

## 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

### OIL SPILL CONTROL CASPIAN: ONSHORE AND OFFSHORE

6<sup>th</sup> practical Conference and Exhibition



19 - 21 November 2018, Baku, Azerbaijan



### The 6<sup>th</sup> Oil Spill Response Workshop

6-7 December 2018 Beijing China

ISCO Members Save 20% to Register



## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION: RUSSIA AND THE USA HOLD AN OIL SPILL EXERCISE IN THE BERING STRAIT



WWF Russia has reported that a Russian-US seminar on combating seawater pollution and trans-border oil spill response was held in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. WWF Russia co-organized the event together with the Russian Marine Rescue Service, US Coast Guard, the government of Alaska and the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). The Arctic / [Read more](#)

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[Application Form \(Professional Membership\)](#)

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Go to [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) and enter your name and email address in the Registration Form (located on the right-hand side of the home page) then click on "subscribe".

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

### STRENGTHENING OIL SPILL RESPONSE IN EAST AFRICA AND WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN



In the event of a marine oil spill, relevant government agencies in the affected region need to manage and coordinate a response. This scenario was part of a training event on oil spill preparedness and response for countries\* in eastern Africa, held in Dar Es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania (6-9 November).

The training gathered relevant government agency representatives with responsibilities in spill response. It focused on assessment and response to incidents where oil reaches the shoreline – providing an understanding of how oil affects the local environment, the different vulnerabilities present in the region and how to prioritize response actions.

\* Comoros, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa, Somalia, United Republic of Tanzania, and Uganda. IMO / [Read more](#)

### REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON BUILDING AN EFFECTIVE NATIONAL AND REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE CAPACITY & GOLDEN HORN OSR EQUIPMENT DEMONSTRATION



On 06-08 November 2018, the Regional Workshop on "Building an Effective National and Regional Preparedness and Response Capacity" in conjunction with Oil Spill Response Equipment Demonstration were held under the auspices of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and Ministry of Environment and Urbanization of the Republic of Turkey and in cooperation with Turkish Petroleum (TPAO) and MEKE Marine; MOIG members; in Elite World Hotel and Golden Horn-Halic in Istanbul- Turkey.

The main objectives of this workshop were 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, Manufacturers and Academics technical expertise.

This event gathered over 80 delegates from ministries, Oil&Gas industry, manufacturers, responders, training centers, International associations and organizations, universities, ports, service providers and consulting companies : Ministry of Environment and Urbanization, Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, TPAO, MEKE Marine, Shell, SEREPT, OSRL, CEDRE, ATRAC, TPS, DESMI, VIKOMA,



## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

LAMOR, ITOPF, TANKMED, APO, UZMAR, ECOPODEX, GAZI UNIVERSITY, KARADENİZ TEKNİK UNIVERSITY, BOĞAZIÇI UNIVERSITY, IPIECA, NOVAR, ISTAC, CORENA GROUP, MARINPAK, TULIP ENVIRONMENT SERVICES, BAŞARAN Group, NABAA AL-ASRAR, TURMEPA, YEDİ DENİZ MEDYA YAYIN, SAFİ PORT, GALATA PORT, OR TECH, KOCAELİ BÜYÜKŞEHİR BELEDİYESİ, İSTANBUL DENİZ OTOBÜSLERİ, İSTANBUL BÜYÜKŞEHİR BELEDİYESİ, DEZINSEKCIJA and MEDMARINE.

The first two days' workshop programme included oral presentations hinged around five topics: Contingency Planning and Legal Requirements, National and International Response Management Level, Oil Spill Modelling and Training, Oil Spill Response Equipment Industry and New Technology and National and Regional Oil Spill Response Exercises. In addition, a panel discussion was held to debate the 5312 Accredited Oil Spill Response Companies ([Please click here to upload Agenda](#)).

The third day event was dedicated to oil spill response equipment demonstration held in Golden Horn in Halic-Istanbul provided by MEKE Marine response team. The demonstration comprised a deployment in water of 200 meters fence boom, skimmer and fastanks and mobilization of tugs and boats. In addition, participants were afforded the opportunity to see the HAZMAT vehicles and a range of oil spill response and shoreline clean-up equipment. [Read more in the latest MOIG Newsletter](#)

## ITOPF DELIVERS A SEMINAR ON POLLUTANTS OTHER THAN OIL

November 13 - ITOPF delivered a half day seminar on "Ship-source spills – it's not just about oil" in London on Thursday 8th November following its annual Board meeting. The event provided an opportunity to learn about some of the recent shipping incidents attended by ITOPF, with a focus on marine pollutants other than the usual crude and heavy fuel oils that our technical team are typically faced with. It attracted about 80 attendees, primarily from the P&I Clubs, but also from governmental and intergovernmental organisations, as well as our Board of Directors. The reception that followed the seminar provided an excellent opportunity to meet our staff and network with colleagues in the industry. ITOPF / [Source document](#)

Copies of the presentations –

- [Vegetable oil matters - Dr Ann Zhang](#) (2.56 kB)
- [What's in the box? ... Responding to DG container incidents - Dr Annabelle Nicolas-Kopec](#) (4.64 kB)
- [Nurdles, nurdles everywhere... Marine plastic pollution - Capt Julke Brandt](#) (8.8 kB)
- [Coal on the shoal... A seamless response - David Campion](#) (7.48 kB)

## SEA ALARM PARTICIPATION IN HELCOM RESPONSE EXPANDS

November 1 - Sea Alarm's participation in HELCOM RESPONSE concentrates around various topics intended to ensure wildlife response is well-integrated into overall oil spill response in the Baltic region.

