

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 organisations.

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WORLD MARITIME DAY 2017



Listen to the official video message from **Kitack Lim**, Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization.

"Connecting Ships, Ports and People" has been selected as the World Maritime Day theme for 2017. The theme was chosen to provide an opportunity to focus on the many diverse actors involved in the shipping and logistics areas. *IMO* [Read more](#)

DID DISPERSANTS HELP RESPONDERS BREATHE EASIER AT DEEPWATER HORIZON?

This article by **Christopher M. Reddy** and **J. Samuel Arey** appeared in the August 28 issue of *The Maritime Global News*.

Seven years after the disastrous Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, the decision to inject chemical dispersants into the deep ocean has remained contentious. New evidence reveals an unexpected benefit.

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International news (continued)

In the heat of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster, U.S. government and industry responders had to make a crucial decision. They were facing an enormous oil spill, gushing uncontrollably from a wellhead at the seafloor-at a depth where no oil spill had ever happened before. They were pitted in a high-stakes battle against big unknowns.

On Day 25 of the spill, the decision was made: They began to inject chemical dispersants, 10,000 gallons per day, at the severed wellhead 5,000 feet beneath the ocean surface in the Gulf of Mexico-an unprecedented and unproven experiment. The goal was to break up petroleum that surged uncontrollably from the wellhead into smaller droplets in the deep sea, with the hope of diminishing oil slicks and reducing the amount of harmful gases arriving at the ocean surface.

For the past seven years, we have worked toward better understanding what happened to oil and gas after it was released from the damaged wellhead on the seafloor. In a study published this week in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, we finally have some answers to the central question: what did subsurface dispersant injection really achieve?

The model indicated that the dispersant injection decreased the overall concentration of all volatile organic chemicals in the atmosphere by only a modest amount (about 30 percent). But it substantially reduced the amounts of chemicals most harmful to humans, such as benzene and toluene. In the model simulations, the atmospheric concentration of benzene, for example, decreased by about 6,000 times above the area of sea surface where petroleum fluids were surfacing.

Without the dispersant injection, the model showed that benzene concentrations in the air 2 meters above the sea surface would have been 13 times higher than the levels considered acceptable to breathe

during a 10-hour working day or a 40-hour work week, based on guidelines by the National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH). However, with dispersant injection, the model showed atmospheric benzene concentrations were 500 times lower than the levels considered acceptable to breathe by NIOSH.

Dispersant injection dramatically improved the air quality for the courageous emergency responders who were working around the clock to stop the flow of petroleum from the wellhead and mitigate damage. On days when the air quality was too poor, they had to don respirators or stop working, which delayed efforts to seal the wellhead. We predict that human health risks and work delays likely would have been much more frequent if subsurface dispersant injection had not been applied. That would have made a bad situation even worse.

This one study is not the final say on whether and when to use dispersants. It is another row on a ledger sheet called the "spill impact mitigation analysis," which assesses various strategies and tools to reduce environmental and economic damage caused by oil spills. All potential positive and negative effects of dispersant injection need to be taken into account before decision-makers can reasonably judge their future use.

The study was funded by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative and the National Science Foundation.

(Source: Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's *Oceanus* magazine) *Maritime Global News* The above is an abridged version of the article [Read the complete article](#) [Thanks to Matthew Sommerville, Secretary of ISCO]

LONDON CONFERENCE HIGHLIGHTS OPPORTUNITIES TO IMPROVE ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE TO CONFLICT POLLUTION IN IRAQ



As the dust settles from the battle to recapture Mosul, and the urgent humanitarian crisis reaches its peak with millions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) in desperate need of medical help, shelter food and water, Iraq is beginning to reflect on the extent of the damage inflicted by the battle against the so-called Islamic State (IS). Beyond the immediate needs of IDPs, it is becoming clear that recovery and reconstruction will be a huge challenge, requiring billions of dollars to rebuild the country. One element that will need to be addressed, writes Wim Zwijnenburg, but which is rarely prioritised in the reconstruction agenda, is the impact of conflict on the environment and its consequent health risks. *Twrrn.org* [Read more](#)

International news (continued)

