

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](#)

WORLD PLEDGES TO PROTECT POLLUTED, DEGRADED PLANET

March 15 - The world today laid the groundwork for a radical shift to a more sustainable future, where innovation will be harnessed to tackle environmental challenges, the use of throwaway plastics will be significantly reduced, and development will no longer cost the earth.

After five days of talks at the Fourth UN Environment Assembly in Nairobi, ministers from more than 170 United Nations Member States delivered a bold blueprint for change, saying the world needed to speed up moves towards a new model of development in order to respect the vision laid out in the Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. UN Environment / [Read more](#)

HOW INVESTING IN SALVAGE COULD HELP SAVE SHIPPING'S IMAGE

March 19 - This month, when Grimaldi's ro-ro cargo and container ship Grande America caught fire and capsized in the Bay of Biscay, its proximity to the French coast and subsequent worries about pollution made the accident a top news story on French television news channels.

The incident offered a good example as to why it is vital to ensure there is salvage cover at all times around main shipping lanes. The trouble is, someone has to pay for it.

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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".

Photo: Tugs escort the Polar Alaska owned by ConocoPhillips out of Prince William Sound in this file photo. The use of multiple tugs to escort laden tankers was one of the key reforms following the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill. (Photo/File/AJOC)

March 20 - This March 24 marks 30 years since one of the darkest days in Alaska's history.

It was the day when the industry largely credited with affording Alaska the ability to become a state wounded the marine ecosystem to the point where it still hasn't fully recovered.

For that reason and others, leaders of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council make it a point to acknowledge the anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill while trying to avoid reliving the events. [Alaska Journal / Read more](#)

Another article in [Business Insider](#) recounts the Exxon Valdez and places it in context with 13 other major shipping spills since 1967.

ISU MEMBERS MAKE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION – SERVICES PROVIDED TO VESSELS CARRYING 3.2 MILLION TONNES OF POTENTIAL POLLUTANTS IN 2018

March 20 - Members of the International Salvage Union (ISU) provided 224 services to vessels carrying 3,213,228 tonnes of potentially polluting cargo and fuel during operations in 2018 demonstrating the importance of ISU members' role in protecting the marine environment.

There was a significant increase in 2018 of vessels carrying crude oil and refined oil products 1,302,988 tonnes – up from 933,198 tonnes in 2017. The 2018 numbers also reveal a large increase in the number of containers involved in salvage cases, rising from 45,655 TEU in 2017 to 59,874 TEU in 2018.

Bulk cargoes declined to 743,100 tonnes in 2018. This category includes products such as coal, scrap steel, grains, soya and cement. A number of bulk cargoes are not included as potential pollutants and ISU members also provided services to bulkers carrying 497,973 tonnes of non-hazardous dry bulk – mainly metal ores. The data come from the results of the ISU's 2018 Pollution Prevention Survey. The survey was re-based in 2014 to include a wider range of potential pollutants including containers and hazardous and dirty bulk cargoes.

Of the 224 services provided by ISU members in 2018, variants of wreck removal contracts were used in 26 services; Lloyd's Open Form – 33 services (in total, Lloyd's recorded 53 LOFs in 2018. [Marine Salvage / Read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)



Salvors, led by ISU president Charo Coll, will be arguing that shipping and insurance industries must, in their own interest, recognise the need to provide sufficient remuneration to encourage investment in emergency tugs, salvage equipment, training and the development of highly qualified staff. This is the minimum needed to enable the salvage sector to continue providing their essential global emergency response. [Tug Technology & Business / Read more](#)

30 YEARS AFTER EXXON VALDEZ, VIGILANCE STILL NO. 1 PRIORITY



AFRICA'S PREPAREDNESS FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE



March 20 - Increased maritime traffic as well as offshore oil and gas industries in west and central Africa means more risks of oil spill in the region, pointed out International Maritime Organization (IMO).

The workshop, which took place from 18-21 March 2019 in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, was attended by representatives from Benin, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Senegal and Gabon.

The event aimed to help participants with to ratify and effectively implement IMO conventions relating to oil

pollution and liability and compensation, said the UN Body. Participants were trained on how to best transpose IMO treaties into domestic laws. The workshop also looked at the technical context by which these conventions operate and the challenges they aim to address. Marine Link / [Read more](#)

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

AUSTRALIA: THE FUTURE REGULATION OF UNDERGROUND PETROLEUM STORAGE SYSTEMS IN NSW

March 16 - Industry stakeholder briefing and discussion forum - Wednesday 27 March 2019, 2–4pm, 59 Goulburn St, Sydney.



On 1 September 2019, the regulation of underground petroleum storage systems (UPSS) in NSW will become a shared responsibility between the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) and local councils. At the forum the EPA will be outlining to stakeholders in the petroleum industry: • the planned transition to shared regulatory responsibility for UPSS sites • what it means for the petroleum industry – what will change, what will not • the program to refresh and update UPSS guidance material • the training and capacity building program being designed for council officers. We are seeking your views about these issues and will answer any questions you have about the transition process. We will also receive your suggestions about making the transition as smooth as possible. [EPA NSW](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

AUSTRALIA: NAURU REFUGEES EXPOSED TO ASBESTOS AFTER SHIPPING CONTAINERS DUMPED JUST METRES AWAY

March 18 - Refugees living on Nauru have been exposed to potentially deadly asbestos after workers dumped it next to a settlement on the Pacific Island.

