

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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**SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR READERS**



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



International news

IMO ASSEMBLY ADOPTS NEW STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



December 12 - The IMO Assembly adopted seven new strategic directions at its 30th session at IMO Headquarters in London last week, designed to support the implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Assembly meeting, which ran from November 27 November to December 6, was the largest-ever gathering at IMO Headquarters in London, attended by some 1,400 participants, including 56 at the ministerial level, from 165 Member States, as well as observers from inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and from the World Maritime University and the International Maritime Law Institute.

Read more about the New Strategic Directions, New Vision and the Resolutions adopted by the Assembly – A good article in [The Maritime Executive](#) and a [Press Release from IMO](#)

MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION IN SOUTHEAST ASIA GETS FRESH BACKING FROM NORAD

December 8 - A new IMO-Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) environmental project in Southeast Asia is set to begin, to support seven countries to protect the marine environment from shipping operations. The four-year project will focus on enhancing the countries' capacity to implement a number of high-priority marine environment conventions, including the International Convention for the

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Environment Institute have co-organized this international conference to commemorate the Hebei Spirit incident, to review lessons learnt of major pollution incidents at sea, policies and the latest technologies on maritime disasters management, and to develop a future work plan for the increased capacity to address maritime disasters.

At the conference, Korea Coast Guard elaborated its new paradigm shift to maritime disaster response and enhancement of national response capacity. U.S. Coast Guard shared their experience in addressing Deepwater Horizon Drilling Rig Oil Spill incident. The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (ITOPF) provided information about major oil spill accidents in Europe. KOEM presented lessons and challenges from large-scale oil spill incidents in the R. Korea. Moreover, representatives from R. Korea, P.R. China, Japan and the Russian Federation updated participants about their national policies and approaches to tackle maritime disasters. The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds introduced how the international system could address incidents like Hebei Spirit oil spill. The International Maritime Organization (IMO) reported about organization's activities supporting exchange of technical knowledge, policies and infrastructure related to marine oil spill prevention, preparedness and response. IMO representative emphasized that these activities are relatively well understood and capacities developed, while new risks and challenges of oil spills associated with offshore drilling incidents and exploration in the deeper waters are emerging and would require better understanding and improved response capacity. Experts have also discussed the 4th industrial revolution and the future of maritime disaster response, surveillance modeling and visualization. NOWPAP MERRAC introduced the NOWPAP Regional Oil and Harmful and Noxious Contingency Plan and its implementation at the conference.

In the afternoon of 7 December 2017, the maritime disaster response exercise was held in the port of Busan by the Coast Guard of R. Korea. Conference participants acknowledged with satisfaction and with the appreciation to organizers the importance of this meeting as a platform to share new ideas and demonstrate new response technologies to maritime emergencies associated with pollution incidents at sea. *NOWPAP Highlights* [Read more](#)

IPIECA LAUNCHES 'DISPERSANT STORAGE, MAINTENANCE, TRANSPORT AND TESTING' PUBLICATION

December 8 - IPIECA has released a new publication - Dispersant storage, maintenance, transport and testing. This was produced in support of the IPIECA-IOGP guidance on surface and subsurface dispersant. Dispersant use can mitigate the overall impact of an oil spill by removing oil from the sea's surface, thereby protecting marine mammals, birds, coastal habitats and shorelines.

The oil and shipping industries and their regulators place a high priority on the prevention of oil spills. This has led to

International news (continued)

Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL); the Anti-Fouling Systems Convention; the London dumping of wastes convention and protocol; and the Ballast Water Management Convention.

IMO and Norad signed (on 8 December 2017) an Agreement to support the new major project titled "Marine Environment Protection for Southeast Asia Seas (MEPSEAS)". Under the Agreement, Norad will make available some US\$2 million via contributions to IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme. The seven ASEAN countries involved will be Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam. *IMO What's New* [Read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL EXPERTS EXPLORE INNOVATED APPROACHES TO RESPOND MARITIME EMERGENCIES

December 6 - More than 250 experts from P.R. China, Japan, Russian Federation, USA, Canada, and R. Korea have gathered at the 2017 International Maritime Disaster Response Conference in Busan, Korea to explore new measures on addressing maritime emergencies caused by pollution incidents.

