

## 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



## STRESS TEST ASSESSES LARGE-SCALE OIL SPILL EUROPEAN RESPONSE CAPABILITIES IN THE ATLANTIC

October 4 - Several European country representatives and EMSA and French experts joined together this week, from 2 to 4 October, at the French Maritime Prefecture for the Atlantic to engage in a large-scale joint simulation exercise to put to the test their collective response capabilities in the event of a large-scale oil spill in the Atlantic. This is the very first time that this kind of stress test is run in the Atlantic.

The simulation exercise taking place this week was coordinated by the French Maritime Prefecture for the Atlantic. The countries involved in this regional exercise included several from what is known as the Bonn Agreement (Denmark, France, Norway and the United Kingdom) as well as from the Lisbon Agreement (France, Portugal and Spain).

The exercise provided an opportunity to test different intervention strategies for large-scale pollution response. The outcome of each could be measured using a tool developed specifically for the purpose of determining the most effective response techniques. Together EMSA and the various countries represented put forward their assets for the simulated oil recovery operation, in a fictitious setting. The exercise allowed participants to share and exchange the technical know-how they had gained during previous real-life incidents and maritime crisis.

This simulation exercise is part of a first series of Europe-wide stress tests which is aimed at determining the extent to which EMSA's current services match the needs of its member countries and will serve to pave the way forward for EMSA's multiannual planning framework. EMSA / [Read more](#)

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

# FIRST MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMPETENT AUTHORITIES FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUB-REGIONAL MARINE OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN (SCP) BETWEEN CYPRUS, EGYPT AND GREECE, 9-10 OCTOBER 2019, PIRAEUS, GREECE



October 9 - At the 6th Cyprus- Egypt-Greece Trilateral Summit (Elounda, Crete, 10 October 2018), where a Joint Declaration by Cyprus, Egypt and Greece was adopted, the Heads of State and

Government expressed their determination to proceed promptly with, inter alia, the elaboration and implementation of a Sub – Regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan (SCP) for the preparedness and response to accidental marine pollution in the framework of the Barcelona Convention. In this context, the support of REMPEC was officially requested through the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention Secretariat.

The First meeting of the national competent authorities for the development of the Sub-regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Egypt and Greece (Piraeus, Greece, 9 -10 October 2019), marked the launch of this ambitious project aiming at the adoption of the sub-regional contingency plan in 2020.

The General Director for Shipping from the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Insular Policy, and the Coordinator of the UN Environment/Mediterranean Action Plan-Barcelona Convention Secretariat opened the meeting emphasising the importance of this initiative which will further strengthen the capacity of the Mediterranean coastal States to respond jointly to marine pollution incident, and will complement seven (7) similar sub-regional contingency plans in place in the region. REMPEC / [Read more](#)

## UNEP/MAP AND IMO STEP UP CO-OPERATION TO STEM DUMPING FROM SHIPS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN



*In the photo: A signing ceremony on 9 October 2019 at the IMO Headquarters in London, United Kingdom. Ms. Tatjana Hama, representing the UNEP/MAP Coordinator, and Mr. Hiroyuki Yamada, Director of the IMO Marine Environment Division © Photo credits: IMO*

October 9 - The UNEP/MAP– Barcelona Convention Secretariat signed on 9 October 2019 a Letter of Agreement (LoA) with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) that provides a new framework of cooperation on issues pertaining to the dumping of wastes.

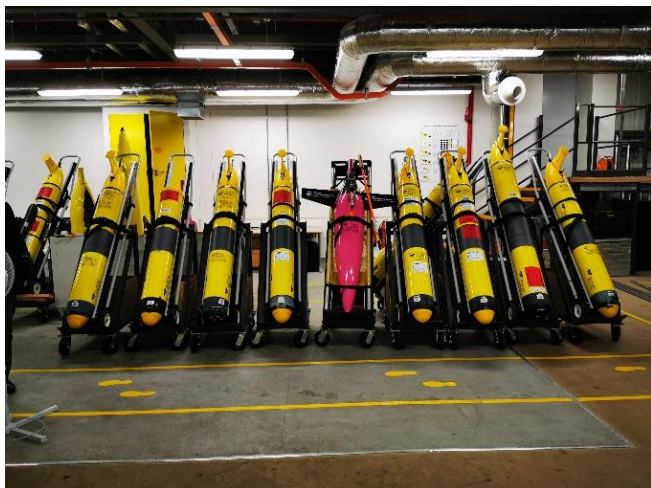
The signing ceremony took place in the context of the 41st Consultative Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Convention and the 14th Meeting of Contracting Parties to the London Protocol (London, UK, 7-11 October 2019).

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

The LoA builds on the expertise accumulated by the two institutions in tackling pollution caused by dumping. It is expected to stimulate collaboration within the respective mandates of UNEP/MAP and IMO.

As a UN specialized agency, the International Maritime Organization is the global standard-setting authority for the safety, security and environmental performance of international shipping. IMO hosts the Secretariat for the [Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter \(London Convention\)](#) and the [Protocol to the Convention on the Prevention of Marine Pollution by Dumping of Wastes and Other Matter \(London Protocol\)](#). UNEP MAP / [Read more](#)

## ISCO SECRETARY'S REPORT ON LAST WEEK'S MEETING OF THE INDUSTRY TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE (ITAC 2019)



*Above left: AUVs at the Southampton NOC. Above right: ITAC delegates inspect other equipment at the NERC Centre*

October 12 - Last week saw the latest of the annual Industry Technical Advisory Committee for oil spill response meeting held over three days 2nd -4th October at the National Environmental Research Council's, National Oceanography Centre in Southampton, UK.

