

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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



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

DANGEROUS GOODS INTERNATIONAL REGULATIONS UPDATED



January 12 - The latest version of the Regulation concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Rail came into force on January 1. RID 2019 replaces the 2017 edition, which may continue to be used during a transitional period running to June 30. RID applies to the international carriage of dangerous goods by rail between 44 countries in Europe, Asia and North Africa, and also within EU member states. It is harmonised with United Nations Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods, and there is close co-ordination with ADR regulations covering road transport and ADN for inland waterways. Railway Gazette / [Read more](#)

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

CEDRE INFORMATION DAY, 5TH MARCH 2019, PARIS, LA DÉFENSE



January 14 - The Cedre Information Day will address public policies on reducing waste in the aquatic environment (notably under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive and the OSPAR Convention Marine Litter Regional Plan) and will touch upon the circular economy. It will also give rise to examples of induced actions: environmental waste monitoring networks; French

and European research projects to improve knowledge about waste (at sea and in rivers) and its effects; collection and awareness-raising by associations; initiatives involving professionals from the fisheries sector and from industry; as well as concrete cases of new products. CEDRE / [More info & registration](#)

FANPLESSTIC-SEA: NEW RESEARCH PROJECT FOCUSES ON REDUCING MICROPLASTICS IN THE BALTIC SEA

January 16 - A new research project will focus on decreasing and removing microplastics in the Baltic Sea. The project will increase knowledge and understanding about dispersal pathways and sources through measurements in different flows in society, as well as cost-effective methods to reduce microplastics.

FanPLESStic project is including partner organizations in eight countries with coast to the Baltic Sea (Sweden, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Russia). The total budget of the project is 2 968 068,80 euro with financial support by the EU Interreg program. Project period is from January 1st 2019 to June 30th 2021. Project coordinator is Sweden Water Research and responsible project manager is Carina Svensson, with solid experience of international projects. Helcom / [Read more](#)

BIG PLASTIC'S \$1 BILLION PLEDGE TO END PLASTIC WASTE JUST A DROP IN THE POLLUTED OCEAN



Photo: Mohamed Abdulraheem / Shutterstock

January 17 - By Jack Kaskey (Bloomberg) — With all those plastic-trash haters filling the Internet with images of garbage-choked oceans and demanding bans on everything from drinking straws to grocery bags, chemical companies are beginning to get alarmed.

Their solution: A public pledge by the new Alliance to End Plastic Waste to spend \$1 billion over five years to clean up marine debris, improve recycling and develop new technologies to reduce pollution. That may sound like a lot of green, but the Alliance is made up of 28 companies that make plastics, packaging and consumer products, which averages out to each company spending just over \$7 million on the effort each year. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

NORTH SEA: MSC ZOE CLEAN-UP: 1,220 TONS COLLECTED ALREADY

January 11 - Significant progress has been made in the cleaning-up of debris from containers that fell from ULCV MSC Zoe (IMO 9703318) on January 2nd during heavy weather in the North Sea, Geneva-based Mediterranean Shipping Company (MSC) said on Wednesday January 9th. The company said that 1,220 metric tons had been collected so far from German and Dutch beaches impacted as a result of the 291-container spillage.

"By deploying 4x4 vehicles, tractors and specialist equipment such as a beach vacuum-cleaners the response operation has achieved significant progress on the Frisian islands of Terschelling, Vlieland, Ameland and Schiermonnikoog, in the Wadden Sea and on the mainland," the company said in its latest update on the situation. Ardent Global was coordinating the search at sea. Sonar-assisted search had located hundreds of objects in the water in the past few days which were being evaluated by MSC's contractors and the authorities. So far, 21 entire containers had washed ashore. Insurance Marine News / [Read more](#) Related Report in [gCaptain](#)

AUSTRALIA: OIL SPILL AT FREMANTLE INNER HARBOUR

January 12 - Authorities are responding to an oil spill from a ship in Fremantle's inner harbour. Fremantle Ports say the oil is believed to have come from the general cargo ship Nauma at berth 11 on Saturday morning at the north-eastern end of the harbour.