The 7th of December 2017 marked the 10th year of Hebei Spirit oil spill incident that occurred near the port of Daesan on the Yellow Sea coast of Taean County, R. Korea. Some 10,900 t of crude oil was spilled in the incident and polluted about 70 km of the western coast of Korea in 2007. Damage claim requisition reached US\$3.8 billion. The NOWPAP Marine Environmental Emergency Preparedness and Response Regional Activity Center (MERRAC), Korea Coast Guard, Korea Research Institute of Ships and Ocean Engineering, Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), and Korea

International news (continued)

Dispersant storage, maintenance, transport and testing

A technical support document to accompany the IPIECA-IOGP guidance on surface and subsurface dispersant



both the development of larger dispersant stockpiles but also a welcome downward trend in the frequency of major spills. However, this has in turn led to an increased likelihood that dispersant stockpiles may remain unused and stored for long periods, potentially many years. It is imperative that dispersant stockpiles remain effective and fit for purpose.

This report provides additional guidance to help operators and responders:

- Understand the types of materials used for dispersant storage and the optimal storage conditions to prolong dispersant life.
- Develop procedures for testing and if necessary, disposal of off-spec product.
- Understand the principles of dispersant inventory management and documentation.
- Assure themselves that dispersant held within their stockpiles remains effective and fit for purpose.
- Understand the Globally Harmonized System of hazard classification as it applies to dispersants.

IPIECA [Download the new IPIECA publication](#)

ITOPF WINS ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AWARD

December 8 - ITOPF was delighted to receive the Salvage & Wreck 2017 Environmental Protection Award on 6th December at the close of day one of the Salvage & Wreck conference held in London. The award was presented by Sam Kendall-Marsden from Standard P&I Club and recognises ITOPF's contribution towards protecting the environment during a marine casualty or wreck removal situation. ITOPF has been increasingly involved during salvage operations in recent years, providing objective technical advice on a wide range of environmental impacts, including the assessment of potential hazards associated with the wreck, cargo or fuel. *ITOPF* [Read more](#)

Incident reports

USA: HOLE IN PIPELINE LEAKS OIL INTO LOUISIANA MARSH

December 2 - The U.S. Coast Guard says a hole in a pipeline has leaked oil into a marsh about 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of New Orleans. XTO Energy spokesman Jeremy Eikenberry said Friday that the leak occurred Nov. 22 on a flow line, which transports product from wells to a nearby storage facility. The Fort Worth, Texas-based XTO owns the pipeline. The Coast Guard reports that about 1,260 gallons (4,679 liters) of oil have been recovered from the marsh near Pointe a la Hache and the leak has been secured. *Los Angeles Times* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: TEXAS - CONCERNS RISE AFTER OIL SPILL FROM OIL SPILL FROM MISSOURI CITY WELL CONTINUES TO CAUSE FOUL SMELL FOR RESIDENTS

December 10 - Workers continue to clean up an oil well blowout in Missouri City that had residents worried Wednesday. The blowout, which is an uncontrollable release of oil, was reported in the vicinity of Texas Parkway and the Fort Bend Parkway Toll Road, city officials said. A worker told KPRC 2 that a crew was drilling for oil when it began to spew. *Click2Houston* [Read more](#)

December 13 - Clean-up should be done by weekend - Hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude oil that spilled in Fort Bend County last week after an oil rig blowout should be cleaned up in the next few days, company officials said, a relief for residents who say the "burnt rubber" smell is giving them headaches, burning eyes and nausea. About 240,000 gallons of crude and 30,000 gallons of sludge had been removed by midday Wednesday, one week after the rig near the Fort Bend County Tollway and FM 2234 in southwest Houston blew Dec. 6. *Chronicle* [Read more](#)

UK: MAJOR FORTIES OIL PIPELINE TO BE CLOSED FOR REPAIRS

December 11 - One of the UK's most important oil pipelines is being closed after a crack was discovered in Aberdeenshire. The Forties pipeline carries crude North Sea oil across land for processing at Grangemouth. The pipeline's owner Ineos said on Monday that, despite pressure being reduced, the crack had extended. The Forties pipeline carries about 40% of North Sea crude oil. *BBC News* [Read more](#)

December 14 - Update: Forties pipeline shutdown - Following the recent shutdown of the Forties Pipeline System

Incident reports (continued)

(FPS), INEOS has confirmed that the hairline crack in the pipeline at Red Moss has stabilised and no further growth has been recorded for 48 hours. *Hydrocarbon Engineering* [Read more](#)

INDONESIA: GENERAL CARGO SHIP SANK IN INDONESIAN WATERS UPDATE

December 11- Ship's stern is resting on bottom, fore part is afloat, hull moving around by currents, tides. KENEUKAI at the time of sinking was loading cement, some 52000 sacks were loaded. Oil leak reported. Salvage hampered by a wreck near ship's sunk stern. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: OIL SPILL CONTAINED AND CLEANED UP IN MORUGA