As most wildlife response activities will be shore based, integration with shore protection and clean-up activities needs to be optimised. To further that aim Sea Alarm has joined the [SHORE network](#) under HELCOM RESPONSE. Sea Alarm hopes that the SHORE network will lead discussions at HELCOM RESPONSE that aim at ensuring a holistic approach to response preparedness, and the ability to oversee and direct a response which includes all elements of at sea combat, shoreline protection and cleanup, and the mitigation of impacts on wildlife and habitats.

This was the main message delivered by Hugo Nijkamp when attending the recent HELCOM Balex Delta exercise which was organised by Sweden in Kalskrona. This year's edition was more extensive as it was organised with an additional budget from the European Commission. Sea Alarm was asked to participate in the discussions of the observer programme. Hugo emphasised the need for a holistic approach to oil spill response during a panel discussion. Sea Alarm / [Read more](#)

## ISCO PARTICIPATES AT CLEAN GULF



*Photo: ISCO President David Usher (left) and Secretary Matthew Sommerville (right)*

Last week ISCO was at the Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition held in New Orleans, USA.

A report on the event will be published in next week's Newsletter.

## INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

### CHINA: UPDATE - PETROCHEMICAL SPILL CLEANED UP QUANZHOU CITY

November 9 - Local authorities have cleaned up a petrochemical leak from an aging hose pipe on Sunday in east China's Fujian Province, avoiding major seawater contamination in the area.

About 6.97 tons of by-products from the refining of petroleum had leaked from a docked ship at 1:00 a.m. on November 4. The liquid chemical was being transferred from the vessel through an aging hose pipe. CGTN / [Read more](#)

**NORWAY: UPDATE - STRICKEN NORWEGIAN FRIGATE SINKS NEAR BERGEN**

*Photo: The Helge Ingstad, November 13 (Forsvaret)*

November 13 - Despite salvage efforts, the wrecked Norwegian frigate Helge Ingstad has sunk beneath the waves near Bergen, Norway. The Ingstad collided with a merchant tanker on Thursday and was intentionally grounded in an attempt to prevent her from fully sinking.

Over the weekend, salvage divers and shoreside teams connected steel cables from the Ingstad's hull to hard points on shore in hopes of restraining her movement. However, multiple wires parted last night, and salvage supervisors

determined that it was not safe for divers to go in again to rig replacements. The vessel sank further, and as of Tuesday, only the top of her radar tower remained above the surface. She is now stable in deeper water, according to Norwegian Defense salvage chief Haavard Mathiesen. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#) Another report in [gCaptain](#)

**MARSHALL ISLANDS: U.S. NAVY SALVAGE TEAM COMPLETES OIL REMOVAL FROM FORMER GERMAN CRUISER PRINZ EUGEN**

November 14 - A U.S. Navy-led salvage team has successfully removed 229,000 gallons of oil from the sunken World War II vessel ex-Prinz Eugen located in the Kwajalein Atoll in the Marshall Islands.

The project, led by the Navy's Supervisor of Salvage and Diving (SUPSALV), which is part of the Naval Sea Systems Command, and sponsored by the U.S. Army Space and Missile Defense Command /Army Forces Strategic Command. It was led by Stephanie Bocek of SUPSALV.

The success of the oil removal comes after two years of intensive research and planning to prepare for the unprecedented removal of oil from up to 173 tanks from the World War II German heavy cruiser. [gCaptain](#) / [Read more](#)

**USA: NOAA OR&R ROUND-UP OF INCIDENTS DURING OCTOBER 2018**

November 10 - 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 12 incidents, including oil discharges, sunken vessels, and hazardous material releases.

Hurricane Michael made landfall on Oct. 10 near Mexico Beach, Florida as a Category 4 storm with winds of 155 miles an hour — causing significant damage with several reports of displaced, overturned, or capsized vessels.

OR&R began reviewing early imagery to start identifying potential pollution sources, such as displaced vessels and containers. At this time, about 80 percent of the targeted vessels have been assessed, with nearly 200 vessels being identified as requiring action by the pollution task force. As assessment continues, shallow water barges and a 300-ton crane are in route to begin vessel removal and pollution mitigation operations. NOAA and Florida State agency representatives will be on sight to oversee operations to ensure no further environmental harm is done.

