



ISCO NEWSLETTER

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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.

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International news

OTC: OIL SPILL PREVENTION AN INTERNATIONAL ISSUE, DOE SAYS

May 6 - Oil spill prevention in the deepwater Gulf of Mexico and around the world is an international challenge where nations must work together to avoid another major incident, said Christopher Smith, principal deputy assistant secretary at the US **Department of Energy**, during a May 6 panel discussion at the **Offshore Technology Conference** in Houston.

"We're on a playing field in which the goal posts are constantly moving," Smith said, explaining that variables such as evolving technology, changes in weather, water depth, temperature, and pressure affect drilling operations to different degrees.

Operators and government agencies also have to deal with grey area in the form of territorial boundaries, which are often disputed, Smith said. To improve efficiency in dealing with prevention, nations must share information on technology and best practices with each other so there are no discrepancies.

This is particularly the case in the Arctic, where seven nations share boundaries and interest in drilling is ramping up. "There is a fear and mistrust about us being able to drill there without incident," Smith said.

Brian Salerno, director of the US **Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement** (BSEE), which launched in 2010 after the **Macondo blowout**, described the Arctic as the primary focus of regulators at the moment. The agency is closely monitoring the region so it can appropriately respond to spills. *Oil & Gas Journal* [Read more](#)

RUSSIA AGREES TO ANTARCTICA MARINE RESERVES

May 8 - Russia has lifted its opposition to marine reserves proposed for the Antarctic, with Moscow for the first time laying down its demands to agree to the giant areas being protected.

Opposition by Russia and a handful of other nations stymied two reserve proposals when they were put before Antarctic nations for the third time last year.

A 1.6 million square kilometre reserve off East Antarctica backed by Australia,

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system to Germany. This example shows clearly how cross-border communication through SafeSeaNet can be effective in fighting pollution. *EMSA Newsletter* [Read more](#) [Editor: This issue of the EMSA Newsletter also contains articles on new maritime surveillance services and the streamlining of casualty information flow resulting from the connection bridging of EMSA's EMCIP with IMO's GISIS]

International news (continued)

France and the European Union is in the balance, as is a 1.25 million square kilometre proposal in the Ross Sea put forward by the United States and New Zealand.

Russia told the annual Antarctic Treaty meeting that wound up in Brasilia this week it had been depicted "in open opposition" to the marine reserves, but that "in the main" it was not against them. *The Sydney Morning Herald* [Read more](#)

ANTARCTIC TREATY SIGNATORIES MAKE MARINE PROTECTION PROGRESS

May 9 - Antarctic Treaty signatories made progress Wednesday towards future protection of the icy continent's marine life, NGO officials said.

Authorities at the treaty's annual meeting, in Brasilia this year, "sent a strong message of support" to the commission overseeing Antarctic wildlife protection, said Mark Epstein, director of the Antarctic and Southern Ocean Coalition.

Member countries strongly urged "designating marine protected areas in the Southern Ocean," he added.

The Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources was launched in 1982 to try to conserve marine life there amid rising commercial interest in Antarctic krill resources, a main component of the ecosystem. *TerraDaily* [Read more](#)

EUROPE: NEW SAFESEANET INCIDENT REPORTING FUNCTION IN PRACTICE

May 7 - A recent case of pollution in the Baltic Sea has shed light on how the new SafeSeaNet incident report module can bring added operational value to cross-border communication in an emergency.

On 2 April, lumps of oil several metres wide were found in bands along the coastline of the Baltic Sea, north-eastern Germany.

Drift modelling showed that the pollution was also likely to affect the neighbouring Polish coast, so German services sent an incident report through SafeSeaNet to their counterparts in Poland. The Polish authorities activated local pollution response services, and directed aerial surveillance to the area. Their pollution prevention actions were then fed into the initial SafeSeaNet incident report, which was sent back through the central SafeSeaNet

ITOPF FILMS SCOOP PRIZES AT IOSC FILM FESTIVAL

ITOPF was delighted to be awarded a clean sweep of 1st, 2nd and 3rd prize at the Film Festival of the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) in Savannah, USA. "From the enthusiastic response we had at the launch event in London on the 30th April we knew we were in with a good shout at the Film Festival" said Dr Tim Lunel, Support & Development Director at ITOPF, "But with some excellent submissions from around the world we didn't imagine that we would make a clean sweep. It was excellent that some of the key partners who helped to bring a truly international perspective to the film series were able to be there at the IOSC to share in our collective success".

Since the aim of the films is to highlight key messages on oil spill preparedness and response around the world, the films were produced with key input from the IMO, European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), OSRL, Sintef (Norway), Cedre (France), the International Group (IG) of Protection & Indemnity Clubs, the International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Funds and KOMOS (Korea). Important imagery illustrating different aspects of the film series was provided by Callisto, Steamship Mutual, NOAA and the US Coastguard to ensure that spill incidents from around the world were included to illustrate particular aspects of a successful

International news (continued)

response. Initial responses from those seeing the films seem to indicate that the aim of producing a film series with key messages that are relevant to the wider global spill response community has been achieved in the approach taken in these films.

Mark Howard from the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) coordinated a newly expanded Film Festival that raised the standards to a new level which also included a photography contest for the first time. Dr Annabelle Nicolas-Kopec from ITOPF also scooped a first prize in the "Response" category of the photo completion with this photo:



FIRST-EVER STUDY DESCRIBES DEEP-SEA ANIMAL COMMUNITIES ON AND AROUND A SUNKEN SHIPPING CONTAINER



Photo: After seven years on the deep seafloor, this sunken shipping container had been colonized by a variety of deep-sea animals. Image courtesy 2011 NOAA and MBARI

May 9 - Thousands of shipping containers are lost from cargo vessels each year. Many of these containers eventually sink to the deep seafloor. In 2004, scientists at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute (MBARI) discovered a lost shipping container almost 1,300 meters (4,200 feet) below the surface of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary.

In the first-ever survey of its kind, researchers from MBARI and the sanctuary recently described how deep-sea animal communities on and around the container differed from those in surrounding areas.

In February 2004, the cargo vessel Med Taipei was traveling southward along the California coast when severe winds and seas dislodged 24 shipping containers, 15 of which were lost within the boundaries of the Monterey Bay National Marine Sanctuary. Four months later, during a

routine research dive using the remotely operated vehicle (ROV) Ventana, MBARI scientists discovered one of these containers on the seafloor. *Terra Daily* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world

MADAGASCAR TO DRAIN CRUDE FROM STRICKEN TANKER

Picture: The Bahamian-flagged ship Tromso which ran aground near Ramena off Madagascar, pictured here on April 23, 2014

April 24 - The 120-metre (393-foot) Bahamian-flagged Tromso, laden with 10,000 cubic metres of crude oil, got stricken last week in the Indian Ocean after it bust one of its two hulls.

