

## 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



## WEST MOPOCO PROJECT WEBSITE AND NEWSLETTER LAUNCHED



**Mediterranean  
Marine Oil & HNS  
Pollution  
Cooperation**

September 13 - In the framework of the Project **Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo)**, co-financed by the European Commission to run during 2019-2020, REMPEC is glad to announce that the **Website of the West MOPoCo Project**, is now live at the following address: <http://www.westmopoco.rempec.org>.

The Website provides detailed information on the project, its activities, related news and events and give access to downloadable material prepared under the project.

West MOPoCo supports Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia in collaboration with Monaco in strengthening their cooperation in the field of preparedness for and response to oil and Highly Noxious Substances (HNS) marine pollution and in improving the quality and interoperability of their response capacities.

The Project is implemented through an inter-regional effort, including the participation of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Bonn Agreement for the North Sea and

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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)

the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) for the Baltic Sea. The project benefits from the technical support of expert partner institutions such as Cedre, ITOPF and the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA).

To know more about the project and follow its progress, consult the [First West MOPoCo Newsletter](#) and visit the [West MOPoCo website](#) regularly updated by the West MOPoCo Team

## AS SHIPWRECKS RUST, OIL SPILLS ARE IMMINENT

**After decades at the bottom of the sea, thousands of corroded Second World War wrecks threaten to spill their oil into the South Pacific.**

September 16 - The sunken remains of thousands of ships litter the Pacific Ocean's depths—relics of the Second World War. Far from benign markers of history, these wrecks pose a pressing problem: every day brings them closer to spilling the oil they still carry.

Chuuk Lagoon, a natural harbor in the Federated States of Micronesia, contains a particularly high concentration of these potential pollutants. During the war, Japan used the site as a naval base, but in 1944, Allied forces bombed the lagoon leaving hundreds of wrecks scattered across an area about the size of the Hawaiian island of Maui.

After rusting away for 75 years, Chuuk Lagoon's wrecks are wearing thin. "We can actually see oil seeping from some of the shipwrecks," says Ian MacLeod, a now-retired shipwreck conservator from the Western Australian Museum. Researchers and divers frequently report black pearls of oil bubbling up from the vessels, creating greasy slicks at the water's surface.

From 2002 to 2015, MacLeod led corrosion studies on the wrecks. Many were nearing collapse. "The situation is likely to become critical in the next four or five years," he says. A typhoon could break open the ships' brittle fuel tanks, unleashing much larger volumes of oil. Chuuk Lagoon is an example of a global problem—around the world, more than 8,000 shipwrecks threaten to release their remaining oil. Hakai Magazine / [Continue reading this article](#).

## IOPC FUNDS TO HOLD INDUCTION COURSE IN ADVANCE OF 2019 MEETING

September 19 - The Director has the pleasure to announce that the IOPC Funds will hold an Induction Course for delegates of 1992 Fund Member States on Friday, 18 October 2019, from 9.30 am to 2.30 pm, at the Funds' headquarters in London. Following the successful annual IOPC Funds' Short Course (a week-long comprehensive training course) and having received positive feedback on the first Induction Course held in 2017, the Secretariat has experienced a continued demand from Member States to hold training specifically aimed at providing delegates with an insight into the functioning of the organisations.

The 2019 Induction Course is open to all interested delegates; however, it is designed in particular to benefit those who are either new to the IOPC Funds or have little prior knowledge of the organisations. The aim of the course is to provide a better understanding of the interaction between a Member State and the IOPC Funds in the event of an oil spill.

The half-day course is structured in two parts. The first part will briefly introduce participants to the international liability and compensation regime and cover the role of the IOPC Funds, the role of the affected Member State and the entire process from an incident first occurring to the first claim being paid. It will also cover the role of the State's delegation in London and the assistance that can be provided to the State by the IOPC Funds both during and after the incident, for example, the dispatch of experts on the scene of the spill, the establishment of a local claims office and what to expect from court proceedings.

The second part of the course is a networking luncheon for all participants, providing an opportunity in a more informal setting to ask the Secretariat questions and discuss any areas of particular interest not covered during the course. Delegates interested in participating in the Induction Course are kindly requested to complete the attached Registration Form and send it via email to [conference@iopcfunds.org](mailto:conference@iopcfunds.org) by Friday, 11 October 2019. Please note that due to the high level of demand, places are limited and may be restricted to one place per Member State. Places will be allocated on a first come, first served basis, so delegates are advised to register early. <https://www.iopcfunds.org/>

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 (probably including your own country), you should send it by email to the editor [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

### ANGOLA: TERRA DRONE ANGOLA USES UAV IN OFFSHORE MOCK OIL SPILL RESPONSE

September 19 - [Terra Drone Angola](#), a group company of the world’s leading provider of industrial drone solutions [Terra Drone Corporation](#), has successfully demonstrated at an offshore oil field in Angola how drones can be used as a surveillance and reconnaissance tool for oil spill incidents. The pilot project was conducted for a major oil and gas operator in West Africa.

Offshore oil spills are a cause of great concern not only because of the economic losses but also because of their adverse impact on the environment and marine ecosystem. They need to be handled quickly and effectively. To launch an effective response to oil spills, rapid preliminary survey assessments are necessary. For this, unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) prove to be safer, faster, and cheaper than the traditional method of using helicopters or manned flight operations. The decision-making process for key stakeholders becomes more efficient with swift access to data.

Further, drones can be kept in the air for as long as required – only needing to land to replace batteries when depleted. They are also a much more viable option logistically because a team of just two operators can conduct UAV flight operations for up to 10 hours each day.

In the exercise conducted by Terra Drone Angola, environmentally-friendly colored dye was released at the surface of the sea to simulate an oil spill. To help the energy company identify the location of the simulated oil spill and assess the surface area of the spill, an octocopter fitted with an RGB camera and polarizing filter was used. Six flights were flown to attempt locating and sizing the simulated spill and showcase how drones can be used to collect crucial information in an emergency response situation. Terra Drone / [Read more](#)

### GUYANA: U.S. TO CONTINUE HELPING GUYANA WITH OIL SPILL RESPONSE PLAN



*Photo: Dr Mark Bynoe delivering his address (Department of Public Information photo)*

September 17 - Commending government’s efforts to develop an oil spill response plan as the country is poised to become one of the most active offshore oil exploration and production (E&P) centres in the region, a United States (U.S.) government official yesterday pledged continued assistance.

