

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

UNEP: E-COURSE- MARINE POLLUTION AND OCEANIC CONSERVATION

July 13 - UNEP creates an introductory e-course focusing on the international legal framework on marine pollution

The Earth's oceans are vast and complex ecosystems, and the legal framework for protecting them is similarly intricate, involving numerous international agreements. To support understanding of oceanic conservation mechanisms, InforMEA, a project of the UN Environment Programme (UNEP) Information and Knowledge Management Initiative, has created an [e-course focusing on the international legal framework on marine pollution](#). It helps users to wade through a complicated governance "oceanscape" through the lens of agreements on marine pollution.

This policy update reveals how the e-course creates clarity and understanding of oceanic conservation with regard to pollution, and explores how improved understanding of the international framework for marine pollution supports the conservation and protection of marine ecosystems. [Read more](#)

WORLD SEABIRD POPULATIONS IN CATASTROPHIC DECLINE



Photo: Numbers of black-legged kittiwakes have plunged by 77 per cent since the 1980s.

July 11 - World seabird populations have suffered a staggering 70 per cent drop over the last 60 years, according to new international research. This means around 230 million seabirds have disappeared across the globe since the 1950s

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helps to monitor any violations on the existing regulations on prevention of pollution from ships. However, for the first time in 2014, the HELCOM Member States also reported spills of other detected substances as included in the report. Oil but also many other substances released from ships are a potential threat to the marine environment. *HELCOM* [Read more](#)

INTERSPILL 2018 TO BE HELD AT EXCEL, LONDON

The next Interspill has now been confirmed for 13-15 March 2018, at Excel, London, again co-located with Oceanology International. It is not so far away, and planning is always a good thing and already underway. Post 2015 event information is on the websites, www.interspill2015.com and Conference proceedings are available now on www.interspill.org [Info received from UK Spill <http://www.ukspill.org>]

Incident reports from around the world (in chronological order)

JAPAN: CONTAINERSHIP 'KAMALA' ON FIRE OFF JAPAN – UPDATE



This photo of the MV Kamala shows the fire in the cargo area amidships.

July 12 - A Liberia-flagged containership is on fire in the East China Sea off the Japanese island of Kuchinoshima.

Japanese media reports say that the containership MV Kamala caught fire early Saturday morning approximately 400 kilometers west of Kuchinoshima, one of the Tokara Islands in Japan's Kagoshima Prefecture.

The vessel was sailing from Gresik, Indonesia to Ulsan, South Korea when the fire occurred, according to AIS data. *gCaptain* [Read more and see video](#)

International news (continued)

Climate change, overfishing, pollution from plastics and oil, and the introduction of non-native predators have all been blamed for the steep decline.

The Scotsman [Read more](#)

July 14 - Seabirds suffering massive population declines

Consider the albatross - A bird that mates for life and flies over 6,000 miles for food, the albatross has seen profound population declines over the past several decades. It appears now as though a harbinger for its own demise.

Or take the Fiji petrel, a black, tube-nosed bird that spends almost its entire life skimming the oceans. The petrel, the albatross and other birds suffer when the oceans are polluted and overfished and a new study in PLOS One suggests they are paying a heavy price. Since the 1950s, the study concludes that seabird numbers have dropped by nearly 70 percent.

"Seabirds are particularly good indicators of the health of marine ecosystems," said University of British Columbia's Michelle Paleczny, a co-author of the study and a researcher with the Sea Around Us project. "When we see this magnitude of seabird decline, we can see there is something wrong with marine ecosystems. It gives us an idea of the overall impact we're having."

CBS News [Read more](#)

EUROPE: FLIGHT HOURS DECLINING TO DETECT SPILLS FROM SHIPS IN THE BALTIC SEA

July 3 - The total number of surveillance flight hours in the Baltic Sea dropped again in 2014 according to the annual HELCOM report on aerial surveillance. Compared to the average total number of flight hours in 2000–2013, the decrease is 20%. There is a risk that the declined amount of time in the air of surveillance planes impairs the reliability of information on detected spills from ships in the Baltic, compiled by HELCOM since 1988.

The number of mineral oil spills in 2014 was the lowest ever recorded in the Baltic Sea at 117 spills, indicating a continuous decreasing trend in oil spills. The focus of the recent report is on detected illegal spills of mineral oil, as HELCOM

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

CANADA: ENVIRONMENT MINISTER RESPONDS TO BARWICK TRAIN DERAILMENT

July 12 - Ontario's Minister of the Environment and Climate Change is calling on the federal government to improve rail safety, in the wake of a train derailment in Barwick.

