

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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COAST GUARD LEADERS TO COLLABORATE ON PIRACY AND POLLUTION



September 19 - Coast Guard officers from over 30 countries agreed to establish inter-regional collaborations to address the rising threats of piracy and marine pollution during the Coast Guard Global Summit held in Tokyo last week.

The U.S., Canada, South Korea, China Vietnam, the Philippines, Malaysia, Indonesia, India, Australia, Turkey, Russia, France, Djibouti, Hong Kong and Japan participated in the summit which was jointly hosted by the Japan Coast Guard and Tokyo-based Nippon Foundation.

Japanese Coast Guard Admiral Satoshi Nakajima said Coast Guards all over the world need to establish inter-regional collaborations beyond the existing bilateral and regional frameworks. As a result of the summit, participating countries summit are expected to forge new partnership with their neighboring countries to address four growing global maritime issues, namely piracy, marine pollution, oil spills and refugees.

Hosted by the Tokyo-based Nippon Foundation, the Summit selected key participants to present their response to these maritime threats. As sea traffic continues to increase, the Summit also addressed growing marine pollution around the globe. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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Following the successful IOPC Funds' Short Course, which is a week-long comprehensive course that has been running for several years, the Secretariat has experienced a growing demand from Member States to hold a shorter course specifically aimed at providing delegates with an inside perspective into the functioning of the IOPC Funds and a better understanding of what exactly happens in the event of an oil spill, including how the affected Member State and the IOPC Funds would interact during such an incident.

The Induction Course will take place on Friday 20 October 2017 from 09:30 to 14:30, at the Funds' headquarters in London. Places are limited and delegates are advised to register early. The deadline for registration is Friday 13 October 2017 and places will be offered on a first come first served basis. *IOPC Funds* [Read more](#)

INTERSPILL CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION – ONLY ONE WEEK LEFT TO SUBMIT PAPERS

September 29 - Authors are requested to submit a short abstract, up to 250 words, to the committee by email, addressed to info@interspill.org

Authors are requested to confirm whether their paper is for the conference, for the poster exhibition or the spill industry seminars and to indicate which stream(s) they wish their paper to be considered under. Authors will be notified of acceptance by 30 October 2017, and full papers should be received by 31 December 2017.

Industry, Government, Academia and other stakeholders continue to strive for excellence in spill preparedness and response, in the context of a prolonged downturn in oil prices which have precipitated close scrutiny of all costs, no matter how important the activities may be. Interspill 2018 will be the forum to showcase the wide range of leading-edge initiatives which are improving global readiness and demonstrate why oil spill preparedness and response remains relevant to its multiple stakeholders and adding true value to those investing in it.

- Government / Industry Collaboration
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International news (continued)

ENVIRONMENT AND EMERGENCIES FORUM SEEKS TO IMPROVE HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE TO CONFLICT-POLLUTION

September 20 - Next week, UN Environment will host the biennial Environment and Emergencies Forum (EEF) in Nairobi. The EEF seeks to showcase innovations in environmental emergency preparedness and response, and to highlight current efforts on integrating environmental risk in humanitarian action. Although it has been held since 1995, until this year it has never specifically focused on the human health and environmental threats caused by armed conflicts.

Wim Zwijnenburg and Doug Weir preview the event and consider some of the main challenges faced by humanitarian practitioners seeking to minimise the risks posed by toxic remnants of war.

Disasters and armed conflicts generate a myriad of complex issues that humanitarian responders have to deal with – often with limited means and capacity. As environmental risks are one part of the challenge faced by first-responders, the rationale behind the EEF, which is organised by UN Environment and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, is to bring together practitioners from around the world to discuss new developments with the objective of improving environmental emergency preparedness and response, environmental management, disaster risk reduction and humanitarian action. *Toxic Remnants of War Network* [Read more](#)

IOPC FUNDS 2017 INDUCTION COURSE

September 20 - The Director is pleased to announce the first IOPC Funds' Induction Course for 1992 Fund Member States.

International news (continued)

ITOPF IN BRAZIL

September 11 - Mark Whittington and Miguel Patel have just returned from Brazil where they attended a series of meetings and events.

From 31st August - 1st September, they supported the 2017 International Oil Spill Seminar hosted jointly by Transpetro, the UK Club and ITOPF. This successful event attracted a large gathering of both industry and government personnel. ITOPF gave presentations on our role, environmental and fisheries issues, and a recent case study. On the second day of the seminar, Miguel and Mark ran a spill response and claims exercise for Transpetro staff and a few invitees.