This might be a small event (50 plus participants) compared to the many annual and tri-annual conferences and has only one stream of talks. However, it more than makes up for that with its quality of speakers, range of delegates, number of globally recognised experts and the breadth of subjects covered. With all the presentations done in one room the speakers are also part of the audience before and after their presentations. As a result, and combined with several breaks, lunch and evening social events there is plenty of opportunity to meet, talk and discuss further presentations and develop ideas and points over the three days and from presentation to presentation. Everyone has heard the same presentations, questions, responses and additions from the audience and as a result questions and presentations even if on a different subject build on and add rather than repeat what is already know, presented and discussed. It's probably not a meeting for those starting out in the spill response industry but for those of us with a few years in. Its good to be hearing new things and not the same conference standard presentation and oil spill 101 questions.

Topics covered this year included updates from the responder commercial and government community, discussions of the introduction and responder issues for low sulphur fuel oils which will be coming into widespread shipping use in 2020 and of course we had some updates on dispersants, toxicity, monitoring techniques and how the latest technology is being used.

In addition to the presentations there was an opportunity to tour the National Oceanography Centre. Yes, it's full of what you might expect in the way of oceanographic sampling equipment but also a wealth of R+D creating the latest generation of autonomous monitoring and survey equipment. But we also had the opportunity to see at the British Ocean Sediment Core Research Facility the thousands of sea bed soil cores collected from around the globe and hear and see for ourselves how these can show us past global events. I think all who attended would agree that the NOC tour was something we all could have happily extended or done again. They do allow public visits! <https://noc.ac.uk/science> <https://noc.ac.uk/facilities/boscorf>

The next ITAC will be in 2020 in the USA. The date and venue are yet to be fixed but the model of hosting at a complimentary, research, educational venue is set to continue. Once the date and venue are set by Oil Spill Response we will transmit that via the news letter as done in the past. [Thanks to Matthew Sommerville]

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

Your editor monitors 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 visit multiple social media platforms. 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)

## CYPRUS: THE 2019 EDITION OF THE COAST DAY CELEBRATION

The 2019 edition of the Coast Day celebration was held in Ayia Napa, Cyprus, on 25 September 2019. The Priority Actions Programme/Regional Activity Centre (PAP/RAC) organized the event in collaboration with the Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment of Cyprus.



*Photo: Left to right: Ms Natasa Pilides, Deputy Minister for Shipping, Cyprus; Ms. Xenia Loizidou, Director of the AKTI Project and Research Centre - Ambassador for the Coast 2019; Mr. Gaetano Leone, UNEP/MAP Coordinator; and Ms Zeljka Skarcic, Director of PAP-RAC @ Department of Environment (Cyprus)*

September 25 - Coast Day, which is celebrated annually since 2007, is aimed at raising awareness of the importance and vulnerability of the coastal zones in the Mediterranean.

The Deputy Minister for Shipping, the Permanent Secretary for shipping, the Permanent Secretary for Agriculture, the Mayor of Ayia Napa and representatives of the Department of Environment of Cyprus attended the event. Ms. Xenia Loizidou, Director of the AKTI Project and Research Centre, was announced as the Coast Day Ambassador for 2019. UNEP / [Read more](#)

## EGYPT: COURTESY VISIT TO REMPEC OF THE AMBASSADOR OF EGYPT TO MALTA

October 7 - On 7 October 2019, H.E. Ms Nada Draz, Ambassador of Egypt to Malta, and Mr. Abram Wagdy, Second Secretary of the Embassy paid a courtesy visit to the Regional Maritime Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC).

Mr Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, and Mr Malek Smaoui, OPRC Programme Officer, welcomed Her Excellency Ms Nada Draz and brief her about current and future major activities of the Centre in the region involving Egypt. Discussion addressed various issues related to the prevention of, preparedness for and response to marine pollution from ships.

Particular emphasis was given to REMPEC support in the establishment of a National Hazardous and Noxious Substances Response System in Egypt, the preparation of a Sub-regional Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece and Greece, the potential organisation of a national pilots related to the better management of marine litter from sea-based sources in ports and marinas, and the organisation of a National Workshops on Ratification and Effective Implementation of MARPOL Annex VI. REMPEC / [Read more](#)



## FRANCE: CEDRE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR SEPTEMBER 2019

September 9 - We were contacted by MRCC Ajaccio, MRCC Med and the Parc Naturel Marin du Cap Corse following the discovery of tarballs, analysed by Cedre and identified as being composed of oil and paraffin. We also provided advice on recovering this substance.

The duty team was also contacted by MRCC Reunion for information on the behaviour of heavy fuel oil following a spill which occurred in June. In another incident, we were called upon by the Préfecture du Finistère following the release of 100 tonnes of slurry from an agricultural facility into the Mignonne river.

As concerns exercises, we contributed to the preparation of an exercise to be held in Singapore by providing information on a fictitious 17,000-tonne styrene spill from a coastal facility. We also took part, both on site and remotely from Brest, in the POLMAR ANED (Aide aux Navires En Difficulté) exercise, organised by the Maritime Prefecture for the Channel and North Sea, involving a container ship incident, by providing information and behaviour predictions for hazardous substances as well as bunker fuel.

Our duty team received an enquiry into our response capacity in relation to the pollution of the Equinor oil terminal in the Bahamas after it was hit by Hurricane Dorian.

