

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

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SOLVING THE OCEAN PLASTICS BLIGHT A SYSTEMS APPROACH



January 3 - A storm of heightened awareness and indignation around pervasive plastic pollution has swelled over the past month. With recent mass coverage, namely Blue Planet II and Sky's A Plastic Ocean, the drive to save our oceans from a toxic, chemical-infused future has never been more potent.

But the issue of plastic polluting our natural environment is not a new one. In fact, it has been decades in the making as our addiction to convenient, cheap plastic has been hard-wired into our consumption.

The shocking effects of plastic on wildlife were painfully illustrated by David Attenborough in Blue Planet II: albatross chicks pierced internally by tooth-picks, turtles mistaking plastic bags for jellyfish, whale calves killed with milk poisoned by plastic toxins in the food chain. And it's not just our natural habitats beset by plastic pollution – the effects strike much closer to home. Toxins from micro-plastics and micro-fibres are present in our blood and tissue, ingested through our food and water. *Edie.net* [Read more](#)

UN REGIONAL SEAS PROGRAMME AND ITS WORK ON SEA-BASED POLLUTION

Sea-based pollution is responsible for 20% of all marine pollution, and is most often caused by ocean dumping or oil spills. This movie highlights some of the sea-based pollution problems throughout the world in regions such as the Baltic Sea and the Mediterranean.

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International news (continued)

UN Environment's Regional Seas Programme, launched in 1974, support 143 countries to protect their marine resources and the millions of people who depend on them. One of the objectives of the Programme is to work for global environmental responsibility in regards to sea-based pollution. The Regional Seas and their participating countries protect the coastline and open water areas from industrial contamination, thereby safeguarding human health and environmental quality. The video describes some of the work being carried out by the Regional Seas Programme.

UN Environment [Watch the newly released UN Video](#)

EUROPE: CLOSURE OF THE MEETING OF THE CONTRACTING PARTIES TO THE BARCELONA CONVENTION

December 21 - On the fourth and final day of their meeting held in Tirana, Albania, the Contracting Parties reviewed adopted the proceedings of the meeting, including 14 thematic decisions. These strategic documents will guide the work to be carried out in the framework of the Mediterranean Action Plan in the 2018-2019 biennium and beyond.

The final report of the meeting will be published by the Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan and will be available for downloading in the MAP meeting documents repository. *UNEP*

Decision IG.23/11 relates to the Mediterranean Guide on Cooperation and Mutual Assistance in Responding to Marine Pollution Incidents. [Look at the full list of 14 thematic decisions](#)

International news (continued)

SEA ALARM GRANTED IOPC FUNDS OBSERVER STATUS

December 21 - At its most recent meeting in, November 2017, the IOPC Funds Assembly granted Sea Alarm's request for observer status in the convention.

This is an important international Convention in which governments develop and agree the rules and criteria for financial compensation for oil pollution damage following spills of persistent oil from tankers.

The rules and criteria that are agreed by the Assemblies of both Funds (which are meeting together), are normally also used as guidance by vessel insurance companies (called P&I Clubs) while settling financial compensation for tanker and non-tanker oil spills. In its observer status, Sea Alarm aims to highlight issues of animal welfare and marine conservation to the dynamics of the Convention.

Sea Alarm Foundation [Read the text of official decision](#)

NORTH WEST PACIFIC 2017 INTERNATIONAL MARITIME DISASTER RESPONSE CONFERENCE

2017 NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting was held from 6 to 7 December 2017 at the Westin Chosun Hotel in Busan, Republic of Korea under the name of 2017 International Maritime Disaster Response Conference to commemorate the 10th year of Hebei Spirit oil spill incident. This conference was organized by Korea Coast Guard and co-organized by NOWPAP MERRAC.

To deal with scientific and technical issues on oil and HNS spills implementing the regional cooperation in the NOWPAP region, NOWPAP member countries has been hold Expert Meeting once per every two years in a rotational basis since 2009.

This year, 2017 NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting was planned to hold an International Conference in order to commemorate the 10th year of Hebei Spirit oil spill incident and discuss the lessons learnt from the major oil and HNS spills around the world so that the field of maritime disaster response could move forward 100 and more years with the future prospects by looking back the past and the present of maritime disaster response.