“Over the past year, the Department of State and U.S. Coast Guard have been working with Guyana’s Department of Energy and its Civil Defence Commission to assist with the development of its National Oil Spill Contingency Plan,” U.S. State Department Desk Officer Seth Wikas yesterday said during the start of a two-day conference enhancing offshore E&P Regional Capacity with a focus on operational and environmental safeguards at the Marriott Hotel, Georgetown. Stabroek News / [Read more](#)

### KUWAIT: HERE COMES THE TECHNICALLY ADVANCED OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSEL

September 19 - Turkish group Uzmar Shipyard has started constructing a large multipurpose offshore oil recovery, support and towing vessel for Middle East operations, reports Riviera Maritime Media.

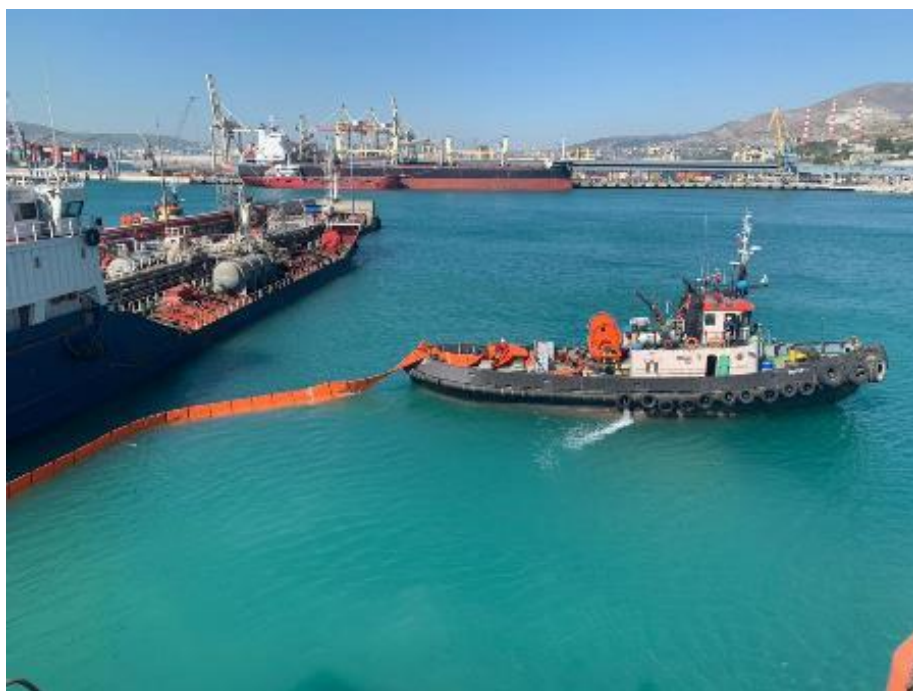
This is the largest Robert Allan-designed vessel ever to be built in Turkey and will be a significant addition to the fleet. The 60-m, NB125 vessel will be used by Kuwait Oil Co (KOC) for towage and oil spill recovery in national ports and the Middle East Gulf with completion expected in Q4 2020.

This vessel will be built with an azimuth stern drive (ASD) system to a Robert Allan RAmpage 6000 design.

Construction commenced with a steel cutting ceremony in Kocaeli, Turkey, on 2 September, attended by senior executives and engineers from Uzmar and KOC. This RAmpage 6000 vessel will have dynamic positioning with a DP (AM) notation from Lloyd’s Register. Its propulsion for the ASD will come from two medium-speed engines. It will be equipped for towing services, area surveillance, offshore fire-fighting, logistics support duties and search and rescue in the area around Kuwait and in international waters. MFAME/ [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dan Sheehan Hon.FISCO, member of ISCO Executive Committee]



## RUSSIA: PROFESSIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE TEAM OF KONTUR SPB LLC RECOMMENDED TO BE CERTIFIED FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS



September 16 - On September 11-13, the port of Novorossiysk hosted the activities for certification of a professional emergency response team (PERT) of Kontur SPb LLC for the right to conduct emergency response to oil spills on the continental shelf of the Russian Federation, in internal sea waters, territorial sea and contiguous zone of the Russian Federation, the company says in a press release.

For that purpose, Central Certification Commission (CCC) of Rosmorrechflot (Federal Marine and River Transport Agency) formed an expert group and arranged an on-site inspection of the PERT.

Rosmorrechflot's team checked the compliance of PERT with RF Government's Decree No 1091 (dated 22.12.11) having analyzed the company's documents; staffing and equipment level; availability of storage yards, berths and premises for rescue

equipment; training/relaxation premises for rescuers; readiness to respond promptly to emergency situations.

As part of the readiness inspection, an exercise involving all forces and facilities of the PERT was held on September 13 in the water area of the port of Novorossiysk and at the berths of Novorossiysk Oil Terminal. The Kapitan Shiryayev tanker, the Tuters and Rodsher tugboats were involved in the exercise. Port News / [Read more](#)

## UAE: DUBAI HOSTS NORWEGIAN SEMINAR ON OCEAN PROTECTION

September 17 - The Royal Norwegian Embassy in Abu Dhabi and Innovation Norway Middle East hosted a seminar titled 'Protecting our Oceans' in Dubai for the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment, MOCCA, and other UAE entities from the private and public sectors.

The event focused on the role of new technologies and data sharing in protecting oceans.

Organized in partnership with DNV GL, Kongsberg Maritime, Kongsberg Satellite Services, the Norwegian Oil Spill Control Association, Ocean Visuals and TOMRA, the seminar highlighted the importance of sustainable use of marine resources in achieving the UN's Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. The participants concurred that collecting data on ocean ecosystems is the first step towards their protection.

The agenda featured keynote presentations by Dr. Thani bin Ahmed Al Zeyoudi, Minister of Climate Change and Environment, and Sten Arne Rosnes, the newly appointed Norwegian Ambassador to the UAE. The distinguished speakers addressed a range of important topics, including responsible management of marine resources and sustainable future economic growth.

