

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 DIRECTORY

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International news

For more information on the events featured below, click on the banner



Oil Spill India 2016
4th International Conference & Exhibition

11th & 12th August 2016,
JW Marriott, Sahar, Mumbai, India

UNEP SECRETARY-GENERAL ANNOUNCES INTENTION TO APPOINT ERIK SOLHEIM OF NORWAY AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME



United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, following consultations with the Chairpersons of the regional groups of Member States, has informed the General Assembly of his intention to appoint Erik Solheim of Norway as the new Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

Mr. Solheim is currently Chair of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), a post he has held since 2013. From 2007 to 2012, he was Norway's Minister for the Environment and International Development. He also served as Norway's Minister for International Development from 2005 to 2007.

Achim Steiner, UNEP's outgoing Executive Director welcomed the Secretary General's announcement. "I congratulate Erik Solheim on his nomination to become the sixth Executive Director in UNEP's 44-year history. Mr. Solheim was a strong supporter of UNEP during his tenure as Minister of Environment and International Development of Norway and continued to offer his good offices in later years", said Mr. Steiner. Source: [UNEP Press Release](#)

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In conjunction with the conference, IMO will be supporting a workshop on "Science and innovation in oil spill response" that will be held on Friday, 6 May. This workshop will provide information on innovative technologies and approaches for spill prevention, response, mitigation and damage assessment. In addition, IMO, within its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme, is sponsoring government representatives* with relevant responsibilities to participate in Spillcon. The conference is being organized by the Australia Maritime Safety Authority and the Australian Institute of Petroleum.

* From the following countries: Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Maldives, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Viet Nam. *Source: "What's New" from IMO* *Note from Editor: This news item unfortunately missed the deadline for inclusion in last week's newsletter*

APRIL 2016 IOPC FUNDS' MEETINGS

The IOPC Funds' governing bodies held meetings from Monday 25 to Wednesday 27 April 2016 at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London. Sixty-one States, representing 56 Member States of the 1992 Fund, 20 Member States of the Supplementary Fund and 5 observer States, as well as 13 observer organisations, attended sessions of the 1992 Fund Administrative Council, the 1992 Fund Executive Committee and the Supplementary Fund Assembly. A brief summary of the key decisions taken is available [here](#) and a full Record of Decisions of the meetings will be made available via the Document Services section very soon. *Source: [IOPC News](#)* At the IOPC Funds Meetings ISCO was represented by Dr Douglas Cormack

OSINET ANNUAL MEETING HELD IN FINLAND

The annual meeting of OSInet, the oil spill identification network, was held from 20th to 22nd April at Finland's national forensic laboratory in Helsinki. This network comprises experts from various European countries as well, this year, as participants from Malaysia, South Korea and China. This meeting is the opportunity to share experiences in terms of oil spill identification, to hold scientific discussions on this theme and to review the annual intercalibration exercise. The theme of this year's "Round Robin" test, organised by the Dutch laboratory RWS, was biodiesel. 31 laboratories submitted their conclusions on this case which consisted in comparing a sample affected by various degradation phenomena with 3 potential sources of contamination.

Source: [Cedre Newsletter](#)

International news (continued)

IMO'S WORK HIGHLIGHTED AT ASIA-PACIFIC OIL SPILL CONFERENCE



IMO's work to help prevent pollution of the sea by ships has been highlighted at the 2016 Asia-Pacific Oil Spill Prevention & Preparedness Conference (Spillcon) in Perth, Australia. Stefan Micallef, Director of the Marine Environment Division, took part in a session on preventing maritime accidents (3 May).

The conference brings together regional and global environmental and shipping representatives to provide information on the latest developments and innovations for dealing with oil spills in the marine environment. [Click here](#) to find out more about IMO's work on pollution prevention and response.

International news (continued)

SEVERE ENVIRONMENTAL REPERCUSSIONS OF OIL SPILLS TO PUT OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT MARKET ON GROWTH TRACK

An oil spill refers to the release of oils into the environment, particularly in marine areas. Oil spills are typically caused due to human negligence and are considered as a form of pollution. Leakages in oil and gas pipelines are a major concern for key pipeline operators because of the hefty fines and liabilities associated with oil spills. The use of advanced technology to prevent, manage, and clean oil spillage and further minimize its effect on the environment is thus required. This has boosted the emergence of the oil spill management (OSM) market. By type, the global market for oil spill management has been segmented into onshore and offshore.