Some refugees even used the dangerous material to build makeshift sheds, intensifying fears that many could develop life-threatening cancers within years.

Large quantities of asbestos sheeting have been ripped off buildings by workers with Nauru Utilities Corporation.

But videos and photos sent to the ABC show some asbestos was never safely disposed of. Instead, it was packed into shipping containers which were dumped only metres away from the Fly Camp settlement, where dozens of refugees live. ABC News / [Read more](#)



AUSTRALIA: EXTENT OF TOXIC STOCKPILES IN VICTORIA REVEALED

March 19 - Stockpiles of toxic waste in eight Melbourne warehouses are estimated to contain up to 19 million litres of hazardous and toxic chemicals

A toxic waste clean-up in suburban Melbourne has only scratched the surface as authorities reveal a stockpile of hazardous and flammable chemicals much greater than first thought.

Eight warehouses across Campbellfield and Epping are thought to contain 19 million litres of toxic waste, WorkSafe Victoria revealed on Tuesday.

"It became clear there was significantly more waste material there than we first estimated," WorkSafe spokesman Michael Coffey told ABC radio.

"It was extremely difficult to estimate what the volume of the waste was in these warehouses because they were floor-to-ceiling, wall-to-wall stacked with containers and the atmosphere inside was not safe." The clean-up operation has already been going for six weeks and so far workers have removed about 800,000 litres of the waste, Mr Coffey confirmed. News.com / [Read more](#)

CANADA: OIL AND GAS CLEANUP COSTS IN B.C. ARE \$3B AND RISING, AUDITOR GENERAL FINDS



Photo: The soaring number of abandoned oil and gas wells across Western Canada is leading to concern that taxpayers will ultimately carry the burden of cleaning them up. (CBC)

March 14 - Province now has more than 10,000 inactive wells; number of orphaned wells has grown sevenfold in 3 years. British Columbia's auditor general says the number of inactive oil and gas wells in the province has risen dramatically, and warns the price tag for decommissioning them is \$3 billion and rising.

An audit published Thursday, titled [The B.C. Oil and Gas Commission's Management of Non-Operating Oil and Gas Sites](#), found the province has more than 10,000 inactive wells — sites that no longer produce oil

and gas — and that 7,474 of them had yet to be dismantled, filled or capped for environmental remediation purposes.

That number had nearly doubled from 3,800 in 2007. Meanwhile, the number of orphan sites — inactive wells whose owners are bankrupt, insolvent or can't be found — increased sevenfold in three years, from 45 in 2015 to 326 in 2018. CBC News / [Read more](#)

CANADA: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA ANNOUNCES MAJOR INVESTMENTS IN SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO PROTECT CANADIAN WATERS FROM OIL SPILLS

March 18 - Keeping our oceans and coastal areas clean, safe and healthy for current and future generations is a top priority for the Government of Canada. That is why we are making significant investments, under the Oceans Protection Plan, to help protect Canadian coasts and waterways from oil spills.

Today, on behalf of the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, Parliamentary Secretary Sean Casey announced that six international organizations will receive more than \$4.1 million for research projects that will help improve protocols and decision-making to minimize the environmental impacts of oil spills.

The recipients include: Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation; Johns Hopkins University; New Jersey Institute of Technology; SINTEF Ocean; Texas A&M University; and Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution.

These projects are part of the \$45.5 million Multi-Partner Research Initiative, announced last year to leverage collaboration among oil spill experts in Canada and abroad to ensure we have the capability to provide the best scientific advice and tools to respond to oil spills in our waters. PR Newswire / [Read more](#)

CANADA: FAULTY FLOWLINE CONNECTOR INVOLVED IN MAJOR OIL SPILL SUCCESSFULLY RECOVERED

March 19 - Husky Energy has completed work to recover a faulty flowline connector from the South White Rose Extension, involved in a major oil spill in the offshore last year.

Production was suspended on the SeaRose FPSO on November 16 after about 250,000 litres of oil spilled into ocean—the largest spill in the history of the offshore industry in Newfoundland and Labrador. It was determined that a failed flowline connector was the source of the release of oil. VOCCM / [Read more](#)

CANADA: B.C. ADMITS IT CAN'T STOP TRANS MOUNTAIN BUT WANTS TO LIMIT OIL FLOW

March 19 - The British Columbia government has admitted it has no power to stop the Trans Mountain oil pipeline expansion project

but has argued it should have the power to limit the amount of crude oil that flows across its territory from Alberta, the Globe and Mail reports, citing a lawyer for the B.C. government.

The argument was heard by the B.C. Court of Appeals where the NDP government of British Columbia took its case against the Trans Mountain project. Oil Price.com / [Read more](#)

GUYANA CONTINUES TO ENHANCE OIL SPILL RESPONSE – RECENTLY PARTICIPATED IN REGIONAL OIL SPILL RESPONSE WORKSHOP



In the photo, from left] Lieutenant Commander Mathew Richards, Director-General (ag) of the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig and Dr. Elliot Taylor

March 17 - With first oil expected in a matter of months, Guyana continues to engage in several activities aimed at enhancing the country's response mechanism in the event of an oil spill.