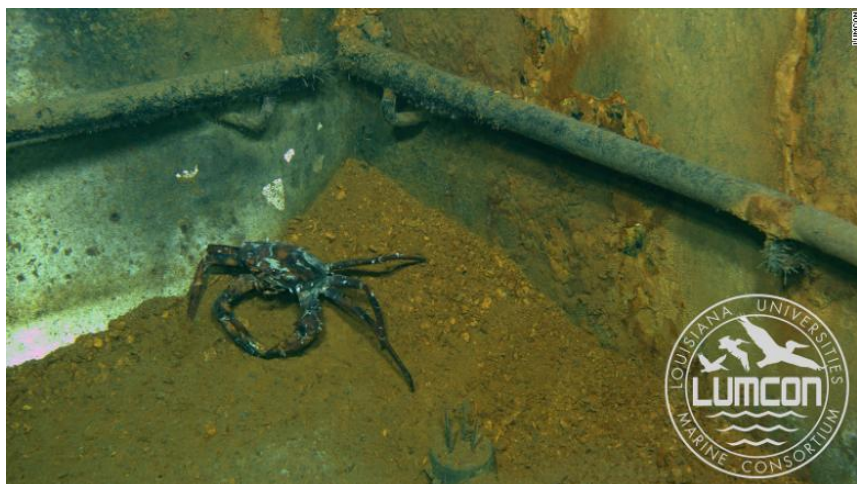
In his opening remarks, Dr. Al Zeyoudi said: "The fact that the UAE's oceans are the healthiest in the Middle East region according to the latest Ocean Health Index reflects our steadfast commitment to marine conservation, but we still have a lot of work ahead of us. Despite the international measures being taken to restore balance in oceans, the pressure on the marine environment is massive. We all need to join forces and fast-track collective efforts to mitigate the common challenges facing our oceans. In this context, this seminar explores the latest methods of managing, monitoring and protecting our marine environment."

Emirates News Agency / [Read more](#)

## USA: CRABS AND SHRIMP ARE FLOCKING TO THE DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL SITE TO MATE, AND IT'S MAKING THEM SICK

September 11 - The site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill has become a popular mating ground for deep-sea crabs and shrimp.

Decomposing oil from the 2010 spill could be mimicking a sex hormone, and that's what's attracting these crustaceans to get frisky in this part of the Gulf, according to an August study published in the journal Royal Society Open Science. Spending time at the oil rig site is also making these animals sick, especially as seen in the crabs. Their shells are turning black, parasites have latched on and some have lost limbs or developed mutations, according to the Louisiana Universities Marine Consortium, which led the study.



"Crabs showed clearly visible physical abnormalities and sluggish behavior compared to the healthy crabs we had observed elsewhere," Executive Director of LUMCON and lead author Craig McClain told CNN. "Once these crustaceans reach the site, they may become too unhealthy to leave."

The effects of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill are still being felt and in new ways. The deep-sea ecosystem is "recovering slowly and lingering effects may be extreme," McClain said.

"Near the wreckage and wellhead, many of the animals characteristic of other areas of the deep Gulf of Mexico, including sea cucumbers, giant isopods, glass sponges and whip corals, were

absent," McClain said. "What we observed was a homogenous wasteland, in great contrast to the rich heterogeneity of life seen in a healthy deep sea." CNN / [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

## USA: WISCONSIN - PIPELINE EMERGENCY RESPONSE EXERCISE AIMS TO COMBAT OIL SPILLS IN WATER

September 19 - North America's largest energy infrastructure company, Enbridge, held a pipeline emergency response exercise in Wood County on Thursday.

The exercise simulated an oil release into the Wisconsin River. Officials with the company said while oil spills are rare, there was a major spill in Michigan a few years ago that the training is based around.

"A pipeline system would be operating and something would malfunction which would result in the release of oil in that system," Enbridge Vice President of U.S. Operations Brad Shamla said. "We want to be prepared to respond to that very efficiently and effectively."

"It's sort of two components," Enbridge Supervisor of Emergency Management Greg Carter said. "One is a field deployment aspect on the deployment of containment recovery resources, and staff that know how to employ those resources. Then the activation of an incident management team to coordinate the response."

The command post was located in Wisconsin Rapids during the exercise, while workers in the field were on scene at the "oil spill site" in Nekoosa. WAOW / [Read more and watch video](#)

## USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

September 20 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research Meeting](#)



On September 11, the OR&R Emergency Response Division Chief and Senior Scientist participated in the 4th quarter FY2019 Interagency Coordinating Committee on Oil Pollution Research (ICCOPR) hosted by the University of Maryland's Department of Fire Protection Engineering in College Park, Maryland. ICCOPR consists of 15 member agencies and was established by the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 to coordinate federal research efforts on oil pollution research topics. The group's 2015-2021 Research and Technology Plan helps to guide the oil pollution research efforts of the member agencies and inform others working in the oil pollution research field of federal interests and priorities.

At this meeting, Scott Lundgren concluded his biennial period as the vice chair of the committee and handed off the vice chair "baton" to the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement continuing the rotation of this role between a trio of agencies that also includes the Environmental Protection Agency.

[Robert Paine, "The Serengeti Rules" and OR&R Connections](#)

The film features five renowned ecologists who offered the world dramatic evidence of the concept of "keystone species." It is a hopeful adventure story showing how ecosystems can recovery from human disasters and mis-management through understanding the roles of ecological interconnectedness and resiliency. Among the five people featured is the late Dr. Robert Paine (1933-2016), emeritus University of Washington zoology professor.

## NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

### [OR&R Tools and Data Standards at NOAA's Environmental Data Management Workshop](#)

OR&R participated in NOAA's Environmental Data Management workshop held in Seattle, Washington on September 4-5. Nearly 200 staff from across all NOAA Line Offices attended and participated in focus data discussions. The workshop also featured speakers from across NOAA, the Department of Commerce, Office of Management and Budget, partner science agencies, Industry, and the Earth Science Information Program (ESIP). This year's workshop theme was "Unleashing NOAA's Data as a Strategic Asset for Science, Service, Stewardship and Innovation," and each of OR&R's presentations covered different aspects of this focus.

