



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community
Issue 627 12 March 2018

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<http://www.spillcontrol.org>



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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REVOLUTIONARY 'OFFSET INSTALLATION EQUIPMENT' FOR WELL-CAPPING OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN ITALY

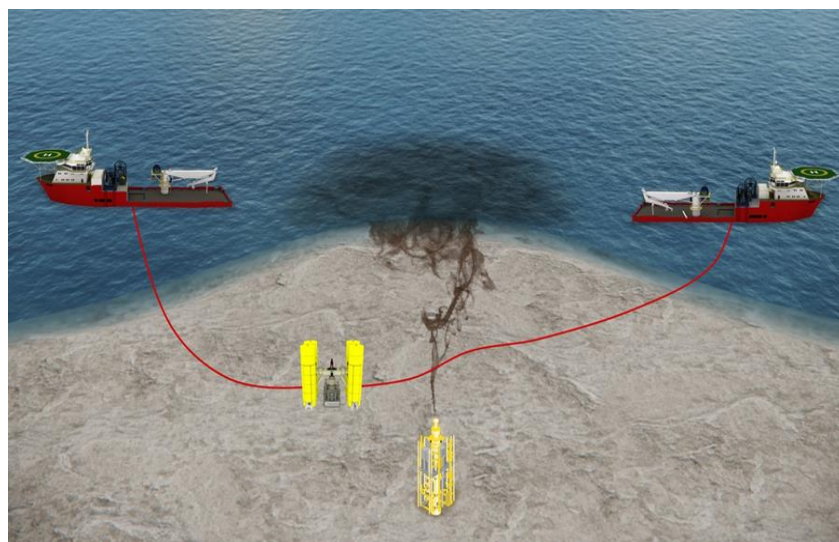


Illustration to demonstrate the application of OIE

March 6 - Oil Spill Response Limited's (OSRL) latest development in subsea well capping technology, Offset Installation Equipment (OIE), was officially launched today from the equipment's new home base in Trieste, Italy.

The well-attended event, which featured key figures from across the offshore industry, represented the culmination of six years' work between members of the Subsea Well Response Project (SWRP), OSRL and leading oil and gas engineering specialists, Saipem.

Designed specifically for scenarios where direct vertical access to a well-head is not possible, the new OIE enables well capping or related equipment to be rapidly installed at a safe distance from an incident for

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Saipem's know-how from various technological centres and represented a unique opportunity to test Saipem expertise in technology and innovation. OIE marks an unprecedented solution for use in the event of a subsea well incident, where vertical well access by vessel is not possible. Having actively participated in this project constitutes a remarkable achievement of which we are proud".

OIE equipment can be deployed up to 500m from an incident site and is suitable for use at a working depth of 75 to 600 metres. Importantly, OIE is also fully compatible with OSRL's capping equipment, creating an end-to-end capping and containment solution suitable for almost all subsea scenarios.

In line with OSRL's approach, each member organisation will be provided with training to enable their own experienced personnel to understand the capabilities of the system and operate the OIE during an incident. Following the end of SWRP, the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers (IOGP) through the Well Experts Committee (WEC) will work with OSRL to ensure that all stakeholders gain awareness of OIE's capabilities as part of the process of promoting the adoption of good practice worldwide. <https://www.oilspillresponse.com>

TRASH ISLANDS ARE TAKING OVER THE OCEANS

March 8 - An island of garbage and seaweed stretched, it seemed to photographer Caroline Power, from horizon to horizon. She had seen trash islands before on her other photography trips out from Roatán, the Honduran island where she lives, but they typically occurred closer to Cayos Cochinos, about 15 miles away. Those mats of sargassum, styrofoam, and plastic ranged from five to 100 meters wide. The one currently converging around her boat extended almost five miles over the deep blue waters. Power, who had seen trash islands once or twice a year, felt devastated: This view should have been untouched by humans. Instead it was blanketed by plastic bags, bottles, forks, and spoons.

The Great Pacific Garbage Patch and Honduras' trash islands aren't the only worrisome waste structures. Last summer, a garbage patch larger than Mexico was discovered off the waters of the South Pacific. More troubling was the fact that its confetti-like particles were spread out, making clean-up virtually impossible. Scientists estimate that 91 percent of plastic isn't being recycled.

"Every year, an estimated eight million metric tons of plastic enters our ocean," says Tommy Cutt, LMC's chief conservation officer. "That number is expected to increase as global population numbers continue to rise." *Pacific Standard* [Read more](#)

International news (continued)

the first time. OIE is now available to existing OSRL members through a Subsea Well Intervention Services (SWIS) supplementary agreement and current OIE members include BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Petrobras, Shell, Statoil and Total – all of which represent the founding members of SWRP.

The OIE's arrival is a true industry first and coincides with the final phase of SWRP, following completion of the related capping and containment projects, as OSRL's Chief Executive, Robert Limb, explains: "For us, and all those involved in SWRP, the launch of the OIE is final piece of the puzzle and the culmination of a lot of hard work. Since the formation of the project in 2011, we had one core objective; to design and build a comprehensive range of well capping solutions, with the flexibility to meet the current and future requirements of the industry. With the arrival of OIE here in Italy, that objective is met." OIE is now available to existing OSRL members through a Subsea Well Intervention Services

SWRP Project Lead Eli Bøhnsdalen commented "OIE has the potential to make a huge difference in the time it takes to cap a well or stop a critical blowout and has never been attempted before. With that in mind, it is with great pride that I'm able to say the equipment is now available to the industry. Saipem, which has been responsible for the design, fabrication and testing, will now be responsible for the OIE's ongoing storage and maintenance, from its base here, in Trieste. Saipem's extensive experience working with equipment designed for harsh environments, remote areas and deepwater means that the OIE couldn't be in safer hands."