December 11 - Clean-up operations have been completed at the site of a ruptured Petrotrin crude oil line in Moruga. The Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management (ODPM) was notified by both the Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and the Princes Town Regional Corporation (Disaster Management Unit) of the oil spill. *Trinidad Express* [Read more](#)

SOLOMON ISLANDS - COMMUNITY SAYS LOGGING SHIPWRECK CAUSING OIL SPILL, ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE IN MAKIRA



December 12 - Residents of the Maniwiriwiri community in central Makira are calling on the Ministry of Environment to assess the environmental impact of a log ship that wrecked at the Waimahui log pond in the area. Speaking on behalf of people in the Maniwiriwiri community in Makira Ulawa Province, Sam Kelly told SIBC the wrecked MV Serenity was diverting waves and causing damage to nearby coconut plantations. *SIBC* [Read more](#)

December 13 – **Mystery of bulk carrier stranded in Solomon Islands waters**
Maritime Bulletin [Read more](#)

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

AUSTRALIA - ACT TO ADOPT NATIONAL MODEL LAWS FOR HAZARDOUS CHEMICALS AND MAJOR HAZARD FACILITIES SOON

December 4 - The ACT will soon adopt national model laws for hazardous chemicals and major hazard facilities following the introduction of legislation in the Assembly.

In the legislation, the ACT Government has moved to introduce the last two chapters of the national model work health and safety legislation.

Minister for Workplace Safety and Industrial Relations, Rachel Stephen-Smith said bringing the hazardous chemicals and major hazard facilities chapters into work health and safety legislation means the ACT will now be aligned with other states and territories that have also adopted the national model laws.

"The proposed changes will see many of the safety duties currently captured in the ACT's Dangerous Substances laws move into work health and safety law," she said. *OHS News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

AUSTRALIA: 2017 DANGEROUS GOODS RAIL SAFETY FORUM – TOOLBOX PRESENTATIONS AVAILABLE

December 6 - Following the recent 2017 Dangerous Goods Rail Safety Forum, event toolbox presentations are now available for industry use.

The event program focused on risk management and control of dangerous goods transportation by rail with the aim to improve industry's understanding of emergency response planning, management and capabilities within Western Australia: An operator's perspective (2017) - 5 Mb; Dangerous goods - a rail safety perspective (2017) - 1 Mb; Response to dangerous goods rails accidents (2017) - 7 Mb; Risky business - making sense of SFAIRP and Assurance in rail industry (2017) - 4 Mb; Safe transfer of dangerous goods on rail (2017) - 8 Mb; WA dangerous goods rail transfer observations and an overview of the Julia Creek incident (2017) - 17 Mb; See the department's website for the full list of dangerous goods toolbox presentations.

Dept. of Mines and Petroleum [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

News reports from around the world (continued)

CANADA INVESTS IN OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP TECH

December 12 - The Canadian Government has invested nearly CAD\$1.4 million (£820,000) across two new projects working to develop oil spill cleanup technologies.

Through the national Oil Spill Response Science (OSRS) programme, it has provided CAD\$991,500 (£578,000) to research and development firm C-CORE, which is working to increase the efficiency of existing mechanical oil recovery systems in the event of spills in harsh, cold environments.

The national government also announced CAD\$400,000 (£233,000) for a project by the University of Toronto which aims to develop a foam filtration system for use in oil spills. *Energy Live News* [Read more](#)

CHINA: ITOPF PARTICIPATES IN CHINA OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUND'S TECHNICAL SEMINAR, SHANGHAI

December 11 - ITOPF participated in a technical seminar organised by COPC Fund's Secretariat and Compensation Centre on 16th November 2017 in Shanghai, China.

The event was attended by about 70 representatives from the Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Environmental Protection, State Ocean Administration, maritime courts, renowned academics in maritime law, as well as industry representatives from shipping, insurance, and law firms, etc.

Dr Ann Zhang presented on the three-tiered compensation system within the international regime, and admissible/inadmissible environmental damage claims under this regime.

This seminar encouraged discussions on improving the compensation system for ship-sourced pollution in China. ITOPF <http://www.itopf.com/>

FRANCE: NOVEMBER 2017 ACTIVITIES REPORT FROM CEDRE

December 12 - In November, Cedre was called upon as part of several exercises: one involving a leak of sodium hydroxide at sea for a UK-based private emergency response company; another for oil drift and behaviour forecasts for an oil company in West Africa; for drift forecasts and response recommendations as part of an ORSEC exercise in French Polynesia (Leeward Islands) whose scenario involved providing assistance to a vessel in difficulty and pollution response following a collision between an oil tanker and a schooner; and finally in relation to a scenario involving tarballs on the shoreline and a leak of 2,500 litres of marine diesel, for the joint union of the Ria d'Etel in France.

