

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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International news

IMO WORKSHOP BOOSTS PREPAREDNESS FOR POLLUTION INCIDENTS



IMO has run a workshop to improve preparedness and response to pollution incidents by hazardous and noxious substances (HNS), in Hurgada, Egypt (8-10 June). Hosted by the Regional Organization for the Conservation of Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), the workshop will help to develop national and regional contingency plans for HNS spills in the PERSGA region, which is an important shipping route known for its unique and diverse ecosystem.

The workshop also introduced participants to the specific requirements of, and differences between, oil and HNS spill response techniques. This forms part of IMO's continuing work to improve the implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC Convention) and related protocol dealing with pollution incidents by hazardous and noxious substances (see OPRC-HNS Protocol). IMO was being represented by Murat Korcak from the IMO Marine Environment Division. <http://www.imo.org>

RAC REMPEITC CARIBE 20TH ANNIVERSARY

Celebrating 20 years of service to the wider Caribbean Region

RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe was established on June 15 1995 to strengthen regional preparedness and response capacity and to foster regional co-operation in the cases of emergency.

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International news (continued)

Though its origins are deeply rooted in the OPRC Convention, the mission of RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe has greatly expanded to assist countries to implement all international marine pollution instruments. With over 20 years of support from the International Maritime Organization (IMO), United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the Government of Curacao, the Centre has organized over 180 activities attended by more than 4500 participants throughout the Caribbean. These activities have contributed significantly to governments' decisions to ratify and implement the international conventions created to protect the environment from pollution that might otherwise be caused by ships. www.cep.unep.org/racrempeitc

MEDITERRANEAN CENTRE DISCUSSES POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS



The next five-year strategy (2016-2021) for prevention and response to marine pollution from ships in the Mediterranean was discussed at the Eleventh Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), at the centre's headquarters in Malta (15-17 June). Mr Dandu Pughiuc attended from IMO, which administers REMPEC on behalf of the United Nations Environment Programme Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP-MAP). The meeting also discussed and agreed the proposed programme of work of REMPEC for the biennium 2016-2017.

The draft strategy and work programme will be submitted to a meeting of the MAP Focal Points (October 2015) and the 19th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (February 2016) for adoption. The meeting in Malta was attended by official Governmental Focal Points for UNEP-MAP as well as representatives from relevant United Nations Organizations, other Governmental and Non-Governmental Organizations, the shipping industry and international professional organizations and associations. <http://www.imo.org>

International news (continued)

SUPPORTING THE PROTECTION OF SOUTH EAST ASIAN SEAS

A project to identify potential sea areas in South East Asia which could be put forward for designation as Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs) is gaining traction with the holding of a second regional meeting in Hanoi, Viet Nam (24-25 June).

A PSSA can gain extra protection through the adoption of associated protective measures, such as ship routing systems. IMO's Ed Kleverlaan is facilitating the meeting, which is being held under the auspices of a co-operation agreement between IMO and the Norwegian Development Cooperation Agency, NORAD.

The meeting is being attended by around 20 participants from Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore and Viet Nam. <http://www.imo.org>

EUROWA MODULE PROJECT - EUROPEAN MODULE FOR OILED WILDLIFE ASSISTANCE

The EUROWA Project aims to develop a European Module for Oiled Wildlife Assistance (EUROWA Module), which is an international team of oiled wildlife response experts and equipment, capable of providing Tier-3 response assistance to countries confronted with an oiled wildlife incident. This two-year project (Jan 2015- Dec 2016) will develop a Standard Operating Procedure and training and exercise packages leading to accreditation of Module personnel and their coordinated mobilization via existing European frameworks such as CECIS.

Activities under EUROWA are co-financed by the European Commission under the Civil Protection Instrument, and carried out by a group partners and subcontractors, including Sea Alarm, Royal Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (RSPCA), Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend, ProBird, WWF Finland, Estonian Fund for Nature (ELF), and Nantes Atlantic College of Veterinary Medicine, Food Science and Engineering (CVFSE)

Why a EUROWA Module? - The integration of oiled wildlife response into existing oil spill response and preparedness systems is taking shape in Europe. Regional Agreements such as HELCOM, the Bonn Agreement and the Barcelona Convention have

International news (continued)

recognized the need to integrate oiled wildlife response into national plans and preparedness systems, and many member countries either have national plans for oiled wildlife response in place or are developing them.

The need for international assistance, especially in more challenging scenarios where national processes have difficulty coping, has been recognized for years. Regional Agreements were created to provide the frameworks for mutual assistance between countries, which now often include wildlife response aspects, however a clear international standard for expertise in this area was lacking.

The EUROWA Module project aims to fill that gap by defining oiled wildlife response standards and providing a procedural framework for mobilizing a team. These standardized expert training packages will be offered to interested individuals and organisations, with training events to be organized in the autumn of 2016.