Stefano Porcari, COO of Saipem's E&C Offshore Division, added: "Working on such a pioneering and prestigious project involved

International news (continued)

WHAT CAN WE LEARN FROM THE WORST OIL SPILL IN DECADES?

March 6 - Former China Marine Surveillance official Yu Zhirong wonders if the pollution from the Sanchi—the largest oil spill in decades—could have been reduced if the government had chosen to torpedo the burning vessel, allowing the fuel to burn out before sinking. “This is better than sinking with the tanks full, because the fuel would leak into the waters,” Yu said.

Over a month after it collided with a shipping vessel in January, Sanchi is still lying 377 feet under the East China Sea, possibly still leaking bunker oil from its fuel tanks. The Chinese government was considering salvage of the remains of the sunken tanker last month, but said it was waiting both to consult Sanchi’s owners about salvage plans and to come up with a safe and feasible plan to remove it. Zhi Guanglu, deputy director of the China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre, told reporters for the South China Post that retrieving wreckage could cause another explosion. Meanwhile, the oil slick has spread across the path of gray whales migrating from the colder waters of Russia to the warmer South China Sea.

Meanwhile, the question of how to handle another incident like Sanchi is something that even experts are reluctant to discuss. Dr. Karen Purnell, technical advisor to the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation (a nonprofit that describes itself as “providing impartial advice worldwide on effective response to spills of oil and chemicals at sea”) wrote that getting expert advice about the Sanchi oil spill and its after-effects would be unlikely, “until the facts are known.” Natasha Brown, a press officer with the International Maritime Organization, said that her organization is refraining from discussing the Sanchi spill, and “will await the investigation report from the relevant states.”

The report Brown mentioned is unlikely to be released publicly until several months from now. Richard Steiner, a former marine conservation professor at the University of Alaska, was one of several marine conservation experts who emailed the relevant authorities in China, Japan, and the UN with the recommendation that they move quickly to collect information about the spill, by modeling the trajectory of the spill in order to estimate where the condensate was dispersing, and by taking samples of water, plankton, fish larvae, and any carcasses seen floating near the where the Sanchi sank in order to create a record of how the spill was affecting local wildlife. This, Steiner said, “would have helped determine the details of condensate that burned, evaporated, or dissolved.” Steiner has received no sign that these recommendations were followed and worries that critical environmental data was not collected in the days and weeks after the accident. *The Sierra Club* [Read more](#)

TRAINING AUDITORS FOR HIGHER MARITIME SAFETY LEVELS THROUGHOUT MEDITERRANEAN

March 8 - Within the framework of the SAFEMED IV project, EMSA held a training course on 5-9 February for auditors under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS) in collaboration with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Two experienced lead auditors and an IMO representative delivered the training course to 16 participants from the beneficiary countries (Egypt, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine and Tunisia).

The training included lectures on the theoretical framework of the IMO Instrument Implementation Code which were combined with practical exercises and workshops. Throughout the training, it was clear that such activity is paramount not only for those countries which are due to undergo the IMSAS in the forthcoming years but to foster a greater understanding of the main international requirements within the maritime domain. The participants had a very high level of interaction and engagement, and demonstrated a spirit of genuine regional cooperation. *EMSA Newsletter* [Read more](#)

TRUBEACH TO HELP PROTECT SHORELINE ENVIRONMENT

March 4 - TruBeach is a mobile community created to empower everyone to explore beaches, share their experiences, and protect the world’s waters. Travelers, families, athletes, and beachgoers can discover beautiful and safe beaches to enjoy, all while at the same time informing the community about beaches and waters that need support.

TruBeach couldn’t be made possible without your participation. We tremendously appreciate your interest in downloading the app and engaging with the community. Please contact us if you have any suggestions, feedback, or would like to get involved. We also encourage you to join our Facebook group to stay in the loop about local events and chat with other community members.

The TruBeach mobile community was founded by Nigel Bennett. In 1992, Nigel co-founded Aqua-Guard Spill Response Inc. The business’s mission: protect water, the world’s most precious resource. For over twenty years, the company has designed, fabricated and supplied marine oil spill response equipment and provided related services to 3,000+ clients worldwide. Aqua-Guard’s patented oil skimming technology has been used to clean up spills from Alaska to the Gulf of Mexico and from Egypt to China. Nigel and Aqua-Guard have received multiple awards for their innovation, business excellence and entrepreneurialism. <https://www.trubeach.co/what-we-do/>

International news (continued)

IOPC FUNDS - ANNUAL REPORT 2017 NOW AVAILABLE

March 6 - This year's report provides details of the main activities and achievements of the IOPC Funds during the year, as well as key figures for 2017 in relation to expenditure, reports of contributing oil received and contributions levied. Newly reported incidents in 2017 and significant developments in open incidents are also described. Further details of incidents, and in many cases a full case study, can be found under the Incidents section of this website. <http://www.iopcfunds.org/>

SCOTTISH UNIVERSITY TIES UP WITH AMU TO STUDY RIVER POLLUTION

March 8 - Scientists from Scotland's University of Strathclyde have teamed up with colleagues at Aligarh Muslim University to study the impact of industrialisation on rivers.

