



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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## ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO has Consultative Status at IMO, Observer Status at IOPC Funds and is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

## ISCO COMMITTEE & COUNCIL

ISCO is managed by an elected executive committee members of which are **Mr David Usher** (President, USA), **Mr John McMurtrie** (Secretary, UK), **Mr Marc Shaye** (USA), **Mr Dan Sheehan** (USA), **M. Jean Claude Sainlos** (France), **Mr Kerem Kemerli** (Turkey), **Mr Paul Pisani** (Malta), **Mr Simon Rickaby** (UK), **Mr Li Guobin** (China), **Captain Bill Boyle** (UK) and **Mr Dennis van der Veem** (Co-opted Member, The Netherlands)

The Register of ISCO Members is maintained by **Ms Mary Ann Dagleish** (Membership Director) and the list of members is on the website at <http://www.spillcontrol.org>

The Executive Committee is assisted by the non-executive ISCO Council composed of the following national representatives – **Mr John Wardrop** (Australia), **Mr Namig Gandilov** (Azerbaijan), **Mr John Cantlie** (Brazil), **Dr Merv Fingas** (Canada), **Captain Davy T. S. Lau** (China, Hong Kong), **Mr Li Guobin** (China, Mainland), **Mr Darko Domovic** (Croatia), **Eng. Ashraf Sabet** (Egypt), **Mr Torbjorn Hedrenius** (Estonia), **Mr Pauli Einarsson** (Faroe Islands), **Prof. Harilaous Psarafitis** (Greece), **Captain D. C. Sekhar** (India), **Mr Dan Arbel** (Israel), **Mr Sanjay Gandhi** (Kenya), **Mr Joe Braun** (Luxembourg), **Chief Kola Agboke** (Nigeria), **Mr Jan Allers** (Norway), **Capt. Chris Richards** (Singapore), **Mr Anton Moldan** (South Africa), **Dr Ali Saeed Al Ameri** (UAE), **Mr Kevin Miller** (UK) and **Dr Manik Sardessai** (USA).

For more info on Executive Committee and Council Members go to [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org)

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International Oil Spill Conference  
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ISAA

Oil Spill Training Days  
Castle Archdale, 28-29 April 2014



## International news

**17/03/2014 ON THIS DAY IN 1958 THE IMO CONVENTION ENTERED INTO FORCE, LAUNCHING THE GLOBAL ORGANIZATION THAT HAS SUCCESSFULLY STRIVEN TO MAKE SHIPPING SAFER, MORE SECURE AND MORE ENVIRONMENT-FRIENDLY EVER SINCE.**



It has always been recognized that the best way of improving safety at sea is by developing international regulations that are followed by all shipping nations and from the mid-19th century onwards a number of such treaties were adopted. Several countries proposed that a permanent international body should be established to promote maritime safety more effectively, but it was not until the establishment of the United Nations itself that these hopes were realized. In 1948 an international conference in Geneva adopted a convention formally establishing IMO (the original name was the Inter-Governmental Maritime Consultative Organization, or IMCO, but the name was changed in 1982 to IMO).

"The mission of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) as a United Nations specialized agency is to promote safe, secure, environmentally sound, efficient and sustainable shipping through cooperation. This will be accomplished by adopting the highest practicable standards of maritime safety and security, efficiency of navigation and prevention and control of pollution from ships, as

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All who have the relevant qualifications and the required level of experience can apply for Professional Membership of ISCO. The organization offers independent validation and integrity. Each grade of membership reflects an individual's professional training, experience and qualifications.

You can apply for Student Membership, Associate Membership (AMISCO), Membership (MISCO) or Fellowship (FISCO).

[All about Professional Membership](#)

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## To receive the ISCO Newsletter

Go to <http://www.spillcontrol.org> and enter your name and email address in the Registration Form (located on the top right hand side of the home page) then click on "SUBSCRIBE"

## Incident reports (continued)

well as through consideration of the related legal matters and effective implementation of IMO's instruments with a view to their universal and uniform implementation of IMO's instruments with a view to their universal and uniform application." [Read more about the history of IMO](#)

## GAZPROM NEFT JOINS ARCTIC SPILL RESPONSE PROGRAMME

March 19 – Oil company [Gazprom Neft](#) said Wednesday it's the first Russian company to join an international group tasked with assessing the safety of arctic oil work.

Gazprom Neft said Wednesday it joined the Arctic Oil Spill Response Technology Joint Industry Program, a program launched in 2012 to examine what would happen in the event of an oil spill in the frigid region.

"The joint research program will enable us to employ international best practice and global expertise in constant[ly] improving environmental security systems in the arctic," Vadim Yakovlev, first deputy chief executive officer of Gazprom Neft, said in a statement Wednesday. [UPI.com](#) [Read more](#)

## EMSA UPS OIL SPILL EQUIPMENT IN BULGARIA

March 16 - The capacity of The European Maritime Safety's (EMSA) contracted vessel in Varna, Bulgaria, is now better equipped to handle potential oil spills. In February the supply vessel Enterprise was fitted with a new Weir Boom 180 system, bringing significant advantages through its combined containment and recovery system.