A week-long meeting in the UK of all partner organisations and subcontractors got the EUROWA project off to a strong start. As standardising training of oiled wildlife response personnel is a key component of this project, the participants worked on defining the skills and responsibilities of multiple levels of responders—convergent and advanced volunteers, specialists, managers and veterinarians—needed to provide best possible care for oiled wildlife. www.oiledwildlife.eu/eurowa [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (in chronological order)

Editor: Incident Reports did not appear in last week's newsletter and there have been quite a large number since last reported. Because of this, this week's reports have been curtailed to give headlines only. However, links to reports are included as usual so that you can easily access the detailed news reports, photos and videos that are of interest to you.

USA: SOME UPDATES ON THE REFUGIO OIL SPILL IN CALIFORNIA

June 9 - New Photos Show Extent of Corrosion In Pipeline That Ruptured In Santa Barbara County *CBS Local* [Read more](#)

June 11 - Pictures show corroded pipeline responsible for oil spill *KSBY.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

June 17 - Workers clean up oil spill on California beaches by hand *MyFoxBoston.com* [Read more](#)

June 22 - More than 87 miles of oiled California beaches cleared *upi.com* [Read more](#)

BULGARIA: June 6 - Around 30 tonnes of gasoline spilled in E Bulgaria (ROUNDUP) *focus-fen.net* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA, Pennsylvania: June 9 - Drinking water contaminated by Adams County chemical plant fire; water restrictions in place *Pennlive.com* [Read more](#)

CANADA, Newfoundland & Labrador: June 10 - Oil slick on Port au Port Peninsula raising alarms *CBC News* [Read more](#)

COLOMBIA: June 10 - Bombing of Colombian pipeline causes 'environmental tragedy,' Ecopetrol says *Reuters* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: June 11 – NNPC pipeline explodes as vandals strike again *BusinessNews.com* [Read more](#)

USA, Texas: June 11 - Barge Allision: Naphtha Spill Closes Houston Ship Channel *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

June 11 - Houston Ship Channel Reopened Following Chemical Spill *Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

CANADA, Ontario: June 11 - UPDATE: Dokis First Nation State of Emergency *Nugget.ca* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

EGYPT: June 13 - Oil spill of 500 meters in circumference spotted off Egypt's Red Sea *The Cairo Post* [Read more](#)

CANADA, British Columbia: June 13 - Vancouver Oil Spill In False Creek Contained: City *Huffington Post* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

NEW ZEALAND: June 15 - Source of Manawatu oil spill unknown *Radio New Zealand* [Read more](#)

June 16 - Manawatu oil spill clean-up under way *Radio New Zealand* [Read more](#)

June 18 - Horowhenua coast oil spill spans 14km but source still a mystery *Manawatu Standard* [Read more](#)

June 20 - Passing ship suspected for oil spill *3News.co.nz* [Read more](#)

SPAIN, Canary Islands: June 15 - Oleg Naydenov – Salvage Firms to Remove Oil from Sunken Trawler off Canary Islands *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

USA, Texas: June 16 - Crews cleaning up after oil spill into Trinity River in Madison County *kxxv.com* [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA, New South Wales: June 16 - Diesel spill in hippo lake prompts emergency response at zoo *Daily Liberal* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

JAMAICA: June 16 - NEPA serves warning notice on Digicel over Kingston oil spill *The Jamaica Gleaner* [Read more](#)

June 18 - NEPA investigates oil spill in Kingston Harbour *The Jamaica Gleaner* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

BULGARIA: June 17 - Petrol spills into Bulgarian lake after pipeline rupture *Reuters* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

June 18 - Around 30 tonnes of gasoline spilled in E Bulgaria (ROUNDUP) *focus-fen.net* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA, Maryland: June 18 - Coast Guard oversees oil spill on Carroll Island *WBALTV.com* [Read more](#)

CANADA, Ontario: June 18 - Welland Canal shut down indefinitely by oil spill *The Buffalo News* [Read more](#)

June 18 - Fuel spill results in Welland Canal closure *Niagara This Week* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

BRAZIL: June 19 - UPDATE 2-Oil spills from Petrobras pipeline into Brazil coastal area *Reuters* [Read more](#)

TURKEY: June 19 - SCF Khibiny Runs Aground in Bosphorus *World Maritime News* [Read more](#)

June 19 - Laden Suezmax Tanker Aground Near Istanbul – SCF Khibiny *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

June 19 - Liberia-flagged oil tanker runs aground in Istanbul *World Bulletin* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA, Texas: June 20 - U.S. Coast Guard responds to oil spill on Bolivar Peninsula *Click2Houston.com* [Read more](#)

June 20 - Coast Guard trying to find source of oil leak off Bolivar beach *KHou.com* [Read more](#)