Researchers will analyse samples of indigenous bacteria taken from the River Clyde in Scotland and the Yamuna River in India, a tributary of the Ganges, to understand more about how they respond to industrial pollutants.

Business Standard [Read more](#)

Incident reports (in chronological order)

JAPAN: US BASE CHIEF APOLOGIZES FOR FUEL TANK RELEASE

February 26 - The commander of a US air base in northern Japan has apologized to a local municipality for the release of fuel tanks from a fighter jet into a lake last week. Colonel R. Scott Jobe visited the town of Tohoku in Aomori Prefecture on Monday to speak with Mayor Koji Ebina. They discussed the jettisoning of 2 fuel tanks into Lake Ogawara by an F16 pilot last Tuesday. The jet reportedly suffered an engine fire shortly after taking off from Misawa Air Base. *NHK World* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: NORTH CAROLINA - BOOMS PLACED IN YOUNGS FORK CREEK AFTER POSSIBLE PETROLEUM SPILL IN MARION

February 26 - Responders placed absorbent booms in the creek at multiple locations to contain the petroleum product. Multiple agencies are working this incident, including the North Carolina Department of Environmental Quality (NCDEQ), RPM Health District, McDowell Emergency Management and the Marion Fire Department. *WLOS* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

BAHAMAS: GOVERNMENT 'NEGLECT TO ADDRESS' DANGEROUS OIL LEAK AT CLIFTON



March 2 - Environment group Save the Bays (STB) has accused the government of neglect after a representative of the group said it spotted "another large and dangerous oil leak" from the Clifton Pier Power Station causing "critical damage" to the surrounding marine environment.

"The oil slick is so vast that it can be clearly spotted from the air – as can the government's woefully inadequate efforts at containment," a statement from the group said. "It is clear that the rudimentary methods employed by BEC to try and hold back these toxic slicks, which emanate from the facility on a regular basis, are deplorably ineffective.

Tribune 242 [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: ENERGY MINISTRY INVESTIGATING OIL LEAK

March 3 - The Ministry of Energy is investigating a possible oil leak which took place on a 6" diameter pipeline from Platform 9 to Riser Platform 2, Main Soldado Field, Petrotrin Trinmar Operations yesterday morning. An emergency command centre was immediately set up at Petrotrin Trinmar Operations, Marine Base, Point Fortin, while emergency response vessels staffed by HSE personnel were mobilized at first light to dispense Cansorb. Cansorb is very effective in the clean-up of oil spills, both on water and on land and is an all-organic hydrocarbon absorbent, manufactured from high-quality large fibre Sphagnum Peat Moss. *Newsday* [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - UPDATE 4: UNIFIED COMMAND RESPONSE TEAMS CONTINUE RESPONSE AND CONTAINMENT EFFORTS OF OIL SPILL IN SHUYAK STRAIT, ALASKA

March 4 *US Coast Guard* [Read more and access previous updates](#) [See also Report in last week's newsletter]

Incident reports (continued)

USA: MAERSK LINE ADDRESSES LOSS OF CONTAINERS FROM SHIP OFF U.S. EAST COAST

March 5 - The world's largest container shipping company, Maersk Line, issued a statement Monday regarding the loss of containers from one of its vessels during the nasty storm that slammed the U.S. East Coast over the weekend. The 324-meter cargo ship Maersk Shanghai was underway from Norfolk, Virginia to Charleston, South Carolina when the crew contacted the Coast Guard late Saturday night to report that they had lost 70 to 73 cargo containers due to high winds and heavy seas approximately 17 miles off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina, according to a Coast Guard report on the incident. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH CAROLINA - OIL SPILL REPORTED AT BURKE COUNTY WELL

March 6 - The North Dakota Oil and Gas Division reported Tuesday an oil spill that occurred last month in Burke County is now estimated to be larger than initially reported. About 400 barrels, or 16,800 gallons, of oil spilled on Feb. 21 at a well about 4 miles north of Flaxton, or 2½ miles south of the Canadian border, according to an incident report filed Tuesday. *Bismarck Tribune* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: TENSION IN DELTA AS OIL SPILL RAVAGES OKPARE COMMUNITY

March 6 - There is serious tension in Delta State as oil spill has ravaged Okpare-Olomu community, destroying crude pipelines, farmlands, animals and other property.

At the time of filing this report, the fire is still burning and poses serious health and environmental challenge to the people of the community and the environment. Indigenes and residents of the community have put the blame on soldiers who allegedly carried out destruction on an illegal refinery within the area.

The Operation Delta Safe, OPDS, and oil companies whose pipelines falls within the area are yet to comment on the matter.

Daily Post [Read more](#)



USA: PENNSYLVANIA - TRAIN COLLIDES WITH TANKER CARRYING HYDROCHLORIC ACID SOLUTION NEAR FREDERICKTOWN



Photo: Washington County's hazardous materials team and other area agencies work at the scene of a collision between a train and truck carrying a hydrochloric acid Tuesday morning just outside Fredericktown.