The system is designed for response operations after large oil spills and well blow-outs. It is equipped with a fully autonomous source of hydraulic power and packed for quick mobilization and easy deployment. Supplied by Vikoma International Limited, UK, the system is capable of collecting up to 180 cubic metres per hour of pollutant. [The Maritime Executive](#) [Read more](#)

## Incident reports

### ANGOLA & NIGERIA: OIL SOAKED PIRATES IN GULF OF GUINEA



March 15 - In the early hours of 18 January 2014 a 75,000-ton tanker, the MT Kerala, vanished off the coast of Angola. A sophisticated pirate gang hijacked the Greek-owned vessel, disabling its identifications system and communication equipment, and painting over its identifying markers.

More than a week later and 1,300 miles away, the hijackers released Kerala off the coast of Nigeria, after offloading 12,270 tons of its diesel cargo to other ships.

[Read more](#) about recent tanker hijackings in this interesting article in [The Maritime Executive](#)

### USA: BARGE AND GRAIN CARRIER COLLIDE IN TEXAS

March 16 - The US Coast Guard is investigating the cause of a collision between the cargo ship Genius Star VII and a barge loaded with 840,000 gallons of #6 fuel oil in the Houston Ship Channel, Friday.

Watchstanders with Coast Guard Marine Safety Unit Texas City received a report at approximately 8:30 p.m., on Friday concerning a collision, which occurred between a loaded barge and a 394-foot cargo ship loaded with grain. There has been no report of injuries or pollution from either vessel. Both vessels are reporting damage but are in stable condition. [The Maritime Executive](#) [Read more](#)

## Incident reports (continued)

### LIBYA: NAVY SEALS TAKE OIL TANKER FROM LIBYAN REBELS

March 17 - US Navy SEALs have boarded and taken control of an oil tanker seized this month by Libyan rebels.

The SEALs boarded the tanker Morning Glory in international waters south-east of Cyprus, according to The Pentagon.

Rear Admiral John Kirby said no one was injured in the operation, which was approved by President Obama.

"The Morning Glory is carrying a cargo of oil owned by the Libyan government National Oil Company. [Sky News Read more](#) [Thanks to ADR Training UK] Links for related reports at [gCaptain](#) and [The Maritime Executive](#)



### CANADA: 23 RESCUED FROM GROUNDED SHIP

March 17 - Environmental response for a grounded ship off Rose Blanche was well underway as of late Sunday.

On Monday, a spokesperson from the Department of Fisheries and Oceans Canada stated that a change in wind direction moved the John I off the shoal on which it was grounded. The vessel remains at anchor, and the anchor is holding.

The MV John I was travelling from Spain to Montreal to pick up freight. However, on Friday morning, the 600-foot bulk carrier lost power and began drifting parallel to the shoreline on the southern coast of Newfoundland. At that time the vessel was not in danger and had hired a tug, reports The Telegram. [The Maritime Executive Read more](#) Related report in [gCaptain](#)

### USA: SUNOCO OIL PIPELINE LEAKS IN OHIO NATURE PRESERVE

March 18 - A major oil pipeline owned by Sunoco Logistics Partners LP leaked thousands of gallons of crude oil into a nature preserve in southwest Ohio late on Monday.

Between 7,000 and 10,000 gallons (26,000-38,000 liters) of sweet crude leaked into the Oak Glen Nature Preserve about a quarter of a mile from the Great Miami River, according to early estimates from the Ohio Environmental Protection Agency. [Reuters Read more](#)

### JAPAN: OIL CLEAN-UP, HUNT FOR CHINESE CREW AFTER SHIP COLLISION OFF JAPAN

March 20 - Japanese fishermen took part in efforts to clean up an oil spill in a major Tokyo waterway on Thursday as the search continued for eight Chinese missing after two cargo ships collided.

The Panamanian-flagged Beagle III, a 12,630-ton vessel carrying steel coil, sank early Tuesday after colliding with the South Korean-registered Pegasus Prime in the mouth of Tokyo Bay. [Channel News Asia Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group] Related reports in [The Maritime Executive](#) and [gCaptain](#)

### USA: COLERAIN TOWNSHIP OIL SPILL CONTAINED, FOCUS NOW ON PUBLIC HEALTH

March 19 - The 10,000-gallon oil spill at the Oak Glen Nature Preserve in Colerain Township is now contained and the pipeline has been shut off. The focus now has shifted to the public's health as the strong smell still lingers and health leaders going on a blitz want to make sure no one gets sick. [WLWT.com Read more and watch video](#) Related report at [Fox 19](#)

### USA: 4,500 GALLONS OF LIQUID FERTILIZER SPILL INTO RARITAN RIVER FROM LONG VALLEY FARM

March 19 - About 4,500 gallons of liquid fertilizer spilled into the Raritan River Tuesday morning, requiring a response from local, state and environmental officials, according to police. [NJ.com Read more](#)



## Incident reports (continued)

### NIGERIA: NEMA REPORTS PIPELINE EXPLOSION BEHIND RCCG CAMP

March 20 - The National Emergency Management Agency, NEMA, said yesterday, that there has been a pipeline explosion at Ogijo-Ilara, behind the Redeemed Christian Church of God camp along the Lagos-Ibadan Expressway.

In a statement by NEMA made available in Lagos, the agency said that the explosion occurred around 3.25 a.m. when suspected vandals broke the pipelines and installed two valves which they used in siphoning fuel into tankers. *Vanguard* [Read more](#)

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### USA: DESTROYER SPILLS DIESEL FUEL OFF N.C. COAST

March 20 - A Norfolk-based guided missile destroyer spilled 35,000 gallons of diesel fuel off the coast of North Carolina last week.

