

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

NEXT EPISODE OF LONG-RUNNING BRAZIL OIL POLLUTION MYSTERY

The cause of the oil pollution on Brazil's N. E. coast remains a mystery despite all efforts to confirm the source. Oil has been washing up on the coast since the end of August. See reports in previous issues of ISCO News and the article by Matthew Sommerville in Issue 707.

November 1 – Latest news just received from Carlos Sagrera MSc., FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Panama – “According the Brazilian Authorities a Greek tanker named *Bouboulina* (<https://www.vesselfinder.com/es/vessels/BOUBOULINA-IMO-9298753-MMSI-240463000>) is the principal suspect and the crude oil of Venezuelan origin would have been released in mid-July in the middle of the Atlantic Ocean.

Provável trajeto do navio suspeito de verter óleo no NE*



In its report of November 1, The Maritime Executive wrote “Brazilian law enforcement authorities are investigating a Greek tanker operator over an alleged oil release off the coast of northeastern Brazil. Heavy petroleum sludge has been washing up along a 1,500 mile stretch of coastline since August 27, and volunteers and troops have removed more than 2,000 tonnes of oily waste to date”. Read more at <https://www.maritime-executive.com/article/brazilian-police-investigate-greek-tanker-owner-over-mystery-spill>.

Carlos has also sent your editor links for reading for the latest reports in the Brazilian press and other English language reports are provided on Pages 12-13. ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville has commented on this latest development – “I had a chance to talk to aircraft operators at Clean Gulf and oil behavior still says to me fuel oil not crude”.

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Mysterious crates washing up on Brazil's oil-stained beaches

"Oil spills have been plaguing Brazil's northern coastline for weeks. But before that, another mystery had been puzzling local scientists: shipping crates, thought to be from a German vessel that sank in 1944".

During a walk along Praia Bela, literally a "beautiful beach" in Brazil's northern state of Ceara, Carlos Teixeira comes across an odd-looking crate. It's not the first time the marine researcher from Ceara's state university has seen one. "They've been showing up along the coast of northeastern Brazil since October 2018," he told DW. "We just don't know where they've come from." Between 200 and 300 such crates have appeared since then, Teixeira said, possibly from a shipwreck, but that has not been confirmed.

Interest in the crates rose when [oil began washing up along the same beaches](#) in September. "I told my colleagues this can't be a coincidence," he said. That's when Teixeira began taking a closer look at the crates, which are said to have been carrying "crude rubber in bales."

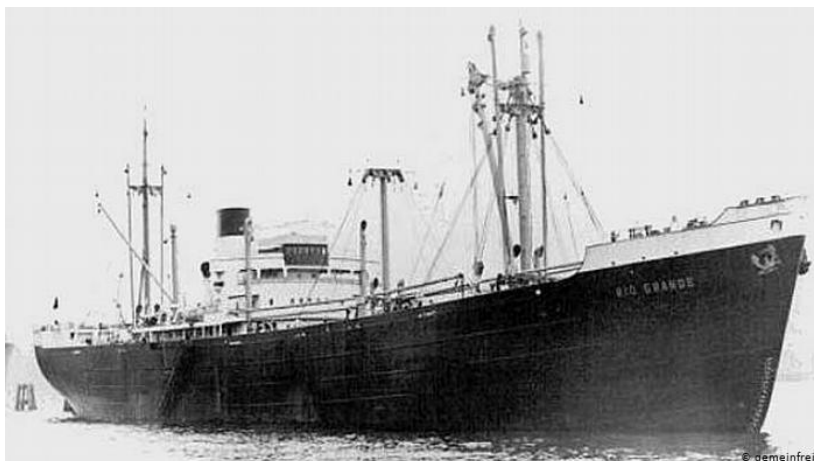


Photo: The mysterious crates are believed to be from the SS Rio Grande, which sank in 1944

Teixeira further sees a connection between the crates and the oil. "The wreck was one of the hypotheses for where the oil was coming from," as news media had reported. "But we spoke with Petrobras (the state oil company), and they said the oil was new. If the oil came from the wreck, it'd be more than 70 years old".

