

## 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



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

6-7 December 2018 Beijing China

ISCO Members Save 20% to Register

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

## INTERNATIONAL CO-OPERATION:

### SEMINAR ON UNDERSTANDING MARITIME POLLUTION THREATS AND RESPONSE SYSTEMS IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION-UNITED STATES TRANS-BOUNDARY AREA

This report from NOAA adds to the report in last week's newsletter



Above: Catherine Berg sharing NOAA response documents with Sergei Bezusov, Director of the Sakhalin Branch of the Russian Marine Rescue Service. Image credit: NOAA

November 21 - On November 3-10, Doug Helton and Catherine Berg from the OR&R's Emergency Response Division travelled with colleagues from the U.S. Coast Guard and

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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)

the State of Alaska, to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, Russia to participate in a "Seminar on Understanding Maritime Pollution Threats and Response Systems in the Russian Federation-United States Trans-Boundary Area".



Above: U.S. Delegation at Russian Federal office building. Image credit: NOAA.

The seminar involved a number of Russian agencies, industry, and NGOs, including the Russian Marine Rescue Service, the World Wildlife Fund, the Nevelskoy Maritime University, the State Oceanographic Institute, Sovcomflot (a Russian maritime shipping company specializing in petroleum and LNG shipping), Sakhalin Environmental Watch, Rosneft, and Exxon Neftegas. The discussions focused on 3 main areas: trans-

boundary pollution threats, national preparedness and response capabilities, and methods for joint responses to incidents in the boundary area. The meetings concluded with an international table-top exercise to test and practice the provisions of the existing "Joint Contingency Plan of the United States of America and the Russian Federation on Combating Pollution in the Bering and Chukchi Seas". The goals of the exercise included testing emergency international notifications and the use of ERMA (Environmental Response Management Application) as a common operational picture to facilitate the coordination of emergency response efforts. [Thanks to NOAA OR&R] [Source document with more photos](#)

## GISEA: GLOBAL INITIATIVE SOUTHEAST ASIA

November 19 – Amanda Chee, Project Manager has written to ISCO introducing GISEA. The GISEA Project supports capacity building of the competent national authorities and wider community in the Southeast Asia region through sharing of expertise, organising workshops, training, seminars and exercises in collaboration with corporate and the local oil and gas industry. You can learn more about GISEA at [www.gisea.org](http://www.gisea.org). A link for accessing the GISEA website has been added to the Links (International) page on the ISCO website at [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org)

## INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

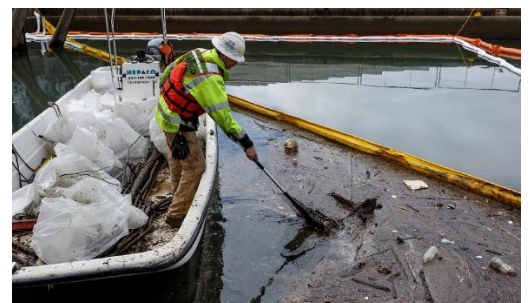
### SOUTH AFRICA: OIL LEAK CONTAINED IN SIMON'S TOWN HARBOUR

November 12 - An oil leak from an old navy tugboat, De Mist, at the Simon's Town harbour has been prevented from spreading further. The 39-year-old decommissioned vessel sank on Friday in gusty winds of 50km/h. IOL News / [Read more](#)

### USA: TENNESSEE - CITICO CREEK OIL SPILL WAS RESULT OF CONTRACTOR PUMPING FUEL DIRECTLY INTO CREEK

*Photo: An environmental clean-up worker deploys booms in Citico Creek after a Jan. 8, 2018, spill leaked thousands of gallons of diesel fuel into the creek and the Tennessee River. Photo by Doug Strickland /Times Free Press.*

November 15 - Norfolk Southern used 120 contract workers to recover and dispose of 14 tons of petroleum-tainted debris and materials, 11,500 gallons of polluted water and around 2,700 gallons of released diesel, according to the order. Times Free Press / [Read more](#)





### NORWAY: FRIGATE'S OIL SPURS SEAFOOD WARNINGS

See also earlier reports in ISCO Newsletters 660 & 661

November 16 - Oil seeping from the mostly sunken wreckage of the Norwegian frigate Helge Ingstad has prompted state food safety agency Mattilsynet to warn against eating seafood caught in the area. Farmed salmon is also being checked for any signs of oil pollution.

Oil has been leaking from the frigate, which suffered a large gash on its starboard (right) side during the collision early last Thursday morning, ever since. Special equipment meant to contain oil spills were quickly put into place around the frigate, but haven't prevented the frigate's oil from spreading in turbulent seas. Aerial photos have shown oil slicks drifting mostly northwards.

