

## ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization 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 Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals

ISCO holds consultative status at the International Maritime Organisation and observer Status at International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENTS FEATURED



## RAC /REMPEITC CARIBE MEETING

A SHORT REPORT RECEIVED FROM CARLOS SAGRERA, MSc, MISCO, HSE & OIL SPILL CONTROL ADVISOR AND MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL



*In the picture: Dr. Lorna Innis (UNEP - Coordinator Cartagena Convention), Patricia Charlebois (Deputy Director - Marine Environment Division IMO), Mr. Bertrand Smith, Director of Legal Affairs of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica and President of the Meeting, Commander Keith Donohue (US Coast Guard) and finishing an excellent job in the 2016-2018 biennium as IMO Senior Consultant with his replacement LCdr. Richards Mathew, Mr. Chris Corbin (the man behind the scene of UNEP in the region), Mrs. Anne Reqlain (ITOPF Technical Adviser) and the US Representative Captain David Condino (USCG Office of Facility and Compliance)*

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

June 8 - We just finished today a very successful 9th Ordinary Meeting of RAC/REMPEITC Caribe here in Curacao, on the World Environment Day 2018 and with the presence of the Ministry of Traffic and Transport of Curacao, Mrs. Zita Jesus-Leito.

We had an important Agenda with topics including the MARPOL and the OPRC Conventions, Activities in the Region, the Regional Reception Facility Plans, the BWM Convention with a Regional Task Force on the ratification & implementation and a new BWM Portal with the Direction of DIMAR in Colombia, the tool for the Contingency Planning of ARPEL's RETOS, and the lessons learned from the 2017 Southern Caribbean Oil Spill (Trinidad Tobago & Venezuela).

Presentations were given by senior speakers on technical matters from ITOFF, ASA, Anadarko, Lamor, NRC, the Caribbean Shipping Association, COCATRAM and IMC of Panama.

We had the opportunity to present on behalf of ISCO and BIMCO the new RESPONSECON contract and the Honduran requirement regarding its mandatory use.

For the first time at an IMO meeting we talked about a new kind of pollution in the region: the floating sargassum seaweed that is hitting the Honduran Caribbean and the small islands of the west part of the Caribbean Sea.

In the coming days the Final Report and some of the presentations will be available as usual on the website of RAC/REMPEITC (<http://www.racrempeitc.org/>).

[With thanks to Carlos Sagrera MSc. MISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Panama]

## WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY HIGHLIGHTS URGENT NEED TO TACKLE MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION



*This year, the theme of World Environment Day is #BeatPlasticPollution. Confronting the challenge of marine plastics requires addressing the entire plastic value cycle, from product design to eventual recycling.*

June 4 - Every year, 13 million tonnes of plastic leak into the ocean according to UN Environment, which leads the annual celebration on June 5th of World Environment Day (WED). This year's theme is #BeatPlasticPollution and India is the host country, with states like Gujarat showing how they are taking on plastic pollution.

The Global Environment Facility (GEF) has long been committed to fighting pollution in our air, land and water, and has started to support more projects

and initiatives that help tackle the growing menace of marine plastic pollution.

Through its [chemicals and waste](#) focal area, the GEF has helped reduce, better manage or eliminate harmful chemicals like ozone-depleting substances, Persistent Organic Pollutants, and mercury. Through its [international waters](#) work, the GEF protects transboundary water resources such as a groundwater aquifers, lakes, rivers, and marine ecosystems. The GEF has invested over US\$1.14 billion in [marine projects](#) specifically, generating over US\$7.7 billion from other funders to protect our coasts and oceans.

For World Environment Day, UN Environment launched a worldwide clean-up effort through the #BeatPlasticPollution tag toolkits, uniting hundreds of organizations and thousands of events taking place around the world with the shared purpose of bringing awareness to the issue of plastic contamination, and cleaning up our oceans for a healthy planet and people.

[Read the complete text of this article from the Global Environment Facility](#)

## LEARNING HOW SURVEILLANCE SYSTEMS CAN BE USED TO DETECT POLLUTION

June 6 – News from Europe - EMSA hosted the sixth training session on the use of surveillance systems for marine pollution detection and assessment on 15-17 May. The course covered the operational and legal aspects of aerial surveillance, oil spill detection and assessment sensors and techniques, as well as the use of surveillance as evidence. It was given by experts from the relevant administrations in Denmark, France, the Netherlands, Norway, Portugal, Sweden, and EMSA.



