

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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International news

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



CASPIAN REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE REPORT



Above: ISCO Secretary Matthew Sommerville addressed the conference on "Sharing International Experience as a Main Instrument in Spill Management"

November 27 - OIL SPILL CONTROL CASPIAN: ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE Conference was held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The event has been traditionally supported by the Ministry of Emergency Situations of Azerbaijan and State Oil Company of Azerbaijan Republic. Director of Confidence Capital Andrew Rudenko greeted the participants of the conference. In address to the Conference participants and guests, Yury Bezrodny, National Expert from Russian Federation for the Preparation of the Caspian Environmental Programme (CEP) Documents, Tehran Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Caspian Sea and the Protocols thereto and Rasim Sattarzada, Head of Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, National (Tehran) Convention Liaison Officer noted the relevance of the conference.

There were 3 informative sessions on the first day of the Conference. Delegates discussed the following topics: Readiness of the Caspian Countries for environmental challenges, Oil Spill monitoring and prevention, Mitigating oil spill consequences, clean up and rehabilitation. Rasim Sattarzada, Head of Environmental Policy Division, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, National (Tehran) Convention Liaison Officer presented an

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Lepota described their latest grid resistance measurement based corrosion monitoring tool.

The Best Practices for Environmental Risk Assessment Session was also very well received. Regional Representative for Europe and the Caspian Region, Oil Spill Response Limited Marta Januszewska talked about the latest developments and the best international practices in tiered preparedness and response to oil spills. Environmental Engineer of Absheron Operating Company Anar Badalov described on the issues of Environmental safety activities of the company.

The presentation of Shaukat Bakiyev, Head of Environmental Safety and HSE, Offshore Projects Development, Gazprom Neft on environmental risk management processes and practices at Prirazlomnoe offshore field was one of the key papers at the conference drawing top level response from the audience.

The last session of the Conference was Oil Spill Prevention for Ports and Shipping. Speakers of session: Environmental Engineer of the Azerbaijan Caspian Shipping Sabir Kerimzade, Head of Environmental Safety Division of the Odessa Sea Port Authority Vitaliy Volokhov and Director of the Globus Centre for Environmental and Legal Initiative Galina Chernova. [Thanks to the conference organiser, Confidence Capital for providing this report] Read more in *ISCO News* on Page 10.

IMO ASSEMBLY ELECTS NEW 40-MEMBER COUNCIL FOR 2018-9

December 1 - The IMO Assembly has elected a new 40-member Council, its executive body responsible for supervising the work of the Organization. The Council performs all the functions of the Assembly, except that of making recommendations to Governments on maritime safety and pollution prevention.

The electoral campaign was tougher than usual as 46 countries presented their candidature. In category A, there was no contested election, but unusually in Category B Australia and the United Arab Emirates challenged the group making it 12 candidates for 10 seats. Both countries succeeded in getting a seat on the Council, and Argentina and Bangladesh lost their seats. In category C, the challengers Algeria, Antigua and Barbuda, Nigeria and Saudi Arabia did not gain seats in the Council.

The Members for the 2018-2019 biennium are:

Category A (10 States with the largest interest in providing international shipping services): China, Greece, Italy, Japan, Norway, Panama, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, United States.

International news (continued)

overview for the Aktau protocol to the Tehran Convention concerning regional preparedness, response and cooperation in combating oil pollution incidents in the Caspian Sea. Azer Aliyev, Head of Ecology Department, SOCAR talked about SOCAR's oil spill preparedness, response and perspectives.

An important event of the day was panel discussion Deployment of new oil spill prevention and control technologies – challenges and solutions. Panellists of discussion: Mirsalam Ganbarov, Senior Advisor, National Department for Environmental Monitoring, Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources of the Republic of Azerbaijan, Sabir Kerimzade, Environmental Engineer, Azerbaijan Caspian Shipping, Marta Januszewska, Regional Representative for Europe and the Caspian Region, Oil Spill Response Limited, Yury Bezrodny, Head of Environmental Safety Monitoring and Design, Lukoil Engineering, VolgogradNIPImorneft and Akram Gakhramanov, Leading Engineer for Special-Purpose Equipment, Caspian Basin Accident Rescue Service, Ministry of Emergency Situations of the Republic of Azerbaijan.

The second day of the conference developed into an extensive technical and operational excellence experience exchange. During the Environmental safety of oil and gas infrastructure session Yury Bezrodny, Head of Environmental Safety Monitoring and Design, Lukoil Engineering, VolgogradNIPImorneft talked about the history and the latest developments in industrial and environmental safety for offshore North Caspian fields licensed to Lukoil-Nizhnevolzhskneft. Alexander Prokazin, Technical Director of Polyinform presented a number of cutting edge solutions developed by this Skolkovo resident, including the latest oil destruction bacterial stamms and non-intrusive diagnostics and monitoring solutions for non-piggable field flowlines. Deputy Commercial Director of Pipeline Systems and Technologies Sergey

International news (continued)

Category B (10 States with the largest interest in international seaborne trade):

Australia, Brazil, Canada, France, Germany, India, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, United Arab Emirates.

