

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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Oil Spill India 2016
4th International Conference & Exhibition

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

CONTAMINATION
EXPO SERIES 2016

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EUROPE: EMSA'S EQUIPMENT ASSISTANCE SERVICE BECOMES OPERATIONAL



EMSA's first Equipment Assistance Service stockpile—set up in Gdansk, Poland (EAS Baltic Sea) and consisting of stand-alone oil pollution response equipment—became operational in June. The requesting party may choose one or more equipment sets, including fire booms, combined containment and recovery systems, and trawl net systems. The equipment is available on request around the clock and can be mobilised anywhere in Europe. The EAS Baltic Sea complements the response capacity available through EMSA's network of stand-by oil spill response vessels. EMSA's second EAS stockpile, based in Aberdeen (EAS North Sea), is expected to become operational in July 2016. *EMSA Newsletter July 2016* [Read more](#)

BIG OIL'S \$45 BILLION OF NEW PROJECTS SIGNAL SPENDING REVIVAL

July 8 - Two projects worth \$45 billion announced this month show the world's largest oil companies are regaining the confidence to make big investments, emboldened by rising crude prices and low costs that promise to trigger more expansion ahead.

Chevron Corp. gave the go-ahead to a \$37 billion expansion in Kazakhstan, the industry's biggest undertaking since crude started tumbling two years ago. BP Plc signed off on the \$8 billion expansion of a liquefied natural gas plant in Indonesia. Two more big projects are likely to get a green light this year, according to industry consulting firm Wood Mackenzie Ltd. and Jefferies International Ltd. — BP's Mad Dog Phase 2 in the Gulf of Mexico and Eni SpA's Coral LNG development off Mozambique. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

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country of origin. Individual states will still control their own borders, but under urgent circumstances they may call on the new agency to assist.

For operations, the EBCG will draw on a "rapid reaction force" of 1,500 personnel seconded by the governments of individual member states. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

WORKSHOP ON THE LONG-TERM PERSISTENCE OF STRANDED OIL

A few days in advance of the AMOP Technical Seminar, an agent from Cedre travelled to Port Hawkesbury (Nova Scotia, Canada) to attend a workshop organised by Owens Coastal Consultants and Triox on the long-term persistence of stranded oil. Around thirty participants attended the conferences which focused in particular on the chemistry of oil and its fate in the environment, field surveys and shoreline geomorphology. The results of in situ experiments and monitoring programmes implemented following real spills were presented by a panel of scientists. Cedre presented the case of the Erika. A field trip was organised in relation to the Arrow Spill incident (1970). No clean-up operations had been conducted at the site visited, Black Duck Cove, following this spill. The background to the spill and the geomorphology of the site were presented. Over 40 years post-spill, heavy fuel oil is still present in the form of highly weathered residues. *CEDRE Newsletter* [Read more](#)

TRIALS IN FLOATING MESOCOSMS

As part of a project devoted to chemicals' behaviour funded by the French Navy and the French Environment Ministry (MEEM), Cedre conducted trials in floating mesocosms within Brest's military port in April, May and June. The purpose of these trials was to study the fate of three substances (texanol, butyl acrylate and 2-ethylhexanoic acid) when spilt at sea, by regularly sampling the surface slick, water column and atmosphere.

The results obtained will help to fine-tune response strategies, generally established based on the physical and chemical properties determined in the laboratory, and to define the risks to which emergency response teams may be exposed. These trials were conducted in optimal conditions, notably thanks to logistical support from the French Navy, and in particular from CEPOL. *CEDRE Newsletter* [Read more](#)

International news (continued)

OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT MARKET TO REACH US\$114.4 BN BY 2020 DRIVEN BY INCREASING SEABORNE OIL TRADE

July 4 - As per a recent research report published by Transparency Market Research, the global oil spill management market is estimated to exhibit a steady 2.80% CAGR from 2014 to 2020. The market was valued at US\$94.2 bn in 2013. The report, titled 'Oil Spill Management Market - Global Industry Analysis, Size, Share, Growth, Trends, and Forecast 2014 - 2020,' states that the market is expected to reach US\$114.4 bn by 2020. Stringent government rules, increasing government funding for oil spill management programs, and the growing volume of seaborne trade are the major factors responsible for the rapid growth of the global oil spill management market.