March 6 - John Mowry of Centerville was drinking coffee Tuesday morning when he heard a "ba-wam" outside his home. About 200 feet away from his Maple Glenn Road home outside of Fredericktown, a train had broadsided a tanker truck hauling some 4,400 gallons of a corrosive solution of hydrochloric acid as the rig's driver crossed the tracks about 10:30 a.m., dragging the vehicle about 100 yards south.

All of the hydrochloric acid spilled onto the ground and the train was leaking diesel fuel, East Bethlehem fire Chief Mark Giovanelli said. *Observer-Reporter* [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

IRELAND: BOSS OF FIRM BEHIND KEROSENE LEAK ISSUES APOLOGY

March 7 - The CEO of the firm behind the kerosene leak that led to 12,000 people being issued 'Do Not Drink' notices has apologised.

Up to 10,000 litres of kerosene leaked from his depot in Mullinahone village, Co. Tipperary, over the weekend after a valve was damaged in Storm Emma.

The leak entered the river about 8km from the point at which it is extracted and was then pumped up to the recently opened €11million Fethard Regional Water Treatment Plant on Slievenamon Mountain at Cloran. The contaminated water is then understood to have been pumped back into the homes of a number of the 12,000 people supplied with water from the plant. *Extra.ie* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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

CANADA: ALBERTA OFFICIALS HEADING TO OTTAWA OVER PIPELINE DISPUTE

March 5 - Alberta plans to align its Trans Mountain pipeline expansion legal efforts with those of the federal government, and provincial officials are heading to Ottawa this week to figure out how that can happen.

The province's market access task force held its second meeting Monday in Edmonton.

It talked about possible retaliatory measures against British Columbia, how to win the hearts and minds of Canadians on the pipeline issue, and Alberta's legal strategy.

Premier Rachel Notley said after the meeting Alberta will jump into the court battle against Burnaby, in which the National Energy Board contends the municipality is overstepping its jurisdiction by denying work permits for the pipeline expansion. *Edmonton Journal* [Read more](#)

CANADA: SCIENTISTS PLAN SIMULATED OIL SPILLS IN NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO



A drone photo of a shoreline enclosure at the Experimental Lakes Area in northwestern Ontario in 2017. Scientists will apply diluted bitumen and weathered conventional crude to enclosures like this over the next two years to simulate the cleanup after freshwater oil spills. (Scott Higgins/IISD-ELA)

March 7 - Scientists are planning experimental "oil spills" in northwestern Ontario this summer in an effort to better understand what happens when diluted bitumen winds up in freshwater lakes.

In research with implications for how Canada regulates oil transport by pipelines and rail, ecologists at the Experimental Lakes Area (ELA) east of Kenora are planning to simulate a series of spills, clean them up and then assess what happens to the water, plants and animals.

In one set of experiments, diluted bitumen — the product most commonly transported from Alberta's oil sands — will be added to enclosed columns of lake water in different concentrations to see where the oil goes, how it breaks down and what happens to the algae, plankton, invertebrates and fish.

In other experiments, both conventional crude and diluted bitumen will be added to shoreline enclosures to see how each type of oil is affected by waves and to monitor the residual effects on the environment after the gunk is cleaned up. *CBC News* [Read more](#)

CAYMAN ISLANDS: PLAN UNDERWAY TO MANAGE HAZARDOUS MATERIALS

February 26 - The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is supporting the Cayman government in a project to develop a Hazardous Materials Management Response Plan for the country because, according to officials, no one is tracking what happens to dangerous substances once they arrive here. Hazard Management Cayman Islands (HMCI), which is coordinating the effort to address this lack of information on hazardous materials once they clear through the ports, admitted that the materials pose a significant threat to the public and first responders if there is a spillage, fire or other incident.

Government officials said in a press release that the project involves identifying what resources and capabilities are already in Cayman to respond to a HazMat incident as well as resource gaps. The plan will also examine roles and responsibilities of the various relevant departments, such as the Department of Environmental Health, the Cayman Islands Fire Service, the Royal Cayman Islands Police Service and Hazard Management, and see where they all fit regarding preparation and response. *Cayman News Service* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CHINA: HOW DID THE CHINESE OIL SPILL AFFECT FISHING?

March 2 - The unprecedented spillage of oil in the East China Sea which occurred at the beginning of this year may have had significant and potentially far-reaching ramifications for the fishing industry.

While it's common practice for all fisheries to close in the immediate aftermath of a spillage to minimise the risk of contamination, it has emerged that many fishing vessels remained in the vicinity for days after the event. *Environmental Technology* [Read more](#)

FINLAND: ARCTIC OIL LEAK RECOVERY IN HARSH CONDITIONS TESTED IN GULF OF BOTHNIA

March 8 - An international exercise of Arctic oil spill combating took place on Wednesday in the Gulf of Bothnia, the northernmost bay of the Baltic Sea.

In the staged scenario, tanker Finter had run aground on the Kutumatala area off the town of Oulu, northern Finland. The tanker had been towed to the port of Oulu, but 2,000 to 3,000 tons of oil had leaked from the ship.

Inspector of the Finnish Environment Center Jouko Pirttijarvi told newspaper Kaleva that the fictitious amount of leaked oil was large. Pirttijarvi said the operation went "moderately".