Thirty-three participants from across Europe attended the training, including aerial surveillance operators and pilots, Maritime Rescue Co-ordination Centre representatives and coast guard experts. The participants also had the opportunity to visit an airbase of the Portuguese Air Force in Montijo to view the maritime surveillance aircraft and marine pollution recon sensors used.

EMSA Newsletter / [Read more](#)

## INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

### AUSTRALIA: CARGO WASHES UP ON BEACHES AFTER 83 CONTAINERS LOST

June 2 - The YM Efficiency lost 83 containers overboard during heavy seas off Australia late last week, and cargo items including nappies are now washing up on beaches north of Sydney.

The 4,300-TEU Liberian-flagged YM Efficiency, operated by Taiwan shipping company Yang Ming Marine Transport, was sailing from Taiwan to Sydney when she encountered five-meter seas off the coast of Port Stephens. 83 containers were lost and another 30 were damaged. The company says that there were no dangerous goods in the containers, but maritime authorities have issued a safety warning to ships and boats in the area. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### GHANA: OIL TANKER VESSEL SPLITS INTO TWO AT TEMA PORT



June 2 - MT Alice, an oil tanker vessel loaded with 1,200 metric-tons of light crude oil, split into two at the Tema Port anchorage on May 24, this year.

The Bahamas registered oil tanker called at Tema Port anchorage May 12, 2018 with 13 crew made up of 11 Nigerians and two Ghanaians.

All the 13 crew were rescued by another vessel MT Colled Alice, which was nearby when the incident occurred.

Lt. Col. Punamane said the Port Authorities, National Petroleum Authority, agents of the vessel and other stakeholders had worked fervently to prevent polluting the water with the oil.

He explained that while authorities had managed to prevent a spillage of the oil, they were doing their best to get the sunk part to float adding that the fuel in the other part was also carefully being transferred to fuel tankers. Ghana Web / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### OMAN: LARGE CONTAINER SHIP THESEUS CONTAINERS LOSS AND COLLAPSE

June 3 - Container ship THESEUS suffered containers collapse and loss in Gulf of Aden, while en route from Jeddah, Saudi Arabia, to Colombo, Sri Lanka, being caught in cyclone which ravaged northwest Indian ocean. Most probably, containers collapse and loss occurred around May 19, on May 26 numerous containers were spotted drifting off Salalah, Oman. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

### FIJI: TANALITH CHEMICAL SPILL AT NORTHERN TIMBER FACILITY

June 4 - The chemical that spilled at the Malau Port in Labasa last Monday has been identified by the Ministry of Environment as Tanalith. Considered as a very toxic chemical to aquatic organisms, the United Kingdom's Safety Data Sheet revealed that Tanalith

## INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

could have lasting effects on the marine ecosystem; the chemical classified as “able to cause long-term adverse effects in the aquatic environment”.

Fiji’s Ministry of Environment’s permanent secretary Joshua Wycliffe said they had received a report from Fiji Forest Industries (FFI) that one of its Tanalith storage tanks had burst and that this chemical had spilled onto the surrounding environment at the facility. He said a coordinated approach had been taken by three agencies – Ministry of Environment, National Fire Authority and Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji – to mitigate the spillage. The Fiji Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### RUSSIA: TANKER AND CARGO SHIP COLLISION, INNER WATERWAYS

June 4 - Product tanker BALT FLOT 4 (loaded with 5276 tons of heavy fuel) collided with general cargo ship Volgo-Don 151 (loaded with 5191 tons of gravel) at 582 kilometer mark, river Scheksna, Russian Waterways, at 0527 Moscow time Jun 2, while the ships were passing each other on reciprocal courses. No leak reported. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

### NEW CALEDONIA: WRECK OF KEA TRADER SHIFTS, COMPLICATING SALVAGE EFFORT



June 5 - The wreck of the container feeder Kea Trader continues to degrade at Durand Reef, New Caledonia, 11 months after it went aground. According to high commissioner Thierry Lataste, the bow section of the wreck is now listing 18 degrees to starboard, complicating salvors' efforts to board it and prepare for its removal, even under normal weather conditions.

For now, the government says that the salvage work will be mostly confined to the removal of debris scattered on the reef and the prevention of pollution.

Salvors with Ardent received the first response contract after the Trader went aground in July 2017. They lightered off most of the stricken vessel's oily wastes, fuel and containers. However, the hull broke in two due to wave action in November, complicating the response effort.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more and watch video](#)

### USA: NOAA OR&R - INCIDENT RESPONSES FOR MAY 2018

June 7 - Every month our Emergency Response Division provides scientific expertise and services to the U.S. Coast Guard on everything from running oil spill trajectories to model where the spill may spread, to possible effects on wildlife and fisheries, and estimates on how long the oil may stay in the environment.

