

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

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NEW API SUNKEN OIL DETECTION AND RECOVERY TECHNICAL REPORT AND OPERATIONAL GUIDE

Just received by ISCO are two new publications released by API in February 2016 - (1) Sunken Oil Detection and Recovery Technical Report (2) A Sunken Oil Detection and Recovery Field Guide.

ISCO's Secretary commented "The Report and Field Guide represent a very comprehensive and professional body of work. The reports will be very useful for our members and the spill response community in general".

Co-author Dr Jacqueline Michel writes – "These reports are based on entirely new analysis of all available data. Nothing was re-hashed from previous works" The other authors are Mark Ploen, Jim Elliott and William Key.

The publications can be downloaded at [Sunken Oil Detection and Recovery Technical Report](#) and [Sunken Oil Detection and Recovery Field Guide](#)

OGC ANNOUNCES OIL SPILL RESPONSE COMMON OPERATING PICTURE RECOMMENDED PRACTICE

March 3 - The Open Geospatial Consortium (OGC®) announces that the International Association of Oil & Gas Producers (IOGP) through the Geomatics Committee and IPIECA (the global oil and gas industry association for environmental and social issues) have issued, in cooperation with OGC and Resource Data, Inc., the OGC IOGP/IPIECA Recommended Practice for a Common Operating Picture for Oil Spill Response. This is the final report of the IOGP/IPIECA Joint Industry Project to produce a recommended practice for GIS/Mapping in support of Oil Spill Response and for the use of GIS technology and geospatial information in forming a Common Operating Picture (COP) for management of the response.

Rob Cox, Technical Director, IPIECA, explained, "The report lays the groundwork for coordinated activities by multiple stakeholders that need to come together quickly to respond to a spill. Having the report endorsed as an OGC Best Practice gives it the authority it needs to act as a focal point in support of that coordination.

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Data from Sentinel-1 is already being used to provide EMSA's oil spill and vessel detection services (CleanSeaNet) in an economically efficient manner and to provide near real time services over all European waters. TerraSAR-X and TanDEM-X will allow the acquisition of high resolution and wide-area radar images, delivering optimised revisit time, increased coverage and improved vessel detection capacity. Source: [EMSA Newsletter March 2016](#)

NIGERIAN COMMUNITIES CAN SUE ROYAL DUTCH SHELL OVER OIL SPILLS, U.K. COURT SAYS

March 2 - Two Nigerian communities can sue Royal Dutch Shell PLC's Nigerian unit in the U.K. over oil spills in the West African country, a London court ruled Wednesday, testing whether energy companies can be held liable in their home country for events elsewhere. *The Wall Street Journal* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (listed in chronological order)

BRAZIL: POLLUTION THREATENS RIO OLYMPICS

February 27 - With less than 250 days shy to the Olympics, authorities will have to clean up the area as events such as sailing, open water swimming and triathlon races will take place there.

An ongoing sewage situation is threatening to put a damper to the games if not sorted on time. With this in hand, activists took the initiative of collecting garbage in order to draw attention to the problem. *Africa News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman, Marine Pollution Control.]

International news (continued)

As stated in the report, "Responding to an oil spill requires access to and understanding of many types of information.

Effective, coordinated operations for the response are based on a shared, common picture of the situation. Interoperability provides shared situational awareness of the crisis and the response activities. What is needed is a common picture of reality for different organizations that have different views of the spill so that they all can deal with it collectively. *Directions Magazine* [Read more](#)

EMSA: ENHANCED SUPPORT FOR DECISION MAKING ON THE USE OF DISPERSANTS

EMSA organised a two-day training course for pollution response experts on 3-4 February to present the recently upgraded version of the Dispersant Usage Evaluation Tool- DUET.

This software system provides support for decision-making on the use of dispersants when responding to an oil spill, as well as support for contingency planning. The system's three-dimensional numerical model makes it possible to simulate oil spills and the effect of the application of different dispersants. This enables a quantitative comparison of various response options and shows the different levels of effectiveness of the dispersants applied.

Among DUET's new features is the ability to simulate a continuous oil release from a seabed blowout, the possibility of simulating and evaluating the effect of subsea dispersant application in addition to the existing surface oil releases. A reference oil database and a document section that includes a number of scientific and technical papers on dispersant usage as well as information on oil weathering and dispersant effectiveness is also part of DUET. The training session was attended by 18 pollution response experts from 15 coastal EU member states, EFTA/EEA coastal states and coastal EU candidate countries. For more information, visit <http://www.emsa.europa.eu/>

EMSA: OIL SPILL & VESSEL DETECTION - ADDITIONAL SATELLITE SENSORS TO OFFER INCREASED COVERAGE AND IMPROVED SERVICE

The EMSA portfolio of Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) satellites and sensors has been expanded recently. In addition to RADARSAT-2, the Agency's portfolio now includes the European Space Agency (ESA) operated satellite Sentinel-1, launched under the EU's Copernicus programme, as well as Airbus's TerraSar-X / TanDEM-X constellation.

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

USA: NEW YORK - OIL SPILL LEAKS UP TO 600 GALLONS INTO BRONX RIVER

February 27 - As much as 600 gallons of oil drained into the Bronx River Saturday as hazmat crews scrambled to clean up a large oil spill.

"It's a major cleanup operation," said Yonkers Fire Department Chief of Operations Robert Capurso.

