



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

Issue 297, 22 August 2011

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News

UK: UPDATE ON NORTH SEA OIL LEAK

August 19 - Today, Shell divers closed the relief valve from which oil had been seeping at a rate of less than one barrel a day. Now there will be a phase of monitoring the flowline to check that it remains sealed.

"Closing the valve is a key step," said Glen Cayley, Technical Director of Shell's exploration and production activities in Europe, based in Aberdeen. "It was a careful and complex operation conducted by skilled divers, with support from our technical teams onshore. But we will be watching the line closely over the next 24 hours and beyond."

"Our next task is to remove the residual oil from inside the depressurized flowline, and that will take time," Mr Cayley said.



Meanwhile, to secure the flowline to the seabed, 24 concrete mats have now been laid. More will be put down in the coming days.

We have three vessels on site with dispersants and specialised oil spill response equipment if needed.

Around 218 tonnes of oil have entered the North Sea from the flowline since the problem was first detected on 10 August.

The Marine Coastguard's latest estimate is that the sheen currently covers an area of 6.7 square kms and is 3.62 tonnes by volume. [Read more](#)

CHINA: CONOCOPHILLIPS RELEASES UPDATE ON BOHAI BAY CLEAN UP OPERATIONS

August 19 - ConocoPhillips in a statement expressed sincere regret and accepted responsibility for the incidents in Bohai Bay.

ConocoPhillips China had two separate incidents in June in Bohai Bay, China, where approximately 115 cubic meters (700 barrels) of oil were released into the sea and 400 cubic meters (2,500 barrels) of mineral oil based drilling mud (MOBM) were released onto the seabed.

The intermittent oil seep sourced from a natural fault in the seabed near Platform B in the ConocoPhillips China-operated Peng Lai field is contained. The company is implementing plans, under the direction of China's State Oceanic Administration (SOA), to seal the fault.

The June 17 release of oil and MOBM from the Platform C-20 well was completely stopped within 48 hours and the well was permanently plugged. The company is now working to clean up the remaining MOBM from the seabed by the end of August. Droplets of oil have recently been observed seeping intermittently from a small area on the seabed near Platform C. These are being recovered as they occur and the cause is being investigated. [Read more](#)

INDIA: OPERATION TO PLUG RAK OIL SPILL FAILS YET AGAIN

August 17 - For the sixth consecutive day, divers from the Oil and Natural Gas Corporation ([ONGC](#)) diving support vessel could not identify and plug the leakage of oil from MV Rak due to unfavourable weather conditions and muddy waters.

Officials from the Directorate-General of Shipping (DGS) said the current weather conditions and poor visibility in the sea were hampering the operation. Meanwhile, a little oil continues to leak from the ship and Coast Guard vessel Sankalp has been stationed at the site to spray dispersants. "The operation will go on till the spill is plugged," said SPS Basra, IG (western region), Coast Guard. However, the insurance company has still not appointed a professional cleaning agency to remove the pollutants from the affected areas. [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: UN REPORT – REACTIONS AND FURTHER COMMENT

The Federal Government may sanction Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) if it heeds the call by the Ogoni people in Rivers State, Niger-Delta, for the revocation of the license granted the Anglo-Dutch oil giant to carry out oil exploration activities in Nigeria, following the revelations by the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, that the company polluted their land and caused life-threatening health hazards.

Former president of the Movement for the Survival of Ogoni People, MOSOP, Ledum Mitee, who made known the position of the people, said the only option was for the company to commence, without delay, a remediation exercise in Ogoniland, and not to infuriate the angry people the more with comments that the pollution was caused by a third party.

Ogoni people also lashed out at the Federal Government whose reaction to the UNEP report was that it would study it before knowing the next step to take, saying that the government has not been fair to them. It is believed that up to \$30 billion had been garnered from oil operations in Ogoniland before things went sour. [Read more](#)

And yet another oil spill in the Delta. [Read more](#)

HOW EUROPE COULD HELP PLUG OIL SPILLS IN AFRICA

A new study is asking the European Parliament, European Union member states and European civil society organizations to push for regulatory measures targeted at Europe-based companies engaged in oil exploration in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA).

The study follows on the heels of landmark [UN findings](#) reported on August 4, highlighting the devastating impact of oil spills in the Niger delta over the past five decades, which will take up to 30 years to clean up.

The SSA oil industry, which comprises 13% of global oil production, and accounts for some 7% of the oil imports of the 27-nation European Union, is not only causing severe damage to environment and health but also adversely impacting livelihoods of local communities which largely depend on natural resources for agriculture and fisheries, says the study completed on August 8, 2011.

