

## 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 INFO ON THE EVENTS FEATURED



## THE TICKING TIME BOMB OFF YEMEN COAST



*Editor: Two weeks ago we reported that a UNOPS team of experts anticipated starting before the end of August on their assessment of potential action that can be taken to avert the looming humanitarian and environmental disaster that would arise if the decaying vessel spills its cargo of about 1.1 million barrels of oil. ISCO has been awaiting further news but, so far, has not been able to find out if the assessment mission has been able to begin its work.*

*ISCO is hopeful that obstacles that have delayed progress have now been overcome.*

*On August 26<sup>th</sup> the Atlantic Council published a article by By Rohini Ralby, Dr. David Soud, and Dr. Ian Ralby of IR Consilium, "Onboard the FSO SAFER: A Preview" with further situational analysis and photos of the structural decay. You can read their report at <https://www.atlanticcouncil.org/blogs/energysource/onboard-the-fso-safer-a-preview>*

*Other very recent reports can be found in the [Khaleej Times](#) and [Deviscourse](#). Also see earlier reports in ISCO News, issues 696 and 698.*

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Go to [www.spillcontrol.org](http://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)

# OIL SPILL RESPONSE - BUILDING CARIBBEAN CAPABILITY



August 29 - Developing and maintaining sound capability to respond effectively to marine pollution incidents involving oil, hazardous and noxious substances is a priority in the Caribbean, which is home to many vulnerable ecosystems.

In response, the Curacao-based Regional Marine Pollution Emergency, Information and Training Centre for the Caribbean (REMPEITC-Caribe) organized a transboundary oil spill response exercise in Suriname (27-28 August).

The event brought together response managers from Suriname and their western neighbour Guyana to test their response plans and discuss international coordination in case of an oil spill. The workshop built on previous national contingency planning workshops held in both countries, examining revisions made to both plans.

All these activities are in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular SDG 14 – Life Below Water, as they aim to develop capacity to protect marine and coastal ecosystems. IMO funded the event and also sponsored a female Guyanese representative to attend the event through its IMO Women in Maritime programme. [IMO What's New](#)

## ITOPF ANNUAL REVIEW 2019 & NOTICE OF AGM

August 30 - ITOPF has just published its Annual Review for 2019. This report incorporates Financial Statements for the year ending 20th February 2019 and provides notice of its Annual General Meeting in Shanghai on 5th November 2019.

In his final statement as ITOPF's Chairman, Paddy Rodgers reflects on ITOPF's activities and achievements during the last financial year. Notably, ITOPF celebrated its golden anniversary in 2018 and this was marked with a series of events, publications, sponsorships and awards. Spill activity included a continuation of the significant commitment from ITOPF in response to the tragic loss of MT SANCHI in the South China Sea in January 2018. ITOPF also attended 13 new incidents during the period under review, of which four involved tankers. Ten of the new incidents resulted in the loss of bunker fuel; the remaining three spills involved coal, crude and base oil. ITOPF remains heavily involved in evaluating the quantum of economic and environmental damage arising from such incidents on behalf of shipowners, their insurers and claimants.

After serving for five years as ITOPF's Chairman, Mr Rodgers expressed his greater appreciation of the value of this unique, not-for-profit organisation, adding "Shipowners and their P&I insurers can be reassured that ITOPF is perfectly positioned, with a dynamic workforce, excellent leadership and experienced Board, to face the challenges of the future." [Download the Annual Review](#)

## BP SELLS ALASKA ASSETS TO HILCORP FOR \$5.6 BLN

August 28 - BP agreed to sell its entire business in Alaska to privately-owned Hilcorp Alaska for US\$5.6 billion, ending its 60 years of operations in the state. Under the terms of the agreement, Anchorage, Alaska-based Hilcorp will pay BP \$4.0 billion in the near-term and \$1.6 billion through an earnout thereafter. The deal forms a significant part of BP's plan to divest \$10 billion of assets over 2019 and 2020.

The sale will include BP's entire upstream and midstream business in the state, including BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc., which owns all of BP's upstream oil and gas interests in Alaska, and BP Pipelines (Alaska) Inc.'s interest in the Trans Alaska Pipeline System (TAPS), the oil major said in a statement.

Bob Dudley, BP group chief executive, said: "Alaska has been instrumental in BP's growth and success for well over half a century and our work there has helped shape the careers of many throughout the company. We are extraordinarily proud of the world-class

business we have built, working alongside our partners and the State of Alaska, and the significant contributions it has made to Alaska's economy and America's energy security." Pipeline Oil and Gas News / [Read more](#)

### CASPIAN SEALS POPULATION SHRINKING ALARMINGLY



August 24 - Caspian seals, the sole marine mammals inhabiting the Caspian Sea, have faced a sharp decline in population over the past three decades, pushing the species towards extinction, Davood Mirshekar, deputy chief of the Department of Environment for marine ecosystems, has stated.

Caspian seal is endangered according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN), as recently demonstrated to have declined by more than 90 percent since the start of the 20th century. According to the latest census conducted in 2016, the population of Caspian seals has reached less than 70,000, Mirshekar said, YJC reported on Wednesday. Their population once stood at about one million in the country.

