



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community
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ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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

ISCO COMMITTEE & COUNCIL

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

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

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

For more info on Executive Committee and Council Members go to www.spillcontrol.org

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International news

SIX CANDIDATES IN IMO SECRETARY GENERAL ELECTION

IMO has received six nominations for the position of Secretary-General of IMO by the established deadline of 31 March 2015.

The election for the post will be held at the 114th session of the 40-Member strong IMO Council, which meets from June 29 to July 3, 2015. The decision of the Council will be submitted to the IMO Assembly, which meets for its 29th session from November 23 to December 2, 2015, for its approval.

The nominations received, listed in alphabetical order by surname are:

Andreas Chrysostomou, Cyprus, Acting Director of the Department of Merchant Shipping

Vitaly Klyuev, Russia, Deputy Director of the Department of State Policy for Maritime and River Transport

Ki-tack Lim, South Korea, head of the Busan Port Authority

Dr Maximo Q. Mejia Jr, Philippines, head of the Philippine Marine Industrial Authority

Andreas Nordseth, Denmark, Director General of the Danish Maritime Authority

Juvenal Shiundu, Kenya, Kenya's representative at IMO

The present secretary general, **Koji Sekimizu**, ends his four-year term as Secretary-General on December 31, 2015. He is the seventh elected Secretary-General from Japan. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

INTERSPILL 2015 - A HUGE SUCCESS

From 24-26 March, industry professionals gathered in Amsterdam for the triennial Interspill "Working Together" themed conference and exhibition. The conference featured 20 panel sessions and a number of concurrent science workshops, industry seminars and short courses – all of which were very well attended, whilst the exhibition was the largest to date.

The main conference programme featured sessions on a diverse set of topics, including Stakeholder engagement, Surveillance, Monitoring & Visualisation, Decision Support Tools, Inland Spills and Hot topics & case studies.

Brian Sullivan, IPIECA Executive Director, who participated in both the opening plenary and chaired a session, said "IPIECA would like to thank the Interspill committees for their hard work and the opportunity to participate. The conference was a great success, with a high calibre technical programme and a sell-out

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contractor Petronav. The project saw the installation of a state-of-the-art spraying system on board the contracted vessel Alexandria, based in Limassol (Cyprus). The increased "weather window" for the use of dispersants makes this new response system a highly suitable complement to the existing mechanical recovery capabilities of the Alexandria. *From the EMSA Newsletter*

International news (continued)

exhibition. It certainly achieved its goals to promote good practice in oil spill preparedness and response."

The closing plenary session focused on the Regulation of Offshore Preparedness and Response, highlighting the importance that constructive collaboration between regulators and industry on a risk-based foundation.

Also during the closing plenary, conference chairman Rob James, Oil Spill Response Limited, noted that numbers for Interspill are just as encouraging as they were in 2012. The IPIECA-IMO Global Initiative session provides an excellent example of how industry and government can collaborate successfully, he added.

The next Interspill conference will be held in London in 2018, whilst the next conference in the triennial series is Spillcon, which will take place from 2-6 May 2016 in Perth, Australia. *The foregoing report was received from IPIECA*

EMSA'S FIRST SEABORNE DISPERSANT ARRANGEMENT NOW OPERATIONAL



The new service also includes the storage of 200 tonnes of dispersants in Cyprus, ready for mobilisation

EMSA has broadened pollution response in the Mediterranean Sea through the conclusion of an improvement project with the

HOW OCEANS CAN CLEAN THEMSELVES

The Ocean Cleanup develops technologies to extract, prevent, and intercept plastic pollution. The Ocean Cleanup's goal is to fuel the world's fight against oceanic plastic pollution, by initiating the largest cleanup in history. After having worked with a team of 100 volunteering scientists and engineers, a 2014 study confirmed the passive system is indeed likely a feasible and cost-effective method to remove half the Great Pacific Garbage Patch in 10 years' time. *Green4Sea* [Read more and watch videos](#)