In the winter condition, a real oil gathering operation would take days and the actual impact would be clear only after the ice cover of the sea melted in April or May.

Taking part in the oil spill combat were the Finnish navy multipurpose vessel Louhi and the coast guard surveillance ship Turva. Swedish coast guard vessel KBV 181 also joined.

The operation at sea took place parallel with a table top exercise by the Arctic Council group of Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response (EPPR). The meeting attracted experts from several countries and was chaired by Jens Peter Holst-Andersen, chairperson of the working group EPPR.

The exercises were arranged under the 2013 MOSPA agreement created under the auspices of the Arctic Council. The abbreviation stands for Agreement on Co-operation on Marine Oil Pollution preparedness and Response in the Arctic. *Xinhuanet* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: GROUP AGAINST TRANSFER OF POWER TO SUPERVISE OIL SPILLS

March 7 - International oil companies operating in Nigeria are against the full transfer of powers to the national oil spill detection and response agency to supervise oil spills from the department of petroleum resources.

A group of Oil Producers made the submission at a public hearing by the Senate Committee on Environment to amend the enabling law of NOSDRA.

Chairman of the Senate Environment Committee, Senator Oluremi Tinubu said the public hearing is meant to restructure Nigeria's response to oil spills. *TVC Nigeria* [Read more](#)

PAKISTAN: KARACHI PORT TRUST HOSTS CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP ON OIL SPILL

March 5 - The marine experts, at a two-day workshop organized by Karachi Port Trust, here on Monday underlined the need for building capacity to at least cope with first tier of oil spill into the sea.

"At least, we must be capable of dealing with first tier of oil spill. There are different tiers of the spill," said Chairman KPT, Rear Admiral Jamil Akhtar while briefing media about the workshop. He said the capacity building workshop titled "Preparedness and Response Against Oil Spill Emergencies in Pakistani Waters" was a part of the celebrations of 70 years of services by International Maritime Organisation (IMO). *Urdu Point* [Read more](#) Related report in the [Pakistan Observer](#)

PORTUGAL: EMSA'S RPAS ON MULTIPURPOSE MARITIME SURVEILLANCE OPERATIONS



March 8 - EMSA has now completed three months of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) assisted operations with the REACT Consortium in Portugal. More than 200 flight hours have been clocked in operations scanning the coast to identify and monitor illegal activities mainly in the areas of fisheries control and drug trafficking, among others. For marine pollution surveillance, a possible oil spill will be detected via EMSA's satellite-based CleanSeaNet service and subsequently confirmed during an RPAS flight. For marine traffic control, RPAS are assisting in the monitoring of traffic separation schemes for the purpose of collision avoidance or accident monitoring. The initial official request for RPAS came from a coordination committee (CNCM), which brings together several

Portuguese Authorities. RPAS operations are set to continue for the Portuguese Authorities until the end of March. *EMSA* [Read more](#)

UK: OIL & GAS UK ADDRESSES OIL SPILL LIABILITY

March 8 - [BMT](#) has supported [Oil & Gas UK](#) in the formulation of the new Financial Responsibility Guidelines, which were released last week.

According to Louise O'Hara Murray, environment manager at Oil & Gas UK, the guidelines are part of the [UK offshore industry's](#) preparedness and response plan in the event of an oil release. "They outline the level of financial liability required," she said, "and how this should be declared or demonstrated to the UK's Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning."

BMT performed various oil spill modelling scenarios and analyses to assist development of a common tool for licensees of UK offshore oil and gas assets, one aim being to clarify where financial responsibilities lie in the event of an oil release. [Offshore](#) [Read more](#)

USA: TRUMP PICKS DOW CHEMICAL LAWYER FOR KEY ROLE AT EPA

March 2 - President Donald Trump on Friday tapped a chemical industry insider to run the Environmental Protection Agency office that oversees emergency response to hazardous spills and cleanups of the nation's most toxic sites.

The White House announced that Trump has nominated Peter C. Wright to serve as EPA's assistant administrator for Land and Emergency Management. Wright has worked as a corporate lawyer at Dow Chemical Co. since 1999. [NBC News](#) [Read more](#)

USA: MICHIGAN COMPANY'S WATER WAGON TO PROVIDE SAFE DRINKING WATER TO PUERTO RICO RESIDENTS

February 26 - When Bill Korreck heard that much of Puerto Rico lacked safe drinking water after Hurricane Maria devastated the island in September, he knew he had a unique way to help: The Water Wagon. The challenge was figuring out how to get the 5,000-pound trailer thousands of miles across the ocean to the people who needed it the most.

Korreck, the founder of Michigan-based Global Treatment Solutions, designed the fully mobile Water Wagon in the wake of the Flint water crisis. It can treat thousands of gallons of contaminated water a day, making it safe for consumption. "From the involvement we've had in the community here and seeing the devastation in Puerto Rico, it really hit home because of my involvement with the water crisis in Flint. So, we started to see if there's a need and how we could get to the island. We had interest but no real tangible results until recently," Korreck said.

For many months, Korreck and environmental attorney Marc Shaye of Franklin, Mich., looked for a cost-effective solution to transport the Water Wagon to Puerto Rico, to no avail. Then, as luck would have it, mutual friend retired Marine officer Robert Middleton put Shaye in touch with Cindy Gianino, a DTE Energy employee who works with the company's industrial customers.

