

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



CLEAN PACIFIC
JUNE 18-20, 2019
HYATT REGENCY VANCOUVER, BRITISH COLUMBIA
CLEAN PACIFIC brings together the tight-knit response community in the Western United States and Canada to address spill prevention and response matters pertinent to that region's environmental sensitivities
[LEARN MORE](#)

SLOW PROGRESS IN RESPONSE TO SOLOMON ISLANDS OIL SPILL

It is now more than a month since the bauxite carrier Solomon Trader grounded near a UNESCO World Heritage Site. The ship is continuing to release fuel oil, causing serious environmental damage and destroying the livelihood of the local population.

There have been practical problems in mobilising an effective response to the incident which continues to command international interest. One of the most concerning aspects is the apparent lack of preparedness and very low priority being accorded by responsible parties. Press reports speak of "Anger over how avoidable this environmental disaster was has been compounded by the response from shipping and mining companies involved, which officials from Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand have described as slow and evasive". At time of writing it does look like some real progress will be made in the coming days. In the meantime, the most recent developments are reported on Pages 8-9.

WORLD WILDLIFE DAY FOCUSES ON LIFE BELOW WATER

High-level representatives from U.N. member states and international organizations gathered at the United Nations Headquarters on Friday to celebrate the U.N. World Wildlife Day (March 3) under the theme: Life below water: for people and planet.

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[Benefits of Membership](#)

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TO RECEIVE THE FREE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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)

The event was organized by the Secretariat of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

Over three billion people depend on these resources for their livelihoods globally. The market value of marine and coastal resources and related industries is estimated at \$3 trillion per year, about five percent of global GDP.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more and watch the video](#)

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

ECUADOR TO CLEAN UP TEXACO'S DECADES-OLD AMAZON SPILL

March 6 - Ecuador will clean areas of its Amazon region that were polluted decades ago by Texaco in a move criticized by activists who fear too little will be done.

After 26 years of legal actions in Ecuador, the United States, Canada and Europe that failed to result in any significant clean-up effort of areas affected by crude oil spills, Ecuadorean authorities will start to clean up polluted areas to try to stop the damage, El Telegrafo reported.

"It is a request from the president [Lenin Moreno] that we remedy that," Energy Minister Carlos Perez recently said. Judicial changes in Ecuador made it possible to clean up the areas.

Gephardt Daily / [Read more](#)

JAPAN: FUKUSHIMA'S UNDERGROUND ICE WALL KEEPS NUCLEAR RADIATION AT BAY



March 10 - The intricate network of small metal pipes, capped off by six-foot-high metal scaffolding, shouldn't stand out amid the numerous pieces of industrial equipment littered [throughout the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant](#). After all, it's a power plant.

I take a closer look, and notice spheres of ice perched upon the smaller pipes, which line the center of the structure. The facility sits at the water's edge, and there's a brisk breeze blowing through.

But not *that* brisk. It turns out, coolant is running through the pipes, freezing the soil below and creating an impermeable ice wall that's nearly 100 feet deep and a mile long, encircling the reactors.

CNet / [Read more and watch video](#)

KENYA: AGENCY RAISES CONCERN OVER OIL SPILL RISKS IN COAST REGION

March 4 - Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) is concerned over potential increase of marine pollution risks in the wake of offshore and onshore oil and gas exploration in the Indian Ocean.

Development of Lokichar to Lamu oil pipeline which will have a storage facility at the new Lamu port in Kililana, Lamu West have also triggered concerns among players in the coast region. They say although these projects are significant, sufficient safety efforts should be in place for the sake of marine safety.