IZVESTIA: CANADA-RUSSIA SPAT COULD DERAILED ARCTIC COUNCIL OIL SPILL PLAN



Photo: A view of Lancaster Sound. Though it has been proposed as a national marine protected area, it is surrounded by areas believed to be rich in oil and gas reserves. An action plan that would put meat on the bones of an binding Arctic Council treaty, signed in 2013 on oil spill prevention and response, now may be in jeopardy, a Russian newspaper reported last week. (PHOTO BY JANE GEORGE)

Bad blood between Canada and Russia, arising from the Ukraine conflict, threatens to derail the expected signing of an Arctic Council oil-spill response action plan this April 24 in Iqaluit, the Russian-language newspaper Izvestia reported last week.

In the article, published online March 24, Izvestia claimed that Foreign Affairs Minister Rob Nicholson does not want to be seen at the Iqaluit meeting with senior Russian officials. *NunatsiaqOnline* [Read more](#)

CANADA: CHEMICAL LEAK SPARKS FEAR OF TOXIC FUMES NEAR MONTREAL

March 21 - A chemical leak at a factory near Montreal that prompted an evacuation of several homes on Saturday has stopped.

Kronos Canada said in a statement that the chemical leak that at its pigment-manufacturing plant in Varennes, Que. -- a suburb just across the St. Lawrence River from the island of Montreal -- is now "under control." "The company is working in co-operation with the environmental and municipal authorities, to take all appropriate measures to protect the population and the environment," the statement said.

Kronos Canada estimates that three cubic metres of titanium tetrachloride, a highly volatile chemical compound, was leaked in the facility at about 10 a.m. on Saturday. [CTV News](#) [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: UPDATE: EVACUATED RESIDENTS RETURN HOME AFTER TRAIN DERAILMENT IN TEXAS

March 21 - Several Bosque County residents who were evacuated Saturday evening after a BNSF train carrying a hazardous chemical derailed were allowed to return home hours after the derailment.

The train derailed just after 5 p.m. Saturday, along Highway 6, about a mile outside of Valley Mills. No one was injured in the derailment, however, eleven train cars overturned while the engine and the caboose remained upright.

According to DPS Spokesman Trooper D.L. Wilson, five of those train cars were carrying a hazardous chemical called Methanol. [Kxxv.com](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

SOUTH AFRICA: DEA RESPONDS TO DURBAN OIL SPILL

March 30 - Teams from the Department of Environmental Affairs and eThekweni Municipality are working around the clock to contain an oil spill from the African Sun oil factory in Durban. The factory was gutted by fire last week on Thursday. It is estimated that at least 150 000 litres of oil have spilled into the canal, and have reached the entrance of the Durban harbour, which is adjacent to the factory.

As part of the measures to contain the incident, the Department of Environmental Affairs says the factory owners have employed a commercial clean-up company, which is attending to the incident.

In addition, the canal has been boomed off. The department has also dispatched technical and compliance officials to inspect the incident and to ensure that salvage operations are consistent with the prescripts of the National Environmental Management: Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) Act and the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. [AllAfrica.com](#) [Read more](#)

MEXICO SAYS OIL SPILL AVOIDED AFTER DEADLY OFFSHORE BLAZE



April 2 - A huge blaze twisted and blackened an oil platform in the Gulf of Mexico, but the state-run Pemex oil company said it managed to avert any significant oil spill.

At least four workers died and two suffered life-threatening injuries in an explosion that engulfed the platform in flames Wednesday, forcing 300 people to abandon the facility.

Officials said environmental damage was avoided because the fire happened on a processing platform where the feeder lines could be turned off, rather than at an active oil well with a virtually unlimited amount of fuel flowing up from the seabed. [FuelFix](#) [Read more](#) [Related report and video from ABC News](#) Thanks to Marc K. Shaye Hon.FISCO and to Carlos Sagrera FISCO who sent in the following Spanish language news links -

http://www.pemex.com/saladeprensa/boletines_nacionales/Paginas/2015-031-nacional.aspx