International news (continued)



This year of 2017 is a very meaningful year not only for the Korea citizens who went through the most major incident ever occurred in Korean history but also for the relevant organizations and experts related to the Nahodka oil spill incident and Torry Canyon oil spill incident. Because, this year is, the 10th year of Hebei Spirit oil spill incident occurred in 2007 in Korea, the 20th year of Nahodka oil spill incident occurred in 1997 in Japan and the 50th year of Torry Canyon oil spill incident occurred in 1967.

Around 250 participants from international and national organizations including the delegations from NOWPAP member countries (People's Republic of China, Japan, Russian Federation), Canada, USA, IMO, IOPC Funds, ITOFF, OSRL and IPIECA were attended at this very special Conference. 13 presentations were made during the conference regarding the reviews of major oil spills, the latest national policies and technologies and the future outlooks of maritime disaster response. *NOWPAP MERRAC* [Read more](#)

Incident reports

USA: CONTAINER BARGE LOST SOME 30 CONTAINERS EN ROUTE FROM JACKSONVILLE TO PUERTO RICO

January 1 - Tug pushing container barge got caught in rough seas while en route from Jacksonville Fla. to Puerto Rico on the night Dec 29, 25 or 30 containers were lost, many remaining on board damaged. Tug turned back and returned to Jacksonville. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more and see photos](#)

USA: NORTH DAKOTA - WEEKEND SALTWATER AND OIL SPILL CONTAINED IN DUNN COUNTY

January 2 - About 700 barrels of saltwater and 25 barrels of oil spilled in Dunn County Saturday, Dec. 30, the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division said Tuesday. The spill happened at a saltwater disposal well 13 miles north of Killdeer when a load line froze. The spilled saltwater and oil were contained within the tank battery diking, and 690 barrels of saltwater and 24 barrels of oil were recovered. *WDay6.com* [Read more](#)

USA: 2,500 GALLONS OF FUEL OIL SPILLED IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEAR GRAMERCY

January 5 - Three environmental contractors responded to a spill of an estimated 2,500 gallons of fuel oil into the Mississippi River near Gramercy, the Coast Guard reported late Thursday (Jan. 4). The spill occurred during a transfer of fuel oil from the Petroleum Fuel and Terminal Mt. Airy on the river's east bank to a barge tethered at mile marker 144.6. The incident was reported to the Coast Guard's Incident Management Division in New Orleans at 8:24 a.m. Thursday by the agency's National Response Center, which is required to be contacted by businesses when spills occur. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

CHINA: IRANIAN TANKER ABLAZE OFF CHINA AMID FEARS OF OIL SPILL



Photo: The Sanchi tanker was ablaze after colliding with a Chinese bulk ship [Korea coastguard/Yonhap]

January 7 - An Iranian oil tanker collided with a bulk freighter and caught fire off China's eastern coast, leaving its entire crew of 32 missing, most of them Iranians, authorities said.

The collision between the Sanchi and the Chinese freighter occurred on Saturday evening roughly 300km off Shanghai, where the Yangtze River meets the East China Sea.

The missing - 30 Iranians and two Bangladeshis - are all from the Sanchi tanker, which spilled oil and was floating while still burning early on Sunday, Chinese maritime authorities said.

Al Jazeera's Rob McBride, reporting from Beijing, said Chinese authorities dispatched specialised vessels to the scene to limit the damage from the oil spilling out of the tanker.

"The main priority is finding the missing crew members of the Sanchi, but a big concern is the blaze and the oil aboard the ship. It was heading north carrying about 136,000 tonnes of refined oil for South Korea," McBride said.