The duty team was also mobilised in relation to several smaller spills. Following reports of small quantities of tarballs on the beaches of New Caledonia, the national military police force (Gendarmerie) sent samples for identification by Cedre's laboratory. These samples are due to arrive in the coming days and will be immediately analysed by our laboratory. Tarballs were also reported on a beach on Reunion Island.

Finally MRCC Corsen and the Côtes-d'Armor authorities (Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea) contacted Cedre's duty team when a fishing boat sank near Bréhat Island for modelling (Adios) and response advice.

[Read more in Cedre's November Newsletter](#)

SOUTH KOREA: 10 YEARS SINCE THE HEBEI SPIRIT

December 8 - 7 December 2017 marked the 10th anniversary of the Hebei Spirit incident which occurred off the west coast of Republic of Korea, spilling some 10 900 tonnes of crude oil into the sea and heavily polluting the Taean peninsula and nearby islands.

This incident has become the largest spill in the history of the IOPC Funds in terms of claims for compensation, with over 127 000 claims submitted.

As a result of the excellent cooperation between the Government of the Republic of Korea, the Skuld Club and the IOPC Funds, after 10 years, 99.9% of the claims have been settled, and the remaining claims are expected to be finalised in the near future.

The Korean courts, following the 1992 Fund's admissibility criteria, have achieved resolution of most claims in a relatively short period of time given the magnitude of the incident.

The total amount available for compensation under the 1992 Fund Convention for this incident is KRW 321.6 billion and as at 7 December 2017, the Skuld Club had paid up to the 1992 CLC limit (KRW 186.8 billion), and the 1992 Fund had paid some KRW 107 billion. *IOPC Funds* <http://www.iopcfunds.org/>

News reports from around the world (continued)

MALAYSIA: NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN TO TACKLE MAJOR OIL SPILLS



Photo: Malaysian Deputy Minister of Natural Resources & Environment Datuk Haji Hamim Samuri — Sunpix by Norman Hiu

December 13 - The National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) was formulated to deal with large oil spills occurring in the waters around the country, the Dewan Negara was told today.

Deputy Natural Resources and Environment Minister Datuk Dr Hamim Samuri said NOSCP was managed and regulated by the National Oil Spill Control Committee (NOSCC) chaired by the director-general of the Department of Environment (DOE) and consists of 18 agencies as well as related private sectors.

The committee will set out the roles and responsibilities of each agency and parties involved in coping with the oil spill, specifying methods and channels of communication, monitoring the oil movement, spill control strategies, cleaning up and listing of the control equipment stockpile, he said in reply to Senator Datuk Abidullah Salleh's question. *The Sun Daily* [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: OIL SPILL COMPENSATION POLLUTERS LIABLE TO PAY MORE THAN TRIPLES UNDER BILL

December 12 - The amount of compensation that can be claimed from those responsible for oil spills has increased from \$411 million to \$1.5 billion under legislation passed by parliament.

The Maritime Transport Amendment Bill passed its third reading unanimously last night.

"The bill will ensure that in the event of an oil spill from a tanker there is significantly more compensation made available to deal with any clean up," Associate Transport Minister Julie Anne Genter said.

"This is about ensuring that those responsible for oil spills cover the cost, not the New Zealand taxpayer."

TVNZ *Click on the link below for commentary and video including footage of the Rena incident*
<https://www.tvnz.co.nz/one-news/new-zealand/oil-spill-compensation-polluters-liable-pay-more-than-triples-under-bill>

SOUTH KOREA: ITOPF ATTENDS 2017 INTERNATIONAL MARITIME DISASTER RESPONSE CONFERENCE

December 11 - ITOPF was invited to participate in the 2017 International Maritime Disaster Response Conference organised by the Korea Coast Guard (KCG) to mark the 10th anniversary of the HEBEI SPIRIT incident.

The conference, held in Pusan from 6th-7th December, attracted around 250 delegates and included presentations from domestic and international experts on major oil and HNS incidents, the latest technologies and policies, and future prospects for capacity building. Richard Johnson's presentation "Are you ready for the next one? Planning and preparedness: How much is enough?" provided an overview of recent trends in spill preparedness and response from an international perspective. Exploring lessons learned from a variety of cases, he highlighted the need to ensure that an appropriate level of preparedness - proportionate to the associated risk - remains a top priority.