Here is the complete list of last month's incidents, click on the links to find out more:

- [F/V San Diego Grounding](#)
- [Breton Sound Tank Battery 53](#)
- [Rollover Accident, Providence, RI](#)
- [Hilcorp East Bay Baptiste facility Discharge](#)
- [Plains Marketing-St James Facility; MM 157](#)
- [Hurricane Michael](#)
- [P/V Grand Sun](#)
- [M/V Candy Store](#)
- [Mystery Sheen, South Pass, LA](#)
- [Tiger Pass Unknown Liquid Release](#)
- [Newtok Tank Farm](#)
- [Sunken F/V Wild Bunch](#)

NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

Note from ISCO Newsletter Editor: Due to a computer glitch a few reports on November 2018 incidents were irretrievably lost. We apologise for this occurrence.

## **AUSTRALIA: CALENDAR OF UPCOMING OIL SPILL RESPONSE COURSES**

To view the training course calendar and book places, click on <https://amosc.com.au/course-calendar/>

## **BENIN: NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP**

November 12 - GI WACAF workshop in Benin From 22nd to 25th October - Cedre assisted GI WACAF in running a national contingency planning workshop and tabletop exercise to test Benin's national oil spill contingency plan. This workshop involved over 40 participants from the administrative authorities involved in emergency oil spill management as well as oil industry players. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

## **CANADA CONTRIBUTES TO INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO COMBAT MARINE POLLUTION CRIME**

November 14 - Enforcing Canadian environmental and marine laws is one important way that the Government of Canada takes action to protect our coasts, wildlife, nature, and economy. Marine pollution can contaminate water and coastal areas, harm marine and coastal ecosystems, affect vulnerable species, and risk public health and food security. It can also significantly damage the livelihood of the millions of people who economically depend on marine products and can threaten sustainable development.

During the month of October, the Government of Canada was proud to participate in the first-ever global action aimed at combatting maritime pollution crime, an INTERPOL-led exercise code-named Operation 30 Days at Sea. Marine pollution crime includes illegal discharges of oil and disposal of waste at sea; breaches of ship emissions regulations; and illicit pollution incidents on rivers, in coastal areas, and other land-based areas (run-off to the sea). The collaborative efforts of 276 law enforcement and environmental agencies across 58 countries have detected more than 500 offences around the world through this initiative. Canadian Govt. / [Read more](#)

## **CROATIA: CEDRE RUNS CHEMICAL POLLUTION SEMINAR IN RIJEKA**

November 12 - Following the MoU signed last April between Cedre and the Adriatic Training and Research Center (ATRAC), two representatives of Cedre visited Rijeka from 15th to 19th October at the invitation of ATRAC's Director Mr Vedran Martinic. This visit was the opportunity to meet with the centre's staff to discuss collaboration possibilities and to run a two-day seminar on chemical pollution for 35 people from Croatian administrations and industry and two representatives of the Albanian Government. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

## **FRANCE: CEDRE ACTIVITIES DURING OCTOBER 2018**

November 12 - Emergency response Here at Cedre, October was overshadowed by the collision between the ship Ulysse and the container ship CSL Virginia off Corsica on 7th October and the resulting consequences. An engineer from Cedre was posted at the Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean, in Toulon, for a week. Two to three agents from Cedre at a time have been permanently on site since 17th October to provide support to the authorities (Var Prefecture) after oil began to wash up on the shores, in particular to conduct site surveys and provide advice on clean-up. Our duty team was also called upon during exercises at the request of REMPEC, the Bouches-du-Rhône Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea (DDTM) and the Maritime Prefecture for the Atlantic (Coleanthe 2018 exercise). In the case of the Coleanthe 2018 exercise, the MAR-Ice network was activated. Finally, we were contacted by the Iroise Marine Nature Park following a diesel spill in Morgat harbour due to a leak from the fishing vessel Océan. An agent from Cedre was sent on site to assist the port manager in handling the incident. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

## **MYANMAR: PROGRESS IN MYANMAR'S OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS**



November 13 - Myanmar is the latest country to benefit from IMO's work to enhance marine oil spill preparedness and response in the ASEAN region. A training course for senior officials and members of the national oil spill management team is taking place in Yangon, Myanmar (12-14 November).

The training is focused on the effective response to oil spills, including on both managing risks from shipping and incident management. It builds on ongoing efforts by the Myanmar National Task Force for the development of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan, which is reaching finalization. The training course coincides with the



completion of the plan, and will be followed by two further activities – a national consultation workshop and a national level table-top exercise – to discuss and test the final draft of the plan. IMO / [Read more](#)

### **NIGERIA: OIL FIRMS RAISE \$180M FOR COMMENCEMENT OF Ogoni CLEAN-UP**

November 15 - The Federal Government, yesterday, said International Oil Companies, IOCs have made a contribution of \$180 million for the Ogoni clean-up exercise which is expected to kick-off in the next two weeks.

The money which is in the escrow account with the Standard Chartered Bank of London was contributed by the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporations, NNPC, Shell Petroleum Development Companies, SPDC, and other oil ventures. Vanguard / [Read more](#)

### **PHILIPPINES: NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN WORKSHOP, 6TH-8TH NOVEMBER**

November 14 – News received from ITOPF - Phil Ruck attended a Philippines National Contingency Planning Workshop in Manila last week. This three-day workshop was organised by the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) under the auspices of the GI SEA project.