According to a research study by Transparency Market Research, in 2013, the global market for oil spill management was worth US\$94.2 bn and is projected to reach a valuation of US\$114.4 bn by the end of 2020. The market is anticipated to register a 2.80% CAGR between 2014 and 2020. *Your Oil & Gas News* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world

USA: CSX TRAIN DERAILS IN NORTHEAST WASHINGTON, LEAKING HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND DISRUPTING TRAVEL

May 1 - A CSX freight train derailed in Northeast Washington early Sunday, spilling hazardous chemicals along a busy rail corridor. The wreck stranded some residents away from their homes, forced the closure of a Metro station and snarled traffic as emergency personnel sought to contain the leaks and clear the wreckage.

Officials said 14 rail cars of the 175-car train left the tracks. A rail engineer and a conductor had been aboard the train but were accounted for, authorities said. No evacuations were ordered, and no one was injured. *The Washington Post* [Read more](#)
Related report in [The Washington Times](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: PENNSYLVANIA - OFFICIALS SEARCH FOR SOURCE OF OIL SPILL IN THE SCHUYLKILL RIVER

May 2 - Authorities are investigating an oil spill in the Schuylkill River. At this point, it is not clear how much oil spilled into the river. The cause of the spill is also not known at this time. *CBS Philly* [Read more and watch video](#)

NEW ZEALAND: DIESEL SPILL AT AUCKLAND NAVAL BASE

May 3 - A diesel spill at the Devonport Naval Base in Auckland was not as bad as initially believed.

The Fire Service, Auckland Council staff and Navy personnel were called to the site about 10.30am to investigate the spill, which was initially believed to have been up to 30,000 litres. However, after investigating the incident, the spill was confirmed to be much smaller than that. *Stuff.co.nz* [Read more](#)

USA: NEW YORK - 380 BARRELS OF GASOLINE SPILL AT BUCKEYE IN MARCY; CLEANUP UNDERWAY

May 4 - Cleanup is underway along River Road in Marcy after 380 barrels of gasoline were spilled in Buckeye's Marcy West Terminal. Officials say it happened just before eight Monday morning.

Buckeye issued a statement saying there is no danger to public safety. The release has been contained on site and heavy equipment is cleaning up the spill. *WKTV.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: ONTARIO - GRAND RIVER OIL SPILL CLEANUP CONTINUES OVER THE WEEKEND



Photo: Booms have been put in the river to prevent the spilled substance from travelling further downstream. (Melanie Ferrier/CBC)

May 6 - City crews will continue over the weekend to clean up the oil spill reported April 29 in the Grand River and along the riverbanks, according to a release from the city of Kitchener. *CBC News* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

RUSSIA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE OPERATION AT BIG PORT ST. PETERSBURG

May 6 - The Baltic branch of Morspassluzhba of Rosmorrechflot, an emergency marine response and rescue service, responded to an oil spill at Big Port St. Petersburg on May 5, the service press office reported.

The Morspassluzhba HQ was notified on OSR by a senior officer of Environmental Compliance service, Sea Port Authority "Baltic Sea", who conducted a routine inspection of the water area near the Belyi Island (Novokanonerskaya Harbor) and found a partly sunken tug "Vyuga" and a floating workshop "PM-555". The vessels were surrounded by an 3x3m oil slick. *Port News* [Read more](#)

SINGAPORE: CLEAN UP EFFORTS UNDERWAY FOLLOWING SINGAPORE FUEL OIL SPILL

May 6 - Clean up efforts are underway in Singapore following a fuel oil spill last Friday at a Tankstore facility on the southern island of Pulau Busing.

Local media reports that Tankstore informed the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore (MPA) on the spill late Saturday, with the spill itself having occurred the previous day, April 29, at about 12:05 p.m. *Ship & Bunker* [Read more](#)