Director-General (ag) of the Civil Defence Commission (CDC), Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig recently attended the Sub-regional Level II Workshop on the Oil Pollution Response Convention (OPRC) and International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Guidance on the Implementation of an Incident Management System (IMS).

The workshop which was held in Basseterre, St. Kitts and Nevis commenced on Monday, March 11 and ran for four days. The objective was to train spill managers and incident commanders in the tactical aspects of spill preparedness and response, in addition to the application of incident management systems to assist the effective coordination of spill response. Guyana biz / [Read more](#)

JAMAICA: MARITIME AUTHORITY TO PUSH FOR BLUE ECONOMY LEGISLATION

Photo: Director General of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Peter Brady (right), with Minister of Transport and Mining, Hon. Robert Montague (centre); and Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Kitack Lim; at the High Level Symposium for Transport Ministers of the Caribbean Region



March 19 - Director General of the Maritime Authority of Jamaica (MAJ), Rear Admiral (Ret'd) Peter Brady, says the agency will be pushing for legislation governing exploration and development of a sustainable blue economy. He further emphasised the importance of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) treaties, which Jamaica has signed on to and is now in the process of enacting the required laws in order to reap certain benefits.

JIS News / [Read more](#)

KENYA: TRAINING ON HOW TO TACKLE OIL SPILLS KICKS OFF

March 19 - Kenya has started training players in the maritime sector on oil spill response management.



The move is in line with the International Maritime Organisation (IMO)'s efforts to end greenhouse gas emission and pollution in the ocean by 2020.

Recently, Norwegian Coastal administration through the Oil for Development Programme conducted a three-day training aimed at building human resource capacity for the national oil spill contingent plan that was developed by the Kenya Maritime Authority (KMA) in partnership with other stakeholders.

Business Daily / [Read more](#)

MOZAMBIQUE: PROTECTING THE ENVIRONMENT IN MOZAMBIQUE'S EMERGING OIL AND GAS SECTOR

March 18 - Mozambique is expected to become the world's third largest natural gas exporter by 2023, bringing a projected \$39 billion to the Mozambican economy over the next 20 years and creating over 700,000 jobs by 2035.

Finding substantial reserves of oil and natural gas can offer significant opportunities for the social, economic and political development of any country. However, without adequate environmental management, oil and gas operations can have lasting social and environmental impacts such as oil pollution and public health risks.

In view of the impending increase in oil and gas exploration, the Government of Mozambique, in collaboration with UN Environment and Norway's Oil for Development Programme, launched a report to strengthen Mozambique's capacity to address environmental management challenges related to its oil and gas sector. UN Environment / [Read more](#)

PAKISTAN: 'OIL SPILL IS A MAJOR CAUSE OF ENVIRONMENTAL HAZARD'

March 19 - The ongoing process of oil spilling into the Arabian Sea near Mubarak Village has become a very serious cause of environmental hazard in the area. The situation is not only disturbing the marine life, but it has made lives of local fishermen difficult.

These views were expressed by Dr Shehnaz Rashid, an expert in marine biological affairs of the Centre of Excellence for Marine Biology, University of Karachi, on Monday. The News / [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: ABOUD CHIDES SINANAN ON OILSPILL

March 18 - [A follow-up on the report in last week's ISCO Newsletter] - GARY ABOUD of Fishermen and Friends of the Sea (FFOS) chided Minister of Works and Transport Rohan Sinanan for saying oil had dissipated from last Tuesday's oil-spill in the sea near the Hyatt Regency Hotel, Port of Spain. Aboud said the gulf is all one interconnected body of water, inclusive of its fisheries, so it made no sense for the minister to suggest the oil was gone away. FFOS programme director Lisa Premchand said rather than the oil being simply left to be pushed out by the tide into the Gulf of Paria, the pollutant should instead have been collected using booms. Newsday / [Read more](#)

UK: UK SPILL ASSOCIATION - WINNERS OF THIS YEARS OAMPS SPONSORED AWARDS ANNOUNCED AT THE ANNUAL DINNER

March 20 - The 2019 Annual Awards went to Jamie Campbell, of Briggs Marine for Individual Responder, Oracle Environmental Experts for Corporate Responder, Lamor for Manufacturer, and Ecologia Environmental for Innovation.

The Board also conferred Honorary membership on two former Chairmen, Stewart Ower and Richard Proctor, and also Seamus Connolly of Fastank. UK Spill / [Read more](#)

USA: OR&R CONDUCTS SPILL SCIENCE AND RESPONSE TRAINING IN GUAM



Photo: OR&R's Charlie Henry (center) leading a field exercise. Image credit: NOAA.

March 15 - The week of March 11, NOAA OR&R staff conducted oil spill science and response training in Hagatna, Guam for over 40 spill responders and planners.