<http://www.excelsior.com.mx/nacional/2015/04/01/1016636>

<http://www.excelsior.com.mx/nacional/2015/04/03/1016846>

<http://www.excelsior.com.mx/nacional/2015/04/01/1016658#imagen-3> <http://www.excelsior.com.mx/nacional/2015/04/01/1016656>

<http://www.cnnmexico.com/nacional/2015/04/02/la-pgr-investiga-el-incendio-en-la-plataforma-de-pemex-en-campeche>

<http://www.eluniversal.com.mx/estados/2015/impreso/inician-investigacion-por-explosion-en-plataforma-98428.html>

<http://www.informaciondiariacampeche.com/local/pgr-inicia-investigacion-por-explosion-en-abkatun-esta-en-condiciones-para-restablecer-operaciones-pemex/>

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

USA: COAST GUARD INVESTIGATES MISSISSIPPI OIL SPILL NEAR THOMSON

April 1 - U.S. Coast Guard officials and other federal agencies continue to investigate the source of an apparent oil spill near an uninhabited island in the Mississippi River north of Thomson.

Lt. Luke Woods, supervisor of the Coast Guard Marine Safety Detachment headquarters, Quad-Cities, said his office first received a call about 11 a.m. Tuesday from a resident who lives along the river. He said the oil slick, measuring 75 yards long and two feet wide, was located close to a nearby uninhabited island. *Quad City Times* [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: VESSEL PRAISED FOR TIMARU PORT QUICK OIL SPILL RESPONSE

April 1 - The Canterbury Regional Council said a Sanford fishing vessel spotted a fuel spill coming from a bulk carrier yesterday evening. It immediately reported it and then used its own equipment to stop it spreading. *Radio New Zealand* [Read more](#)

CANADIAN COAST GUARD SHIP TAKING ON WATER OFF NEWFOUNDLAND

April 1 - A Canadian Coast Guard buoy tender is taking on water after running aground off the southern coast of Newfoundland. Joint Task Force Atlantic reports that it has sent two Canadian Coast Guard ships – CCGS Louis S. St-Laurent and CCGS Teleost – and three helicopters to assist the CCGS Ann Harvey, which was taking on water after running aground near Burgeo, NL. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

USA: PHOTOS AND VIDEO: TANKER CARRYING 17 MILLION GALLONS OF CRUDE STUCK IN MUD OFF TEXAS

April 1 - The tanker is the 750-foot Italian-flagged MT SN Federica. The ship ran aground just before 8:30 a.m. Tuesday approximately 35 miles east of Galveston. The vessel was carrying nearly 17 million gallons of crude oil, according to the Coast Guard.

The vessel was able to free itself at approximately 9 p.m. Tuesday, the Coast Guard said. The vessel incurred damage to its forepeak. The vessel was first reported to be taking on water but it was later determined that the water was from the ship's ballast tank. No pollution or injuries were reported. *gCaptain* [Read more and watch video](#)

USA: OIL PRODUCT SPILL HITS NORTH DAKOTA WETLAND

April 2 - Most of the waste from a pipeline release in North Dakota has been recovered, though the spill impacted a wetland area, the Health Department said. "The report indicates that the pipeline, owned by Oasis Petroleum LLC, leaked approximately 500 barrels of produced water [brine], of which 475 barrels have been recovered. *UPI.com* [Read more](#)

MALAYSIA: HUGE OIL SLICK IN SUNGAI JOHOR

April 3 - A huge oil slick in Sungai Johor has caused a major water disruption, affecting almost 500,000 residents in three southern districts. The spill forced the closure of the Semangar and Sungai Johor water treatment plants yesterday.

Johor Rural and Regional Development Committee chairman Datuk Hasni Mohammad said a multi-agency task force set up to handle the problem had put up water booms to prevent the slick from reaching intakes of the treatment plants. *The Star Online* [Read more](#)

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

NIGERIA: SHELL, ENI RESPONSIBLE FOR 550 OIL SPILLS IN NIGERIA LAST YEAR

March 22 - Late last year, it came to light that Shell had been warned repeatedly by its own staff that the Trans Niger Pipeline was at significant risk of failure well before a 2008 spill of 500,000 barrels of oil. It was also revealed that Shell had drastically understated the extent of the spill.

