

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

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

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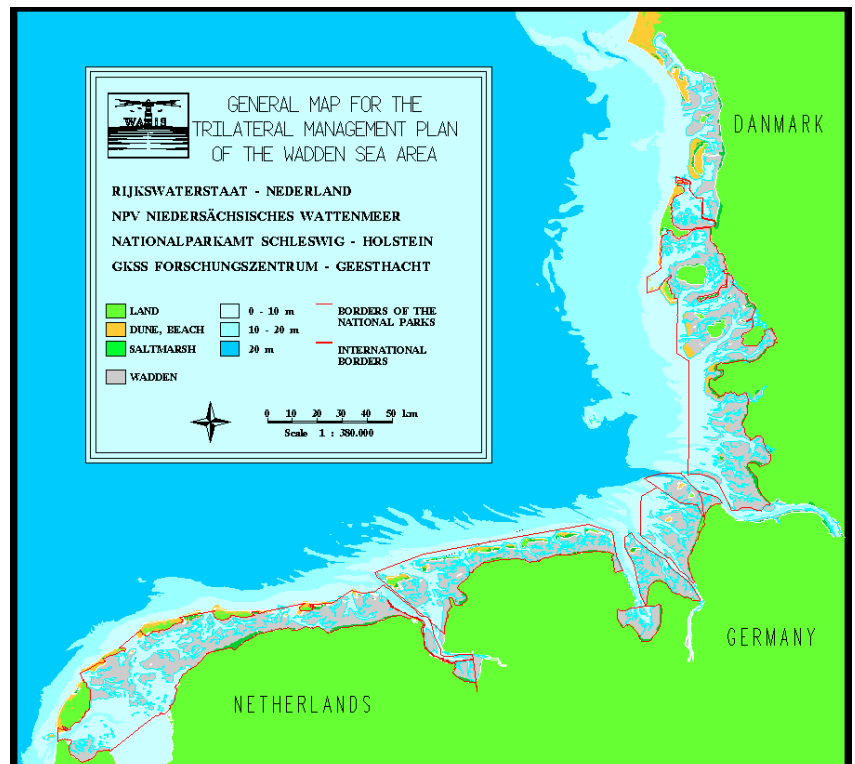
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For more information on the events featured below, click on the banners



International news

PROJECT TO IMPROVE OILSPILL PREPAREDNESS AT UNESCO WORLD HERITAGE CENTRE WILL FEATURE AT ISCO AGM IN AMSTERDAM



The Wadden Sea is a UNESCO World Heritage Centre. It is the largest unbroken system of intertidal sand and mud flats in the world. The site covers the Dutch Wadden Sea Conservation Area, the German Wadden Sea National Parks of Lower Saxony and Schleswig-Holstein, and most of the Danish Wadden Sea maritime conservation area. It is a large, temperate, relatively flat coastal wetland environment, formed by the intricate interactions between physical and

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International news (continued)

and biological factors that have given rise to a multitude of transitional habitats with tidal channels, sandy shoals, sea-grass meadows, mussel beds, sandbars, mudflats, salt marshes, estuaries, beaches and dunes. The area is home to numerous plant and animal species, including marine mammals such as the harbour seal, grey seal and harbour porpoise. Wadden Sea is one of the last remaining large-scale, intertidal ecosystems where natural processes continue to function largely undisturbed.

In the newly released Agenda for the Annual General Meeting of the International Spill Control Organization it is announced that the Guest Speaker, Dennis Van der Veen will give a presentation on the current programme on improving preparedness for oil spill response in the Wadden Sea.

Dennis Van der Veen, Member of ISCO Executive Committee, has 20 years of professional experience in environmental sciences, of which 10 years were with the Dutch Institute for Applied Sciences and 12 years at the Dutch governmental agency Rijkswaterstaat. Currently he is managing director of the consultancy firm ASCC.

TAR SANDS COULD BE BANNED FROM EUROPE

February 19 - A landmark directive with the potential to ban tar sands oil from Europe has been reprieved, the Guardian has learned. The EU's most senior energy official confirmed that the fuel quality directive (FQD) to encourage greener road fuels will not be scrapped at the end of the decade, as had been thought.