Titled 'The Effects of Oil Companies' Activities on the Environment, Health and Development in Africa', the [study](#) was requested by European Parliament's Committee on Development. It is authored by Heike Baumüller, Elizabeth Donnelly, Alex Vines and Markus Weimer on behalf of the [Chatham House](#), a British Institute based in London. [Read more](#)

USA: LEGAL FIGHT INTENSIFIES OVER BP OIL SPILL FUND

BP's spill-claims fund administrator, would like a federal court to preside over their Mississippi lawsuit, instead of the state court. Although this case was the worst offshore spill in U.S. history, he feels that court supervision is unnecessary when ensuring that these victims are compensated justly and quickly. He is also stating that the federal court actually has jurisdiction since the spill originated on the Outer Continental Shelf.

Mississippi state officials are claiming otherwise and saying that the fund is not being properly handled for oil spill victims and they would like access to the claims filed by coastal residents. They are also saying that there have been intentional delays in the claim process and denying of legitimate claims.

Overall, the oil spill fund was set up to help people whose businesses and lives were impaired by the spill. BP still faces more than 350 lawsuits by property owners, fishing interests and tourism businesses claiming harm from the spill. [Read more](#)

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS MARITIME ADMINISTRATOR RELEASES THE DEEPWATER HORIZON MARINE CASUALTY INVESTIGATION REPORT

The Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) Maritime Administrator has today released the DEEPWATER HORIZON Marine Casualty Investigation Report (RMI Report). In accordance with national and international requirements, the RMI Report has been provided to the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The Maritime Administrator has also provided a copy of the RMI Report to the United States Coast Guard (USCG) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE). The RMI Report may be downloaded in its entirety via: www.register-iri.com/mireports.

The RMI Report contains findings of fact, conclusions, and recommendations, focusing on the marine operations of the DEEPWATER HORIZON, which are the purview of the flag State. Although not regulated by the flag State, the industrial operations of the mobile offshore drilling unit (MODU) are discussed, in so far as they are necessary to provide a complete picture of the casualty or where they may have impacted the overall safety of the MODU. To assist the RMI Maritime Administrator in its understanding and analysis of engineering and technical aspects, consultants were retained with expertise in drilling, engineering, and fire science. [Read more](#)

IOPC FUNDS: LAUNCH OF A NEW DOCUMENT SERVICES WEBSITE

During 2010 and 2011 a Document Services website has been developed to form part of the IOPC Funds' website, making available all meeting documents and decisions taken by the governing bodies of the IOPC Funds since 1978, as well as providing additional services, including the possibility to register for IOPC Funds' meetings online, and providing access to IOPC Funds' circulars and document templates.

The Secretariat is delighted to announce that the Document Services website is now fully operational and can be found at www.iopcfunds.org/documentsservices. Documents for the upcoming October sessions of the governing bodies will therefore be made available via the new site.

The former Document Server has now been removed from the website. Anyone endeavoring to access documents through that site will be automatically redirected to the new system. To continue to receive notification via email of the publication of new documents, users should register for an account on the new site. This feature will also enable users to download documents and save and manage folders of selected documents.

All meeting documents and circulars are available in English, French and Spanish. However, to facilitate the development phase and ensure the delivery of a quality result within the shortest timeframe possible, the interface of the Document Services website has initially been created in English only. The Decisions Database, one of the key tools of the Document Services website, containing all decisions taken by the governing bodies since 1978, is currently also in English only. However, work is well underway on making both the interface for the site and the Decisions Database available in the three official languages as soon as possible. In the meantime, users can continue to access documents in French and Spanish in the same way as with the former Document Server. Any comments on the new site would be appreciated and should be sent to the Secretariat at feedback@iopcfund.org.

GREENLAND POSTS CAIRN OIL SPILL PLAN TO COMBAT FEARS

Greenland has published British explorer Cairn Energy's oil spill response plan in a bid to calm fears about Arctic exploration after environmental group Greenpeace demanded that it be made public.

It also said it had new options to act against any unlawful attempts by protesters to interfere with oil rigs.

News (continued)

Greenpeace, which has tried to disrupt drilling off Greenland, argues that cleaning up a spill in the Arctic waters there would be extremely difficult.

Greenland's government had initially withheld the oil spill contingency plan drawn up by Cairn because it feared activists could launch more actions against rigs if it were published.