The truck, carrying 6,000 gallons of home-heating oil, was en route to Glendale Gardens, an apartment building at 125 Bronx River Road, around 8:30 a.m., Battalion Chief Timothy Fitzpatrick said. As the truck pulled into a driveway to make the delivery, oil began leaking out of the truck. [Lohud.com](#) [Read more](#)

PHILIPPINES: OIL SPILL FROM GAS PIPELINE AFFECTS 3 PUROKS OF BANAGO

February 27 - THREE puroks (sub-villages) of Barangay Banago, Bacolod City reported a leakage emanating from the pipeline of a gasoline company operating in the village. Affected are residents of Purok Baybayon, Alalahoy, and Lilang. [Sun Star](#)
[Read more](#)

IRAN: OIL SPILL CLEANUP AT IRANIAN PORT CONCLUDES: OFFICIAL

February 28 - An oil spill caused by the release of mazut from a foreign ship off the coast of Iran's southeastern Chabahar port has been cleaned up, an official said.

Managing Director of the Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran's Sistan and Baluchestan province Siavash Rezvani said on Sunday that the cleanup operation has been accomplished by the Iranian teams equipped with special gear for dealing with oil pollution emergencies. [Tasnim News Agency](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman, Marine Pollution Control]

PERU DECLARES EMERGENCY IN AMAZON DISTRICT DUE TO OIL SPILL

February 28 - The Peruvian government on Sunday declared an emergency in 16 communities in Morona, a district in the Amazonian region of Loreto, due to environmental damage caused by the oil spill from the North Peruvian Pipeline in Cashacaño. The declaration, which was published in the official daily El Peruano, will be in effect for 60 days and requires officials in the Loreto regional government, Datem del Marañón province and the district of Morona to coordinate response and restoration programs with other government agencies. [Fox News Latino](#) [Read more](#)

March 1 - Petroperu hires international corp. services for remediation of oil spill - Petroperu contracted the services of Lamor (Larsen Marine Oil Recovery) Corporation to carry out works in areas affected by oil spill at kilometers 441 and 206 of the North Peruvian Pipeline. Such company cleans around five oil spills per day in different countries and is a world leader in containment, recovery, cleaning and environmental remediation. Lamor experts have already reached the affected area to speed up cleaning and remediation of soil and flora. [Andina.com](#) [Read more](#)

THAILAND: ABANDONED CRUISE SHIP CAPSIZES

February 29 - The former Sun Princess, built in 1972 and best known as a guest star on the TV series Love Boat, has capsized and partially sunk off Thailand, resulting in an oil spill.

The vessel, recently renamed Ocean Dream and flagged in Sierra Leone, has sat at anchor for at least a year, abandoned by its owners with no crew and no maintenance, in spite of pleas from the authorities to remove her from the area.

As of Sunday, crews were using dispersants and skimmers to clean up the spill. Video imagery shows the extent of the oily sheen and discoloration of the water. [The Maritime Executive](#) [Read more](#) [Watch video](#) Related report in [gCaptain](#)

March 1 - Weather Impedes Clean Up of Thai Bunker Spill - Due to high winds and waves, Thailand's Marine Department Sunday said it was unable to proceed with cleanup efforts for a bunker spill from the now sunken cruise liner Ocean Dream off Koh Nok in the Si Racha district, local media reports.

Leaking oil is reported to have caused a thin film on the water's surface, covering an area of about 5.2 square kilometres behind the vessel, evading oil booms as a result of the high wind. [Ship & Bunker](#) [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH DAKOTA - UNDERGROUND TANK LEAKS 10,000 GALLONS OF GAS INTO SOIL

March 2 - ALEXANDER, N.D. -- An underground storage tank at a Bakken Oil Patch gas station along U.S. Highway 85 leaked 10,000 gallons of premium gasoline into the soil, the North Dakota Department of Health said Tuesday. [Wday.com](#) [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

USA: NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN DERAILS NEAR RIPLEY, NEW YORK; CARS LEAK ETHANOL

March 2 - Local residents were evacuated from their homes after a train carrying hazardous materials derailed in western New York overnight, causing an unspecified amount of ethanol to leak.

More than a dozen cars on the eastbound Norfolk Southern train from Ohio derailed Tuesday night near the town of Ripley. The railway company said the train's two crew members were unharmed and were able to determine that at least one car was leaking ethanol. *NBC News* [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: RUSSIAN PROSECUTOR'S OFFICE PROBES LARGE ROSNEFT OIL SPILL IN FAR EAST

March 3 - The public prosecutor's office on the Russian island of Sakhalin is investigating a large oil spill in the north of the island, which happened at an out-of-service pipeline belonging to a Rosneft subsidiary.

The spill occurred during planned works at a non-operative pipeline on the island's Ekhabi oilfield in the North Pacific Ocean on Wednesday, RN-Sakhalinmorneftegaz said in a news release.

According to preliminary estimates, some 15 tonnes of oil spilled, TASS reported, citing the prosecutor's office. Local emergency services told the agency that an area of some 60 by 60 meters (nearly 200 by 200 feet) has been damaged. *RT.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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

BERMUDA: OIL SPILL SIMULATION

March 2 - How the island would cope with an oil spill could be determined over the next two days in an exercise involving Rubis Energy and the Bermuda Regiment.