The FQD has been a platform for measures intended to price tar sands out of the European market – and for targets to provide 10% of Europe's transport fuel from low carbon sources, mostly biofuels, by 2020. Transport fuels are the only European sector in which emissions are still rising and the directive mandates a 6% reduction in their greenhouse gas intensity by 2020.

But specific measures to bring this about in the FQD were strongly opposed by Canada, which threatened trade retaliation if the EU acted on scientific advice and taxed tar sands oil at a higher rate because they are more polluting than conventional oil. *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (in chronological order)

USA: SPECIAL INVESTIGATION: TRAINS TRANSPORTING HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS ACROSS PHILADELPHIA REGION

February 4 - Action News is investigating the transportation of a highly flammable and hazardous chemical that is being shipped right through the center of Philadelphia. It's called Bakken oil. It's a form of crude oil.

Early Saturday, 11 tank cars of a CSX train carrying crude oil derailed in South Philadelphia.

Right here in Philadelphia, a CSX train carrying crude oil derailed over the Schuylkill last January and over the weekend, a 111-car CSX train carrying crude partially derailed inside their South Philadelphia rail yard. Fortunately, there were no injuries and no oil was spilled in those incidents.

Crude oil shipments often move in what we refer to as 'unit trains,' which consists entirely of one type of freight. Crude oil unit trains typically have approx. 100 cars. *ABC Action News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

LIBYA: OIL PIPELINE SABOTAGED

February 14 - Libya's El Sarir oil field is still unable to pump oil to Hariga port after sabotage on a pipeline just north of the field where repairs are ongoing, an oil official said on Sunday.

The pipeline was damaged and set on fire on Saturday, halting crude flows to Hariga, the last land-based oil export port still loading after two other large terminals were closed by factional fighting. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

CANADA: ANOTHER OIL TRAIN DERAILS, IGNITES FIRE IN NORTHERN ONTARIO

February 15 - Another train carrying crude oil derailed and caught fire in Canada early Sunday, potentially putting pressure on the White House to accelerate its review of new regulations intended to improve the safety of hazardous rail shipments throughout North America.

The 100-car Canadian National train left the tracks in a remote part of Northern Ontario around midnight, the Toronto Globe and Mail reported Sunday. Of the 29 cars that derailed, at least seven were on fire, the newspaper reported. *McClatchy DC*
[Read more](#)

February 18 - Oil pooling at creek near Gogama train derailment: Environment Ministry

Ontario's Ministry of Environment says some of the spilled crude oil from the rail cars that derailed near Gogama is pooling near the rail line and at the headwaters of a small, nearby creek.

A CN spokesperson says the product has been contained in a slough at the site and has not entered nearby waterways or lakes. CN environmental teams are finalizing clean up plans and preparing to move forward with mitigation work. *CBC News*
[Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: CSX TRAIN HAULING NORTH DAKOTA OIL DERAILS, CARS ABLAZE IN WEST VIRGINIA



BuzzFeed.com [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Mike Rancilio of ISCO]

February 16 - A CSX Corp train hauling North Dakota crude derailed in West Virginia on Monday, setting a number of cars ablaze, destroying a house and forcing the evacuation of two towns in the second significant oil-train incident in three days.

One or two of the cars plunged into the Kanawha River, and "a couple are burning," said Robert Jelacic, night shift manager of the West Virginia Department of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. *Yahoo.com*
[Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

February 17 - Train Derails In West Virginia, Sparking Massive Fire

A train carrying crude oil derailed and exploded near Charleston, destroying one home and contaminating local water supply.

February 18 - Derailed oil train was 1 of 3 with safer tank cars

The fiery derailment of a train carrying crude oil in West Virginia is one of three in the past year involving tank cars that already meet a higher safety standard than what federal law requires — leading some to suggest even tougher requirements that industry representatives say would be prohibitively costly.