Sixty homes in the farming community 30 kilometres west of Fort Frances were evacuated when 14 CN cars derailed on Friday afternoon. According to the MOECC, the derailment caused 12,000 gallons of petroleum distillates to spill. [TBNewswatch.com](#)
[Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman, Marine Pollution Control]

July 14 – Audio: Train derailment near Fort Frances: ministry unsure how long cleanup will take

Ontario's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change says it doesn't know how long it will take to clean up the remnants of a trail derailment near Fort Frances, in northwestern Ont. late last week. Fourteen cars went off the tracks. One breached, spilling a petroleum-based combustible liquid.

Ministry spokesperson Kate Jordan said CN has hired a clean-up company to mop up the spill, and the substances have been contained. "Cleanup crews are at the site and we'll continue to make sure that material is disposed of properly," she said.
[CBC News](#) [Read more and listen to audio report](#)

USA: SILVER LAKE, HIGHLAND - SPILL CLEANUP CONTINUES

July 13 - Plains All-American Pipeline Company workers are continuing to clean up the oil spill on just outside of Grantfork.



[Belleville News Democrat](#) [Read more and view more photos](#)

USA: PULASKI COUNTY, ARKANSAS, TRAIN DERAILMENT: 18 CARS DERAIL, LUBE OIL SPILLS

July 15 - More than 20,000 gallons of lube oil spilled from a derailed railroad car Tuesday afternoon when a westbound Norfolk Southern train rear-ended another NS train in Pulaski County, according to the railroad.

The car containing the oil was one of 18 that derailed during the crash, which happened about 4 p.m. near old U.S. 11.
[Roanoke.com](#) [Read more](#)

CANADA: NEXEN PIPELINE LEAK IN ALBERTA SPILLS 5 MILLION LITRES

July 16 - One of the largest leaks in Alberta history has spilled about five million litres of emulsion from a Nexen Energy pipeline at the company's Long Lake oilsands facility south of Fort McMurray. The leak was discovered Wednesday afternoon.

Nexen said in a statement its emergency response plan has been activated and personnel were onsite. The leak has been stabilized, the company said.

- [2nd largest pipeline spill in Alberta history leads to charges](#)
- [Energy regulator says pipeline spills 60,000 litres of crude into muskeg](#)

The spill covered an area of about 16,000 square metres, mostly within the pipeline corridor, the company said. Emulsion is a mixture of bitumen, water and sand.

The pipeline that leaked is called a "feeder" and runs from a wellhead to the processing plant.

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

"All necessary steps and precautions have been taken, and Nexen will continue to utilize all its resources to protect the health and safety of our employees, contractors, the public and the environment, and to contain and clean up the spill," the company said in the statement issued Thursday. *CBC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO]
Related report in [The Globe & Mail](#)

CANADA: SOME DUCKS DEAD, OTHERS RELEASED INTO WILD AFTER OIL SPILL IN TORONTO CREEK

July 16 - A few ducks have died after being covered in oil from a spill that seeped into a Toronto creek, while about a dozen clean ducks have been released back into the wild. Toronto Wildlife Centre spokeswoman Julia Pietrus says they still have 104 ducks and two sandpipers at the facility.

Thousands of litres of transformer oil leaked into Mimico Creek after a transport truck rolled over on a highway Monday and eventually covered the birds. *CBC News* [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: OILY WATER FOUND NEAR REPORTED QUEENSLAND SPILL

July 17 - Authorities have found patches of oily water near where an oil spill was reported off north Queensland.

A water police vessel and an Emergency Management Queensland helicopter reported the one-metre patches and a sheen on the water after a fisherman reported a spill near Cape Upstart, south of Townsville, on Friday morning.

