



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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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

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



UPDATE ON DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL SPILL RESPONSE CONTRACT

February 3 – Good progress was made at the latest meeting of the ISCO-BIMCO Working Group (WG) in London this week. Readers of this newsletter will recall that the purpose of the project is to facilitate a speedier response to major spill events. The immediate availability of an international recognised contract to govern the relationship between a party requesting assistance and a response contractor means that response mobilisation delay resulting from need for complex contractual negotiation can be avoided.

It's like being able to invoke the spill response equivalent of Lloyd's Open Form for emergency intervention in marine salvage – except that the application of the new International Response Contract isn't only for marine spills – it can also be used for onshore oil and HNS spills such as those from pipeline ruptures and railway accidents.

Requesting parties can include governments, vessel owners, oil and chemical companies, pipeline operators and other entities that have obligations to quickly initiate response to major pollution events.

Work on the development of the contract is now near to completion with publication expected in summer, 2017. Participants in the WG have included not only representatives of ISCO and BIMCO but also those of the International Group of P&I Clubs, ITOPI, ISU, the Spill Control Association of America and other interested parties. A wide consultation exercise has also been conducted with other stakeholders.

The availability of the new International Response Contract will complement other initiatives designed to improve spill response mechanisms, including the recently published IMO Guidelines for International Offers of Assistance and ISCO's Emergency Assistance facility for rapid sourcing of response resources.

To introduce the new Contract to the member states of IMO the WG resolved that ISCO and BIMCO will jointly submit an Information Paper for consideration at the July 2017 meeting of the Marine Environment Protection Committee. A presentation on the Contract will also be made at the May 2017 International Oil Pollution Conference at Long Beach, California. Read more under ISCO News on Page 8.

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The emergency spill response market is expected to witness significant growth in the coming years owing to stringent environmental regulations across world to reduce the environmental pollution from spills. The government agencies across the world are focused on reducing environmental pollution from the spills, leading to the growth of the emergency spill response market. *Whatech.com* [Read more](#)

Incident reports

USA: OIL PIPELINE BREACH SPILLS 50,000 GALLONS OF OIL INTO THE YELLOWSTONE RIVER

January 19 - An oil pipeline breach spilled up to 50,000 gallons of oil into the Yellowstone River near Glendive, Montana.

But the spill, which occurred at 10 a.m. on Saturday, does not pose a threat to public safety or health, according to Montana officials. And while some of the oil did get into the water, the area where it spilled was frozen over and that could help reduce the impact, said Dave Parker, a spokesman for Governor Steve Bullock. *Daily Mail* [Read more](#)

January 21 - After oil spilled in Yellowstone River, residents told not to drink water *CNN* [Read more](#)
[Thanks to ISCO Committee Member, Marc Shaye]

INDIA: OIL SPILL ACROSS KAMARAJAR PORT AFTER SHIPS COLLIDE OFF ENNORE PORT

January 29 - There was a thin film of oil for two nautical miles along the Kamarajar Port after an LPG tanker and an oil and chemical tanker collided within the port limits in Ennore early Saturday morning.

Kamarajar Port chairman MA Bhaskarachar said the LPG vessel, BW Maple, Isle of Man flagship, collided with the Indian vessel MT Kancheepuram, an oil and chemical tanker at the outskirts of the port in Ennore at 4 am. The incident happened about two nautical miles outside the harbour. *The New Indian Express* [Read more](#)

January 29 - Chennai oil spill dooms turtles [The Hindu](#)

January 29 - Oil spill from tanker involved in collision being mopped up: Coast Guard [Business Standard](#)

January 29 - Tankers Collide Off India, Small Spill [The Maritime Executive](#)

January 30 - LPG Tanker 'BW Maple' Involved in Collision off India [qCaptain](#)

January 31 - Chennai oil spill hits marine life [Deccan Herald](#)

January 31 - Over 20 tonnes oil spilt into sea after ships' collision: Coast Guard. [India Live Today](#)

January 31 - Oil Spill Near Chennai Is 20 Tonnes, Not 1, Says Coast Guard [NDTV](#)

International news (continued)

"SCAT FOR TOMORROW"

January 27 – Report received from ITOPF - ITOPF was invited to participate in the Coastal Response Research Center's (CRR) workshop "SCAT for Tomorrow" at NOAA's Disaster Response Center in Mobile, Alabama from 18-19 January 2017. SCAT or Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique is a systematic method for surveying an affected shoreline after an oil spill.