ITOPF then moved on to the capital Brasilia where the team met with the President of Brazil's federal environment agency, IBAMA, and had a series of meetings with staff from the Environmental Emergency department. We also re-ran our desk-top exercise for a gathering of representatives from the many different government agencies in Brazil who would be involved in a large pollution incident. The final event of the trip involved a visit to the Petrobras Research Center, where ITOPF met with some of the technical team at this extensive R&D facility. *ITOPF*
<http://www.itopf.com/>

NAMEPA 2017 MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AWARDS ANNOUNCED

September 14 - Joseph Hughes, Chairman of the North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA), announced that Scorpio Group, Cargill, and the Vancouver Fraser Port Authority are among the recipients of NAMEPA's 2017 Marine Environment Protection Award for maritime shipping industry, maritime charterer, and ports, respectively. The awards will be presented at NAMEPA's 10th Anniversary Awards Dinner to be held on October 26th aboard the Hornblower Infinity in New York City. The dinner caps the all-day NAMEPA 10th Anniversary Conference and Annual General Meeting. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

ROTTERDAM TO HELP GREECE IN OIL SPILL CLEANUP

September 15 - A team of Dutch experts is expected to arrive in Athens by Sunday to provide assistance to the Greek authorities that are currently trying to contain the massive oil spill in the Saronic Gulf.

The oil spill, caused by a tanker which sunk off the coast of Salamina earlier this week, has affected Attica's coasts from Piraeus to Glyfada. The mayors of Athens, Giorgos Kaminis and of Salamina, Isidora Papathanasiou-Nannou asked for the support of Rotterdam's municipal authorities, during the Athens Mayors' Forum, which was held on Friday in Athens. *GTP News* [Read more](#)

Incident reports

AUSTRALIA: NEW SOUTH WALES – OIL SPILL FROM SUNKEN TRAWLER

September 12 - A FISHING trawler has sunk in West Ballina and fire-fighters are on scene to contain diesel fuel from polluting the Richmond River. A spokesman for NSW Fire & Rescue said the Hazmat van from Lismore has been despatched to the incident with absorbent booms. *Northern Star* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

MALAYSIA: HAZMAT TEAM DISPATCHED - ACID FOUND LEAKING IN PLANE'S CARGO HOLD

September 13 - KOTA KINABALU: A hazardous materials (Hazmat) unit was dispatched to the international airport here after acid was found to have leaked in a plane's cargo hold. Sabah Fire and Rescue Services Department operations chief Khatizah Rahaban said the Hazmat unit immediately carried out tests and determined that the chemical was UN2794 acid, which is usually used in vehicle batteries. *The Star* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: IOWA - DNR RESPONDS TO FUEL SPILL ON CREDIT ISLAND

September 15 - The DNR responded to a report of a fuel spill on the east side of Credit Island in Davenport Friday afternoon. Davenport environmental inspectors traced the substance to an old storm drain north of the island on the city's side. The spilled material is in the side channel of the Mississippi River. It's unknown how long or how much material has leaked into the river. *KWQC* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Incident reports (continued)

USA: TEXAS - THE LARGEST HARVEY-RELATED OIL SPILL WENT UNKNOWN FOR WEEKS

September 16 - On August 31, floodwaters from Hurricane Harvey triggered an oil spill at a Magellan Midstream Partners facility near the Houston suburb Galena Park. According to the Houston Chronicle, when workers first noticed gasoline leaking from two fuel tanks, they evacuated the area, called 911, and notified federal and state agencies of the spill. A statement by Magellan on September 1 states that “clean-up work and inspections continue at the partnership’s Galena Park marine facility, but a restart timetable is not yet available,” but makes no mention of the size of the leak.

An initial estimate of the amount of the spill was 1,000 barrels of oil. It wasn’t until weeks later, on September 11, that Magellan reported that was oil spill amount actually totaled 11,000 barrels, or 460,000 gallons, making it the largest Harvey-related oil spill. *Texas Monthly* [Read more](#)

BRAZIL: SCF TANKER SPILLED OIL AT SANTOS

September 17 - An unknown quantity of diesel oil was spilled during offloading of tanker NS STELLA at Ilha Barnabe Oil Terminal, Santos, Brazil, in the evening Sep 16. Faulty valve said to be the cause of an accident, oil was pouring into harbor waters for some ten minutes. Clean-up is underway, together with investigation. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