An Australian Maritime Safety Authority aircraft out of Cairns will inspect the ocean and coastline in the area early on Saturday morning. "Maritime Safety Queensland has oil pollution resources and staff on standby if required in Townsville and other ports," a Transport and Main Roads representative said on Friday night. *The Australian* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Other related reports –

July 17 Australia Finds Oily Water Patches Near Great Barrier Reef *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

July 17 Oil spill on Barrier Reef *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

July 18 Fears of Great Barrier Reef oil spill allayed *The Sydney Morning Herald* [Read more](#)

USA: 35,000 GALLONS OF OIL SPILLS AFTER MONTANA TRAIN DERAILMENT

July 17 - Three tank cars continued to leak crude oil on Friday in rural, northeastern Montana in the wake of a 21-car derailment that downed a power line, closed a major highway and forced the evacuation of a town. Emergency workers responding to the Thursday evening derailment said cleanup of the leaking crude could not begin until the arrival of a Texas-based Burlington Northern Santa Fe hazardous materials team. *EcoWatch.com* [Read more](#) Related report in [ABCNews](#)

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

AUSTRALIA: EXERCISE WESTWIND



July 13 - The 2015 annual exercise of the National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies was held in Western Australia from June 8-11.

Exercise Westwind simulated a response to a level three maritime environmental emergency and for the first time the exercise simulated an offshore petroleum industry incident response. It was a joint operation by AMSA, the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre Pty Ltd (AMOSC), the Department of Industry and Science, the Western Australian Department of Transport, the Department of Infrastructure and Regional Development, and the offshore oil and gas industry.

The exercise was held in two locations, the Incident Control Centre based in Perth and the Tactical Operations Group operated out of Exmouth. These two groups were staffed with representatives from state and federal government agencies and industry.

The exercise simulated an uncontrolled release of oil from a rig off the coast of Exmouth operated by the fictional ACME oil company. *AMSA Aboard July 2015* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

AUSTRALIA: NEW MONTARA REPORT HIGHLIGHTS AUSTRALIA'S SIX YEARS OF FAILURE

July 15 - A new investigative report released today has called for the Federal Government to negotiate for a full investigation with Indonesia, to pinpoint the cause of economic and environmental devastation experienced by seaside communities in Indonesia following the worst offshore oil spill in Australia's history.

The call was made following the release today of the Australian Lawyers Alliance's two-year study into the disaster: *After the Spill: Investigating Australia's Montara Oil Disaster in Indonesia*.

The Montara oil spill began on 21 August 2009, after the Montara wellhead spewed oil for 74 days into Australian waters of the Timor Sea. Millions of litres of oil polluted the ocean, creating oil slicks which soon stretched over the horizon towards Indonesia

ALA National President Greg Phelps said it was high time that the Australian government took action to assist its neighbours, after it had avoided the issue for nearly six years by claiming it had no jurisdiction. Mr Phelps said this was despite the fact that the Indonesian government directly asked for assistance in settling the issue last year. *Australian OLawyers Alliance* [Read more](#)

CANADA: ENHANCED MARINE PROTECTION AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

July 9 - If Trans Mountain's proposed Expansion Project proceeds, the company has committed to investing \$100 million in [Western Canada Marine Response Corporation \(WCMRC\)](#) to create new response bases along the tanker route, fund new equipment and enhance capacity. The enhanced response regime would be capable of delivering 20,000 tonnes of capacity within 36 hours with dedicated resources. This would double WCMRC's response capacity and cut in half the delivery time of existing planning standards. As a result of the enhancements, 100 new jobs would also be created.

Trans Mountain has loaded marine vessels with petroleum since 1956 without a single spill from tanker operations. Close collaboration with organizations such as the various Pilotage Authorities, government organizations (Transport Canada and Canadian Coast Guard) and Port Metro Vancouver ensure that tankers navigate our local waters safely and are guided in and out of the port by highly-trained and qualified pilots.

Trans Mountain has proposed additional measures that will further improve the [current marine safety regime](#) through accident prevention:

- Enhanced tug escort of laden oil tankers requiring a tug to accompany the tanker throughout its entire passage to the open ocean
- Introduction of a Moving Safety Zone – an area around the tanker that other vessels would be requested to avoid entering

Trans Mountain has also requested the Pacific Pilotage Authority consider extending the pilot disembarkation position to off Race Rocks, rather than disembarking at the Victoria pilot station, which is current practice. *TransMountain* [Read more](#)

CANADA FUNDS NEW TANKER RESEARCH CENTER



July 12 - Lisa Raitt, Canada's Minister of Transport, has announced that the government of Canada is providing \$3.7M to establish the Vancouver-based Clear Seas Centre for Responsible Marine Shipping.

The activities of the center will support the government's commitment to protect Canada's coasts and to enhance marine safety through the world-class tanker safety system that aims to strengthen ship-source spill prevention, preparedness and response.