In a statement Fremantle Ports says authorities are in the process of containing "a spill of heavy fuel oil. An absorbent boom to contain the oil has been extended around both ends of the ship, with a further hard-barrier boom now also in place," the statement said. WAtoday / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

SINGAPORE: PIPE LAYER ABANDONED AFTER COLLISION WITH TANKER



January 14 - Chemical tanker ANTEA, which left Singapore early in the morning Jan 13, en route to Ambon Indonesia, collided with pipe layer STAR CENTURION in vicinity 01 24N 104 35E, some 10 nm north of Berakit, Bintan island, eastern Singapore Strait waters, reportedly at night Jan 13. 22 personnel on board of pipe layer abandoned the on a lifeboat and were rescued, no injuries reported. Abandoned STAR CENTURION remained submerged, understood still afloat, near collision site. Fleetmon / [Read more](#)

Other Reports in [The Maritime Executive](#) and in [gCaptain](#)

ARGENTINA: OIL SPILL IN PARANA RIVER



Report received from Maximo Padilla, Projects & New Business, ISCO Corporate Member, CLEAN SEA SA in Argentina

January 15 - About 150tns of vegetable oil were spilled to the Parana River in San Lorenzo Port, Argentina. According to press releases, the spillage was accidentally originated from shore side during tank cleaning operations.

OSRO company Clean Sea SA is actively working in the area with collaboration of Prefectura Naval Argentina and Ministry of Environment from Santa Fe's province. Workboats, personnel, oil booms and other recovery/absorbent materials have been deployed to the area and cleaning efforts continue all around the clock. www.cleansea.com.ar

USA: SEARCH SUSPENDED FOR TWO MISSING AFTER ANTI-POLLUTION SUPPORT BOAT CAPSIZES DURING EXERCISE ON LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

January 17 - The Coast Guard ended its search for two people near mile marker 18 on the Mississippi River near Bootheville, Louisiana, Thursday. The Coast Guards searched approximately 130 square nautical miles for 27 hours.

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

Previous (01/16/2019): The U.S. Coast Guard and local agencies are searching for two people in the water near Bootheville, Louisiana after the support boat they were on capsized during a training exercise involving the oil spill response vessel Louisiana Responder.

A spokesperson for the Coast Guard confirmed that the capsized vessel was participating in exercise with the Louisiana Responder when the incident occurred. Louisiana Responder is a Responder-Class Oil Spill Response Vessel belonging to Marine Spill Response Corporation. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

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

AUSTRALIA: TO DRILL OR NOT TO DRILL IN AUSTRALIA

January 14 - Australia's government is expected to allow oil drilling in the fragile Great Australian Bight eco-system in a bid to boost fuel security, a decision that will inevitably inflame the nation's electoral politics.

Fears of a potential US-China conflict in the South China Sea have exposed Australia's vulnerability to supply disruptions, prompting an assessment of its gasoline, diesel and jet fuel supplies that is due to be released in mid-year.

Resources Minister Matt Canavan has predicted that development of the vast Bight region could "transform the South Australian economy, and lead to thousands of jobs and billions of dollars of income to Australians."

But scientists and environmentalists warn that an oil well blowout would likely cause more damage than the 2010 Deepwater Horizon disaster in the Gulf of Mexico. Asia Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: CHEMICAL SPILL CRISIS MANAGEMENT TRAINING COURSE

January 17 - A chemical spill crisis management training course was run by two trainers from Cedre from 4th to 6th December. In total, 23 trainees, mainly from the Canadian Coast Guard together with a few guests from federal administrations (Environment Canada, Transport Canada) and the province of Quebec (Environment and Climate Change Canada), attended this 3day session held at the premises of the Canadian Coast Guard in Quebec. The discussions were the chance to share Cedre's strong experience in chemical spills or risks at sea. Furthermore, the Canadian context, in particular with sea ice present for long periods of time and circumstances potentially aggravated by incident areas being very far from the shore, sparked debates and gave Cedre the opportunity to extend its knowledge thanks to the sharing of Canadian experiences. Fruitful discussions were held and helped to strengthen the links between Cedre and the Canadian administrations, in particular the Coast Guard. CEDRE Newsletter / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE ACTIVITY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2018