Graham Redford, managing director of Rubis, explained the aim of this exercise was to "test all functions of the internal Rubis Oil Spill Response Management System, along with external testing of the island's ability for an appropriate tiered response in the event of an oil spill. We will be working with Oil Spill Response Ltd (OSRL), a global partner of Rubis. *The Royal Gazette* [Read more](#)

CANADA: B.C. GOVERNMENT TO INTRODUCE 'WORLD-LEADING' OIL SPILL RESPONSE LAW

February 27 - The B.C. government is set to introduce a new law requiring oil companies to have what it calls a "world-leading" response to oil spills on land — creating a path for industry to meet one of the province's five requirements for heavy oil pipelines.

Environment Minister Mary Polak said the province's existing Environmental Management Act was "really out of date," and the amendments will require companies to prepare for an oil spill on land and clean up after one.

"The biggest change here is the scope" of what a company is responsible for, said Polak, from prevention to cleanup to environmental restoration. "We're requiring them to be prepared. We're also requiring them to have plans to prevent a spill from ever occurring." *CBC News* [Read more](#)

EGYPT: NUWEIBA OIL SPILL CLEARED-UP, BUT WORK IN RAS GHARIB ONGOING: OFFICIAL

February 27 - An oil spill in Nuweiba harbor has been cleaned up, according to Kawthar Hanafy, head of the Environment Ministry's central department for crisis management.

Hanafy said that authorities had seized a Cyprus-flagged ship called the "Star" in connection with the spill, and legal proceedings had been instituted. In remarks to the state-owned MENA news agency on Saturday, Hanafy added that oil waste is still being removed from Ras Gharib city in Red Sea province, but the task should be finished shortly. *Egypt Independent* [Read more](#)

GHANA: THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT AND DATA EXCHANGE TRAINING PROJECT (MAREDA)

March 3 - The World Maritime University (WMU) in Malmö, Sweden, invited the IOPC Funds to deliver a training session on claims and compensation as part of a training course on preparedness and response to marine pollution in Accra, Ghana from 15-24 February 2016. This training formed part of a European Union funded project aimed at improving data management and exchange in and between ports and to improve emergency response capacity against maritime pollution in five countries of Western and Central Africa.

The Head of External Relations and Conference Department was recruited as an expert for the project and travelled to Accra to deliver the training over two days (18-19 February 2016). He presented an overview of the tanker oil pollution compensation regime, including the historical background, the legal framework and the claims handling process. The 25 participants were from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Ghana Maritime Authority, the Ghana Port Authority, as well as representatives from the oil industry, universities and other interested stakeholders. *IOPC Funds* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

INDIA: KEEP TAB ON POLLUTION, OIL FIRMS TOLD

February 27 - In a series of measures to check air pollution at petrol pumps, the Delhi Pollution Control Committee has directed all the oil companies to ensure installation of vapour recovery system at all the 700-odd fuel stations by March 1 in the national capital. The board has also directed the fuelling stations to take steps for installation of remote sensor-based pollution under control systems by May.

In its order, the panel also directed the oil companies to formulate an action plan to control decongestion of fuel stations, including increasing number of dispensing machines. The companies have been ordered to prepare the action plan to check adulteration of fuel and random monitoring of fuel quality data. They have also been directed to prepare an action plan for transport operating on CNG in the city. *The Asian Age* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

KENYA: LESSONS FROM KPC CLEAN-UP OF MAKUENI OIL SPILL



March 1 - Over the last several months, Kenya Pipeline Company (KPC) has been grappling with an ecological challenge that has captured the country's attention.

In May 2015, an accidental leakage occurred on the company's Mombasa-Nairobi oil pipeline in Thange area of Kibwezi, Makueni County, and oil products seeped into River Thange and the adjacent areas affecting the environment.

Our response team successfully repaired the defect, appraised the situation, monitored the pipeline section and confirmed that there was no further leakage from the site. Since then, site inspections and continuous monitoring of

the entire pipeline have been intensified to avert a similar occurrence in future.

As we search for a comprehensive strategy to remove the product that is trapped underground, the accident has provided us with useful lessons. *Business Daily* [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND : MV RENA OWNER ALLOWED TO ABANDON WRECK

Photo: The MV Rena lost an estimated 900 containers when it ran aground and broke up off the coast of New Zealand in October 2011. Photo courtesy Maritime New Zealand

February 29 - The owners of the MV Rena will be able to abandon what remains of the shipwreck on New Zealand's Astrolabe Reef but will need to pay for ongoing costs under a strict court order.

The ruling was handed down Friday by panel of Commissioners following a five-week hearing that ended last October to determine whether Rena's owner, Diana Shipping, could abandon the remains of the wreck on the reef or if they should be cleaned up. In the ruling, the



Commissioners granted consent to "dump" the remains of the Rena and "discharge" any harmful substances or contaminants from the remains provided the owners pay for the management of the wreck for the next 20 years through a NZ\$6.35 million cash bond set up by the owners and NZ\$5 million from insurer the Swedish Club. *GCaptain* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: Ogoni Oil Spill: UNDP Promises to Support FG on Speedy Clean-up



March 1 - Dr. Pa Lamin Beyai, Country Director, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Country Office in Abuja, Nigeria

The UN Development Programme (UNDP) says it will support the Federal Government in ensuring that clean-up of oil spills in Ogoniland takes place as soon as possible.

