

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

CYBER SECURITY AND OIL SPILLS OF THE FUTURE IN THE SPOTLIGHT



Jun 24 - Major oil spills have decreased dramatically in recent years, but new threats are on the horizon, participants at the SpillCon, the Asia Pacific oil spill response regional conference in Perth, Australia, heard in May.

Major oil spills from shipping have dropped from about 80 a year in the 1970s to about six a year in recent times. However, with the advent of autonomous unmanned ships, regulators, including the International Maritime Organization (IMO) are looking at potential risks to come, that may reverse this trend.

“The focus this year was on leadership in times of crisis,” Nick Lemon, manager systems safety, Australian Maritime Safety Authority, told SAS. “I was speaking to a group of people dealing with oil spills. They recognised they are much less frequent in recent years, but they are aware of the need to preserve that. Not to relax. The risks are not diminishing. Any oil spill is one oil spill too many. Safety4Sea / [Read more](#)

Editor: In recent times the vulnerability of automated computer controlled systems to cyber attack has become a matter of significant concern and poses a growing threat to the safe operation of oil tankers and pipelines.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

IOPC FUNDS' SHORT COURSE 2019



June 21 - The annual IOPC Funds' Short Course took place from Monday 17 June to Friday 21 June at the Funds' headquarters in London.

This year's course was attended by participants from 17 Member States of the 1992 Fund, representing maritime administrations, national coast guards and others, with six Member States participating in the course for the first time IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

OSPAR COMMISSION MEETS IN THE NETHERLANDS

June 28 - Marine policy makers from around Europe gathered in the Netherlands for the annual meeting of the OSPAR Commission for the protection of the marine environment of the North-East Atlantic.

Delegates representing 13 countries from around the North-East Atlantic and the European Union, supported by 4 observer organisations, looked to the future challenges of ocean governance in preparation for the launch of OSPAR's new strategy for the decade 2020-2030 at its Ministerial meeting to be held in Lisbon on 3rd July 2020. OSPAR / [Read more](#)

PCG, INDONESIA, JAPAN PARTNER FOR POLLUTION EXERCISE

June 28 - The Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) - Southern Mindanao has collaborated with Indonesia's Directorate General of Sea Transportation (DGST) and the Japan Coast Guard for a multilateral biennial Maritime Pollution Exercise to combat environmental threats.

Dubbed as "Marpolex", the activity kicks off on July 2 and will run until July 5. It involves simulation drills in firefighting, and search and rescue operations.

Commander Michell Ursabia, public information officer of Coast Guard District Southeastern Mindanao, said the activity will involve sea phase drills at the Davao Gulf, as well as oil spill response and containment for major oil spill incidents.

The exercise will involve seven ships, one fixed-wing aircraft from the PCG, and three oil spill response, search, and rescue, and firefighting vessels from its Indonesian counterparts. The Japanese Coast Guard's 105-meter patrol vessel equipped with a helicopter will take part in the exercise for the first time. Philippine News Agency / [Read more](#)

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

CANADA: OIL TANKER MORATORIUM ACT RECEIVES ROYAL ASSENT

June 23 - Canada's Minister of Transport, Marc Garneau, has announced that the Oil Tanker Moratorium Act (Bill C-48) has received Royal Assent. The Act prohibits oil tankers carrying crude and persistent oils as cargo from stopping, loading or unloading at ports or marine installations in northern British Columbia.

The legislation complements the existing voluntary Tanker Exclusion Zone, which has been in place since 1985. The Act includes penalties that match the scale of a violation and could reach up to \$5 million.

The Act aims to provide a high level of protection for the coastline around Dixon Entrance, Hecate Strait and Queen Charlotte Sound. The moratorium area extends from the Canada/U.S. border in the north, down to the point on British Columbia's mainland adjacent to the northern tip of Vancouver Island, and also includes Haida Gwaii. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

CANADA: GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS IMPORTANT SPILL RESEARCH AT DALHOUSIE UNIVERSITY

June 23 - Under Canada's Oceans Protection Plan, the Government of Canada is making major investments in science to help protect our coasts and waterways from the impacts of potential oil spills.