The training included lectures, case studies, and field exercises on oil spill science, as well as assessment and cleanup of oiled shorelines. Local NOAA Fisheries experts presented information on Guam and Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) natural resources at risk from spill impacts, including several case studies from local vessel groundings. Spill response planning and training is particularly important in Guam and CNMI because of the remoteness of the islands from the U.S. mainland and their numerous sensitive

marine habitats, such as corals and important fisheries. Class attendees included responders from U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, U.S. Navy, Guam Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. National Park Service, and the oil response industry. [NOAA OR&R](#)

USA: 30 YEARS; REMEMBERING THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

March 18 - Habitat Biologist, Kimbal Sundberg recalls and reflects on the spill - Imagine waking up in the San Juans and smelling the nauseating odor of hydrocarbons wafting in from the Salish Sea. Every spring, I think back to the early morning of March 24, 1989, when I learned that the supertanker Exxon Valdez had run aground in Prince William Sound.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

As a habitat biologist with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, I had spent years researching the biological resources of Prince William Sound. These data were carefully mapped in atlases and reports to identify environmental impacts and, hopefully, to conserve sensitive areas. My wife and I spent vacations exploring the pristine beaches of Prince William Sound

As I flew over Exxon Valdez on March 25, I was struck by the smog layer and strong smell of hydrocarbons 1,500 feet over the oil slick. That toxic smell accompanied me for the next three years as I conducted natural resource damage assessments along some 1,300 miles of oiled Alaska beaches. As my helicopter circled the unfolding disaster, I saw a few fishing boats with booms trying to corral the 11-plus million gallons of spreading black crude. Where was the vaunted spill response capability so voluminously described in oil spill contingency plans and industry/government assurances? It seemed a pathetic farce. I saw Steller's sea lions swimming the edge of the slick, killer whales surfacing in oily sheens and cormorants diving to oily deaths off rocky cliffs. Later, while skiffing around Bligh Island, I picked up moribund marbled murrelets and saw lethargic harlequin ducks gathered on rocky shores. My job and that of other biologists became documenting millions of casualties. The Islands Sounder / [Continue reading this short article](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

THE ARCTIC – REMOTE, BUT NOT ISOLATED

March 11 – This article in *Weather Nation* describes NOAA's Meteorology work in the Arctic. This is far-reaching and includes: ice and snow forecasts, satellites observations, new data gathering technologies, nautical charting, response and restoration, biological surveys and international collaboration.

Like a thermostat for our planet, the Arctic helps to stabilize global climate and regulate temperatures worldwide. What happens in the Arctic doesn't stay in the Arctic, and changes in the Arctic's seemingly harsh, but inherently fragile environment have a profound global reach.

Changes can destabilize the world's weather patterns and ocean circulation, affecting everything from food security and human, fish and wildlife health, to safe navigation, local to global economies, and national security. *Weather Nation* / [Read the article](#)

Editor – An interesting article, illustrated with photos, schematics, maps and video. Recommend that you look at this.

RESEARCH TEAM DEVELOPS MATERIAL TO SEPARATE OIL AND WATER FOR ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION AND WASTEWATER TREATMENT

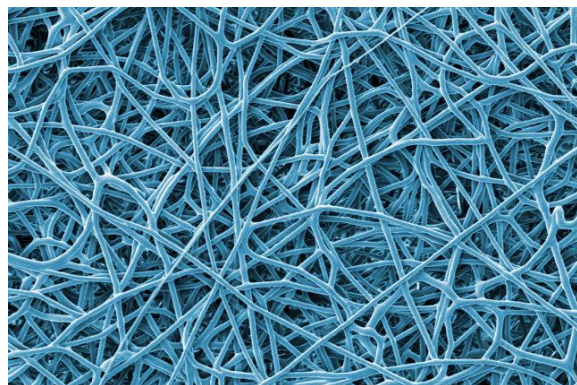


Photo: "Filtration is a simple, energy-efficient water treatment method, and might be an effective way to clean up oil spills," said Ayse Asatekin. Here, an image of the new fiber membrane showing its random porous structure. Credit: Nelaka Govinna

March 22 - It's a popular phrase used to describe people, things, and ideas that just don't mix—"like oil and water." Except it's not entirely true. Oil and water can mix, and can be very difficult to completely separate when brought together. Think of environmental oil spills or wastewater treatment, and you quickly realize that separating out unwanted oil to restore water to a natural or pure state can be a monumental task.

In a research paper published on March 22—the United Nations-designated World Water Day—engineers and physicists from Tufts describe how they devised a low-cost membrane capable of rapidly filtering oil from water and oil mixtures without the membrane getting fouled.

The advance in material science could be a game changer in the battle against pollution. It's well known that oil-contaminated water can have long-term harmful effects on wildlife and the environment. Current strategies to mitigate that harm include burning the oil in place or using mechanical devices, such as booms, skimmers, or absorbent material, to help clean up the mess. In practice these methods are expensive and not very effective, particularly for cleaning up large oil spills.