BANGLADESH: June 20 - Oil trains cars fall off a bridge in Chittagong *The Financial Express* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

June 22 - DoE now terms Boalkhali oil spill an accident *Dhaka Tribune* [Read more](#)

MEXICO: June 23 - Pemex Confirms Gulf Oil Platform Accident *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

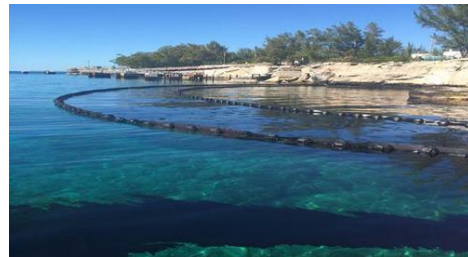
CHINA, Hong Kong: June 25 - Oil spill on Cheung Chau Island's Tung Wan Beach *Hong Kong Coconuts* [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: June 26 - Escalation call on Tauranga oil spill *Sun Live* [Read more](#)

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

BAHAMAS: SAVE THE BAYS URGES GOVERNMENT TO DEAL SWIFTLY WITH CLIFTON OIL POLLUTION

Photo: Oil regularly escapes these barriers, installed to contain pollution emanating from one or more entities located at Clifton industrial park. Studies conducted in 2011 show more than 40% decline in live reef cover as some nearby sites.



June 11 - (Statement) Nearly six months after the government announced it would spend \$10 million on oil spill remediation efforts, petrochemical pollution remains a serious threat to the sensitive marine environment throughout The Bahamas, but particularly at Clifton Bay, environmentalists say. *The Bahamas Weekly* [Read more](#)

CANADA: RESEARCHERS' OPEN LETTER CALLS FOR MORATORIUM ON NEW OILSANDS PROJECTS

June 10 - More than 100 scientists and economists from Canada and the U.S. made an unprecedented call Wednesday for a halt to new projects in the oilsands until carbon emissions can be reduced. *Edmonton Journal* [Read more](#)

CANADA: 'NOTHING ALIVE' IN PORT AU PORT BAY BECAUSE OF OIL SPILL, FISHERMAN SAYS

June 10 - Reports of oil spilling into Newfoundland's Port au Port Bay from old drilling sites is a growing concern for fishermen in the area. Bill O'Gorman, a scallop diver and chair of the local fishery committee, says it's been trying to get Ottawa and the province to clean up the area around Shoal Point for years after a noticeable decline in marine life in the region such as scallops, lobsters and barnacles. *CBC News* [Read more](#)

CANADA: OIL-BY-RAIL SHIPMENTS SET TO BOOM, STUDY FINDS

June 11 - Shipments of petroleum-related products by rail could nearly triple in Western Canada and double in Eastern Canada over the next eight years. That's the conclusion of the Canadian Energy Research Initiative, which has analyzed what commodities railways are carrying across Canada [in a new report](#). CETI sees petroleum-related rail traffic in Western Canada, by which it means provinces from Manitoba west, rising from 204,581 cars a year in 2012 to 790,597 railcars in 2024. *CBC News* [Read more](#)

CANADA - OIL SPILLS ON LAND TO HAVE PROVINCIAL RESPONSE TEAM, SAYS B.C. GOVERNMENT



Photo: Environment Minister Mary Polak says B.C. is working on creating an organization that will be able to immediately respond to all land-based spills. (CBC)

Plans are in the works to create a quicker, more coordinated response to land-based hazardous spills in British Columbia.

Provincial Environment Minister Mary Polak says the province is working on creating an organization that will be able to immediately respond to all land-based spills with trained workers and proper equipment. The minister says the provincially certified, industry-funded organization will be able to take action even before authorities have identified who's responsible for the spill and its clean up. *CBC News* [Read more](#)

CANADA: INCREASING OIL TRANSPORT THREATENS ORCAS WITH EXTINCTION, VANCOUVER CONFERENCE TOLD

June 18 - Increased transport of oil in the Salish Sea — including from the planned expansion of Kinder Morgan's Trans Mountain pipeline — is putting endangered southern resident killer whales at risk of extinction from a spill, a Washington state official said Thursday. Don Noviello, a biologist with the Washington department of fish and wildlife, said the worst-case scenario would be a spill occurring when three pods get together to form a "superpod" representing the majority of the estimated population of 80 *The Vancouver Sun* [Read more](#)

CANADA: VIDEO - WESTERN CANADA MARINE SHOWS HOW IT CLEANS UP OIL SPILLS IN B.C.

June 18 - There have already been two oil spills this year in and around B.C., and the unfortunate reality is it will likely happen again.