The center's mandate is to be the leading, independent source of evidence-based information on best practices for marine shipping, including the shipping of natural resource products, and to promote and facilitate research that supports the highest standards for safe and responsible marine transportation.

Specifically, the center will:

- Serve as a trusted, independent source for information on the safe handling and shipping of oil and gas products, including liquefied natural gas;
- Identify and facilitate research related to the shipment of resource products;
- Provide a forum for sharing best practices and dialogue with the public, Aboriginal groups and a broad range of stakeholders; and
- Provide a structured framework for the ongoing research and monitoring of environmental and social impacts related to the shipment of natural resource products and to make recommendations on how spill risks can be assessed and communicated to the public. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: CONTROVERSIAL OVER-REEF PIPELINE IN COOKS COULD GO AHEAD

July 13 - An over-reef pipeline project in the Cook Islands, billed to bring cheaper fuel prices, may be set to get the green light from the Rarotonga Environment Authority.

The Petrocean company has controversial plans to build a medium-range fuel tanker mooring and pipeline in Aereanu, Nikao.

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

The National Environment Service director, Vaitoti Tupa, says her organisation is seeking legal advice, after hearing the project may be set to proceed.

Another company, Triad Pacific Petroleum, has sought a judicial review on the assumed approval of the proposal, but the Authority has not yet made a final decision. *Radio New Zealand* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: GOVT, NOSDRA WORKERS AMONG BAYELSA PIPELINE EXPLOSION VICTIMS

July 12 - Employees of the Bayelsa State Ministry of the Environment and the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency were identified among the victims of the Agip pipeline explosion along Tebidaba-Clough creek line in Azuzuama area of the state.

The explosion, which occurred last Friday, claimed the lives of 12 persons, while three persons were seriously injured and unspecified number of persons were declared missing.

Also identified among those killed in the explosion were six staff of a maintenance team of a local company services, M.G Vogas Nigerian Limited, two Agip workers and a soldier. *Punch* [Read more](#)

TUNISIA: TOPPING-UP TUNISIA'S POLLUTION RESPONSE CAPACITIES

July 6 - In view of improving the protection of the Mediterranean marine environment against the risk of pollution and preventing escalation of the spill in case of major oil pollution in the Mediterranean, EMSA has undertaken to top-up the relevant pollution response capacities of SAFEMED III maritime administration(s).

Donation contracts of skimmer and boom sets were awarded to l'Office de la Marine Marchande et des Ports (Tunisia) in May 2015 following its successful application within a call for proposals procedure launched in December 2014.

To ensure that the equipment is fully operational it will be checked, overhauled and commissioned before transportation to Bizerte. Initial training services and technical assistance (crew preparations for pollution response techniques and equipment operation) will be then provided to Tunisian administration.

From SAFEMED III Bulletin June 2015 <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/news-a-press-centre/external-news.html>

UK: MONSANTO, BP, VEOLIA FUND TOXIC WASTE CLEANUP

July 16 - Monsanto, BP and Veolia will pay to clean up toxic waste — including Agent Orange derivatives, dioxins and Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs) — at a former quarry in South Wales, the Guardian reports.

The newspaper says the agreement ends a 50-year ordeal that began with a Monsanto plant dumping thousands of tons of chemical and industrial waste into the quarry in the 1960s and '70s. BP also dumped waste at the site, and Veolia acquired the contractors that originally disposed Monsanto's waste. *Environmental Leader* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Shannon Geiger of Marine Pollution Control]

UK: WHALES SCULPTURE HIGHLIGHTS THREAT OF PLASTIC POLLUTION TO OCEANS

July 16 - A sculpture of two life size whales made from willow and 70,000 plastic bottles has been unveiled in Bristol to mark the city's status as the UK's first European Green Capital.

A sculpture of two life size whales made from willow and 70,000 plastic bottles has been unveiled in Bristol to mark the city's status as the UK's first European Green Capital.

The artwork, named The Bristol Whales, aims to represent the fragility of oceans and the threat of plastic pollution, particularly plastic bags and food and drink packaging.

It features a blue whale and a humpback whale swimming through an 'ocean' of plastic bottles, collected from the Bristol Half Marathon and Bristol 10k race.

The six-tonne sculpture also consists of willow harvested from nearby Somerset, which will naturally biodegrade over time.