UNDP Country Director, Pa-Lamin Beyai, told NAN on Tuesday in Abuja that the clean-up would enhance the livelihood of the people in the area.

Beyai commended the Federal Government for taking some measures to implement the environmental remediation in Ogoniland as proposed by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Today [Read more](#)

PERU: Oil Spill in Peru Just the Latest in a Long History of Pollution in the Amazon

February 24 - Thousands of people in the northern Peruvian jungle are facing a water-quality emergency after the rupture of two major oil pipelines owned by state oil company Petroperú. The incident spilled at least 3,000 barrels of crude oil into rivers that at least eight indigenous communities rely on for water.

If this sounds at all familiar, it's because oil spills in the Amazon aren't really anything new. The western Amazon has been contaminated by widespread oil pollution for decades. This was indicated by a study of pollution records by Spanish researchers in 2014, and cited more recently by Think Progress, which says there have been at least 11 oil spills in the area since 2010. [Humanosphere.org](#) [Read more](#)

UK: Landfill Dumps Across UK 'at Risk of Leaking Hazardous Chemicals'

February 21 - Thousands of landfill dumps around the UK are at risk of being compromised by flooding and coastal erosion, sparking fears that dangerous substances could spill into rivers, streets and beaches, academics warn.

The UK faces a "toxic timebomb" after an analysis of its ageing dumps revealed that 2,946 are located in flood plains, experts say.

Furthermore, 1,655 of these "historical" landfill sites contain dangerous materials such as hazardous chemicals and asbestos, according to calculations for The Independent by Dr Daren Goody of the British Geological Society (BGS). [Independent](#)
[Read more](#)

UK: World's Biggest Floating Solar Farm Powers Up Outside London

February 29 - On a vast manmade lake on the outskirts of London, work is nearing completion on what will soon be Europe's largest floating solar power farm – and will briefly be the world's biggest.

But few are likely to see the 23,000 solar panels on the Queen Elizabeth II reservoir at Walton-on-Thames, which is invisible to all but Heathrow passengers and a few flats in neighbouring estates.

"This will be the biggest floating solar farm in the world for a time - others are under construction," said Angus Berry, energy manager for Thames Water, which owns the site. "We are leading the way, but we hope that others will follow, in the UK and abroad." [The Guardian](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Walter Putman, Marine Pollution Control]

UK: 53,000 Nigerian Oil Spill Victims Press New Shell Lawsuits in London

March 2 - A year after Shell was forced into a £55 million settlement with an indigenous community in Nigeria devastated by oil spills, a UK High Court judge has allowed two new such cases to proceed on behalf of some 43,000 subsistence farmers and fishers whose livelihoods have been wiped out by the same cause.

Two new cases against Shell, the oil multinational, have today been allowed to proceed by in the High Court in London.

The cases were filed by London law firm Leigh Day on behalf of two Nigerian communities in the Niger Delta who have been affected by oil pollution: the Ogale Community in Ogoniland and the Bille Kingdom. [Ecologist](#) [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

USA: CALIFORNIA - SHIP THAT SANK MORE THAN 60 YEARS AGO STILL CAUSING MARINE CHAOS

February 22 - The S.S. Jacob Luckenbach sank more than 60 years ago after colliding with another ship 17 miles southwest of the Golden Gate Bridge, but the 469-foot freighter is still posing an environmental hazard from its ocean grave, leaking hundreds of thousands of gallons of bunker oil that has left birds coated in the gunk, officials said Monday.

The sunken ship has been the source of several large oil spills along the Northern California coast since the 1970s, according to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and it is being blamed for another plague, long after officials believed they had gotten a handle on its spewing cargo. [SFGate.com](#) [Read more](#)

USA: 'LIQUID FREEDOM' SAILS FROM TEXAS, TILTING POWER IN GLOBAL OIL



Photo: The Theo T departs Corpus Christi on Dec. 31 with the first US crude export shipment since the United States government repealed a 40 year ban on the export of crude oil in December. Photo credit: Port of Corpus Christi

February 23 - The sea stretched toward the horizon last New Year's Eve as the Theo T, a red-and-white tug at her side, slipped quietly beneath the Corpus Christi Harbor Bridge in Texas. Few Americans knew she was sailing into history.

Inside the Panamax oil tanker was a cargo that some on Capitol Hill had dubbed "Liquid American Freedom" — the first U.S. crude bound for overseas markets after Congress lifted the 40-year export ban. [gCaptain](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Bill Hazel, MPC]

USA: NATIONAL WILDLIFE FEDERATION THREATENS TO SUE OVER LINE 5 SAFETY ISSUES

February 24 - In an article posted to its website Monday, the National Wildlife Federation announced it had officially sent a notice of intent to sue to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, claiming the agency violated the National Environmental Policy Act, Endangered Species Act and Oil Pollution Act in allowing the operation of Line 5 — owned by Enbridge Inc., running from Sarnia, Ontario to Superior, Wis.

Mike Shriberg, the National Wildlife Federation's Great Lakes regional executive director, cited the Line 5 oil spill in Marshall in 2010 that resulted in the spill of more than 800,000 gallons of oil into the Kalamazoo River as further reason for their actions. [Petoskey News](#) [Read more](#)

USA: AGING TANKS STUDY: 59% OF USTS IN EIGHT STATES ARE +20 YEARS OLD

February 29 - It seems logical that aging USTs might leak, creating higher risks for state tank funds and private insurers, and ultimately, higher costs for tank owners/operators. However, data available from states is highly variable. Each state has implemented its own UST program and policies.