This month OR&R responded to eight incidents, including oil discharges, sunken vessels, and hazardous material releases.

[Read OR&R's summary of incident responses for May 2018](#)

## NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (COUNTRIES LISTED IN ALPABETICAL ORDER)

### GREECE: PIRAEUS PORT AWARDED ISO CERTIFICATIONS AT POSIDONIA

June 7 - On Wednesday at the Posidonia conference in Athens, Lloyd's Register presented the Piraeus Port Authority (PPA) with ISO 9001:2015 and ISO 14001:2015 certifications for management and environmental quality. This is a matter of increasing importance and it is particularly appropriate to be highlighting good work in this area during a week that marks both World Environment Day and World Ocean Day," said Nick Brown, LR's marine and offshore director. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### INDIA: TRAINING IN OIL POLLUTION CONTROL DURING SHIP RECYCLING

June 4 - The sixth-in-series session of GMS IRCLASS training took place at Plot No. 35, Leela Green Ship Recycling Pvt. Ltd., on Friday, the 11th of May, 2018 in Alang, India. The Safety officers of over 15 yards came together to update their knowledge on responsible ship recycling practices. The training was basically aimed at addressing the Oil Spill Control and Management during the Ship Recycling Process.

The training modules included the understanding of what constitutes an oil pollution, oil pollution prevention, management and control during the ship recycling process and precautions that must be taken while handling various kinds of oil, generated during the ship recycling process Hellenic Shipping News / [Read more](#)

## POLAND: WORLD MARITIME DAY PARALLEL EVENT 2018

The World Maritime Day Parallel Event 2018 will take place 13-15 June in Szczecin, Poland.

The event is jointly organized by the Ministry of Maritime Economy and Inland Navigation of Poland and IMO.

The theme of the event is IMO 70: Our Heritage – Better Shipping for a Better Future. The event will include a conference devoted to maritime issues. There will also be a number of accompanying cultural, sports and recreational events for local and visiting guests.

The World Maritime Day Parallel Event 2018 in Szczecin will be part of the celebration of the establishment of IMO as well as the 100th anniversary of Poland's independence.

For more information, please see the website: <http://worldmaritimedaypoland.org>

## UK: PIPER ALPHA CONFERENCE: OIL INDUSTRY URGED TO MAINTAIN A CHRONIC SENSE OF UNEASE

June 5 - THE oil and gas community has been urged to “maintain a chronic sense of unease” at a conference marking the 30th anniversary of the Piper Alpha disaster.

Earlier today, opening the Safety30 Piper Alpha Legacy conference in Aberdeen, the hub for the UK’s oil and gas industry, Deirdre Michie CEO of Oil & Gas UK said: “The tragedy of Piper Alpha must be a constant reminder to us all.”

167 men died in the Piper Alpha incident on 6 July 1988. Lord Cullen, who led the official enquiry into the tragedy, gave the plenary speech at the conference. He described how the root cause of the explosion followed the placement of a blind flange that had not been fully tightened. A series of events involving a shift handover and confusion over work permits led to a condensate pump being restarted in error. The blind flange failed, leading to a release of hydrocarbons and a series of fatal explosions and fires.

Cullen said a wider examination showed a pattern of companies failing to spot signs of danger ahead of major disasters, including the Deepwater Horizon oil spill and Buncefield oil depot blast. The Chemical Engineer / [Read more](#)

## USA: YELLOWSTONE RIVER TO GET NEW TRAILS UNDER OIL SPILL DEAL

May 31 - New trails, fishing sites and other recreational features will be built along Montana's Yellowstone River as compensation for damage from an Exxon Mobil Corp. pipeline spill, under a plan approved Wednesday by the governor.

The 63,000 gallon (238,474 liter) oil spill in 2011 near Laurel damaged thousands of acres along an 85-mile stretch of the famous waterway and required a months-long cleanup. Yahoo News / [Read more](#)

## USA: VIDEO SHOWS INSANE TANKER FIRE THAT LED TO TWO HOUSTON PILOTS BEING AWARDED THE IMO BRAVERY AT SEA AWARD



*Photo: The MT Aframax River after the allision with the dolphi. Tractor tugboat David B is in the foreground rendering assistance. Image courtesy of ITC City Dock security video / NTSB*

June 4 - On the morning of September 6, 2016, Houston harbor pilots Michael McGee and Michael Phillips found themselves surrounded by towering walls of flames after the tanker they were piloting, the MT Aframax River, lost propulsion and struck two mooring dolphins on the Houston Ship Channel.