A Seychelles vessel, the Seychelles Paradise which has a capacity of 1,400 cubic metres will syphon the crude off the Tromso on Saturday to lessen the weight of the tanker, the government's anti-pollution chief Roland Rakotondrasata said.

A Madagascar tug will then tow the tanker to its destination, the deepwater harbour of Antsiranana, formerly known as Diego Suarez, situated roughly 20 kilometres (15 miles) away. By Tuesday the rescue operation should conclude. *PhysOrg* [Read more](#)



Incident reports from around the world (continued)

USA: 250 GALLONS OF DIESEL SPILLED INTO ONSET BAY

April 26 - About 250 gallons of diesel fuel spilled into Onset Bay at Point Independence Yacht Club on Friday night, according to the Onset Fire Department. The fuel "had leaked from the line that supplies pumps at the end of the dock for marine vessel fueling," the department said in a release. *South Coast Today* [Read more](#)

USA: BROKEN PIPE SPRAYS OILY PLUME ACROSS SNOWY TUNDRA AT PRUDHOE BAY

April 29 - Environmental officers with the state of Alaska are investigating an oil spill at Prudhoe Bay, after an unknown quantity of natural gas, crude oil and water escaped from a flow line operated by BP Exploration Alaska on Monday, spraying 27 acres of snow-covered tundra with an oily mist. *Alaska Dispatch* [Read more](#)

USA: NTSB INVESTIGATING DERAILMENT, OIL SPILL IN LYNCHBURG

April 30 - The National Transportation Safety Board has launched an investigation of a freight train derailment in Lynchburg that destroyed three oil tanker cars, lifted a plume of black smoke into the sky and spilled thousands of gallons of crude oil into the James River.

No one was killed or injured when more than a dozen CSX tanker cars derailed on Wednesday afternoon, but the resulting fire and spill prompted City Manager Kimball Payne to declare an emergency and temporarily evacuate part of downtown. *Times Dispatch* [Read more and see video](#)

GERMANY: OIL SPILL IN AMTSVENN TURNS INTO DISASTER, SOURCE OF SPILL STILL UNKNOWN

May 1 - Since April 12th an oil spill is quickly turning into a disaster in Amtsvenn, Germany, right next to the border with Enschede in the Netherlands. While more than 200,000 liters of crude oil have already found their way to the surface through underground salt domes, every hour an additional 500 liters are pushed upwards to ground level. These are disaster figures that have the German authorities seriously alarmed. *GreenFudge.org* [Read more](#)

COLOMBIA: REBEL ATTACK ON PIPELINE CAUSES OIL SPILL

May 2 - A new guerrilla attack on Colombia's Caño Limon-Coveñas pipeline, out of service since March 25, has caused an oil spill and sparked environmental concerns.

Friday's attack in the central province of Boyaca poses a potential public-health emergency, Cubara Mayor John Jairo Alonso said, warning that the spilled crude could reach nearby rivers. *Latino Fox News* [Read more](#)

CHINA: CARGO SHIP SINKS, 11 MISSING NEAR HONG KONG: OFFICIALS



May 5 - Authorities launched an air and sea rescue operation Monday to find 11 crew members from a Chinese cargo ship after it collided with another vessel and sank just outside Hong Kong's teeming waters.

Four helicopters and more than 20 ships from China and Hong Kong were deploying to the waters near Po Toi, an island lying at the edge of Hong Kong's territory where the ship sank in the early hours of the morning, officials said.

"Two cargo ships collided and one of them sank," a police spokeswoman told AFP.

Aerial footage of the scene shown on Hong Kong television showed an oil slick on the surface of the sea where the ship is believed to have gone down. *TerraDaily* [Read more](#)

USA: USCG RESPONDS TO GROUNDED TUG

May 6 - The Coast Guard is continuing its response to the grounded towing vessel Kimberly Selvick in Lake Michigan off of Burnahm Park. The vessel remains partially submerged, while the two barges that broke free from the tug Monday afternoon have been removed and towed to Calumet Harbor Fleeting. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

UK: THIEVES DRILL DOWN 8FT INTO ESSO PIPELINE - AND SPARK MAJOR POLLUTION ALERT AT TOP FISHING RIVER

May 11 - Petrol thieves have drilled into an underground pipeline and caused a leak of thousands of litres of fuel next to a popular fishing river, sparking a major environmental alert.

About 150,000 litres of fuel have contaminated soil close to the River Kennet, just upstream from top public school Marlborough College in Wiltshire. Police are investigating the attack on the Esso refinery pipeline, believed to be the first of its kind in the UK. *Mail Online* [Read more](#)

USA: SPILL CONTINUES AT OIL WELL NEAR TIOGA, NORTH DAKOTA

May 12 - An oil well near the town of Tioga continued to leak oil, gas and fracking fluid on Monday, days after authorities learned about the problem, a local official said.

Williams County emergency coordinator Mike Hallesy said he was notified Friday evening of the spill in the western North Dakota's oil patch and that the leak hadn't stopped. The Department of Mineral Resources said the incident occurred at the Ron Burgundy 3-23-14H well, around eight miles northwest of Tioga. The well is owned by Denver-based Emerald Oil. *Bakken Breakout* [Read more](#)

USA: TEN THOUSAND GALLONS OF CRUDE OIL COVERS HALF A MILE OF LOS ANGELES AFTER PIPE BURSTS



Photo: Clean up: Hazardous material specialists are also working at the scene amid concern that the massive spill could cause an environmental disaster. Fire Department spokesman Erik Scott says there is currently no 'visible evidence' that the oil has entered storm drains

May 15 - The flow of oil to the pipe was remotely shut down shortly within 10 minutes of the burst being detected, but the leak continued for another 45 minutes.

A 20-inch oil pipeline is medium-sized by industry standards and would generally transport about 200,000 barrels per day based on average rates. There was no immediate information about the specific capacity or throughput of the line.

'This oil comes from the Bakersfield area, this is a pumping transfer station and pumping transfer station then transfers the oil to a storage facility in Long Beach,' Battalion Chief David Spence said. *Mail Online* [Read more](#) [Thanks to ISCO Committee Member, Marc Shaye Hon.FISCO] Other reports can be found on [BBC News](#) and in the [LA Times](#)

ECUADOR: ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY IN GALAPAGOS ISLANDS

Photo: The ship, Galapaface I, ran aground close to San Cristobal island (Photo: Galapagos National Park)

May 16 - Ecuador has declared an environmental emergency in the Galapagos Islands after a freighter carrying pollutants ran aground last week.

