

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



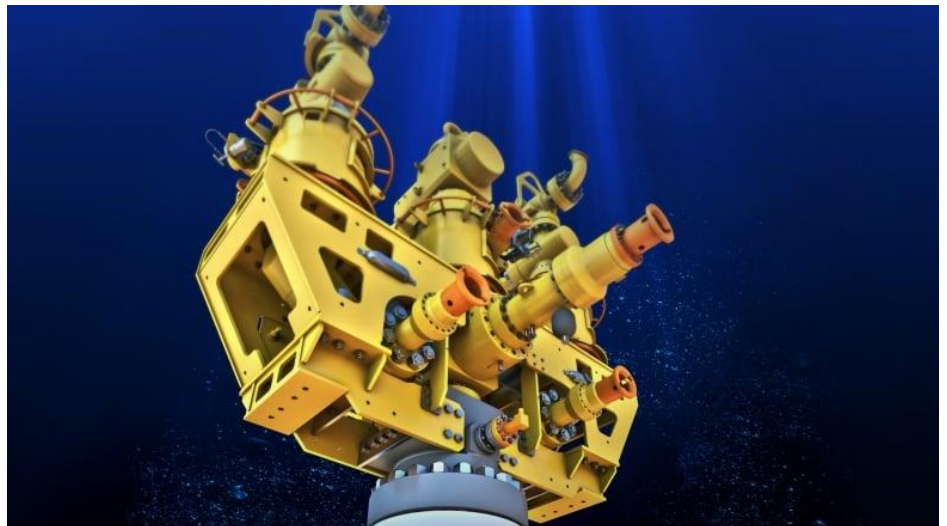
**SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR READERS**



CLICK ON THE BANNER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THE EVENT FEATURED

SPILLCON
20 – 24 May 2019 Perth, Australia

WEEKS TO CAP A SUBSEA OIL LEAK? IT'S INDUSTRY STANDARD, SAYS OFFICIAL



December 6 - Texas well-control company Boots and Coots says it can do better

Oil companies working in Newfoundland and Labrador's offshore say it could take weeks to bring in and install special equipment to cap a blown-out subsea well, but a company in Houston, Texas says that timeline could be shorter.

"With nothing else to hand, the industry has accepted that these systems are the standard. Until, of course, response times are investigated more fully," said Andy Cuthbert, global engineering and technology manager for Boots and Coots, a well-control company owned by Halliburton.

Cuthbert said a system developed by Boots and Coots called RapidCap can be transported much faster than the systems most-often used by major oil companies, cutting down on travel time.

"What we're saying is we can get to a site a lot quicker."

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

The most-often used stacks are owned by Oil Spill Response Limited, a British company whose shareholders include major oil companies, including ExxonMobil, Statoil and Chevron.

Those stacks are stationed in Norway, Brazil, South Africa and Singapore. If one is needed in Newfoundland and Labrador, it has to be shipped from one of those four locations.

Paul Barnes, Atlantic and Arctic Canada director of the Canadian Association of Petroleum Producers's (CAPP), says a 30-day window for a capping system is the industry norm and that it's not presently a concern for CAPP.

"It is certainly a long time, without a doubt," he said. "But this would be a very rare occurrence, blowouts are very rare, worldwide. The view around the world is if there is a blowout, it will take at least 30 days in order to stop it."

That's because of transport, he said, but it's also because the area around a blown-out well, and the well itself, need a lot of prep work. Preparing to lower and attach the cap also needs a lot of logistical work.

"A 30-day window seems to be the average worldwide in order to kind of prepare for a capping stack to go on. You could likely do it much quicker, but 30 days; it seems to be kind of an outlier, a good guess."

Because of all the prep work needed, he said cutting down on travel time by shipping the stack by air won't cut down on the overall time required to install the system.

"It will still take just as long by an air freight-able capping stack versus one that's brought here on a vessel," he said.

With respect to the RapidCap system, he said because it's modular, it has to be dismantled, shipped and then put back together before it can be sailed out to the blown well, which takes time and testing.

"So the amount of time you will save is probably no different than you would by having it shipped by sea right away."

Barnes said he couldn't give an estimate for how long a best-case scenario installation would take if the equipment — ships and technicians included — were nearby, ready and waiting. CBC News / [Read more](#)

Note from Editor – Readers may want to read a related article "OIL SPILL RESPONSE LIMITED ANNOUNCES ENHANCED AIR FREIGHT CAPABILITY FOR CAPPING STACKS" published in ISCO Newsletter 651 on 10th September 2018. This contains a press release from Oil Spill Response Ltd. (OSRL). The text of this press release can also be accessed, together with video of the capping stack being loaded on a heavy lift aircraft. The link for downloading the OSRL press release is at -

<https://themtagency.wetransfer.com/downloads/2203ea756f9780a6a32479c2e065b84120180906101546/569f05>

Extract from OSRL's press release - "Chris Lund, Technical Manager for OSRL's SWIS team added: "When every minute counts, the number one priority is stopping the flow of hydrocarbons as quickly as possible. The ability to transport a fully assembled capping stack by air is a critical development for the industry. Sea transport remains the most likely mobilisation option for the majority of well sites, which is why we have four capping stacks strategically located in key upstream regions – fully assembled at storage bases with direct quayside access. But for wells in more remote areas, and for members looking to secure drilling licenses in new or remote exploration locations, this is a vital addition to our subsea capping and containment offering."

A key point being made by OSRL is that the capping stack can now be air-mobilised as a fully assembled system that is ready for use and as specialist operations personnel can also be air-mobilised there is a significant time-saving.

INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

CHINA: QUANZHOU CHEMICAL SPILL NEARLY 10 TIMES WORSE THAN INITIALLY REPORTED

The water in Quangang, East China's Fujian Province is contaminated with pollutants after a vessel spilled nearly 7 tons of C9 aromatics over the weekend. Photo: IC

November 25 - The government of Quanzhou in East China's Fujian Province on Sunday released a report on a recent chemical spill incident, exposing that the actual leak of C9 aromatics was 69.1 tons, nearly 10 times higher than the initially released figure of "6.97 tons." The accident occurred when the tube connecting a vessel codenamed Tiantong 1, which is run by the Ningbo Zhoushan Tongzhou Shipping Company, and the Donggang Petrochemical Corporation-administrated wharf in Quangang broke on November 3, around 4 pm, according to the government report. Global Times / [Read more](#)



USA: CALIFORNIA WILDFIRE LIKELY SPREAD NUCLEAR CONTAMINATION FROM TOXIC SITE



Picture: San Ramon Valley Fire Department firefighter Casey Good works to stop the Woolsey Fire from reaching homes on Dequincy Court in West Hills, California, on Sunday, November 11, 2018. Hans Gutknecht / Digital First Media/Los Angeles Daily News via Getty Images

November 26 - The incredibly destructive Woolsey Fire in southern California has burned nearly 100,000 acres in Los Angeles and Ventura counties, killed three people, destroyed more than 400 structures, and at the time of this writing, was finally nearly completely contained.

The fire may also have released large amounts of radiation and toxins into the air after burning through a former rocket engine testing site where a partial nuclear meltdown took place nearly six decades ago.

“The Woolsey Fire has most likely released and spread both radiological and chemical contamination that was in the Santa Susana Field Laboratory’s soil and vegetation via smoke and ash,” Dr. Bob Dodge, president of Physicians for Social Responsibility-Los Angeles (PSR-LA), told Truthout.

The fire has been widely reported to have started “near” the Santa Susana Field Laboratory site (SSFL), but according to PSR-LA, it appears to have started at the site itself. The contaminated site — a 2,849-acre former rocket engine test site and nuclear research facility — is located just 30 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. TruthOut / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

MALAYSIA: FIREMEN, HAZMAT TEAM DEPLOYED TO COMBAT OIL SPILL IN RIVER IN NEGRI SEMBILAN

November 26 - Firemen and a hazardous materials (Hazmat) response team are toiling to contain an oil spill in Sungai Pak Mail in Taman Desaru, Lukut. Six firemen from the Port Dickson Fire and Rescue station and 10 personnel from the Seremban 2 hazardous materials (Hazmat) team have been deployed to the site, said Negri Sembilan Fire and Rescue Department director Norazam Khamis.

The 100m-long spill was caused by lubricant oil that leaked from a nearby small and medium-sized company, he said, adding that the department was summoned at 7.22am on Monday (Nov 26). The Star / [Read more](#)

FIJI: SALVAGE WORKS ON SUNKEN DERELICT VESSEL PROGRESSES

November 30 - SALVAGE works to the sunken derelict vessel MV Southern Phoenix is expected to be completed by end of January, 2019. This was the word from Maritime Safety Authority of Fiji acting chief executive officer Captain Philip Hill.

MV Southern Phoenix sunk at the Suva Harbour in May last year, which involved a lengthy process of assessments to conduct salvaging works pegged to cost more than \$1.5 million to be paid by the owner’s insurance company.

“We had 170 tonnes of heavy fuel oil on board that was successfully contained and removed. The second phase is where we have to remove the wreck and the cargo,” Captain Hill said. The Fiji Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]



USA: MONTANA - PHILLIPS 66 CONFIRMS OIL SPILL IN CASCADE COUNTY

November 30 - There was an oil spill in Cascade County in mid-November. A spokesman for Phillips 66 confirmed to KRTV that the incident happened on Wednesday, November 14, along a crude oil pipeline operated by the company. The pipeline has since been repaired and returned to service, and most of the oil has been cleaned up. KRTV / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: MASSACHUSETTS - MYSTERIOUS OIL SPILL ON CHARLES RIVER SPURS MAJOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

December 7 - An oil spill on Massachusetts' Charles River drew a major emergency response Wednesday night, as several fire trucks and emergency vehicles, including a hazmat team, raced to help with the cleanup, 7 News Boston WHDH reported. Investigators found a large amount of oil around 0.2 miles upstream, inside a storm drain system and covering several manholes.

Containment booms were placed on the river to stop any oil from spreading downstream. The Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) also arrived on the scene, and the private clean-up organization National Response Corp. was called in to assist Wednesday into Thursday, The Boston Globe reported. EcoWatch / [Read more](#)

USA: NOAA OR&R ROUND-UP OF INCIDENT RESPONSES FOR NOVEMBER 2018

Every month NOAA OR&R 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. Here is the complete list of last month's incidents, click on the links to find out more:

[Abandoned Spraying Wellhead](#)
[F/V Aaron and Melissa II](#)
[High Island #24 Platform](#)
[Jack Boat Ram XVII](#)
[TPIC Lake Pagie ISB 2018](#)

[Chemical Leak, New Castle, DE](#)
[Vessel Discharge Ohio River, Greenup, KY](#)
[Breton Sound Discharge Block 21 and 32](#)
[Hilcorp Burwood W-5 Facility](#)
[Ruptured Natural Gas Line, Belle Isle, MI](#)

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

AUSTRALIA: NSW - DANGEROUS GOODS TANK VEHICLE INSPECTION MANUAL

December 7 - To ensure that bulk dangerous goods are transported safely, tank vehicles transporting dangerous goods are required to comply with requirements in the Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods (the ADG Code) and Australian Standard 2809 (AS 2809). The aim of the Dangerous Goods Tank Vehicle Inspection Manual (DGTVM) is to help operators and repairers of tank vehicles demonstrate that their vehicle is safe and meets the legislative requirements. NSW EPA / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

BRAZIL: MIROS GROUP, ULSTEIN BELGA MARINE IN RECORD OSD DELIVERY TO PETROBRAS

December 3 - Sea-state monitoring leader Miros Group is set to supply eight Oil Spill Detection (OSD) systems to Brazilian oil major Petrobras in the world's largest x-band radar-based OSD surveillance and response contract to date. The agreement is in partnership with Ulstein Belga Marine, primary supplier to Petrobras, and includes radars and thermal imaging cameras for Petrobras Mobile Offshore Production Units (MOPUs) in the Campos Basin. Delivery and commissioning are scheduled for 2019. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

CANADA: WHAT OTTAWA HAS DONE TO IMPROVE RAIL TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS GOODS



Picture: Smoke rises from railway cars that were carrying crude oil after derailed in downtown Lac-Mégantic, Que., on July 6, 2013. (Paul Chiasson /The Canadian Press)

November 26 - In response to an the column "More oil by rail now than at time of Mégantic disaster," by Linda McQuaig, I'd like to set the record straight on the many areas in which meaningful progress has been made by the Government of Canada to improve rail safety and the transportation of dangerous goods since the rail tragedy in Lac-Mégantic on July 6, 2013.