### [OR&R Researcher Wins JARS Best Paper Award for Interdisciplinary Application](#)

Each year the SPIE Journal of Applied Remote Sensing honors teams with Best Paper Awards for contributions to science. The awards recognize interdisciplinary applications, theoretical innovation, and photo-optical instrumentation and design. This year OR&R's George Graettinger was on the team recognized for Best Paper in Interdisciplinary Application.

### [NOAA Staff Tour Honolulu Fish Auction](#)

On September 10, OR&R's Emergency response Division (ERD) staff joined staff from National Marine Fisheries Service, National Marine Sanctuaries and National Weather Service on a tour of the Honolulu Fish Auction on Pier 38 in Honolulu, Hawaii.

### [OR&R's Emergency Response Division Operational Meeting](#)

On September 3 - 6, OR&R's Emergency Response Division (ERD) staff held an all-hands meeting in Cle Elum, Washington in the Cascade Mountains, east of OR&R's Seattle office.

### [OR&R's Assessment and Restoration Division Participates in Christina River Workshop in Delaware](#)

On September 10, OR&R's Tom Brosnan, Robb Wright, Simeon Hahn, and Megan Ewald participated in the Christina River Sediment Remediation Technical Workshop in Wilmington, Delaware.

### [OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program Coordinates National Ocean Service Preparedness and Response for Hurricane Dorian](#)

Hurricane Dorian formed on August 24, was the fourth named storm and the first major hurricane of the 2019 Atlantic hurricane season. At its peak, the National Weather Service reported that Hurricane Dorian reached Category 5 intensity with maximum sustained winds of 185 mph, making this a major hurricane.

### [Marine Debris Program Announces FY20 Grant Competition for Prevention Projects](#)

On September 18, the NOAA Marine Debris Program announced its FY 2020 "Marine Debris Prevention" federal funding opportunity.

### [OR&R Provides ERMA Training to Hawaii Responders](#)

OR&R's Assessment and Restoration Division's Spatial Data Branch and Emergency Response Division provided Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) training to Hawaii responders on September 11.

### [Marine Debris Program Coordinates Strategic Action Planning in the Great Lakes](#)

On August 28 and 29, the Great Lakes Marine Debris Community met in Toledo, Ohio to discuss progress to date on addressing marine debris in the Great Lakes region.

### [OR&R Staff Spotlight: Shanelle Naone](#)

Based in Honolulu, Hawaii, and born and raised on the island of O'ahu, Shanelle grew up surrounded by the ocean and rich history the islands offer.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### HALIFAX SCIENTIST RENOWNED EXPERT IN OIL SPILL CLEANUP



*In the photo: Ken Lee, a Halifax scientist who is an international expert on cleaning up major oil spills around the world, holds a sample of diluted bitumen, taken from the tar sands in Alberta in a lab at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography in Dartmouth. - Tim Krochak*

Halifax native Dr. Kenneth Lee could never have imagined his childhood interest in biology would lead him to becoming an internationally-renowned expert in countering the environmental impact of major oil spills.

The now senior scientist with Fisheries and Oceans Canada has devoted most of his adult life looking for remedies to address contamination caused by oil spills in many of the world's oceans and along the coastlines of its land masses.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

While the traditional strategy of cleaning up oil spills has been based on the use of oil booms and skimmers to physically contain and recover oil on water, Lee, in a recent interview, noted those methods have limitations on spills that frequently impact shoreline environments.

His research some 30 years ago at the Bedford Institute of Oceanography (BIO) on the use of agriculture fertilizers to speed up the degradation of oil on beaches drew the attention of both oil spill response and government environment agencies internationally. The Chronicle Herald / [Continue reading this article](#)

## 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)**

### RESOLVE MARINE SETS UP WATER TREATMENT PLANT FOR BAHAMAS RELIEF

September 13 - Resolve Marine Group said Friday that it has shipped a barge with a 5,000-gallon-per-day water purification plant to Grand Bahama Island, where public infrastructure was badly damaged by Hurricane Dorian and emergency water supplies are needed.

The plant system, consisting of three reverse osmosis water purifiers and associated support systems, left Port Everglades and has arrived in Freeport Harbor, where Resolve Maritime Group is planning to set up operations to deliver potable water to affected areas. Once fully operational, the water plant's distribution process will reduce the reliance on water in plastic bottles, lessening waste.

Resolve and its humanitarian subsidiary, Mission Resolve, have already been working to help the Bahamas for some time. While Dorian was still active, Resolve and its response partners activated a vessel and a hydrographic survey team. In the Bahamas, the survey team quickly evaluated Freeport Harbor, helping to prepare for the arrival of relief vessels. In addition, Resolve deployed a drone and helicopter aerial survey team to assess critical infrastructure needs and provide documentation to clients, partners and governmental agencies. The resulting hydrographic and aerial surveys enabled the Port of Freeport to reopen for emergency traffic quickly once Hurricane Dorian had departed. The Maritime Executive / [Read more and watch video](#)

### CEDRE RECEIVES G7 PARLIAMENTARY SPEAKERS



September 16 - Under the auspices of the Maritime Prefecture for the Atlantic and in collaboration with the French Navy and CEPPOL, Cedre received a visit from the G7 Parliamentary Speakers at its headquarters in Brest.

The delegation included 6 Parliamentary Speakers and Presidents:

Mr Richard Ferrand, President of the National Assembly of France, Mr Roberto Fico, President of the Chamber of Deputies of Italy, Mr Bruce Stanton, Deputy Speaker of the House of Commons of Canada, Ms Nancy Pelosi, Speaker of the House of Representatives of the United States of America, Mr John Bercow, Speaker of the House of Commons of the United Kingdom, Ms Mairead McGuinness, First Vice President of the European Parliament; One ambassador, Her Excellency Teresa Castaldo, Ambassador of Italy in France; And three distinguished local institutional figures: Mr François Cuillandre,

Mayor of Brest, Mr Pascal Lelarge, Prefect for Finistère and Mr Jean-Louis Lozier, Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic.

Invited by Mr Richard Ferrand to explore the question of ocean preservation, the attendees gathered for a presentation of French State action at sea and of the work of Cedre and CEPPOL. The delegation was then taken on a tour of Cedre's premises with a particular focus on the laboratory, the Polludrome® – Cedre's flume tank which was operating at the time – and the spill response equipment showroom. CEPPOL gave a presentation of offshore oil spill containment and recovery. The attendees then watched a demonstration of offshore boom deployment and skimming and pumping with French Navy equipment and personnel at Cedre's technical facilities.

