

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 organisation.

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TO ALL OUR READERS**



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International news

BRITISH PETROLEUM TO CUT JOBS IN UK, US OVER PLUMMETING CRUDE

December 8 - Oil giant British Petroleum (BP) is reportedly set to cut hundreds of jobs, mostly in the UK and the US, over the recent downward spiral of oil prices.

The cuts will affect middle managers among others. "What you'll see with this simplification plan is that headcounts are starting to come down across all of our activities in upstream, downstream and in the corporate centers – essentially the layers above operations," BP finance director Brian Gilvary told the Sunday Times.

Gilvary said it was unlikely falling oil prices would affect the company's long-term plans, but some projects could be delayed or scrapped, adding that "we have got flexibility to trim into next year if that's what we need in a new world of oil at \$70 or \$60 (a barrel)."

BP has 84,000 employees worldwide, 15,000 of whom are based in the UK and 20,000 in the US.

The company is still reeling from the litigation costs related to the Gulf of Mexico spill by one of its subsidiaries in 2010, which had a significant impact on it. *PressTV* [Read more](#)

UPDATE ON 2012 ITOPF R&D AWARD WINNER

December On 27th November, ITOPF visited CEDRE (Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution) in Brest for an update meeting on the FishHealth project which won the first ITOPF R&D Award in 2012.

FishHealth is a four-year project which aims to develop a methodology for the assessment of fish health in order to provide information on the impact of chemically dispersed oil on marine fish (see <http://www.itopf.com/in-action/r-d-award/winner-2012/> for more information).

The project is well underway with one year left before its completion. The meeting discussed the results obtained from challenge tests and avoidance reaction experiments conducted in 2014. One of the main focuses for the team now is the dissemination of the results at conferences and through publications

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International news (continued)

Deadline for 2015 ITOPF R&D Award Approaching

The deadline for receipt of applications for the next Award is 31st December 2014, with the intention of granting the 2015 Award by the end of February 2015. See <http://www.itopf.com/in-action/r-d-award/application-process/> for further information and an application form.

Incident reports from around the world

ISRAEL: EFFORTS CONTINUE TO CLEAN UP HUGE SOUTHERN OIL SPILL



Photo: The oil leak in the Arava area of southern Israel, on December 4, 2014. (Photo credit: Nature and Parks Authority)

December 6 - Efforts were continuing at the weekend to clean up a major oil spill that flooded the highway leading into Eilat on Thursday, caused widespread environmental damage, and sent over 80 people on both sides of the Israel-Jordan border to hospital with respiratory problems. Experts have warned that

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

the spill — 3 million liters, or 660,000 gallons, according to one expert — could take months or even years to clean up.

Considered one of Israel's worst ecological disasters, teams from Trans-Israel pipeline, a major oil conduit between the Mediterranean and Red seas that runs from Eilat to Ashkelon, were working around the clock to pump the oil out and prevent further contamination of the area. *The Times of Israel* [Read more](#)

December 8 - Arava Oil Spill Disaster 60% Worse than Originally Feared - The State Comptroller, Judge (ret) Yosef Chaim Shapiro announced Monday that an investigation has been launched over last week's oil spill in the Arava desert and Avrona nature reserve. The investigation will determine the full extent of the damage in the spill, which has been labeled an "ecological disaster," and involve witness testimony from anyone directly or indirectly involved with the spill.

On Sunday, EAPC broke some of the silence regarding the true damage of the leak, which is said to be some 60% larger than previously thought. Around 3 million liters of oil was spilled in the accident, according to a report it submitted to the Environmental Protection Ministry - not between 1 million and 1.5 million, as originally thought. *Arutz Sheva* [Read more](#)

December 9 - Nearly one week after the oil spill in the Arava, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu toured the afflicted area and said that at the moment the situation appears to be "under control." "Everyone's big concern," he said, "is a loss of control [because of] large floods that can take the oil south to Eilat and the Eilat Gulf. *The Jerusalem Post* [Read more](#)

CHINA: FLAMMABLE LIQUID PIPELINE LEAK

December 9 - Engineers were last night repairing a pipeline leak in the Pudong New Area carrying highly flammable naphtha. Emergency services created an 80-meter radius cordon around the leak in the Sinopec Shanghai Gaoqiao Co pipeline, said the local authorities. Sinopec raised the alarm at 6:30am yesterday when its monitoring system detected the liquid leaking near Dazhihe Bridge and Hangnan Road. *Shanghai Daily* [Read more](#)