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

CANADA: NEW DIRECTIVE TO PROVIDE MORE INFORMATION ON DANGEROUS GOODS SHIPPED THROUGHOUT CANADA

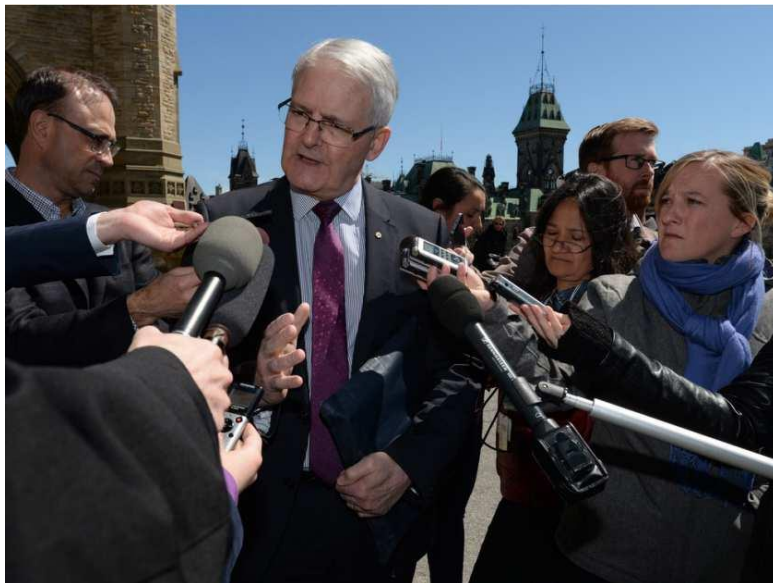


Photo: Minister of Transport Marc Garneau speaks to reporters on Parliament Hill in Ottawa on Thursday, April 28, 2019. Sean Kilpatrick / THE CANADIAN PRESS

April 28 - A new federal directive will require railway operators to provide more data on the shipments of dangerous goods that travel through Canadian cities.

Protective Direction 36, which came into effect Thursday, calls for railways to share more information with municipalities and first responders to help them with emergency planning and risk assessment. The information provided to municipalities will also be available to the general public through Canada's Open Government Portal website.

Though few details of Protective Direction 36 were available as of Thursday, it builds on a federal directive adopted after a freight train hauling oil tankers derailed and exploded in Lac-Mégantic in 2013 — killing 47 people. In the aftermath of that disaster, critics said first

responders didn't know enough about what kinds of dangerous goods passed through their communities every day. *Montreal Gazette* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

FRANCE: CEDRE RESPONDS TO PIPELINE SPILL IN SAINTE-ANNE-SUR-BRIVET AREA (LOIRE-ATLANTIQUE)

May 4 - Cedre was called upon following an oil leak which occurred on 5th April in the Sainte-Anne-sur-Brivet area (Loire-Atlantique) from the Donges-Vern-sur-Seiche pipeline. Several agents from Cedre were, and continue to be, mobilised by the Loire-Atlantique authorities to conduct surveys and to supervise clean-up operations alongside State agencies, in particular ONEMA, and Total. *Source: Cedre Newsletter*

MOROCCO: JOINT OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE HELD IN MOROCCO

May 4 - On 25-27 April under the framework of the SafeMed III project, EMSA took part in an oil spill simulation exercise off the coast of Nador (Morocco). The oil spill exercise, named Simulex, is designed to reinforce cooperation and coordination between the military and civilian counterparts involved in maritime, air and land operations. EMSA's involvement — with the standby oil spill response vessel, Monte Anaga — was the first of its kind with Morocco to encourage cooperation on a regional level. Representatives from EMSA as well as from other SafeMed III beneficiary countries (namely, Algeria, Lebanon and Tunisia) were able to follow the action from a Royal Navy observer response capacities of EMSA's vessels and to familiarise the with the other oil spill detection and response services that are available to SafeMed III countries through EMSA. *Source: EMSA Newsletter*

NEW ZEALAND: LESSONS LEARNED FROM THE RENA DISASTER



Photo: Soldiers pick up clumps of oil off Papamoa Beach as the oil spill from the container ship *Rena* washes up on Bay of Plenty beaches. Photo / Alan Gibson

May 7 - Lessons of the *Rena* disaster will be passed on to the world with a new training programme on how to deal with wildlife hit by an oil spill.

At an oil spill conference held in Perth this week, Massey University and the University of California launched their jointly-developed Oiled Wildlife Response Training programme.

It covers all aspects of how to respond to threats to wildlife in the event of an oil spill, including planning, cleaning, rehabilitation and developing special facilities.

An online component includes interactive activities such as gaming, animation and quizzes.

Much of the programme was informed by Massey University's leading role in the quick wildlife response to the grounding of the containership *Rena* off the coast of Tauranga in 2011.

The *Rena* leaked more than 300 tonnes of heavy fuel oil into the ocean and immediately created an oil slick spanning five kilometres, in what remains the country's worst maritime environment disaster. *NZ Herald* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: NIGERIA SUES SHELL OVER BONGA OIL SPILL, DEMANDS N1.3TRN COMPENSATION

May 3 - Federal Government has initiated a legal action against Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company over the oil spillage that affected 350 communities in Delta and Bayelsa State on December 20, 2011.

