

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



**A HAPPY NEW YEAR
TO ALL OUR READERS**



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

SPILLCON
20 – 24 May 2019 Perth, Australia

ADRIASPILLCON 2019

4th Adriatic Conference on spill prevention,
preparedness and response
28 – 30 May 2019 Opatija, Croatia

A hyperlink to the ADRIASPILLCON 2019 Website will be inserted in the above banner in the near future

IMO POLLUTION PREVENTION & RESPONSE (PPR) SUB-COMMITTEE



The next meeting will take place in London on 18-22 February 2019. Agenda items of particular interest to the spill response community include Safety & Pollution Hazards of Chemicals

and Preparation of Consequential Amendments to the IBC Code; Development of Measures to Reduce Risks of Use and Carriage of Heavy Fuel Oil as Fuel by Ships in Arctic Waters; and Guide on Practical Methods for the Implementation of the OPRC Convention and OPRC-HNS Protocol. www.imo.org

EUROPE: EMSA SPILL RESPONSE PLANS FOR 2019 AND BEYOND



December 21 - The EMSA Programming Document 2019-2021 was adopted by the Administrative Board at the end of 2018.

It constitutes the Agency's roadmap for the year to come, laying out the specific actions and resources for 2019, and provides an indication of possible developments in the medium term.

- In 2019, EMSA's "tool-box" available to support the pollution response mechanisms of coastal States will include:
- The network of stand-by oil spill response vessels around the European coastline, which will remain at the core of EMSA's operational pollution response services;

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

- The Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) in the Northern Baltic Sea, Baltic Sea, North Sea and Adriatic Sea offering specialized equipment for Vessels of Opportunity (VOO);
- The sea-borne dispersant application capability, including dispersant stocks and spraying equipment provided by selected vessels arrangements and also available for VOO.

As risks differ in regions, the distribution and response capabilities of the operational pollution response services provided by the Agency are based on environmental sensitivities of sea areas, amount of oil transported in the area, ship traffic density, existing oil pollution response capacity in coastal States of that region, etc. Following a review of the geographical distribution and number of response arrangements, in 2019 the location of certain response arrangements will be optimised.

In order to improve the reliability of the (ageing) oil spill response equipment and ensure a high quality service to the Member States, renewal of selected equipment sets will be carried out either through replacement by newer equipment or the overhauling of the existing systems.

Moreover, in 2019 the Agency will continue strengthening existing response arrangements considering latest developments of state-of-the-art equipment.

[Download the EMSA Programming Document for 2019 – 2021](#)

IS YOUR COUNTRY SIGNED-UP TO THE INTERNATIONAL OIL POLLUTION COMPENSATION FUNDS?



IOPC Funds

January 2 – IOPC Funds has released an updated list of the 115 States which have deposited instruments of ratification, acceptance, approval or accession in respect of the International Convention on the Establishment of an International Fund for Compensation for Oil Pollution Damage 1992 (1992 Fund Convention).

[View the list of 115 States for which the 1992 Fund Convention is in force and the 32 States that are Parties to the Supplementary Fund Protocol](#)

THE OCEAN CLEANUP EXPERIENCES STRUCTURAL MALFUNCTION



January 3 - The Ocean Cleanup system suffered a structural malfunction late on December 29, 2018, and CEO Boyan Slat says the plastic clean-up system will be returned to port earlier than planned, as soon as weather permits.

During a regular inspection, it was discovered that an 18-meter end-section had detached from the rest of the system. "Although it is too early to confirm the cause of the malfunction, we hypothesize that material fatigue (caused by about 106 load cycles), combined with a local stress concentration, caused a fracture in the HDPE floater," says Slat.

Slat believes the problems are solvable, and the clean-up of the Great Pacific Garbage Patch will be operational in 2019. "The fact that the clean-up system orients itself in the wind, is able to follow the waves well and is able to catch and concentrate plastic gives us confidence in the technology." Founded in 2013 by Slat (24), The Ocean Cleanup now employs approximately 80 engineers and researchers. The foundation is headquartered in Rotterdam, the Netherlands. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: LOUISIANA - WELL PLUGGED, RESPONSE CONTINUES FOR LAKE WASHINGTON A10 WELL LEAK

December 17 - An oil well near Port Sulphur, Louisiana that began discharging over a week ago has now been plugged. Oil clean-up continues in the wetlands for the more than 9,000 gallons of oil that was discharged before the wellhead was secured. Wildlife operations conducted by the Louisiana Department of Fish and Wildlife, the U.S. Coast Guard, and NOAA Office of Protected Resources are ongoing. NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

USA: NEW MEXICO - CREWS CONTINUE TO CLEAN GASOLINE SPILL EAST OF CHAMBERINO

December 17 - Crews continue to clean a neighborhood east of Chamberino three days after a pipe leaked tens of thousands of gallons of gasoline. On Friday, a 12-inch pipe burst on Three Saints Road off of New Mexico State Road 226, spilling thirty thousand gallons of gasoline, according to Kinder Morgan, the company that operates the pipeline. ABC 7 KVIA / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