January 17 - In December, Cedre continued to be involved in monitoring the situation on the Var shoreline following the collision between the Ulysse and the container ship CSL Virginia off Corsica on 7th October. In terms of water pollution incidents, our duty team was contacted by MRCC Antilles-Guyane (French Antilles and French Guiana) in relation to white balls resembling paraffin or vegetable fat on the shores of Martinique, by MRCC Reunion in relation to plant residues, by the Morbihan authorities (DDTM) to report tarballs on the shores of Saint-Pierre-Quiberon and Plouharnel, by the Bouches-du-Rhône authorities (DDTM) to request advice after a drum washed up on the shoreline of Arles and by MRCC Corsen to report the presence of a few tarballs on Salus beach on Houat island. The Maritime Prefecture for the Atlantic also requested advice in relation to Annex II of the MARPOL Convention and the IBC Code for an offshore tank cleaning operation following transportation of fertiliser. Cedre's duty team was also called upon during two exercises, one for a drift forecast and to predict the behaviour of oil following a leak during offshore drilling operations, and the other relating to Cedre's call-out conditions for diesel run-off into the Seine. CEDRE Newsletter / [Read more](#)

GREECE STARTS HAULING ABANDONED SHIPS FROM THE SEA



January 9 - Greek authorities have begun removing dozens of abandoned cargo and passenger ships that have been lying semi-submerged or completely sunken – many for decades – in the Gulf of Elefsina, an industrial area of shipyards and factories near Greece's major port of Piraeus.

"It is a tragic situation that has become a threat to trade and the environment," explains Charalampos Gargaretas, chief executive officer of Elefsina Port Authority.

"We are speaking about 27 shipwrecks and potentially a dozen harmful and dangerous ships. The sea from the port of Piraeus to the island of Salamina that lies off of Elefsina is littered with 52 shipwrecks. "You don't have to be a marine scientist to understand

that these shipwrecks are an environmental time-bomb because many of them are still leaking petroleum products into the sea." IMarEST / [Read more](#)

MOZAMBIQUE: CEDRE SUPPORT FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE SEMINAR

January 17 - Upon invitation by the French Embassy, Cedre visited Mozambique from 10th to 14th December to take part in the Mar Nosso seminar. This event was held from 10th to 12th December in Beira for around 20 Mozambican participants who attended presentations on the principles of the French spill response organisation by a representative of the Reunion authorities and on spill response techniques by Cedre. On the morning of the 14th, a visit to the container and oil terminals in the Port of Beira was organised, before the seminar was brought to a close and transport was provided to Maputo. Here Cedre presented a conference on marine pollution at the Franco-Mozambican Cultural Centre and met various institutions involved in shoreline management or accidental pollution, as part of a programme of visits organised by the Embassy. CEDRE Newsletter / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: NON-PROFIT IS USING THE BLOCKCHAIN TO CLEAN UP THE NIGER DELTA

January 14 - Cleaning up the oil spills along the Niger Delta is no quick or easy task. Yet for one 501(c)(3) non-profit it's dedicated to alleviating the oil spill issues by Shell and other companies, which are impacting people's lives, through the use of the blockchain.