DTE crews have been helping to restore power to Puerto Rico since January, and shipping the energy company's trucks and other heavy equipment to the island via a barge was a massive undertaking. Gianino knew her company had the expertise and connections to transport the Water Wagon. Once she explained the situation to her leaders – and the great need on the island for safe drinking water – they not only agreed to help with the logistics, they offered to cover the costs. [Empowering Michigan](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO]

USA: ALASKA NATIONAL GUARD ADVANCES, FORTIFIES ARCTIC EMERGENCY RESPONSE

March 8 - A foreign, radioactive satellite falls to earth, smashing through the airspace above Valdez, Alaska. Toxic Chemicals release from the satellite debris while compromised networks lead to cyber-attacks and panic ensues throughout the local communities.

The scenario above is fictional. But what if it actually happened? Who would respond? What capabilities does the military have to combat it?

These questions were explored and unmasked by National Guard units from 10 different states and multiple state and federal agencies during Arctic Eagle 2018, which consisted of scenario-based events at multiple locations throughout Alaska. The scenarios included hazardous material detection and response, security and protection of critical infrastructure, triage, domain awareness patrol, communication and transportation support.

The exercise was managed by the Alaska National Guard in order to test and validate arctic capabilities and practice emergency response in support of civil authorities. [DVIDS](#) [Read more](#)

USA: WASHINGTON - EVENTS SET TO PROMOTE OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS MONTH

March 9 - The Clallam Marine Resources Committee and its partners will offer three activities during March 2018 — Oil Spill Preparedness Month.

The first is a webinar, “Staying Prepared in an Evolving World of Oil Movement,” from noon to 1 p.m. Wednesday, March 14. Program manager Dale Jensen and Linda Pilkey-Jarvis, preparedness manager for the state Department of Ecology spills program, will talk about oil transportation in the state.

On March 24 and 31, the Clallam MRC in partnership with Islands Oil Spill Association will host two free oiled wildlife classes from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Clallam County Fairgrounds, 1608 W. 16th St., Port Angeles.

Peninsula Daily News [Read more](#)

USA: INTERIOR DEPARTMENT-FUNDED STUDY CALLS FOR STANDARDS FOR OFFSHORE DRILLING EQUIPMENT

March 9 - A report funded by the Interior Department is recommending that the agency work closely with the oil industry to establish standards to prevent spills from bolt failures on undersea safety equipment used in deepwater drilling.

The National Academies of Sciences issued the report Friday, raising concerns about the potential for oil spills that could result from bolt failures on such equipment as blowout preventers. A failed blowout preventer caused the 2010 Deepwater Horizon offshore oil spill, the largest in the industry's history.

No standard industrywide inspection program that covers failed or replaced bolts exists, such as the five-year inspection required for blowout preventers under Interior Department rules, the report says. *Washington Examiner*

[Read more and watch video](#)

USA: SPILL OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE (SONS) EXERCISE ON MARCH 22

March 9 - On March 22, the acting NOAA administrator and representatives from the National Ocean Service will participate in a national level Spill of National Significance (SONS) exercise on the DOC's behalf at the invitation of the Commandant of the Coast Guard.

Executives from 15 agencies and a National Security Council representative will gather in the DC area to discuss policy level issues and coordination mechanisms in the context of oil spill scenarios that could be declared a SONS under the National Oil and Hazardous Substance Pollution Contingency Plan. NOAA has roles defined in law to provide scientific support, conduct natural resource damage assessments, and provide support from a range of agency capabilities including weather, fisheries, protected resources, satellite analysis, marine and aviation operations, and emergency navigation. *NOAA OR&R* [Read more](#)

ISCO news

THIS WEEK - ISCO AT INTERSPILL IN LONDON – 13-15 MARCH, 2018 AT EXCEL

You are invited to visit the ISCO stand at Interspill. This year ISCO will be co-located on Stand S100 with ISAA, UK Spill and Spillcon 2019. ISCO Secretary Matthew Somerville and Committee Member Capt. Bill Boyle are looking forward to seeing you.

ISCO thanks exhibitors for the many invitations received to visit booths in the show. Matthew and Bill will endeavour to call by and say hello.

Helen Dubach of ISCO Member ResilientRM will be at Interspill. You can contact her at hdubach@resilientrm.com if you would like to arrange a meeting

ISCO WELCOMES KURT HANSEN AS A NEW MEMBER OF ISCO

March 7 – Kurt Hansen has worked at the US Coast Guard Research and Development Center in New London since 1993, working on projects dealing with oil spill prevention and response since 1998. He has an MS in Ocean Engineering from the University of Rhode Island and a BS in Mechanical Engineering from the University of Delaware. He is a member of ASTM Committee F-20 on Committee F20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response.

Having recently retired from the US Coast Guard and set up his own consultancy company, Kurt will be attending Interspill and can be contacted at kurthanspe@gmail.com

People in the news

USA: HOMELAND SECURITY SECRETARY ANNOUNCES SELECTION OF THE 26TH COMMANDANT OF THE U.S. COAST GUARD



March 9 - Homeland Security Secretary Kirstjen M. Nielsen announced the nomination by President Donald J. Trump of Vice Adm. Karl L. Schultz to be the 26th Commandant of the U.S. Coast Guard Thursday.

