



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO has Consultative Status at IMO, Observer Status at IOPC Funds and is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

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International news

For more information on the events featured below, click on the banners

NEW PACT STRENGTHENS RESPONSE TO OIL AND CHEMICAL SPILLS IN S. E. ASIA



March 29 - The Indian [government](#) today approved the signing of a pact between [India](#) and South Asian [Cooperative Environment Programme \(SACEP\)](#) for cooperation on the response to [oil](#) and chemical [pollution](#) in the South Asian Seas Region.

The [Union Cabinet](#) chaired by [Prime Minister Narendra Modi](#) approved the pact which intends to promote cooperation between [India](#) and other maritime nations, comprising the South Asian seas region for protection and preservation of marine environment.

"[Indian Coast Guard \(ICG\)](#) will be the [Competent National Authority](#) and national operational contact point for implementation of [Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan](#) under the MoU and shall respond to [oil](#) and [chemical spills](#) on behalf of [Government of India](#).

"Further, [ICG Maritime Rescue Coordination Centres \(MRCCs\)](#) will be the [national emergency response centre](#) for marine incidents," an official statement said.

In order to promote and support protection, management and enhancement of the environment in the South Asian region, the governments of [Afghanistan](#), [Bangladesh](#), [Bhutan](#), [India](#), [Maldives](#), [Nepal](#), [Pakistan](#) and [Sri Lanka](#) established the SACEP in 1982 in [Sri Lanka](#).

The SACEP jointly with the [International Maritime Organisation \(IMO\)](#) developed a [Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan](#) to facilitate international cooperation and mutual assistance in preparing and responding to a major [oil pollution](#) incidents in the seas around [Bangladesh](#), [India](#), [Maldives](#), [Pakistan](#) and [Sri Lanka](#).

Business Standard [Read more](#)

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So said the European Commission in 2011 when it tabled legislation to tighten EU rules on offshore drilling in the wake of the Deepwater Horizon catastrophe the year before.

The [Safety of Offshore Oil and Gas Operations Directive](#) was adopted two years later, ushering in strict requirements aimed at preventing such a disaster occurring in European waters, and ensuring oil and gas companies were liable for any damage they might cause.

EU countries were obliged to adopt the new rules into domestic law by 2015, but a three year transition period means that the new rules will only apply fully this year.

By 19 July, governments must ensure that all existing oil rigs and other production installations comply with the directive. "It's a milestone for the offshore industry," said Rob Beks, a senior consultant on asset risk management at DNV GL, which is offering independent verification services to offshore operators. *Euractiv* [Read more](#)

NEW PREMIAM GUIDELINES LAUNCHED

March 28 - An updated second edition of the PREMIAM guidelines on post-incident environmental monitoring is now available.

The guidelines are a key output from the PREMIAM initiative (Pollution Response in Emergencies: Marine Impact Assessment and Monitoring) which was established in 2009.

ITOPF is one of the supporters of PREMIAM which is co-ordinated by emergency response and impact assessment experts from Cefas (Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science, UK).

The guidelines cover the key principles of an environmental monitoring programme.

They also describe why, where, when, what and how monitoring is conducted, and what key scientific techniques and approaches should be considered.

This new edition also includes sections on the importance of data management and reporting to promote effective dissemination.

To download the PREMIAM guidelines, visit <https://www.cefas.co.uk/premium/guidelines/>. For more information about the project, contact premium@cefas.co.uk or mark.kirby@cefas.co.uk. [Thanks to ITOPF]

International news (continued)

OFFSHORE OIL FACING COUNTDOWN TO COMPLY WITH NEW EU SAFETY RULES



Above: Fire boat response crews battle the blazing remnants of the off shore oil rig Deepwater Horizon April 21, 2010. [U.S. Coast Guard photo / EPI2oh / Flickr]

March 30 - Oil companies operating in European waters are racing to comply with a 19 July deadline to implement new EU safety rules on offshore drilling, adopted in the aftermath of the disastrous BP oil slick in the Gulf of Mexico.

"The likelihood of a major offshore accident in European waters remains unacceptably high."

International news (continued)

PROGRESS AT LATEST HELCOM EXPERT WORKING GROUP MEETING

The Expert Working group on Oiled Wildlife Response (EWG-OWR), which Sea Alarm chairs, recently held its 10th meeting.

The EWG-OWR is a platform for exchange between authorities from the Contracting Parties to the Convention on the Protection of the Marine Environment of the Baltic Sea Area (the Helsinki Convention or HELCOM), who are charged with responsibilities in an oiled wildlife response. The group, created under [HELCOM RESPONSE](#), shares their varied experiences with emergency response, exercises, training and planning processes.

One of the highlights of the meeting was a report from Poland on the development of their national oiled wildlife response plan, and the training and exercises being organised on the basis of this plan. National response plans, and the activities required to make them effective in managing impacted wildlife, are at the core of the EWG-OWR's work.