The measure will free up resources to remove the ship and mitigate its impact in the face of "possible environmental damage that could unleash a disaster", said the Directorate of the Galapagos National Park (DPNG) on Thursday.

The vessel, which ran aground off the Baquerizo Moreno port on the island of San Cristobal on Friday, was carrying about 72,000 litres of cargo fuel that has already been removed.

But there are fears highly polluting motor oil and cleaning products that remain in the ship's airtight holds could leak out.

Ecuador's Environmental Minister Lorena Tapia issued the environmental emergency at the request of Galapagos authorities. *3News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to ISCO member, Carlos Sagrera MISCO]



Note from Editor: : In consideration of readers whose first language is Spanish, Mr Sagrera has kindly provided the following links – the first one, from the Comercio Newspaper contains the official reaction of the Equatorian Authorities. The other links from El Universo tells the story day by day.

http://www.elcomercio.com/sociedad/emergencia-Galapagos-Galapaface-Alexa-buque_0_1138686268.html

<http://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2014/05/16/nota/2969911/autoridades-galapagos-dicen-que-mes-tomara-rescatar-buque-encallado>

<http://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2014/05/12/nota/2952131/14-mil-galones-diesel-extraidos-galapaface-i>

<http://www.eluniverso.com/noticias/2014/05/15/nota/2965696/galapagos-estado-emergencia-debido-buque-encallado>

<http://www.hoy.com.ec/noticias-ecuador/galapagos-declarada-en-emergencia-606478.html>

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA

April 27 - Arctic Oil Spill Response Needs More Infrastructure

A new report from the National Research Council says that a full suite of proven oil response tools is needed to address potential oil spills in U.S. Arctic waters, but not all of them are readily available. While much is known about both oil behavior and response technologies in ice-covered environments, there are areas where additional research would enable more informed decisions about the most effective response strategies for different Arctic spill situations, the report adds. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

May 1 - New sensors along Texas Coast set to help oil spill response, surfing

The Texas General Land Office has provided a \$152,244 grant to the CBI to develop a "Coastal Current Monitoring Network" on the Texas coast. Recently two current profilers and wave sensors were installed at Bob Hall Pier in collaboration with Nueces County Coastal Parks. The installed structures will allow for the lowering of the sensors underwater and position them at various depths.

"Access to this data will also provide surfers with wave and current information and help alert beach-goers to the potential for rip currents," said Tissot. "Other applications of the data include providing information for search and rescue situations." *The Humble Observer* [Read more](#)

May 2 - Officials conclude emergency oil spill clean up in Port O'Connor

The Incident Command Post (ICP) Matagorda, in Port O'Connor, has concluded the emergency response phase of oil removal more than a month after a Kirby Inland Marine barge collided with a bulk carrier ship in Galveston Bay, leaking thousands of gallons of oil.

The accident occurred March 22, and oil washed ashore Matagorda Island five days later, said Capt. Randal Ogrydziak, with the U.S. Coast Guard Sector Corpus Christi, who is the federal on-scene coordinator or incident commander for the Coast Guard. *The Port Lavaca Wave* [Read more](#)

May 5 - Full set of tools needed for US Arctic spill response, NRC finds

A full slate of response tools will be needed to address crude oil spills in the US Arctic, but not all of those tools are readily available, the National Research Council said in a new report. While much is known already about both the behavior of oil and response technologies in Arctic environments, there are areas where additional research would enable more informed decisions about the most effective responses for different Arctic spill situations, the Apr. 23 report added. "The Arctic system serves as an integrator for the Earth's physical, biological, oceanic, and atmospheric processes, with impacts beyond the Arctic itself," it stated. *Oil & Gas Journal* [Read more](#) [Subscription Required]

May 7 - U.S. Issues Safety Alert for Oil Trains

Calling the movement of crude oil by rail an "imminent hazard" to the public, the federal Department of Transportation said on Wednesday that railroads would be required to notify local emergency responders whenever oil shipments traveled through their states.

The emergency order follows a spate of accidents that have raised concerns about the safety of the trains that carry increasing amounts of crude oil from the Bakken region of North Dakota across the United States. *International New York Times* [Read more](#)

May 7 - U.S. DOT Takes New Emergency Actions as Part of Comprehensive Strategy to Keep Crude Oil Shipments Safe

Emergency order requires railroads transporting crude to notify state emergency response commissions; safety advisory urges use of tank cars with highest integrity

Today, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) issued an Emergency Order requiring all railroads operating trains containing large amounts of Bakken crude oil to notify State Emergency Response Commissions (SERCs) about the operation of these trains through their states.

Additionally, DOT's Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) and Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) issued a Safety Advisory strongly urging those shipping or offering Bakken crude oil to use tank car designs with the highest level of integrity available in their fleets. In addition, PHMSA and FRA advise offerors and carriers to the extent possible to avoid the use of older legacy DOT Specification 111 or CTC 111 tank cars for the shipment of Bakken crude oil. *US Dept. of Transportation Press Release* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Bill Hazel of ISCO Corporate Member, Marine Pollution Control Corp.]

May 8 - 'Oil spill' cleaned up during demo on Savannah River

Several boats trailing boom, an underwater robot hooked to a rope and even an aerial drone worked to clean up a not-so-

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (Continued)

disastrous dog food spill in the Savannah River by downtown late Wednesday afternoon.

Though a few passing birds seemed happy about the dog food, the treat was meant to represent something much more harmful — spilled oil.

The demonstration during the three-day International Oil Spill Conference at the Savannah International Trade & Convention Center showcased a simulated response to a spill and how new technology could be used. *Business in Savannah* [Read more](#)

May 11 - Federal Government failed to inspect higher risk oil wells

The government has failed to inspect thousands of oil and gas wells it considers potentially high risks for water contamination and other environmental damage, congressional investigators say.

The report, obtained by The Associated Press before its public release, highlights substantial gaps in oversight by the agency that manages oil and gas development on federal and Indian lands.

Investigators said weak control by the Interior Department's Bureau of Land Management resulted from policies based on outdated science and from incomplete monitoring data.

The findings from the Government Accountability Office come amid an energy boom in the country and the increasing use of hydraulic fracturing, or fracking. That process involves pumping huge volumes of water, sand and chemicals underground to split open rocks to allow oil and gas to flow. It has produced major economic benefits, but also raised fears that the chemicals could spread to water supplies. *Houston Chronicle* [Read more](#)

May 11 - Microbe consumption of methane in Deepwater Horizon spill highly overstated

The Deepwater Horizon Oil spill of April 20, 2010, released more than 500,000 tons of methane into the Gulf of Mexico during the 84 day attempt to seal the leaking oil well.