The aim of the workshop was to develop a consensus on data standards for shoreline oiling to spur the development of advanced inter-operable data collection and management tools for oil spill response. Dr Mark Whittington attended on behalf of ITOPF. The other participants (48 in total) comprised representatives from NOAA, USCG, EPA, state authorities and industry, as well as other international organisations. For further information, contact Carl.Childs@noaa.gov.

Note from Editor – Apologies for not publishing advance notice of this workshop in the ISCO Newsletter. It would be really helpful if organisers of events that will be of interest to our community would give me notice in good time before the date of the event.

REPORT EXPLORES THE EMERGENCY SPILL RESPONSE MARKET DOMINATED BY PORTS & HARBORS VERTICAL GROWING AT 7.0% CAGR TO HIT \$33.68 BILLION BY 2022

February 1 - "The emergency spill response market is driven by stringent environmental regulations for preventing spills and the government focus on reducing the environmental pollution".

Incident reports (continued)

January 31 - Chennai oil spill: Scientists test waters to predict ecological impact [The Times of India](#)

January 31 - MT Dawn Kancheepuran blames Kamarajan port for oil spill [The News Minute](#)

February 2 - Chennai oil spill: Authorities grapple with cleanup as ecological disaster looms [Hindustan Times](#)

February 2 - Chennai beaches choked: Oil spill clean-up to take 2 more days [India Today](#)

February 3 - India Impounds Ships, Detain Crews Over Oil Spill off Chennai [gCaptain](#)

February 3 - Chennai oil spill: HC refuses to detain vessels [The Hindu](#)

February 3 - Chennai Oil Spill is "Ten Times Bigger" Than Estimated [The Maritime Executive](#)

USA: ANOTHER ND BADLANDS OIL FLUID SPILL NEAR BIG SPILL IN DECEMBER

January 29 - A newly reported oil fluid spill in the the western North Dakota Badlands is located close as the crow flies to an earlier massive spill that will remain under clean up until spring. [The Dickinson Press](#) [Read more](#)

January 31 -Another ND Badlands oil fluid spill near to big spill in December

Even while a Canadian company specializing in cleaning cold water oil spills had been working to rectify a 4,200-barrel oil spill into Ash Coulee Creek, its workers were deployed to a second spill of 300 barrels of primarily toxic salt water impacting the Franks Creek drainage just 3 miles away. [Prairie Business Magazine](#) [Read more](#)

JAPAN: U.S. NAVY SHIP RUNS AGROUND OFF JAPAN



Photo: USS Antietam (CG54). U.S. Navy file photo

January 31 - The U.S. Navy's guided missile cruiser USS Antietam ran aground off the coast of Yokosuka, Japan on Tuesday, damaging the ship's props and causing hydraulic oil to spill into the water.

The incident was first reported by the Navy Times. The report, citing two Navy officials familiar with the incident, says the ship grounded after dragging anchor in high winds near its home port of Yokosuka. The grounding caused the ship to dump some 1,100 gallons of oil into the water, the officials said. [gCaptain](#) [Read more](#) Other related reports - [Military.com](#) and [The Maritime Executive](#)

USA: TEXAS - COLLIN COUNTY SPILL AFFECTS OIL PRICES WORLDWIDE

January 31 - Crews are still cleaning up after a major oil pipeline was struck and spilled oil across a highway in the small Collin County town of Desert, forcing the pipeline to shut down temporarily and affect oil prices worldwide. The pipe is part of a major pipeline that pumps 400,000 barrels of oil a day from Cushing, Oklahoma to the refineries in the Gulf of Mexico. [Fox News](#) [Read more](#)

CANADA: MAJOR OIL LEAK OCCURS ON FIRST NATION TERRITORY IN SASKATCHEWAN

February 1 - Just over 200,000 litres of oil has been leaked on First Nations territory in Saskatchewan.