Ted Brown with U.S. Fleet Forces Command said the USS Jason Dunham spilled the fuel over a 100-mile track near the Virginia Capes while the destroyer was in transit from routine operations. It lasted from sometime on March 10 until March 12 around 1 a.m. when the ship was about 50 to 75 miles east of Carova Beach. *WAVY.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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### USA: HILAND CRUDE PIPELINE SPILLS OIL NEAR ALEXANDER, ND

March 21 - Cleanup workers have contained about 34,000 gallons of crude that spewed from a broken oil pipeline in northwestern North Dakota, a state health official said Friday.

North Dakota Water Quality Director Dennis Fewless said the breach occurred Thursday morning on Hiland Crude LLC's pipeline about 6 miles northeast of Alexander. A gasket on the above-ground pipeline appears to have failed near a compressor station, spewing about 800 barrels of crude, Fewless said. A barrel holds 42 gallons. *Huffington Post* [Read more](#)

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### USA: CREWS TRY TO CONTAIN OIL SPILL IN GALVESTON BAY

March 22 - A barge carrying nearly a million gallons of especially thick, sticky oil collided with a ship in Galveston Bay on Saturday, leaking an unknown amount of the fuel into the popular bird habitat as the peak of the migratory shorebird season was approaching.

Booms were brought in to try to contain the spill, which the Coast Guard said was reported at around 12:30 p.m. by the captain of the 585-foot ship, *Summer Wind*. Coast Guard Lt. j.g. Kristopher Kidd said the spill hadn't been contained as of 10 p.m., and that the collision was still being investigated.

The ship collided with a barge carrying 924,000 gallons of marine fuel oil, also known as special bunker, that was being towed by the vessel *Miss Susan*, the Coast Guard said. It didn't give an estimate of how much fuel had spilled into the bay, but there was a visible sheen of oil at the scene.

Officials believe only one of the barge's tanks was breached, but that tank had a capacity of 168,000 gallons.

"A large amount of that has been discharged," Kidd said. He said a plan was being developed to remove the remaining oil from the barge, but the removal had not begun. *International New York Times* [Read more](#) [Thanks to ISCO Committee Member, Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO]

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## Other news reports from around the world

### NEWS REPORTS FROM USA

#### March 16 - Report: Cleanup of soil from Arkansas oil spill complete

ExxonMobil has submitted a report to the Arkansas Department of Environmental Quality saying it has completed the cleanup of soil stemming from last year's oil spill in Mayflower.

The revised report was submitted last week and is subject to the department's approval, according to a story published Sunday in the *Arkansas Democrat-Gazette* (<http://bit.ly/1isqnbs>). *The Commercial Appeal* [Read more](#)

#### March 18 - Researchers model Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Dr. Jason Jolliff is an oceanographer with the U.S. Naval Research Laboratory (NRL). "The emphasis here," he says, "is on developing models of the ocean environment to help the naval warfighter." His most recent paper, published in *Ocean Modeling* (March 2014), shows NRL can also forecast where oil will go following a major spill.

## NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (Continued)

"If you're going to do forecasting," he says, "you have to get the [ocean](#) circulation correct. It's fundamental to all else." *Phys Org*  
[Read more](#)

### March 18 - Arkansas Game & Fish Disputing Part of Exxon Report on Mayflower Spill

The Arkansas Game and Fish Commission is disputing the conclusion of an Exxon report about the Mayflower oil spill.

Exxon sent state regulators its final environmental report on 2013 spill, basically saying there are no major long-term ecological impacts. The Game and Fish Commission responded by saying it's too soon to come to such a definitive conclusion. *Arkansas Matters* [Read more](#)

### March 19 - 4 MEB, Task Forces train for potential disasters



Training to support local and state agencies in the event of a real world nuclear disaster in one of our nation's cities is becoming second nature to 4th Maneuver Enhancement Brigade.

The 4th MEB functions as Task Force Operations headquarters on the homeland security mission of Defense Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear Response Force and has conducted several exercises with this latest one being held at Fort Stewart, Ga., March 3 through 13.

*myGuideon.com* [Read more](#)

### March 20 - Chemical Spills In NC and WV Spur Legislation

Like many industrial accidents before it—think Three Mile Island or the Exxon Valdez, it appears the West Virginia chemical spill that interrupted drinking water supplies to 300,000 Charleston area residents in January 2014 prompted a swift and potentially far reaching legislative and regulatory response. State and federal legislators scrambled to respond to the public perception that a lack of regulatory oversight contributed to the release of approximately 10,000 gallons of MCHM, or 4-methylcyclohexane methanol, from an above ground storage tank controlled by Freedom Industries into the Elk River, WV. *Tfm* [Read more](#)

### March 20 - National Response Center's Database of Spills and Accidents "Down for Maintenance"

The NRC website was taken down on February 21st. During the restoration process, the NRC was required to comply with new DOD/DHS cyber security requirements. The NRC will bring a new website online to meet these requirements, though it is an arduous process and taking longer than originally anticipated. The website will be brought back online in a stepped fashion beginning with publishing static pages within the next two weeks. The NRC report query tool and web reporting tool will not be immediately available, though we hope to have full website functionality no later than the end of May. In the meantime, we are looking at other intra-governmental websites that may be able to host our FOIA data until our main site is finished. *Center for Effective Government* [Read more](#)

### March 20 - North Carolina Says Utility Pumped Millions of Gallons of Wastewater in River

Duke Energy, the electric utility whose massive spill of toxic coal ash into a river six weeks ago is part of a federal investigation, illegally pumped as much as 61 million gallons of coal-ash wastewater into a second river from September to last week, North Carolina regulators charged on Thursday.