Hundreds of families were evacuated and nearby water treatment plants were temporarily shut down after cars derailed from a train carrying 3 million gallons of North Dakota crude Monday, shooting fireballs into the sky, leaking oil into a Kanawha River tributary and burning down a house nearby. It was snowing at the time, but it is not yet clear if weather was a factor. *The Detroit News*
[Read more](#) [Thanks to Mike Rancilio of ISCO]

USA: CLEANUP, RECOVERY COMPLETE FOR SHELL MARTINEZ WHARF LEAK

February 16 - Response crews completed the on-water cleanup and recovery of oil from a leak at the Shell Martinez Wharf. Overflight and shoreline assessments made throughout the response continue to show no impact to the shoreline or wildlife, including no impact to the Martinez Marina or nearby marsh. *Green4Sea* [Read more](#)

SINGAPORE: PIRATES PLANT BOMB ON TANKER

February 16 - Homemade bomb was left on the Thai product tanker captured by pirates on Friday. Up to eight armed pirates stole around 2,000 tons of bunker and five tons of diesel from the vessel Lapin in the Strait of Malacca. The pirates are believed to be Indonesian nationals, reports the Bangkok Post, and they were armed with guns and swords. The bomb was found to be a dud minus the explosive. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

UK: ANGLESEY OIL SPILL INTO RIVER THREATENS DRINKING WATER RESERVOIR

February 17 - Oil has spilled into a river that flows into a major reservoir on Anglesey.

Natural Resources Wales investigators are currently attending the scene and have identified the source of the pollution, placing booms in the river in an effort to stop the oil from heading further downstream. It is not currently known how much oil has spilled into Afon Alaw and the surrounding area, which flows near the villages of Llanfachraeth, Llannerch-y-medd and Llanddeusant on the island. *Daily Post* [Read more](#)

GEORGIA: LARGE VOLUME OF TAR LEAKED IN GEORGIAN PORT OF POTI

February 18 - Up to 10 metric tons of pyrolysis tar leaked in the Georgian port of Poti, the Georgian Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources Protection said Feb. 18. The leakage occurred when loading to the TANA ship, sailing under the flag of Malta. *Trend.az* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

UK: GENERAL CARGO VESSEL RUNS AGROUND OFF SCOTLAND

February 18 – General cargo vessel LYSBLINK SEAWAYS has gone aground north of the Isle of Mull, near Kilchoan, at approximately 01:50am, 18 February, UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency said. *Safety4Sea* [Read more](#)

February 19 – Diesel oil leaks from grounded Lysblink Seaway

According to UK's Maritime Coastguard Agency (UK MCA), there has been a release of diesel oil from the 'Lysblink Seaway,' which remains aground at Kilchoan, off Scotland.

Following discussions between the Secretary of State's representative (SOSREP) Hugh Shaw and Maritime and Coastguard Agency's Counter-Pollution, an absorbent boom has been put in to cope with the oil leak from the starboard side of the vessel.

Weather conditions have moderated slightly this morning making it easier to use equipment. Briggs Marine vessels 'Forth Joustier' and 'Kingdom of Fife' are on scene and are supporting the salvage operation. A team from Svitzer Salvage is currently on board the vessel conducting a detailed damage assessment. *Green4Sea* [Read more](#)

February 20 – Lysblink Seaways Floats Off Scottish Shore

At just before 9PM last night, the grounded cargo ship Lysblink Seaways unexpectedly self-floated from the shore at Kilchoan, Scotland. The UK's Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) says the ship is now anchored in close proximity to where she ran aground while a dive inspection team continues to work on behalf of the salvors from Svitzer.

The MCA says the vessel is stable although still leaking a small amount of oil. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: EMA PROBING OIL SPILL IN TETERON BAY AREA

February 19 - The Environmental Management Authority (EMA) said yesterday an investigation has been launched into what was reported to be an oil spill in the Teteron Bay area in Chaguaramas. The "spill" may actually be a leak from a vessel under repair, said an EMA spokesperson. *Trinidad Express* [Read more](#)

February 19 - Fish kill at Scotland Bay

Dead fishes are floating in the water around the northwestern peninsula of Trinidad following an oil slick off Chaguaramas. Up to late yesterday, scores of dead fishes were spotted off Scotland Bay. *Trinidad & Tobago Guardian* [Read more](#)

THE NETHERLANDS: TANKER DAMAGED IN COLLISION WITH RO/RO



February 20 - A tanker collided Friday with a Grimaldi Lines vehicle carrier in the Westerschelde estuary in southern Netherlands near the border with Belgium.