These revelations were made during the proceedings of a lawsuit brought by a group of 15,000 Nigerians over a second spill from the same pipeline and helped lead to a much heftier payment by the company to the Bodo community in the Niger Delta in compensation for the impacts of both spills. As horrible as Shell's record is, Italian oil giant ENI managed to outdo the Hague-based multinational oil and gas titan. ENI's operations caused nearly 350 spills last year even though it operates in a much smaller area, the report states. *Desmogblog.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: DOE REPORT IDENTIFIES DEFICIENCIES IN CRUDE OIL ANALYSIS TECHNIQUES

March 25 - A US Department of Energy report found gaps in important crude oil characterization data, uncertainty about how to best sample and analyze crude to ensure its properties are determined accurately, and deficiencies in understanding how a crude's properties affect its potential to accidentally ignite, combust, and explode.

The Sandia National Laboratories report, Literature Survey of Crude Oil Properties Relevant to Handling and Fire Safety in Transport, recommended that subsequent efforts develop a sampling and analysis plan to close gaps in knowledge of tight crude oil properties.

It also called for an experimental plan to numerically model combustion events and testing from small to large scale to obtain hazard evaluation data.

"The report confirms that while crude composition matters, no single chemical or physical variable—be it flash point, boiling point, ignition temperature, vapor pressure, or the circumstances of an accident—has been proven to act as the sole variable to define the probability or severity of a combustion event," said Paula Gant, deputy assistant US energy secretary for oil and gas. *Oil and Gas Journal* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas Hon.FISCO and SAC News]

USA: MONTHLY CRUDE-BY-RAIL DATA NOW AVAILABLE

March 30 - For the first time, the U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) is providing monthly data on rail movements of crude oil, which have significantly increased over the past five years.

The new data on crude-by-rail (CBR) movements are fully integrated with EIA's existing monthly petroleum supply statistics, which already include crude oil movements by pipeline, tanker, and barge.

"The new crude-by-rail data provides a clearer picture on a mode of oil transportation that has experienced rapid growth in recent years and is of great interest to policymakers, the public, and industry," said EIA Administrator Adam Sieminski. "EIA expects that the new data it has developed using information provided by the U.S. Surface Transportation Board (STB) along with data from other third-party sources and our own survey data, will provide key insights into oil-by-rail movements, including shipments to and from Canada," he said. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

April 2 - An eye-popping gif of how oil moves around America

The recent [boom in U.S. oil production](#) has meant that [more crude oil is traveling by rail in this country than ever before](#) -- and that alarming oil-by-rail accidents are [also on the rise](#). The extent of the crude-by-rail (CBR) boom became crystal clear this week, when the U.S. Energy Information Administration [released some nifty maps](#) showing the exponential growth of oil volume traversing the nation's railways. I put those maps in a gif above.

In 2010, the U.S. moved an average of 55,000 oil barrels per day via rail. Last year, the average CBR volume exceeded 1 million barrels per day. Most of that flow comes from the Bakken oilfields in North Dakota, with a smaller amount being pumped out of the [Niobrara shale formation](#) in Colorado and Wyoming. *The Washington Post* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Mike Rancilio of ISCO]

USA: BARACK OBAMA GIVES SHELL GO-AHEAD TO DRILL FOR OIL IN ALASKAN ARCTIC

March 31 - Royal Dutch Shell has received the go-ahead from the US government to restart a controversial oil exploration campaign in the Alaskan Arctic despite fears over the risk to the environment.

The Department of the Interior approved the Anglo-Dutch oil major's request to return to the Chukchi Sea within the Arctic circle. It comes just three years after Shell's last attempt to find oil in the region floundered when its Kulluk drilling rig ran aground.