The suit was initiated by the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, NOSDRA, in the interest of fishermen and the over 285,000 people from 350 communities and satellite villages affected by the Bonga crude oil spillage.

In an affidavit sworn to by a Deputy Director, Oil Field Assessment Department of NOSDRA, Mr Akindele Olubunmi and filed before a Federal High Court Abuja by one Barrister Awosika Dada Adekunle, the Nigerian government is demanding a N1.3 trillion compensation for communities affected by the 2011 Bonga oil spills. *Daily Post* [Read more](#) Related article in the [NL Times](#)

NIGERIA: CHEVRON PLATFORM IN NIGER DELTA ATTACKED

May 5 - Chevron has confirmed that militants have attacked one of its platforms off the Escravos Bar, in the Niger Delta region. Chevron Nigeria Limited, operator of a joint venture with the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC), said that the attack took place just after 11 PM on Wednesday.

The "Okan offshore facility in the Western Niger Delta region was breached by unknown persons," said Chevron in a statement to Reuters. "The facility is currently shut-in and we are assessing the situation, and have deployed resources to respond to a resulting spill." *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

PERU: INDIGENOUS AMAZONIANS REELING FROM OIL SPILLS IN THE JUNGLE



Photo: Local farmers display the contamination of a plantain tree resulting from the recent Amazonian oil spills. Photo by Rodrigo Lazo

May 4 – From an article by Rebecca Wolff in National Geographic – "When I learned that crude oil had started pouring into major tributaries of the Amazon River, it was as if my entire world had been shaken.

After three years spent working with indigenous communities in the Peruvian Amazon as a National Geographic Young Explorer, I felt professionally, personally, and emotionally connected to the region and its fate. It was during my time in the Amazon that I truly began to understand the role that land and water play in the spirituality, culture, and daily lives of the indigenous communities who live there.

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

On January 25 and February 3, 2016, two oil spills occurred along a Petroperu pipeline in Datam del Marañon in the region of Loreto and Bagua in the Amazonas region of Peru. Over 3,000 barrels of crude oil are believed to have spilled into the Marañon and Chiriaco Rivers in the heart of the Peruvian Amazon. The spills will have severe environmental consequences on the local ecosystems, but little emphasis has been placed on how individual livelihoods and in particular local culture will be affected.

The Awajun, one of several indigenous Amazonian groups affected by the oil spill in the Chiriaco River, have strong spiritual beliefs regarding the natural environment. Connection to land and the forest plays a key role in their cultural identity and religious practice. The spirits of the forest and rivers are responsible for bringing visions, which are essential in coming-of-age practices where youth learn societal rules for interacting with the environment. Plants and animals have both human and spirit dimensions, thus they live in both the natural and spiritual worlds. Through these beings the Awajun gain knowledge from their ancestors, wisdom and art". *National Geographic* [Read the complete article and see more photos](#)

TAIWAN, CHINA: FISHERMEN DEMAND HELP ON OIL SPILL



Photo: Democratic Progressive Party Legislator Liu Chien-kuo, third right, and New Power Party Legislator Huang Kuo-chang, fifth right, yesterday join a group of fishermen in a news conference in Taipei to demand that the freight company TS Lines Co compensate the fishermen for the oil spill caused by its cargo ship that went aground off northern Taiwan last month. Apr 29, 2016 Photo: Chen Chih-chu, Taipei Times

April 29 - Scores of fishermen from New Taipei City's Shimen (石門), Jinshan (金山) and Wanli (萬里) districts gathered at the Legislative Yuan in Taipei yesterday to petition the government to seek compensation for them from a freight company after oil spilled from a grounded ship belonging to the company damaged the fishing industry and environment.