BANGLADESH: OIL SPILL DISASTER IN SUNDARBANS

December 9 - A tanker carrying 357,000 litres of oil has capsized in Shela River at Sundarbans, spilling oil along 20 kilometres of the area in the river. The incident took place early Tuesday after the oil carrying tanker was hit by another tanker, Divisional forest officer of the Sundarbans east zone Amir Hossain Chowdhury told the Dhaka Tribune. Hossain said: "Oil tanker 'Southern Star Seven' anchored in the river due to dense fog. It capsized as another tanker hit it around 6am in Chadpai Dolphin Sanctuary in Mrigamari area, seven kilometres away from Joumonirgul area of Mongla in Bagerhat. *Dhaka Tribune* [Read more](#)



December 10 - Oil spill spreads in Sundarbans - The oil spill from a sunken tanker is spreading along the Sela River of the Sundarbans. The oil slick is nearing Shoronkhola Range of Sundarbans, Mongla Coast Guard's Contingent Commander (West Zone) Captain Mehedi Masud said. "We have sought a machine from Chittagong Port to remove the oil. It is on its way," Khulna Divisional Commissioner Abdus Samad said. Besides, BIWTA has sent two vessels for hauling up the tanker. They were also on their way. Meanwhile, a three-member probe committee was formed on Wednesday morning to investigate the oil tanker capsizing. *Dhaka Tribune* [Read more](#)

December 12 - Govt files Tk 1 billion compensation suit for Sundarbans oil spill - The Ministry of Shipping and the Forest Department have constituted two committees to probe the spill of more than 350,000 litres of furnace oil in the Sundarbans, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

MS Harun & Co, the owner of the capsized oil tanker, 'OT Southern Star 7', has begun salvage operations with the help of three private rescue vessels. Two of the ships have towed away the damaged vessel to prevent it from sinking fully. Two ships of the Navy and the Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) have started for the spot. *BDNews24.com* [Read more](#)



Photos: Left - Villagers have been asked to help the government clear the spill and Right - A thick, black sheen spread in the days after the tanker crash, covering some 60km of waterways, and Below - Children scoop up the furnace oil from the Shela river and deposit it in a trench so that it could be sold later on. To help with the clean-up after the oil spill on Tuesday near the Sundarbans, the BIWTA had announced that locals could collect and sell the oil. The photo was taken at Badamtola near where the oil tanker had sunk.



December 12 - India on alert after Sunderbans oil spill in Bangladesh - Environmental authorities in India are on alert after thousands of litres of oil spilled into a nature reserve in neighbouring Bangladesh. Conservation chief Pradeep Vyas said "precautions" were being taken in West Bengal's coastal region.

Oil leaked into waterways in the Sundarbans area after a collision involving a tanker three days ago. Officials say it is already harming the region's wildlife, which includes two endangered dolphin species. "We are taking all precautionary measures," Mr Vyas, additional director of India's Sundarban Biosphere Reserve, told Reuters on Friday. *BBC News* [Read more](#) Also see ISCO News on page

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

PHILIPPINES: STORM DAMAGES SHIP, THREATENS SPILL



December 9 - Three holes were torn in the hull of a bulk carrier when tropical storm Queenie sent the loaded vessel smashing onto its berthing dolphin in Bohol, the Philippines.

The now-stuck MV Goldeneye fell victim to huge waves. Its side was scraped and hull punctured, according to a Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) official.

The ship's bunkers must be offloaded and the vessel refloated before it can be pulled off its grounding and towed to a drydock, reports SeaShip News. However, the PCG has concerns that waves caused by another tropical storm, Ruby, could free the vessel and cause an oil spill from the 300 tonnes of bunkers onboard. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

USA: 400-BARREL OIL SPILL CONTAINED IN NORTH DAKOTA

December 11 - North Dakota regulators say a 400-barrel oil spill has been contained at a well site about a mile north of Williston. Regulators say the Norwegian energy company Statoil reported the spill on Monday. Officials say the oil was contained and recovered at the site. *PennEnergy* [Read more](#)

USA: LARGE OIL SLICK THREATENS SANDY HOOK BAY, NEW JERSEY, SEALS AT RISK

December 12 - A large oil slick that threatened New Jersey's Sandy Hook Bay had grown smaller by Friday. The oil slick, which was 2 miles long and 400 feet wide on Thursday, had shrunk to 1 mile long and 50 yards wide. *NBC New York* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world

NEWS REPORTS FROM AUSTRALIA

December 14 - World Heritage listed river under threat from pollution



Clean above mine: The Wollangambe River in the Blue Mountains. Photo: Mark Finney

The world-heritage listed Wollangambe River, which runs through spectacular canyons in the Blue Mountains, is under threat from pollution flowing into its upper reaches from a Lithgow coal mine.

The river is being pumped with waste water discharged from the Clarence Collier coal mine, which is harming the ecology of the waterway.