Sue Lipscombe, managing director of Cod Steaks, which designed and built the artwork, said: "Whales are intelligent, beautiful, charismatic animals - they've become symbols of the world's oceans. *BT.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman of Marine Pollution Control]

USA: 12TH EFFECTS OF OIL ON WILDLIFE CONFERENCE HELD IN ALASKA

July 13 - International Bird Rescue and Aiuká co-hosted the 2015 Effects of Oil on Wildlife (EOW) conference in May. This 12th EOW, held in Alaska, was originally planned to coincide with the 25th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill.

Since 1982 EOW has been the primary conference for those involved in oiled wildlife response and preparedness. The 2015

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

meeting covered a variety of topics from issues specific to response in the Polar Regions to measuring the physiological impact of oil on wildlife to evaluating a variety of methods for safely removing oil and other hazardous substances from wildlife.

Sea Alarm actively participated in the 12th EOW on many levels. Hugo Nijkamp served on the Program Committee. Paul Kelway co-presented a half-day workshop on the new IPIECA Good Practice Guide: Wildlife Response Preparedness in collaboration with Sam Christie from Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research, Inc. and Curt Clumpner of International Bird Rescue. [Sea Alarm Read more](#)

USA: RECKONING WITH OIL SPILLS - EXPERTS LEARN FROM EXXON VALDEZ AND DEEPWATER HORIZON TO PLAN FOR FUTURE ACCIDENTS



July 13 - Five years ago this week, engineers capped the leaking Macondo well 1,500 meters below the surface of the Gulf of Mexico, effectively ending the largest marine oil spill in U.S. history. The Gulf spill started three months earlier, when the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil rig exploded into fire—an accident that killed 11 workers—and then sank into the sea. During the 86 days of the spill, 4.9 million barrels of oil and 200,000 metric tons of hydrocarbon gas spewed into the Gulf.

Earlier this month, BP, the principal developer of the oil field, announced a proposed \$18.7 billion settlement with federal and state authorities for environmental and economic damage related to the spill. The deal would bring the total that the company will spend on the spill to more than \$40 billion.

The DWH spill came two decades after the second-largest spill in the U.S., when the oil

tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground in Prince William Sound, Alaska, and released 260,000 bbl of crude into the water there. The area's cold, rocky beaches and larger ecosystem still show vestiges of the spill.

Although the DWH and Exxon Valdez oil spills are the largest U.S. spills, they are far from the only ones that have made headlines recently. Also in 2010, a pipeline ruptured in Michigan and leaked 20,000 bbl of oil into the Kalamazoo River. In 2013, a train collision in North Dakota spilled 9,500 bbl of oil, resulting in a fire. Right now, workers continue to clean up 2,400 bbl from a pipeline rupture in California that has affected nearly 100 miles of coastline.

As long as we depend on oil for fuel and feedstock, more spills will occur within the U.S. and worldwide. The question is how to prepare for spills of all sizes to minimize harm to aquatic ecosystems and to the livelihoods of people who depend on those waterways. In particular, environmental scientists are concerned about possible spills in the Arctic, where Shell plans to start exploratory drilling this summer in the Chukchi Sea after receiving conditional approval from the Obama Administration in May. So what, then, can experts learn from the Exxon Valdez and DWH spills, looking back at them with the benefit of hindsight and thinking ahead to future spills?

The teams approached shoreline treatment in a few different ways. Some cleaning was done manually—washing rocks with rags or picking up oil with shovels. In other cases, workers moved oil-contaminated sediments from high on a beach down to the tideline to be naturally washed by waves. In some areas, crews sprayed water to flush off oil. The released oil from these efforts was then skimmed or absorbed into booms.

To better mobilize the oil, responders flushed some shorelines with heated seawater—to disastrous effect. “They sterilized the beach and killed the natural bacteria that were there,” Edward B. Overton, an emeritus professor of environmental sciences at Louisiana State University (LSU), told C&EN. “That really, really slowed down the natural degradation of the oil.”

