

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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**A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS**



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International news

UN SEES 'LIMITED' IMPACT OF BANGLADESH'S SUNDARBANS OIL SPILL



Emilia Wahlstrom addresses a press briefing at the Surma Hall of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka. A team of UN experts led by Wahlstrom is studying the impact of recent oil spill in the Sundarbans. Photo: Star

December 31 - United Nations experts said Wednesday they found "limited immediate impact" on the ecosystem of the world's largest mangrove forest in Bangladesh after a major oil spill early in December.

Local forestry officials raised the alarm when hundreds of thousands of litres of furnace oil were spilt into the forest's vast network of rivers and canals after a tanker sank following a collision with another cargo vessel.

They warned of a "catastrophic" impact from the spill, fearing harm to rare Irrawaddy and Ganges dolphins and to endangered species including Bengal tigers.

But a UN team sent last week to assess the damage ruled out any major fallout from the spill, saying the damage to the 10,000 square kilometre (3,850 square

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International news (continued)

mile) wildlife sanctuary was not as bad as feared.

"There seems to be limited immediate environmental impact to the mangrove and aquatic ecosystems," said Emilia Wahlstrom, the leader of the 25-member UN team, as she revealed a summary of its findings.

"The main shorelines -- 40 kilometres (25 miles) up and downstream -- of the site show varying degree of pollution. (But) we could not observe any visible impact on the mangrove forest floor," she added.

She said timely "tides" in the rivers "actually minimised the penetration of oil into the ecosystem. Much of the oil has been washed out along the Poshur and Shela rivers," she added. *Yahoo news* [Read more](#)

Halt traffic thru the Sundarbans: UN experts

December 31 - An expert team of the United Nation (UN) has advised the government to take legislative measures immediately to avoid traffic through the Sundarbans and mitigate oil spilled there earlier this month.

"It is an initial report over the oil spill in the Sundarbans and the final one will be made public after two weeks," Emilia Wahlstrom told reporters at a press briefing held at the Surma Hall of Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in Dhaka this afternoon.

UNDP and Bangladesh government will work together to ensure ecological balance in the world largest mangrove forest, Wahlstrom added. *The Daily Star* [Read more](#) **See also ISCO News on Page 7**

U.N. ASKS ISRAEL TO PAY LEBANON \$850 MLN FOR OIL SPILL

Dec 20 - The U.N. General Assembly on Friday has adopted a resolution urging Israel to pay Lebanon over \$850 million in damages for causing an "environmental disaster" during the July 2006 war.

As many as 170 countries voted in favor of the resolution, three abstained, and six countries: Israel, the United States, Canada, Australia, Micronesia and Marshall Islands voted "no."

General Assembly resolutions are not legally binding but they do reflect world opinion. The United Nations has previously requested that Israel compensate Lebanon, but this is the first time that a monetary figure was set. *Al Arabiya News* [Read more](#)

EUROWA PROJECT SELECTED FOR FUNDING BY THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION

December 22 - Sea Alarm recently was informed by the European Commission that the EUROWA proposal (European Module for Oiled Wildlife Emergency Response Assistance) has been selected for European funding.

In this project Sea Alarm will partner with the [Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals](#) (RSPCA, UK), the [Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend](#) (WRCO, BE), [ProBird](#) (DE) and [WWF Finland](#) (FI) to develop a Module, consisting of experts and their equipment, for international Tier-3 oiled wildlife response in Europe.

The various project streams will:

- Develop a Standard Operational Procedure (SOP) for the mobilisation and activities of the new Module according to DG Echo's published Guidelines, and other international standards for oiled wildlife response and preparedness advocated by the oil industry, e.g. [International Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Association](#) (IPIECA) and [Oil Spill Response](#) (OSRL).
- Develop a professional training course allowing a pool of European Experts to develop knowledge and skills at a competency level that would qualify them to become a member of the new Module and be able to form part of an international response team.
- Provide this training course at the end of the project for interested European experts from Member States so that the new Module can draw from a considerable number of qualified experts
- Maintain the Sea Alarm owned stockpile of oiled wildlife response equipment and ensure the availability and mobilisation of that equipment in Europe as part of the Module.
- Test the new Module as part of an international exercise.
- Submit the Module to the European Commission at the end of the project for consideration as a Module to be registered in the Common Emergency Communication and Information System (CECIS).