Naval officials have confirmed that there were 380,000 liters of marine diesel on board the Helge Ingstad, along with 30,000 liters of helicopter fuel. More than half of the latter has leaked from the wreckage. News in English / [Read more](#)

### CANADA: OIL VESSEL OFF THE NEWFOUNDLAND COAST SPILLS 250,000 LITRES OF CRUDE

*Photo: A leak coming from a flowline to the SeaRose, seen in this file photo, can't be contained until ocean conditions settle, the petroleum board says. (Photo courtesy Husky Energy)*

November 17 - An oil spill off the coast of Newfoundland caused an estimated 250,000 litres of crude to leak into the ocean, Husky Energy said Friday.

The leak, from a flowline to the SeaRose FPSO, a vessel stationed about 350 kilometres off the Newfoundland coast, happened around mid-day on Friday in the White Rose field while crews were preparing to restart production. CBC News / [Read more](#)



**November 20 - Newfoundland oil spill: biologists fear scale of devastation may never be known.** Biologists are attempting to assess damage to vulnerable wildlife caused by Newfoundland's largest-ever oil spill, amid fears that the full scale of devastation may never be known. "This is perhaps the worst time of year for an oil spill to occur with respect to seabirds," said Gail Fraser, a biologist who specializes in maritime seabirds. "There are literally millions of [them] that move down from the Arctic. They're there in really high densities and they are highly vulnerable to even small amounts of oil pollution." The Guardian / [Read more](#)

**November 20 - Newfoundland's largest-ever oil spill is now impossible to clean up.** The 250,000-litre spill happened on Friday morning while Husky Energy's SeaRose platform was preparing to restart production during a fierce storm that was, at the time, the most intense in the world. Scott Tessier, chief executive of the Canada-Newfoundland and Labrador Offshore Petroleum Board, said no oil sheens were spotted on the water on Monday or Tuesday, meaning the oil has likely broken down to the point that it cannot be cleaned up. Financial Post / [Read more](#)

**November 21 - Flowline Separation Caused Newfoundland Oil Spill.** A flowline separation has been confirmed as the cause of the 250,000 liter oil spill at the SeaRose FPSO on Friday. The FPSO is located 350 kilometers southeast of St. John's, Newfoundland, Canada.

Husky had shut in oil production at the White Rose field on Thursday, November 15 due to operational safety concerns resulting from severe weather. The record release of oil occurred during restart procedures the following day. The restart was attempted during a storm with hurricane-like winds and high seas. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### NIGERIA: POLICE ARREST TWO SUSPECTS AS RESIDENTS SCOOP FUEL FROM VANDALISED PIPELINE

November 17 - The suspects were arrested by men of Ikotun Division on Monday for vandalizing Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation (NNPC) pipelines, in the Omo Onile area of Ikotun, in Alimosho Local Government Area of Lagos State.

The vandals, it was said, had loaded about two tankers, before they fled on sighting policemen, while they were loading fuel into third tanker. The Nation / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### TURKEY: MSC CONTAINER SHIP BREACHED IN ALLISION, OIL LEAK

November 19 - Container ship MSC KATYAYNI allided with pier while maneuvering to berth at around 0800 LT Nov 19 at Yilport, Diliskelesi, Turkey, Marmara sea. Ship's hull was breached portside in fuel tank area above waterline, with ensuing fuel leak.

The ship was fenced by booms, cleansing operation was launched. It is not known yet what caused an accident. Fleetmon / [Read more](#)

## INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

### INDIA: MT CORAL STARS GETS COAST GUARD NOTICE TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILL AT KAMARAJAR PORT

November 20 - The Indian Coast Guard has served notice on Marshall Islands tanker MT Coral Stars for spilling more than two tonnes of thick furnace fuel oil (FFO) in the sea after a flexible hose snapped while discharging oil at the Marine Liquid Terminal-1 at the Kamarajar Port. The Coast Guard official said that Indian Coastal Guard Ship (ICGS) Samudra Pahredar, which has an infrared surveillance system that can detect any oil spill, even of minor nature, and thereafter dissolve the oil, has joined the operations to clean up the spill along the port area. The vessel is equipped with hi-sprint booms and river booms, recovery devices such as skimmers, side-sweeping arms and storage devices, among other features. *New Indian Express* / [Read more](#)



### UK: NORTHERN IRELAND - OIL SPILL INTO DRUMRAGH/ STRULE RIVER

November 21 - Investigations are continuing in Tyrone following a major oil spill into the Drumragh and Strule River. Authorities have confirmed that they have identified the source and stopped the leakage into the river which has already caused significant contamination and pollution of the watercourse. *Highland Radio* / [Read more](#)

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

### ARGENTINA: SUB FOUND PARTIALLY 'IMPLODED' AFTER YEARLONG SEARCH



*Photo: The Argentine military submarine ARA San Juan and crew are seen leaving the port of Buenos Aires, Argentina June 2, 2014. Picture taken on June 2, 2014. Armada Argentina/Handout via REUTERS*

