally-ready in case of any major spills.

Code-named CHEMSPILL 2011, the scenario involved a chemical tanker, MT Chemical Carrier, suffering a steering failure and being hit by another tanker in the Sinki Fairway off Jurong Island (in the picture).

More than 10 vessels and 120 personnel from 13 agencies were involved in the exercise. [Read more](#) [Another report](#)

USA: BOEMRE ANNOUNCES NEW KEY POSITIONS TO FURTHER REGULATORY REFORM

April 11 - The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE) today formally announced its search for qualified leaders to fill two senior positions to further offshore oil and gas regulatory reform efforts.

The first position is the Director of the Offshore Training Center, and the second is the Division Chief for the Oil Spill Response Division. Both positions are being advertised nationally to recruit the most qualified professionals to establish new organizations in the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), one of two new bureaus being created as part of the reorganization of the former Minerals Management Service. BSEE is the new bureau responsible for regulation and enforcement of offshore activities. For more information, go to: <http://www.doi.gov/news/pressreleases/loader.cfm?csModule=security/getfile&PageID=119590>

"The Offshore Training Center and the Oil Spill Response Division will address a number of the regulatory weaknesses that have been identified and highlighted following the Deepwater Horizon explosion and resulting oil spill," said BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich. "We are looking for leaders who are technically skilled and experienced, and who have a strong commitment to public service, who can lead our ongoing efforts to enhance the safety of offshore exploration and production." [Read more](#)

USA: BOEMRE CONSIDERS WIDENING REGULATION BEYOND PRODUCERS

April 13 - The US Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation, and Enforcement is considering an expansion of its regulatory reach beyond offshore oil and gas well operators to drilling contractors and service and supply companies, BOEMRE Director Michael R. Bromwich said on Apr. 12. The idea stems from lessons learned after the Macondo well accident and oil spill nearly a year ago, he and US Interior Sec. Ken Salazar told reporters.

Bromwich said the idea grew from resistance BOEMRE investigators encountered following the accident from companies working for BP PLC, Macondo's operator. He said US Department of Interior lawyers subsequently told him that the agency's reach applies only to operators, and that it could not compel drilling contractors and service and supply companies to cooperate.

"We're very interested in moving aggressively and responsibly," Bromwich said during a briefing at DOI headquarters, adding that legislative authorization may be needed. Salazar said BOEMRE also needs congressional approval to increase the 30-day offshore drilling permit approval time limit, which the 2005 Energy Policy Act established to 90 days.

"We have moved forward with what has been a sprint of reforms," the secretary said. "Can we do more? Absolutely, but we need legislation authorizing it." He said the continuing resolution that Congress was expected to approve increases BOEMRE's budget through Sept. 30, but added that DOI and the agency expect a fight as Congress starts working on their requests for fiscal 2012. [Read more](#)

UK: DEEPWATER HORIZON-STYLE OIL SPILL EXERCISE NEXT MONTH

More than 100 people are expected to take part in one of the biggest oil spill exercises ever carried out in Britain, when a simulated deep water oil spill off Shetland is enacted next month.

The two day exercise being planned by the Department for Energy and Climate Change (DECC) and the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) will take place on 18 and 19 May.

News (continued)

It was organised after Scottish first minister Alex Salmond wrote to prime minister David Cameron last May calling for an exercise in the wake of the Gulf of Mexico disaster one year ago, to make sure the UK had the capacity to cope with such a deep water incident.

More recently a House of Commons energy and climate change select committee inquiry into a Deepwater Horizon-style oil spill west of Shetland found it would be virtually impossible to clean up the resulting pollution in the rough seas in the area, suggesting the focus should be on prevention rather than cure. Last year the UK government set up a planning group for next month's exercise involving the emergency services, government agencies, the local authority and the oil industry.

US oil giant Chevron, who are exploring for oil in the deep water Lagavulin prospect 100 miles north of Shetland, signed up for it even before they were targeted by environmental campaigners Greenpeace in Lerwick harbour last September.

The exercise will involve representatives from both UK and Scottish governments, environmental protection agency SEPA, Shetland Islands Council, the police and the fishing industry, as well as trades body Oil & Gas UK.