Category C (20 States not elected above, which have special interests in maritime transport or navigation and whose election to the Council will ensure the representation of all major geographic areas of the world):

Bahamas, Belgium, Chile, Cyprus, Denmark, Egypt, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kenya, Liberia, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Peru, Philippines, Singapore, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey.

The newly elected Council will meet, following the conclusion of the 30th Assembly, for its 119th session (on December 7) and will elect its Chair and Vice-Chair for the next biennium.

The IMO has 172 member states. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

UN: 'ZERO TOLERANCE' PLAN EYED FOR PLASTIC POLLUTION

December 1 - A plan for zero tolerance of plastic pollution of the oceans may be agreed by nations at a UN environment summit.

Governments are being asked to move towards a legal treaty banning plastic waste from entering the sea.

At the moment ships are prohibited from dumping plastic overboard but there's no international law against plastics flooding into the sea from the land.

Experts say ocean plastics are an obvious subject for a global treaty: plastics present a large-scale threat.

Plastic pollution doesn't recognise international borders.

Delegates in Nairobi preparing the way for the UN's environment ministers meeting next week are said to be in broad agreement on the need for tougher action to combat the plastics crisis. *BBC News* [Read more](#)

MARITIME PILOTS RECEIVE IMO BRAVERY AWARD



December 1 - Two maritime pilots who defied fire to bring a burning ship to safety, averting a major maritime catastrophe, received the 2017 IMO Award for Exceptional Bravery at Sea during the 2017 IMO awards ceremony, held on November 27.

Pilots Captain Michael G. McGee and Captain Michael C. Phillips, from Houston, were recognized for their role in averting a major tragedy in September 2016. The ship they were piloting, the 247 meters-long tanker Aframax River, broke down in the Houston Ship Channel in the middle of the night and burst into flames after colliding with mooring dolphins.

McGee and Phillips were surrounded by a towering wall of burning fuel as the raging fire quickly spread across the channel, threatening other tank ships and nearby waterfront facilities. Both pilots remained at their stations on the bridge of the ship during the fire. McGee managed to maneuver the stricken and blazing vessel away from surrounding ships and facilities. Phillips coordinated communications and firefighting efforts with the U.S. Coast Guard and numerous local fireboats. He also rushed to grab a fire extinguisher and put out a fire raging on the port bridge wing.

The Maritime Executive [Read more](#)

Incident reports

USA: ALASKA - 340 BARRELS OF JET FUEL SPILLS INTO SECONDARY CONTAINMENT AREA AT THE PORT OF ANCHORAGE

November 19 - An estimated 340 barrels of jet fuel spilled into a secondary containment area late Saturday at the ocean dock at the Port of Anchorage. The containment system is believed to prevent a far worse scenario: the 18,000-plus gallons of fuel spilling into icy Cook Inlet, where a cleanup would have been far more difficult if not impossible. With the system in place, already, fifteen thousand gallons of oil and water mixture has been recovered.

Candice Barber, a spokesperson for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, says the terminal is located "approximately 560 feet from the waters of Cook Inlet." Barber says "(The company) activated a spill response contractor to recover free product from the secondary containment area. The free product recovery operation was carried out throughout the night." *Ktuu.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Incident reports (continued)

USA: OHIO - ROVER PIPELINE SPILLS CONTAMINANTS IN STREAM IN ASHLAND COUNTY

November 24 - The Ohio EPA has cited Rover Pipeline, LLC for spilling contaminants into the Black Fork of the Mohican River in Ashland County.

In this latest incident, resulting in Rover's 19th notice of environmental violations in Ohio this year, the company's construction activity caused 200 gallons of bentonite-based drilling fluid to be released into a tributary of the Mohican River near the Ashland-Richland County border, according to a news release issued Friday afternoon from the Ohio EPA. *Mansfield News Journal* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: SOUTH DAKOTA - TRANSCANADA: MORE THAN 44,000 GALLONS OF OIL RECOVERED FROM KEYSTONE SPILL SO FAR

November 25 - Roughly 210,000 gallons of oil are reported to have spilled in the region due to a leak earlier this month. TransCanada is cleaning up oil from the spill to remove contaminants from the soil. About 170 workers are participating in clean-up activities, the company said. *Washington Examiner* [Read more](#)

November 28 - Keystone Pipeline resumes operations after leak repaired

TransCanada Corp. announced today that the Keystone Pipeline carrying crude from Canada to the U.S. will begin operating at a reduced pressure. TransCanada said repair and restart plans have been reviewed by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) with no objections, allowing the company's Keystone system "a safe and controlled return to service." *American Shale Magazine* [Read more](#)

CANADA: BRITISH COLOMBIA - CP RAIL FREIGHT TRAIN DERAILS, SPILLS FUEL AFTER ROCK SLIDE IN FRASER CANYON



Photo: Train cars are seen at the site of a derailment north of Hope, B.C. in this undated handout photo. British Columbia's Environment Ministry says a rock slide north of Hope derailed a freight train and led to a fuel spill in the Fraser River. B.C. Environment Ministry via CP

November 24 - British Columbia's Environment Ministry says a rock slide north of Hope derailed a freight train and led to a fuel spill in the Fraser River.