New research conducted by Samantha Joye, professor of marine science in the University of Georgia Franklin College of Arts and Sciences, and colleagues published in the May 11, 2014, issue of the journal *Nature Geoscience* indicates that bacteria that consume methane naturally were responsible for eating only 50 percent of the methane produced in the spill. Previous media reports claimed all the methane was consumed by microbes. *Examiner.com* [Read more](#)

May 12 - Spills up 17 percent in U.S. in 2013

The number of spills reported at oil and gas production sites shot up slightly more than 17 percent last year, even as the rate of drilling activity leveled off.

There were at least 7,662 spills, blowouts, leaks and other mishaps in 2013 in 15 top states for onshore oil and gas activity, according to an EnergyWire analysis of state records. That's up from 6,546 in the states where comparisons could be made (EnergyWire, July 8, 2013). That adds up to more than 20 spills a day. *E & E Publishing* [Read more](#)

May 13 - Kitty litter eyed as possible culprit in New Mexico radiation leak

Kitty litter used to absorb liquid in radioactive debris may have triggered a chemical reaction that caused a radiation leak at a below-ground U.S. nuclear waste storage site in New Mexico, a state environmental official said on Tuesday.

The waste disposal site, where drums of plutonium-tainted refuse from nuclear weapons factories and laboratories are buried in salt caverns 2,100 feet (640 meters) underground, has been shut down since unsafe radiation levels were first detected there on Feb. 14. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

May 13 - Eastern Panhandle sulfuric acid spill stopped, DEP says

Two different spills at a sand mine in West Virginia's Eastern Panhandle have been stopped, the state Department of Environmental Protection said this morning. Kelley Gillenwater, a spokeswoman for the state DEP, said she still had no word on how much material had been spilled. Crews had been working Tuesday night to try to stop spills of acid and of a caustic material at the site near Berkeley Springs, U.S. Silica, which operates the facility, initially reported a spill of sulfuric acid. The acid is used to purify sand, which is produced by the site for use mostly in glass. Later, the company said it also was dealing with a second leak, of a caustic material. *Gazette-Mail* [Read more](#)

May 13 - North Dakota Oil Well still leaking Crude, Gas and Fracking Fluid Days After Spill

An oil well near the town of Tioga, North Dakota continued to leak oil, gas and fracking fluid on Monday, days after authorities learned about the problem, a local official said.

The well is owned by Denver-based Emerald Oil.

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (Continued)

Williams County emergency coordinator Mike Hallesy said he was notified Friday evening of the spill in the western North Dakota's oil patch and that the leak hadn't stopped. *Huffington Post* [Read more](#)

May 13 - Study: 80,000 birds killed by BP oil spill

The official estimates of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill's effect on birds have not yet been published, although the numbers are waiting in the wings. But a study done for attorneys on the Plaintiff's Steering Committee – performed by a long-time NOAA scientist – provides estimates of bird mortality far higher than has publicly been discussed.

The report, to be published in the Marine Ecology Project Series, estimates as many as 800,000 seabirds were lost as a result of the spill, which occurred on April 20, 2010. *Tri-Parish Times* [Read more](#)

May 14 - Kennedy vows U.S. help to Japan for Fukushima nuclear clean-up



Photo: Wearing a protective suit and a mask, U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy looks around the central control room for the unit one and unit two reactors of the tsunami-crippled Tokyo Electric Power Co. (TEPCO) Fukushima Daiichi nuclear plant at Okuma town in Fukushima prefecture May 14, 2014.

U.S. Ambassador to Japan Caroline Kennedy pledged U.S. support for the clean-up at Japan's tsunami-wrecked Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant on Wednesday after her first visit to the site.

Kennedy, dressed in a white radiation protective suit with her name taped on the back and a mask covering her face, went inside a damaged reactor building where she saw how Tokyo Electric Power Co (Tepco) is removing fuel rod assemblies from a cooling pool. Tepco has removed 814 out of 1,533 fuel rod assemblies from the No. 4 reactor since November.

"We stand ready to help in any way we can," Kennedy, 56, told reporters after her visit, when she made a stop at a Tepco facility near the nuclear power plant. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

May 16 - Proposed Bill would provide Secret Fracking Data to First Responders

Legislators are pushing for a rule that would require fracking operators to provide information about the chemical contents of fracking fluid in the event of a spill.

First responders are applauding a recent legislative proposal that would allow state officials to retain confidential information about hydraulic-fracturing chemicals, with the intention that the information reach those first responders quickly during an emergency.

On May 8, a commission of state legislators approved the draft Energy Modernization Act, which would require drillers to disclose all the chemicals they use for fracking, including those that they designate as trade secrets. The bill would not provide trade secrets to the public but would make North Carolina's state geologist the custodian of the information

NEWS REPORTS FROM CANADA

April 30 - Kinder Morgan pipeline application says oil spills can have both negative and positive effects

There can be economic benefits from oil spills, Kinder Morgan says in its \$5.4-billion proposal to the federal government to triple the capacity of its pipeline from Alberta to Burnaby.

The company submission says its risk assessment and 60-year history operating the existing pipeline show "the probability of a large pipeline spill is low."

But the 15,000-page submission, required by federal regulations, analyzes numerous moderate and catastrophic spill scenarios along the pipeline route in both provinces. It looks at the socio-economic, environmental and even psychological impact of major spills in areas such as the Fraser River near the Port Mann Bridge.

"Pipeline spills can have both positive and negative effects on local and regional economies, both in the short- and long-term," the company states in its submission to the National Energy Board, the federal government's Calgary-based regulatory agency.

"Spill response and cleanup creates business and employment opportunities for affected communities, regions, and cleanup service providers."

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

NEWS REPORTS FROM CANADA (Continued)

May 8 - Oil Pipeline Spill History at the National Energy Board of Canada Library

This week, I am taking advantage of some of the historical research materials available at the [National Energy Board](#) library in Calgary, Alberta. As we discussed on a recent episode of [Nature's Past: Canadian Environmental History Podcast](#), federal department libraries are incredible resources for environmental history.

With the closure and consolidation of so many of these libraries across the country, I wanted to get to the NEB library before any materials got lost in the shuffle. *ActiveHistory.ca* [Read more](#)

May 13 - With pipeline decision looming, Ottawa tweaks tanker safety rules

With a decision expected next month on the contentious Northern Gateway pipeline through British Columbia, the federal government announced new measures Tuesday to strengthen its oil-spill response regime and placate a reluctant public.