However, Matthew Sommerville has since written – "While on a sunken wreck oil properties would have been stable (in a time capsule) and so when released years later it would still have had light aromatic components which some people might think are associated with fresh or recently produced oil.

[Editor: You can read the complete text of the DW Akademie (originally published on 19th October and not seen by me until 31st October at <https://www.dw.com/en/mysterious-crates-washing-up-on-brazils-oil-stained-beaches/a-50847638>) The conclusion is that the theory that the oil impacting the coast of Brazil may be from the wreck of the SS Rio Grande should not be discounted.]

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

"As for this ship as the source it hits if the oil is Venezuelan but why would it discharge cargo? Why has oil discharged in a day been arriving over weeks and what about the bales of rubber?"

I think the alleged tanker owner is in a difficult position regarding the potential source of the cargo but it does not fit as a source for me as it would have been one release. If you look at the data on how much has been recovered in the given links, its growing a linear relationship with time, but even allowing for some oil arriving early and some late, for a single release we should see a spike in volume of oil impacting. If on the other hand we had a slow leak one might expect a similar amount every day.

I think politics are playing into the Venezuela link and they know the alleged ship owner cannot make a big noise as USA sanctions could hit the rest of his fleet".

Your editor has also been following the developing story and on 31st October came across a report relating to the washing-up of rubber on the Brazilian beaches –



SEABOS JOINS GLOBAL GHOST GEAR INITIATIVE



October 27 - On October 24, during the Our Ocean 2019 conference in Oslo, the Seafood Business for Ocean Stewardship initiative (SeaBOS) announced it has joined the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI).

SeaBOS represents 10 of the world's largest seafood companies. The companies committed to the initiative include Maruha Nichiro, Nissui, Thai Union, Mowi ASA, Dongwon, Skretting, Cargill, Cermaq, Kyokuyo, and Charoen Pokphand Foods (CPF).

Launched in 2015, the GGGI is a cross-sectoral alliance that addresses the problem of ghost gear worldwide. Through the collective impact of its close to-100 members, the GGGI aims to reduce the ecological and economic impacts of ghost gear.

Since its inception, the GGGI has established the world's first and largest database on ghost gear – combining data sets from organizations all over the world.

In 2009, a UN study estimated that at least 640,000 tonnes of abandoned, lost or otherwise discarded fishing gear accumulate in the world's oceans each year, but new research has indicated that this number is likely to be much higher today. Recent studies have suggested that between 46 - 70 percent of floating macroplastics may be fishing related when measured by weight.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

INTERNATIONAL GROUP NOW RELEASES THE HIGHLY SUCCESSFUL P&IQ QUALIFICATION TO ALL

October 29 - First launched in 2010, the International Group's P&I Qualification (P&IQ) programme has been hugely successful, with over 2,000 examinations taken and over 50 candidates gaining the full Qualification.

Providing high quality, targeted education, it has over the years become acknowledged in its own right within the P&I industry and in the wider insurance market, as a unique and challenging standalone professional qualification. Providing three levels of qualification to suit all levels of experience, from an introductory Certificate level qualification, to an intermediate Advanced Certificate and then a Diploma level, P&IQ is delivered online providing professional learning materials for self-study, eliminating the need to and costs associated with attending training sessions or seminars. IG P&I / [Read more](#)

COPENHAGEN AGREEMENT SEMINAR – REPORT FROM ITOPF

October 29 - ITOPF attended a meeting of the Copenhagen Agreement in Drammen, Norway on 23rd and 24th October 2019, hosted by the Norwegian Coastal Administration. The Copenhagen Agreement between Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway and Sweden facilitates cooperation for response to oil and chemical discharges in the Baltic Sea and Kattegatt. Julke Brandt and Tim Wadsworth presented on the role of ITOPF in a pollution response, focusing on ITOPF's role in the claims process. ITOPF / [Read more](#)

IOPC FUNDS' MEETINGS AT THE IMO - INTERNATIONAL GROUP ATTENDANCE

November 1 - The International Group attended and took the lead industry role in the discussions at the meetings of the IOPC Funds that were held in London at the IMO HQ on 28 October – 31 October 2019.

