

## 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

### RUSSIA STAKES NEW CLAIM TO EXPANSE IN THE ARCTIC

August 4 - Russia formally staked a claim on Tuesday to a vast area of the Arctic Ocean, including the North Pole.

If the United Nations committee that arbitrates sea boundaries accepts Russia's claim, the waters will be subject to Moscow's oversight on economic matters, including fishing and oil and gas drilling, though Russia will not have full sovereignty.

Under a 1982 United Nations convention, the Law of the Sea, a nation may claim an exclusive economic zone over the continental shelf abutting its shores. If the shelf extends far out to sea, so can the boundaries of the zone. The claim Russia lodged on Tuesday contends that the shelf extends far north of the Eurasian land mass, out under the planet's northern ice cap.

*The New York Times* [Read more](#)

### MEDITERRANEAN OIL SPILL RESPONSE WORKSHOP TO BE HELD IN ADANA, TURKEY



The forthcoming Regional MOIG Workshop entitled "International, Regional and National Oil Spill Response Capability and Cooperation" is scheduled to be held over 17-19 November 2015 in Adana, Turkey.

This three day workshop will bring national, regional and international authorities together and oil spill response professionals to review and discuss oil pollution control in relation to future oil and gas developments in the Mediterranean

More information in next week's Newsletter

### EMSA'S MARITIME APPLICATIONS NOW AVAILABLE VIA A SINGLE ACCESS POINT

The Maritime Application Portal or MAP released in June of this year has been specifically designed to centralise user access to EMSA's maritime applications. MAP is a user friendly, secure, scalable and resilient entry point to the maritime applications operated by EMSA. It gives users easy access to various functionalities depending on their data access rights.

The portal went live in early June and on 27 July the EU LRIT Cooperative Data Centre was incorporated, completing the set of maritime applications available through MAP. *EMSA August 2015 Newsletter* [Read more](#)

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## International news (continued)

### MAJOR UPGRADE TO STRENGTHEN IMO CONFERENCE CAPABILITIES



As part of a programme of continual infrastructure improvements at IMO HQ in London, a major upgrade to the simultaneous interpretation and audio system in the main debating chamber, where the technical committees and sub-committees perform their vital work, is well underway. A team from the Organization's Conference Division is overseeing the project, ensuring suppliers meet stringent requirements to complete the work before the IMO Assembly meets in November this year. Multi-lingual interpretation is a crucial enabling factor behind much of IMO's work and many of its activities. *IMO Report*

## Incident reports from around the world

### USA: BAYONNE NEW YORK OIL SPILL CAUSED BY TUGBOAT HITTING PIER, COAST GUARD SAYS

August 2 - An oil spill caused by a tugboat hitting a pier at a terminal in the city is under investigation, the U.S. Coast Guard said on Sunday.

The spill at the International-Matex Tank Terminal in Bayonne was initially reported Saturday around 10 p.m., according to the Coast Guard. The terminal is located about 10 miles south of Manhattan, near where the Kill van Kull meets Upper New York Harbor. *NJ.com* [Read more](#)

#### Related reports and updates –

**Aug. 2 - Coast Guard Monitoring Oil Spill In Bayonne** [CBS Local](#)

**Aug. 4 - Coast Guard: Most of Bayonne oil spill has been cleaned** [NJ.com](#)

**Aug. 4 - New Jersey Spill Cleaned Up** [The Maritime Executive](#)

## Incident reports from around the world (continued)

### NEW ZEALAND: MOTUOPUHI, TAURANGA OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP CONTINUES



August 2 - This week regional council contractors are clearing heavy fuel oil residue from the beach on Motuopuhi (Rat) island. The combination of reasonable weather and day time low tides this week enabled more oil spill clean-up work on Motuopuhi Island.

Motuopuhi, also known as Rat Island, is only accessible on foot at low tide.

"A small team are taking advantage of favourable tide and weather conditions this week to clean-up some residual oil that had been covered by sand and has been gradually exposed by tidal movements this month," says Regional On-Scene Commander Adrian Heays. That work is expected to be completed today Friday. *SunLive.co.nz* [Read more](#)

### USA: OIL SLICK SPOTTED NEAR SANTA BARBARA ISN'T FROM AN OIL SPILL AFTER ALL

August 3 - On Wednesday, kayakers 1,000 yards off the coast of Goleta Beach paddled back to shore with their kayaks and legs coated in oil.

The Coast Guard spotted an oil slick spread over about six square miles, but too thin to be cleaned up. Authorities announced on Monday that test result show that the oil came from a natural seepage.