The oil leak affects farmland on the Ocean Man First Nation, treaty land southeast of Regina. While it is not a residential area, the leak has reached a cemetery that the band in the area deems sacred. [The Manitoban](#) [Read more](#)

February 2 - Tundra Energy Marketing dealing with second Saskatchewan oil spill

Tundra Energy Marketing Ltd. (TEML), the Calgary-based company handling a pipeline spill that saw 200,000 litres of crude leaked onto First Nations farmland in Saskatchewan, is now dealing with another, albeit much smaller, oil spill. [Global News](#) [Read more and watch video](#)

TURKEY: LISTING CARGO SHIP FOUND ABANDONED OFF ISTANBUL

February 2 - A Cambodian-flagged cargo has been found abandoned and listing at an anchorage near Istanbul, and officials are wondering what exactly happened to its crew. Turkish authorities identified the ship as the 65-meter general cargo ship M/V Tallas (IMO 7364546). It was discovered Wednesday night at an anchorage off Zeytinburnu, located on the European side of Istanbul, in the Sea of Marmara. [gCaptain](#) [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

AUSTRALIA: ESSO REPORTS OILY SHEEN AT AUSTRALIAN OFFSHORE PLATFORM



Photo: West Tuna platform (courtesy ExxonMobil)

February 2 - On Thursday, Australia's National Offshore Petroleum Safety and Environmental Management Authority (NOPSEMA) said that oil firm Esso had notified it of an oily sheen next to the West Tuna platform, 25 nm offshore in the Bass Strait.

The facility's export pipeline was depressurized and it will remain shut down while authorities investigate. According to computer models, the spill is expected to dissipate, and there was no visible sheen on the surface as of February 2. NOPSEMA said that it cannot comment further on specifics while it investigates the incident. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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

BANGLADESH: NO CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR AT LEAST ONE YEAR



Photo: The capsized oil-tanker in Shela River in the Sundarbans spilling dark furnace oil.

February 2 - It will take one more year to finalise a national oil spill contingency plan, which began two years ago, to avoid large-scale damages in future. Taken up after experiencing several oil spills, some in the Sundarbans, requires the coordination of 20 government agencies including port authorities, the navy and coast guard will require

some more work, said Mokbul Hossain, director of the Department of Environment, the designated focal point. Mokbul, who is heading the initiative, told the Dhaka Tribune that Bangladesh does not have the expertise on the issue. "We will need more time to finish the work." *Dhaka Tribune* [Read more](#)

CANADA: REGULATOR SAYS TUNDRA OIL SPILL CLEANUP ALMOST COMPLETE

February 2 - Crews have nearly finished cleaning up 35 barrels of crude oil that leaked from a pipeline at a facility owned by Tundra Energy Marketing Ltd in southeastern Saskatchewan, Canada's energy regulator said on Thursday.

There were no injuries or fires as a result of the spill, which occurred Tuesday evening at a Tundra's Ingoldsby facility, 270 kilometers (168 miles) southeast of Regina.

It was the second crude oil spill in a matter of weeks for the privately-held company, after more than 1,000 barrels leaked onto aboriginal land in Saskatchewan.

The Ingoldsby facility comes under the jurisdiction of Canada's National Energy Board because it is a federally regulated site, and an investigation into the root cause of the leak is underway. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

CANADA: ALBERTA INDUSTRY OIL SPILL ESTIMATES 'TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE,' RESEARCHER SAYS



Photo: A boom stretches out to contain a pipeline leak on the Gleniffer reservoir near Innisfail, Alta. in 2012. An Edmonton researcher is alleging that oil spill estimates are underestimated and are "too good to be true." (Jeff McIntosh / THE CANADIAN PRESS)

February 2 - A researcher says the agency that monitors Alberta's energy industry has underestimated the impact of tens of thousands of spills going back decades.