Oil spills, especially in marine areas, can be due to natural calamities or human errors. Oil spills can have terrible consequences, environmentally and also for the society. Recovery from and cleanup of an oil spill can be difficult if oil spill management procedures are inefficient. The rise in seaborne oil trade and drilling activities, coupled with the rising demand for energy from various industries, have propelled the use of pressure control devices. This is expected to benefit the global oil spill management market. *YourOil&GasNews* [Read more](#)

EU MOVES CLOSER TO UNIFIED COAST GUARD AGENCY

July 6 - On Wednesday, the EU Parliament voted to approve a measure creating a unified European Border and Coast Guard Agency (EBCG), bringing the new organization one step closer to actualization.

"I am very pleased about today's vote by the Parliament. While the new regulation still has to be approved by the Council of the European Union, we have already started intensive preparations for its implementation," said Fabrice Leggeri, executive director of the existing border agency, Frontex. "The transition . . . will be a gradual one - some of the tasks proposed in the text of the regulation are new, while others constitute an expansion of the existing ones."

The newly expanded force will work to integrate external border management across the EU; provide assistance to member states for border control and SAR operations; and will "play an enhanced role in returns" of migrants to their

International news (continued)

IOPC FUNDS' SHORT COURSE 2016



July 6 - The annual IOPC Funds' Short Course took place from Monday 27 June to Friday 1 July at the Funds' headquarters in London and was supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Group of P&I Associations, Shipowners Club, the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd (ITOPF) and the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS).

Participants from eight 1992 Fund Member States took part in this week-long event which covered all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and the international liability and compensation regime in general. The programme included presentations from a variety of speakers, practical exercises allowing participants to study a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process as well as visits to the IMO

Headquarters, the International Group of P&I Associations, Shipowners P&I Club, and a guided tour of the Lloyd's of London building, courtesy of Miller Insurance Services.

Once again the Short Course has received very positive feedback from this year's participants and the Director is delighted that the Short Course is proving to be a valuable tool which enables the Secretariat to connect with both delegates to Funds' meetings and those government officials who have responsibility in areas of oil reporting and oil spill preparedness.

The dates for the 2017 IOPC Funds' Short Course and the deadline for nomination by governments will be announced later this year. <http://www.iopcfunds.org/news-events/detail/item/555/>

Incident reports from around the world

CHINA: 131 INCLUDING 43 CHILDREN HIT BY SHANGDONG CHEMICAL LEAK

June 28 - A diketene leak at a chemical plant in eastern Shandong Province has sent 131 people to hospital, local authorities said today.

Some 30 kg of diketene leaked on June 21 from Beichen Biotechnology Co., in Shenxian County. As of 6 p.m. on Monday, 131 locals, including 43 children, had been admitted to hospital. According to the county government, 11 people had checked out by today and those who remain in hospital were stable. A preliminary investigation shows that the leakage was caused by negligence.

Officials with the county's environmental bureau said the company has been ordered to close permanently.-Xinhua <http://www.thestandard.com.hk/breaking-news.php?id=76495> [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: 5 TRAIN CARS DERAIL IN TEXAS, SPILLING CHEMICAL, INJURING 2

July 4 - Authorities say five train cars overturned outside of San Antonio, spilling about 1,000 gallons of sodium hydroxide and prompting a temporary evacuation.

Bexar County Sheriff's Office spokeswoman Monica Ramos said the derailment happened around 4 p.m. Sunday in an industrial area southwest of the city. Cleanup is underway of soil and vegetation contaminated by the chemical. *Mail Online* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NIGERIA: AVENGERS RESUME HOSTILITIES, BLOW UP NNPC, CHEVRON'S OIL FACILITIES

July 4 - THE Federal Government's proposed peace talks with militants on Sunday morning suffered a major setback as the Niger Delta Avengers blew up several oil facilities belonging to the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, Chevron Nigeria Limited and the Nigerian Petroleum Development Corporation.

Our correspondent gathered that the attacks occurred simultaneously leaving what industry sources described as major oil facilities shattered. The incident happened between 11.30pm and 1.15am on Saturday and Sunday respectively.

Affected in the renewed hostility included two major oil wells, head 7 and 8 situated near Abiteye flow station in Warri South West Council Area of Delta State. Also damaged by the militant group are two major crude oil trunk line operated by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation and the Nigerian Petroleum Development Company close to the Batan flow station. *Nigeria Today* [Read more](#)

July 4 - Niger Delta Avengers Claim Five Attacks

The Niger Delta Avengers, a militant group that has been carrying out attacks on Nigerian oil facilities in the past few months, claimed responsibility on Sunday for five new attacks in the southern energy hub since Friday. The group had previously not laid claim to any attacks in the Niger Delta - the source of most of the OPEC member's oil - since June 16.