U.S.-based [Sustainability International](#) has, for more than a year, been chipping away at the effects caused by oil pollution. When I last spoke with Chinyere Nnadi, founder and CEO of Sustainability International and [Sela Labs](#), a platform that enables transparent execution and measurement for sustainable development projects, in October 2017, he told me that the organization was working on revitalizing the region through its [Clean Up Niger Delta Project](#). Forbes / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: WELL 8 POLLUTION SITE, CONFIRMATION OF UNEP REPORT-MINISTER

January 16 - The Minister of Environment, Surveyor Suleiman, Hassan Zarma, says the Well 8 oil spill impacted site in Korokoro Tai Community in Tai Local Government Area of Rivers State is a confirmation of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report on Ogoniland and other assessments carried out by the Federal Ministry of Environment in the area.

Zarma, who made the remarks in an interview with newsmen shortly after handing over the site to contractors for its clean-up recently, expressed shock over the level of devastation of the site, and assured that as professionals, the contractors have the technical wherewithal to deliver the clean-up project ethically, having undergone series of screening and scrutiny including procurement processes. Zarma noted that the contractors would be under constant radar and supervision, to ensure that they deliver a quality project, insisting that whenever an infraction was noticed on their part in the course of the work, they would be called to order. The Tide News Online / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: REMEDIATION: OGONI YOUTHS BURN REPORTERS' BUS AT SITES' HANDOVER

January 17 - Some youths yesterday burnt a coaster bus that conveyed reporters to K-Dare in Gokana Local Government Area of Rivers State where the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project handed over polluted and contaminated sites to contractors. It was gathered that the youths had threatened to stop the event for allegedly being sidelined. The Daily Trust / [Read more](#)

UK: CONTINGENCY PLANNING: MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS & RESPONSE

January 14 – Updated MCA guidelines for ports to ensure a co-ordinated local and national response to an oil spill.

A new revision of this document is currently being produced and will be published shortly. These guidelines are for those involved in the creation of oil spill response contingency plans. They promote a coherent national approach to the successful management of oil pollution incidents. They're designed to ensure that the national contingency plan (NCP) and local plans, including those of harbour authorities, work together to respond effectively. Maritime & Coastguard Agency / [Read more](#)

UK: NEW SOSREP AT THE HELM TO OVERSEE RESPONSE TO ACCIDENTS AT SEA



In the picture: Stephan Hennig, SOSREP. Photo Courtesy of Maritime & Coastguard Agency

January 18 - A former Coastguard with a wealth of experience has been appointed to the vital role of Secretary of State's Representative (SOSREP) for Maritime Salvage & Intervention, which oversees the response to accidents at sea.

Stephan Hennig had previously been working with the Maritime & Coastguard Agency's Counter Pollution Branch since 2012 and was appointed Deputy to the SOSREP in 2017.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

The SOSREP is responsible for reducing the risk to safety and the environment arising from accidents at sea. Incidents which were overseen by previous SOSREPs include the Transocean Winner grounding off the Isle of Lewis in 2016 and the Hoegh Osaka car Osaka car carrier incident in the Solent in 2015.

Stephan replaces Les Chapman who left the role last year. Stephan originally joined the Maritime & Coastguard Agency in 2005, working with the then Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in the Shetland Islands.

After Stephan became the MCA's Counter-Pollution and Salvage Officer for Scotland and Northern Ireland in 2012, he served as a regional point of contact for a variety of groups and organisations, including ports, offshore operators, local authorities and environmental regulators.

In March 2017 he went on secondment to the Department for Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy working with the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning in Aberdeen. After that he was appointed Deputy to the SOSREP and took on the SOSREP role in May 2018, on an interim basis.

Stephan said: 'This is a role which lies at the heart of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency's commitment to safety of life at sea and the environment through safer lives, safer ships, cleaner seas. I look forward to continuing the good work of previous SOSREPs in keeping that commitment.'

Brian Johnson, Chief Executive of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, said: "As we have seen from the serious incidents in UK waters over the last years, the SOSREP has a unique and critical role in rapidly and effectively marshalling the resources of all parties to achieve the best possible outcomes. I am delighted we have appointed Stephan as our new SOSREP. He brings a wealth of experience from his years in the MCA both from HM Coastguard and the Counter-Pollution branch and I'm sure the maritime world will benefit from his expertise and personal qualities." [Thanks to H.M. Coastguard]

USA: 'CRUCIAL' PIECE OF LINE 5 SPILL RESPONSE OFFLINE DUE TO FEDERAL SHUTDOWN

January 16 - A "crucial" part of responding to an oil spill in the Straits of Mackinac is unmanned and offline due the partial federal government shutdown.