Those changes include removing a \$161-million cap on payouts from a national oil spill compensation fund and making the entire \$400-million fund available to cover the costs of a marine spill. *Global Post* [Read more](#)

May 15 - Pipeline firms will pick up spill costs

Pipeline companies will be liable for all costs and damages from a spill, regardless of fault or negligence under a new law, the Canadian government announced Wednesday, as it appears set to approve a controversial pipeline.

Natural Resources Minister Greg Rickford made the announcement in British Columbia, where there is fierce opposition to two proposed pipelines that would deliver oil from the Alberta oil sands to the Pacific coast. Tankers would then take the oil to Asia, mainly energy-hungry China.

Enbridge's Northern Gateway project would transport 525,000 barrels a day from Alberta to Kitimat, British Columbia. Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain expansion would almost triple the current capacity of a pipeline to Vancouver's port to 900,000. *The Washington Post* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM UK

May 8 - Oil Spills Targeted by Ulster Research

University of Ulster researchers are leading a project to develop new environmentally friendly methods of cleaning up devastating oil spills.

Professor Ibrahim Banat and Emeritus Professor Roger Marchant are spearheading research in a major EU initiative, Kill Spill, which aims to find natural rather than chemical solutions to marine oil disasters such as the BP tragedy in US waters four years ago.

"The aim of this initiative is to develop new and innovative approaches to the remediation of marine oil spills, particularly those accidental spills in the 7-70 tonne range," said Professor Banat from the university's Biomedical Sciences Research Institute. *University of Ulster* [Read more](#)

May 13 - Major Oil Spill Exercise at Yarmouth Harbour

An Oil Spill exercise was successfully completed at the harbour on Tuesday 13th May.

The scenario centred around a 40 metre vessel which caught fire and sank, spilling around 1,500 litres of fuel oil into the harbour, near the swing bridge.

Yarmouth Harbour Master Chris Lisher and his team responded rapidly to the practice by contacting emergency services and environmental agencies, including Adler & Allan, the contracted emergency response service, who were quickly on the scene.

Oil spill booms were deployed around the practice vessel and across the harbour, to contain the spill. *BYM Marine & Maritime News* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES

SOUTH KOREA: REFUGE FOR CHEMICAL TANKER AFTER 100-DAY ORDEAL

April 25 - The chemical tanker Maritime Maisie, owned by Singapore-based MSI Ship Management, has been given refuge in South Korea after almost 100 days at sea following a severe collision and fire

SOUTH KOREA: REFUGE FOR CHEMICAL TANKER AFTER 100-DAY ORDEAL (Continued)



Photo: Maritime Maisie's port side damage

After almost 100 days at sea following a severe collision and fire, the chemical tanker Maritime Maisie, owned by Singapore-based MSI Ship Management, has been given refuge in South Korea.

The Hong Kong-flagged tanker was carrying an estimated 30,000 tons of a hazardous cargo when it was involved in a collision with a pure car and truck carrier near the port of Busan, in December last year, subsequently catching fire.

Marine & Offshore Technology [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

THAILAND: OIL SLICK BLACKENS PART OF JOMTIEN BEACH

April 25 - An oil slick that washed up on Jomtien Beach had locals pointing fingers at a tanker that was thought to have capsized three days earlier. The black stain with balls of petroleum washed ashore near Soi 15 in Jomtien April 10, stretching for about a kilometer of sand. *Pattaya Mail* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: NOSDRA SEEKS CO-OPERATION WITH NAVY TO CONTROL OIL SPILLAGE

May 8 - The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) has pledged to broaden areas of working relationship with the Nigerian Navy in the efforts to control the rate of oil spillage in the country.

Chairman of the Governing Board of NOSDRA, Major Lancelot Anyanya (Rtd), said during a courtesy call to Chief of the Naval Staff (CNS), Vice-Admiral Usman Jubrin, at the Navy Headquarters in Abuja that oil spill was another different type of war that must be confronted with tenacity, considering its harmful impact on the environment and its ecosystem. *WorldStage* [Read more](#)

JAPAN: CUSTOM-BUILT ROBOT TO PROBE FUKUSHIMA LEAKS

May 13 - The push to plug the plumbing problem from hell at Fukushima Daiichi is about to get some help from a U.S.-built robot designed to search for leaks from one of the Japanese nuclear plant's crippled reactors.

Built in Colorado by California-based nuclear cleanup contractor Kurion, the refrigerator-sized robot will stick a 15-foot mechanical arm through a hole in the main floor of the reactor building.

The arm is equipped with radiation-shielded cameras and capable of lifting 100 pounds. It can also carry cutting tools -- either a set of heavy-duty shears or a high-pressure water jet that can cut steel. *CNN* [Read more](#)

INDIA: CHENNAI HOSTS 19TH NATIONAL OIL SPILL DISASTER CONTINGENCY PLAN MEETING

May 13 - The 19th National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) and preparedness meeting with all ports and agencies handling oil was conducted in Chennai on Monday.

"The improvement in the economy has witnessed an increase in energy requirement due to which there is an increased risk of oil pollution due to collision, grounding or any other exigencies at sea," said a statement from the Indian Coast Guard East.

"The oil pollution would gravely damage the environment and therefore, there is a need to review the pollution response capabilities regularly," it said.

The main objective of the meeting was to take stock and review the capabilities, limitations and oil pollution mitigation preparedness of the agencies in the country. *The Times of India* [Read more](#)

People in the news

Simon Purl has been appointed as Environmental Response Consultant at Petrofac Training Services.

Prior to joining Petrofac, Simon was Oil Spill Response Supervisor with the Balbeggie, Perth, Scotland oil spill response company, KN Services, which he joined in 1989.

COMMANDER STEVEN A. McCALL, USCG RETIRED

We were saddened to hear of the death of ISCO Member, Steve McCall who passed away on 4th April, 2014 after a very short illness.

Steve McCall served in the US Coast Guard from 1969-1991. Throughout his career he was involved in the response to innumerable oil spills and a highlight was his role as Federal On Scene Coordinator (FOSC) for the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill in Alaska. For several years he was a Member of the US Delegation to the International Maritime Organization (IMO) MEPC/Marpol Convention Working Group. On June 1 1991 he retired from USCG after 22 years, attaining the permanent rank of Commander.

Post-retirement, he joined the board of Maritime Overseas Corp. / OSG Ship Management, Inc. with an environmental management brief that included responsibility for development of OPA-90 Vessel Oil and NLS Emergency Response and IMO Shipboard Oil and Marine Pollution Emergency Response Plans (SOPEP/SMPEP). As Assistant Vice President (AVP), Emergency Preparedness and Response he was the Company's Incident Commander (IC) during the M/T JULIE N oil spill response in Portland Maine in September of 1996 and was awarded the USCG Meritorious Public Service Award for his actions in this highly successful response.