The EWG-OWR is also exploring the role euthanasia plays as a response option for oiled wildlife. A dialogue has started with Denmark, a member of the working group which uses euthanasia as its default approach in handling oiled wildlife incidents. Key topics in the ongoing discussion are methodologies for employing euthanasia, logistic and organisational requirements, and the decision-making procedures for choosing between rehabilitation and euthanasia as alternative options for dealing with oiled animals.

To further the groups' efforts in this area, Sea Alarm is currently revising its Self-Assessment Tool to explicitly include euthanasia and the preparedness levels that can be applied to the use of this process. <https://www.sea-alarm.org>

EUROPE: NEW PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE FOR OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSELS

March 27 - In order to strengthen its response capacity network EMSA announces the launch of a procurement procedure to contract a new stand-by oil spill recovery vessel in the East Mediterranean Sea.

The relevant Contract Notice for this procedure (2018/S 056-123126) as published in the Official Journal of the European Union can be found in the following link: <http://ted.europa.eu/udl?uri=TED:NOTICE:123126-2018:TEXT:EN:HTML>

Incident reports (in chronological order)

USA: WASHINGTON - BARGE COMPANY FINED \$18,000 FOR SPILLING LIQUID FERTILIZER TO COLUMBIA AND SNAKE RIVERS

March 19 - A local barge company has been fined \$18,000 for spilling 40,000 gallons of liquid urea ammonium nitrate into the Snake and Columbia rivers.

Urea ammonium nitrate is a common fertilizer that is corrosive to steel. An investigation by the Washington Department of Ecology found that two steel tank barges owned and operated by Tidewater Barge Lines, Inc. were not properly maintained, causing the liquid fertilizer to spill into the rivers during three separate incidents in April 2017. *NBC* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

UAE: DUBAI - MAERSK SAYS NO EVIDENCE YET OF DANGEROUS GOODS IN CONTAINERS

March 20 - Although Maersk Line has stopped placing dangerous goods in areas close to living sections and machinery spaces on their container vessels (see yesterday's IMN, March 19th 2018), the company has emphasized that there was as yet no evidence to indicate that the fire on Maersk Honam started because of either declared or non-declared dangerous goods.

Maersk said that all containers were loaded in accordance with the safeguards described in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code. Maersk said that no calcium hypochlorite — a commodity often connected to container fires — was reported to have been on board. *Insurance Marine News* [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: ANOTHER SPILL FOULS CARENAGE

March 20 - The Environmental Management Authority (EMA) and the Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) are investigating the source of the spill near the Alcoa Jetty in Carenage on Tuesday. The oil slick was spotted near the the Carenage Fishing Centre, and reported to the authorities. According to a statement from the EMA: "The ERI (Emergency Response and Investigations unit of the EMA) officers have also reported that the oily substance appeared to be weathered and not crude oil, however, representatives of the IMA took sample during the on-site investigation for further analysis". *Trinidad Express* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Incident reports (continued)

UK / FRANCE: CARGO SHIP CAPSIZES IN ENGLISH CHANNEL

March 22 - General cargo ship Britannica Hav (IMO 8506440) turned over after being struck by general cargo ship Deborah – Z 121 in the English Channel during the afternoon of March 20th when some 50 miles north-east of Cherbourg. The freighter had 48 tons of light diesel fuel on board and a slight iridescence of gas oil was observed. The Maritime Prefect of the Channel and the North Sea has requested anti-pollution equipment from Brest along with the assistance of an anti-pollution vessel. *Insurance Marine News* [Read more](#)

USA: FLORIDA - COAST GUARD RESPONDS TO DIESEL SPILL AFTER FISHING BOAT CATCHES FIRE

March 24 - The Coast Guard and local agencies responded to a diesel fuel spill in Pensacola Bay on Friday. Pensacola Fire Department extinguished the fire but the vessel sank and discharged an estimated 100 gallons of diesel into the water. Seatow deployed containment boom and sorbent pads around the vessel to collect oil. A vacuum truck and skimmer began operations Saturday morning. *NWF Daily News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

SOUTH KOREA: PASSENGER SHIP WITH 163 PASSENGERS ON THE ROCKS



March 25 - Fast speed passenger ship PINK DOLPHIN ran on small island's coastal rocks in the afternoon Mar 25 in South Jeolla Province waters, southwest Korea, while en route to Mokpo with 163 passengers and 5 crew on board. All passengers were evacuated, 6 said to suffer injuries and were hospitalized. PINK DOLPHIN remains on the rocks, high and dry. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

DENMARK: CONTAINER SHIP AND CARGO SHIP COLLIDED IN GREAT BELT, FIRE, LOST CONTAINERS, PHOTOS.