This report was updated and corrected on December 21 - **CORRECTION: More than 250K gallons of gasoline spilled in Doña Ana County** - A gasoline spill in Southern New Mexico has been contained a week after 12 inch pipe burst, the New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) announced Friday. The Santa Fe Pacific Pipeline, which runs from El Paso, Texas to Tucson, Arizona, burst near Chamberino, New Mexico on Friday, December 14, 2018. The NMED, said in a news release approximately 252,000 gallons of gasoline were released near Three Saints Road in Doña Ana County, New Mexico from a pipeline owned by Kinder Morgan. As of Wednesday, December 19, 2018, approximately 168,000 gallons of gasoline have been recovered, the NMED said. ABC 7 KVIA / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - FUEL GUSHED OUT OF SUNKEN VESSEL



Photo: The Coast Guard has assumed responsibility for cleaning up the fuel released by the fishing vessel Nordic Viking that sank in Seward Harbor last week. (Coast Guard)

December 17 - The Coast Guard is leading efforts to contain and clean up fuel and engine oil spilled from a fishing boat that sank in southern Alaska. The City of Seward harbormaster reported to the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation that the Nordic Viking apparently capsized Dec. 9, spilling an unknown amount of fuel. Although the cause of the sinking remains under investigation, the vessel could carry as much as 2,000 gallons of marine diesel fuel, plus a 500-gallon gasoline tank mounted on the stern deck — although its owner estimates far less was onboard when the boat went down. Navy Times / [Read more](#)

NORWAY: DRAMA IN ARCTIC WATERS AS TRAWLER RUNS AGROUND AT SVALBARD

December 31 - The crew of 14 was saved, but the fate of the vessel, which has 300,000 litres of diesel oil on board, remains unclear. The «Northguider» and its crew of 14 was fishing in the waters north of the Svalbard archipelago when emergency hit on 28th December. The 52 meter long vessel ran aground in the Hinlopen Strait, on about 80 degrees North, and soon started to take in water. Less than two hours after the ship captain called for help did two helicopters from the Svalbard Governor's Office arrive on site and managed to pick up the crew. It was a challenging rescue operation, the Joint Rescue Coordination Centre in Northern Norway informs. There was about minus 20 °C and strong winds in the area. The Barents Observer / [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH CAROLINA - CLEANUP CONTINUES AFTER BEAUFORT COUNTY TRAIN DERAILMENT

January 1 - Norfolk Southern says 12 tanker cars carrying molten sulfur derailed from a 97-car CSX train around 1:50 a.m. Tuesday. Norfolk Southern says between 6,000 and 8,000 gallons of the molten sulfur escaped from the tankers.

The sulfur is transported as a liquid, but cools rapidly and solidifies, according to the railroad. The hardened sulfur will be removed and replaced with new soil, Norfolk Southern told WITN News.

WITN News / [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]



HONDURAS: PETCOKE SPILL IN PUERTO CORTES



January 2 – A report received from Carlos Sagrera, MSc, MISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Panama – “Here in Latin America we begin the year with a petcoke spill in Puerto Cortes, the principal port of Honduras. According the authorities of the port (Empresa Nacional Portuaria) there were 400 tons of petcoke and the responsible vessel has not been identified so far. The situation is under the control of the General Directorate of the Merchant Marine, leadership of the NCP of Honduras. The local OSRO Ocean Pollution Control Honduras (OPCH) is working in the area in containment and recovery tasks. Below are some local links with media news about the situation”.

<https://www.laprensa.hn/sucesos/1246242-410/barco-derrama-carbon-contamina-costas-puerto-cortes>

<https://www.laprensa.hn/honduras/1246360-410/-desechos-carbon-derrame-bah%C3%ADa-puerto-cortes-honduras-contaminacion->

<http://www.latribuna.hn/2018/12/31/denuncian-derrame-de-carbon-en-costas-de-puerto-cortes/>

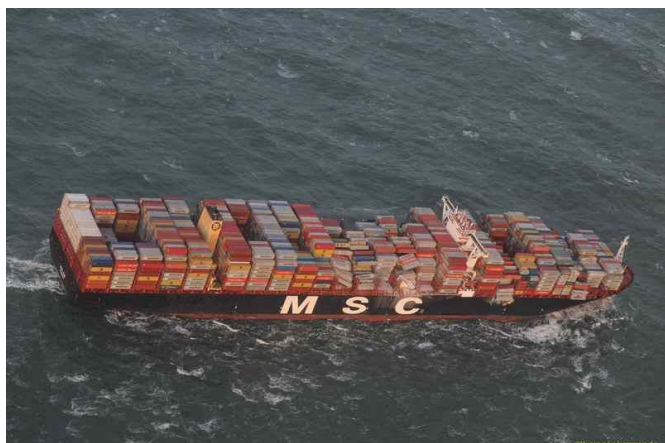
<http://www.elpais.hn/2019/01/01/activan-un-plan-de-contingencias-por-derrame-accidental-de-carbon/>

<https://tiempo.hn/derrame-de-carbon-en-puerto-cortes/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nuhT51l-ZCg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EzXIH9KJ9O8>

NORTH SEA: MSC ZOE LOSES UP TO 270 CONTAINERS OVERBOARD



January 2 - The Dutch Coastguard has issued a navigational warning after an ultra-large containership lost scores of containers while underway in the North Sea. The ship, MSC ZOE, was in German waters when it lost the containers in heavy seas between Vlieland, Netherlands and the German Bight in the southeastern North Sea on New Year's Day.