Environmentalists say the multi-billion-shilling mega projects call for heightened attention on the part of the government owing to probable oil spills that could cause extensive havoc. The agency said it has therefore rolled out oil spill response management trainings and awareness campaign on marine safety as it seeks to stave off any potential calamity. Mediamax / [Read more](#)

KUWAIT: NEW OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSEL ORDERED

March 6 - Kuwait Oil Co has ordered a multipurpose towage and oil spill recovery vessel from Uzmar Shipyard in Turkey. This vessel will be built with an azimuth stern drive (ASD) system to a Robert Allan design. Uzmar will build this 60-m vessel to a RAmpage 6000 design, making it the largest Robert Allan design vessel ever built in Turkey. It will be used to contain, recover, store and transfer recovered oil from spillages in the Middle East Gulf. Tug Technology & Business / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: IN POLLUTED Ogoniland, SIGNS OF A CLEAN-UP

March 8 - Young men in the Ogoniland area of southern Nigeria watch excitedly as engineers excavate heaps of polluted soil for treatment.

Decades of oil spills left their region an environmental disaster zone—but now hopes are high of a rebirth of farming, fishing and clean water. Alode-Elеме, located outside the oil hub of Port Harcourt, is one of 21 sites that the state-run Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project has earmarked for restoration. PhysOrg / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: EPA SETTLEMENTS IMPROVE COMPLIANCE WITH OIL SPILL LAWS FOR COMPANIES IN CONNECTICUT AND MAINE

February 25 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) today announced four settlements with companies in Connecticut and Maine for violations of federal oil spill laws. The three companies in Connecticut and a company in Maine have all created oil spill prevention plans and come into compliance with federal oil pollution prevention laws, ensuring that the environment in the communities where they operate are better protected from damaging oil spills. EPA / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: NEW FEDERAL RAILROAD RULES AIM TO IMPROVE RESPONSE TO DERAILMENTS

February 28 - A new federal rule announced by Department of Transportation Secretary Elaine Chao proposes to make safer the transport of energy products via railroad.

The rule calls for equipment and crews to be ready for dispatch and use following an oil train derailment that causes a fire. But some of the requirements of the rule and what's not in the rule have sources concerned about its efficacy.

The *regulation* calls for equipment and crews to respond within a 12-hour period, which for various reasons, is a long time to respond to a large oil spill and/or resulting fire. Also, there is concern about communication with local first responder agencies that may be responding to a derailment. Emergency Management / [Read more](#)

USA: THE U.S. IS TRYING TO END THE LONGEST OIL SPILL IN HISTORY. AND THIS COMPANY IS FIGHTING AGAINST IT IN COURT



Photo: Oil platforms sit in the murky shadows of clouds in the Gulf of Mexico. Taylor Energy's downed platform was one of thousands off the coast of Louisiana. (Bonnie Jo Mount/The Washington Post)

March 2 - Taylor Energy says hardly any oil is reaching the surface in the site where a hurricane destroyed its oil platform. To the contrary, the government says, the spill is probably at hundreds of barrels per day.

As the longest offshore oil spill in U.S. history creeps toward its 15th year, the federal government is preparing to launch a determined effort to contain the oil and cap the leaking wells.

But the energy company responsible for cleaning up the spill has gone to court to stop efforts to fix a leak that is sending hundreds of barrels of oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

Taylor Energy of New Orleans recently filed four lawsuits against the Interior Department, U.S. Coast Guard and a private contractor to contest their assessment that the spill is catastrophic and to shut down plans to cap more than two dozen leaking wells. The Washington Post / [Read more](#)

USA: BOW MARINER DISASTER CALLED THE WORST CHEMICAL TANKER ACCIDENT IN HISTORY

March 4 – An Written by Lt. Mike Lawrence, Coast Guard Sector Hampton Roads

Pictured: A crew from the Coast Guard Cutter Shearwater approaches a capsized lifeboat from the Bow Mariner. U.S. COAST GUARD PHOTO

The 570-foot Singapore-flagged chemical & oil tanker Bow Mariner sank 15 years ago when the ship caught fire and sustained two explosions, resulting in the deaths of 21 out of 27 crewmembers, 45-miles off Virginia's Eastern Shore on Feb. 28, 2004.