Some grainy video shows the moment the tanker, identified as the Swiss-flagged MT Leonardo, struck the MV Grande Africa reportedly at about 14:45 p.m. The tanker is reported to have sustained severe damage in the collision and has been taken to Antwerp. A photo - the vessel posted here shows some damage to port side of the tanker. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

CANADA: CREATION OF RAIL OIL SPILL FUND IN SAFETY RULES OVERHAUL

The Canadian government is overhauling its safety rules for crude oil shipments by train, creating a disaster fund and forcing railways to carry more insurance.

Oil companies will pay into the fund, which will be used when a railway's insurance can't cover the liabilities in an accident, according to the Safe and Accountable Rail Act introduced in Parliament on Friday.

The move will add to the oil industry's costs and reduce competitiveness, the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers said. The industry group was told payments from oil shippers would be capped once the fund reaches a certain size, Greg Stringham, a vice president at CAPP, said in a phone interview from Calgary. *Bloomberg Business* [Read more](#)

MEXICO: PEMEX TO STOP SHIPPING READY-TO-USE FUEL TO CURB THEFTS



Mexico's notorious drug gangs have been increasingly involved in fuel theft

Mexico's state-owned oil company Pemex has announced it will stop shipping ready-to-use petrol and diesel through its pipelines, in an effort to curb fuel thefts.

Pemex says it will use its pipelines across Mexico only for unfinished fuel.

That fuel will go through a last phase of mixing when it reaches the company's storage plants.

More than \$1bn (£650,000) worth of fuel was stolen by Mexican gangs in 2014, an increase of 70% over the previous year.

In a statement, the company warned consumers not to buy illegal fuel tapped from its pipelines as it was likely to damage car engines. Last year, Pemex discovered more than 2,600 illegal taps along its network. *BBC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to ADR Training UK]

UK: TRACKING THE OIL: BELFAST WEATHER STATION AIMS TO FOLLOW THE SPILLS

February 18 - Accidental oil spills in Europe have led to growing concerns about how prepared authorities are to respond.

Emergency procedures are already in place in Northern Ireland to handle spillages, but the difficulty lies in predicting which direction they will take. Now, a new project involving a weather station in Belfast Harbour aims to forecast how oil spills will move.

A variety of on-board instruments measure the speed of wind and its direction, the temperature and what way the tide is moving. This data is then used to run computer simulations aimed at predicting the likelihood of the direction in which the oil spill will travel. *BBC News* [Read more and watch video](#)

URUGUAY: NEW RULES FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE

On 20 February 2015, a new Regulation will take effect in Uruguay with the aim of establishing a set of rules governing the requirement for owners to contract with an oil spill response company (OSRO) approved by the Uruguayan Coast Guard, amongst other requirements. The Regulation has been established under the scope of Uruguayan Law N° 19.012 of 23 November 2012. The International P&I Clubs issued relevant circular to summarise the key provisions of this Regulation.

The Regulation requires the local agent (unless Uruguayan flagged) for any of the following vessels to conclude an oil spill response clean-up contract with a Uruguayan Coast Guard approved OSRO at least 24 hours before entering a Uruguayan port or an anchorage in Uruguayan waters:

1. All tank vessels or barges regardless of size
2. All vessels where the Uruguayan authorities have determined that the vessel has a deficiency which could result in her grounding or sinking
3. All vessels at anchorage in Uruguayan waters for a period of more than 24 hours
4. All vessels engaged in exploration or exploitation of resources in the Uruguayan Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ)

In case of vessels under the Uruguayan Flag, owners may contract direct with the OSROs. *Green4Sea* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

USA: THOUSANDS OF CALIFORNIA OIL WELLS VIOLATING SAFE DRINKING WATER ACT, DOCUMENTS SHOW

February 10 - The Center for Biological Diversity recently called on Gov. Jerry Brown to immediately shut down thousands of oil and gas wells that are illegally injecting fluids into protected California aquifers, as well as hundreds of illegally operating oil industry waste-disposal wells.