A TS Lines Co cargo ship ran aground on a shallow reef about 250m offshore from Shimen on March 10, and several hundred tonnes of crude oil and lubricating oil have spilled from the ship. *Taipei Times* [Read more](#)

THAILAND: SATTAHIP PORT PRACTICES OIL-SPILL PREPAREDNESS

May 6 - The Sattahip Port Authority practiced its response to an oil spill near the busy navy and fishing piers. Capt. Jeerapong Aphichartwong, head of operations at Juksamet Pier, led the April 25-27 drills at Sattahip Port. Ninety-four sailors and personnel from fleets 23 and 24 at the Sattahip Naval Base participated in the exercise using nets and other real-world equipment to clear oil used in the drill. *Pattaya Mail* [Read more](#)

UK: IMAREST - APPLICATIONS OPEN FOR £5000 PRIZE FOR ENGINEERING INNOVATION THAT BENEFITS THE ENVIRONMENT

April 26 - **The Hawley Award for Engineering Innovation** - A £5000 prize for Engineering Innovation that benefits the Environment. Applications are invited for **The Hawley Award**, which was established in 2006, and is awarded annually for the most outstanding Engineering Innovation that delivers demonstrable benefit to the environment. The revised deadline for the 2016 Award is Wednesday 18 May 2016. The award is made by **The Engineers Trust** the Trust Fund of the **Worshipful Company of Engineers**, a Livery Company of the City of London.

To be eligible for the award, the application must be made by:

- A candidate who is resident in the UK and a graduate or more senior member of a recognised Engineering Institution
- Is an early career stage engineer or scientist, in academia or industry, typically within 10 years of starting a professional career
- An individual candidate who has personally produced an engineering innovation. Exceptionally, a small team may be considered where the innovation has a highly multi-disciplinary nature.

UK: UKSPILL AWARDS 2016

May 5 - Three awards were in contention on 26th April at the 12th Annual Dinner for the Association, Domestic Responder, Manufacturer/Services, and Individual of the Year.

The companies shortlisted were Spill Response Wales, Oracle Environmental Experts/Oil Facilities, Adler and Allan, Oil Spill Response Ltd., Vikoma, OHES, Owls-Surveillance, Questgates and RAW Group.

The Winners were RAW Group for Domestic Responder with Adler and Allan getting a Commended certificate. Adler and Allan won the Manufacturer/Services category with Vikoma International getting a Commended certificate. The category for Individual of the Year was won by Rhidian Jones, of Spill Response Wales, who also received a cheque for £500.

The Chairman of the Association, Stewart Ower expressed his delight at the success of the Awards, and his gratitude to member companies who had sponsored the Awards, Darcy Spillcare, OHES and CSG.

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

UK: POLLUTION RISK FROM OVER 1,000 OLD UK LANDFILL SITES DUE TO COASTAL EROSION

May 5 - Over 1,000 old landfill sites on the coasts of England and Wales are at increasing risk of being breached by erosion, according to a new study, posing a serious pollution danger to wildlife and bathing waters.

Landfill sites before the mid-1990s had few or no restrictions about what rubbish could be dumped in them and little is known about what they contain. But many were on the coast and some were used to raise land levels and even as part of flood defences. Climate change is bringing higher sea levels and stronger storms, putting the old dumps at greater risk of being broken up.

The new study, the first of its kind and funded by the Environment Agency, assessed two landfill sites in Essex to find out the level of toxic pollutants in the waste they contained. It found large quantities of harmful metals, such as lead, and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), which are carcinogenic. *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH DAKOTA - STUDY INDICATES LINGERING SALTWATER CONTAMINATION IN OIL PATCH



Photo courtesy of Environment Protection Agency: Crews work to recover oil from Blacktail Creek north of Williston in 2015 after a pipeline leak released nearly 3 million gallons of saltwater that included some oil

April 27 - A published and peer-reviewed Duke University study finds that thousands of saltwater and frack flowback spills throughout the oil patch have left a legacy of toxic contamination, including radioactive soils and polluted streams unsafe for human consumption and aquatic health.

The Duke team of researchers, which advocated that more study is needed, published the findings Wednesday in the *Environmental Science & Technology* journal. Funding for the project came from the National Science Foundation and the Natural Resources Defense Council.

A North Dakota health official said the study only looked at spills still being remediated, not sites that have been cleaned up. *Bismarck Tribune* [Read more](#)

USA: BSEE TESTS TECHNOLOGY FOR OIL SPILL EXERCISE IN ARCTIC

April 28 - With the Arctic expected to be a major source of oil and natural gas, the development and testing of technologies to detect and clean-up Arctic oil spills will remain a critical area of focus.

As part of this research, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) Oil Spill Preparedness Division tested the capabilities of a geo-referencing identification satellite (GRIDSAT) technology during its inaugural participation earlier this year in Ice Exercise 2016 (ICEX). ICEX is an exercise designed to assess the operational readiness of the submarine force while also continuing to advance scientific research in the Arctic region.