In addition to its contribution to the local scientific and maritime landscape, this visit from high ranking guests once again reinforces Cedre's image as a national and international expert organisation and key partner to the authorities.

### HARBO TECHNOLOGIES NAMED MOST PROMISING ENERGY AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGY COMPANY AT RICE ALLIANCE ENERGY AND CLEAN TECHNOLOGY VENTURE FORUM

September 19 - HARBO Technologies was named Most Promising Energy and Clean Technology Company at the 17th Annual Energy & Clean Technology Venture Forum in Houston this week. The Rice Alliance for Technology and Entrepreneurship announced the 10 most promising companies at the 17th annual Energy and Clean Technology Venture Forum held Sept. 10-11 at Rice University's, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, business executives, mentors and service providers.

The event culminated in the announcement of the 10 companies chosen from more than 180 applicants and judged by both Rice Alliance energy and clean technology industry experts and participating investors. 57 companies presented business pitches at the forum, with an additional 31 participating in the company showcase and investor speed networking session. Over 70 investor groups, including nearly all the major energy operators and service companies, met with 88 companies the day after the forum.

HARBO Technologies was named one of the Energy and Clean Technology Venture Companies at the forum. HARBO develops revolutionary oil spill response technology that shifts the paradigm in oil spill response. Its T-FENCE product is a rapid spill response system that can be deployed faster than any other system, drastically reducing damage. PR Newswire / [Read more](#)

## CONTRACTS & TENDERS

### OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

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

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### CEDRE: THESIS IN PROGRESS - EXPLORATION OF THE BIOSURFACTANT PRODUCTION POTENTIAL OF FUNGI AND USE IN MARINE POLLUTION RESPONSE

Many clean-up techniques are used to mitigate the potential impacts generated by oil spills. One of these techniques, known as dispersion, consists in spraying dispersants, which contain surfactants. These agents break up the surface slick into a multitude of droplets distributed throughout the water column, thereby promoting the biodegradation of the oil.

However the dispersants that are currently used are obtained through petrochemical processing and their potential toxicity is a concern.

Given this backdrop, the possibility of developing dispersants of biological origin, with a higher biodegradability potential, would appear to be an interesting prospect. This concept is the focus of a thesis entitled "Exploration of the biosurfactant production potential of fungi and use in marine pollution response" conducted at Brest University's LUBEM laboratory (Laboratoire Universitaire de Biodiversité et Ecologie Microbienne), in collaboration with Cedre.

This thesis covers several tasks:

- isolating, identifying and screening the surfactant production potential of microscopic fungi taken from contaminated environments (water, sediment) and from the UBO Culture Collection (UBOCC),
- studying the impact and optimising culture conditions for surfactant production,
- assessing their in situ effectiveness (compared to synthetic surfactants used in dispersants), at laboratory scale, and finally
- characterising the chemical nature of the surfactant molecules.

Biotechnological applications could subsequently be envisaged, if these molecules are proven to be effective.

Read more at <http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Menu-secondaire/News/Thesis-in-progress>

### LARGE-SCALE REMEDIATION OF OIL-CONTAMINATED WATER USING FLOATING TREATMENT WETLANDS

Afzal, M., K. Rehman, G. Shabir, R. Tahseen, A. Ijaz, A.J. Hashmat, and H. Brix. Clean Water 2:Article 3(2019)

September 19 - Four different plants, *Phragmites australis*, *Typha domingensis*, *Leptochloa fusca*, and *Brachiaria mutica*, were used to vegetate a 3,058 m<sup>2</sup> floating mat made from locally sourced materials to treat an oil-contaminated water stabilization pit in District Chakwal, Pakistan. The plants and pit water were inoculated with a consortium of 10 different hydrocarbon-degrading bacteria. The application of floating treatment wetlands to the pit reduced chemical oxygen demand, biochemical oxygen demand, total dissolved solids, hydrocarbon content, and heavy metals by 97.4%, 98.9%, 82.4%, 99.1%, and 80%, respectively, in 18 months.



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

All plants survived and showed growth, but maximum development and biomass production were exhibited by *P. australis*. The bacteria used for inoculation were able to persist and show degradation activity in the water as well as in the rhizoplane, roots, and shoots of the plants. <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41545-018-0025-7.pdf>

Technology Innovation News Survey / Read more at <http://www.clu-in.org/products/tins/>

## TECHNICAL SUPPORT

### LOOKING OUT FOR HAZARDS FROM BURIED OIL TANKS

September 20 - Coins, bottles, and other interesting objects have often been unearthed by homeowners who dig around the property of older residences. However, these homes can also be more likely to have an undesirable buried item: a subterranean oil tank.

These tanks are associated with a home's heating system, or were in the past. Ryan Smith, writing for the real estate site Redfin, says many homes have abandoned heating oil systems in favor of natural gas heat. The Environmental Protection Agency says underground storage tanks were constructed of bare steel until the mid-1980s, making them more susceptible to corrosion and leaking over time.

While this issue led to federal regulations on underground storage tanks, the rules typically don't apply to individual residential systems. The Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection says it does not regulate these tanks unless they serve five or more residential units.

However, the tanks can present health risks and other hazards if they start to leak into the surrounding soil. This problem can also lead to an expensive cleanup effort or liability issues for the homeowner. If you have a buried oil tank, it's helpful to have it inspected to ensure that it won't cause any problems. The Day / Continue reading this article

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

**Clean Gulf in New Orleans – October 28-31** – Haunted Ghosts & Spirits Tour - Monday, October 28 5:30 PM – 7:30 PM - New Orleans is often referred to as “The Most Haunted City in America.” Add Halloween to the mix... it's sure to be a spooky week at CLEAN GULF! Join your colleagues for a haunted walking tour in the French Quarter at dusk on Monday, October 28th. This is a private guided tour exclusively for CLEAN GULF attendees. The Quarter 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! [More info on this and other Networking Events](#)