Approximately 80 people attended, including personnel from the PCG, other government agencies, oil and gas operators, industry and salvage companies. ITOPF / [Read more](#)

### **TUNISIA: MOIG PARTICIPATED IN OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS WORKSHOP**

Over 30 October-01 November 2018, MOIG participated to the Oil Spill Preparedness Workshop held in Regency Hotel in Tunis-Tunisia organized in cooperation between the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tunisia, the Embassy of the United States of America and the United States Africa Command (USAFRICOM).

The main objectives of this workshop were to learn how to prepare for and respond to oil spills, develop contingency plans and manage response amongst the various Ministries and Agencies.

The first two days' workshop included topics on National policy and International conventions, planning, plans, strategies and resources, health and safety and shoreline clean-up.

The final day was dedicated to table-top exercises. The event gathered more than 30 representatives from various Tunisian Ministries and Agencies members of the National Committee (CN-PLP). [Read more in the latest MOIG Newsletter](#)

### **USA: NATION'S 2ND MOST POTENTIALLY POLLUTING WRECK OFFSHORE BRUNSWICK GEORGIA**



November 6 - The USS Esso Gettysburg sank from a U-boat 100 miles off Brunswick taking over +100K barrels of oil to the seafloor.

Offshore Jekyll Island is a lost wreck rated as the second most potentially polluting wrecks in U.S. waters, the *Esso Gettysburg* which sank violently by a German U-boat in 1943.

This is one of many underwater graveyards from World War II that still pose an environmental danger off the Florida and [North Carolina](#) coasts.

A [NOAA monitoring group](#) ranks the wreck as having the second most damaging potential for ecological and socio-economic impact.

Based on estimates of the maximum amount of oil remaining onboard the wreck, a worst case discharge would involve the release of all of the cargo oil and bunkers present on the vessel which would be 132,000 barrels of oil. News4JAX / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### **USA: NEW CSB 'SAFETY DIGEST' FOCUSES ON EMERGENCY PLANNING, RESPONSE**

November 7 - Proper emergency response training and planning – coupled with early, coordinated communication among companies, first responders and communities – can help prevent chemical incident-related injuries and fatalities, a new Safety Digest from the Chemical Safety Board states.

Released on Oct. 31, the resource outlines responsibilities of first responders, companies and communities when preparing for and responding to chemical incidents. Safety & Health Magazine / [Read more](#) [CSB Safety Digest](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## USA: OR&R PRESENTS AT 2018 INDUSTRY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING



*Photo: OR&R's Lisa DiPinto and Scott Lundgren standing in front the NOVA Tagged Shark Tracker. Image credit: NOAA.*

November 9 - OR&R's senior scientist, Dr. Lisa DiPinto; the chief of OR&R's Emergency Response Division, Scott Lundgren; and OR&R biologist Gary Shigenaka participated in the 2018 Industry Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) Annual Meeting to share information on current and emerging scientific and technical issues influencing spill response.

The conference was held on November 5-7, at NOVA Southeastern University's Oceanographic Center in Port Everglades, Florida.

As described on the ITAC 2018 website, the Industry Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) is non-commercial and is driven by Oil Spill Response Limited as part of its outreach program to facilitate the technical debate for more effective oil spill preparedness and response. OR&R / [Read more](#)

## USA: PETERS PROVISION ESTABLISHING GREAT LAKES COAST GUARD CENTER OF EXPERTISE PASSES SENATE

November 15 - U.S. Senator Gary Peters (MI) this week applauded passage of a provision he authored to establish a U.S. Coast Guard National Center of Expertise (NCOE) for the Great Lakes. The Great Lakes NCOE would examine the impacts of and develop responses to oil spills in freshwater environments. Current oil spill response technologies are primarily designed for saltwater environments. The Coast Guard Commandant told Peters at a hearing last year that the agency was not prepared for an oil spill in the Great Lakes, saying that more science and research must be done. Peters' provision passed as part of broader Coast Guard legislation.

Peters' provision directs the NCOE for Great Lakes Oil Spill Preparedness and Response to be located near critical crude oil pipeline infrastructure in the Great Lakes and at an institution of higher education that has already has aquatic research facilities and expertise on Great Lakes water resources. Coast Guard NCOEs focus on different aspects of the Coast Guard's marine safety mission, including liquefied natural gas transport, the outer continental shelf, towing vessels and investigations among others. Upmatters / [Read more](#)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### PAUL JENNINGS APPOINTED AS NEW INTERNATIONAL GROUP CHAIRMAN



November 13 - The Annual General Meeting of the International Group Managers held in London today confirmed the appointment of Paul Jennings as the new International Group Chairman in succession to Hugo Wynn Williams who completed his three-year term of service and stood down at the meeting. The Group Managers expressed their thanks to Hugo for his strong chairmanship of the Group and, in particular, for his vision and initiative in launching and overseeing a two-year root and branch review of the ways in which the Group clubs collectively deliver benefits for their shipowner members, and looking to the future, how these can be further enhanced in the interests of both shipowners and victims of Maritime incidents. IGP&I / [Read more](#)