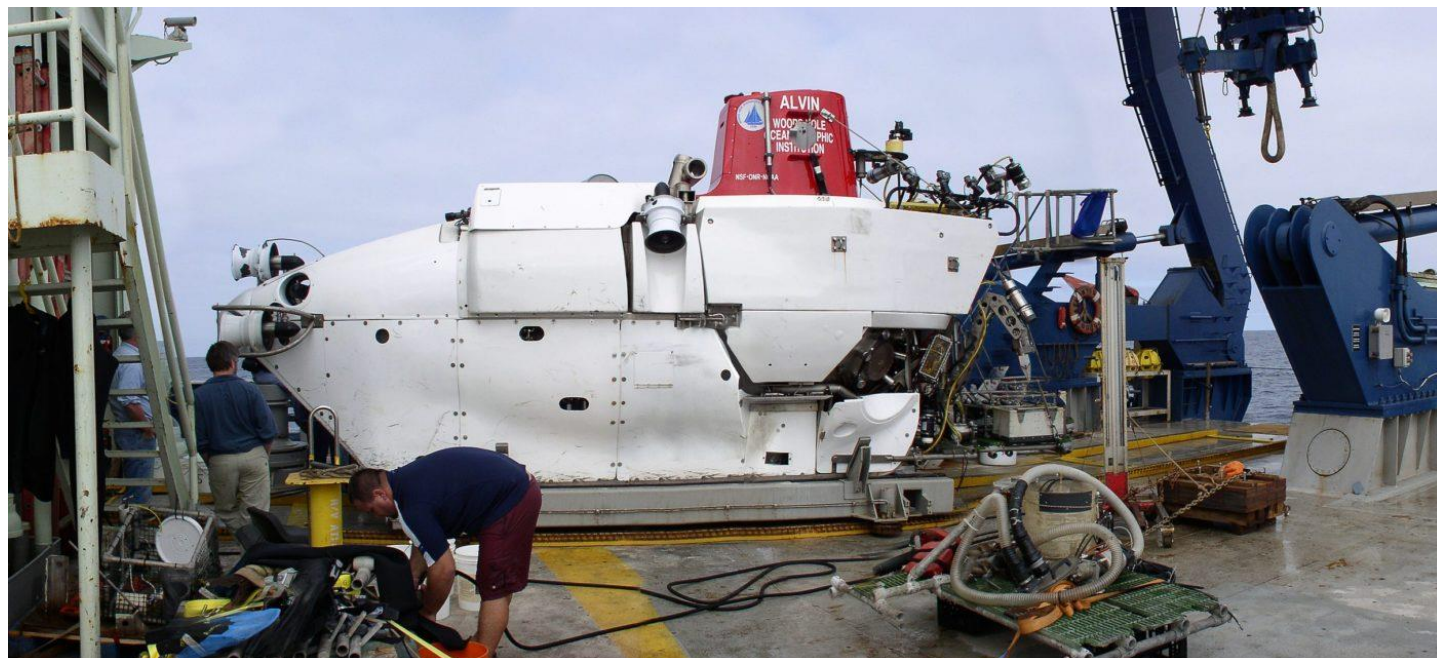
On behalf of the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, the Member of Parliament for Halifax, Andy Fillmore, announced today that the Government of Canada is investing approximately \$523,000 in scientific research at Dalhousie University to help protect Canadian waters in the unlikely event of a spill. This funding will support two new scientific trainee positions. [New Kerala News / Read more](#)

CANADA: MINISTER JORDAN ANNOUNCES NEW PROTECTION FOR THE ATLANTIC OCEAN IN BRIDGEWATER, NS

June 24 - Today, Minister of Rural Economic Development Bernadette Jordan, on behalf of Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard Jonathan Wilkinson, is announcing that the Coast Guard will begin assessing the threat of potential marine pollution posed by the Cormorant in Bridgewater, Nova Scotia. This assessment of the Cormorant is a real step forward to determining the best course of action in understanding the potential impacts of possible ocean pollution on our waters. Other assessments have already started on other high priority vessels in Atlantic Canada, including the Caruso, and the Tug Trans in Marie Joseph, Nova Scotia.

To further strengthen our government's proactive approach to preventing incidents, new authorities for the Coast Guard will be enacted under Bill C-64, the Wrecked, Abandoned or Hazardous Vessel Act (WAHVA). These new actions will improve the Canadian Coast Guard's ability to respond, to ensure that vessels posing a potential threat to the health and safety of coastal communities, and the environment, are dealt with. [Government of Canada / Read more](#)

CANADA: A DEEPSEA 'OASIS' IS SLATED TO BECOME CANADA'S BIGGEST PROTECTED AREA



Above: Alvin is prepared for launch off the deck of Atlantis. Photo: Taollan82

June 27 - One morning in 1984, a pair of ships bobbed together in the swell 250 kilometres off the coast of Vancouver Island. The scientists aboard American research vessels Wacoma and Atlantis were about to make history.

Slowly and deliberately, two scientists and a pilot were lowered into the water in a submersible about the size of a shipping container.

The sub, Alvin, was there to confirm what a 1982 bottom-dredging expedition had accidentally stumbled across: deep down, chimneys were spewing volcanic heat and gases into the ocean. Scientists had discovered the first deepsea vents in the world seven years prior, along the Galápagos Rift, inspiring a flurry of research and public interest into what became one of the greatest biological discoveries of the 20th century. Alvin had been there, too.

The gas emanating from the sea floor is rich in sulphides, which can only be converted to food by extremely specialized organisms. Creatures that host these microbes in their gut dart in and out of the superheated water in a dance with death, gathering enough of the life-giving gas to feed their microbes without being cooked alive. A dozen species would eventually be discovered there that

exist nowhere else on the planet, even at other vent sites — including the record-holder for the upper temperature limit for life, 121 degrees C.

On a normal patch of sea floor you could find a handful of worms or brittle stars in a square metre. A plot of the same size at what became known as the “Endeavour vent field” could hold up to half a million animals. The sheer volume of creatures is comparable to what would be found in a tropical rainforest.

