

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](#)

CAN INTERNATIONAL LAW PROTECT THE ARCTIC FROM OIL SPILLS?

Offshore oil development in the Arctic is still in its nascent phase, with production occurring in Russia and Norway, but on hold in Canada, the US, and Greenland. As production rates and new discoveries are expected to increase in the coming years, so will the risks of a large-scale oil spill in Arctic waters. The challenging operating conditions, lack of infrastructure, and effective clean-up techniques in Arctic conditions exacerbate the need to ensure robust regulation of petroleum activities in the region. International law provides a detailed framework regulating spills from shipping, but is not nearly as stringent when it comes to spills from petroleum development activities. While international treaties establish binding obligations to cooperate in response operations, there is a gap in regulating the prevention of such oil spills. The role of non-binding regulation, or soft law, is growing, with the Arctic Council leading the way.

While shipping is extensively regulated in international law, mainly under the agenda of the International Maritime Organisation, upstream petroleum accidents are not equally covered by international regulation. But well blowouts are responsible for the biggest oil spills resulting from offshore petroleum development activities, such as the Deepwater Horizon or, closer to the Arctic, the Ekofisk Bravo in Norway.

Offshore oil development is generally not a subject states are eager to regulate at an international level. The Arctic Institute / [Read the whole article](#)

[Editor: In this article Dr Daria Shapovalova makes the case for a robust regulatory framework for offshore safety in the Arctic. Reading is recommended.]

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

IT'S BEEN 30 YEARS SINCE THE EXXON VALDEZ OIL SPILL

[Editor: The anniversary of the Exxon Valdez oil spill has prompted a spate of articles, in some of which authors have used the occasion as a hook on which to promote agendas rather than simply tell it as it was. In this article a first responder recounts his experience and the author reviews lessons learned, legislative and other changes that have followed]

"Before dawn on March 24, 1989, Dan Lawn stepped off of a small boat and onto the boarding ladder dangling from the side of the grounded Exxon Valdez oil tanker. As he made the crossover, he peered down into the water of Prince William Sound, and saw, in the glare of the lights, an ugly spectacle he would never forget.

"There was a 3-foot wave of oil boiling out from under the ship, recalls Lawn, who was then a Valdez-based Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation employee helping to watchdog the oil industry. "You couldn't do anything to stop it."

Lawn was one of the first responders to reach the 986-footlong Exxon Valdez after it went off course and punctured its hull on Bligh Reef in a debacle that marked its 30th anniversary Sunday." The Seattle Times / [Read the article](#)

Questions and Answers about the Spill

The Exxon Valdez Oil Spill Trustee Council has produced a useful information sheet which gives factual data about what happened and some of the response actions taken. Also included are many links where you can access additional information.

You can find the information sheet at <http://www.evostc.state.ak.us/?FA=facts.QA>

INTERNATIONAL SPILL ACCREDITATION SCHEME COMPLETES ITS FIRST ASSESSMENT AUDIT - OIL MAJOR AWARDED ISAS ACCREDITATION



Oil Major EnQuest is the first company to be awarded ISAS Accreditation as an Oil Spill Response Provider.

The recently formed International Spill Accreditation Scheme was established to link two independent accreditation bodies – the International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) and the accreditation scheme operated by UK SPILL.

Pictured on right - Captain Bill Boyle, MNI, Hon.FISCO, Principal Assessor ISAS.

ISAS has been appointed by the UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) as an accreditation body for the new MCA Marine Accreditation Scheme for oil spill response providers which was introduced in November 2018

EnQuest, which operates Sullom Voe Oil Terminal and Sella Ness Oil Spill Response Base in Shetland underwent a two day ISAS accreditation assessment. The detailed assessment covered all aspects of oil spill response as per the MCA's new guidelines, checking the companies capability as an oil spill response provider, oil spill response training, Health & Safety, equipment operation and planned maintenance, company procedures and licences held for oil spill response activities. For more information contact John A. Dawes at johnadawes@btinternet.com