Kevin Timoney, an Edmonton-area consulting biologist, used sophisticated statistical analysis, an

extensive research review and comparisons with other jurisdictions to conclude the Alberta Energy Regulator doesn't have a good handle on how much oil and saline water has been released into the environment or remains there.

"Their spill volumes and recovery volumes are too good to be true," said Timoney, who did the study on behalf of northern indigenous bands concerned about spills on their land.

Timoney began with an AER database of 23,655 oil spills and 14,833 primary spills of saline water reported between 1975 and February 2013. The database included records of how much oil or water was spilled and recovered.

Timoney found that the regulator considered 100 per cent of the oil was recovered in 53 per cent of the oil spills. The median recovery rate for oil was 100 per cent and for saline water 80 per cent. *The Star* [Read more](#)

INDIA: TIRUVALLUR DISTRICT GOVERNMENT TO SEEK CENTRE'S HELP FOR OIL SPILL

January 31 - One tonne of oil has leaked into the sea off the city due to a collision between two ships here on 28 January and measures, including procuring oil dispersants from the Centre, are underway to tackle the situation, the Tamilnadu government said on Tuesday.

Explaining in the Assembly the steps being taken, State Fisheries Minister D Jayakumar said, "One tonne oil has leaked", which resulted in floating oil slicks.

He was responding to a submission by Leader of Opposition MK Stalin that the oil spill had led to a situation where the fish were facing death and the fishermen in the locality could not put out to sea for fishing. *News Today* [Read more](#)

[Note from editor – Later reports indicate a spill of at least 20 tonnes – See reports on pages 2 and 3]

INDIA: INDIA LOOKS AT CREATING OIL GIANT TO TAKE ON GLOBAL RIVALS

February 1 - India plans to create a giant oil company by combining state-owned firms, finance minister Arun Jaitley said on Wednesday, as the world's third largest oil consumer looks to better compete with global majors in acquiring foreign assets.

New Delhi is struggling to raise local oil production and imports about 80 percent of its oil. Prime Minister Narendra Modi in 2015 set a goal of cutting that to 67 percent by 2020.

India is replacing China as the driver of global oil demand growth and the International Energy Agency expects it to account for a quarter of global energy use by 2040.

"We propose to create an integrated public sector oil major which will be able to match the performance of international and domestic private sector oil and gas companies," Jaitley said in his budget speech. *Rigzone* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

News reports from around the world (continued)

INDIA: MYSTERIOUS BIRD DEATHS, AN OIL SPILL: TWO ECO DISASTERS LAST WEEK THAT WERE BARELY REPORTED



Photo: Image credit: ARUN SANKAR

February 2 - Over the last week, two big environment crises have been unfolding in different parts of India.

In Assam, as many as 26 Greater adjutant storks at last count – a globally endangered bird species – were found dead in a wetland just outside Guwahati.

The deaths of these birds were first discovered over January 23 and 24 and the toll has been steadily rising since.

The second disaster took place in Chennai. On Saturday, two ships collided near the Kamarajar Port at Ennore, causing an oil spill. For the last three days, officials have been struggling to clear the oil and sludge off the shores (by Monday, it had even reached Chennai's Marina Beach, about 25 km from the spot of the spill), but with no luck. The spill has left a thick layer of slick along the Chennai coastline and has polluted several beaches in the vicinity. It's also affected the livelihood of thousands of fishermen in the area who have not been able to go out into the sea since the incident. *Scroll in* [Read the complete article](#)

INDIA: OIL SPILL: WE'RE WELL PREPARED ON PAPER BUT SLUGGISH RESPONSE MADE PREPAREDNESS A JOKE

February 3 - Two ships collided off the coast of Ennore in Tamil Nadu on Saturday. Inexplicably, Kamarajar port authorities did not report any oil spill when it informed the Indian Coast Guard about the accident on Sunday morning. By the time they owned up and the Coast Guard fixed the leak, the damage was done. As oil sludge is being removed manually using large buckets since, the slick has travelled more than 30 km and tarred Chennai's Marina Beach.