### PAUL GUY – MD AT ORACLE ENVIRONMENTAL EXPERTS NI LTD.

Paul Guy has been appointed as Managing Director of Oracle Environmental Experts NI Limited (OEE), a company established to provide environmental expert witness and technical services to a range of clients with its core strength in the assessment of environmental impacts, risks and liabilities associated with pollution incidents and historically contaminated land. Prior to joining OEE in November 2018, he was the Commercial Manager with RAW Group, where he worked for over 12 years. With over 30 years' experience in the industry he has been involved with over 4000 projects over the years <http://www.oracle-environmental.com/>





## OBITUARY

### RALPH BIANCHI



Ralph Bianchi passed away at the age of 89 on January 22, 2018 after battling cancer. Ralph was born on November 11, 1928 in Medford, MA. He graduated high-school from Lawrence Academy, received his Bachelors at UVM, and a master's degree in mechanical engineering from Harvard University. He began his career at Arthur D. Little and went on to found three companies including JBF Scientific which developed the pre-eminent technology for oil spill recovery at sea.

He spent thirty years in the oil spill cleanup business. His company, JBF Scientific, developed new technologies for cleaning up spills, including the skimming method called the Dynamic Inclined Plane (DIP) Skimmer.

Member of the ISCO Executive Committee, Marc K. Shaye has written "I was proud to have known Ralph as a founding member of the (Oil) Spill Control Association of America. His leadership and counsel was invaluable in the early years of SCAA and throughout the years as this industry faced challenges for a burgeoning industry as well as its role as a respected voice for a myriad of environmental regulatory issues. Ralph's sense of style and humor both on and off the golf course underscored his special personality. He was a tough but gentle soul and will be missed". [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO, for passing on this sad news]

## ISCO NEWS

### ISCO WELCOMED VISITORS AT ITS BOOTH AT THE CLEAN GULF EXHIBITION



*In the picture: LEFT - ISCO President David Usher, CENTRE - Justin Waden, Optical Engineer, Polaris Sensor Technologies Inc. and on the RIGHT – Matthew Sommerville, ISCO Secretary*

The ISCO booth at Clean Gulf was a popular spot. Many visitors called by to say hello to Dave Usher, Matthew Sommerville and Membership Director Mary Ann Dalglish.

This year the prize in the traditional draw was a bottle of fine 14-year-old Oban Scotch Whisky. The lucky winner was Justin Waden of Polaris Sensor Technologies. Inc.

Dave particularly enjoyed the opportunity to meet with many old friends.

The booth was particularly busy with many visitors wanting to know about ISCO's activities and the support it provides to the spill response industry.

A keen point of interest was the new free-to-use RESPONSECON contracts created to speed response times to marine and onshore spill events. Time is saved because governments, ship-owners, terminal and pipeline operators, other potential polluters and response contractors can now immediately progress response mobilisation, without delays caused by lengthy negotiations, by simply adopting standard contracts that are accepted as fair and equitable to all parties.

This project was an ISCO initiative developed in partnership with BIMCO and a working group of response contractors, representatives of IGP&I, ISU, ITOPF and SCAA.



### DOCUMENTING DECADES IN OIL SPILL CONTROL: MINIBYTES # 6



THIS IS THE SIXTH IN A SERIES OF SHORT ARTICLES BY ALAN A. ALLEN

Allan A. Allen has over five decades of experience as a technical advisor and field supervisor involving hundreds of oil spills around the world. AI is recognised as a leading consultant and trainer involving oil spill surveillance and spotting techniques, the application of chemical dispersants, and the containment, recovery and/or combustion of spilled oil under arctic and sub-arctic conditions.

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On the Elastec website there is a facility for you to be able to read this article in different languages – Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Malay, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Visit <https://www.elastec.com/oil-spill-response-comparisons-tradeoffs-part-2/>

## Response Option Comparisons & Trade-offs (Part 2)

And now..., for controlled burning! Yes, I am personally excited about this option because it has challenged and humbled me in so many ways over so many years. Even back in grade school, and later as a career move in the 1980's, I could feel the incredible potential for "combustion"! We had not yet developed the tools and techniques (or the public & regulatory support) in the 80's to explore the full potential for burning spilled oil. Worse, as a boy, I was more curious than wise. I have to laugh..., now..., as I think back to my youth (~ 8 to 12 years old) when the building of model airplanes was a popular hobby for kids. My folks and several neighbors soon discovered the imagination and enthusiasm I had for ways to eliminate old models and thus create more space in my room. Yes, I did accidentally ignite some dry fields, and I tested the fire-resistance of a neighbor's roof while launching an ignited model plane from my backyard. Kids and matches – scary! I guess it is not surprising that I found a way later in life to get paid for burning things! Fortunately my dad and a few nervous neighbors helped influence an early appreciation for "Controlled" burning!