Transport Canada has taken significant actions to further improve the safety of transporting dangerous goods by rail in the areas of prevention, effective response and accountability. The Star / [Read Linda's list of the actions taken to improve safety of rail transport](#)

CANADA: MANY OF ALBERTA'S 'RECLAIMED' WELLS AREN'T ACTUALLY RECLAIMED: GOVERNMENT PRESENTATION

December 6 - With the click of a button, oil and gas companies can receive certificates for site clean-up — almost always without any on-the-ground inspection from the regulator — in a system one former inspector says is failing Albertans.

There are currently no legislated timelines requiring when an oil and gas company reclaims a wellsite. Last month, Alberta's Minister of Energy said she is "looking at targets and timelines," for when reclamation is cleaned up, but did not herself commit to a timeline to implement any new rules.

In the meantime, companies are faced with the same trade-off they've had for years — continue to pay annual rent to the landowner where the well is located, or pay to clean up the site.

But as the government study found, the ecological and agricultural effects of industrial activity may linger — seemingly indefinitely — even if a company chooses the latter. This has left some to wonder if the regulator has been allowing industry to get away with sub-par reclamation efforts — for decades. The Narwhal / [Read more](#)

CYPRUS: SUB-REGIONAL SEMINAR ON COMPENSATION

December 5 - The IOPC Funds took part in a two-day sub-regional seminar on compensation for oil pollution damage from 4 to 5 December 2018, in Larnaca, Republic of Cyprus. The seminar was organised by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) with the assistance of the Cyprus Maritime Authority. Mark Homan, Claims Manager, was joined by representatives from ITOPF and the International Group of P&I Associations, to present on the international liability and compensation regime for tanker spills. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

INDIA: CLEAN SEA '18: INDIAN COAST GUARD CONDUCTS REGIONAL LEVEL MARINE OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE OFF PORT BLAIR

December 6 – The Indian Coast Guard coordinated a marine oil spill mock drill at sea off the coast off Port Blair as part of Regional level marine oil spill response exercise "Clean Sea" on 06 Dec 2018. The mock drill was undertaken by Indian Coast Guard in conjunction with stakeholders which included the A&N Administration, Pollution Control Committee (A&N) ANC, PMB, PBMC, DSS, IOC, DMA, tourism and fisheries departments.

Code named as "Clean Sea -2018", the mock drill was a full scale event for evaluating the capabilities and response mechanism of all stake holders and augmenting regional level emergency preparedness with regard to risk factors associated with marine oil spill.

Two offshore patrol vessel (OPV), two fast patrol vessels (FPVs), four Interceptor Boats (IB), one Dornier fixed wing aircraft and one helicopter of Indian Coast Guard along with tugs and vessel belonging to ANC, PMB & DSS participated in various manoeuvres and procedures as part of exercise. Andaman Chronicle / [Read more](#)

IRAQ: CLEANING UP AFTER ISIS: HOW IRAQ'S NEW CHEMICALS TEAM IS TRYING TO UNDO YEARS OF CONFLICT POLLUTION

December 5 - ISIS (also known as the Islamic State or Da'esh) has more or less been defeated in Iraq, but throughout the areas it once occupied, the group's toxic legacy lives on. The ground is still laced with noxious chemicals, and the country's waterways are still sullied with everything from oil spills to mustard gas residue. In one of the more egregious environmental calamities, a makeshift ISIS refinery leaked an 11 km-long oil trail near Hawija. Battered already by a raft of serious pre-existing air and water quality issues, many Iraqis – farmers, respiratory disease sufferers, and all – feel their war hasn't yet ended.

If all goes according to plan, though, some help might finally be at hand. Beginning this year, the Iraqi government and UN Environment have partnered up to build a cross-ministry team capable of tackling these pollution woes head on. By enhancing the government's capabilities, this programme ought to help Iraq as it cleans up its tattered landscape. UN Environment / [Read more](#)

JAPAN: IOPC FUNDS REPORT ON PAJ 2018 OIL SPILL RESPONSE WORKSHOP

December 3 - The Director, José Maura, was invited to participate in the 7th Oil Spill Workshop organised by the Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ) in Tokyo on 28 November 2018. The workshop focused on recent major oil spill incidents and the subject of future preparedness.

During the workshop, incidents which have involved the IOPC Funds, such as the Agia Zoni II, which occurred in Greece in September 2017 as well as the Sanchi, which occurred off the coast of Shanghai in January 2017 and affected China, Japan and the Republic of Korea, were discussed. Mr Maura gave a presentation on the role of the IOPC Funds in such incidents and the international liability and compensation regime in general. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: SOIL SCIENCE SOCIETY OF NIGERIA URGES FG TO SET UP SOIL REMEDIATION FUND

December 5 - The President of Soil Science Society of Nigeria (SSSN), Professor Bashiru Raji has urged the federal government to establish a Soil Remediation Fund in which at least 30% of the Ecological Funds should be allocated. TNV / [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 national workshop on the international liability and compensation regime for ship-source oil pollution incidents from 13-14 November 2018 in Muscat, Sultanate of Oman. The workshop was led by the Director of the IOPC Funds, Mr José Maura, and the Head of Claims Department, Ms Liliana Monsalve, jointly with a representative of the International Group of P&I Associations. Around 40 participants from various government agencies, as well as the shipping industry, took an active part in the workshop. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