GERMANY: SWEDISH CARGO SHIP OIL SPILL IN KIEL

September 17 - Ro-ro cargo ship SCA OSTRAND suffered hydraulic oil spill on board, some oil leaked overboard on Sep 16, at Kiel port, Germany. Ship’s crew immediately activated anti-pollution plan and alerted authorities, the ship was fenced off with booms. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: A CUT PIPELINE IS CAUSING A JET FUEL SHORTAGE AT AUCKLAND AIRPORT. HERE'S WHAT WE KNOW SO FAR

September 18 - A 168 kilometre-long pipeline supplying jet fuel, petrol and diesel from the Marsden Point refinery in Northland to tanks in Wiri, Auckland, has been out of action since Thursday. It’s believed to have been hit by a digger being used to extract swamp kauri near Ruakaka. *Stuff NZ* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

KUWAIT TACKLES ANOTHER OFFSHORE OIL SPILL: STATE NEWS AGENCY

September 18 - Kuwait is dealing with another crude oil spill off its southern coast, state news agency KUNA said on Monday, the latest in a series of unexplained leaks in the Gulf Arab state in recent months.

KUNA said the latest spill has been detected in the Ras al-Zour area, where Kuwait National Petroleum Company (KNPC) is building the Middle East’s largest oil refinery with a capacity of 615,000 barrels per day at a cost of \$11.5 billion in contracts.

Kuwait’s Environment Public Authority is monitoring the spill and is working with Kuwait Oil Company and marine authorities to control it, KUNA said, adding the size of the leak was still being assessed. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

GREECE: SPILL FROM GREEK TANKER SPREADS DOWN ATHENS COAST

September 18 - On Monday, containment and decontamination efforts continued in the wake of an oil spill from the Greek product tanker Agia Zoni II, which sank off the Piraeus harbor entrance on September 9.

The aging tanker had 2,200 tonnes of fuel oil cargo and 340 tons of bunker fuel on board at the time she went down, and it estimated that she released about 135 tonnes of cargo into the environment. The ministry said that salvage divers sealed her tanks to prevent further leaks, but by September 15, the spreading pollution forced authorities to ban swimming at popular beaches along a stretch extending from Piraeus south to Glyfadia. As of Monday, the cleanup effort extended from Salamis Island to the resort town of Lagonisi, 18 nm to the southeast. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

September 19 - Tanker Being Used in Greece Oil Spill Cleanup to Be Replaced - A tanker being used to pump oil from a sunken ship that is polluting the coastline around Greece’s main port of Piraeus is to be replaced because its certificate of seaworthiness is expiring, Greek authorities said Tuesday.

Incident reports (continued)

Merchant Marine Deputy Minister Nektarios Santorinios said the swap would not delay the pumping operation for more than a few hours. The government has ordered expiring seaworthiness certificates not to be extended, after it emerged that the tanker which sank on Sept. 10 was operating on an extended certificate.

The Agia Zoni II tanker sank while anchored in calm seas with 2,200 tons of fuel oil and 370 tons of marine gas oil. Part of its cargo spilled into waters where dolphins, turtles, seals and a variety of fish and sea birds live.

Oil slicks have extended from the island of Salamina near where the sinking occurred to the entire length of the Athens coast, and cleanup crews have been working on land and at sea to clear up the viscous, foul-smelling liquid. *US News* [Read more](#)

September 21 - Tanker Arrested during Salvage of Greek Tanker - The scandal surrounding the sunken Greek product tanker Agia Zoni II took on new dimensions this week when Greek authorities found undocumented petroleum aboard the vessel that had been contracted to pump out the Zoni's fuel tanks.

Prosecutors contend that the response tanker, the Lassea, had significant quantities of a "petroleum mixture" on board without the correct documentation. The suspect petroleum was found in her ballast tanks when she arrived at a refinery to deliver the oil recovered from the wreck of the Zoni. The Lassea also had expired government certificates of seaworthiness, like the Zoni, which was operating on an extension. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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

CANADA: ONTARIO - EMERGENCY RESPONDERS PREPARE FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIAL-RELATED INCIDENTS IN STRATFORD

September 20 - Several police, firefighters and paramedics from throughout southwestern Ontario went on blind dates together Wednesday in Stratford. Various emergency responders mingled during a hazardous materials information session at Perth County Paramedic Services' headquarters on Douro Street. Dave Colvin, the county's emergency management co-ordinator, said it's important for different agencies to establish partnerships prior to chemical-related incidents.