IMO also contacted Cedre to enquire about its expertise in relation to pollution from a wreck off the coast of Mauritania. Finally, we provided advice to the Seine-Maritime DDTM (Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea) in relation to a major fire at the Lubrizol industrial site in Rouen, in which contaminated firewater flowed into the Seine river. Cedre sent two specialists on site.

CEDRE / [Read more](#)

## FRANCE: CEDRE LAUNCHES ITS INSTAGRAM PAGE

October 9 - Launched on 24th April this year, Cedre's Instagram page now has 115 followers. The page is regularly updated with photos illustrating Cedre's events and offering educational content. With this promising start, we plan to continue to expand our presence on this social platform. Why not join our community today?! ([www.instagram.com/cedre\\_antipollution](http://www.instagram.com/cedre_antipollution))

## INDONESIA: MARITIME MINISTRY TO ACT STRONGLY AGAINST SHIPS FOR OIL SPILLS

October 4 - The Coordinating Maritime Affairs Ministry will crack down on ships causing oil spills in Indonesia's waters on November 1 after two oil spill disasters in Batam and Bintan had affected marine life in the past.

"On November 1, we will launch the standard operational procedure to crack down on the ships," Brahmantya Satyamuri Poerwadi, the ministry's marine space management director general, stated after attending a coordination meeting chaired by Minister Luhut Binsar Pandjaitan here, Friday. Sntara News / [Read more](#)

## MALTA ASSESSES ITS NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN WITH THE HARMONISED SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOL – RETOS



October 8 - REMPEC attended the first out of 7 national workshops aiming at assessing the National Contingency Plans (NCP) of the Western Mediterranean coastal States, using the Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills (RETOS™), which was introduced at [the Sub-regional Workshop on the use of RETOS](#) (24-26 April 2019, REMPEC, Valletta, Malta).

Malta will be organising this three-day workshop (08-10 October 2019) attended by 10 representatives from Maltese authorities involved in the NCP, namely Transport Malta, the Civil Protection Department, the Environmental and Resources Authority as well as the Armed Forces of Malta. They will benefit from the technical support provided by ITOPF Ltd to carry out the national self-assessment report including gap analysis, Global Performance Analysis and Global Improvement Programme of the Maltese NCP.

Other project members, namely Algeria, France, Italy, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, will organise their respective national workshop between 2019 and 2020 as scheduled below:

Malta	October 2019
France	October 2019
Tunisia	December 2019
Morocco	January 2020
Algeria	March 2020
Spain	May-June 2020
Italy	To be confirmed

This activity is implemented in the framework of the **Project Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo)** and co-financed by the European Commission's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection department (DG ECHO).

To know more about the project, visit the West MOPoCo Website: [www.westmopoco.rempec.org](http://www.westmopoco.rempec.org)

## MEXICO: CMI MEXICO COLLOQUIUM 2019 AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION SEMINAR

October 7 - At the invitation of the Mexican Maritime Law Association (Mexican MLA) and the Comité Maritime International (CMI), the Director of the IOPC Funds, José Maura, and the Head of Claims, Liliana Monsalve, were delighted to participate in the Mexico Colloquium 2019, in Mexico City, from 29 September to 2 October 2019.

This event was followed by a two-day Marine Environment Protection seminar organised by the P&I Services Mexico with the support of the International Group of P&I Associations, from 3 to 4 October 2019. This was followed by a theoretical exercise run by the International Group of P&I Associations with the assistance of the IOPC Funds and ITOPF on oil pollution response. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)



## NEW ZEALAND: FISHING, TOURISM GROUPS TO LOSE OIL SPILL PROTECTIONS

October 10 - The Government's proposed marine protection rules will make it less likely that third parties like fishing and tourism operators get an insurance payout in the event of an oil spill, Marc Daalder reports.

When the MV Rena ran aground on a reef near Tauranga in 2011, spilling hundreds of tonnes of oil into the ocean and killing thousands of seabirds in a matter of days, it was New Zealand's worst environmental accident. To add insult to injury, the Government was left to foot a \$20 million bill, even after the ship's Greek owners agreed to pay above the then-maximum liability of \$11 million.

In 2013, the Maritime Transport Act 1994 was amended to close some of the loopholes that allowed this to happen and the coalition Government is now doubling down, raising the amount that offshore oil installations must be insured for up to \$1.2 billion in some instances.

At the same time, however, new Marine Protection Rules proposed by Associate Minister for Transport Julie Anne Genter will mean offshore installations and tankers carrying more than 2,000 tonnes of oil won't have to be insured for third party claims of lost profits in the event of a spill.

This means that while third parties like fishing and tourism operators will still be able to claim for lost profits, the installation owners won't be required to be insured for those claims and would have to pay out of pocket. If the spill is large enough to bankrupt the owners, then these third parties might be out of luck. Newsroom / [Read more](#)

## TURKEY: INAUGURATION OF NATIONAL TIER 3 RESPONSE CENTER



October 11 – The new Turkish Emergency Response Centre for oil and chemical spills was officially inaugurated today. The centre will be of great importance for the Mediterranean and Black Sea Regions, international spill response training, equipment testing and certification, and for research and development projects. [Thanks to M. Kerem Kemerli, Member of the ISCO Executive Committee]

## USA: MICHIGAN - SEDIMENT ALONG DETROIT RIVER SHORELINE PACKED WITH TOXIC CHEMICALS, RESEARCHERS SAY

October 8 - Sediment along the Detroit River's American shoreline — so contaminated with toxic chemicals it erodes sampling containers and gives fish tumours — may not be cleaned up for many more years.