Scientists from the University of Western Sydney School of Science and Health, claim licence restrictions placed by the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) on mine pollution are not enough. They want an investigation to

identify all the contaminants that are flowing from the mine. "The river is beautiful - it really is a scenically amazing place, but the sad reality is that the mine is silently poisoning the place and we have no idea how this is affecting the wildlife," said Dr Ian Wright from UWS. *The Sydney Morning Herald* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM BELIZE

December 9 – Training for a Spill

A National Oil Spill Training workshop started today and facilitators say that there is hope beyond the 'spill'. The training focuses on strategies to prevent oil spills, to recover oil in the event of a spill and to ensure the safety of people and the environment. Belize has not had a catastrophic oil spill but there have been several incidents that posed serious threats to the environment *7NewsBelize.com* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM CANADA

December 9 - Leaking wells a burning issue

Serge Fortier has been trying for years to raise awareness about leaking wells along the St. Lawrence River. Nothing has been quite as effective as setting them on fire.

"The reaction came very rapidly," says Fortier, an environmental activist whose fiery demonstration near Ste-Francoise has prompted the Quebec government to acknowledge it has a problem - one that regulatory officials are often not keen to discuss.

In Alberta, where old wells have been uncovered in schoolyards, backyards and at shopping malls, officials are saying little about a well that has now turned up at Calgary's airport, which is in the midst of a \$2-billion expansion. *Leader-Post* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM GABON

December 11 - GI WACAF Conference in Gabon

News received from ITOPF - Dr Annabelle Nicolas-Kopec of ITOPF took part in the GI WACAF (Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa) sub-regional conference on liability and compensation in Libreville, Gabon from the 5th to 7th November 2014. Organised by the IMO and IPIECA, and hosted by the Gabon Department of Environment and Nature Conservation of the Ministry of Forests, Environment and Nature Conservation, it gathered delegates from five African countries: Côte d'Ivoire, Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Togo and Gabon. Around 45 participants attended the workshop from various ministries, governmental agencies, as well as representatives from the industry. *ITOPF* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM PERU

December 9 - The Amazon oil spills overlooked by environmental leaders in Lima



Photo: A Kukama Indian checks oil spilled from a broken pipeline that has polluted the Marañón River, a major tributary of the Amazon in Peru. Photograph: Barbara Fraser

It is a disaster hidden from the environmental leaders gathered inside the walls of a military compound in Lima on a mission to fight climate change.

Over the last few months – as Peru helped guide the United Nations climate negotiations – five separate oil spills along a main oil pipeline through the Amazon have spewed thick black clots of crude across jungle and swamp and carpeted local fishing lagoons with dead fish.

went largely unnoticed. But for the indigenous peoples living downstream in clusters of tin-roofed and thatched houses on the banks of the Marañón river, it's been a season of sickness and fear. *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM RUSSIA

December 11 - Russia to cut up 'floating Chernobyl' but risks remain

Russia is finally going to demolish its "floating Chernobyl", a ship full of highly radioactive waste from the Soviet Arctic fleet, 21 years after its existence was first revealed by New Scientist.

Even if it is dismantled safely, more dangerous radioactive junk lurks in the Kara Sea off north-west Russia, much of it unmapped and in the path of oil and gas exploration (see map). The ex-Soviet ship Lepse contains 2.7×10^{16} becquerels of radioactivity – comparable to the caesium released by the 1986 Chernobyl accident. It comes from 638 fuel assemblies, submarine reactor parts containing spent fuel rods. Half are from the submarine Lenin, which lost reactor coolant in a 1966 accident, overheating and deforming the fuel so it could not be removed. *New Scientist* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM TURKEY

December 10 - The Map That Shows Why a Pipeline Explosion in Turkey Matters to the U.S.

For years, the U.S. intelligence community has questioned how vulnerable oil and gas pipelines are to a destructive cyberattack.

They got an answer when hackers targeted an oil pipeline in Turkey. Majority-owned by BP, the Baku-Tbilisi-Ceyhan pipeline was built to be one of the most secure in the world. But it was no match for the digital intruders who injected malicious software into the control network, allowing them to tamper with the system and cause an explosion that sent flames 150 feet into the air. Investigators couldn't determine whether a bomb was also used, as the explosion incinerated any evidence. *Bloomberg*

[Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA

December 8 - Conservation Group Praises USCG, EPA Oil-Spill Response Plan Effort

Two agencies are now involved in updating oil-spill response plans for the Hudson River — and examining potential effects on endangered species. One conservation group is taking credit for the action after threatening a lawsuit if such plans were not put in place. One of the agencies says possible litigation had nothing to do with it.

Citing a dramatic rise of crude oil transport both on and alongside the Hudson River, a nonprofit national conservation group is lauding plans by the U.S. Coast Guard and Environmental Protection Agency to analyze how oil-spill response actions in the Hudson River and New York Bay may affect endangered wildlife. Mollie Matteson is senior scientist with the Center for Biological Diversity. *WAMC Northeast Public Radio* [Read more](#)

December 9 - Supreme Court rejects BP appeal over oil spill payments

The US Supreme Court has rejected hearing a BP appeal challenging its own multi-billion dollar settlement over a Gulf of Mexico oil spill four years ago. BP claims there has been fraud in some settlements, plaintiffs praised the court's decision.