Shoreline tests of dispersants to try to break up the oil showed poor results. Tests of fertilizer to enhance bacterial activity, on the other hand, were successful. Responders subsequently treated beaches with a combination of a granular fertilizer containing calcium phosphate, ammonium phosphate, and ammonium nitrate plus an oleophilic fertilizer containing urea. “Bioremediation turned out to be a very effective tool, and it wasn't that intrusive,” said Robert L. Mastracchio, who was Exxon's technical manager for the oil-spill cleanup and retired from the company in 2000 as vice president for engineering. [Chemical & Engineering News Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman and Mike Rancilio of Marine Pollution Control]

USA: COAST GUARD ANCIENT KEEPER: 'WE ARE GOING TO CHASE PERFECTION'

July 13 - [Ancient Keeper](#). It may sound like an insult, but for Master Chief Petty Officer Terry Lathrop, it's his new well-deserved title.

In a ceremony held last week, Master Chief Petty Officer James Clemens, who retired from the Coast Guard with 30 years of service, relinquished his title of the Coast Guard's Ancient Keeper to Lathrop during a special ceremony, which followed the station's change of watch.

Other news reports from around the world (continued)



In the picture: Master Chief Petty Officer James Clemens stands at the change of watch ceremony for the Coast Guard's Ancient Keeper. Clemens was relieved as the service's Ancient Keeper by Master Chief Petty Officer Terry Lathrop. U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 2nd Class Patrick Kelley

A coveted title in the Coast Guard's boat forces community, the Joshua James Ancient Keeper Award is a title given to an active-duty Coast Guard member to recognize their longevity within the boat force community. The award is named after Coast Guard hero Capt. Joshua James, who is credited with saving more than 600 lives during his lifetime.

Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft presided over the ceremony, citing Clemens' commitment to excellence during his reign as Ancient Keeper and throughout his 30 years of service to the nation.

As Lathrop took the helm as the service's Ancient Keeper, he reflected on what the title meant to the boat forces community as a whole.

"I am honored and humbled to stand here before you as the Joshua James Ancient Keeper," he said. "It is more than just a honorable position. It is a sign of respect that comes with our service's commitment to excellence." *Coast Guard Compass*
[Read more](#) [Thanks to Bill Hazel of Marine Pollution Control]

USA: RESEARCHERS: MUCH STILL UNKNOWN ABOUT CLEANING UP ARCTIC OIL SPILLS

July 14 - As drillers make their way toward Arctic waters, some researchers say plenty remains unknown about how to deal with an oil spill in icy waters up North. The U.S. Arctic Research Commission wants better testing in actual Arctic conditions, John Farrell, the commission's executive director, told the audience at an Arctic symposium in Washington, D.C., Tuesday.

"The commission calls for the controlled release of small amounts of oil in water, as they do off Norway. Currently the Coast Guard is trying with surrogates and simulants, but throwing oranges overboard and trying to pretend that that is similar to an oil spill is a far cry," Farrell said, showing photos of just that -- several oranges bobbing in Arctic waters.

"So we're calling on them to resume these small controlled spills. We think it's important," Farrell said.

The government has approved -- and courts upheld -- Shell's Arctic oil spill plans, and officials say that much has been learned from the Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. *Alaska Dispatch News* [Read more](#)

No news from your part of the world? If you have a news story you would like to share with members and other readers please send it to the editor at info@spillcontrol.org

People in the news

AUSTRALIA: MEMBERS APPOINTED TO AMSA BOARD

June 23 - Three key maritime safety appointments were confirmed last night by the Australian Government. Dr Sarah Derrington will continue on the Board of the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA), Mr Gary Webb and Mr Peter Toohey will be joining the board. Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for Infrastructure and Regional Development Warren Truss said the newly appointed Board members, Mr Gary Webb and Mr Peter Toohey, bring considerable experience to their new positions. *AMSA* [Read more](#)

BELGIUM: CLAUDE VELTER JOINS WRCO FULL TIME



Claude Velter, who has worked half time for Sea Alarm since 2012, has left his position as Senior Technical Advisor as of 1 May 2015 to take on an expanded role at the Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend (WRCO).