Both the accidental spill and the deliberate releases occurred not far upstream from municipal drinking-water intakes. *International New York Times* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO]

### March 20 - 25 years later, Exxon Valdez spill effects linger

Before the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010 in the Gulf of Mexico, there was the Exxon Valdez disaster in Alaska, at the time the nation's largest oil spill.

The 987-foot tanker, carrying 53 million gallons of crude, struck Bligh Reef at 12:04 a.m. on March 24, 1989. Within hours, it unleashed an estimated 10.8 million gallons of thick, toxic crude oil into the water. Storms and currents then smeared it over 1,300 miles of shoreline.

For a generation of people around the world, the spill was seared into their memories by images of fouled coastline in Prince William Sound, of sea otters, herring and birds soaked in oil, of workers painstakingly washing crude off the rugged beaches.

Twenty five years later, most of the species have recovered, said Robert Spies, a chief science adviser to governments on the oil spill restoration program from 1989 to 2002. But some wildlife, as well as the people who live in the region, are still struggling. *Associated Press* [Read more](#)

## NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (Continued)

### March 21 - Next phase of Gulf oil spill trial set for 2015

A federal judge has set a tentative trial date next year to consider federal Clean Water Act penalties that BP could face for the millions of gallons of oil that spilled into the Gulf of Mexico after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon rig explosion.

U.S. District Court Judge Carl Barbier on Friday set Jan. 20 for the trial — the third phase of a proceeding arising from the federal government's claims against BP and its contractors. Earlier phases dealt with causes of the disaster and the amount of oil that spewed into Gulf waters. *The Grand Island Independent* [Read more](#) Related report in [The Times Picayune](#)

### March 21 - Bill Addresses Oil Spill Risks, in Arctic Waters and Beyond

In recognition of the increasing possibility of oil exploration in Arctic waters, Sen. Mark Begich (D-Alaska) has introduced a bill to increase the Coast Guard's ability to prevent and respond to offshore oil spills.

The Coast Guard Arctic Preparedness Act (S. 2131) would require the spill response plans developed by facility owners and operators and approved by the Coast Guard to be updated at least every five years. *Bloomberg* [Read more](#)

### March 22 - Oil spill response 'inadequate' on Great Lakes



*Photo: Oil in the Kalamazoo River on July 28, 2010, three days after an Enbridge pipeline burst, causing the worst inland oil spill in U.S. history. The spill was particularly difficult to clean up because some of the oil sank. / Credit: Michigan Department of Natural Resources*

Oil that sinks is hard to clean up.

That was the big lesson after energy giant Enbridge's pipeline burst, causing oil to flow into Michigan's Kalamazoo River in 2010, some 75 miles from where it empties into Lake Michigan. After more than three years and a billion dollars, oil remains in the river.

So a refinery's proposal to ship heavy crude oil from Superior across the Great Lakes has emergency responders gearing up to bolster gaps in current oil spill response plans.

And the gaps are substantial, according to a June 2013 report from the U.S. Coast Guard's research and development division.

"Current methods are inadequate to find and recover submerged oil, with responders having to reinvent the techniques on each occasion," the report said. *International New York Times* [Read more](#)

**[Editor: "This is exactly why ISCO is convening the International Forum on Group V (Non-buoyant) Oils in September]**

## NEWS REPORTS FROM CANADA

### March 21 - Plains Midstream Canada expands maintenance approach after spills, audit

In the wake of major oil spills in each of the last three years, an Alberta pipeline operator is spending an estimated \$311 million to prevent future disasters.

Chastised by provincial energy regulators for maintenance failings and slow spill response and faced with large cleanup bills and charges that it broke environmental protection laws, Plains Midstream Canada now admits its biggest worry may be an ongoing audit of the firm's ability to operate safely. *Calgary Herald* [Read more](#)

## NEWS REPORTS FROM THE UK

### March 17 - Oil found under Tory heartland: Deposits in southern England may be rich as North Sea but getting to them will involve fracking

Scientists have discovered potential onshore oil resources in South East England, a new report is expected to confirm.

Oil-bearing shale rocks in the Weald area spanning parts of Sussex, Hampshire, Kent and Surrey are believed to be as rich in oil as

## Other news reports from around the world (continued)

### NEWS REPORTS FROM UK (Continued)

the North Sea fields. The area could hold reserves to equal a third of those under the North Sea, which would offer Britain greater energy security and could help to drive down prices. *Mail Online* [Read more](#)

#### March 18 - Consultation on the second draft edition of the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations (NCP)

[Consultation on the second draft edition of the National Contingency Plan for Marine Pollution from Shipping and Offshore Installations \(NCP\)](#)

Please click the link above to be redirected to the page on the GOV.UK web site detailing the consultation. All the consultation documentation is available on that site.