"Filtration is a simple, energy-efficient water treatment method, and might be an effective way to clean up these oil spills," said Ayse Asatekin, an assistant professor in the Tufts School of Engineering and corresponding author of the study, published in the journal *ACS Applied Polymer Materials*. "A separation membrane is relatively inexpensive and reusable, and the clean-up technology covers a small footprint. Through our collaboration, we developed a novel filter material that can do the separation and keep up a high flow rate without getting fouled by accumulating oil." *Phys Org* / [Read more](#)

JOB VACANCY

REMPEC: SECRETARY/ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

March 20 - The applicant will assist the Head of Office and Programme Officers of the Centre in day-to-day requirements performing a broad range of administrative duties including drafting and processing relevant correspondence, filing, archiving, organizing

JOB VACANCY (CONTINUED)

meetings, travel arrangements, liaise with International Officials contacting the Centre in the Mediterranean countries. He/She will be expected to work within multicultural and international environment, working diligently and often under minimal supervision.

The candidate should have completed a level of Secondary education (formal secretarial training an advantage), have at least five years of professional experience in an administrative / secretarial role in an International organization and have written and oral proficiency in English and French (knowledge of Arabic an asset)

The gross salary presently stands at Euros 20,271 net (G5 Step1) per annum, free of income tax but subject to deductions.

The Applicant should be free to commence their work at REMPEC on **1 June 2019 or as soon as possible thereafter**.

Interested persons are invited to view the Vacancy Notice No: **REMPEC-01** available on [IMO's Website](#) and submit their application consisting of cover letter and up to date Personal History Form (available from the following [link](#)) by **21 April 2019** by 5pm (Malta Local Time) to: recruitment@rempec.org

SAFETY BRIEFING

DATA FROM SOME OLDER GPS SYSTEMS MIGHT BECOME INACCURATE DUE TO THE 'WEEK NUMBER' ROLLOVER EVENT

March 22 – Safety Briefing from UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency - If you're cruising anywhere on or after April 6, you might want to check your GPS ✳ especially if it's an older one as it might be giving you the wrong position. We've issued a special safety bulletin to explain what you need to do to avoid the problem! On April 6 navigation data from some older GPS systems might become inaccurate due to the 'week number' rollover event. This could cause stand-alone GPS receivers and systems using GPS chips, to produce data that is 19.7 years either in the past or future, therefore generating errors in both the GPS position and time. However, if onboard equipment has been installed after August 1999, or has regular firmware updates from the manufacturer, there should be minimal risk of an error occurring. The MCA's safety bulletin is intended to help operators understand the implications of the week-number rollover and to take action to ensure all GPS updates are completed. For more information on the rollover event please visit: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/780743/MSF5029_R0516_GPS_Week_Number_Rollover.pdf?platform=hootsuite

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

Clean Pacific, Vancouver, June 18-20 There are a lot of exciting additions to [CLEAN PACIFIC 2019](#), making it a must-attend event if you work in spill prevention and response in the Western United States and Canada:

- New conference track: Communication and Engagement. This track expands on communication and engagement before, during and after an incident to not only include impacted communities, but to give their perspective and experience a voice
- Expanded exhibit floor - more exhibitors will be on hand to showcase products that aid in the prevention, response or remediation of a spill incident
- General Session (industry focus) where you will be able to ask questions regarding binational collaboration in transboundary waters to the speakers from Chamber of Shipping of B.C. and Pacific Merchant Shipping Association
- Canadian Regulatory Agencies on the exhibit floor - Environment and Climate Change Canada and Oceans Protection Plan, Transport Canada
- Canadian OSRO on the exhibit floor - Western Canada Marine Response Corporation
- A second General Session balancing out the industry perspective with a Canadian Federal Government perspective

Clean Gulf, New Orleans, October 28-31 Registration is now open for the [2019 CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition](#), taking place October 28-31 in New Orleans! If you [secure your registration](#) before May 3rd, you'll receive the heaviest discounted rates available! CLEAN GULF is the premier annual event for industry and government from North America and beyond to come together and discuss planning, preparedness and response issues for oil and hazardous materials spills.

CONTRACTS & TENDERS

ISCO Members are invited to post tender invitations in this section

OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

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

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING MARCH & APRIL 2019

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

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING MARCH & APRIL 2019 (CONTINUED)

specifically targeting spill control professionals during SCAA's Annual Meeting & Conference. Nowhere else will you learn from and 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

UK: IOPC FUNDS MEETINGS AT IMO

London, April 1-2. More info [IOPC Funds Meetings at IMO](#)

TUNISIA: WORKSHOP ON CRISIS MANAGEMENT & DECISION MAKING

Tunis, April 2-4. For more info please contact houcine.mejri@moig.org.tn

USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS CONFERENCE

Cincinnati, April 16-18. Clean Waterways is the only event that delivers all of the people you need to know before an incident occurs on or around an inland river system – state and federal regulators, operators, spill equipment providers, consultants and OSROs. At Clean Waterways, you'll have the opportunity to connect with fellow attendees and speakers involved in maritime, facilities, rail, and pipeline, as well as state and federal agencies, to build the critical relationships needed in today's inland environment. [More info](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS – MAY 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
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
UK	May 21-22	Arctic Oil & Gas Conference	London
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
CANADA	June 17	APICOM General Managers Meeting	Vancouver BC
UK	June 17-21	IOPC Funds' Short Course	London
CANADA	June 18-20	Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition	Vancouver BC
UK	June 25-26	UK Spill Annual Conference	Moreton-in-Marsh
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](#)

[AMSA Aboard](#)

[ATRAC Newsletter](#)

[AUSMEPA Bulletin](#)