Exercise director Murray Milligan, who is the MCA's regional resilience co-ordinator based in Dover, came to Shetland last month to discuss logistics with the council's emergency planning department. Mr Milligan said the first day would simulate "a deteriorating offshore drilling related scenario" that would involve a wide range of people having to respond to "real time" events.

A shoreline response centre (SRC) will be set up in Shetland, with an operational control unit (OCU) and marine response centre (MRC) based in Aberdeen. "The SRC is there to make sure that everything happens on the ground where oil is coming ashore, while the other centres are just there to tell other people to do things," he said. "In real life this would not last for just two days and it would be considered then to move the MRC to Shetland." The second day will be a "table top" exercise simulating events six days after the oil spill to plan for what should be done next.

There will also be a demonstration of all the counter pollution equipment stored at Sella Ness, where the council runs the Sullom Voe oil port. [Article in Shetland News](#)

POLLUTION CONCERNS OVER "FRACKING" CONTINUE

Background from a European perspective - Shale gas is an 'unconventional' fossil fuel that is found within natural fissures and fractures underground. Until recently, no method of safely transporting it to the surface existed. However, by pumping water, sand and chemicals into rock formations under high pressure via a technique known as hydraulic fracturing or 'fracking', energy companies believe they have found a part of the answer to Europe's energy security problems.

The method remains intensely controversial because of its possible environmental risks, including poisoning groundwater and higher greenhouse gas emissions than traditional gas.

To proponents, shale gas represents a hitherto untapped and welcome alternative energy source to traditional fossil fuels. At the moment the continent depends on gas imported from Russia, and disputes between that country and Ukraine have disrupted winter supplies in recent years.

In the US, shale gas already accounts for over 10% of US natural gas production and some analysts predict that could rise to 50% within 20 years. BP's former chief executive Tony Hayward has described shale gas as a "game changer".

Shale gas drilling likely to be banned in France - The French government has backed a draft bill that would ban shale gas drilling in the country, citing fears that the extraction method is a risk to water quality. However, for other countries like Poland, shale gas has become a national priority to win independence from Russian imports. EurActiv France reports. [Read more](#)

USA: Senate committee holds hearing on fracking – April 13: States have stepped up their oversight of hydraulic fracturing as the natural gas drilling boom in several regions of the United States has raised citizen concerns that drinking water may be endangered, officials told a Senate committee on Tuesday.

The most stringent restrictions are being put into place in states such as New York and Maryland, which have little experience with oil and gas drilling or the hydraulic fracturing process that the industry says has been used safely for 60 years. [Read more](#)

USA: New York Cautious in Embrace of Fracking – April 12: A Senate Committee is holding hearings Tuesday on the environmental and public health risks associated with natural gas drilling. Once an obscure issue, natural gas has recently become a major cause of concern. That's because of a procedure known as hydraulic fracturing, or "fracking." It has been linked with water contamination and a host of other problems. It's also a powerful tool for tapping America's gas reserves, and the gas industry says it can be done safely.

While other states like Pennsylvania and Texas have taken a 'drill now, investigate later' approach, Albany is doing the opposite: There's an extensive environmental review of fracking underway, and legislators have proposed a host of bills to limit the practice.



Machine used for hydrofracking [NYS Department of Environmental Conservation]

The Northeast's big natural gas reserve is the Marcellus Shale, which stretches from New York's Catskills, about 100 miles northeast of New York City, all the way to West Virginia. The shale is thought to contain up to 500 trillion cubic feet of natural gas, making it possibly the richest unconventional reserve in the United States. But geologists say only a small portion of the gas in the Marcellus will ever make it to the pipeline. By one estimate, 15 trillion cubic feet of Marcellus gas is "recoverable." The Pennsylvania Cooperative Extension estimates the Marcellus could meet America's total demand for natural gas for 15 years.

The boom in Marcellus drilling was set off in 2004, a Texas company, Range Resources, drilled a test well outside of Pittsburgh. Range demonstrated that the Marcellus could be tapped successfully. How? Fracking, in combination with horizontal, or directional drilling, in which the drill bit makes a turn to the side after first

achieving the desired depth. Since then, almost 3,000 Marcellus wells have been drilled in Pennsylvania, and nearly 7,000 permits have been issued. [Read more](#)

THE GULF OF MEXICO IS NOT AS CLEAN AS THEY SAY

So is it now safe to go back into the Gulf of Mexico? A year after the Deepwater Horizon blow-out – which killed 11 workers and spilled 4.9 million barrels of oil – it might seem so.