The vessel was transporting over three million gallons of ethyl alcohol from New York to Texas. It had previously carried methyl tert-butyl ether (MTBE) in its other 22 cargo tanks that were discharged in New York.

Flammable fuel and air mixture created during the cleaning of residual MTBE from the Bow Mariner's cargo tanks lead to the explosion. The cargo holds were ordered to be cleaned via the opening of the cargo accesses. This allowed residual MTBE vapors to escape the holds during the cleaning process.

The source of ignition remained unconfirmed, however once the flammable vapors were released from the cargo holds, the likelihood of a fire igniting was significantly increased. This tragic marine incident helped bring forward numerous marine safety improvement impacts and lessons learned. Shore Daily News / [Continue reading](#)



SONARDYNE'S SENTRY LEAK DETECTION SONAR DEPLOYED BY OIL MAJOR IN THE US GULF OF MEXICO

March 5 - A major US oil company is set to reinforce its deepwater offshore asset integrity assurance in the US Gulf of Mexico with the aid of a sonar monitoring system developed and delivered by subsea engineering specialist Sonardyne International Ltd. The system, Sonardyne's wide-area Sentry Integrity Monitoring Sonar (IMS), has been deployed on the seafloor at more than 2,000 metres (6,500 feet) water depth on a six-month trial. Ocean Business / [Read more in Oceanbuzz Issue 574](#)

USA: NEW SEA GRANT FACT SHEET ON FEDERAL LAWS AND POLICIES THAT GOVERN OIL SPILL RESPONSE

March 7 - The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative is pleased to announce a new Sea Grant product that gives a concise overview of the Stafford Act (1988) and the Oil Pollution Act (1990) that govern oil spill response. Also explained are how the National Response Framework, the National Contingency Plan, and the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund fit into the picture.

Read the **Federal emergency response framework for oil spills: Stafford Act and Oil Pollution Act** and learn about the types of assistance that the Stafford Act authorizes and how the Oil Pollution Act strengthens the government's ability to prevent oil spills, ensure that they are cleaned up, and restore affected natural resources. Also learn how the National Response Framework assists with initial emergency response, how the National Contingency Plan addresses oil spills during coastal storms, and where money in the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund comes from and when those funds can be used. GoM Research Initiative / [Read more](#)

USA: NOAA OR&R - UPCOMING RESPONSE TRAINING IN SEATTLE



March 8 - OR&R staff and scientists are busy preparing for a number of upcoming trainings for the U.S. Coast Guard and other response partners.

In addition to this month's training events in [Hagatna, Guam](#) and at NOAA's Disaster Response Center in Mobile, Alabama, OR&R is planning to have two large trainings in Seattle, Washington during the month of June.

OR&R's popular [Science of Oil Spills \(SOS\) training](#) will be offered the week of June 3. Interested applicants should use the [SOS Application Form](#) to apply.

Also, for the first time, the [Science of Chemical Releases \(SOCR\) training](#)

will also be hosted in Seattle the week of June 17. SOCR courses offer a broad, science-based approach to understanding the framework for chemical release response for the purpose of increasing awareness and preparedness, and reducing uncertainty and risk associated with this type of incident. Use the [SOCR Application Form](#) to apply for this training.

For the first time in over a decade, OR&R staff will host training for oil spill planners and responders in Hagatna, Guam on March 11. The training will include lectures, case studies, and field exercises on the science of oil spills and shoreline assessment and clean-up. Spill response planning and training is particularly important in Guam because of its remoteness from the U.S. mainland and its numerous sensitive habitats, such as corals and important fisheries. More than 40 students will make up the training, including a number from the Guam Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Navy. For more information, contact Kimberly.Albins@noaa.gov

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

IN-LINE RECOVERY EFFICIENCY SENSORS TO ENHANCE RESPONSE OPERATIONS

A contributed article from OHMSETT describes a project that could significantly improve productivity of oil recovery operations



Photo: Battelle Memorial Institute developed a recovery efficiency sensor that could be installed in-line between the skimmer and the storage tank that measures, in real time, the amount of oil that is being recovered.