Greenland, a semi-autonomous part of the kingdom of Denmark, said the Danish foreign ministry had determined that under the U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea the Greenland authorities can take action within a radius of 5 km from a safety zone around oil rigs. [Read more](#)

JAPAN: TEPCO – “RADIATION RELEASE PLUNGED”

August 18 - Radioactive materials released from the crippled No. 1, 2 and 3 reactors at the Fukushima No. 1 power plant are roughly one 10 millionth of contamination spewed at the beginning of the accident in March, based on readings taken in the past two weeks, Tokyo Electric Power Co. said Wednesday.

Tepeco estimated the amount from July 26 to Aug. 12, saying the maximum reading logged was 200 million becquerels per hour. Based on this data, the radiation level around the plant is estimated at a maximum 0.4 millisievert per year, compared with the annual legal limit of 1 millisievert.

The estimated amount released March 15 was 2 quadrillion becquerels per hour, meaning the amount has decreased to one 10 millionth of that level.

But since the estimation was made based only on the amount of radioactive materials in the air around the west gate of the plant, "we think the degree of accuracy is still not that high," Yoshinori Moriyama, a spokesman of the Nuclear and Industrial Safety Agency, said during a joint news conference by the government and Tepeco. [Read more](#)

CANADA: ALBERTA REGULATORS GRANT RAINBOW PIPELINE CONDITIONAL APPROVAL FOR RESTART



Workers dressed in white protective coveralls move through the bush at the site of a major oil spill near the community of Little Buffalo, Alta., in May. Photograph by: Chris Schwarz, Postmedia News, Postmedia News

Alberta regulators have approved the restart of an oil pipeline which caused the worst spill in the province in 40 years, nearly four months after the Rainbow pipeline leaked 2,800 barrels of crude onto northern muskeg.

The Plains Midstream Canada-operated line will be able to resume full operations once it meets a number of conditions set out by the Energy Resources Conservation Board in its notice Tuesday.

In addition to completing excavation on 10 sites previously set out by the board and implementing weekly aerial surveys of the line, the company will be required to revamp its operating procedures and meet with local stakeholders prior to restarting the line.

Regulatory oversight will continue after the pipeline resumes operations at reduced rates, said ERCB spokesman Darin Barter.

The 220,000 barrel-per-day Rainbow line, which extends from Zama, in northwest Alberta, to Nipisi and on to Edmonton, was shut down April 29 after locals in the Little Buffalo area detected a leak.

The southern portion of the line was reopened shortly after, but the northern outage forced a number of oil producers in the region, and into the Northwest Territories, to truck out or shut in volumes after locals detected a leak near the community of Little Buffalo in northwestern Alberta. [Read more](#)

MERCURY-LOVING BUGS SPEED HELP FOR TOXIC SPILLS

Scientists say they have engineered bacteria that can mop up mercury, a step forward in the goal of using "bioremediation" to cleanse toxic chemicals from the environment.

Mercury pollution of water and soil by industrial spills or gold mining is a major hazard because the chemical accumulates up the food chain, and tackling the problem is prohibitively expensive.

A team led by Oscar Ruiz of the Inter-American University of Puerto Rico say they inserted two mercury-friendly genes into the common intestinal germ, *Escherichia coli*.

The genes controlled a protein called metallothionein and an enzyme known as polyphosphate kinase, both of which bind to metals in order to prevent toxicity in cells.

The researchers immersed the engineered bugs in a nutrient solution to which high doses of mercury had been added.

The *E. coli* with genes for polyphosphate kinase grew in mercury levels that were 16 times higher than the maximum for normal strains of the bug.

Even more impressive, those with the genes for metallothionein flourished in 24 times the maximum mercury level. [Read more](#)

[Another related article](#)

WATER FROM OIL: POROUS HYDROGELS CLEAN OIL SPILLS

Much research effort has been expended on finding viable methods of separating oil from water in such spillages, not only because of the terrible damage inflicted upon the natural environment, but also in order to salvage as much as possible of an increasingly scarce resource. Thus far, most of the methods described have focused on removing the oil from the water, resulting in materials and strategies that tend to deteriorate in performance over time as they become clogged and fouled by oil absorption, for which there is no easy cleaning method.

Now, researchers at the Institute of Chemistry, Chinese Academy of Sciences in Beijing have come up with a new take on the problem. Instead of separating the oil from the water, [they have developed a solution that separates water from oil](#). By coating a stainless steel mesh with a porous hydrogel layer of polyacrylamide, Prof. Lei Jiang and his team rendered the mesh simultaneously superoleophobic and superhydrophilic, resulting in a filter that allows water to drain through it while retaining the oil, as shown in this video.