That's what representatives from the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy (EGLE) said during a Detroit River Canadian Cleanup's public advisory council meeting Tuesday.

"The entire Detroit River shoreline needs remediation," EGLE's Sam Noffke told the small group of environmentalists and concerned citizens gathered at the Great Lakes Institute for Environmental Research. Noffke, an aquatic biologist, studies sediment contamination. "No area in the Detroit River is clean."

Over several years, researchers with EGLE have collected and tested 873 samples from dredges along the river's U.S. shoreline from Celeron Island to near Belle Isle. Where sediments were present near the shore, significant amounts of mercury, lead, asbestos, cyanide, chromium, pesticides and more were found. Windsor Star / [Read more](#)

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

October 11- Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[South Atlantic Coastal Study and Coastal Resilience Assessments Workshop](#)

On October 7, Yaritza Rivera, NOAA Marine Debris Program's Hurricane Response Coordinator, joined the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and National Fish & Wildlife Service Foundation (NFWF) at the South Atlantic Coastal Study (SACs) & Coastal Resilience Assessments workshop in San Juan, Puerto Rico.

## NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

### [Capsized Vessel Remains Aground on its Side in St. Simons Sound as Responders Continue Oil Removal](#)

October 10 - A vessel that capsized early last month remains on its side in St. Simons Sound and continues to pose a pollution threat as responders work to remove the oil onboard.

### [OR&R Attends Annual Industry Technical Advisory Group Meeting at National Oceanography Centre, Southampton, UK](#)

From October 2-4, 2019, OR&R Emergency Response Chief Scott Lundgren and OR&R Senior Scientist Lisa DiPinto participated in the International Technical Advisory Committee meeting held at the [National Oceanography Centre](#) in Southampton, United Kingdom.

### [OR&R Representatives Meet with International Technical Spill Advisors from ITOPF](#)

On October 1, 2019, OR&R Emergency Response Chief Scott Lundgren and OR&R Senior Scientist Lisa DiPinto met with representatives of ITOPF (formerly the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation) at its headquarters in London.

## ISCO NEWS

### WORLD MARITIME UNIVERSITY – ACADEMIC HANDBOOK

ISCO recently received a few copies of the WMU Academic Handbook Entry 2020 with information about WMU and the degree courses it is providing at Malmo in Sweden. Any ISCO Members who would like to have a copy of the Academic Handbook should contact the Editor – [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

## 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)**

### SWIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES ANNOUNCE NEW TRAINING COURSES

Following the success of our pilot Emergency Response and Crisis Management course, Swire Emergency Response is pleased to announce that it will be running the following courses in **Singapore** during November 2019:

- 19th November - Introduction to Crisis Management (1 day)
- 20th to 22nd November - Emergency Response and Crisis Management (3 day)

In addition we will also be delivering: 26th to 28th November - OPRC Level 3 Oil Spill Management Course All of our courses are delivered by trainers with many years of experience in Emergency Response and Crisis Management. For more information on these courses or to register as a delegate, please email [simon.valentine@swirespo.com](mailto:simon.valentine@swirespo.com)

### BRIGGS MARINE ANNOUNCES NEW PARTNERSHIP

Briggs Marine is delighted to announce a new partnership with Big Blue Ocean Cleanup. Being a Corporate Partner allows us to contribute towards and support this global non-profit organisation in cleaning our oceans and coastlines, protecting marine wildlife, providing free educational resources and support the development of innovative technologies. As a maritime company, protecting the environment is our number one priority and we look forward to working closely with Big Blue Ocean Cleanup to help protect it. For more information, please visit their website: <https://lnkd.in/d5BDwSf> <https://www.briggsmarine.com/>

### ELASTEC/MARCO OIL SKIMMER TRIALS IN THE CEDRE TEST BASIN

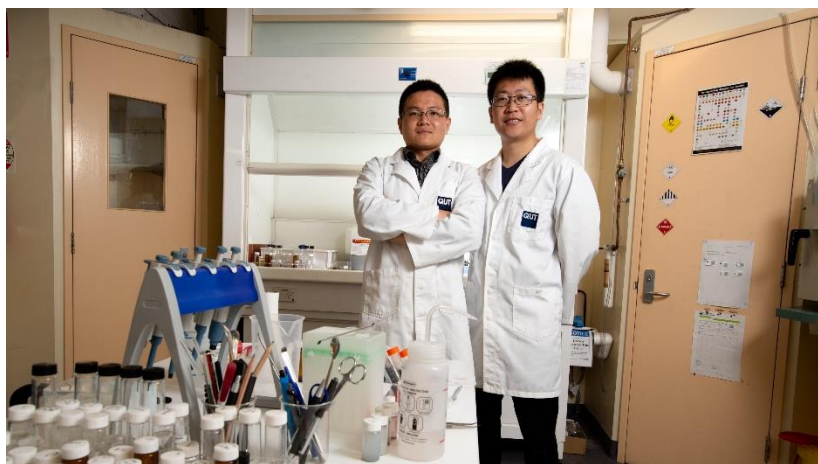
In September, a first series of trials was performed at Cedre's technical facilities on the oleophilic Elastec/Marco Portable Filter Belt Skimmer. The aim of these trials was to measure the skimmer's real-life performance with heavy fuel oil then a highly viscous, emulsified oil containing 40% water. The device's capacity to cope with floating debris was also assessed. A second series of trials with diesel is scheduled for late November. This skimmer is an integral component of the Elastec Rapid River Response System (R3S) whose deployment from a boat was previously assessed during trials in the Loire estuary in October 2008 (see Cedre Newsletter n°272). [http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10130/file/282\\_E.pdf](http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10130/file/282_E.pdf) <https://www.elastec.com/>

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### SAFE SOLUTION TO MOP UP OIL SPILLS: QUT RESEARCH BREAKTHROUGH

September 24 - Associate Professor Jingsan Xu said the team from QUT's Science and Engineering Faculty, had invented a nontoxic, low-cost, easily processed foam for oil removal.