The primary goal in spill response operations at sea is to recover as much floating oil as possible. When using a skimmer to remove oil from the water surface, if not operating in ideal conditions, it could recover large amounts of water along with the oil. This often results in the temporary storage tank for recovered fluids filling quickly, consequently halting response efforts.

Imagine how the response operations could improve if the responder knew how much oil was actually being recovered. That was the focus of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) and Battelle Memorial Institute research project to develop a recovery efficiency sensor that could be installed in-line between the skimmer and the storage tank. "Utilizing a Recovery Efficiency Sensor during response operations can give a responder valuable, real time information on the amount of oil that is actually being recovered," said Kristi McKinney an engineer for the Oil Spill

Preparedness Division of BSEE. "If the responder is recovering mostly water, he/she can make a decision to stop the skimmer and collect a thicker layer of oil prior to continuing recovery, thus minimizing water collection and maximizing the available temporary storage."

According to McKinney, this project was identified as a result of testing a commercially available sensor for a separate BSEE project. "In testing the commercial sensor it was clear that oil/water measurements were not accurate once the oil percentage dropped below 70%. BSEE wanted to support the development of a low cost sensor that would maintain accuracy across the entire oil/water range, operate well in various salinities, and not require calibration for oil type."

During the week of June 4, 2018, a prototype Recovery Efficiency Sensor was evaluated at Ohmsett to determine how accurately it was able to measure the oil/water ratios when tested with multiple oils, multiple water salinities, multiple flow rates, and across multiple oil concentrations. For this particular test, the prototype was fabricated to be installed in-line with a 4-inch diameter recovery hose. However, the technology is adaptable to other hose diameters.

Sixty tests were performed using a recirculation loop filled with known quantities of oil and water. Two different refined oils were used during these tests; Diesel, a low viscosity oil and Hydrocal, a medium viscosity oil. Throughout the tests, the sensor measured and recorded the oil fraction as a function of time. For each test performed, the recorded data was plotted as a function of time and the average oil fraction was calculated. Fluid samples were collected and analyzed in the Ohmsett oil/water laboratory to provide comparison data.

"The test results were very promising with this Phase I prototype. The sensor was able to conduct relatively accurate measurements across the entire oil/water spectrum and in both salinities tested," commented McKinney. "Testing identified areas where improvements could be made to the sensor."

"This was a very technically stimulating project, particularly enhanced by Ohmsett staff leadership in designing the testing setup, its construction, and seamlessly carrying out the tests. Battelle would also like to thank BSEE for sponsoring the project, its programmatic oversight, and technical expertise. We look forward to the next phase of this fruitful collaboration," said Slawek Winecki, Battelle's scientist and principal investigator for this project.

After all results are analyzed, BSEE will work with Battelle to determine how the sensor could be enhanced to further improve accuracy of measurement.

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

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

This is a subscription service. [Have a look to see examples of open tenders.](#)

EVENT NOTICES

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

From ISCO Industry Partner, The Mediterranean Oil Industry Group – MOIG Director, Houcine Mejri, writes to remind you that the regional workshop on “Crisis Management and Making Decisions” will be held from 02 to 04 April 2019 in Iberostar Averroes hotel; in South Hammamet-Tunisia; in cooperation with the Center of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre) and Eni Tunisia. For more information and to reserve your place please contact houcine.mejri@moig.org.tn

From ISCO Corporate Member, Elastec - The Spring Oil Spill Workshop is only two months away and time is running out for registration. Make sure to [register today](#) to reserve your spot for our hands-on workshop. Our intensive, hands-on SPRING OIL SPILL WORKSHOP is designed for spill responders who desire in-depth river booming and oil skimmer training. The three day workshop begins with a full day of classroom orientation at Elastec in Carmi, Illinois followed by two rigorous booming and skimmer deployment days on the Wabash River in New Harmony, Indiana. This workshop also qualifies as an 8-hour Hazwoper refresher course. [More info](#)

