

## 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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## IMO READIES GUIDE ON SPILL RESPONSE IN ICE



Photo: Hylje Finnish oil spill response vessel using an over-the-side brush bucket on a hydraulic arm to recover oily bilge pumped illegally into the winter shipping lane in the Baltic in March 2003 (Source: Finnish Environment Institute, SYKE).

April 11 - The IMO's third session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response has agreed to submit a final draft of the Guide to Oil Spill Response in Snow and Ice Conditions to the Marine Environment Protection Committee meeting (MEPC 70) to be held in October, with a view to securing its approval and subsequent publication.

The guide, produced by Owens Coastal Consultants and DF Dickins Associates, both of the U.S., highlights the need to have a rigorous, scientifically defensible

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## International news (continued)

process in place for approving the use of dispersants and in situ burning. Any significant ice concentrations can severely limit the effectiveness of mechanical methods for containment and recovery, and the presence of ice can potentially increase the window of opportunity for successful burning and dispersant use (that period when the oil remains unemulsified, has a low viscosity, and is relatively fresh).

Giving responders the flexibility to rapidly select and apply the most effective and environmentally beneficial strategy is crucial to ensuring success of any spill response; linked with the need for thorough contingency planning and drills in advance, states the report. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

### IN THE EMPTY ARCTIC, HOW TO GET THE JOB DONE? WITH A DRONE.



*Photo: A graduate student from the Alaska Center for Unmanned Aircraft Systems Integration uses a drone to map jumbled sea ice. This allows local hunters to hand cut snowmobile trails to go whaling.*

In Alaska, drones are being tested for use in fighting wildfires, in responding to oil spills, in search-and-rescue operations, and as temporary communication hubs along the Arctic coast, where even satellite phones have trouble picking up signals.

Thirty miles north of Fairbanks at UAF's Poker Flat Research Range, scientists tested another UAV last year on the ultimate Arctic environmental disaster—an oil spill in ice-covered waters. Researchers spilled oil into a man-made basin, 300 square feet by three feet deep and dotted with miniature icebergs. They sprayed the mini-spill with a small amount of herding chemical to thicken the oil, then ignited it—an appealing option for oil companies when conditions make it impossible to collect the oil.

When a crew of five in a helicopter ignited the spill, they got great results. But the small UAV stole the show. "With the UAV we ignited a marine flare, flew it over the spill and boom! In situ burn," says Jessica Garron of the University of Alaska. The appeal of the drone is safety, she says: "If you lose a UAV in the ocean, it's not good. But it's a lot better than losing five guys in the ice."

*The above is an extract from an article in The National Geographic Magazine*

[Read the complete article](#)

## THE WINNER OF THE 2016 ITOPF R&D AWARD IS ANNOUNCED

April 13 - We are pleased to announce that the beneficiary of the annual ITOPF R&D Award for 2016 is Rosdam (Remote Oil Spill Detection And Monitoring on ice-covered waters), a project led by the Centre for Signal and Image Processing at the University of Strathclyde, UK in partnership with the Scottish Association for Marine Science (SAMS).

The Award will be used to fund a 1-year feasibility study to investigate the detection capability of hyperspectral imaging technology (HSI) for oil spillages in ice-affected waters.

The R&D Award Committee recognised that detection and tracking of oil in ice is one of the major technological challenges facing the response industry. Recent studies have demonstrated HSI's capability in detecting oil in open water and remote areas, but its application in ice-covered regions has not been fully explored.

ITOPF's Managing Director, Dr Karen Purnell, said "we have seen an increasing focus on Arctic maritime activities in recent years



## International news (continued)

and the need to be prepared for an oil spill in cold climates. This project will add to our understanding of the detection of oil under ice and aid decision makers in their response activities."

More information on ITOPF's R&D Award can be found on our website: <http://www.itopf.com/in-action/r-d-award/> Potential candidates should not hesitate to contact us if they have any questions regarding the award or if they are unsure whether their project will qualify by emailing us at [rdaward@itopf.com](mailto:rdaward@itopf.com) [Thanks to ITOPF]

## SECOND MEETING OF GLOBAL WILDLIFE RESPONSE PROJECT TAKES PLACE IN BRAZIL

The second in-person meeting of 'JIP20', an oil-industry-funded project to develop a system for mobilising international oiled wildlife response resources, was held in Brazil in February. Aiuká, one of the participating organisations, hosted the meeting at their oiled wildlife response facility in Praia Grande, near Santos.