NOWPAP AT THE CASPIAN SEA DAY 2017

August 10-11 2017 - Astrakhan, Russian Federation. At the invitation of the Russian Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MNRE), NOWPAP participated in the international forum “The role of the Framework Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea (Tehran Convention) in achievement of the environmentally sustainable development of the Caspian Sea region and interaction on the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)”. The international meeting was timed with the celebrations of the “2017 Caspian Sea Day” and is one of the most significant events in the calendar of the international environmental cooperation in the region. Sponsors of the event, Administration of the Astrakhan Oblast, Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment of the Russian Federation, PJSC “LUKOIL”, and the Interim Tehran Convention Secretariat, brought together representatives of the Caspian littoral countries, representatives from other Regional Seas, executive authorities of different levels, experts, as well as business sector and academic community to share experiences of regional cooperation and discuss the implementation of the provisions of the Tehran Convention. *NOWPAP* [Read more](#)

9TH EAST ASIAN SEAS PARTNERSHIP COUNCIL SETS STRATEGIC DIRECTION FOR PEMSEA IN THE NEXT FIVE YEARS



August 22 - In support of the East Asian Seas region’s post-2015 commitments, the 9th PC reviewed the draft Implementation Plan for the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) for 2017-2022. The Plan will serve as the region’s main reference in the next five years and is envisioned to facilitate collaborative planning and assessments, as well as provide a roadmap toward achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and other international and regional commitments.

The Meeting was co-hosted by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) of the Philippines. The Country Partners consisted of Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Japan, Lao PDR, Philippines, RO Korea, Singapore, Timor Leste, and Vietnam; while Thailand participated as an observer. The Non-Country Partners that were represented are ASEAN Centre for Biodiversity (ACB), Conservation International (CI) Philippines, IPIECA The Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues, International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), Ocean Policy Research Institute Sasakawa Peace Foundation (OPRI, SPF), Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), Plymouth Marine Laboratory (PML), and UNDP/GEF Yellow Sea Project. Representatives from PEMSEA’s new Non-Country Partner, Marine Biodiversity Institute of Korea (MABIK) were also present. Representatives from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) participated as observers. *PEMSEA* [Read more](#)

FURTHER IOPC FUNDS PUBLICATIONS MADE AVAILABLE IN ARABIC

August 30 - The IOPC Funds has continued to work with the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden ([PERSGA](#)) to produce the Claims Information Pack in Arabic. Having previously published both the Text of Conventions and the Claims Manual, the Guidelines for presenting claims in the fisheries, mariculture and fish processing sector and the Guidelines for presenting claims in the tourism sector have also now been translated by PERSGA, reviewed by the IOPC Funds and made available under the '[Other Publications](#)' page of the Funds' website. *IOPC Funds* [Read more](#)

SMARTPHONE APPS OF THE WORLD CATALOG ARE NOW AVAILABLE

August 31 - S.L. Ross Environmental Research has recently completed work on the Eleventh Edition of the World Catalog of Oil Spill Response Products, the single most important reference in the oil spill business. A smart-phone app for Android phones/tablets and for iOS are available now. [More info](#)

International news (continued)

IMO PUBLISHING AUGUST 2017 NEWSLETTER PUBLISHED

August 31 - [Download the August 2017 issue](#)

IRELAND'S LAURA BURKE TAKES UP NEW POST AS EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENT AGENCY'S MANAGEMENT BOARD CHAIR

September 1 - The European Environment Agency (EEA) has announced that Laura Burke, Director General of Ireland's Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took up her position as Chair of the EEA Management Board today. Ms Burke succeeds Elisabeth Freytag-Rigler of the Austrian Federal Ministry for Agriculture and Forestry, Environment and Water Management at the end of her three-year term. *EPA Ireland* [Read more](#)

NOSCA 23RD INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL TECHNOLOGY SEMINAR – PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME

In the period October 17-19th, responders from all over the world gather at the premises of the Norwegian Coastal Administration in Horten, Norway to share their vast experience and expertise of oil spill response and cutting-edge technologies.

This year the seminar will address issues like: □ Strategies for optimal recovery of oil □ Spill response in ice-infested waters □ Remote sensing and technologies of tomorrow □ Preparedness plans; how are they made, what is behind them and how do we dimension our ability to respond to an oil spill? □ International Oil Spill Exercise SCOPE 2017 – www.scope2017.com - lessons learned *NOSCA* [Read more](#)

Incident reports

USA: VESSEL CARRYING 2,300 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL SINKS NEAR VENICE, LA.

