

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



CLEAN WATERWAYS
Improving oil and hazardous materials spill prevention and response on and around inland river systems
April 16-18, 2019 ♦ Cincinnati, OH
Use VIP code ISCO for a \$50 registration discount



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

OIL SPILL RESPONSE LIMITED (OSRL) ANNOUNCES NEWGLOBAL UAV SERVICE FOR MEMBERS



February 7 - Oil Spill Response Ltd (OSRL) has expanded its member offer with the launch of an Unmanned Aerial Vehicle (UAV) service. The new service aims to enhance preparedness and response capabilities to better support members' needs in the event of a spill.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

To facilitate the service on a global basis, and to ensure the shortest time to mobilisation, OSRL has signed 'call-off agreements' with a number of third-party UAV providers around the world. Launch partners for the service include Bristow Aerial Solutions, Sky-Futures and Vertical Horizon Media. Each partner has been selected based on their relevant in-country experience, technical capabilities or geographical reach, and will ensure OSRL members have the most appropriate and effective solution to the specific challenge in hand, with the necessary flexibility to meet the broadest range of scenarios.

James Pringle, senior response specialist for OSRL, commented on the new developments: "The UAV sector is fast moving, with both the core technology and physical equipment constantly being upgraded. Equally, around the world, applicable regulations for the safe use of UAVs differs significantly and changes regularly. In light of these challenges, we decided that the best way to integrate this capability into our offer was to create long-term partnerships with the world's leading UAV providers – ensuring that our members benefit from the most cost-effective and reactive solution."

The signed call-off agreements will provide OSRL members with pre-agreed rates, defined mobilisation procedures and a standardised approach to managing common preparedness and response activity.

The new service can be mobilised through the OSRL duty manager, on a best endeavour basis, and will be subject to flight permissions and the meeting of regulatory requirements.

"The benefits of UAVs to our members are numerous. We have already identified a range of scenarios where UAVs would provide a notable advantage over existing approaches, including providing support for containment and recovery operations, shoreline surveys, post-treatment inspections or site security, to name just a few. One

of the major benefits of UAVs relates to creating HSE advantages and cost efficiencies within almost every area of operation. For example, if you are conducting a shoreline survey, it would typically take a team up to an hour to survey one kilometre. The UAV can scan that same area in minutes and, through its unique sensors and availability to reach difficult to access areas, provide additional information that a physical team would struggle to detect from land," Pringle added. OSRL / [Read more](#)

NEW DISPERSANT STOCKPILE SET UP IN RAVENNA WITH POSSIBILITY OF MOBILISATION ACROSS EU WATERS



February 7 - EMSA has established a new dispersant stockpile associated with its Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) in the Adriatic Sea, Ravenna (Italy). The dispersant stockpile consists of 200 tonnes of Radiagreen OSD and 200 tonnes of Dasic Slickgone NS. The new dispersant stockpile is intended to serve primarily the geographical area of the Adriatic Sea, however, subject to request, it may be mobilised to any other part of Europe. To enhance the new dispersant stock with a spraying capability for Vessels of Opportunity, EMSA will provide a portable spraying system for the EAS arrangement in the first half of 2019. Currently, EMSA maintains six operational dispersant stocks comprising a total of 1400 tonnes, four associated with the vessel network and two with EAS arrangements. EMSA Newsletter / [Read more](#)

MARITIME ACCIDENTS REPORT FROM THE MARITIME BULLETIN

The Maritime Bulletin has created a compilation of 108 January 2019 marine accident reports with numerous high quality photographs.

The report also contains statistical information on marine incidents – accidents, ships lost, casualties and crew kidnappings – over the period November 2016 to January 2019. More info: vmd@odin.tc

CARIBBEAN: RAC/REMPEITC-CARIBE – PROJECTS FOR 2019

February 5 - Information on the projects pending for this year.

- Sub-Regional Workshop ORRC Level 2 in St. Kitts - 11-14 March 2019
- National Workshop OPRC Convention in Guyana – 18-21 March 2019
- National Workshop MARPOL Convention in Haiti – 27-29 March 2019

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Other events programmed for the remaining of 2019 - dates not established yet.

- National Workshop on the ratification of MARPOL annexes III-V in Grenada;
- National Workshop on contingency planning and implementation of the OPRC Convention in Curacao;
- Transboundary OPRC exercise and workshop in Suriname;
- National workshop on environment risk assessment, sensitivity mapping and geographic response strategies in Saint Lucia;
- Regional workshop on exercise programs and exercise design in Belize; and
- National workshop on contingency planning and implementation of the OPRC Convention in Jamaica.

www.cep.unep.org/racrempeitc [Thanks to Carla Biker, Operations Manager/ IMO Associate]

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

Note from Editor – Searching for news reports of interest to the spill response community takes a great deal of time. The ISCO Newsletter has readers in more than 65 countries but news from some countries is often difficult to find. Readers are invited to help by forwarding interesting information for publication.

GUYANA'S OIL SPILL RESPONSE GETS JOINT VENTURE BOOST



In the picture: (From left to right) Corena Group – VIP Emergency Response, David Cook, Corena Group Development Director Thomas Field with GAICO Construction Inc. CEO Komal Singh, Project Engineer Premchand Sookram and Social Rank Media Executive, Rosh Khan

February 2 - The GAICO Construction Incorporated has signed a joint venture partnership with Corena Group, to develop and provide oil spill response and waste management services in light of the Guyana's developing oil and gas industry.