Tests demonstrated that the filter removed greater than 99% of the oil from the mixtures, and that it was applicable not only to crude oil, but also to finer fractions such as diesel, gasoline, hexane and petroleum ether. No power or external force had to be applied, and the mesh's oleophobic nature makes it easy to clean, prolonging its useful shelf life. The wide variety of oils that can be stripped out of mixtures means that the system has great potential for other environmental clean-up initiatives and resource reclamation. [Read more and watch video](#)

Products & Services

REMOVE DNAPLS WITH EASE USING NEW GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION SYSTEM

Abanaki Corporation is pleased to announce a DNAPL Groundwater Remediation System designed to remove high viscosity oils such as creosote from groundwater. These systems are used to remove oil contamination from existing monitoring wells.

DNAPLs such as creosote tend to sink to the bottom of a well and require a specially designed system to ensure the oil is removed. Stabilizer bars are installed on the [belt oil skimmer](#) to maintain close proximity to the bottom of the well for maximum remediation of the product. The system is capable of removing 12 gph of oil and can be installed in well casings with a 2' inside diameter or greater.

The oil skimmer wiper blades scrape oil from the belt and waste oil then flows out into a transfer tank where a pump activated by float switches sends the oil to a customer provided waste oil vessel. The timer allows the skimmer to be run at the refresh rates of the well for optimum results. The poly belt material is utilized in these applications because of its durability and affinity to DNAPLs.

The new groundwater remediation system can also be adapted using other skimmers in Abanaki's range for applications in ponds, trenches, and wastewater pits. Abanaki oil skimmers and systems require very little maintenance, are easy to install, and have low energy costs. [Read more](#)



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 39 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 THE FATE OF RELEASED OIL / HNS (CHAPTER 39)

We have seen in previous articles that the volatile components of floating oil layers evaporate into the atmosphere while the remaining non-volatile components disperse into the sea as droplets; that all components with boiling points < 250°C evaporate within a very few hours to extents dependent on the weight percentage of their presence in the fresh oil; that the non-volatile components disperse into the sea more slowly at rates dependent on their rate of droplet formation which in turn depends on viscosity; that for liquid oils and their water-in-oil emulsions this dispersion goes to completion given enough time; and that the pour point temperature determines whether the oil is liquid or solid at ambient temperatures while its density determines whether it floats or sinks.

We have also seen in previous articles that the weight percentage boiling below any given temperature is available from the distillation profile of the oil, while its pour point and density are also readily available from the oil industry for all crude and product oils; and that these values enable predictions to be made as to the percentage evaporative loss which will occur with any specific oil, as to whether it will be solid or liquid at sea temperature, and as to whether it will float or sink. Again we have seen in previous articles that the viscosities of all oils are also available as a function of temperature; that the viscosities of their water-in-oil emulsions can be calculated as functions of their water-contents; and that, in any case, they can be sampled for direct measurement of viscosity at any incident. However, the industry has not determined the relationship between viscosity and slick dispersion rate.

As to this relationship, the WSL team noted that slick area is proportional to the quantity of oil within the slick; that dispersion occurs from the total underside area of slicks; that dispersion rate must thus be proportional to area and hence to the amount of oil present at any time; and that dispersion must therefore be a first order process which must have a determinable half-life just as has the first-order process of radioactive decay has determinable half-lives for all nuclides. Thus, at the Ekofisk blow out, the emulsion viscosity was low enough for its half-life observed by WSL to be ~ 12 hours. However, with WSL recognising that to determine the half-lives for viscosities other than that of Ekofisk emulsion by a series of experimental releases would be highly consuming of ship time, the Technical Branch of the International Tanker Owners' Pollution Federation (ITOPF) undertook to allocate half-lives to four distinct property groupings through its global observation of oil-spill incidents as tabulated below.

Property	Symbol	Group I	Group II	Group III	Group IV
Specific Gravity	-	< 0.8	0.8 - 0.85	0.85 - 0.95	>0.95
Pour-point °C	A	< 5 (unlisted)	> 5 listed	> 5 listed	listed
Viscosity cSt at 15°C	B	0.5 - 2.0	av. 8 or solid	av.275 or solid	1500 - solid
% boiling at < 200°C	C	50-100	10-48, av. 35	14-34, av. 25	3-24, av. 10
% boiling at > 370°C	D	0	0-40, av. 30	28-60, av. 45	33-92, av.65

The half-lives then attributed to the above Groups I, II, III and IV by ITOPF were as tabulated below.