The oil matched tar bars that were known to come from natural seepages. A seep field on the seafloor off Santa Barbara naturally leaks thousands of gallons of oil every day. *Laist.com* [Read more](#)



## Other news reports from around the world (continued)

### CANADA: HYDRO-QUÉBEC DIESEL SPILL A BAD ONE, NUNAVIK VILLAGERS SAY

August 5 - People in the Nunavik northern village of Ivujivik say this past weekend's diesel spill at their power plant was much worse than Hydro-Québec first let on. Quebec's power corporation said Aug. 3 that a spill of about 10,000 litres took place late Aug. 1 and into the morning of Aug. 2 at the generating station that supplies power to the Hudson Strait community of Ivujivik. The power corporation told Nunatsiq News late Aug. 4 that 14,200 litres of diesel had actually spilled. *Nunatsiq News* [Read more](#)

### NEW ZEALAND: FUEL SPILL AT SAIPAN PORT CONTAINED

August 6 - Northern Marianas authorities have contained a fuel spill after Saipan was hit by Typhoon Soudelor last Sunday night. A fuel tank was damaged when a container fell into it and some of the contents leaked out. But this was contained within the bund and has now been cleaned up by CNMI authorities with the help of the Coast Guard and fuel companies. In a separate incident, another container ripped a small hole in a tank and fuel from this was fully contained within the Mobil terminal, with no impact on the harbour. *Radio New Zealand* [Read more](#)

### CANADA: COAST GUARD AND TUG CREW AVERT MAJOR OIL SPILL OFF VANCOUVER ISLAND

August 6 - Canadian Coast Guard officials and the crew of a tug had to work fast Wednesday night to prevent what could have been a major spill off the northeast coast of Vancouver Island.

A barge loaded with 60,000 litres of diesel and gasoline hit rocks and began taking on water in Surge Narrows near Campbell River. Spokesman Dan Bates says a coast guard lifeboat from Campbell River raced to the scene to help the tug crew refloat the barge. *The Province* [Read more](#)

#### Related report

August 6 - B.C. coast guard, tug crew avert major diesel and gas spill [The Globe & Mail](#)

### USA: ANIMAS RIVER IN COLORADO FOULED BY 1 MILLION GALLONS OF CONTAMINATED MINE WATER



Photo: Polluted water flows down the Animas River Friday morning, August 7, 2015. (Brent Lewis, *The Denver Post*)

August 6 - A spill that sent 1 million gallons of wastewater from an abandoned mine into the Animas River, turning the river orange, set off warnings Thursday that contaminants threaten water quality for those downstream.

The Environmental Protection Agency confirmed it triggered the spill while using heavy machinery to investigate pollutants at the Gold King Mine, north of Silverton.

Health and environmental officials are evaluating the river as it flows through San Juan and La Plata counties. They said the wastewater contained zinc, iron, copper and other heavy metals, prompting the EPA to warn agricultural users to shut off water intakes along the river and law officials to close the river to recreational users. *The Denver Post* [Read more](#)

### NIGERIA: SHELL BEGINS THE RECOVERY OF SPILLED CRUDE AT ADIBAWA OIL FIELDS

August 6 - After weeks of prolonged rift with host communities and the resulting degradation of the environment, the Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria (SPDC) has commenced the recovery of spilled crude from its Adibawa oil fields.

Mr. Sunny Jacob Ubele, the traditional ruler of Edagberi community, said on Thursday that the oil recovery started on Tuesday after the resolution of a faceoff between the officials of SPDC and the Chairman of Ahoada West Local Government in Rivers State.

Mr. Ubele said that the community cooperated with officials of the oil firm, but expressed reservations when Shell authorities attempted to manipulate the Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) procedure. "It is very untrue that we denied them access, if we did, how did they managed to stop the spill?" Mr. Ubele said.

Meanwhile, SPDC said that the oil leakage from its oil fields located in Edagberi community in Rivers State was caused by thieves who targeted the wellhead. A statement from Mr Joseph Obari, an SPDC spokesman, said that the organization regretted the delay to an investigation of a leak at Adibawa-well-8 in the Eastern Niger Delta, where a suspected attempt to steal the wellhead led to a spill. *SaharaReporters.com* [Read more](#)

**Note from Editor: INCIDENT REPORTS: ROAD TANKER ROLLOVERS, FUEL STATIONS, STATIC TANKS, ETC. - Your Editor would like to remind readers that the ISCO Newsletter does not usually report on incidents of these kinds because there are far too many and, in any case, these are already really well covered by Don Johnston in his excellent newsletter "Newsy Stuff". This newsletter is circulated free of charge every few days to members of the DG & Hazmat Group To find out more about subscribing to "Newsy Stuff", visit - [dangerousgoods-subscribe@yahoogroups.com](mailto:dangerousgoods-subscribe@yahoogroups.com)**