“The oil industry is contaminating California’s water supplies and violating federal law on a massive scale, and that needs to end now,” said Kassie Siegel of the Center’s Climate Law Institute. “Gov. Brown has a moral and legal duty to immediately shut down every single illegal production and wastewater disposal well. The size of this problem shows how big a threat the oil industry’s toxic waste is to California’s precious water supplies.”

Documents just released by state regulators show that thousands of “enhanced oil recovery” wells are injecting into aquifers or zones of aquifers that are protected under state law and the federal Safe Drinking Water Act. These wells use techniques like water flooding and cyclic steam injection to produce oil. *Pollution Online* [Read more](#)

USA: WITH ALASKA’S OIL SPILL FUND IN RED, LEGISLATORS LOOK TO RAISE TAX

February 13 – Gov. Bill Walker’s administration and several Republican legislators are trying to figure out how to prop up Alaska’s oil spill response program from a shortfall sue to dwindling tax receipts on North Slope oil.

Rep. Paul Seaton, R-Homer, has drafted a bill to create a new wholesale tax on refined fuel products to help cover an \$8 million annual deficit for the \$15 million program, which has funded response and prevention work primarily through a 4 cents per barrel surcharge on crude oil production. *Alaska Dispatch News* [Read more](#)

USA: BULLOCK CALLS FOR DEEPER PIPELINES AFTER OIL SPILLS

February 14 - Montana’s governor is calling on the Obama administration to strengthen rules that require oil pipelines to be buried just 4 feet beneath major waterways. The Democratic governor’s Friday request comes after two breaches spilled a combined 93,000 gallons of crude into the Yellowstone River.

River scouring due to flooding or an ice jam is being investigated as a possible cause of a spill near Glendive last month. In 2011, an Exxon Mobil pipeline broke during flooding near Laurel and contaminated dozens of miles of river bank with oil. *Bakken.com* [Read more](#)

USA: TRAINS ARE CARRYING — AND SPILLING — A RECORD AMOUNT OF OIL

February 17 - When 14 tanker cars derailed and exploded Monday near tiny Mount Carbon, W.V., neighbors likened the fireball to a scene from the apocalypse. It was “like something Biblical, or wrath-of-God type stuff,” one resident said.

In fact, the oil spill and fire on the banks of the Kanawha River was the latest occurrence of a type of accident that U.S. officials say is becoming distressingly common. Federal agencies are documenting a dramatic rise in the number of rail mishaps involving oil tankers in the last three years, as North American producers scramble to find ways to transport surging oil output to markets.

The fiery explosion of oil-laden CSX tanker cars along a snowy stretch of south-central West Virginia came just two days after a similar incident in eastern Ontario, and follows a year that shattered all previous records for rail accidents involving shipments of petroleum products. *The Washington Post* [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Mike Rancilio of ISCO]

USA: US EPA PROPOSES TO AMEND THE NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN GOVERNING THE USE OF DISPERSANTS IN RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS

February 17 - On January 22, 2015, US Environmental Protection Agency announced that it is proposing to amend the requirements governing the use of dispersants and other chemical and biological agents used in response to oil spills, which are contained in Subpart J of the National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan (NCP). The proposed amendments come as a result of US EPA’s experience with the authorized use of dispersants in connection with the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in April 2010.

Subpart J concerns authorization of the use of products contained in the Schedule of Dispersants and other Chemicals to Treat Oil Spills (the Schedule) and specifies some of the conditions under which On-Scene Coordinators (OSCs) may authorize the use of dispersants. *The National Law Review* [Read more](#)

USA: BP LOSES BID TO REDUCE GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL FINE

February 20 - BP has lost its bid to reduce the maximum civil fine of \$13.7bn (£8.9bn) it could face for its role in the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill. A US judge rejected BP's appeal to pay a cap of \$3,000 per barrel under the country's Clean Water Act.

Government prosecutors claim the firm is liable to pay \$4,300 per barrel spilled to account for inflation. The court has yet to decide the amount of responsibility and final penalty the firm will pay for the disaster. *BBC News* [Read more](#)

USA: U.S. PROPOSES ARCTIC DRILLING REGULATIONS



February 20 - The U.S. Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) have released proposed regulations to ensure that future exploratory drilling activities on the U.S. Arctic Outer Continental Shelf (OCS) are done safely and responsibly, subject to strong and proven operational standards.

