

## 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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## LAST WEEK IN LONDON – COMMENTARY FROM ISCO SECRETARY, MATTHEW SOMMERVILLE

The Torrey Canyon incident of 18th March 1967 (51 years ago today) had a big impact on the UK and the global spill control and salvage industries and on collaboration between industry and governments to prevent and respond to incidents. This was recognised last year in an exhibition marking the 50th Anniversary of that event at IMO.



Above: The IMO Exhibition celebrating 50 years of government and industry working together to address the risk of oil pollution from ships.

The Torrey Canyon event was challenging for both Salvage and Spill Control involving as it involved one of the then largest ships and the largest release of a pollutant at that time. These challenges, while less frequent, continue today with ongoing growth in the size of ships, new cargoes and hazards to the marine environment as activities grow in new and more remote areas.

So, it was fitting that almost exactly 51 years later we saw not one but two events in London of interest to ISCO members who seek to keep development and momentum in both the salvage and spill control industries.

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provide a venue for delegates from around the world to meet and share and bring back knowledge. The latter being particularly important as the frequency of incidents continues to be managed down and experience may need to be harvested from other locations and incidents.

Over the next few weeks we will bring you some insight on the issues presented, new equipment and a capability of show from the many ISCO members attending.



Above: Photos Courtesy of INTERSPILL

The next triennial international conference and exhibition will be SPILLCON 2019 in Perth, Australia from 20th to 24th May. Australia and Perth great places to visit and active areas for the oil industry with significant new development and production coming on line and much of it based out of Perth. So make sure to plan your attendance and exhibition space early.

<https://www.spillcon.com/>

**SPILLCON**  
20 – 24 May 2019  
Perth, Australia



The **International Salvage Union (ISU)** is the global trade association representing marine salvors and its members provide marine casualty response, wreck removal, cargo recovery, towage and related activities. Their activities often being directly relevant to reducing marine pollution risk and scale and hence often done in cooperation with spill control activities

## International news (continued)

### The INTERSPILL 2018 conference and Exhibition at ExCel London

and

### The International Salvage Union annual Associate Members Conference.

Both events recognised the 70th anniversary of the International Maritime Organisation IMO and its contribution to prevention with the attendance the Secretary-General Kitack Lim at both events.

In addition to a wealth of key figures in the recent management, salvage and post incident compensation matters being present at the events. These included all three UK SoSRep's (current and two past holders of the post) the Australian Maritime Emergency Response Commander (MERCOT), Director of the IOPC Fund, International Group of P+I clubs and the full range of salvage and spill control companies key staff old and new, all of which hopefully demonstrates a commitment to the next 50 years of cooperation and collaboration.

**INTERSPILL** is the European element of the now well-established international Triennial conference programme. The other elements being **SPILLCON** in Australia and the **International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)** in the United States.

This was the 8th running of INTERSPILL which was established originally by the European spill industry associations, NOSCA, SYCOPOL, Eurospill and UKSpill and which has grown and gained wide government, oil industry and continuing spill control industry support.

These international conferences do not replace but complement the many excellent national, regional and topic specific conferences but do



Above: ISU 2018 photo competition winner

The associate members' day on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> included presentations on a wide range of issues including resources for spill control.

Few people know that the Torrey Canyon first ran aground of Los Angeles, California in 1966 because the salvage efforts were successful and she was refloated without loss of cargo or damage. Her subsequent grounding in 1967 was in more demanding circumstances and, not for the first or last time with little public recognition, a member of the salvage team Captain H.B. Stal gave his life in attempting to save her.



Photo: ISU President, Charo Coll, making the award of honorary life membership of ISU to Mr Hugh Shaw OBE

It seemed fitting then to your Secretary to see the International Salvage Union award an honorary life membership to Hugh Shaw OBE, the former UK Secretary of State's Representative for Marine Salvage and Intervention. At the same time Mr Shaw was also awarded the ISU's Meritorious Service Award by the ISU President, Charo Coll.

While the OBE was an official recognition of his contribution from the UK government for work and action, which the public are unlikely to be aware of, the recognition by those he worked with clearly moved Hugh who was unusually lost for words.