Beaches along the coast look like they're back to their breathtaking normal, the ecologically sensitive Louisiana wetlands seem full of life again, and resorts are hoping that tourists will start flocking back. Only 0.4 per cent of American waters there are still closed to fishing – down from more than a third last summer – and prawn catches were actually nearly 10 per cent higher in January and February than at the same time last year.

Two weeks ago, the Obama administration gave the first go-ahead for a new deep water well since the disaster (it had already issued permits for six previously approved ones). The clean-up force has been cut from 52,000 to 6,000, and, two months ago, the head of the government's special claims fund said research he had commissioned showed that the area would have almost fully recovered by next year.

And yet we are still only near the beginning of the story – for oil spills, like other environmental emergencies, have a short acute phase, followed by a long chronic one. As so far at Fukushima, the acute phase has gone better than once seemed possible – but the long-term consequences remain unknown.

Mercifully, even miraculously, the Gulf has been spared the devastation that looked all too probable in the early weeks of the crisis, when the gushing oil seemed unstoppable, and the winds were blowing an ever-growing slick straight towards the wildlife-rich marshes of the Mississippi Delta. The winds changed just in time and – together with favourable currents and the flow of the great river itself – held the oil offshore long enough for it to dissipate: BP's spraying of 1.84 million gallons of dispersants also helped.

But while catastrophe was averted, the task of assessing the true toll is only now starting. It is highly charged, both commercially – since the result may decide how much may have to be paid in compensation – and politically, since Barack Obama, damaged by his hesitant handling of the crisis, has been over-eager in declaring it over.

It is worth bearing in mind that the effects of the acute stage are more serious than they might appear. One hundred dead cetaceans, for example, washed ashore – but, as a rule of thumb, 50 times as many such whales and dolphins sink at sea, making the likely toll around 5,000. Similarly the 8,065 oiled birds recovered are bound to be only a small fraction of those affected; in a ghoulish exercise, researchers will dump avian carcasses overboard this summer to see what proportion make it to land through the shark-infested sea.

Nor are all the beaches as idyllic as they appear to be. Many have an oil layer beneath the sand, while others are strewn with tiny fragments of tar balls. Huge mats of weathered oil are plaguing surf zones where the waves crash in. Parts of the wetlands are seriously contaminated, too.

There may be other surprises in store. For several years after the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska's Prince William Sound, the herring population seemed to have survived – but then crashed, never to recover. Birds that fed on affected shellfish in the area have had trouble breeding. And follow-up studies after a 1969 spill off Massachusetts found crabs still badly affected four decades later.

News (continued)

The biggest – and most hotly contested – issue is particular to this accident, which uniquely took place nearly a mile beneath the sea. Scientists increasingly expect that the greatest effects will take place in the deep ocean, but determining them, in the words of one US government expert will be "probably one of the most challenging things ever".

The official American position is that "most of the oil is gone" and, indeed, Department of Energy research suggested that naturally-occurring microbes did a good job of gobbling it up. But Prof Samantha Joye, of the University of Georgia – who has actually been to the sea floor in a submarine many times before and after the accident – tells a different story after finding an enormous "graveyard" covered in a thick coat of pollution. She reckons that the microbes managed to munch up only a tenth of the oil.

Perhaps most ominously is anecdotal evidence of illnesses among clean-up workers and other Gulf Coast residents, with blood containing elevated levels of the chemicals found in oil. A \$19 million official study of 55,000 people has been launched to determine any health effects.

True, it could all have been so much worse. But, a year on, the story of Deepwater Horizon is still far from coming to a close. [Article in the Daily Telegraph](#)

COLLECTION OF ARTICLES ON ETHANOL

The amounts of Ethanol being produced for blending with gasoline has escalated very substantially in recent times. Spills of ethanol present new problems for the spill response community.