The U.S. Navy has been running ice exercises since at least the late 1950s. Last year, the Navy approached BSEE about participating in the event, Karen Stone, an oil spill response engineer with BSEE's Oil Spill Preparedness Division, told *Rigzone*. [Read more](#)

USA: FLOODING FLUSHES OIL, FRACKING CHEMICALS INTO TEXAS RIVERS

April 30 - Recent Texas floods have inundated oil wells and fracking sites, flushing oil and fracking chemicals into rivers.

State emergency officials have taken dozens of photos that show sheens and plumes spreading from tipped tanks and flooded production sites during Sabine River flooding in March. Photos showed similar scenes in last year's floods of the Trinity, Red and Colorado rivers. "That's a potential disaster," Dr. Walter Tsou, past president of the American Public Health Association, told the *El Paso Times*. "Cattle that drank the fracking fluid actually died an hour after drinking it. There are potential carcinogens that can lead to leukemia, brain cancer and other endocrine disruptors that can affect premature births." *Statesman* [Read more](#)

USA: ENBRIDGE PREDICTS \$62M IN PENALTIES TIED TO OIL SPILL

May 3 - A pipeline company says it expects \$62 million in fines and penalties related to a Michigan oil spill. In a filing Monday with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Enbridge says \$55 million represents penalties under federal water law. The Alberta-based company says no final fine or penalty has been ordered yet as negotiations continue with the U.S. government. *Detroit Free Press* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

USA: CALIFORNIA RELEASES REPORT ON REFUGIO OIL SPILL RESPONSE

May 4 - The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response released an internal report Tuesday evaluating its response to the Refugio oil spill in Santa Barbara. The purpose of the report was to analyze how the oil cleanup has progressed, methods to improve their effectiveness for a future event and how the agency worked with federal and local partners after the spill, the agency's Amy Norris told KPCC.

Since the spill in May 2015, which spread miles off the coast, federal regulators have determined that corrosion on the outside of an oil pipeline was the cause of the spill of up to 101,000-gallons. [Sprc.org](#) [Read more](#)

VENEZUELA: LAKE MARACAIBO: AN OIL DEVELOPMENT SACRIFICE ZONE DYING FROM NEGLECT

May 3 - Venezuela's Lake Maracaibo is a Caribbean estuary that for many years supported a strong commercial fishery. But over the past century the vast briny lake's underlying oil deposits became a cash cow for the oil-dependent Latin American nation.

- Today, hundreds of working and abandoned oil wells mar the surface of Lake Maracaibo, and more than 25,000 kilometers of crumbling pipeline crisscross the bottom of the estuary ecosystem. Spills have increased since 2009 when the 76 companies that replaced and repaired the pipelines were taken off the job by the government.

- According to a report by state-owned oil company Petroleos de Venezuela SA (PDVSA), 15 "minor" spills — leaking about eight barrels of oil every day, nearly 3,000 barrels per year — are flowing from the poorly maintained pipelines into the estuary.

- Fishermen say that many commercial species have declined or disappeared completely since the Venezuelan economy hit hard times and oil cleanups have largely ceased in Lake Maracaibo — which seems to have become an oil infrastructure sacrifice zone.

In July 1914 oil drilling activities were formally initiated in the state of Zulia, in western Venezuela, with the opening of the historic Zumaque I oil well on the east shore of Lake Maracaibo [Mongabay.com](#) [Read the complete text of this article by Jeanfreddy Gutiérrez Torres](#)

Special feature

SHORELINE CLEAN-UP – PART 17

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 Clean-up (Continued)

Manmade structures



The degree of sensitivity in these areas sometimes depends on who lives there.
































The white house in the photo belongs to a very wealthy and influential person so of course the sensitivity is very high.

Harbour walls, slipways, jetties and steps are normally cleaned with high pressure water and some use of oil removing chemicals. The released oil is caught with absorbents to avoid re-contaminating clean areas.

The technique was very successfully used to clean heavily oiled rock walls in Saudi Arabia after the Gulf War oil spill.

Note: If chemicals are used, consider using "solubilizer" types, such as d'limonene products that release adhering oil without emulsification. These are easily applied using knapsack type sprayers. If emulsifying detergents are used it will not be possible to recover the released oil.