The successful two-day event included a technical tour of the KOEM training centre and a demonstration from the KCG strike team. It was also an excellent opportunity for ITOPF to strengthen its relations with the KCG. Richard met up with both the current and future heads of the marine pollution department, and also the On-scene Commander during the HEBEI SPIRIT spill. *ITOPF* <http://www.itopf.com/>

USA: ALASKA - OIL SPILL RECOVERY INSTITUTE SEEKS NOMINATIONS TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL COMMITTEE

December 5 - OSRI is currently seeking nominations to the Scientific and Technical Committee. We seek qualified individuals who are specialists in matters relating to oil spill containment technology, Arctic and subArctic marine environments, oil toxicity, biodegradation, education, and the living resources and socioeconomics of the Alaskan marine region.

Committee members serve three-year terms of office. The STC meets at least once each year for one day in Cordova or Anchorage. Their responsibilities of members include reviewing proposals, attending STC meetings and teleconferences, participating in debates and articulating justifications for opinions and comments in support or dissent of the STC consensus. Members are expected to recuse themselves from opinions where conflicts of interest occur.

News reports from around the world (continued)

Interested parties should submit a letter of interest and resume to Scott Pegau - wspegau@pwssc.org

Submissions are due February 1, 2018 OSRI [More info](#)

USA: NEW BUSINESS ENTITY WILL SERVE AS RISK MANAGEMENT CONSULTANT FOR CRISIS EVENTS

December 6 - The Center for Toxicology and Environmental Health, LLC (CTEH®) has launched ResilientRMSM, a new business entity designed to help clients plan and prepare for all-threat and all-hazard incidents such as offshore oil spills, natural disasters and human health events. Kelly Wilson, REM, CESCO, will serve as the organization's vice president.

"When crises strike, it can wreak havoc on businesses' productivity, morale and bottom lines," said Phil Goad, co-founder and principal toxicologist at CTEH. "ResilientRM provides risk management through preparedness, response, and recovery so companies can return to normalcy sooner."

Created by CTEH, ResilientRM provides full-service risk management solutions to help clients before, during or after crisis events occur. The entity includes a staff of industry leaders, staff consultants, training experts and data managers. It also includes an extensive network of in-house emergency responders, which are available 24/7/365 to deliver the entity's preparedness, response and recovery services. CTEH [More info](#)

USA: USCG ISSUES ADVISORY FOR THE TRANSFER OF OIL AND HAZARDOUS MATERIALS AT SEA

December 11 - In an attempt to clarify regulatory compliance, US Coast Guard Sector Houston-Galveston has issued an updated marine safety information bulletin (MSIB) for the transfer of oil and hazardous materials at sea.

Note should be taken of footnote seven (7), which addresses the fact that requests for lightering operations involving hazardous materials such as but not restricted to LPG, LNG, and MTBE shall be submitted for approval at least five business days prior to planned operations.

The following is a link to the MSIB which is located on the USCG's Homeport website: <https://homeport.uscg.mil/my-homeport/safety-Notifications/MSIB?cotpid=28&Source=https://homeport.uscg.mil/port-directory/houston-galveston>
[Thanks to ISCO Industry Partner, INTERTANKO]

USA: ICE PROMPTS DEBATE OVER GREAT LAKES SPILL RESPONSE



Above: Ice on the Straits of Mackinac, January 2012 (USCG)

News reports from around the world (continued)

December 11 - Canadian pipeline operator Enbridge is engaged in a debate with environmental groups over the operation of an aging underwater pipeline that runs beneath the Straits of Mackinac, the narrow waterway between upper and lower Michigan.

Last month, Enbridge reached an agreement with Michigan governor Rick Snyder that allows it to continue operating the line, except during weather conditions that would interfere with a spill response. The agreement defined poor weather as wave heights over eight feet. In return, Enbridge promised to study the possibility of replacing the line – which sits above the surface of the lakebed – with a pipe buried in a tunnel. The firm said that it would also look at measures to reduce the risk of damage to the current pipeline from boat anchors.

On Sunday, Michigan's Pipeline Safety Advisory Board called for the governor to shut down the line until repairs are made to areas where the exterior protective coating is missing (photo above). It also requested that Gov. Snyder's deal with Enbridge should be revised to allow pipeline operations only when waves are three feet high or under.

Local environmental advocates contend that these measures do not go far enough. These activists say that the board and the governor did not take into account a prominent feature of wintertime navigation on the Straits of Mackinac: ice. The Coast Guard is the only entity in the region with icebreakers, and its vessels are usually busy ensuring the safety of navigation during the wintertime. In the event of a spill, the service says, the nearest icebreaker could be up to two days away.