The new UK SoSRep and Australian Maritime Emergency Response Commander (MERCOC) also made presentations allowing delegates to compare and contrast the two systems

Amongst the presentations at the associate members day was the latest data gathered in the ISU's 2017 Pollution Prevention Survey. Members had provided 252 services to vessel carrying 3,405,477 tonnes of potentially polluting cargoes during operations in 2017. Of which over 255 was potential liquid pollutants. While the ISU is very clear and does not suggest that all these potential pollutants were at imminent risk of going into the sea the members have again undoubtedly helped to prevent significant environmental and financial consequences and pollution events.

The full report on the 2017 Pollution Survey can be found on the ISU web page <http://www.marine-salvage.com/>

## **SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE – A COLLABORATIVE EFFORT**

The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has joined leading oil spill experts and stakeholders to discuss future issues concerning oil spill preparedness, response and restoration – at the Interspill 2018 conference and exhibition in London (13-15 March).

Speaking at the opening session, IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said that “many years of collaborative work between governments and industry, at IMO, have helped reduce dramatically the number of oil spills and the amount of oil spilt from ships”.

## International news (continued)

Lim outlined how individual incidents had been catalysts for significant improvements, through IMO regulations, in areas such as ship design, operation, disposal of engine room wastes, as well as the framework for compensating the victims of pollution incidents.

He also highlighted IMO's continuing support, with assistance from a number of key partners, to countries to improve their capacity in preparing for, and dealing with, major incidents that might result in pollution damage. *Marine Link*  
[Read more](#)

## 8TH MEPA-MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION ASSOCIATION CREATED

On 28 February 2018, the Director General of HELMEPA, Dimitris C. Mitsatsos and the Chairman of Dubai Council for Marine & Maritime Industries (DCMMI), Mr. Khamis Juma Buamim, signed the Inaugural Declaration of UAEMEPA, the United Arab Emirates Marine Environment Protection Association.

The signing ceremony took place at the beginning of the 9th Offshore Arabia Conference at Dubai in the presence of the Secretary General of IMO, Mr. Kitack Lim, UAE high standing functionaries and representatives of organizations and companies from within world shipping.



The new MEPA is the 7th consecutive association, to the creation of which HELMEPA contributed, following relevant request of the interested parties. Mr. Kitack Lim congratulated HELMEPA for spreading the volunteer spirit of MEPAs, whose Members sustain the financial operation of the associations. Apart from HELMEPA in Greece, these entities are today: CYMEPA (Cyprus), TURMEPA (Turkey), URUMEPA (Uruguay), AUSMEPA (Australia), NAMEPA (USA), UKRMEPA (Ukraine) and UAEMEPA.

HELMEPA offers the expertise it has gained during the 35 years of its existence to UAEMEPA, together with the wish to succeed in its mission for the protection of the environment in the fragile sea area of the Gulf.

HELMEPA <http://www.helmepa.gr/en/news.php?target=inf0>

## THE WORST CONTAINERSHIP DISASTERS IN RECENT HISTORY... IN PHOTOS

March 12 – An excellent compilation of dramatic photographs and incident summaries from Mike Schuler of gCaptain. Each year, more than 100 million containers are shipped across the globe on containerships that can now stretch the length of three soccer fields or more. Despite the large number of containers shipped, accidents are relatively rare, with the best estimates saying that [less than 1,500 containers are lost from ships](#) each year on average.

But accidents do happen, and when they do they can lead to disaster. As I type this, there is a major fire on board the Maersk Honam, an ultra-large containership capable of transporting more than 15,000 twenty-foot containers. *gCaptain* [Read more and look at the photographs](#)



## Incident reports (in chronological order)

### USA: WASHINGTON - COAST GUARD, OTHERS, CLEANING UP DIESEL SPILL IN SEATTLE BAY

March 6 - Multiple agencies are cleaning up a diesel spill in Seattle's Portage Bay near Lake Union.