He went on to say that to prevent their extinction, the Caspian Seal Rehabilitation and Research Centers in three littoral states including Iran, Russia and Kazakhstan has been established with the help of NGOs. The species' main habitat is located in Golestan province where the DOE have taken measures to protect the species, he noted.

Sea pollution and diseases are among the factors contributing to the decline in the Caspian Seal, he concluded. Oil spill, industrial waste as well as heavy metals, agricultural pesticides, radioactive waste, wastewater and household waste entering the sea, and noise pollution caused by oil and gas refineries, and excessive boat traffic have pushed the species toward extinction through poisoning them. Tehran Times / [Read more](#)

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

Your editor does his best to monitor a limited number of websites for news (in English language) of interest to the international spill response community but does not have the resources to monitor multiple social media platforms. The message is "If you have news you would like to share with readers of the ISCO Newsletter in over 60 countries (including your own country), you should send it by email to the editor [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)"

### CANADA: GOVERNMENT SUPPORTS LEADING-EDGE OCEAN SCIENCE AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTHERN BRITISH COLUMBIA

August 30 - Canada has the world's longest coastline and is surrounded by three oceans and the health of our oceans matters to all of us. The Government of Canada is dedicated to protecting our oceans and waterways and to keeping them clean, secure and productive for the benefit of all Canadians, now and into the future. We understand the importance of protecting the marine ecosystems that are home to an abundance of ocean life, support more than 350,000 jobs and sustain hundreds of coastal and Indigenous communities. We also recognize that scientific research is fundamental to evidence-based decision-making when planning and carrying out marine conservation efforts.

Under Canada's historic \$1.5 billion Oceans Protection Plan, we are making major investments in science to help protect our coasts and waterways from the impacts of potential oil spills, and to support the collection of data in order to identify changes in coastal environments.

Today, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, announced that the Government of Canada is investing \$1.9 million in scientific research, led by the University of Northern British Columbia (UNBC), to strengthen evidence-based decision-making that will help minimize the environmental impacts of oil spills. The investment will support 11 scientific trainee positions at UNBC.

Oil spill recovery techniques and technologies play a vital role in emergency response operations, but they also generate large amounts of oily waste. This UNBC-led project aims to improve decantation (the mechanical removal of oil from water) and oily waste management strategies for enhanced marine oil spill response. Project researchers are focusing on identifying technological barriers to separating oil from water, in addition to seeking better ways to manage oily waste. The results will help decision-makers improve decantation and oily waste management in Canada. Oil & Gas 360 / [Read more](#)

### OMAN: SHIP OWNERS TO PAY STEEP FINES FOR ENDANGERING OMANI WATERS

August 25 - The owners of ships operating through Omani ports could face a fine of up to OMR5000 for each mistake that endangers Omani waters with pollutants, thanks to a new decision by the Ministry of Transport and Communication. Ministerial Decision 108/2019 contains the executive list for safety and the prevention of ocean pollution at Omani ports, which details transparent safety measures for ships entering Omani ports, methods for prevention of pollution, and fines for infractions by ship owners or captains. Zawya / [Read more](#)

## UK: TIER 2 MARINE ACCREDITATION FOR SERCO AT UK DEVONPORT NAVAL DOCKYARD

August 19 - Following an accreditation assessment visit and successful equipment deployment exercise which was also observed by the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, International Spill Accreditation Scheme (ISAS) are pleased to announce that Serco have been awarded Tier 2 accreditation status under the MCA accreditation scheme for Coastal and Large Estuary. Serco's accreditation specifically relates to oil spill response work carried out in Devonport Naval Dockyard and related waters in the Tamar Estuary." Report received from [ISAS](#)

## USA: CALIFORNIA - STATE LAUNCHES PROBE INTO OIL FIELD SPILLS – INCLUDING ONE THAT'S BEEN FLOWING SINCE 2003



*Photo: A section of the creek bed inundated by an oil spill near a Chevron well in Kern County awaits cleanup in this Aug. 21 image. (California Department of Conservation)*

August 26 - State oil and gas regulators say they're launching an investigation of operations in a Kern County oil field after a series of large, uncontrolled crude petroleum releases near Chevron wells — including one that has continued on and off for more than 16 years and may have spewed out more than 50 million gallons of crude oil.

The state Division of Oil, Gas and Geothermal Resources, known as DOGGR, served Chevron with a notice of violation on Friday, ordering the company to stop major, uncontrolled surface flows at a site called Gauge Setting 5, or GS-5, in the Cymric oil field. Oil has been flowing from the location since March 2003. [KQED / Read more and watch video](#)

## USA: NEW NOAA REPORT ON OPTIMIZING REMOTE SENSING TO CHARACTERIZE OIL SPILL SLICKS

*Photo: Water Mapping sampling "thicker" oil. Gulf of Mexico. Image credit: NOAA.*

August 26 - The [Deepwater Horizon](#) oil spill lasted for 87 days, discharged millions of barrels into the Gulf of Mexico, and posed unprecedented challenges for oil spill experts.