November 17 - The ARA San Juan submarine was discovered by marine tracking contractor Ocean Infinity, 907 meters (2,975 feet) below the ocean surface. The vessel was found in an underwater canyon with its tail partially "imploded," Argentina's Defense Minister Carlos Aguad said.

gCaptain / [Read the full report](#) Related report in [The Maritime Executive](#)

### AUSTRALIA: AGENCIES PUT TO THE TEST IN SPILL EXERCISE

November 19 - One of the State's biggest oil spill response exercises took place in Albany last week. Exercise Amity Challenge involved about 220 participants from 22 organisations taking place over four days. The simulation exercise provided the opportunity for the Southern Ports Authority and Department of Transport to work together with other organisations to effectively respond to a significant oil spill in Princess Royal Harbour. *Albany Advertiser* / [Read the report and view photographs](#)

### BRAZIL: ITOPF SUPPORTS EVENTS IN BRAZIL

November 19 - From 22nd to 25th October, ITOPF participated in the NOSCA International Seminar on Oil Spill Technology, which took place in Rio de Janeiro under the auspices of the Norwegian consulate. Duarte gave a talk entitled "Towards a standardization of shoreline clean-up. Is it possible?" The seminar attracted an international audience from government and industry and generated interesting and productive discussions on many different aspects of oil spill preparedness and response. The following week ITOPF delivered a seminar and workshop at the invitation of the Brazilian Navy, IBAMA (Ministry of Environment) and ANP (National Petroleum Agency) from 29th - 31st October. This event attracted around 35 participants, including representatives from Petrobras and various Brazilian government departments and institutions. ITOPF / [Read more](#)

### GUINEA: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE

November 20 - Last week (12 - 15 November) a national workshop aimed at building the country's oil pollution preparedness and response capacity was held, under the auspices of the GI WACAF project – a collaboration between IMO and IPIECA. IMO / [Read more](#)

## INDIA: 'CHEMICAL TANKER OFF KOCHI COAST A DISASTER WAITING TO HAPPEN'



*In the picture: Participants at a seminar on responses to marine pollution organised by the Commander Coast Guard (Kerala and Mahe) on Willingdon Island in Kochi on Friday.*

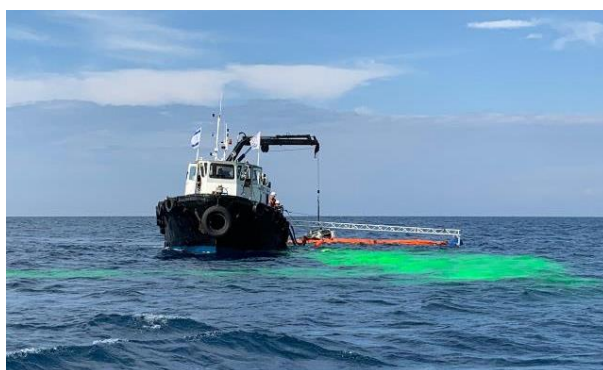
November 17 - A chemical tanker bearing almost 3,000 tonnes of flammable liquid – consisting primarily of the highly hazardous naphtha – has been in limbo off Kochi's coast for almost six months now. It is a "potential disaster waiting to happen", cautioned officer-in-charge of Kochi's Coast Guard Training Centre Deputy Inspector General (DIG) K.R. Deepak Kumar, in a seminar on responses to marine pollution organised by the Commander Coast Guard (Kerala and Mahe) on Willingdon Island in Kochi.

The now-unmanned vessel, managed by Elektrans Shipping and owned by Arya Ship Charterers Private Limited, is anchored around 12.2 nautical miles off Kochi's coast, and about 370 metres outside territorial waters. The Hindu / [Read more](#)

## ISRAEL: MINISTRY-LED NATIONAL OIL SPILL DRILL

November 22 - During the simulated scenario, a collision between the Tomassos tanker and the Israel Electric Corp's Excelebrate vessel was reported at 6:00 on November 13th, 7.2 nautical miles (approximately 13 km) west of Hadera beach. As a result, 5,000 tons of fuel oil leaked, and the size of the stain in the scenario was 5 km wide and 4 km long.

Emergency personnel from the MoEP, Israel's Navy, the Nature and Parks Authority, Israel Police, and other agencies, were deployed, as were personnel from factories and companies, such as Noble Energy, Israel Electric Corp, and others. In light of the situation, the MoEP requested international assistance from REMPEC, the Mediterranean Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Center.



Israel Ministry of Environmental Protection / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Major Ben Benny, Member of ISCO Council for Israel]

Note from Editor: Ben Benny is COO of M.Danchor Ltd. Three of his company's vessels - DANCHOR II, DANCHOR III, and DANCHOR IV took part in the national oil spill exercise.