CBC got a look at Western Canada Marine, the company commissioned with cleanup of environmentally dangerous slicks, as it showed off some of its technology. *CBC News* [Watch the video: Behind the scenes of an oil spill cleanup.](#)

CANADA: OIL MAJORS DEFER CANADIAN ARCTIC DRILLING



Photo: Canada's Beaufort Sea Coastline

June 26 - Imperial Oil Ltd said on Friday it and partners Exxon Mobil Corp and BP Plc need more time before they can drill an exploratory well in Canadian Arctic waters and are seeking an extension to their exploration license in the region.

Pius Rolheiser, a spokesman for Imperial, said the license for the group's exploration parcel in the Beaufort Sea, a section of the Arctic Ocean, expires in 2020.

He said the group is asking the Canadian government for a seven-year extension so it can complete the requirements of the regulatory process and have adequate time to make a decision on how, or when, it will drill a well in the region. *Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

CHINA: COMPENSATION REGULATOR SET UP IN CHINA FOR VICTIMS OF OIL SPILLS

Picture: Workers clean up oil in the sea in Fujian, July 29, 2014. (File photo/Xinhua)

June 21 - A national regulatory commission governing China's compensation funds for oil spills by ships was inaugurated on June 18 in Beijing.

"This marks a new milestone for China's compensation mechanism for ship-caused oil pollution and will better safeguard the interests of the victims of accidents," said He Jianzong, deputy transport minister, at the inauguration ceremony.

The commission comprises representatives from nine units, including the ministries of transport, finance, agriculture and environmental protection, the State Oceanic Administration, the China National Tourism Administration, China National Petroleum Corporation, Sinopec and China National Offshore Oil Corporation. *Want China Times* [Read more](#)



IRAN: IRAN'S HOMEGROWN OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSEL LAUNCHED



June 14 - Iran's first domestically-made oil spill response vessel named "Daryapak 1" was launched on Sunday in the southern port city of Bandar Abbas.

The vessel with a length of 13 meters and a width of 5.5m can carry 22 crew members and is capable of collecting 550 cubic meters of contaminants, like oil spills, from water.

Daryapak 1 has a four-meter draft and a maximum speed of 16 knot (30 kh). It is among the most advanced vessels designed and manufactured in the country, and can be used for cleaning up polluted waters in a short time.

The vessel is equipped with two propulsion systems with a 360-degree angle for faster cleaning of oil spills to a depth of 25 meters.

In recent years, Iran has made great headways in manufacturing a range of civilian and military vessels. *Tasnim News Agency* [Read more](#)

NORWAY: NASA TESTS NEW OIL SPILL DETECTION EQUIPMENT DURING LIVE DRILL OFF NORWAY

June 18 - Scientists from NASA joined in on Norway's annual oil spill cleanup exercise in the North Sea this year to test out some new oil detection equipment that could significantly help cleanup in the case of a major spill.

During the exercise held this month, NASA equipped one of its research aircraft with a specialized Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar, or UAVSAR, to monitor the release of oil into the sea, testing the radar's ability to distinguish between more and less damaging types of oil slicks. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

June 18 - **Radar Used to Determine Oil Spill Thickness** - NASA participated for the first time in Norway's annual oil spill cleanup exercise in the North Sea on June 8 through 11. The aim was to follow-up on spill response technology evaluated during the

Other news reports from around the world (continued)



Deepwater Horizon spill of 2010.

Scientists flew a specialized NASA airborne instrument called the Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle [Synthetic Aperture Radar](#) (UAVSAR) on NASA's C-20A piloted research aircraft to monitor a controlled release of oil into the sea, testing the radar's ability to distinguish between more and less damaging types of oil slicks.

In the exercise, oil was released onto the ocean and then recovered. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

June 19 - **NASA Joins North Sea Oil Cleanup Training Exercise** - Scientists flew a specialized NASA airborne instrument called the Uninhabited Aerial Vehicle Synthetic Aperture Radar (UAVSAR) on NASA's C-20A piloted research aircraft to monitor a

controlled release of oil into the sea, testing the radar's ability to distinguish between more and less damaging types of oil slicks.

Norway's Oil on Water exercise has been held annually since the 1980s, weather and wildlife permitting. In these drills, oil is released onto the ocean and then recovered, giving responders experience with existing cleanup techniques and equipment and a chance to test new technologies.

"This year was special, because we had our own dedicated science experiment in the middle of the training exercise," said Camilla Brekke, associate professor in the Department of Physics and Technology at the University of Tromsø, Norway. Brekke invited scientists Cathleen Jones and Ben Holt from NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Pasadena, California, to participate in the experiment. *Green4Sea* [Read more](#)

USA: RADIOACTIVE LEAK REPORTED AT PEACH BOTTOM PLANT, PENNSYLVANIA

June 18 - Radioactive material was detected in a monitoring well in April at an Exelon-owned nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania about 40 miles from Baltimore, according to nuclear regulators.