Please note that responses must be received by **noon on 23<sup>rd</sup> April 2014**. *MCA* [Read more](#)

#### March 19 - UK shipping minister praises salvage industry at ISU conference

The UK shipping minister, Stephen Hammond MP, gave the keynote address at the International Salvage Union's annual conference for its Associate Members. There was a full programme of speakers and panel discussions on topics related to the salvage industry particularly Arctic operations and container operations.

Mr Hammond told some 170 delegates that the UK and the European Union are tackling the issue of Places of Refuge for casualty vessels – a matter on which the ISU, along with the International Chamber of Shipping and the International Union of Marine Insurance, is campaigning. *ISU* [Read more](#)

### NIGERIA: BAYELSA COMMUNITY CHALLENGES AGIP OVER LATEST OIL SPILL, DEMANDS COMPENSATION

MARCH 20 - People from Okoroba, Nembe Local Government Area, Bayelsa State, have asked the Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) to immediately dispatch relief materials to the community to alleviate the devastating impact of the latest oil spill in the area.

The two founding families of Okoroba, Izagara and Agum, described the recent spill in the community on February 16 from the Brass/Ogoda Pipeline belonging to Agip as a disaster that could only be compared to the 2009 incident that occurred in the same location. *WorldStage* [Read more](#)

## ISCO News

### PRESS RELEASE: INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GROUP V (NON-BUOYANT) OILS

*Michael Rancilio, ISCO's Event Manager for the International Forum being held in September 2014 has just issued the following press release. Readers who are involved as editors of publications, such as magazines, technical journals, newsletters, etc. are kindly requested to help publicise the Forum by printing this Press Release.*

"Sinking oils (Group V Class C/D) including oil sands, Dilbit, Bitumen, Lamp Black and other non-buoyant oils have a specific gravity of > 1, which is heavier than water and, if spilt, will submerge or sink in water. There has been a dramatic increase in the exploration and drilling efforts of these type oils in the US, Canada, Europe and throughout the world.

This production increase presents unique challenges to the oil and gas industry and regulatory communities in the storage and transportation of these oils including tankers and barges, pipelines, rail and over the road tankers. The Spill Response Industry is faced with augmenting "traditional" Spill Preparedness, Detection/Surveillance, Response Tactics, Recovery Methods and Techniques to meet the characteristics of sinking oils in the environment.

The International Spill Control Organization (ISCO), celebrating its 30th Anniversary, announces the presentation of the "International Forum on Group V (Non-buoyant) Oils to be held 9-10 September, 2014 at the Detroit/Wayne County Port Authority located at 130 Atwater, Detroit, MI 48226. The Forum is open to all interested parties. Co-sponsored, at this point, by: USCG and NOAA and Industry Sponsors OSG, Marine Pollution Control Corporation and others to be announced.

The Forum will present expert analysis from the oil and gas industry, multi regulatory community, the scientific community, and spill responders with the most up to date counter-measures and equipment available and to be developed. It will offer excellent opportunities for exchange of best practices in meeting the challenges of these type oils and in networking with other professionals. In addition to speaker presentations and panel discussions, a table-top exhibition area will be included as part of the event".



## **PRESS RELEASE: INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GROUP V (NON-BUOYANT) OILS (Continued)**

### REGISTRATION INFORMATION

We are currently developing the website for the Forum and it will be available soon. For further information follow the weekly ISCO Newsletter [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) or contact:

Michael Rancilio, Event Manager - [michael.rancilio@gmail.com](mailto:michael.rancilio@gmail.com)

John McMurtrie, Secretary, ISCO - [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

### Note for Editors – Background information about ISCO

Mission Statement - ISCO (International Spill Control Organization) aims to raise worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, to promote technical development and professional competency, and to provide a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

ISCO is a not-for-profit organisation incorporated in London in 1984 and dedicated to improving world-wide preparedness for response to oil and chemical spills.

ISCO is a truly international organization, currently with membership in 45 countries around the world - Australia, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belize, Brazil, British Virgin Islands, Canada, China, Columbia, Croatia, Denmark, Egypt, Estonia, Faroe Islands, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, India, Indonesia, Israel, Iran, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Kuwait, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, South Africa, Sweden, Turkey, UK, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, Uruguay, and USA.

Through its Consultative Status at IMO, ISCO gives the spill response community a voice and input to the work of IMO in safeguarding the marine environment.

ISCO also holds Observer Status with the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds), giving practical advice on best international practice on oil pollution response.

Through its involvement in IMO and IOPC Funds, ISCO alerts the spill response community on new developments, some of which present opportunities for ISCO members.

ISCO is contributing to the work of the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR), collating information on experience in response to HNS spills and to Subsea Oil Recovery. The emphasis is on the collation of experiences, problems solved and lessons learned by spill responders – information that is often not published or presented at conferences. This information will be valuable in the drafting of new response guidelines and manuals. Contributors have an incentive to contribute to this work because their inputs will be acknowledged, raising individual or company profiles with governments, oil and shipping industries, insurance interests and others. ISCO is also contributing to the IMO International Offers of Assistance (IOA) initiative and the International Inventory of Oil Spill Response Resources.

ISCO is committed to supporting IMO's Technical Co-operation Programme, finding qualified individuals who can help third world countries to implement OPRC and other conventions. Day rate, travel and subsistence costs are payable to selected candidates.