ISCO congratulates Sea Alarm on this achievement. The Sea Alarm Foundation is an Industry Partner of ISCO. [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (in chronological order)

THAILAND: OIL LEAK FROM GROUNDED TANKER IN SOUTH



Photo: The damaged Indonesian vessel Sricadi 151, a palm oil tanker, rests on sand off Narathiwat province on Friday. (Photo by Waedao Harai)

December 19 – Engine oil has begun leaking from a grounded Indonesian palm oil tanker driven ashore by heavy seas in Narathiwat in November and started washing up on Narathat beach on Friday.

The stern of the vessel Sricadi 151 tanker, that carries 2.7 million litres of palm oil, is awash and apparently punctured by the coastal rocks off the beach in Muang Narathiwat district. Attempts to salvage...

The tanker was seized by Thai authorities off Narathiwat Nov 27 and eight crewmembers who reportedly hijacked it from Indonesia arrested. They were reported to have been selling palm oil off the Pattani and Narathiwat coastline. *Bangkok Post* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: NEW OIL LEAK IN GUARACARA RIVER

December 23: A second oil leak has polluted the Guaracara River in less than five months, mere days before Christmas. The leak was detected days after the anniversary of the disastrous La Brea oil spill. Yesterday oil from the Pointe-a-Pierre refinery leaked into the Guaracara River and Marabella residents are fearful they may not have a yuletide to celebrate. *Guardian* [Read more](#)

RUSSIA BATTLES TO CONTAIN BLACK SEA OIL SPILL

December 25 - A Russian Black Sea city declared a state of emergency Thursday after a burst pipeline spewed oil into the landlocked water body, with stormy weather hampering cleanup efforts.

The pipeline near the city of Tuapse burst late Tuesday, according to ChernomorTransneft, a subsidiary of Russia's main oil transport company Transneft. "The wall of the pipeline broke due to... a landslide," the company said in a statement, adding that the rupture caused 8.4 cubic metres to leak out into the Tuapse river, which empties into the Black Sea. Environmentalists warned however that the volume of the spill could be nearly 100 times greater than claimed by Transneft. *Phys.Org* [Read more](#)

December 26 - After-effects of an oil spill caused by the leaking of Tikhoretsk-Tuapse-2 pipeline are being eliminated from the coastal line round-the-clock at Black Sea resort city of Tuapse. The weather does not allow removing oil at the port area that is planned to start in the afternoon on December 26, Russian sea-and river-going transport agency said.

Six emergency brigades of 14 each were set up and 72 units of machinery were used to collect oil-contaminated fractions, the agency noted. "Azov-Black Sea branch of the state sea rescue service of domestic sea-and river-going transport agency has removed ten cubic metres of oil product-polluted fractions mixed with junk. Emergency rescue service of the Tuapse sea trade port has collected 3.5-4 cubic metres of oil product-contaminated fractions with junk," Russian sea-and river-going transport agency said. *Tass* [Read more](#)

CANADA: AGENCIES WORKING TO CONTAIN FUEL LEAK FROM BOAT THAT SANK IN TROIS-RIVIÈRES PORT

Photo: Environment workers lay booms on the Chaudière River near Lac-Mégantic, to contain the crude oil spill following a train derailment and explosion, Tuesday, July 9, 2013. Jacques Boissinot / THE CANADIAN PRESS

December 27 - Urgence-Environnement is trying to contain 22 tonnes of fuel leaking from a tug boat that sank in the port of Trois-Rivières on Friday afternoon. Several government agencies dedicated to protecting the environment are working to limit the damage in the St. Lawrence River.

A tug boat was sent to the scene so a team of three people could install booms to contain the diesel that is polluting the water. However, the containment booms can't hold back the entire leak. "There is a part of the oil that is contained in the booms, but there is still a bit of oil that can be seen around it," explained Réjean Lapointe with the Quebec Environment Department. *Montreal Gazette* [Read more](#)



Incident reports from around the world (continued)

December 28 - Pumping operations are ongoing at the Trois-Rivières port after tugboat Chaulk Determination sank on Friday, leaking fuel into the St. Lawrence River.

The Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada and the diving company Seamec have been on site since Friday afternoon, working to limit the damage caused by the leak.

The vessel was holding 22 tonnes of fuel when it sank. Since then, workers have been trying to stop the leakage of the diesel into the water and remove the fuel already in the water. Nine tonnes of diesel have been removed from the water since operations began. The cleanup will take several days. The Coast Guard is working on a plan to get the tug back afloat, which is expected to be done by the end of December. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: 'OIL WAS SHOOTING FROM THE GROUND'

December 30 - Durban - For residents at the normally quiet complex of Greenvale overlooking the rural landscape of Hillcrest, Christmas 2014 is a date that will not be forgotten in a hurry – but for all the wrong reasons. Instead of enjoying the festive spirit, diesel was spewing out of the ground shooting metres into the air.

The pipeline between Durban and Joburg had burst in the upmarket housing complex of Greenvale in Shongweni Road with 200 000 litres of diesel spewing into the environment, turning gardens and driveways into toxic rivers of oily sludge. *IOL News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

SINGAPORE: SHIP COLLISION CAUSES OIL SPILL OFF SINGAPORE – MPA

January 2 - An oil tanker and a bulk carrier collided off Singapore on Friday causing some crude oil spillage, the Maritime Port Authority said. A Libyan-registered oil tanker Alyarmouk collided with the Singapore-registered bulk carrier Sinar Kapuas about 11 nautical miles north-east of Pedra Branca, east of Singapore.

“Alyarmouk reported that one of her cargo tanks sustained damage, resulting in some spillage of crude oil.” *Marine Insight* [Read more](#)

January 2 - The Libyan-registered Alyarmouk sustained damage to one of its cargo tanks, and an estimated 4,500 tons of Madura crude oil was spilled from the tanker. Taking into account the weather and tidal currents, patches of oil may affect the northern parts of the island of Bintan.

As part of standard operating procedures for joint oil spill combat in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore, MPA has notified the Malaysian and Indonesian Authorities.

Two oil spill response companies have been activated to combat the spill. The companies have deployed four craft equipped with dispersants, oil booms and skimmers to the site. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#) Another report from [Reuters](#)

CANADA: SUNCOR FACILITY IN RIMOUSKI LEAKED THOUSANDS OF LITRES OF GASOLINE

January 2 - Thousands of litres of gasoline leaked from a Suncor facility in Rimouski, Que., on Thursday evening, said a spokesman with the company. Residents living near the facility called police to complain about a strong gas smell. Staff found a small crack in a valve near a reservoir that held two million litres of gasoline.

The workers have diverted the gas into another reservoir, containing 1.6 million litres of the gas. Claude Schink, the facility's supervisor, expects the cleanup will continue pumping fuel until 2 p.m. ET Friday. Schink told a news conference the company does not have a number on how much fuel was spilled, but said the crack in the valve was small. So far, 30,000 litres of foam, water and gasoline have been vacuumed from the site. *CBC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: NUKE PLANT REPORTS 2-MONTH OIL LEAK INTO LAKE MICHIGAN

January 3 - An oil cooling system on the turbine of a southwest Michigan nuclear power plant leaked oil into Lake Michigan for about two months, according to plant officials.

Officials with the Donald C. Cook Nuclear Plant near Bridgman reported the leak to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, as well as state and local authorities, on Dec. 20, according to an event notification posted on the NRC's website. Plant officials believe 2,000 gallons of oil leaked into the lake, and a retroactive examination of system oil levels leads plant personnel to believe the leak may have been ongoing since about Oct. 25, said Bill Schalk, communications manager for the Cook Nuclear Plant. *Detroit Free Press* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

Other news reports from around the world (countries in alphabetical order)

CHINA: STRONGER POLLUTION LAW TAKES EFFECT THIS WEEK

December 31 - The revised Environmental Protection Law that takes effect on Thursday imposes more severe fines and even comes with the possibility of criminal charges against polluters.