## NIGERIA: Ogoni WILL RESIST IMPOSITION OF UNQUALIFIED FIRMS FOR CLEANUP

November 18 - Ogoni will resist attempt to include any company that lacks expertise in environmental remediation in the proposed clean-up of polluted sites in Ogoniland. Guardian NG / [Read more](#)

## OMAN: WORKSHOP ON THE INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION REGIME

November 19 - At the invitation of the Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs, the IOPC Funds participated in a regional workshop on the international liability and compensation regime for ship-source oil pollution incidents from 13-14 November 2018 in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. Around 40 participants from various government agencies, as well as the shipping industry, took an active part in the workshop. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

## SOUTH AFRICA: GOVERNMENT/INDUSTRY INCIDENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM

November 21 - GI WACAF will attend a joint Government/industry Incident Management System (IMS) oil spill exercise in Port Elizabeth – 29-30 November 2018. The exercise focuses on testing the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP), including the draft Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response contingency plan. A deployment of oil spill containment equipment by local service providers is also taking place. GI WACAF / [More info](#)

## TURKEY: REGIONAL WORKSHOP & EXERCISE "GOLDEN HORN" IN ISTANBUL

**A short report and additional photos received from M. Kerem Kemerli, Member of the ISCO Management Committee**

The Turkish Ministries of Environment & Urbanisation and Transportation & Infrastructure were present to support the effective National and Regional Preparedness in the Mediterranean and co-operation between industry and Government.

Expert presentations were made to an attendance of 130 people from Turkish and International institutions and companies.



## NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

A panel discussion took place between accredited response company of Turkey under the moderation of Ministry of Transportation & Infrastructure and ITOPI, in which the Turkish Spill Response system was discussed with comparison to other world systems. A presentation on ISCO's activities, with particular emphasis on RESPONSECON, was given by Kerem Kemerli (See more under ISCO News). The feedback from the attendees and Turkish authorities was extremely positive.

Kerem Kemerli also sent photos taken during the Exercise "Golden Horn" –



### UK: OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING AT BEMBRIDGE HARBOUR

November 20 - Run in conjunction with Bembridge Harbour Authority, the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's (MCA) beach supervisors training course was the first of its kind on the Island. It featured classroom sessions on oil spillage contingency planning and methods of response, plus a practical exercise on protecting Bembridge Harbour from incoming oil. Island Echo / [Read more](#)

### UK: ORKNEY FACING £384,000 BILL FOR DECADES-OLD NAVY OIL SPILL

November 21 - The local authority wants to redevelop Lyness, on the island of Hoy, to take advantage of increased activity in oil and gas decommissioning. However, before that can be done, it faces a £384,000 bill to extract heavy oil trapped below the site from when it was used as a Royal Navy fuel depot.

The contamination occurred due to a pipe spillage in the 1960s, when the site was owned and occupied by the Ministry of Defence (MoD). Aberdeen Press & Journal / [Read more](#)

### USA: COAST GUARD ORDERS CLEAN-UP OF MASSIVE 14-YEAR OIL SPILL IN GULF OF MEXICO

November 20 - The federal government has issued an ultimatum to an energy company to stop an oil spill that has been leaking thousands of gallons into the Gulf of Mexico every day for more than 14 years.

In an order issued by the U.S. Coast Guard, Taylor Energy Co. was told to "institute a ... system to capture, contain, or remove oil" from the site or face a \$40,000 per day fine for failing to comply.

The order was issued Oct. 23, a day after The Washington Post reported that the spill was far greater than Interior Department estimates, which were based on company data.

Up to 700 barrels of oil per day have leaked from Taylor Energy's former site 12 miles off the coast of Louisiana since the platform was destroyed during Hurricane Ivan in 2004, according to an analysis issued by the Justice Department.

Washington Post / [Read more](#)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### CHANGES IN GI WACAF SECRETARIAT

November 20 – GI WACAF is glad to announce that the GI WACAF Secretariat changed in October 2018 and to introduce the new team: Julien Favier and Émilie Canova.

Julien has taken over from Clément Chazot as Project manager after two years as Project coordinator. Julien first joined the GI WACAF Project in October 2016 and since then he has had the opportunity to work closely with government and industry representatives alike at home and within many countries of the region.

Émilie Canova, the new Project coordinator, has just arrived from Paris, where she was desk officer in charge of Nordic countries and the Arctic at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. She was focusing on the regional cooperation on environmental and hydrocarbons related subjects. GI WACAF / [Read more](#)

### ISCO AT CLEAN GULF: MORE PHOTOS JUST RECEIVED

ISCO thanks Carlos Sagrera MSc, MISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Panama, for sending your editor these photos.



Membership Director, Mary Ann Dagleish on the ISCO Booth with ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville

ISCO Secretary Matthew Sommerville with Carlos Sagrera, Member of ISCO Council for Panama

### ISCO PRESENTATION GIVEN AT MOIG WORKSHOP HELD IN ISTANBUL, TURKEY



M. Kerem Kemerli, President of Meke Marine and Member of the ISCO Executive Committee created and gave an excellent presentation during the recent Mediterranean Oil Spill Workshop and Marine Oil Spill Response held in Istanbul, Turkey.