Following the damage assessment some of the "oil on the water" group, a team of remote sensing experts, continued to further develop and validate what they knew about characterizing oil slicks for the largest spill in American history. The cross-agency team identified gaps in knowledge and technology that, if addressed, would advance our ability to use remote sensing data and information to inform future responses and assessments.

This report to the [Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement \(BSEE\)](#) summarizes and builds upon lessons learned during Deepwater Horizon and aims to help fill those gaps. It describes our efforts to field-validate remote sensing data and information by collecting data on the water, remotely from the air, and from space, at the same time to allow cross-comparison and validation to provide the greatest accuracy from remote sensing estimates.

The authors tested their tools in labs, [in large oil testing tank facilities](#), and in the field, pioneering new methods and improving existing ones. These tools will allow experts to more accurately measure and characterize the thickness of surface oil slicks in the marine environment.

With this information, responders can identify areas of thick oil that can be collected, burned, or dispersed and to better quantify the volume of oil spilled. This sound science will help oil spill experts respond better, and provide more comprehensive damage assessments to hold polluters accountable.



This research effort was led by OR&R Chief Scientist Dr. Lisa DiPinto and scientist George Graettinger and included many experts from NOAA, the Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Coast Guard, academia, and the private sector.

NOAA continues to conduct collaborative follow-on research involving three-dimensional water column characterization of oil in the water column. We will continue to advance our ability to use remote platforms and sensors to characterize oil in the environment in support of oil spill responses and assessments.

[The full report is available online at BSEE.gov.](#)

[The data is available in the NOAA Common Operational Picture ERMA \(Environmental Response Management Application\).](#)

For further information, contact [Lisa.Dipinto@noaa.gov](mailto:Lisa.Dipinto@noaa.gov). [NOAA OR&R](#) [Thanks to Ed Levine, FISCO]

## **USA: ALASKA - COAST GUARD TO CONDUCT POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE IN KETCHIKAN**

August 27 - **Coast Guard Sector Juneau** personnel will conduct an oil spill response exercise in Ketchikan, Thursday.

Representatives from the Coast Guard, **Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation**, Southeast Alaska Petroleum Response Organization and Western Canadian Marine Response Corporation will participate in the exercise, where an exclusion boom will be deployed in Ward Cove and Whipple Creek.

The purpose of the exercise is to practice the on-water recovery of free oil within the Tongass Narrows with the deployment of boom around environmentally sensitive areas in accordance with prescribed geographic response strategies contained in the Southeast Alaska Area Contingency Plan. [Alaska Native News / Read more](#)

## **USA: NORTH DAKOTA PLEDGES IMPROVEMENT TO SPILL REPORTING SITE**

August 27 - North Dakota’s Health Department for the second time this decade is pledging to provide easily accessible information on oilfield and agriculture-related spills, a move that comes after a liquid natural gas pipeline leak that was much bigger than publicly reported and could take another decade to clean up.

According to records obtained by The Associated Press, the department logged more than 8,000 “reported releases” since 2014 but did not make public updates on a spill’s severity or its cleanup status. [AP News / Read more](#)

## **USA: USCG INCREASES LIMITS OF LIABILITY FOR SHIPS UNDER OPA 90**

August 27 - The US Oil Pollution Act 1990 (OPA 90) provides for an adjustment of the limits of liability according to increase in Consumer Price Index (CPI) not less than every three years. On 13 August 2019, the USCG published a final rule to increase limits of liability for vessels under OPA 90.

### **Schedule of Limits**

<b>Previous Limit of Liability</b>	<b>New Limit of Liability</b>
<p><b>a) Tank Vessel greater than 3,000GT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-Hull Tanker The greater of US\$3,500 per GT or US\$25,845,600.</li> <li>• Double-Hull Tanker The greater of US\$2,200 per GT or US\$18,796,800.</li> </ul>	<p><b>a) Tank Vessel greater than 3,000GT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-Hull Tanker The greater of US\$3,700 per GT or US\$27,422,200.</li> <li>• Double-Hull Tanker The greater of US\$2,300 per GT or US\$19,943,400.</li> </ul>
<p><b>b) Tank Vessel less than or equal to 3,000GT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-Hull Tanker The greater of US\$3,500 per GT or US\$7,048,800.</li> <li>• Double-Hull Tanker The greater of US\$2,200 per GT or US\$4,699,200.</li> </ul>	<p><b>b) Tank Vessel less than or equal to 3,000GT:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Single-Hull Tanker The greater of US\$3,700 per GT or US\$7,478,800.</li> <li>• Double-Hull Tanker The greater of US\$2,300 per GT or US\$4,985,900.</li> </ul>
<p><b>c) Any Other Vessel:</b> The greater of US\$1,100 per GT or US\$939,800.</p>	<p><b>c) Any Other Vessel:</b> The greater of US\$1,200 per GT or US\$997,100.</p>

Safety4Sea / [Read more](#)

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

News from ISCO Members – Your editor welcomes news from members. Please ensure that ISCO is on your mailing list for your press releases and company newsletters. Send your news to [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

### UKSPILL AND ISAS AT CONTAMINATION EXPO, NEC 11-12 SEPTEMBER

August 19 - The UKSpill stand at the Contamination Expo this year will feature our new development with ISAS. Free Tickets for the event can be obtained by clicking on [www.contaminationexpo.com](http://www.contaminationexpo.com)

Message from the Organisers Prysm - As many of you might know, the Contamination Expo is just around the corner, and we are excited to announce that UKSpill is partnering with the show which takes place on the 11th & 12th of September, at the NEC, Birmingham.