In addition, supplementary regulations are on the way to make implementation more effective, the top environmental watchdog said on Tuesday.

The Ministry of Environmental Protection has listed 54 projects to support the implementation of the new law. Five regulations covering the release of information and daily fines for pollution were released in 2014, said Zhai Qing, deputy minister. *China Daily* [Read more](#)

CHINA: COURT IN CHINA ISSUES RECORD POLLUTION FINE

December 31 - A high court in China's eastern Jiangsu province has fined six companies 160m yuan (£16.6m; \$26m) for polluting rivers, state media report.

The Xinhua news agency said the fine was the highest ever in China as a result of public interest litigation against polluters.

The companies were found guilty in August of discharging 25,000 tonnes of chemical waste into two Taizhou rivers. *BBC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

ISRAEL: GOVERNMENT APPROVES NIS 17 MILLION FUND FOR ARAVA OIL SPILL REHABILITATION



Photo: Site of the oil spill in Arava. (photo credit: MARC ISRAEL SELLEM)

December 28 - The government on Sunday approved a NIS 17 million Environmental Protection Ministry plan to rehabilitate portions of the Arava Desert damaged by an early December oil spill.

Initiated by Deputy Environmental Protection Minister Ophir Akunis, the program is designated to treat soil contaminated by the spill, as well as help restore the wildlife populations injured over the course of the event.

As part of the plan, a special team is to be appointed to evaluate the environmental impact of various Eilat-Ashkelon Pipeline Company activities on both dry land and beaches.

The Jerusalem Post [Read more](#)

ISRAEL: HEBREW UNIVERSITY SCIENTISTS HOPE TO PROVIDE SOLUTION FOR ARAVA OIL SPILL CLEANUP

January 3 - A technology hailing from the Hebrew University's chemistry laboratories aims to tackle hydrocarbon contaminants at their chemical core, providing an efficient and affordable solution for cleanups like the country's December oil spill.

After some 5 million liters of crude oil surged into the Arava Desert sands last month, the Environmental Protection Ministry-led rehabilitation venture is in the process of determining which technologies will be implemented in the newly approved NIS 17 million cleanup budget.

But the brainchild of Prof. Yoel Sasson and Dr. Uri Stoin from Hebrew University's Casali Institute of Applied Chemistry recently underwent a pilot trial at the Nimra Landfill site in the desert, where the contaminated soils are being stored. In the pilot experiment, the company made use of a 3-by-3-meter plot, containing about half a cubic meter of contaminated soil. Within two hours, workers applied the NHS+ to the soil in three shifts, allowing the hydrocarbon destruction and chemical oxidation to proceed efficiently. "The first results show that at least 80-90 percent of the oil is fully decomposed," Sasson said.

The Jerusalem Post [Read more](#)

LIBYA CONTRACTS U.S. FIRM TO EXTINGUISH FIRE

December 29 - Libya's recognized government has contracted a U.S. firefighter firm to help extinguish fires at storage tanks at the Es Sider oil port, a spokesman said on Monday. The unnamed U.S. firefighting firm will help extinguish the fires for \$6 million with work due to start within five days.

Oil tanks at Es Sider have been on fire for days after a rocket hit one of them, destroying more than two days of Libyan production, officials said on Sunday. Libya has appealed to Italy, Germany and the United States to send firefighters. *The Maritime Executive*
[Read more](#)

RUSSIA: CONSTANT OIL SPILLS DEVASTATE RUSSIA

Photo: Dying trees are shown next to an oil spill near the town of Usinsk in the Komi province. Komi is one of Russia's largest and oldest oil provinces. DMITRY LOVETSKY / AP



December 24 - On the bright-yellow tundra outside this oil town near the Arctic Circle, a pitch-black pool of crude stretches toward the horizon. The source: a decommissioned well whose rusty screws ooze with oil, viscous like jam.

This is the face of Russia's oil country, a sprawling, inhospitable zone that experts say represents the world's worst ecological oil catastrophe.

Environmentalists estimate at least 1 percent of Russia's annual oil production, or 5 million tons, is spilled every year. That is equivalent to one Deepwater Horizon-scale leak about every two months.