In congressional testimony last month, Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft said bluntly that his service is not prepared to handle the worst-case scenario for pipelines like Line Five. "I will go on the record and say that the Coast Guard is not Semper Paratus [always ready] for a major pipeline oil spill in the Lakes," he said.

Enbridge says that Line Five's dual 20-inch pipelines remain in excellent condition and have never experienced a leak in their 60 years of operation. The line is used to transport natural gas liquids, light crude oil and light synthetic crude, and it supplies most of Michigan's propane. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#) Read a related article in the [Journal Sentinel](#)

USA: DOT ESCAPES ENVIRO SUIT OVER REVIEW OF OIL SPILL PLANS

December 12 - A Michigan federal judge on Tuesday granted a quick win to the U.S. Department of Transportation in a suit accusing it of shirking its responsibilities to review spill response plans for certain oil facilities, agreeing with the agency that the environmental group that brought the suit didn't have standing.

U.S. District Judge Mark A. Goldsmith granted the DOT's bid for summary judgment in the National Wildlife Federation's suit accusing the department of failing to review spill response plans for pipelines crossing inland waterways. The judge wrote that the NWF lacked standing to bring the claims because it didn't show how any alleged procedural missteps affected the agency's ultimate decisions.

"It makes no plausible case that a review without the claimed errors might have led to a different result in the approval process," the judge wrote. "Although NWF claims the agencies considered whether the plans conformed to regulations, rather than to the [Clean Water Act] itself, that is entirely without significance. The regulations faithfully track the statute."

The NWF has claimed that the agency's August 2016 ratification of approvals of plans for onshore pipelines by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration doesn't absolve current Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao of a duty to thoroughly review plans for offshore pipelines to determine if they comply with the CWA. The environmental group argued in its own summary judgment motion — denied by the judge on Tuesday — that the ratification consisted of a single sentence that says the transportation secretary ratifies approvals of plans by the PHMSA and its predecessor agency "submitted pursuant to onshore regulations by operators of pipelines in, on or under inland waters." *Law360* [Read more](#)

USA: STUDY: OIL TANKERS MAY NEED TUG ESCORTS ON COLUMBIA RIVER

December 14 - Tethered tug escorts could provide added protection for oil tankers on the Columbia River if tanker traffic increases due to new marine terminals, a study commissioned by the Washington Legislature found.

The study released last month by the Department of Ecology said five proposed bulk terminals could create up to 1,379 additional one-way trips, mostly by tankers, *The Daily Astorian* reported Thursday.

The likelihood of a major oil spill on the Columbia River is low, but the consequences would be high for both Washington and Oregon. Based on 2006 figures, a large spill could cost Washington state \$10.8 billion and more than 165,000 jobs. Each year, about 180 tank vessels transit the Columbia River to deliver more than a billion gallons of gasoline, jet fuel and other refined petroleum products. There are currently no shipments of crude oil on the Columbia River by tank vessels. *Kansas City Star* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

USA: U.S. STEEL DIDN'T TEST LAKE MICHIGAN TRIBUTARY AFTER CHEMICAL SPILL

December 14 - After a toxic chemical spill near Lake Michigan in October, workers at a U.S. Steel plant did not test a tributary leading to the lake, despite seeing blue liquid "with visible solids," overflowing from a treatment tank, according to a government report.

The Oct. 25 spill happened at a U.S. Steel plant in Portage, Ind., near the Indiana Dunes National Lakeshore. A wastewater system malfunction led to the release of nearly 57 pounds of hexavalent chromium - almost double the amount of the cancer-causing compound that it is permitted to discharge in a 24-hour period.

State inspectors responded with a recent report detailing the plant violations, saying: "Visual evidence of operational deficiencies, such as discolored effluent or solids leaving the facility ... should lead the facility to monitor for hexavalent chromium to determine the extent of the impact, even if the on-site personnel believe there will be none or little." [Read the full report](#) here.

U.S. Steel has said it has made changes to address the problem, the Tribune reported. [MLive](#) [Read more](#)

ISCO news

CLEAN GULF 2017 CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION



In the picture: ISCO Secretary Matthew Sommerville presents Nora Polviri with a bottle of 15 year-old Glenlivet

David Usher (President), Matthew Sommerville (Secretary) and Mary Ann Dagleish (Membership Director) attended. The ISCO booth was very busy – lots of old friends calling by to say hello and many visitors asking about new ISCO developments in the past year. The traditional raffle of a bottle of fine malt whisky was won by Nora Polviri of New Horizons, Texas.