The expo is Europe's leading event for contamination and geotechnical professionals and welcomes over 6,000 environmental and engineering professionals to the NEC for two days of educational seminars presented by 120 industry leading speakers.

Topics covered include 'The evolution of oil spill monitoring', 'A new perspective on hazardous materials spills and response' and 'Let humanity be part of the solution without getting in the way of professionals'.

Tickets are completely free and give you unlimited access to the co-located shows including RWM, Future Resource Expo, Flood Expo, and the Fastener Exhibition and Conference. [UK Spill Members News](#)

### SWIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE DESIGN NEW TRAINING COURSE

August 26 – Swire Emergency Response has designed a new course that we will be run in Singapore between the 11th and 13th September. See details under TRAINING on Page 8.

### SWIRE PACIFIC OFFSHORE (SPO) ANNOUNCES THE LAUNCH OF ITS NEW CORPORATE WEBSITE

August 28 - Swire Pacific Offshore (SPO) is pleased to announce the launch of its new corporate website, [www.swirespo.com](http://www.swirespo.com). Headquartered in Singapore, SPO is one of the key players in the offshore industry and owns more than 70 vessels. The website aims to be a one-stop resource portal to learn more SPO's corporate ethos, the wide range of services and its employees.

The new domain name, [www.swirespo.com](http://www.swirespo.com) replaces the former one, [www.swire.com.sg](http://www.swire.com.sg) and seeks to reflect the company's global nature and is well-aligned with other companies in the Swire group of companies. Users will see the distinct changes made to the design, navigation and contents. The homepage offers a snapshot of key information about SPO's vessels, services, employees with interactive infographics, snippets, quotes and profile SPO as a market leader. In the [Services & Fleet](#) segment, visitors can gain a better understanding of various types and classes of vessels in the diverse fleet, including the Anchor Handling Tug Supply Vessels (AHTS), Platform Supply Vessels (PSVs), Windfarm Installation Vessels (WIVs), Multiple-purpose Subsea Vessels (MPSVs), Accommodation Barges, Seismic Survey Vessels and the High Speed Crew Catamaran. The new in-built flexible search function allows users to view vessels by types and to define their search for a customised search.

Users can also learn more about SPO's subsidiary companies including Swire Seabed, Swire Blue Ocean and Swire Emergency Response and the notable projects that they have undertaken. SPO celebrates its 44<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. [Our History](#) segment provides a timeline displaying milestones and accolades that the company has achieved over the years. In [Our Commitment](#) and [Sustainable Development \(SD\)](#) segments, users will gain insights into SPO's focus areas, including Quality, Health, Safety, Security & Environment (QHSE), Training & Development and SD among others.

There are also stories profiling our employees and the work they do in [Meet our People](#) and [Our Stories](#). The [Media Gallery](#) features a collection of vessel photographs, employee engagement programmes and community partnerships. The website incorporates SPO's first YouTube channel and corporate videos profiling SPO leaders as they share more about SPO's corporate ethos and services. Other videos include SPO's flagship training centre, [Swire Marine Training Centre \(SMTC\)](#) and [Ghana Marine Training Centre \(GMTC\)](#), vessel naming ceremonies and SD programmes, just to name a few. Visitors to the website are encouraged to explore the website and stay tuned to SPO's LinkedIn corporate page for quizzes to win prizes.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### MEMBRANE TO REMOVE OIL AND DYES FROM INDUSTRIAL WASTE WATER

August 14 - Expanding the range of water treatment technologies, scientists from Indian Institute of Technology-Guwahati have developed a membrane that promises to help simultaneously remove oil and dyes from industrial and other wastes.

Amid the looming water crisis, deterioration of quality of river waters due to discharge of effluents from industries is also a major concern in India. As per the reports of Central Pollution Control Board, river Ganga alone receives 500 million litres of toxic waste water from 764 industries, affecting the lives of millions who reside along its bank and use its water for their daily needs. The tale is no different for other Indian rivers where high pollution levels affect public health and disrupt the ecosystem of the water bodies.

“Water pollution caused by contamination from water soluble dye and oil spill accidents are of major concerns due to their severe impact on water-ecosystem”, says Dr. Uttam Manna, leader of research team and Assistant Professor at IIT-Guwahati, while speaking to India Science Wire.

In their new work, Scientists led by Dr. Uttam Manna have sought to tackle the problem by developing a membrane using graphene oxide, cotton fibre and dopamine, an organic chemical, which is more known for its functions as a hormone and a neurotransmitter in human body.