August 25 - Sheen has been reported coming from the vessel, and approximately 1 mile of shoreline has been affected. ES&H, an oil spill response organization, has contained the spilled fuel with containment boom. They have also lined portions of shoreline with sorbent boom, and deployed two drum skimmers. *Local15TV.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: DFO CONFIRMS WITLESS BAY OIL SLICK FROM AMERICAN FISHING SHIP

August 25 - A slick of oil has been spotted in Witless Bay, inside the Witless Bay Ecological Reserve. The reserve is home to North America's largest colony of Atlantic puffins. *CBC* [Read more](#) Related report in VOCM.com [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: MANITOBA - TUNDRA SEARCHES FOR ANSWERS AFTER WASKADA-AREA OIL SPILL

August 26 - Tundra Oil and Gas confirmed the existence of an oil spill at a private property near Waskada earlier this month, but the company's chief executive officer said Friday they could not estimate how much crude oil spilled out of their steel pipe. *Brandon Sun* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANARY ISLANDS: BIBBY LINE STATEMENT ON CHESHIRE



August 27 - Resolve Marine have been on station alongside the vessel since August 16th but had failed to get on board due to adverse weather conditions, the heat and the fumes being generated from the affected holds. It is now reported that all 5 Holds have cooled down and the process of decomposition is believed to have completed and at present there are no fumes emanating from the vessel.

On August 21st, the salvors managed to get a tow line attached and the Cheshire, according to AIS data, is currently approximately 50 n miles SE of Gran Canaria with Tug Red Sea Fos towing, VB Hispania providing support and SASEMAR vessel Miguel de Cervantes escorting. The salvors planned to board the vessel today in order to make their assessment of the situation and leave to report back on their findings.

Unfortunately due to deteriorating weather conditions their attempts to board today have been unsuccessful.

The initial plan is to provide an independent power pack in order to power up the windlass and emergency fire pump and establish an emergency stern towing connection. Then make the vessel safe to board, which would require gas-

Incident reports (continued)

freeing the accommodation, engine room and main deck. The salvors have received permission from the Spanish authorities to bring the vessel in closer but no less than 12 n miles from the shore, which would make their task easier. *The Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

August 28 - Chemical Reaction aboard MV Cheshire Finally Finished - On Sunday, the last of the ammonium nitrate fertilizer aboard the bulk carrier Cheshire finished decomposing and the plumes of smoke from her holds came to a stop, according to an update from her owners. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

COLOMBIA HALTS CANO-LIMON PIPELINE AFTER REBEL ATTACK: SOURCES

August 28 - A bomb attack by Colombia's leftist ELN rebel group has halted pumping operations along the country's second-largest oil pipeline, the Cano-Limon Covenas, sources from the military and state oil company Ecopetrol said on Monday. The attack took place in rural El Carmen municipality in Norte de Santander province, near the border with Venezuela, the sources said. The bombing caused a crude spillage into a nearby river. *New York Times* [Read more](#)

USA: TEXAS – HURRICANE HARVEY POLLUTION REPORTS

Editor: Because of the very large number of news reports only a selection is given below. Click on the titles of the publications to read reports, many of which include photographs and video. Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group, and ISCO Committee Member, Marc Shaye, for sending in news links

August 28 - Texas Regulators Report Gas Spill Due To Harvey [Houston Public Media](#)

August 29 - ExxonMobil refineries are damaged in Hurricane Harvey, releasing hazardous pollutants [Washington Post](#)

August 29 - Texas chemical plant in critical condition, raising possibility of explosion [Washington Post](#)

August 29 - Residents told to evacuate on risk of explosion at Texas chemical plant [CNBC](#)

August 29 - ExxonMobile tank damaged by Hurricane Harvey leaking dangerous pollutants [Metro News](#)

August 29 - Harvey triggers spike in hazardous chemical releases [Politico.com](#)

August 30 - EPA sends people, planes to gauge pollution from Texas storm [Reuters](#)

August 31 - A Sea of Health and Environmental Hazards in Houston's Floodwaters [New York Times](#)

August 31 - Harvey damages oil tanks, spilling 30,000 gallons of crude [Fox News](#)

September 1 - New explosions expected at Crosby chemical plant [Chron.com](#)

September 1 - Texas Ports Update – Houston-Galveston, Corpus Christi, Port Arthur – Damage [gCaptain](#)

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

CANADA: MINISTER MCKENNA ANNOUNCES CREATION OF NEW NAFTA ADVISORY COUNCIL ON THE ENVIRONMENT

August 31 - Strong environmental standards make Canada more competitive globally, and they will give North America a competitive advantage in the clean-growth economy. A modernized North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) has the potential to produce an overwhelmingly positive effect on the Canadian economy, Canada's middle class, and those working hard to join it, and it presents an opportunity to strengthen environmental protections for generations to come.