Since the first project meeting in Brussels last September, the 11 organisations – all experienced in responding to oiled wildlife incidents both at home and abroad – have been working collaboratively to develop a standard operating procedure for incident notification, assessment and response. The project team has also been developing mutually agreed 'good practice' principles for animal care in oiled wildlife incidents.

This OSR-JIP project is aimed at developing foundations for a response system that can be accessed by the oil industry and other stakeholders in the event of an oil spill incident requiring international wildlife response resources (Tier 3 response). The system would enhance the response capability of existing wildlife response organisations through a common operating procedure and shared standards that would allow for unity of effort in the event of an incident requiring the support of multiple organisational resources.

The meeting in Brazil focused on reviewing and refining draft documents and planning the final phase of the project, which ends in December 2016. As such, another principal objective of the Brazil meeting was to develop a roadmap for future development of the system from 2017 onwards, including the implementation of operational readiness.

Attendees included representatives of all project partner organisations (see list below) and Will Gala, Chair of the Industry Advisory Group for the JIP20 project. Plans are underway for a final project meeting in August this year. [Thanks to ISCO Industry Partner, The Sea Alarm Foundation]

## Incident reports from around the world

### CANADA: BRITISH COLUMBIA - 20,000 LITRES OF DIESEL SPILL INTO B.C. RIVER AFTER TRUCK CRASH

April 4 - British Columbia's Environment Ministry says about 20,000 litres of diesel fuel from a transport truck have spilled into the Similkameen River south of Princeton.

The truck was involved in a motor vehicle incident on Highway 3 at about 8 a.m. Monday, and a ministry employee is at the site. CTV News [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston if ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### CANADA: ONTARIO - 25 TANKER CARS DERAIL FROM TRAIN; 3 HOMES EVACUATED



*Photo: Three homes were evacuated Tuesday, April 5, after 25 train cars derailed from the tracks in North Bay, Ont. (North Bay Nugget photo)*

April 5 - Three homes along Hwy. 63 were evacuated after 25 empty tanker cars of a Ontario Northland train derailed near Peninsula Rd. at 5:30 a.m.

Ontario Northland spokeswoman Renee Baker said the train was northbound for Englehart when the derailment occurred.

There were no injuries or environmental concerns, though the cars typically transport sulphuric acid and some residue may still be in them. Ontario Northland crews are on the scene assessing the situation to determine what can be done to get the cars back on the tracks [IFPress.com](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## Incident reports from around the world (continued)

### USA: SW MICHIGAN NUCLEAR PLANT CLEANING UP AFTER OIL SPILL

April 11 - An investigation and cleanup continued Monday at a southwest Michigan nuclear plant after a transformer failure spilled about 25,000 gallons of oil on Friday.

The incident occurred on the power distribution side of the D.C. Cook nuclear plant on the shore of Lake Michigan in Bridgman, and no radioactivity threat was ever present, plant spokesman Bill Schalk said. The plant is owned by Indiana Michigan Power, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Electric Power, headquartered in Columbus, Ohio.

About 25,000 gallons of the 30,000 gallons of oil held by the transformer were released, Schalk said. Most of the oil was contained by a protective berm around the transformer, but about 2,000 gallons of the oil spilled on ground outside of the berm, he said.

The oil did not reach nearby drains or Lake Michigan, Schalk said. "We're going to have to remove some soil, but we expect to recapture all of that oil," he said. *Detroit Free Press* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc Shaye FISCO]

### USA: CLEANUP BEGINS IN SOUTH DAKOTA KEYSTONE OIL SPILL

April 11 - Pipeline company TransCanada said clean up operations will continue in South Dakota for several days as it restarts the Keystone oil pipeline after a release.

Survey crews working for the company confirmed a leak on the Keystone pipeline at a pump station in southeast South Dakota. About 400 barrels of oil leaked into the surrounding area.