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING MARCH 2019

ST. KITTS: SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP - OPRC LEVEL 2

St. Kitts, March 11-14. More info carla@cep.unep.org

KENYA: UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

Nairobi, March 11-15. The United Nations Environment Assembly is the world’s highest-level decision-making body on the environment. It addresses the critical environmental challenges facing the world today. Understanding these challenges and preserving and rehabilitating our environment is at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. [More info](#)

UK: POLLUTION CONTROL & SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENT CONFERENCE

London, March 14-16. The 5th International Conference on Pollution Control & Sustainable Environment during March 14-16, 2019 at London, UK which will entail lively debates, prompt keynote presentations, Oral talks, Poster presentations, workshops and networking opportunities around a core of plenary and concurrent sessions based on essential topics in the Pollution Control sector. [More info](#)

GUYANA: -NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OPRC CONVENTION

Guyana, March 18-21. More info carla@cep.unep.org

CÔTE D'IVOIRE: REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON RATIFICATION AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF IMO CONVENTIONS RELATING TO OIL SPILL RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

Abidjan, March 18-22. GI WACAF Sub-regional workshop on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil spill response preparedness and response and to liability and compensation [More info](#)

RUSSIA: XX ANNIVERSARY INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

St. Petersburg, March 21-22. On March 21-22, 2019, representatives of the Baltic countries will gather in Saint-Petersburg (Russia) for the 20th time to exchange experiences, discuss the achieved results and future plans, moreover ways of reaching the ambitious goals in conservation and protection of the Baltic Sea environment. [More info](#)

UK: MARINE INSURANCE LONDON CONFERENCE

London, March 22. London's first and only premier marine insurance conference where Insurers, Brokers and third parties can discuss the latest developments in the market. View the agenda at <https://marineinsurancelondon.com/agenda/>

USA: SCAA ANNUAL MEETING & CONFERENCE

Arlington VA, March 26-27. Gather with the leaders in the spill control industry and gain exposure to cutting edge business information specifically targeting spill control professionals during SCAA's Annual Meeting & Conference. Nowhere else will you learn from and

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING MARCH 2019 (CONTINUED)

exchange information with the very best that the spill control industry has to offer. [More info and registration](#)

HAITI: - NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON MARPOL CONVENTION

Haiti, March 27-29. More info carla@cep.unep.org

UPCOMING EVENTS – APRIL 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
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 13-15	Elastec's Spring 2019 River Spill Workshop	Carmi, IL
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	42nd 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
UK	Sept. 11-12	The Spill Response Expo	Birmingham
USA	October 7-10	Elastec's Fall 2019 River Spill Workshop	Carmi, IL
USA	October 28-31	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	New Orleans LA
TUNISIA	Nov. 13-14	Incident Management System Training Workshop	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	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
AUSMEPA Bulletin	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Summer 2019
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	Summer 2019
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Feb. 2019 issue
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	On request email
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	Current issue
Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter	News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria	January 2018
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	December 2018
GISEA Quarterly Newsletter	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	February 2019
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	December 2018
IMO Publishing News	News and forthcoming IMO publications	Winter 2018 /19
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	February 2019
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	January 2019 issue
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	March-April, 2018
Nautical Institute News	News from the Nautical Institute	Jan. 2019 issue
Navigate Response	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	June-July, 2018
NOAA OR&R	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	December 2018
Oceanbuzz	Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry	Latest issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	March 5, 2019
OHMSETT Gazette	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	February 2019
PEMSEA Newsletter	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	Fall 2018
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	December, 2018
Safe Seas, Clean Seas	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	March 6, 2019
Salvage World	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	July 2018 issue
		Current issue

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

[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

Jan. 16-31, 2019

[USA EPA Tech Direct](#)

Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater

Mar. 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)

THAILAND: OIL SPILLS RAVAGE SOUTHERN BEACHES – CAUSE ‘UNKNOWN’

February 26 - Hua Sai district residents around Na Saton Beach are pleading with local authorities to investigate the source of oil slicks ravaging theirs and other beaches across Surat Thani, Songkhla and Nakhon Si Thammarat provinces. The oil at Na Saton Beach stretches at least two kilometers, with the beach covered in debris and trash deposited there since a powerful tropical storm struck in January. On Monday, at the popular tourist destination of Samila Beach in Songkhla, local authorities brought in trucks to dump sand atop oil deposits there. Energy official Sutthichai Suksisen collected oil samples there and said they would be sent for testing, which would take about a month. Khaosodenglish / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

SOLOMON ISLANDS: THE SAGA CONTINUES ...

This is a follow-up to previous reports in the ISCO Newsletter issues 673 and 674

March 3 - Australia Readies Team for Solomon Trader Spill Response - The Solomon Islands government has asked Australia's assistance in response to the escalating ecological damage caused by the oil spilling from the grounded bauxite bulk carrier MV Solomon Trader. The Solomon Trader went aground during Cyclone Oma. The mine site is operated under contract by Bintan Mining Corporation (BMC), an Indonesian firm, which chartered the vessel from a Hong Kong-based shipowner South Express. BMC maintains that it has no liability arising from the spill, as it is not the vessel operator. BMC's critics have questioned why the Kangava Bay mine site kept loading cargo when a cyclone warning was in effect, given the hazards posed by the reef and the severity of the storm. Concerns have also been raised that ships coming to the mine since the spill are causing the oil to spread. It has also been alleged that the vessel may have run aground because there may not have been enough crew members on night watch despite the cyclone warning. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

March 4 - Anger mounts at response to Solomons oil disaster - Anger over how avoidable this environmental disaster was has been compounded by the response from shipping and mining companies involved, which officials from Solomon Islands, Australia and New Zealand have described as slow and evasive. Where the crew were and how they reacted is still under investigation, and the Solomon Islands government said it had conducted initial interviews with them as part of its inquiries. Mr Singamoana said he understood negligence had played a part in the disaster. "The crew of the vessel left for the celebration of the Chinese New Year, that's what I heard when I was in Rennell," he said in an interview from Honiara, the capital. RadioNZ / [Read more](#)

March 4 – UNESCO - Concern for oil spill near East Rennell, Solomon Islands - The World Heritage Centre is determined to support Solomon Islands and Australia in exploring all options to hold the responsible company, owners and insurers to account. It concerns in particular the mining company Bintan Mining Solomon Islands Ltd and Asia Pacific Investment Development Ltd (APID), the shipping and charter firm South Express Ltd, and the insurance firm Korea Protection and Indemnity Club (Korea P&I Club). East Rennell was inscribed on the World Heritage List in 1998 and is the largest raised coral atoll in the world. UNESCO / [Read more](#)

March 5 - Villagers reveal more to oil spill tragedy - TWO barge-full of bauxite were thrown overboard on the day the stricken bulk carrier Solomon Trader ran aground on Rennell Island. Hong Kong registered Solomon Trader was at Rennell to load bauxite from Bintan's mining operations there when rough seas forced the vessel onto the reefs at Lughu Bay on the night of February 4. "On the night Solomon Trade ran aground, two barges filled with bauxite were also forced onto the reefs," chief Raymond Sau, an eye-witness of Avatai village told the Solomon Star. Bintan says the operation to salvage the grounded vessel to safety is being boosted with the arrival of three more international specialists from the United Kingdom and United States over the weekend. Solomon Star / [Read more](#)

March 6 - Ship owner and insurer apologise for Solomons oil spill - In a statement, the insurer, Korea P&I Club, and the owner, King Trading Ltd, apologised for the grounding and said they had deep remorse. They said while matters of liability were still being determined, the spill had caused unnecessary coastal damage. RadioNZ / [Read more](#)