The allision punctured the tankers hull plating, causing the release of about 88,000 gallons of low-sulfur marine gas oil which suddenly ignited in a massive fire ball. Despite the danger, the pilots remained on the bridge and managed to maneuver the vessel away from facilities and other ships in the area while coordinating with first responders. Amazingly, they sustained only minor burns, the only injuries resulting from the fire. gCaptain / [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## USA: MARPLOT ON THE MISSISSIPPI: HOW OR&R'S MAPPING SOFTWARE SUPPORTS OIL SPILL RESPONSE

June 6 - Just before midnight on April 22, 2018, the M/V Iver Exporter was removing the sea water taken on the ship — also known as ballast, this water is used for balancing cargo — when the crew spotted a black sheen of heavy fuel oil around the vessel on the Mississippi River near New Orleans. Responders moved into action to stop the spill and protect our natural and man-made resources. But how did they ensure everyone was on the same page, looking at the same map? OR&R / [Read the complete article](#)

## USA: SBIR E-LEARNING FOR HAZMAT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE

June 7 - DHHS, National Institutes of Health, Funding Opportunity RFA-ES-18-006, 2018 - This funding opportunity encourages SBIR grant applications from small business concerns that propose to further the development of advanced technology training (ATT) products for training HAZMAT workers; skilled support personnel; emergency responders in biosafety response and disasters; and resiliency response. Proposed ATT tools must complement the goals and objectives of the Worker Training Program as described at [http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about\\_wetp/](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/careers/hazmat/about_wetp/) A letter of intent to apply must be submitted by June 30, 2018. The closing date for applications is July 31, 2018. <http://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=304260> [Thanks to US EPA Technology Innovation News Survey]

## USA: HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES PASSES 2018 WATERWAYS BILL

June 7 - The U.S. House of Representatives has passed its version of the 2018 Water Resources Development Act (WRDA), the recurring bill for waterways policy and project funding.

In an unusual show of bipartisan support, the measure passed by a vote of 408 to 2, a margin of 99.5 percent. The bill contains funding authorizations for eight major projects across the country, including \$2 billion for storm risk reduction along Texas' Gulf Coast and \$700 million for the Savannah Harbor Expansion Project. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### MAJOR CHANGES ANNOUNCED IN THE OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM MANAGEMENT TEAM



Andrew Cassels, Director OCIMF writes "This month's OCIMF newsletter will be my 36th and last Director's Log. On 13 June at the 81st Executive Committee meeting, I will hand over the Director role to Rob Drysdale.

Many of you will be familiar with Rob as he has been the Senior Technical Adviser at OCIMF for two years, and I cannot think of a better person to take over the rare honour of leading this respected organisation.

It has been a rare privilege to lead OCIMF for the past three years and to work with so many consummate professionals; it is my hope that our paths will cross again one day."

OCIMF is pleased to welcome Dave Wall, who joined as Senior Technical Adviser on 1 May. Dave replaces Rob Drysdale, who will become OCIMF's new Director on 13 June.

Dave has joined OCIMF from Chevron, where he held several leadership roles in shipping throughout the past 30 years. After completing a cadetship in the UK, Dave joined Globtik Tankers and later Kuwait Tankers as an engineering officer. In 1986 Dave joined Chevron Shipping as a Third Engineer in the international fleet and rose through the ranks to eventually sail as Chief Engineer on lightering ships and VLCCs.



OCIMF is pleased to welcome Ricardo Martinez. Ricardo joined OCIMF on 1 May from Chevron, replacing Joe Megeed as Technical Adviser-Engineering.

Ricardo began his career as an engineer in the US Navy. He then attended the University of New Orleans and graduated in 2004 with a Bachelor of Science degree (Honours) in Naval Architecture and Marine Engineering.

OCIMF bids a fond farewell to Joe Megeed, who has now ended his secondment as Technical Adviser – Engineering and returns to ConocoPhillips in Houston, USA. OCIMF Director's Log / [Read more](#)

## ISCO NEWS

### REMINDER – AGM AT CLEAN PACIFIC

ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville has last week sent out the AGM Agenda, Secretary's report and other meeting papers to all members. Email lists are not infallible, so please do check that you have received these documents. If you have not – please contact Matthew immediately at [matthewsommerville@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:matthewsommerville@hotmail.co.uk)

The location of the AGM at Clean Pacific is Room C121. This is on the ground floor and right next to the conference registration desk. There is no signage for the ISCO AGM but you can follow the signs for the Clean Pacific registration. The date of the meeting is Tuesday 19th May and the time is from 1715-1830.