"The Arctic is an important component of the Administration's national energy strategy, and we remain committed to taking a thoughtful and balanced approach to oil and gas leasing and exploration offshore Alaska," said Interior Secretary Sally Jewell. *The Telegraph* [Read more](#)

VENEZUELA: REPORTS: STATE OIL SPILL IN VENEZUELAN RIVER PUTS THOUSANDS AT RISK

March 30 - On Sunday March 15, regional Venezuelan daily El Periódico de Monagas reported a possible petroleum spill in the Guarapiche River, northeastern Venezuela. The apparent leak originated from the local Jusepín complex, owned by state-run oil firm Petróleos de Venezuela (PDVSA). □+

Reporters Osmel Rodríguez and Henry Bastardo decided to investigate; just as Rodríguez had in February 2012 when 80,000

Other news reports from around the world (continued)



barrels' worth of oil spilled into the river within 20 hours. At the time, it was the worst oil slick Venezuela had seen in 74 years.

"When we moved closer to take pictures, the smell was the same as it was in 2012," Rodríguez told the PanAm Post. However, a group of soldiers prevented them from reaching the river.

A high-ranking military official then interrogated the pair for 15 minutes and prohibited them from returning. Their attempt to report on the disaster prompted the intense military presence now surrounding the plant and access to the river.

Residents in neighboring areas confirmed to the press as well as environmental organizations that the contaminant looks similar to the 2012 oil spill.

In a press release published that same Sunday, PDVSA stated that the leak was not crude oil, but "water treated for injection

into the oil fields" in the Jusepín plant, used to generate secondary crude. According to the state-owned firm, employees took immediate action to contain and extract the liquid. *Panama Post* [Read more](#)

NO NEWS FROM YOUR PART OF THE WORLD ?

Members and other readers are invited to help rectify the balance of world news reporting. News stories from North America, UK, Australia, etc. are much more accessible on the internet than reports from other parts of the world and especially from non-English-speaking countries. The ideal option is to send a report from a locally published English language newspaper but to make it easier for readers in other parts of the world to contribute stories your editor is considering options to include links for interesting articles in other languages.

One option could be to print the report headline only in English and another language. A short introductory paragraph in the reader's own language could follow together with the source (for example, name of the publication) and a link that would allow the reader to access the complete article in his/her own language.

If you come across a report or an article that you think worth sharing with other members of the response community, please send it to the editor at info@spillcontrol.org

ISCO news

EMERGENCY ASSISTANCE FROM ISCO MEMBERS IN MAJOR SPILL EVENTS

Over the last three years ISCO has been contributing to the working group on the IMO International Offers of Assistance Guidelines project and it seems likely that the new Guidelines will be formally adopted at the next MEPC meeting in May.

In the meantime, prompted by the Sunderbans spill in Bangladesh ISCO revitalised its Emergency Assistance facility, building on past experience in emergency resource finding during Macondo and other major events. See <http://www.spillcontrol.org/emergency-assistance>

At a meeting of the IOA Working Group convened at the end of the Interspill conference your Secretary took the opportunity to outline the ISCO initiative. It can help not only governments and responsible parties but also the big players like OSRL, MSRC and others – they have quite large resources of people and equipment but in reality quite small when compared with the overall level of resources available from the very large number of large and small response companies, manufacturers and independent experts.

When activated, even the largest players need support either locally or from international sources or both. One thing about the ISCO initiative is that it gives our members better opportunities to get involved and that must be a plus factor for being a member of ISCO.

PLEASE HELP MARY ANN

ISCO Membership Director, Mary Ann Dagleish works hard to collect annual membership dues from ISCO members all over the world. Without her efforts there would be no ISCO, no newsletter, no technical support and other services, and no representation at IMO. She sends out invoices and reminders but it looks like some of these may not be reaching members. If you think you may not have renewed your membership for a while or have not received an invoice, please send Mary Ann an email at mrydetroit@aol.com We really do not want to remove you from the roll of members.

Correspondence

THE DECANTING ISSUE DURING OIL SPILL RECOVERY (SEE ARTICLE IN NEWSLETTER 470)

Paul Kienhuis of Rijkswaterstaat CIV, RWS-Laboratory, The Netherlands writes ...

Although not a member of ISCO I follow your interesting newsletters, because of my work on oil spill identification.