The Coastguard initially reported about 30 containers lost. However, an update Wednesday morning said it now understands that a whopping 270 containers went overboard.

The contents of all lost containers has not been confirmed, however at least three are reported to contain hazardous materials.

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

USA: KENTUCKY - RESPONSE CONTINUES TO CHRISTMAS DAY COAL BARGE ACCIDENT ON THE OHIO RIVER

US Coast Guard photo

January 2 - The U.S. Coast Guard with the Army Corps of Engineers and Tennessee Valley Towing Company continue to respond to a tug and barge accident on the Ohio River in Louisville, Kentucky more than a week after it began.

Watchstanders at CG Sector Ohio Valley received a report at around 8:10 p.m. on Christmas reporting that the towing vessel Debbie Graham, which was pushing 15 loaded coal barges, made <https://www.republika.co.id/berita/en/national-politics/19/01/04/pkt93z414-marine-life-affected-by-sinking-of-ocean-princess-govt> contact with the 2nd Street Bridge on the Ohio River causing all 15 barges to break free.

Only six barges have subsequently been recovered. Nine others are still lying on the dam just above the falls with many of them now sunk.

gCaptain / [Read more](#)



UK: MILFORD HAVEN OIL SPILL ESTIMATED AT 'UP TO 10,000 LITRES'

January 4 - A "heavy" oil spill which prompted a major clean-up operation could be as much as 10,000 litres, port chiefs have said.

The Valero Jetty in Pembrokeshire, was closed off after the leak on Thursday. Officials said the vast majority of the spill was contained - although more tests are under way.

Andrea Winterton, of Natural Resources Wales (NRW), said it was difficult to predict what the environmental impacts will be. "We're not sure where or when any further oil will come ashore... but we'll keep monitoring all the beaches and working with our partners to ensure where it does come ashore, we clean it up appropriately," she said. BBC News / [Read more](#)

INDONESIA: MARINE LIFE AFFECTED BY SINKING OF OCEAN PRINCESS

January 4 - Oil tanker Ocean Princess that sank in the vicinity waters off Aemoli Village in eastern Indonesia on December 22, 2018 has affected the marine life of Pantar Strait and its surrounding waters. The East Nusa Tenggara provincial government's marine and fishery authority has sent a team to observe the damages caused by the oil spill of the sinking vessel, Head of the East Nusa Tenggara Marine and Fishery Office Ganef Wurgiyanto noted here on Friday. Republika / [Read more](#)

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

AUSTRALIA: NEW SOUTH WALES -SECRET DOCUMENTS REVEAL TOXIC THREAT BENEATH SYDNEY AIRPORT

December 24 - A pool of poisonous water underneath Sydney Airport contains some of the highest levels of toxic firefighting chemicals seen on Australia's eastern seaboard, according to test results that were buried from the public after they were handed to authorities six years ago. The Sydney Morning Herald / [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: VICTORIA - 'COMPLETE DISREGARD FOR SAFETY': TOXIC CHEMICALS DUMPED IN CITY'S NORTH

January 2 - A massive stockpile of toxic chemicals uncovered in the city's north is under 24-hour guard amid concerns a fire at the site could dwarf the damage caused by the West Footscray industrial blaze last year. Authorities have discovered four warehouses in Epping packed with industrial-size bins and drums that are collectively estimated to contain more than 1.2 million litres of chemical waste. The Sydney Morning Herald / [Read more](#) [Thank to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Froup]

CANADA: NEWFOUNDLAND & LABRADOR - SPILL RAISES NEW QUESTIONS ABOUT FAST-GROWING N.L. OIL INDUSTRY

December 17 - Newfoundland and Labrador's ambitious plans to dramatically expand the province's lucrative offshore oil and gas industry got a nasty jolt on Nov. 16.



Photo: Dwight Ball says the government is committed to implementing any changes that come from the investigation into Husky's spill on Nov. 16. (Katie Breen/CBC)

Amid a fierce winter storm, an estimated 250,000 litres of oil spilled into the ocean from Husky Energy's SeaRose platform, about 350 kilometres from St. John's. It was the largest spill in the history of the province's offshore industry, and has prompted calls for regulatory change.