"There have been reports of oil in the water. The East China Sea is shared by China, South Korea and also some of the southern islands of Japan. There will be a lot of concern in all of those countries about any developing slick and which direction it may be heading," he added. *Al Jazeera* [Read more](#)

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

CANADA: MINISTER MCKENNA AND MINISTER PHILLIPS RENEW COMMITMENT TO STRONG ENVIRONMENTAL MONITORING AND PROTECTION IN ALBERTA'S OIL SANDS

December 21 - Collecting and sharing reliable information about the effects of development is the foundation of strong environmental protection. Today, the governments of Canada and Alberta renewed their commitment to continue providing clear and scientifically rigorous information on the environmental impacts of oil sands development in northeastern Alberta. This is one of the ways the Government of Canada is working with provinces to act on climate change, grow the economy, and create a cleaner environment for generations to come.

Today, Canada's Minister of Environment and Climate Change, Catherine McKenna, and Alberta's Minister of Environment and Parks, Shannon Phillips, signed a memorandum of understanding formalizing their government's shared responsibility to continue a single, coordinated, long-term environmental monitoring program in the region. *Government of Canada* [Read more](#)



CANADA: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA MODERNIZING ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT FOR CANADIAN COAST GUARD

December 22 - Through the Oceans Protections Plan, the Government of Canada is working to improve our country's capacity to prevent and respond to marine pollution incidents. This will help achieve a world-leading marine safety system that keeps Canada's waters and coasts safe and clean for today and the future.

An important part of this Plan is ensuring the Canadian Coast Guard has the modern equipment it needs to lead the response to marine pollution incidents in Canadian waters.

To achieve this, the Government of Canada is soliciting bids for new environmental response equipment to contain and remove oil and other contaminants from the water in the case of a spill.

News reports from around the world (continued)

This will be the first equipment acquired under the Environmental Response Equipment Modernization initiative of the Oceans Protection Plan. The equipment will include curtain booms, high-speed sweep systems, and small, portable multi-cassette skimmers.

The Environmental Response Equipment Modernization initiative will bring the Coast Guard in line with and beyond current standards regarding environmental spill response and take advantage of innovations and advancements in technology. *Government of Canada* [Read more](#)

CANADA: VANCOUVER OIL SPILL TRIAL SHOULD PROCEED WITHOUT ALLEGED BOAT OPERATOR: CROWN

January 3 - The prosecution of a Greek shipping firm accused of operating a vessel that leaked thousands of litres of bunker fuel into Vancouver's English Bay should be allowed to take place whether or not the company participates, the Crown said Wednesday.

Crown attorney Jessica Lawn dismissed an argument by Alassia NewShips Management Inc. that it had not been properly served a summons in the case.

"It's very clear that notice of the proceedings has been brought to Alassia," she told a provincial court judge.

The Crown has argued that Alassia operated the MV Marathassa when the vessel leaked 2,700 litres of fuel into English Bay in April 2015. *National Post* [Read more](#)

CANADA: WHY YOUR CGL POLLUTION EXCLUSION MAY NOT GO FAR ENOUGH

January 4 - Even though they put pollution exclusions into their commercial general liability policies, two major insurers are still on the hook for defending a Vancouver area dry cleaner against a lawsuit arising from soil contamination, a court ruled last week.

In some cases, British Columbia holds current property owners liable for environmental contamination caused by former property owners.

In *West Van Holdings Ltd. v. Economical Mutual Insurance Company*, a B.C. judge found the insurers' pollution exclusions did not specifically exclude concurrent liability, contributory liability or retroactive liability for pollution causing property damage caused by an independent third party. *Canadian Underwriter* [Read more](#)

FINLAND: OIL-SPILL RECOVERY UNIT IS ILLUMINATED BY ANGLED CLERESTORY WINDOW



January 4 - Alt Arkkitehdit has completed a bright red storage shed for oil-spill equipment in northern Finland, featuring a full-width clerestory window that projects from the facade to protect it from damage by forklift trucks.

The oil-spill recovery unit is situated in the Kello district to the north of the city of Oulu, and was designed by local studio Alt Arkkitehdit for the fire department and coastguard.

The building houses equipment and materials used to combat oil spills, particularly in the Baltic Sea, where the transportation and production of oil has escalated in recent decades.

"Oil-booms, shovels, and any other materials needed must be readily available when disaster strikes to contain the damage," explained Alt Arkkitehdit. "This building is thus designed for rugged use, with emphasis on logistics, function and economics."