This explosion of life exists far below where any light can reach. Hydrothermal vents are the only known ecosystems on the planet that exist completely independent of the sunlight that directly or indirectly feeds every other living thing.

The alien landscape, with its huge spires crawling with life, was “mind-blowing,” says Kim Juniper, one of the pioneers of hot vent science. “Nothing had ever been seen like that anywhere in the world.”

The “Offshore Pacific Area of Interest” is four and a half times the size of Vancouver Island, the nearest point of land, and extends all the way to the outer edge of Canadian jurisdiction. It would be the biggest protected area of any kind in Canada, and nearly triple the total size of all current marine protected areas. The Narwhal / [Read more](#)

CHINA: CHINA: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE CHINA MSA ON THE LIST OF LIQUID CARGOES OF POLLUTION HAZARDS CARRIED IN BULK REQUIRING DEPLOYMENT OF OIL BOOM OR SIGNED POLLUTION CLEAN-UP CONTRACT

June 14 - China Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) released a Notice on their website on 11 June, requiring ships engaged in loading, unloading and transfer operations and carrying specific types of cargoes to deploy oil booms or have signed pollution clean-up contracts. The Chinese Notice is available to view, [here](#).

The list contains a total of 263 types of cargoes, including: 16 types of bulk persistent oils listed in Annex I of MARPOL, and the remaining 247 types of hazardous liquid substances as listed in Chapters 17 and 18 of the IBC Code, and Annex 1 and 5 of the IMO MEPC.2/Circ.24, which have a relative density of less than 1 (relative to water) and a solubility of less than 0.1%. The list of cargoes can be found in the Chinese Notice linked above.

The Notice states that ships shall comply with Article 41 of the Regulations on the Prevention and Control of Marine Environment Pollution by Ships and Related Activities of the People's Republic of China, as well as Article 27 of the People's Republic of China Regulations on the Prevention and Control of Marine Environment Pollution in Inland Waters by Ships, which stipulate that anti-pollution measures including the deployment of oil booms shall be adopted.

It is also stated that Article 33 of the Regulations on the Prevention and Control of Marine Environment Pollution by Ships stipulates that the Pollution Clean-Up Contract shall be signed before operations, or before entering or leaving the port, with a Ship Pollution Response Organisation (SPRO) that complies with the relevant national technical specifications.

INTERTANKO and China Classification Society (CCS) have worked together to provide an English Translation of the Chinese Notice, [available here](#). INTERTANKO / [Read more](#) [Thanks to ISCO Industry Partner, INTERTANKO]

FRANCE: CEDRE'S STRATEGY COMMITTEE MEETING

June 17 - On 14th May, the 49th meeting of Cedre's Strategy Committee was held at the OLEUM facilities in Mardyck. We were welcomed by General Manager Stéphane Rémy, who presented the centre and its activities. Located at the former site of the Flanders refinery, of which many production units have been converted into training units, this centre offers training in the fields of operations, maintenance, inspection and safety for the oil, petrochemical and gas industry. Participants at the meeting were given a tour of the technical facilities which are used to run practical exercises using life-size units.

The meeting was the opportunity to review the projects in progress, to discuss the investment master plan for the coming 5 years and to initiate deliberations on our study programme for next year. It was confirmed that the next meeting (the 50th!) will be held at Cedre on 22nd November, back-to-back with the Technical Day which will focus on the evolution of spill response techniques and equipment and Cedre's activities in this field.

Finally, the theme of containers was chosen for the next Information Day which will be held at the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (MTES) in Paris on Tuesday 17th March 2020. CEDRE / [Read more in the latest CEDRE Newsletter](#)

GERMANY: CRERF VISIT AND MEETING AT TRANSBOUNDARY RISK ACADEMY IN STRASBOURG

June 17 – News from CEDRE - On 24th May, Cedre visited the River Risk Control Training Center CRERF, a transboundary training centre specialised in response techniques for different risks in river environments (vessel incidents, chemical risks related to the transport of hazardous substances, vessel fires, etc.) with the aim of tightening safety on the Rhine. This centre takes the form of a barge fitted out with an array of equipment to organise numerous practical training workshops. This unique training facility was developed by a Franco-German team through a European Interreg project, in the same way as the fireboat Europa 1 had been

previously. Within this same framework of transboundary cooperation, the Académie Transfrontalière des Risques (transboundary risk academy) has recently been launched. The main goals are to create a network of experts, collect and share data as well as provide operational simulations. This academy gathers various institutional, academic, private and associational partners divided into a series of working groups. On 27th May, Cedre attended the first meeting of the “river pollution” working group, run by the Bas-Rhin fire brigade. CEDRE / [Read more in the latest CEDRE Newsletter](#)

GREECE: AWARENESS RAISING MESSAGE BY THE CENTRAL PORT AUTHORITY OF KALAMATA AND HELMEPA



June 27 - Following the invitation of the Central Port Authority of Kalamata, HELMEPA contributed to the organization a beach and underwater cleanup on the eastern front of Kalamata beach, on Friday 21 June.