Incident reports from around the world

Petroleum Ministry sources said in late June that a month-long truce had been agreed with militants. But the Avengers said they did not "remember" agreeing to a ceasefire.

Attacks in the Niger Delta have pushed Nigerian crude production to 30-year lows, although the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) said last week that output was rising because of repairs and a fall-off in attacks. *The Maritime Executive*

[Read more](#)

July 8 - Breaking: Eni Confirms Attack on Nigerian Pipeline



Niger Delta Avengers takes credit for an attack on oil infrastructure in southern Bayelsa state.

Italian energy company Eni confirmed Friday that it was the target of sabotage in the Niger Delta, with a minor impact on its equity production.

A group calling itself the Niger Delta Avengers took credit for an attack on pipeline infrastructure in the southern Bayelsa state that's operated by a subsidiary of Italian energy company Eni.

A spokesperson for the company confirmed the attack in a statement emailed to UPI. About 4,000 barrels of oil equivalent production equity to Eni was impacted, though the spokesperson said overall operations were still under

force majeure, meaning it's freed from fulfilling its contract because of circumstances beyond its control. *OilandGasPeople.com*

[Read more](#) [Thanks to ADR Training UK]

INDIA: COAST GUARD DEPLOYS BOOM TO PREVENT OIL SPILL FROM CRUISE LINER

Photo: AVERTING A DISASTER: Coast Guard ship Samudra Prahari, a dedicated pollution response vessel, has deployed a boom around MV Qing at Marmugoa port in Goa. Photo: Indian Coast Guard

The Indian Coast Guard (ICG) has deployed a boom around cruise liner MV Qing which sank at Western India Shipyard Ltd. (WISL) jetty inside Mormugao port in Goa on June 29 last to prevent any marine environmental disaster.

According to Coast Guard Regional HQ (West) PRO, Indian Coast Guard is providing assistance to Marmugoa Port Trust (MPT), Goa-based major port which is coordinating agency, to prevent possibility of oil spill from MV Qing. The vessel contains 350 MT of Fixed and Floating Objects *The Hindu* [Read more](#)



Another report in *The Herald Goa* <http://www.heraldgoa.in/Goa/Booming-tech-used-to-contain-oil-spill-from-Qing/103629.html>

ISRAEL: OIL SPILL IN HAIFA BAY FORCES BEACH CLOSURES

July 5 - An oil spill Tuesday polluted Haifa Bay after a ship hit an old fuel supply line, pouring hundreds of gallons of oil into the water. The current carried the slick toward the shore and northward, prompting the closure of beaches in Haifa and the surrounding area as emergency crews worked to contain and clean the spill. In a statement, the Environmental Protection Ministry said the leak was "several cubic meters" in size and was not "very large." *The Times of India* [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: 'BENITA' SALVAGE UPDATE: OIL REMOVAL CONTINUES AS SALVORS EXPLORE OPTIONS, WORKER INJURED

July 6 - Work continues around the clock to remove a large bulk carrier from the shores of Mauritius after it ran aground last month following an incident involving a member of the ship's crew. An update Monday from salvage company Five Oceans Salvage said the Liberian-flagged MV Benita remains hard aground but in stable condition off Mahebourg, Mauritius as crews explore options to refloat the vessel, including one that involves the use of explosives. Despite a number of its tanks flooded, the deck and side plates of the vessel do not appear to show signs of stress. Priority at the moment continues to be the removal of all fuel oil on board via helicopter, which Five Oceans Salvage reports is making good progress. So far over 150 specialized storage containers containing contaminated fuel and oil have been moved to shore, however a "substantial quantity" of fuel oil remains in the Benita's two double bottom tanks, Five Oceans says. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL INFORMATION SYSTEM (HCIS)

The Hazardous Chemical Information System (HCIS) is a database of information on chemicals that have been classified in accordance with the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS). HCIS contains GHS classifications and labelling information for over 4,500 chemicals and a searchable database of workplace exposure standards.

HCIS replaces the previous Hazardous Substance Information System (HSIS). HSIS is a database of information on substances classified in accordance with Australia's previous hazardous substance classification system, the Approved Criteria for Classifying Hazardous Substances [NOHSC:1008(2004)]. <http://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/swa/whs-information/hazardous-chemicals/hsis/pages/hsis>

CANADA: NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR TRANSPORTING DANGEROUS GOODS

June 30 - Transport Canada recently amended the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations ("TDGR"). The Amendments came into force on June 1, 2016. Companies engaged in transporting dangerous goods should be aware that the reporting requirements have been modified.