Premier Dwight Ball called the announcement a "new frontier" for the province's offshore industry, but deepwater expansion also raises fresh concerns about worker safety and the possibility of a swift cleanup if another spill were to occur. The premier said his government would consider regulatory changes, including more transparent, public and accessible summaries of operators' safety plans, based on the findings of the SeaRose investigation. CBC News / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: ACTIVITY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2018

December 17 - Here at Cedre, November continued to be overshadowed by the collision between the ship Ulysse and the container ship CSL Virginia off Corsica on 7th October and the resulting consequences. Agents from Cedre have been permanently on site since 17th October to provide support to the authorities (Var Prefecture) after oil began to wash up on the shores. The actions implemented have included conducting surveys to monitor the shoreline situation and coordinating the launch of clean-up operations, working together with representatives of the contractor responsible for their implementation (Le Floch Dépollution), experts from the ship's P&I club (ITOPF), and the relevant local authorities and State services. Cedre's emergency response team was also called upon for advice at the request of the Loire Atlantique fire brigade (SDIS 44) in relation to a leak of sulphuric acid from a tanker truck at a refinery. We also provided advice to civil protection (DGSCGC) following the explosion of a tanker truck in Châteaubourg (Ille-et-Vilaine), to AFB in relation to a spill of cutting oil in a stream, to MRCC La Garde for MOTHY drift forecasts and to MRCC Réunion in relation to slicks of an unidentified substance. We took part in exercises run by the National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) and REMPEC. [Read more in the CEDRE Newsletter for November 2018](#)

FRANCE: INTRODUCTION TO SPILL RESPONSE TECHNIQUES FOR SEAGOING FISHERMEN

December 17 - In collaboration with Iroise Marine Nature Park (PNMI) and the Finistère Fisheries Committee, Cedre gave an introduction to spill response techniques to a group of 9 seagoing fishermen working within the PNMI on 7th and 8th November. During this training session, a representative of the French Navy's Centre of Practical Expertise in Pollution Response Ceppol presented the surface trawls used by seagoing fishermen for so-called "second row" operations under the French marine pollution response organisation. [Read more in the CEDRE Newsletter for November 2018](#)

NETHERLANDS: DUTCH AUTHORITIES DEMAND CLEAN-UP COSTS FROM MSC OVER LOST CONTAINERS

January 4 - Dutch authorities will hold Swiss shipping line MSC liable for the cost of cleaning up debris from more than 270 cargo containers that fell off one of its vessels and washed up on shore, officials said on Friday. The Dutch coastguard said a criminal investigation had been launched by prosecutors into the incident, one of the largest of its kind off the coast of the Netherlands.

The containers, some holding hazardous chemicals, fell off one of the world's largest container ships, the MSC Zoe, during a North Sea storm on Wednesday in German waters near the island of Borkum. Among the lost goods were car parts, refrigerators, toys and furniture, she wrote. "Several containers of hazardous materials were onboard. It is unclear how many fell off," it said.

At least one container load of organic peroxide, a strong bleaching agent that can cause injury on contact with skin, was lost, the letter said. Residents were told not to touch 25-kg bags found on the shore. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: EXAMINING ROLE OF GOVT, CSOS IN OGONI CLEAN-UP

December 27 - Ugo Aliogo in this report examines the level of commitment on the part of federal government and Civil Society Organisations in the Ogoni clean-up exercise.

At a recent advocacy meeting in Lagos, organised to examine the roles of the CSOs and NGOs in the Ogoniland clean-up efforts, the issue was once again brought to the fore, to examine the progresses recorded in the clean-up exercise on the part of the federal government, the oil companies, the challenges faced and key policy recommendations.

All Africa / [Read more](#)

OMAN: OIL POLLUTION EXERCISE IN MUSANDAM TESTS PREPARATION

December 19 - The Ministry of Environment and Climate Affairs (MECA) and Oman Oil Company Exploration Production, in cooperation with other agencies are holding a two-day oil spill drill titled Nawras 2018 in Musandam.

The participating entities are the Ministry of Transport and Communications, the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, the Ministry of Health, the ROP, represented by the Operations and Coast Guard, the Public Authority for Civil Defence and Ambulance, the Royal Air Force of Oman, the Royal Navy of Oman, Maritime the Security Centre and Oman Petroleum and Environmental Services Company.

“The Strait of Hormuz is considered one of the world’s major waterways and the busiest in maritime activities. Sixty per cent of world’s oil tankers pass through this route.” Muscat Daily / [Read more](#)

SPAIN: SPANISH SUPREME COURT CONFIRMS \$1.9B JUDGEMENT FOR PRESTIGE SPILL

December 21 - Spain's highest court has ruled that Capt. Apostolos Mangouras and the London P&I Club owe the government of Spain \$1.9 billion in damages for the 2002 Prestige oil spill. The decision confirms a previous ruling from a lower court in Galicia.

On November 13, 2002, the tanker Prestige suffered structural damage in a storm and began leaking oil. Capt. Mangouras reported the damage and requested access to a port of refuge, but Spanish officials refused, and flew their own appointed master out to the ship to take charge. With a combination of sailing and towing, they brought the Prestige further out to sea. On November 19, she broke up and sank. The Prestige released an estimated 63,000 tonnes of crude oil, polluting thousands of miles of coastline and costing the regional economy approximately \$6 billion. It was the largest environmental disaster in Spain's history, and it took a force of more than 300,000 people - many of them volunteers - to clean up the damage. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

TUNISIA: MOIG CHAIRMAN, MAHMOUD ABDUSSALM KAMOUR REVIEWS 2018 AND ANNOUNCES 2019 PLANS IN NEW ISSUE OF THE MOIG NEWSLETTER

[Download and read the January 2019 issue of the Newsletter of the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group](#)