MEDITERRANEAN: LAUNCH MEETING OF WESTMOPOCO

Report received from ITOPF - Annabelle Nicolas-Kopec and Franck Laruelle attended the launch meeting in Paris of WestMOPoCo (Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation Project) on 13th March. The project, funded by the European Union, aims to strengthen collaboration in combating oil and chemical pollution in the western Mediterranean. It involves seven countries (Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia) and is supported by three Secretariats (REMPEC, the OSPAR/Bonn Agreement and HELCOM), as well as ITOPF, CEDRE and ISPRA. The project is due to run for two years and ITOPF's involvement will include helping to update decision support tools, including the HNS response manuals; reviewing national contingency plans; and providing training to enhance cooperation and preparedness. The next WestMOPoCo meeting, scheduled for Malta in April, will look at how to adapt Arpel's Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS) into a Mediterranean context. <https://www.itopf.org>

UPDATES RECEIVED FROM SEA ALARM FOUNDATION



Third marine wildlife emergency workshop held in Brest

In October 2018, Sea Alarm led the final workshop in a series exploring issues needing to be addressed to improve response to a variety of emergencies involving marine mammals.

The Aramco-sponsored European marine wildlife preparedness assessment series, which addressed marine turtles in the first workshop and marine birds in the second, is an initial step toward understanding the potential dangers, from climate change to anthropogenic impacts, these animals face throughout Europe. The marine mammal workshop, kindly hosted by Cedre in Brest, brought a variety of experts from the areas of rescue and rehabilitation, research, and regulatory backgrounds together to hone in on where the gaps in knowledge and response capabilities are.



New European oiled wildlife preparedness project begins with Bow Jubail debrief

A new oiled wildlife preparedness project, which builds on the previously EU-funded European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance (EUROWA) training and preparedness programme, is underway.

Funding from Aramco's Citizenship Programme will enable an effective roll-out of this new EUROWA project, which will serve as a one-year pilot to test and inform a longer-term expansion of the programme.

A EUROWA-focused debrief of last year's wildlife response to the Bow Jubail spill in Rotterdam, NL, in which national and international responders worked together to successfully rehabilitate and release over 500 oiled swans, served as a kick-off for the 2019 preparedness project and a reminder of the value of these preparedness developments in Europe when such incidents occur.

The debrief, hosted by EUROWA partner organisation the [Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend](#), explored lessons learned from the response and developed recommendations for the continual improvement of the EUROWA animal care protocols and response procedures.

EUROWA equipment stockpile now in Ostend

Recently Belgian authorities approached Sea Alarm with the offer to help to house the EUROWA equipment stockpile. That equipment has now been moved to a warehouse in Oostend.

The Federal Public Service for Health Food Safety and Environment has been following the development of EUROWA for years, and has been a supporter of EUROWA's objectives. In December they informed Sea Alarm that Belgian oil combat equipment would be moved to a new warehouse and that additional floor space could be provided to store the EUROWA stockpile. The authorities offered this floor space as an in-kind contribution in support of EUROWA, and it was gratefully accepted by Sea Alarm.

To read the complete texts of the above three abbreviated briefings please visit <https://www.sea-alarm.org/news/>

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

AUSTRALIA: MELBOURNE - UP TO 19 MILLION LITRES OF TOXIC WASTE DUMPED IN 8 SUBURBAN WAREHOUSES



March 19 - Up to 19 million litres of illegally dumped toxic waste could be stashed in warehouses across Melbourne's northern suburbs, according to an analysis conducted by dangerous goods regulator WorkSafe. This stockpile of potentially toxic and highly flammable materials could be more than 10 times larger than originally estimated, forcing emergency services and regulators to radically revise their safety, handling and disposal plans. This is an estimate of the clean-up challenges contained within the eight warehouses in Epping and Campbellfield that have been identified so far as dump sites, so it could increase as other illegal sites are discovered. Sources say the cost of cleaning up what is now undoubtedly the biggest illicit dumping operation in the city's history could reach \$50 million. The Age / [Read more](#)

ESTONIA: AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF SPILLS AND DISCHARGES AT SEA IN THE BALTIC GETS SCRUTINIZED AT HELCOM MEETING IN TALLINN

Photo: WGAS-2019 participants in front of the new Estonian surveillance plane in Tallinn on 21 March 2019. The plane is used to track both accidental spills and illegal discharges at sea. © HELCOM

March 26 - Improving surveillance of spills and discharges at sea was a main subject at the Annual Meeting of the HELCOM Informal Working Group on Aerial Surveillance (IWGAS 2019) that was held in Tallinn, Estonia from 20 to 21 March 2019.