The partnership will enable the provision of oil spill response packages, oil spill emergency and Host Nation Support (HNS) standby, training and consultancy services, and hazardous and non-hazardous waste management services. It includes the employment of fifteen to twenty persons. Demerara Waves / [Read more](#)

HONDURAS BECOMES LATEST COUNTRY TO RATIFY REGIONAL LEGAL AGREEMENT TO PROTECT THE CARIBBEAN SEA

January 15 - Honduras has become the latest country to ratify the Cartagena Convention and its Protocols on Oil Spills (Oil Spills Protocol), Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW Protocol) and Pollution from Land-based Sources and Activities (LBS Protocol), This brings the number of Contracting Parties to 26 out of total of 28 possible members. This significant milestone took effect on 13 October 2018 and Honduras now joins other countries in the Wider Caribbean in their efforts to preserve and sustainably manage the use of the coastal and marine resources of the region.

The Convention for the Protection and Development of the Marine Environment of the Wider Caribbean Region (Cartagena Convention) promotes regional cooperation for the protection and sustainable development of the Caribbean Sea. Adopted in 1983 in Cartagena, Colombia, it entered into force in October 1986. The three technical Protocols on Oil Spills, Specially Protected Areas and Wildlife (SPAW) and Land-based Sources of Marine Pollution (LBS) support the Convention and outline specific obligations by Contracting Parties to protect and manage their common coastal and marine resources individually and jointly. UNEP / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: OIL SPILL: FG MOBILISES 16 CONTRACTORS TO REMEDIATE Ogoniland

February 5 - The federal government on Tuesday said it has mobilised 16 contractors to carry out environmental remediation and cleanup of oil spill in Ogoniland.

The Minister of Environment, Suleiman Zarma, said this when a group of Ambassadors, interested in the remediation of the oil spill in Niger Delta, visited him in Abuja. The group includes ambassadors from Norway, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Germany, France, European Union and United States. Mr Zarma, who expressed the federal government's determination to restore departed land of Ogoni oil spill, said that mobilisation fees had been paid to contractors. Premium Times / [Read more](#)



MALTA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING

February 8 - Date: Friday, 22 & Saturday, 23 February 2019 Time: 15:30-19:00 (Friday), 09:00-18:00 (Saturday)

Location: Salina Nature Reserve (Friday), Xrobb I-Għaġin Nature Park (Saturday)

Marine ecosystems and shoreline habitats of the Maltese Islands have a high ecological value for many protected species by providing breeding grounds, serving as safe stopover locations and forming part of important migration routes. Increasing maritime transport in the Mediterranean Sea makes our seas and shores more exposed to the danger of oil spills and accidental dissemination of other harmful and toxic chemicals from ships and vessels operating in the Mediterranean Sea. It is in our interest to safeguard our habitats from potential dangers of oil spill contamination, be informed about best practices after the occurrence of oil spill accidents in our local environment, and be appropriately prepared for worst-case scenarios.

Therefore, we would like to invite you to an Oil Spill Response Training which will be held at the Visitors' Centre of our Salina Nature Reserve later on this month.

BirdLife Malta and Nature Trust-FEE Malta, in collaboration with the Civil Protection Department of Malta, Transport Malta, and the Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline clean-up and Oiled Wildlife interventions (POSOW+) Initiative Malta will organise the training sessions, covering topics including crisis management, most endangered species and locations of local marine and coastal environments, Malta's National Response System, and handling oiled wildlife in worst-case scenarios. The course is free of charge and lunch and coffee breaks will be provided. More info: janina.laurent@birdlifemalta.org

SPAIN: RPAS DRONE FLIGHTS GET UNDERWAY TO ASSIST SASEMAR IN ITS SEARCH AND RESCUE AND POLLUTION MONITORING OPERATIONS

February 7 - EMSA's service of Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems is being used by the Spanish maritime safety agency SASEMAR in the southern province of Huelva for the purpose of identifying and monitoring oil spills as well as for additional assistance during search and rescue missions.

SASEMAR is using this opportunity to see first-hand how RPAS can be of value to multipurpose maritime surveillance operations. The RPAS drone operations, running until early March, will be coordinated at a distance and the data monitored by officers at the SASEMAR Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre in Huelva.

The remote pilot and payload operator will be directing the RPAS flights from a ground control station at the Instituto Nacional de Técnica Aeroespacial (INTA). From Madrid, the national search and rescue coordination and operations centre will participate in the operations monitoring the flights using EMSA's RPAS data centre. This data centre offers an online user interface displaying the flight data in detail (images, video, flight path, etc.). EMSA Newsletter / [Read more](#)

USA: THE CLEANUP FROM CALIFORNIA'S FIRE COULD HIT A MAJOR ROADBLOCK

January 29 - Saying they feel an urgency to act fast, California officials this week will launch the main phase of wildfire debris removal in Butte County, scene of November's devastating Camp Fire.

But a potential problem has emerged: Nearly half of the property owners in the hill country around Paradise have not given the government permission to enter their properties to do the work.

County officials this week said they are making an extra push to get the word out to people who own burned property, informing them that they are required to have their land cleaned of ash and other fire debris, either through a free state-run program or by hiring their own contractor and paying for it themselves. Emergency Management / [Read more](#)

USA: SENATE ENVIRONMENT PANEL OKAYS TRUMP'S PICK TO LEAD EPA

February 5 - Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler, a Washington insider with years of experience in Congress, was nominated by Trump last month to replace Scott Pruitt, who resigned in July after widespread criticism for alleged ethical missteps.