Crumbling infrastructure and a harsh climate combine to spell disaster in the world's largest oil producer, responsible for 13 percent of global output. *The Seattle Times* [Read more](#)

USA: CHEMICAL ANTI-TERRORISM LAW PASSED, IMPROVED BY U.S. CONGRESS

December 23 - Legislation to protect US chemical plants from terrorist attacks has been extended and renewed for another four years.

The bipartisan measure makes a series of key changes to the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Chemical Facility Anti-Terrorism Standards (CFATS) to improve its efficiency and effectiveness. For example, it expedites the approval process for site security plans for low risk chemical facilities and also clarifies the emergency shutdown authorities. *Scientific American* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: OIL TRAIN SAFETY AND TAXES ON LAWMAKERS' AGENDA FOR 2015

December 30 - For the past few years, a growing number of trains have been bringing "rolling pipelines" of oil from North Dakota to ports and refineries in the Pacific Northwest.

And in that time, the Washington and Oregon legislatures have failed to come up with the money to pay for the cost of responding to the increasing risk of oil spills in their states. That could change in 2015.

Both states' governors and legislators are talking about the need to enhance safety and preparedness in response to the uptick in oil train traffic in the region. But there are some sticking points when it comes to deciding what's to be done, and more importantly, how to pay for it.

Here's the old model in Washington: oil that arrives by ship (traditionally that was 90 percent of the oil that arrived at Washington refineries) is taxed a nickel per barrel. That money goes to spill response and preparedness. Fast forward to 2014: oil arriving by train and pipeline now makes up one third of the oil arriving at Washington refineries. And unless falling oil prices upend predictions, oil-train traffic in 2020 could be seven times what it is today.

A new funding model, which seems to be gaining support from Republican and Democratic lawmakers alike in Washington state, would extend the oil tax to petroleum carried by trains as well as by ships. *OPB.org* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

USA: 25 YEARS AFTER EXXON VALDEZ, U.S. MANDATES DOUBLE-HULLED OIL TANKERS

December 30 - Oil tankers bring about 15 million gallons of oil every day into Washington state. Starting Jan. 1, those ships are required to have double hulls.

The oil-spill prevention measure has been in the works for decades, ever since Capt. Joseph Hazelwood ran the Exxon Valdez onto Alaska's Bligh Reef in 1989. Eleven million gallons of oil spilled into Prince William Sound, killing thousands of seabirds and sea otters, devastating the region's fisheries and unleashing action in Washington, D.C.

A year after what was then the nation's worst oil spill, the U.S. Congress required oil tankers to have double hulls. A quick fix it was not: The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 gave ship owners 25 years to phase out their single-hull tankers.

The act also required tugboat escorts for oil tankers in Puget Sound. To this day, tankers sailing on other Washington state waters don't have to have tug escorts.

"Double hulls only work if you hit the ground," oil-spill activist Fred Felleman of Seattle said. "Tug escorts keep you from hitting the ground." KUOW.org [Read more](#)

December 31 - A Final Farewell to Single Hull Oil Tankers - January 1, 2015 marks a major milestone in preventing oil spills.

That date is the deadline which the landmark Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA-90) specifies for phasing out single-hull tankers in U.S. waters. That act, passed after the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill in Prince William Sound, Alaska, required that all new tankers and tank-barges be built with double hulls.

Recently constructed single-hull tankers were allowed to operate, but 25 years after the Exxon Valdez, those vessels are now at the end of their operational life and will no longer be able to carry oil as cargo.

The requirement was phased in gradually because of the difficulty of converting existing single-hull tankers to double hulls, and retiring the single-hull tankers more rapidly would have been a major disruption to world shipping. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

ISCO News

ISCO SUPPORT FOR SUNDARBANS OIL SPILL

Thanks to ISCO Member of Council for India, Captain D. C. Sekhar, the Bangladesh authorities were made aware at an early stage of ISCO's readiness to assist in the rapid sourcing of experts, response support personnel, equipment, materials and other needs from our worldwide membership. From the UK, ISCO established contact with the Ministry of Environment and Forests, Ministry of Disaster Management and Relief, and the Department of Forests.