The company closed the pipeline for about a week after discovering the release in early April. According to the terms of an order from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Administration, the company restarted the pipeline during the weekend at a reduced rate. *UPI.com* [Read more](#)

### USA: CALIFORNIA - OIL SPILL ORIGIN UNKNOWN IN TAHOE KEYS

April 12 - Crews in South Lake Tahoe are responding to an oil spill within the Tahoe Keys. A sheen was first noticed on the water on the morning of Monday, April 12, 2016 and was reported to the California Office of Emergency Services.

According to Cathe Pool with the Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board, the sheen is located within the lagoon of the Tahoe Keys Property Owners Association. There are docks in the area and there are boats at those docks, but it is unclear if any of those boats are the source of the leak.

CalEPA is investigating the leak, but at this point they have not found its origin. They also do not know how much oil has spilled or exactly what the substance is. They have taken samples to test. *KoloTV.com* [Read more](#)

#### April 15 - Oil spill in Tahoe Keys under investigation

Crews are in the process of cleaning up an oil spill in the Tahoe Keys. The origin of the leak is unknown, but the California Environmental Protection Agency is investigating.

South Lake Tahoe crews responded to the spill on Monday after a sheen was spotted on the water. A private contractor, Clean Harbors, was called to clean up the spill, which is expected to take a few days. *MyNews4.com* [Read more & watch video](#)

### USA: LOUISIANA - UPDATE: MORE THAN 100 HOMES EVACUATED FOLLOWING TRAIN DERAILMENT IN SCOTT; EVACUATION ORDER LIFTED AT 8:15 P.M.

April 13 - No one was injured, but plenty of people had to leave their homes and workplaces on Wednesday when four cars of a BNSF train derailed near a mobile home park in Scott.

At least one of the partially off-the-tracks cars was a tanker that contained phosphoric acid, which concerned authorities but did not rupture, Lafayette Fire Department spokesman Alton Trahan said.

Phosphoric acid is dangerous when it's inhaled, ingested or gets on someone's skin or in their eyes, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. *The Advocate* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG and Hazmat Group]

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

### INDIA: SUSPECTED OIL SLICK SEEN OFF KOCHI COAST

April 6 - Over the past few days, there have been a number of reports of sighting oil slicks off the coast of Kochi.

On Tuesday morning, a large patch of petro-chemical like iridescent substance was seen floating on the water near Aspinwall House in Kochi, leading experts to suspect a possible oil spill or dumping of petrochemicals into the waters off the coast of Kochi.

"The slick was about 20m deep and we had collected a sample thinking it was crude oil. But it was not. The oil appeared to have been emptied from some passenger liner, or merchant vessel," said a senior scientist with the Central Marine Fisheries Research Institute (CMFRI). *The Times of India* [Read more](#)

## NIGERIA: UCLA ALUM'S NONPROFIT USES NEW TECHNOLOGY FOR NIGER DELTA CLEANUP

April 12 - A nonprofit organization founded by a UCLA alumnus is working to clean up a massive oil spill in the Niger Delta using recently developed technology.

A United Nations Environment Programme report published in 2011 revealed individuals living in the Niger Delta were drinking water contaminated with quantities of benzene, a carcinogen, that were up to 900 times what was considered safe.

In June, Sustainability International plans to conduct an oil spill cleanup over thousands of square miles in the Niger Delta using the newly approved bacteria-based technology. The Niger Delta, located in southern Nigeria, is one of the world's most fertile ecosystems, said Nnadi. *Daily Bruin* [Read more](#)

## PERU: HEALTH RISKS AFTER OIL SPILL STILL UNCLEAR

April 11 - Just a little more than two months ago, two large oil spills occurred in the Peruvian Amazon and although Petroperú headed the cleanup, local residents are unsure about the safety of their water (for bathing, food and drinking).