I must say that I'm quite surprised about the discussion around the issue of decanting waste water during oil spills. I can give you my opinion, but sometimes an analogy is more useful:

In a city it is forbidden to pee against buildings in the city center. The fine is €100

One day there is a big fire -The fire brigade was very busy to save the building and to keep the surrounding buildings wet. A part of the water they used, ran into a nearby canal.

A police officer looked at all the activities.

A few days later the fire brigade received a fine of 10 * €100 because 10 fire fighters were actually seen to spurt water against the buildings

There was also a fine for contamination of the water of the canal.

The fire brigade was lucky because the assurance company of the buildings was willing to pay the fines. They realized that the costs would have been much higher if the fire brigade had not done their work.

Science and technology

THE INNOVATIVE IT PLATFORM FOR MANAGING ANTIPOLLUTION OPERATIONS IN THE PORT OF TARANTO PRESENTED AT INTERSPILL IN AMSTERDAM

April 2 - At the Interspill fair of Amsterdam (24 - 26 March) 'MLV® was presented to oil spill specialized operators. This is the innovative IT platform which is operative in the port of Taranto (Italy's second largest port by area), and realized by the Italian company CLE Srl.

The final product, the fruit of over three years of research and development undertaken by CLE, is unique in its ability to gather, aggregate and process real time information from all the actors involved in services to prevent and manage emergencies arising from the spill of pollutants in water.

Because it is unique and means that users can minimize intervention times and maximize their effectiveness, the MLV platform has proved of interest to about 10 world players in the 'oil spill' sector (petrol companies, port authorities and the organizations which run marine antipollution services), particularly in Great Britain, Colombia, Kazakhstan, Brazil and the Persian Gulf.

The platform, which complies with National and International regulations for the management of antipollution issues – including those of International Marine Organization (IMO), European Maritime Security Agency (EMSA) and National Regulation – can be used to manage the complex activity of environmental control for the safekeeping of the marine environment along coasts, offshore and also in rivers and lakes.

The system can be used for the management of ordinary and emergency antipollution services, achieving optimization of the use of personnel, of antipollution fleets and their equipment, the coordination of the activities of the people involved in the services and those of the regional and national authorities for the prevention and management of pollution (Coast Guard/Port Authority/Ministry of the Environment/Fire Brigade, etc). It can also track how supplied services and environmental problems evolved over time, with a consequent reduction of the risks of pollution.

The profoundly innovative element of the MLV computerized platform is its ability to plan, control and coordinate in real time all the activities which are carried out (from prevention and emergency intervention to the confirmation of environmental accidents) from pollution prevention fleet (tow-boats, support boats, and land-based vehicles, etc.), to specialized operators, logistic support structures (warehousing) and materials of various kinds (chemical dispersion agents, barriers, skimmers to vacuum up the pollutants, etc.). This particular quality means that it can be used to optimize each operation so that it is carried out at the right moment, thus supplying an informative tool which is indispensable for checking activities and coordinating with other organizations which have been commissioned to supply services of intervention.

MLV aggregates data which comes from instruments which are installed both on antipollution fleets vessels and vehicles used on operations and on the control stations on land; specifically these are ordinary and infrared (or ultraviolet) cameras, weather stations, and marine traffic control services (including AIS and VTS). It integrates a GIS system to handle maps in support of the management of operations and can also be made available under a user license or as SAAS (Software As A Service).

MLV is 'Web 2.0' enabled, and can be used on PC's and mobile apparatuses which means that operations using vessels, equipment and specialized personnel can be optimized and made time-effective. *Oil & Gas News* [Read more](#)

US NAVY'S NEW DRONE NAMED WANDA



April 3 - The US Navy is developing a duck-like drone, the Flimmer (Flying Swimmer), that can both fly and swim. The drone, it says, can reach operational areas more quickly by flying over the surface of the water.

In addition to both a rear-facing propeller and wings, its latest incarnation has four fins that adapt to what the robotic craft is doing.

In flight, they serve as stabilizers and canard wings; in the sea, they flap to give the machine a speed boost.