In October 2014, at the request of the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO) Tanks Subcommittee, the ASTSWMO Board of Directors formed a Workgroup to examine issues related to aging underground storage tanks (USTs) and the potential impacts to owners, operators, and State UST programs. The Workgroup's objective was to analyze whether aging UST infrastructure poses a higher risk of leaks. The study, published in October 2015, attempts to respond to these questions: [STI + SPFA Tank Talk](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: INCREASED CIVIL AND CRIMINAL LIABILITY EXPECTED FOR VIOLATION OF RAIL HAZARDOUS MATERIALS REGULATIONS

March 1 - On February 24, 2016, the Department of Transportation released an audit report finding systemic problems with the Federal Rail Administration's policies, procedures, and enforcement of hazardous materials regulations. The likely effect is an over-correction by the Administration with more inspections, higher civil penalties, and referrals to the DOT for criminal investigation. The report should serve as a warning for any rail operator covered by HazMat regulations that increased scrutiny is likely to come soon.

The Administration is responsible for enforcing HazMat regulations promulgated by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration "pertaining to safe transport by rail of hazardous materials such as ethanol, crude oil, and toxic or poisonous inhalation hazard materials." [Lexology](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

People in the news

NEW MANAGING DIRECTOR FOR BRAEMAR HOWELLS



March 3 - We are pleased to announce the appointment of Zäl Rustom as Managing Director of Braemar Howells with effect from 1 March 2016. Zäl brings a wealth of experience in incident response and has worked in the international Oil and Gas and Transport sectors for 30 years. Zäl will assume full management responsibility for Braemar Howells on joining. After nearly 30 years of service as Managing Director, Simon Rickaby has decided to step back from day to day executive duties. He has however agreed to become a non-executive Chairman of Braemar Howells.

James Kidwell, Chief Executive of Braemar Shipping Services PLC, commented, "I am delighted that Zäl has agreed to join and lead Braemar Howells in a new era for the company. It is also especially pleasing that Simon's knowledge and experience will continue to be available to the company and that he will remain involved in support of Zäl and his leadership team. I would like to take this opportunity of thanking Simon for his valuable contributions over the last 30 years." *The Maritime Executive* [Press Release](#)

ISCO news

NEW MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL APPOINTED FOR AZERBAIJAN

After having served for nearly ten years as Member of ISCO Council for Azerbaijan, Mr Namig Gandilov is handing over this responsibility to Mr Osman Tarzumanov, MISCO.

Mr Tarzumanov is Oil Spill Lead Advisor, Crisis, Continuity Management and Emergency Response for BP Exploration (Caspian Sea) Ltd. and is based in Baku, Azerbaijan.

Special feature

SHORELINE CLEAN-UP – PART 8

A short series of articles contributed by Mark Francis of Oil Spill Solutions



Mark Francis has been involved with the oil industry since 1975. He attended his first oil spill in 1976, the Tanker Elaine V incident. He became head of response for inland spills within the UK for British Petroleum E & P in 1980 for 10 years responding to well, storage tank and pipeline spills throughout the UK. Over the next 25 years he continued to build his international operations experience and has also specialised in spill response training, delivering IMO and other courses in more than 20 countries.

Shoreline Types (continued)

Rocky coastlines



Rocky coastlines vary greatly in regard to their economic, recreational and educational value and their importance in the marine ecosystem.

Rocky coastlines include a broad variety of habitats and different communities, significantly in relation to their sensitivity and capacity for recovery following on spills of hydrocarbons.

In general terms, less sensitive coastlines, such as areas exposed to waves, have a greater potential for natural recovery.

Sheltered areas are much more sensitive to oil and also to the damage that can be caused by some clean-up techniques.

Due to potential variability, sensitivity and the high cost of cleanup, it is essential that contingency plans be sufficiently adaptable to different response options and adapted to the special peculiarities of each coastline.

Sensitivity maps, details of access to the coastlines and directives on how the cleanup will be performed, such as good communications between environmental assessors and those responsible for the cleanup.

Greater problems of oil spills on rocky coastlines are caused when the oil penetrates deeply into cracks and holes made by rock erosion and burrowing organisms.

Special feature (continued)

In circumstances where residual oil could pose a threat to colonies of marine mammals, birds or where other techniques could cause greater damage or disturbance, it can be appropriate to use a natural absorbent, such as peat, for the removal of this oil to avoid it penetrating into these locations and affecting the organisms that live in the location.

For cleanup along rocky coastlines, low-pressure, ambient temperature sea water may be used to help remove oily residues.

Very thorough clean-up normally requires high pressure and will depend on how firmly the oil is adhering to the rock.

If the residual oil is adhering strongly to the rock and a very high degree of cleanup is required, it may be necessary to resort to hot high pressure water.





Be aware that such “aggressive techniques” will cause irreversible damage to the natural flora and fauna that is found on the rocky coastline and therefore these techniques should be only used as a last resort.



In many cases, it will be more appropriate to allow less aggressive natural processes to act, e.g. wave action.