The ministry says in a statement that a Canadian Pacific Rail train was knocked off the tracks on Thursday by the slide near Hells Gate in the Fraser Canyon.

Several empty grain cars jumped the tracks and the train engine was knocked on to its side.

The statement says the engine's fuel line ruptured and an undetermined amount of fuel spilled into the Fraser River before emergency workers could temporarily patch the leak.

Emergency responders from the province and CP Rail have been sent to the scene to assess damages and monitor the environmental response. *The Globe & Mail* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: BRITISH COLOMBIA - US VESSEL STRANDED IN OCEAN WITH MILLIONS OF LITRES OF DIESEL AND PETROL ON BOARD

November 26 - An American barge with 3.5 million litres of oil is reportedly in distress off the coast of the Canadian province of British Columbia, posing a potentially huge threat to the areas indigenous lands and wildlife were it to spill.

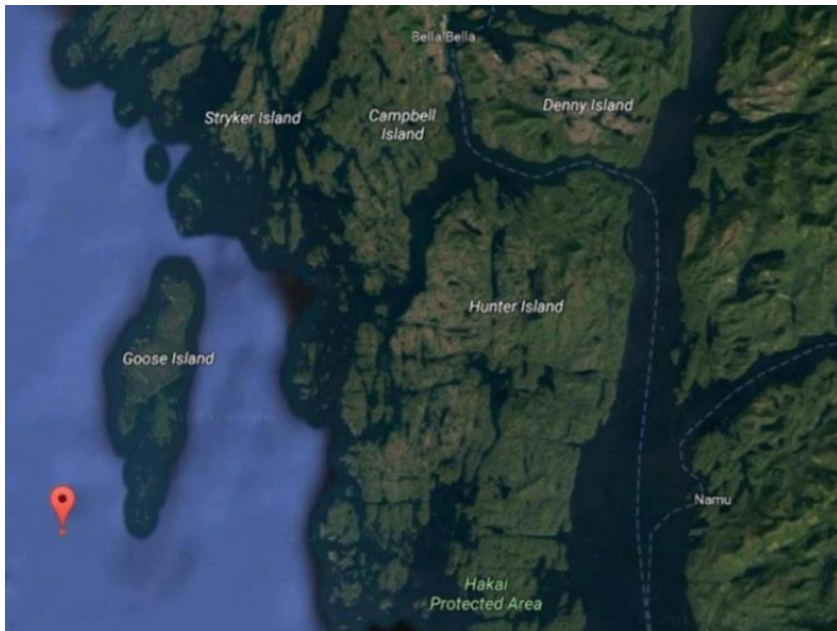
The Jake Shearer was sailing in turbulent waters near Bella Bella and Goose Island, when two of its three tug boats broke free and the barge dropped its anchor.

It is carrying millions of litres of diesel and 468,000 litres of gasoline, according to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation (CBC), although at the time of publication there was no indication that any of the fuel had spilled.

Two Canadian coastguard vessels are trying to help and additional resources were being sent to the location, according to officials. *The Independent* [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

November 26 - UPDATE: Stranded fuel barge has been secured near Bella Bella



The stranded fuel barge off the coast of Bella Bella is no longer a search and rescue mission.

A commercial tug, the Gulf Cajun, secured the barge at approximately 11 a.m. and took the fuel carrying barge, Zidell Marine 277, under tow. The barge has been moved one nautical mile away from the shoreline.

"They are currently underway north to Milbanke Sound. This area was chosen because it's sheltered so it's a better sea state," said Lieutenant Navy Melissa Kia with Joint Rescue Co-ordination Centre in Victoria. *Surrey Now Leader* [Read more](#)

November 27 - Pusher tug disabled, oil barge brought to anchor, British Columbia

Pusher tug JAKE SHEARER lost contact with pushed oil barge in the afternoon Nov

26 south of Goose Island, British Columbia coast, while en route to Alaska. Reportedly tug suffered power loss, and had to disconnect from barge, which was meanwhile, anchored by tug's crew. Locals alerted authorities fearing possible grounding and oil spill, though there are no indications that threat is imminent. As of 0600 UTC Nov 27, SAR tug and boat were at the site, understood situation is under control. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

November 27 - Jake Shearer Incident: Stricken Fuel Barge Safely Anchored in British Columbia

The tug Gulf Cajun towing the previously-detached fuel barge have been safely anchored in Norman Morison Bay, BC for inspections, the Canadian Coast Guard said Tuesday. Booms have been placed around both vessels as a precaution and no pollution observed.

A fuel barge that had detached from an U.S.-flagged tugboat off of British Columbia in bad weather is currently under tow to protected waters, according to the latest information available on the incident.

The laden barge broke free from the American-owned articulated tug Jake Shearer on Sunday and came dangerously close to running aground near Goose Island rock grouping southwest of Bella Bella. The barge is laden with 3.5 million liters of diesel and 500,000 liters of gasoline. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: OIL SPILL IN TAURANGA HARBOUR

November 28 - A clean-up operation of an oil spill in Tauranga Harbour has begun with officials working to find out where it has started from.