This after 23 years of preparation since the government approved the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP) in November 1993, designating the Indian Coast Guard as the Central Coordinating Authority.

In 2015, the Coast Guard comprehensively revised the NOS-DCP to meet international standards, setting up an Online Oil Spill Advisory system that places India "amongst a select list of countries that have indigenously developed capabilities for prediction of trajectory of oil spills, mapping of environmental sensitivities in coastal zones, deployment of aerial dispersant spray system and facilitating the regional oil spill contingency plans".

We put just about everything in place, on paper. And yet, a long term marine disaster is unfolding off Ennore coast with people already reporting dead fish and turtles. *The Indian Express* [Read more and see more photos](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

KENYA: OIL SPILL IS KILLING US, TAITA-TAVETA RESIDENTS TELL GOVERNOR MRUTTU

January 28 - Taita-Taveta County residents living in villages where an oil spill happened last month want compensation to treat respiratory diseases. Residents from Miasenyi and Majengo Mapya villages, told their Governor John Mruttu that since the spill happened last month there has been an upsurge of respiratory diseases.

On December 17 last year, the main pipeline that snakes into several villages, burst spilling volumes of oil around. The pipeline is owned by the Kenya Pipeline Company. According to locals, more than 150 villagers were affected. Narrating their ordeal during Mr Mruttu's fact finding mission in the affected areas, the residents demanded compensation. *Standard Media* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: AGIP RECORDED 2,418 OIL SPILLS IN 7 YEARS

February 2 - The Ministry of Petroleum Resources, on Thursday said 2,418 oil spills were recorded in Nigerian Agip Oil Company's operations between 2010 and 2016.

The Director, Petroleum Resources in the ministry, Mordecai Ladan, made this known at the public hearing on "Despoliation of the Niger Delta and Activities of Nigeria Agip Oil Company" by the House of Representatives in Abuja.

Giving details of the incidents, Mr. Ladan said 10 spills each were recorded in 2010 and 2011; 2012, 575 spills; 2014, 788 spills; 2015, 498 spills and 332 in 2016.

"Most of the spills in 2012 to 2016 are attributed to sabotage due to the agitations in Niger Delta and given that the locations of most NAOC's operational areas are on land and swamp," he said. *Premium Times* [Read more](#)

OMAN HOLDS OIL SPILL EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS DRILL



Photo: Petroleum Development Oman, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs and Oman Petroleum and Environmental Services Company (PESCO), organised a drill on Monday morning to simulate the preparedness of emergency response units when faced with an oil spill.

January 31 - Petroleum Development Oman, in cooperation with the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs and Oman Petroleum and Environmental Services Company (PESCO), organised a drill on Monday morning to simulate the preparedness of emergency response units when faced with an oil spill.

In place of crude oil, though, the authorities at PDO poured 2000 litres of fish oil into the sea at Mina Al Fahal at 8am. Computer simulations indicated that

the oil was likely to spread towards Shatti Al Qurum beach and the Crowne Plaza hotel, and emergency responders had set themselves up there well in advance. *Times of Oman* [Read more](#)

SAUDI ARAMCO TO DEPLOY ITS SHALLOW-WATER INSPECTION TECHNOLOGY

February 3 - Saudi Arabia's national petroleum and natural gas company, Saudi Arabian Oil Company (Saudi Aramco), has recently revealed and demonstrated a shallow-water inspection and monitoring robot (SWIM-R) that it has developed in-house.

Following the field test, Aramco's Research and Development Center (R&DC) presented the technology, with observers agreeing to proceed to the commercialization and offshore deployment phase, offshore Saudi Arabia and elsewhere.