The proposed Arctic-specific regulations released on February 20 focus solely on offshore exploration drilling operations within the Beaufort Sea and Chukchi Sea Planning Areas.

Using a combination of performance-based and prescriptive standards, the proposed regulations codify and further develop current Arctic-specific operational standards that seek to ensure that operators take the necessary steps to plan through all phases of offshore exploration in the Arctic, including mobilization, drilling, maritime transport and emergency response, and conduct safe drilling operations while in theater. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

USA: THE OBAMA ADMINISTRATION WANTS TO MAKE ARCTIC DRILLING 'SAFE.' IS THAT POSSIBLE?

February 20 - Two years after an Arctic drilling barge went dangerously adrift in Alaskan waters, the Obama administration moved Friday to impose stringent safety standards on future offshore oil and gas exploration along the state's northern coastline.

The Interior Department unveiled proposed rules that officials said would help guard against environment damage while allowing controlled access to off-shore fields estimated to contain billions of barrels of oil as well as immense reserves of natural gas.

The rules, if given final approval, would require energy companies to clear a number of Arctic-specific safety hurdles before obtaining approval to drill in northern Alaska's Beaufort and Chukchi seas. The White House last month unveiled plans to allow offshore oil and gas leasing in both waterways, in what officials called an attempt to strike a balance between protecting an environmentally fragile region and maintaining energy independence. "As we make the vast majority of the Arctic oceans offshore Alaska available for oil and gas leasing, we have an obligation to provide the American people with confidence that these shared resources can be developed responsibly," Abigail Ross Hopper, director of Interior's Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, said in announcing the proposed rules. *The Washington Post* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Mike Rancilio of ISCO]

ISCO AGM AGENDA AND MEETING PAPERS HAVE BEEN CIRCULATED TO MEMBERS

If you have not received the Agenda, Meeting Papers and Proxy Voting Form, please notify the Secretary immediately by email to John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

ISCO's 2015 AGM will take place during the Interspill Conference and Exhibition in Amsterdam on Wednesday 25th March 2015 at 5 p.m. The location for the meeting is on the Mezzanine in Hall 10, in the same place as the Science Workshop and the Spill Industry Seminar.

The Interspill event runs from 24-26 March 2015 at the RAI Convention Centre in Amsterdam. <http://www.interspill2015.com>

Our guest speaker will be ISCO Executive Committee Member, Mr Dennis Van der Veen who will give an illustrated presentation on his current program on improving preparedness for oil spill response in the Wadden Sea, a UNESCO World Heritage Site.

We hope as many of you as possible will attend the meeting and look forward to seeing you. To help gauge catering requirements, please let me know if you plan to be at the meeting.

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

The proceedings of the Forum held in Detroit last year are available on a USB Memory Stick. Please send requests to Mike Rancilio at michael.rancilio@gmail.com

Publications

NEW UK DANGEROUS GOODS EMERGENCY ACTION CODE LIST, EAC 2015.

The National Chemical Emergency Centre has published the new UK Dangerous Goods Emergency Action Code List, EAC 2015. The new list is effective from July 1 and EAC 2013 should not be used after that date. The revised list includes the newly adopted UN numbers, included in ADR 2015, as well as revisions to existing numbers. EAC 2015 can be purchased from TSO or downloaded free of charge from the NCEC <http://the-ncec.com/assets/Dangerous-goods-Action-List/Dangerous-Goods-2015web.pdf> [Thanks to ADR Training UK]

BIODETECTION TECHNOLOGY RESOURCE FOR FIRST RESPONDERS

The 'white powder' challenge: What is the best way to screen suspicious powders during a potential bioresponse event to determine if the sample contains biothreat agents.