The success of the Istanbul event was largely due to the hard work and effort put in by Kerem and MOIG Director, Houcine Mejri.

You can download and view Kerem's presentation "International Assistance through Information Exchange" here - [ISCO Presentation](#)

It is suggested that Members, and especially Committee and Council Members, save a copy of this Power Point presentation and make use of it on an opportunity basis to promote ISCO at suitable meetings, seminars and other events.

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

### NEW LOCATION FOR INTERTANKO'S SINGAPORE OFFICE

INTERTANKO's Singapore Branch Office will be moving to a new permanent office with effect from 1 December 2018.

The new address will be as follows:

**70 Shenton Way  
#20-04 Eon Shenton  
Singapore 079118**

Email addresses remain unchanged and the Singapore Branch Office telephone number remains +65 6333 4007.

Please note the new address for mailing and visiting purposes from December.

## DOCUMENTING DECADES IN OIL SPILL CONTROL: MINIBYTES # 7



THIS IS THE SEVENTH 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/lessons-burned-into-memory/>

## Lessons Burned into Memory

Why is it that some lessons, often the most humbling, seem burned into memory? As I completed Blog #6 last month involving the controlled burning of oil, I was reminded of a few such humbling lessons, and decided to tell you about two of them this month. The first learning experience deals with the importance of pausing now and then to make sure that a rigorous, intense “path” of discovery is not turned into a deep “rut” from which a full range of solutions may be missed. The second learning event involves a warning that a known, reliable “path” should not be changed easily under the pressure or excitement of others to explore a less reliable shortcut.

**Learning #1 (a delayed eureka moment):** It had been well over 10 years into the phase of my career when I was plowing forward anxiously to develop a truly fire-resistant boom. I, and some equally pyro-oriented associates, had been trying every conceivable concept and material that might give us a suitable floating barrier to contain burning oil. Time after time, burn after burn, our brilliant ideas for booms with combinations of steel, ceramics, and high-temperature fabrics, resulted in failure. Some booms lasted a few hours in relatively small (4- to 6-ft diameter) burns; but they could not take the heat when exposed to larger burns tens of feet in diameter. These test burns usually involved diesel or crude oil fed from below water to the middle of a closed ring of fire boom, floating on fresh or salt water a few feet deep, within a metal tank. The oil would often be ignited using a highly sophisticated technique – a rag, soaked in gasoline or kerosene, positioned lightly at the end of a pole held horizontally by researcher “A”, ignited carefully by researcher “B”, and then released by “A” onto the contained oil within the ring of boom. Many intense fires and discouraging boom failures resulted for years -- one so intense, that it cremated my video camera, thought to be sufficiently located a safe distance from any possible flare-up of oil leaked to the wrong side of the boom! Sorry, we are not yet to Learning #1. That was perhaps #0.2.

One day..., a day I shall not forget..., as I sadly pulled the slightly fire-resistant, crispy-critter boom from the tank, skimmed up the floating unburned oil and residue, and retrieved the igniter rag, a FLASH of INSIGHT exploded from my head!! That soggy, little, oil-stained rag had not a single fiber of its being singed or disfigured in any way!!! Why, after re-using those igniter rags multiple times, over several years of testing, had I never thought of making a fire-resistant boom out of wet rags?! Well, the rest of this story is now history. With the help of such groups as American Marine Corporation, Mid-Mountain Materials Corporation, and Elastec, we went on and found a way to make a boom the cover of which could be kept saturated from within its core with water pumped from the boom's towing vessel. Instead of fighting the 1,500°F to 2,000°F temperatures, we could build a boom with above-water components that only needed to survive 212°F, the boiling point for water. The resulting water-cooled fire boom, built by Elastec, played a key role in the burning of well over 300,000 bbl of oil at sea during the BP Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010. I am still humbled and a bit embarrassed by the time it took to see what should have been obvious. An experience, nowhere close to that of Thomas Edison's, however, a soggy rag became my “light bulb” that day as it brightened my spirits and continues to serve as a good reminder not to fight nature, but to work with the elements.

**Learning #2 (burning toilet paper):** Speaking of igniters and humbling events..., I was wrapping up a week-long training course in Nigeria several years ago, and it was a day of hands-on training involving the controlled burning of spilled oil. The sponsor (a well-known oil company) suggested that we might use a reserve pit to demonstrate the ignition of oil since there was a large accumulation of waste oil in the pit from their facilities. In class and in some small on-land demonstrations, I had covered the basic safety and operational guidelines for a number of commonly used, hand-held, oil spill igniters. I had helped develop a number of these igniters and was hoping that the class would select one of my favorites for the reserve pit. But, no, they seemed to like the unique, last-ditch approach involving a roll of toilet paper, saturated with kerosene, slid onto the end of a pole, and then ignited (recall the role of Researcher “B” in Learning #1 above).