He was a member of the Board of Directors for the Marine Preservation Association (MPA); the non-profit organization funding the Marine Spill Response Corporation (MSRC); the Board of Directors for the Delaware Bay and River Oil Spill Cooperative and was the shipping representative to the California Oiled Wildlife Care Network Advisory Board at UC Davis.

After a second retirement in 2012, he continued to apply his talents and experience as an Experienced Emergency Responder, Planner & Trainer in his own company, SAMc Solutions, LLC.

[Note from editor: we are sorry for the delay in publication of this news]

EMSA: TIMOTHY HUDSON (1963-2014)



Received from EMSA - Our dear colleague, Tim Hudson, sadly passed away on 17 April, after a long and courageous fight against cancer.

Tim was a senior project officer for the marine environment and port state control unit.

He was at the heart of the EMSA family from its earliest beginnings in Brussels. A service is to be held at EMSA premises in his memory.

ISCO news

ISCO AGM HELD DURING IOSC AT SAVANNAH, GEORGIA, USA.

Twenty members met together in a convivial gathering at this year's AGM and successfully completed deliberations on a very full agenda.

Key decisions taken included the confirmation of Mr Dennis Van der Veen of The Netherlands as a new member of the Executive Committee and agreement to increase annual membership fees by around 10% (it has been some years since they were last revised). ISCO President, David Usher updated members on the progress made on the organisation of the International Forum on Group V (Non-buoyant) Oils (9-10 September in Detroit) and its relevance to the sharp increase in transportation of oils that can sink. ISCO Secretary, John McMurtrie introduced the new "Country Pages" facility for members on the ISCO website and informed the meeting on ISCO's support for the USCG's initiative at IMO for improving the co-ordination of international assistance at major oil spill events.

A lively debate took place on the question of whether the circulation of the ISCO Newsletter should be restricted to members only or continue as a universally available free publication. The option to generate increased funding for ISCO through advertising in the Newsletter was also discussed, something that would not be compatible with a restricted circulation. In the end, no conclusion was reached and the matter will be referred back to the Executive Committee for a decision.

Distribution of the Newsletter content was also discussed, including options to post news directly on the internet and make more use of social media (Facebook, Twitter, Linked-in, etc.) to raise awareness of the organisation, increase membership and thus generate additional funding.

The minutes of the 2014 AGM will be circulated to all members later this week.

The next AGM is expected to take place during Interspill which will take place in Amsterdam on March 24-26, 2015.

PROGRESS IN ORGANISING THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM

ISCO's Event Manager, Michael Rancilio is making good progress and expects the Forum Website to be up and running by 1 June.

Several excellent speakers - senior people from government and industry and international specialists in response to sinking oils - have already committed to presenting papers – more details next week.

The provisional programme includes –

1. Regulatory overview and perspective
2. Fate and behaviour of Group V non buoyant, sinking oils with particular focus on Dilbit and variants
3. Storage and Transport issues (maritime, pipelines, rail and trucking)
4. Detection and Surveillance of non-buoyant sinking oils
5. Group V Response Preparedness
6. Group V non-buoyant oil response strategies, counter-measures, containment, recovery methods and equipment.
7. New developments and case studies.

The cost for attendance will be \$700.00 USD per person for attendees. \$1,500.00 USD for a Table Top Exhibit Display and Forum Sponsorship is available starting at \$2,500.00 USD.

There will be a significant discount for government employees and for ISCO members – details to follow.

ISCO PARTICIPATION AT IOSC

A very busy ISCO booth at IOSC was manned by Membership Director, Mary Ann Dalglish. ISCO President, David Usher, Secretary, John McMurtrie and International Forum Manager, Mike Rancilio were also in attendance.

IOSC was a great success with around 2,000 attendees, an excellent conference programme, exhibition and on-water containment-recovery exercise.

It was great to see so many ISCO members at the event and catch up on things since last meeting, also to meet new faces and respond to their interest in ISCO.



The draw for the bottle of special edition 12 year-old Highland Park malt whisky (from Orkney) was won by Max McAdams, Operations Supervisor with Alaska Clean Seas, North Slope Spill Response, Prudhoe Bay, Alaska, pictured here (centre) with two colleagues.

Here are some more pictures. Below left, ISCO President Dave Usher with John Parker . (Photo by Pam McSwain of Parker Systems Inc.)

Below centre, David Usher and John McMurtrie with Cynthia L. Quarterman, Administrator of the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA).

Below right, ISCO Secretary John McMurtrie with Dr Merv Fingas, Member of ISCO Council for Canada. (Photo by Pam McSwain of Parker Systems Inc.)



SUCCESSFUL ISAA TRAINING DAYS EVENT AT CASTLE ARCHDALE, ENNISKILLEN, NORTHERN IRELAND.

There was a good turn-out of about 25 personnel from response contractors and Northern Ireland Environment Agency staff at this year's International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) Training Days Event at Castle Archdale held on 28-29 April in the beautiful surroundings of Lough Erne. The weather was kind to us too !

The programme included, for the first time, a Nautical Institute accredited MCA 2P oil spill response course presented by Steve Guy, Head of Training at Briggs Environmental Services Ltd. (BESL), an introduction to contaminated land and groundwater pollution remediation by Chris King, Technical Director of Celtic Technologies Ltd., and a drilling and core extraction demonstration given by Paul Mullan, Managing Director of Mullan Drilling.

Chris King's illustrated presentation included a series of interesting case histories and was complemented by the drilling demonstration during which Paul Mullan sank a narrow diameter borehole using a Window Sampling rig with soil sample recovery in plastic liners. Steve Guy's MCA 2P course included a day of practical training at the former Castle Archdale Seaplane launch area at Castle Archdale (used during WW2 as a Royal Air Force operations base).

Some photos of the boom deployment part of the oil spill response training are given below.



At the wash-up at the end of the two-day event, attendees confirmed that they found the event excellent and very worthwhile. Those that attended the MCA 2P will receive accredited training certificates issued by BESL and this will contribute to the accredited status maintenance requirements for ISAA Accreditation.

Attendees at the Introductory Course on Contaminated Land and Groundwater Remediation will receive Attendance Certificates issued by ISAA. All attendees should receive their certificates within the next two weeks.

The next event being planned by ISAA will be a seminar to be held in Dublin in the autumn, following up on the very successful event held last year. All stakeholders on the ISAA mailing list will receive details later in the year.