His nomination has cheered business interests keen to see reduced regulation, but upset Democrats and conservation groups worried that environmental rollbacks under the Trump administration are going too far. Reuters / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - RECOLLECTING THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

February 5 - Good Friday 1989 changed the landscape of Alaska fisheries in Prince William Sound. It also led to increased (and mandated) monitoring of crude movement out of the North Slope and the federal Oil Pollution Act of 1990, which requires tankers delivering to U.S. ports to be double-hulled.

Thirty years have gone by since that fateful day on March 24. Southbound from the trans-Alaska pipeline terminal at Valdez, Captain Hazelwood left the bridge of the Exxon Valdez just after midnight, after reportedly having enjoyed a few drinks on that dark spring evening. The ship collided with Bligh Reef 28 miles into its journey, outside established shipping lanes, with the captain absent from the bridge.

In the hours, days and decades since, the sound witnessed a catastrophic oil spill, years of cleanup, decades of protracted lawsuits and appeals. The human victims of the spill received modest recompense, roughly 10 percent of the original settlement amount. And that was only if they lived long enough to see the checks, which were issued about 20 years after the Valdez was sliced open on that reef and spilled more than 11 million gallons of crude oil. National Fisherman / [Continue reading this article by Jessica Hathaway](#)

USA: EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL – LESSONS LEARNED 30 YEARS AFTER THE EVENT



February 6 - As reported in the Fairbanks Daily News-Miner, there are still lessons to be learned from the Exxon Valdez oil spill that occurred on March 24th, 1989.

A recent report issued by the United States Government Accountability Office (U.S. GAO) found that some organizations involved in environmental cleanup, restoration and research weren't talking to each other during the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill or the Deepwater Horizon oil spill that occurred in 2010. In fact, some agencies weren't even aware that the other existed.

The U.S. Congress, reacting to the Exxon Valdez spill, created the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research as part of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990. The committee's purpose is to "coordinate oil pollution research among federal agencies and with relevant external entities," according to the GAO. The committee, which has representatives from 15 agencies, is expected to coordinate with federal-state trustee councils created to manage restoration funds obtained through legal settlements.

GAO investigators found, however, that "the committee does not coordinate with the trustee councils and some were not aware that the interagency committee existed."

Although three decades have passed since oil soiled the surface of Prince William Sound and rolled onto its shores, evidence of the spill remains. GAO staff visited the spill site in May of last year "and observed the excavation of three pits that revealed lingering oil roughly 6 inches below the surface of the beach ..." Restoration is largely complete in Prince William Sound, but some work continues and research will continue for decades, the GAO report notes. HazMat Magazine / [Continue reading](#)

USA: NOAA - THE MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM DIGITAL YEAR IN REVIEW

February 8 - The Marine Debris Program released an internal report analyzing their fiscal year 2018 digital presence.

The report serves as a snapshot of traffic to the Program's website, blog, social media, and monthly newsletter throughout the fiscal year. This data analysis helps the Program to better identify where visitors are spending their time, what information they are interested in learning, and how the Program is performing on each platform.

The report showed that content related to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch received the greatest traffic on the Program's website, while visitors to the blog were searching for more time-sensitive information related to grant funding and awards.

Moving forward, the Marine Debris Program's communications team plans to use this information as a strategic guide, as they continue to improve content and extend the Program's digital audience. NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

USA: GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILLS AND ECOSYSTEM SCIENCE CONFERENCE (GOMOSES) 2019

February 8 - The Office of Response and Restoration had strong participation in this year's Gulf of Mexico Oil Spills and Ecosystem Science Conference (GOMOSES).

The conference was held in New Orleans, Louisiana, from February 4 through 7, and was sponsored by the National Ocean Service. The GOMOSES conference, nine years after the Deepwater Horizon oil spill occurred, was an opportunity for OR&R staff to listen to academic, federal and state stakeholders, as well as an opportunity to strengthen partnerships and highlight OR&R's continuing role in advancing the science of oil spill preparedness, clean-up, damage assessment, and restoration.



OR&R was well represented; from Office Director Dave Westerholm's role on the Executive Committee, to OR&R's many presentations, panelists, posters and meetings with partners. OR&R shared scientific advancements on modeling and remote sensing of oil. OR&R co-presented with University of New Hampshire's Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) and contributed to innovative presentations with other NOAA offices. These included NOAA's Restoration Center (RC), National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) Satellite Analysis Branch, and National Center for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS). NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

ISCO SECRETARY, MATTHEW SOMMERVILLE, WILL REPRESENT MEMBERS AT THE IMO POLLUTION PREVENTION & RESPONSE (PPR) MEETING NEXT WEEK

The PPR Sub-Committee Meeting takes place at IMO in London on 18-22 February 2019. Matters to be discussed in the agenda include the Report of the Correspondence Group on a new GUIDE ON PRACTICAL METHODS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OPRC CONVENTION AND OPRC-HNS PROTOCOL. For more than 20 years, the OPRC Convention has been an important tool for the improvement of oil spill preparedness and response throughout the world and currently has 112 Contracting Parties. The OPRC-HNS Protocol currently has 39 Contracting Parties. However, there remain parts of the world in which many countries have still not ratified the Convention or its Protocol, or have ratified the Convention but it has not been implemented.

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

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.