PNNL working towards a solution: PNNL is taking a ground up approach, working with the first responder community to determine biodetection gaps and needs, conducting market research to determine what commercially available biodetection technologies are available to test for anthrax and ricin, conducting an independent evaluation of these biodetection technologies, and publishing and transitioning this information to the first responder community. <http://biodetectionresource.pnnl.gov/Default.aspx> [Thanks to Gregory T. Banner, hazmat 101 Group]

BIODEGRADATION AND BIOREMEDIATION OF OILED BEACHES: A PRIMER FOR PLANNERS AND MANAGERS

American Petroleum Institute, Washington, DC. API Technical Report 1147, 66 pp, 2014

This document is a primer on oil biodegradation and bioremediation. It is intended to provide planners and managers responding to oil spills with sufficient information to decide if natural biodegradation is occurring and whether bioremediation should be used as a response technology. This document is designed to allow responders to communicate effectively with bioremediation experts, concerned citizens, and public officials. The text is not intended to provide an extensive literature review but rather is a simple document that identifies general bounds for actions. <http://www.oilspillprevention.org/~media/oil-spill-prevention/spillprevention/r-and-d/shoreline-protection/biodegradation-bioremediation-on-sand-be.pdf>

SUBSURFACE OIL DETECTION AND DELINEATION IN SHORELINE SEDIMENTS, PHASE 2: FINAL REPORT

American Petroleum Institute, Washington, DC. API Technical Report 1149-2A, 34 pp, 2014

Publications (continued)

A survey of subsurface oil detection and delineation techniques has generated a set of recommendations for studies or activities that have a high probability of success and that could significantly advance this capability at low cost and in a relatively short (1- to 2-year) time frame. Existing proven technologies have the potential to provide continuous or near-continuous detection capabilities that are rapid, accurate, and applicable for a range of shoreline, riverbank, and terrestrial environments. To a large degree, these proven tactics (a) are poorly understood beyond the teams that currently use them and (b) have not been systematically field-tested to provide proof of concept. This report presents recommendations for the development and testing of emerging but technically proven technologies that have demonstrated their potential application to subsurface shoreline, riverbank, and terrestrial oiling issues. <http://www.oilspillprevention.org/%7E/media/Oil-Spill-Prevention/spillprevention/r-and-d/shoreline-protection/1149-2a-subsurface-oil-detection-guide.pdf>

Also in this API series, see *Improvements for the Mechanized Cleanup of Oiled Sand Beaches* at <http://environmentalunit.com/Documentation/05%20Response%20Techniques/Shoreline/API%20Mechanized%20cleanup%20report.pdf>.

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	January 2015
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	February 2 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	February 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	January 1 -15 2015
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 8 2015
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	February 2015 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2015
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 4, 2014
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	February 18 issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	February 2015 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2015 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	February 2015 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	January 2015 issue
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 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

USA: AGENDA OFFICIALLY RELEASED FOR CLEAN PACIFIC 2015

Sessions for the CLEAN PACIFIC Conference & Exhibition, taking place June 16-18 in Vancouver, British Columbia, have been finalized. The focus of CLEAN PACIFIC will be the shift in crude transportation and the effects it has on spill response. Crude transportation by rail, pipeline and barge has dramatically increased in the West.

CLEAN PACIFIC's educational sessions will address preparedness and response planning efforts for this rapidly growing inland crude movement in the West.

Three concurrent tracks will take place at CLEAN PACIFIC; Prevention, Planning & Preparedness and Response & Recovery. Over a two-day period, each track will hold six educational sessions led by key industry stakeholders. In addition, CLEAN PACIFIC will host a Keynote Address delivered by Roger Girouard, Assistant Commissioner for the Western Region of the Canadian Coast Guard and a Mega Session led by a panel of stakeholders discussing the future of marine & inland energy transport across the West Coast of Canada. The final day of CLEAN PACIFIC will kick-off with Jurisdictional Updates from the regulators responsible for implementation & enforcement in the Pacific States & British Columbia and a presentation of the Pacific States & British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Legacy Awards.

To view the complete agenda or register for CLEAN PACIFIC, visit www.cleanpacific.org For the latest information on attendance or exhibiting opportunities, please contact Senior Marketing Manager Carey Buchholtz at 713-343-1878.

GREECE: 2015 GREEN4SEA ATHENS FORUM

4th GREEN4SEA Forum is scheduled as a FULL DAY event (09:00 to 17:30 followed by a cocktail reception at the venue) on WEDNESDAY 22 April 2015 at Eugenides Foundation in Athens.

This is a NON PROFIT event aiming at a target group of approx. 600+ persons / 300+ companies attendance from Technical, Safety, Marine departments of shipping operators.