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

### AUSTRALIA: DIESEL SLICK IN SWAN RIVER UNDER INVESTIGATION

July 30 - A large diesel slick that has appeared in the Swan River in central Perth is being investigated by the Department of Parks and Wildlife. It is believed the 500-metre oil slick began to form about 9:00am near the Barrack Street jetty and was reported to the department later in the morning

The department said in a statement it was working to mitigate the oil's impact on the river. Absorption booms have been brought in to contain the spill and recover as much diesel from the river as possible. *ABC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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### BANGLADESH: GOVERNMENT READINGY CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR OIL SPILLS

August 6 - Following two major oil spill incidents within the span of only six months, the government is finally taking a long-overdue initiative to formulate a national contingency plan for oil spills, the environment secretary has said. The Ministry of Environment and Forest is now finalising the contingency plan by consulting with different stakeholders, Secretary Kamal Uddin Ahmed told a workshop at the city's Cirdap auditorium yesterday. Bangladesh was supposed to formulate such a plan in 2010 when it signed a memorandum of understanding with India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to formulate a regional contingency plan. *Dhaka Tribune* [Read more](#)

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### CANADA: FORENSIC EVIDENCE CONFIRMS SOURCE OF BUNKER FUEL SPILL IN ENGLISH BAY

July 17 - There is now forensic evidence confirming the source of the bunker fuel spill in English Bay last April. An analysis done by the Vancouver Aquarium has come to a predictable conclusion about where the 2,700 litres of fuel came from. High resolution hydro carbon analysis shows cargo ship MV Marathassa is indeed the source of the bunker fuel. *Vancouver News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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### CANADA: SHELL GETS OK TO TAKE 21 DAYS TO CAP BLOWOUTS OFF NOVA SCOTIA COAST

August 5 - A Nova Scotia environmentalist is criticizing federal Environment Minister Leona Aglukkaq's decision to approve an "almost inconceivable" offshore drilling plan from Shell that allows up to 21 days to contain a subsea blowout, despite the U.S. requiring the same company to cap blowouts within 24 hours.

On June 15, Aglukkaq signed off on the Canadian Environmental Assessment Agency's assessment of Shell Canada's Shelburne Basin Venture Exploration Drilling Project. Shell Canada's spill containment plan, accepted by the agency, says it can have a primary capping stack in place within 12 to 21 days after a blowout off southern Nova Scotia. *CBC News* [Read more](#)

#### Related report –

#### Ottawa: Requiring one-day response to possible offshore spill too expensive

August 6 - The federal government says it is agreeing to an offshore drilling plan that allows up to 21 days to bring in capping technology for a subsea well blowout because requiring a shorter response time would be too expensive for Shell Canada Ltd.

Nova Scotia environmentalists are questioning why the federal environmental protection agency has signed off on a plan that allows between 12 and 21 days for the multinational company to bring a vessel and a capping system to the Shelburne Basin offshore site, about 250 kilometres off the southwestern coast of Nova Scotia.

They are noting that the most recent U.S. ruling in Alaska requires the capping stack to be on hand for a blowout within 24 hours. *Huffington Post* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman, Marine Pollution Control]

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### CANADA WANTS TO BAN THE TINY PLASTIC MICROBEADS FOUND IN TOOTHPASTE. HERE'S WHY.

August 7 - Adding their name to a growing list of microbead opponents, the Canadian government recently announced that it would be moving toward a ban of the tiny plastic particles that are ubiquitous in personal care products. The announcement, made last week, follows a scientific review of 130 papers, which found that microbeads "may have long-term effects on biological diversity and ecosystems," according to the *Toronto Star*. These tiny particles, measuring anywhere from 0.1 micrometres to five millimeters in diameter, are most often used in lotions, makeup, toothpastes, and soaps, normally as an exfoliant.

When those products are washed down the drain, however, the tiny pieces of plastic don't just dissolve. Instead, they pass through the filters in water treatment systems — too small to be detected — and into waterways, eventually gathering in large bodies of water and adding to the ever-growing amount of plastic trash in the oceans. When consumed by marine life, the microbeads can also make their way up the food chain, potentially ending up in the flesh of fish that humans eat. *Climate Progress* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman, Marine Pollution Control]

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### INDIA: OZ SCIENTISTS MAY COLLABORATE TO DECONTAMINATE RAJ RIVERS

August 4 - Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE), one of Australia's leading research organization expressed its willingness to collaborate to clean up contaminated rivers in Rajasthan through bio remediation technology. The center may offer its services in the areas of research, dialog and field implementation, Prof Ravi Naidu, the managing director of CRC CARE, said in a seminar organized at Vidhya Bhawan polytechnic college here on