Without comment and with no Justices dissenting, the Supreme Court turned down a plea by BP to reopen its 2012 deal aimed at settling hundreds of millions in claims over the April 2010 oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. This decision leaves intact a lower court opinion approving the settlement that BP negotiated, signed and asked the Court to approve in 2012. It will allow the businesses and families of the Gulf Coast to continue to make claims for another six months. *RT.com* [Read more](#)

December 9 - Congress moving toward five-year commitment to continue Great Lakes clean-up

The federal government's big-money commitment to restoring the Great Lakes is now almost certain to continue another five years thanks to House passage Tuesday of the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative of 2014.

The bill, which passed by voice vote, authorizes \$300 million in federal funding for each of the next five years for Great Lakes programs. The legislation, which is expected to be approved by the Senate and sent to President Obama for his signature later this week, establishes a path forward for a program that has brought \$1.6 billion to the lakes since 2010. *The Buffalo News* [Read more](#)

December 9 - North Dakota Regulators Tell Producers to Filter Crude Oil of Flammable Liquids

North Dakota regulators on Tuesday ordered producers pumping oil from the Bakken shale field to begin removing flammable natural gas liquids from their product before shipment in an effort to prevent deadly explosions involving trains.

The Bakken field has played a major part in the spurt of oil drilling that has raised domestic production by more than 70 percent over the last six years. But a series of explosive accidents involving trains carrying Bakken crude, including one last year in Quebec that took 47 lives, has raised fears in many cities where oil trains regularly transit. *New York Times* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Mike Rancilio of ISCO]

December 11 – Information from Chemical Safety Board

Written Testimony Submitted by U.S. Chemical Safety Board Chairman Rafael Moure-Eraso to the Joint Committee: Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works and the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions hearing entitled, "Oversight of the Implementation of the President's Executive Order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security" *CSB* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (Continued)

December 11 - Feds boost liability cap for oil spills

Four years after the Deepwater Horizon disaster dramatically illustrated the high price tag of cleaning up oil spills, the Obama administration hiked the amount of money companies must pay to reimburse economic damages from the incidents.

The Interior Department's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management on Thursday boosted the liability limit to \$134 million from \$75 million — the largest increase it could make on its own, without separate action by Congress.

The move, proposed in February, marks the first administrative increase in the liability cap for offshore oil spills since Congress imposed the limit as part of the Oil Pollution Act in 1990. *Fuel Fix* [Read more](#)

People in the news

STEWART OWER OF OHES APPOINTED AS CHAIRMAN ELECT OF UK SPILL ASSOCIATION



The UK Spill Association Board has confirmed that it has appointed Stewart Ower, Managing Director of OHES, as Chairman Elect to be approved at the Annual Members Meeting on 3 February 2015, and take over from Jon Burton.

The invitation to Corporate Members to nominate candidates for the 3 vacancies on the UK Spill Association Board resulted in 3 eligible candidates being put forward. The candidates are Neil Lloyd, Operations Director, Braemar Howells, Hugh Neatherway, Divisional Manager, Cleansing Services Group, and Andrew Crawford, Senior Vice President, Lamor UK and will be approved by the UK Spill Association Board held prior to the Annual Members Meeting. <http://www.ukspill.org/>

ISCO News

SUPPORT FOR BANGLADESH OIL SPILL

ISCO is very concerned by the news of the disastrous spill of furnace oil that happened last week in the environmentally sensitive Sundarbans in Bangladesh, a UNESCO World Heritage site.

In case of significant spill events Members of ISCO Council are responsible for local liaison between ISCO, representatives of responsible parties and relevant authorities of governments in those countries that they represent. However, at this time, Bangladesh has no representative on the ISCO Council.

Anticipating that the authorities in Bangladesh would be consulting with their counterparts in the government of India, ISCO has been in communication with Captain D. C. Sekhar, Member of ISCO Council for India. He has confirmed that discussions have been taking place between the government representatives of the two countries. On behalf of ISCO, he has made the relevant authorities aware of ISCO's concern and willingness to provide assistance. Initially, an offer has been made to assist in organising the provision of experts in the response to, and remediation of, oil spillage in mangrove areas. This would be followed up with further support in sourcing additional resources of specialised equipment, materials and personnel.

At this point in time no request for assistance has yet been received from the Bangladesh authorities but Captain Sekhar is continuing to liaise with relevant parties and to keep the ISCO Secretariat informed on requirements as they emerge. Members will be kept informed.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE INTERNATIONAL FORUM ON GROUP V (NON-BUOYANT) OILS

The preparation of the proceedings of the International Forum, which took place in Detroit earlier this year, has taken longer than expected. The work on this is being carried out by colleagues in the USA.