Firefighters from Guelph and Stratford, emergency managers from Hamilton and Cambridge, and staff from the Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Transportation, and the Office of the Fire Marshal were on hand. This week's series of one-day workshops – they continue Thursday and Friday – are being held in partnership with Transportation Community Awareness and Emergency Response (TRANSCAER). It's a voluntary national outreach effort focusing on assisting communities to prepare for, and respond to, possible hazardous materials transportation incidents, according to its website. *Stratford Beacon Herald* [Read more](#)

GREECE: DEPUTY SHIPPING MINISTER DENIES DELAYS IN REACTIONS TO OIL SPILL

September 18 - It will take another 20 to 30 days to clean up most of the oil that has seeped from a sunken tanker to sully the coasts of Salamina and southern Athens, Deputy Shipping Minister Nektarios Santorinios said on Monday morning.

Speaking on Skai TV, Santorinios denied accusations that authorities were slow to react to the sinking of the Agia Zoni II tanker near Salamina in the early hours of September 10, saying that a floating barrier to contain the leakage of oil had been installed within a few hours.

"The ship started taking on water at 2.30 a.m. and sank at 4.10 a.m. Coast guard vessels were in the area for any possible rescues but could not approach the ship before it went down, as a sinking ship creates a lot of turbulence and it would have been dangerous. As soon as it did, it was the turn of divers to go down, for a contract to be signed between a cleanup firm and the shipowner, and for the barrier to go up. By 9.40 a.m., the barrier was up," he said. *Ekathemerini* [Read more](#)

JAPAN: BROCHURE ON PAJ'S MAJOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE PROGRAMME

August – The Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ) is a non-profit making and non-governmental trade association comprising of 12 companies engaged in refining and/or marketing of oil in Japan, established in November 1955 to promote and encourage the sound development of the Japanese petroleum industry.

The oil spill response programme consists of three areas of activities. Firstly, the stockpiling and the lending of oil spill response equipment, secondly, the research and development (R&D) related to oil spill and responding techniques, lastly, administration and hosting of International Conferences. Through the appropriate implementation of the programme, PAJ would like to contribute not only to the promotion of oil spill response capability, but also to global marine environment conservation, as well as to the stable supply of oil to Japan. *PAJ* [Download the brochure](#)

MEXICO: ASEA ISSUES DRAFT WATER PROTECTION GUIDELINES APPLICABLE TO SHALE OIL PROJECTS

June 26 - Following the expansion of shale oil extraction projects and the discovery of unconventional hydrocarbon deposits in Mexico, the National Agency for Industrial Safety and the Protection of the Environment in the Hydrocarbons Sector (ASEA) has commenced a public consultation process to enact the Guidelines for the Conservation, Preservation and Protection of National Waters in Industrial Activities of Exploration and Extraction of Hydrocarbons from Unconventional Deposits, before the Federal Regulatory Improvement Commission.

International Law Office [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: GOVT TO SET UP OIL SPILL FUNDS FOR NIGER DELTA

September 19 - The Federal Government has concluded arrangement to establish Niger Delta Oil Spillage Management Fund, NDOSMF, in order to address the menace of environmental degradation confronting the region.

This development was contained in communiqué issued at the end of the 2ND meeting of the National Council on Niger Delta, NCND, held at the International Centre for Culture and Events (The Dome), Akure, Ondo State, between 7th and 14th September, 2017. *All Africa* [Read more](#)

NORWAY: CROWN PRINCE TO WITNESS MAJOR SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE

September 19 - On Tuesday 26 September a major oil and chemical protection exercise called SCOPE 2017 will be carried out in Langesund, Norway. H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon will join the Coastal Administration, both on sea and shore, to witness the spill response first hand. The exercise is a joint project including major Scandinavian and European stakeholders, and will demonstrate how the Coastal Administration engages with them in the event of acute pollution.

Coastal Director Kirsti L. Slotsvik and Contingency Director Johan Marius Ly look forward to showing H.R.H. Crown Prince Haakon how the Coastal Administration trains and handles oil and chemical pollution protection along the Norwegian coast – this time in connection with SCOPE 2017, which is supported by EU.

This exercise, organised by the Coastal Administration, will be conducted 25–27 September, and involve around 500 participants from the Nordic countries. Also, the worst-case scenario will involve vessels, personnel and equipment from many parts of Europe. Representatives from over 70 countries have been invited to observe the exercise. *Scope 2017* [Read more](#)

PAKISTAN: PEOPLE ASKED TO MOVE 500M AWAY FROM OIL TANKER INCIDENTS

September 16 - The Oil Companies Advisory Council (OCAC) has asked the general public to move 500 metres away from any accident involving an oil tanker instead of taking the matter in their own hands.