## Other news reports from around the world (continued)

Tuesday. The meeting was attended by Industrialists, environmentalists, social workers and academicians. " Indian and Australian governments have consented to join hands for environment upliftment. We are ready to offer our expertise to Rajasthan government to tackle pollution problems for its major water bodies, only if the latter sends a proposal to this regard" Prof Naidu said. In the first phase, the contamination specialist visited the site of the legendary Ayad river here and suggested bio remediation techniques to decontaminate. *Udaipuram Kiran* [Read more](#)

### INDIA: GOA MOST PRONE TO DECANTING TANKERS



Photo: Capt. D. C. Sekhar, MD of AlphaMERS and Representative of India on the ISCO Council

August 7 - There are more chances of something going wrong during tankers' decanting process along the coasts of Karwar and Goa because more operations take place here, D C Sekhar, MD Alpha Mers, said at a workshop on Oil Spill Risks and Response at the International Centre Goa on Wednesday.

Goa faces a risk from one shipping lane- Persian Gulf to the Far East- from tankers returning on the route. "When tankers move along the west coast of India, they cannot decant along the coast of Trivandrum up to Mangalore as the shipping lane is fairly close to these coasts and tankers are permitted to decant only beyond a specified distance from the coast. As the tankers move further north, the distance of the shipping lane from the coastline increases and decanting can take place. It is more likely that decanting operations

take place here along the coasts of Karwar and Goa because tankers have to complete the decanting process before entering the Persian Gulf which is listed as a special area. They have a small time-window and would prefer completing the operations at the earliest. Since operations are higher, the chances of an oil spill or operational discharge during the decanting process are higher," said Sekhar, who represents India on the council of International Spill Control Organisation (ISCO). *The Times of India*

[Read more](#) See also – Contributed Article on Page 9.

### INDIA: MRPL, NMPT TOLD TO RESOLVE OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT BETWEEN THEMSELVES



Photo: H. Kumar, Managing Director, MRPL; A.B. Ibrahim, Deputy Commissioner; and Sharanappa S.D. Superintendent of Police, at the disaster management meeting in Mangaluru on Thursday.— Photo: H.S. Manjunath

August 7 - The district disaster management committee on Thursday asked the New Mangalore Port Trust and Mangalore Refinery and Petrochemicals Ltd. to resolve between themselves the issue of setting up an oil spill disaster management system in New Mangalore Port.

The oil spill management system needs to be in place to prevent spread of petroleum product spill in the sea. NMPT claimed that the Union government would bear half the project cost, about Rs. 4 crore, while users of oil facilities would have to bear the remaining amount. Accordingly, MRPL, being the largest user, would have to bear about Rs. 3.75 crore.

However, MRPL officials disputed the claim and pointed out a circular issued by the Ministry of Shipping in March 2015, which indicated that the remaining cost would have to be borne by the port. Following this, Deputy Commissioner A.B. Ibrahim asked both the public sector undertakings to resolve the issue amicably. Meanwhile, an official of MRPL said the company has an oil-field disaster management facility at its single mooring point, about 15 km from the port, inside the sea. In any cases of emergency, the company was prepared to deploy this facility at NMPT and assist the port to contain spillage. *The Hindu* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman, Marine Pollution Control]

### IRELAND: RESEARCH TEAM AT DUBLIN CITY UNIVERSITY EXAMINING HOW EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE MAY BE ENHANCED THROUGH THE DEPLOYMENT OF AN EFFECTIVE RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

August 5 - Dr Caroline McMullan, Gavin D. Brown and Jennifer Halford are working on this project to improve emergency preparedness and response. If you are involved in emergency management within your organisation, they hope you will assist by completing a survey which should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete. Your participation is entirely voluntary and your responses will be anonymous. Only the individuals listed above will have access to the raw data. [Download the survey form](#)

If you would like more information regarding this study, please contact by email at: [caroline.mcmullan@dcu.ie](mailto:caroline.mcmullan@dcu.ie). [Thanks to Robin Blandford of D4H Technologies]

### NIGERIA BACKS QUICK CLEAN-UP OF HALF CENTURY OF OIL SPILLS

August 6 - Nigerian President Muhammadu Buhari said he's accelerating plans for one of the world's largest oil cleanups following 50 years of spillage at operations in the Ogoniland region of the Niger Delta.

Buhari on Wednesday approved the composition of a governing council and board of trustees to oversee the restoration plan. A group of "stakeholders" will release as much as \$10 million within 30 days of formally creating a trust fund to manage financial contributions, according to an e-mailed statement from the office of the presidency.

The West African nation has been criticized for failing to act on a 2011 report by the United Nations Environment Programme that



## Other news reports from around the world (continued)

linked oil spills in Ogoniland to groundwater contamination, including cancer-causing substances, and polluted ecosystems, posing threats to the health of humans and wildlife. The UN said the recovery would be the world's "most wide-ranging and long-term oil cleanup" lasting three decades and it would take an initial capital injection of \$1 billion. *Bloomberg* [Read more](#)

### Related report – Nigerian government finally sets up fund to clean up Ogoniland oil spills

August 7 - The long-delayed \$1bn clean-up of heavily oil-contaminated Ogoniland in the Niger delta has moved closer with Nigerian president Muhammadu Buhari setting up a restoration fund four years after a damning UN report advised the government and oil industry to act urgently.