ISCO President, David Usher has advised that the work is now at an advanced stage.

Initially it was intended that the Forum Proceedings would be uploaded on the ISCO website but, because of planned work on improvements to the site, this cannot be done at the present time.

As an interim measure, the proceedings will be available on USB Memory Sticks. These will be available on request from Michael Rancilio at michael.rancilio@gmail.com

There will be a small charge, expected to be less than \$10, to cover costs of copying, packing and postage

BITUMENS AND DILUTED BITUMENS FROM WESTERN CANADIAN OIL SANDS: CHAPTER 6



A short series of articles on Bitumens and Diluted Bitumens from Western Canadian Oil Sands contributed by Dr Merv Fingas of Spill Science, Edmonton, Alberta, Canada T6W 1J6 fingasmerv@shaw.ca

Merv Fingas MSc PhD Hon.FISCO worked for more than 35 years in the field of oil spill technology at Environment Canada's Environmental Technology Center in Ottawa, Ontario. As head of the Emergencies Science Division at the Centre, he conducted and managed research and development projects. He is currently working independently in Alberta. Dr Fingas is the Member of ISCO Council for Canada.

Bitumens and Diluted Bitumens from Western Canadian Oil Sands

This serial covers the topic of bitumen products such as from the Canadian Oil Sands and diluted bitumen products (Dilbit and others). This is the sixth of nine issues by Dr. Merv Fingas, Member of ISCO Council for Canada.

1. Weathering, Continued

Evaporation is particularly important for Dilbits and Synbits. The diluent or lighter ends from these products evaporate leaving the denser and more viscous bitumen behind. There are some data on the Synbits enabling one to predict their behavior once released into the environment. The graphs that follow show the behavior of weathering Synbits. One will note that this is quite different from the resulting behaviour of Dilbits, as the weathered products of Synbits are less viscous and less dense with the same amount of weathering.

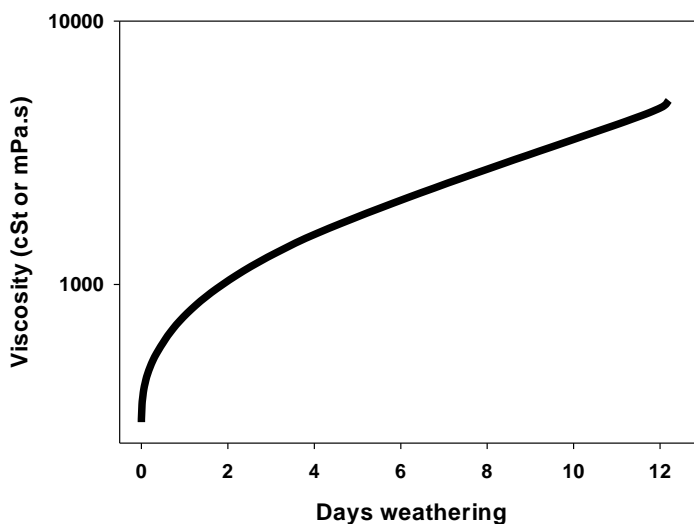


Figure 10 Viscosity of a Synbit as it weathers

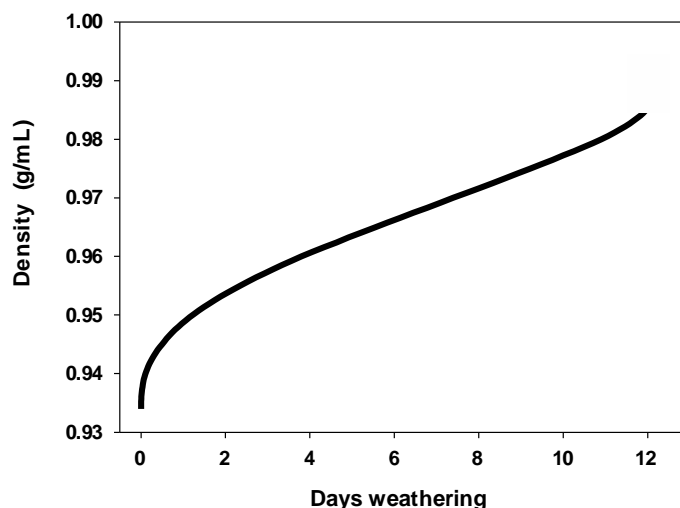


Figure 11 Predicted Density of a Synbit as it weathers

Special feature (continued)

Figures 10 and 11 are calculated using data obtained at 15°C. At double the temperature the changes would occur in about half of the time and at lower temperatures (0 to 5°C), these changes could take up to twice the time.

3 Flammability of Dilbits

An issue that is important to health and safety is that of flammability. The Dilbits when released, can be flammable, especially those enhanced with C4 or C5. This is shown in Figures 12 to 14.