UK: LINCOLNSHIRE - POLLUTER TO SUBMIT PLANS FOR RIVER WITHAM REPAIRS

December 20 - The Environment Agency has served a 'notice of liability' for a pollution incident that killed at least 100,000 fish in Lincolnshire. Ammonia entered the River Witham in March of this year and caused the worst river pollution ever recorded in Lincolnshire. Government News / [Read more](#)

USA: EPA AND ARMY PROPOSE NEW "WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES" DEFINITION

December 11 - Press Release from EPA: “Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Department of the Army (Army) are proposing a clear, understandable, and implementable definition of “waters of the United States” that clarifies federal authority under the Clean Water Act. Unlike the Obama administration's 2015 definition of “waters of the United States,” today’s proposal contains a straightforward definition that would result in significant cost savings, protect the nation’s navigable waters, help sustain economic growth, and reduce barriers to business development”.

“Our proposal would replace the Obama EPA’s 2015 definition with one that respects the limits of the Clean Water Act and provides states and landowners the certainty they need to manage their natural resources and grow local economies,” said EPA Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler. “For the first time, we are clearly defining the difference between federally protected waterways and state protected waterways. Our simpler and clearer definition would help landowners understand whether a project on their property will require a federal permit or not, without spending thousands of dollars on engineering and legal professionals.”

“The agencies’ proposal is the second step in a two-step process to review and revise the definition of “waters of the United States” consistent with President Trump's February 2017 Executive Order entitled “Restoring the Rule of Law, Federalism, and Economic Growth by Reviewing the ‘Waters of the United States’ Rule.” The Executive Order states that it is in the national interest to ensure that the nation's navigable waters are kept free from pollution, while at the same time promoting economic growth, minimizing regulatory uncertainty, and showing due regard for the roles of Congress and the states under the Constitution”.

[Read the complete text of this EPA Press Release](#)

USA: BUILDING BRIDGES OF TRUST FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE

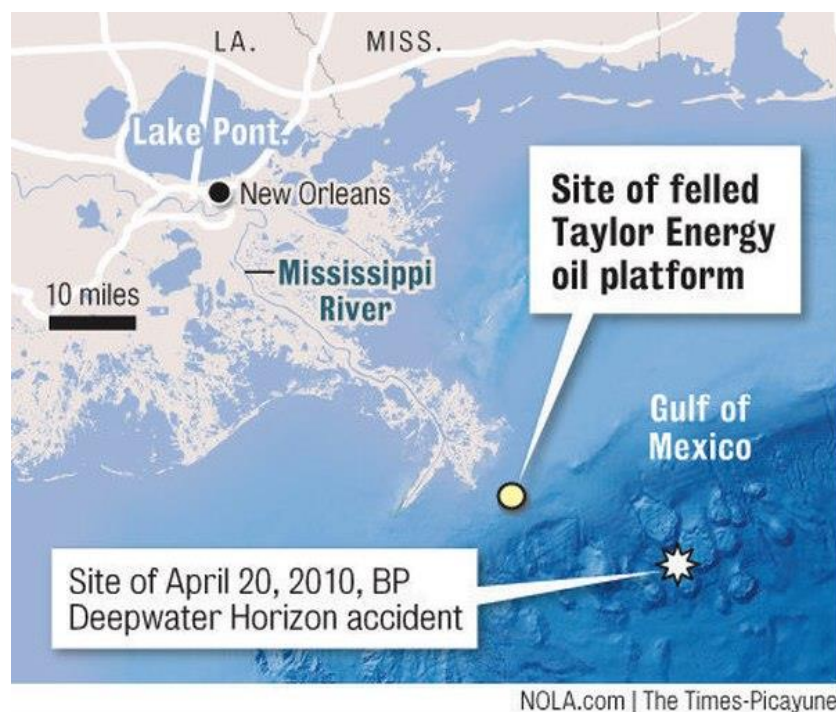
December 14 - An oil spill response workshop in Houma, La., earlier this month was the first of five such information gathering sessions the Sea Grant Oil Spill Science Outreach Program has planned in coastal areas. The year-long project, which began in July, is part of a collaboration with the Gulf Research Program of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering and Medicine, the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, and Sea Grant programs around the country. Offshore Engineer / [Read more](#)

USA: GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL & ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE CONFERENCE EXPLORES FUTURE DIRECTIONS OF RESPONSE AND RESTORATION IN THE GULF

December 19 - Experts Will Discuss How Advances in Fundamental Science Can Shape Future Directions of Response Strategies and Inform Resource Management Beyond Oil Spills at the 2019 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference.

The Gulf of Mexico is a region with many complex challenges, including oil spills, hypoxic zones, harmful algal blooms, and hurricanes. Integrating science with policy and management is key to meeting these challenges and working towards a healthy Gulf. Join some of the Gulf's leading experts at the [2019 Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference](http://www.gulfofmexicoconference.org) as they discuss their research and the path ahead. For Registration and Conference Schedule, Click Here: www.gulfofmexicoconference.org Market Watch / [Read more](#)

USA: TAYLOR ENERGY SUES TO BLOCK ORDER TO CONTAIN 14-YEAR-OLD OIL LEAK IN GULF OF MEXICO



December 21 - The company that has failed to end a 14-year-old oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico is suing to challenge a Coast Guard official's order to design and install a new containment system to capture and remove the crude before it forms slicks that often stretch for miles.