The building combines separate areas for various functions in a single structure, which enabled the architects to eliminate unnecessary walls and foundations. A storage area providing space for six shipping containers extends from the rear of an elongated hangar used to keep the other equipment. One end of the main shed provides the depth required by large booms, while the other end can be fitted with shelves that are accessible using a forklift truck. *DeZeen.com* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

JAPAN: PAJ 2017 OIL SPILL RESPONSE WORKSHOP - “CONSIDERATIONS FOR FUTURE OIL SPILL RESPONSE MANAGEMENT AND OPERATIONS”

December 13 - Petroleum Association of Japan held its 6th Oil Spill Workshop with the focus to consider future oil spill response management and operations. Statistics clearly show that major oil spill incidents involving large tankers have, for the last few decades been on the decline and whilst we must never become complacent about the level of preparedness for a large incident, we need to look at how we manage the resources we have in the most effective and efficient manner to maximize their effect when called upon. The Incident Command System (ICS) is a prime example of this strategy where a management system designed to manage a crisis can be used for a number of different emergencies thus maximizing the skills of the highly trained teams to cope effectively with the oil spill, fire or major emergency. PAJ [Read more](#)

KUWAIT: DECEMBER 2017 OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE



The Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) organized the Kuwait National Table-Top Oil Spill Exercise in cooperation with Environment Public Authority of Kuwait (EPA) during the period of December 12-14, 2017.

The Table-Top Exercise was held primarily to check the preparedness level towards any oil spill in addition to the relevancy of the National Contingency Plan with the actual facts on the ground. For this important Exercise, MEMAC introduced a scenario that would involve all the National Contingency Plan Parties to help highlight deficiencies and discrepancies in the current Kuwait National Framework to update the

National Contingency Plan. This was helped by a more thorough look into the Kuwait National Law and its latest amendments along with the Regional and International Conventions and Protocols. The Exercise also focused on the Incident Command System (ICS) for its increasing importance as a crucial element to the new system in managing emergencies. MEMAC [Read more](#)

MALTA HAS AN EXTREMELY DETAILED OIL SPILL RESPONSE PLAN

Like any other island nation, the fortunes of Malta are inexorably tied to the sea it juts out from. The Mediterranean gives Malta **253 kilometres of shoreline** which attracted nearly 1.8 million tourists in 2015 alone; a contribution of around 15% of the nation's GDP. **Local fishing netted 867 tonnes of fish in 2014**, and a growing aquaculture industry added **101 million Euros** to the nation's economy.

These metrics aside, Malta is depending more with each passing year on desalination of sea water to supplement its diminishing ground water supply, and even seemingly mundane strolls around the



News reports from around the world (continued)

beach, amateur fishing and swimming are crucial aspects of the national cultural fabric.

With the Mediterranean being such a crucial lynchpin, it makes a great deal of sense for the Maltese government to invest heavily in its safeguarding, and to some extent it has; stricter fishing quotas and complete treatment of sewage before discharge are two prime examples. But pollution remains a great and ever looming threat, especially that from oil.

The largest threat of a potential oil spill comes from ships at sea –a third of all international maritime traffic transits through or originates from the Mediterranean, and most of that is funnelled through the 80 kilometre wide Sicily-Malta channel. A large congregation of tankers also anchor in international waters just off Hurd's bank, 12 nautical miles off the coast. Free from any tax, these tankers wait for oil prices to rise sufficiently before sailing to their destination ports and selling their cargo for a profit.

A large number of private companies have started offering a large variety of oil spill response solutions in recent years; some are contracted by oil companies themselves, weary of the negative publicity environmental disasters garner in the age of social media. But their existence also hints at the inability of one nation to deal with environmental disasters alone, and the European Maritime Safety Agency has been building up an organized response fleet for the past decade. Malta is the homebase of two such vessels, the Santa Maria and Balluta Bay, which are both operated by local companies and can be mobilised within 24 hours. The ships are equipped with booms, a skimmer and a dispersant application system. Additionally, 25 tonnes of dispersant are also stockpiled on the island. [LovinMalta.com](#) [Read the complete and unabridged version of this article by Charles Mercieca](#)

NIGERIA: WHAT BUHARI'S GOVT HAS DONE SO FAR IN NIGER DELTA — OSINBAJO



December 30 - The Buhari administration is committed to promoting the establishment of privately financed modular refineries so as to increase local refining capacity, create jobs, ensure peace and stability in the Niger delta region, according to Vice President Yemi Osinbajo.