SWIM-R performed multiple inspection tasks on underwater pipelines. It successfully undertook visual inspection, marine-life cleaning, ultrasonic thickness readings, and cathodic protection voltage measurements.

During the trials at the Ras Tanura West Pier, the vehicle was able to maneuver and navigate through currents as well as crawl on the seabed. Traditionally, Aramco has found inspection of pipelines in shallow waters problematic with inspection procedures are performed by divers connected to a support ship or a diving support vessel (DSV) using an umbilical cord. *EOG-Asia* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

UK: NORTHUMBERLAND COUNCIL HOSTS MAJOR EVENT TO PROTECT COASTLINE

February 1 - The council facilitated a two day Maritime and Coastguard Agency Beach Supervisor's Course which trained a number of organisations on how to deal with a major pollution incident such as an oil spill.

The course attracted representatives from local councils, the emergency services and the Environment Agency.

Protecting the natural environment is a key concern in Northumberland which has over 60 miles of the most beautiful coastline in England and boasts a unique landscape containing several Sites of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) and historical sites. *NEConnected.com* [Read more](#)

USA: NEW U.S. WATERWAYS VIDEOS RELEASED

January 29 - The U.S. Waterways Council has developed a series of videos aimed at educating audiences about the importance of inland waterways infrastructure and of the Navigation & Ecosystem Sustainability Program (NESP).

The Maritime Executive [Read more and watch 3 videos](#)

ISCO news

ISCO AGM TO BE HELD DURING IOSC, CHAIRMAN OF ISCO-BIMCO WORKING GROUP TO GIVE A PRESENTATION ON THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL SPILL RESPONSE CONTRACT AND A RECEPTION TO BE HOSTED BY ISCO, THE SPILL CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA AND THE ASSOCIATION OF PETROLEUM INDUSTRY CO-OPERATIVE MANAGERS

ISCO's AGM will take place on Tuesday 16th May at the International Oil Spill Conference in Long Beach, California.

The evening event will also include a presentation to be given by Mr Tony Paulson of the West of England P&I Club who has for more than a year been acting as chairman of the joint ISCO-BIMCO Working Group on the development of the new International Spill Response Contract (see report on Page 1 of this issue). As advised in Issue 565 of the ISCO Newsletter, the new Contract will be published in two parts – one for use throughout the world except the USA and one for the USA only, the latter reflecting the different legislation prevailing in the US, including OPA 90.

In December 2016 Mr Paulson gave a presentation on the Contract at the Salvage and Wreck Conference in London but, since then, the joint Working Group (WG) has carried out a large amount of additional work with particular focus on the US version of the Contract. This has benefited very considerably from input from the Spill Control Association of America, represented at the London meetings by Mr Steven A. Candito, President and CEO of Foresea Consulting (formerly President and CEO of National Response Corporation) and the US members of ISCO serving in the joint WG. The presentation being given at IOSC will introduce the new Contract to US Members of ISCO, SCAA and APICOM and other interested members of the response community, including representatives of the relevant US Government Agencies.

These events will be accompanied by a food, wine and beer reception jointly hosted by ISCO, SCAA and APICOM. It promises to be a very interesting and enjoyable evening. The Notice of Meeting and Agenda for the ISCO AGM is being prepared and will be circulated to ISCO Members as soon as ready. Details of where and when and the programme timings are still being worked out but details will soon be released and will be published in the Newsletter as soon as possible.

For planning purposes it would be extremely helpful if ISCO members attending IOPC would kindly let us know if they intend to come to the AGM, Presentation and Reception. Please advise by email to info@spillcontrol.org

DENNIS VAN DER VEEN RESIGNS FROM THE ISCO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE – BUT WILL BECOME THE NEW MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL FOR THE NETHERLANDS



The sad news is that, after leaving the pollution control consultancy ASCC Group, Dennis will not be able to continue as a member of the Executive Committee after taking up in his new role with the Dutch government organisation Rijkswaterstaat.