The federal lawsuit that Taylor Energy Co. filed Thursday in New Orleans asks the court to throw out Coast Guard Capt. Kristi Luttrell's Oct. 23 administrative order. The company faces daily civil penalties of up to \$40,000 if it fails to comply with the order.

Luttrell issued it one day after the Washington Post published a front-page story about the leak off Louisiana's coast. The story included a new estimate that approximately 10,500 to 29,400 gallons (39,747 to 111,291 liters) of oil is leaking daily from the site where a Taylor Energy-owned platform toppled during Hurricane Ivan in 2004.

That estimate, contained in a report that the federal government commissioned from a Florida State

University researcher, is much higher than previous government estimates and dwarfs the company's own assessment of the leak's volume. The Times Picayune / [Read more](#)

USA: ISSUE OF EPA NEWSLETTERS IS BEING DELAYED

January 1 - Due to a lapse in appropriations, EPA newsletters such as TechDirect will be delayed in delivery. Additionally, EPA websites such as the Clean-Up Information Network, clu.in.org, will not be regularly updated. In the event of an environmental emergency imminently threatening the safety of human life or where necessary to protect certain property, EPA's website will be updated with appropriate information. Please note that all information on the EPA website may not be up to date, and transactions and inquiries submitted to the EPA websites may not be processed or responded to until appropriations are enacted. [Thanks to Jean Balent, US EPA] Note from Editor: The links for downloading these newsletters will be updated ASAP

USA: SHUTDOWN HITS COAST GUARD ACADEMY, NOAA AND MARAD

January 1 - An estimated ten percent of the U.S. Coast Guard's employees have been furloughed due to the partial government shutdown, and most of those who remain working face uncertainty about their next paycheck. About 160 of the 260 staff at the U.S. Coast Guard Academy are among those who are off work until the shutdown ends, and students are set to return for the next semester on Sunday.

Most of the 100 personnel still on duty at the Academy are faculty members, and classes will be held as scheduled, according to the school. However, groundskeepers, maintenance workers and some athletic coaches will not be on hand. Winter sports will continue, but other athletic events could be canceled.

"The lapse in funding will impact the ability for cadets to receive academic support services, participate in outreach activities and some athletic events," the Academy said in an advisory. The shutdown also affects more than half the staff at the Maritime Administration, which prepared to cease all activities in the Committee on Marine Transportation Systems, the Office of Policy and Plans, and the Office of Maritime Education and Training, among others.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

MARAD continues all its essential operations for the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy, the Maritime Security Program, the NRDF and Ready Reserve, and the Ship Disposal Program.

At the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the shutdown has hit important licensing and research functions. Most NOAA research activities are suspended, and Alaska Public Radio reports that many of the NOAA officials who conduct required permitting for the Alaskan trawl fisheries are furloughed and unavailable. (Even if willing, NOAA employees who are furloughed may not voluntarily perform their ordinary duties without pay, according to the agency's HR office.) At least one large catcher-processor is tied to the pier in Dutch Harbor until the shutdown ends or another permitting solution is found. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

UK: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY DIRECTOR KEN ALLISON AWARDED A CBE



January 2 - Allison is in charge of covering flood and coastal risk management for the Environment Agency and was given his award for his work on the environment. He described the CBE as “an incredible and humbling privilege that reflects the hard work and dedication of people and organisations who manage flood and coastal risk in this country”.

A CBE (Companion of the British Empire) is an honour awarded by the H.M. the Queen for prominent national or regional roles and to those making distinguished or notable contributions in their own specific areas of activity.

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

ISCO MEMBERS ARE INVITED TO SEND THEIR PRESS RELEASES TO THE EDITOR

OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD SIGNS “STRATEGIC COOPERATION AGREEMENT” WITH GENESIS OIL AND GAS CONSULTANTS LTD.



December 17 - Oil Spill Response Ltd (OSRL) has announced the signing of a new “Strategic Cooperation Agreement” with Genesis Oil and Gas Consultants Ltd to support its Subsea Well Intervention Service (SWIS) members.

The agreement provides OSRL’s SWIS members with access to Genesis’s extensive knowledge and expertise in subsea systems engineering, installation, operation (process/flow assurance) and computational fluid dynamics – all to promote best-practice subsea well incident planning, preparedness and response.

OSRL and its members are focused on advancing and promoting industry response capabilities for subsea containment scenarios, especially where capping of an incident well may present known or unknown challenges. Genesis’s expertise in subsea production systems will help strengthen the industry’s

capabilities, especially for this type of subsea response scenario.

The new agreement will also further enhance the policies and procedures previously established through the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers Global Industry Response Group, and adopted by the Subsea Well Response Project consortium. It establishes a best-practice approach to managing subsea well control incidents globally and reinforces OSRL as a critical partner for its members in subsea response assurance. <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/> <http://www.genesisoilandgas.com/>

LAMOR ORGANISES OIL SPILL RESPONSE SEMINAR IN IRAQ

December 18 - Lamor recently organized an Oil Spill Response Seminar together with its Iraqi partner Al Usool Engineering Services in Erbil Rotana Arjaan.