In Tallinn, the HELCOM members presented their respective national surveillance activities and finalised their work on the 2018 edition of the HELCOM Annual report on discharges observed during aerial surveillance in the Baltic Sea.

To ensure a more efficient surveillance of the Baltic Sea, IWGAS 2019 notably agreed to update the coverage requirements of satellite imagery. HELCOM / [Read more](#)



NIGERIA'S OIL-RICH BAYELSA STATE OPENS INQUIRY ON SPILLS

March 27 - Nigeria's oil-rich Bayelsa state started an inquiry into the human and environmental impact of spills caused by multinational businesses operating in the region, opening a potential new conflict with companies that pump the bulk of the nation's crude.

The Bayelsa State Oil and Environmental Commission is in charge of the inquiry, which will be led by the British Archbishop of York, John Sentamu. It's the first time such an investigation will be launched by a Nigerian oil-producing state, indicating concerns about rising environmental pollution in a region that's vital to the nation's economy.

"The Commission's aim is for oil companies to agree to a global standard of behavior, conducting their operations in Bayelsa as they would in Norway, Scotland or the USA," the commission said in a statement. Bloomberg / [Read more](#)

NORWAY: SINTEF TO RECEIVE ITOPF R&D AWARD 2019

March 26 – ITOPF has announced that the beneficiary of the 8th annual ITOPF R&D Award is the Norwegian research organisation, SINTEF, for a project on the characterisation of low sulphur fuel oils (LSFO).

Due to IMO regulations limiting the sulphur content in fuel oils, a new generation of LSFO marine fuels is now replacing traditional Intermediate bunker fuels and heavy fuel oils for use in the Sulphur Emission Control Area (SECA) in Europe and North-America. This Award will help fund a one-year study to document the weathering properties and behaviour of LSFOs when spilled at sea, with relevance to the mitigation effectiveness of different oil spill response options.

The project is also funded by the Canadian government "Multi-partner Oil Spill Research Initiative program" (MPRI) and the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA). ITOPF / [Read more](#)

SAUDI ARABIA: VESTA AND SAP TO HIGHLIGHT PIPELINE INTEGRITY AT SAUDI ARAMCO CORPORATE MAINTENANCE FORUM

March 24 - Pipeline integrity is a crucial part of the Oil and Gas industry. The goal is to have error, spill, and incident free operations for the sake of the public, employees, environment, and customers. Successful management of pipeline integrity can best be achieved through integrating data from enterprise asset management (EAM) processes to back office operational information. SAP and Vesta Partners have partnered to create a Pipeline Integrity solution that provides that data integration and uses it to optimize pipeline maintenance. Vesta will be presenting on this solution at the 14th annual Saudi Aramco Corporate Maintenance Forum in Al-Khobar, Saudi Arabia on April 2-4. Vesta / [Read more](#)

SOLOMON ISLANDS TO CHANGE SHIPPING LAWS AFTER OIL SPILL

March 25 - The Solomon Islands Maritime Safety administration acting director Jonah Mitau said the government is looking at changes to the Shipping Act. He said currently the laws only cover safety but will be extended to cover insurance and commercial responsibility for damages. Mr Mitau said changes are unlikely to happen until early next year. Radio NZ / [Read more](#)

USA: DOT REQUIRING SPILL RESPONSE PLANS FOR HIGH-HAZARD FLAMMABLE TRAINS

March 27 - The final rule requires railroads to develop and submit Comprehensive Oil Spill Response Plans for route segments traveled by high hazard flammable trains that are carrying petroleum oil in blocks of 20 or more loaded tank cars and trains that have a total of 35 loaded petroleum oil tank cars.

Railroads are also required to identify the person responsible for each response zone, along with the organization, personnel, and equipment capable of removing and mitigating a worst-case discharge. Information about the trains must be provided to state and tribal emergency response commissions. "This new rule will make the transport of energy products by railroad safer," said U.S. Secretary of Transportation Elaine L. Chao in a news release. Environmental Expert / [Read more](#)

USA: MULTI-PARTNER RESEARCH COLLABORATION TO ADVANCE WATER COLUMN MAPPING AFTER OIL SPILLS



The collaborative team consisted of researchers from the University of New Hampshire, Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency, Water Mapping LLC, and Sea Scan MK2 ECA Group.