But a spokesman for Shell, which discovered oil in Ogoniland in 1957 and exploited it until it was forced out because of pollution in 1993, said money would not be released until the Nigerian government went further, establishing a satisfactory governing structure and appointing commissioners to oversee the clean-up process. Shell has accepted responsibility for cleaning up hundreds of its old spills in the small oil-rich delta region near Port Harcourt, but the spokesman said: "[The money] will be made available when we are sure that the structures are in place, are robust and will be overseen correctly. It is very much the responsibility of the Nigerian government." *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

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## NORWAY: NEXT NOSCA SEMINAR WILL TAKE PLACE IN 2016

NOSCA has released the following statement – "NOSCA seminar 2015 - We feel that 2015 is a very special year for our industry. Many of our colleagues and customers experience a challenging time where focus need to be changed and where, in some cases, travelling is restricted.

The NOSCA board has therefore, after long and thorough discussions, decided to postpone the annual NOSCA seminar to the year 2016. We will do our utmost to prepare an outstanding seminar next year, and will inform you as soon as we can about the time and place. Thank you for your understanding, and we sincerely hope to see you for the 2016 NOSCA seminar!" <http://www.nosca.no/>

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## PERU: OVER A THOUSAND CASES OF OIL CONTAMINATION IGNORED

July 23 - Peru's last three governments have neglected the impact companies have had on the environment, overlooking more than one thousand environmental agency reports, an investigative team of journalists and data analysts announced on Thursday. According to a report published by the Convoca investigative team, titled "The Footprints of the Petroleum They Tried to Hide," the governments of former presidents Alejandro Toledo, Alan García, and Ollanta Humala ignored more than one thousand reports on the environmental impact of hydrocarbon and energy businesses over the last ten years.

Experts further argue that several of the ignored reports documented grave infractions of environmental standards.

Authorities did not act on the reports during the four-year period in which they are legally able to take action against infringing companies. *Telesurtv.net* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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## UK: MARINE OIL POLLUTION DOCUMENT UPDATES

August 5 - The Marine Management Organisation has updated one of its documents related to oil pollution and contingency planning, while the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has issued details of its national training course on oil pollution, contingency planning and response for 2015/2016.

Annex A of the the [Marine Pollution Contingency Plan](#) now includes a list of oil spill treatment products approved for use in the United Kingdom. The plan essentially summarises the procedures that the Marine Management Organisation follows in the event of a marine pollution incident. Full details are available at [gov.uk](http://gov.uk). *Croner* [Read more](#)

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## USA: A TIMELINE OF RECENT OIL TRAIN CRASHES IN THE US AND CANADA

July 17 - The derailment of an oil train in rural northeastern Montana follows a string of accidents as shipments of crude by rail have increased dramatically in recent years, driven by a surge in domestic production. This article gives a summary of 12 recent rail incidents that have taken place over the last 12 months. *Star Tribune* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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## USA: U.S. COAST GUARD CELEBRATES 225TH ANNIVERSARY



Editor – Although this anniversary was reported on in last week's newsletter, I missed out on this article in *The Maritime Executive*. It's interesting and well worth reading ...

The Coast Guard traces its history back to the first Secretary of the Treasury, Alexander Hamilton. Hamilton proposed building sea-going revenue cutters to collect revenue for the new Republic and serve as "useful sentinels of the law."

President George Washington signed the bill passed by the first Congress August 4, 1790 that authorized construction of ten cutters to enforce tariff and trade laws and to prevent smuggling. [Read on ...](#)

## Other news reports from around the world (continued)

### USA: CALIFORNIA OIL SPILL MIGHT BE LARGER THAN PROJECTED

August 5 - More than two months after oil from a ruptured pipeline fouled California beaches, documents released Wednesday disclosed that the spill might have been far larger than earlier projected.

Plains All American Pipeline had estimated that the May 19 break along a corroded section of pipe near Santa Barbara released up to 101,000 gallons of crude. The resulting mess forced a popular state park to shut down for two months, and goo from the spill washed up on beaches as far as 100 miles away.