After successfully examining the performance of a "Test Sub" that combined a traditional submarine shape with a traditional aircraft shape, scientists applied their findings to a flying version of the Naval Research Laboratory (NRL)'s WANDA (Wrasse-inspired Agile Near-shore Deformable-fin Automaton) drone. *Marine Electronics* [Read more](#)

Technical support

NEW ONLINE TOOL LAUNCHED TO AID ARCTIC OIL SPILL DECISION MAKING

Key findings from the report include evidence that certified dispersants and oils treated with these dispersants are not more toxic than oil, that arctic species are not more sensitive to dispersed oil than non-arctic species, and that the presence of ice may mitigate environmental impact by forming a barrier so that other vulnerable resources like coastlines cannot be reached

March 27 - The Arctic Response Technology Joint Industry Programme (JIP) has marked a first with the launch of a new online, publically available 'NEBA' tool to aid arctic oil spill decision-making.

Intended as a one stop shop to identify information relevant to arctic oil spill response, the tool is the first time the substantial volume of existing research on the environmental effects of oil and oil spill response techniques in the Arctic has been compiled and reviewed in one place.



While the industry remains focused first and foremost on preventing any oil spill from ever occurring in the Arctic, it is also committed to be prepared for a spill, however unlikely. Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (or NEBA) is the process that the response community uses to determine which response option will minimise the impacts to environment and people.

Compiled by a consortium of international expert investigators in the field of arctic biology, the physical environment, oil fate and biodegradation, oil spill response, toxicology, population modelling and recovery, and NEBA, the online tool comprises a fully searchable report and literature database based on over 960 literature references from investigations into spilled oil and oil spill response technologies in the Arctic marine environment. *Oil & Gas Technology* [Read more](#)

THE DIFFERENT TYPES OF BOOM

March 30 - Informational video on the different types of boom used for oil spill containment.

Green4Sea

[View the video](#)

STUDY TO AID RAPID CLEAN-UPS AFTER DISASTROUS OIL SPILLS

March 30 - One of the first experimental investigations to simulate the high-pressure formation of oil droplets during deepwater blowouts has attracted the attention of the prestigious journal *Chemical Engineering Science*.

The researchers, from The University of Western Australia and the University of Miami, hope their results will inform clean-up and remediation efforts after disastrous coastal and deepwater oil spills and gas leaks.

Dr Zachary Aman, from UWA's School of Mechanical and Chemical Engineering, said given the significant offshore developments in WA, this laboratory accomplishment would be good news for our State.

Published this week, the researchers' article – "High-pressure Visual Experimental Studies of Oil-in-Water Dispersion Droplet Size" – details a model used to predict droplet size for Deepwater Horizon conditions. *Green4Sea* [Read more](#)
[Link for access to article in *Chemical Engineering Science*, published by Elsevier](#)

Publications

THE NETHERLANDS: SPILL RESPONSE GROUP HOLLAND (SRGH) PUBLISHES NEW GUIDE

Set-up in 2005, the SRGH Association represents a wide selection of Dutch companies and organizations active in the maritime sector with a focus on spill prevention, preparedness, response and control. Members include manufacturers of response equipment and materials, response organizations, oil disposal contractors, consultancy companies, R&D institutes, training providers, salvage companies, contractors and shipbuilding companies.

The Guide introduces all of the members, their products and their services.

[Download the SRGH Guide](#)

USA: SAFER SEAS 2014: LESSONS LEARNED FROM MARINE ACCIDENT INVESTIGATIONS

The National Transportation Safety Board has released its "Safer Seas 2014: Lessons Learned from Marine Accident Investigations" report. Safer Seas is a compilation of accident investigations that were published in 2014, organized by vessel type with links to the more detailed accident reports.