The Amendments place the TDGR in line with the requirements of the United Nations Manual of Tests and Criteria and harmonize the TDGR with reporting requirements of the International Civil Aviation Organization – a specialized agency of the United Nations.

A broader definition of "release" has been incorporated in the new reporting requirements. Additional requirements for information to be included in the reports have also been specified. *Lexology* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

FRANCE: POLMAR-LAND ACTIVITIES

As part of preparations for the upcoming ORSEC POLMAR-Land exercise due to be held in the Côtes-d'Armor area in late September 2016, the DDTM for the Côtes-d'Armor area organised a training day on 28th June for 40 representatives of coastal municipalities, jointly run by Cerema, the Prefecture for the Côtes-d'Armor, DDTM 22, Vigipol and Cedre.

The departmental POLMAR correspondent presented the exercise which will be held at the Port des hôpitaux and Plage des sables d'or near Erquy. A practical training course on shoreline clean-up will be run the day before the exercise. The DDTM for Pas-de-Calais organised a two-day training course on 7th and 8th June at the interdepartmental POLMAR storage centre in Dunkirk. Some twenty participants from local councils, the French Marine Protected Areas Agency, the DDTMs for the Nord and Pas-de-Calais areas were trained in the POLMAR system and shoreline clean-up techniques. *CEDRE Newsletter* [Read more](#)

GUADELOUPE: SARA TRAINING

Upon request by the management of the HSEQI division at SARA and its Training department, a practical oil spill response training course was run by Cedre in Guadeloupe. This course was intended for personnel at the storage facilities in Jarry, Dégrad-des-Cannes and Kourou-Pariacabo and the refinery in Le Lamentin and was held from 31st May to 3rd June at the Jarry storage facility in Pointe-à-Pitre. The aim was to provide participants with concrete, hands-on knowledge of clean-up site organisation and of the response techniques and equipment to be deployed in the event of a spill. The 14 participants had the chance to put into practice the principles presented during the theory lectures through two exercises: the first simulating an overflowing tank and the second a spill at a wharf. *CEDRE Newsletter* [Read more](#)

KOREA: NOAA AWARDS KOEM OF APPRECIATION



June 22 - Recognized for the contribution to Marine Protected Area (MPA) management and marine environment preservation, KOEM received an appreciation from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

KOEM has carried various projects related to customized education projects suitable for regions, with various issues such as citizen monitoring, eco-tourism, as a part of the Korea-U.S. marine science and technology cooperation project*;

* Korea-U.S. marine science and technology cooperation project is the exchange and cooperation project between Korea and the U.S. *KOEM* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

NIGERIA: HOW NIGERIA'S BUHARI CAN CLEAN UP Ogoniland's OIL SPILLS

July 1 - Nigeria has started cleaning up oil-soaked Ogoniland, but there are some key flaws in the plan.

Former Nigerian President Goodluck Jonathan failed to act on the results of the 2011 United Nations report. It is commendable that President Muhammadu Buhari has moved to address the environmental pollution and improve the livelihoods of the Ogoni people.

But there are four fundamental omissions that could undermine the clean-up. These could also prolong the 20- to 30-year target of recovering and cleaning up the region. These fundamental omissions are:

- the limited involvement of Nigerian experts in the assessment;
- the lack of a socioeconomic study of Ogoniland;
- an absence of comprehensive data on the full extent of damage on livelihoods and its long-term costs; and
- the lack of clarity on who is responsible to pay for the clean-up between the oil companies and Nigerian government.

A set of clear indicators must be developed to monitor and evaluate the activities of new institutions. This must be supported by a clear legal framework based on transparency and openness. This approach should make individuals or groups accountable at every stage of the implementation process and must be well communicated to the public. *Newsweek.com*

Read the complete text of this article by [Ademola Adenle](#) who is Fellow at the School of Global Environmental Sustainability, [Colorado State University](#).

USA: CONGRESS APPROVES PIPELINE SAFETY REAUTHORIZATION

July 4 - Both Houses of Congress recently cleared a bill that reauthorizes the Pipelines and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) through fiscal 2019 and grants the agency additional regulatory responsibilities in the aftermath of the Porter Ranch underground natural gas reservoir leak and other hazardous materials spills.