Over half a million litres of oil spilled into the Chiriaco river in the Amazon and Morona river in Loreto when workers were conducting maintenance work on the oil pipes; this led to 2,000 barrels (around 300,000 litres) of crude oil being spilled into the river. Local residents attempted a cleanup and without the use of protective equipment. Petroperu paid the local residents around US\$ 45 for every barrel of oil recovered. *MyInforms.com* [Read more](#)

## SAINT LUCIA: MAPPING TO ASSIST OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS IN SAINT LUCIA



April 8 - IMO is funding the development of Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) Maps, an important oil spill response preparedness tool, in Saint Lucia. The Government of Saint Lucia is being assisted in the mapping by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Information and Training Center for the Wider Caribbean (RAC REMPEITC-Caribe), whose experts have been touring the island this week (4-8 April 2016) to collect Geographical Information System (GIS) data and photos used to catalogue and chart coastal resources at risk.

The final ESI Maps are expected to be delivered by RAC REMPEITC-Caribe, represented by Mr. Paul Lattanzi, to Saint Lucia this Spring. Saint Lucia's Director of Maritime Affairs, Mr. Christopher Alexander, said: "We are very grateful for the technical cooperation from IMO to develop ESI maps. ESI maps are a very important tool for contingency planners and oil spill responders and having these maps for Saint Lucia will be a great step forward for our country". <http://www.imo.org>

## TAIWAN, CHINA: CLEAN-UP OF OIL SPILL ALONG SHORELINE TO BE COMPLETED BY MAY 15

April 8 - The efforts to clean up the oil spill along the New Taipei shoreline caused by a shattered container ship are expected to be completed by May 15, Mayor Eric Chu said Thursday.

Work to demolish the ship will be completed in August or September, Chu said. He said the oil spill has been contained after heavy oil and fuel were pumped out of the TS Taipei.

The ship ran aground March 10 in waters off Shimen in New Taipei. Battered by rough seas, the stranded vessel began breaking apart March 24, leaking substantial amounts of oil into the sea, creating a heavily polluted area within a 500-meter radius of the ship and a slick stretching as far as five kilometers. *FocusTaiwan* [Read more](#)

## USA: GREAT LAKES - OIL SPILL STUDY MISSES THE MARK

April 10 - A recent study sponsored by the National Wildlife Federation has left the wrong impression on what could happen on our Great Lakes.

This study, conducted by the University of Michigan on behalf of the NWF, used a computer model to predict the environmental impact of a worst-case oil spill by Line 5 in the Great Lakes. If a release were to happen, this type of study — conducted correctly — could help determine the path of light oil in the complex currents around the Straits of Mackinac.



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



*Photo: Brad Shamla is vice president of U.S. operations at Enbridge. (Photo by Jeff Frey)*

Unfortunately, the NWF-sponsored study is flawed. Here's why. When you build a computer model to predict the environmental outcome of a hypothetical underwater pipeline oil release, it is essential to get the original inputs right.

One such problem is the amount released into the environment. The NWF-sponsored study assumed a volume that is up to five times higher than the maximum possible under the current configuration of Line 5. In the event of a pipeline failure, shut-off valves on either side of the Straits of Mackinac would automatically activate. The flow into the parallel lines would be shut down within three minutes of a detected drop in pressure, and trained responders would take action.

The study didn't take these important safeguards into account. When you overestimate the amount of oil in the environment, you exaggerate the overall impact. Next, the study allowed the spill model to run for days, weeks and into months, assuming no oil response or recovery by Enbridge or any of the other response agencies in the region. This, too, misses the mark.

Pipeline companies are required by law to have emergency procedures and equipment in place that will allow them to effectively respond to an incident, even if the likelihood of a release is remote. In reality, Enbridge cleanup and containment equipment would be activated immediately following a release and oil recovery would commence quickly.

Enbridge regularly tests its emergency response plans for the Straits of Mackinac with local, state and federal response agencies — including the U.S. Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency. The most recent exercise took place in September and included, in addition to the federal agencies listed above, local emergency management officials, tribal representatives and state agencies.

Further, the study fails to consider a range of factors that determine what happens to oil released into the water. These processes are critical to predicting the outcome of a release. In short, while the NWF-sponsored study may do a good job of tracking water molecules in the Great Lakes, it fails to consider how light oil molecules behave in water. *The Detroit News* [Read more](#)

### April 13 - Opposition grows to Straits of Mackinac oil lines

The pair of controversial oil pipelines that run beneath the Straits of Mackinac are under political attack on two fronts.