March 29 - This week, leveraging our longstanding relationship with the Coastal Response Research Center at the University of New Hampshire, OR&R's senior scientist collaborated with researchers from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institute, the Environmental Protection Agency, Water Mapping LLC, and Sea Scan MK2 ECA Group on a project to calibrate various sensors under development for detecting and characterizing oil in the water column.

Tests were conducted in a specially built flume (the MacFarlane flume, also known as 'Florence' or 'Flo' for short) built by UNH doctoral graduate student Missy Gloekler. The sensors being compared and calibrated can detect oil droplets, gas bubbles, and dissolved oil in the water column by measuring fluorescence, backscatter, and holographic images. These instruments can be deployed on remotely operated underwater vehicles, autonomous underwater vehicles, and for some, may be operated by hand shipboard. The research team tested several types of fresh and emulsified oils, with and without dispersants, to detect and compare a wide range of droplet sizes, and air/gas bubbles.

These studies were a precursor to additional OR&R research and methods development work underway to use remote sensing and sampling tools for oil spill response and assessments. All participants contributed significant "in-kind" contributions, and serve as a model for demonstrating how leveraging limited resources can lead to significant advances in oil spill research.

NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

USA: SHORELINE ASSESSMENT TRAINING NEAR SAN FRANCISCO

March 29 - On March 26-28, NOAA's Emergency Response Division provided a three day oil spill response training to a variety of response and resource management agencies from around the San Francisco Bay area. This Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) training provided nearly 30 students with the skills and experience to properly identify shoreline habitats, document the nature and extent of shoreline oiling, provide input on cleanup priorities and recommend cleanup strategies during an oil spill.

NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

UK: ENVIRONMENT AGENCY CHAIR REAPPOINTED



March 15 - Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, Michael Gove, has reappointed Emma Howard Boyd as Chair of the Environment Agency.

The Environment Agency is a Non-Departmental Public Body set up under the Environment Act 1995 to take an integrated approach to environmental protection and enhancement in England. It has major responsibilities in flood management, water resources and quality, climate change, land quality, chemicals, pollution prevention and control, waste, conservation and biodiversity, fisheries conservation, air quality and navigation.

Environment Agency / [Read more](#)

DANIELA BARRERAS-BIESOT SECONDED TO SEA ALARM

March 22 - Sea Alarm is pleased to announce that OSRL's Daniela Barreras-Biesot will be working from our office. In addition to her OSRL work, Daniela has been seconded to us two days a week during Saskia's maternity leave.

Daniela lives in Brussels and is part of the Training and Consulting team at Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), having previously worked in the Operations Department. Since 2014 she has been a core OSRL Wildlife team member, developing a wildlife response equipment improvement proposal, supervising and commissioning equipment, and serving as Project Manager for the company's 2019 Equipment improvement project. Sea Alarm / [Read more](#)



NORWAY: FRAMO'S NEW CEO TAKES CHARGE



March 28 - Sameer Kalra has passed the helm of pumping system manufacturer Framo over to newly appointed CEO, Martijn Bergink.

The former CEO of Framo, Sameer Kalra, has officially handed responsibility for the business to Bergink, as Kalra moves across to parent company Alfa Laval as the new head of the Alfa Laval Marine Division and a member of the Alfa Laval Group Management.

As CEO of Framo and President of Business Unit Pumping Systems, Bergink will be based in Bergen, Norway. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

ISCO Members are invited to send news for publication in this section

OHMSETT Staff will Exhibit at the Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition - The National Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility will exhibit at the Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition June 19-21, 2018, at the Oregon Convention Center in Portland, OR. <https://www.ohmsett.com/>

TEXAS BOOM COMPANY has published an overview to share the basics of what spill containment boom is, how containment boom is made, and where containment boom is used. <https://www.environmental-expert.com/news/oil-containment-boom-overview-790909> <https://texasboom.com/>

BRIGGS ENVIRONMENTAL - Jamie Campbell, Operations Manager of Briggs Environmental division has been awarded the 'Responder of the Year' at this year's UK Spill Awards, which were held on Tuesday 26th February 2019 at The Waterman's Hall in London. <https://www.briggsmarine.com>