For developing the membrane, scientists first synthesized molecules of poly-dopamine. They then deposited them on the surface of cotton fibers and subsequently coated the combo with graphene oxide. The Hindu / [Read more](#)

### IIT GUWAHATI RESEARCHERS DEVELOP LOTUS LEAF-INSPIRED DEVICE TO SEPARATE OIL FROM WATER

August 19 - Researchers at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Guwahati have developed a device that can continuously separate oil from water by strategic use of fish-scale and lotus-leaf inspired membranes.

The team developed the system of materials by combining the lotus leaf-inspired super-water repellence and fish scale-mimicked underwater super-oil repellence.

The membranes that are super-water repellent in air, and super oil-repellent in water, have been shown to separate complex mixtures of oil and water at practically relevant settings, according to the journal ACS Sustainable Chemistry & Engineering.

Oil-water separation is also important in environmental applications like oil spill management.

The team then developed a prototype of oil-water separation device using these membranes so that the separated oil and water were simultaneously collected in different containers.

Scientists have studied the surface structures of lotus leaves and fish scales to understand what gives them their superhydrophobicity (super-water repellence) and superoleophobicity (super-oil repellence), so that these structures can be replicated artificially for oil-water separation applications. EdexLive / [Read more](#)

### STUDY EXPLAINS HOW OIL SPILLS CAN INITIATE HARMFUL ALGAL BLOOMS

August 20 - Scientists conducted field and laboratory experiments using oil and Corexit dispersant to uncover the reasons harmful algal blooms, also known as Red Tides, can occur after an oil spill. They found that the presence of chemically-dispersed oil reduced the number of large protozoans (tintinnids and oligotrich ciliates that graze on dinoflagellates) which in turn was associated with an increase in bloom-forming dinoflagellates. The disruption in the predator-prey controls that normally function in plankton food webs could allow dinoflagellates to grow and potentially form harmful algal blooms when there are no growth-limiting factors (i.e. nutrients).

The authors published their study in *Environmental Science & Technology*: **Oil spills and dispersants can cause the initiation of potentially harmful dinoflagellate blooms (“Red Tides”)**. Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative / [Read more](#)

### TO STOP TRANSFORMERS FROM EXPLODING, MAKE THEIR TANKS FLEXIBLE



August 23 - For the most part, transformers—which help power companies transmit electricity efficiently by altering voltages—are relatively safe. Fewer than one percent explode—but those explosions can be deadly, and result in flying projectiles, toxic fires, or oil spills.

Transformers rupture due to a buildup of excess pressure in the tank in which they are encased, which is usually filled with mineral oil that acts as a coolant. Contaminants within the oil, the degradation of transformer parts, and electrical storms can all cause a fault, called an internal arc, that results in a rapid release of energy.

“When you have an arc inside the transformer, it heats up the oil and the oil burns to create a gas, which causes high pressure,” explains Samuel Brodeur, a senior mechanical engineer at the power and technology firm ABB, who is based in Varennes, Canada. Conventional tank designs are limited in their capacity to withstand such fault energies—which in severe cases, can reach as high as 150 megajoules (MJ), the

equivalent of 150 sticks of dynamite—and so Brodeur and his colleagues have spent the past seven years working to devise a stronger, more resilient transformer tank.

Their solution, described in a [paper](#) published 12 June in *IEEE Transactions on Power Delivery*, is called **TXpand**. The idea is startlingly simple: design a tank that’s flexible enough to deform to absorb all that extra pressure without rupturing.

Spectrum IEEE / [Read more and watch video](#)

## TRAINING

### SWIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE DESIGN NEW TRAINING COURSE

August 26 - Swire Emergency Response (SER) is pleased to announce the introduction of a new three-day course titled *Emergency Response and Crisis Management for the Shipping/Energy Industry*.

The first course is scheduled to commence from 11 to 13 September 2019 at Swire Marine Training Centre (SMTTC), SPO's flagship training centre located in Loyang, Singapore.

This course is ideal for any maritime and shipping personnel involved in shore-based emergency response, crisis management, communications and business resilience teams tasked with supporting affected personnel, casualties and key stakeholders. The course is designed to meet the requirements of **Element 11 (Emergency Response and Contingency Planning)** of the **Tanker Management and Self-assessment Programme**.

**Subjects covered in the course include:**

1. Planning and preparedness
2. The Emergency Response and Crisis Management (ERCM) Process
3. Stakeholder engagement
4. Business resilience
5. Evidence gathering
6. Crisis communication
7. Relative response
8. Social media and media management
9. Incident termination

The course will be delivered by highly-qualified SER trainers, experienced in ERCM, through formal presentations, group discussions, table-top exercises and case studies.

For more information or to register as a delegate please contact [Simon.Valentine@swirespo.com](mailto:Simon.Valentine@swirespo.com)

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### WHAT IS BS7959 AND WHY IS IT IMPORTANT WHEN IT COMES TO THE SELECTION OF ABSORBENT MATERIALS?

BS7959 is the British Standard for materials used for the control of liquid spillages. It is split into three sections to govern the manufacture of sorbent products and equipment for the determination of sorbency (BS7959-1), determination of water repellency (BS7959-2) and colour coding of sorbent materials (BS7959-3). Using a manufacturer whose products meet these standards will ensure that your spill containment and clean-up process are more efficient and effective and can help to manage risks associated with the liquids your business uses.