The initiative which featured prominently in recent talks between the Federal Government and the oil-producing areas, will also reposition the petroleum industry and ensure self-sufficiency of petroleum products, while serving as a disincentive for illegal refineries and oil pollution. *Premium Times* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: GOVERNMENT GIVES ASSURANCE ON Ogoni CLEAN-UP

December 31 - Nigerian Government has restated that its commitment to the clean up of Ogoni is unwavering.

Minister of State for Environment, Ibrahim Jibril stated this while speaking at a round table stakeholders meeting held on the progress of the implementation of the clean up held in Port Harcourt.

Senior Technical Adviser to the Minister of State for Environment, Ishaku Mohammed who spoke on behalf of the Minister, said the stakeholders' meeting is based on the directive of the government for periodic assessment of the clean up process.

The Minister said the slow pace of the clean up is not deliberate but an opportunity to set up institutional structures that will stand the test of time, adding that the Ogoni clean up is a pilot project that is meant to set precedents for other impacted sites in the Niger Delta.

The Minister called for support and patience from Ogonis just as he disclosed that President Muhammadu Buhari is taking the Ogoni clean up very seriously.

"Anything that is good should never be done in a hurry. I don't think we will achieve much if we go with the speed of light". *Daily Post* [Read more](#)



News reports from around the world (continued)

NIGERIA: ABE GIVES COMMITTEE ON Ogoni CLEAN-UP THREE WEEKS TO PRESENT REPORT

January 4 - Senator Magnus Abe, representing Rivers South-East Senatorial Zone in the National Assembly, has called on the committee on Ogoni clean-up to present its report in three weeks. Abe made the call in a statement by his Spokesman, Parry Benson, in Port Harcourt, yesterday after he met with leaders of the Ogoni ethnic nationality to discuss issues affecting resumption of oil exploration in the area and the ongoing clean-up exercise.

The senator said that the committee, made up of Ogoni representatives on the Board and Governing Council of Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, was mandated to meet with the Minister of Environment and to update the people on the financial releases and progress on the Ogoni clean-up exercise. "On the issue of the clean-up, the representatives of Ogoni people who are part of the structure of HYPREP were also mandated to meet with the Minister of the Environment. The committee is to give us a clear update on the situation of the clean-up. *Vanguard* [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: OILED WILDLIFE TRAINING IN ARCTIC RUSSIA

December 21 - Sea Alarm was invited by the Russian branch of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist with a unique project that aims to protect the Arctic environment against the effects of oil pollution.

UNDP-Russia had agreed with the Governmental agencies and an oil company (Lukoil) to carry out a pilot activity, raising awareness within the Russian oil industry on the vulnerability of Arctic natural resources to the effects of oil pollution. Lukoil volunteered in this pilot project to work with UNDP-Russia to improve its oil spill response preparedness via a gap-analysis of its existing response plans and a dedicated training course on oiled wildlife response and preparedness.

Sea Alarm evaluated the existing response plans of an Arctic-based coastal facility and provided a report with recommendations on the basis of this analysis. The second phase of the project was to facilitate a five-day training event in Naryan-Mar, a city in the middle of the Arctic tundra, for directors and managers of Lukoil. *Sea Alarm* [Read more](#)

SAUDI ARABIA: CYBERATTACK TARGETS SAFETY SYSTEM AT SAUDI ARAMCO

December 21 - Malicious software attacked a safety system in August at Saudi Aramco, the world's largest oil company, in what is the first-ever example of malware targeting the computer systems designed to prevent a disaster at an industrial facility.

The attack was first described by the computer security firm FireEye in a blog post last week, which did not name the victim of the attack. But a confidential report obtained by Foreign Policy and authored by Area 1 Security, a computer security firm founded by veterans of the U.S. National Security Agency, identifies Aramco as the victim of the attack.