Issues on the agenda of the IOPC Funds where the International Group took an active role in the debate included monitoring of the application of the Small Tanker Oil Pollution Indemnification and Tanker Oil Pollution Indemnification Agreements (TOPIA and STOPIA) and the IOPC Funds' work on implementation of the IMO's 2010 HNS Convention. The Funds' meetings also considered on-going pollution cases that have engaged the IOPC Funds, including the Prestige incident, and the issues arising from lack of, or insufficient, financial security in certain IOPC Fund cases. The International Group remains engaged with the IOPC Funds given the joint (P&I – IOPC Fund) nature of the compensation and liability system for ship-sourced pollution damage from oil tankers. IG P&I / [Read more](#)

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

BERMUDA: MINISTER UPDATES ON DISASTER RISK TEAM WORK

November 1 - Speaking in the House of Assembly today [Nov 1], Minister of National Security Wayne Caines provided an update on

the work performed by the Disaster Risk Reduction and Mitigation Team to “ensure that Bermuda is prepared for any large scale natural or man-made disaster.”

The Minister covered a number of topics including the re-instatement of the Working Group on Climate Change, developing an all hazard Emergency Evacuation Plan for the Ferry Reach area, a Marine Contingency Pollution Plan, an Airport Emergency Plan, Public Health Emergency Response Plans and more. Bernews / [Read more](#)

CHINA NEEDS ITS COASTAL WETLANDS

November 1 - In July this year, UNESCO brought a bird sanctuary on the coast of the Bohai Bay into its prestigious list of world heritage sites. It is both China’s first coastal wetland heritage site and the world’s second intertidal wetland heritage site.

Coastal wetlands, which include coral reefs, mangrove forests and shallow seabeds, are some of the world’s most biodiverse ecosystems. They provide breeding grounds and habitats for a multitude of marine organisms. This biodiversity and the ecological services wetlands provide, makes them of huge natural and economic value. Millions of birds of over 250 species are thought to inhabit China’s coastal wetlands every year, accounting for 80% of the country’s aquatic birds and including endangered species such as the red-crowned crane, the black-faced spoonbill and the oriental stork. They supply food for the birds as they breed, migrate, rest and overwinter. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

CROATIA: TRAINING COURSE FOR PA OF SPLIT DALMATIA COUNTY

October 31 - Split-Dalmatia County is territorially the biggest Croatian coastal county, with Port of Split as one of the leading passenger ports in maritime traffic. Besides large cruise ships sailing into Port of Split, due to numerous islands in the County there is an intense daily passenger traffic, while during the summer season there is significant increase in the number of yachts and recreational ships in smaller ports and marinas.

Considering the intensity of maritime traffic and the potential risk of marine pollution in ports and marinas, Administrative Department of Tourism and Maritime Affairs of Split-Dalmatia County has organized a two-day training course for Port Authority staff and concessioners that operate on the maritime domain of ports, marinas, industry etc. ATRAC / [Read more](#)

USA: DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION PROPOSES MAJOR RULE FOR THE SAFE TRANSPORTATION OF LNG BY RAIL

October 24 - The US Department of Transportation’s Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), in coordination with the Federal Railroad Administration (FRA), has announced that it is publishing a notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) regarding the transportation of LNG. LNG Industry / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

November 1 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[The Passing of the Torch: New Director Scott Lundgren Takes the Helm at NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration](#)

NOAA recently announced that Scott Lundgren will be taking the helm on Nov. 12 as director of NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration — NOAA’s office dedicated to preparedness, response, and restoration efforts to protect coastal resources from threats of oil, chemicals, marine debris, and natural disasters.

[2019 Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization](#)

On October 16-27, the Marine Debris Program (MDP) was represented at the 2019 Annual Meeting of the North Pacific Marine Science Organization which took place in Victoria, BC Canada.