The U.S. Coast Guard says responders from the Coast Guard, Washington Department of Ecology, University of Washington and contacted response companies were at the scene of the spill Monday afternoon. The Coast Guard says agencies were placing absorbent materials to soak up an estimate 100 gallons of red-dye diesel involving a 135-foot research vessel owned and operated by the University of Washington. *Komo News* [Read more](#)

## Incident reports (continued)

### UK: WALES - STORM CAUSES DESTRUCTION OF HOLYHEAD MARINA AND MANY BOATS

March 7 - Concerns have been raised about the environmental impact of the virtual destruction of Holyhead Marina, Anglesey, Ynys Mon during Storm Emma late last week, with the economic cost of the incident certain to reach many millions of pounds. More than 80 vessels, as well as the marina itself, were destroyed in the early hours of Friday March 3rd. *Insurance Marine News* [Read more](#)

### USA: GEORGIA - FIREFIGHTERS, HAZMAT TEAM WORK TO CONTAIN FUEL LEAK INTO CREEK IN COHUTTA FRIDAY

March 9 - Firefighters and hazmat crews responded to reports of a fuel leak into a creek in Cohutta, police confirmed with us Friday. The leak happened near the Cohutta Food Mart on Highway 71, and has leaked into nearby Mills Creek. Firefighters have set up booms and absorbant towels to contain and absorb the fuel leak. *News Channel 9* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### USA: U.S. AUTHORITIES MONITORING 76 CONTAINERS LOST FROM MAERSK SHIP OFF NORTH CAROLINA

March 10 - U.S. authorities including the Coast Guard, NOAA and Environmental Protection Agency on Saturday are continuing to monitor and track approximately 76 stray cargo containers that fell from a Maersk containership about 17 miles off Oregon Inlet, North Carolina.

On Sunday, March 4, the containership Maersk Shanghai alerted Coast Guard watchstanders via VHF-FM channel 16 that they lost about 70 cargo containers during a heavy roll.

Maersk later confirmed the total number of containers lost overboard was 76 as well as their contents, the Coast Guard reported on Saturday. A. P. Moller-Maersk reported one of the containers lost at sea was carrying about 5,900 pounds of sulfuric acid. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

### NAMIBIA: GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATES OIL SPILL ON WALVIS BAY SHORES

March 12 - Investigations are ongoing to determine the origin of the oil spill that was washed ashore at Walvis Bay on Thursday evening. The worst spill seemed to be localised just in front of the Aphrodite Beach, according to the Namibian Dolphin Project, the research and conservation organisation involved in cleaning up the spill.

The Namibian Navy detected the oil spill on Thursday while patrolling the Namibian coastline. According to a highly placed naval official, a team of expert divers was dispatched by the Navy early Friday morning, following consultations with the Directorate of Maritime Affairs, to establish the magnitude of the oil spill as well as to stop it from spreading further. *New Era* [Read more](#)

### USA: TWO MISSING AFTER TOWING VESSEL CAPSIZES ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER NEAR NEW ORLEANS

March 12 - The U.S. Coast Guard and other federal and local agencies are responding to a report of two people missing after a towing vessel sank in the vicinity of mile marker 90.5 on the Mississippi River near New Orleans on Monday. Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector New Orleans received a report at 9:43 a.m. that the towing vessel Natalie Jean capsized with three people aboard. The good Samaritan vessel Earl Gosling rescued one person.

The Mississippi River is closed from mile marker 89 to 90.5. There is an estimated 600 gallons of fuel on board the Natalie Jean. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

### NEW CALEDONIA: KEA TRADER WRECK HIT BY TWO CYCLONES, CAUSING SHIFT ON REEF



March 12 - Two powerful cyclones within a month have caused the further deterioration of the wreck of the Kea Trader off New Caledonia in the South Pacific, further complicating the salvage, the owner of the vessel said Monday.

Over the weekend, the wreck site was hit with its second cyclone, Cyclone Hola, just three weeks after it was also hit by Cyclone Gita. In both instances, precautionary measures were put in place at the wreck site to minimize the impact from the storms, Lomar Shipping said in a update. Measures included bringing personnel and vessels were brought to safe shelter in Nouméa. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

## Incident reports (continued)

### USA: OIL SPILL CONTAINED AT WELL IN NORTHWESTERN NORTH DAKOTA

March 12 - The North Dakota Oil and Gas Division says an oil spill has been contained at an oil and gas well in northwestern North Dakota. Slawson Exploration Co. reports an estimated 10,584 gallons of oil was released, contained and recovered when a recycle line failed to the tanks Saturday. The spill happened about eight miles (13 kilometers) north of Noonan near the Canadian border. *The Kansas City Star* [Read more](#)

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### CANADA: TRAIN CARRYING CRUDE OIL DERAILS NEAR GOGAMA, ONTARIO

March 13 - Several tanker cars caught fire after a Canadian National Railway train carrying crude oil derailed in northern Ontario, prompting officials to advise nearby residents to stay indoors and avoid consuming water from local sources.