In a statement, Aramco, Saudi Arabia's national oil company and a pillar of its economy, denied the attack took place: "Saudi Aramco corporate and plants networks were not part of any cyber security attack or breach."

ForeignPolicy.com [Read more](#)

SOUTH KOREA: ITOPF PRESENTS AT INTERNATIONAL PORT SAFETY CONFERENCE

January 2 - Dr Annabelle Nicolas-Kopec was one of the speakers at Ulsan Port's first international port safety conference, organised by the Ulsan Port Maritime Safety Cooperation. This one day event held on 12th December attracted over 150 delegates, including representatives from several Korean port authorities and shipping companies. The conference focused on various aspects of safety management, with emphasis on the transportation of dangerous goods at sea. ITOPF provided a presentation on the challenges of HNS response and took part in the closing panel session. *ITOPF* [Source article](#)

SPAIN: EXPANDING OUR HORIZONS TO MARINE WILDLIFE EMERGENCIES

December 21 - In November, Sea Alarm ran a successful workshop in Barcelona on marine emergencies involving sea turtles.

The workshop was organised as part of the "European marine wildlife preparedness assessment program", a project funded through Aramco Overseas Company's citizenship programme.

Oil spills and wildlife do not mix well, which is why Sea Alarm's focus over the years has been on preparing for oiled wildlife emergencies. This focus is now being expanded to cover other situations which could lead to large numbers of marine wildlife arriving on coastlines in a debilitated or dying state. *Sea Alarm* [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

UK: BRAER: THE HUGE OIL SPILL THAT SHETLAND SURVIVED



Photo: The Liberian-registered oil tanker Braer hit rocks on the Shetland Isles

January 5 - Twenty five years ago the Braer oil tanker ran aground off the Shetland Isles in hurricane-force winds, spilling almost 85,000 tonnes of crude oil.

The captain and crew of the vessel were airlifted to safety by helicopter after its engines failed and it became clear the disaster was imminent.

It hit rocks in Quendale Bay, just west of Sumburgh Head, on the south tip of Shetland, just before midday on 5 January 1993.

According to WWF Scotland, at least 1,500 birds died and up to a quarter of the local grey seal population was affected.

But the weather limited the full extent of the damage as much of the oil was swept out to sea.

The Gulfaks crude that the Braer was carrying was also lighter and more easily biodegradable than other North Sea crudes. [BBC News](#) [Read more](#) [See also Timeline Report in the Aberdeen Press & Journal](#)

USA: TRUMP ADMINISTRATION TO OVERHAUL SAFETY-MONITORING RULES FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING

December 28 - The Trump administration is overhauling how federal officials monitor safety procedures on offshore drilling operations, revising a pair of rules enacted in the wake of the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill on the grounds that they are overly burdensome on industry.

On Friday, the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) will publish new regulations for the production-safety-systems rule, which addresses devices used during offshore oil production.

The agency has also drafted changes to another set of regulations, called the well-control rule, which aims to prevent the kind of blowout that killed 11 workers.

The Deepwater Horizon disaster, the largest oil spill in U.S. history, released more than 200 million gallons of oil into the Gulf of Mexico. It killed thousands of dolphins, sea turtles and other marine animals, exposed hundreds of cleanup workers and other gulf residents to toxic chemicals and prompted a six-month shutdown of all deepwater drilling in the gulf.

The proposed rule unveiled Thursday, for example, eliminates a requirement that safety and pollution prevention equipment be inspected by independent auditors certified by the BSEE. A bipartisan presidential commission established after the disaster had recommended such inspections. [The Washington Post](#) [Read more](#)

USA: NAMEPA WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS AWO AND ENVIROCLEANSE

December 31 - Carleen Lyden Walker, Co-Founder and Executive Director of North American Marine Environment Protection Association (NAMEPA) announced today that The American Waterways Operators (AWO) and Envirocleanse, LLC have joined NAMEPA as new members. These companies have joined NAMEPA to support and participate with other marine industry organizations in our efforts to "Save Our Seas".