March 6 - Statement from Korea P&I Club re Solomon Trader grounding - Several factors have impacted and delayed the salvage response, including the vessel's power being lost. The remote and hazardous location has made it difficult to secure local resources and it's been time-consuming bringing in resources from other locations. Personnel and specialised equipment have been flown in by the vessel owners from different countries including Australia, New Zealand, Vanuatu, Singapore, the United States and Europe. Mirage News / [Read more](#)

March 6 - Tourism Solomons CEO, Josefa 'Jo' Tuamoto has expressed grave concern for the impact of the oil spillage - The Solomon Islands is renowned as one of the world's foremost dive locations. Just last December the Solomon Islands was named one of the world's top 10 dive destinations in the prestigious annual 'Dive Travel Awards' conducted by the world's largest dive publication, British-based Dive Magazine UK. The destination's 992 islands and unspoilt coral reefs literally teem with huge numbers and unique varieties of marine life. Travel Weekly / [Read more](#)

March 6 - Solomon Islands is not a signatory to two international treaties which underwrite the clean-up and wreck removal for ship owners and insurers, leaving the impoverished country exposed to some or all of the costs. SBS News / [Read more](#)

March 6 - Resolve Marine to attempt salvage of Solomon Trader - The Korea P&I Club has appointed Florida-based Resolve Marine to salvage the 73,000-dwt bulker Solomon Trader (built 1994), which has been aground for a month and leaking fuel oil off Rennell Island in the Solomon Islands. Insurance brokers are already expecting the salvage and clean-up bill to run into at least the tens of millions of US dollars, possibly up to \$100m. Potentially massive pollution fines are expected to add to the insurance claim. However, the vessel's owner, Hong Kong-based King Trader, and its insurer will have their liability for the spill limited under the International Convention on Civil Liability for Bunker Pollution Damage. Under the convention, the owner's liability will be capped around \$33m. Trade Winds / [Read more](#)

March 6 - Solomon Trader Spill is moving towards UNESCO Heritage Site - Australian officials say that the spill is now moving towards the protected area's boundary. The ship has been declared a constructive total loss, according to charterer Bintan Mining. Salvors from the U.S., the UK, Australia and New Zealand are engaged in efforts to mitigate pollution and plan for the vessel's removal. The Australian Maritime Safety Authority is deploying response vessels and personnel to the scene as part of a "targeted, time-limited pollution mitigation and mediation sweep," but the Australian government has emphasized that the responsibility to address the damage lies with the shipowner and its insurer. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

March 8 - Limitations of the local airstrip mean that heavy equipment including pumps and generators have had to complete the final part of their journey by sea. Inclement weather has made it difficult and at times impossible to access the vessel, and conditions have been too dangerous for external underwater inspections – a key assessment ahead of salvage operations. World Maritime News / [Read more](#)

March 9 - Australia leads operation to remove remaining 600 tonnes of oil - operations began on Friday to pump the fuel from the ruptured tank into a secure container. It will then be transferred onto a barge expected to arrive at the site on Saturday. The transfer was expected to take two days. Australian Maritime Safety Authority officials on Friday began setting up a four-tonne dynamic boom system brought from Brisbane to start cleaning up the oil that has already spilled into the sea. Two other Australian vessels were en route with further equipment and were due to arrive on Sunday. The Guardian / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

[Note from Editor: It's proving quite difficult to get up-to-date and accurate news on what is actually happening. Reliance on media reports can sometimes be problematical. For example, one publication (which I shall not name) has reported "All the oil on board the vessel poured into the sea". Other reports can sometimes, for political reasons, be deliberately misleading. As far as possible, your editor tries to source news reports from reliable news sources and to avoid promulgating what might be "fake news". However, the accuracy of press reports can never be absolutely guaranteed.]