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 174 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 174: CONCLUDING REMARKS

Further to articles 172 and 173, my intended summary paper for MEPC 67 will promote knowledge-acceptance and belief-rejection by showing that knowledge works in reality while belief/counter-belief is debated to one or other belief-consensus; that such consensus is subject to varying levels of dissention resolvable only by knowledge; but that knowledge and even recognition of its absence can be suppressed by belief. Thus, having definitively differentiated the knowledge/belief dichotomy and having used it to differentiate the knowledge-only release-response which would work in reality from the belief-only approach which does not, this MEPC 67 paper will retrospectively apply this differentiation to the regulation of operational discharges, ballast water management and exhaust-gas emissions to differentiate success/failure and need/non-need, and thus to initiate a knowledge-only harmonisation of technology and environment.

As to promotion of this initiative, this summary paper will show that ISCO is not only representing the general social interest, but also the specific interests of member states, shippers and producers, all four of which need MEPC harmony. However, this intended summary will recognise that harmony requires the commonality of knowledge or the belief-acquiescence without which we have the actual or potential dissention of belief-counter-belief; and that debate itself evidences the absence of the knowledge which would terminate it. As to the definitive differentiation of the knowledge to be accepted, from the belief to be rejected, this paper will recall that rational beliefs are transformable to positive or negative knowledge only by evaluation of their compliance or non-compliance with reality; that beliefs which cannot or have not been thus reality-evaluated remain beliefs which can only be accepted, rejected or suspended as matters of personal choice, but which cannot be accepted as knowledge.

Thus, the paper intended for MEPC 67 will show that debate of opinion/counter-opinion is debate of belief-counter-belief supported by partially selected facts/counter-facts, neither set of which is debate-terminating knowledge; that the outcome is merely a transient belief-consensus which can vary from debate to debate and even flip to the counter-consensus and as such is no basis for progress in reality; and that the very existence of debate, evidences absence of the knowledge which would terminate it. Thus, this paper will recall that while the reality-evaluation of belief as specific hypothesis has produced the knowledge which is craftsmanship, science and technology, political belief-consensus has been peaceable only until open dissent has grown to disharmony, violence, revolution or war; that early dissention can be dispelled only by knowledge; and that dissention is now openly apparent in respect of the belief-contents of MEPC regulations for ballast water discharge and exhaust-gas emissions.

To dispel this dissent with knowledge, the MEPC 67 paper will recall that the consensus of belief in oil/ HNS discharges and releases being the cause of species-extinction/ecological-disaster was reality-refuted in the mid 1970s by knowledge of their water column concentrations being at least three orders of magnitude less than those of their LC50 values, and by the continuing absence of any such extinction/ disaster at any previous or subsequent incident. Nonetheless, this reality-refuted belief-consensus continues to oppose emergency use of safe havens for cargo/bunker transfer despite its avoidance of the weather-damage which increases the third-party commercial losses which are the only consequences of such incidents; to prohibit dispersant-use in inshore waters and on shorelines despite the dispersed droplets being biodegradable/non-toxic and despite individual deaths by oil-coating being replaced by natural regeneration rates; and to prohibit the in situ decanting of process water in mechanical recovery operations, despite its acceptance of recovery and its rejection of dispersants. Thus, having recalled the belief which dissents from knowledge in release-response, this paper for MEPC 67 intends the reality-evaluation of belief to knowledge to become the accepted means of dispelling all MEPC dissention.

Thus, having given environmentalist NGOs the opportunity on 15 November 2012, to reality-evaluate hypotheses which might have moderated in some detail the above reality-refutation of their belief in species-extinction/ecological-disaster, and having as yet received no reply, the paper now intended for MEPC 67 will invite member states to accept in principle the new knowledge-accepting/belief-rejecting approach to contingency and incident-specific response planning which on completion will be available to all; to consider interim arrangements for ballast water management and exhaust gas emission control which would dispel current belief/counter-belief dissention; and to give the UNPCC the opportunity, thus far ignored by environmentalist NGOs, to reality-evaluate its beliefs in species-extinction/ ecological-disaster and anthropogenic global warming as hypotheses in respect of the natural recycling of carbon and other life-essential elements which these beliefs ignore.

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

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

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

Events

UK: DRILLING IN ICE-AFFECTED REGIONS - LONDON, 22-23 MAY 2014

- Learn what is needed to ensure safe drilling and well operations in ice-affected regions
- Discuss the legal complexities of drilling in the Arctic
- Identify and understand the most critical factors in oil spill preparedness in Arctic environments
- Learn about Arctic well control management and Arctic drilling rig winterisation
- Discuss the benefits and challenges of relief well drilling in Arctic conditions
- Discuss operational and environment challenges for Arctic drilling rigs and their impact on design

Speakers include Bruce Harland (Crowley Marine) and Dave Salt (SpillConsult Ltd.) [More info](#)

UK: MARINE POLLUTION SEMINAR - LEGAL AND TECHNICAL UPDATE ON HANDLING SHIP-SOURCE POLLUTION INCIDENTS – LONDON, WEDNESDAY 4TH – THURSDAY 5TH JUNE 2014

Speakers include Jose Maura (IOPC Funds), Dr Rebecca Coward (ITOPF), Mans Jacobsson (Former director IOPC Funds) Mark Hoddinott (ISU) and Dave Salt (SpillConsult Ltd.) [More info](#)

CANADA: 37TH AMOP TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND RESPONSE - FINAL PROGRAMME

June 3-5, Canmore, Alberta. [Download the final programme](#)

UK: 5TH MARITIME SALVAGE & CASUALTY RESPONSE – LONDON, 3-4 SEPTEMBER 2014

ACI's 5th Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response will uncover the complexity of issues surrounding Wreck Removal and Salvage Operations, not just on an operational scale, but will also make the legal, insurance and contractual issues more transparent. The conference will deliver the essential knowledge and experience from some of the best salvage professionals in the business.