"NAMEPA's broadening membership in the industry enables continued growth in collaborating on new strategies to preserve the marine environment by promoting sustainable marine industry best practices", stated NAMEPA's Carleen Lyden Walker. "NAMEPA is proud to welcome these highly respected marine industry organizations to our membership. Our members share NAMEPA's goals and efforts to create a stronger voice for marine environment protection through advocating, educating and activating communities." [The Maritime Executive](#) [Read more](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

USA: COAST GUARD IS STILL CLEANING UP BOATS AFTER HURRICANE SEASON



Sixteen weeks after Hurricane Irma made landfall in the Florida Keys, the Coast Guard's cleanup efforts and removal operations for displaced vessels are still under way. Currently, 2,366 displaced vessels have been removed from Florida waterways, and 145 people from state and federal agencies are involved in the disaster response.

The unified command for the response, known as ESF-10 Florida, is leading the effort. The Coast Guard's partner agencies include the Florida Department of Environmental Protection, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary. The responders are

prioritizing the removal of vessels based on potential environmental impact.

In Puerto Rico, the ESF-10 task force assigned to the island is still removing vessels that were damaged, beached or sunk by Hurricane Maria. The Coast Guard is focused on removing vessels that pose environmental threats, and is carrying out the work at no cost or penalty to the vessel owners.

So far, response teams have identified 375 impacted vessels, with 177 of those cases now closed. Teams have made contact with 217 owners, and responded to 34 pollution reports. Pollution prevention specialists have dewatered 7,050 gallons of oily water mixture and collected 4 cubic yards of oily debris from vessels. Salvage crews have recently removed vessels in Puerto Chico and Salinas, and inspection and outreach efforts are ongoing all over the island, from Fajardo on the east coast to Mayagüez on the west. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

USA: FLEET OF DRONES IS THE FUTURE OF OFFSHORE DRILLING: STUDY

January 3 - A fleet of drones would be a key part in staving off another major offshore oil disaster in the Gulf of Mexico, according to a new report issued by a task force created after the worst oil spill in the energy industry's history. The National Academies of Sciences' Gulf program issued a report Wednesday that calls for investments in all manner of autonomous vessels, including miniature drone-like submarines and underwater gliders to track oil flows along the Gulf's sometimes unpredictable underwater currents. Tracking oil's movements under the water, not just at the surface, became a key problem after the 2010 Deepwater Horizon. *Washington Examiner* [Read more](#)

USA: CSB RELEASES FINAL REPORT INTO CHEMICAL RELEASE AT MGPI INDUSTRIES; REPORT EMPHASIZES KEY SAFETY LESSONS TO PREVENT FUTURE INADVERTENT MIXING INCIDENTS

January 3 - Today the U.S. Chemical Safety Board released its case study titled "Key Lessons for Preventing Inadvertent Mixing During Chemical Unloading Operations," which examines a mixture of incompatible materials at the MGPI Processing Plant in Atchison, Kansas on October 21, 2016. The mixture resulted in a chemical release containing chlorine and other compounds that traveled into the community. The CSB's investigation examines several key issues including the design of chemical transfer equipment, automated and remote shut off systems, and chemical unloading procedures. The MGPI facility produces distilled spirits and specialty wheat proteins and starches. The chemical release occurred when sulfuric acid was inadvertently unloaded from a tanker truck into a fixed sodium hypochlorite tank at the plant. The two materials combined to produce chlorine gas and other by-products that sent over 140 individuals, both workers and members of the public, to area hospitals, and resulted in shelter-in-place and evacuation orders for thousands of local residents. *US CSB* [Read more](#)

People in the news

OCIMF APPOINTS CHEVRON'S MARK ROSS AS NEW CHAIRMAN



The Annual General Meeting voted to support the Executive Committee's appointment of Chevron Shipping Company President Mark Ross as the new OCIMF Chairman. After three years, Shell's Dr. Grahaeme Henderson stepped down as OCIMF Chairman at ExCom 80 in Singapore in November.