The event was attended by students of the Summer Camp of the Messinian Gymnastics Club and the Bouga Schools, the Aeolos Marine Sports Association, the Nautical Club of Kalamata, the Association of Parents/Carers of People with Disabilities “Ipomoni”, the 6th Air Scouts Club of Kalamata and Kalamata Dive Center. Also, the Municipality of Kalamata, the Municipal Port Fund of Kalamata, the Association of Retired Coast Guard Officers of the Prefecture of

Messinia, the Hellenic Rescue Team, the Hellenic Red Cross Regional Department of Kalamata, the Association of Professional Fishermen of the Municipality of Kalamata and the Hellenic Centre for Marine Research / Office of Kalamata contributed to the successful implementation of the cleanup. HELMEPA / [Read more](#)

SINGAPORE: PREVENTION OF OIL SPILLS DURING BUNKERING

MPA Singapore has published a circular reminding to all ships supplying and receiving bunkers in the Port of Singapore that bunkering related oil spills generally take place because of operational lapses and could be avoided if all necessary precautions are taken.

MPA would also reminds ship masters and bunker craft operators to Regulation 7 of the Prevention of Pollution of the Sea Act which states that:

Prohibition of discharge of oil and oily mixtures from ships 7(1) If any discharge of oil or oily mixture occurs from a Singapore ship into any part of the sea or from any ship into Singapore waters, the master, the owner and the agent of the ship shall each be guilty of an offence and shall each be liable on conviction to a fine of not less than \$1,000 and not more than \$1 million or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 2 years or to both. Safety4Sea / [Read more](#)

THAILAND: CEDRE TRAINING HNS (HAZARDOUS NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES)

June 14 - In a bid to effectively respond to a chemical spill at a loading arm or at sea, the THAI OIL group called on Cedre’s expertise for a 3-day training course, from 14th to 16th May, at their site in Sriracha for 19 participants.

This tailor-made course was designed to meet the challenges of a spill of chemicals manufactured at or transported to the Sriracha site.

Learning was facilitated by the interactive approach applied and practical exercises to ensure solid preparedness and an effective approach to HNS response. <http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Menu-secondaire/News/HNS-Training>

USA: SCAA-HOSTED INFORMAL ROUNDTABLE DURING CLEAN PACIFIC IN VANCOUVER

June 19 - Yesterday, SCAA hosted an informal roundtable titled “Our Response Community: Present Challenges and the Impact on our Shared Future” as a kick off to Clean Pacific in Vancouver, BC.

SCAA President, Robert Chambers, opened the discussions surrounding critical issues that are impacting the sustainability of the response industry. The topics focused on workforce development and generational workforce turnover, challenges in sustaining a viable response posture in an environment with decreasing casualty events, and heightened regulatory requirements and incentives for forward-leaning response technology and postures.

Over 70 individuals attended the event, and a special thanks goes out to our panelists: Sonja Larson, Washington State Department of Ecology; Tom Wiker, Gallagher Marine Systems; Kyle Watson, Global Diving & Salvage, Inc; Scott Knutson, United States Coast Guard; Angie Martin, Heritage Environmental Services, and TJ Engstrom, Clean Harbors. SCAA Spill Briefs / [Read more](#)

USA: OHIO - THE CUYAHOGA RIVER CAUGHT FIRE 50 YEARS AGO. THESE STOMACH-CHURNING PHOTOS HIGHLIGHT WHY THE EPA EXISTS



June 20 - Fifty years ago, on June 22, 1969, the Cuyahoga River in Cleveland caught fire.

At the time, the river was one of the most polluted in the US. Journalists filled glasses with pitch-black river water, while politicians dipped cloth into the waves that came up oil-soaked.

The river fire lasted roughly 20 minutes, but it sparked public outrage that in part led to the creation of the US Environmental Protection Agency, the federal office tasked with making sure "Americans have clean air, land, and water."

Insider / [Read more and see more photos](#)

USA: NCCOS SCIENTISTS PUBLISH FLOW RATES FOR 14-YEAR-LONG OIL SPILL IN GULF OF MEXICO

June 24 - Scientists from NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science (NCCOS) have calculated a new estimate of flow rates of oil leaking at the site of the former Taylor Energy Mississippi Canyon 20 (MC20) drilling platform at between nine and 108 barrels (378 to 4,536 gallons) a day. This new estimate exceeds the previous estimate made by Taylor Energy Company of three to five gallons per day. Oil has been leaking from the site's wells since the platform was toppled during Hurricane Ivan in 2004, over 14 years ago.

The flow rate estimates were published today in a [NOAA technical report](#).

The team used the latest acoustic technology and, in partnership with Florida State University, created a new device called a bubblometer to assess the flow rates. The researchers also characterized the composition of the oil and gas discharge, and conclusively established that active releases from multiple wells at the site, rather than from contaminated sediments, are the primary source of oil and gas entering the marine environment at the site.