### Sourcing help –

Spill scenarios are often unique – presenting very specific problems and requiring innovative approaches or application of methodologies that aren't in the textbook. ISCO has the contacts that can help you to quickly find the expertise or specialised equipment you need to find in a hurry.

ISCO encourages co-operation between spill responders and can help members find the right partner with complementary skills and know-how to meet new challenges.

ISCO assists governments and other organisations in sourcing emergency support and resources in major pollution incidents.

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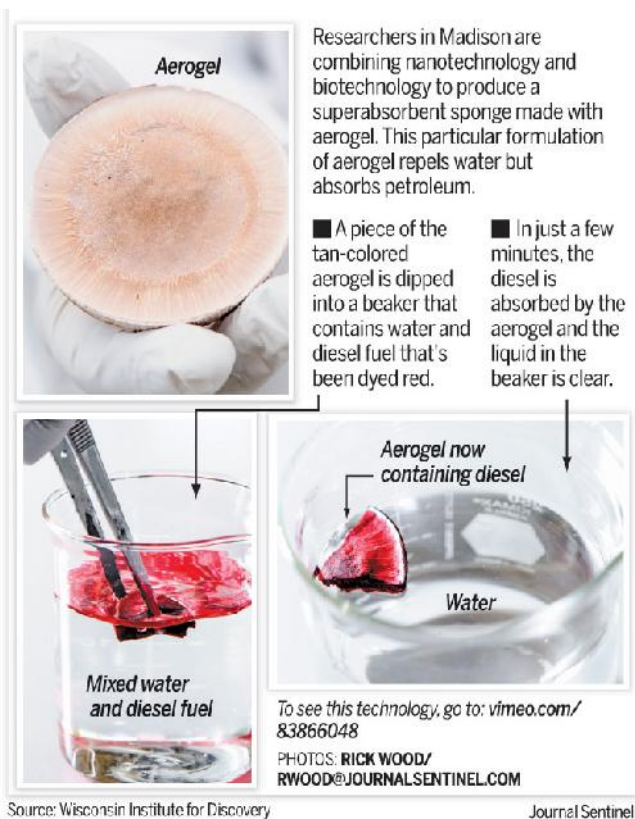
## **ISCO REPRESENTATION AT IMO MARINE ENVIRONMENT COMMITTEE MEETING**

ISCO will be represented by Dr Douglas Cormack, Hon.FISCO. This meeting will take place over 31/03/2014 - 04/04/2014 at the IMO HQ in London.

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## OIL SPILL CLEANUP BY SPONGE: WISCONSIN INSTITUTE OF DISCOVERY



Photo(above): Project leader Zhiyong Cai (from left), graduate student Qifeng Zheng and associate professor Shaoqin "Sarah" Gong prepare to test their aerogel product, which absorbs oil but not water, at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery in Madison

In a development arising from nanotechnology research, scientists in Madison have created a spongelike material that could provide a novel and sustainable way to clean up oil spills.

It's known as an aerogel, but it could just as well be called a "smart sponge."

To demonstrate how it works, researchers add a small amount of red dye to diesel, making the fuel stand out in a glass of water. The aerogel is dipped in the glass and within minutes, the sponge has soaked up the diesel. The aerogel is now red, and the glass of water is clear.

"It was very effective," said Shaoqin "Sarah" Gong, who runs a biotechnology-nanotechnology lab at the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery in Madison.

"So if you had an oil spill, for example, the idea is you could throw this aerogel sheet in the water and it would start to absorb the oil very quickly and efficiently," said Gong, a University of Wisconsin-Madison associate professor of biomedical engineering. "Once it's fully saturated, you can take it out and squeeze out all the oil."

The material's absorbing capacity is reduced somewhat after each use, but the product "can be reused for a couple of cycles," Gong said.

Researchers in Madison have patented their aerogel technology and are now seeking paper or petroleum industry partners to collaborate or fund research to test it on a larger scale.

"We're looking for some support to develop this technology further," Gong said.

Details of the aerogel discovery were published last month in the *Journal of Materials Chemistry A*. Researchers say the product has the potential to help reduce water pollution that leads to water shortages around the world.

The aerogel absorption technology is the result of a collaboration between the Wisconsin Institute for Discovery and a nanotechnology pilot plant established two years ago at the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Forest Products Lab in Madison.

*Journal Sentinel* [Read more](#)

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## "SUPER BACTERIA" CLEANING UP AFTER OIL SPILLS

Norwegian researchers in Trondheim have achieved surprising results by exploiting nature's own ability to clean up after oil spills.

We all know that [marine bacteria](#) can assist in cleaning up after [oil spills](#). What is surprising is that given the right kind of encouragement, they can be even more effective.

*This article will feature in next week's ISCO Newsletter*



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 168 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Fellow 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](#)

### CHAPTER 168: THE NEW RESPONSE PLANS AND THEIR USES

As to potential response to releases onshore, the new contingency plan acknowledges that any response is determined by the shoreline type and interaction with the viscosity of the stranded substance; that equipment and techniques have been designed or modified to cope with this variety of response tasks; and that the former should be paired with the latter for potential use (c.f. articles 92-102).