Read more - https://www.ocimf.org/newsletter/issue-58-december-2017/#toc_1

ISCO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

OceanPact Group headquartered in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, has joined as a new Corporate Member. OceanPact Group offers a complete structure of operational bases, equipment and vessels ready to act on rapid and effective responses in emergency situations. OceanPact and Witt O'Brien's Brasil have a full training program and expertise on issues such as command and control, organizational leadership, compliance and functional needs. We have a qualified team in standards and mitigation and recovery incidents, with expertise in risk reduction and emergency management. The company's website is at <http://www.oceanpact.com/en/group/>

Polaris Applied Sciences Inc. with offices in Washington, USA, has joined as a new Corporate Member. POLARIS was created in 1998 from the merger of three highly successful companies with a broad range of capabilities in marine, freshwater, and terrestrial oil and chemical spill response. Scientific support staff for oil spill response includes internationally recognized leaders in shoreline treatment operations, shoreline geomorphology, pre-spill planning, technical training of spill responders, environmental assessment, spill planning, spill and grounding response, scientific support, shoreline cleanup assessment technique (SCAT) training and implementation, natural resource damage assessment (NRDA) and environmental restoration services. The company's website is <http://www.polarisappliedsciences.com/en/home/>

Safety briefing

DANGER OF PETROL/GASOLINE SPILLS IN UNDERGROUND PIPES AND DRAINS



Rubble in center of street destroyed by sewer explosions in Guadalajara, 1992. Photo credit, with permission (Jon Seals): Disaster Recovery Journal at: http://www.drj.com/drworld/content/w2_028.htm; accessed May 5, 2006.

Oil vapours are heavier than air and will gather in underground pipes and ducts where they will not be able to evaporate therefore there will be a high risk of fire and explosion.

An example: The result of petrol getting into a sewer system was seen in Guadalajara, Mexico on April 22, 1992 when 5 explosions between 10:06 and 14:20 blew open the streets and carved an enormous 9 mile ditch down the middle of Avenida Gante 80 feet wide and 25 feet deep.

The blast threw a bus onto the second floor of a house. Approximately 1,000 buildings collapsed or were heavily damaged.

Initial reports by the Mexican Government and confirmed by team member Al Nixon of the Atlanta Red Cross said at least 2,000 people were injured, 200 people were killed and over 20,000 were left homeless. Damage to building was estimated at \$300million.

An investigation into the disaster found that there were two precipitating causes:

New water pipes, made of zinc-coated iron, were built too close to an existing steel gasoline pipeline. The underground humidity caused these materials to create an electrolytic reaction, akin to that which occurs inside a zinc-carbon battery. As the reaction proceeded it eventually caused the steel gasoline pipe to corrode, creating a hole in the pipeline that permitted gasoline to leak into the ground and into the main sewer pipe.

The sewer pipe had been recently rebuilt into a U-shape so that the city could expand its underground metro railway system. Usually sewers are built in a slope so that gravity helps move waste along. In order to get the U-shape to work, an inverted siphon was placed so that fluids could be pushed against gravity.

The design was flawed, however. While liquids were successfully pumped through, gases were not, and gasoline fumes built up.

The foregoing is an excerpt from a serialised technical article "Response to Inland Oil Spills" by the late Mark Francis, Hon.FISCO, published in the ISCO Newsletter.

The series has since been consolidated into a single technical article downloadable from the Technical & Reference Section in the Members' Area of the ISCO Website.

Members will need to log in order to access the article.

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

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2017
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	December 2017
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	December 22, 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	January 2018 issue
NOWPAP Quarterly	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 2, 2017 issue
Ocean Orbit	Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	August 2017
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	December 2017 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	January 3, 2018
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	Winter 2017 issue
Spill Alert	Newsletter from the UK Spill Association	December 2017 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Nov. 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	January 1, 2018

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

Upcoming events summary 2018

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
UK	February 5-9	IMO Pollution Prevention & Response Committee	London
EGYPT	February 12-14	Egypt Petroleum Show	Cairo
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 15	IMO 70 High Level Forum	London
UK	May 23-24	HAZMAT 2018	Stratford on Avon
CANADA	Postponed	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 2-4	EI Middle East HSE Forum	Dubai
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			

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