BS7959-1 measures the sorbency of a product in terms of a material in litres/kg, with slightly different preparation depending on whether the product is Type I or Type III. The test liquid can be any one, or any combination, of diesel fuel, hydraulic oil, motor oil, xylene or deionised water.

BS7959-2 – determines the water repellency/buoyancy of hydrophobic materials by measuring the time it takes for a product to sink or exhibit water absorption/logging when placed in a bath of tap water at room temperature, assessed over a period of at least eight hours.

BS7959-3 – refers to the colour coding of sorbent materials assessing the colour, marking, labelling and packaging of the products to ensure that the information supplied is correct.

There are different sorbents to deal with spills of different liquids. All fluids have different properties in terms of viscosity and absorbency, and therefore, there cannot be a 'one sorbent fits all' solution. Understanding the liquids you use and which absorbents will be required in a clean-up scenario is important if your containment and removal of spilled liquids are to be effective, which is why the colour coding is important. By setting an industry standard, the correct spill clean-up equipment can be quickly and easily identified in an emergency situation. Using sorbent materials that have been manufactured to BS7959 will ensure that users are able to deal with their spill scenarios as they will have the correct absorbents for the liquids they use and will have been able to calculate the correct quantities that are needed. NPS / [Read more](#)

## EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

### PAJ INVITES TENDERS FOR PURCHASE OF EQUIPMENT DISPOSALS

August 2019 - Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ) has decided to dispose of some of the oil spill response equipment that was acquired in the program of PAJ's "Major Oil Spill Response program".

PAJ seeks applicants who wish to purchase the equipment. [More info](#)



## CONTRACTS & TENDERS

### OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

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

## JOB VACANCIES

### JOB OPENING WITH OSRL IN SOUTHAMPTON, UK

We are looking for someone with experience in the field of oiled wildlife response with a proven track record in project management, training and financial budgeting commensurate with this new role. The post will include international travel and will be located at our UK base in Southampton on the south coast.

If you think you have the skills, attitude and expertise to join us, then please send your CV and a covering letter to [hr@oilspillresponse.com](mailto:hr@oilspillresponse.com) by Monday September 16th. Electronic interviews will be conducted shortly after the closing date.

[More details](#)

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### Clean Gulf in New Orleans – October 28-31 - HAUNTED GHOSTS & SPIRITS TOUR

The French Quarter of New Orleans is filled with colorful characters who lived, died and have chosen to remain in this historic city. Attendees will meet in the French Quarter for a group tour of the 300 year old European neighborhood. Your tour guide will stop along the route to show off some haunts and to tell the rich, historic secrets of the long departed. It's a can't miss, Halloween week networking event! <http://2019.cleangulf.org>

### 10th Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response – London, 11th & 12th September

The program now contains further details of each presentation including title and bullet points highlighting the main themes of each speaker. [Download the updated programme](https://www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/maritime-salvage-casualty-response/) [https://www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/maritime-salvage-casualty-response//](https://www.wplgroup.com/aci/event/maritime-salvage-casualty-response/)

## RESPONSE EVENTS DURING SEPTEMBER 2019 (UPDATED)

### NEW ZEALAND: ECOFORUM CONFERENCE 2019

Auckland, September 3-5. Ecoforum is a broad-based environment conference and exhibition that focuses on contaminated land assessment, management and remediation. [More info](#)

### UK: SPE OFFSHORE EUROPE CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Aberdeen, September 3-6. SPE Offshore Europe is recognised by offshore E&P professionals as Europe's leading E&P event. Attending will ensure you are up to date with the most significant technologies and can connect with a global network of 36,000+ attendees. [More info](#)

### NIGERIA: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON OIL SPILL LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION

Lagos, September 10-12. National Workshop on Liability & Compensation in case of oil spill. [More info](#)

### GREECE: MEETING OF THE MAP FOCAL POINTS

Athens, September 10-13. Mediterranean Action Plan Focal Points Meeting. [More info](#)

### UK: MARITIME SALVAGE & CASUALTY RESPONSE CONFERENCE

London, September 11-12. The two day conference will once again bring together senior executives and experts from salvage companies, technology providers, P&I Clubs, law firms and global regulators to discuss the latest challenges and developments making an impact on the industry. [More info](#)

### UK: THE SPILL RESPONSE EXPO

Birmingham, September 11-12. The Spill Response Expo is one of seven specialist shows at the Contamination Expo Series that is designed to further the prevention, detection and management of chemical spills on water and on land. [More info](#)

### UK & IRELAND: ISAA TRAINING DAYS AT CASTLE ARCHDALE

Two days of technical presentations and practical hands-on exercises on inland spill response. [More info](#)