OBITUARIES

IOPC FUNDS REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE SAD PASSING OF MR JERRY RYSANEK



It is with great sadness that the Director must announce that the Chairman of the joint Audit Body of the 1992 Fund and Supplementary Fund, Mr Jerry Rysanek (Canada), has passed away after a short illness. Mr Rysanek had contributed to the work of the IOPC Funds for almost 25 years and this news will undoubtedly come as a deep shock to his many friends and colleagues.

Mr Rysanek first represented Canada at meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies in 1995 and went on to become a prominent, knowledgeable and well-respected voice within IOPC Funds' meetings. He was Chairman of the 1992 Fund Executive Committee from 2002–2004 and was elected Chairman of the 1992 Fund Assembly in 2005, a position which he held until 2011 when he retired from Transport Canada. During his time as Chairman, Mr Rysanek led the 1992 Fund Assembly through some very difficult discussions and a number of unforeseen challenges, and he always did so with great skill, diplomacy and humour. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

Editor: Correction of Error - The announcement printed below was originally published three weeks ago and due to an unfortunate mix-up contained a serious error. Your editor regrets having made a mistake and wishes to express his sincere apologies to all concerned.

BILL LYNCH – FORMER 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

OHMSETT: SENSORS AND ALGORITHMS TO ESTIMATE OIL SLICK THICKNESS

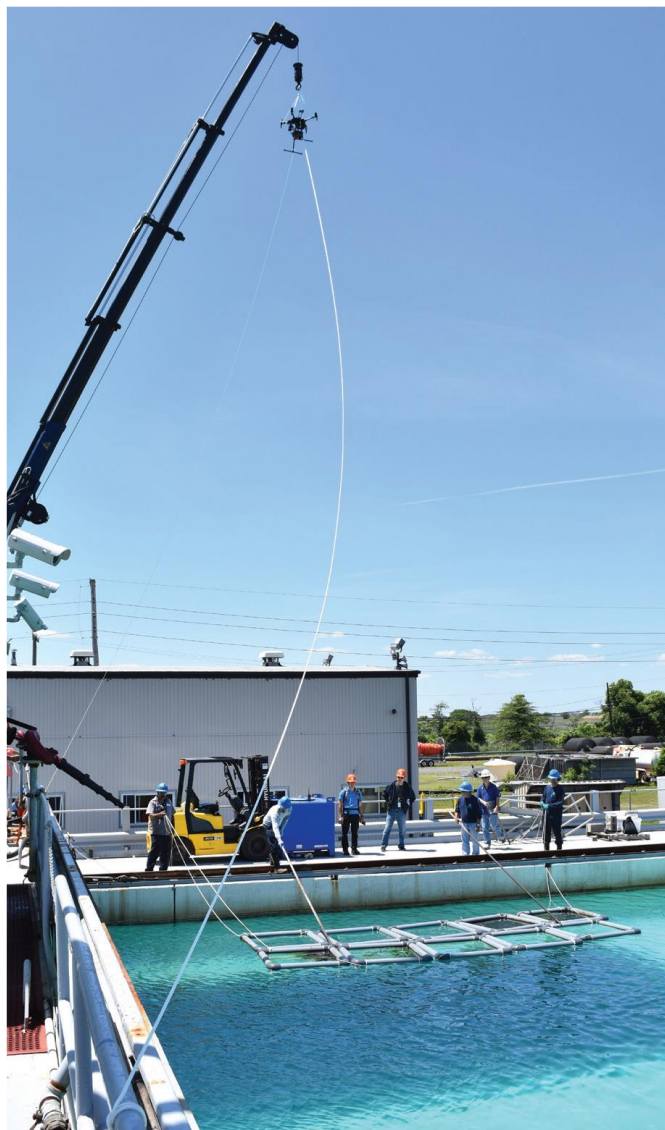


Photo: The multi spectral array system was mounted on a drone. Suspended from a crane, the drone was positioned to capture a grid of square targets containing various oils and oil emulsion thicknesses

In 2016, Water Mapping, LLC developed and tested a unmanned aerial system (UAS) rigged with thermal and high resolution cameras at Ohmsett during a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) project to evaluate remote sensing platforms to characterize oil thicknesses. Since then, they have added multiple channels to be able to see different oil signatures resulting from different oil characteristics.

“During the 2016 evaluation, we had a thermal and R-G-B channels. Our current configuration now uses an array of sensors covering from UV to Long Infrared. There are no commercial multispectral sensors suitable for an UAS [Drone] platform that covers all the wavelengths that we were looking for,” said Dr. Oscar Garcia-Pineda, director at Water Mapping. “We had to complement our multiarray of sensors with four different cameras that had, in total, 10 independent channels set with different radiometric resolutions to retrieve from UV reflectances to near infrared, as well as thermal emissivity and calibrated temperature.”

During testing that took place the week of June 13, 2018, Water Mapping brought the new multispectral array system to evaluate its near real time classification algorithm to produce quantitative thickness classifications of the oil on salt water. Simultaneous direct physical measurements were used for proofing including oil to water ratio and oil thickness using the Water Mapping Oil Sampler (WM-OS), underwater video, and a hand-held field radiometric spectrometer.

Prior to testing, Ohmsett’s certified divers placed a black tarp on the bottom of the tank to replicate the dark background of the ocean. Suspended from the crane located at the side of the main bridge, the drone was positioned at a suitable altitude to capture a grid of square targets containing various oils and oil emulsion thicknesses. “We

created grids of 1x1 meter squares where we mixed oil, emulsions, and sargassum to mimic what we observe in the field, and imaged the oil as it was progressively emulsified,” said Dr. Garcia.