If you can't be at the meeting please complete and send in the Proxy Voting Form. You may also want to comment in advance of the meeting on any of the matters raised in the meeting papers, please send by email to Matthew. Any comments you make will be considered and circulated at the meeting.

ISCO President David Usher, Secretary Matthew Sommerville and Membership VP Mary Ann Dalgleish will be at the AGM and at the ISCO Booth 319 during the conference and exhibition – so plenty opportunity to ask questions and raise any matters you would like to discuss.

## TACKLING THE PLASTICS POLLUTION CRISIS

Comment from your Editor – It's good to read about the efforts being made by individuals and volunteer groups to collect waste plastic from our shores and waterways. Good too, to hear that some ISCO members, like AlphaMERS in India, have developed and installed multiple trash barriers to trap and assist retrieval of floating plastic. But it's an enormous world-wide problem, thankfully recognised and now receiving focus by the United Nations, numerous international organisations, national governments and environmental pressure groups.

I'm sure that most ISCO members, when cleaning up polluted waterways, will also retrieve and properly dispose of plastics and other discarded debris, leaving polluted spill sites much cleaner than they were before spills happened. However, it would be interesting to know if members are being contracted by public and private entities to specifically clean up areas polluted by plastic and other flotsam.

Efforts to develop commercially viable solutions, such as collection at sea and processing to create saleable raw materials for manufacturing seem to faltering or perhaps just not in the news.

ISCO would be interest to hear from members who are actively involved in tackling the plastics pollution crisis.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### EKOGRID REMEDIATES DIESEL POLLUTED SITE IN ECUADOR



*Photo: Erkki Lindberg, CTO, Eko Harden Technologies*

May 22 - Environment remediation specialists Eko Harden Technologies has announced that its groundbreaking EKOGRID electro kinetic oxidation technology has been successfully applied to clean an area of 2,800m<sup>2</sup> of diesel polluted soil resulting from a break in an Ecuador service pipeline.

“Despite all the efforts to avoid accidents, spills do occur,” says Erkki Lindberg, CTO of Eko Harden Technologies. “When it does, the importance is to remediate contaminated areas as efficiently as possible with greentech technology and not export the pollution to another area.”

When the site owner identified the diesel spill, it immediately began a prospection project to evaluate the damage. The study showed a 2.800m<sup>2</sup> affected area surrounding a leaked point on the pipeline. The Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) concentrations in the soil and groundwater were 13.000 mg/kg and 1.370 mg/l respectively.

As the contaminated site was in a natural park where traditional cleaning methods such as mass-transfer could harm nature and the remediation target level was 1000 ppm, Eko Harden's EKOGRID electrokinetic oxidation in-situ remediation technology was selected by Lamor Corporation, the global environmental remediation company and prime contractor of the project. Remediation was done by in-situ combined technology: electrokinetic enhanced bioremediation.

The EKOGRID solution is a grid system of thin metal rod electrodes inserted into the soil driving controlled low voltage electric impulse in the contaminated soil and water volume. It triggers and amplifies the remediation capabilities of nature for a fast, cost-efficient and environmentally friendly cleaning effect. A groundwater pumping and nutrient addition system was also applied to enable the fastest growth of oil degrading microbes. Industry Europe / [Continue reading](#)

### RESPONSE OF MICROBIAL POPULATIONS REGULATING NUTRIENT BIOGEOCHEMICAL CYCLES TO OILING OF COASTAL SALTMARSHES FROM THE DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL SPILL.

May 24 - Microbial communities play vital roles in the biogeochemistry of nutrients in coastal saltmarshes, ultimately controlling water quality, nutrient cycling, and detoxification. We determined the structure of microbial populations inhabiting coastal saltmarsh sediments from northern Barataria Bay, Louisiana, USA to gain insight into impacts on the biogeochemical cycles affected by Macondo oil from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon well blowout two years after the accident. Quantitative PCR directed toward specific functional genes revealed that oiled marshes were greatly diminished in the population sizes of diazotrophs, denitrifiers, nitrate-reducers to

ammonia, methanogens, sulfate-reducers and anaerobic aromatic degraders, and harbored elevated numbers of alkane-degraders. Illumina 16S rRNA gene sequencing indicated that oiling greatly changed the structure of the microbial communities, including significant decreases in diversity. Oil-driven changes were also demonstrated in the structure of two functional populations, denitrifying and sulfate reducing prokaryotes, using *nirS* and *dsrB* as biomarkers, respectively. Collectively, the results from 16S rRNA and functional genes indicated that oiling not only markedly altered the microbial community structures, but also the sizes and structures of populations involved in (or regulating) a number of important nutrient biogeochemical cycles in the saltmarshes. Alterations such as these are associated with potential deterioration of ecological services, and further studies are necessary to assess the trajectory of recovery of microbial-mediated ecosystem functions over time in oiled saltmarsh sediment.