PAKISTAN: PORTS MINISTER CALLS FOR KEEPING THE SEA CLEAN IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE INAUGURAL CEREMONY

December 5 - Federal Minister for Port and Shipping Ali Zaidi on Tuesday said that the time has come for keeping the sea clean. The federal minister was addressing the inaugural ceremony of the ninth Barracuda exercise (oil spill response) organized by the Pakistan Maritime Security Agency. The representatives of 10 countries including Turkey, China, Saudi Arabia and other countries and 20 observers will participate in the drills to rehearse procedures and implementation of National Marine Disaster Contingency Plan. Urdu Talks Shows / [Read more](#)

PERU: CATASTROPHIC OIL SPILL IN THE PERUVIAN AMAZON PITS STATE ENERGY COMPANY AGAINST LOCAL TRIBE

December 6 - Last week, at least 8,000 barrels of crude oil gushed into the northern Amazon rainforest in Peru, creating one of the worst spills the region has seen in years. State oil company Petroperú is blaming a local indigenous community for sabotaging a pipeline and triggering the spill, but the leader of Peru's Wampis Nation, whose members make up that community, denies the accusations.

Petroperú confirmed the damage to the Norperuano pipeline on November 27. The company shared a press release with Earther containing a hand-written letter it says it received November 20, in which three individuals threaten to damage the pipeline if the company didn't declare recent election results invalid (although the company is not in charge of elections). The writers are claiming corruption and fraud within a local mayoral election that was won by the National Restoration Party, which is associated with Christian fundamentalism. Earther / [Read more](#)

UK: CROMARTY FIRTH SCRUBS OUT OIL TRANSFER PLANS

December 4 - Controversial plans to transfer millions of tonnes of crude oil between tankers at the mouth of the Cromarty Firth – allegedly threatening dolphins and other marine life – have been scrapped. The Cromarty and Moray Firths are home to bottlenose dolphins, harbour porpoises, mink whales as well as other marine and bird life. Aberdeen Press & Journal / [Read more](#)

UK: MARITIME & COASTGUARD AGENCY ISSUES UPDATED GUIDANCE CONCERNING INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE PREVENTION OF POLLUTION FROM SHIPS (MARPOL) SURVEYORS

December 4 – [Download the MARPOL Annex II Surveyors documents](#)

USA: SCAA'S APPRECIATION FOR THE LEADERSHIP OF PRESIDENT GEORGE H.W. BUSH



December 3 - As we reflect on the life and accomplishments of President Bush, we remember the decisive actions taken by the Bush Administration following the grounding of the Exxon Valdez in 1989, and the impact these actions have had in responding to spills of national significance to this day.

On March 24, 1989, the tanker Exxon Valdez grounded on Bligh Reef in Alaska's Prince William Sound, rupturing its hull and spilling nearly 11 million gallons of Prudhoe Bay crude oil. There was an immediate call to send military personnel to Alaska as first responders. Under the leadership of SCAA's president, David Usher, an effort was made to appeal to the Bush Administration to recognize and use private sector resources for response and

remediation of the environmental disaster unfolding in Alaska. Dave headed a SCAA delegation to the West Wing through the auspices of John Louisell, an attorney from Michigan who worked in the White House. Along with Dave, Dr. Thomas F. Dalton, Sr. and Marc K. Shaye, SCCA's, general counsel, met with Bush Administration staff and then met with the United States Coast Guard. The case made was convincing and private sector spill cleanup contractors became the mainstay of the Exxon Valdez response.

From the aftermath of the Exxon Valdez spill; Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which, President Bush signed, into law. SCAA was active in providing testimony to Congress about the proposed legislation and worked with Senator Carl Levin to recognize the importance of private sector resources. Thereafter, the RegNeg negotiations to set the framework for OPA '90 implementation included representatives of SCAA members and staff. [Thanks to ISCO Committee Member Marc Shaye, Hon.FISCO]

USA: NEW RESULTS OF DEEPWATER HORIZON RESEARCH TO PROTECT MARINE LIFE AGAINST FUTURE OIL SPILLS



Photo: A team of University of South Florida College of Marine Science researchers complete seven-year study of the impact caused by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico.

December 5 - The University of South Florida continues to play an integral role in discovering the extent of damage caused by the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Researchers just published results of a seven-year study, recording the most comprehensive data available of marine life throughout the entire Gulf of Mexico.

This is significant, as lack of baseline data has limited researchers' abilities to fully understand the oil spill's impact. The new data will serve as a tremendous asset for future research. The study published in the journal *Marine and Coastal Fisheries* outlines the marine makeup of the Gulf from the U.S. to Mexico and Cuba. USF / [Read more](#)

USA: BILL ESTABLISHES COAST GUARD OIL SPILL CENTER

Photo: A skimmer floats in the trapped area and would suck up spilled material as small boats pull the large yellow boom during a 2016 oil spill exercise by U.S. Coast Guard and local agencies. MARK R. RUMMEL, TIMES HERALD

December 5 - A provision authored by U.S. Sen. Gary Peters to establish a Coast Guard oil spill center for the Great Lakes was signed into law by President Donald Trump, according to a news release from Peters' office.

The provision established a U.S. Coast Guard National Center of Expertise for the Great Lakes.

A site for the center has not been established. The St. Clair River, however, is one area with a large potential for oil spills with numerous oil and gas pipelines crossing between the U.S. and Canada. Times Herald / [Read more](#)



USA: SENATE GOP APPROVES PLAN FOR NEW OIL PIPELINE UNDER STRAITS OF MACKINAC



In the picture: Governor Rick Snyder.

December 5 - Senate Republicans on Wednesday approved legislation that will allow a controversial oil and propane pipeline to be built under the Straits of Mackinac.