The computer which models currents in the Straits and informs cleanup crews where oil would travel in the event of a Line 5 rupture has been shut down and its operators furloughed since Dec. 26, according to Eric Anderson, a physical oceanographer with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Great Lakes Environmental Research Laboratory. [Mlive.com / Read more](#)

USA: BILL TO RESTORE U.S. COAST GUARD PAY MOVES AHEAD

January 18 - The House, Senate and White House may be close to passing a bill that would provide pay for the U.S. Coast Guard beginning February 1. According to Rep. Bradley Byrne (R-AL), congressional leadership has agreed to pass Sen. John Thune's Pay Our Coast Guard Act, which would restore normal funding levels for the service until a comprehensive appropriations bill is passed.

Senator Dan Sullivan (R-AK) met with President Donald Trump on Friday, and he told reporters that the White House is supportive of the bill. [The Maritime Executive / Read more](#)

VIETNAM: MINISTRY GUIDES OIL SPILL RESP



January 14 - The Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment has issued a circular to regulate marine oil spill cleanup and recovery efforts.

Under the circular, an initial and preliminary investigation and assessment on the level of pollution will be made within the first 10 days after an oil spill is reported.

If the investigation shows the level of oil in the water is higher than national standards, a more detailed assessment on environmental damage will be completed within 20 days after the preliminary investigation results. The detailed assessment result will be used to classify the oil spill's impact on the environment.

Individuals and organisations must make plans to deal with the oil spill if the area of water polluted beyond national standards is 25 per cent more than the total area under assessment. [Vietnam News / Read more](#)

DESMI'S COMMITMENT TO UN SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

January 16 - For years, DESMI has been committed to sustainable growth and as a natural step now also to the UN sustainable development goals set up by UN, and we stand together with local authorities and other manufacturers to try to make a difference.

At DESMI we are committed to the UNDP goals within various business segments. <https://www.desmi.com>

DESMI EnviRo-Clean:

The mission of DESMI EnviRo-Clean is to reduce the plastic pollution of the oceans. Therefore, we aim to tackle the problem as close to the source of pollution as possible.

Goal 6 - We collect waste and plastic waste with our boom equipment in rivers, canals, lakes, seas and oceans.

Goal 7 - When collecting and recycling the waste and plastic, and using it for heating or cooling afterwards it will provide the society with clean energy at an affordable price.

Goal 11 - With clean waters in rivers, lakes etc. near cities, the environment for people will be improved and by recycling the waste and plastic, we ensure a sustainable community.

Goal 12 - The collection of waste will have an impact on the future consumption with less plastic packaging and hopefully reduce the production of plastic in the future.

Goal 14 - By collecting the waste and plastic from waters around the world, we ensure that the living organisms in rivers, lakes etc. will survive and keep re-producing themselves.

[More information about DESMI EnviRo-Clean here](#)

DESMI Ocean Guard

Ballast Water Management Systems:

DESMI Ocean Guard develops and sells ballast water management systems for the removal of living organisms from ships' ballast water.

Goal 14 - Ballast water management is needed in order to protect marine ecosystems and human interests that coexist within the existing ecosystems around the globe. Ships are carrying ballast water and the ballast water often originates from environmental ecosystems with different organisms than the ecosystem in which the ballast water is discharged. The water contains different kinds of organisms that can invade local maritime ecosystems and become invasive species.

[More information about DESMI Ocean Guard here](#)

DESMI Scrubber Pump Solutions

IMO has set a global limit for sulphur in fuel oil used on board ships of 0.50% m/m (mass by mass) from 1 January 2020. This will significantly reduce the amount of sulphur oxide emanating from ships and should have major health and environmental benefits for the world, particularly for populations living close to ports and coasts.