Bay of Plenty Regional Council regulatory compliance manager Alex Miller said the team was first notified this morning of an oil sheen on the water near Cross Rd and Sulphur Point. *New Zealand Herald* [Read more](#)

November 30 - Source of oil spill remains a mystery

Mystery continues to surround the source of an oil spill that polluted areas of Tauranga's inner harbour as far south as Memorial Park.

"The investigation is still underway," the regional council's on-scene commander Matthew Harrex said. He ruled out the city council's Southern Pipeline harbour crossing project as being the source of the oil. The pipeline was being drilled under the harbour from Memorial Park to Matapihi. *New Zealand Herald* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: OIL SPILL RAVAGES DELTA COMMUNITY

November 28 - EGBO quarters of Uwheru community, Delta State, has been ravaged by oil spill from wells 8 and 9 in OML 30, operated by Heritage Energy Operational Services Limited, leading to the loss of aquatic and domestic life, as well as crops in the area. The Media Relations and Internal Communications Coordinator of the company, Mr.Chidi Orazulike, who confirmed the spill, said: "The spill was a result of the activities of vandals".

Vanguard [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

NEW CALEDONIA: OIL SPILL CAME FROM STRANDED CONTAINER SHIP

December 1 - The French High Commissioner in New Caledonia Thierry Lataste has confirmed that fuel was spilled when the stranded container ship Kea Trader broke up on a reef about 100 kilometres off Mare last month.

Globules of oil have been washing ashore along New Caledonia's eastern coasts, prompting authorities to issue a marine pollution alert.

Although test results are not in yet, Mr Lataste said the ship owners have assumed responsibility and will pay for the clean-up effort now underway. *Radio New Zealand* [Read more](#)

USA: LOUISIANA - SPILLED PIPELINE OIL NEAR POINTE A LA HACHE TO BE BURNED: COAST GUARD

December 1 - Contractors responding to a pipeline leak in marsh near Pointe a la Hache in lower Plaquemines Parish will use fire to remove the majority of the oil on Friday (Dec. 1), the U.S. Coast Guard announced late Thursday.

The pipeline owned by XTO Energy was reported to be leaking to the Coast Guard at 2:40 p.m. Thursday. The initial report indicated that about 504 gallons of oil were discharged before the pipeline was secured, but by Thursday night, officials said they'd already removed 1,260 gallons of "product" through the use of boom, sorbent pads and skimmer packages. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Cedre]

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

AUSTRALIA: THE MONTARA OIL SPILL CLASS ACTION: CROSSING BORDERS AND EXTENDING TIME

December 1 - The Montara oil field lies in the offshore area of the Territory of Ashmore and Cartier Islands, in which the laws of the Northern Territory apply. On 21 August 2009, a serious wellhead blowout occurred at the Montara Platform. Oil and gas flowed into the Timor Sea for over 10 weeks, in what became the worst oil spill in Australia's offshore petroleum industry history. In 2010, a Commonwealth commission of inquiry concluded that the blowout resulted from widespread shortcomings in the well control practices of the production licensee, PTTEP Australasia (Ashmore Cartier) Pty Ltd (PTTEP).

Nearly 7 years later, on 3 August 2016, a class action was commenced in the Federal Court of Australia by Daniel Sanda, an Indonesian seaweed farmer who lived on the island of Rote (about 250 km north of Montara), and farmed in the coastal waters of the Timor Sea. Sanda sued as a representative applicant, on behalf of a closed class of approximately 15,000 Indonesian seaweed farmers, claiming damages for the destruction of seaweed, and the decline in seaweed production, caused by oil pollution from the Montara blowout. *Lexology* [Read more](#)

AZERBAIJAN: SOCAR EYES TO BUILD CENTER FOR LIQUIDATION OF OIL SPILLS IN CASPIAN SEA

November 27 - Azerbaijan's state oil company SOCAR plans to build a center for the liquidation of oil spills in the Caspian Sea, Head of SOCAR Environmental Department Azer Aliyev said. He was speaking on November 27 at the 5th practical conference "Oil Spill Control Caspian: Oil Spills at Sea and on Land" in Baku.

He said that the center will consist of three stations. "The location of these three stations has already been determined, the process of allocating land has been completed," he noted. "The design work is underway. One station will be located in Garadagh district, on the territory of Oil and Gas Production Department (OGPD) named after N. Narimanov, and will occupy an area of 1.5 hectares. The second station, which will occupy two hectares, will be located on the Chilov island on the "28 May" OGPD's territory, and a third station with an area of 0.76 hectares is planned to be built on the territory of the Dubendi Oil Terminal." He added that in 2018, SOCAR plans to start the active phase of the project's implementation. *AzerNews* [Read more](#)

EGYPT: IOPC FUNDS AT NATIONAL WORKSHOP IN CAIRO

November 24 - At the invitation of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), the IOPC Funds participated in a national workshop on liability and compensation for ship-source oil pollution incidents from 21–23 November 2017 in Cairo, Egypt.