The bill creates a Mackinac Utility Corridor Authority to work with Canadian oil giant Enbridge to build a \$500 million tunnel 100 feet beneath the lake bed. The tunnel will replace Line 5, a pipeline originally installed in 1953 that runs along the bottom of the straits.

Detroit Metro Times / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

USA: NOAA OR&R'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION HAS A NEW TEAM MEMBER



December 7 - Lola Ajilore joins as the new Gulf of Mexico Regional Response Officer in New Orleans, where she'll provide scientific support during oil and hazardous material releases.

Lola comes to OR&R with a wealth of academic and professional experience. She earned her B.S. in Environmental Studies at the Virginia Commonwealth University in Richmond Virginia; her M.S. in Environmental Science at Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore Maryland; and attended Officer Candidate School in the United States Coast Guard Academy in New London, Connecticut.

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

ISCO NEWS

ISCO SECRETARY SPEAKS AT OSRW 2018 IN BEIJING, CHINA

The 6th Oil Spill Response Workshop was held in Beijing on 6-7 December 2018. OSRW 2018 featured discussions on technical and digital innovations and best practices across spill prevention, preparedness, response and restoration.

Industry professionals from the Ministry of Transportation, Maritime Safety Administration of China (MSA), National Marine Environmental Monitoring Center, State Oceanic Administration (SOA), China Rescue and Salvage of Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Emergency Management, ADNOC, Chevron, CNPC, CNOOC, SINOPEC, pollution cleaning service companies and universities, industry associations, IT and AV, UAV, USV suppliers and others attended the event to discuss current topics and share experiences.

ISCO Secretary Matthew Sommerville contributed to the opening procedures and welcomed the delegates. He was also a member of the panel of experts during the question and answer sessions.

Member of the ISCO Executive Committee, Lee Guobin, was also present and spoke about the organization and the work it has been doing for the international spill response community.

At time of writing Matthew Sommerville has not yet returned to the UK but he will provide a more detailed report and photographs for the next issue of the newsletter.

MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL PRESENTS AT INDIAN COASTGUARD SEMINAR

November 30 – Captain D. C. Sekhar was invited to talk in the Indian Coast Guard Chennai RHQ seminar on oil spill Preparedness.

This was in Chennai on 29th and 30th Nov. The subject of his talk was 'New technologies in oil spills'.

Captain Sekhar also gave a short presentation on the work being done by ISCO in support of the global spill response community.



国际溢油控制组织 ISCO
International Spill Control Organization

国际溢油控制组织 ISCO (International Spill Control Organization) 于 1984 年成立于美国伦敦，致力于提高全球防备和应对石油和化学品溢油污染事故的能力和组织协调能力，成员遍布于 36 个国家。

ISCO 在联合国下属国际海事组织 (IMO) 中的顾问地位
通过顾问方式，ISCO 成为国际海事组织在预防国际海事组织 (IMO) 的唯一代表，且是国际海事组织有关溢油应急知识、计划、最新技术、专业人员的提供者。

ISCO 对 ISAA (国际溢油认证协会) 的管理
ISCO 负责管理 ISAA (International Spill Accreditation Association) 国际溢油认证协会——是唯一与政府、溢油应急响应及其他利益相关方合作，对溢油应急响应、预防应急响应水平进行专业评估的独立认证机构。

ISCO 是一个溢油应急界进行专业技术交流、合作的国际论坛
针对全球溢油应急技术难题，通过 ISCO 的联络可以迅速地发现最适合的专业技术和设备以应对溢油应急需求。ISCO 鼓励各国溢油应急组织之间的合作，通过 ISCO 您可以找到具有互补性的最佳合作伙伴以应对新的挑战。ISCO 也帮助政府和其他组织解决重大溢油事故中所需要的合格人力、物力支持。

ISCO 是业内新闻发布平台
ISCO 每月一期的新闻简报覆盖了国际、地区、国家的溢油应急领域的相关新闻，发布影响国际溢油界的最新溢油应急技术、法规、及相关事件。

现在就加入我们

成为一个拥有共同利益的世界性团队组织中的一员。

联络人: 况雷杰 / ISCO 中国联络处 助理代表

地址: 青岛市东海路 43 号凯旋大厦 9 层

电话: 0532 - 58862111

邮箱: klj@spillcontrol.org.cn

info@spillcontrol.org.cn

[Http://www.spillcontrol.org.cn](http://www.spillcontrol.org.cn)

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

Members sending in news for inclusion in the section are reminded the editor requires that text and photos must be capable of being easily copied and pasted into the word document used during the composing of the ISCO Newsletter

AQUA-GUARD AWARDED CONTRACT TO SUPPLY CASSETTE SKIMMERS

December 3 - Canada has announced a range of coastal protection measures under the Oceans Protection Plan including a contract for Aqua-Guard Spill Response from British Columbia for new multi-cassette portable skimmer packages to recover marine pollution spills. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

DESMI HAS CREATED A NEW PRODUCT INFORMATION PAGE

December 4 – Desmi has created a new products presentation. Forty-nine of the company's main spill response products are featured on photographs and, on clicking on the photos, detailed information on the selected product is given together with more photos and links for downloading relevant brochures, the latter available in multiple languages.

<https://www.desmi.com/desmi-products/oil-spill-response.aspx>

ANNOUNCING NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Disseminating news about new technical developments is of value to our community. Corporate Members are invited to contribute articles.

Corporate Members of ISCO can benefit from submitting news about new products and services in the "News from ISCO Members" section of the ISCO Newsletter. This is a free facility for Members. Given that the ISCO Newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in over 60 countries, it's a cost-effective way to promote your company.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

DOCUMENTING DECADES IN OIL SPILL CONTROL: MINIBYTES # 9



THIS IS THE NINTH 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. Al 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/expectation-management/>

Expectation Management – Oil Spills, Marriage and Golf (Part 1)

The mismanagement of expectation can seriously affect the results of an oil spill, including the spiller's reputation, the costs for damages and clean-up, the creation of new rules and regulations, etc. These and many other impacts will be addressed in this and the next two blogs). Just for fun, I will compare some of the lessons from good expectation management involving oil spills to the management of expectations that arise during the joyful and often humbling experiences of marriage and the game of golf. Yes..., Yes..., I have graciously agreed to have my wife read and comment on topics of "joint" interest.