March 27 - Container ship DELPHIS GDANSK collided with general cargo ship BBC NEPTUNE shortly after 0400 UTC Mar 27 in Great Belt west of Kalundborg, Denmark. Both ships were damaged, one suffered fire. Container ship DELPHIS GDANSK lost some containers. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH DAKOTA - OIL EMULSION SPILL REACHES CREEK IN SOUTHWEST

March 27 - Officials say an emulsion spill has reached a creek in southwestern North Dakota. The North Dakota Department of Health says the spill was discovered 8 miles southwest of Rhame in Bowman County on Monday and was reported the same day. Oil emulsion is a mix of crude oil and produced water from a well. Officials say a flow line owned by Denbury Onshore LLC leaked. Initial estimates indicate about 420 gallons of produced water and 84 gallons of oil were released, with some of the produced water and crude oil reaching Spring Creek. *Kansas City Star* [Read more](#)

COLOMBIA: DEVASTATING CRUDE OIL SPILL IN ONE OF COLOMBIA'S PRINCIPAL RIVERS



March 29 - On March 2, the oil well Lizama 158 in the Lizama stream in the rural area of Barrancabermeja, Colombia ruptured. 16 days later the oil spill continues to wreak havoc on the environment and the communities. The spill of at least 550 barrels of crude oil contaminated three streams and the Sogamoso River, a tributary to Colombia's largest river the Magdalena. It has already killed an incalculable number of fish and native animals, contaminated and destroyed several principal water sources and already caused sickness in neighboring communities. *NewsClick* [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

March 27 - More Than 2,400 Animals Killed by Oil Spill in Colombia - An oil spill of approximately 550 barrels (23,100 gallons) has killed more than 2,400 fish, birds and reptiles near the city of Barrancabermeja, Colombia, RCN Radio reported. Oil started spilling from the Lizama 158 oil field in early March and spread down 15 miles of the Lizama river and 12.4 miles of the Sogamoso river. *Eco Watch* [Read more](#)

March 27 - News received from Carlos Sagrera, M.Sc, MISCO, HSE & Oil Spill Control Advisor and Member of ISCO Council for Panama – Here you have some Colombian links in Spanish concerning the oil spill in Barranca Bermeja, near the middle Magdalena River in the center of Colombia. The initial videos are very interesting and one of them is recommended by the way in which the Colombian press investigates the causes and shows documents of the oil company compromising on the previous status of the affected well.



<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SpHnn-ypYkE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=39SJTt5i8BM>

<https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/nacional/el-derrame-de-petroleo-en-santander-visto-desde-un-dron-video-746707>

<http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/sigue-tragedia-ambiental-por-derrame-de-petroleo-en-santander-DX8451137>

<http://www.eltiempo.com/colombia/otras-ciudades/informe-revela-que-ecopetrol-conocia-fallas-en-zona-del-derrame-198320>

<http://www.elcolombiano.com/colombia/ecopetrol-da-explicaciones-por-tragedia-ambiental-en-santander-DF8456849>

<https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/medio-ambiente/no-hemos-ocultado-informacion-ecopetrol-sobre-derrame-de-petroleo-articulo-746745>

March 29 – More from Carlos Sagrera - Concerning this news in Barrancabermeja herewith two Colombian links with environmental critics of the management of the situation and the official position of Environmental Ministry and two better confirmed photos of the consequences of the spill. This is a political crisis now in Colombia.

<http://lasillavacia.com/silla-santandereana/lo-que-revela-el-derrame-de-crudo-en-barrancabermeja-65306>

<https://www.elespectador.com/noticias/medio-ambiente/si-ecopetrol-no-ha-cumplido-con-medidas-para-detener-la-emergencia-sera-sancionado-minambiente-articulo-746559>



Incident reports (continued)

CHINA: HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SCARE ABOARD CONTAINERSHIP AT SHANGHAI'S YANGSHAN PORT

March 29 - Authorities in China responded Wednesday to a dangerous chemical leak on board a containership docked at the Yangshan Deep Water Port in Shanghai, China.

According to reports of the incident, alert workers spotted the clear and colorless chemical leaking from a container that had just been loaded aboard the 6,500 TEU containership MV Puelo.

It was eventually determined that the liquid was cyclohexane, a highly-flammable chemical used in industrial production. Shanghai Maritime Safety Administration reported that the vessel was loaded with about 17 tons of the stuff, and the container was leaking at a rate of about 40 liters per hour. A HAZMAT crew was brought in to remove the container and clean up what was spilled. *gCaptain* [Read more](#) Another report in [FleetMon Maritime News](#)

TAIWAN, CHINA - CARGO SHIP ON ROCKS, PARTIALLY SANK



March 31 - Cargo ship YUAN TAI 789 ran aground on rocks early in the morning Beijing time Mar 31 in Taiwan Strait some 3 nm off southeast coast of Kinmen Island, China. The fore part of the ship went under water, not clear whether the ship broke in two or is pivoted on rocks with bow under water and stern tilted up. SAR boats didn't find crew, only empty life rafts, all crew were already rescued by ships in the area, no casualties, no injuries reported. Maritime authorities meanwhile, are assessing condition of YUAN TAI 789 and chances to salvage her, or at least, to prevent pollution. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

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

GUYANA: AUTHORITIES MEET TO FINALIZE NATIONAL OIL-SPILL RESPONSE PLAN

March 28 - Guyanese authorities today began—through a one day stakeholder workshop—a review of its National Draft Oil Spill Contingency Plan, for finalizing and implementation within the next 24 months, ahead of first-oil in March 2020.