The bill, S. 2276, resulted from a bipartisan collaboration among members of the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee and the House Transportation and Infrastructure and Energy and Commerce committees. Each committee had passed its own version of an agency reauthorization bill earlier this year; the final bill incorporates parts of those measures into a single, bipartisan package for the President's signature.

Besides authorizing \$720 million for PHMSA programs for four years, the bill allows the issuance of emergency orders placing restrictions on pipeline usage during an emergency and directs PHMSA to create baseline safety regulations for underground national gas storage facilities. PHMSA had been operating without authorization since the last one expired at the end of fiscal 2015.

The bill requires the Secretary of Transportation to create a user fee on pipeline operators to fund the new minimum safety standards and allows PHMSA to restrict owners and operators of pipeline facilities in violation of safety standards. The bill would establish the Great Lakes, coastal beaches and coastal waters as particularly sensitive environments, and subject to stricter regulations of pipelines.

The final bill is available at: <https://www.congress.gov/114/bills/s2276/BILLS-114s2276eah.xml> *George Holliday's Newsletter*

USA: U.S. PORTS WANT MORE ACTION ON DIRTY BOMB PREVENTION

July 6 - The threat of terrorist smuggling at U.S. ports appears to be increasing, says the American Association of Port Authorities (AAPA), who wants mechanisms to prevent cyber terrorism and illegal nuclear materials from being trafficked through ports intensified.

Nuclear smuggling can involve small quantities of highly enriched uranium or plutonium that could be used to build an improvised nuclear device. Additionally, radiological materials, such as cesium-137, cobalt-60, and strontium-90, can be combined with conventional explosives to build a radiological dispersal device, often referred to as a dirty bomb.

According to a nuclear and radiological material trafficking database managed by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), approximately 2,700 cases of illicit trafficking of such material have been confirmed as of December 31, 2014. These cases were reported by more than 100 countries that voluntarily contribute to IAEA's database. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

U.S. RELEASES FINAL RULES FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING IN THE ARCTIC

July 7 - The U.S. Department of Interior on Thursday released its final regulations over any future offshore exploratory drilling activities on the U.S. Arctic Outer Continental Shelf to ensure safety and environmental protection in the Arctic region.

The Arctic-specific regulations focus solely on Outer Continental Shelf exploratory drilling operations from floating vessels within the U.S. Beaufort and Chukchi Seas.

Other news reports from around the world (continued)



Photo: The Shell-contracted Noble Discoverer drilling rig in Dutch Harbor, Alaska in Summer 2012. Photo: Shell Alaska

The rules require oil companies to ensure proper internal controls and planning for oil spill prevention, containment and responses – all which were issues identified by previous Interior reports, specifically regarding Shell's 2012 exploration activities in the Arctic.

More specifically, the final rule requires operators to develop an Integrated Operations Plan addressing all phases of a proposed Arctic OCS exploration program and submit it to Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) in advance of filing an Exploration Plan. Companies are also required to have access to – and the ability to promptly deploy – well control and containment equipment, such as capping stacks and containment domes, while drilling below or working below the surface casing. *gCaptain*

https://gcaptain.com/u-s-releases-final-arctic-offshore-drilling-rules/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3AGcaptain+%28gCaptain.com%29

<http://maritime-executive.com/article/us-finalizes-arctic-drilling-rule>

<http://thehill.com/policy/energy-environment/286881-obama-toughens-arctic-drilling-rules>

https://gcaptain.com/despite-industry-pleas-obama-imposes-costly-arctic-drilling-rules/?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3AGcaptain+%28gCaptain.com%29

USA: NINE SECONDS OR DIE: CBIRF TRAINS TO THE BASICS EVERY DAY

Picture: Marines and Sailors with Chemical Biological Incident Response Force unit participated in an all hands on gas mask drill on June 7, 2016, at the Naval Support Facility Indian Head, Md. The Gas Mask Drill was to ensure all the Marines and Sailors are proficient to meet the nine second limit to successfully put on a gas mask in case of any real threat. The drill is necessary to ensure CBIRF's ability to be ready at any moment's notice.

July 8 - "Gas, gas, gas," the first sergeant yells out. Shortly after that shout, you hear the pulling of Velcro and straps and hard exhales as the Marines and Sailors expertly don their M53 Chemical-Biological Protective Mask.