In documents made public Wednesday, the Texas-based company said alternate calculations found the spill might have been up to 143,000 gallons, or about 40 percent larger. *Associated Press* [Read more](#)

#### Related reports –

**August 7 - Texas Pipeline Company Admits Santa Barbara Oil Spill Was 40 Percent Larger Than Estimated** *NewsVice.com* [Read more](#)

**August 7 - California Pipeline Spill Estimate Increased** *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

### USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON: THERE'S MORE TO BE DONE

August 6 - Much has been done to reduce the risk of another major incident such as the Macondo tragedy, but more change is needed. This is a key message in a recent summary by DNV GL of findings and recommendations by 21 major inquiries into the BP Deepwater Horizon drilling rig explosion and oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010.

The inquiries were conducted by governmental, industry and independent organizations in the U.S., U.K., Norway and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

"We have carried out this review, because no single investigation provides a full overview of the actions recommended to prevent another Macondo," said Peter Bjerager, director for the Americas, DNV GL - Oil & Gas. "There will doubtless be further investigations, particularly around long-term environmental effects of the spill. The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) intends to address organizational and human factors. Five years on though, it is timely to review key lessons and recommendations." *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

### USA: INSPECTORS WATCHING SHELL 24/7



*Photo: BSEE inspector on board Polar Pioneer*

August 7 - Shell has started its drilling operations in the Arctic and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is keeping very close tabs on their activities.

BSEE Inspectors arrived in the Chukchi Sea to ensure the oil major is in compliance with federal regulations and safety standards. The BSEE will oversee Shell's drilling operations 24/7 in perpetuity. Two inspectors are onsite at the drill sites. One is onboard the Polar Pioneer, a semi-submersible drilling unit, at Burger J. The other is with the Noble Discoverer, a drillship, at Burger V.

*The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

## People in the news

### SCOTT LUNDGREN JOINS NOAA



Scott Lundgren, has joined NOAA and is now Chief, Emergency Response Division, Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA National Ocean Service.

Prior to taking up his new position, he was Senior Technical Advisor and Deputy Chief of the Coast Guard Office of Marine Environmental Response Policy (CG-MER), leading the development of doctrine, policy, and guidelines for the Coast Guard's Marine Environmental Response Mission. CG-MER's efforts focus on domestic oil and hazardous substance response, while also supporting the development of response systems and cooperative response arrangements internationally.

## ISCO news

### UPDATE IN TECHNICAL & REFERENCE AREA OF ISCO WEBSITE

The Chemical Aquatic Fate and Effects (CAFE) database is a new software program you can use to estimate the fate and effects of thousands of chemicals, oils, and dispersants. For handy reference the link for downloading this very useful tool has been added to both the Oil Spill Response and Chemical / HNS Response sections of the Technical & Reference area on the ISCO website. Look under Members' Menu, then click on Technical & Reference. For more info on CAFÉ go to Technical Support on Page 8.

### NEW ARTICLE UPLOADED IN MEMBERS' AREA OF ISCO WEBSITE

An interesting article - CASE HISTORY - RESPONSE TO AN ONSHORE HEAVY FUEL OIL SPILL IN THE SCOTTISH HIGHLANDS, has just been uploaded in the Members' Area. After logging in, look under Members' Menu and click on Technical & Reference, then select Technical Articles.

Based on an actual spill event, this case history was originally published in the Oil Spill Bulletin and Environmental Review (OSBER), a monthly journal published by Alba International Ltd., based in Aberdeen, Scotland. It was reprinted in the ISCO Newsletter during June 2012. One ISCO member, Brian O'Connor, of the Canberra and Regions Oil Industry Response Group in Australia found the article so useful that he had it reprinted as a booklet for training purposes.

The response action was a complete success, preventing the pollution of one of Scotland's greatest fishing rivers. A key feature of the response was the construction of a large interceptor dam which provided a 100% effective failsafe barrier for an extended time during which heavily overgrown watercourses were cleaned, removing all traces of fuel and oiled vegetation.

Another interesting point was a successful co-operation between the experienced Alba team and several employees of the affected industrial premises during an extended and labour intensive clean-up operation.

When the clean-up operations were completed, a splendid Ceilidh (celebration) was held at the local inn. With fiddle and accordion music everyone had a great time and many drams were consumed. This was a spill response looked back on with good memories for everyone involved.

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### MEMBER PROFILES IN THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

Your editor has been asked by Corporate Members asking if the ISCO Newsletter would be willing to print articles about their companies. The answer is YES.

It has been agreed that members be asked to make a contribution of £185 to ISCO funds for publication of a one page company profile. Given that the ISCO Newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in over 60 countries, it's a cost-effective way to promote your company. Interested members should contact the editor at [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org). This facility is only available to Corporate Members.

## Science and technology

### SCIENTISTS FIND A NATURAL WAY TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS, WITH A PLANT-BASED MOLECULE

July 29 - After an oil spill, the number one priority is finding a way to contain and remove the oil. Boat operators sometimes deploy physical booms to trap the oil so that it can be siphoned or burned off of the water's surface. But, because oil in water is tricky to contain, other methods for corralling it call for adding manmade chemicals to the water.