Groups opposed to the oil pipeline known as Line 5 sent a letter Wednesday to top Michigan officials, including Gov. Rick Snyder, calling for the end of the 60-year-old easement that allows Enbridge Energy to operate its underwater lines. More than 500,000 barrels of oil and liquid petroleum products flow daily through the lines. The letter follows a Monday announcement by State Sen. Rick Jones, R-Grand Ledge, that he will introduce legislation aimed at shutting down the lines.

Critics argue that a rupture in the line could be devastating to the Great Lakes. Last month, a University of Michigan researcher estimated a major spill could wind up affecting 700 miles of shorelines in the region. *The Detroit News* [Read more](#)  
[Thanks to Marc Shaye, FISCO]

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## USA: CALIFORNIA - PREPARING TO HANDLE A LARGE OIL SPILL IN THE SAN DIEGO BAY

April 13 - The U.S. Coast Guard, California Fish and Wildlife and OSRO personnel evaluated the effectiveness of deploying a boom across the San Diego Bay Tuesday morning.

The goal of the exercise was to see whether or not the boom can be effectively used to contain oil in the event of a large oil spill in the bay. Officials say no oil or petrol products were used during the exercise, only the deployment of the boom. The boom was staged and deployed from the Embarcadero Marine Park, spanning the bay from the park to Coronado Island. *CBS8.com* [Watch Video Report by Ashley Jacobs, Reporter](#)

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## USA: ALASKA - OIL RESPONSE TRAINING KEEPS FISHERMEN PREPARED FOR A SPILL

April 13 - It was a busy day on Resurrection Bay as fishermen took a break from their daily catch to practice techniques to respond to an oil spill

"We have two scanners pulling a J-formation boom so this would be used to concentrate oil in a spill and eventually that oil would be recovered," Alyeska Pipeline communications manager Kate Dugan explained.

Alyeska Pipeline started its Ship Escort Response Vessel System—or SERV—program after the 1989 Exxon Valdez spill that dumped millions of gallons into Prince William Sound. Now fishermen from six major port communities—Seward, Homer, Whittier, Cordova, Valdez and Kodiak—are trained to respond at a moment's notice. Alyeska Pipeline is required to be able to recover 300,000 barrels within the first 72 hours of a spill. *KTVB.com* [Read more and watch video](#)

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

### USA: WASHINGTON - DRILL FOR "WORST CASE SCENARIO" OIL SPILL IN PUGET SOUND

April 14 - Two tankers collide in Puget Sound. More than 4,000 gallons of oil are spilling into its fragile waters, and the race against time is on.

It's a simulation of a "worst case scenario" oil spill in the San Juan Islands -- wildlife endangered, habitats threatened, livelihoods at risk. To keep that from becoming a reality, new technologies were tested Thursday in the San Juans.

Faster oil skimmers called "current busters" allow workers to get oil out of the water three times more quickly than before. Drones are deployed to help supervisors see how big the spill is, how fast it's moving and where it's headed. They fly over volunteer vessels who stand on-call, ready to respond whenever needed. All that information will soon be analyzed by the Department of Ecology and its partners to determine what they can improve upon should this "worst case scenario" one day become a reality. *King5.com* [Read more and watch video](#)

### USA: U.S. ISSUES TOUGH NEW RULES FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING

April 14 - The Obama administration is imposing tough new regulations for offshore drilling nearly six years after the Deepwater Horizon disaster vividly illustrated the potential damage when things go wrong.

Interior Secretary Sally Jewell unveiled the new rules Thursday, estimating the cost to industry at \$890 million over 10 years and insisting it was essential to boost the safety of offshore energy development. Oil and gas companies said the mandates are too rigid and expensive.

"These regulations are among the most significant safety and environmental protection reforms that the department has launched," Jewell told reporters on a conference call. "The final well-control rule seeks to better protect human lives and the environment from offshore oil spills by comprehensively addressing the full ranges of systems and processes involved in well-control operation." *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

#### April 14 - Exxon Says New Rules Will Sink Deepwater Oil Drilling

The world's biggest oil explorers are fighting a U.S. plan to toughen offshore drilling rules that Exxon Mobil Corp. said will cost \$25 billion over 10 years and render many offshore discoveries worthless.