Spearheaded by the South American country's Civil the Ministry of the Presidency, the country's first draft 'oil spill response plan' was prepared by Safety Director of Guyana Maritime Administration's (MARAD), Captain John Flores.

The one-day stakeholder consultation venued at the CDC's Thomas Lands, Georgetown Headquarters, saw in attendance representation from various entities including the Guyana Police Force, the Environmental Protection Agency and the Guyana Marine Turtle Conservation Society, among others.

[Continue reading](#) Read another report in [News Room Guyana](#)



Oil Now

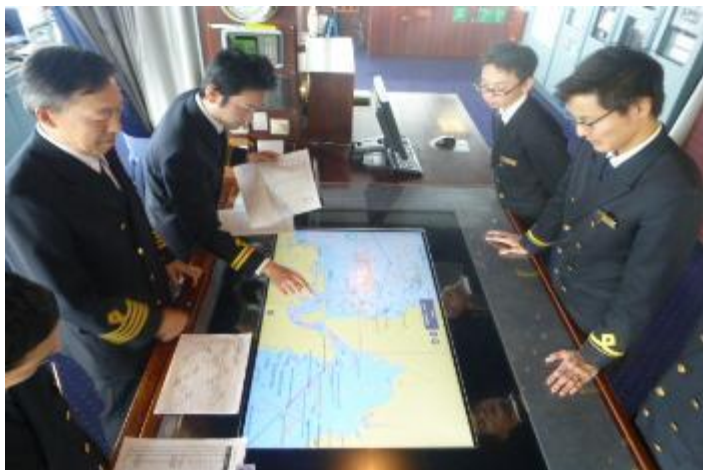
INDIA: WATCH: HOW AN INDIAN PROFESSOR IS TURNING PLASTIC TRASH INTO HIGHWAYS

March 29 - Plastic pollution is one of the greatest challenges facing the world. Just last week scientists writing in the journal Scientific Reports announced that the weight of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch was four to 16 times more than we thought. All of this means finding ways to recycle and reuse plastic waste are more important than ever.

Enter Rajagopalan Vasudevan, a professor at the Thiagarajar College of Engineering in Madurai, India. After seeing plastic waste was a growing problem throughout the country, he devised a method for converting recycled, shredded plastic waste into flexible, long-lasting roadways. To date, thousands of kilometers of highways in India have been paved using the process he invented, thereby reducing the amount of plastic waste that might otherwise be released into the environment. *Ensia* [Watch the video](#) This video was produced by Budapest, Hungary-based filmmaker [Seth Coleman](#)

News reports from around the world (continued)

JAPAN: NYK TESTS CRUISE EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS TOOL



March 24 - NYK has conducted a ship-to-shore connection test for a navigation support tool designed to boost communications during emergencies at sea.

The system, J-Marine NeCST, has been developed in cooperation with the Monohakobi Technology Institute and Japan Radio. For the test, a fire was presumed to have occurred on the cruise ship Asuka II operated by NYK Cruises. The two J-Marine NeCST systems, one on board Asuka II and the other at NYK's Crisis Management Center in Tokyo, were connected via the internet, the fire emergency function was activated and an emergency checklist and fire control plan were immediately shared on synchronized screens. Prompt communication was then tested via the tool's chat function.

During an onboard emergency, particularly one involving fire, immediate and accurate communication between ship and shore is vital, says NYK. Currently, onboard crews must report on the ship's condition by phone, fax or email while also engaging the fire. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

NETHERLANDS: PREPAREDNESS PROJECT MOVES FORWARD

March 30 - Work has begun on the oiled wildlife response programme introduced in the Sea Alarm December 2017 newsletter.

One focus of that new programme is the development of methodologies to assess what an unfolding oil spill scenario could mean for resources on the ground that would need to be mobilised to deal with impacted animals.

Experts from permanent rehabilitation facilities recently met to develop and discuss a methodology for predicting the point at which new admissions would overload a facility. By looking at day by day increases in animals, such as would happen during a spill, a quantitative assessment was created to predict when that overload would occur. A full discussion day introduced the methodology to participants, who then applied the philosophy using the floor plans of the various centres involved in the project.