Aggressive techniques may be used where justified by a large tourist presence. Remote sites can often be left to Mother Nature to clean up. Periodic assessment of the natural clean-up process is recommended.

Note that some rocky shorelines are difficult to clean and may release oil even after a thorough and time consuming clean-up operation.

 Response Rocky Shores	Light	Medium	Heavy
			
Natural Recovery	●	●	●
Water Flooding	●	●	●
Cold water – Low pressure	●	●	●
Warm / Hot water – Low Pressure	●	●	●
Cold water – High Pressure	●	●	●
Hot water – High Pressure	●	●	●
Manual Clean up	●	●	●
Vacuum	●	●	●
Absorbents	●	●	●

What to do:

- Flush affected areas with cold sea water
- High pressure water jets only if avoidance of damage to flora and fauna not important
- Use sorbents in tidal pools at low tide
- Consider using skimmers at high tide

- Protect cleaned areas with booms
- Consider safety of personnel.

What not to do:

- Do not use fresh water
- Do not remove bedrocks

To be continued in next week's newsletter

Note from Editor: This article was originally created for training course purposes. Having contributed the article for publication in the ISCO Newsletter, Mark Francis wishes to acknowledge here sources that provided information that he used in compiling this and future episodes in this series. In the sections dealing with shoreline types, the do's and don'ts were taken from Concawe report no. 9/81 Field Guide to Coastal Oil Spill Control and Clean-up Techniques and the tables are based on some found in the Field Guide for Oil Spill Response in Arctic Waters prepared for the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Group 1998.

Publications

AUSTRALIA: NATIONAL PLAN FOR MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES

A revised edition is now available following a review in 2015. [Download](#) Source: [AMSA Aboard, February 2016](#)

USA: ABS RELEASES NEW GUIDE FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS INVENTORY

The American Bureau of Shipping, a leading provider of classification and technical services to the global marine and offshore industries, has published a new edition of the ABS Guide for the Inventory of Hazardous Materials. The Guide provides ABS requirements for reviewing and verifying the initial Inventory of Hazardous Materials (IHM) for newbuilds and existing vessels and defines obligations for maintenance, verification and endorsement for vessels in service. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	February 2016
ASME EED EHS Newsletter	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	January 2016
Celtic Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter	Latest Remediation and related technology news	Autumn 2015 issue
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	March 2016 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	February 2016 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 4, 2015
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2016
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 10, 2016
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2016 issue
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2016 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	February 2016 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	March 2, 2016 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Autumn 2015 issue
SAC News	Oil spill related and other news from Alaska	Dec.11 issue 2015
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated site decontamination	January 16-31, 2016
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	Feb 29, 2016 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	March 1, 2016
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Fall 2015 issue
WMU Newsletter	News from the World Maritime University	December 2015 issue

Your editor depends on regular receipt of updated links for listed publications. If these are not received, relevant entries may be discontinued.

Events

AUSTRALIA: JOIN US AT SPILLCON 2016

AMSA and the Australian Institute of Petroleum invite you to attend the international oil spill conference for the Asia-Pacific region, Spillcon 2016. Spillcon 2016 will be held in Perth, Western Australia from 2-5 May 2016.

Keeping with its theme - Global, Regional, Local - Spillcon 2016 will bring together local, regional and global environmental and shipping representatives across industry, government and non-government organisations to provide an avenue to discuss issues including cause and prevention, preparedness, response management and environmental issues. A raft of high calibre national and international speakers will address the conference on their particular areas of expertise.

You can view the conference program on the [Spillcon 2016 website](#).

Spillcon 2016 will also profile an expansive number of exhibitors and equipment, and include an impressive on-water display.

For more information, and to register, please visit the [Spillcon 2016 website](#). If you would like to register your interest in exhibiting at Spillcon 2016, please refer to the [Exhibition Prospectus](#).

USA: SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE FOR MARINE, INLAND WATERWAYS, RAIL AND PIPELINE

Early bird registration discounts have been extended to Friday, March 11th! [Click here to register.](#)

CLEAN PACIFIC is designed to bring together stakeholders in spill prevention and response from government, environmental, emergency planning and emergency response industries to discuss lessons-learned, hear best practices, and view new products and solutions from a wide-variety of companies.

The 2016 conference agenda covers spill prevention and response for marine, inland waterways, rail and pipeline and is broken out into three tracks: Planning and Preparedness, Prevention, and Response and Recovery.

UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

COUNTRY	2016	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
UK	Mar 15-17	Oceanology International	London
CANADA	Mar 17-18	Workshop on HNS Convention	Montreal
SAO TOME	Mar 21-24	National Workshop on Contingency Planning	Sao Tome
AUSTRALIA	Mar 22-23	2nd Dangerous Goods Conference	Perth
CANADA	Mar 23-24	8th Arctic Shipping Summit	Montreal
NIGERIA	Postponed	Clean Niger Delta Conference	Abuja
USA	April 5-7	2016 SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Washington
JAPAN	April 7-8	NOWPAP 14th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting	Toyama
NORWAY	April 11-13	SPE HSSE&SR Conference and Exhibition	Stavanger
GUINEA	April 12-15	National Workshop on Contingency Planning	Conakry
UK	April 18-22	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
UK N. Ireland	April 19-21	ISAA Training Days 2016	Enniskillen
FRANCE	April 20	CEDRE Information Day – Volunteers in OSR	Paris
UK	April 25-27	IOPC Funds Meetings	London
UK	April 26	UK Spill Meeting, Dinner and Annual Awards	London
USA	April 27	Oil Train Safety Symposium	Washington
USA	April 27-29	APICOM Spring Meeting	Galveston, TX
AUSTRALIA	May 2-6	Spillcon 2016	Perth, WA
CABO VERDE	May 9-12	National Workshop on Contingency Planning	Praia
CROATIA	May 10-15	ADRIASPILLCON 2016	Opatija
UAE	May 17-18	Offshore Arabia Conference & Exhibition	Dubai
RUSSIA	May 18-20	13th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting	Vladivostok
NIGERIA	May 23-25	National W'shop on Spill Compensation & Modelling	Abuja
NETHERLANDS	May 24-26	Bon Agreement WG on Counter Pollution Activities	Scheveningen
CANADA	June 7 - 9	AMOP Technical Seminar	Halifax
LITHUANIA	June 20-22	Exercise Balex Delta 2016	Klaipeda
USA	June 21-23	Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition	Seattle, WA
INDIA	August 11-12	Oil Spill India	Mumbai
UAE	October TBA	EI Middle East HSE Technical Forum	Abu Dhabi
UK	October 18	UK Spill – Spill Science Seminar	Southampton
MALTA	November 2-3	JOIFF Fire & Explosion Hazard Mgmt. Conference	St. Julians
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

Training

PETROFAC LAUNCHES DECC-APPROVED OIL SPILL RESPONSE COURSE

Petrofac has launched a new online training course approved by the Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) to address oil spill preparedness.

The DECC Level 1 course is aimed at personnel who may undertake the role of Offshore On-Scene Commander (OSC) during an oil spill incident.

It was created in consultation with industry Offshore Installation Managers and provides training relating to the UK's regulatory requirements in the event of an oil spill. The course is divided into modules that feature digital animation, video and interactive activities created by Petrofac's e-learning specialists, Oilennium. The course is a comprehensive overview of an offshore incident from the initial sighting of oil to the completion of the response. The course is necessary for anyone who may take the role of an OSC. It must be renewed every three years.

Andy Lang, Environmental Response Manager for Petrofac Training Services, said: "Our new offering now complements Petrofac's existing suite of accredited oil spill training courses including DECC Level 2 and 3. We worked in partnership with Oilennium and OIMs to develop this comprehensive new course. *Energy Global* [Read more](#)

UNIVERSITY OF GUYANA LECTURER INVENTS CACTUS-BASED TECHNOLOGY TO DISPERSE OIL SPILLS



Photo: University of Guyana lecturer, Dr. Dawn Fox.

A University of Guyana Lecturer has invented technology that could use cactus to help deal with oil spills. Lecturer in the Department of Chemistry, University of Guyana, Dr Dawn Fox, has been listed as an inventor on US Patent 9,163,374 issued October 20, 2015, the institution announced Tuesday.

“The patent was issued for an innovative technology: using cactus mucilage as a dispersant and absorbent for oil in oil-water mixtures,” said UG in a statement.

She shares the honour of co-inventor with Drs. Norma Alcantar (lead investigator), Sylvia Thomas and Ryan Toomey, all of the University of South Florida (USF).

The present invention consists of employing cactus mucilage as the active ingredient. Cactus mucilage is an extract from the tuna cactus (*Opuntia ficus-indica*) also known as nopal. The mucilage is a natural hydrogel polysaccharide found in many water storing succulents including aloes and slimy vegetables. It swells in water but remains insoluble and is able to precipitate bacteria, suspended solids and ions from water.

UG explained that conventional chemical clean-up of oil spills utilizes dispersants that reduce the surface tension of water allowing oil and water to mix; this is emulsification. This causes the oil layers to break up into smaller droplets allowing more efficient biodegradation. In laboratory trials, the mucilage showed ability to both disperse/break up oily layers as well as to absorb oil from oil-water mixtures. Both methods of action are critical for targeting oil slick. Dispersal allows gases to dissolve in the water bodies which would reduce fish kills. The mucilage stays afloat while absorbing the oil layer which facilitates the ultimate physical removal of the oil-mucilage complex. This material is environmentally-friendly and readily available which make it an attractive alternative for a competitive technology to clean up oil spills. *Demerara Waves* [Read more](#)

DRILL CUTTINGS TREATMENT IN AZERBAIJAN

Drill cuttings containing hydrocarbon contaminants from the Oil & Gas industry are generally considered to be special waste. They are the broken bits from boreholes mixed with water and drilling fluids. Fluids released during the drilling process comprise of water, diesel or other hydrocarbons used for lubrication.

There are various different ways to handle drill cuttings. To this day, most of the drill-cuttings waste worldwide is still put into landfills or burned in incineration plants. This is a very costly and environmentally questionable procedure. Today there are technologies in the marketplace which endeavour to treat the drill cutting muds in a more environmentally-friendly and economically feasible way. Especially in cases where expensive synthetically produced drilling fluids are used, recovery and reuse of the fluids makes a lot of sense economically.