In a technique called dispersion, chemicals and wave action break down the oil into smaller particles, which then disperse and slowly biodegrade over a large area. Then, there is chemical herding. To clean up an oil spill with a chemical herder, crews spray a compound around the perimeter of the spill. The compound stays on the surface and causes the oil to thicken. Once it's thick enough, it can be burned off. Chemical herding requires calm water, which makes it unreliable in some spills, but, unlike mechanical removal or dispersion, it gets all the oil. The technique has been around since the 1970s, but, until now, the chemicals used to herd the oil, called soap surfactants, didn't break down over time. After the oil burned off, they'd still be in the ecosystem.

Researchers at the City College of New York, led by chemist George John and chemical engineer Charles Maldarelli, have developed a way to clean up oil using a chemical herder made of phytol, a molecule in chlorophyll that makes algae green. It's the first non-toxic, natural way to remediate oil spills.

Read more: <http://www.smithsonianmag.com/innovation/scientists-find-natural-way-to-clean-up-oil-spills-with-plant-based-molecule-180955815/#iFy3oq97JqLJDWK4.99> Give the gift of Smithsonian magazine for only \$12! <http://bit.ly/1cGUIGv> Follow us: @SmithsonianMag on Twitter

## Technical Support

### NEW RESPONSE TOOL LAUNCHED BY NOAA -THE CHEMICAL AQUATIC FATE AND EFFECTS DATABASE (CAFE)

August 3 - Ed Levine of NOAA has been in touch to announce the release of a really useful new response tool – “It is with great pleasure that I'm sending a note out to alert everyone that The Chemical Aquatic Fate and Effects Database (CAFE) is available to be downloaded at the URL below:

<http://response.restoration.noaa.gov/cafe>

Many of you know about CAFE as it has been in development for several years, but to those that don't this is a state of the art chemical spill response tool that provides information about a chemical's intrinsic properties and how the chemical will behave when spilled into the environment, along with valuable ecotoxicity evaluation. The chemical database is quite large (nearly 40,000 materials). Please take a look and spread the word to your colleagues in state and local government and private business”

Editor – For the convenience of ISCO members the link for downloading CAFÉ is also available in the Technical & Reference Area (See ISCO News on Page 7) More info about CAFÉ will be published in a later issue of the ISCO Newsletter.



## Contributed item

### REPORT FROM CAPT. SEKHAR ON THE WORKSHOP HELD IN GOA, INDIA

August 8 - AlphaMERS carried out a half day workshop at ICG, Goa on the 5th of August to debate the oil spill risks on the Goan coastline and available options to mitigate this risk. The workshop attendees were mostly from various Government departments, including pollution control board, tourism, water resources and fisheries.



Capt. Sekhar MD of AlphaMERS, presented the latest technology for surveillance and response in his presentation. He described the organization 'ISCO' and how it can play a key role in a spill emergency. Priyad Kulkarni from Norwegian Special Missions explained the latest options available for aerial spill surveillance. Capt. RK Goel, coming from port operation background, described the role of an OSRO in ensuring professional spill response capability. AlphaMERS elaborated on its service model to contracted clients for access to shared equipment inventory, owned and maintained by AlphaMERS in a suitably central location.

On display, were two proprietary items designed by the company a high current boom and a trash boom.

## Publications

### NEW BOOK: "GREEN TRANSPORTATION LOGISTICS: THE QUEST FOR WIN-WIN SOLUTIONS"

July 21 – ISCO Member of Council for Greece, Prof. Harilaos N. Psarrafis's newly published book is now available. For more details please view the links –

<http://www.springer.com/us/book/9783319171746>  
([http://www.amazon.com/Green-Transportation-Logistics-International-Operations/dp/3319171747/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1437500405&sr=8-1&keywords=9783319171746](http://www.amazon.com/Green-Transportation-Logistics-International-Operations/dp/3319171747/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1437500405&sr=8-1&keywords=9783319171746))

Part of the book deals with the EU project Supergreen, but there are also additional chapters on a variety of related topics.

### IPIECA: DISPERSANTS: SUBSEA APPLICATION - GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES

The experience gained during the response to the release from the Macondo well associated with the Deepwater Horizon accident off the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 has shown that subsea dispersant injection (SSDI) can be an effective response technique for subsea oil and gas blowouts. More oil would have come ashore if subsea dispersant use had not been undertaken. The challenges of conducting a response to oil released 5,100 feet (1,550 m) below the sea surface with a technique that had never been used before were great. Considerable ingenuity and expertise were required to develop SSDI into a viable response during the largest oil spill response ever conducted.