Group	Viscosity (°API)	Half-Life (Hours)
I	> 45	av. 4
II	45 - 35	av. 12
III	35 - 17.5	24 - 48 range
IV	< 17.5	> 48

It should be noted that these half-lives apply to the emulsions formed by the oils; that Ekofisk emulsions are up to 70% water while 70 - 80% is normal for crude oils in Groups II, III and IV above; that oil products show low to zero water-contents for Group I, and 40 - 50% for the heavier fuel oils for which half-lives are observed to in days rather than in hours (c.f. subsequent articles).

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.

SCOUTS IN ISTANBUL TO BE TRAINED TO PROTECT THE SEAS...

An article specially contributed by Mesut Senol, MEKE Academy Projects Advisor, who writes “We are very proud to be a Member of ISCO. Mr. Kerem Kemerli, our CEO has been very supportive in our work related to the activities of the Marine Protectors Association and a training institution called MEKE Academy. The attached item refers to a training course given to the scouts in Istanbul in the field of sea pollution and measures to protect the seas”.



The Marine Protectors Association based in Istanbul, kicked off a training course on 9 August 2011 at the Camp for the Scouts Candidates in Umraniye Hekimbasi Urban Forest of the Greater Istanbul Municipality. The training was about the subject of “Oil Pollution in the Seas, Damages Caused By It and Cleaning Works”.

From the launch year of 2010 up to now, the Greater Istanbul Municipality has been hosting in Umraniye Hekimbasi Urban Forest about 94 thousand hosts coming from different parts of Turkey and other countries. There the scout candidates get trained to be more sensitive towards the environment, they find the opportunity to refresh themselves physically and psychologically, and they develop their skills in terms of solidarity and sharing. While Scout Candidates Camp has a target of hosting 100 thousand young persons in 2011, The Marine Protectors Association offers a helping hand to the camp administrators and the Greater Istanbul Municipality in raising the awareness of the scouts for the sea pollution issue as well as at increasing their environmental consciousness.

At the training course called “Oil Pollution In The Seas, Damages Caused By It and Cleaning Works” Meke Marine Environmental Protection Services Inc. provided the training experts and necessary equipment for the young scouts. Ms. Duysen Ozel of the Marine Protectors Association and Mr. Mehmet Onder of Meke Marine Environmental Protection Services Inc. shared their knowledge with the scouts attended.

As the effects of the damages of the sea pollution were narrated by the trainers, the ways of getting rid of the pollution caused by the accidents at sea have been displayed in an entertaining fashion by giving examples of using the materials easily found in every household.

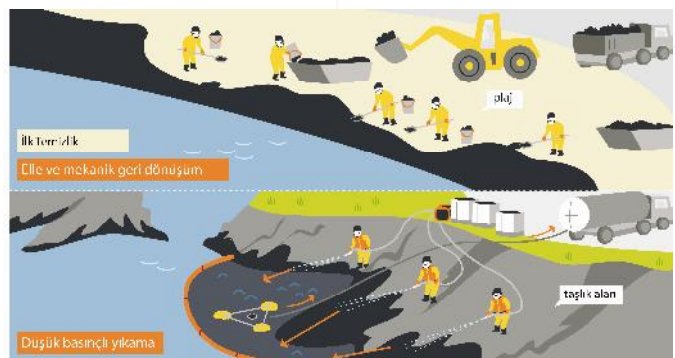
Then the scouts elected a three person *Emergency Reply Team*. As the two “rope holders” have been working to put a dike before the water in order to prevent the colored water from reaching the carpet on the ground, a scout responsible for “the glass” made the effort to collect the colored water to pour into the Waste Collection Tank (waste box). In the meantime the scout in charge of the ‘paper towel’ worked hard to wipe the liquid on the surface before it gets to the carpet.



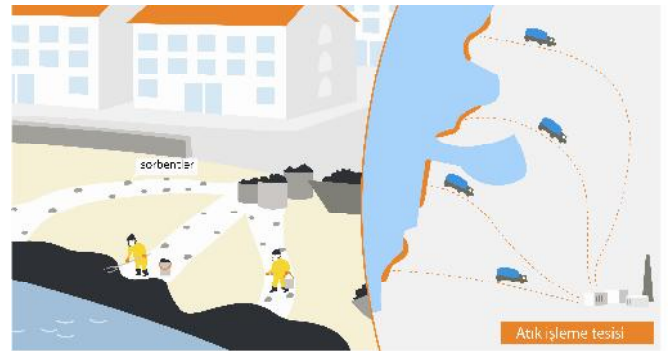
During this game, the scouts were asked about what these simple materials would be representing. Then they were told that the carpet to be protected could be “Our Seas”, the ropes to be used as a dike might be “Barriers”, and the paper towel could act as “Sorbent”, and lastly the glass entering on the stage when the paper towel would not suffice could serve as the Waste Collecting Pump and the skimmer.