The workshop, hosted by PERSGA in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA), was attended by around 30 participants, representing the EEAA, other government and port authorities as well as representatives from the Suez Canal Authority and the SUMED pipelines company. <http://www.iopcfunds.org>

News reports from around the world (continued)

FIJI: OIL LEAK DETECTED FROM WHERE KAIWAI SANK

December 1 - Oil has been spotted leaking from the area where the landing barge, Kaiwai, sank. But there was no indication yet whether this was from drums onboard or from the vessel itself.

Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji personnel are expected to go out to Yasawa and assess the situation. It could also not be immediately established if any of the oil spill had reached the shores. *Fiji Sun* [Read more](#)

GREECE: OPERATION BEGINS TO REMOVE SUNKEN OIL TANKER FROM SALAMINA



November 25 - A floating crane capable of pulling 1,300 tons was installed on Friday at the location of the sunken oil tanker "Agia Zoni II", where it will begin the operation to remove the ship from the bottom of the sea.

The 3,200-dwt ship carried about 2,200 tons of fuel oil and 370 tons of marine gas oil when it sank near Salamina Island on September 10.

Spanopoulos Group, the company tasked with removing the wreck, has set up a team of 50 people on site to work on the project, along with divers, towing boats and anti-pollution boats.

Greek Reporter [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

December 1 - Successful Lifting of the Agia Zoni II

The Spanopoulos Group has announced that the refloating and removal of the sunken Agia Zoni II, which commenced on November 24, was successfully completed on November 29 (14:00) local time. The shipwreck was safely removed and, at the orders of the ship owning company, was transferred in the presence of Coast Guard Officers, temporarily to nearby yard facilities, to carry out the necessary inspections.

The wreck removal operation was accomplished by the use of one floating ringer crane with 1,300 tons of lifting capacity and another of 260 tons, powerful salvage tugs, antipollution vessels and a specialized diving team of the Group. Highly experienced and qualified personnel, consisting of salvage master, naval architects, mechanical engineers, environmentalists, oil spill responders and safety technician were engaged on the operation.

Michalis Spanopoulos, Owner and project coordinator, stated: "From the very first moments, a demanding battle was fought and the response was immediate with awareness for the environment, in order to eliminate the consequences of oil spill in the sea and at the coastal areas. With the removal of this harmful-polluter, we managed to mitigate the risk that could more adversely affect the environment. It should be also stressed out that the clean-up works for the coastline and wreck site are in their final stages. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

INDIA: INDIAN COAST GUARD CONDUCTS MARINE POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE “CLEAN SEA 2017”

November 30 – The Indian Coast Guard on 29th November 2017 conducted a Regional Level Marine Oil Spill Response Exercise “Clean Sea 2017” at sea off Port Blair, capital of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

The main objective of the exercise was to ascertain the preparedness of the Indian Coast Guard, resource agencies and other stakeholders in responding to a major oil spill in line with the provisions of the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan.

The key highlight of the exercise was the participation of one ICG Pollution Control Vessel and integration of the Indian Coast Guard Dornier/Chetak Aircraft into the Oil Spill Disaster Management System for aerial assessment/delivery of Oil Spill Dispersant for mitigation of the spilled oil.

The preparedness of all agencies during the exercise was conducted under observation of Coast Guard Regional Commander Inspector General KR Suresh, TM and was overseen by Mr Anindo Majumdar, IAS, Chief Secretary (Andaman & Nicobar) embarked on board Coast Guard Ship Vishwast along with Mrs Nuzhat Hassan, IPS, DGP, Mrs Nabanita Ganguly, IFS, Director, Pollution Control Committee and Dr RD Tripathy, Chief Port Administrator, PMB. *Jagran Josh* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Capt. D. C. Sekhar, Member of ISCO Council for India]

IRAQ: PLANS FOR NEW PIPELINE EXPORTING KIRKUK OIL TO TURKEY: OIL MINISTRY

November 26 - Iraq plans to build a new pipeline that will ship oil from Kirkuk's oilfields to the Ceyhan port in Turkey, the oil ministry said on Sunday.

The new pipeline will replace an old and severely damaged section of the Kirkuk-Ceyhan pipeline. It will start from the nearby city of Baiji city and continue until the Fishkhabour border area with Turkey, the ministry said in a statement. *Middle East Eye* [Read more](#)

JAPAN: FUKUSHIMA: A MILLION TONNES OF RADIOACTIVE WATER STILL IN STORAGE AFTER NUCLEAR DISASTER

November 25 - Japan cannot agree on what to do with a million tonnes of radioactive water being stored at the destroyed Fukushima nuclear power plant — and there is a chance it could spill if another major earthquake or tsunami were to strike.