Based on the assessment, and data from other studies, the U.S. Coast Guard installed a containment and collection system at the site earlier this year that is currently collecting approximately 30 barrels (1,260 gallons) of oil per day. For the first time since 2004, the response team is collecting a significant portion of the oil being released at the MC20 site. NCCOS / [Read more and watch video](#)

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

June 26 – Please click on the links below to read more in the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[OR&R Visits Defense Threat Reduction Agency](#)

OR&R Emergency Response Chief Scott Lundgren, oceanographer Chris Barker, and chemist Dalina Thrift-Viveros participated in a meeting on June 11, 2019 to discuss hazard modeling roles, responsibilities, recent incident coordination, and future exercises and engagements.

[NOAA's 5th Regional Preparedness Training Workshop Held in Norfolk, Virginia](#)

During June 18-20, 2019, the University of New Hampshire's Coastal Response Research Center (CRCC) partnered with the Office of Response and Restoration's Disaster Preparedness Program to hold NOAA's 5th Regional Preparedness Workshop and Training (NRPT).

[Response Training for Three Tribal Nations in Washington](#)

NOAA joined forces with the U.S. Coast Guard, Washington State Department of Ecology, and several oil spill response organizations in an annual effort to prepare tribal members to be safe and effective oil spill first responders.

[OR&R Scientists Attend Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative Synthesis Workshop](#)

The workshop brought together GOMRI-funded researchers and representatives from the response community, including partners in government and industry. Information was shared about what has been learned about the fate of the oil released during the Deepwater Horizon spill, and how that new knowledge might be applied to understanding and responding to oil spills in the future.

[NOAA Marine Debris Program Participates at the Third Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit](#)

On June 17 - 19, partners representing diverse stakeholders from Virginia, Delaware, New York, New Jersey, Maryland, Pennsylvania and Washington, DC gathered at the [2019 Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Summit](#) in Arlington, Virginia.

[Marine Debris Program Releases the Southeast Marine Debris Action Plan](#)

On June 27, the Marine Debris Program released the [Southeast Marine Debris Action Plan](#).

USA: MICHIGAN SUES ENBRIDGE TO SHUT DOWN LINE 5 OIL PIPELINE THROUGH GREAT LAKES

June 27 - The U.S. state of Michigan has filed a lawsuit asking for an Enbridge Inc oil pipeline that runs under the Straits of Mackinac in the Great Lakes to be decommissioned, Michigan's attorney general said on Thursday.

The Line 5 oil pipeline ships 540,000 barrels per day of light crude oil and propane and is a critical part of Enbridge's Mainline network, which delivers the bulk of Canadian crude exports to the United States. [Financial Post](#) / [Read more](#)

USA: OREGON HAS APPROVED LEGISLATION RESPONDING TO A MAJOR 2016 OIL SPILL

June 29 - Oregon will tighten safety standards for railroads transporting large amounts of crude oil. The Senate voted Saturday on a measure to require railroads to submit spill response plans to the Department of Environmental Quality. The move is a response a 2016 train derailment that spilled 42,000 gallons of oil and started a fire that took over 14 hours to put out. [KIVITV](#) / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

GREECE: HELCOM'S EXECUTIVE SECRETARY WILL CHANGE IN AUGUST 2019



Photo: Rüdiger Stempel and Monika Stankiewicz, HELCOM Secretariat, Helsinki, 19 July 2019. © HELCOM

June 19 - The current Executive Secretary of HELCOM, Ms Monika Stankiewicz, will step down from her position and hand over to her successor, Mr Rüdiger Stempel, on 1 August 2019. Stempel was appointed during the HELCOM Annual Meeting held in March 2019.

Stankiewicz has been at the HELCOM Secretariat since 2006 when she started as Professional Secretary for Maritime Affairs. She assumed the position of Executive Secretary in 2012 until 2019, for three terms. Under her tenure, HELCOM not only consolidated itself as a champion of the environmental protection of the Baltic Sea but also as a heard and sought-after voice in the international debate on oceans and seas.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Her successor, Mr Rüdiger Stempel, a German national, currently heads the [Common Wadden Sea Secretariat](#)(CWSS) as its Executive Secretary. The CWSS was established in 1987 to service the [Trilateral Wadden Sea Cooperation](#) (TWSC) between the Netherlands, Germany and Denmark on the protection of the Wadden Sea. HELCOM / [Read more](#)

USA: AFTER 20 YEARS AT COAST GUARD RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTER, TECHNICAL DIRECTOR HANGS UP HIS HAT

Photo: Tim Girton, left, technical director of the Coastguard Research & Development Center, listens while Capt. Greg Rothrock, right, commanding officer of the center reads his retirement letter to Girton during his retirement ceremony Thursday June 20 2019, held at the center in New London. (Dana Jensen / The Day)



June 20 – Shortly after Tim Girton started working at the Coast Guard Research and Development Center 20 years ago, he helped to come up with a system to help local port captains better determine legitimate traffic versus "questionable" traffic in the wake of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.