He said when an oil spill occurred, the foam could be sprayed onto its surface to absorb the waste very quickly. The same principal could be applied to spills in the home of cooking or other oils. The foam is then easily scraped away for safe disposal.



*In the picture: Associate Professor Jingsan Xu (left) with research associate Dr Chenhui Han*

A paper revealing their findings - [Reversible Switching of the Amphiphilicity of Organic-Inorganic Hybrids by Adsorption-Desorption Manipulation](#) – has just been published in [The Journal of Physical Chemistry](#).

Professor Xu and the team have now created what they call a ‘hybrid surfactant’ by combining an oil-soluble molecule, stearic acid, with water-dispersible alumina nanofibers via chemisorption at the oil–water interface.

“Our hybrid surfactant exhibits reversible switching between hydrophilic (molecules attracted to water) and lipophilic (able to dissolve in fats, oils, lipids, and

non-polar solvents) states by manipulating the adsorption–desorption volume of stearic acid attached to the alumina nanofibers,” he said.

“Therefore, the emulsions stabilised by this organic–inorganic hybrid can reversibly transform between oil-in-water and water-in-oil type by simple mechanical manipulation. “As a bonus, organic–inorganic three-dimensional solid foams can be readily prepared based on the emulsion system, which demonstrates a strong potential for use in evaporating oil spills.

The full paper can be viewed [online](#). QUT Science & Engineering / [Read more & watch video](#)

## **SMALL BUT MIGHTY: ARCTIC BACTERIA ARE CAPABLE OF CLEANING UP OIL SPILLS**

October 8 - Historically impassable, the ice cover of the Northwest Passage along Canada’s Arctic coast has thinned over the past few years, piquing the interest of the shipping and luxury cruise industries. This thinning, along with Arctic drilling, makes the legendary frozen passage particularly susceptible to oil and fuel spills.

To combat this, Professors Lyle Whyte and Charles Greer, microbiologists in McGill’s Department of Natural Resource Sciences, are examining Arctic bacteria’s ability to break down crude oil in the Canadian High Arctic. Their work is part of Fisheries and Oceans Canada’s Multipartner Oil Spill Research Initiative, a subunit of the national Oceans Protection Plan. The research initiative consists of multiple partners, including universities, international organizations, and government departments, that are testing various solutions for developing strategies for cleaning up oil spills.

The research takes advantage of the fact that multiple microbial species have naturally evolved to degrade hydrocarbons like crude oil, which contain chains of carbons and hydrogens. The McGill Tribune / [Read more](#)

## **EFFECTS OF DISPERSANTS ON MITIGATING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF MARINE OIL POLLUTION: INSIGHTS FROM MICROBIOLOGICAL, CHEMICAL AND FIELD INVESTIGATIONS.**

### ***A funded learning opportunity with participation in a research project***

October 8 - Scientific background - Oil spills are one of the most challenging threats to the marine environment that can have long-term impacts on fisheries, the economy and society. Dispersants are commonly applied as a remediation strategy to disperse oil into the water column and produce small oil droplets that are more readily degraded by indigenous oil - degrading bacteria. Whilst dispersants are one of the many tools to prevent coastal contamination, there are concerns they may contribute to the formation of marine oil snow (MOS). MOS has been speculated to transport oil into the deep sea, potentially damaging benthic ecosystems. This PhD will investigate whether dispersants inhibit or enhance the formation of MOS over a range of relevant conditions.

Research methodology - The student will use state -of-the-art microbiological, chemical, and molecular techniques to quantify the effects of dispersants on MOS formation over a range of environmental conditions. The student will learn Next Generation Sequencing and quantitative-PCR to identify and quantify oil-degrading microbes associated with MOS, and Gas Chromatography-Mass Spectrometry to measure hydrocarbon degradation. There will also be an exciting opportunity to participate in novel multidisciplinary controlled oil-spill experiments at sea with OSRL ([www.oilspillresponse.com](http://www.oilspillresponse.com)).

Training - Training will include marine fieldwork, experimental design, molecular microbiology (e.g. Next Generation Sequencing, bioinformatics) and environmental chemistry. The student will be part of the vibrant Ecology and Environmental Microbiology Group at the UoE, as well as benefiting from expertise at OSRL and further engagement with industry partners, such as IPIECA, Shell and



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

ExxonMobil, enhancing key skills and employability. Additionally, as part of the ARIES cohort, the student will have access to a range of training courses, such as “advanced genomics”.

Person specification - This is an exciting opportunity for a highly motivated student with a background in Microbiology, Marine or Ecological Sciences, who is keen to learn new skills to address a global environmental issue and engage with the oil industry’s scientific expertise. The successful applicant will undertake studies as part of a multi-disciplinary team (Boyd McKew, Terry McGenity and Rob Holland). The PhD will be based at the UoE with time spent at OSRL, Southampton.

How to apply - Please apply by sending a CV (including contact details of two academic referees) and a cover letter explaining your motivation and suitability for the PhD to Emma Revill [ariesapp@essex.ac.uk](mailto:ariesapp@essex.ac.uk). If you have any questions please feel free to contact any member of the supervisory team.