The Obama administration will issue the sweeping new regulations Thursday as part of an effort to reduce the number of well blowouts after the explosion aboard the Deepwater Horizon rig in 2010. The government has pegged the rules' costs at less than \$1 billion.

The changes would arrive amid the worst oil slump in a generation. ConocoPhillips and Chevron Corp. have already abandoned some Gulf prospects because they wouldn't be profitable at current prices. If the proposals are enacted, exploration outlays in the Gulf will tumble by 70 percent over the next two decades, wiping out as many as 190,000 jobs, according to consulting firm Wood Mackenzie Ltd. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

## People in the news

### RUPERT THOMAS (SHELL) ELECTED TO CHAIR IPIECA



April 14 - IPIECA welcomes Rupert Thomas, Shell's Vice President of Environment as the new Chair of the Executive Committee. Rupert was elected Chair at IPIECA's Annual General Meeting in Houston on 17 March 2016. Rupert, who has represented Shell on the Executive Committee and been Vice Chair for the last two years, succeeds Rick Mire of ExxonMobil who served four years as Chair, and four years as Vice Chair. Serving alongside Rupert are two new Vice Chairs, Julia Martin of Chevron and Jaime Martin Juez of Repsol. Rosanna Fusco of Eni and Liz Rogers of BP stepped down after serving four years as Vice Chairs.

Over the past 26 years working for Shell, Rupert has gained broad experience in Shell's businesses from a diverse range of assignments. These have included operations, commercial, strategy and portfolio, and most recently safety, environment and social performance roles. He has lived and worked in Europe, Africa, the Americas and Asia. Rupert joined Shell after graduating from the University of Cambridge in the UK. He also holds an executive MBA from Rice University in Houston, Texas. *IPIECA* [Read more](#)

### RYSZARD GROCHOCKI JOINS NORTEK'S TECHNICAL SUPPORT TEAM

ISCO Member, Nortek welcomes its new Electronics Technician, Ryszard Grochocki, who will assist with the day-to-day running of sales engineering support in the UK.

Ryszard is an experienced and qualified Electronics Technician with a passion for building, modifying and repairing electronic devices.



## SHORELINE CLEAN-UP – PART 14

### 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)

##### Salt Marshes



These are very low lying areas with little wave action but with many meandering branches in the water ways where the oil can be trapped during the falling tide as well as on the surface of the marsh which is covered at high tide.

In many cases harsh cleanup techniques have caused serious adverse effects persisting for many years.

In some cases the introduction of other plant species that can survive in the disturbed areas has aided recovery.

These oiled marshes can be a huge problem during bird migrations as they are major feeding areas. Gas guns, silhouettes of birds of prey and other scaring techniques have been successfully employed to keep birds away.

Air boats are useful in these areas as they do little damage although they make a lot of noise.

A clean-up may be performed with small groups of people, directed by professionals with relevant experience.

Absorbent materials should be used, preferably of natural origin, or blankets and booms as long as they are not left permanently in the affected area.

For the removal of significant oil accumulations, light skimmers with portable pumps can be used.

It is not recommended to use heavy equipment as a lot of damage will be caused by the wheels or tracks of these vehicles as seen in the bottom left photo.

The use of material such as trackway as in the photo top right spreads the load causing much less impact.



The destruction of areas within this habitat bottom right photo will allow space and time for invasive plants to take over thus upsetting the fragile balance in the area.

In some countries when that growth dies come back in the autumn, controlled burning is used. This burns off the oil and plant foliage but the roots in the water logged sediment will allow the plant to grow back in the spring.

Potentially this can remove over 90% of the oil with little or no damage to the salt marsh.

#### Note:

Although these areas may have little amenity use, they are often the more sensitive ecological areas and during certain months sustain large migratory bird populations.

Booming and skimming in creeks, and pumping of bulk oil from the marsh surface, depressions and channels. If logistically possible can be useful in removing large amounts of oil.



## Special feature (continued)

Low pressure water flushing may be justified where large quantities of oil have entered salt marsh areas.

Care should be taken to avoid the creation of unacceptable erosion.





The rapid deployment of sorbents, including before the oil actually reaches the marsh can reduce penetration of oil into sediments.