[BIMCO Bulletin](#)

[Newsletter from George Holliday](#)

[Bow Wave](#)

[Cedre Newsletter](#)

News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation

News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority

News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre

News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n

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

November 2018

December 2017

Dec. 2018 issue

Summer 2019

Feb. 2019 issue

On request email

Current issue

February 2019

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter	News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria	December 2018
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	March 2019
GISEA Quarterly Newsletter	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	December 2018
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Winter 2018 /19
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2019
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2019 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	March-April, 2018
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	Jan. 2019 issue
Nautical Institute News	News from the Nautical Institute	March, 2019
Navigate Response	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	March 2019
NOAA OR&R	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
Oceanbuzz	Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry	March 19, 2019
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	February 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	March 20, 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	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)

FRANCE: EMSA CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR EMERGENCIES ACTIVATED IN RESPONSE TO THE GRANDE AMERICA ACCIDENT

For earlier reports see last week's ISCO Newsletter

March 14 - EMSA's CleanSeaNet satellite service was activated by the French authorities to support in the detection of oil spills, lost containers and wreckage. Both SAR (synthetic aperture radar) and optical acquisitions have been provided. In addition to the detection of containers, the images identified an oil spill. CleanSeaNet satellite services will continue to monitor the area of the incident over the coming days to track the evolution of the spill and localisation of containers. Two of EMSA's standby oil spill response vessels are in preparation for deployment and are scheduled to be on site tomorrow afternoon (15 March). EMSA / [Read more](#)

March 15 - Fuel Oil Spill from Sunken Con/Ro Could Reach Shore - According to drift forecasts, the fuel oil pollution from the sunken con/ro Grande America may make it to shore on France's Bay of Biscay coastline, and could arrive in the vicinity of La Rochelle as early as Sunday evening or Monday morning. Vigipol, a French environmental organization formed after the Amoco Cadiz disaster, warned that the hull of the America could continue to release fuel over time, making her a persistent source of pollution if left unaddressed. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

March 16 – Third slick discovered after cargo ship sinks off French coast. French authorities are examining a third oil slick where the Grande America, an Italian cargo vessel travelling from Germany to Morocco, sank in the Atlantic west of France earlier this week. Stephane Doll, the head of anti-marine pollution agency Cedre, said on Saturday that the oil slick is located where the ship sank. Its discovery on Friday suggests that oil continues to leak from the sunken vessel. Following the sinking of the Grande America in the Bay of Biscay on Tuesday, two oil slicks with a combined surface area larger than that of New York City's Manhattan borough have been drifting eastward towards the French coast. Gulf Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

March 16 – France begins clean-up operation after cargo ship oil spill - French authorities began a clean-up operation on Friday after the Italian container ship "Grande America" sank off the French Atlantic Coast while carrying 2,200 tonnes of heavy fuel. Despite poor weather conditions, four ships began a clean-up operation on Friday afternoon. The 214-metre-long vessel sank on Tuesday, 300 kilometres west of the French town of La Rochelle, carrying 2,200 tonnes of heavy fuel. France 24 / [Read more](#)

March 18 - Timeline Pushed Back for Shore Pollution from Grande America Spill - The fuel oil pollution from the wreck of the con/ro Grande America will not reach shore this week, according to new projections by French response officials. Previous estimates indicated that petroleum could come ashore in the vicinity of Les Sables d'Olonne within 3-4 days of the sinking, but the latest drift modelling indicates a longer timeline. The forecast could still change based on weather conditions, and containers and other debris could reach the coast of the Bay of Biscay earlier. Winds of 30-35 knots and heavy swells have hampered the spill response effort at sea, but the French Navy has been using towed boom devices to recover at least some of the fuel oil from the surface. The Navy-chartered auxiliaries Argonaute and Sapeur, the EMSA-chartered Partisan and Ria de Vigo, the Premar Atlantique-chartered tug TSM Kermor,

and the multipurpose French Navy tug Rhone are all participating in the effort. The Spanish tug Alonso de Chavez joined them on Monday morning. Weather conditions are expected to improve on Tuesday, which will help cleanup and assessment efforts move forward. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)



Photo: Crewmembers aboard the French tug Argonaute deploy an oil collection boom near the site of the America's sinking, March 20 (Marine Nationale)

March 20 - Sunken Con/Ro Was Carrying Top-End Porsche 911s - According to Carscoops, Grande America's vehicle decks contained four Porsche 911 GT2 RS sports cars, along with a range of more commonplace Porsche and Audi vehicles bound for Brazil.