Information on the procedure for relaying requests for urgently needed resources was forwarded to senior officials and acknowledgements were received. So far, no requirements have been advised but the authorities have been reminded that this route for accessing help remains open to them.

WEBSITE PROBLEMS – HOPEFULLY NOW RESOLVED

Over the Christmas holiday period we experienced serious problems with the ISCO website which went down several times. ISCO's IT support team worked throughout the holiday to resolve problems and it was necessary to change our website hosting service provider.

As of 1 January, the system appears to have stabilised but due to a failure on the back-up system, website content uploaded during the past two months has been irretrievably lost. This included recently uploaded reference data on more than 125 response manuals, guidelines, etc. in the members' area, new member data uploaded since mid-October and recent updates reflecting annual membership cost revisions. Work has already started on updating and re-creating missing web content with the aim of completing this work by the end of January. We apologise for the temporary absence of this facility.

LOOKING OVER THE PAST YEAR

Looking back over 2014, the highlight was ISCO's International Forum on Group V (Non-buoyant) Oils held in Detroit, USA in September 2014. The very high quality of both speakers and participants has drawn much favourable comment and the Committee is considering options for organising another focused event of this kind. ISCO attended IOOSC in Savannah, Georgia, Clean Gulf in San Antonio, Texas, and was represented at other international events, including the Oil Spill Response Workshop in Beijing, China. ISCO made contributions at meetings of IMO and IOPC Funds. New members have joined, adding to the strength of our organization and we look forward to an exciting year, bringing forward a number of new initiatives that are in the pipeline

BITUMENS AND DILUTED BITUMENS FROM WESTERN CANADIAN OIL SANDS: CHAPTER 8



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 eighth of nine issues by Dr. Merv Fingas, Member of ISCO Council for Canada.

6. Skimming

Tests on skimming spilled Dilbit shows the following:

- Initially the product behaves like a medium crude
- Skimmers that have interchangeable disks and brushes are best run initially with disks and then after about a few days with brushes
- The recovery rates and water/oil ratios are about the same as medium crude in the first few days and like that of heavy oil thereafter (Witt O'Briens, 2013). Figures 18 to 20 illustrate some of this testing.



Figure 18 A Lamor skimmer operating during a weathered Dilbit recover test



Figure 19 Skimmer test carried out at Gainford, Alberta, 2013



Figure 20 Aqua-Guard Skimmer working at Gainford Trials, May 2013

7. Burning

Burning is a countermeasure that can be applied to Dilbit spills. Freshly-spilled Dilbit burns similar to a light or medium crude oil, while more weathered Dilbit burns similar to a heavy oil. Tests show that the ease of ignition is also similar to these comparison oils. Figure 21 shows a burn of weathered Dilbit.



Figure 21 A test burn of weathered Dilbit

Reference:

Witt O'Briens, *Dilbit Fate and Behavior, Report of the Gainford Trials, 2013*

New Products & Services

FASTWAVE RELEASES NEW OCEANOGRAPHIC AND OIL SPILL TRACKING BUOY

Australian based marine and subsea data acquisition specialist Fastwave has announced the commercial release of the Voyager satellite tracking buoy, after an extended period of development and field testing. Fastwave has been supplying oil spill and ocean current tracking buoys to the maritime community since 2005

The Voyager provides near real-time ocean current, sea surface temperature and oil spill tracking data via Iridium satellite telemetry. The unique hull design and low freeboard ensures close coupling with the ocean surface layer and minimises wind influence, ensuring accurate tracking of the surface layer. The Voyager is simple to operate and deploy, making it ideal for oil spill response and search and rescue missions. It is also suitable for extended oceanographic studies, being capable of sending a

New Products & Services (continued)

report every four hours for up to twelve months. The battery pack is user replaceable and flyable. Robust construction allows the Voyager to be dropped overboard from vessels and offshore platforms, or deployed from aircraft using a parachute.

The Voyager delivers data to Fastwave's secure servers, where it is accessible through an on-line data management portal, or reports can be delivered directly to client GIS and oil spill modelling systems for further processing. The Fastwave management system enables clients to send commands to the Voyager to change reporting intervals or geo-fences to be set up.