Thought has to be given to subsequent collection of oiled sorbent material for disposal.

In-situ burning of oiled vegetation has been used with varied results; in some cases this can cause more damage but in others it can be a good option at certain times of the year.

Burning in the winter has the advantage that much of the standing vegetation is dead, and the ground is likely to be relatively waterlogged. This helps protect underground systems from heat damage.

Because there is evidence that burning can increase sediment oil content, the method is likely to be more suitable in cases where the oil is firmly adhering to dead marsh vegetation (i.e. cases where there is little or no oil on the sediments).

 Response Salt marshes	Light	Medium	Heavy
			
Natural	●	●	●
Water Flooding	●	●	●
Cold water low pressure	●	●	●
Manual clean up	●	●	●
Insitu burning (dependent on season)	●	●	●
Absorbents	●	●	●

### What to do:

- Obtain expert ecological advice as to which areas should be treated
- In many cases a leave alone action will be the most desirable solution
- Protect with booms
- Propane guns (bird scarers) help keep birds away if oiling is inevitable
- Sorbents may be used (natural materials may not need to be recovered)
- If in doubt, minimise interference with natural cleaning processes
- Limited use of air boats or hovercraft may be acceptable
- Water flooding with low pressure sea water may help to remove oil
- Reinstate any access roads at the end of the operation

### What not to do:

- Do not use machinery
- Avoid excavating unaffected material
- Do force oil into the substrate (foot or vehicle traffic)
- Avoid cleaning procedures that are purely cosmetic.

### 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 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.*

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

<a href="#">AMSA Aboard</a>	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	February 2016
<a href="#">ASME EED EHS Newsletter</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
<a href="#">Bow Wave</a>	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	February 2016
<a href="#">Celtic and Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter</a>	Technical Information on Polluted Site Remediation	Spring 2016
<a href="#">CROIERG Enews</a>	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	April 2016 issue
<a href="#">Environmental Technology Online</a>	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	April 2016 issue
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 1, 2016
<a href="#">IMO Publishing News</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	March 2016
<a href="#">Intertanko Weekly News</a>	International news for the oil tanker community	No 16, 2016
<a href="#">IPIECA eNews</a>	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 issue
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2016 issue
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2016 issue
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	March 2016 issue
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for prevention & control professionals	April 13, 2016 issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Autumn 2015 issue
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated site decontamination	February 16-29, 2016
<a href="#">The Essential Hazmat News</a>	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	Feb 29, 2016 issue
<a href="#">Transport Canada Newsletter</a>	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	Winter 2014 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	April 1, 2016
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech News &amp; Trends</a>	Contaminated site clean-up information	Fall 2015 issue
<a href="#">WMU Newsletter</a>	News from the World Maritime University	March 2016 issue

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

## Events

### NORWAY: INVITATION TO COME TO NOSCA'S 2016 SEMINAR IN BODO, NORWAY

Proudly looking back on 23 years with successful NOSCA seminars, our aim has always been to cover topics relevant for the challenges we all meet in our daily work.

This year we experience turbulent times with lower oil price, increasingly meeting demands for improved cost efficiency in the oil spill preparedness and response activities.

Sharing knowledge and experience is becoming more important than ever before. Personal relations to colleagues around the world allow us to exchange thoughts on new response strategies, technology improvements and best practices developed.

NOSCA hope again to host a fully booked seminar, with lively discussions, top quality speeches and hands on experiences. We hope valuable feedback from our NOSCA friends in all corners of the world will enable us to focus the seminar in accordance with the current market situation.

We now take great pleasure in announcing the 22nd International NOSCA Oil Spill Technology Seminar, inviting you to join us in Bodø, Norway 12th to 16th September 2016 including NOFO's coastal exercise (Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies)

This year's seminar will have focus on "how to make oil spill response more cost efficient and how to utilise the existing resources more efficiently."

The seminar topics will cover: - How to utilise existing resources in a more cost efficient manner. - New response strategies that allow for more cost effective oil spill response. - Early warning for reducing escalation of a spill. - Towards a standardisation of oil spill response strategies?