I'd like to start with one of the most significant expectations involving spill response that has not been managed well. For the past several decades the oil spill response community (including industry, regulators, the media, and the general public) has been exposed to a "myth" regarding the success with which oil spills can be cleaned up. With the best of intentions, regulations have been created to ensure that adequate equipment and trained personnel are available to handle a so-called "Worst Case Discharge" of oil from vessels, exploration and production platforms, pipelines, and many other petroleum-handling facilities. Regulations and oil spill contingency plans often describe the resources and tactics needed for oil spill control as "Planning" standards, not "Performance" standards. However, even when good planning standards are developed, based on meaningful system performance criteria, those standards are often misunderstood and misused. The misuse occurs when regulators, planners, and response organizations use the standards as measures of performance to determine the amount of resources (i.e., vessels, skimmers, booms, aircraft, people, etc.) needed to clean up a "Worst Case Discharge".

Expectation management is needed in order to better understand oil spill response technology, real-world operational constraints, and what levels of success can be achieved under various environmental conditions. There needs to be an educated and more balanced perspective regarding the full range of available response techniques, including controlled burning and the application of chemical dispersants. The response community and the general public must be informed of the benefits, limitations and trade-offs associated with these techniques, many of which were described in my earlier blogs (#5 & #6) and that even under the best of conditions, one can never expect to recover or eliminate all of the oil spilled. Without such expectation management, many people will continue to believe that one can simply buy a solution to any oil spill challenge. Federal and state planning standards and regulations need to be developed and explained thoroughly to the public/media.

Such information should address realistic operational and environmental constraints, as well as practical levels of response capability. The type and number of resources that can be maintained and operated safely and effectively for a given area, project, or facility should reflect a careful assessment of the most probable spill events that might occur, while recognizing that backup resources can be cascaded in to support a more serious spill event.

How does all of this relate to marriage and golf? You will see, as I expand this discussion involving the importance of expectation management. In fact, you may already recognize some of the obvious similarities involving spilled oil, spouses and golf:

- Every spill, spouse and golf experience is different.
- You never achieve “perfection” cleaning up spills, being married or playing golf.
- Just when you think you are a good responder, partner or player, you get humbled..., again!
- There are an infinite number of variables, ensuring that you will never get good. Maybe better.
- Most spills, many marriages and all attempts to master the game of golf are expensive.
- Failed efforts involving spilled oil, spousal arguments and a lousy round of golf usually fade from memory, and we optimistically try again, and again, and again.
- Resources (e.g., plans, manuals, tools, boats, aircraft, money, etc.) are all important, and clearly help in response to spills; however, whether it’s a spill, the mending of a marriage or a faulty golf swing, it’s the value of “Team Support” that matters more than anything.

So many of the “expectation management” issues I plan to address in the next couple of blogs relate to this concept that the chances for success in nearly all activities comes down to people and the support they provide. The “team” I consider with spill response involves the spiller, regulators, contractors, environmental groups, the public, the press, etc. All of these people need to have a common level of understanding involving all response options (mechanical, burning and dispersant use), the pros and cons of these options, and their trade-offs. There has to be a commitment to work together with what they do know, and to strive to know what they don’t know! Expectations can be discussed and managed effectively when functional, well-informed team members (especially the media and the public) are able to focus on the merits of balanced trade-offs, realistic environmental impacts, short- and long-term goals, etc.,. I’ll be expanding on these topics, and most importantly, on ways that expectations can be addressed and co-ordinated for a common understanding.

The “team”, so to speak regarding marriage is what I think of as not just my partner and me, but as “us”, the two of us retaining our individuality while working as a single caring unit with our closest family members. My Sweetie and I have lived the ups and downs of marriage and raising a family now for 44 years. It took a few years to discover how to blend our expectations. That process is a continuing effort, as is the same effort by responders involving oil spills, because technology, the environment and personnel are always changing.

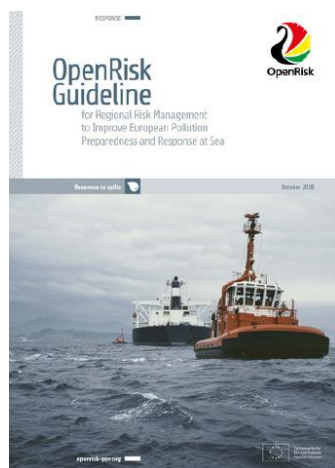
Perhaps that is why I love the challenges of golf so much. While performance and my own expectations for improvement are pretty much a single-person effort, anyone that plays golf comes to know that the “team” is made up of your body, brain, and spirit – the mismanagement of any one of those participants can totally destroy the outcome of an otherwise enjoyable round of golf.

Next blog: More on Expectation Management, and ways to enlighten expectations, brighten marriage, and enjoy the frustrations of golf.

TO BE CONTINUED

PUBLICATIONS

OPENRISK LAUNCHES GUIDELINE FOR RISK MANAGEMENT AT SEA TO IMPROVE RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTAL SPILLS



November 15 - The HELCOM-led OpenRisk project recently published its "OpenRisk Guideline for Regional Risk Management to Improve European Pollution Preparedness and Response at Sea", providing guidelines and methods for maritime risk management.

Primarily aimed at national and regional authorities handling response to maritime incidents, the report intends to increase the risk management component in pollution preparedness processes, based on the ISO 31000:2018 International Standard on Risk Management.

The report contains a toolbox of several risk assessment methods, outlining their aims and use, implementation basis, required inputs and obtained outputs, and how they work in practice. All of the described tools are open-access.