The seminar attracted many high-level decision makers from private and government companies within the oil industry cluster, e.g., NRC (North Refineries CO), NOC and KAR refineries.

At the end of the seminar, Lamor’s Regional Director Javier Perez gave an award to all participants.



DESMI SEA TURTLE SARGAZO PROJECT



December 19 – DESMI presents a solution for Sargazo Seaweed Control. Watch the equipment in action in this video from Mexico this December. The video shows footage from a Performance Test in Quintana Roo, Mexico.

The DESMI Sea Turtle Sargazo Project is a response to the massive Seaweed (Sargazo) issue present at many shorelines today.

The seaweed has invaded beautiful beaches all around the North Atlantic region and in the Caribbean – A huge problem for the local residents, the local wildlife including the sea turtles and the thousands of annual tourists. [Watch the video and learn more about The DESMI Sea Turtle Sargazo Project](#)

ANNOUNCEMENT FROM HENRIKSEN – THE NEW ARCTIC FOXTAIL PASSES SVALBARD TESTS



January 3 – An oil spill response device capable of cleaning up spills in arctic conditions and contributing to Norway's spill preparedness. Dubbed Arctic FoxTail, the new device is a new winterised version of H Henriksen's standard Foxtail mop skimmer.

The Norwegian authorities are committed to protect its marine environment and have many years' experience with oil spill preparedness. Nevertheless, the adoption of new devices and technology are considered crucial to improve arctic marine safety and environmental protection.

As part of its efforts to enhance Norway's oil spill preparedness, the Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies (NOFO) and Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) launched its 'Oil spill Response 2015', inviting vendors to develop equipment to handle oil spill recovery in

arctic conditions. H Henriksen's Arctic FoxTail proposal was accepted and development of the prototype started in 2016.

Filtering out oil spills from the seawater using its sorbent mops, FoxTail VAB is already well known throughout the maritime industry and capable of salvaging large quantities of oil after a spill, without much unnecessary water.

Following recent testing on board MS Polarsysse in Longyearbyen, Svalbard, H Henriksen released its new device, a major redesign of its standard VAB (Vertical Adhesion Band) model with integrated transfer pump, insulated cover and a hydraulic heating system. During testing, the new device proved capable of stable and continuous operation in sub-zero arctic conditions.

"Operating in the arctic conditions is a challenge in any segment of the maritime industry, as these regions are both inhospitable and environmentally sensitive," says Trygve Egenes, Managing Director of Tonsberg-based H Henriksen.

The scope of the project was to widen the weather widow in which oil can be taken from the water with skimmers. The old skimmers are very redundant to the sea state and weather and have proven their ability; however, cold weather will reduce their efficiency when ice starts growing on the machines. This ice-growth mainly comes from sea-spray.

The standard FoxTail operates in -6°C, compared to the new Arctic Foxtail which can operate -21°C under the same sea temperature and wind conditions. H Henriksen is now delivering the first Arctic FoxTail to the Norwegian Coastal Administration.

For more information on the Arctic FoxTail, contact Trygve Egenes, Managing Director of H Henriksen - trygve@hhenriksen.com or Trond Lindheim., Manager of SpillTech - trond@SpillTech.no

During testing in Longyearbyen, the new device proved that the weather window has been increased.

The new Arctic FoxTail system will help handle oil spill recovery in Arctic conditions. Implementing heat and insulation to the machine and moving the transfer pump to the skimmer allows for stable and continuous operations at considerably lower temperatures compared to the standard Foxtail. Also, the weather window for the use of the vertical adhesive band skimmers has significantly increased. This modification, together with the advantage of the VAB skimmers, makes the Arctic FoxTail a useful oil spill response device in arctic conditions. <https://www.hhenriksen.com/>

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

USA: FACTOR AND SPILL CENTER WIN US DOT PHMSA PROJECT TO DEVELOP SMART TECHNOLOGY FOR HAZMAT TRANSPORTATION

December 20 - FACTOR, INC. has partnered with SPILL CENTER™ on a new research and development project funded by the US Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (US DOT PHMSA) to develop HazSMART™—an integrated technology for hazardous materials shippers, transporters, first responders, and others involved in the transportation and handling of hazmat. The project, lasting until September 2020, will result in a pilot implementation of HazSMART to assess its adoptability and long-term utility.

Currently, there are a number of disconnected public and private technologies catering to limited groups of hazmat transportation stakeholders. These stakeholders would benefit from a tighter collaboration and improved information sharing. To address this need, HazSMART's web and mobile applications will make it easier to securely communicate and rapidly share “need-to-know” information between verified users. In its fully developed state, HazSMART will function as a clearinghouse for hazmat transportation data, promote communication exchange, and will enable users to access relevant, proximity-based information without delays, so that necessary safety precautions or emergency response actions can be implemented quickly and dynamically. CISION / [Read more](#)

THIS MASSIVE PLUG COULD PREVENT THE NEXT OIL SPILL DISASTER



Picture: The OIEC, here without a capping stack, can be transported by sea or air Credit Fabrizio Giraldi

December 20 - After the BP disaster in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 – the worst offshore spill in history – the International Association of Oil and Gas Producers and eight of the biggest oil companies started searching for a way to prevent similar catastrophes.