## RESPONSE EVENTS DURING SEPTEMBER 2019 (CONTINUED)

### BAHREIN: GLOBAL HSE CONFERENCE 2019

Bahrein, September 30–October 1. HSE professional from all across the globe will converge their knowledge to lead the future of HSE practices. The event will witness thought leaders of the industry who will impart knowledge sessions on the sustainable business practices underlining the socio-economic excellence. [More info](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS - OCTOBER 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
<b>For more information click on Title of Event</b>			
UK	October 2-4	<a href="#">ITAC Oil Spill Response Forum</a>	Southampton
CROATIA	October 2-5	<a href="#">Pollution Response Challenges in the Mediterranean Conference</a>	Split
USA	October 7-10	<a href="#">Elastec's Fall 2019 River Spill Workshop</a>	Carmi, IL
NORWAY	October 14-18	<a href="#">NOSCA Seminar 2019</a>	Frøya
UAE	October 15-17	<a href="#">RECSO Envirospill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Abu Dhabi
BAHREIN	October 20-21	<a href="#">Int'l Oil Spill Response &amp; Environmental Protection Congress &amp; Exhibition</a>	Manama
SINGAPORE	October 21-24	<a href="#">International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition</a>	Singapore
UK	Oct. 28 – Nov. 1	<a href="#">Meetings of the IOPC Funds Governing Bodies</a>	London
USA	October 28-31	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition</a>	New Orleans, LA
SOUTH AFRICA	October 28-31	<a href="#">8th GI WACAF Regional Conference</a>	Cape Town
CANADA	October 29-31	<a href="#">Arctic Shipping Forum North America</a>	Montreal
TUNISIA	Nov. 13-14	<a href="#">Incident Management System Training Workshop</a>	Tunis
FRANCE	November 21	Cedre Technical Day	Brest
UAE	Dec. 8-10	<a href="#">Middle East HSE and Sustainability Week</a>	Dubai
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
USA	May 11-14	<a href="#">International Oil Spill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	New Orleans, LA
CANADA	June 2-4	43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response.	Edmonton, Alberta
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
NETHERLANDS	March 22-26	Interspill Conference & Exhibition	Amsterdam
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

Note: If a URL link (underlined in blue ink) is not yet available, one will be given in a later issue of this Newsletter

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

<a href="#">Alga Chronicle</a>	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	August 2019
<a href="#">AMSA Update</a>	Latest news from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
<a href="#">ATRAC Newsletter</a>	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	June 2019
<a href="#">AUSMEPA Bulletin</a>	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Winter 2019
<a href="#">BIMCO Bulletin</a>	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	June 2019
<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
<a href="#">Bow Wave</a>	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	May 2019
<a href="#">Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter</a>	News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria	December 2018
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	August 2019
<a href="#">GEF Newsletter</a>	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	July 2019
<a href="#">GISEA Quarterly Newsletter</a>	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	Q 2 2019
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Summer 2019
<a href="#">IMO Publishing Newsletter</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	August 2019
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	July 2019 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Jan.-Feb. 2019
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	April 2019 issue
<a href="#">Nautical Institute News</a>	News from the Nautical Institute	March, 2019
<a href="#">Navigate Response</a>	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	June 2019
<a href="#">NOAA OR&amp;R</a>	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
<a href="#">Oceanbuzz</a>	Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry	Current issue
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	July 2019

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

<a href="#">OHMSETT Gazette</a>	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Fall 2018
<a href="#">OSPAR Newsletter</a>	Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources	Spring 2019
<a href="#">PEMSEA Newsletter</a>	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	June, 2019
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	April 3, 2019
<a href="#">Safe Seas, Clean Seas</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	July 2018 issue
<a href="#">Salvage World</a>	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Current issue
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	July 1-15, 2019
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	Sept. 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)

### CANADA: OIL SPILLED INTO OCEAN DURING POWER OUTAGE AT HIBERNIA PLATFORM

August 18 - Production on the Hibernia platform has been shutdown due to an oil spill for the second time in a month. This is the third spill in the province within the last year. Aerial surveillance of the area on Sunday morning estimated the size of the slick to be about four nautical miles by one nautical mile and approximately 2,200 litres of oil.

There are vessels on-site participating in spill response as well as monitoring wildlife. VOCM / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group] Related report at [Plant.Ca](#)

### USA: SOUTH CAROLINA - COAST GUARD INVESTIGATING OVERTURNED SHRIMP BOAT IN McCLELLANVILLE

August 18 - McClellanville Consolidated Fire District responded to a shrimp boat that sank under water at the McClellanville Dock on Oak St has fuel leaking into Jeremy Creek.

Responders arrived to the 43-foot shrimping vessel the “Miss Addie” completely under water leaking oil and fuel. The US Coast Guard, and South Carolina DNR were notified of the incident and responded. Live5News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### CANADA: BONTERRA HAS 70 WORKERS CLEANING UP OIL-SPILL SITE IN ALBERTA CREEK

August 18 - Bonterra Energy Corp. says it has 70 workers cleaning up the site of an oil emulsion leak from a pipeline into a creek that feeds the North Saskatchewan River in west central Alberta.

In an update posted on its website Monday, the Calgary-based oil and gas producer says clean up and recovery of the saltwater-and-oil leak discovered last Thursday will continue until “all recoverable fluid has been retrieved,” which is expected to take about three weeks. The company says the pipeline severed due to the collapse of a creek bank following flooding at Washout Creek, 18 kilometres south of Drayton Valley.