Additionally, the team tested a Remotely Operated Vehicle (ROV) which collects water samples of the underwater oil plume. “The ROV has the ability to broadcast real-time fluorometry levels that are related to oil dissolved on the water,” explained Dr. Garcia. “We also validated our measurements using our Water Mapping sampler for physical thickness measurements. This sampler was tested for thicknesses from thin sheens to thick oil emulsions.

According to Dr. Garcia, with the analysis of this data, they will test their near real time oil thickness classification algorithm in the field soon. “We look forward to advance the TRL of this system that will offer rapid classifications of oil thickness levels that could be delivered on near real time to oil responders.”

Water Mapping is exploring the integration of additional multispectral channels, including short wave infrared among others. “Further steps of these tests include offshore and, hopefully in the near future, in the Arctic environment,” Dr. Garcia commented.

OHMSETT Gazette, Fall 2018 / [Read more in the OHMSETT Gazette](#) [With thanks to OHMSETT]

ACCOUSTIC DETECTION OF OIL IN THE WATER COLUMN USING AN ACCOUSTIC ZOOPLANKTON FISH PROFILER

February 5 - Laboratory experiments were carried out in July 2018 with ASL Environmental Sciences' multi-frequency Acoustic Zooplankton Fish Profiler (AZFP) at the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's OHMSETT Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Facility outdoor saltwater wave tank (Figure 1). These experiments were conducted with the collaboration of the US Naval Research Laboratory (NRL) and the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), with funding provided by the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). BSEE has managed the Ohmsett in Leonardo, New Jersey.

In these experiments the AZFP was mounted to the bottom of the test tank and oil was injected at depths above the instrument with a series of different release rates and pressures. Acoustic backscatter was recorded of the oil releases using four distinct frequencies (455, 769, 1250 and 2000 kHz). In addition to the oil, air bubbles were also introduced to provide additional suspended particles within the water column. These spill experiments were designed to simulate real world conditions to test the ability of the AZFP to characterize suspended particle size distributions. Figure 2 shows the backscatter of the four frequencies. By examining this backscatter data, and comparing it to the known release rates, analysis is expected to develop techniques to resolve acoustically oil concentration and oil drop-size distributions from AZFP data. Further details of this project were presented in a poster at the 41st Arctic and Marine Oil Spill Program (AMOP) conference held in Vancouver October 2–4, 2018.

For additional information, please visit www.aslenv.com Ocean Buzz / [Read more](#)

SCIENTISTS FIND WAY TO MAKE OIL-SOAKED SOIL FERTILE AGAIN



Photo: A 2014 oil spill in Israel's Evrona Nature Reserve. **SOCIETY FOR THE PROTECTION OF NATURE IN ISRAEL**

February 5 - Scientists have discovered a way to clean oil-soaked soil and make it fertile again. The technique involves heating the soil while keeping oxygen out — an age-old process known as pyrolysis — which causes the hydrocarbons and other contaminants to decompose without damaging the soil's clays or nutrients, according to a **new study** in the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*.

Some 98 percent of oil spills occur on land, with more than 25,000 spills recorded every year in the United States. "We saw an opportunity to convert a liability, contaminated soil, into a commodity, fertile soil," **Pedro Alvarez**, an environmental engineer at Rice University and co-author of the new study, **said in a statement**.

Alvarez and his colleagues took soil from Hearne, Texas, contaminated it in the lab with heavy crude oil, and gently heated it in a kiln. They found that heating the soil at 788 degrees Fahrenheit for 15 minutes removed 99.9 percent of petroleum hydrocarbons and 94.5 percent of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Heating the soil to higher temperatures, as much as 878 degrees F, removed more contaminants, but decreased the soil's fertility. The scientists then tried growing Simpson black-seeded lettuce — for which petroleum is toxic — in the newly decontaminated (or pyrolyzed) soil, slightly contaminated soil, and original clean soil. The seeds in the pyrolyzed soil took a bit longer to sprout, but after 21 days they showed the same growth rates as those in clean soil.

Alvarez and his colleagues then asked Bhagavatula Moorthy of the Baylor College of Medicine, who researches the impacts of contaminants on neonatal development, to test the soil's safety. Moorthy found that while oil-soaked soils were toxic to human lung cells, the pyrolyzed soils were not.



"While heating soil to clean it isn't a new process," said Kyriacos Zygourakis of Rice University, co-author of the new study, "we've proved we can do it quickly in a continuous reactor to remove [hydrocarbons]... We also learned we can do it with less energy than other methods, and we have detoxified the soil so that we can safely put it back." Yale Environment 360 / [Read more](#)

USA: CLEAN GULF – CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS NOW OPEN

February 5 - The CLEAN GULF 2019 Conference & Exhibition is extending an industry-wide call for participation. Prospective speakers and poster presenters are invited to submit a 200-300 word abstract(s) [online](#) for consideration by the program committee **by Friday, March 8th**. Those accepted to speak (one per presentation) receive complimentary registration to the conference; co-authors and poster presenters receive a heavily discounted registration rate.

Based on demand and support CLEAN GULF will continue to cover inland spill issues including, but are not limited, to:

- Clean-up tools and techniques
- Inland response techniques
- Inland waterways
- Fast water response
Fast or flooded and rivers and pipelines
- Leaking pipes
Non-floating oil (tools for assessment, tracking, containment and recovery)
- Oil and HAZMAT Transportation
- Onshore/inland facility SPCC/FRP compliance
- Pipeline incidents
- Railway incidents
- Refineries
- Rivers and ice
- Storage Tanks

NOTE: If your submission falls within the inland environment, please make sure to submit it to the Inland Preparedness and Response Track. This will increase your chances of the submission being accepted.