CANADA: FUEL SPILL AT PORT AUX BASQUES, NEWFOUNDLAND

March 4 - Fuel leaked from bunker tanker NORTH ATLANTIC KAIROS, docked at Port aux Basques, Newfoundland, Cabot Strait, on Mar 3. Tanker and sheen around were fenced off by booms, cleansing should be under way. Quantity of spilled fuel as of Mar 4, was still unknown. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

UK: SERIOUS POLLUTION INCIDENT THREATENS WILDLIFE AT DONCASTER NATURE RESERVE



Photo: Environment Agency officers at the site of an oil slick in a stream called the mother drain, which goes through Potteric Carr nature reserve, Doncaster, before joining the Roper Torne

March 7 - Wildlife has been put under threat by a two-mile oil slick at one of Doncaster's most famous nature reserves. Agency officers have managed to contain the oil slick with absorbent booms and oil absorbent pads have also been brought in to start the clear up process.

The Yorkshire Post / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: UTAH - OIL SPILL REACHES SAN JUAN RIVER

March 7 - A pipeline break discovered March 1 in southeast Utah spilled a mixture of oil and produced water that reached the San Juan River near Montezuma Creek, according to the Environmental Protection Agency. A broken wellhead-gathering line operated by Elk Operating Services spilled about 28 barrels, or 1,176 gallons, into Bucket Wash and the San Juan River. The Journal / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: LOUISIANA - TOWBOAT SINKS, SPILLS FUEL ON MISSISSIPPI

March 8 - On Thursday, the towboat St. Rita went down on the Mississippi River near LaPlace, Louisiana, with thousands of gallons of diesel on board. At about 1500 hours Thursday, Coast Guard Sector New Orleans received a report that the Marquette Transportation towboat St. Rita had sunk on the bank of the Mississippi near LaPlace. The St. Rita is estimated to have approximately 13,000 gallons of diesel on board. "We are working with our federal, state and local partners and the responsible party to oversee the salvage and clean-up operations with the goal of minimizing the impact [of the sinking]," said Cmdr. Zachary Ford, Chief of the Sector New Orleans Response Department. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

PHILIPPINES: OIL SPILL IN DAVAO DEL NORTE RIVER

March 8 - The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) has recovered over 30 drums of oil mixture and hundreds of bags of contaminated solid waste from a river in Carmen town, Davao del Norte, as it sought to contain an oil spill traced to a packaging company. Rappler / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

MALAYSIA: CHEMICAL WASTE DUMPED INTO A RIVER IN JOHOR BARU

March 10 - The Malaysian government has identified the chemical waste that was illegally dumped into a river in Johor Baru on Thursday (March 7), that made several dozen people ill. The Johor Department of Environment (DoE) director Mohammad Ezzani Mat Salleh said the substance was an oil-based mixture that emits methane and benzene fumes, according to Malay Mail news site. On the cleaning-up efforts, Mr Mohammad Ezzani said the bulk of the oily substance on the river's surface has been disposed off. But it will take at least two more days to clear the remaining residue that affects some 5km of the river, he was quoted as saying. Straits Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

INFORMATION FOR ISCO MEMBERS AND OTHER READERS

THE VALUE OF CONTRIBUTING NEWS FOR PUBLICATION

News from around the world – This week, lots of news from the USA but hardly any from anywhere else. Your editor does his best to source news for publication, every week checking websites of organisations and other sources.

However time for research is limited and it's not an option to spend a lot of additional time monitoring social media sites (such as facebook, twitter, linked-in, etc.) and the websites of all our corporate members.

Some organisations are not keeping their websites posted with regularly updated news, possibly making more use of social media. Your editor would be grateful if, when you post news on social media sites, you would take an extra minute to copy him with news items that you would like to share ISCO members and all our other readers.

Contributions will be acknowledged and usually a link will be provided to the contributor's website, raising your profile and increasing the numbers of visitors to your site.

The ISCO newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in more than 60 countries around the world. john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

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