Attendance will be FREE of charge to delegates, a common feature of ALL SAFETY4SEA/GREEN4SEA Forums. [More info](#)

Events (continued)

THE NETHERLANDS: VISIT THE SPILL RESPONSE GROUP HOLLAND PAVILION AT INTERSPILL 2015 FROM 24 - 26 MARCH AMSTERDAM RAI

The members of the Spill Response Group Holland (SRGH) invite you with great enthusiasm to visit the Holland Pavilion at the Interspill Amsterdam 2015 exhibition at booth 40. The SRGH represents Dutch companies supplying equipment, services and knowledge for all aspects of marine, inland waters and coastal pollution control.

SRGH are hosting Interspill 2015, taking place 24-26 March at the Amsterdam RAI Exhibition and Convention Centre. Interspill is the leading European oil spill conference and exhibition and will look at potential issues to be raised from any future oil spills, and will provide a platform for industry, academia and government to meet, discuss and network.

The Interspill 2015 Conference is focused on the changing landscape of Spill Preparedness and Response as Exploration & Production and shipping activities continue to move into more challenging environments and public sensitivities to perceived spill risks has increased. As well as a range of main conference streams, Interspill will also be hosting free to attend, Exhibition Floor Science Workshops and Spill Industry Seminars throughout the three day event.

Prior to Interspill 2015 there is an opportunity to attend the On-Water Demonstration, offered free of charge to Interspill visitors by the SRGH. Join us on board Monday 23 March from 14:00 to 17:30h in the Port of Amsterdam and see for yourself and be updated on the latest developments for Oil Spill Preparedness and Recovery. The engineering experts from the participating companies will be available to discuss applications for these varied systems and equipment.

To see the full programme and to register for the exhibition (free of charge) and conference: <http://www.interspill2015.com>

UK: 6th MARITIME SALVAGE & CASUALTY RESPONSE, LONDON, 2-3 SEPTEMBER 2015

Speakers will include - George Tsaviris, CEO, Tsaviris Salvage; Hugh Shaw, SOSREP, MCA; Knut Arnhus, Senior Advisor, Norwegian Coastal Administration; Britt Pickering, Claims Director, Shipowners P&I; Ben Harris, Head of Claims (London Branch), Shipowners P&I; John Dickinson, Head of Delegation at IMO, Nautical Institute; Kevin Cooper, Partner, Ince & Co.; John Simpson, Director, Master Mariner, SCR, Solis Marine Consultants; John Noble, Formerly of ISU & Donjon [More info](#)

SINGAPORE: 9TH INTERNATIONAL CHEMICAL AND OIL POLLUTION CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION ICOPCE 2015

21-24 April, 2015 – Hear all about Singapore's initiatives at the Dialogue on Incident Management in Singapore Waters. The session will cover: How do key agencies collaborate + Information gathering and availability during response and developing a common operating picture that allows further decisions + Expectations from shipping and cargo owners + What shortcomings have been observed in contingency management planning + Learnings from recent Case Studies [More info](#)

Contracts and tenders

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

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Acquisition Management, Region I, Boston, MA. Federal Business Opportunities, FBO-4830, Solicitation SOL-R1-14-00001, 2015

The purpose of this synopsis is to notify potential offerors of the intent by U.S. EPA Region 1 to issue a competitive small business set-aside solicitation to provide Emergency and Rapid Response Services (ERRS) for time-critical removals and rapid remedial actions within the EPA Region 1 geographic area, which includes the states of Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont. Services will also include cleanup for incidents involving weapons of mass destruction; acts of terrorism; nuclear, biological, and chemical incidents; and natural or man-made disasters. It is the Government's intent to award a performance-based, indefinite-delivery, indefinite-quantity contract consisting of a 36-month base period and a 24-month option period. The NAICS code for this acquisition is 562910, with a size standard of 500 employees. The synopsis, amendments, and other information related to the future procurement of Solicitation SOL-R1-14-00001 can be located through the search interface at <https://www.fedconnect.net>. Proposals also will be submitted through FedConnect. <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/EPA/OAM/RegI/SOL-R1-14-00001/listing.html>

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