CN said its crew reported the derailment to emergency services at about 2:45 a.m. ET Saturday. Police said the train was 30 to 40 cars in length and 10 cars went off the track four kilometres northwest of Gogama, Ont. There were no reports of injuries. Some of the rail cars that caught fire entered the Mattagami River System, CN and police said. *CBC News* [Read more and watch video](#)

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### USA: OREGON - OIL SPILL PROMPTS WARNING TO AVOID MILES-LONG STRETCH OF MCKENZIE RIVER

March 14 - Following an oil spill, people are warned to avoid an 8-mile stretch of the McKenzie River -from Springfield's Hayden Bridge to Eugene's Armitage Park- until further notice. KLCC's Brian Bull reports. About 200 gallons of hydraulic oil was spilled. The leak was traced to the International Paper mill in Springfield. *KLCC* [Read more](#)

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

### BELGIUM: AUDIT OF ANTWERP'S SPILL RESPONSE PROCEDURES

Mar 12 - Audit in the Port of Antwerp From 19th to 23rd February, two engineers from Cedre were present in Antwerp, Belgium, to conduct an audit of spill response procedures in the port waters. This 5-day assignment provided the opportunity to hold discussions with port agents and the contractor in charge of spill response, as well as to attend a demonstration of their capacities and assess the various points for improvement. The forthcoming report will constitute an independent technical assessment which will be used by the Port of Antwerp as a basis to draft a new tender notice to contract spill response services. *CEDRE* [Read more](#)

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### CANADA: ALBERTA - OIL FIRM CEASING OPERATIONS, LEAVING THOUSANDS OF ALBERTA WELLS UNTENDED

March 8 - A massive number of oil and gas wells, facilities and pipeline segments stand to be added to the already bulging files of the Alberta Orphan Well Association in the wake of the likely failure of Sequoia Resources Corp. All of the Calgary-based company's operating licences were ordered suspended after the privately held oil and gas company warned the Alberta Energy Regulator late last month it was ceasing operations "imminently" and, as a result of "defaults in municipal tax payments," would not be able to afford to reclaim all of its properties. *Global News* [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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### CANADA: ACTIVATING A VESSEL RESPONSE PLAN

March 13 - Vessel Response Plan activation is one area where Coast Guard personnel often encounter confusion from vessel masters and response plan holders over the threshold for activating a response plan and which of their actions actually constitute plan activation. The implications of VRP activation are significant and a clear understanding is essential. Failure to activate a plan quickly or failure to use pre-contracted resources can result in delayed response and exacerbate potential environmental damages.

In this post, we will attempt to clarify when plan activation occurs and which situations require plan activation.

Which situations require VRP activation?

The master or person in charge of the vessel is required to activate the VRP when he or she determines that the resources and personnel available on board the vessel cannot meet the needs of an actual discharge or the substantial threat of discharge. It is important to understand that although hazardous conditions, such as an engine casualty, grounding, fire, or flooding, may not directly result in a discharge, plan activation is still required because, if left unresolved, they could result in a discharge. *Coast Guard Maritime Commons* [Continue reading](#)

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## CANADA: FUNDING FOR SPILL RESPONSE AND OCEAN NOISE INITIATIVES



March 13 - Canada's Minister of Transport Marc Garneau has announced a range of coastal protection measures under the nation's Oceans Protection Plan.

Among them, Aqua-Guard Spill Response from British Columbia has been awarded a \$1.2 million contract for new multi-cassette portable skimmer packages to recover marine pollution spills.