Other Abstract topics include, but are not limited, to:

- Advances in shoreline cleanup
- Aerial Surveillance
- Alternative spill technologies
- Area contingency plans
- Asset security
- Availability of qualified response contractors
- Bakken crude and inland US Oil capacity expansion
- Bakken crude rail marine interface
- Best practices for spill response
- Bioremediation
- Cascading equipment internationally
- Case studies
- Challenging science and situations
- Common Operating Picture
- Communication
- Compliance with BSEE planning standards
- Contingency planning
- Coordination issues between Federal, State and Industry
- Coordination of Mutual Aid Organizations
- Costs minimization
- Current oil rig regulations and enforcement
- Dealing with foreign governments
- Debris removal
- Deepwater containment/capping
- Deepwater drilling
- Deepwater planning requirements
- Deepwater well blowout response
- Discharge prevention
- Dispersant approval process
- Dispersants (subsea & surface)
- Drills/exercises
- EDRC requirements
- Emerging spill response technologies
- Environmental communication and response
- Environmental data management
- Environmental issues
- Federal, State and Local integration-during pre-planning and response
- Group V oil detection and recovery
- Gulf of Mexico issues
- HazMat response techniques and safety
- Health and Safety for Issues for Responders
- Human Resources during a response
- Hurricane response
- Incident Command Systems optimization and lessons learned
- Incident documentation and action plans (streamlining, size reduction)
- Industry initiatives in R&D
- Information management processes and practices
- International Response
- Lessons learned from spill responses
- Marine Firefighting and Salvage
- Media relations
- Multi-agency ICS application
- Natural disasters
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) - Restoration & Planning/Scaling
- New regulations
- Oil water separation
- Pending Gulf of Mexico offshore regulatory changes
- Personnel issues for response companies
- Platform decommissioning
- Preparedness
- Prevention
- Quality assurance
- Remote sensing technology
- Resource equivalency analysis
- Responder training
- Risk management and mitigation
- RULETS (Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats)
- Safety assessments and planning
- Security concerns during an incident
- Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT)
- Strategic planning/foresight
- Submerged oil
- Subsea monitoring/sampling
- Unified Command
- Update on the well capping systems
- Use of the Area Command
- Vessel oil spill response plans
- Wetland restoration methods
- Wildlife care issues
- New technologies
- Oil recovery
- Oil sands transportation and spills
- Oil spill risk assessment

**Submit your abstract(s) [online](#) for your chance to speak at CLEAN GULF 2019!
All submissions must be completed by Friday, March 8th (no extensions).**

Questions? Contact Cassie Davie at 713-343-1891 or cdavie@accessintel.com

EVENTS

USA: THE 2019 CLEAN PACIFIC PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE AGENDA IS NOW AVAILABLE

A full and robust initial conference agenda has been put together for the [2019 CLEAN PACIFIC Conference & Exhibition!](#) 15 conference sessions have been programmed by our [planning committee](#), made up of a group of operators, state, federal and provincial regulators, consultants, service companies and OSROs. The program spotlights best practices for planning, preparing, and responding to an oil or hazmat spill event, taking into consideration the environmental sensitivities of the Western United States and Canada and a spill's effects on impacted communities.

[VIEW THE PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAM](#)

[Track 1: Planning and Preparedness](#)

- Planning for National, State, and Local Transboundary Issues
- Innovation in Exercise Design
- Planning and Response Considerations for Non-Floating Oil Spills
- Responder Competencies and Evolving Regulations
- Arctic Issues

[Track 2: Response and Recovery](#)

- Environmental Assessment and Restoration
- Response Case Studies
- Wildlife: Readiness and Response
- Salvage and Pollution Mitigation
- Current Events in Response Technology

[Track 3: Communication and Engagement](#)

- Before a Spill Incident
- During an Incident
- After an Incident: Lessons Learned Translated into Actions
- Volunteer Management: Help Them Help Us!
- Tribal/First Nation Perspective

[REGISTER FOR CLEAN PACIFIC](#)

Exhibit Space and Sponsorships are Still Available for CLEAN PACIFIC! Contact Anastasia Bisson at 530-363-3506 or abisson@accessintel.com to reserve your space or sponsorship!

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING FEBRUARY 2019

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 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			
OMAN	March 4-6	Oil Spill Response Officers Meeting	Muscat
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
RUSSIA	March 21-22	XX Anniversary International Environmental Forum	St. Petersburg
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
SINGAPORE	May 20-24	INTERTANKO Annual Tanker Event	Singapore
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
OBELGIUM	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			

Note: Where event titles are not shown in blue ink it just means that the relevant websites are not yet available

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[Alga Chronicle](#)
[AMSA Aboard](#)
[ATRAC Newsletter](#)
[BIMCO Bulletin](#)
[Newsletter from George Holliday](#)
[Bow Wave](#)
[Cedre Newsletter](#)
[Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter](#)
[EMSA Newsletter](#)
[GISEA Quarterly Newsletter](#)
[IMO News Magazine](#)
[IMO Publishing News](#)
[JOIFF "The Catalyst"](#)
[Maritime Executive Magazine](#)
[MOIG Newsletter](#)
[Nautical Institute News](#)