Green Environmental Engineering is addressing this and other problems – "We are a group of engineers and soil scientists dedicated to improving the environment that we live in by finding the causes of erosion, contamination, etc and their lasting effect on soil, air and water. In that regard we publish scholarly papers in referred journals.

We also solve practical problems related to soil contamination and leakage of substances into the ground. If you think of a problem or a research topic along these lines send us a short description of the problem and we will add it to our list and will work on it if we already don't have a solution for problem similar to yours.

Sam Gordji of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group writes "We are building a collection of articles on ethanol and are posting them on our website so it may be accessed by all interested individuals. If you have authored an article on ethanol or are aware of one, please send me the link. We will post it if we already don't have one similar to it and/or if we find it to be useful to others". [More info](#)

People in the news

CHANGE AT THE TOP AT IMAREST



Dr Marcus Jones has left his post as Chief Executive of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) in order to pursue new interests. He joined the Institute in January 2008 as Chief Operating Officer and took over as Chief Executive in May 2009.

"Marcus has defined and led the delivery of the Institute's change management project to reduce costs substantially and achieve year on year income growth," says Professor Chris Hodge, Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Institute. "With the support of the Board, Council, Branches, members and staff, the operating margins have been improved by almost 40% over the last three years. The Institute has significantly improved its financial viability and long term sustainability during his tenure. [Read more](#) [Another report](#)

NEW POSITION FOR GLYN HUMPHRIES

Recently received news: Glyn Humphries, who was formerly Divisional Director of Briggs Marine Environmental Services Ltd., has been appointed as Senior Consultant at Adler & Allan Ltd.

He continues in his role as Chairman of the UK Spill Association.

The Adler and Allan Group provide a range of professional oil industry services and environmental services to British industry.

[More info](#)





In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 22 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Member of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the [International Spill Accreditation Association](#)

KNOWLEDGE OF WATER-IMMISCIBLE SYSTEMS (CHAPTER 22)

Having reviewed knowledge of immiscible droplet dispersion into water and re-coalesce to separate continuous phases and the relevance of this knowledge to the natural dispersion of oil slicks and to the prevention of oil-discharges (c.f. articles 16-21), I now review knowledge of water droplet dispersion into immiscible liquids (emulsions) and their re-coalescence to separate continuous phases and the relevance of this knowledge to dispersion or recovery of floating emulsions and to post-recovery emulsion-breaking prior to recycling the oil content of these emulsions.

While dispersions of oil-in-water are subject to migration and coalescence to a continuous oil phase when the oil-droplets are $> 100 - 200 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter and to turbulent dilution to ever wider dispersion when the oil-droplets are $< 200-100 \mu\text{m}$, emulsions of water-in-oil are much more stable with water- droplets being $1-10 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter and water-concentrations being up to 80%, the latter being consistent with the theoretical limit for close-packed spheres. Again, while dispersions of oil in water have the viscosity and pumping-ease of water, the viscosities of water-in-oil emulsions increase beyond that of the oil as the fractional water content increases with associated increases in pumping-difficulty.

Most of the work on the flow properties of emulsions in general has been done with the dispersed phase simulated by solid particles of $1-10 \mu\text{m}$ in diameter, the latter avoiding the tendency of some emulsions to break into two continuous phases while being investigated. Thus, such investigation shows that when actual or simulated two-phase systems are caused to flow, the streamlines of the continuous phase curve round the droplets or particles of the dispersed phase rather than remaining parallel, this distortion being manifest in the observed increase in viscosity in systems where the droplets or particles are too far apart to influence each other directly. However, as the concentration of the dispersed phase increases, the degree of streamline-distortion around one droplet begins to influence the degree of streamline-distortion around a neighbouring droplet. Again, at still higher concentrations, neighbouring droplets may form duplets and triplets which immobilise the continuous phase transiently, or permanently at higher concentrations, with progressive increase in viscosity. Again, at yet higher concentrations, the film of continuous phase between dispersed droplets is compressed when two or more droplets approach or glide across each other, a situation which calls for the addition of lubrication theory. Ultimately, as concentration increases further, viscosity increases are due to flow-induced changes in droplet packing arrangements.