Environ Pollut. 2018 May 24; 241:136-147. doi: 10.1016/j.envpol.2018.05.033. [Epub ahead of print] / [Source document](#)

## FILTRATION MEMBRANE SWITCHES BETWEEN LOVING OIL AND WATER

May 28 - Sometimes, people want to clean up polluted water, by removing spilled oil from its surface. Other times, they want to purify oil-based fuel, by removing water from it. An inexpensive new "smart" membrane created at Canada's University of British Columbia can switch between doing both.

Developed by a team led by chemical engineering master's student Chun Haow (Bryan) Kung, the reusable membrane is made up of a fine copper mesh. In a quick and scalable process, this is initially immersed in an electrolyte solution, then subjected to a succession of two small voltages for a total of two minutes.

When the membrane is subsequently used to filter an oil/water mixture, only oil can pass through it, holding back any water that's present within that oil. This is due to the rough surface structure of the mesh and the copper oxides that are bound to it. If the membrane is subjected to just a few seconds' worth of voltage from an ordinary alkaline battery, however, that current alters the surface structure. As a result, water can now pass through the membrane, but oil is held back.

Air-drying the material returns it to its original "oil-loving" state, in which it lets oil through but not water.

In lab tests involving oils of various densities and viscosities mixed with water, the membrane was over 98 percent efficient at separating the two liquids. This is reportedly far better than what has previously been managed by other switchable filtration media. Additionally, unlike some of those other materials, the smart mesh contains no toxic materials, it requires only a low voltage to switch states, and it can be used for a long time.

New Atlas / [Continue reading](#)

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News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation  
 News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
 News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre  
 News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday  
 Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters  
 News from Cedre in Brittany, France  
 Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group  
 News from the European Maritime Safety Agency  
 European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module  
 News from the International Maritime Organization  
 New and forthcoming IMO publications  
 International news for the oil tanker community  
 Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management  
 Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community  
 News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group  
 News from the North West Pacific Action Plan  
 Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration  
 Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation  
 News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum  
 Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly  
 Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas  
 News for pollution prevention & control professionals  
 Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand  
 Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union  
 Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm  
 Newsletter from the UK Spill Association  
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 Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater

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



## RESPONSE EVENTS DURING JUNE & JULY 2018

### USA: NOAA SCIENCE OF OIL SPILLS CLASSES

Seattle, June 11-15. Helps spill responders increase their understanding of oil spill science when analyzing spills and making risk-based decisions. They are designed for new and mid-level spill responders. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/june-training-registration-open-oil-and-chemical-spill-responders>

### USA: CLEAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION + CONCURRENT EVENTS

Portland, OR, June 19-21. Spill prevention and response for oil and hazardous materials in the marine and inland environment. **ISCO Members qualify for a \$50 discount on conference attendance – to register, click on the banner on Page 1 of the ISCO Newsletter.** <http://2018.cleanpacific.org/> Concurrent events include the ISCO AGM (June 19) [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) and the Pacific States / British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Meeting (June 19) <http://oilspilltaskforce.org/task-force-events/annual-meeting/>

**GUINEA-BISSAU: NATIONAL WORKSHOP FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR PREVENTION, PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS** Bissau, June 19-21. <http://www.giwacaf.net/en/>

### MALTA: WORKSHOP ON SPILL INCIDENTS INVOLVING HNS

Valetta, June 20-21. The Regional Workshop on Response to Spill Incidents involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) (MEDEXPOL 2018) will be held at the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) premises in Valletta, Malta. <http://www.rempec.org/rempecnews.asp?NewsID=467>

### UK: 4<sup>th</sup> PREMIAM CONFERENCE <http://2018.cleanpacific.org/>

London, June 21. Forum on Post Spill Monitoring - Effective post-spill monitoring – Sharing best practice and experience. See article in ISCO Newsletter 637. <https://www.cefas.co.uk/premium/premium-conference-2018/>

### USA: NOAA SCIENCE OF CHEMICAL RELEASES (SOCR) CLASS

Mobile AL, June 25-28. Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) classes are designed to help spill responders and planners increase their understanding of chemical spill (release) science when preparing for and analyzing chemical spills, and making risk-based decisions to protect public health, safety, and the environment. <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/june-training-registration-open-oil-and-chemical-spill-responders>