Special feature (continued)

 Responses Manmade Structures	Light	Medium	Heavy
			
Natural Recovery			
Water flooding			
Cold water – Low Pressure			
Hot / Warm water – Low Pressure			
Cold water – High Pressure			
Hot water – High Pressure			
Manual Clean up			
Dispersant / Chemicals			
Absorbents			

Close supervision is required as high pressure water can cut human tissue and damage eyes.

It can also cut sandstone walls which can then be eroded further by the sea.

In areas of rip rap as seen in the photo left, large quantities of oil can be held within the spaces between the blocks which may take months to clean.

Besides this, a cleanup with an excessive number of people could mean an impact greater than the oil itself on the environment.

There is also another aggravating factor: in the event that the oil is buried by trampling into an anaerobic sediment, the oil, due to the lack of oxygen, will not be degraded easily by natural processes of weathering.

This will cause long lasting effects on the ecosystem.



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)

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	April 2016
AMSA On Scene	Australia: National Plan for Marine Environmental Emergencies	March 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	April 2016
Celtic and Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter	Technical Information on Polluted Site Remediation	Spring 2016
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	May 2016 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	April 2016 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 1, 2016
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	March 2016
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 19, 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	April 2016 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	May 4, 2016 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Autumn 2015 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated site decontamination	March 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	May 1, 2016
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Fall 2015 issue
WMU Newsletter	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

UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

COUNTRY	2016	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
CABO VERDE	May 9-12	National Workshop on Contingency Planning	Praia
CROATIA	May 10-12	ADRIASPILLCON 2016	Opatija
UAE	May 17-18	Offshore Arabia Conference & Exhibition	Dubai
UK	May 17-18	Edie Live - Sustainability and Resource Efficiency	Birmingham
RUSSIA	May 18-20	13th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting	Vladivostok
CURACAO	May 19-20	RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe Steering Committee Mtg.	Curacao
NIGERIA	May 23-25	National W'shop on Spill Compensation & Modelling	Abuja
NETHERLANDS	May 24-26	Bon Agreement WG on Counter Pollution Activities	Scheveningen
SINGAPORE	May 24-27	Intertanko Annual Tanker Event 2016	Singapore
TUNISIA	May 26	Zarzouna Tier 2 Oil Spill Response Exercise	Bizerte City
SIERRA LEONE	June 6-9	Workshop and Exercise on Contingency Planning	Freetown
CANADA	June 4-6	Workshop on Long Term Persistence of Stranded Oil	Nova Scotia
SOUTH AFRICA	June 6-9	Workshop to review the Oil Spill Contingency Plan	Cape Town
GREECE	June 6-10	Posidonia 2016	Athens
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
UK	June 22	3rd Premium Conference on Post-Spill Monitoring	London
INDIA	August 11-12	Oil Spill India	Mumbai
INDIA	Sept. 12-14	International Rivers Symposium	New Delhi
NORWAY	Sept 12-16	International NOSCA Oil Spill Technology Seminar	Bodo
INDIA	Sept. 22-24	India Clean Seas Conference 2016	Goa
FRANCE	October 10-14	Sea Tech Event 2016	Brest
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			

UPDATED INFORMATION ON THE TRASH BARRIER DEVELOPED BY ISCO MEMBER, ALPHAMERS

Member of ISCO Council for India, Capt. D. C. Sekhar has sent in this updated article on the new floating trash barrier



Photo: Bengaluru based AlphaMERS has designed a floating trash barrier for river clean up. This floating barrier is anchored to the river bed and secured to the banks. The barrier arrests the floating trash, lets the water flow past and bring the trash to the riverbank or lake for easy retrieval by municipal authorities. It is deployed in locations where the waterbody is very close to road to facilitate vehicle access for retrieval and disposal of the trash. Image is of the trash collected by the barrier one week after deployment.

Those passing the Coom near Ethiraj college might have noticed an aluminium net wall anchored on the river. This is a floating trash barrier designed by a Bengaluru-based maritime services company to help the Chennai Corporation remove garbage from the river easily.

For Chennai, which is still haunted by memories of the horrific floods that ravaged the city, it is imperative that the Coom, the Adyar river and the

Buckingham Canal flow smoothly since they drain excess rain water from the city into the sea. Despite many projects to clean it, the 65-km-long Coom has remained a filthy stinking stretch though nature's fury did flush out some of the rubbish last year.

Now, the Chennai Corporation is testing out a floating trash barrier developed by Bengaluru-based AlphaMERS, a company that fights oil spills for ports and oil companies. So far attempts to clean the river have involved deploying boats and manually picking out the garbage. The trash barrier will remove the need for boats as it traps the garbage and deposits it on the bank of the river, so that it can be picked up easily.