Photo 1. Experimental fire boom test in Kenai, Alaska, 1983.

During the last 30 to 35 years the oil spill response community has witnessed the slow but steady development of good, safe and sound protocols as well as effective tools (i.e., fire boom and igniters) to carry out the controlled burning of oil spills.

Such efforts have included many experimental burns as well as the controlled burning of spilled oil on land, in wetlands, and at sea.

During these burns we realized that it was the thickness of the oil layer on water that determined the feasibility of sustained combustion and the efficiency of a burn.

It was clear that we needed a fire-resistant boom that could survive temperatures approaching 2,000°F or more and still have the oil containment properties of a conventional boom in light to moderate seas. It is humbling to admit just how many boom designs and components we tested before we could contain even a small area of burning oil for just an hour or two.

Photo 1 shows a typical 1st generation fire boom test in Kenai, Alaska (1983). Photo 2 shows the inspection of the boom's remains by Wayne Simpson, a senior engineer with Shell Oil at the time, and me. These early efforts led to decades of small tank tests, larger and longer burns in pits, and eventually full-scale experimental burns at sea.

## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

*Photo 2. Wayne Simpson (left) & Al Allen inspecting post-burn contents.*

To the best of my knowledge, the first burn of a large accidental spill of crude oil at sea using fire boom was carried out during the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill in Prince William Sound (PWS), Alaska, in 1989. Approximately 30,000 gallons of crude oil were captured in a U-shaped configuration of fire boom well downstream of the spill source. The boom was towed slowly at about a knot between two fishing boats; and, when we were located a safe distance from any surrounding oil slicks, the contained oil was ignited with a small plastic bag filled with gelled gasoline (basically napalm). The bag was ignited carefully and released from one of the boom towing boats so it could drift back into the contained oil. Within minutes fire had spread over the oil, producing flames well over 100 feet high. The burn resulted in the elimination of approximately 95% or more of the contained oil in less than an hour.



That single burn was completed just before a storm moved in the following day, leaving widely spread patches of emulsified oil on the waters and shorelines of PWS. Most oils become difficult to impossible to ignite once they are weathered and emulsified to water contents in excess of 25% to 30% -- needless to say, several attempts to ignite such weathered oil after the storm failed. The Exxon Valdez burn remained the only one of its kind on a major accidental spill using towed fire boom until 2010.

During the 21 years following the Valdez spill, the tools and techniques for controlled burning improved significantly during relatively small experimental and accidental spills. Then, when the BP blowout occurred during the summer of 2010, 42 miles offshore in the Gulf of Mexico, the response community was ready. We secured authorization to burn quickly and completed more than 400 controlled burns over a 3-month period.



*Photo 3. Representative burn with towed fire boom*

Photo 3 shows one of those burns. Through the summer as many as 20 burn teams would work throughout the day with 2 boom tending boats, about 500 feet of fire boom, and support personnel for ignition and documentation of each burn. Additional vessels and aircraft were used for Command and Safety, backup supplies, ignition and aerial surveillance/spotting functions. These efforts resulted in the elimination of more than 300,000 barrels of spilled crude oil.

As with the use of chemical dispersants, the controlled burning of spilled oil is a relatively simple option, capable under the right conditions of eliminating a lot of oil quickly and efficiently. However, it too has some significant shortcomings and constraints. To ignite and sustain combustion most oils must be thick enough (minimally 1/10th inch, and preferably many inches), relatively fresh and unemulsified, and contained by fire resistant booms or natural barriers to prevent spreading during a burn. Fire booms, like conventional booms, must be towed at relatively slow speeds; and they are limited to the same wind-driven waves of about 3 to 5 feet where breaking waves can make containment most difficult.

As with the application of chemical dispersants, the burning of spilled oil must be approved prior to its use. Federal, state and even some local regulations will almost always have very strict and specific requirements involving minimum distances from populations,



shipping lanes, certain facilities, etc. for controlled burning. Guidelines for air quality and the measurement/monitoring of smoke plumes will be enforced, and requirements will likely be in place regarding the recovery (or possible release) of floating burn residue upon completion of a burn. Water depth is not normally of concern as many burns have been approved in very shallow waters and in or near wetlands. Even large burns take several hours or more to raise the temperature of underlying water just a few degrees, especially where burns are conducted with booms under tow (i.e., with water continuously replaced beneath the fire).

As discussed in previous blogs, each of the three primary oil spill response options (skimming, dispersants and burning) are best implemented when supported by broad-range aerial surveillance systems and close-in “spotter” capability to maximize and maintain access to thick oil. In addition:

Physical removal is universally accepted and offers the potential for effective clean-up with a broad range of oil types and conditions in calm to moderate seas. Oil encounter rate with most skimming systems (due to relatively low operating speeds and swaths) may significantly reduce effectiveness with wide-spread oil slicks. Recovered oil must be stored, often transferred to backup storage vessels or barges, and disposed of. No authorization for use is required.