[OR&R Disaster Preparedness Program and the Coastal Response Research Center Meet with Senator Shaheen's Staff](#)

On October 24, the Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) met with staff from the office of Senator Shaheen (NH) along with and through an invitation from the University of New Hampshire Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC).

[Lighthouse Lofoten Conference in Svolvær, Norway](#)

On October 17-18, the Marine Debris Program (MDP) participated and presented at the Lighthouse Lofoten conference in Svolvær, Norway.

[CAMEO Team Meets with Hazmat Community to Collect Feedback on CAMEO Software](#)

In early October, members of the CAMEO® software team attended two conferences in Houston, Texas, to get feedback from emergency planners and responders on our CAMEO software and to stay up to date on issues surrounding hazardous material response.

[SOLVE Launches a State-wide Adopt-a-Beach Program](#)

SOLVE Oregon, in partnership with Oregon State Parks, launched a state-wise [adopt-a-beach](#) program.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

[Fifty Years: Southern California Coastal Water Research Project](#)

On October 12, the Southern California Coastal Water Research Project (SCCWRP) celebrated its 50th Anniversary.

[University of Hawai'i's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology's \(SOEST\) 2019 Open House Program](#)

NOAA Marine Debris Program's (MDP) Pacific Island Region team members participated in the University of Hawai'i's School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology's (SOEST) 2019 Open House Program on October 25-26.

[Former NOS Assistant Administrator Visits OR&R](#)

Staff members from OR&R and the Office of Coast Survey recently enjoyed a visit from Russell Callender, former Assistant Administrator of NOAA's National Ocean Service. In 2018, Dr. Callender was named as the new Director of Washington Sea Grant at the University of Washington in Seattle.

ISCO NEWS

ON THE ISCO BOOTH AT CLEAN GULF LAST WEEK



Above left: Keith Harrison, CEO of ISCO Corporate Member, Texas Boom Company was the lucky winner of ISCO's traditional draw for a bottle of fine Scotch Malt Whisky.

Above right: ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville, caught in a pensive mood during a quiet moment at the ISCO booth.

The Secretary's Report on Clean Gulf will be in next week's ISCO Newsletter.

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

RESOLVE MARINE GROUP SENDS WATER PURIFYING PLANT TO BAHAMAS

September 17 - As follow up to the Resolve Marine Group's immediate Hurricane Dorian relief response, Resolve has assembled and launched a critical response barge transporting a water purifying plant to Freeport which can produce 5,000 gals. of potable water daily.



The ability to send the relief barge directly to Freeport harbor is a result of the Resolve Marine Group's dedicated 24-hour Hurricane Dorian response team. Resolve Marine Group photo

The plant system, consisting of three reverse osmosis water purifiers and all support systems, left Port Everglades and arrived in the surveyed and cleared Freeport Harbor where Resolve Maritime Group is planning assembly operations that will deliver potable water to the impacted Bahama islands. Once fully operational, the water plant's distribution process will reduce the reliance on water in plastic bottles lessening waste throughout the Bahamas.

The ability to send the relief barge directly to Freeport harbor is a result of the Resolve Marine Group's dedicated 24-hour Hurricane Dorian response team, which identified the impacted area's immediate and potential needs. While Dorian was still active, Resolve Marine Group and its response partners activated a vessel and hydrographic survey team.

In the Bahamas, the hydrographic survey team immediately conducted a survey of Freeport Harbor in a critical effort to clear the harbor's entrance for other relief and emergency response vessels. In addition, Resolve deployed a drone and helicopter aerial survey team to assess critical infrastructure needs and provide impact 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 cleared the area.

Resolve plans to continue operating throughout the Bahamas chain in support of relief efforts wherever feasible, potentially transporting food, supplies, and materials needed in the hard-hit communities. Resolve Marine Group's humanitarian subsidiary, Mission Resolve, has already provided resources for humanitarian support, offering aid workers temporary housing and support services where possible. Work Boat / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Bill Hazel, VP at Marine Pollution Control for sending in this news item. Bill also sent a link for a related article in [USA Today](#)]

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

RIVERS OF THE 'DAMMED,' RISING FROM THE GRAVE



A Spooky Halloween Science Story by Megan Ewald, Office of Response and Restoration

(First published on 31st October 2019)

Once there were six waterways cursed by pollution.