Today, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, announced the creation of the NAFTA Advisory Council on the Environment. The ten-member council brings together prominent Canadians from politics, law, and Indigenous groups. This expert council includes former Quebec premier, Pierre-Marc Johnson; former British Columbia premier, Gordon Campbell; former Saskatchewan cabinet minister, Janice MacKinnon; and Inuit Tapiriit Kanatami President, Natan Obed. The council will advise the Minister as Canada looks to strengthen environmental protections in a modernized NAFTA. *Government of Canada* [Read more](#)

CANADA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT

September 1 - Preparing for marine oil spill emergencies along BC's coastline has had more exposure in recent months due to anticipated projects such as the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline and the recent federal government-defeated Enbridge Inc. Northern Gateway pipeline initiative.

Preparing for marine oil spill emergencies along BC's coastline has had more exposure in recent months due to

News reports from around the world (continued)

anticipated projects such as the Kinder Morgan Trans Mountain pipeline and the recent federal government-defeated Enbridge Inc. Northern Gateway pipeline initiative.



Photo: The 48-foot M/V Duke J operated by the California-based Chevron EL Segundo Refinery has a hydraulic boom reel to deploy and retrieve 1,200 feet of offshore containment boom. Photo courtesy of Chevron El Segundo Refinery.

Yet, experienced people and rugged equipment have been standing by for decades, ready to do the complicated work of responding to oil spills in marine shipping lanes. One such BC organization is the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation (WCMRC), a Transport Canada-certified organization that is industry funded, and follows the standards of the Canada Shipping Act.

The WCMRC has 43 vessels in its response fleet, with bases located in Burnaby (headquarters), Duncan on Vancouver Island, as well as Prince Rupert. An aggressive fleet and base expansion plan is in the works due to the federal-government-approved C\$7.4 Bn Trans Mountain oil pipeline project, which will see oil transported from Edmonton by rail to the West Coast to supply Asian markets via ship.

As a result, in order to provide a larger presence and faster response times, WCMRC is undertaking the building of an additional 43 vessels, adding 130 more responders, and will be expanding with six new bases; five on Vancouver Island in Nanaimo, Port Alberni, Ucluelet, Beecher Bay, Victoria, and Sidney, as well as a base on the Fraser River. *Pacific Maritime Magazine* [Read more](#)

IRAN TO LAUNCH NEW OIL SPILL RESPONSE VESSEL IN DECEMBER

August 30 - The Ports and Maritime Organization of Iran is manufacturing a ship for oil spill cleanup operations, an official announced, saying the vessel would be launched for actual test in early December. The Iranian oil spill response vessel (OSRV) is designed to remove oil spills from shallow waters in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, Farhad Montaser Kouhdari, an official at the PMO said Tuesday.

Once some of the vessel's equipment are imported from abroad, it will be launched for a test in early December, he added.

According to the official, the ship would be also equipped with medical facilities and special apparatuses for maritime search and rescue operations. *Tasmin News Agency* [Read more](#)



MYANMAR: GOVERNMENT TO FINALISE OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN BY 2018

August 28 - The government is expected to finalise a national oil contingency plan by the end of 2018, said Department of Marine Administration's director U Ko Ko Naing.

The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan which is being drafted with the help of International Marine Organization (IMO) will include dealing with oil spill incidents, compensation procedures, preparedness and response equipment. The Myanmar Nautical Association (MNA) organised a major oil pollution workshop on August 25 to discuss possibility of oil spills along with local and foreign experts and concerned governmental departments. *Myanmar Times*

[Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

KOREA: KOEM SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED THE 'KOREA-US MPA CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP'



July 17 - KOEM hosted the 'Korea-US MPA capacity building workshop' from July 10th to 15th at the Ara Convention Hall in Jeju National University. (* MPA : Marine Protected Area)

In this workshop, 25 representatives including government officers, MPA stake holders, tidal flat visiting center network, and NGOs participated in training. KOEM invited experts from the U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) as an instructor on purpose of improving administrative ability related to sustainable fisheries in MPA. The corporate has promoted joint programs as a part of the Korea-US cooperation in marine science technology since 2011 and contributed to cultivation of professionals. [KOEM](#) [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: DIRE WARNINGS OVER WRECK OF THE NIAGARA