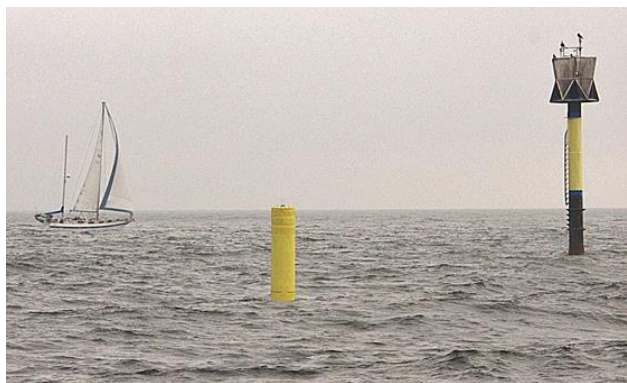
Chemical dispersants can be applied with high oil encounter rates and reasonably good efficiency on fairly fresh and naturally thickened oil slicks. They can be applied over extensive areas, even under relatively rough wind/sea conditions, but must be used in waters of adequate depth with good mixing energy. Careful consideration must be given to short-term elevated hydrocarbon concentrations in near-surface waters. Authorization for use is required, and special monitoring will almost always be required.

Controlled burning provides a high volume elimination technique where relatively fresh oil with little-to-light emulsification can be concentrated in calm to moderate seas. Oil encounter rate may significantly reduce effectiveness with wide-spread oil slicks (due to low areal coverage rates). Minor storage and disposal may be required for any recovered burn residue. Careful consideration must include possible short-term exposures of people and facilities to fire, and to the products of combustion. Authorization for use is required, and special monitoring of air quality will likely be required.

TO BE CONTINUED

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### FOR THE FIRST TIME, A SMART BUOY WITH AN OIL SENSOR IS DELIVERING DATA VIA SATELLITE IN OPEN SEA CONDITIONS IN THE BALTIC SEA



*Photo: The yellow Smart Buoy is located south of Helsinki, but quite far out, facing the open sea, close to the main fairway to the south. © Photo: Joose Mykkänen*

November 9 – In October a smart navigation buoy system started to deliver real-time measurement data via satellite, monitoring oil and some other water quality parameters in the Baltic Sea's water. The monitoring data gives later great advantages to the oil spill response actions of authorities and it eases revealing illegal oil discharges. The system is part of SYKE's GRACE project cooperation and it is made by Meritaito Ltd. The data is freely available on the Internet. Project's website: [www.grace-oil-project.eu](http://www.grace-oil-project.eu)

### LAYING WASTE TO MERCURY: INEXPENSIVE SORBENTS MADE FROM SULFUR AND RECYCLED COOKING OILS

Worthington, M.J.H., R.L. Kucera, I.S. Albuquerque, C.T. Gibson, A. Sibley, A.D. Slattery, et al.

Chemistry: A European Journal 23(64):16219-16230(2017) - Researchers have developed low-cost Hg sorbents made solely from sulfur and unsaturated cooking oils. A porous version of the polymer was prepared by simply synthesizing the polymer in the presence of a sodium chloride porogen. The resulting material is a rubber that captures liquid Hg metal, Hg vapor, inorganic Hg bound to organic matter, and highly toxic alkylmercury compounds. Hg removal from air, water, and soil was demonstrated. Because sulfur is a by-product of petroleum refining and spent cooking oils from the food industry are suitable starting materials, these Hg-capturing polymers can be synthesized entirely from waste and supplied on multi-kilogram scales. <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> The paper is Open Access at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1002/chem.201702871>.

**UK: NI COASTAL CONTINGENCY PLAN REVIEW**

DAERA NIEA Water Management - NI Coastal Contingency Plan Review. The work that is being commissioned is to undertake a review and rewrite of the existing NI Coastal Contingency Plan (NICCP). The NICCP is required to ensure there is a timely, measured and effective response to deal with incidents of marine pollution from shipping that impact on, or have the potential to impact on the marine and terrestrial environment of Northern Ireland. A test of the existing NICCP was undertaken by running an exercise called Black Dawn from 4-6 April 2017. Following the exercise a number of recommendations were made and the work now being commissioned is part of that follow up. <https://etendersni.gov.uk/epps/cft/prepareViewCFTWS.do?resourceId=1783561E>

**RESPONSE EVENTS DURING NOVEMBER 2018 (UPDATED)**

**AZERBAIJAN: INDUSTRIAL SAFETY IN OIL AND GAS: OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY**

Baku, November 19-21. The main goal of this annual conference and exhibition is to provide HSE specialists from oil companies, refineries, ports, terminals as well as ship-owners with information about effective approaches and latest cost-effective technologies, equipment and solutions for industrial safety and oil spills prevention, monitoring and recovery. For more information please contact: George Pirchalaishvili, [georgep@ccapital.co.uk](mailto:georgep@ccapital.co.uk) +44 208 349 1999 [More info](#)

**UK: IMO COUNCIL MEETING**

London, November 19-23. The Council is the executive organ of IMO and is responsible, under the Assembly, for supervising the work of the Organization. The Council is made up of 40 Member States, elected by the Assembly for two-year terms. [More info](#)