We kindly ask you to indicate your interest in attending the seminar. Please feel free to give us any comments. We would appreciate to receive your response within May 15th when online registration opens at [www.nosca.no](http://www.nosca.no)

The program will be launched at the same time and will be continuously updated together with practical seminar info. For any questions, please contact either

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## UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

COUNTRY	2016	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
UK	April 18-22	<a href="#">IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee</a>	London
UK N. Ireland	April 19-21	<a href="#">ISAA Training Days 2016</a>	Enniskillen
FRANCE	April 20	<a href="#">CEDRE Information Day – Volunteers in OSR</a>	Paris
AUSTRALIA	April 22	<a href="#">Launch of Tanker Emergency Response Video</a>	Alexandria NSW
UK	April 25-27	<a href="#">IOPC Funds Meetings</a>	London
UK	April 26	<a href="#">UK Spill Meeting, Dinner and Annual Awards</a>	London
USA	April 27	<a href="#">Oil Train Safety Symposium</a>	Washington
USA	April 27-29	<a href="#">APICOM Spring Meeting</a>	Galveston, TX
AUSTRALIA	May 2-6	<a href="#">Spillcon 2016</a>	Perth, WA
CABO VERDE	May 9-12	<a href="#">National Workshop on Contingency Planning</a>	Praia
CROATIA	May 10-12	<a href="#">ADRIASPILLCON 2016</a>	Opatija
UAE	May 17-18	<a href="#">Offshore Arabia Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Dubai
UK	May 17-18	<a href="#">Edie Live - Sustainability and Resource Efficiency</a>	Birmingham
RUSSIA	May 18-20	<a href="#">13th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting</a>	Vladivostok
CURACAO	May 19-20	<a href="#">RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee Mtg.</a>	Curacao
NIGERIA	May 23-25	<a href="#">National W'shop on Spill Compensation &amp; Modelling</a>	Abuja
NETHERLANDS	May 24-26	<a href="#">Bon Agreement WG on Counter Pollution Activities</a>	Scheveningen
SINGAPORE	May 24-27	<a href="#">Intertanko Annual Tanker Event 2016</a>	Singapore
TUNISIA	May 26	<a href="#">Zarzouna Tier 2 Oil Spill Response Exercise</a>	Bizerte City
SIERRA LEONE	June 6-9	<a href="#">Workshop and Exercise on Contingency Planning</a>	Freetown
CANADA	June 4-6	<a href="#">Workshop on Long Term Persistence of Stranded Oil</a>	Nova Scotia
CANADA	June 7-9	<a href="#">AMOP Technical Seminar</a>	Halifax
LITHUANIA	June 20-22	<a href="#">Exercise Balex Delta 2016</a>	Klaipeda
USA	June 21-23	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Seattle. WA
UK	June 22	<a href="#">3<sup>rd</sup> Premium Conference on Post-Spill Monitoring</a>	London
INDIA	August 11-12	<a href="#">Oil Spill India</a>	Mumbai
INDIA	Sept. 12-14	<a href="#">International Rivers Symposium</a>	New Delhi
NORWAY	Sept 12-16	<a href="#">International NOSCA Oil Spill Technology Seminar</a>	Bodo
INDIA	Sept. 22-24	<a href="#">India Clean Seas Conference 2016</a>	Goa
FRANCE	October 10-14	<a href="#">Sea Tech Event 2016</a>	Brest
UAE	October TBA	<a href="#">EI Middle East HSE Technical Forum</a>	Abu Dhabi
UK	October 18	<a href="#">UK Spill – Spill Science Seminar</a>	Southampton
MALTA	November 2-3	<a href="#">JOIFF Fire &amp; Explosion Hazard Mgmt. Conference</a>	St. Julians
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

## Company news

## UK &amp; IRELAND: SUCCESSFUL OIL SPILL RESPONSE RE-ACCREDITATION FOR RILTA ENVIRONMENTAL LTD.

Rilta Environmental Ltd., based in Rathcoole, County Dublin, Ireland has successfully completed an oil spill response re-accreditation assessment and has been awarded International Spill Accreditation Association certification in the following oil spill response disciplines - Freshwater Level 3, Groundwater Level 3, On-land Level 3 and Tanker Roll-Over Level 3. <http://www.rilta.ie>

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