As to potential onshore arrivals, the new contingency plan acknowledges that these are only the floating residues of incomplete evaporation, solution or dispersion; that none would have arrived had these processes been completed between release and potential arrival; and that consequently the options on arrival are to permit or assist completion of these non-toxic/anti-coating processes or physically to remove that for which these processes are ineffective for timely cleaning of shorelines. Thus, the new contingency plan acknowledges that dispersant-use is unnecessary for natural evaporators and dissolvers but assists natural dispersion of immiscible substances without putting more pollutant into the sea than would have gone in naturally had more time been available prior to stranding, no further action then being needed; that while mechanical recovery removes that which cannot be dispersed, it needs downstream processing; and that where dispersants are effective they are thus preferable to recovery (c.f. articles 31-46, 47-61 and 70-91).

As to monitoring the movement of slicks between source and shore to estimate the geographical extent of their likely stranding, the new contingency plan acknowledges that they must be differentiated from all natural phenomena and themselves be differentiated as to windrows and phase II and III layers *i.e.* as to layer thicknesses ~ 1.0mm (windrows), 0.1mm (slicks), 0.4mm (emulsified slicks) and microns (sheens); and that IR/UV line-scanning combined with side-looking airborne radar meets this need when the instrumentation is previously calibrated against measured thicknesses (c.f. articles 62-69).

However, the new contingency plan acknowledges that layer thicknesses at sea and hence equipment encounter-rates, can increase by a factor of 10 when these are pressed against shorelines by onshore winds while stranding on the ebb-tide; that consequently the shore is more effective than any deployable boom or adsorbent; that emulsion layers of up to say 5mm thickness can thus be collected from wet (poorly drained) sand beaches by water flushing into contour-trenches dug for recovery by viscosity-tolerant pumps; that stranded emulsion is otherwise difficult to separate from underlying beach materials without co-collection and subsequent separation by equipment designed for this purpose; that heavy rubber strips attached to the edge of mechanised scraper-blades can be effective on well-drained sand in pushing the emulsion layer into contour-trenches where water intended for flushing would simply drain into the beach; that non-separated mixtures of emulsion and sand can be stabilised by addition of lime to form concrete when suitable building projects are concurrent; and that otherwise the options are *in situ* bioremediation or land-farming at oil refineries. As to emulsions recovered from water-surfaces at sea, inshore or from beaches, the new contingency plan acknowledges that these have to be separated from co-collected water and the oil subsequently separated from de-emulsified water for recycling as fuel for various industrial processes (c.f. articles 92-102).

Nevertheless, the resale value of such oil is far below the cost of its recovery by the processes described above, without cost being further increased by the reality-refuted belief in species-extinction/ecological-disaster which currently prohibits *in situ* decanting of all such processed water. Accordingly, the new contingency plan rejects this belief in its knowledge-only acceptance of such processing; of the use of safe havens; and of dispersant use onshore and in coastal water depths less than any arbitrary minimum (c.f. articles 121-130 and 147-154).

Further to this physicochemical approach to release-response, the new contingency plan acknowledges gel-use to cause dispersants to cling to and act on emulsions coating sloping and vertical surfaces prior to water-jet washing; and the use of surface film chemicals between shore and shore-proximate slicks to prevent stranding in onshore winds and flooding tides, or onshore prior to stranding to avoid adhesion and thus to facilitate removal by water washing on ebb tide and offshore wind (c.f. articles 92-102).

Thus, the new contingency plan acknowledges that inshore waters and shorelines are the ultimate arena of response to release residues which arrive there as physical coatings; that natural processes which may reduce these residues to zero do so without toxic-cessation of their biodegradation; that the optimal response is thus to disperse stranded residues to resume their biodegradation and to recover only that which is resistant to dispersants; and that this non-toxicity permits *in situ* decanting of the water arising from recovery processing thus making the process itself quicker and more cost-effective.

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

## Publications

### FOR YOUR INTEREST – LINKS FOR RECENT ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

<a href="#">ASME EED EHS Newsletter</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
<a href="#">Bow Wave</a>	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	February 2014
<a href="#">The Essential Hazmat News</a>	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	March 18 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	March 1 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech News &amp; Trends</a>	Contaminated site clean-up information	May 2013 issue
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	Feb 1-15 2014 issue
<a href="#">Intertanko Weekly News</a>	International news for the oil tanker community	No 12 2014
<a href="#">CROIERG Enews</a>	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	February 2014 issue
<a href="#">IMO Publishing News</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2014
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 4, 2013
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for prevention & control professionals	March 19 issue
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	February 2014 issue
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2014 issue
<a href="#">Environmental Technology Online</a>	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	March 2014 issue
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	January 2014 issue
<a href="#">IPIECA eNews</a>	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 2014 issue
<a href="#">WMU Newsletter</a>	From the World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden	February 2014 issue

### LESSONS FROM VALDEZ: 25 YEARS LATER

A video from NOAA – [Download, watch and listen to this video.](#) (28.5 MB and may take a few minutes to download)

## Events

### USA: IOSC FILM FESTIVAL AND PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST

As part of its week-long program of activities, the IOSC is hosting both a Film Festival and a Photography Contest. Interested agencies, organizations, companies, and individuals are invited to submit films or photographs that relate to the entry categories. No professional experience is required to submit either films or images to the IOSC Film Festival or Photography Contest. A brief description of each event can be found below with links to the submission site which explains the rules and the mechanism for the electronic submission of your film or photograph.