**UK: WWEM WATER CONFERENCE AND WATER EXHIBITION**

Telford, November 21-22. The 8th in the Series of International Water and Wastewater Monitoring events is focused for companies and individuals who are involved with water, wastewater and environmental monitoring. [More info](#)

**JAMAICA: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION REGIME**

Kingston, November 27. The IOPC Funds have been invited by the Jamaican Maritime Authority to run a three-day workshop in collaboration with ITOFF. Practical exercises and case studies will be included in the training course. [More info](#)

**FRANCE: POLLUTEC 2018: ECO TRADE SHOW & CONFERENCE**

Lyon, November 27-30. The 28<sup>th</sup> International Trade Show for environmental equipment, technologies and services. [More info](#)

**PHILIPPINES: EAST ASIA SEAS CONFERENCE 2018**

Iloilo, November 27-30. Carrying the theme, “25 Years of Partnerships for Healthy Oceans, People and Economies: Moving as One with the Global Ocean Agenda”, the EAS Congress 2018 is open to a broad range of stakeholders including National and Local Governments, the United Nations system, intergovernmental organizations, bilateral and multi-lateral projects, international financial institutions, non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions, the scientific community, the private sector, and other stakeholders. [More info](#) [Event Guide](#)

**JAPAN: PAJ OIL SPILL WORKSHOP**

Tokyo, November 28. Theme: "Recent Oil Spills & Future Preparedness". English & Japanese (with simultaneous interpretation) [More info](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS – DECEMBER 2018 ONWARDS (UPDATED)**

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
UAE	Postponed	<a href="#">RECSO EnviroSpill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Abu Dhabi
CYPRUS	Dec. 4-5	<a href="#">W'shop on compensation for oil pollution damage</a>	Nicosia
UK	Dec. 5-6	<a href="#">Salvage &amp; Wreck Removals Conference</a>	London



## UPCOMING EVENTS – DECEMBER 2018 ONWARDS (CONTINUED)

UK	Dec 5	<a href="#">Maritime Accidents &amp; Emergencies Summit</a>	London
GERMANY	Dec. 5-6	<a href="#">13<sup>th</sup> Arctic Shipping Summit</a>	Hamburg
CHINA	Dec. 6-7	<a href="#">Oil Spill Response Workshop (OSRW 2018)</a>	Beijing
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2019</b>	<b>TITLE OF EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
UK & IRELAND	January 15	<a href="#">ISAA All Ireland Steering Group Meeting</a>	Hillsborough
USA	February 4-7	<a href="#">Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill &amp; Ecosystem Conference</a>	New Orleans, LA
SAUDI ARABIA	February 19-21	<a href="#">PetroEnvironment 2019</a>	Al Khobar
FRANCE	March 5	<a href="#">CEDRE Information Day</a>	Paris La Défense
USA	March 26-27	<a href="#">SCAA Annual Meeting &amp; Conference</a>	Arlington, VA
USA	April 16-18	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference</a>	Cincinnati, OH
USA	May 14-17	<a href="#">Hands-on OSR Strategies and Tactics Training</a>	Leonardo, NJ
AUSTRALIA	May 20-24	<a href="#">SPILLCON 2019 Conference and Exhibition</a>	Perth
CROATIA	May 28-30	ADRIASPILLCON 2019 Conference and Exhibition	Opatija
CANADA	June 4-6	42 <sup>nd</sup> AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination & Response	Halifax, Nova Scotia
CANADA	June 18-20	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition</a>	Vancouver BC
USA	October 28-31	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition</a>	New Orleans LA
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>TITLE OF EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
USA	May 11-14	<a href="#">International Oil Spill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	New Orleans LA
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

<a href="#">Alga Chronicle</a>	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	August 2018
<a href="#">AMSA Aboard</a>	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2017
<a href="#">ATRAC Newsletter</a>	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	Sept. 2018 issue
<a href="#">BIMCO Bulletin</a>	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	Sept. 2018 issue
<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
<a href="#">Bow Wave</a>	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	October 2018
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	November 2018
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2018 issue
<a href="#">IMO Publishing News</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	October 2018
<a href="#">Intertanko Weekly News</a>	International news for the oil tanker community	Nov. 16, 2018
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	October 2018 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	March-April, 2018
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	October 2018 issue
<a href="#">Nautical Institute News</a>	News from the Nautical Institute	June-July, 2018
<a href="#">Navigate Response</a>	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	September 2018
<a href="#">NOAA OR&amp;R</a>	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	October 2018
<a href="#">OHMSETT Gazette</a>	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Fall 2018
<a href="#">PEMSEA E News</a>	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	October, 2018
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	Nov. 14, 2018
<a href="#">Safe Seas, Clean Seas</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	July 2018 issue
<a href="#">Salvage World</a>	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Spring 2018 issue
<a href="#">Spill Alert</a>	Newsletter from the UK Spill Association	December 2017
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Oct.1-15, 2018
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	Nov. 1, 2018

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

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