Funding Notes - This project has been shortlisted for funding by the ARIES NERC Doctoral Training Partnership, and will involve attendance at mandatory training events throughout the course of the PhD.

Shortlisted applicants will be interviewed on 18/19 February 2020.

Successful candidates who meet UKRI’s eligibility criteria will be awarded a NERC studentship - UK/EU nationals who have been resident in the UK for 3 years are eligible for a full award.

Excellent applicants from quantitative disciplines with limited experience in environmental sciences may be considered for additional 3-month stipend to take advanced-level courses in the subject area.

Further information, visit [View Website](#)

Download the source document at <https://www.findaphd.com/phds/project/effects-of-dispersants-on-mitigating-environmental-impacts-of-marine-oil-pollution-insights-from-microbiological-chemical-and-field-investigations/?p112542>

*Note that the source document includes a form that you can submit online.*

## CASE HISTORY

### WATER POLLUTION PREVENTION WEBINAR FROM DAVID COLE

October 9 - Following on from the success of the [Tools for Effective Water Pollution Prevention Webinar](#) and our first two Tales From the Field Webinars, [Practical Water Pollution in Practice](#) & [Automated Water Pollution Prevention](#) people are still asking for more case study based content. So we are going again, this time it will be all about making the most of what you already have you can register for it [here](#). We will be presenting four more case studies on [The Tales From the Field 3 Webinar which is happening on Thursday 21st of November at 1pm](#).

## CONTRACTS & TENDERS

### OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
<b>For more information click on Title of Event</b>			
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

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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	<a href="#">Cedre Technical Day</a>	Brest
UK	Nov. 21-22	<a href="#">IMO Council Extraordinary Session</a>	London
UK	Nov. 25 – Dec. 4	<a href="#">IMO Assembly</a>	London
UK	December 4-5	<a href="#">Salvage &amp; Wreck Removal Conference</a>	London
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
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2020</b>	<b>TITLE OF EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
USA	March 24-25	<a href="#">SCAA Annual Meeting &amp; Conference</a>	Arlington, VA
USA	April 7-9	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference</a>	Indianapolis, IN
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>	Carni, IL
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>TITLE OF EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
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			

## MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM CONFERENCE ORGANISERS

**Singapore - 11th International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition (ICOPCE)** – October 21-24. The Opening Address will be given by Niam Chiang Meng, Chairman, Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore. [More info](#)

**USA – ELASTIC 2020 Spring Workshop – June 2-4 2020** – This year's instructor will be Trever Miller of Swat Consulting [More info](#)

**USA – International Oil Spill Conference, New Orleans, May 11-14** - Attention Oil Spill Researchers! IOSC 2020 Scholarship Applications Now Being Accepted. [More info](#)

## CORRECTIONS

### TIMELINE ERROR IN LAST WEEK'S NEWSLETTER

From your Editor – Apology for error on page 1 of last week's newsletter - After 35 years one's memory can make mistakes - IMO didn't actually adopt the OPRC Convention until November 1990, although some of the relevant principles had been mooted at an earlier time. – so support for OPRC could not have been one of ISCO's original objectives in 1984 – but at a later time, when ISCO joined IMO's Technical Group, support for the implementation of OPRC did become one of our most important aims.

## PUBLICATIONS

### SCIENCE SYNTHESIS PRODUCES BOOKS ON DEEPWATER HORIZON FINDINGS AND OIL SPILL SCENARIOS

The C-IMAGE consortium recently completed an ambitious synthesis of oil spill science that pulls from GoMRI, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) process, and other agencies for use in future policy formulation, disaster response, and damage assessments. Their intense two-year effort involved over 150 researchers (representing academia, oil industry, and government scientists and contractors) who collaboratively authored 63 chapters in a two-volume book series titled *Deep Oil Spills: Facts, Fate, and Effects* and *Scenarios and Responses to Future Deep Oil Spills: Fighting the Next War*. [More info](#)

### HELCOM PUBLISHES ITS REPORT ON AERIAL SURVEILLANCE OF DISCHARGES AT SEA IN 2018

HELCOM recently published its [report on aerial surveillance of discharges at sea in 2018](#), confirming the trend of reduction of spills in the Baltic Sea, especially mineral oils. Despite 62 spills observed in 2018 being slightly higher than last year – with 52 incidents, the lowest on record – overall trends are pointing towards a steady decrease. Aerial surveillance of spills started almost thirty years ago in 1989, when 763 pollution occurrences were detected. HELCOM / [Read more](#)

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

<a href="#">Alga Chronicle</a>	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	September 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	September 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	October 2019
<a href="#">GEF Newsletter</a>	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	October 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	October 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	October 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	September 2019
<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	October 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)

### COLOMBIA: OIL PIPELINE BOMBED

October 6 - The Transandino pipeline was damaged in a bomb attack that happened Orito municipality in Putumayo Department in Southern Colombia. According to the oil and gas giant Ecopetrol, which operates the pipeline, it was the 19th such incident this year alone. Footage released by the company shows a fire and an oil spillage in the aftermath of the bombing. The company said the pipeline was not pumping crude when the attack happened, but caused oil spill in the sector, which affected the Guamues River. RT / [Read more](#)

### SOUTH SUDAN: OIL SPILL UPDATES

**October 7 - After 2 Weeks, South Sudan Oil Leak Contained** - Speaking publicly for the first time since the oil pipeline broke on Sept. 25, South Sudan petroleum minister Awow Daniel Chuang said the oil spill, 15 kilometers north of Lalubo in Northern Liech state, was contained after Greater Pioneer Operating Company (GPOC) dispatched foreign experts to the scene last week. VOA News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