Exelon, the parent company of Baltimore Gas and Electric Co. and the largest owner of nuclear power plants in the United States, notified the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that it found dangerous levels of tritium, a radioactive isotope of hydrogen, in a monitoring well at Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station on the Susquehanna River in Delta, Pa *The Baltimore Sun* [Read more](#)

USA: TESTING OF SHELL ARCTIC DRILLING WELL CONTAINMENT EQUIPMENT



June 19 - Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Director Brian Salerno announced that BSEE Alaska Region Director Mark Fesmire this week oversaw testing of Shell's proposed Arctic-ready capping stack system in Puget Sound to ensure compliance with stringent Federal safety standards for oil and gas exploration on the Arctic Outer Continental Shelf.

A key piece of Arctic oil exploration containment equipment, the capping stack is used to contain the flow of oil in the unlikely event all primary and backup blowout prevention equipment fails during drilling. It is required to be in position for all of Shell's potential drilling activities in the Arctic.

During tests this week, BSEE personnel witnessed the deployment and maneuvering of the capping stack off the rear deck of the M/V Fennica to 150 feet of water, which is deeper than Shell's current well sites in the Chukchi Sea.

BSEE confirmed that the capping stack functioned properly under pressures exceeding the maximum expected pressures Shell may encounter in the Arctic. Deployment of the capping stack and stack pressure testing were completed in two separate exercises spanning two days. *Green4Sea* [Read more](#)

June 19 - **PHOTOS: BSEE Inspects Shell's Critical Arctic Containment Equipment** - During the tests, BSEE personnel witnessed the deployment and maneuvering of the capping stack off the rear deck of the Finnish multipurpose icebreaker MV Fennica to 150 feet of water, deeper than Shell's current well sites in the Chukchi Sea. BSEE confirmed that the capping stack functioned properly under pressures exceeding the maximum expected pressures Shell may encounter in the Arctic.

BSEE is currently reviewing Shell's request to drill two exploratory wells in the Chukchi Sea this summer. If BSEE approves the drilling permits, as is expected, Shell would be required to maintain the capping stack in a "ready-to-deploy" state on the Fennica and able to be deployed in loss of well control incident within 24 hours. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

USA: EPA SEEKS INPUT FROM SMALL ENTITIES ON MODERNIZING THE RISK MANAGEMENT PLAN (RMP) RULE

June 19 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) invites small businesses, governments, and not-for-profit organizations to participate as Small Entity Representatives (SERs) for a Small Business Advocacy Review (SBAR) Panel. This panel will focus on the Agency's development of a rule that proposes to modify the current [Risk Management Plan \(RMP\) regulation](#) to reduce the likelihood of accidental releases of toxic and flammable substances at chemical facilities, and improve emergency response when those releases occur. This aligns with Executive Order 13650 entitled [Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security](#) (EO 13650) that President Obama signed on August 1, 2013. EO 13650 directs the federal government to carry out a number of tasks whose overall aim is to prevent chemical accidents. These tasks include: improving operational coordination with state and local partners; enhancing federal agency coordination and information sharing; modernizing policies, regulations and standards; and working with stakeholders to identify best practices.

The panel will include federal representatives from the Small Business Administration (SBA), the Office of Management and Budget (OMB), and EPA. The panel members ask a selected group of SERs to provide advice and recommendations on behalf of their company, community, or organization to inform the panel members about the potential impacts of the proposed rule on small entities.

EPA seeks self-nominations directly from the small entities that may be subject to the rule requirements. Other representatives, such as trade associations that exclusively or at least primarily represent potentially regulated small entities, may also serve as SERs.

Self-nominations may be submitted through the link below and must be received by July 3rd, 2015.

Nominate yourself as a SER: <http://www.epa.gov/rfa/risk-management-plan.html>

More information about the RMP rule: <http://www2.epa.gov/rmp>

USA: EPA STRENGTHENS UNDERGROUND STORAGE TANK REQUIREMENTS TO IMPROVE PREVENTION AND DETECTION OF LEAKS

June 23 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is strengthening the federal underground storage tank (UST) requirements to improve prevention and detection of petroleum releases from USTs which are one of the leading sources of groundwater contamination. EPA's action will strengthen existing requirements and help ensure all USTs in the United States meet the same release protection standards. "These changes will better protect people's health and benefit the environment in communities across the country by improving prevention and detection of underground storage tank releases," said Mathy Stanislaus, assistant administrator of EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response. "Extensive and meaningful collaboration with our underground storage tank partners and stakeholders was vital to the development of the new regulations. The revised requirements will also help ensure consistency in implementing the tanks program among states and on tribal lands." Secondary containment and operator training requirements of the Energy Policy Act of 2005 will apply to USTs on tribal lands. In addition, these requirements improve EPA's original 1988 UST regulation by closing regulatory gaps, adding new technologies, and focusing on properly operating and maintaining existing UST systems. Underground storage tanks are located at hundreds of thousands of facilities across America. Both marketers and nonretail facilities own USTs. Marketers include retail facilities such as gas stations and convenience stores that sell petroleum products. Nonretail facilities include those that do not sell petroleum products, but may rely on their own supply of gasoline or diesel for taxis, buses, limousines, trucks, vans, boats, heavy equipment, or a wide range of other vehicles. The revised requirements include:

- adding secondary containment requirements for new and replaced tanks and piping;
- adding operator training requirements;
- adding periodic operation and maintenance requirements for UST systems;
- removing past deferrals for emergency generator tanks, airport hydrant systems, and field-constructed tanks;
- adding new release prevention and detection technologies;
- updating codes of practice; and
- updating state program approval requirements to incorporate these new changes.

States and territories primarily implement the UST program. Many states already have some of these new requirements in place. For others, these changes will set standards that are more protective. In developing the final UST regulation, EPA reached out extensively to affected and interested UST stakeholders. EPA carefully considered the environmental benefits of the UST requirements, while balancing those with the potential future costs of compliance for UST owners and operators. For example, EPA is not requiring owners and operators to replace existing equipment, but rather is focusing on better operation and maintenance of that equipment. The docket for the UST regulation is EPA-HQ-UST-2011-0301 and can be accessed at <http://www.regulations.gov> when the final regulation is published. More information about this regulation is available at EPA's UST regulation website at: www.epa.gov/oust

USA: EXXONMOBIL TEMPORARILY HALTS OIL PRODUCTION OFF SANTA BARBARA AFTER OIL SPILL

June 23 - ExxonMobil has shut down oil production at its three platforms off the Santa Barbara County coast a month after a corroded pipeline owned by Texas company Plains All American Pipeline burst, effectively cutting off the flow of Exxon's crude. .

The oil giant halted operations at the Heritage, Harmony and Hondo offshore platforms late last week after it exhausted storage

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

space at an onshore facility near El Capitan State Beach, company spokesman Richard Keil said Tuesday.

The company had hoped to avoid a shutdown by using a fleet of 6,720-gallon trucks to make as many as 192 daily trips on U.S. 101 to ship the oil to nearby refineries. A Santa Barbara County official [rejected](#) that "emergency" proposal for an expedited trucking permit this month. *Los Angeles Times* [Read more](#)

USA: BSEE AND USCG DISCUSS ARCTIC PREPAREDNESS STRATEGY

June 25 - Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) Alaska Region Director Mark Fesmire and Rear Adm. Dan Abel, Coast Guard 17th District Commander, met in Juneau to discuss Arctic oil spill preparedness and coordination of incident management strategies.

The meeting, which included BSEE and Coast Guard officials from Washington, D.C. was in preparation for drilling operations proposed by Shell in the Chukchi Sea this summer.

The conversation highlighted the federal government's continued focus on the Arctic which requires stringent effective oversight to ensure all activities are conducted safely and responsibly. *Green4Sea* [Read more](#)

USA: JACKSON TO CHAIR SENATE SELECT COMMITTEE ON REFUGIO OIL SPILL

June 26 - First Oversight Hearing June 26 in Santa Barbara - Three weeks after a corroded oil pipeline ruptured and sent thousands of gallons of oil pouring into the ocean off Refugio State Beach in Santa Barbara County, Senator Hannah-Beth Jackson (D-Santa Barbara) joined legislators today from coastal areas around California and Senate leader Kevin de León (D-Los Angeles) to announce the creation of the Senate Select Committee on the Refugio Oil Spill, which she will chair.

Joining Jackson on the Select Committee will be Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel), who will serve as vice-chair, and Senator Ben Allen (D-Santa Monica), Senator Mike McGuire (D-Healdsburg) and Senator Fran Pavley (D-Agoura Hills).

The first hearing of the Select Committee will be held in conjunction with the Assembly Natural Resources Committee, which is chaired by Assemblymember Das Williams (D-Carpinteria). It will examine the causes, response to, and impacts of the Refugio Oil Spill, and will be held on June 26 at 2 p.m. in the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors Hearing Room, Fourth Floor, 105 East Anapamu Street, Santa Barbara. It will be open to the public. *Senate.ca.gov* [Read more](#)

ISCO News

ISCO WELCOMES NEW CORPORATE MEMBER

ISCO is pleased to welcome **AlphaMERS Pvt. Ltd.** as a new Corporate Member. The company is based in Bangalore, India and operates oil spill response services for ports and oil exploration and production companies. Other activities included specialised H₂S hazard training, provision of regulatory EIA assessments, and expertise in remote sensing applications. AlphaMERS is also investing in R&D and has designed innovative new systems for oil pollution control. In co-operation with ISCO Member, Swire ERS (A division of the Swire Pacific Group of Companies), the company is building a major Tier 2 oil spill response capability in India. In 2012, the Managing Director of AlphaMers, Captain D. C. Sekhar was elected by ISCO Members in India as the country's representative on the Council of ISCO. The company's website is at <http://www.alphamers.com/>