[More info](#)

UK: DECOM OFFSHORE 2014: REALISING OPPORTUNITIES FOR ALL – ABERDEEN, 27 MAY 2014

The decommissioning of offshore platforms offer opportunities for oil and chemical clean-up contractors. [More info](#)

Publications

FOR YOUR INTEREST – LINKS FOR RECENT ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

[ASME EED EHS Newsletter](#)

[Bow Wave](#)

[Cedre Newsletter](#)

[The Essential Hazmat News](#)

[USA EPA Tech Direct](#)

[USA EPA Tech News & Trends](#)

[Technology Innovation News Survey](#)

[Intertanko Weekly News](#)

[CROIERG Enews](#)

[IMO Publishing News](#)

[IMO News Magazine](#)

[Pollution Online Newsletter](#)

[EMSA Newsletter](#)

[JOIFF "The Catalyst"](#)

[Environmental Technology Online](#)

[OCIMF Newsletter](#)

[IPIECA eNews](#)

[WMU Newsletter](#)

News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday

Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters

News from Cedre in Brittany, France

Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals

Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater

Contaminated site clean-up information

From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination

International news for the oil tanker community

Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group

New and forthcoming IMO publications

News from the International Maritime Organization

News for prevention & control professionals

News from the European Maritime Safety Agency

Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management

Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis

News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum

Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n

From the World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden

Most recent issue

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February 2014 issue

February 2014 issue

MANUAL AND TOOL TO EVALUATE OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT CAPABILITIES

The objective of RETOS™ is to assist governments and companies in assessing their level of oil spill response planning and readiness management in relation to commonly agreed pre-established criteria considering international best management practices. The Manual and RETOS™ were developed with the support of regional and international experts from industry and government. Users can select the focus of the assessment from seven different scopes: facilities, industry-corporate and country local/national programs, among others. [More info](#)

Publications (continued)

NEW LISTING OF RESPONSE PRODUCTS AVAILABLE FROM CEDRE

ISCO Industry Partner CEDRE has announced "A list of universal sorbents with "a water and oil sorption capacity expressed in weight greater than 1" has been drawn up. These non-hydrophobic products are mainly designed for use on land and on the decks of vessels. The full list of universal sorbents tested and validated by *Cedre* is available on [our website](#)"

ITOPF FILMS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The first three films in ITOPF's new series "Response to Marine Oil Spills" are now available to view online. Films 1 and 2, Introduction to Oil Spills and Aerial Surveillance, were launched at a reception in London. The third film, At-Sea Response, had its premiere at the Film Festival at International Oil Spill Conference in Savannah on Wednesday 7th May.

ITOPF will be releasing a DVD with all seven films in the series in the middle of June. This will include subtitles in Chinese, French, Spanish, Arabic, and Korean. It will be priced at £10 including postage and packaging to cover the costs of providing the DVD.

If you would like to register your interest for the DVD then please contact Melanie Keeble (melaniekeeble@itopf.com).

PROCESS SAFETY BEACON – ISSUE WITH FOCUS ON MAJOR SPILLS & ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS

[Download this issue of Process Safety Beacon](#)

Training

UK & NORWAY: UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES FROM OSRL

[Subsea Well \(SWIS\) Technical Specialisation - Stavanger, Norway](#) (May 27)

[Subsea Well \(SWIS\) Logistics Specialisation - Stavanger, Norway](#) (May 28)

[Shoreline Spill Response and SCAT - Southampton, UK](#) (June 24-26) This course is being presented in association with [Dr Ed Owens](#).

[Oil Spill Management Workshop IMO 3/MCA 5/5P](#) - Southampton UK (June 23 - 26)

[Oil Spill Refresher IMO 1 to IMO 3 and MCA 3/3P to MCA 5/5P](#) - Southampton. UK (July 15) [More info](#)

BELGIUM: OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE TRAINING COURSE FROM SEA ALARM & OSRL

This Oiled Wildlife Response Planning course will be offered in 2014 in Belgium 9-10 October. The course will include a visit to the [Wildlife Centre Ostend \(WRCO\)](#) where participants will learn how the design of the facility lends itself to rapid conversion from general wildlife rehabilitation to dedicated oil spill response.

For more information, or to register, please visit [the OSRL training site](#).

Contracts & Tenders

USA: EMERGENCY AND RAPID RESPONSE SERVICES IV (ERRS IV)

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region IV, Atlanta, GA.
Federal Business Opportunities, FBO-4529, Solicitation SOL-R4-14-00002, 2014

EPA Region 4 has an ERRS requirement for emergency responses, time-critical and non time-critical removals, and remedial actions. The contract will cover the eight states within Region 4 (Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee) over a 3-year base period with one 2-year option period. Up to three indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity, time-and-materials contracts will be awarded under this total small business set-aside, NAICS code 562910. Proposals are due no later than 4:30 pm ET on June 3, 2014. <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/EPA/OAM/RegIV/SOL-R4-14-00002/listing.html>

VIDEO FROM IMBIBER BEADS - PERFORMANCE TESTING OF SPILL RESPONSE TECHNOLOGIES

IMBIBER BEADS® were tested head-to-head with polypropylene, one of the more well known spill response products available.

[Watch the video to see how each product handles a 12L spill of Jet Fuel.](#)

ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, IMBITIVE TECHNOLOGIES APPOINTS AGENT IN MEXICO

Ecoterra will represent the full IMBIBER BEADS® product line encompassing all organic chemical (Crude Oil, Gasoline, Diesel Fuel, Jet Fuel, Bakken Shale Oil, Diluted Bitumen + thousands more) spills response products, IMBTEC's award winning pollution prevention containment drain system, storm water filters and water recycling technologies related to processed and produced water.

Dr Jorge Chipres De La Fuente, Director General of Ecoterra will introduce the IMBIBER BEADS® technology to the Mexican market and sees many applications with existing clients".

DESMI CELEBRATES 180TH ANNIVERSARY, NEW AWARD



May 2 - DESMI has announced that, in connection with the celebration of its 180th anniversary, it also received the Danish Export Association's Net Member award presented by Mr Ulrich Ritsing, Chairman of the Association, at a reception in Nørresundby, Denmark.

The Maritime Executive
[Read more](#)

[Note from Editor - ISCO congratulates Desmi on this outstanding achievement. During the IOSC Conference, senior ISCO personnel were pleased to be invited to a reception given by Desmi and very much enjoyed the excellent hospitality and music. Interestingly we learned from our hosts that when Desmi (formerly De Smithske) started as an iron foundry back in 1834 and, at that time, one of its main products was church bells.]

NORWAY: NEW OIL SPILL DETECTION (OSD) RADAR SYSTEM FOR THE EDVARD GRIEG PLATFORM

The oil company Lundin Norway AS and the Norwegian radar company ISPAS AS have signed a contract for the development and installation of a new Oil Spill Detection (OSD) radar system for the Edvard Grieg platform. In accordance with the Activities Regulations, the new specially developed OSD radar will be the first operational system to detect oil spill at sea within a wide range of weather conditions including quiet and coarse sea state regardless of visibility and light. The plan is to have the new OSD radar system ready for installation on the platform in the third quarter of 2015.

For more information on the new OSD radar system, please contact HSEQ Manager Bernt Rudjord, Lundin Norway AS, phone +47 93414484 or CEO Richard Norland, ISPAS AS, phone +47 92252612



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