**October 7 - S.Sudan warns of more oil spills after pipeline rupture** - South Sudan's petroleum ministry warned Monday of more oil spills from poorly maintained facilities, after a pipeline leaked 2,000 barrels of oil in the north of the country. Activists have long warned of the consequences to residents and the environment from oil spills in the area, where facilities have been battered by war and some lay dormant for years until a peace deal was signed in 2018. NTV / [Read more](#)

### BAHAMAS: OIL SPILL UPDATES

**October 7 - Government Continues to Monitor Oil Spill at Equinor** - Following the most recent site visit, it was revealed that the oil spill made incursions of the facility's berm and spread inland up to seven miles into coppice environments north of the facility. Relief Web / [Read more](#)

**October 8 - Norway's Equinor Still Gauging Extent of Oil Spill at Bahamas Terminal After Dorian** - Norway's Equinor is still assessing the devastation and level of pollution at its oil terminal in the Bahamas, one month after a massive hurricane swept through the region, the company told Reuters on Friday [Sept. 4]. "We have collected over 28,000 barrels of oil products around the tanks, on the main road and areas around the terminal. Over 300 personnel on site working on the recovery work," Equinor spokesman Eskil Eriksen said in an email. Insurance Journal / [Read more](#)

**October 9 - 5 Million Gallons of Oil Spilled from Bahamas Storage Facility Damaged in Hurricane Dorian, Company Says** - New numbers released by an oil company in the Bahamas show that an estimated 5 million gallons of oil spilled from a Grand Bahama Island storage facility damaged during Hurricane Dorian. Weather.com / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## UK: RSPCA FORCED TO RESCUE SWANS FROM CREWE LAKE AFTER COOKING OIL SPILL

October 7 - RSPCA officers had to rescue a number of swans from a Crewe park after discovering cooking oil had been spilled into the lake. The incident which is believed to have happened today (Sunday, October 6) saw four swans removed from the water at Queens Park to be treated, with many more likely to be rescued in the coming days. Cheshire Live / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## BRAZIL: MYSTERY OIL SPILL UPDATES

**October 8 - Brazil President Bolsonaro Says Beach Oil Slicks Not Produced in Brazil, Suggesting It's From Another Country** - Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro told reporters on Monday that an oil spill that has affected over 100 beaches in northeastern Brazil is not of Brazilian origin. According to Reuters, the source of the oil pollution is still under investigation. "It could be something criminal, it could be an accidental spill, it could also be a ship that sank," Bolsonaro said. "It is complex. We have on our radar screen a country that could be the origin of the oil." Newsweek / [Read more](#)

**October 10 - Brazilian navy has five ships trying to determine origin of the major oil spill** - Brazil's Navy said that it has five ships and an aircraft patrolling the northeastern region to find the cause of the oil spill. The effort involves 1,583 people as well as state port vessels and vehicles. The Navy is investigating the possibility of a shipwreck or oil spill. There is also the remote possibility of an underground oil leak or tank washing in ships, given the volume of oil collected in the affected beaches. MercoPress / [Read more](#)

**October 11 - Mysterious oil spill reaches Brazilian city of Salvador** - A mysterious oil spill that has polluted at least 150 beaches along Brazil's northeastern coast reached the city of Salvador on Friday as officials tried to determine the source of the crude sludge. Authorities confirmed the oil had reached the Piata beach in Salvador, Brazil's fourth-largest city that's known for its beaches and Afro-Brazilian culture. Overall, 68 municipalities in nine states have been affected by the spill that began Sept. 2. KVOA / [Read more](#)

**October 11 - Brazilian Navy Investigates 30 Ships From 10 Countries As Possible Causes Of Oil Spills** - The Brazilian Navy announced today that it is investigating 30 vessels from ten different countries as possible suspects of the spill of more than 100 tons of oil that since last month reached more than 140 beaches in the northeast of Brazil. Maritime Herald / [Read more](#)

**October 11 - Venezuela "Categorically Rejects" Responsibility for Oil Spill** - "PDVSA categorically rejects statements by Brazil's Environment Minister Ricardo Salles, who accuses Venezuela of being responsible for crude oil that has contaminated the beaches of northeastern Brazil since early September," the state-owned company said. Communal News / [Read more](#)

## USA: LOUISIANA - OIL LEAK REPORTED AT BELLE CHASSE REFINERY; MORE THAN 50,000 GALLONS SPILLED, CONTAINED

October 8 - More than 50,000 gallons of crude oil leaked last week from the Phillips 66 Alliance Refinery in Belle Chasse, about 25 miles south of New Orleans, authorities said Tuesday. The leak, discovered Oct. 2, has been contained and is undergoing cleanup. Much of the oil seeped into the refinery's stormwater system. On Tuesday, the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office said that nearly all the oil had been recovered. None of the oil escaped the refinery site, and no injuries were reported, state oil-spill responders said. The Times Picayune / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## USA: LOUISIANA - COAST GUARD, STATE AGENCIES RESPONDING TO OIL DISCHARGE IN NORTH PASS, LOUISIANA

October 9 - The Coast Guard and state agencies are continuing to respond to an oil discharge in North Pass, Louisiana, Wednesday. The Coast Guard Sector New Orleans Incident Management Division received a report at 8:20 a.m. Monday of oil discharged from a pipeline seal owned by Texas Petroleum Investment Co. in North Pass. The oil spill response organizations OMI Environmental Solutions and American Pollution Control Group were contracted to conduct cleanup operations. Eight thousand feet of containment boom and 6,000 feet of sorbent boom have been deployed to control the discharge. Twenty response personnel, three response boats, three wash pumps, and one oil skimmer are on scene to control the discharge. An estimated 840 gallons of oil was released into the marsh and surrounding waterway. US Coast Guard / [Read more](#)