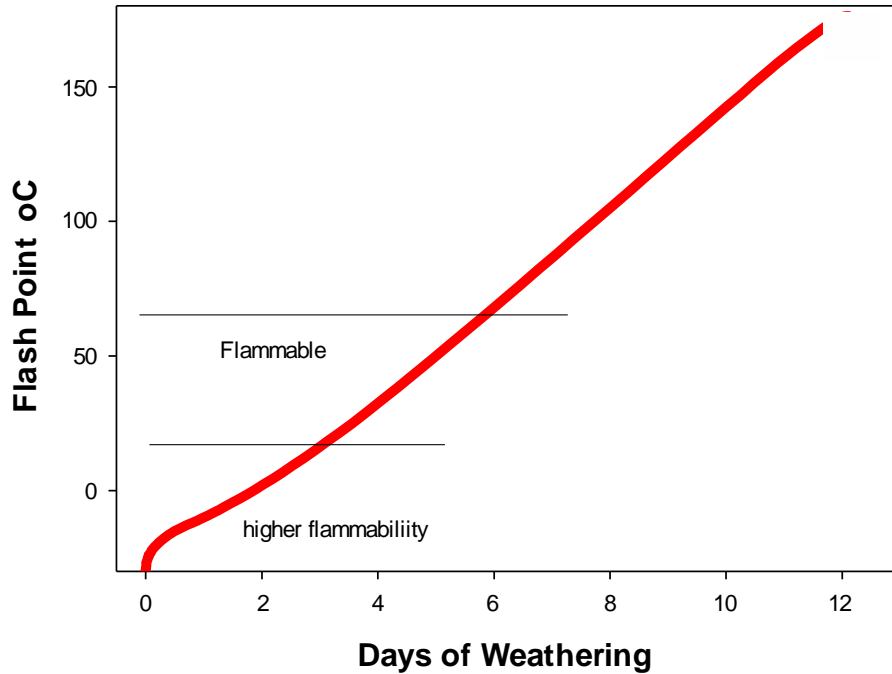


Figure 12 The flammability of a Dilbit from laboratory data over a period of days.