**Reminder : Regional Workshop on Incident Management System 200, 13-14 November 2019, Tunis-Tunisia**

<http://www.medoilgroup.org/docs/Agenda.pdf> [http://www.medoilgroup.org/docs/RegistrationForm\\_Day1\\_13112019.pdf](http://www.medoilgroup.org/docs/RegistrationForm_Day1_13112019.pdf)  
[http://www.medoilgroup.org/docs/RegistrationForm\\_Day2\\_14112019.pdf](http://www.medoilgroup.org/docs/RegistrationForm_Day2_14112019.pdf)

**Elastec – Seats are FULL for Elastec's Fall Workshop 2019** – But registration is now open for Elastec's Spring Workshop- June 2-4, 2020. Topics covered during Spring Workshop will include: Defining a Reportable Emergency + Assessing a Release Situation + Identifying the Correct ER Plans to use + Employing the Correct PPE and Safety Process + Isolating the Scene + Deploying the Correct Tactical ER Equipment. The price for the Spring Oil Spill Workshop is \$1,250.00 and includes all workshop events, training and lunches. Travel and lodging are additional. [More info and registration](#)

## RESPONSE EVENTS DURING SEPTEMBER 2019 (UPDATED)

### THAILAND: NATIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN WORKSHOP

Bangkok, September 24-27. Review and update of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) for Thailand. [More info](#)

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

Enniskillen, September 25-26 Two days of technical presentations and practical hands-on exercises on inland spill response. Download the training programme agenda at [http://spillcontrol.org/downloads/Agenda\\_for\\_Castle\\_Archdale\\_25th.docx](http://spillcontrol.org/downloads/Agenda_for_Castle_Archdale_25th.docx)

If you're quick it may still be possible to secure a place. Contact John Dawes - Email: [johnadawes@btinternet.com](mailto:johnadawes@btinternet.com)

or Telephone: +44 (0) 7710 378697

### BAHREIN: GLOBAL HSE CONFERENCE 2019

Bahrain, 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
For more information click on Title of Event			
UK	October 2-3	<a href="#">Asset Integrity Management Conference</a>	Aberdeen
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
USA	October 28	<a href="#">ISCO AGM</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
SOUTH AFRICA	November 4-7	<a href="#">IMS 300 Training and 3rd Joint industry – government exercise</a>	Cape Town
TUNISIA	Nov. 13-14	<a href="#">Incident Management System Training Workshop</a>	Tunis
FRANCE	November 21	Cedre Technical Day	Brest
UK	December 4-6	<a href="#">Global Marine Casualties Week</a>	London
UK	December 5	<a href="#">Maritime Accidents &amp; Emergencies Summit</a>	London
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
USA	June 2-4	<a href="#">Elastec's Spring 2020 River Workshop</a>	Carmi, IL
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	July / Aug 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	September 2019
<a href="#">GEF Newsletter</a>	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	September 2019
<a href="#">GESAMP</a>	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection	Latest news
<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	August 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	August 1-15, 2019
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	Sept. 1, 2019
<a href="#">WestMOPoCo</a>	Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation	August 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)

### USA: SOUTH CAROLINA - MT. PLEASANT FIRE DEPARTMENT CLEANS UP SPILL IN SHEM CREEK

September 11 - The Mount Pleasant fire department cleaned up a spill Tuesday morning on Shem Creek. Fire officials aren't sure at the moment whether it was oil or fuel. According to fire officials, the sheen from spill went all the way from the Coleman Boulevard bridge out to the end of the creek. Oil traps were then set up to help contain and clean up the spill. Live 5 News / [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

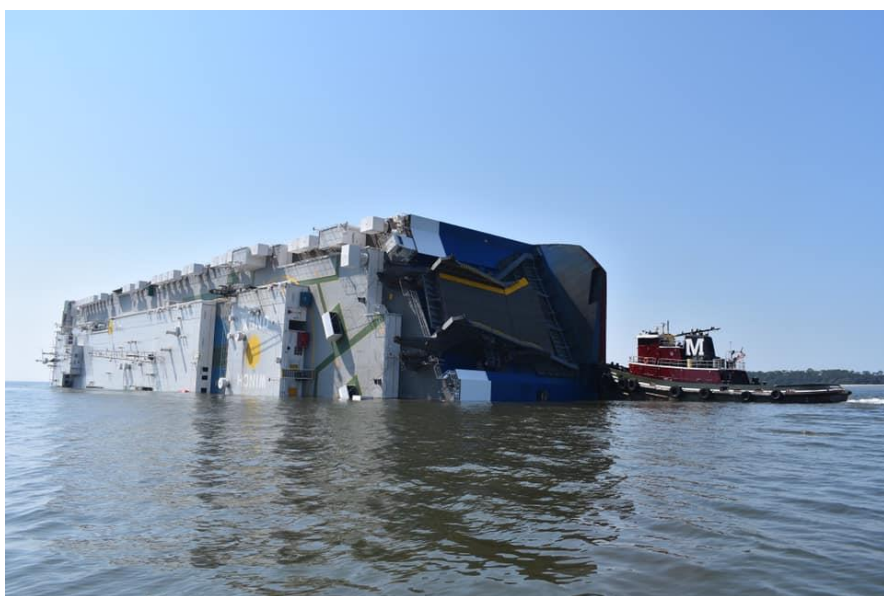
### JAPAN MAY DUMP RADIOACTIVE WATER FROM FUKUSHIMA INTO SEA

September 15 - Japan's environmental minister has said the country may have to dump more than a million tons of radioactively contaminated water from the wrecked Fukushima nuclear plant into the ocean as storage runs short, sparking outrage among fishermen and environmentalists. Tokyo Electric Power Co, or Tepco, the Fukushima plant's owner, has been collecting the water, which has been used for cooling the cores of stricken reactors since they were hit by a tsunami in 2011. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### PHILIPPINES: OIL SPILL AFFECTS 3 ROMBLON TOWNS

September 15 - THREE towns in the province of Romblon are now affected by an oil spill incident, the Philippine Coast Guard (PCG) confirmed on Saturday. In a report sent to the PCG headquarters in Manila by the PCG-Marine Environmental Protection Unit, it said affected were the towns of Odiongan, San Andres and Ferro in Tablas Island, Romblon. The PCG report also said the leak could have come from a large vessel or from an oil tanker passing along Tablas Strait. The Manila Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### USA: GEORGIA - GOLDEN RAY BEING SECURED BEFORE STORM