CAN-ROSS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES recently helped one of Canada's largest food merchandisers and processors revamp their existing spill control and containment program and become better equipped for handling a potential spill. Can-Ross conducted a [Spill Control and Compliance Assessment](#) to determine the most effective solution for the company. <https://www.canross.com>

POLARIS APPLIED SCIENCES - Dr. Elliott Taylor and Mr. Travis Scott provided a three-day training course on shoreline cleanup assessment technique for participants from the Esquimalt Indigenous Nation, WCMRC, industry, and agencies. <http://www.polarisappliedsciences.com/en/news/>

LAMOR - "Choosing the Correct Fabric for your Boom" by Andrew M. Crawford, SVP. Andy Crawford has written an article in which he describes the properties of boom fabrics and coatings, their respective advantages and disadvantages, and gives advice on boom repairing techniques. <https://lamor.com/choosing-the-correct-fabric-for-your-boom/>

IOPC FUNDS MEETINGS IN LONDON THIS WEEK

ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville will be attending the IOPC Funds meetings which take place on April 1-2 at the IMO HQ building. A report will be published later.

SPECIAL ITEM

LOOKING DEEPER AT THE SOCIAL SCIENCE BEHIND MARINE POLLUTION

A new article recently published by NOAA OR&R.



Photo: Oil on the beach at Refugio State Park in Santa Barbara, California, on May 19, 2015. Image credit: U.S. Coast Guard.

For many, the first thing that comes to mind when they think of oil spills is an image of great big oil sheens in the middle of the ocean, tarballs washing up on beaches, and photos of oiled wildlife on the internet. Marine pollution on the whole might also bring to mind an image of sandy beaches littered with plastic bottles and other marine debris — or perhaps even a “garbage island” floating out in open sea.

Behind each of these images is a deeper level to the complexity of the issue of marine pollution — a social one. The effects of marine pollution go beyond environmental issues. They encompass a wide range of impacts, including economic, mental and physical health, cultural, social, and governmental.

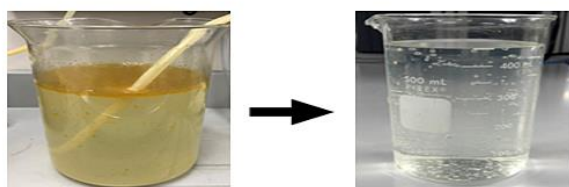
The [human dimensions of oil spills](#) are widespread.

The most obvious impacts come in the form of acute and chronic health problems and physical injuries. But marine pollution can even affect entire communities — changing their social behavior, altering the local economy, and threatening their natural and cultural resources.

On an economic level, the impacts can be anything from a fisherman’s temporary loss of income to a complete loss of livelihood. It could even be an industry-wide disruption of normal economic activities. NOAA OR&R / [Continue reading this article](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW PROCESS COULD RECOVER BILLIONS OF GALLONS OF OIL REFINERY WASTEWATER



Before
Initial synthetic PW and the treated water.

March 24 - Every day in the United States, about 2.5 billion gallons of produced water – a byproduct of oil refinery and extraction – is generated as waste. This water is deemed unusable for household and commercial use by the Environmental Protection Agency due to the many remaining contaminants. And while several commercial treatments are available to clean this water, they can be expensive, energy-intensive, and do not remove all traces of contaminants from the water.

But in what could be a major development for the oil refinery industry,

Purdue University researchers have now developed a process that removes almost all traces of oil in produced water. Their process involves using activated charcoal foam, which absorbs contaminants from the water, and subjecting the water to solar light in order to produce heat and purify the water.

This process has met all EPA standards for clean water from industrial sources, and tests have shown it to produce a total organic carbon of only 7.5 milligrams per liter. Furthermore, the researchers state that the oil absorbed by the foam can be recovered, as they were able to recover up to 95 percent of the oil that was absorbed.

“This is a simple, clean and inexpensive treatment process,” said Ashreet Mishra, a graduate research assistant at the Purdue University Northwest Water Institute. “I have seen in my home country of India how people suffer for the want of pure water, and we as researchers need to do as much as we can to help.” Earth.com / [Read more](#)

PUBLICATIONS

IOPC FUNDS: ANNUAL REPORT 2018 NOW AVAILABLE

March 22 - The Annual Report 2018 is now available to download from the Publications section of the website. Hard copies of the Report are also available on request via the [Publications section](#).