Vice Adm. Schultz, the commander of the Coast Guard's Atlantic Area, currently serves as the operational commander for all Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf, spanning across five Coast Guard Districts and 40 states. Pending confirmation, he is expected to relieve Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Paul F. Zukunft in a change of command ceremony June 1, 2018, in Washington, D.C. Adm. Zukunft will retire following the change of command this summer. *US Coast Guard* [Read more](#)

Technical support

HOW TO PREVENT AN OIL SPILL FROM SPREADING DOWN A MOUNTAIN TROUT STREAM

March 7 - A fuel oil truck wrecks on a steep mountain curve. Almost 1,000 gallons of #2 fuel oil leaks onto the bank, heading for the headwaters of a pristine mountain stream.

The #1 job is to try to prevent the oil from spreading downstream at the bottom of a hilly and rocky ravine. Building an underflow dam with 500 to 700 sandbags and pipes is a logistical nightmare that will take a crew more than a day.

The engineering firm in charge of the job had a better idea - Install a lightweight, portable WaterGate Instant Underflow Dam. So we got the call. Within two hours, the HalenHardy crew arrived on scene and installed a 21-inch high x 30-foot long WaterGate dam and immediately stopped more than 95% of the oil from going further downstream. See the photo below



The WaterGate instant underflow dam uses the weight of the water to secure the dam to the stream bed. The oil rises to the top of the dam where it was cleaned up with sorbent materials while clean water flowed beneath the base.

Not only did it save thousands of dollars, but it also prevented the spill from polluting the high-value trout stream. *Halen Hardy* [Read more](#)
[Received via Linked in]

Comment from Editor – Sound like a great idea for a quick response. In defence of a sandbag-built underpass dam – It does take a few hours to construct but a robustly constructed sandbag dam has proved its value in situations where a long length of stream requires cleaning and the work involved may take several weeks, requiring the washed-down pollutant to be continuously trapped and removed over an extended period of time. A strongly-built sandbag dam can also remain effective in the spate conditions which can be anticipated if heavy rainfall is expected. Certainly the Watergate Dam looks like an ideal first response that would “buy” the time needed to build a sturdy sandbag dam. It would be interesting to hear from readers who have had experience of using the Watergate Dam. Interested ISCO Members can access a relevant article “Anatomy of an Oil Spill - Case History of an Onshore Heavy Oil Spill in the Scottish Highlands” in the Technical Articles section of the ISCO Website Members’ Area.

Publications

NEW ITOPF HANDBOOK PUBLISHED

March 6 - TOPF has just published its Handbook for 2018/19. This contains a wealth of valuable information and guidance for those likely to be involved in spills of oil and chemicals from ships. Updated annually, it features information on ITOPF's technical and information services, oil spill statistics, the fate and effects of marine oil spills, clean-up techniques, and compensation.

Hard copies of the Handbook are currently being mailed to ITOPF Members and contacts. Individual copies are also available to others on request; multiple copies are charged at £1 per copy, plus P&P - please contact [Terry Goodchild](mailto:Terry.Goodchild@itopf.com).

Copies are also available as a PDF to download from the ITOPF website at <http://www.itopf.com/>

HANDBOOK OF RESEARCH ON INVENTIVE BIOREMEDIATION TECHNIQUES

Bhakta, J.N. (ed). IGI Global, Hershey, PA. EISBN13: 9781522523260, 624 pp, 2017

Highlighting research perspectives on topics such as mycoremediation, microbial tools, and green technology, this publication is designed for academics, professionals, graduate students, and practitioners interested in emerging techniques for environmental decontamination. See the table of contents and chapter abstracts at <https://www.igi-global.com/book/handbook-research-inventive-bioremediation-techniques/173682>.

AN INTRODUCTION TO COASTAL HABITATS AND BIOLOGICAL RESOURCE FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Report from the Hazardous Materials and Assessment Division of NOAA.

Contributing Authors - Miles O. Hayes, Rebecca Hoft, Jacqueline Michel, Debra Scholz, Gary Shigenaka

The response and cleanup techniques that are discussed have, as their ultimate goal, the minimization of impacts from oil spills. *weSRCH* [Read more and access link for downloading as a PDF file.](#)

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	December 2017
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	October 2017
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	March 2018 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	February 2018
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	March 9, 2018
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q1 2018 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Jan-Feb, 2018
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	February 2018 issue
PEMSEA E-Updates	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	January 2018
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	March 7, 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	December 2017 issue
Spill Alert	Newsletter from the UK Spill Association	December 2017 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Jan. 16-31, 2018
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	March 1, 2018

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

Training

OFFSHORE ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS : ON-LINE TRAINING FROM EI

This Energy Institute (EI) eLearning course is a training tool for offshore environmental awareness - an issue that has become more imperative in the last decades within the oil and gas industries to minimise the environmental impacts of exploration and production activities. *EI* [More info](#)