The good news is that he will become the Member of the ISCO Council for the Netherlands. ISCO thanks Dennis for his contribution to the work of the Committee and welcomes him as a new Member of the ISCO Council.

RISING TO THE CHALLENGE: THE OUTCOMES OF THE IPIECA THE IOGP OIL SPILL RESPONSE JOINT INDUSTRY PROJECT 2011 – 2016



About the author - Rob Cox is Technical Director of IPIECA in London. Rob has over twenty five years of international petroleum industry experience including fifteen years with Caltex/Chevron in Africa, the Middle East and the United States. Rob’s background combines field experience in Environment, Health & Safety aspects of shipping, refining, distribution and retail marketing, as well as Environmental Management System implementation and auditing.

Until recently Rob was seconded to the position of program manager of the IOGP-IPIECA Joint Industry Project on Oil Spill Response (the OSR – JIP) which was established to understand and implement the oil spill response lessons learned from recent upstream incidents.

Rob holds a Bachelor’s degree in Chemistry and Biochemistry from the University of Dundee in Scotland and a Postgraduate Diploma in Environmental Practice from Farnborough College of Technology in England.

The April 2010 Gulf of Mexico (Macondo) oil spill incident, and other similar incidents, such as the Montara incident that took place in the Timor Sea, off the northern coast of Western Australia, have had far-reaching consequences in prompting the re-examination by industry not only of operational aspects of offshore operations, but also of an operator’s ability to respond in the event of an oil spill incident or blowout. While the response to the Gulf of Mexico spill is widely recognised to have been successful, lessons can be learned from the response effort which provide an opportunity to inform and further strengthen future preparedness and response initiatives for E&P operations and the maritime community.

In response to the Macondo incident the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (OGP, now IOGP) formed the Global Industry Response Group (GIRG), tasked with identifying the key questions to prevent recurrence of such an incident and identify learning opportunities on prevention, intervention and response. Three sub-groups were set up (see Figure 1) on Prevention, Capping and Containment, and Oil Spill Response. These groups were comprised of appropriate nominees from OGP member companies, from the IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group, from Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), and from other industry organizations, associations, and spill response cooperatives as appropriate. A further group, on Mutual Aid, was formed later.



Figure 1: The GIRG

The OGP GIRG-OSR task force reported on its findings to both the OGP Management Committee and the IPIECA Executive Committee at a joint session in February 2011. Subsequent work was conducted by a joint board-level team to examine the implications of the recommendations of the GIRG-OSR work and develop a recommended structure for the execution of that work. While certain actions recommended by the GIRG-OSR report fell within the remit of existing organisations, it was recognized that the most efficient way to execute the spill response work was for the industry to establish a limited duration Joint Industry Project (JIP), governed by the nineteen funding companies that had expressed interest. This JIP, which was officially formed in December 2011, executed the recommendations from the report in two phases over a five-year period and is now in a process of drawing all the work to a close. This is expected to be complete by June 2017.

This article highlights the rationale and initial set-up of the OSR - JIP: subsequent articles will focus on the individual component parts in more detail over the coming weeks.

Working through a JIP had several clear benefits:

- It promoted credibility through group consensus and collaboration
- It provided a body of information that can now be used to respond proactively to outside agencies
- The existence of a JIP made it easier for national administrations, intergovernmental organisations and willing third parties to participate in the studies and therefore to build their confidence in the results of the commissioned investigations and research.

The OSR JIP initiated discreet projects or provided support to projects initiated by other trade associations (e.g. API) in the nineteen subject areas resulting from the OGP GIRG-OSR project. The OSR JIP was managed by IPIECA on behalf of OGP in recognition of its long-standing experience with Oil Spill Response matters.