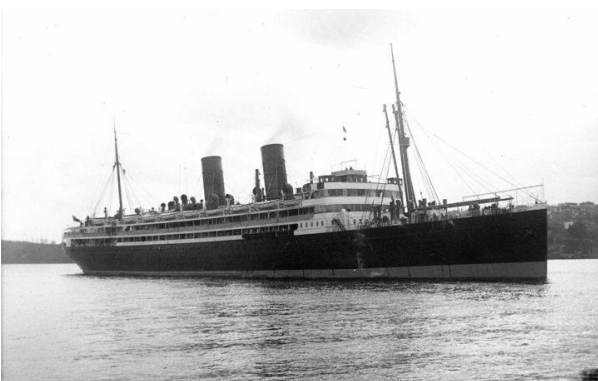


Photo: The RMS Niagara was sunk by German mines off Bream Head, Whangarei in 1940. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

August 30 - The RMS Niagara, sunk by German mines 77 years ago, has been leaking oil ever since, and fears are growing that the wreck could suddenly collapse.

The once-stately ocean liner lies on her side, some 120m deep, in the shipping channels between the Hen and Chicken and Mokohinau Islands, off Whangarei's Bream Head.

On the night of 19 June 1940, she was on her way from Auckland to Vancouver with passengers and a top-secret cargo of gold bars - payment by the UK government for American munitions. [Radio NZ](#) [Read more](#)

USA: POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE IN LAKE ONTARIO REGION

August 25 - Great Lakes Scientific Support Coordinator, Michael Doig, represented NOAA at a multi-day pollution response exercise August 22-23 in New York.

The two-day joint pollution exercise is the culmination of a multi-year oil spill preparation exercise for the Sector Buffalo Area Contingency Plan.

The exercise was in coordination with other federal, state, local and tribal representatives in the Lake Ontario region. [NOAA OR&R](#) [Read more](#)



News reports from around the world (continued)

USA: OIL POLLUTION ACT PERMITS RECOVERY IN CONTRIBUTION FOR PURELY ECONOMIC DAMAGES

August 30 - In a noteworthy case of first impression,⁽¹⁾ the US Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit ruled that the responsible party for an oil spill may obtain contribution for purely economic damages from another tortfeasor under the Oil Pollution Act 1990 irrespective of the general maritime law's economic loss rule. This decision provides some comfort to statutorily designated responsible parties that are held strictly liable in the first instance for significant costs relating to clean-up, remediation and third-party damages resulting from an oil spill.

This decision is noteworthy because it solidifies the act's departure from the US general maritime law to permit the recovery of purely economic losses and extends that right to a responsible party seeking contribution from a partially liable third party. This provides a strictly liable responsible party with the ability to recover a larger portion of its costs from a partially liable third party, which can amount to significant relief. *International Law Office* [Read more](#)

USA: PLAN IN PLACE FOR OIL SPILLS ON IDAHO LAKE

August 30 - A response plan is in place in the event of an oil spill on Idaho's Lake Pend Oreille and the Clark Fork River.

The Lake Pend Oreille Geographic Response Plan identifies at-risk resources such as water intakes and wetlands and provides a series of countermeasures to protect them. The 400-plus page plan focuses exclusively on petroleum spills because of the increase in volume of oil tankers hauling crude oil pulled from the Bakken formation in the Great Plains' Williston Basin. State officials say up to 3 million gallons of the crude course along Bonner County waterways per week. *Penn Energy* [Read more](#)

USA: MICHIGAN - STATE DEMANDS ENBRIDGE FIX MACKINAC PIPE COATING GAPS

August 30 - Gov. Rick Snyder on Wednesday ordered an accelerated and "aggressive" review of Enbridge Energy operations and maintenance procedures after the company revealed that at least two areas on twin pipelines running under the Straits of Mackinac are missing enamel coating.

A third spot also may be missing protective coating, the Canada-based energy firm said, promising repairs as it disclosed preliminary results of a federally required pipeline inspection. The 645-mile Line 5 pipeline carries 23 million gallons of light crude oil and some liquid natural gas through the straits each day, according to the company. *The Detroit News* [Read more](#)

People in the news

OCIMF: GEOFF SNOW RETIREMENT



The 31 August saw the end of an era for OCIMF with the retirement of Geoff Snow. Geoff took over the reins as SIRE Programme Manager in 2000. In his time at OCIMF he has seen many changes and managed growth that has far exceeded anything imagined when SIRE was conceived. Geoff's contribution has made a huge difference to the safety, environmental performance and success of the tanker sector. It is a career for which the industry is grateful. OCIMF sends congratulations on your retirement Geoff, and wishes you all the best. *OCIMF*

ISCO news

UK: YOU ARE INVITED TO PAY A VISIT TO THE ISCO STAND AT CONTAMINATION EXPO

Make a note to visit ISCO on Stand **C1138**. Free Tickets for the Contamination Expo Series - an Environment Agency-supported event & Europe's largest exhibition & conference for environmental professionals - are now available. It takes place on the 27th & 28th of September at ExCeL London, and Free Tickets are only available from the [event website](#). If you're unfamiliar with the Contamination Expo Series, it's completely unique, unlike any other event in the sector, and it has a huge focus on spill response.