In addition to the above fluid-dynamic interactions, it is necessary to consider mechanical interactions in which momentum-transfer arises from the collision of droplets the frequency of which depends on droplet concentration, from the effect of Brownian movement on the smallest droplets, and from the shear-rate applied to induce bulk flow. Again, it is necessary to consider mechanical friction forces between droplets during flow and the short-lived turbulence associated with changes in packing arrangement.

At this point, one might question whether such considerations are more appropriate to solid particles than to liquid droplets, and whether such close contact of droplets would be possible at the highest water contents observed in water-in-oil emulsions without the said droplets coalescing and thus breaking the emulsion in all cases. In fact, a hexagonal close-packed array of spheres provides a volume fraction of 72% while a cubic close-packed array gives 52%, these values comparing favourably with water-contents of 70-80% observed for crude oil emulsions and of 40-50% for the water-contents of fuel oil emulsions. In addition, coalescence of the water droplets is prevented in such cases by the surrounding layer of asphaltenes and wax which permitted their dispersion in oil in the first place. Again, the above fluid-dynamic considerations explain the Newtonian emulsions for which measured viscosity is independent of applied shear-rate, while the above mechanical considerations explain the higher water-content non-Newtonian emulsions for which measured viscosity varies with shear rate as it does for sauces which pour only after shaking, for non-drip paints at zero shear rate and for some of the oil-in-water emulsions which concern us here.

1 *The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at www.authorsonline.co.uk

2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

Events

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FORTHCOMING IMO MEETINGS – DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

IMO Council – The 106th Session of the Council is from Monday 27th June to Friday 1st July, 2011.

IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group – TG12 takes place from Monday 4th July to Friday 8th July, 2011.

IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee – MEPC 62 will be held from Monday 8th July to Friday 15th July, 2011

INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE 2011, MAY 23-26, PORTLAND, OREGON, USA

Details of Guest Speakers have just been announced –

Keynote Address



Michael Specter has been a staff writer at *The New Yorker* since 1998. His most recent book, "Denialism: How Irrational Thinking Hinders Scientific Progress, Harms the Planet, and Threatens Our Lives," was published on October 29, 2009. Specter writes often about science, technology, and public health. Since joining the magazine, he has written several articles about the world's diminishing freshwater resources, synthetic biology and the debate over the meaning of our carbon footprint.

Michael Specter's truthful, rigorously researched, and often politically incorrect views are the perfect antidote to the widespread rebellion against scientific thought and the products of scientific inquiry, such as the new wonder drugs, the new vaccines that are being refused by the public, as well as the genetically engineered foods that many are boycotting.

Closing Ceremony *Reflections on the Deepwater Horizon Incident as National Incident Commander*



On May 1, 2010, President Barack Obama selected Admiral Thad Allen to serve as the National Incident Commander (NIC) for the unified response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, a position he held concurrently while finishing his tenure as the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

In this position, Allen was charged with oversight of all ongoing response efforts to cease the flow of oil and mitigate the effects of the worst oil disaster in U.S. history. Working closely with the federal on-scene coordinator, Environmental Protection Agency and organizations including the Departments of Homeland Security, Defense, Interior, Commerce and Health and Human Services, he sought to bring a global unity of effort to response endeavors. As the government's accountable party, Allen was also in charge of coordinating with various federal, state and local organizations and directing the efforts of BP, the responsible party in the spill.

In May 2010, Allen completed his duties as the 23rd commandant of the USCG, the most senior post in that service. Continuing to serve his nation as the national incident commander in lieu of retiring at that time, he officially retired from active duty service on June 30th, 2010 after 39 years of service.

[More info](#)

MONINFO PROJECT ("ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING OF THE BLACK SEA BASIN: MONITORING AND INFORMATION SYSTEMS FOR REDUCING OIL POLLUTION")

Under the MONINFO project ("*Environmental Monitoring of the Black Sea basin: Monitoring and Information Systems for Reducing Oil Pollution*") after the 1st stakeholders meeting in *Trabzon on 29-30 October 2010*, the 2nd Stakeholders meeting is planned, with the participation of the Advisory Board and ESAS Members not only to further increase awareness & visibility and dissemination, but also for training on the completed components of the project. This event will help better to fine tune, in an interactive way, some key deliverables and also to assist with solving the pending issues for the implementation of the project.