The visual aids, roll-ups have been shown to the young scouts for them to picture in their mind the possible hazardous events and the measures to be taken.

The briefed scouts on the negative effects of the pollution at sea and the methods to be employed to clean this pollution found themselves on the following day as part of a genuine exercise field.



Training (continued)



training on the previous day, around 350 scouts have become voluntary protectors of the seas. The scouts trained have come not only from Turkey but also from other countries including the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus and Iraq.

It is now being planned to expand this training portfolio to include more scouts through the collaboration of the Marine Protectors Association, the Greater Istanbul Municipality, Meke Marine Environmental Protection Services Inc. and the Scout Camp Administration of the Greater Istanbul Municipality.

Publications

ITOPF: 2011 ANNUAL REVIEW JUST PUBLISHED



ITOPF has just published its Annual Review for the year ending 20 February 2011.

In the Review, ITOPF's Chairman, Bjorn Moller, reflects on a year in which the DEEPWATER HORIZON drilling rig explosion turned the spotlight once again to oil spills. As stricter legislation is being sought, the shipping industry has found itself having to remind regulators of its own improving safety trends, its preparedness to deal with oil spills and the appropriateness of compensation limits that apply to shipping.

While much attention has been given to the negative consequences of the spill in the Gulf of Mexico, Mr Moller notes how this serious event has, nonetheless, inspired innovative thinking and produced a multitude of new ideas for responding to oil spills at depth and far from shore. R&D also remains a high priority for ITOPF and, as outlined in our Strategic Plan 2011-2015, we are geared towards expanding knowledge on the fate and effects of oil and chemical spills in the marine environment, as well as on techniques available to respond to spills, especially in remote or ice-covered waters.

Download the [Annual Review](#) in PDF format (835Kb) or browse through the pages using our interactive page turner [here](#).

US EPA: TECHNOLOGY INNOVATION NEWS SURVEY

The June 1-30, 2011 *Technology Innovation News Survey* has been posted to the CLU-IN web site. The *Survey* contains market/commercialization information; reports on demonstrations, feasibility studies and research; and other news relevant to the hazardous waste community interested in technology development. The latest survey is available at: <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

Events

UK: 2nd MARITIME SALVAGE & CASUALTY RESPONSE

London, 7-8 September, 2011 - ACI's 2nd Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response will provide an in-depth look into salvage, towage and casualty response. The event will focus on the most current technical and operational developments in pollution defence and rapid casualty response, as well as effectively summarizing the latest legal and contractual issues to arise in the industry.

Events (continued)

Rapid and efficient response is crucial in sustaining a prolific reputation within the salvage industry. In order to maintain such high standards a company must keep up to date with the most recent developments. This meeting will ensure each delegate leaves with a clear understanding of relevant technologies and refinements in procedure, including specific case studies of wreck removal, oil spill strategy, casualty scenarios, and emergency response. In addition any legal and insurance issues will be clarified precisely.



ISCO Member, John Noble, General Manager of the International Salvage Union, will be chairing this conference. Speakers include Member of the ISCO Executive Committee, Paul Pisani, who is Director of Alpha Briggs Mediterranean.

Topics being addressed at the conference include • Innovations in the salvage industry including the successful integration of new technologies and operational strategies • Implementing effective cost/benefit analysis to wreck oil removal projects • Developing an effective pollution defence strategy against chemicals and crude oil • Case-study examples of successful and rapid responses to casualty scenarios • Maximizing the effectiveness of your communications across the entire salvage chain. • Know exactly where you stand on insurance and contractual issues • Assessing how best to approach larger scale operations in the salvage and casualty response industries. [More info](#)

AUSTRALIA: HAZMAT 2012 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION



Victoria, 9-12 May, 2012 - HazMat 2012 is the key hazardous materials, chemical management and dangerous goods conference and exhibition in Australia. Held over two days, presentations by leading industry experts and international keynote speakers cover current and future issues. This year will see a focus on the protecting the community and how the industry is addressing environmental and public concerns of safety.