## USA: GEORGIA – GOLDEN RAY UPDATE – RESPONSE CREWS REMOVE 2/3 OF OIL

October 11 – The Unified Command said on-water operations have resumed after a shorty pause this week because of weather. The Golden Ray was filled with roughly three-hundred thousand gallons of fuel when it shipwrecked last month. The Unified Command says more than 220,000 gallons of fuel has been removed from the vessel. New photos from the U.S. Coast Guard show response teams spraying a sphagnum moss-based sorbent to oiled marsh grass in areas of the south shore of the Brunswick River between the I-95 bridge and Cedar Creek. The Unified Command says sphagnum is a standard oil spill recovery technique for marsh areas. It binds to the oil to prevent it from spreading. News4GA / [Read more](#)

## MIDDLE EAST: RED SEA – CONFUSION OVER OIL TANKER SPILL REPORTS

**Oct 11 Iranian Suezmax tanker explosion in Red sea** - Crude oil tanker SINOPA suffered explosion in cargo tanks area, followed by fire, in reportedly, early morning Oct 11, while sailing in Red sea SW of Jeddah, Saudi Arabia. Understood from Iranian sources, hull was breached, oil is leaking from cargo tank or tanks into the sea. Tanker was sailing to Suez, most probably from Iranian oil terminal in Persian Gulf. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, [vmd@odin.tc](mailto:vmd@odin.tc)]

**Oct 11 0830 UTC Oct 11 UPDATE:** As usual when something happens in Middle East waters, the story is changing with each passing hour. Now it's probably SABITI tanker, suffering explosions and fire, but it may well be SINOPA, nevertheless. Now it's rockets that hit tanker, maybe 2, maybe 5 of them. At least 2 cargo tanks are breached, according to latest. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, [vmd@odin.tc](mailto:vmd@odin.tc)]

**October 11 - Oil Spilled in Red Sea After Attack on Iranian Tanker** - Contradictory reports emerged Friday of an attack on an Iranian tanker in the Red Sea, identified as either the Sabiti or the Sinopa. NASA satellite imagery of the incident site reveals a linear discoloration consistent with oil emanating from a moving vessel, and AIS tracking indicates that Sabiti navigated a parallel route.

Early on Friday morning, National Iranian Oil Company director Nasrallah Sardashti reported that the tanker Sabiti suffered damage to two oil tanks on the starboard side while transiting off the Saudi port of Jeddah. The attack involved two explosions on the tanker's starboard side at 0500 and 0520 hours, according to the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC). Sardashti told Iranian media that the situation aboard the vessel is stable and that the crew are unharmed. An unknown quantity of oil was released into the water, according to NITC. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

**October 11 - Iran State Media Say Oil Tanker Is Hit but Offer Conflicting Accounts on Cause** - The ship suffered damage, according to Iranian news outlets, which initially reported a missile attack but later backtracked. Explosions rocked an Iranian oil tanker in the Red Sea early Friday, in what the state news media initially described as a missile attack, raising fears about increasing tensions in an already volatile region. But hours later, official accounts were far more cautious, raising questions about what exactly had befallen the vessel. New York Times / [Read more](#)

**October 12 - Iran carefully investigating oil tanker explosions** - Iranian Government Spokesman Ali Rabiei says Tehran is thoroughly investigating the Friday explosions on an Iranian oil tanker in the Red Sea with no haste. Two separate explosions, possibly caused by missile attacks, hit an Iranian oil tanker operated by the National Iranian Tanker Company (NITC) near the Saudi port city of Jeddah, in what Tehran calls a "dangerous adventure". The incident took place some 60 miles from Jeddah early Friday, according to a statement by the NITC. The explosions have hit the vessel's hull, causing heavy damages to the vessel's two main tanks, which has resulted in an oil spill in the Red Sea. The spill is currently stopped. MEHR News / [Read more](#)

**October 12 - Saudi Arabia affirms commitment to navigation security after receiving distress call from Iranian tanker** - Saudi Arabia said it received a distress message on Friday from the damaged Iranian tanker Sabiti but the vessel kept moving and switched off its transponder before it could provide assistance, Saudi Press Agency (SPA) reported. The Sabiti tanker did not respond to many communications from the Saudi authorities, SPA said. Arab News / [Read more](#)

**October 12 - Saudi Arabia says it was prepared to help Iran tanker reportedly hit by blasts** - Saudi Arabia said Saturday it was ready to help the Iranian tanker that was allegedly attacked off the kingdom's coast, but the ship turned off its tracking system. The National Iranian Tanker Company, which owns the Sabiti, said its hull was hit by two separate explosions on Friday off the Saudi port of Jeddah. But the state-owned company denied reports the attack had originated from Saudi soil. The Times of Israel / [Read more](#)

**October 13 - Saudi Arabian Border Guards: Iranian Tanker Captain Says Breakage Caused Leak** - Saudi Arabian Border Guards, the agency responsible for guarding land and sea borders of the Kingdom, said it had learned that a breakage in the front of the Iranian tanker in the Red Sea had caused an oil spill. The agency said on Saturday that it received an email from Jeddah Radio which stated that the tanker's captain sent the station a letter informing them of the cause of the oil spill. MENA FN / [Read more](#)

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