As you'd expect, Researcher "A" (yes, appropriately with the initials, AAA) was to hold the pole horizontally during the ignition of the toilet paper roll, and then demonstrate a controlled whip of the pole overhead, releasing the burning roll of toilet paper into the air and well out a safe distance onto the oil in the pit. Unfortunately, a suitable pole could not be found that day, however, one of the students did locate what seemed to be a strong tree branch over an inch in diameter at the handle end, and about 6 to 7 feet in length. Once ready, a proper safety briefing was held, including a carefully executed dry run without toilet paper, the role of key student participants, a check of all fire protection equipment, a discussion of all things that should go according to plan, and as always precautions for what might not!

Ignition of the toilet paper went smoothly. The whipping of the branch (at least part of it) went smoothly. The end of the branch on which the burning roll of toilet paper was located broke during mid-whip, allowing it to fall to the ground within a few feet of the whipper, "A", who skillfully attempted a rapid get-away. Having not practiced such a move on the gravel slope of a reserve pit, "A" generated a mix of applause, shock, retreat by some, and the immediate support of a few brave students. As he slipped, fell and rolled toward the pit of dome, trying to out-run (or out-roll) an approaching ball of fire, he soon managed to get to his feet, assume a confident facial expression and stride back toward his class. The roll of burning toilet paper found its intended target, gradually heated the highly weathered and emulsified waste oil nearby, and eventually resulted in a very successful burn over the entire pit. This was another great "learning" for Instructor "A", the details of which I am certain you can imagine! When you have a solid, reliable plan, stick to it!

I have another "Learning" in mind for next month (Blog #8) that has nothing to do with burning. The topic will involve the value of good training. The lesson will help get to the bottom of things involving the use of remote technology (hints, underlined).

TO BE CONTINUED

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## SPECIAL REPORT

### TEST OF HERDER AND CONTROLLED BURNING OF SPILLED OIL IN KAZAKHSTAN

**A Special Report contributed by the joint authors – Alun Lewis, Peter Taylor and Nurlybek Kalimov (NCOC Project Operations Lead), with thanks to NCOC for the photographs in the report.**

NCOC (North Caspian Operating Company N.V.) is the operator of the North Caspian Project that includes five offshore fields including Kashagan. In 2016, the first offshore oil in the history of Kazakhstan was commercially produced from the Kashagan field. NCOC has a dedicated Oil Spill Response group, staffed by about a hundred fully-trained, full-time responders, maintenance personnel and vessel crew. NCOC Equipment for responding to Tier I oil spills is available at each location supported with Tier II Oil spill Response Capabilities based at Bautino Marine Support Base in Mangystau Region, Southwest Kazakhstan and the North Caspian Ecological Response Base for oil spills (NCERB) in the Ural River delta.

Oil spill response in the northern Caspian Sea faces several challenges. Conditions can be harsh with an air temperature variation from -35°C in winter to +40 °C in summer. The water in the northern Caspian Sea is very shallow (average depth of only 4–6 metres), is brackish (<10 psu) and freezes in winter. These conditions can impose challenges to oil spill response techniques such as mechanical containment and recovery and the use of dispersants.