Goal 13 - It is our commitment within scrubber pump solutions to reach the goal of Climate Action.

[More information about DESMI Scrubber Pump Solutions here](#)

DESMI Pumps for Heating & Cooling Applications

DESMI focus on energy efficient pump solutions. We are an active partner of the 4th Generation District Heating Research, which is about creating optimum energy efficient systems within District Heating temperatures down to 55 degr. C. and we provide energy efficient pumping solutions for water intake (e.g. seawater) and centralized cooling plants.

Goal 7 + 11 - We are committed to both goals as there are higher efficiencies and better pollution control when using district heating and cooling compared to localised boilers.

[More information about DESMI Pumps for Heating & Cooling applications](#)

DESMI Pumps for AquaCulture Applications

Sustainability is a key element in all areas of the AquaCulture industry. The ongoing rapid development in the AquaCulture industry is continuously affected by the population growth, which is increasing the demand for farmed fish and wild catch, and DESMI pumps are used in the AquaCulture industry.

Goal 2 - Farmed fish and wild catch will give more food for the growing population around the world.

[More information about DESMI AquaCulture Pumps](#)

DESMI OptiSave

Energy Saving System – Optimizing Pump and Fan Speed to Current Conditions and Saving Fuel

Goal 13 - By installing the OptiSave system on board ships, the CO₂ emission will be reduced significantly, and the use of fuel will be minimized together with the MWh.

[More information about DESMI OptiSave](#)

DESMI OptiPower

Power Quality System - Maximum performance of the electrical network in marine and industrial applications.

Goal 7 - By installing OptiPower you reduce the loss within the electrical network and prevent electrical distortion – given cost saving and better energy consumption.

Goal 13 - By installing OptiPower the loss of energy will no longer exist.

[More information about DESMI OptiPower](#)

BRIAN DOYLE, FORMERLY DIRECTOR OF BRIGGS IRELAND

Sad news received from Captain Robbie Middleton – “Just to let you know of the peaceful passing in early January of Bill Lynch in Dublin at the age of 90. Bill and I set up Briggs Ireland securing response contracts at Whitegate Refinery and Bantry Bay at the end of the 1980's. Bill was a Director of Briggs Ireland for nearly twenty years.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

DOCUMENTING DECADES IN OIL SPILL CONTROL: MINIBYTES # 11



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

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

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On the Elastec website there is a facility for you to be able to read this article in different languages – Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Hindi, Japanese, Malay, Polish, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish and Turkish. Visit <https://www.elastec.com/expectation-management-part-3/>

Expectation Management – Oil Spills, Marriage and Golf (Part 3)

By now, if you've been reading my previous blogs, you are aware that my opinions, stories and lessons learned usually involve a blend of technology, oil spill experiences, personal stories, and some of my own opinions and expectations. Hang on..., be patient..., and possibly just tolerate my desire to share so much more than just the workings of booms, skimmers, igniters and dispersants. If you are a hard-nosed, nuts-and-bolts kind of person, interested only in mechanical solutions, stop reading..., now! I'm about to share the results of a bed-time story with my youngest son when he was just 7 years old. His “message” for me was profound. It ties into the concept of managing expectations. And, it picks up with the three key solution-based methods of dealing with negative expectations described in my previous blog #10 involving: Integrity, Compassion and Courage.