News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation
 News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
 News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre
 Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO
 News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday
 Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters
 News from Cedre in Brittany, France
 News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria
 News from the European Maritime Safety Agency
 News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia
 News from the International Maritime Organization
 New and forthcoming IMO publications
 Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management
 Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community
 News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group
 News from the Nautical Institute

November 2018
 December 2017
 Dec. 2018 issue
 Nov. 2018 issue
 On request email
 Current issue
 December 2018
 December 2018
 February 2019
 December 2018
 Winter 2018 /19
 January 2019
 January 2019 issue
 March-April, 2018
 Jan. 2019 issue
 June-July, 2018

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

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	January 2019
OHMSETT Gazette	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Fall 2018
PEMSEA Newsletter	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	December, 2018
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	February 6, 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	Dec. 1-31, 2018
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	Feb. 1, 2019

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

INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

JAPAN: SAND CARRIER AGROUND, LEAKING OIL, NORTHWEST KYUSHU ISLAND

February 5 - Sand carrier SHIN SHOKI MARU ran aground on Feb 1 off Itoshima, Fukuoka Prefecture, northwest Kyushu island, Tsushima Strait. 5 crew were evacuated, as of Feb 5, the ship was reported to remain aground, oil leak spotted around, of some 200 meters length. Owner is removing fuel from SHIN SHOKI MARU, operation commenced on Feb 4. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

GERMANY: ESTIMATE RISES FOR LOST CONTAINERS FROM MSC ZOE

February 6 - The container ship MSC Zoe lost hundreds of boxes off the German island of Borkum last month, and it appears that dozens more containers went missing than originally believed. Initial estimates put the number of lost containers in the range of 250-290. On January 4, MSC Zoe put into port at Bremerhaven, discharged a small amount of damaged cargo and underwent an assessment to determine the extent of the loss. She departed Bremerhaven on January 16, and during her next port call in Gdansk, Poland, more containers were reported missing. The tally of lost boxes is now "at least 345," according to Dutch maritime agency Rijkswaterstaat. The agency is still awaiting a final count. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: WYOMING TRAIN DERAILMENT SPILLS DIESEL FUEL INTO NORTH PLATTE RIVER



February 6 - Crews are working to remove diesel fuel from the North Platte River west of Guernsey following a train crash that left two people injured Monday afternoon. Containment boom was being placed into the river Tuesday afternoon at the leading edge of the fuel spill, according to a statement from BNSF Railway spokesperson Amy McBeth. The fuel leaked from locomotives; the crash resulted in the derailment of three locomotives and four rail cars in Wendover Canyon. Joe Hunter, emergency response coordinator for the Wyoming Department of Environmental Quality, told K2 Radio News on Tuesday that as much as 6,000 gallons of fuel may have leaked out of the locomotives, though that is only a potential worst-case scenario. He said crews would have to get the locomotives upright and determine the remaining volume in the fuel tanks to get an accurate figure. K2 Radio / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: TEXAS, HOBBY AIRPORT – CREWS WORK TO CLEAN 64,000 GALLON SPILL

February 6 – HFD, The Port of Houston Fire Department, the Coast Guard and others responded early Sunday morning to reports of a fuel spill. "Initial estimates were 64,000 gallons", HFD's Sheldra Brigham said, adding that private contractors took over the clean-up effort by Sunday afternoon. The recovery and clean-up is expected to take a couple of weeks.

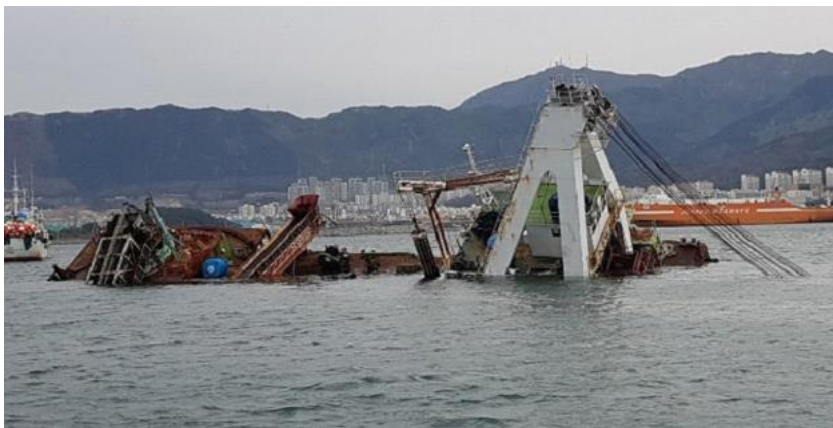
Click 2 Houston / [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

February 7 – Update: Bayou polluted and threat to wildlife. [Another related report and video in the same journal](#)

AUSTRALIA: CHEMICAL LEAK FEARS AFTER FLOOD KNOCKED OVER QUEENSLAND RAIL TRAIN

February 8 - Queensland Rail fears a stowed Pacific National freight train tipped over by [the force of the flood in the state's north-west](#) has leaked chemical cargo into the water. A helicopter crew conducting an aerial inspection of the flood impact on the Mount Isa line spotted the train on Thursday afternoon, which had been stowed on high ground. QR chief executive Nick Easy said the 80-wagon train left at Nelia in Julia Creek on January 31 was carrying a mixture of chemicals including zinc, lead and copper anode. Brisbane Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

SOUTH KOREA: FLOATING CRANE SINKING CAUSES OIL SPILL



February 8 - 568-ton Korean floating crane sank in South Gyeongsang Province waters, southeast South Korea, obviously due to lack of maintenance. Crane is resting on bottom, partially above waterline. She was anchored in the area, some 3nm off coast, since June 2015, being arrested by a Court rule after debtor sued owner, so most probably, she was unmanned for quite a time. No data found.