Over \$167 million has been assigned to whale research, including the survival risks faced by the endangered Southern Resident Killer Whale. The ultimate aim is to implement regulatory and other measures to reduce underwater noise from vessels.

The \$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan is the largest investment ever made to protect Canada's coasts and waterways, and the Government has already announced initiatives worth more than \$500 million under the Plan. This includes \$12.6 million over three years to the Nunavut Fisheries and Marine Training Consortium to deliver a Marine Training Program in the North. Also, in February, the government announced an additional \$72,000 to support the Vancouver Aquarium's PollutionTracker, a monitoring program that will help identify the sources of contaminants in British Columbia's marine environment. In total, the Government has contributed approximately \$470,000 towards the implementation of the program.

*The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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## FINLAND: THE NUMBER OF OIL DISCHARGES OBSERVED AT SEA HAS FURTHER DECREASED

March 7 – From the Finnish Environment Institute SYKE and the Finnish Border Guard -

Fewer illegal oil discharges in sea areas were reported to the Finnish authorities in 2017 than in the previous year. There were 44 oil discharges in 2017, compared to 48 in 2016. Investigations concerning illegal oil discharges were begun in four cases. Most of the discharges occurred near harbours or shores and involved small amounts of oil. The largest individual discharge involved around 1,000 litres of oil. *Environment.fi* [Read more](#)

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## FINLAND PREPARES FOR 'NIGHTMARE' WINTERTIME BALTIC OIL SPILL



*Photo: Heavy duty ice brushes assembled into FNS Louhi, a Finnish multipurpose oil and chemical spill response vessel. Day two of Kemi Arctic 2015 Oil Recovery Exercise and Conference. (Photo courtesy of Jorma Rytkonen/Finnish Environment Institute SYKE)*

March 15 - What keeps Jorma Rytkonen up at night is the possibility of a Russian oil tanker colliding with a Finnish or an Estonian car ferry and releasing tens of thousands of tons of crude oil into the already polluted and fragile Baltic Sea.

"The absolute worst scenario would be the collision of an Aframax type of a tanker coming from a Russian oil terminal and a car ferry heading from Helsinki to Tallinn, Estonia," Rytkonen, a top Finnish oil spill response expert, said in a phone interview from London, England, where he was one of the guest speakers at the Interspill 2018 conference and exhibition.

"If you have a car ferry with 2,500 passengers, you have a tanker with 100,000 tons of crude oil, fire on board, explosions, that would be a hell of a mess."

About 160 million tons of crude oil and oil products a year are transported along Finland's coast in the Gulf of Finland.

That's about 2,000 Aframax-type tankers, each carrying between 75,000 and 120,000 tons of crude from Russian oil terminals in the eastern Baltic westbound to ports like Rotterdam and further west, said Rytkonen, who works at the Finnish Environment Institute. *RCINet* [Continue reading](#)

## FRANCE: FEBRUARY ACTIVITIES REPORT FROM CEDRE

March 12 - In February, Cedre's emergency response team was called upon by the Tarn fire brigade to assess the risks generated by two fertilisers containing phosphoric anhydride and potassium oxide in connection with a fire and extinguishing water.

Secondly, we were contacted by Vigipol after two drums of chemicals washed ashore in the Sillon de Talbert nature reserve (Côtes-d'Armor) to determine the risks related to these products and their possible interactions.

We received a query relating to an abnormal water colour (Porquerolles Island, Var), suspected to be of mineral origin. Sightings of tarballs and patches of oil on the shores of Porspoder (Finistère) were reported by an individual.

Finally, we received an enquiry into the spill response equipment available in French Guiana and the French West Indies. *CEDRE* [Read more](#)

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## JAPAN: OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2018

The plan is up-to-date as of March 2018 [Download the plan](#)

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## MOZAMBIQUE: IOPC FUNDS WORKSHOP HELD IN MAPUTO

March 6 - At the invitation of the National Maritime Institute (INAMAR) of Mozambique, the IOPC Funds ran a workshop in Maputo, from 6 to 8 March 2018, on claims and compensation following an oil spill from tankers. Claims Manager, Chiara DellaMea and Claims Administrator, Chrystelle Collier, delivered presentations on the international liability and compensation regime for oil pollution damage. On behalf of the International Group of P&I Associations, Vice-President and Head of Environmental Claims at Gard Club, Nick Platt, presented on other liability conventions.