Since then, his work has included helping with the response to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in 2010, including establishing a system to field and vet thousands of suggestions from the public about how to stop the spill and clean it up, and researching ways to increase the Coast Guard's communication capabilities in the Arctic, among many others projects. "You're always working on different things. We don't do basic-level research. We do applied research. We're interfacing with people doing cutting-edge technologies and seeing if they will work for the Coast Guard," Girton, 62, of Mystic said, referring to what he likes about his job. He is retiring after two decades at the center, the last 12 of which he's spent as technical director, overseeing the 50 to 60 projects the center is involved in annually. [The Day / Read more](#) [Thanks to ISCO member Kurt Hansen, kurthanspe@gmail.com]

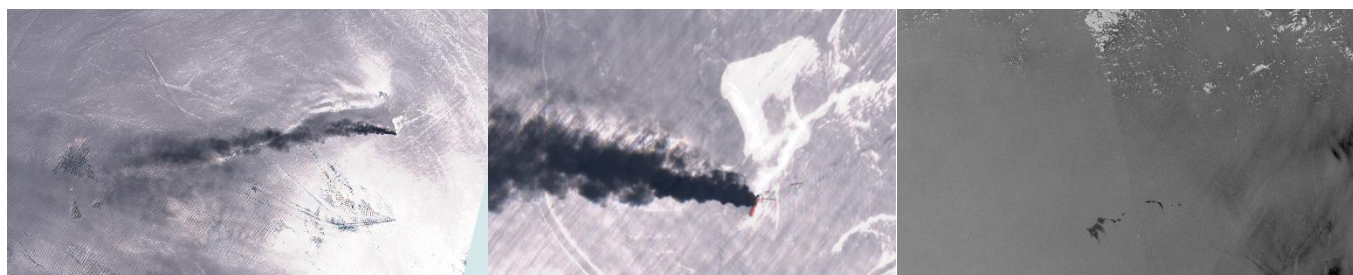
NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

LETTER RECEIVED FROM ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, ORBITAL EARTH OBSERVATION SOLUTIONS

Dear ISCO Team

As a recent member of the ISCO family I would like to congratulate you for the outstanding newsletter that ISCO is producing, which gives valuable insights about what is happening in the oil spill community. We have noticed that you cover main accidents and spills in the global context and we would be glad to provide satellite images if that is of value for the newsletter. Please do not hesitate in reaching out to us for asking for imagery if that may help illustrate the event and raise awareness.

In the meanwhile, I am attaching 3 examples



From left to right, the first 2 images illustrate the accident of tanker "Front Altair" in the Strait of Hormuz. A spill can be seen connected to the ship, which is likely to be naphtha, leaking from the tanker. The image corresponds to 13th June at 07:02 utc. The 3rd image illustrates the spill reported in Finland, and it corresponds to 20th of June at 16:12 utc.

Further info as the position of the spill or polluted area can be easily provided. I hope this information is relevant for the newsletter.

Best regards

Juan Peña Ibañez, CEO & Cofounder, ORBITALEOS. <https://www.orbitaleos.com/>

DERELICT AND DANGEROUS: WHEN VESSELS BECOME MARINE DEBRIS

An article by Emma Tonge, NOAA OR&R Marine Debris Program. (Originally published on 21st May 2019)



Above: A derelict vessel partially submerged in Coral Bay, St. John in the U.S. Virgin Islands. Image credit: Coral Bay Community Council.

When thinking about marine debris, you may picture trash in the ocean — plastic bottles, food wrappers, bags, and other everyday and single-use items that we come into contact with in our everyday life. However, the marine debris problem is much bigger than just our trash, especially when it comes to abandoned and derelict vessels (ADV).

Ranging from small dingies to large fishing vessels with steel hulls, ADVs are a common problem throughout the country, and around the world. Once lost or abandoned, ADVs can be a dangerous and damaging problem, destroying habitat, leaking pollutants into the surrounding environment, and can even be dangerous to other boaters if a vessel is difficult to see below the water, or is in a navigation channel.

Vessels can become derelict in a variety of ways, such as being abandoned by their owner, or transported and damaged during a severe storm. Unfortunately, this type of debris can be extremely difficult and costly to remove, which means ADVs often sit for long periods of time and can be hard to address.

The Office of Response and Restoration’s [Marine Debris Program](#) (MDP) funds multiple projects that help take on the challenge of removing and preventing ADVs in the United States and Pacific Islands. In Alabama, ADVs are not only ugly, but they can crush native marsh grasses and disrupt important aquatic habitats.

That’s why the Weeks Bay Foundation and Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), with support from the MDP, are working to [remove several abandoned boats](#) and pieces of large marine debris from Weeks Bay and its main tributaries.

The project will also include a “Derelict is Dangerous” campaign to educate the local community and help Gulf Coast residents better understand their responsibilities as boat owners, the maritime laws surrounding abandoned boats, how to prepare for storm events, and how to report derelict vessels.



Derelict vessels in Boot Key Harbor following Hurricane Irma. Image credit: NOAA.



The large fishing vessel, Lady Carolina, is grounded in a lagoon reef off the coast of Saipan. Image credit: T. Willsey.



Abandoned and derelict vessels like this one are a hazard in the Weeks Bay estuary, and crush sensitive marsh habitat. Image credit: Weeks Bay National Estuarine Research Reserve .