### UK: INTERNATIONAL HARBOURMASTERS ASSOCIATION CONGRESS & EXHIBITION

London, June 25-28. Topics will include shipping industry perspectives on managing port of refuge scenarios, the future of IMO guidelines for Vessel Traffic Services, the relevance to harbour masters of entry into force of the BWM Convention, adapting to a changing climate, and the environmental impact of port operations with reference to air emissions. <https://maritime.knect365.com/ihma-global-port-and-marine-operations/>

### INDIA: OIL SPILL INDIA 2018 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

New Delhi, July 5-6. **Note that the venue has changed (see announcement on Page 10 of Newsletter 638)** One of the central goals of the Oil Spill India (OSI) Conference, conceptualized and founded in 2011 as an industry led global forum jointly in association with the Indian Coast Guard - The Central Coordinating Authority for combating oil spills in Indian waters & India's flagship Oil Producer The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC), is to partake with global stakeholders & reaffirm the Industry's commitment for the protection of the Environment; promoting responsible cultures to be incorporated at all levels, from the small communities where the industry operates and throughout their global businesses. <http://www.oilspillindia.org/event-info.php>

### BENIN: NATIONAL WORKSHOP TO STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL SYSTEM FOR PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS

Cotonou, July 9-12. <http://www.giwacaf.net/en/>

*If we have omitted to include an event of interest to our community, please let us know.*

## UPCOMING EVENTS – AUGUST 2018 ONWARDS

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
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
USA	October 1-3	<a href="#">Elastec's Annual Oil Spill Response Workshop</a>	Carmi, IL
CANADA	October 2-4	<a href="#">AMOP Tech. Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response</a>	Victoria, BC
UAE	October 2-4	<a href="#">El Middle East HSE Forum</a>	Dubai
AUSTRALIA	October 2-4	<a href="#">Ecoforum Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Sydney
FRANCE	October 8-12	<a href="#">Sea Tech Week</a>	Brest
UAE	October 9-10	<a href="#">RECSO EnviroSpill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Abu Dhabi
CANADA	October 17-19	<a href="#">Arctic Shipping Forum N. America Conference</a>	Newfoundland

## UPCOMING EVENTS – AUGUST 2018 ONWARDS (CONTINUED)

UK	October 22-26	<a href="#">IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee</a>	London
TURKEY	Nov. 6-8	<a href="#">Regional Workshop &amp; Oil Spill Exercise</a>	Istanbul
USA	Nov. 13-15	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition</a>	New Orleans, LA
PHILIPPINES	Nov. 27-30	East Asia Seas Conference 2018	Iloilo
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>TITLE OF EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
USA	April 16-18	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference</a>	Cincinnati, OH
Australia	May 20-24	<a href="#">SPILLCON 2019 Conference and Exhibition</a>	Perth
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

## NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES

### SCOTLOAD LAUNCHES ZONE 1 HAZARDOUS AREA SMARTLOAD® PRODUCTS



May 24 - • Zone 1 hazardous area certification now available with Scotload's award-winning Smartload® wireless product range

- Delivering advanced functionality with ATEX & IECEx certified load cells, load pins, links, shackles and tension line monitors
- Fully certified by SGS Baseefa to the latest IEC/EN 60079 hazardous area standards
- ATEX certification in accordance with latest directive 2014/34/EU

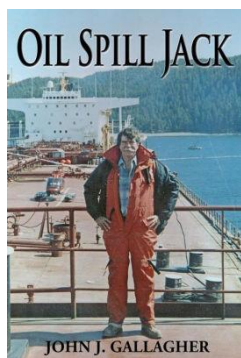
Scotload, part of James Fisher and Sons plc, is pleased to announce the launch of the newly certified SmartLoad 1Ex® wireless product range. Incorporating the innovative and award-winning SmartLoad® wireless

technology, the newly extended suite of hazardous area products features advanced functionality which benefits clients across a range of safety critical industries. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

## PUBLICATIONS

### OIL SPILL JACK BY JOHN J. GALLAGHER

In the obituary for John (Jack) Gallagher published in last week's ISCO Newsletter mention was made of his book "Oil Spill Jack". For the interest of readers who might not know about his book, here is an overview –



Once a generation a person comes along who changes the way things are done. That is Jack Gallagher, a larger than life character unafraid to step on the deck of a foundering ship, amidst pounding seas and find a way to oversee her salvage. This is a true story told in Jack's own words of an industry at a time when ships grew to be the Super tankers and enormous containerships of today. When the threats to both life and the environment from the enormous forces of the sea loom over the enormous vessels, which today carry the food and energy and goods which make our world go around, it took a special breed of man and company to meet those challenges. This is Jack's story and the story of so many men and women and companies who invented modern big ship salvage and environmental response. From the pristine waters of Alaska and the Exxon Valdez to the oil sodden Persian Gulf after the first Gulf war to every coastline of America, where big ships came to grief, the creative, fearless hand of Jack Gallagher and the world of brave and ingenious salvors fill these pages. <https://www.barnesandnoble.com/w/oil-spill-jack-john-j-gallagher/1123542539>