In less than 9 seconds, members of Chemical Biological Incident Response Force, CBIRF, have pulled their masks out of the carrying case, squeezed it onto their heads, cinched the straps holding the mask tight to their face, cleared simulated contaminants out of the mask with a hard exhale of air and raised their hands in the air to signify they have properly donned their masks.



During these battle drills, Marines and Sailors who fail at this basic defense measure must re-test until successful. Failure is not an option for the Nation's premiere chemical, biological, radiological, nuclear, and high-explosives response force *Marines*
[Read more](#)

People in the news

MANAGEMENT CHANGES AT CEDRE

On 30th June, Georges Peigné, Deputy Director and Manager of Cedre's Scientific and Technical Department, set off towards new horizons after 36 years of loyal service to the company. He was in charge of overseeing production activities. In this capacity, he coordinated and ran the Strategy Committee. Arnaud Guéna, Studies and Training Department Manager, who has been working at Cedre for 17 years, is taking over from him to carry out this important task. *CEDRE Newsletter* [Read more](#)

SHORELINE CLEAN-UP – PART 25

A 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)

Natural clean-up

Wave action can be very effective currents and tides efficiently remove hydrocarbons from the coastal regions. [Photograph Clark Little]

Many techniques promote additional damage to the community being cleaned. Often, doing nothing, and allowing the environment to recover naturally, is the best procedure in terms of the environment.

For example, on rocky coastlines and areas of bluffs exposed to the action of waves, one should give priority to natural recovery.

In the *Braer* case (Shetland Isles UK), despite the large volume of oil spilled, the environment was only slightly affected by the oil. Natural clean-up was shown to be very efficient in this case involving a very light crude oil and severe storm weather conditions.

The oil in this case was a very light crude but the weather was close to hurricane force, this turned out to be the biggest natural dispersal demonstration to date, with some 84,000 tonnes of crude dispersed in less than two weeks.

But traces were later found in the sediments some 150 miles to the south near Fair Isle.

It is clear that the natural process of degradation by means of exposure to weather conditions can eliminate the oil rapidly in some coastal areas and that recovery may be completed in a few years depending on the viscosity of the oil.

However, the clean-up response should aim to significantly reduce the recovery time for the environment, so that economic and tourist concerns and, principally, worries about the effects on the wildlife can be minimised and problems resulting from complaints and claims from the affected parties can be reduced or avoided.

The choice of the available techniques and their application should be made very carefully, so that impacts are minimised.

In general terms, less sensitive coasts are those with greater potential for natural recovery such as areas heavily exposed to waves. These areas generally do not get cleaned up due to the danger to human life and it is probable that they will not suffer any long-term damage.

The sheltered coastal areas are more sensitive to oil spills and also are more sensitive to damage from some clean-up measures. To this end we try to work together to find the least damaging solutions to the environmental problem.

With all shoreline clean-up operations there is often a conflict between what people want done and what can be done. We have to concentrate on doing the best we can for the environment and the local population. This can lead to conflicts, some can be resolved and others cannot. Nothing is perfect.

Coastal areas also vary greatly in their value, whether in economic, recreational, educational terms or for conservation, and in their role in the marine ecosystem. Some of these environments deserve a considerable effort in terms of protection from oil spills. Due to great variability in sensitivity, potential and importance of their recuperation, it is essential that contingency plans are sufficiently flexible in order to structure response mechanisms and tailor them to the special conditions of each coastal region.



To be continued in next week's newsletter

RESEARCHERS CLAIM SUPERGELATORS HOLD KEY TO MORE EFFECTIVE OIL SPILL CLEANUP

June 17 - Large-scale oil spills, where hundreds of tons of petroleum products are accidentally released into the oceans, not only have devastating effects on the environment, but have significant socio-economic impact as well.

Current techniques of cleaning up oil spills are not very efficient and may even cause further pollution or damage to the environment. These methods, which include the use of toxic detergent-like compounds called dispersants or burning of the oil slick, result in incomplete removal of the oil. The oil molecules remain in the water over long periods and may even be spread over a larger area as they are carried by wind and waves. Further, burning can only be applied to fresh oil slicks of at least 3 millimeters thick, and this process would also cause secondary environmental pollution.

In a bid to improve the technology utilized by cleanup crews to manage and contain such large spills, researchers from the Institute of Bioengineering and Nanotechnology (IBN) of A*STAR have invented a smart oil-scavenging material or supergelators that could help clean up oil spills efficiently and rapidly to prevent secondary pollution.