NEW DISPERSANT USAGE GUIDANCE DOCUMENT UPLOADED IN OIL SPILL TECHNICAL & REFERENCE SECTION OF ISCO WEBSITE

ISCO is indebted to Charles Huber for sending in a recommendation that the recently published API Technical Report 1148 titled "Aerial and Vessel Dispersant Preparedness and Operational Guide" be added to the Oil Spill Response section of ISCO's Technical and Reference facility.

The Guide is divided into two parts that provide guidance and examples on:

- Preparedness: Planning, organization, training, exercising, and other activities that can be conducted prior to a spill to ensure adequate resources and readiness for dispersant application, and
- Operations: Response objectives and checklists, operational plans, procedures, meetings and forms that can be used to aid in obtaining regulatory approval and to effectively manage, coordinate and document dispersant operations.

Additionally, the Dispersant Guide can be used to develop a company's or organization's stand-alone dispersant preparedness and operations plan, or can be incorporated into applicable oil spill response plans (OSRPs). Although developed for U.S. based dispersant operations, the processes and examples represent best practices and easily can be modified for international operations.

The Aerial and Vessel Dispersant Preparedness and Operations Guide is available free-of-charge at the following API web site: <http://www.oilspillprevention.org/~media/oil-spill-prevention/spillprevention/r-and-d/dispersants/api-technical-report-1148-final.pdf>

With this latest addition, the Oil Spill Response section now enables ISCO Members rapid access to more than 130 oil spill response tools, manuals, guidelines, case histories and other information from a wide range of sources.

Members can review the information available by logging in and going to the Oil Spill Response page in the Technical & Reference section in the Members' Area of the website.

Correspondence

LETTER FROM CHARLES HUBER OF WILLIAMSBURG, VA, USA

"I have enjoyed your newsletter for many years. It is a great source of information on spill response. Thank you for your diligence in providing this service.

I wanted to bring to your attention the following notice of publication by API. I think this document would be of interest to your US and international readers and would provide valuable information on setting up and operating aerial and vessel dispersant operations.

Best Regards, Charlie Huber" [Your editor has written to thank Mr Huber and the document has been uploaded as recommended]

LETTER FROM ERIC MILLER OF BSEE IN STERLING, VA, USA

"Just passing along a short news story for consideration in next week's newsletter regarding the Santa Barbara, CA oil spill. You may not find it applicable for the newsletter but it is an interesting industry side-effect as a result of the pipeline's shutdown.

ExxonMobil temporarily halts oil production off Santa Barbara after oil spill <http://www.latimes.com/local/lanow/la-me-ln-exxon-platforms-20150623-story.html>

Really enjoy the newsletter!"

Best regards, Eric Miller, Chief - Preparedness Verification Branch, Oil Spill Preparedness Division, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement.

[Your editor has written to thank Mr Miller and the article in the LA Times is referenced on page 8]

Publications

INTERTANKO'S ANNUAL REPORT AND 45TH ANNIVERSARY PUBLICATION AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD

The INTERTANKO Annual Review and Report for 2015, which includes financial pages for 2014, is now available to download from the INTERTANKO website via:

<http://www.intertanko.com/Book-Shop/Annual-Report-and-Industry-Facts/INTERTANKO-Annual-Review-and-Report-20142015/>

As well as the Annual Report, we also launched, at the 2015 INTERTANKO Tanker Event, a publication entitled "INTERTANKO in Time: Forty-Five" which celebrates the Association's 45th Anniversary. It can be downloaded from the following link:

<http://www.intertanko.com/Book-Shop/INTERTANKO-in-Time-Forty-Five/>

USING DISPERSANTS AFTER OIL SPILLS: IMPACTS ON THE COMPOSITION AND ACTIVITY OF MICROBIAL COMMUNITIES

Using dispersants after oil spills: impacts on the composition and activity of microbial communities – a paper by Sara Kleindienst, John H. Paul and Samantha B. Joye, published online in *Nature Reviews Microbiology AOP*.

Abstract | Dispersants are globally and routinely applied as an emergency response to oil spills in marine ecosystems with the goal of chemically enhancing the dissolution of oil into water, which is assumed to stimulate microbially mediated oil biodegradation. However, little is known about how dispersants affect the composition of microbial communities or their biodegradation activities. The published findings are controversial, probably owing to variations in laboratory methods, the selected model organisms and the chemistry of different dispersant–oil mixtures. Here, we argue that an in-depth assessment of the impacts of dispersants on microorganisms is needed to evaluate the planning and use of dispersants during future responses to oil spills.