Over 120 CPD-accredited talks across 6 theatres led by the industry's leading figures, including Deltares' Dr. Frank Kleissen, ISAA's John Dawes, SpillAway Projects' John Swain, University of Bristol's Prof. Julian Eastoe, and more + Over 150 innovative suppliers and influential organisations + Revealing case studies + 1-2-1 advice from industry experts + Unparalleled networking opportunities with over 2,500 other professionals + Areas dedicated to Hazardous Materials, Spill Response, Land Management & Remediation, Clean Air Technology, Nuclear Decommissioning, and more + Free access to the Flood Expo and the Marine & Coastal Civil Engineering Expo next door

OIL SPILLS: INLAND RESPONSE GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL

Part 11 of a new serialised article contributed by IPIECA and IOGP



Response techniques (continued)

Shoreline Clean-up / Treatment (continued)

Sunken Oil

There are specific challenges to be faced where very dense oils sink in fresh waters. The identification of sunken oil may be difficult as it is likely to be hidden from view. Initial predictions of depositional areas can be made by studying the water body (bathymetry) and its surface water hydrology to determine where natural areas of deposition may occur (for example, the pools of a meander in a river or around the edges of a lake, or depressions in the stream bed).

This would be followed by probing or surveying for oil. In some cases changes in temperature or seasonal factors may lead to sheens appearing, which could provide indicators of sunken oil. The use of sorbent snares (pom poms) or sorbent pads fastened to a weight and dragged along the bottom can also be useful in locating the presence of sunken oil.

Clean-up actions may include agitating or aerating the river or lake bed to encourage the release of oil, with subsequent recovery of released oil as it reaches the surface. Dredging of oiled sediment may also be considered. In all cases the treatment of sunken oil is likely to be a long term project extending beyond the emergency phase of an incident.



Above: Pumping water into river sediment to release sunken oil and flush it to the surface.

Summary

Spills to inland environments are typically much smaller in volume but more frequent than spills to marine waters and their shorelines. Inland spills do not garner the degree of broad public and media attention compared to large offshore spills.

The response to oil spills in inland aquatic environments shares similar principles to a marine spill response, but there are significant differences. Inland spills, even small ones, often directly affect the public in a more intimate manner than similar-sized marine spills. They are also more likely to involve oil products, and raise immediate safety concerns due not only to their potential proximity to communities but because of specific fears about toxic vapours and fire risks.

Contributed article (continued)

Spills may occur near homes and businesses, along highways, and in cities and towns. This proximity can, and often should, drive response priorities, including:

- preventing the exposure to oil of drinking water supplies;
- monitoring hydrocarbon vapours and smoke plumes for responder and public health and safety, and securing operational exclusion zones;
- preventing exposure to oil of livestock and pets; and
- limiting the disruption of waterborne traffic, and arranging the temporary relocation of residents and closure of businesses, as necessary.

Response activities, especially for smaller spills, may be conducted and/or supervised solely by the local authorities. A response to small inland spills can be achieved by relatively few responders and can often be completed more quickly than marine spills, as smaller geographic areas may be affected. Where potential inland oil spills originate from fixed facilities or other assets, it is feasible to engage in detailed oil spill contingency planning based on realistic spill scenarios, leading to improved communication and coordination during a response.

The industry has evaluated inland spills and associated response operations, and has developed guidance for response techniques which account for oil type and habitat sensitivity. This guidance aims to inform the selection of response techniques which are both effective and provide a net environmental benefit.