[More info](#)

INDIA: OIL SPILL INDIA CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

Nazneen Ansari writes "I take the privilege of inviting you to Oil Spill India 2011-International Conference and Exhibition being organized at Goa Holiday Inn during 29th September – 1st October 2011. The event is organized in association with ONGC and the Petrotech Society. OSI 2011 is supported by the Indian Coast Guard, Ministry of Petroleum & Ministry of Science & Technology & The Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India.

Oil Spill India 2011
International Conference & Exhibition
29th September - 1st October, Holiday Inn Resort, Goa

The theme for the conference "Motivating Change..." is aptly selected to represent the emerging business dynamics of the industry which underlines the need for technical brilliance today more than ever before. The conference is chaired by Shri. A. K. Hazarika, Chairman & Managing Director, ONGC. The conference programme will showcase leading industry experts sharing knowledge & experiences across a wide spectrum of topics including Oil Spill Threats, Oil Spill Response, HSSE overview, Policy & Legal Aspects, Case studies and Panel Discussions, to name a few.

Alongside the conference, OSI 2011 offers a state-of-the-art exhibition showcasing fit-to-purpose and innovative technologies. All the stalls for the exhibition are already sold out. It will provide excellent face-to-face opportunities to interact and network with professionals and domain experts of the highest esteem.

As Oil Spill is today one of the biggest threats to the global Oil & Gas industry, I feel it would extremely useful for Industries to make its presence in this year's OSI 2011 Conference & Exhibition. As a leading stakeholder of the industry and to get benefit from the opportunities that OSI 2011 offers, I request your active participation through nomination of delegates in this important event". [More info](#)

Correspondence

LAND-BASED HNS RELEASES CAN CAUSE MARINE FIRE & EXPLOSION HAZARDS

John S. Brinkman of ISCO Member, Imbibitive Technologies writes – "Having just reviewed the minutes of the IMO OPRC-HNS TG12 Meeting, I noticed that land-based HNS releases are also to be considered, the example cited being Lebanon several years ago.

With this in mind I might suggest that you investigate the gasoline spill and explosion that took place in Puerto Rico in October 2009 at Caribbean Oil Refining. According to the Chemical Safety Board (CSB) the vapour cloud travelled almost 200 meters until it

Correspondence (continued)

located an ignition source and blew the facility up. This example flies in the face of the argument trotted out by spill response contractors and bureaucrats that aromatic solvents such as gasoline, styrene, benzene, etc will evaporate before they can mount any substantial response effort, especially in a seaport or harbour setting". The article about the CSB investigation can be found at <http://www.csb.gov/newsroom/detail.aspx?nid=295>

Editor - John, the case you have cited underlines an issue that needs to be addressed. In some situations it just isn't possible to very quickly evacuate an area and eliminate all ignition sources. Immediate measures to reduce explosion and fire hazards may be necessary. The application of Imbiber Beads technology is a very effective answer and by encapsulating highly flammable liquids the risk can be very rapidly contained – but how many emergency responders have this option immediately to hand? The product is relatively expensive and I don't know what its shelf life may be.

Wendy Schmidt Oil Clean-Up X Challenge Finalists

THE FIFTH IN A SERIES OF ARTICLES FEATURING THE FINALISTS IN THE COMPETITION



KOSEQ, based in Puttershoek, The Netherlands, is the inventor and market leader in the field of Rigid Sweeping Arm Systems and have sold to date some 70 different systems to the Coast Guards of The Netherlands, Germany, Spain, Turkey, EMSA, US response and salvage company, international dredging companies and local Authorities. Most of these systems are permanently installed on oil recovery vessels, other systems are mobile units stored ashore for immediate use by dedicated and prepared oil recovery vessels.

The Koseq Rigid Sweeping Arm Systems are well proven under difficult sea conditions during oil recovery operations of which we highlight some main incidents: the Prestige, Sea Empress, Erika, Gulf War, Gulf of Mexico and others. EMSA, the European Maritime Safety Agency has witnessed this in their independent report, the aftermath of the sinking of the Prestige fuel oil tanker in Northern Spain and the corresponding oil recovery of the very viscous fuel oil. Only the vessels equipped with our Rigid Sweeping Arm Systems, like the "ARCA", "RIJNDELTA" and "NEUWERK" have been able to recover substantial quantities of oil at sea under difficult weather conditions.



When we heard of the Wendy Schmidt Oil Clean Up X-Challenge, we realized our recently developed Victory Oil Sweeper® would be very well suited to accept this challenge. The design of the Victory Oil Sweeper® is based on the existing, proven Rigid Sweeping Arms mentioned above. Just as the Rigid Sweeping Arm, the Victory Oil Sweeper® is designed for operations offshore. The Victory Oil Sweeper® is a rigid, V-shaped sweeping arm, with a weir skimmer in the center of the arm.