Taking the process to the next level required further development of the Birds in Rehab model. This computer-based mathematical model can simulate the arrival of oiled birds in a temporary rehabilitation centre and their subsequent migration through the facility where they will be stabilised, cleaned and prepared for release. The tool has already demonstrated its usefulness in showing where, why and how bottlenecks could appear, using a scenario based on processes used for one-species. *Sea Alarm* [Read more](#)

POLAND PREPARES FOR OFFICIAL WORLD MARITIME DAY CELEBRATION

[World Maritime Day](#) is celebrated all over the world and every year IMO sanctions an official "Parallel Event" to formally mark the occasion away from the Organization's London headquarters.

This year it is the turn of Poland to host the Parallel Event, in the port city of Szczecin (13-15 June).

The [2018 Parallel Event](#) will focus on four key aspects of IMO's overall theme for its 70th anniversary year, "IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future". It will examine in detail green and smart shipping, big data and cyber security, new transport routes and the future of the maritime labour market.

Poland's Parallel Event will be hosted by the Ministry of Maritime Economy & Inland Navigation; and at the Polish Embassy in London this week (26 March), Deputy Minister Grzegorz Witkowski formally invited London-based permanent representatives to IMO to attend the June event.



News reports from around the world (continued)

TURKEY: FORTHCOMING REGIONAL WORKSHOP & OIL SPILL EXERCISE

March 21 - a Regional Workshop on "Building an Effective National and Regional Preparedness and Response Capacity" in conjunction with an Oil Spill Response Exercise Code Named "Golden Horn-Istanbul" will be organized under the patronage of the Ministry of Transport Maritime Affairs and Communication and Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of Republic of Turkey and in cooperation with Turkish Petroleum (TP) and MEKE Marine; MOIG members; from 06 to 08 November 2018 in Elite World Hotel Istanbul-Taksim in Istanbul-Turkey.

The event will open on Tuesday, 06th November 2018 at 08:00 hours and is expected to close on Thursday, 08th November 2018 at 13:00 hours.

The main objective of this Workshop is to reinforce and develop Sub-Regional contingency plans, to enhance National and Regional coordination capacity, to share information, lessons learned and best practices of the previous exercises as well as to stay abreast of the newest technologies and benefit from Responders and Manufacturers technical expertise. *MOIG* [Read more](#)

USA: 2018 SCIENCE OF OIL SPILLS TRAINING

March 30 - The week of March 26, OR&R's Emergency Response Division team of oil spill scientists conducted a "Science of Oil Spills" (SOS) classes at the NOAA Disaster Response Center (DRC), Mobile, Alabama.

The Mobile class included training sessions covering a wide range of spill response topics, as well as a field trip to the Dauphin Island Sea Lab.

Classroom exercises demonstrated how viscosity, temperature, sediment permeability and porosity influence oil behavior on shorelines, and how oil disorders feather structure, impairing waterproofing and insulating properties. In addition to these exercises, students learned about the fate and behavior of oil spilled in the environment, oil chemistry and toxicity, how to use Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps, and gained insight into the complexity of environmental trade-offs associated with response options and cleanup endpoints. Finally, lecturers provided information on special considerations for marine mammals and sea turtles during an oil spill, as well as an overview of the recent offshore incidents in the Gulf of Mexico

OR&R's SOS training team was led by training coordinator, JD Hoyle, and Katie Krushinski, DRC Exercise and Communications Coordinator. The 38 class participants included representatives from the U.S. Coast Guard, other federal, tribal, and state agencies, local government, and industry.

SOS workshops are always in high demand in the oil spill response community, and this fiscal year was no exception. Two additional SOS classes are planned in fiscal year 2018 including in Lewes, Delaware. and Seattle, Washington. The Lewes class is scheduled for the week of April 9, 2018. The Seattle class is scheduled for the week of June 11, 2018

For more information about upcoming SOS classes, please contact Jamechia.Hoyle@noaa.gov OR&R [Read more](#)

USA: JOIN SEA ALARM AT THE EFFECTS OF OIL ON WILDLIFE CONFERENCE MAY 5-11, 2018

March 30 - Sea Alarm is headed to the 13th International Effects of Oil on Wildlife (EOW), held this year in Baltimore, USA. We hope to see you there.

Hosted by [Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research](#) and the [Oiled Wildlife Care Network](#), this year's conference theme is 'Preparing, Responding, Advancing.' In addition to the three days of conference programme, there are a number of half and full day workshops on offer, including one on 'Risk Communications for Responders' led by the US Coast Guard and 'An Introduction to Oiled Wildlife Response Preparedness' led by Sea Alarm.

As noted on the EOW website, "the triennial EOW conference is the only global meeting venue focusing on the planning, response, rehabilitation, and research aspects of oil spills and their impacts to wildlife species."

This gathering of experts from around the world promotes the sharing of information and ideas to contribute to improved understanding of the impacts of oil on wildlife, better prepare for and respond to oil-affected wildlife, and to mitigate those effects in as much as possible.