The workshop, which culminated in a simulation exercise covering response to a spill and the submission of claims for compensation, was attended by over 40 participants from several government departments and private industries. <http://www.iopcfunds.org/news-events/detail/item/907/>

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## RUSSIA: DANGEROUS CARGOES: NEW TRANSPORTATION REQUIREMENTS” CONFERENCE HELD IN MOSCOW

March 5 - Media Group PortNews thanks the Ministry of Transport of the Russian Federation for its support to the first conference “Dangerous cargoes: new transportation requirements” and Marine Cargo Bureau which acted as General Sponsor of the event.

The event has gathered representatives of RF Transport Ministry, Rosmorrechflot, Russian Maritime Register of Shipping, Transport Prosecutor’s Office, Transport Committee of the State Duma, Harbour Masters of seaports, industry-focused educational institutions, stevedoring companies, owners of hazardous cargo, shipping companies, forwarders, surveyors.

The Conference was held on 1 March 2018, at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry of the Russian Federation, Moscow. *Port News* [Read more](#)



[Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]



## **UK: OPEN CONSULTATION: UK NATIONAL STANDARD FOR MARINE OIL SPILL RESPONSE PROVIDERS**

March 2 - The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention) Regulations 1998 (SI 1988 No.1056) (as amended) state that UK ports, harbours and oil-handling facilities must submit oil spill contingency plans (OSCP) to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA), or, for responsible persons for offshore installations, Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (OPEPs) to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), for approval.

As part of the approvals process for category A&B ports, harbours and oil handling facilities (as detailed in the **OPRC Guidelines for Ports**), the MCA require contingency plans to detail the contract they hold with accredited third-party Tier 2 Marine Pollution Response Service Providers (hereafter referred to as "provider").

BEIS similarly require responsible persons to detail in OPEPs any arrangements in place with a specialist oil spill response provider (as detailed in the **Guidance Notes for Preparing Oil Pollution Emergency Plans**). As it stands, other than the requirement for the response provider to be accredited, there are no mandated standards for this service provision.

Through the implementation of a UK National Standard for Marine Oil Spill Response Providers, the MCA and BEIS seek to develop their oversight of an industry with strategic importance to the UK and to ensure that minimum standards are adhered to which are commensurate to the threat from marine oil pollution. The UK Standard will be applied by any accrediting body which submits a proposed scheme of accreditation to the MCA and BEIS for approval.

The UK Standard, as published on this website, is a draft version. The MCA and BEIS seek comments from all stakeholders on this document. Anyone can comment, but the MCA and BEIS would envision the main stakeholders to be accrediting bodies which may apply the Standard, the marine pollution response industry and those who do or may in the future contract a response provider. Comments and questions should be submitted to - [ukresponderstandard@mca.gov.uk](mailto:ukresponderstandard@mca.gov.uk)

The consultation will run for two months from 08/01/2018 to 09/03/2018. During the consultation, any questions on the Standard will be answered; questions and answers may be published on the consultation page to ensure all stakeholders remain informed. *IMarEST* [Read more](#)

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## **UK: SCOTLAND - WORK BEGINS ON DEALING WITH HIGHLY TOXIC LIQUID AT DOUNREAY**

March 3 - Work has begun on dealing with a highly radioactive liquid that has been stored in tanks at the Dounreay nuclear site, near Thurso, for about 20 years. The raffinate was produced as a by-product from the operation of the site's Prototype Fast Reactor (PFR).

The work that has started involves turning the liquid into a solid by mixing it with materials including cement, ash and lime. Before solidifying, the waste will be poured into drums. Dounreay said the process would create "a solid, passively safe waste package" for long-term storage. *BBC News* [Read more](#)

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## **USA: ALASKA - REGULATOR WANTS OIL COMPANIES TO CLEAN UP OLD WELLS**

March 7 - Cathy Foerster of the Alaska Oil and Gas Conservation Commission testified before the Senate Resources Committee on Monday, Alaska's Energy Desk reported. Foerster said it's becoming more common for smaller oil companies to operate in Alaska — and those companies may be more financially unstable. Foerster warned that if a big oil field such as Prudhoe Bay is sold to a smaller company that goes bankrupt and can't pay for cleanup, it could cost the state billions of dollars.