**Film Festival** - All individuals submitting a film or photo must comply with the guidelines and agree to the Official Rules for Entry found on the submission site. Films and photographs should not represent a commercial advertisement and all submissions to either the festival or contest are subject to review and approval by the chair of the Film Festival and Photography Contest. Inappropriate or commercial submissions will not be considered for either event.

Individuals or organizations may submit a short film to be presented during the IOSC's three-day Film Festival. The films will be presented in the IOSC theater/gallery and artists will be encouraged to formally introduce their work upon its premiere. If the filmmaker is not available to attend the IOSC, the submission process allows for information to be provided that will be used to formally introduce the film. Awards will be presented to the best film(s) during the IOSC Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, May 7th, 2014. The IOSC asks that commercial advertising videos not be submitted to the festival. More information regarding the film festival rules and submission process can be found by registering on the Film Festival and Photography Contest Submission site.

**Photography Contest** - Individuals may submit up to three photographs for consideration in the IOSC's Photography Contest. Selected photographs will be displayed throughout the event and then displayed in the IOSC photography gallery onsite. Photographers will be asked to introduce their work during a premier of all the images to be held in the IOSC theater/gallery. If the photographer is not available to attend the IOSC, the submission process allows for information to be provided that will be used to formally introduce the images. Awards will be presented to the best images during the IOSC Awards Luncheon on Wednesday, May 7th, 2014. Winning entries of the Photography Contest will also be posted on the IOSC website. Additionally, submitters may choose (but are not required) to grant permission for the use of their images in other future IOSC materials with a photo credit for the photographer. More information regarding the photography contest rules and submission process can be found by registering on the Film Festival and Photography Contest Submission site. [Read more - More info and instructions for submitting entries](#)

### GHANA: OIL PIPELINE INTEGRITY, OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND REMEDIATION IN THE NIGER DELTA NIGERIA

April 23-25 in Accra, Ghana – Conference organised by ISCO Corporate Member, Kaku Professional Engineers Ltd in a collaborative effort with Texas A & M University, National Spill Control School, TX, USA. We are calling on the world environmental stakeholders to recognize our Oil Spill Conference (OSC) for African region as Spillcon, Interspill and International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) are for Australia, Europe and North America. [More info](#)

## Events (continued)

### UK: MARINE POLLUTION SEMINAR ORGANISED BY LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY

Wednesday 4 - Thursday 5 June 2014, Bonhill House, London. The legal, technical and practical update on handling pollution incidents.

Speakers include • Måns Jacobsson, Former Director, International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) • José Maura, International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds) • Colin de la Rue • Sandro Vuylsteke, Skuld • Kiran Khosla, International Chamber of Shipping • Tony Paulson, West of England P&I Club • Charles B Anderson, Skuld North America • Dr Rebecca Coward, ITOFF • Mark Hoddinott, International Salvage Union • Dave Salt, Spillconsult Limited [More info](#)

## Training

### UK: ENERGY INSTITUTE - SHALE GAS AND OTHER UNCONVENTIONAL PETROLEUM RESOURCES

1 – 3 April 2014, London, UK - About this course: Unconventional sources of petroleum will be increasingly relied upon as and when conventional petroleum becomes “economically non-viable” due to depletion and the financial and environmental cost of technologies exploiting frontier areas becomes prohibitive.

This course is suitable for technical and nontechnical professionals working in the oil and gas industry. As well as technical material the course addresses commercial, strategic and sustainability / public relations issues relevant to financiers, economists, strategists, bankers, planners and lawyers as well as geoscientists and engineer. [More info](#)

## Contracts and tenders

### USA: EPA REGION 1 EMERGENCY AND RAPID RESPONSE SERVICES (ERRS) IV

U.S. EPA, Office of Acquisition Management, Region I, Boston, MA.  
Federal Business Opportunities, FBO-4493, Solicitation SOL-R1-14-00001, 2014

EPA Region 1 is conducting market research to identify parties having an interest in and the resources to support the requirement for Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) IV, NAICS code 562910. The results of this market research will contribute to determining the method of procurement. The estimated length of contract for this requirement is five or seven years with an estimated maximum contract value in the range of \$100-150 million. The purpose of the ERRS IV contract requirement is to conduct emergency responses, time-critical and non-time-critical removals, and remedial actions with respect to the release or threat of release of oil, hazardous and toxic wastes, petroleum products, hazardous substances, or pollutants, contaminants, or fire or explosion hazards, primarily within U.S. EPA Region 1, which includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, Vermont, and 10 tribal nations. This effort will also include cleanup for incidents involving weapons of mass destruction, acts of terrorism, and chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear incidents. Contractors must be able to maintain response capability 24/7 year-round. Responses are due by April 8, 2014, 2:00 pm ET. <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/EPA/OAM/RegI/SOL-R1-14-00001/listing.html>

## Job vacancies

### INDIA: OIL SPILL IMO LEVEL 1, 2 AND 3 COURSE INSTRUCTORS FOR 9 -1 0 DAYS COURSE

Must be certified instructors or experienced. Seaworthy Shipping Oil spill and Environmental Emergency Services. [More info](#)

## Company news

### MCDERMOTT PERFORMS EMERGENCY PIPELINE REPAIR

March 17 - McDermott International recently mobilised the Dive Support Vessel (DSV) Thebaud Sea for an emergency pipeline repair intervention offshore the United Arab Emirates. This is the third time in recent months that the DSV has been fast-tracked to carry out an emergency response. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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