As a subsea response to a subsea oil release, SSDI has many advantages over the strategy of responding to the released oil only when it reaches the sea surface. For example, SSDI:

- treats oil released at the point of release
- requires less dispersant compared to surface oil treatment;
- reduces the exposure of responders to the health and safety hazards of VOCs and oil; and
- can be conducted continuously, day and night and in practically any weather conditions, unlike response techniques on the sea surface.

This publication is part of the IPIECA-IOPG Good Practice Guide Series which summarizes current views on good practice for a range of oil spill preparedness and response topics. The series aims to help align industry practices and activities, inform stakeholders, and serve as a communication tool to promote awareness and education. [Download the SSDI Guidelines](#)

## 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](#)  
[NOAA update](#)  
[OCIMF Newsletter](#)  
[Pollution Online Newsletter](#)  
[Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter](#)  
[SAC News](#)

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  
Oil spill response news from NOAA OR&R  
News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum  
News for prevention & control professionals  
Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm  
Oil spill related and other news from Alaska

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

[Technology Innovation News Survey](#)  
[The Essential Hazmat News](#)  
[Transport Canada Newsletter](#)  
[USA EPA Tech Direct](#)  
[USA EPA Tech News & Trends](#)  
[WMU Newsletter](#)

From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination  
Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals  
News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada  
Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater  
Contaminated site clean-up information  
News from the World Maritime University

June 16 - 30 2015  
July 27 issue  
Winter 2014 issue  
August 1 2015 issue  
Spring 2015 issue  
June 2015 issue

## Training

### EUROPE: EMSA TRAINING COURSE ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION, LISBON, PORTUGAL, 11/11/2015

The IOPC Funds will participate in a training course on liability and compensation organised by the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) in Lisbon, Portugal on 11 and 12 November 2015. The first day will be led by EMSA and focussed on Directive 2009/20/EC on the Insurance of Shipowners for Maritime Claims. The second day will be led by the IOPC Funds and will focus on the international liability and compensation regime for oil as well as the 2010 HNS Convention. This training is aimed at representatives of maritime administrations from the EU Member States. <http://www.iopcfunds.org/>

### SINGAPORE: TRAINING COURSES ANNOUNCEMENT FROM SWIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Swire Emergency Response Services is pleased to announce the following dates for IMO 2 and IMO 3 oil spill response courses being held at Swire Marine Training Centre in Singapore during 2016. - February 22-26, May 23-27, August 1-5, October 31 to November 4

During all courses, delegates will also have the opportunity to see a demonstration of slow speed maneuvering of vessels as would be required in a response on the Training Centre's modern Full Bridge Simulators.

For further information or to book onto a course, please contact [info@swire-ers.com](mailto:info@swire-ers.com) or telephone +971 4 304 6100"

### MALAYSIA: CRISIS MANAGEMENT IN MAJOR HAZARD ACCIDENTS, OCT. 26–27 KUALA LUMPUR

This Workshop aims to provide delegates with an in-depth knowledge of all aspects of risk identification, development of emergency plans and emergency management processes. Emphasis is placed on the practical aspects of emergency planning and its implementation in high risk industries. For more information, please contact us at [yana@yf-asia.com](mailto:yana@yf-asia.com) or telephone +656225 8066

## Events

### UK: OCTOBER 2015 IOPC FUNDS MEETINGS

Invitations and Agendas have now been issued for the next meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies, which will take place from 19-23 October 2015 at the Headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London. [More info](#)

### USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION: REAR ADMIRAL DAVID R. CALLAHAN, DISTRICT COMMANDER, U.S. COAST GUARD EIGHTH DISTRICT, TO DELIVER KEYNOTE ADDRESS

On Wednesday, November 11, CLEAN GULF will kick-off with a Veteran's Day Commemoration followed by the Keynote Address delivered by Rear Admiral Callahan. The Keynote will address OPA 90 and CLEAN GULF - 25 Years of Stewardship, the Role and Impact of the U.S. Coast Guard.

Rear Admiral Callahan serves as the Commander of the Eighth Coast Guard District headquartered in New Orleans. The Eighth Coast Guard District oversees Coast Guard operations of the Western Rivers, Gulf Coast and Outer Continental Shelf. [More info](#)

### USA: PETROTRANS SUMMIT, TRAINING & SOLUTIONS EXPO. CHICAGO, SEPT. 30 - OCT. 2

The petroleum transportation industry's premier Summit for incident & spill prevention, planning, preparedness & emergency response. Where leaders, managers, regulators and key stakeholders in the environmental, safety and regulatory industry for all modes of inland petroleum and refined product transportation get their latest insight, training and solutions.

The agenda is based on industry-wide input from \* Federal, State & Provincial Regulators \* Emergency Responder \* Environmental, Health & Safety Executives from Operators & Transporters [More info](#)

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following 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. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org)