Further reading

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Upcoming events summary

COUNTRY	2017	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
NIGERIA	Sept. 5-7	National Workshop on Liability and Compensation	Abuja (TBC)
UK	Sept. 5-8	SPE Offshore Europe	Aberdeen
UK	Sept. 6-7	8th Maritime and Salvage Response	London
FRANCE	Sept. 12-14	Cedre Mariner Project Workshop	Brest
GABON	Sept. 19-22	National workshop on waste management	Libreville
UK	Sept. 20-21	The Emergency Services Show	Birmingham
NORWAY	Sept. 25-29	International Oil Spill Exercise SCOPE 2017	Grenland Area
UK	Sept. 26-28	Industry Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) Mtg.	Plymouth
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	Sept. 26-29	National Workshop on Contingency Planning	Malabo
UK	Sept. 27-28	Contamination Expo Series 2017	London
FRANCE	Sept. 28	CEDRE Information Day – “Spills in Ports”	Paris
USA	Oct. 2-4	Elastec Inland Spill Workshop (Focus on Rivers)	Carmi, IL
CANADA	Oct. 3-5	40th AMOP Technical Seminar	Calgary
TUNISIA	Oct. 10-11	Oiled Shoreline Clean-up W'shop & Tier1 Exercise	Sfax City
NORWAY	Oct. 17-19	NOSCA Seminar 2017	Horten
CANADA	Oct.30-Nov.1	Arctic Shipping North America Forum	Montreal
UK	Oct.30-Nov.2	IOPC Funds Meetings	London
UK	Nov. 1-2	Offshore Decommissioning & Operations Seminar	London
CHINA	Nov. 1-3	Oceanology International China	Qingdao
IVORY COAST	Nov. 6-9	GI WACAF Regional Conference	Abidjan
UK	Nov. 11	UK Spill Spill Seminar	Southampton
UAE	Nov. 13-16	Abu Dhabi Int'l Petroleum Exhibition & Conference	Abu Dhabi
AZERBAIJAN	Nov. 20-22	Oil Spill Control Caspian – Onshore & Offshore	Baku
UK	Nov. 29-30	11th Arctic Shipping Summit	London
USA	Dec. 5-7	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	Houston, TX
2018			
UAE	Feb 28 – Mar 1	Offshore Arabia Conference & Exhibition	Dubai
UK	March 13-15	2018 INTERSPILL Conference and Exhibition	London
UK	March 13-15	Oceanology International 2018	London
USA	April 4-5	Clean Waterways Conference	St. Louis, MO
FINLAND	April 17-20	Arctic Shipping Forum	Helsinki
UK	May 23-24	HAZMAT 2018	Stratford on Avon
USA	June 19-21	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Portland, OR
INDIA	July 5-6	Oil Spill India 2018 Conference & Exhibition	New Delhi

To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor

Technical support

USA: CSB URGES OIL AND CHEMICAL FACILITIES TO TAKE SPECIAL SAFETY PRECAUTIONS DURING STARTUPS FOLLOWING HURRICANE HARVEY

August 28 - The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) today issued a Safety Alert urging oil and chemical facilities to take special precautions when restarting in the wake of shutdowns due to Hurricane Harvey.

The startup of major processes at chemical facilities is a hazardous phase and facilities should pay particular attention to process safety requirements during this critical period to assure a safe and expeditious return to normal operations. "Restarting a refinery poses a significant safety risk, said Chairperson Vanessa Allen Sutherland. "When operators follow established startup procedures and checklists, it reduces the risk to a catastrophic accident that could cost lives and incur substantial product disruptions."

Restarting a complex petrochemical process requires a higher level of attention and care than normal processing, because numerous activities are occurring simultaneously and many automatic systems are run under manual control. Because a significant number of facilities were shut down during Hurricane Harvey, there will be a significant number of facilities restarting, which will increase the risk to safety.

The Safety Alert outlines specific procedures to assure safe restarts under the headings, "Rely on Established Safety Systems" and "Check Process Equipment Thoroughly." For example, facilities are urged to follow established start-up procedures and checklists, and to recognize that "human performance may be compromised due to crisis conditions."

Additional safety protocols require checking bulk storage tanks for evidence of floating displacement or damage, and to examine insulation systems, sewers, drains, furnace systems, electric motors and other equipment, including warning systems, to make sure they are fully functional. The full text of the Safety Alert has been posted on the agency website, www.csb.gov For more information, contact Communications Manager Hillary Cohen at public@csb.gov or by phone at 202.446.8094.