But terrifying toxins and oozing oil spills were not the first dooms to befall these rivers, each of them had already been dammed. The dams had been constructed for a variety of important reasons, but as the years passed and they fell out of use, an evil crept over them.

Rivers are pathways between realms, watery corridors that connect oceans to freshwaters. Every year millions of fish, including salmon, herring, eel, and other scaly creatures, make heroic migrations between rivers and the ocean to spawn. Dams stop this migration dead, cursing fish to spawn in a shadow of their former habitats.

Oil spills, hazardous waste, and ship groundings hex America's oceans and rivers every year. Pollution drives people away from beaches, leaving them silent as a boneyard. NOAA looks for ways to bring waterways back to life. To do this, NOAA and our partners often look for opportunities to remove or bypass barriers for fish passage such as dams, faulty culverts, or grates.

This is the sordid tale of six dammed rivers, where pollution settlements provided the opportunity for waters across America to rise from the grave.

Helmet Creek Fish Passage Project, Adak Island, Alaska



Diesel accumulating behind the first row of pollution boom after an oil spill in Alaska's Aleutian Islands in 2010. Image credit: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.



Adak Island, Alaska in 2018.



Adak Island, Alaska in 2018.

In 2010, an oil spill occurred on the remote Adak Island in Alaska's Aleutian Islands. Fuel pumping to an underground storage tank overflowed and spilled 142,800 gallons into Helmet Creek and its banks. As a result, pink salmon, Dolly Varden trout, aquatic insects, stream habitat, and potentially birds and marine mammals, were harmed. A settlement was reached in 2013 with Adak Petroleum to fund restoration projects that same year.

To improve fish passage in the creek, creosote pilings and culvert grates were removed from the stream. This opened up habitat for salmon and other migratory fish that was previously unreachable. The stream was then re-graded, allowing for improved passage, and 55 gallon drums that had been abandoned in and along the creek were removed. The Adak oil spill assessment and restoration was challenging due to the island's remote location, making this stream restoration an especially rewarding achievement.

Horseshoe Mill Dam Removal, Weweantic River, Wareham, Massachusetts



Bouchard Barge 120 oil spill cleanup. Image credit: NOAA.



Bouchard Barge 120 oil spill cleanup. Image credit: NOAA.



Horseshoe Dam before it was removed.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

In 2003, the tank barge Bouchard 120 struck a rock outcrop in Buzzards Bay and spilled 98,000 gallons of oil into waters offshore of Massachusetts and Rhode Island, oiling over 100 miles of shoreline. The spill killed or oiled piping plover, roseate tern, loon and many other bird species. It also impacted marshes, fish, and shellfish, and restricted public access to beaches, recreational shellfishing and boating. Two case settlements in 2011 and 2018 secured nearly \$20 million to restore natural resources injured by the oil spill.

A portion of the funds are being used to remove the Horseshoe Mill dam, a dilapidated structure at the head-of-tide on the Weweantic River. Not only is the dam a public safety hazard, but it blocks natural sediment transport, tidal exchange, and prevents migratory fish passage. Its removal, beginning in November 2019, will open habitat for fish and encourage the return of native wetland plant communities including rare species. Two canoe launches will also be built, encouraging people to use and enjoy the reconnected river.

Revamping Fishways on the Saugatucket River, South Kingstown, Rhode Island



Rose Hill Landfill, Rhode Island. Image credit: Environmental Protection Agency.



Rose Hill Landfill, Rhode Island.



Rose Hill Landfill, Rhode Island. Credit: NOAA.

The Rose Hill Landfill was a former abandoned quarry where illicit dumping of household and industrial waste went on for years. The site included 27 acres of solid waste, 15 acres of sewage sludge, and 11 acres of bulk waste. Toxic compounds and metals leached from the site into nearby aquatic habitats including the Saugatucket River. The site was declared a Superfund site in 1989, cleaned up, and a \$117,000 settlement reached with NOAA in 2002 for injury restoration.