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Pacific Coastal Research and Planning is teaming up with the MDP to [remove the derelict F/V Lady Carolina](#) from the waters of the Saipan Lagoon. This large 83-foot, 54-ton, steel-hulled fishing vessel broke free from its mooring during the devastating passing of Category 4 Typhoon Soudelor in August 2015, and has been grounded in Saipan’s ship channel. Removing the vessel will not only rid this popular recreational area of an eyesore, but will prevent further environmental impacts to coral reefs and endangered species, and give the surrounding community closure from the typhoon.

During the 2017 hurricane season, the Caribbean, southeast, and Texas experienced severe damage to communities and the environment. The destruction from hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria brought large amounts of debris from homes, fishing gear, and vessels. Emergency response colleagues in NOAA supported interagency response teams to resolve many displaced vessels that threatened to cause environmental harm and become derelicts as described in this article about [2017 Caribbean emergency response efforts](#). However, substantial amounts of marine debris remained. With financial support from the MDP, coastal states and territories impacted by these hurricanes received \$17.2M in disaster relief funding to [assess, remove, and dispose of hurricane-related marine debris](#).



Photo: Derelict vessels in Key West, Florida following Hurricane Irma. Image credit: U.S. Coast Guard.

In South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Texas, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, this funding will go toward the removal of hundreds of ADVs that were displaced during the hurricanes, as well as derelict fishing gear, damaged piers, cars, parts of homes, and more.

Unfortunately, there are only so many ADVs the MDP and our partners can take on. Additionally, understanding the laws and policies surrounding ADVs can be difficult when rules change from state to state. That’s why the MDP created the [ADV InfoHub](#), which provides a central source of information on legislation, funding, contact information and ADV programs, as well as publications, case studies, and legal reviews.

The MDP also helps states prepare for storms so they can better prevent and respond to ADVs through the creation of [Marine Debris Emergency Response Guides](#). These documents outline the existing response structures at the local, state, and federal level to facilitate a coordinated, well-managed, and immediate response to storm debris, including vessels.

Do you own a boat? If so, you can help keep your vessel from becoming derelict! Boat owners should keep their registration current, purchase insurance, perform regular maintenance, and create an end-of-life plan for vessels.

This plan may include:

- Proper disposal of hazardous materials
- Recycling valuable parts and metals
- Bringing the vessel to a salvage shop or landfill for recycling and disposal
- Researching whether your state has a voluntary vessel turn-in / disposal program

Using these tips, we can all work together to not only address ADVs, but prevent these dangerous and costly problems.

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CONTRACTS & TENDERS

OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

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

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

PACIFIC NORTH-WEST : WESTERN RESPONSE RESOURCE LIST USER MANUAL

The Western Response Resource List (WRRL) is a database that stores information on various types of oil spill response equipment in the Pacific Northwest. In 1997, the earliest version of the WRRL was created during a drill when a participant started listing and tracking equipment on an excel spreadsheet. Not too long after that drill, District 13 of the U.S. Coast Guard was approached by several of the response contractors to chair a group that would eventually create a way of listing and tracking regional response resources. There have been several different versions of the WRRL since its inception and the current version of the WRRL is hosted by GenWest Systems Inc. and is a web based system that allows users to enter, edit, and access the data. It is the equipment owner's responsibility to update and maintain their equipment information on the WRRL. The WRRL can be accessed at www.wrri.us

One of the main advantages of the WRRL is that it provides a uniform system to describe and list equipment. Each piece of equipment that is entered in the database is given a unique "WRRL ID" that provides a standard way of tracking and listing equipment in the region. The database can be accessed via the internet and downloaded in a variety of formats. Once the information is downloaded the data can be used in a number of different ways. It can be used to locate and order response equipment during a drill or spill, provide an overall picture of the regions response resources, be used for developing and reviewing oil spill contingency plans, assist in cost accounting, or by an organization to track their own resources. State of Washington / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Scott Knutson, District Response Advisory Team -- Supervisor, U.S. Coast Guard , District Thirteen]

TRAINING

USA: WEBINARS HOSTED BY THE GREAT LAKES SEA GRANT CRUDE OIL TRANSPORT NETWORK

The movement of crude oil through the Great Lakes basin and other critical northern watersheds presents a complex suite of opportunities and risks for the region. In partnership with the Great Lakes Commission and International Joint Commission, a network of Sea Grant professionals from throughout the Great Lakes region have assembled to provide stakeholders with risk-related resources on economic and environmental issues associated with transportation of crude oil in the Laurentian-Great Lakes basin and to create a forum to share knowledge, concerns, challenges, and progress.

The Crude Oil Transport webinar series is meant to provide the latest research and resources to stakeholders in the region to inform decision-making around this complex issue. Anyone with a vested interest in how crude oil and associated products move throughout the region will find the content informative.