Equipped with 2 pumps it should be capable of reaching the goals set in the Wendy Schmidt Oil Clean X Challenge. Specially for this competition we designed the Victory Oil Sweeper® type X18, fitting in the

Ohmsett test basin. We also enhanced the weir system, in order to minimize the water intake. Test have shown that the water intake during skimming is less than 30%.

Victory Oil Sweeper® and Rigid Sweeping Arm Systems have particular patents and patents pending.

For more information about Koseq and the rigid sweeping arm technology, check the Koseq website (www.koseq.com). For information about the Wendy Schmidt Oil Clean X Challenge, check www.iprizecleanoceans.org

UK: THE SALVAGE ASSOCIATION POISED TO CAPITALISE ON ITS BRAEMAR CONNECTIONS

Braemar (Incorporating The Salvage Association) is poised to expand its marine surveying and consultancy services following its recent buy-out by Braemar Shipping Services plc. The company is looking forward to taking advantage of the wider group's extensive global office network to broaden its existing international expert marine surveying and consultancy service.

The Association, which boasts a maritime history of more than 150 years, plans to expand its world renowned specialist maritime services through its close association with complementary businesses in the Braemar Group, while maintaining its market-leading range of marine surveying and technical consultancy operations.

Nigel Clark, Managing Director of Braemar (incorporating The Salvage Association), said: "The Salvage Association is the standard bearer for the provision of damage survey reports and we are rightly proud of this. While this work remains our core business, we also provide a broad range of other technical and in-depth expert services to the maritime industry and we are excited to have this opportunity to expand our capabilities even further. [Read more](#)

USA: PM ENVIRONMENTAL LAUNCHES STATE BY STATE RESOURCE PAGE FOR LEAKING UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANKS

PM Environmental has recently launched its Leaking Underground Storage Tank Resources page. This state by state list of resources was created to inform individuals about local regulations and legislation with regard to underground storage tanks, preservation, cleanup and more. The page is designed to be a one-stop shop for people to easily find information pertaining to leaking underground storage tanks by state.

Concerns for leaking under ground storage tanks (USTs) are high, especially if the tank holds a hazardous substance. These concerns are particularly significant given the fact that the substances can percolate into the soil and pollute groundwater. Groundwater is the most common source of drinking water for almost 50% of Americans. Before the mid-1980s, the majority of USTs were made from bare steel, a material that is likely to corrode over time. The corrosion of tanks made of bare steel or other material that wears away allows the under ground storage tank's contents to leak into the environment.

Underground storage tanks consist of underground piping that connects the UST to at least 10% of the under ground storage tank's combined volume underground. USTs, and the associated piping that store certain hazardous substances or petroleum, must abide by the federal UST regulations. However, since underground storage tank programs are mainly applied by states and territories, it was especially important that this under ground storage tank resource page be created so that individuals were able to access UST information pertinent to their state. [Read more](#)

USA: CAT RISK MARKETS COULD COVER OIL SPILLS

As Shell battles the UK's worst oil spill for 10 years, one company is proposing that oil companies manage their spill risks by transferring them to capital markets, via catastrophe (cat) bonds.

US firm CatVest Petroleum Services is talking to oil companies about using its risk models to set up insurance-linked securities (ILS), such as cat bonds, that provide an alternative form of insurance should oil leak unexpectedly from a well, pipeline, storage facility or even a tanker.

The first oil spill bonds could be issued within the next few months, said CatVest's Jake Walker, an attorney with a background in ILS transactions.

Cat bonds have traditionally been issued by reinsurance companies to transfer the risk of infrequent, unpredictable and costly disasters such as hurricanes and earthquakes. The bonds usually provide coverage of \$100-200 million and are sold in tranches with various risk-return profiles.

Investors typically receive a coupon in the range of 5% to 15%, but risk losing their investment if the catastrophe defined by the bond occurs. However, a lack of major disasters in recent years in the US (where most bonds are issued) has led to good returns, and investors are also attracted because cat bonds are uncorrelated with other financial markets.

Tim Reilly, managing partner at CatVest Petroleum Services, said he has been providing oil spill risk assessment to companies and countries for close to 25 years. "We have been doing the kind of work necessary for understanding quantitatively the risk of oil spills for some time," he told *Environmental Finance*. [Read more](#)

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