Initially, a total of thirty-three areas of concern were defined; some of these however were of relatively minor significance and/or could be collapsed into related project areas, and some were already being worked on by other entities. Through a process of prioritization nineteen projects were subsequently defined. These fell into four broad categories:

1. Good Practice Guidance

While the IPIECA “Report Series” had been in place for some time, and was regularly updated, it was recognized that in many cases the information contained in them needed to be expanded to include the upstream community. A total of 22 Good Practice Guides were initially envisaged; a further two were added in 2015 and 2016 respectively. The produced guidance is currently being translated into 6 languages.

2. Technical reports

These were a series of short technical reports, developed to communicate technical good practice or to make it accessible to external parties. Subjects included work on dispersant licensing and approvals, dispersant logistics, *In-Situ* Burning equipment, post – spill monitoring, oil spill response preparedness for offshore installations, OSRO assessment and auditing and volunteer management case studies, amongst others.

3. Pure research & longer technical documents

The JIP also commissioned small research projects e.g. to find better methods of bench scale testing dispersants for their efficacy against various crude types and in areas such as residue characterization from *In-Situ* Burning operations

4. Outreach & Communication

Although not initially planned, the JIP soon realized the need for “outreach” materials, and produced a range of simple videos/animations, “Glance/Scan” sound-bite size PowerPoint presentations and “inreach” materials; the “Confident Ambassador” programme was used to train hundreds of industry staff worldwide.

Altogether, the Oil Spill Response JIP took five years, cost nearly eight million dollars, employed over seventy consultants and contractors, made use of nearly two hundred and fifty industry reviewers, and carried out one hundred and forty visits, workshops & seminars.

The OSR-JIP website can be accessed at: www.oilspillresponseproject.org

A series of articles over the coming weeks will explain the materials produced in detail including showcasing some innovative improvements to traditional concepts such as Tiered Preparedness, NEBA, dispersant efficacy testing and risk-based response planning for offshore installations.

To be continued

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

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 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	December 2016
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	January 2017 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	December 2016 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 4, 2016
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	December 2016
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	February 3, 2017
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2017 issue
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2017 issue
NOWPAP Quarterly	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 1, 2016 issue
Ocean Orbit	Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	May 2016
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	January 2016 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	February 1 2017
Safe Seas, Clean Seas	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	December 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	December 1-15, 2016
Transport Canada Newsletter	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	December 2016 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	February 1, 2017
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Spring 2016 issue
WMU Newsletter	News from the World Maritime University	December 2016 issue

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

Upcoming events summary

COUNTRY	2017	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
MAURITANIA	February 7-9	GI WACAF National workshop and table-top exercise	Nouakchott
EGYPT	February 14-16	Egypt Petroleum Show	Cairo
UK	March 7	UK Spill Annual Members' Meeting and Dinner	London
TUNISIA	March 14-15	Oil Spill Preparedness Workshop with OSRL	Tunis
USA	March 28-30	2017 SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Washington DC
CYPRUS	April 6-7	East Med Marine and Oil & Gas Exhibition	Limassol
UAE	April 10-12	RECISO EnviroSpill 2017	Abu Dhabi
SINGAPORE	April 25-28	10th Intl Chemical and Oil Pollution (ICOPCE)	Singapore
UAE	May 9-10	Offshore Arabia Conference & Exhibition	Dubai
USA	May 15-18	International Oil Spill Conference	Long Beach CA
USA	May 16	ISCO AGM, ISCO-BIMCO Presentation & Reception	Long Beach CA
BELGIUM	June 7-8	European Environmental Ports Conference 2017	Antwerp
UK	June 20-21	Wreck Removal Contracts & Operations Seminar	London
USA	June 27-28	Clean Waterways	Louisville KY
UK	July 3-7	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
CHINA	July 14	6th NOWPAP DELTA Exercise	Weihai
UAE	Nov. 13-16	Abu Dhabi Int'l Petroleum Exhibition & Conference	Abu Dhabi
USA	Dec. 5-7	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	Houston, TX
2018			
UK	March 13-15	2018 INTERSPILL Conference and Exhibition	London
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

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