The treatment goals are to recover the valuable drilling fluids for reuse and to achieve an optimum level of cleanliness of the treated and remaining solids

The VacuDry technology is a technology to achieve these goals. The combination of Vacuum (with no oxygen present) and low treatment temperatures ensures the recovery of drilling fluids in new-product quality. The price of synthetic drilling fluids can be up to 4 € per litre. With an average of 15 – 20% drilling fluid per ton the recovered, fluid is worth up to 800 € per ton treated material.

The treated solids have a hydrocarbon content of less than 0,5%. This makes landfill dumping very feasible. Even reuse of the recovered substance as construction material is possible.

At the moment econ industries is building two new VacuDry plants in Azerbaijan to treat drilling cuttings from the Oil & Gas exploration in the Caspian Sea. This project will be up and running by the beginning of 2016. [More info](#)

New products and services

GENERAL ELECTRIC OIL DEAL OFFERS NEW MODEL TO PREVENT BP-LIKE CRUDE SPILLS

General Electric is expanding its focus on offshore drilling rig safety with a new business that will take over handling of massive underwater equipment designed to prevent well blowouts and oil spills.

Diamond Offshore Drilling has agreed to sell back its blowout preventers to GE, which will then rent them to the driller. The arrangement shifts all maintenance and repair tasks to GE, which assumes responsibility for ensuring it works properly in an emergency.

New products and services (continued)

The agreement represents a new business model for the industry, providing a steady income stream for GE, and decreased risk for the driller, the companies said in a joint statement Monday. Diamond Offshore will not be charged when the equipment is out of service, according to the agreement. "We are changing the game," Lorenzo Simonelli, chief executive officer at GE Oil & Gas, said in the statement. "With improved control, maintenance and servicing of our equipment, we are putting skin in the game and guaranteeing performance."

For years the offshore oil industry has grappled with the rising costs to drill an oil well in water more than two miles deep. One of the biggest drains to profit for the well owner and the rig supplier has been the downtime required for maintenance or repairs of underwater safety gear. "The downtime associated with deepwater drilling is unacceptable," Marc Edwards, who ran the largest business unit at Halliburton Co. for four years before becoming CEO of Diamond Offshore in 2014, said Monday in a phone interview. "When I started here, I was shocked."

Blowout preventers are stacks of valves, pipes and seals that sit atop the well on the sea floor ready to cut off the flow of oil if the company loses control of the well. A defective blowout preventer failed to stop the largest U.S. offshore oil spill in 2010 on a BP Plc well in the Gulf of Mexico, focusing attention on maintenance of the machines.

Oil explorers such as Exxon Mobil Corp. and BP generally pay about \$1 million a day for the equipment, services and labor involved in drilling a well — costs that continue to add up even when equipment is out of service. A single incident of equipment failure or routine maintenance can stretch for as long as 20 days, Diamond Offshore said. Since GE won't charge for downtime on the blowout preventers, Diamond Offshore will be able to pass along some of that savings and help its customers cut costs during a prolonged oil market downturn.

Business opportunities

USA: SMALL BUSINESS VENDOR DAY

Federal Aviation Administration (FAA), Great Lakes Region, Chicago, IL. Federal Business Opportunities, FBO-5106, Solicitation 23674, 2016. The FAA Central Service Area Small Business Development Program will host a Small Business Vendor Day in the FAA Central Regional Office at 2300 E. Devon Avenue, Des Plaines, Illinois 60018, on Wednesday, April 20, 2016, from 9:00 AM to noon. Attendance is limited to the first 25 small businesses that respond via email by 4:00 PM of March 18, 2016. Only small businesses registered in the System for Award Management in the NAICS codes specified in the FedBizOpps notice are invited to attend. The list of codes includes 541620 (Environmental Consulting Services) and 562910 (Environmental Remediation Services). There is no cost to attend this event, but preregistration is required. Once maximum attendance capacity is reached, registration will be closed. <https://www.fbo.gov/spg/DOE/FAA/GLR/23674/listing.html> Source: [US EPA Technology Innovation News Survey](#)

Company news

UK: ISCO MEMBER, BRIGGS MARINE AT OCEANOLOGY INTERNATIONAL



The company-owned vessel Solent Guardian will be available for inspection. Visitors can view both the vessel and its diving equipment. Please visit Briggs Marine to book a viewing.

Background: Solent Guardian undertakes a wide range of sampling and survey activities and is fully equipped for environmental and hydrographic surveys.

The vessel's Owner, Briggs Marine, holds a 15 year contract to provide vessels and vessel management to the Environment Agency and 'Solent Guardian' represents one of the five coastal vessels that have been built in close cooperation with Environment Agency for their use.

The vessels are also available for commercial charter UK wide. Briggs Coastal Survey Vessels provide safe and effective platforms for carrying out a wide range of marine survey duties. As well as the large working deck, they are equipped with wet and dry laboratory spaces, comfortable mess and galley areas and live aboard accommodation. Their vessel charter team will be happy to advise the most suitable vessel to meet your needs. The vessel's owner, Briggs Marine, holds a 15 year contract to provide vessels and vessel management to the Environment Agency and 'Solent Guardian' represents one of the five coastal vessels that have been built in close cooperation with Environment Agency for their use. The vessels are also available for commercial charter UK wide. Briggs Marine has enjoyed repeat and ongoing business with clients such as SSE, Balfour Beatty, Nexans, DONG Energy and the Ministry of Defence throughout the UK and as far afield as the Falkland Islands. [More info](#)

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