Matthew has commented "This year's Clean Gulf conference in Houston, Texas was the usual combination of a multi stream conference and service and equipment manufacturers' exhibition. Feedback from conference was positive regarding attendance and from exhibitors on levels of interest and on the programme which allowed sufficient time for conference goers to spend in the exhibition hall. Something that does not always happen. Those who had attended the previous conference in Tampa felt this event had been more positive. Possibly helped by its location in the heart of US oil industry and with easy connections to the rest of the world.

Naturally the conference sessions and papers focussed on USA and Gulf issues but also encompassed issues relevant to the wider community. Pipeline and railroad accidents were included in the sessions although the Clean Water conference tends to cover these issues in more detail in a sense that compared to marine incidents they provided some good case studies.

A session on marine firefighting and source control covered an area frequently discussed at salvage events but demonstrated the links to another aspect of incident response. Equally the latest advances related to sub-sea dispersant demonstrated the industry's ongoing battle to gain approval for the full range of response options.

A number of exhibitors had new products or services on offer or updates to existing ranges which we hope to bring future articles about over the next few months. On the manufacturer side there were evolutions to skimmers for manhole access, smaller battery operated units and silenced power-packs. The later to meet health and safety regulations but also to allow operation in built up areas where noise is an additional issue. There were a number of new or evolutions of information and command and control systems and in integration of these into a common operating picture. Finally, as expected, there were offerings in observation balloons and fixed and rotary drones".

Future conferences -

Clean Waterways, St Louis, 4-5 April 2018

Clean Pacific, Oregon, 19-21 June 2018

Clean Gulf, New Orleans, 13-15 November 2018

NEXT ISSUE OF THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

Your editor will be taking a holiday break and publication of the next issue will be soon after the New Year holiday.

ISCO news (continued)

LONDON PRESENTATION ON THE BIMCO-ISCO RESPONSECON CONTRACTS

Pernille Kæravad Jacobsen, BIMCO Manager, Contracts & Clauses, reports that Tony Paulson's presentation at the Salvage & Wreck conference in London on 6th December went very well. About 40 people attended his session in which he gave an update on the final versions of the contracts. There were some good discussion points at the end, including interest expressed in support of the use of the form.

There has been a minor revision to the RESPONSECON explanatory notes and this has been posted on the BIMCO website – go to the ISCO home page at www.spillcontrol.org and click on "Response Contract" or visit the BIMCO website at <https://www.bimco.org/>

A report on the Salvage & Wreck Conference has been compiled by Jacques Moss of Knect365 and can be accessed at <https://knect365.com/maritime/article/35329dd3-bc90-4a23-9c16-4e504569ad1b/the-salvage-wreck-conference-in-retrospect>

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	November 2017
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	October 2017
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	December 2017 issue
EUROWA Newsletter	European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module	October 2017
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Winter 2017 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	November 2017
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	December 15, 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 pollution prevention & control professionals	December 13, 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. 16-31, 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

NEW ANNOUNCEMENT - KUWAIT OIL SPILL CONFERENCE

Email just received from Dr. Mohamad Alanezi dr@spatialco.com

Kuwait Oil Spill Conference will be organized on 3 - 5 April 2018 providing a culture of preparedness within the oil spill response community from Kuwait.

The conference provides a vital platform for oil spill response community, which includes professionals from local, regional and global community, private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations. The conference will highlight and discuss sound sciences, practical innovations and best practices across the spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response and restoration.

The conference is focused on the changing landscape of Spill Preparedness and Response as oil & gas Exploration and Production, and shipping activities continue to move into more challenging environments and more public sensitivities, where the risks of oil spill are increasing significantly. It is an opportunity to the Spill response industries to demonstrate, deliberate & collaborate on Planning, Response & Mitigation Systems. Hence, we are pleased to invite you to join us as a speaker addressing any of the conference related topic. We appreciate providing the following information:

- One paragraph bio
- High resolution personal photo
- Presentation abstract

For more information about the conference please refer to the website www.kuwaitoilspill.com

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
USA	February 5-8	GoM Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference	New Orleans LA
UK	February 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
KUWAIT	April 3-5	Kuwait Oil Spill Conference	Kuwait
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	RECISO 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			

Training

UPDATES RECEIVED FROM OSRL <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/>

Coming soon in 2018

- [OPEP courses](#) - first courses: Aberdeen Feb, Southampton, Mar
- [Extreme Cold Weather Spill Response](#) - Course venue Quebec, Canada, Jan

What's new?