Topics and speakers All presentations at @ 1 pm CT / 2 pm ET

July 23, 2019

Oil spill response exercises and planning – Steven Keck, Chief of Contingency Planning and Force Readiness, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Ste Marie, Michigan: [Register here](#)

August 19, 2019

Oil spill response capability for heavy oil products – Bill Hazel, Vice President of Marine Services, Marine Pollution Control in Detroit, Michigan: [Register here](#)

September 2019 (date and topic TBD) GLS Crude Oil Transport / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Ed Levine, FISCO

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING JULY AND AUGUST 2019 (UPDATED)

CAMBODIA: NATIONAL TRAIN-IMPLEMENT COURSE

Phnom Penh, July 15-19. Attended by nominated officials, this national delivery will assist in the implementation phase of Annexes I, II & V of MARPOL. [More info](#)

CONGO: WORKSHOP ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND ON THE UPDATE OF THE NOSCP

Kinshasa, July 22-26. Objectives - Provide training to relevant national authorities on contingency planning; Test the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) of DRC through a table top exercise; Initiate amendments to the NOSCP on the basis of lessons learnt from the exercise; Develop recommendations to improve the NOSCP. [More info](#)

ANGOLA & NAMIBIA: TRANSBOUNDARY OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE BETWEEN ANGOLA AND NAMIBIA

Jamestown, August 5-8. The objectives of this exercise, as defined by the countries, would be to: Test the communication links between Angola and Namibia; Test mechanisms for requesting assistance and mobilization of international resources; Test the National Plans of the two countries in the case of a trans-boundary oil spill incident; and Expose participants to the key issues related to trans-boundary spill incidents. [More info](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
NEW ZEALAND	Sept. 3-5	Ecoforum Conference 2019	Auckland
UK	Sept. 3-6	SPE Offshore Europe Conference & Exhibition	Aberdeen
NIGERIA	Sept. 9-11	National workshop on liability and compensation in case of oil spill	Lagos
UK	Sept. 11-12	Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response Conference	London
UK	Sept. 11-12	The Spill Response Expo	Birmingham
UK & IRELAND	Sept. 25-26	ISAA Training Days at Castle Archdale	Enniskillen
UK	October 2-4	ITAC Oil Spill Response Forum	Southampton
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
NORWAY	October 14-18	NOSCA Seminar 2019	Frøya
SINGAPORE	October 21-24	International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition	Singapore
UK	Oct. 28 – Nov. 1	Meetings of the IOPC Funds Governing Bodies	London
USA	October 28-31	Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition	New Orleans, LA
SOUTH AFRICA	October 28-31	8th GI WACAF Regional Conference	Cape Town
TUNISIA	Nov. 13-14	Incident Management System Training Workshop	Tunis
UAE	Dec. 8-10	Middle East HSE and Sustainability Week	Dubai
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
USA	May 11-14	International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition	New Orleans, LA
CANADA	June 2-4	43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response.	Edmonton, Alberta
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

Note: Where a dedicated event URL is not available an email address for requesting more info is given

PUBLICATIONS

PEMSEA has released its [annual report for 2018](#), which was a milestone year representing 25 years of PEMSEA's work on Integrated Coastal Management in the Seas of East Asia. Elsevier has published a [PEMSEA paper](#) which describes the evolution of PEMSEA from a regional marine pollution project to an international organization working on integrated management solutions and partnerships and examines future key areas of intervention by PEMSEA. <http://www.pemsea.org/news>

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Alga Chronicle	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	June 2019
AMSA Update	Latest news from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	June 2019
AUSMEPA Bulletin	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Summer 2019
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	June 2019
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	May 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	June 2019
GISEA Quarterly Newsletter	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	April 2019
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Summer 2019
IMO Publishing Newsletter	New and forthcoming IMO publications	June 2019
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	April 2019 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Jan.-Feb. 2019
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	April 2019 issue
Nautical Institute News	News from the Nautical Institute	March, 2019
Navigate Response	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	June 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	Current issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	May 2019
OHMSETT Gazette	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Fall 2018
OSPAR Newsletter	Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources	Spring 2019
PEMSEA Newsletter	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	June, 2019
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	April 3, 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	Current issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	May 1-15, 2019
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	June 1, 2019

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

INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

FINLAND: COAST GUARD FIGHTS OIL SPILL IN TURKU ARCHIPELAGO

June 21 - Authorities are cleaning up an oil spill that occurred off the south-west coast on Thursday evening - The coast guard detected the spill on Thursday evening some 46 kilometres southwest of the island of Utö.

The oil slick, which the coast guard said leaked from a passing vessel, spans over ten kilometres in length. Current estimates put the extent of the spill between 9 and 39 cubic metres.

"During the night we managed to collect floating oil from the sea and cleanup efforts will continue on Friday," said Mikko Hirvi, chief of operations at the West Finland Coast Guard. YLE / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: CONNECTICUT - 'ELEVATED' CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION REMAINS FOLLOWING SPILL INTO FARMINGTON RIVER

June 24 - The finding comes more than two weeks after an accident at a private aircraft hangar sent thousands of gallons of contaminated water into the river.

The release outside Bradley Airport occurred after an accidental alarm pull at a private aircraft hangar mixed hundreds of gallons of firefighting foam with water. WNPR / [Read more](#)

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