Six years later, a partnership with the Italian contractor Saipem produced the Offset Installation Equipment Carrier (OIEC). After two years of testing, it's now ready.

The OIEC is a 14-metre tall apparatus consisting of a metallic

frame that is kept upright by four giant yellow towers filled with air. At the centre is a massive block - weighing nearly 100 tonnes – that can plug leaking oil wells, known as a capping stack. A weight submerges the carrier to a level where it is possible for operators to steer the capping stack onto a blown-out well.

What makes the OIEC unique is that it can be guided into place by operators up to 500 metres from the spill site, minimising the dangers on the surface. The carrier itself is towed in and out of the exclusion zone by means of a strong cable.

Once the OIEC is deployed, the capping stack is remotely manoeuvred using cables and pulleys, and placed on the well – it is precise to within a few centimetres. After the capping stack has been lowered, it is shut into the well, while the rest of the equipment is brought back to the surface.

Even if it has not yet been deployed during an actual oil spill, the system – whose development involved more than 200 engineers and specialists – has been tested in different conditions, including Norway, Brazil and the Croatian coast. “It was a very complicated project,” says Matt Clements, subsea well intervention director at Oil Spill Response, a UK company involved in the effort. “This is the first equipment of its kind anywhere in the world.” WIRED / [Read more](#)

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019

UK & IRELAND: ISAA ALL IRELAND STEERING GROUP MEETING

Hillsborough, January 15. The next ISAA meeting will discuss setting standards for remediation of contaminated land and domestic heating oil spill clean-up. For more info contact johnadawes@btinternet.com

USA: MICHIGAN - 29th ANNUAL NO SPILLS CONFERENCE

Traverse City, January 30 – February 1. The theme is "Lessons from the Past and Planning for the Future." We are looking forward to a variety of presentations from local, regional and industry responders active in Michigan. [More info](#)

USA: GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL & ECOSYSTEM CONFERENCE

New Orleans LA, February 4-7. The 2019 program will seek to highlight key findings, identify data gaps, and generate questions remaining after nearly ten years of intensified research in the Gulf of Mexico. The questions generated through plenaries, concurrent sessions, and attendee participation will form the basis for the 2019 conference report. [More info](#)

KUWAIT: INTERNATIONAL HSSE ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Kuwait, February 18-20. Kuwait International Health, Safety, Security & Environment (KIHSSSE) 2019, is the 3rd Edition of the initiative taken by Kuwait Petroleum Corporation for bringing together the peers of Health Safety Security and Environment under one roof. This year the event stands at the forefront of blending HSSE as a practice to attain Business Excellence under the theme of "Transforming HSE Culture for a Resilient Future". [More info](#)

UK: IMO POLLUTION PREVENTION & RESPONSE (PPR) SUB-COMMITTEE MEETING

London, February 18-22. [More info](#)

SAUDI ARABIA: PETROENVIRONMENT SYMPOSIUM 2019

Al Khobar, February 19-21. Held Under the patronage of H.R.H. Prince Saud bin Nayef bin Abdulaziz Al Saud Governor of the Eastern Province, under the theme Innovative Technologies for Environmental Sustainability, the symposium offers an unrivalled opportunity for the global oil and gas, petrochemical and environment community to come together and focus on the future. [More info](#)

UK: UK SPILL ANNUAL MEMBERS MEETING, DINNER, AWARDS

London, February 26. The Annual Dinner for members and guests in London, at the Watermen's Hall in the City cost £95 per person. Book now at info@ukspill.org

UPCOMING EVENTS – MARCH 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
FRANCE	March 5	CEDRE Information Day	Paris La Défense
UK	March 5-6	Chemical & Product Tanker Conference	London
KENYA	March 11-15	UN Environment Assembly	Nairobi
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	November 2018
AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2017
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	Dec. 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
Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter	News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria	December 2018
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	December 2018
GISEA Quarterly Newsletter	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	December 2018
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2018 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	December 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	Jan. 2019 issue
Nautical Institute News	News from the Nautical Institute	June-July, 2018
Navigate Response	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	December 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	Jan 2, 2019
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	Nov. 1-15, 2018
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	Dec. 1, 2018

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

INFORMATION FOR ISCO MEMBERS

HAVE YOU RENEWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTION?

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 Dalglish 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 without delay.

HAVE YOU ALLOWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO LAPSE?

ISCO welcomes lapsed members who decide to re-join. This way you can preserve your access to all our membership benefits, including delivery of the ISCO Newsletter. To re-join, just click on <http://spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/membership-application>

VALUE FOR MONEY

Did you know employees of Corporate Members can all be registered for personalised delivery of the ISCO Newsletter. For example, the per employee cost of the newsletter each week for a company with 10 employees is less than 50 cents.

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