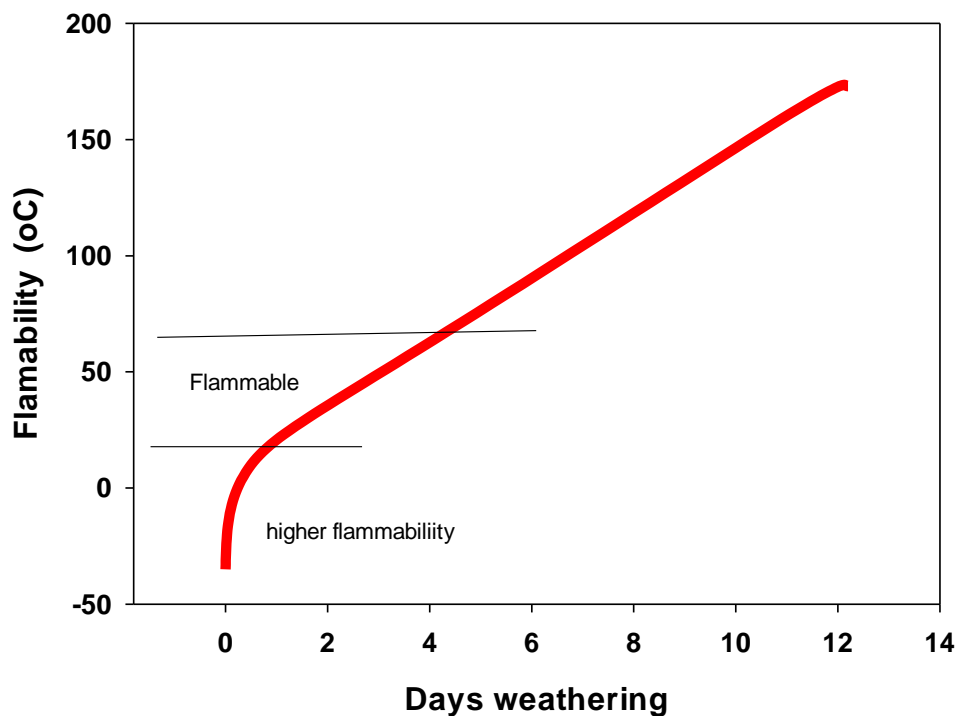


Figure 13 Predicted flammability of a C4/C5 enhanced Dilbit

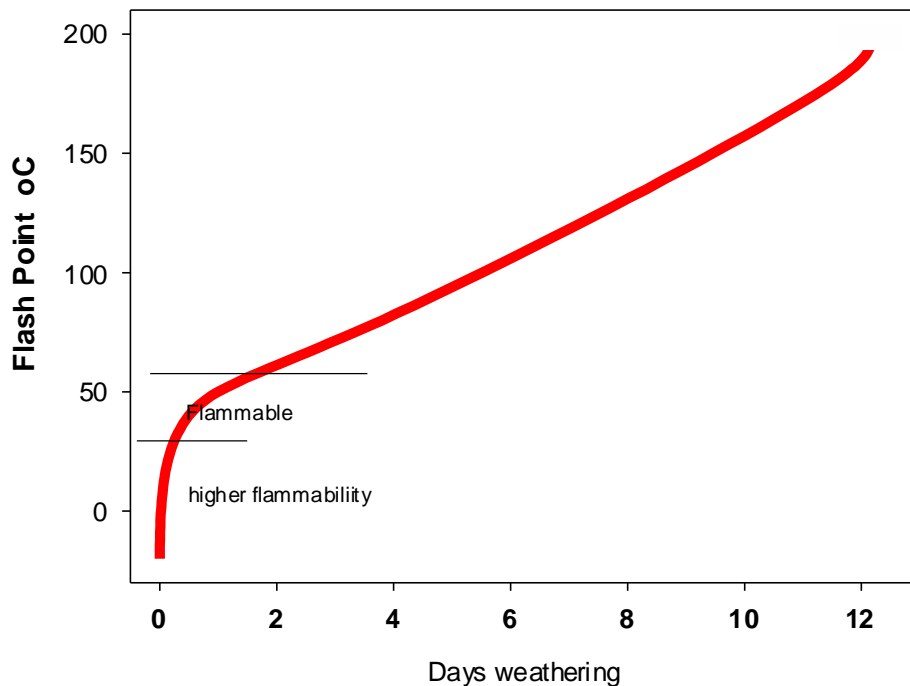


Figure 14 The predicted flammability of a Synbit

This indicates that standard Dilbits can pose a flammability hazard up to a few days after the spill. Enhanced C4 Dilbits will pose a greater hazard, but for a shorter time. Cleanup crews are advised to use explosimeters in dealing with Dilbit spills.

Correspondence

LETTERS FROM READERS ABOUT THE OIL SPILL IN BANGLADESH

From Umer Aiman Khan in Dhaka, Bangladesh - This is Aiman from Bangladesh, I am a student in my second year of College, I write to you today for information about what we can do to remedy the 350,000 liter furnace oil spill that took place in one of the rivers of the worlds largest mangrove forest the Sundarbans.

(NEWS: <http://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/home/environment/pollution/350-tonne-oil-spill-by-Bangladeshi-ship-threatens-Sunderbans/articleshow/45483696.cms>)

I am not nor any group known to me are members of the ISCO, but I want to help out in the Sundarbans. any sort of help from your side will be amazing.

From Leslie Pintarich in Portland, Oregon, USA - I am a police officer with the City of Portland Oregon and I had the great opportunity to travel and teach in Bangladesh thru ICITAP on two different occasions to teach Community Policing techniques. It was life changing for me. I fell in love with the people and the country, and I have many friends that live there so I try to follow the happenings closely. I am greatly concerned about the recent oil spill in the Sundarbans area which is the world's largest mangrove forest and home to the remaining Bengal Tigers. This is having a devastating effect on the delicate environment surrounding the mangrove forest and all of its flora and fauna.

I also know through my friends that the Bangladeshi people simply do not have the resources or technology to deal with this devastating situation and they need help from the outside. I fear that even though the area is a UNESCO World Heritage site it is not getting the attention it so desperately need to help with this situation.

I implore you to try to take action to help save this irreplaceable ecosystem! Think of what will be lost and may never recover if no action is taken. I do not have the connections to make things happen but I can be vocal, and I will, because I don't want inaction on my conscience. Until I begin reading news reports that something is being done I will continue to lobby. Please help if you can, even if it is to contact the proper organizations that can do something. They desperately need help from the outside to save the Sundarbans.

[Your editor has responded to both letters with updated information and will endeavour to keep the writers informed on forward developments]

Correspondence (continued)

VIKOMA – PUTTING THE FACTS TO RIGHTS

A letter received from Stewart Ellis of Elastec-American Marine - Reading the last issue of your fine newsletter in which you state: BP established the oil spill equipment manufacturer, Vikoma, back in 1967, and played a key role in pioneering the early development of oil spill combat resources, few of which were available at that time. Under different ownership, Vikoma continues today as one of the world's most respected manufacturers."

Vikoma was not the manufacturer in those days, it was my uncle Michael Webb who produced all the equipment at his factory, Wotton Bridge Industries on the Isle of Wight. Many of his designs were patented by BP including early disc skimmers, continuous inflation booms etc. He was a real pioneer in the industry. Vikoma was a subsidiary of BP and was brought in to sell his products, Vikoma ended up purchasing his production in the 1980s (although he retained ownership of the factory until a couple of years ago). Michael continues to live on the Island.