This year's report provides details of the main activities and achievements of the IOPC Funds during the year, as well as key figures for 2018 in relation to expenditure, reports of contributing oil received and contributions levied. Significant developments in 2018 relating to open incidents are also described. Further details of incidents, and in many cases a full case study, can be found under the [Incidents section](#) of this website. <https://www.iopcfunds.org/>

TECHNOLOGY GUIDE: BIOREMEDIATION

Cooperative Research Centre for Contamination Assessment and Remediation of the Environment (CRC CARE), Australia. 44 pp, 2018

March 26 - The purpose of this guide is to provide information on bioremediation as a treatment technology for the remediation of contaminated sites to assist with selection of remediation options. The document contains information to inform remediation planning and aid compilation of a remediation action plan. While soil, groundwater, and vapor are all able to be bioremediated, this document predominantly provides guidance on the application of bioremediation as a remediation technology to treat contaminated soil. This guide is primarily intended to be utilized by remediation practitioners and those reviewing practitioner's work; however, it can be utilized by other stakeholders within the contaminated sites industry, including site owners, proponents of works, and the community. See this guide and others that CRC CARE is developing as part of a National Remediation Framework to provide practical guidance to practitioners and regulators in Australia. The files are posted near the bottom of <https://www.crccare.com/knowledge-sharing/national-remediation-framework> Technology Innovation News Survey / <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

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 APRIL 2019

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
UK	May 13-17	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
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

UPCOMING EVENTS – MAY 2019 ONWARDS (CONTINUED)

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
CROATIA	October 2-5	Pollution Response Challenges in the Mediterranean Conference	Split
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	Feb. 2019 issue
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	February 2019
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 26, 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	January, 2019
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	March 27, 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	Feb. 1-15, 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 TRIES TO CONTAIN OIL SPILL AS 2000 CARS, FREIGHTER SINK OFF COAST

March 23 – [See also previous reports in ISCO News] - Cities and towns around the Bay of Biscay in France are bracing for the landfall of a major oil spill in the coming days, as 2,200 tons of heavy fuel makes its way to shore after the sinking of the Italian container vessel, Grande America. [This article includes a timeline report on this event] [Interesting Engineering / Read more](#)



Photo on left - Fuel oil recovered above the wreck of the Grande America, 22nd March 2019

March 25 - Report from CEDRE - On the 24th, weather conditions in the area deteriorated, making response operations at sea more challenging than on previous days. The container of goods recovered on the 23rd arrived in La Rochelle.

On the 25th, response operations at sea were suspended. The vessels involved in the response headed to the port of La Rochelle, where they unloaded the oil recovered at sea and oiled equipment. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

March 28 - Some of that heavy fuel has now been recovered. First ships carrying the oil have arrived in La Rochelle. Local maritime authorities are now analyzing and classifying the oil in order to find out how it can be recycled.

Experts are now also focusing on Spain as the sheet of oil is moving further south. They are trying to tackle the spill before it reaches land, where its environmental impact would be much worse. DW / [Read more](#)

SOLOMON ISLANDS: OIL SPILL HAS NOT REACHED PROTECTED AREA - UNESCO

March 25 - The UN's cultural body, UNESCO, says no oil from a disastrous spill in the Solomon Islands has reached a protected heritage site. The Solomon Islands government said last week it had contained oil flowing from a ship grounded off Rennell Island, where it has put about 100 tonnes into the sea. The ship is stuck in Kangava Bay, on the island's western side, close to a 37,000-hectare protected marine area in the east. But Robert Casier, a specialist with UNESCO's World Heritage Centre, says the oil has not reached the World Heritage site in Rennell. Radio NZ / [Read more](#)

USA: TEXAS - SPILL FROM TANK FARM FIRE CLOSES HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL

March 25 - On Monday, the U.S. Coast Guard said that about five dozen ships will have to wait to transit the Houston Ship Channel while efforts to clean up waste from the International Terminals tank fire continue.