Rather than just reading children's books, I often made up stories where we could travel together in a “bubble” that was transparent, impenetrable, and could miniaturize or travel quickly to other galaxies. It was an opportunity to exercise imagination, visualization and creative thinking. The kids loved these stories, and I often threw in a subtle lesson involving the importance of honesty, respect for others, and hard work. It was an atmosphere, I discovered, where they were comfortable asking questions that might have otherwise seemed silly or stupid. Well, one night it wasn't a question. Rather, it was a conclusion that my son wanted to share with me. It went like this:

“Dad, I've been thinking a lot lately about what a soul is, and I think I've figured it out”. Hiding my excitement for such a discussion, I calmly replied: “OK, I'd like to hear about that”. Then, working with his hands to illustrate his concept, he said: “Well, it's sort of like a ball, a bumpy ball -- a moving, vibrating bundle of energy. And, it's made of two things.” I, anxiously awaiting the next statement (a short wait), listened as he quickly and proudly said: “It's made of love and courage!” For what was probably about 30 seconds (feeling more like 5 minutes to him), I sat in awe. I was moved to the core by what struck me as a most unexpected, profoundly insightful interpretation of what a soul is – from a 2nd grader!

As I sat, trying to find the words for an appropriate response, that wise little man soon blurted out: “Daaaaddd, don't you want to know why a soul is made of love and courage? Without missing a beat, I replied: “Well, of course”. His next words: “If you think about it, the only thing that really matters in this world is love; but, it takes a lot of courage to show it!” Over the next half-hour we shared many experiences and examples of how love and courage could surely be what we are made of. I was impressed with the fact that he (as much as I) found it difficult at times to remember the importance of love and how to apply it in times of difficulty. His willingness to share feelings involving anger, fear and frustration about school, the behavior of classmates, and even his parents was amazing. The examples he gave were not too unlike some of my own. I could hardly believe the words of wisdom that he was able to share with such honesty and with trust that we could benefit from each other's experience. The full value of our exchange that night unfolded slowly but firmly in my own world as I grew to experience the challenges of dealing with anger, fear, frustration and “expectations” – my own and those of others.

The significance of that exchange with my son has evolved and proven to be of great help to me through countless difficult situations. There have been times during spill response efforts when I've had to work for or with someone who felt his or her ideas were always the best and should never be questioned. That same individual might feel that no one else's efforts were ever adequate; and, that

when a good idea was provided, or a successful mission completed, credit for those contributions would be stolen and never acknowledged. More than once, I have chosen to face such an individual using the notions of integrity and compassion (as described at the end of my last blog #10), finding the courage to present my observations without judgement or blame. If done with a patient and respectful desire to understand the issues or expectations from the other individual's perspective, I've almost always experienced a rewarding and vastly improved relationship. The goal, I've found, is not to manage the expectations of an individual or group, but to understand their expectations, and work toward the highest "good" for everyone involved.

Over the years, some of the most satisfying efforts to understand expectation involved my travels to dozens of villages throughout the Arctic regions of Alaska and Canada. During most of those visits, traveling with an oil company and/or agency representatives, my role was to explain the nature and impacts of oil spills and the technology available for cleaning them up. Offshore drilling was and still is a sensitive topic among the indigenous communities of Alaska and Canada. For the first few of nearly 30 years I spent visiting those communities, the anger and mistrust toward our intentions for visiting was sometimes obvious and intense. We found that it was important to stay longer at each location, to meet in smaller groups, and to listen to their concerns with patience and compassion. While the information we provided was helpful, it was far more important to listen and respond to the feelings and the heartfelt expectations of all who lived in those communities. As suggested earlier, some expectations can't really be managed..., just better understood. I've come a long way in better understanding and appreciating why the residents of these villages refer to the waters in which drilling may occur as their "Garden". It is critical that we all, regardless of our title or affiliation, have the integrity, compassion and courage to balance the risks and benefits of our decisions for everyone that could be impacted by those decisions.

By now, you are already realizing how these virtues of integrity, compassion and courage also help when facing the challenges of marriage and golf. In marriage we share a path with someone we love deeply, however that path can get steep, bumpy, or a bit foggy. We may blame our partner and jump to conclusions at times regarding his or her intentions. I've learned, though I am far from "graduation", that the slope, bumps and fog of the marital path are rarely, if ever, the results of intentions to create discord in the relationship. The problems are usually caused by misunderstandings or just careless behavior. By sitting down, facing each other, turning off the TV and iPhones, and listening to each other's feelings and expectations, the "hurts" can often be soothed, conflict possibly avoided, and the path toward a harmonious resolution achieved. Decades of marriage tend to humble one's expectations for a desired positive outcome every time. Hmmm, seems like a good segue toward expectations in golf....., besides that, my wife seems to be quietly and slowly walking behind me a lot as I attempt to complete this blog.