## NEWS FROM ISCO CORPORATE MEMBERS

### OSRL ANNOUNCES NEW END-TO-END MEMBERSHIP PACKAGE FOR THE SHIPPING INDUSTRY

May 28 - Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) has launched a new, cost effective membership option for shipping companies, offering a comprehensive level of service, with guaranteed and immediate response, 24 hours a day, 365 days per year.

OSRL's new membership package provides the industry with enhanced capability of access to world-class advisory support and a dedicated physical response capability - significantly reducing the complexity of managing an incident and coordinating remediation efforts, wherever it happens.

Robert Limb, CEO for OSRL commented on the new development: "OSRL has offered a shipping membership option for over ten years but critically, it wasn't providing shipping companies with enough value. Following extensive conversations

with our stakeholders and the International Group of P&I Clubs, we've made several major changes to address these issues and create a highly cost-effective package that removes many of the challenges shipping companies face in the event of an incident."

"Currently, in the event of a collision or spill, the decision on which response provider to activate may not be very clear. Depending on the location, size and nature of the incident, this can be a complicated process and can consume a significant amount of precious time. OSRL shipping members will have a very different experience, with a single call being all we need to activate a response, providing immediate expert advice and response, coordinated from one of our strategically located hubs around the world and all based on RESPONSECON terms," Limb added.

OSRL has extensive experience managing major spills within the shipping industry, having dealt with several of the world's largest incidents, starting with the Exxon Valdez almost 30 years ago. This experience, combined with unrivalled in-house expertise and other unique membership benefits, positions OSRL as the ideal partner for shipping companies.

New shipping industry members will benefit from:

- A single point of contact to activate the service, covering both technical advice and physical response efforts,
- Resources and personnel at strategically located response bases around the world to minimise response time,
- A unique pool of multilingual industry experts, with a broad range of skills from planning, training and exercises, through to response and post-spill services,
- Five days of free, on-site technical advice and response support from up to five OSRL personnel,
- Preferential rates for training courses and additional response services,
- A dedicated aerial dispersant capability

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

## ELASTEC'S 6TH OIL SPILL WORKSHOP

May 31 - Elastec's 6th Oil Spill Workshop will be held in Carmi, Illinois and New Harmony, Indiana the week of October 1, 2018. This year's theme is again RIVER SPILL. The purpose of this workshop is for participants to experience equipment in on-water exercises and to learn inland response tactics from experienced industry experts. Our workshops appeal to new and seasoned oil spill responders, emergency service organizations and first responder firefighters.

Workshop 2018 also qualifies as an 8-hour Hazwoper refresher course. Our workshops have been sold out each year. Space is limited to accommodate classroom size and safe on-water exercises. To guarantee a space, registration with payment is encouraged and will be accepted on a first come-first serve basis.

Speakers include: • Al Allen – Spiltec • Nick Winslow - BNSF Railway Company • Joel Hogue - Elemental Services and Consulting (ESCO)

[Visit the Inland Oil Spill Workshop 2018 webpage for more information.](#)

## JOIN ISCO ONLINE – IT'S QUICK AND EASY

**There are lots of positive advantages in joining this organisation which has a worldwide membership in 46 countries –**

Being part of a worldwide community of professionals who share a common interest + Receive rapid advice of emergency spill response supply requirements from governments, responsible parties and others arising from major spills and have the opportunity to offer support services, equipment and materials + Receiving ISCO's weekly newsletter keeping you up-to-date on events, developing technologies, new legislation and other matters of mutual interest + Access to a comprehensive online Technical and Reference facility for oil and HNS - spill response tools, guidelines, manuals and other information + Identifying opportunities for providing new products and services needed in domestic and overseas markets + Practical help in building incident response capacity and competence enhancement + Through ISCO, having a voice in the drafting of new legislation that will affect your area of interest + Opportunities to participate in ISCO work groups developing new ideas and projects + Through the International Offers of Assistance initiative opportunities to have a role in the response to very large oil spill events + Networking with other members, sharing experiences, discussing problems and helping find good solutions + Free listing in ISCO's International Directory of Supplies and Services with your entry hyperlinked to your own website. [Download the Joining Form](#)

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