The water is being stored in about 900 large and densely packed tanks at the plant, which was overwhelmed by a devastating tsunami more than six years ago. Making matters worse, the amount of contaminated water held at Fukushima is still growing by 150 tons a day. *ABC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

RUSSIA: ITOPF ATTENDS 'MARINE INSURANCE IN RUSSIA 2017'

November 28 - ITOPF was invited to attend the 7th international annual conference of the Russian Union of Marine Insurers (RUMI) entitled "Marine insurance in Russia 2017" held in Moscow on 23rd November 2017. The event was supported by the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation and the Russian Chamber of Shipping as an opportunity to share hands-on experiences of marine casualty management. Richard Johnson gave a presentation on "Trends in oil spills from tankers, cooperation with insurers" to the 150 strong audience comprising delegates from shipping and insurance companies, maritime lawyers, surveyors and claims handlers. <http://www.itopf.com>

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: EMA: GOVERNMENT REVIEWING PRIVY COUNCIL RULING

The Environmental Management Authority (EMA) said the Ministry of Planning and Development is reviewing the Privy Council's [judgement in favour of environmental group Fishermen and Friends of the Sea \(FFOS\)](#) regarding permit fees for water polluters.

In a release, the [EMA](#) said it has informed Planning Minister Camille Robinson-Regis who has requested that the [judgement](#) be carefully analysed and recommendations be made on the way forward.

The EMA defended its interpretation of the Polluter Pays Principle (PPP) under the Water Pollution Fees (Amendment) Regulations of 2001, whereby polluters would be charged the same "flat fee" system for water pollution permits, regardless of their pollution profile, pollution load, sensitivity of the receiving environment, or toxicity level. *Loop* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

USA: TEXAS - STATE OFFICIALS REMOVE SUNKEN DAMAGE ALONG COAST

November 22 - Of the 676 boats that sank in state waters in late August, 77 sank in local ports from Seadrift to Palacios, said Robb Muil, the area manager for oil prevention and response for the Texas General Land Office.

Muil told the Port Commission of Port Lavaca on Tuesday that the GLO yanked the final boat from its watery grave Nov. 11. He said in the process, the GLO, the U.S. Coast Guard and the Environmental Protection Agency prevented almost 60,000 gallons of hazardous material from spilling. *Emergency Management* [Read more](#)

USA: WHAT NOW AFTER MICHIGAN, ENBRIDGE AGREE TO DEAL ON LINE 5?

November 27 - Gov. Rick Snyder on Monday adopted an urgent tone in announcing an [agreement](#) between the state and Enbridge over Line 5, the 64-year-old oil pipeline beneath the Straits of Mackinac that environmental groups see as a threat to the Great Lakes.

“Business as usual by Enbridge is not acceptable, and we are going to ensure the highest level of environmental safety standards are implemented to protect one of Michigan’s most valuable natural resources,” the Republican said in a statement.

The agreement follows months of controversy and concern from leaders of both political parties that the pipeline, if not properly maintained, could rupture and create an environmental catastrophe. *Bridge* [Read more](#)

USA: FRACKING COMPANY, DEP SPAR OVER ONGOING CIVIL PENALTIES FOR POLLUTION

November 28 - Allowing the state Department of Environmental Protection to issue ongoing penalties against companies for the continued presence of pollutants in state waters would essentially give the agency an unlimited ability to fine companies for pollution beyond their control, an attorney representing a prominent natural gas company told the Pennsylvania Supreme Court on Tuesday. *The Legal Intelligencer* [Read more](#)

USA: KEYSTONE SPILL LIKELY CAUSED BY CONSTRUCTION DAMAGE, INVESTIGATORS SAY

November 29 - Federal investigators say that construction damage was likely to blame for an oil spill earlier this month from the Keystone pipeline in South Dakota.

They say the spill was likely caused because of mechanical damage that occurred when this portion of the pipeline was built in 2008. The damage, the investigators add, was probably caused by a weight installed at the time. "Such weights are used in places where changing water levels could make a pipeline float," NPR's Jeff Brady reported. *National Public Radio* [Read more](#)

USA: IS ALASKA'S PRINCE WILLIAM SOUND AT RISK? ALYESKA PIPELINE SERVICES COMPANY IN A COST-CUTTING MOVE IS CHANGING THE WAY OIL TANKERS ARE ESCORTED

November 30 - Experience counts and should be considered when choosing a company responsible for guiding tankers through Prince William Sound and also taken into consideration should be any record of negligence, say unions representing mariners. In comments filed with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC), made public for the first time recently, the International Organization of Masters, Mates & Pilots and the Inlandboatmen’s Union detail findings of the U.S. Coast Guard and the U.S. Department of Justice that show a record of incompetence and criminal negligence by Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO), the contractor slated to begin tanker escort and oil spill response in Prince William Sound – if approved by state regulators.

“We are deeply concerned,” the two unions stated in a letter and related documents filed with the Department of Conservation, “that the Prince William Sound Response Planning Group is cutting corners and putting the fragile environment of the Prince William Sound at risk by replacing an experienced oil spill response contractor – Crowley Maritime Corporation – with an inexperienced one: Edison Chouest Offshore (ECO).” *Oil 7 Gas Online* [Read more](#)

USA: COAST GUARD HOSTS ARCTIC AWARENESS MEETING

December 1 - The Coast Guard hosted an Arctic Domain Awareness Center meeting at its headquarters here, Nov. 28-29. The meeting brought together researchers from the Department of Homeland Security’s Center of Excellence with leaders from its principal customer, the Coast Guard.