These supergelators are derived from highly soluble small organic molecules, which instantly self-assemble into nanofibers to form a 3D net that traps the oil molecules so that they can be removed easily from the surface of the water.

“Marine oil spills have a disastrous impact on the environment and marine life, and result in an enormous economic burden on society. Our rapid-acting supergelators offer an effective cleanup solution that can help to contain the severe environmental damage and impact of such incidents in the future,” said IBN Executive Director Professor Jackie Y. Ying.

Motivated by the urgent need for a more effective oil spill control solution, the IBN researchers developed new compounds that dissolve easily in environmentally friendly solvents and gel rapidly upon contact with oil. The supergelator molecules arrange themselves into a 3D network, entangling the oil molecules into clumps that can then be easily skimmed off the water’s surface.

“The most interesting and useful characteristic of our molecules is their ability to stack themselves on top of each other. These stacked columns allow our researchers to create and test different molecular constructions, while finding the best structure that will yield the desired properties,” said IBN Team Leader and Principal Research Scientist Dr Huaqiang Zeng.

IBN’s supergelators have been tested on various types of weathered and unweathered crude oil in seawater, and have been found to be effective in solidifying all of them. The supergelators take only minutes to solidify the oil at room temperature for easy removal from water. In addition, tests carried out by the research team showed that the supergelator was not toxic to human cells, as well as zebrafish embryos and larvae. The researchers believe that these qualities would make the supergelators suitable for use in large oil spill areas.

The Institute is looking for industrial partners to further develop its technology for commercial use. [Nanowerk.com](#) [Read more](#)
Related articles in *The Straits Times* <http://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/new-find-may-clear-marine-oil-spills-safely> and in *The Maritime Executive* <http://maritime-executive.com/article/new-oil-cleanup-technology-could-speed-cleanup> [Thanks to ISCO Committee Member, D. F. Sheehan, Hon.FISCO]

GAZPROM INTRODUCES OIL SPILL TECHNOLOGY

July 8 - Russian energy company Gazprom said it’s developed a new biological agent that can help degrade oil spills and is effective in a range of climates.

During an event in St. Petersburg, the Russian company commissioned the use of BIOROS, a biological agent that can help degrade oil spills. President Yahya Jammeh said -

“BIOROS is an innovative product for oil spill cleanup,” the company explained. “It is more effective than similar products made in Russia and abroad, as it provides for, among other things, quicker oil spill removal at a greater range of temperatures, from 40 to 113 degrees Fahrenheit.” *Item 13* [Read more](#) [Note from editor – I have been unable to find any detailed technical information about this new product.]

Publications

EMSA CONSOLIDATED ANNUAL ACTIVITY REPORT 2015

This Consolidated Annual Activity Report for 2015 provides a detailed account of the actions carried out in accordance with the above framework, including the gradual implementation of the initial 5% staff cut provided for under the Commission Communication mentioned above, notably the earmarking of five posts in the 2015 establishment plan for expected staff cuts in 2016.

 [EMSA Consolidated Annual Activity Report 2015.pdf](#)

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

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	June 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	May 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	July 2016 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	June 2016 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 1, 2016
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	June 2016
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	July 8, 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	Quarter 1, 2016 issue
NOWPAP Quarterly	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 1, 2016 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	June 2016 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	July 7, 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	May 16 - 30, 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	July 1, 2016
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Spring 2016 issue
WMU Newsletter	News from the World Maritime University	July 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

UK: 7TH MARITIME SALVAGE & CASUALTY RESPONSE – LONDON, 7-8 SEPTEMBER 2016

With salvors having to conduct harder and more complex salvage operations with the cost of wreck removal spiralling out of control, the industry heads are looking at innovative ways to ensure a secure and profitable future. 2015 saw a number of developments in the salvage industry, including mergers in the salvage market, the entrance of the Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention, and the remarkable conclusion of the Costa Concordia wreck removal. Salvage contracts continue to be used with opinions differing between which contract is best; the battle between LOF Vs. other commercial salvage contracts continues to dominate the debate. But are the salvage companies equipped and prepared for these challenges of future? How will the issues in the current soft insurance market affect the salvage and shipping industry? Which salvage contracts are proving the most beneficial? [More info](#)

FRANCE: 2016 CEDRE INFORMATION DAY

The 2016 Cedre Information Day, on the theme of "Remote Detection and Maritime Pollution", will be held on 13th October in Brest as part of the Sea Tech Week. A panel of internationally recognised experts will be there to share their experience and engage in discussion with the audience. To register, please visit www.cedre.fr

UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

COUNTRY	2016	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
FRANCE	July 11-12	MARPOCS Project Meeting	Brest
LIBERIA	August 1-4	W'shop on Conting'y Planning & Sensitivity Mapping	Monrovia
NIGERIA	August 2-3	National Workshop on Oil Spill Modelling	Abuja
INDIA	August 11-12	Oil Spill India	Mumbai
SINGAPORE	August 30-31	International Safety at Sea Conference	Singapore
UK	September 7-8	7th Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response	London
INDIA	Sept. 12-14	International Rivers Symposium	New Delhi
SINGAPORE	Sept 12-14	Salvage and Wreck Asia	Singapore
NORWAY	Sept 12-16	International NOSCA Oil Spill Technology Seminar	Bodo
SINGAPORE	Sept. 13-15	Salvage & Wreck Asia Conference	Singapore
INDIA	Sept. 22-24	India Clean Seas Conference 2016	Goa
FRANCE	October 10-14	Sea Tech Event 2016	Brest
UK	October 12-13	The Contamination Expo Series 2016	London
UAE	October TBA	EI Middle East HSE Technical Forum	Abu Dhabi

FRANCE	October 13	Info Day - Remote detection and maritime pollution	Brest
UK	October 18	UK Spill – Spill Science Seminar	Southampton
USA	November 1-3	Clean Gulf 2016	Tampa FL
USA	November 1-4	Emergency Preparedness, Hazmat Response Conf.	Pittsburgh
MALTA	November 2-3	JOIFF Fire & Explosion Hazard Mgmt. Conference	St. Julians
UAE	November 7-10	Abu Dhabi Int'l Petroleum Exhibition & Conference	Abu Dhabi
	2017		
USA	May 15-18	International Oil Spill Conference	Long Beach CA
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

Job vacancies

IPIECA IS LOOKING FOR A PROJECT COORDINATOR – ENVIRONMENT

Title: Project Coordinator – Environment

Reports to: Senior Manager – Environment

Location: IPIECA London office, City Tower, 40 Basinghall Street EC2V 5DE

[More info](#)

Safety briefing

NEW SOLAS REGS TACKLE CONFINED SPACE ENTRY

With most of the recent regulatory focus being on the new SOLAS verified gross mass rule for packed containers, another new regulation has entered into force aimed at enhancing the safety of seafarers entering enclosed spaces by requiring ships to carry portable atmosphere testing equipment on board.

Enclosed spaces are spaces that have limited openings for entry and exit, inadequate ventilation and are not designed for continuous worker occupancy. Atmosphere in any enclosed space may be oxygen-deficient or oxygen-enriched and/or contain flammable and/or toxic gases or vapors.

Entering enclosed spaces on ships presents a major hazard to seafarers and has been blamed for countless deaths over the years, often times involving more than one person at a time.

The new regulation XI-1/7 Atmosphere testing instrument for enclosed spaces in the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS), requires ships to carry an appropriate portable atmosphere testing instrument or instruments, capable, as a minimum, of measuring concentrations of oxygen, flammable gases or vapors, hydrogen sulphide and carbon monoxide, prior to entry into enclosed spaces.

Enclosed spaces covered by the regulation include cargo spaces, double bottoms, fuel tanks, ballast tanks, cargo pump-rooms, cofferdams, chain lockers, void spaces, duct keels, inter-barrier spaces, boilers, engine crankcases, engine scavenge air receivers, sewage tanks, and adjacent connected spaces, among other areas. The list is not exhaustive and enclosed spaces should be identified and listed on a ship-by-ship basis, the IMO says. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

Company news

ISCO MEMBER, LAMOR, HAS MADE A DOCUMENTARY IN WHICH THE COMPANY'S ON-SITE ENGINEERS EXPLAIN THE REMEDIATION PROCESSES ACTIVATED IN THE NORTH PERUVIAN JUNGLE.

Lamor has supplied Peru with oil spill response equipment since the 1990's, and in 2013 the company made the decision to invest in Peru and established a subsidiary Lamor Peru.

"We are fully qualified to provide oil spill response, recovery and remediation services for these specific oil spills which took place in January in the northern Peruvian jungle in areas Km 440 and Km 260. Petroperu activated its contingency plan, immediately attacked the spill and then called us to collaborate in every task concerning clean-up, remediation and assessment with the final disposal," says Erick Monge, Lamor's Sales Manager, Latin America. [Watch the documentary film](#)

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