- [Master classes](#)
 - [Response Strategy](#)
 - [Preparedness and Contingency Planning](#)
- [Crisis Management](#)
- [Train the Trainer](#)
- [SCAT course](#) NEW venue Aberdeen

IMO / MCA courses

- [IMO 1](#) Shoreline Site Supervisor
- [IMO 2](#) Oil Spill Clearance
- [IMO 2](#) Oil Spill Clearance in Turkey

- [IMO 3](#) Oil Spill Response Management
- [MCA courses](#) - first courses: April

Refreshers courses

- [IMO](#)
- [MCA](#)
- [OPEP](#)

Specialised courses

- [IMS/ICS 300](#)
- [Environmental Advisor](#)
- [Inland Oil Spill Response](#)

No time to attend?

- [e-learning \(Spill Response and Health & Safety\)](#)

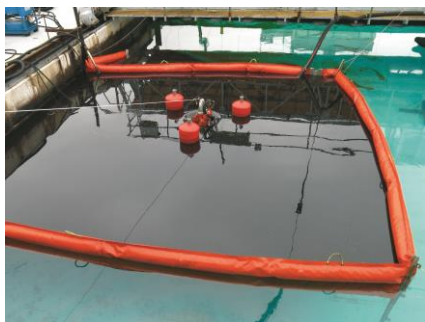
TRAINING COURSES FROM OHMSETT

Oil Spill Response Strategies & Tactics Training May 14-17, 2018 Ohmsett, in partnership with Texas A&M National Spill Control School, offers the hands-on training course you can't afford to miss! You will learn the strategies and tactics for successful spill response operations.

Course Topics: Fates & effects of spilled oil • Oil skimmer & containment boom selection, use & recovery strategies • Factors affecting oil spill movement • Incident Command System (ICS) • Shoreline Characterization (Introduction to SCAT) • River & tidal inlet strategies • Responder Safety • Hands-on skimmer operations [More info](#)

Correction

RECOVERING OIL AS THE SLICK DIMINISHES



This refers to the article from Ohmsett published on pages 9-10 of last week's newsletter. Unfortunately the photo that accompanied the article was the *wrong* one. ISCO apologises for having accidentally uploaded the wrong photo. The *correct* photo, which shows the Desmi Termite skimmer used in the BSEE experiment is shown here on the left.

During the diminishing slick thickness test, the skimmer recovery rate and efficiency was quantified using the ASTM F2709 guidelines while recovering from 3 to 2 inches of oil. Performance tests in thinner slicks included thicknesses of 2, 1, ½ and ¼ inches.

Corporate member news

ISCO MEMBER IS RUNNER-UP IN INNOVATION EXCELLENCE AWARD

ISCO Member AlphaMERS was the runner-up in this year's ASSOCHAM SME awards for Innovation. It's the third year in succession that the company, based in Bangalore, India, has received recognition.

In recent years the company's innovations have been in the areas of River clean up, Offshore wave energy, Oil spill response in strong currents, Silt control in water streams, Floating security barriers, and Protection of water intakes.

AlphaMERS is a Corporate Member of ISCO



Information for ISCO members

NEWSLETTER POLICY ON HANDLING OF PRESS RELEASES

1. The Editor has sole discretion over what is accepted for publication
2. The Editor reserves the right to edit press releases
3. Information in press releases must be factual and free from sales hype and exaggerated claims
4. Members of ISCO are given priority over non-members in allocation of editorial space.
5. Subject matter of press releases must be relevant to the interests of the spill response community
6. Space availability for printing press releases is limited and they should be kept short
7. If a press release is too long only part of it will be printed but a link can be included for downloading its entirety
8. Links for downloading additional information or viewing video material can be included
9. Depending on space availability press releases may be included in the next issue or held over for a future issue
10. The placing of press releases is usually allocated within sections as follows –

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS – Announcements of new appointments, retirements, honours, awards, etc. relating to senior people in a company or organisation. Photo/s usually included.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY – Reserved for technical content relating to new developments that represent a significant technological advance – photos, diagrams, etc. should be included.

CASE HISTORIES – Welcomed for publication subject to educational content criteria. In publishing case histories the objective is to pass on experience and lessons learned that will be of interest to other professionals in our community. There is a benefit for contributors because publication of case histories raises the profile of the company concerned.

NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES – Announcement of the launch of a completely new product or service. Photo/s usually provided.

COMPANY NEWS - Change of address, phone numbers, etc.; Award of a major new contract, other news of significance concerning the company or organisation. ISCO Corporate Members are given priority.

MEMBER PROFILES IN THE ISCO NEWSLETTER – For corporate members only – For a contribution of £185 to ISCO funds publication of a one page company profile. Restricted to one profile a year only per member. Only one profile will be printed in any issue of the newsletter.

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following issue of this newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org