Golf! What a game. One in which it is as difficult to manage one's expectations as it is to manage the path of a little ball over hundreds of yards into a hole in the ground not much bigger than a coffee mug.

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019

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](#)

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING JANUARY AND FEBRUARY 2019 (CONTINUED)

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
CÔTE D'IVOIRE	March 18-22	Regional Workshop on ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil spill response preparedness and response	Abidjan
UK	March 22	Marine Insurance London Conference	London
USA	March 26-27	SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Arlington, VA
UK	April 1-2	IOPC Funds Meetings at IMO	London
TUNISIA	April 2-4	W'shop on Crisis Management & Decision Making	Tunis
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
UK	June 17-21	IOPC Funds' Short Course	London
CANADA	June 18-20	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Vancouver BC
NEW ZEALAND	Sept. 3-5	Ecoforum Conference 2019	Auckland
USA	October 28-31	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	New Orleans LA
TUNISIA	Nov. 13-14	Incident Management System Training Course	Tunis
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	December 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	January 2019
GISEA Quarterly Newsletter	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	December 2018
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Winter 2018 /19
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	January 2019
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 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	December 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 16, 2019

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

[Safe Seas, Clean Seas](#)

[Salvage World](#)

[Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter](#)

[Spill Alert](#)

[Technology Innovation News Survey](#)

[USA EPA Tech Direct](#)

Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand

Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union

Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm

Newsletter from the UK Spill Association

News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination

Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater

July 2018 issue

Current issue

Spring 2018 issue

December 2017

Nov. 1-15, 2018

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.

STOP PRESS – BREAKING NEWS

AUSTRALIA: VICTORIA - CLEAN-UP SET TO BEGIN AT TOXIC DUMP SITES



Photo: One of the illicit chemical dump sites uncovered in Campbellfield and Epping. Credit: Chris Vedelago

January 16 - The clean-up of eight toxic waste dump sites in the city's north is set to begin at the end of January as authorities identify some of the 1.5 million litres of chemicals found on the properties.

Preliminary testing of the hundreds of industrial-size bins and drums in warehouses in Epping and Campbellfield have found the industrial solvent methyl ethyl ketone (MEK), automotive and house paints, aerosols and LPG cylinders. The Age / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: HUNDREDS OF GALLONS OF KEROSENE SPILLED INTO CAROLINA BEACH'S YACHT BASIN

January 18 - About 500 gallons of kerosene spilled at the Scotchman gas station in Carolina Beach on Thursday night, and more than 200 gallons entered storm drains then the yacht basin waterway. The clean-up efforts, lasting about 20 hours until 4 p.m. Friday, included skimming the water, pads to soak up the kerosene, and booms to contain and absorb the spilled fuel in the water. WECT News / [Read more and listen to commentary](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

RUSSIA: BERTHED TUG CAPSIZED, TEMRYUK, RUSSIA

January 19 - Pusher tug PRIBOY, berthed at Pier 2, Temryuk Port, Russia, Azov sea, in the morning Jan 17 was reported to take on water via breaches in ballast tank, forepeak and engine room. Oil leak under control, being contained by booms and later cleansed. Maritime Bulletin Daily / [Read more](#)

MEXICO: MEXICO FUEL PIPELINE BLAST KILLS 73, WITNESSES DESCRIBE HORROR

January 20 - At least 73 people were killed after a pipeline ruptured by suspected fuel thieves exploded in central Mexico, authorities said on Saturday, as President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador defended the army despite its failure to clear the site before the blast. Reuters / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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