The WRCO, where Claude worked the other 50% of his time over the last three years, is going through an important phase of growth, which includes a partnership with the University of Ghent that is initiating a number of scientific projects, and several international activities, including the EUROWA project. *Sea Alarm* [Read more](#)

ISCO News

TECHNICAL PAPERS SOON TO BE RE-PUBLISHED IN MEMBERS' AREA OF THE ISCO WEBSITE

Some of the best of the serialised technical papers published in past issues of the ISCO Newsletter will soon be available for download from <http://www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-13-02-56/technical-articles>

CAPTAIN BILL BOYLE, MNI, FISCO, RECOUNTS A CASUALTY RESPONSE THAT TOOK PLACE EARLIER THIS YEAR



LYSBLINK SEAWAYS AGROUND AT KILCHOAN

BRIGGS MARINE & ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES RESPOND TO THE GROUNDED LYSBLINK SEAWAYS

At approximately 01:50 on Wednesday 18th February 2015 the DFDS 120mt cargo vessel, Lysblink Seaways, ran aground near to Ardnamurchan Point at Kilchoan Bay on the West Coast of Scotland. The 7,500-tonne ship, carrying 50 tonnes of paper products, was travelling from Belfast to Skogn in Norway. Nine-crew were on board at the time of the grounding but no injuries were reported.

The Dutch salvage company, Svitzer, contacted Briggs Marine & Environmental Services to act as emergency responders and oil spill advisors. A team and equipment was immediately mobilised to the location, where they worked closely with Svitzer, the Secretary of State's Representative (SOSREP), the MCA and other agencies to ensure the operation of removing fuel bunkers and the salvage of the casualty went without incident.

On the evening of Thursday 19th February the casualty unexpectedly re-floated and was taken into tow by Briggs Marine's vessels, the Kingdom of Fife and Forth Joustier. The Lysblink was then safely anchored at Scallastle Bay in the Sound of Mull, with both vessels remaining close due to poor weather conditions and westerly gales.

A temporary exclusion zone of 100m was established around the vessel, whilst divers from Svitzer, assisted by a Briggs Diving Supervisor and dive spread, carried out the underwater inspections and all bunkers were transferred onto the Kingdom of Fife and Forth Joustier.

Once the weather abated, the SOSREP gave the green light for the casualty to be towed 150 nautical miles to Inchgreen ship repair facility in Greenock on the Firth of Clyde on Wednesday 4th March 2015.

Publications

ENERGY INSTITUTE: HAZARDOUS AREA CLASSIFICATION

The EI's Area Classification Working Group (ACWG) is responsible for the development of technical content contained in [Model code of safe practice Part 15: Area classification code for installations handling flammable fluids](#) (EI 15, formerly referred to as IP 15). EI 15 is a well-established, internationally accepted publication that provides methodologies for hazardous area classification around equipment storing or handling flammable fluids in the production, processing, distribution and retail sectors. It constitutes a sector-specific approach to achieving the hazardous area classification requirements for flammable fluids required in the UK by the Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations (DSEAR) 2002 and in doing so, provides much more detail than BS EN 60079-10 *Electrical apparatus for explosive gas atmospheres: Classification of hazardous areas*. Note that the scope of EI 15 excludes hazardous area classification arising from dusts.

EI 15 - The current edition of EI 15 presents the following three complementary approaches for hazardous area classification:

- The direct example approach, which is limited to common facilities
- The point source approach, where release rates are dependent on process conditions; and
- The risk-based approach.

The point source approach can be used for all situations; the risk-based approach is an optional methodology for secondary grade releases which may reduce the extent of the hazardous area determined by the point source approach.

The 3rd edition of EI 15 was published in July 2005. It provides, primarily, both technical and editorial clarification on issues that

Publications (continued)

have been raised by users of the 2nd edition (published in 2002). In addition, further technical and editorial changes have been made. To assist those who are considering purchasing a copy or for users who want more information, list of [Key technical changes](#) are available to view free of charge.

The 4th edition of EI15 will be published in July 2015. It includes extensive technical changes from the 3rd edition, [click here](#).

Technical queries - Users of EI 15 and its supporting publications, seeking a consultant to provide technical support with carrying out hazardous area classifications, should use the [Consultant Database](#) maintained by the [EI Library and Information Service](#).

To seek clarification of technical issues in EI 15, contact the [EI Library and Information Service](#). Note, however, that this is not a consultancy service and as it draws upon volunteers from the ACWG, it may take some time to respond to issues raised. To facilitate the continuing technical development of EI 15, your [technical feedback](#) would be welcome.

Participation in the Working Group - The ACWG would welcome the participation of additional upstream petroleum industry practitioners so as to ensure their continuing applicability of the resources to upstream operations. For further information on the ACWG, please contact Toni Needham e: tneedham@energyinst.org, t: +44 (0)20 7467 7160.