"We don't want another Erika or Prestige. For an effective response to maritime incidents, we also need to include risk management," said Valtteri Laine, the OpenRisk project leader, adding that a better understanding of risk helps to mitigate uncertainties and lead to better preparedness.

"The OpenRisk guideline toolbox should make it easier to select the most adequate method and tool for assessing specific risks," he said.

The OpenRisk project – a two year EU-funded project on methods for maritime risk assessments – aims at strengthening regional preparedness to accidental spills.

PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

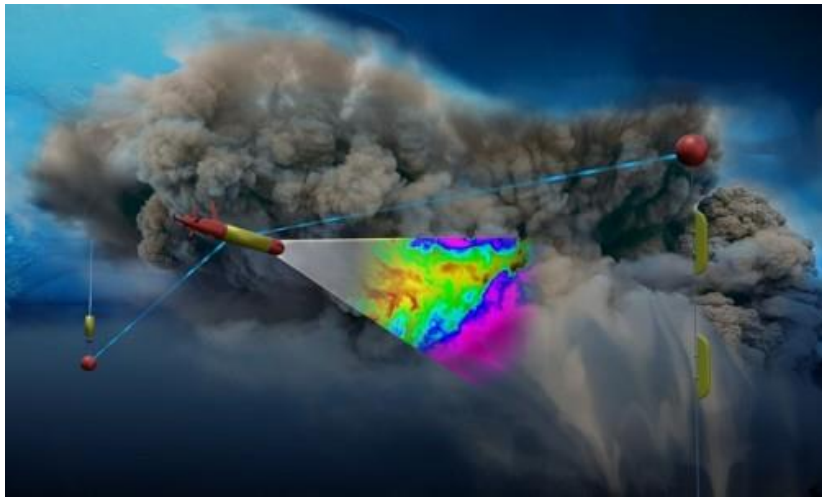
Through promoting open-source standards, it seeks to address the high costs of implementing regional risk assessments, and to improve comparability of risk assessments across countries and regions.

OpenRisk is led by HELCOM, partnering with the World Maritime University (WMU), the Netherlands-based non-profit maritime research institution Marin, and the Finnish Environmental Institute (SYKE).

The project is also supported by the Bonn Agreement (North Sea), the Copenhagen Agreement (Nordic seas), REMPEC (Mediterranean), as well as the Norwegian Coastal Administration. [Download the publication \(.PDF\)](#)

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

MORE TESTS FOR ARCTIC OIL-SPILL-MAPPING ROBOT



Picture: An artist's depiction of LRAUV under sea ice. Using photo-chemical sensors, the robot scans the density of a billowing cloud of oil coming from an ocean floor well. The red and yellow objects are parts of a communication system consisting of antennas suspended under ice from a buoy installed on top of the ice. Credit: Graphic by ADAC.

December 5 - Environmental changes and economic incentives are transforming maritime activity in the Arctic region. As ice recedes and maritime activity increases, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is preparing for potential incidents involving oil and hazardous materials in U.S. Arctic waters through the U.S. Coast Guard. As the lead agency to plan for and respond to environmental threats under the National

Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency, the Service is addressing major challenges in spill response. Its focus is ensuring access to early and on-going information about the nature and magnitude of spills to help with effective clean-up.

"Because of ice coverage and the tyranny of distance, it is difficult to get resources and assets up in the Arctic in a quick manner," said Kirsten Trego, Executive Director of the Coast Guard's Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research. "With better real-time data, more effective response strategies can be developed and deployed."

To help the Coast Guard map oil spills under ice, the DHS Science and Technology Directorate (S&T) has been working on an underwater robot for the past four years through a DHS Center of Excellence, the Arctic Domain Awareness Center (ADAC) at the University of Alaska Anchorage, in partnership with the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) and Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute. R&D Magazine / [Read more](#)

UNMANNED RESPONSE BOAT DISPERSES SPILLS WITH WATER JETS

[Click here to watch the video](#)

December 7 - The new spill response boat Vorax disperses oil with high pressure water jets, and it was recently displayed for the environmental authorities and future customers in California.

The six-meter boat looks like a racing boat, but is something completely different: it's the world's first unmanned spill response boat, and it's armed with a chemical-free dispersant in the form of seawater. The technology was developed by SINTEF and commercialized through the spinoff company Blue Impact AS.

Chemical-free solution - The catamaran drives back and forth over the oil spill and pulverizes the oil into small biodegradable particles using high pressure water jets.

"In this way, the oil particles will dissolve and become part of nature's cycle," says former SINTEF researcher and Blue Impact entrepreneur Stein Erik Sørstrøm. Blue Impact has worldwide patents on this technology.

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has tested the company's method to remove oil leaking naturally from the ocean floor outside of Santa Barbara. Along the coast of California, petroleum is naturally dissipated, and every year it produces oil spills corresponding to emissions from a large oil tanker. In this area it is not permitted to use chemicals to remove oil spills.

First big test - "This was our first major test for whether mechanical dispersion will work not only in theory but also in practice," said Karl Nevland, co-founder of Blue Impact and Field Operations Manager in California. The U.S. Coast Guard, National Environmental Authorities and private oil recovery organizations were also present during the test.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

AMOP CALL FOR PAPERS DEADLINE – 31 DECEMBER 2018

The 42nd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response will be held from June 4 to 6, 2019 in Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada. The AMOP Technical Seminar is an international forum on preventing, preparing for, responding to, and recovering from spills of oil and chemicals in the environment. It also deals with solutions for remediating long-term contaminated sites. AMOP is organized and sponsored by Environment and Climate Change Canada.

AMOP Abstract Submissions - Environment and Climate Change Canada is seeking papers for the 2019 AMOP Technical Seminar. You are invited to submit an abstract for a paper for possible plenary presentation. Papers should be about new research and not previously published. They should address key issues on the topics relating to either oil and other petroleum products or chemicals and hazardous materials that are listed on the next page.