Spill recovery continues - French-led efforts to contain fuel oil from the Grande America were hampered initially by high winds and a heavy swell in the Bay of Biscay. On Tuesday, conditions moderated, and operations to remove fuel oil from the water accelerated. Eight offshore tugs are working with small towed boom systems to contain and pick up floating clumps of HFO. At the wreck site, the Spanish tugs Alonso de Chaves and Maria de Maetzu, the French Navy tug VN Partisan, and the chartered tug TSM Kermor are working continuously to contain fuel leaking from the America's submerged hull. Response agency Premar Atlantique reported that the surface at the site was marked by a continuously visible oily sheen with clumps of HFO. Separately, the French Navy tugs Argonaute, VN Sapeur and Rhône and the Spanish response vessel Ria de Vigo are chasing down the initial plume of pollution that the America released on the date of her sinking. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

March 22 – Spain - Asturias is on alert for marine pollution. Asturias has adopted this decision after the Basque Country and Cantabria have done the same. The order has been given by the Minister of the Presidency and Citizen Participation, Guillermo Martínez. The head of the Presidency has proceeded to activate today. The shipwreck of this vessel has also led to the activation of the National Plan to Combat Maritime Pollution. Maritime Herald / [Read more](#)

SOLOMON ISLANDS: BUNKER SPILL ESTIMATE RISES FOR SOLOMON TRADER GROUNDING

March 15 – [For earlier reports see previous issues of the ISCO Newsletter] - Salvors have stopped the discharge of fuel oil from the wrecked bulker Solomon Trader on Rennell Island, the southernmost island in the Solomons, and they have removed 230 tonnes of bunkers out of an estimated 600 tonnes on board. However, the existing spill is worse than previously estimated, according to insurer Korea P&I and shipowner King Trader. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

March 19 - Solomons govt says Rennell oil spill contained. Officials estimate it will take at least two months to salvage the MV Solomon Trader, which first got stuck in early February. Oil spillage into the sea has finally been contained and Maritime Safety authorities have scooped up 800 litres of oil using a special rake towed behind a boat. But they have made barely a dent in the 100 tonnes estimated to have spilled into a pristine marine reserve. Radio NZ / [Read more](#)

March 22 - Anger after Solomon Islands miner involved in spill gets new licence. The licences given to Bintan Mining Solomon Islands are under fire amid a cleanup of an estimated 100 tonnes of its oil spilled into a marine reserve. Since a ship contracted by Bintan grounded on a reef off Rennell Island in early February, the company has faced widespread criticism. But on 8 March, just one day after Prime Minister Rick Hou threatened to put it on an international blacklist, Bintan was issued two mine prospecting licences. The licences, which were confirmed by the Director of Mines, Nicholas Biliki, are in the islands of Isabel and San Jorge in Isabel province. Radio NZ / [Read more](#)

March 22 – From Virtual OSOCC - Real time disaster coordination. The National Oil Pollution Committee (NOPC) under the Marine Spill National Contingency Plan was activated on 13th February and is providing oversight on response, in coordination with the National Disaster Council through the National Disaster Management Office (NDMO). An On-Site Operations Coordination Centre (OSOCC) was set up in Lavagu to coordinate participating response stakeholders. The OSOCC is led by the Solomon Islands Maritime Safety Administration (SIMSA) as the Incident Controller and supported by the NDMO staff who are deployed on rotational basis. SIMSA is currently on the ground embedded into salvage operations.

The Australian Government has been supporting the Solomon Islands Government on offshore salvage and leak management operations, as part of its stand-by assistance to the Solomon Islands Government. It is expected the Australian Government will progressively withdraw support starting from 21st March.

Virtual OSOCC / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - BUSKIN RIVER DIESEL SPILL

March 16 - The NOAA SSC was contacted by the Department of the Interior regarding a diesel spill from an upland site along the Buskin River on Kodiak Island, AK. The leak of roughly 1,300 gallons diesel reportedly occurred overnight between an upland fuel storage tank and a newly installed generator and was discovered this morning. A significant portion of the spilled volume reached the Buskin River and sheens have been observed out to ½ mile from the river's mouth into Saint Paul Harbor. NOAA / [Read more](#)

GREECE: LADEN TANKER ON ROCKS, WESTERN ANDROS ISLAND, AEGEAN SEA

March 17 - Tanker AGIOS GEORGIOS I ran aground on rocks of western Andros Island, Greece, Aegean sea, at night Mar 15, while approaching Gavrio port. The ship is loaded with some 850 tons of oil, no leak reported so far. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

IRAN: CONTAINER SHIP CAPSIZED, SANK IN IRANIAN PORT

March 19 - General cargo ship SL STAR capsized and sank along berth at Rajae Port, Bandar Abbas, Iran, Persian Gulf, in the morning Mar 19. The ship had 153 containers on board, some of them already surfacing and floating around. . Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

USA: PENNSYLVANIA - MANCHESTER TWP. CHEMICAL SPILL PROMPTS HAZMAT RESPONSE

March 19 - A chemical spill near Manchester Township's industrial park ended up in a stream that leads to the Codorus Creek, county officials said. A York Area United Fire and Rescue crew responded, contained the spill and summoned the York County Hazardous Materials Team and DEP, according to YAUFRC Chief Dan Hoff. York Dispatch / [Read more](#)

UK: EXPERTS PUT PLANS IN PLACE TO CONTAIN OIL SPILL IN STROUD CANAL

March 21 - Members of a community committed to preserving and regenerating the historic Stroudwater canal have branded what looks to be oil dumped into the water as "one step removed from taking an air rifle to a swan". Stroud News & Journal / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