[Editor: Stewart has asked Mike if he would like to write something about his experiences in the early days of oil spill equipment development – so hopefully we'll be able to read this later]

Publications

REGULATIONS OF PRC ON PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF MARINE POLLUTION FROM SHIPS

Sam Ignarski, Publisher and Editor of the excellent "Bow Wave" Newsletter has sent the following information.

"IG Sample Agreement dated 20th November 2012". - With some two years passing since the drafting of this agreement the International Group of P and I Clubs has, after discussions with various interested parties and the in light of experience gained over these last two years, now issued a new agreement with the footer "IG Sample Agreement dated 20 November 2014"

The wording of the new recommended contract remains consistent with the Regulations and the MSA's Detailed Rules, and takes account of concerns raised with regard to the payment period to SPROs under contract for undisputed sums during the course of an incident, whilst ensuring that the period continues to provide sufficient time to check invoices and documentation provided as evidence of costs incurred. Owners who will be signing new spill response contracts with SPROs in the near future are recommended to sign their agreements on the basis of the new IG recommended contract wording.

Owners who have existing valid contracts already in place with footer "IG Sample Agreement dated 20 November 2012" are not required to enter into contracts with the new wording prior to their expiry.

As in previous years any requests to agree to a variation of the recommended IG agreement should be referred to the relevant P&I club prior to signing with the SPRO to ensure that such variations do not cause the contract to fall outside the scope of the IG Guidelines For more information, please follow the links –

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/250033669/PLF-Newsletter-08-14>

<http://www.scribd.com/doc/250033697/China-Sample-Pollution-Response-Agreement>

Links for recent issues of other publications

[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](#)

[AMSA Aboard](#)

[Sea Alarm Foundation 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

News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority

News from the Sea Alarm Wildlife Protection Organisation

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Events

ASEAN REGIONAL OIL SPILL RESPONSE & PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP, KUALA LUMPUR, MALAYSIA, 17-19 DECEMBER 2014

Received from ITOFF - Richard Johnson will be attending the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) regional workshop hosted by the Government of Malaysia's Marine Department in collaboration with the IMO. The aim of the meeting is to support the objectives of the ASEAN OSRAP (Oil Spill Response Action Plan) Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is currently being finalised, and to provide an update on technical developments in the field of preparedness and response.

The workshop is being organised within the framework of the Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP) of the IMO and the IMO-IPIECA Global Initiative for South East Asia (GISEA), which aims to enhance the capacity of the Member countries of SE Asia to prepare for, and respond to, marine oil spills. Attendees will comprise individuals from relevant national agencies who have responsibilities for dealing with pollution response matters, as well as industry representatives. [More info](#)

INTERSPILL 2015 - AMSTERDAM, 24-26 MARCH 2015

The early bird offer to attend [Interspill Conference and Exhibition 2015](#) at a discounted price will end on **31st December 2014**. Access the 3 day Conference as a Delegate for €720 + VAT instead of the full price of €815 + VAT – [register today](#).

FLOODING 2015: RISKS AND RESILIENCE - TUESDAY 27TH JANUARY 2015 AT THE MERMAID CONFERENCE CENTRE, LONDON. – DISCOUNT FOR ISCO MEMBERS

Event Overview: <http://www.floodconference.co.uk/event-home>

Event Programme: <http://www.floodconference.co.uk/programme>

The private sector delegate rate is £395+VAT, however, we are happy to offer members/partners of ISCO £100 discount, this reduces the delegate rate to £295+VAT. Please contact Alicia Grealley directly on 0161 713 3880 for registration.

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

ISCO Corporate Member, Oil Control Systems, "Zone II powerpack suitable to work in open deck area's with liquids with a flashpoint below 60 degrees Celsius" is still available for sale and the price has been very significantly reduced. Full details at <http://www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-12-36-12/items-for-sale>

NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES

ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, NORLENSE, INTRODUCES NEWLY DEVELOPED OILTRAWL



- + The new system collects, concentrates and stores oil in one operation
- + Can be operated by one vessel and one person
- + Deployment time reduced to a formidable 10 minutes
- + Integrated skimmer pump (add-on) continuously pumps collected oil on board the vessel.

When the system was tested by OMSETT test tank in the United States, the conclusion was "Best result ever for a Fast current system." The system is verified by DNV GL regarding capacity - and is also tested by NCA/Coast Guard with very good feedback.

The new Oil Trawl from NorLense is a fast current system, designed to collect a wide range of oil emulsions spread over larger areas. While conventional booms operate up to the speed of one knot, the Oil Trawl tackles effective flow rates of four to five knots. Using a paravan/trawl-door the system can be operated with just one vessel.

Contact person in NorLense: Terje Olav Hansen - Tel: +47 761 18 181 Cell: +47 905 72 795 E-mail: terje@norlense.no

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