The council has also urged the people not to use any device involving flame (matchbox, lighter, cigarette and to not start any type of engine near the incident. People should call relevant agencies like the fire brigades, police and ambulance services.

The tragic Bahawalpur incident on June 28 this year took over 200 lives.

The council's media awareness campaign had kicked off with radio messages on different FM radio stations in various languages. *Dawn.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: COLORADO OUTLINES NEW PIPELINE RULES AFTER FATAL EXPLOSION

September 13 - Colorado regulators made public a rough outline Wednesday for new rules for oil and gas pipelines after a fatal house explosion blamed on a natural gas leak.

The state Oil and Gas Conservation Commission's outline calls for new standards for designing, testing and permanently shutting down flow lines, which carry oil or gas from wells to tanks and other gathering equipment. The outline was dated Sept. 8 and posted online Wednesday. The commission's staff plans to complete draft rules by Oct. 15 after meetings with interested groups on Sept. 21 and 22. *Los Angeles Times* [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH DAKOTA - 4 YEARS LATER, CLEANUP NEARS END FOR BIG NORTH DAKOTA SPILL

September 15 - Cleanup is finally in sight four years after a pipeline break sent more than 20,000 barrels of oil oozing across a wheat field in northwestern North Dakota, state regulators said Friday. *US News* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

USA: BILL WOULD UPDATE ENVIRONMENTAL SENSITIVITY INDEX MAPS FOR GREAT LAKES



September 18 - U.S. Rep. Dave Joyce, R-Russell Township, is co-sponsoring a bipartisan bill that would prioritize and update federal mapping of the Great Lakes.

The Environmental Sensitivity Index maps, which are maintained by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, have not been updated in more than two decades in some cases. *The News-Herald* [Read more](#)

USA: SAFETY AGENCY CRACKS DOWN ON CRUDE, PETROLEUM PIPELINE SPILLS

September 19 - The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration is cracking down on smaller violations in the crude oil, petroleum, and hazardous liquid industries to combat a slow rise in the number of pipeline accidents.

High-profile incidents that have spilled about a million gallons of crude oil have led PHMSA to scrutinize hazardous liquid pipelines more closely, lawyers say. The agency is asking more companies that operate those types of pipelines—including Anadarko Petroleum, Sunoco, Frontier Energy and Dakota Midstream—to fill gaps in their safety procedures. *Bloomberg* [Read more](#)

People in the news

EAST ASIA: PEMSEA WELCOMES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



September 18 – Aimee Gonzales will take up the post of Executive Director of the PEMSEA Resource Facility on 1st January 2018. She has more than 20 years experience in managing multicultural teams in the design and implementation of marine / fisheries strategies and public policy reform to mainstream environment in regulatory, planning and investment frameworks.

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) is an intergovernmental organization operating in East Asia to foster and sustain healthy and resilient oceans, coasts, communities and economies across the region. *PEMSEA* [Read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL CHAMBER OF SHIPPING APPOINTS NEW MARINE COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN

September 19 - The Board of Directors of the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS) has appointed Martin Cresswell, Technical Director of the Hong Kong Shipowners Association, as the new Chairman of the ICS Marine Committee.

He succeeds Peter Bond (Cyprus Shipping Chamber) who recently stood down following four years of service as Chairman of ICS's principal technical committee. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)



ISCO news

VISIT THE ISCO STAND No. C4126 THIS WEEK AT CONTAMINATION EXPO IN LONDON

Entry is free – an Environment Agency-supported event & Europe's largest exhibition & conference for environmental professionals – Free tickets 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 are involved or have an interest in spill control there will be plenty to see and, at the ISCO stand, you can learn about how ISCO serves the international spill control community and the benefits of membership. In parallel at this event, there is much to find out about Land Remediation, Clean Air Technology, Hazardous Materials, Geotechnical Issues, and more. Well worth attending!

SPILLS IN PORTS - CEDRE INFORMATION DAY, 28TH SEPTEMBER 2017, PARIS.

Also this week – ISCO Industry Partner, CEDRE will be holding its Information Day event in Paris on 28th September 2017, Paris with simultaneous translation in English. The theme is Spills in Ports - specialists in the field will be sharing their experience and offering feedback from past incidents.