"It is a simple design in looks and functionality that uses the natural water flow to arrest the trash at one convenient location, usually where a road is close to the water body," says DC Sekhar, Director, AlphaMERS and a former oil tanker captain. He says the company has sought a patent for the aluminium barrier, which was primarily designed for cleaning the Ganga and Yamuna.

Right now lighter versions of the same design are being piloted in Coom and on Ulsoor lake (here it is made of steel) in Bengaluru. "The barrier in Coom is 60 metres long, the river is about 40 metres wide and this is placed diagonally," says Sekhar. The barrier is secured at the sides and anchored in the water. The trash hits the barrier and thanks to the flow of the water slides down it and lands downstream at the bank of the river, where it can be collected easily.

According to him, the barrier method is cheaper than deploying boats since it does not cost fuel to arrest the trash 24/7 basis. He says in large rivers like the Ganges, a 50-metre section can be placed downstream of the source of solid waste – for example the Ghats where pilgrims discard offerings.

Babu Rajendran, Chief Engineer, Storm water department at Chennai Corporation, says that as yet he cannot comment on the floating barrier's effectiveness as the project is still being tested. "The plan is to put it in 10 places and see the results," he says.

Sekhar, however, admits that the barrier can only collect garbage; the dissolved pollutants in the river will still remain.

Interestingly, globally, a massive project is afoot to clean up the Pacific using a floating barrier. The Ocean Cleanup will deploy a 100-metre-long barrier in the North Sea, 23 km off the Netherlands coast to trap plastic debris. Learnings from this pilot will be used for the Great Pacific Garbage Patch clean up in 2020, a super ambitious project that is touted as the world's largest ocean clean-up operation.

Operation Coom cleanup is but a little ripple when compared to that!

The above article has also been published in The Hindu newspaper under the title "A floating' dam to clean Chennai's sorrow"

ABERDEEN UNIVERSITY RESEARCHERS TO EXAMINE OIL SPILL EFFECTS ON DEEP SEA LIFE



Photo: The team's research vessel, the RRS Discovery

May 5 - A crew of Aberdeen University scientists will set sail to the North Atlantic next week to test pioneering technology to help establish how deep sea ecosystems respond to major oil spills.

The researchers will be testing out a new machine, memorably dubbed the Multi-Autoclave-Coring and Experimentation Unit (MAC-EXP), which has been developed at the university's Oceanlab facility in Newburgh and funded through a £500,000 grant from the National Environmental Research Council.

The enormous device, once lowered deep into the Atlantic depths, will enable the scientists to test the ability of animals, plant life, plankton and other organisms to deal with the toxic aftermath of an oil spill.

By taking sediment from the ocean floor and keeping the sample under the same intense pressures experienced in deep water environments while carrying out experiments, the scientists will be able to accurately determine the effects oil pollution has on deep-sea life.

The team will take the research vessel RRS Discovery on its journey to the North Atlantic on May 13.

Professor Ursula Witte, who is leading the research, said the MAC-EXP could help drillers safeguard against environmental disasters such as the largest ever oil spill in US waters.

Dr Stewart Chalmers, technical director of Oceanlab, said : "MAC-EXP is a unique system that is designed to enable us to capture accurate data on the ability of organisms to recover from major spills by allowing us to remove sediment from the sea floor and keep it under the same conditions through an uninterrupted pressure chain that allows tests to be carried out at realistic environmental conditions.

"Our hope is that the system will mark a major step forward in our ability to understand the ability of organisms found in deep ocean environments to recover from a major spill." *Aberdeen Press & Journal* [Read more](#) Related article in [Energy Voice](#)

Company news

ISCO MEMBER, BRIGGS SECURES FORTIES OIL SPILL RESPONSE CONTRACT WITH BP

May 5 - Oil spill response specialist Briggs has secured a five-year contract from BP to act as its oil spill lead across the Forties Pipeline System (FPS) and to provide response services in the north of Scotland.

Briggs will provide specialist advice to BP in the event of an oil spill incident and support BP's incident commander by assisting with the coordination of the response effort. Briggs will also coordinate preparedness activities such as maintenance, training and exercises.

The firm will also store BP-owned oil spill response equipment and materials, attend emergency call-outs in the event of an incident and participate in training sessions and exercises in the region. *Energy Voice* [Read more](#)

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