Oil leak reported, wreck is fenced off by booms. Exact quantity of oil on board is unknown. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

USA: MISSOURI - TRANSCANADA'S KEYSTONE PIPELINE LIKELY WAS SOURCE OF ST. CHARLES COUNTY OIL SPILL

February 8 - Energy company TransCanada has shut down a part of its Keystone oil pipeline to investigate a leak that occurred in St. Charles County. A TransCanada technician discovered crude oil near the Keystone base pipeline covering an area of approximately 4,000 square feet at 7:14 a.m. Wednesday. The leak occurred in north St. Charles County on private property, just southeast of Two Branch Marina, according to the Missouri Department of Natural Resources.

KBIA / [Read more](#)

USA: OHIO - VESSEL SUNK IN OHIO RIVER WITH ESTIMATED 4,990 GALLONS OF DIESEL FUEL

February 9 - he U.S. Coast Guard says a towing vessel capsized on the Ohio River in Cheshire, Ohio on Friday. The incident happened between Ohio and West Virginia, on the Ohio River, at mile marker 259 at 1 p.m. Fox 19 / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: NOAA OR&R - DECEMBER 2018 AND JANUARY 2019 INCIDENT RESPONSES



Photo: Oil from the Lake Washington A10 Well Leak near Port Sulphur, Louisiana as seen on Dec. 12, 2018. Image credit: NOAA.

Every month our Emergency Response Division provides scientific expertise and services to the U.S. Coast Guard on everything from running oil spill trajectories to model where the spill may spread, to possible effects on wildlife and fisheries, and estimates on how long the oil may stay in the environment.

OR&R responded to 11 incidents in December and five incidents in January, including oil discharges, sunken vessels, and a wellhead leak. Here is the complete list of incidents from December 2018 and January 2019, click on the links to find out more:

- [PACIFIC SHARAV Drilling Mud Release](#)
- [Barge Dredge 200](#)
- [TPIC Bayou Des Allemands Crude Spill](#)
- [F/V JEANETTE](#)
- [FV Kathleen Manasquan Inlet, NJ](#)
- [Lake Washington A10 Well Leak](#)
- [FV Nordic Viking](#)
- [DOD-contracted Aircraft crash](#)

- [FV Atlantic Sapphire](#)
- [Corpus Christi Ship Channel Vacuum Oil Discharge](#)
- [Diesel Discharge, Lower Mississippi River MM125](#)
- [F/V A.E. CLIFFORD Sinking](#)
- [Hilcorp CF-6](#)
- [South Pass, Block 23](#)
- [Kirby 10227](#)
- [Tarballs Observed - Point Reyes National Seashore](#)

With thanks to NOAA OR&R / [Source document with more photos](#)

INFORMATION FOR ISCO MEMBERS

ABOUT THE ISCO COUNCIL

According to the ISCO Constitution “The ISCO Council is composed of the appointed National Representatives of each country in which there are Members of ISCO. The ISCO Council acts as an advisory and consultative body, assisting the Executive Committee on policy, new initiatives and other matters. Each Member of Council is the primary point of contact between the Membership in the country (or region) represented and the Executive Committee.

The Executive Committee also looks to Members of Council for support in facilitating communications between ISCO and government ministries or agencies, and other national authorities, institutions or bodies in the countries (or regions) represented. Members of Council are expected to promote ISCO’s objectives and to encourage growth of ISCO Membership in their countries”.

Most Members of ISCO Council have full time occupations and are able to give only a very restricted amount of their time in support of the organisation. Because of this, Council Members are limited in what they can do to help but ISCO owes a big debt of gratitude to its Members of Council for their continuing support.

With ISCO’s dependence on membership fees for its funding, recruitment of members is particularly important. Members of the ISCO Committee, ISCO Council and other ISCO Members have all helped in this effort. Over the years individual Members of ISCO Council have helped the organisation in many ways –

- Making recommendations to the Executive Committee on policy and other matters
- Giving practical support to ISCO initiatives that are of benefit to our community
- Acting as a point of contact between ISCO and national authorities
- Organising “in-country” meetings of members
- Helping to grow the organisation by recruiting new members
- Publicising the aims and work of ISCO at national conferences
- Providing member benefits such as discounts on training courses, conference fees, etc.
- Supporting ISCO representation at in-country exhibitions, conferences and forums.
- Representing the organisation at international conferences, IMO and other meetings.
- Contributing to working groups (ISCO, IMO, and others) on projects for improving spill response
- Providing technical articles, case histories, etc. for publication in the ISCO Newsletter
- Sending interesting news reports for inclusion in the ISCO Newsletter

Members of ISCO Council can be found at <http://spillcontrol.org/members/members-of-the-isco-council>

ISCO has members in more than 50 countries but there are still many countries where there is currently no Member of Council. Also, as time passes, we lose Council Members as individuals retire or move on. It would be of great benefit for the organisation to increase the number of Council Members. If you would like to become a Member of ISCO Council here

- Any member of ISCO can volunteer to become a Member of ISCO Council
- You can recommend someone else as a new Member of ISCO Council

If you would like to propose yourself or someone else as a new Member of ISCO Council please contact the Secretariat at info@spillcontrol.org

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following issue of this newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO’s Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org and your acceptance of ISCO’s Data Protection and Privacy Policy.