As well as presenting during the conference and associated workshops, Sea Alarm have been actively involved in preparations for the event, with members of the team serving on the Steering and Program Committees.

To register for the meeting and workshops visit the [Effects of Oil on Wildlife conference website](#). [Thanks to Sea Alarm] <https://www.sea-alarm.org/>

USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS CONFERENCE – APRIL 4-5, ST. LOUIS, MO

The CLEAN WATERWAYS event focuses on improving oil and hazardous materials spill prevention and response on and around inland river systems. This unique event will bring together State & Federal regulatory agencies, operating companies and the planning and response community April 4-5, 2018, at the Hilton St. Louis at the Ballpark in St. Louis, MO.

CLEAN WATERWAYS is pleased to have a local St. Louis welcome from Colonel Bryan K. Sizemore, District Engineer & Commander, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and Captain Scott Stoermer, Captain of the Port, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River as well as a Keynote Address from Rear Admiral Paul F. Thomas, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard District. To find more info and view the programme please visit - <http://2018.cleanwaterwaysevent.org/schedule-of-events/>

ISCO is a proud supporter of this event and recommends that you attend. This year our Membership Director, Mary Ann Dagleish and Mike Rancilio from ISCO Member Marine Pollution Control will be in attendance and available to give you information about ISCO and the benefits of membership. Members of ISCO are particularly asked to make themselves known to Mary Ann or Mike.

Science and technology

OSIL: OIL SPILL MONITORING BUOYS FUEL INTERNATIONAL INTEREST



Integrated systems manufacturers Ocean Scientific International Ltd (OSIL) reports high levels of interest in its oil spill monitoring buoys following several recent installations in the Middle East and exposure at the ocean technology and marine science exhibition Oceanology International.

The buoy systems are designed to integrate a real time noncontact hydrocarbon sensor in the high visibility top frame design, which is equipped with a pulsed UV LED beam and optical photo-detector with on-board software to enable the buoys to detect oil spills on water autonomously and immediately alert the users to any changes to protect vulnerable areas day and night, even under harsh weather conditions. The buoys can detect a variety of hydrocarbon based substances, and can be set up to ignore other materials that fluoresce in the same wavelength. *Marine Technology* [Read more](#)

CLEAN-TECH FIRM HAS DEVELOPED OIL ‘MAGNET’ FOR SPILL RESPONSE

As the B.C. government conducts another public engagement exercise on how to respond to oil spills, a clean-tech start-up from Sudbury, Ontario, says its new product can clean up oil and fuel better than anything else on the market.

The company, Activated White Ltd., has developed an open-cell polymer resin that has a number of potential applications, from water filtration to odour reduction. But the company thinks its best path to commercialization is in oil spill response.

It arranged to demonstrate the new product March 19 for the Western Canada Marine Response Corp. (WCMRC), the industry-funded company responsible for oil spill clean-ups on the B.C. coast, and representatives from companies such as Shell and Kinder Morgan.



The company’s product attracts hydrocarbons, acting more like a magnet than a sponge, said Activated White CEO Dennis Reich. “It has such a magnetic effect that it actually pulls the oil right to the centre of the boom,” Reich said. “You can actually absorb and then squeeze out a large amount of the hydrocarbon that you picked.”

The resin is biodegradable and contains nitrogen, which is a food source for bacteria. So even if some of the product is left in the water or in soil, it will work to attract bacteria that naturally consume oil.

Vancouver is Awesome [Read more](#)

SPILL IMPACT MITIGATION ASSESSMENT – A NOVEL METHODOLOGY FOR NEBA



Exclusive to the ISCO Newsletter – An article contributed by Andy Nicoll of ISCO Member, OSRL

Andy Nicoll is the Outreach Manager for Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), managing the company's programme of external stakeholder engagement.

He trained as Deck Officer in the UK Merchant Navy at the College of Maritime Studies, Warsash obtaining his D.O.T Class 3 (FG) in 1983. After ten years at sea, he joined OSRL as a responder in 1989. He has since worked both in industry and government, managing a Tier 1 response base for BP and as a Counter Pollution Officer for the UK Maritime and Coastguard Agency respectively, before re-joining OSRL as a senior Trainer /Consultant in 2002. He has tactical and managerial response experience gained at over 30 spills worldwide. He is an Incident Manager as defined in the company's Approved Competency Management System has also held positions as Principal Trainer and Operations Team Manager for OSRL prior to his current assignment.

Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) is a well-established principle to help responders make sound decisions about which response techniques to apply to an oil spill.

For experienced responders the process is intuitive and well ingrained. Essentially NEBA takes account of the opportunities and drawbacks associated with different response options (use of dispersants, in-situ burning, contain and recover, shoreline protection, etc.) to establish a response strategy that minimizes the overall spill impact, in a consultative process with key stakeholders.