Click here for further information on relevant [Technical Publications](#). EI [Source document](#)

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

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	July 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	June 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	July 2015 issue
Energy Institute eBulletin	News from the Energy Institute	April 2015 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	July 2015 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 1, 2015
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	June 2015
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 28 2015
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	July 2015 issue
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	Most recent Issue
NOAA update	Oil spill response news from NOAA OR&R	April 2015
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	June 2015 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	July 15 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Spring 2015 issue
SAC News	Oil spill related and other news from Alaska	July 9 issue 2015
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	June 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	July 1 2015 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Spring 2015 issue
WMU Newsletter	News from the World Maritime University	June 2015 issue

Events

UK: THE EMERGENCY SERVICES SHOW - NEC BIRMINGHAM, 23RD TO 24TH SEPTEMBER 2015

JOIFF encourages its membership to visit the Emergency Services Show this September – JOIFF corporate members will be exhibiting and presenting on the latest developments in emergency preparedness and resilience measures

Increasing the dialogue and co-operation between the emergency services and the voluntary sector will be a key focus of The Emergency Services Show.

To register for free entry visit www.emergencyuk.com The NEC is physically linked to Birmingham International Station and Birmingham Airport and is directly accessible from the UK motorway network. Parking for visitors and exhibitors is free of charge. Thanks to JOIFF [More info](#)

UK: OFFSHORE EUROPE – ABERDEEN, 8-11 SEPTEMBER 2015 - KEYNOTE SESSION 09: OIL SPILL RESPONSE

10 Sep 2015, 14:30 - 17:30 Gordon A - The session provides the opportunity to 'tell the story' of what Industry has achieved as a result of collaborative projects following the Montara and Macondo well control related oil spills. This session will follow on from an Intervention theme on Thursday morning which will focus on Capping and Containment developments.

The central theme of the afternoon session will be built around the work of the IPIECA/IOPG Joint Industry Project on Oil Spill Response (OSR-JIP), however developments in the Oil Spill Response Organisations (OSRO's) and other JIP's (API and Arctic) are also in scope.

Events (continued)

Panellists will cover a range of topics including the use of Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA), the surface and subsea application of dispersants, the industry's newly developed model for tiered response preparedness; the use of technology to provide effective mobilization of assets into the spill; and an ongoing program of education and outreach initiatives to help members "raise the bar" on their crisis management and preparedness activities. [More info and details of speakers](#)

Training

USA: NOAA WEBINAR: GETTING TO RESTORATION

Oil spills, ship groundings, and hazardous waste sites threaten coastal communities and ecosystems across the country, but NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program is working to bring restoration to where it's needed most.

Join us for an upcoming webinar on Tuesday, July 21 to learn more about the program and how to get involved in a case near you. [Learn more](#)

Business opportunity

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE SCIENCE PROGRAM

July 10 - To support the development of a World-Class Tanker Safety System, Natural Resources Canada is launching the Oil Spill Response Science (OSRS) Program for research, development and demonstration (RD&D) projects focused on improving current mechanical recovery technologies and processes for the clean-up of heavy oil products spilled in marine environments.

NRCAN is seeking submissions for RD&D project through a Letter of Expression of Interest (LOI) process. The maximum payable for a project is \$1M and the deadline for application is 23:59 EDT August 19, 2015. For more information email: osrs@NRCan.gc.ca [ISCO thanks Dr Victoria Broje, Emergency Response Specialist / Environmental Scientist, Upstream Americas Emergency Management, Shell Exploration & Production Company, for sending in this alert for submitting expressions of interest]

Company news

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER FOR UK SPILL ASSOCIATION

The new 'phone number is 0333 444 1890 / International +44 333 444 1890

Please note that the 0845 625 9890 number has been suspended. The 0845 number incurred higher caller charges, and the new number is in line with other similar organisations.

ELASTEC RELEASES VIDEO ON ITS NEW OFFSHORE OIL SPILL RECOVERY SYSTEM

A video has been released showcasing Elastec's new product. It is an exciting, fast-paced story of the evolution of the award-winning grooved disc technology - from the Gulf Spill to the Wendy Schmidt Oil Cleanup X CHALLENGE - and now the commercial development of the X150 skimmer model with Launching System. (Watch the video at <http://elastec.com/oilspill/xskimmer/index.php> or on youtube.com <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e7Ca1UDTKqA> .)

Successful sea trials of Elastec's new system were conducted recently in the Gulf of Mexico near Port Fourchon, La., 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%.

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. <http://www.elastec.com/>

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