The fire at International Terminals Co.'s Deer Park tank farm broke out on March 17, and it spread to seven filled tanks at its peak. It was largely out by Wednesday, except for a few reflash events, and workers at the site have been draining off the last of the petrochemicals in the affected tanks.

On Friday, the containment wall around the tank farm failed, sending an unknown quantity of refined petroleum products and firefighting foam into a ditch that drains into the Houston Ship Channel.

The environmental contractor for the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) has been working to contain the site using booms, and it is pumping waste to storage containers to minimize the release. The Coast Guard's Gulf Strike Team, which specializes in spill response, has been called in to assist, and 15 skimmers are currently working on the cleanup effort on the waterway. About 60,000 gallons of contaminant-laden water have been collected so far, and the Houston Chronicle reports that most of the rest has been contained within Tucker Bayou, a small inlet adjacent to Deer Park's marine terminal. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

NORWAY: AIS ANIMATION SHOWS JUST HOW CLOSE THE VIKING SKY CRUISE SHIP CAME TO DISASTER

March 25 - An animation of the Viking Sky's AIS ship tracking shows just how close the cruise came to disaster after losing power along the west coast of Norway on Saturday.

According to media reports and photos of the incident, the ship was able to drop anchor and use a single engine to slowly make its way back to deeper water as rescue vessels began to arrive on scene. Waves were reported 6-8 meters high.

About 50 seconds into the video, the Viking Sky is taken under tow by the ocean tug Ocean Response (at approximately 0800 UTC on Sunday). The vessel eventually was towed to Molde, Norway, where it arrived Sunday. gCaptain / [Read more](#)



UAE: LNG CARRIER COLLIDES WITH VLCC OFF FUJAIRAH – AIS ANIMATION



March 26 - A Shipping Corporation of India LNG carrier collided with a very large crude carrier at a Fujairah anchorage in the United Arab Emirates on Sunday evening, resulting a major damage to the oil tanker. AIS video of the accident shows the 155,000 cbm, Maltese-flagged LNG carrier Aseem struck the port side of the 281,400 dwt, Hong Kong-flagged Shinyo Ocean as both vessels were maneuvering with the anchorage around 2000 UTC on 24 March 2019. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

BRAZIL: OIL SPILL AT SANTOS DURING BUNKERING

March 26 - Fuel leaked during general cargo ship STAR LIMA bunkering at Santos, Brazil, on Mar 25. Fuel was pumped from bunker barge moored alongside cargo ship, reportedly hose broke or was ruptured, some 400 liters of fuel leaked. Cleansing under way, but leak didn't spread far because barge was fenced off by anti pollution booms initially, as a routine bunkering safety procedure. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

USA: ALASKA - CLEANUP CONTINUES AT BUSKIN RIVER OIL SPILL SITE

March 27 - Oil spill responders are continuing the cleanup at the American President Lines facility near Anton Larsen Bay Road and Old Tom Stiles Road, the Buskin River, its tributary and the Saint Paul Harbor after a spill of approximately 1,370 gallons of diesel that occurred there on the night of March 15th, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation reports. "Responders have deployed absorbent sweep and boom along the river bank to recover fuel and an oleophilic skimmer in conjunction with the boom at the mouth of the tributary entering Buskin River," ADEC reported. Heavy rainfall forced responders to build underflow dams to manage oil-tainted run-off from the site. Alaska Native News / [Read more](#)

YEMEN: TANKER SINKING IN GULF OF ADEN

March 27 - Unmanned tanker reported sinking at Aden port entrance due to water ingress, apparently because of lack of maintenance. Tanker is anchored at Aden for years, she belongs to government and understood to be used as a collector, not clear of what, of liquid wastes? Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

MEXICO: PUERTO MARQUEZ - ACAPULCO OIL SPILL

[Report received from Carlos Sagrera, MSc. MISCO. HSE & Oil Spill Control Advisor, Member of ISCO Council for Panama]



March 27 - Herewith photos and Mexican links concerning the sinking of the tugboat Clifford G and the Laid up Pontoon (Barge 195) in Puerto Marquez (Acapulco, Estado de Guerrero, México) on March 25th. At least the spill of 1 tonne of diesel fuel was confirmed and the remainder in the tanks is estimated at five times that amount. There were two beaches polluted and affectation of the marine life according to local NGOs. SEMAR (Mexican Navy and leadership of the NCP) had activated the NCP and is in charge of the containment and recovery operations at sea.