In the wake of the Deepwater Horizon incident, however, there were demands from regulators for a more demonstrable NEBA process with clearer outcomes. To meet this requirement, the Global Oil and Gas Industry Association for Environmental and Social Issues (IPIECA), the International Oil and Gas Producers Association (IOGP), and the American Petroleum Institute (API) – collectively known as the oil industry associations, have developed two new guidance documents. These consolidated and refined existing NEBA principles and practices being used by their members. Free to download from the IPIECA website, the Good Practice Guide on Response Strategy Development Using Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) and an accompanying methodology to implement NEBA known as Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) are now available, alongside a wide range of other technical resources developed by industry to improve knowledge and understanding of oil spill preparedness and response.

In terms of the process, NEBA/SIMA follows four-steps:

1) Evaluate data:

Planners (and responders) will need to draw upon a range of data sources including computer modelling to show probability of impact, sensitivity information (considering not only ecological receptors but also socio-economic and cultural resources), and information about the chemical and physical characteristics of the spilled oil.

2) Predict Outcomes:

This stage requires an estimation of the spill impact on each identified at-risk resource, assuming no physical response intervention takes place as the base case.

3) Balance trade-offs:

The next step is to consider the impact modification that takes place if different response options are used. Each option presents opportunities to mitigate the impacts of a spill, however these must be carefully balanced with any potential detrimental consequences (trade-offs) associated with each.

4) Select Options(s):

Having examined the opportunities and trade-offs for each intervention, the last step is to choose which option (or combination of options) is best suited to combat the spill scenario. At each stage it's important to engage fully the

Contributed article

local community and other key stakeholders, working together with experienced responders and technical specialists, in a transparent and inclusive dialogue.

The response strategy development outcome from the NEBA/SIMA is an integral part of the contingency planning process. It forms the basis of the tiered preparedness and response capability (including equipment, logistics and trained personnel) established for a given operation.

So why have two names for the same process? Simply because SIMA is a more accurate and concise description for the NEBA process, specifically:

- With a focus on impact mitigation rather than “environmental benefit”
- To embrace a wider interpretation of “environment” that includes other resources such as socio-economic and culturally significant receptors
- To more correctly describe a value-based “assessment” which draws upon sound science and experience, rather than a quantifiable or statistical output which the term “analysis” may suggest.

To support the NEBA / SIMA process, the oil industry associations have developed a novel methodology to help planners and responders undertake the process in a systematic way. It enables the user to compare a range of oil receptors, which can be expanded or adapted to suit the local scenario. The consequences of the “base case” (i.e. no intervention) are considered and then impact modification scores (positive or negative) are applied to show the relative alteration associated with each prospective response option. The output is a relative ranking of the options, in order of the overall mitigation of the spill impact. Its important to note that this is not a complex calculation performed by computer but relies heavily on knowledge from seasoned professionals who have collective experience responding to a variety of spill scenarios. It also provides scope for community values to be given due weight.

Through stakeholder engagement, SIMA deliver a consensus based outcome, which becomes a powerful tool to support the implementation of a response strategy based on pragmatic science and experience rather than one developed during the emotionally charged, reactive phase of an emergency response. The SIMA output is a transparent demonstration that a robust and inclusive decision-making process has been used to justify the decisions that comprise the response strategy.

Many response organisations, including Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) are now embracing SIMA in their contingency planning services and response processes.

For more information, and to download the Good Practice Guide on Response Strategy Development Using Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA) and the guidelines on implementing Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) go to the IPIECA website, www.ipieca.org

Technical support

WHAT IS A VESSEL RESPONSE PLAN AND WHAT TO DO IN THE EVENT OF A SPILL



An article contributed by Safe Harbor and published by gCaptain on 27 March 2018 <http://safeharborpollutioninsurance.com>

Oil spills are rare, but when they do occur, they're devastating. Although those who make their livelihood at sea hope to never have to experience an oil spill, and work to prevent them at all costs, everyone needs to understand their responsibilities should the worst case scenario occur. One thing you need to ensure your crew is prepared for any situation is a comprehensive vessel response plan.

What is a Vessel Response Plan?

A vessel response plan (VRP) is a document that outlines what the vessel will do in the case of an offshore spill. VRPs are required by the United States Coast Guard for maritime operators that are carrying certain quantities of chemicals and/or refined petroleum products.

The VRP includes information about the vessel, (such as its name, country of registry, call sign, and more), contact information for the vessel's owner or operator, a list of zones that the vessel intends to operate in, and the clear identification of the incident management team – the people or group who is to be notified in the event of a spill.

gCaptain [Continue reading this informative article](#)

Training

USA: RFA, TRANSCAER TO HOST ETHANOL SAFETY WEBINAR IN APRIL

Beginning in early April, the Renewable Fuels Association and Transcaer will be teaming up for the first of three ethanol safety webinars for ethanol emergency response teams.