To view the programme and register, visit <http://www.cedre.fr/en/Our-resources/Events/Information-Day/Spills-in-ports-2017>

LARGEST OIL SPILL RESPONSE FIELD EXERCISE IN DUTCH WADDEN SEA



Dennis Van der Veen graduated in 2007 from the Open University in Environmental Sciences, specialising in environmental risks in the marine transport of hazardous goods. He has 20 years of professional experience in environmental sciences, of which 10 years with the Dutch Institute for Applied Sciences TNO and 12 years at the Dutch governmental agency Rijkswaterstaat. In both the positions at Rijkswaterstaat and at ASCC Mr. Van der Veen is international recognized as expert on remote sensing and bioremediation. Dennis Van der Veen has executed and managed a number of projects, including EU-projects and EU-workshops on topics dealing with oil spill response, law enforcement and remote sensing of spills. He is co-author of the IMO Guidelines on Bioremediation. Currently Mr. Van der Veen is crisis manager at Rijkswaterstaat and as such involved in oil spill preparation and response in the Dutch Wadden Sea.

From 4-6 September 2017, the Dutch governmental agency Rijkswaterstaat organized the largest oil spill response field exercise in the Dutch Wadden Sea ever. Main goal was to test the recently adopted combat plan for this tidal area, which is of great ecological value. These combat plans were written in close cooperation with stakeholders, like municipalities, safety regions, NGO's and nature conservation organizations.

For the Netherlands, the main risk for large oil spills is a shipping incident in the North Sea which can threaten the Wadden Sea. The strategy of Rijkswaterstaat is oil spill response in the North Sea and the deeper parts of the Wadden Sea to prevent oil moving into the lower parts of the Wadden Sea. In this part of the area, the water depth is much of the day limited to 0-25 cm. Ships with sweeping arms and booms cannot be used here. In that case, equipment for spill response on sand banks and on the shoreline are needed. On the shoreline there are several highly sensitive areas, like salt marshes. Spill response in these areas is difficult or even worse than doing nothing. Prevention therefore is the key. The needed preventive measures were developed in close cooperation with the involved nature conservation areas and written in combat plans.



Photo on left: *Vrijwilligers op het strand: Volunteers working on the beach*

The scenario started with a shipping incident in the shipping lane to IJmuiden with a spillage of approx. 3,000 tonnes of HFO 180, immediately followed by oil spill response by the Coast Guard with the MS Arca and dredger hoppers with sweeping arms. At the same time, decision makers of municipalities, safety regions and Rijkswaterstaat were discussing possible countermeasures on a strategic level to limit the effect in the nearby Wadden Sea.

On day 2, oil spill response in the North Sea and in the deeper part of the Wadden Sea was actually exercised. With winds a 5-6 Bft it were perfect conditions for a good exercise.

Photo on right: *De Wadcrawler...: The amphibious Wadcrawler being deployed*

On day 3, the exercise continued in the lower parts and on the shore. Due to hard wind (7-8 Bft) the sand bank didn't fall dry and the exercise with a new invention, an amphibious vehicle called the Wadcrawler, could not be tested to suck the oil (in this case wood chips were used) off the sand. In the afternoon, volunteers were used for the first time to remove the "oil" manually of the beach. Also a sand dike was laid on the beach to protect the ecologically sensitive area behind it. Last, but certainly not least, responders were trained in catching and handling of oiled birds, using a so-called Roboduck.



Photo on left: *Sem van der Wal: Ships with sweeping arms in formation*



Although the evaluation is ongoing, I can say that the exercise was a big success, especially the co-operation with the other organizations and the use of volunteers. In the next few months the lessons learned will be analyzed to further improve the oil spill response in this sensitive and dynamic area.

Information (in Dutch, I'm afraid), photo's and movies can be found at www.oliealertwaddenzee.nl. For further information or questions about the exercise or oil spill response in the Dutch Wadden Sea, please contact Dennis van der Veen, crisis manager at Rijkswaterstaat (dennis.vander.veen@rws.nl).

CLEANING-UP SPILLS – THE APPLICATION OF RESPONSECON



Donald Chard FCIS, FCI Arb, is a Chartered Shipbroker and Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Arbitrators. After more than 38 years at the UK Chamber of Shipping, where he was Head of Legal & Documentary, he is now a practising maritime arbitrator and Consultant with BIMCO's Contracts and Clauses Department. He has been a Member of BIMCO Documentary Committee since 1990; a member of sub-committees and working groups drafting charter parties, clauses and specialist contracts. He was a member of the BIMCO-ISCO Working Group and made a major contribution to the drafting of the RESPONSECON contracts.