<https://www.jornada.com.mx/ultimas/2019/03/25/barco-hundido-provoca-derrame-de-diesel-en-puerto-marques-9446.html>

<https://www.cabecera.mx/aplican-plan-de-contingencia-por-hundimiento-de-barco-en-acapulco/#.XJrwGPZfw0Q>

<https://www.periodicocentral.mx/2019/nacional-seccion/item/7142-en-puerto-marques-el-derrame-deja-nata-de-aceite-pescadores-preven-una-catastrofe-ecologica>

<https://lajornadaguerrero.com.mx/index.php/politica/item/6608-prosigue-la-marina-labores-de-limpieza-donde-se-hundio-un-barco-en-acapulco>

<http://jornadabc.mx/tijuana/26-03-2019/derrame-de-diesel-y-aceite-en-puerto-marques-por-hundimiento-de-barco>

USA: TEXAS - OIL SPILLS INTO BABINE LAKE IN BARGE MISHAP

March 27 - An oil spill occurred near Topley Landing in Babine Lake on March 18 after the transport barge operated by Babine Barge experienced a mechanical problem. The total of 70 litres of gear oil spilled into the water from the Babine barge, said Suzannah Kelly, spokeswoman for the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy. An initial report said that 720 litres of the oil had spilled onto the barge but it was later found that its capacity was 690 litres, and that 70 litres had gone into the lake. Cleanup crews, using absorbent pads and booms recovered about 60 litres from the lake, Kelly said. Houston Today / [Read more](#)

USA: NEW YORK - FUEL SPILL AT STATEN ISLAND FROM CONTAINER SHIP

March 28 - US Coast Guard reported fuel leak from container ship berthed at Global Marine New York Container Terminal in Staten Island, in the Arthur Kill waterway near the Goethals Bridge, in the afternoon Mar 28. An amount of spilled fuel and the cause of spill yet unknown, containment boom has been placed around the vessel and multiple oil spill response vessels deployed. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

March 29 - Unified Command continues oil spill response on Arthur Kill waterway - Unified Command members continue their response to an oil spill that occurred on the Arthur Kill waterway Thursday afternoon when a hole was detected in the hull of the Hapag-Lloyd container ship "Dublin Express" during unloading operations in the Global Marine New York Container Terminal. Fuel escaped from the approximately 15 square inch opening. The hole was sealed during the evening which stopped any further discharge. In addition, containment booms were promptly set out to prevent any additional spreading of the oil and to proactively protect nearby nature reserves. Coast Guard News / [Read more](#)

KOREA: CAPE-SIZE BULK CARRIER OIL SPILL IN KOREAN PORT

March 29 - Fuel leaked from bulk carrier PAN TOPAZ, berthed at Ulsan port, Korea, at around 2030 Seoul time Mar 28. The ship was fenced off with booms, oil spill response boats and teams activated. Amount of spilled fuel and the cause of it remain unknown. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

CHINA: WIDESPREAD SAFETY PROBE LAUNCHED AFTER DEADLY CHEMICAL BLAST



March 29 - China will launch a month-long, nationwide inspection campaign into hazardous chemicals, mines, transportation and fire safety, the country's safety watchdog said, following a deadly pesticide plant blast that killed 78 people last week. Environmental authorities have been at pains to show the incident was under control and continue to seal off rivers in order to prevent water contaminated with toxic chemicals from posing health risks to residents. Nasdaq / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: 50,000 LITRES OF FUEL LEAKED OUT OF CRASHED TANKER TRUCK INTO SALMO RIVER: ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY

Photo: A containment boom and absorbent boom deployed upstream from the confluence of the Salmo and Pend d'Oreille Rivers in response to a fuel spill Thursday.

March 31 - B.C.'s Ministry of Environment says roughly 50,000 litres of fuel leaked from a tanker truck that crashed into the south Salmo River on Wednesday, killing one person. The ministry said most of the fuel that spilled into the environment is "weathered and unrecoverable" after a second overflight was conducted Friday. Crews were only able to save a limited amount of fuel from the tankers, which were removed from the site Friday evening along with the truck cab. Global News / [Read more](#)



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