She said the state currently has a \$200,000 bond to cover the cost of plugging and abandoning all the wells at Prudhoe Bay. "For \$200,000 we couldn't even pay for the engineering study that would give us the estimate on what the true cost is to plug all of those wells," Foerster said. "So we're in a bad situation on having adequate bonding for our wells, and we're working it." *Fox Business* [Read more](#)

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## **USA: BSEE RELEASES PANEL INVESTIGATION REPORT INTO SUBSEA JUMPER LEAK**

March 9 - The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) today released the panel investigation report on the May 11, 2016 subsea jumper leak on a platform operated by Shell Offshore, Inc. The leak from Green Canyon Block 248 occurred on Subsea Well #4, resulting in an estimated release of 1,926 barrels of oil. To read more about the panel investigation, the full report can be found [here](#). *BSEE* [Read more](#)

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### USA: COLORADO - TOXIC SPILL IN THE NAVAJO NATION

March 12 - A new film highlights the efforts of a Diné hydrologist to protect sacred waters - In August of 2015, members of the Navajo, or Diné, Nation watched “in horror” as a yellow plume of 3 million gallons of acid mine drainage rushed into their major water supply—the San Juan River. EPA contractors had been investigating the abandoned Gold King Mine near Silverton, Colorado, when they disturbed a plug holding back millions of gallons of heavy metal-laden water. *Scientific American* [Continue reading](#)

### USA: RECENT CHANGES EXPECTED TO IMPACT ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

March 13 - Two recent developments have the potential to significantly impact governmental enforcement actions under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA, or Superfund), the Clean Water Act and the Clean Air Act, among other environmental programs. One is a policy change implemented by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and the other is a little-known provision buried in the recent Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, Public Law 115-97, signed into law by President Donald Trump on Dec. 22, 2017. *HK Law* [Read more](#)

### USA: NEW HAMPSHIRE COASTAL OIL SPILL EXERCISE PLANNED FOR MARCH 22

March 14 - The Portsmouth Oil Spill Response Workgroup, in conjunction with the Maine/NH Area Committee, is sponsoring an oil spill exercise on March 22, 2018.

This exercise will provide participants with an opportunity to assess capabilities, plans, policies and procedures. It will focus on decision making, coordination and integration with other organizations during a significant cold weather coastal oil spill. The expected outcome of the exercise will be improved working relationships between various local, state and federal agencies, as well as the local vessel transportation industry. *NH Dept. of Env. Services* [Read more](#)

### USA: NOAA OR&R HOSTS MEETING OF INTERAGENCY COORDINATION COMMITTEE ON OIL POLLUTION RESEARCH



*Photo: ICCOPR members receive a demonstration of Science on a Sphere at NOAA headquarters. In addition to visualizing several global Science on a Sphere datasets, OR&R presented a pilot visualization of the fate of surface oil from the Deepwater Horizon incident prepared by the SeaGrant Gulf Outreach Team and GRIIDC: the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Information and Data Cooperative. Image credit: NOAA.*

March 16 - OR&R hosted the second quarter meeting of the [Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research \(ICCOPR\)](#) ([link is external](#)) at its Silver Spring, Maryland, Metro Center Campus on March 14. Deputy Assistant Administrator Nicole LeBoeuf kicked off the meeting welcoming the group to NOAA, relaying her personal and professional interest in the topic and emphasizing the importance of the work that ICCOPR members conduct. Scott Lundgren, the OR&R Emergency Response Division Chief served as vice chair of the meeting, a role he will hold for the FY2018-2019 biennium. *OR&R* [Read more](#)

### ISCO news

#### COMMITTEE MEMBER CAPT. BILL BOYLE REPORTS FROM THE ISCO BOOTH AT INTERSPILL

The ISCO stand at the show was busy and I was glad to have the opportunity to meet and talk with members and many visitors. Most enquiries were about the benefits of ISCO membership. There was much interest in the initiatives advanced by ISCO including the new ISCO-BIMCO SPILLCON response contracts and the many other support services provided for members – There was a good uptake of the updated ISCO brochure and more information on ISCO services is available on the website at [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org)

All thought the Newsletter was very good and told me that they gained a lot of information from it. Several thought it would be beneficial to be able to advertise in the Newsletter as it has such a wide audience – this is currently under consideration.