The MONINFO Project Stakeholders meeting will take place between 08 and 10 June 2011 at the BSC PS premises, Maslak, Istanbul.

The 20th ESAS AG meeting, scheduled on 10th of June is also planned back to back with the MONINFO Project Stakeholders meeting, which includes preparatory actions on BS- GEODELTA 2011 exercise.

The Stakeholders meeting will discuss the progress of the MONINFO (1&2) projects' implementation, focusing on the draft Concept for the MONINFO system, to verify that the initial design meets with the needs of end-users in data/information to enhance the cooperation in management of oil pollution (operational, illegal, accidental) at the regional level.

Events (continued)

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The meeting's objective is to finalize the concept of MONINFO System including all its layers (AIS, Clean Sea Net, Scanex & ITU CSCRS, Black Sea SeaTrackWeb, national data base, risk assessment, etc.). National data missing from the Questionnaire are expected to be presented by each BS Country (Moninfo/ESAS focal points) and further explanations will be provided on how to include national data in the Moninfo System by countries from now on.

More information: irina.makarenko@blacksea-commission.org [Website](#)

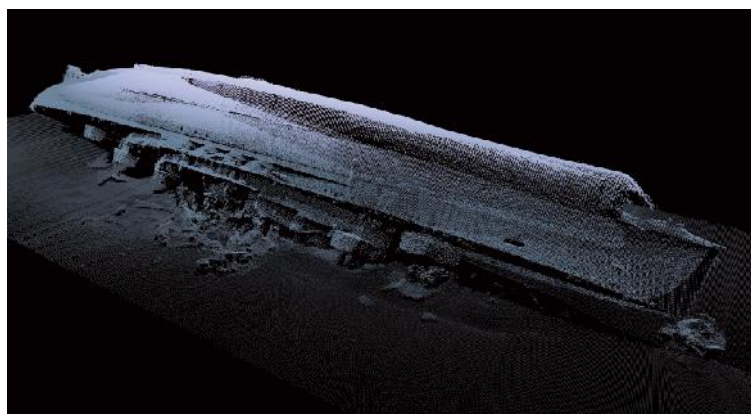
SAFER SEAS III 2011 "FOR SAFER AND CLEANER SEAS" 10-13 MAY 2011, BREST, FRANCE

Over the four days, Safer Seas offers a one-of-its-kind, multi-sector approach for institutional stakeholders, operators, and marine and maritime professionals, enterprises and research institutes, and students :

- theme-based plenary conferences in several languages
- round-table discussions and feed-back sessions on world-scale experiences
- specialized workshops
- a Trade show area, demonstrations and site visits

[Download the programme](#)

"WRECKS OF THE WORLD II: EVALUATING AND ADDRESSING POTENTIAL UNDERWATER THREATS"



Washington DC, USA –June 6-7, 2011 - Registration is now open for the American Salvage Association (ASA) and the North American Marine Environmental Protection Association (NAMEPA) co-sponsored conference, "Wrecks of the World II (WOW II): Evaluating and Addressing Potential Underwater Threats" to be held on Monday, June 6 and Tuesday, June 7 at the Maritime Institute of Technology and Graduate Studies (MITAGS) in the Washington, DC area (Linthicum Heights, MD) USA. The conference will explore the myriad issues (pollution threat, regulatory, risk assessment, oil removal and remediation, implications to the environment, legal, insurance and funding issues, next steps) related to the more than 8,500 sunken vessels in the world, many of them World War II-era.

The problem of potentially-polluting wrecks has long been discussed and recent incidents around the world have caused government agencies and responsible parties to look proactively at preventing catastrophic oil and other chemical releases from long submerged shipwrecks. These wrecks may contain as much as 20 million tons of oil and other hazardous materials. Sporadic or continuous leakages or potential sudden massive spillages from these wrecks pose a continual risk across the globe.

From the viewpoint of environmental and economic impacts, there is little difference between oil spilling from a long sunken vessel and oil spilling from a modern day vessel casualty, with the exception that, while there is no way to predict the location or timing of the next major oil spill, potentially-polluting wreck sites are known and the probability of a spill event is quantifiable or even inevitable. There is ample evidence that there are a large number of wrecks in U.S. coastal waters and elsewhere around the world that are spills waiting to happen.