September 15 - The Unified Command set up for the capsized car carrier Golden Ray is closely monitoring the tropical storm, Humberto. While the vessel is hard aground and stable, precautions have been being taken to ensure the ship is secure during the storm, which is expected to strengthen to become a hurricane on Sunday night. Current salvage plans and oil recovery operations have now been suspended. Salvage teams had been sealing underwater fuel tank vents. The 656-foot vessel capsized with a fire on board in St. Simons Sound, Brunswick, Georgia, on September 8. There were 24 on board, 23 crew and one pilot. All were rescued. However, the stricken vessel still poses a major hazard to navigation for the Port of Brunswick. She capsized at the entrance to St. Simons Sound while departing the port for Baltimore. Response crews are continually monitoring air quality around the vessel and

surrounding areas, and no threats to human health have been detected. Additionally, there are teams are continuously conducting shoreline assessments. Soon after the capsizing, minor sheening was reported along the north bank of the Brunswick River and Bird Island. Approximately 1,200 feet of boom was deployed near the vessel and 3,100 feet of boom along Bird Island. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### September 16 - Golden Ray Salvage Temporarily Suspended in Georgia Due to Heavy Weather

Salvage operations on the capsized Golden Ray car carrier have been temporarily suspended due to the onset of heavy weather from Hurricane Humberto off the southeastern United States. "Out of concern for the safety for our response crews we have made the decision to temporarily halt operations involving the Golden Ray and plan to resume as soon as it's safe to," said Commander Norm Witt, the Federal On Scene Coordinator. The Unified Command is currently in the process of developing a comprehensive plan to remove pollutants from the vessel, which is hard aground but stable. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

### September 16 - Emergency Response Operations Resume for Golden Ray

Emergency response operations for the capsized car carrier in St. Simons Sound, Georgia, resumed in full on Monday, with teams deploying response equipment and continuing salvage operations. Operations had been suspended with the approach of tropical storm Humberto. The U.S. Coast Guard is leading the investigation into what caused the South Korean ship Golden Ray to capsize on Sunday after she departed the Port of Brunswick. The ship's pilot and 23 crew members were rescued, with four of the crew trapped for 36 hours before being rescued from the hull of the ship. "We currently have approximately 160 local, state and federal responders here to protect public health and the environment." says John Maddox, State On Scene Coordinator. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### September 19 - Golden Ray Incident: Unified Command Working on Long-Term Salvage Plan

The Unified Command responsible for the Golden Ray incident in Georgia's St. Simons Sound is developing plans to remove fuel from the vessel as crews come up with a long-term salvage plan. "Environmental inspection teams are continuously scanning the shoreline by air, boat, and foot, looking for evidence of oil. 5,300 feet of boom have been deployed surrounding Bird Island, and 18,400 feet of boom is strategically staged for use as needed," the Unified Command said. The Golden Ray was carrying around 4,200 when it capsized in the St. Simons Sound, at the entrance to the Port of Brunswick, early in the morning on September 8, as it was departing the port with a pilot and 23 crew members aboard. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

## ARGENTINA: YPF REPORTS WELL FIRE AFTER LEAK AT VACA MUERTA GAS FIELD



September 16 – News just received from Carlos Sagrera, MSc, MISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Panama – Herewith some Argentinian links with the last news and photos about the fire in the YPF gas well of Vaca Muerta, the vast shale oil and gas formation that caught fire on September 14th. According to the statement of the Argentina's state-controlled oil company YPF the cause of the leak and fire in the LLLO X-2 well in the Loma La Lata West gas field in Neuquen (southern Patagonian Province) are still unknown.

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/economia/video-imagenes-del-escape-gas-fuego-pozo-nid2288204>

[https://www.clarin.com/sociedad/vaca-muerta-logran-controlar-incendio-pozos-continua-fuga-gas\\_0\\_FlgH8nN.html](https://www.clarin.com/sociedad/vaca-muerta-logran-controlar-incendio-pozos-continua-fuga-gas_0_FlgH8nN.html)

<https://www.minutouno.com/notas/5054703-video-asi-es-el-escape-gas-vaca-muerta>

<https://www.cronista.com/economiapolitica/Intentan-contener-una-fuga-de-gas-en-Vaca-Muerta-20190914-0012.html>

## BAHAMAS OIL SPILL UPDATES

### September 16 - National Oil Spill Contingency Advisory Committee Convened re Oil Spill in Grand Bahama

A National Oil Spill Contingency Advisory Committee (NOSAC) convened September 16, 2019 to provide oversight and direction of NEMA's initiatives to manage an oil spill that occurred at Equinor storage and transshipment terminal, South Riding Point, Grand Bahama, during Hurricane Dorian.

The event has necessitated international assistance from the United States Coast Guard with a view to addressing concomitant environmental concerns for the terrestrial and marine environs where the spillage occurred. (BIS Photo/Derek Smith) [The Bahamas Weekly](#)

### September 17 - High activity on oil spill recovery operation in the Bahamas

The oil spill recovery at the South Riding Point terminal in the Bahamas has now been ramped up significantly, with 104 responders and large-scale equipment arrived on site. Equinor continues to survey a wide area for potential offshore spills, with no oil spill confirmed at sea.



The recovery operation is progressing with full force after a safety stand-down over the weekend due to the tropical storm Humberto.

## INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

42 new personnel arrived on the ground at the South Riding Point terminal yesterday. Over the next days, Equinor plans to have more than 150 responders in place at the terminal. Upon arrival, responders are setting up operational areas before they proceed with physical clean-up operations. More large-scale response equipment has also arrived, including absorbent pads/rolls, oil spill recovery skimmers, wash pumps, roll off boxes for collection generated waste, light towers and smaller boats, protection equipment and containment booms as precautionary tools. In addition, seven vacuum trucks are en route from local contractors. They will collect free oil and clean up roads near the terminal.