Since being released, Fastwave has received orders for the Voyager from Australia's largest offshore oil and gas operators as part of their oil spill response planning. For further information please visit www.fastwave.com.au

DAMEN ADDS TO DREDGE PUMP RANGE



The Damen DOP Submersible Dredge Pump range has been enlarged. The DOP-range now runs from the smallest possible DOP150, fitting in any corner of a building pit, to the impressive DOP450L doing 4.000 m³ of mixture per hour.

The DOP submersible dredge pump is a heavy duty pump designed to be used in many dredging activities. It distinguishes itself from slurry pumps or waste water pumps by its robust design. The main part of the DOP is an efficient, wear resistant dredge pump outfitted with cast, easily exchangeable parts. A key feature is the large spherical passage preventing blockage. The impeller shaft is directly driven by a hydraulic motor through a gear box.

This direct drive makes the DOP450L a compact unit. The stand alone submerged dredge pump only requires its hydraulic power. The DOP can be powered by a diesel-hydraulic power pack or by an excavator. Working attached to the excavator boom plugged into its hydraulics makes a simple plug and play dredger.

The DOP450L is the largest true dredge pump which has been designed for submersed use and can be transported and mobilized easily as manageable unit. [More info](#)

Publications

CELTIC TECHNOLOGIES AND BIOGENIE LAUNCH A NEW JOINT NEWSLETTER

Biogenie and Celtic are part of EnGlobe Corp., a worldwide leader in soil, materials and environmental engineering with operations in Canada, North America, France, Israel, and Africa as well as the UK.

They are gradually merging the 2 UK businesses under the EnGlobe UK brand and are planning to complete by the beginning of 2016.

As part of this process a new joint newsletter has been launched. [Download the newsletter](#)

Links for recent issues of other publications

ASME EED EHS Newsletter	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	November 2014
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	December 29 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	January 1 2015 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Fall 2014 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	November 1-15 2014
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 51 2014
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	December 2014 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	November 2014
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 4, 2014
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	December 17 issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	December 2014 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	October 2014 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	December 2014 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	December 22 issue
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	December 2014 issue
AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2014 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	News from the Sea Alarm Wildlife Protection Organisation	Winter 2014 issue

Events

IMO: MEETING OF SUB-COMMITTEE ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE (PPR)

This meeting will take place in London from January 19-23.

UKSPILL ANNUAL CONFERENCE & DINNER

3rd February 2015 at Donington Park, near East Midlands Airport. The theme of this new, one day event is: "Oil Spills will always be with us as long as we live with oil; you need to know what we do and how we can help". [More info](#)

FRANCE: ISDAMP PROJECT: FINAL CONFERENCE

Policies for coastal communities concerned by marine pollutions and oil-spills (EU directives, Oil Pollution act, and National legislations) have major impact at the local level. The final conference of the ISDAMP project will foster discussion on the basis of concrete experience and research methods tested during the project:

- Decision aid tools for contingency planning and mechanical oil containment
- Experiments and training, preparedness and responsibilities, for pollution in terminal port or estuary
- Research activities on coastal hydrodynamics and oil/pollutant behaviour using modelling and e-tools

This final conference of the ISDAMP+ project is scheduled 11-12 March 2015 at the EIGSI La Rochelle Engineering School.

[More info](#)

SINGAPORE: INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL AND OIL POLLUTION CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION (ICOPCE) 2015

The International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition (ICOPCE) 2015 is organised by the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. With 300+ participants, it is Asia's ONLY and definitive international event focusing on preparedness and response strategies for oil and chemical spills. 21 Apr 2015 - 24 Apr 2015 Date Picker Marina Bay Sands, Singapore, Singapore

[More info](#)

QATAR: 1ST GULF MARINE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE (GMEC) – QATAR, 18 – 19 MAY, 2015

The 1st Gulf Marine Environment Conference (GMEC), with the theme "One Sea, Co-operative Action" will be held on 18 – 19 May, 2015 in Ritz Carlton Hotel, Doha, Qatar, under the patronage of H.E. Ahmed Amer Al Humaidi, Minister of Environment, Qatar and with the cooperation of International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and other international and regional organizations.

[More info](#)

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