The webinars are scheduled for April 4, May 23, or July 25.

A single webinar can train a group of individuals, who can then turn around and pass that information forward, equipping entire communities with the knowledge necessary to respond to any potential ethanol-related emergency.

Ethanol Producer Magazine [More information](#)

Publications

NEW EDITION OF ITOPF'S HANDBOOK PUBLISHED



ITOPF has just published its new 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 our Members and contacts. Individual copies are also available to others on request; please contact [Terry Goodchild](#).

[Download the new ITOPF Handbook as a PDF](#)

NEW PUBLICATIONS FROM IOPC FUNDS

New and updated IOPC Funds publications Updated versions of the various publications on IOPC Funds compensation claims, first published in 2014, have been released in 2018. The following documents have been updated: the Claims Manual, the Guidelines for presenting claims in the fisheries, mariculture and fish processing sector, the Guidelines for presenting claims in the tourism sector, the Guidelines for presenting claims for clean-up and preventive measures and the Example Claim Form. A new publication has also been added to the collection: Guidelines for presenting claims for environmental damage. These documents can be downloaded at www.iopcfunds.org

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	February 2018
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 29, 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 28, 2018
Safe Seas, Clean Seas	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	August 2017 issue
Salvage World	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current & past issues
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	Feb 1-15, 2018
Transport Canada Newsletter	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	June 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

Upcoming events summary

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
KUWAIT	April 3-5	Kuwait Oil Spill Conference	Kuwait
USA	April 4-5	Clean Waterways Conference	St. Louis, MO
IRELAND	April 6	ISAA Steering Group Meeting	Dublin
UK	April 9-13	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
Lithuania	April 10-12	HELCOM Response Working Group Meeting	Klaipeda
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
UAE	April 16-18	SPE Int'l Conference HSE & SR	Abu Dhabi
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	Environmental Technology Conference & Exhibition	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
USA	June 11-15	NOAA Science of Oil Spills (SOS) Classes	Seattle WA
ITALY	June 20-22	INTERTANKO Annual Event 2018	Rome
USA	June 19	Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Annual Meeting	Portland OR
USA	June 19-21	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Portland, OR
USA	June 25-28	NOAA Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) class	Mobile AL
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
TURKEY	Nov. 6-8	Regional Workshop & Oil Spill Exercise	Istanbul
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

Stop Press – Breaking News

OIL SPILL CLEANUP FIRE KILLS 2 IN INDONESIA

March 31 - At least two people died in a fire as Indonesian authorities tried to clean up an oil spill off Borneo island on Saturday (Mar 31), an official said.

The blaze was sparked as workers tried to clear the spill in waters near Balikpapan City by burning it.



Two people - believed to be fishermen - were caught in the fire and died, a spokesman of the local search and rescue agency said.

"The fire was quite big, about two kilometres high. It can be seen from Balikpapan city and the smell was all over the place," said Octavianto, a senior official of East Borneo search and rescue agency, who like many Indonesians go by one name.

Authorities have managed to put out the fire but there was still an oil spill in the waters.

It was not known how much oil was spilled or where it came from.

Read more at <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asiapacific/oil-spill-cleanup-fire-kills-2-in-indonesia-10092100>

[Thanks to ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville]

INDONESIA: PERTAMINA - OIL SPILL IN BALIKPAPAN BAY NOT FROM OIL REFINERY

March 31 - PT Pertamina (Persero) confirmed that the oil spill in the sea waters of Balikpapan Bay, East Kalimantan, is not from crude oil owned by Balikpapan refinery, but from marine fuel oil (MFO).

"From the samples taken, it was identified that the oil liquid was MFO or fuel oil from the vessel, not the crude oil from the refinery," said General Manager of Pertamina Refinery Unit V Balikpapan Togar MP Manurung during a press conference in Balikpapan, Saturday (3/31/2018).

On that occasion, Togar was accompanied by General Manager of Pertamina Marketing Operation Region (MOR) VI Kalimantan Made Adi Putra and Kalimantan Regional Communication and CSR Manager Yudi Nugraha.

The team from Pertamina has sampled from the oil spill at two points of location, each near Semayang Port and the water village in Magersari Village.

"Around the Magersari, the pile of oil is a bit thick because of the spill carried by the flow of sea water," he said.

Prior to the fire, Pertamina's team had made a sweep and stemmed the oil spill from expanding, including cleaning efforts.

"Even though the oil spill is not from the refinery, Pertamina has the responsibility to clean it because its location is in the vicinity of our operational area," said Togar. "Regarding the origin of the oil spill, we submit the investigation to the police."

Pertamina suspects the fire was caused by a spark from cigarettes that fishermen dumped when passing through the location of the oil spill. Two fishermen from North Penajam Paser who were trapped around the site were reportedly killed in the incident.

Netral News [Read more](#) [Thanks to ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville]

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