The conference program and on-line registration are available via:

http://www.americansalvage.org/wow/wowII/WOW_II_Brochure_03-28-11.pdf

ANNOUNCING THE TRANSCAER® TRAINING TOUR - NEW JERSEY / PENNSYLVANIA / DELAWARE ANHYDROUS AMMONIA, ETHANOL AND MORE!

TRANSCAER® (Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response) Training Tours are coming to New Jersey, Pennsylvania and Delaware from June 6-23, 2011. This tour will visit Piscataway, NJ; Bethlehem, PA; Harrisburg, PA and Wilmington, DE.

The NJ, PA and DE State TRANSCAER Teams have teamed up with CHEMTREC®, The Dow Chemical Company, Norfolk Southern, Conrail, Potash Corporation, The Firefighters Education and Training Foundation, The Fertilizer Institute, Tanner Industries, Inc., The Renewable Fuels Association, local chemical manufacturers and carriers and other local supporting agencies. This free classroom and hands-on training will feature safety training, rail cars and bulk trucks. An exhibit area will also be featured. The hazmat-based training curriculum is designed to meet the needs of various stake-holder groups and is free to all participants.

Publications

ADDRESSING THE NUCLEAR WASTE ISSUE

An article by Megan Fellman - *Pond alga could help scientists design effective method for cleaning up nuclear waste*

Researchers from Northwestern University and Argonne National Laboratory have an enhanced understanding of a common freshwater alga and its remarkable ability to remove strontium from water. Insight into this mechanism ultimately could help scientists design methods to remove radioactive strontium from existing nuclear waste.

Strontium 90, a major waste component, is one of the more dangerous radioactive fission materials created within a nuclear reactor. It is present in the approximately 80 million gallons of radioactive waste sludge stored in the United States alone.

The researchers are the first to show quantitatively how *Closterium moniliferum*, one of the bright green algae often seen in ponds, sequesters strontium (in the form of barium-strontium-sulfate crystals). They are using this understanding to think about a practical sequestration system for nuclear waste that maximizes strontium removal. The possibilities include using the algae for direct bioremediation of waste or accidental spills in the environment or designing a new process for waste treatment inspired by how the algae work.

The results are published by the journal *ChemSusChem*, a sister journal of *Angewandte Chemie*. [Read more](#)

DANGEROUS GOODS EMERGENCY ACTION CODE LIST 2011

Author: National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) Publisher: London



The 2011 edition of the Dangerous Goods Emergency Action Code List outlines the Emergency Action codes (EACs), also known as Hazchem codes, for the use of the emergency services in conjunction with Emergency Action Code Cards. EACs indicate to the emergency services actions that may be necessary, during the first few minutes of an incident involving dangerous goods, should the officer in charge of the incident deem it necessary to take immediate actions. It includes details of Hazchem markings on the orange coloured plate of road and rail vehicles, registered in Britain, carrying dangerous goods in bulk or in tanks on domestic journeys.

The Dangerous Goods Emergency Action Code List 2011 is **effective from 1 July 2011** and the Emergency Action Code List 2009 should no longer be used from that date.

[More info](#)

NATIONAL INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (NIMS) FOR EMERGENCY OPERATIONS CENTRES

A new training film about to become available from the Emergency Film Group - Describes the function of the Emergency Operations Center and portrays how it is staffed, organized and activated. This program is designed for private industry and disaster response organization personnel, as well as community and state-level emergency management personnel. Some of the topics covered:

Key players in ICS and their corresponding positions in the EOC ■ Role of Command staff ■ Role of Section chiefs ■ Elements of NIMS - the National Incident Management System ■ The 5 types of incidents by severity ■ EOC readiness levels ■ Planning meetings

[More info](#)

WELL INFORMED - A PUBLICATION OF THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF SAFETY ENGINEERS (ASSE)

This edition contains a wealth of health and safety information that will be invaluable to incident response teams. [Download](#)

[Thanks to JOIFF and Don Johnston of ISCO Associate Member, DG & Hazmat Group, for providing this info.]

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