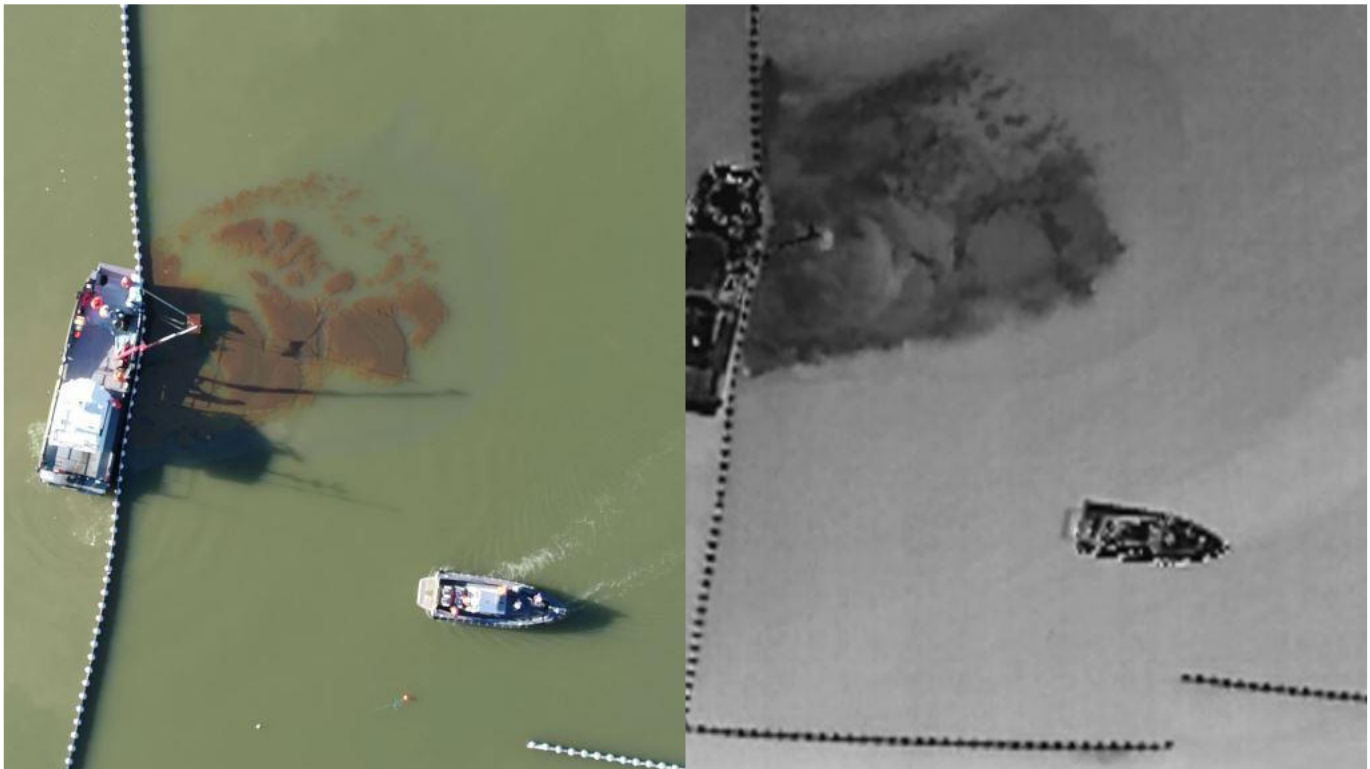
NCOC decided to investigate the feasibility of using herders in combination with controlled in-situ burning (ISB). This was an extension of the work conducted by the Arctic Response Technology JIP, of which NCOC was one of the supporting companies ([www.arcticresponsetechnology.org](http://www.arcticresponsetechnology.org)). Herders contain surfactants and are applied to the water surface adjacent to an oil slick. Once applied, the surfactants spread to ultimately form a monomolecular layer that significantly reduces the surface tension of the water. The reduced water surface tension reverses the oil spreading tendency and a thin slick can rapidly re-thicken. The surfactants do not need a boundary to "push" against and can therefore function in both open water and broken ice.

NCOC worked on this project with "KazMunayGas" Systems & Services and the "KazMunayGas" Scientific Research Institute of Production and Drilling Technology, who tasked the chemical department of the E.A. Buketov Karaganda State University to conduct a series of laboratory studies. Technical guidance was provided by advisors from OSPRI (Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative, Caspian Sea - Black Sea - Central Eurasia). Desmi-AFTI kindly provided herder samples for the testing. The results of the laboratory tests indicated that Kashagan Export crude oil might respond to the action of herder. It was considered that a reasonable size test spill under realistic conditions was required. The boat basin at the NCERB was selected as the location for conducting a test. The relevant authorities were informed and invited to attend the research.

In October 2018, batches of Kashagan Export crude oil were subjected to simulated weathering (evaporation) by air sparging (blowing air through the crude oil). This produced an evaporative loss of approximately 35% to 38%, equivalent to the oil that would remain on the sea's surface several hours after a spill.

The test was carried out on Wednesday 14th November 2018.

- Comprehensive safety assessments were undertaken at all stages of the project.
- The boat basin is 340 metres by 120 metres and connected by a channel to the Ural River and then on to the northern Caspian Sea. This channel was protected by a boom during the test.
- 300 metres of DESMI fire-proof Pyroboom® was anchored to create a 75 metre by 75 metre square area for the test, in the centre of the boat basin.
- The overnight temperature had fallen to -11°C and some (around 1 cm thickness) ice was present within the boomed area. An FRC (Fast Response Craft) was used to break up the ice.
- The air and water temperature during the test were just above freezing and the wind was light.
- A quadcopter unmanned aerial vehicle (UAV) equipped with 4K video and thermal infra-red (IR) cameras was used to provide an overview of activities.