Arrangements for salvors to respond to a maritime casualty to save ship and cargo using the legendary Lloyd's Open Form are well known. However, there is often less focus on the separate, but equally important, contractual provisions for cleaning-up pollution caused by

the escape of oil and hazardous substances. Arrangements vary but contractors' use of their own individual agreements can lead to protracted negotiations about terms and conditions and might in turn delay the start of work.

In order to close this gap in market needs, BIMCO took up a proposal from the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO) to develop a standard contract for the deployment of spill response equipment and personnel for pollution clean-up operations. Work was undertaken by a Subcommittee under the Chairpersonship of Mr Tony Paulson of the West of England P&I Club (who is also Chairman of the International Group of P&I Clubs' Vessel Response Plan Subcommittee) together with representatives from ISCO, the International Salvage Union (ISU), the International Group of P&I Clubs and the Spill Control Association of America (SCAA).

Two contracts have been produced. RESPONSECON International, for spill incidents other than in the USA, is for use between the party liable for clearing up pollution and a contractor. The equivalent US RESPONSECON for incidents in the USA reflects practical and legal differences in the jurisdiction. It is a "contract of necessity" for use by and between contractors requiring additional capabilities or support; it is not an OPA 90 contingency plan agreement.

The contracts, which are framework agreements to be refined according to specific party needs, share many common features. Both have been developed to conform with the International Group Guidelines for Vessel Response Plan (VRP) Contracts.

ISCO's activities are not exclusively with shipowners but include pipeline operators, oil companies and governmental interests. In order to reflect the agreement's potential breadth of usage, the Contractor's counterparty is defined as the "Requesting Party". The Requesting Party has ultimate control over clean-up operations but the Contractor can refuse to carry out any order that would be unlawful or put personnel in danger.

The Contractor must provide the equipment and personnel required for the clean-up operation unless the option for equipment hire only is agreed. Time is important and, in order to avoid delay in getting started, the Contract can be signed while negotiations continue on rates and services. This enables resources to be moved on site at an early stage. If, however, negotiations subsequently fail, the contract can be cancelled subject to any costs or obligations already incurred.

The Requesting Party pays the Contractor's costs for preparing and organising equipment and personnel for despatch (mobilisation) and demobilisation on return to base when operations have been completed.

Contributed article (continued)

Hire is payable throughout this period and, for equipment, continues until it has been cleaned and is ready for further use or the Requesting Party may provide an equivalent replacement. The Requesting Party is also responsible for out of pocket and third party expenses. This includes charges for licences, authorisations, permits and visas which must be obtained and maintained by the Contractor but with the costs for the Requesting Party's account.

Payment of charges balances the Requesting Party's need to monitor and control expenditure with the Contractor's requirements for cash flow to finance the operation. Invoices are issued at the frequency agreed between the parties. Other than in the case of agreed large sums, where an advance payment of up to 80% may be required by the Contractor and subject to arrangements for withholding a proportion of a disputed account, settlement must normally be made within 30 days of the invoice. Late payments will attract interest and failure to settle an outstanding amount may lead to termination of the contract.

Agreements do not always run to finality. Under certain conditions, the Requesting Party may terminate the contract on giving 24 hours' notice. This might arise where negotiations on rates fail or where there is a change in operational conditions. There is also a mutual right of cancellation for a range of events including bankruptcy, force majeure, party default and loss of equipment. However, the contractual right of termination may be limited by the demands of regulatory authorities anxious to contain an incident and reluctant to allow the discontinuation of clean-up operations without suitable alternative arrangements being put in place.

As the entity that has caused or is otherwise responsible for the spill incident and resulting pollution, it follows that the Requesting Party must accept the risks associated with the clean-up operation. This is the premise underpinning the liability regime. While the US RESPONSECON is structured to reflect the legislative approach in the USA, both contracts provide that, other than in certain limited instances of negligence, the Contractor is largely immune or exonerated from liability.

Bad news attracts public interest and it is important that an incident is fairly and accurately reported. The Requesting Party therefore has exclusive responsibility for all media and press communications. Any approach made to the Contractor must be referred to the Requesting Party. In this day and age social media is often used, sometimes without proper thought, to impart views and opinions or send photographs and film footage which quickly enter the wider public domain. This might compromise the Requesting Party's interests. The Contractor must therefore use reasonable efforts to prevent unauthorised comment. This might, for example, include a prohibition of mobile telephones on site or warning personnel to avoid apparently innocent discussions with journalists posing as interested strangers.