Working with international, interagency and tribal partners, ADAC conducts research to support Coast Guard Arctic search and rescue, humanitarian assistance, disaster response and security missions. *Dept. of Defense* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

VIETNAM: VIETNAMESE BLOGGER GETS 7 YEARS IN JAIL FOR REPORTING ON TOXIC SPILL



In the picture: Nguyen Van Hoa at his trial in Ha Tinh, Vietnam, on Monday. He was convicted of spreading anti-state propaganda for producing videos and writing about protests over an environmental disaster. Credit: Cong Tuong/Vietnam News Agency, via Associated Press

November 27 - A chemical spill that devastated the coast of central Vietnam last year claimed another casualty on Monday when a 22-year-old blogger was sentenced to seven years in prison for posting reports on the disaster.

After a brief, closed trial in Ha Tinh Province, the blogger, Nguyen Van Hoa, was found guilty of spreading anti-state propaganda for producing videos and writing about protests over the toxic spill, news agencies reported.

The discharge, which occurred when a new Taiwan-owned steel factory flushed cyanide and other chemicals through its

waste pipeline, killed marine life and sickened people along a 120-mile stretch of coastline. It is one of Vietnam's largest environmental disasters. *New York Times* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

ISCO news

ISCO SECRETARY ATTENDS CASPIAN REGION OIL SPILL CONFERENCE IN BAKU



Above: Delegates at the Conference held in Baku celebrated at a magnificent dinner.

Last week the Secretary of ISCO attend the Oil Spill Control Caspian Conference in Baku Azerbaijan, organised by Confidence Capital.

This was the 5th such annual conference and was well attended by over 80 representatives from the Caspian bordering countries including government bodies, oil companies, response organisations and other interested parties. There was an equally good representation from outside the Caspian including from ISCO members including Oil Spill Response Ltd., Briggs, Desmi, Lamor, Vikoma and Scatman. In addition, IPIECA and IMO were represented by Dinara Amanzholova from the Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative (OSPRI).

The two-day conference at the Hyatt hotel was packed with some 21 presentations being delivered with simultaneous translation and a taste of local fayre inserted at a spectacular conference dinner. There was a lot of information exchange in the presentations and outside in the breaks and clearly still opportunities and motivation to improve

ISCO news (continued)

response preparedness and address co-operation and collaboration between parties. The 2018 conference is already in planning and likely to be an equally strongly attended event.

ISCO Secretary Matthew Sommerville presented on the subject of “Sharing International Expertise as a main instrument in Oil Spill Management” as well as chairing the session on Oil Spill Monitoring and Prevention.

In addition to the conference the secretary was able to mix a little work with pleasure and visited the Briggs Baku base. Some 20 years ago he first came to Baku as the country manager for Briggs and was involved in establishing the base and recruiting the response team. It was great to have the opportunity to say hello again to members of staff who are still working at the base and elsewhere in the oil industry in Baku.

Finally the opportunity was taken to say hello to our ISCO Council member Osman Tarzumanov (Oil Spill Lead Advisor, Crisis, Continuity Management and Emergency Response, AGT, Midstream, BP) and meet his colleagues Samir Bayramov, Felix Aghayev, and Namig Ghandelov (who 20 years ago was the Briggs base deputy manager).

REMINDER: THIS WEEK ISCO WILL BE AT CLEAN GULF IN HOUSTON, TEXAS, USA

ISCO Secretary Matthew Sommerville will be at Clean Gulf this week and is looking forward to meeting many old friends – and making some new ones. You are invited to make a call at the ISCO booth #907 in the exhibition hall.

ISCO Corporate Members and their booth numbers at Clean Gulf include AlBriggs Defesa Ambiental S.A. #609, Clean Harbors #509, Crucial #615, Desmi #436, Elastec #100, Fastank #534, Foru Solutions #739, Lamor #604, NRC #414, OSRL #800, T&T Marine #401, and Vikoma #905

Obituary

MARK FRANCIS, FISCO

Note from Editor – An obituary and several messages from friends were published in last week’s ISCO newsletter. Some additional messages were received after the newsletter went to press and are now included below. Your editor also wishes to thank John Cantley, Member of ISCO Council for Brazil, for kindly passing on the obituary and received messages to Mark’s family.

- It was my pleasure to work with Mark for over 6 years. He always got the job done with a smile. He will be sadly missed across our industry. Bruce Pillar
- It was a shock to everyone, Mark’s passing away, he was very well known and respected guy in the industry and here in Brazil. John Cantley
- Really sorry to hear of the passing of Mark. This is a shock to myself and our staff. All the best wishes to his family. Nigel J. Bennett
- Mark and I worked together and I very much enjoyed his company. He is going to be sorely missed. Please pass on my best regards to his family. Bob McWhinnie

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

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	October 2017
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	October 2017
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	November 2017 issue
EUROWA Newsletter	European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module	October 2017
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2017 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	November 2017
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	December 1, 2017
JOIFF “The Catalyst”	Int’l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q4 2017 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Sept.-Oct. 2017
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	October 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	November 2017 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	November 29, 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	Oct. 1-15, 2017
Transport Canada Newsletter	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	June 2017 issue
UK NCEC	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	July 2017 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	December 1, 2017

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

Events

UK: REMINDER: IN LONDON THIS WEEK – SALVAGE & WRECK REMOVAL CONFERENCE

Tony Paulson of the West of England P&I Club will be giving an update on the new BIMCO-ISCO RESPONSECON contacts.