In total, nine vessels are involved in the recovery operation: 3 vessels as part of a first wave response, all arrived in the Bahamas; 3 additional vessels as part of a second wave response, now mobilizing in Florida, US; 1 vessel with more relief supplies, currently en route to the Bahamas; 2 vessels arriving over the coming days to serve as Incident Command Post and for housing

No oil observed at sea - Aerial surveillance using fixed wing aircraft and helicopters have thus far covered most of Grand Bahama and Abaco, including several hundred square miles of open water, without observing any oil at sea. Equinor / [Read more](#)

### INDONESIA: ACTIVISTS CALL FOR PERTAMINA TO RELEASE DATA ON ONGOING OIL SPILL



September 18 - An ongoing spill from an oil well off the coast of West Java has soiled miles of beachfront and impacted traditional fisheries, according to Indonesian activist groups. A coalition of civil society organizations is now calling on state-owned oil major Pertamina to release more information about the response to the spill and the safety of other nearby offshore facilities.

The YYA-1 well - an offshore borehole in Pertamina's Offshore North West Java management area - suffered a "kick" and loss of well control on July 12. Pertamina has hired American well-control firm Boots & Coots - the same company that handled the 2010 Macondo spill in the Gulf of Mexico - to plug the leak, and it told the New York Times that the effort would take until the end of September at the earliest.

The exact quantity of oil that has been released into the marine environment is unknown, but experts told Vice that the flow rate is in the range of 400-600 bpd. The spill has reached shore in nearby Karawang, and recently arrived in a group of islands to the west of Jakarta, dozens of miles away. Large-scale skimming and beach cleanup efforts are under way, employing thousands of local residents. Pertamina and state environmental agencies have not yet finished an impact assessment for the spill's effects. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### MALAYSIA: 800 METER OIL SPILL DETECTED ALONG MERSING WATERS

September 18 - An oil spill has been detected along an area spanning 800 meters in the Mersing waters, affecting nearby areas such as Pulau Rawa and Pulau Besar, here. Johor Local Government, Urban Wellbeing and Environment Committee chairman Tan Chen Choon said the case was reported by local residents on Sept 15.

"The cause of the spill is still being investigated as the Marine Department reported that there have been no report on vessel accidents or detention. Initial investigation found that vessels passing through the international waters could potentially be the source of the oil spill," he said in a statement today. Related agencies have been mobilised to contain the spill, with the marine department and the Malaysian Maritime Enforcement Agency (MMEA) increasing monitoring activities and the Mersing district office activating its beach cleaning action plan. The Malaysian Reserve / [Read more](#)



### USA: TEXAS - RUNAWAY BARGES STRIKE BRIDGE OVER SAN JACINTO RIVER

September 20 - As flooding from Storm Imelda continues to affect southeast Texas, first responders have rescued hundreds of people from high waters. On Friday, they also had to contend with a bridge strike: strong currents peeled away nine barges from a fleeting area on the San Jacinto River, sending them downstream towards the I-10 freeway bridge at Lynchburg, Texas.

At least two barges struck the bridge, causing what appears to be extensive damage to the bridge's concrete pilings, and the I-10 crossing has been shut to traffic due to the damage. Detours require drivers to head north to Highway 90, which crosses the San Jacinto near the town of Barrett, or the Fred Hartman Bridge over the Houston Ship Channel. I-10 is also shut between Beaumont and Winnie, Texas due to high floodwaters.

## INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

As of Friday afternoon, six of the barges have been corralled for transport to fleeting areas, including four containing soybean oil, one full of caustic soda and one containing lube oil. Two product barges remain lodged under the bridge, one filled with naphtha and the other filled with ethylene glycol. The remaining barge is beached to the north of the bridge, and it contains a load of lube oil, according to the Coast Guard. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### VIETNAM: MERCURY CONTAMINATION SCARE SPARKS PANIC, EXODUS

September 20 - Thousands of people have fled their homes in central Hanoi after mercury was released into the environment in a fire that destroyed a light bulb factory. Authorities are now scrambling to minimise the health risks. Tung Ngo reports.

Read more at <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/news/asia/mercury-contamination-scare-sparks-panic-exodus-in-vietnam-video-11924438>

### LATEST NEWS FROM SAUDI ARABIA, YEMEN AND IRAN

**September 21 - Saudi Arabia will wait for the results of an investigation before responding to last weekend's attack on its oil facilities, for which it believes Iran is responsible, a senior official said on Saturday.**

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Adel al-Jubeir told reporters that the probe, which Riyadh has invited international investigators to join, would prove that the Sept. 14 strikes came from the north. It sees the strikes on its Khurais and Abqaiq facilities as a test of global will to preserve international order and will likely make its case at the United Nations General Assembly in New York next week. Reuters / [Read more](#)

**September 22 - UN Hails Huthi Offer To Halt Attacks On Saudi, After Aramco Strike**

The United Nations envoy for Yemen welcomed Saturday an offer from the country's Huthi rebels to halt all attacks on Saudi Arabia. It said it could bring an end to years of bloody conflict. Implementation of the initiative by the Huthis "in good faith could send a powerful message of the will to end the war", Special Envoy for Yemen Martin Griffiths said. He hailed "the desire for a political solution to end the conflict" in a statement issued from the UN headquarters in New York. RepublicWorld / [Read more](#)

**September 22 – Yemen – FSO Safer - ISCO has not yet received any further news from UNOPS** in regard to progress in mobilising a team of experts to assess possible action 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. We suspect that recent events and increased instability continue to delay plans.

## INFORMATION FOR ISCO MEMBERS

### ISCO 2019 AGM AT CLEAN GULF IN NEW ORLEANS, USA ON 28<sup>th</sup> OCTOBER

This is likely to be an important meeting and we urge members to try to attend or, at least, to make use of their Proxy Voting Forms to vote on Agenda proposals.

Topics to be discussed will include an anticipated increase in membership costs, potential changes in the way the ISCO Newsletter is distributed and the review of a revised Constitution of the organization. At this time we anticipate that the Agenda and other Meeting Papers will be sent to you by email at the end of this month.

### PAYMENT OF YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEES

Mary Ann Dagleish, VP Membership, has been reviewing the status of Members who have fallen behind in remitting their membership dues and will be recommending the removal from the Roll of Members of those who are significantly behind with their payments.

We do struggle to keep up-to-date with changes in some Members' email addresses and this might mean that you might not have not received recent invoices and/or payment reminders. If you have not received these recently, please get in touch with Mary Ann at [mrydetroit@aol.com](mailto:mrydetroit@aol.com)

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