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	June 2017
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	August 2017 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	August 2017 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Summer 2017 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	August 2017
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	September 1, 2017
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q3 2017 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	July-August 2017
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	July 2017 issue
NOWPAP Quarterly	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 1, 2017 issue
Ocean Orbit	Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	August 2017
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	August 2017 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	August 30, 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	Spring 2017 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	July 1-15, 2017
Transport Canada Newsletter	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	December 2016 issue
UK NCEC	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	July 2017 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	Sept. 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

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

Company news

IMBITITIVE TECHNOLOGIES NOW PART OF NEW YORK DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION (NYDEC) SPILL RESPONSE PLAN.

Imbibitive Technologies (IMBTEC) is pleased to announce that Imbiber Beads® products are now an integral part of the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation state wide spill response plan. Imbiber Beads® blankets will be at 24 strategically located spill response trailers across the state. <http://www.imbiberbeads.com>

Imbibitive Technologies is a Corporate Member of ISCO

Company news (continued)

MARINE POLLUTION CONTROL, PROMINENT ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMPANY, CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY



August 28 - Detroit's Marine Pollution Control (MPC), a prominent environmental services company, was started by accident—literally.

In August, 1967, long before oil spills had become much of a concern, the Ford Motor Company spilled about 20,000 gallons of waste oil into the Rouge River. Uncertain about what to do, Ford personnel met with Dave Usher who, at the time, was hauling waste oil from industrial sites. Could he clean it up? Usher did not hesitate: Sure, he could.

“I really had no idea about what to do,” said Usher. “But I bought some vacuum trucks and other equipment and did the job.”

And so, against the backdrop of the Detroit Uprising, Usher created MPC, the first oil spill cleanup company in the Great Lakes and one of the first in the nation. A Detroit native, Usher remains the company's Chairman. Under his watch, MPC has assisted in cleanup of some of the largest oil spills in the world, including the Exxon Valdez spill in Alaska in 1989. Notably, Usher was asked by President George H.W. Bush in 1991 to help guide the clean-up of oil released from sabotaged wells in the Persian Gulf during Desert Storm.



Above: MPC spill response barge BUDA II underway in the Straits of Mackinac

Both Usher and MPC are recognized as pioneers in the spill clean-up industry. Usher has helped launch key industry trade associations—the Spill Control Association of America, the International Spill Control Organization, and the American Salvage Association. MPC has grown to 65 employees and has response equipment stored in readiness at 18 locations in the U.S. and overseas, including the Netherlands, Singapore, and Hong Kong.

Company news (continued)



Photo: Charlie Usher, President, and David Usher, Chairman, in China to visit MPC customer

It has also evolved into a land response and industrial services business, cleaning up pipeline, highway and industrial spills, and cleaning facilities and hauling liquid wastes for manufacturers. Most recently it has begun cleaning wind turbines and towers.

“We are extremely proud of our history and that fact we remain a one of the leading environmental services company in the world,” said Charles Usher, MPC president. “We’re also proud that of all missions embraced by the company, none supersedes our commitment to worker safety

MPC’s headquarters are located on Jefferson Avenue in southwest Detroit on the banks of the Rouge River. It also has a satellite location in Holland, Michigan.

Website: <http://marinepollutioncontrol.com/>

Marine Pollution Control is a Corporate Member of ISCO

RS AQUA CELEBRATE 35 YEARS OF TRADING WITH A BEACH CLEAN AND SHORESEARCH SURVEY

RS Aqua turned 35 years old this month.

To mark the occasion staff downed tools and participated in a voluntary beach clean and Shoresearch survey at Farlington Marshes Nature Reserve in Hampshire. The day was facilitated by The Hampshire & Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, who led the RS Aqua team through a tour of the salt marsh, an internationally important feeding and roosting site for many species of birds, then a beach clean and finally a Shoresearch survey of the intertidal area around the old Farlington Oyster House.

The beach clean removed 35 kg of mostly plastics from the strandline. Despite best efforts, no Osprey were seen, but many species of wading birds and geese were spotted. The Shoresearch survey revealed several species of seaweeds, numerous clams, periwinkles, blennies and an extremely angry shore crab. The data from the Shoresearch survey will help to build baseline data on intertidal diversity in the area, informing future conservation and management efforts.



RS Aqua have closed out their financial year with 30% year-on-year growth. Martin Stemp, Managing Director, said “This has been a very positive year for RS Aqua. We have taken part in some significant projects across many different sectors within the marine scientific industries, from oceanography to autonomy, fisheries to defence. The value of having such diverse and high-performing staff who have worked within the sectors, and a trusted high-end product portfolio, is clear to see.” Website: <http://www.rsaqua.co.uk/>

R S Aqua Ltd. is a Corporate Member of ISCO

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