As with any contract, disagreements can arise and the BIMCO Dispute Resolution Clause has been incorporated with modifications to suit the separate circumstances of the two forms. As RESPONSECON International applies to spills outside the USA, provision is made for arbitration in London (which is the default forum), Singapore or as agreed by the parties but the New York option has not been included. In contrast, since US RESPONSECON applies exclusively to incidents in US jurisdiction, New York is the only named forum for dispute resolution.

Note from Editor: The RESPONSECON International and RESPONSECON US contracts are available for use free-of-charge by Response Contractors and Requesting Parties, subject to Conditions of Use. Links for downloading the two contracts, explanatory notes and conditions of use can be downloaded from the ISCO and BIMCO websites at <https://www.bimco.org/contracts-and-clauses/idea/free-contracts/responsecon>

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

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Authority	December, 2016
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request via email
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	September 2017 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	September 2017 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2017 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	August 2017
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	September 22, 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	September 20, 2017
Safe Seas, Clean Seas	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	August 2017 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	August 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

Events

USA: REGISTER FOR CLEAN GULF AND GIVE YOUR SUPPORT TO HURRICANE RELIEF EFFORTS

September 20 - A message from the organisers of the Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition – “We recognize that many members of the [CLEAN GULF](#) community have been involved in the response and recovery efforts of both Hurricane Harvey and Irma, and there is a need to come together and discuss lessons-learned from these responses. Because of these recent events we will be adding content to the [CLEAN GULF](#) conference program that covers the emergency activities related to the Hurricane Harvey/Irma responses.

[CLEAN GULF](#) will still take place December 5-7 at the George R. Brown Convention Center in Houston, TX. As you know, the convention center was left undamaged from Hurricane Harvey and became the City of Houston's relief response headquarters. As of this past weekend, all evacuees have left the building and the George R. Brown is back to business as usual.

Though the water has begun to recede, the need for relief services remains due to the extensive damage this devastating storm caused the city of Houston and surrounding areas. Because CLEAN GULF is being held in Houston and many members of our community have been affected, we plan to donate \$50 to Harvey relief efforts for every delegate who registers using code RECOVERY for the remainder of September.

ISCO is a supporter of the Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition and recommends your attendance at this event.

USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS 2018 – CALL FOR PAPERS – DEADLINE FRIDAY 6 OCTOBER 2017

September 21 - The CLEAN WATERWAYS program is developed by a government/industry-based committee of approximately 50+ industry professionals. All abstracts are reviewed for content and relevance by the committee and are selected by consensus. Our audience is particularly interested in content that is tactical in nature. All abstracts considered sales pitches or product specific will be rejected.

Prospective speakers are invited to submit a 200-300 word abstract(s) online for consideration by the program committee by Friday, October 6, 2017. Notifications regarding acceptance into the program will be emailed prior to year's end. Those accepted to speak receive complimentary registration to the conference.

[CLEAN WATERWAYS](#) focuses on improving oil and hazardous materials spill prevention and response on and around inland river systems. It provides a powerful platform to share best practices, educate colleagues, and build relationships with stakeholders from industry, government, environmental, emergency planning and response industries throughout maritime, facilities, rail, and pipeline. If you have any questions, please contact [Cassie Davie](#), Sr. Conference Manager, at 713-343-1891

Upcoming events summary

COUNTRY	2017	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
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
IRELAND	Oct. 12	International Spill Control Association Seminar	Dublin
AUSTRALIA	Oct. 17	Dangerous Goods Rail Safety Forum	Perth
NORWAY	Oct. 17-19	NOSCA Seminar 2017	Horten
SOUTH KOREA	Oct. 18-20	World Ocean Forum	Busan
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
UK	Dec. 6-8	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	London
UK (N. Ireland)	Dec 12	ISAA Christmas Meeting and Lunch	Hillsborough
2018			
CANADA	Feb. 21-22	12th Arctic Shipping Summit	Montreal
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			

Company news from Corporate Members of ISCO

AQUA-GUARD AND VJ ENGINEERING - NEW PARTNERS IN MALAYSIA, SINGAPORE AND BRUNEI

September 21- Aqua-Guard is pleased to announce that VJ Engineering Solutions Sdn. Bhd. and VJ Engineering Trading & Services will be representing Aqua-Guard and our state of the art oil spill response solutions in the countries of Malaysia, Singapore and Brunei. VJ Engineering will be exhibiting Aqua-Guard's oil spill response solutions next month at the MIMEX Expo, in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. [Read more](#)

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