Upcoming events summary

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
AUSTRALIA	March 6	2018 National Major Hazard Facilities Forum	Sydney
FINLAND	March 6-8	Oil Spills in Arctic Areas -seminar	Oulu
UK	March 8	Land Condition Symposium 2018	London
UK	March 13-15	2018 INTERSPILL Conference and Exhibition	London
UK	March 13-15	Oceanology International 2018	London
UK	March 14	UK Spill Members' Meeting at Interspill	London
FRANCE	March 16	CEDRE Information Day	Brest
UK	March 20-22	Flood & Coast Exhibition and Conference	Telford
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
SOUTH AFRICA	March 26-29	National workshop and training on Incident IMS 300	Cape Town
KUWAIT	April 3-5	Kuwait Oil Spill Conference	Kuwait
USA	April 4-5	Clean Waterways Conference	St. Louis, MO
UK	April 11-12	Castle Archdale 2018 Inland Response Training	Enniskillen, N.I.
LITHUANIA	April 10-12	HELCOM Response Working Group Meeting	Klaipeda
UK	April 9-13	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
FINLAND	April 17-20	Arctic Shipping Forum	Helsinki
UK	April 26-27	IMO & IOPC Funds w'shop on the HNS Convention	London
UK	Apr 30-May 2	April 2018 IOPC Funds meetings	London
NEW ZEALAND	May 1-3	NZ 5th Contaminated Land Conference	Christchurch
CHINA	May 3-5	IO Expo China	Shanghai
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	May 7-10	National workshop on contingency planning	Malabo
USA	May 7-11	13th Int'l Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference	Baltimore, MD
UK	May 15	IMO 70 High Level Forum	London
BELGIUM	May 16-17	European Environmental Ports Conference 2018	Antwerp
USA	May 22-24	Inland Boom Shop 2018 (Hands-on Training)	Carmi, IL
UK	May 23-24	HAZMAT 2018	Stratford on Avon
NAMIBIA	May 29 – June 1	Sub-regional w'shop shoreline response to oil spills	Namibia
ITALY	June 20-22	INTERTANKO Annual Event 2018	Rome
USA	June 19-21	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Portland, OR
UK	June 25-28	Int'l Harbourmasters Assoc. Congress & Exhibition	London
INDIA	July 5-6	Oil Spill India 2018 Conference & Exhibition	New Delhi
SWEDEN	August 27-30	HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2018 spill recovery ex'cise	Karlskrona Area
UK	Sept. 12-13	9th Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response	London
UK	Sept. 12-13	Flood Expo	Birmingham
UK	Sept. 12-13	Spill Response Expo	Birmingham
SINGAPORE	Sept. 25-26	Salvage & Wreck Asia	Singapore
CANADA	October 2-4	AMOP Tech. Seminar on Env. Contam'n and Response	Victoria, BC
UAE	October 2-4	EI Middle East HSE Forum	Dubai
AUSTRALIA	October 2-4	Ecoforum Conference & Exhibition	Sydney
UAE	October 9-10	RECISO EnviroSpill Conference & Exhibition	Abu Dhabi
UK	October 22-26	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
USA	Nov. 13-15	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	New Orleans, LA

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

Company news from ISCO members

MAKE A POINT OF VISITING ISCO MEMBERS ATTENDING INTERSPILL 2018

Corporate Members & Industry Partners	Stand No.		Stand No.
Ayles Fernie International Ltd.	T400	Lamor	T300
Braemar Response Ltd.	T100	Meke Marine	S551
Castalia Consorzio Stabile SPCA	S351	Norlense	S200
Cedre	S500	National Response Corporation	U302
Desmi Ro-Clean A/S	S400	Oceanpact	T250
Elastec	T502	Oil Spill Response Ltd.	U400
Environmental Protection Engineering SA	W310	Sea Alarm	U400
Fast Engineering Ltd.	S403	UK Spill Association	S100
IOPC Funds	S151	Vikoma International Ltd.	U350
Koseq	U350		

Briggs Marine & Environmental Services is exhibiting at Oceanology on Stand J501

USA: ELASTEC BOOM SHOP TRAINING - REGISTRATION DEADLINE MARCH 15TH

Elastec's INLAND BOOM SHOP is an intensive, hands-on workshop designed for responders who require in-depth river booming training. Cody Harris, president and co-founder of the Whitewater Rescue Institute and WRI Environmental Response, will be the lead trainer at the workshop. May 22, 23, 24, 2018 Carmi, Illinois & New Harmony, Indiana. [More info](#)

ELASTEC is a Corporate Member of ISCO

OSRV GROUP - NEW PARTNERSHIP FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE



March 7 - Norwegian suppliers Framo, Maritime Partner, Norbit Aptomar, and NorLense have come together to create the OSRV (Oil Spill Recovery Vessel) Group to offer a complete oil spill response solution.

"Our aim is to be a one-stop-shop where we pool our efforts and act as a total systems supplier of safe, highly functional, and well-tested technology. The emergency response equipment has undergone thorough testing and quality assurance drawing on 40 years of oil spill response experience," says Jørgen Brandt Theodorsen, Area Manager, Oil & Gas Pumping Systems, at Framo.

The OSRV Group offers a package solution that covers everything the customer needs, from detection and containment to recovery of the spill. All conducted with reliable equipment that can handle the challenges if an accident occurs.

Framo, Maritime Partner, Norbit Aptomar, and NorLense have come together, bringing their world-leading technologies to establish the OSRV Group – a "one-stop-shop" for oil spill response. The companies in this Norwegian cluster are all specialists in their particular fields. All the Norwegian-manufactured components have a dedicated function to achieve the best result possible. This also allows for conventional supply vessels to be converted to emergency oil-spill response support units. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

NORLENSE is a Corporate Member of ISCO

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