The link for downloading this article is provided here thanks to the newsletter of The Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. <http://www.pwsrccac.net/committees/sac/documents/UsingDispersantsAfterOilSpills.pdf>

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

[AMSA Aboard](#)
[ASME EED EHS Newsletter](#)
[Bow Wave](#)
[Cedre Newsletter](#)
[Celtic Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter](#)
[CROIERG Enews](#)
[EMSA Newsletter](#)
[Energy Institute eBulletin](#)
[Environmental Technology Online](#)
[IMO News Magazine](#)
[IMO Publishing News](#)
[Intertanko Weekly News](#)
[IPIECA eNews](#)
[JOIFF "The Catalyst"](#)
[MOIG Newsletter](#)

News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday
Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters
News from Cedre in Brittany, France
Latest Remediation and related technology news
Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group
News from the European Maritime Safety Agency
News from the Energy Institute
Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis
News from the International Maritime Organization
New and forthcoming IMO publications
International news for the oil tanker community
Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n
Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management
News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group

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NOAA update	Oil spill response news from NOAA OR&R	April 2015
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	May 2015 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	June 24 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	News from the Sea Alarm Wildlife Protection Organisation	Spring 2015 issue
SAC News	Oil spill related and other news from Alaska	June 12 issue 2015
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	May 1-15 2015
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	June 1 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	June 1 2015 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Spring 2015 issue

Company news

SPAIN: ARDENT AND ARDENTIA MARINE JOIN FORCES TO REMOVE OIL FROM SUNKEN FISHING TRAWLER OFF THE COAST OF THE CANARY ISLANDS

15 June 2015 – Ardent, the recent merger of Titan and Svitzer Salvage and Ardentia Marine, a leading salvage and diving company based in Spain have been awarded the contract to remove oil from the sunken fishing trawler “Oleg Naydenov” off the coast of Gran Canarias, Spain.

On the 11 of April, the vessel sustained a fire that quickly got out of control. Fortunately all crew were able to abandon the vessel safely but due to the intensity of the fire, firefighting experts were unable to gain access to board the vessel and she sank approximately 15 nautical miles southwest of Gran Canarias. The vessel now sits upright on the seabed at a depth of 2,700 meters.

The Ardent-Ardentia joint venture has already begun putting the necessary resources in place to execute the operational plan in a safe and efficient manner. Oil receiving tanks will be submerged to collect oil from the sunken vessel and hoisted to the surface as they fill up. In addition, subsea recovery domes will be installed over areas where leaks have been detected in order to further contain any potential environmental pollution. The operation will also be supported by a full salvage team, the use of remote operated vessels (ROV) and heavy lifting equipment from the surface side. Ardent-Ardentia will be working in close coordination with La Sociedad de Salvamento y Seguridad Marítima (SASEMAR) to ensure that all immediate and long term threats to the environment are prevented.

For more information, please contact SASEMAR at info@sasemar.es

ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, ELASTEC RELEASES NEW ALL-IN-ONE OIL SKIMMER

June 27 - Elastec CEO Donnie Wilson has announced the launch of new oil spill recovery technology. The X150 Skimmer Launching System is a seamless oil spill response system with the capability to recover light, medium and some heavy oils in incidents such as the Deepwater Horizon blowout/BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

“This system is a turning point in offshore and near shore mechanical oil spill recovery technology. If the X Skimmer Launching System had been available in concert with our fire boom systems in the Gulf Spill in 2010, the oil cleanup operation would have been much faster and more efficient,” Wilson stated.

Successful sea trials of Elastec’s new system were conducted recently in the Gulf of Mexico near Port Fourchon a few miles from where one of the worst oil spill disasters in U.S. history took place five years ago.

The centerpiece of the new launching system is the X150 skimmer, the first commercial model Elastec developed incorporating the company’s patented grooved disc technology that won the first place prize of \$1 million in the X Prize Foundation’s global Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X Challenge.

The X150 skimmer is a workhorse in recovering extreme volumes of oil. It has a verified nameplate oil recovery rate (ORR) of 660 gallons of oil per minute (150 cu. m per hour) and an oil recovery efficiency (ORE: oil-to-water collection rate) of 87.6 percent.

However, the high volume oil recovery rate of the X150 skimmer is only part of the story. Jeff Cantrell, Elastec co-founder and Chief Innovation Officer, explained the engineering premise of the X Skimmer Launching System, “With the X150 at its heart, the total system collects, encounters, skims, pumps and transfers the oil to storage in one seamless operation – while being towed at speeds up to three knots or while standing still. It is a well-conceived oil recovery flow-through system for offshore or nearshore operations.” *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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