It says the release of an estimated 250 barrels or 40,000 litres of liquid was suspected due to an “imbalance” in the pipeline and an investigation led to the site of a rupture about five hours later.

Bonterra says it has deployed about 4,000 metres of booms at multiple locations on the creek to contain and recover released fluids with the use of vacuum units, and it plans to use helicopters with barrel skimmers at inaccessible locations. OHS / [Read more](#) Related reports in [The Star](#) and [Global News](#)

### USA: LOUISIANA - CORRECTION: OIL SPILL-PLANNED BURN STORY

August 22 - In a story Aug. 20 about an oil spill in Plaquemines Parish, The Associated Press reported erroneously that a firebreak would be dug around an area where a controlled burn would be conducted. A marsh firebreak is not dug. It's created by driving a boat around the area to temporarily push plants down into the water. The AP also misidentified the pipeline in question as coming from a single well. The Coast Guard described it Wednesday as carrying oil or gas from multiple wells to a production facility. San Francisco Chronicle / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### SOUTH AFRICA: RIVERS DIE AFTER OIL, CHEMICAL SPILL

August 23 - Vukani Mkhize was fishing in the Umgeni River, just below its point of confluence with the Msunduzi River, last Tuesday, when he realised that something had gone very, very wrong. “The water turned like milk. There was a smell and then the fish started jumping out of the water. Then they started dying, right there,” said Mkhize, who fishes in the Umgeni for a living.



*Photo: Fisherman Vukani Mkhize has lost his income after the Willowton Oil spill into the Msunduzi River. (Rogan Ward)*

Every day he has been greeted by the sight and stench of dead fish, killed by the spill of 1.6-million litres of vegetable oil and caustic soda from Willowton Oils in Pietermaritzburg into the Msunduzi River after holding tanks at the factory collapsed. At Mkhambathini (formerly known as Camperdown), residents complained that livestock had become ill after drinking contaminated water in the hours immediately after the spill.

David Sweidan, the head of marketing at Willowton's holding company, Sunfoil, said the company was doing "everything possible" to remediate the affected environment and assist people it had affected. "We deeply

regret the accident ... the cause of which is currently under investigation."

The company had appointed two spill response teams from Spilltech and Drizit who had been working with a 100-member clean-up team since last Tuesday. They had managed to remove most of the oil and caustic soda from the river and were now retrieving the dead fish, Sweidan said. They had also appointed a geohydrologist, a toxicologist and a river health specialist who were working with relevant authorities in the affected areas and others beyond them. Mail & Guardian / [Read more](#)

### **USA: NEW YORK - HAZMAT INCIDENT CLOSES PEEKSKILL HOLLOW ROAD**

August 20 - An overturned tank truck closed Peekskill Hollow Road for 21 hours Monday-Tuesday as crews worked to contain fluid spills and right the vehicle. About 3,300 gallons of asphalt emulsion spilled into the stream, according to the Putnam County Sheriff's Office. Patch / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### **UK: ROKER 'OIL SPILL': BLACK SUBSTANCE IN THE SEA BETWEEN WHITLEY BAY AND SEABURN NOT OIL, OFFICIALS SAY**

August 25 - A spokesperson for the Maritime and Coast Agency, which handles marine pollution, said: "At 8.30am on Sunday 25th August, The Maritime and Coastguard Agency, (MCA) received reports of a brown/black substance floating on the sea surface between Cullercoats and Hartlepool.

"The MCA Counter Pollution Team requested an aerial survey of the area, which was overflown this afternoon by the MCA counter pollution surveillance aircraft. "The Maritime and Coast Agency lead on marine pollution and they are undertaking an investigation to find out more details of what happened. "This includes using a drone to assess the extent of the pollution and exact locations. Our officers are supporting by collecting samples of the pollutant to allow them to be analysed. Chronicle Live / [Read more](#)

### **BRAZIL: FPSO HULL CRACKS, CAMPOS BASIN, BRAZIL**

August 27 - Cracks developed in FPSO CIDADE DO RIO DE JANEIRO hull, according to FPSO operator MODEC press-release dated Aug 26. FPSO wasn't operational since last year, soon to be relocated from Campos Basin oil field, some 70 nm off Brazilian coast. All 54 personnel left tanker on Aug 23, not clear if it was evacuation caused by cracks, or preparations for towage. About a ton of oil residues leaked through cracks, not the end of the world or "ecological disaster". Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, [ynd@odin.tc](mailto:ynd@odin.tc)] Related report in [Offshore Energy Today](#)

### **INDIA: ODISHA BEGINS PROCESS TO EXTRACT OIL FROM GROUNDED SHIP IN CHILIKA**

August 28 - The Odisha government on August 28 begun the process of pumping out the oil stored in the Malaysian cargo ship Jin Hwa 32, that ran aground in Odisha's Chilika lake at Khirisahi on August 7. "According to reports, the ship has a stock of 30,000 litres of diesel, 1,000 litres of lubricant and 200 litres of hydraulic oil. We apprehend that in the unfortunate event of an oil spill or leakage, the oil will be carried by sea currents inside the eco-sensitive Chilika lake through its sea mouth". Down to Earth / [Read more](#)

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