Sessions will consist of 10- or 20-minute presentations, followed by 5- or 10-minute question periods. Priority will be given to presentations with accompanying papers. There may also be Speaker's Corner presentations at which results of more recent research can be discussed. Speaker's Corner presentations that are accepted will be given a slot as a poster presentation with the option to move to an oral presentation if a time slot becomes available. Researchers can also present their latest work at daily poster presentations.

The deadline for submitting abstracts is December 31, 2018. Abstracts should be approximately 300 words long. The Abstract Submission form is included here or is available at <https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/science-technology/arctic-marine-oilspill-program.html>

Abstracts will be reviewed by an independent panel. If your abstract is accepted, an electronic copy of draft papers is due March 22, 2019. These papers will be peer-reviewed and checked for technical accuracy and format. Final, corrected papers must be received by April 26, 2019 to allow time for the seminar proceedings to be prepared.

For more information and submission form please contact Natalie Jones, Technical Seminar Coordinator.

Telephone: (613) 991-1114 Fax: (613) 991-9485

E-mail: ec.colloquetechniqueamop-amoptechnicalseminar.ec@canada.ca

THE 2019 CLEAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE PROGRAM IS BEING PLANNED

Right now, a prestigious group of leaders made up of operators, state, federal and provincial regulators, consultants, service companies and OSROs are in Seattle, WA, planning the conference agenda for the [CLEAN PACIFIC Conference & Exhibition](#). The conference will consist of 3 tracks covering spill prevention and response matters pertinent to the Western United States and Canada's environmental sensitivities. The goal of CLEAN PACIFIC is to deliver a valuable event that covers the most pressing issues to our community and offers ample time for attendees to network and cultivate the relationships that are crucial to a successful response. Conference sessions will be announced next month, and we're excited about the content being planned in today's meeting! While the sessions are being planned, check out the [event website](#) to view a list of [exhibitors](#), [sponsors](#) and keep up-to-date with event announcements.

Meet the prospective committee planning the 2019 agenda:

DC Carter, Sr. Response Manager, PENCO

Greg Challenger, President/Marine Scientist, Polaris Applied Sciences Inc.

Carl Childs, Oceanographer, National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration

Cory Davis, Principal Consultant and Senior Vice President, CTEH, LLC

Tj Engstrom, Director-Emergency Services, Clean Harbors

Richard Franklin, On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10

Devon Grennan, CEO, Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.

Nhi Irwin, Plan Development Review Supervisor, Washington Dept. of Ecology-Spill Program

Jamie Kereliuk, Director, Emergency Management, Trans Mountain Corporation

Kelli Kryzanowski, Director of Strategic Initiatives, B.C. Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy

Michael Lowry, Communications Manager, Western Canada Marine Response Corp.

Robert McFarland, Incident Management & Preparedness Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard

Michael Moore, Vice President, Pacific Merchant Shipping Association

Geoff Morrison, Manager B.C. Operation, CAPP

Phillip Nelson, President, Council of Marine Carriers

Allison O'Brien, Regional Environmental Officer, U.S. Department of the Interior

Dave Owings, General Manager, SE Alaska Petroleum Response Organization (SEAPRO)

Barbara Parker, EM Science and Advocacy Manager-PTS Emergency MGMT, Shell Exploration & Production Company

Heather Parker, NOSC, Oil Spill Program Manager, U.S. Navy NW Region

Bob Patterson, Managing Director, Witt O'Brien's

Emily Poe, Emergency Management Specialist, Phillips 66

Jonathan Schindlbeck, Manager - Emergency & Business Continuity Management, Suncor Energy Inc.

John Temperilli, Senior Manager, KSolv Group - KSolv, Garner, OMI

Michael Zollitsch, Emergency Response Unit Leader, OR - Dept. of Environmental Quality

[Register now for CLEAN PACIFIC](#) You'll save up to \$300 off the onsite rate when you register before 12/28.

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING DECEMBER 2018

At time of publication no requests have been received for posting of events taking place between 10th and 31st December

UPCOMING EVENTS – JANUARY 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
UK & IRELAND	January 15	ISAA All Ireland Steering Group Meeting	Hillsborough
USA	February 4-7	Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Conference	New Orleans, LA
KUWAIT	February 18-20	Int'l HSSE Environmental Conference & Exhibition	Kuwait
SAUDI ARABIA	February 19-21	PetroEnvironment 2019	Al Khobar
FRANCE	March 5	CEDRE Information Day	Paris La Défense
UK	March 22	Marine Insurance London Conference	London
USA	March 26-27	SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Arlington, VA
USA	April 16-18	Clean Waterways Conference	Cincinnati, OH
USA	May 14-17	Hands-on OSR Strategies and Tactics Training	Leonardo, NJ
UK	May 15-16	NCEC HAZMAT 2019 Conference	Stratford on Avon
AUSTRALIA	May 20-24	SPILLCON 2019 Conference and Exhibition	Perth
CROATIA	May 28-30	ADRIASPILLCON 2019 Conference and Exhibition	Opatija
CANADA	June 4-6	42 nd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination & Response	Halifax, Nova Scotia
BELGIUM	June 12-13	European Environmental Ports Conference 2019	Antwerp
CANADA	June 18-20	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Vancouver BC
USA	October 28-31	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	New Orleans LA
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
USA	May 11-14	International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition	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

Alga Chronicle	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	August 2018
AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2017
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	Sept. 2018 issue
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	Nov. 2018 issue
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	October 2018
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	December 2018
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2018 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	November 2018
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	October 2018 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	March-April, 2018
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	October 2018 issue
Nautical Institute News	News from the Nautical Institute	June-July, 2018
Navigate Response	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	September 2018
NOAA OR&R	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue2
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	November 2018
OHMSETT Gazette	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Fall 2018
PEMSEA E News	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	October, 2018
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	Dec 5, 2018
Safe Seas, Clean Seas	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	July 2018 issue
Salvage World	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Spring 2018 issue
Spill Alert	Newsletter from the UK Spill Association	December 2017
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Oct.16-31, 2018
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	Dec. 1, 2018

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