The 43-page report contains a summary and the probable causes for 23 major marine accidents and features lessons learned from each of the accidents in an easy-to-use summary document. Safer Seas 2014 focuses on issues including understanding vessel control systems, passenger safety during critical maneuvers, maintenance, and crew training. [Download Safer Seas 2014](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas Hon.FISCO and SAC News]

Links for recent issues of other publications (in alphabetical order)

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	April 2015 issue
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	February 2015
Celtic Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter	Latest Remediation and related technology news	Spring 2015 issue
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	April 2015 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	February 2015 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 1, 2015
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2015
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 14 2015
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2015 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	March 2015 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	April 1 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	News from the Sea Alarm Wildlife Protection Organisation	Winter 2014 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	February 16 - 28 2015
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	March 23 issue
Transport Canada Newsletter	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	Winter 2014 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	April 1 2015 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Winter 2015 issue

Events

UK: MARINE POLLUTION COURSE FROM LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY

The [Marine Pollution](#) course will equip the industry with current and future emissions compliance strategies for 2015 and beyond. Taking place 7 - 8 May at Dexter House, London. View the [event agenda](#) for more information



On the left, Jan De Boer, Senior Legal Officer, IMO. On the right, José Maura, Director, International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds)

Your expert speaker panel -

Hear from industry experts including the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds), Skuld North America, IMO, West of England P&I Club and many more top speakers. View the full [speaker line up](#)

GREECE: 2015 GREEN4SEA FORUM

The 2015 GREEN4SEA Athens Forum is due on 22nd of April in Eugenides Foundation, followed by cocktail reception and you might be interested in! This is a PRO BONO/ NON PROFIT event aiming at a target group of approx 800 Delegates / 400 Companies from Safety, Technical, Operation of marine departments of shipping operators and relevant associated industry organisations.

Attendance is FREE, subject to [Online Registration](#) [More info](#)

Events (continued)

SINGAPORE AND LONDON: SALVAGE & WRECK CONFERENCE SERIES



4th annual Salvage & Wreck Asia Conference Novotel, Singapore 8 - 9 September 2015

[Register](#) - [Website](#) - [Sponsorship & Exhibition](#)

18th annual Salvage & Wreck London Conference Grange City Hotel, London 9 - 10 December 2015

[Register](#) - [Website](#) - [Sponsorship & Exhibition](#)

CANADA: CLEAN PACIFIC 2015



June 16-18*, 2015, Vancouver Convention Centre,
Vancouver, British Columbia [More info](#)

CHANGING LANDSCAPE: SHIFTS IN RAIL, PIPELINE AND VESSEL TRANSPORT

Company news

NETHERLANDS: MAJA STUWADOOR AWARDS DAMEN CONTRACT FOR DAMEN SPILL PONTOON

April 2 - In their first contract with Damen Shipyards Group, Netherlands-based Maja Stuwadoors took delivery of a Damen Spill Pontoon 2116. The new pontoon, called Maja 5, will catch bulk products that are spilled during the transshipment process. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

USA: ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, CHUKAR WATERJET INC. ANNOUNCES AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE FOR VIETNAM, MYANMAR

Chukar's subsea waterjet equipment has numerous applications for deepwater emergency response operations, salvage operations, and rapid de-mobilization operations. It can be used to blast away coatings and marine growth to inspect welds, or as a cutting tool in emergency response and salvage operations. Waterjetting equipment also may be used to provide turbulence in a stream of methanol for [hydrate remediation](#), an application Chukar developed in emergency response to the Gulf oil spill, when the company was asked to rapidly manufacture a system to clear a clogged containment system 1500 meters underwater. [More info](#)

NORWAY: BG GROUP AND APTOMAR SIGN KNARR FIELD MONITORING CONTRACT

April 1 - Under the five-year contract, Aptomar will provide field monitoring services, including 24/7 monitoring of offshore traffic and safety zones to detect and track vessels on collision course with offshore assets. The company will also provide continuous monitoring and detection of unintended spills, and be a part of the 2nd line response team. For more info, please contact endre.johansen@corpcom.no

Last words

BE CAREFUL WHAT YOU SAY

Sjon Huisman, Senior Nautisch Adviseur, Rijkswaterstaat Zee & Delta just alerted me – "I found your card to wish me a nice day. The card shows "people in the oil". In Dutch this expression, translated literally, means that you are drunk".

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org