**THE CHAIRMAN OF HELMEPA RECEIVED THE 2018 GREEN4SEA LEADERSHIP AWARD**



Photo: Dr. G. Gratsos with Mr. D. Matthaïou, Managing Director, Arcadia Shipmanagement and Member of BoD of HELMEPA

March 8 - The Chairman of HELMEPA Dr. George Gratsos received the 2018 GREEN4SEA Leadership Award, sponsored by Arcadia Shipmanagement, Associate Corporate Member of HELMEPA, on the occasion of the GREEN4SEA Conference, on 6th March at the Yacht Club of Greece. Dr. Gratsos was honored for "demonstrating innovative, initiative-driven leadership by holding various positions throughout his career impacting significantly the national and international shipping industry".

**Company news from ISCO members**

**ELASTEC ATTENDS WORKSHOP ON “PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE AGAINST OIL SPILL EMERGENCIES IN PAKISTANI WATERS”**

March 12 - Karachi Port Trust (KPT) organized a two-day workshop on “Preparedness and Response against Oil Spill Emergencies in Pakistani Waters” in recognition of 70year services of International Maritime Organization (IMO). While speaking on the occasion, the oil spill response expert and Regional Director of Elastec Jan Hoven spoke on oil spill response and international obligations and strategies with respect to IMO level I and II in the first technical session. In the technical session he remained focused on oil spill related technologies and equipment. Other guest speakers Rear Admiral Pervaiz Asghar (retd) and Dr. Samina Qudwai also spoke on building equipment, technology and strategy to combat pollution being faced by the Pakistani coastline. *Elastec* [Read more](#)

**AQUA-GUARD SECURES THREE YEAR CONTRACT WITH CANADIAN COAST GUARD**

March 14 - Aqua-Guard was awarded the first contract under Canada's Environmental Response Equipment Modernization initiative of the Oceans Protection Plan designed to protect Canada’s coasts and waterways. Today, during a speech at the British Columbia Chamber of Shipping’s Annual General Meeting, the Honourable Marc Garneau, Minister of Transport, announced that under the Oceans Protection Plan, the Government of Canada following an open, competitive process, Aqua-Guard Spill Response Inc., from North Vancouver, British Columbia, has been awarded a \$1.2M contract for new marine environment response equipment, specifically multi-cassette portable skimmer packages. The Canadian Coast Guard uses portable skimmers to recover marine pollution spills and reduce the potential impact to shorelines and other natural resources. *Aqua-Guard* [Read more](#)

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

<a href="#">AMSA Aboard</a>	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2017
<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request via email
<a href="#">Bow Wave</a>	Sam Ignarski’s Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	February 2018
<a href="#">CROIERG Enews</a>	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	October 2017
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	March 2018 issue
<a href="#">EUROWA Newsletter</a>	European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module	October 2017
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Winter 2017 issue
<a href="#">IMO Publishing News</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2018
<a href="#">Intertanko Weekly News</a>	International news for the oil tanker community	March 16, 2018
<a href="#">JOIFF “The Catalyst”</a>	Int’l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q1 2018 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Jan-Feb, 2018
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2018 issue
<a href="#">NOWPAP Quarterly</a>	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 2, 2017 issue
<a href="#">Ocean Orbit</a>	Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	August 2017
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	February 2018 issue
<a href="#">PEMSEA E-Updates</a>	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	January 2018
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	March 14, 2018
<a href="#">Safe Seas, Clean Seas</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	August 2017 issue
<a href="#">Salvage World</a>	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current & past issues
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	December 2017 issue
<a href="#">Spill Alert</a>	Newsletter from the UK Spill Association	December 2017 issue
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Jan. 16-31, 2018
<a href="#">Transport Canada Newsletter</a>	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	June 2017 issue
<a href="#">UK NCEC</a>	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	July 2017 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	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

## Upcoming events summary

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

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