For full details see ISCO Newsletter 611 Click [HERE](#) and select Newsletter 611

CANADA: 41ST AMOP TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND RESPONSE

Call for Papers Deadline is 31st December 2017.

For more information please contact Natalie Jones, Technical Seminar Coordinator, Emergencies Science and Technology Section, Environment and Climate Change Canada.

Email: ec.colloquetechniqueamopamoptechnicalseminar.ec@canada.ca

Upcoming events summary 2017

COUNTRY	2017	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
KENYA	Dec. 4-6	3rd Session United Nations Environment Assembly	Nairobi
USA	Dec. 5	SCAA Reception at CLEAN GULF	Houston, TX
USA	Dec. 5-7	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	Houston, TX
UAE	Dec. 6-7	MENA Oil Spill Response & Management Workshop	Dubai
KOREA	Dec. 6-7	2017 NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting	Busan
UK	Dec. 6-8	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	London
GABON	Dec. 11-14	GI WACAF Nat'l W'shop on Marine Oil Spill Waste	Libreville
JAPAN	Dec 12	PAJ Oil Spill Workshop FY2017	Tokyo
UK (N. Ireland)	Dec 12	ISAA Christmas Meeting and Lunch	Lisburn
MALAYSIA	Dec. 13-15	Oil Spill Management and Response Workshop	Kuala Lumpur

Upcoming events summary 2018

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
USA	Jan. 3-5	28th Annual No Spills Conference	Grand Traverse MI
UK	Feb. 5-9	IMO Pollution Prevention & Response Committee	London
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	March 20-21	SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Arlington VA
RUSSIA	March 22-23	Baltic Sea Day International Environmental Forum	St. Petersburg
BELGIUM	March 22-23	CONCAWE Oil Pipeline Experience Seminar	Antwerp
USA	April 4-5	Clean Waterways Conference	St. Louis, MO
UK	April 9-13	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
FINLAND	April 17-20	Arctic Shipping Forum	Helsinki
NEW ZEALAND	May 1-3	NZ 5th Contaminated Land Conference	Christchurch
USA	May 7-11	13th Int'l Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference	Baltimore, MD
UK	May 23-24	HAZMAT 2018	Stratford on Avon
CANADA	June 5-7	AMOP Tech. Seminar – Contamination & Response	Vancouver BC
ITALY	June 20-22	INTERTANKO Annual Event 2018	Rome
USA	June 19-21	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Portland, OR
INDIA	July 5-6	Oil Spill India 2018 Conference & Exhibition	New Delhi
UAE	October 9-10	RECSO EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition	Abu Dhabi
UK	October 22-26	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London

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

Corporate member news

CANADA: AQUA-GUARD HOSTS OPEN HOUSE AT COQUITLAM WAREHOUSE FACILITY



November 27 - Highlights included the new state of the art RBS TRITON 35T trailer system (designed for quick response to potential spills in coastal communities and pipelines). The RotoX was on display after recently returning from the Arctic where it went through testing by the USCG onboard the icebreaker Healy. During these tests, the RotoX demonstrated its unique ability to maneuver thru broken ice and was able to push ice out of its path and reach more places than a typical non-self-propelled skimmer. The testing was a joint effort between the US Coast Guard RDC, Coast Guard National Strike Force, Navy Supervisor or Salvage and Diving, the Oil Spill Recovery Institute of Cordova, Alaska and the Coast Guard Cutter Healy. [Read more](#)

AZERBAIJAN: BRIGGS MARINE AT CASPIAN REGION CONFERENCE IN BAKU AND VISIT OF ISCO SECRETARY TO THE OIL SPILL RESPONSE BASE



Above left: Briggs stand with Elkhan Mamedov, Deputy Manager, Fakhraddin Alimardanov HSEQ Coordinator, Felix Aghayev OSR Advisor at BP and ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville



Above right: Briggs Baku Base – Matthew Sommerville with Neil Marson Regional Manager, Elkhan, Fakhraddin, Karim, Rasfiq, and the Briggs team

November 29 – Pictures above taken during the visit to Baku of Matthew Sommerville, ISCO Secretary.

Briggs Environmental is an accredited industry leader in the provision of environmental services. Briggs Environmental provide response, training and consultancy services specialising in mitigating risks and dealing with the effects of pollution from hazardous and noxious substances such as oils and chemicals.

At the heart of its environmental services are four key factors:

- Integrated solutions comprising consultancy, training, assets, and operations.
- A pragmatic approach to problem solving arising from over thirty years' experience.
- A rigorous safety and quality culture.
- A competitive proposition that adds value through partnering and the efficient use of resources.

<http://www.briggsmarine.com/>

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