Images from UAV during oil release

a. Still from 4k video during oil

b. Thermal IR image

- 400 litres of the artificially weathered crude oil was pumped from onto a wooden board suspended just above the water surface by a crane, so that the oil flowed out to produce a coherent oil slick. The board and subsequent slick were inside the square of Pyroboom®.
- After the oil had been allowed to spread out to be <1 mm, i.e. too thin to sustain combustion, a FRC was used to spray Siltech OP-40 herder around the periphery of the oil. This required guidance based on the thermal IR image from the UAV, clear communication from the test commander and skill on the part of the boat driver.
- After a pause the effect of the herder became apparent. The oiled area was observed to begin contracting, most obviously on the IR camera view but also by the FRC crew.
- When the oil area had contracted to around 30 m<sup>2</sup>, a member of the FRC crew placed an igniter into the thick oil. The igniter consisted of a marine flare strapped onto a plastic bottle containing gelled gasoline. Two empty plastic bottles provided floatation for the igniter.
- The oil on the water was ignited and then vapour from the oil supported its own combustion. A plume of black smoke was produced and the oil burned vigorously with flames of 2 to 3 metres high and the oil burned for approximately 8 minutes.



**Burning oil as seen from the quayside**



**Burning oil as seen from the UAV. Oil is against the ice and burning fiercely**

- Another igniter was placed in a smaller area of oil that had become separated from the main oil slick and which had drifted onto the edge of the ice. This oil was also burned.
- After the burning had finished a visual inspection showed a relatively small quantity of oil residue on top of the ice. Pre- and post-environmental monitoring of the test site was undertaken, including sampling of the residue.





**Small quantity of burn residue as a thin layer on top of the ice**

The results of the test are now being considered in more detail. The video and thermal IR imagery will be analysed to quantify some aspects of the test. In due course, a scientific report will be produced. However, it was obvious to the observers present that the use of a herder led to successful ISB of the artificially weathered crude oil. Consideration will be given to how herder might be added to the list of chemicals approved for oil spill response in Kazakhstan.

For further information, please contact Gani Zharikessov (NCOC Project Manager, [gani.zharikessov@ncoc.kz](mailto:gani.zharikessov@ncoc.kz))

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### **EMSA: ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF MARINE CASUALTIES AND INCIDENTS 2018**

The Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents consists in a high-level analysis of accidents reported by the EU Member States in European Marine Casualty Information Platform (EMCIP). [Download the Annual Review](#)

## **EVENTS**

### **USA: CLEAN PACIFIC – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN**

[Registration](#) is now open for CLEAN PACIFIC, and we're excited to bring spill prevention and response professionals together for another 2 days of networking and discussion of best practices and lessons-learned! We are currently in the process of solidifying our Planning Committee, and we'll gather in just a few short weeks to build out a robust conference program with three tracks.

## **RESPONSE EVENTS DURING NOVEMBER & DECEMBER 2018 (UPDATED)**

### **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](#)

**UK: SALVAGE & WRECK REMOVALS CONFERENCE**

London, December 5-6. Theme: Collaboration, cooperation and risk management for casualty response and wreck removal. [More info](#)

**UK: MARITIME ACCIDENTS & EMERGENCIES SUMMIT**

London, December 5. A major new event dedicated to maritime emergency planning, response, search and rescue. Designed to complement the Salvage & Wreck Removal series, the summit's agenda will examine procedures in the pre-salvage stage, explore accident and emergency procedures, response strategies and management on the ground after an incident at sea. [More info](#)

**GERMANY: 13TH ARCTIC SHIPPING SUMMIT**

Hamburg, December 5-6. The two day conference will bring together companies and organisations such as National Coastguards, Senior Arctic Government Officials, Shipping Companies, LNG Projects, Lawyers, P&I Clubs, Arctic Researchers and Lecturers and many more. [More info](#)

**CHINA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE WORKSHOP (OSRW 2018)**

Beijing, December 6-7. The event features discussions on technical innovations and best and practices across spill prevention, preparedness, response and restoration. Co-presented with ISCO. [More info](#)

**UPCOMING EVENTS – JANUARY 1919 ONWARDS (UPDATED)**

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
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
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
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. 23, 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. 21, 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.

## NEWS FOR ISCO MEMBERS

### ISCO RESPECTS YOUR PRIVACY - UNSOLICITED MAIL

ISCO does not buy or make use of contact lists offered by data vendors. We do not send out unsolicited promotional mail to ISCO newsletter subscribers. We will only send you the ISCO Newsletter if you are a Member or have subscribed or given your contact information to ISCO. If you would like to receive the ISCO Newsletter you can subscribe online at [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org). If at any time you decide you do not want to continue receiving the Newsletter you should click on the "unsubscribe" button at the foot of the covering letter sent out with each issue of the ISCO Newsletter.

### TIMELY PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEES

ISCO is grateful that most members pay their annual dues on time but unfortunately there are exceptions.

All members are reminded that membership fees should be paid annually in advance on the date of the anniversary of the date on which you first joined the organization.

Currently, our Membership Director Mary Ann Dagleish is spending a considerable amount of time in chasing up overdue subscriptions.

This task is made even more difficult in cases where invoices and reminders get bounced because contact details are no longer valid.

If you have not received an invoice or payment reminder please contact Mary Ann at [mrydetroit@aol.com](mailto:mrydetroit@aol.com) without delay.

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