UK: DIESEL SPILL IN LEEDS LIVERPOOL CANAL COULD KILL NESTING SWANS

March 21 - The Yorkshire Swan and Wildlife Rescue Hospital this afternoon posted an appeal on its page, saying: "We are extremely concerned after a barge was reported to have recently sunk on the Leeds Liverpool Canal, leaking a large amount of diesel into the waters where many pairs of swans and other wildlife call home. The Telegraph & Argus / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

FRANCE: TRAIN CARRYING TOXIC MATERIAL DERAILS IN SOUTH WEST FRANCE

March 22 - The freight train derailed on Friday morning in the Landes region. A spokesman for the Prefecture of Landes said that of the 10 carriages, three contained toxic substances. The first contained 32 tonnes of ammonia, while the other two were carrying around 66 tonnes of caustic soda. The Local FR / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: TANKER JANA DESGAGNES DISABLED IN HEAVY ICE

March 22 - Product tanker JANA DESGAGNES got stuck in heavy ice in Cabot Strait off the southwestern coast of Newfoundland and Labrador, on Mar 21. Rudder was damaged by ice, the ship asked for assistance. Canadian Coast Guard sent an icebreaker CAPTAIN MOLLY KOOL (IMO 9199646) to generally, take situation under control and prevent tanker drift towards shore. Tanker was taken on tow same day and moved further offshore. As of 0400 UTC Mar 23, tanker was off Cape Anguille. Heavy icebreaker LOUIS ST LAURENT (IMO 6705937) understood to be already deployed, to take tanker out of heavy ice. After tanker is taken to free water, she's to be towed Sydney Nova Scotia for repairs, by already contracted tug. Tanker is loaded with some 8000 tons of oil products, she was en route from Toronto to Come By Chance, Newfoundland. No leak yet. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

March 22 - Canadian Coast Guard sends 2 icebreakers to help stranded oil tanker. The Canadian Coast Guard is working with the captain and the owner of the tanker, who are implementing their response plan for the vessel," Yard said. "We are working to mitigate any potential pollution." In addition to dispatching the two icebreakers, the coast guard has activated its own incident command post at the Canadian Coast Guard Environmental Response Centre in St. John's and has mobilized a team of environmental response experts and equipment to Port aux Basques, Yard said. But the German-built double-hulled tanker, its crew and the environment are not in any immediate danger, he repeated. Radio Canada International / [Read more and watch video](#)

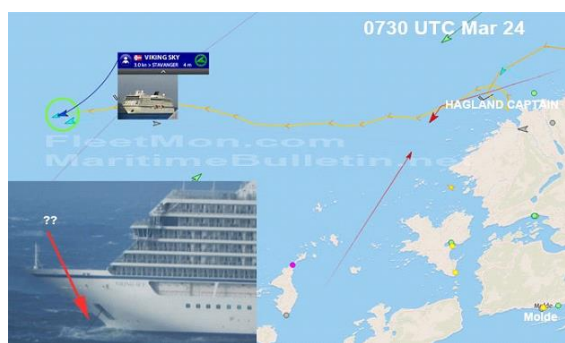
PHILLIPINES: COAST GUARD PROBES OIL SPILL IN SIBULAN-DUMAGUETE WATERS

March 22 - The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) here is investigating an oil spill that has left patches of oil in coastal areas in nearby Sibulan town and this capital city. Sibulan local government officials and some personnel from the Department of Public Works and Highways also responded by going to the Maslog area to do a cleanup. Reports also said that further down the coast, at Escaño Beach and Piapi Beach, oil patches were also found on shallow water, on stones, and in floating seaweed and debris. Philippine News Agency / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: MICHIGAN - INVESTIGATORS ATTEMPTING TO DETERMINE SOURCE OF DIESEL FUEL SHEEN IN MACOMB COUNTY WATER

March 22 - Fuel flowing from Red Run to Clinton River. The county hopes new absorbent booms will help contain the fuel. The water is not used as a drinking source, but if the fuel spreads to Lake St. Clair, it can become an issue for both humans and aquatic life. Click-on Detroit / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NORWAY: CRUISE SHIP & CARGO VESSEL IN DISTRESS OFF COAST



March 24 - Cruise ship VIKING SKY suffered engine failure at 1420 LT Mar 23 off Farstad, Norway, in vicinity 63 00N 007 03E, in heavy storm conditions. The ship dropped an anchor and issued distress signal, requesting immediate assistance. Evacuation of passengers and crew under way, they say some 1500 people are to be evacuated, by helicopters and if possible, by SAR boats. Cargo ship, HAGLAND CAPTAIN in distress while assisting, crew to be evacuated.

0400 UTC Mar 24 - According to latest officials statements, decision to airlift people was caused by fears the ship could probably ran aground or on rocks, with no or little chance of evacuation by lifeboats in severe storm conditions.

0500 UTC Mar 24 - ran into trouble and is in need of assistance some 5 nm east of distressed VIKING SKY, Norway. Reportedly all crew evacuated. VIKING SKY

meanwhile, is desperately trying to reach calm waters to shelter from raging storm, she's slowly moving in western direction at some 3-4 knots speed. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

March 24 – 1625 Local Time - Accompanied by tug boats, the Viking Sky cruise ship has limped into the Norwegian port of Molde more than a day after issuing a mayday call in a storm that led to harrowing helicopter rescues of half of its passengers.

ABC News / [Read more](#)

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