Through the settlement, two fishways were reconstructed at the Palisades Mill Dam and Main Street Dam on the lower Saugatucket River, with construction completed in 2015. The existing fishways, originally built in 1970, functioned very poorly with few fish passing. The fishway improvements, also supplemented by state and other federal funds, allow thousands of river herring and other migratory fish to reach over 300 acres of upstream habitat. This marks a new and healthier chapter for the Saugatucket River and watershed communities.

Three Dams in Darby Creek, Pennsylvania

The M/T Athos I oil spill occurred when the oil tanker struck a submerged anchor while the vessel docked at an oil refinery, spilling over 265,000 gallons of crude oil into the Delaware River and nearby streams in the fall of 2004. The oil spread 115 miles downriver, oiling 280 miles of shoreline in Pennsylvania, New Jersey, and Delaware. In addition to injuring habitats, fish, and wildlife, the spill affected recreational uses like boating, fishing, and hunting.

A \$27.5 million for restoration projects was received from the National Pollution Fund Center in 2010, and among those projects were three dam removals. The Darby Borough Dam, Hoffman Park Dam, and Kent Park Dam were all in disrepair and blocked fish passage along Darby Creek.

Their removal in 2013 opened up passage for migratory fish like American shad, alewife, river herring, and American eel. Today the shoreline is lined with native plants, improving water and habitat quality, which is one of the most visible positive changes for the stream.

Massapequa Creek Fish Ladder, Massapequa, New York



Liberty industrial finishing sediment dredging. Image credit: U.S. Geodetic Survey.

Liberty Pond fish ladder. Image credit: NOAA.

The Liberty Industrial Finishing site produced aircraft parts during World War II and the Korean War, and waste from metal finishing processes contaminated nearby soil and groundwater. These contaminants made their way into nearby Massapequa Creek. Cleanup included treating contaminated groundwater and removing more than 73,100 cubic yards of contaminated soil and 2,600 cubic yards of contaminated pond sediments. A settlement was reached in 2006 and the cleanup was completed in 2012.

To help restore resources in the creek, a ladder was constructed to allow fish to return to the system. For more than a century, two dams had restricted fish passage between the Massapequa Tidal Channel and Massapequa Lake. The ladder is designed to provide migratory fish like alewife and blueback herring access to approximately 40 acres of freshwater spawning and nursery habitat. In the summer of 2015, six years after the construction of the ladder, large numbers of young alewife were [using the ladder](#) to populate Massapequa Lake — proof of successful spawning and rearing of migratory fish due to this restoration project.

Bloede Dam, Patapsco River, Maryland



Spectron Superfund near the Patapsco River in Maryland.



Bloede Dam on the Patapsco River in Maryland. Image credit: NOAA.

Bloede Dam on the Patapsco River in Maryland.

This Was the Story of 6 Dammed Rivers Rising From the Grave

For over 30 years [NOAA's Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program](#) has worked with our co-trustees to hold parties accountable and restore waterways across America. We are proud to support fish passage projects as one way to bring injured rivers back to life. These projects benefit communities and economies across the country that depend on clean waterways and robust fisheries. *ISCO thanks NOAA OR&R for kind permission to reprint the above article*

<https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

CONTRACT & TENDERS

OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

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

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISER

UK: Salvage & Wreck Conference, London 4-5 December - will be returning this December as part of the Global Marine Casualties Week, giving attendees the chance to network with a wider audience than ever before. [More info](#)

Tunisia: Regional Workshop on Incident Management System 200, 13-14 November. More info contact houcine.mejri@moig.org.tn

USA: Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition, Seattle, June 9-11, 2020 - Prospective speakers are [invited to submit](#) a 200-300 word abstract(s) online for consideration by Friday, November 15, 2019.

UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
SOUTH AFRICA	November 4-7	IMS 300 Training and 3rd Joint industry – government exercise	Cape Town
UK	Nov. 11-12	WWEM 2020 - Water, Wastewater and Environmental Monitoring	Telford
TUNISIA	Nov. 13-14	Incident Management System Training Workshop	Tunis
SWEDEN	Nov. 13-14	Swedish National Oil Spill Conference	Gothenburg
FRANCE	November 21	Cedre Technical Day	Brest
UK	Nov. 21-22	IMO Council Extraordinary Session	London
UK	Nov. 25 – Dec. 4	IMO Assembly	London
GERMANY	November 29	South Baltic Oil Spill Conference	Rostock
UK	December 4-5	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	London
UK	December 4-6	Global Marine Casualties Week	London
UK	December 5	Maritime Accidents & Emergencies Summit	London
UAE	Dec. 8-10	Middle East HSE and Sustainability Week	Dubai
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
USA	March 24-25	SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Arlington, VA
USA	April 7-9	Clean Waterways Conference	Indianapolis, IN
USA	May 11-14	International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition	New Orleans, LA
CANADA	June 2-4	43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response.	Edmonton, Alberta
USA	June 2-4	Elastec's Spring 2020 River Workshop	Carni, IL
USA	June 9-11	Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition	Seattle
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			

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[Alga Chronicle](#)
[AMSA Update](#)
[ATRAC Newsletter](#)
[AUSMEPA Bulletin](#)
[BIMCO Bulletin](#)
[Newsletter from George Holliday](#)
[Bow Wave](#)
[Cedre Newsletter](#)
[Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter](#)
[EMSA Newsletter](#)
[GEF Newsletter](#)
[GESAMP](#)
[GISEA Quarterly Newsletter](#)

News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation
 Latest news from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
 News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre
 News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n
 Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO
 News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday
 Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters
 News from Cedre in Brittany, France
 News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria
 News from the European Maritime Safety Agency
 Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility
 Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection
 News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia

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LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2019
IMO Publishing Newsletter	New and forthcoming IMO publications	October 2019
ITOPF Ocean Orbit	News from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	October 2019
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q4 2019 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Jan.-Feb. 2019
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	April 2019 issue
Nautical Institute News	News from the Nautical Institute	March, 2019
Navigate Response	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	October 2019
NOAA OR&R	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
Oceanbuzz	Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry	Current issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	September 2019
OHMSETT Gazette	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Summer 2019
OSPAR Newsletter	Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources	Spring 2019
PEMSEA Newsletter	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	September, 2019
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	April 3, 2019
Safe Seas, Clean Seas	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	July 2018 issue
Salvage World	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Current issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Sept. 1-15, 2019
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	November 1, 2019
WestMOPoCo	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: MARYLAND ENVIRONMENTAL OFFICIALS INVESTIGATE LEAK IN UPPER POTOMAC RIVER NEAR SHUTTERED PAPER MILL

October 25 - Maryland environmental officials said they are investigating a chemical leak from a recently shuttered paper mill on the Upper Potomac River that has discolored part of the river and could harm aquatic life.

State officials suspect the seepage contains "black liquor," a byproduct of paper manufacturing that is about as caustic as lye, along with other chemicals from Verso's former plant in Luke, Md. The Washington Post / [Read more](#)

BANGLADESH: OIL SPILL THREATENS RARE DOLPHIN BREEDING ZONE

October 27 - An oil spill on a river in southeast Bangladesh has threatened the breeding ground of the critically endangered Ganges dolphin, environmentalists said Sunday, describing it as a "major disaster" for the mammal. A tanker carrying 1,200 tonnes of diesel collided with another ship on the Karnaphuli river near Chittagong port Friday and spilled tonnes of fuel, port authority spokesman Omar Faruk said. Phys Org / [Read more](#) See also earlier report in last week's ISCO Newsletter and other related reports in [France 24](#) and [Eco Watch](#)

LATVIA: CARGO SHIP BREACHED WHILE MOORING, OIL LEAK, LATVIA, BALTIC SEA

October 28 - General cargo ship LYRA collided with pier at Liepaja Port, Latvia, early in the morning Oct 26, while mooring in strong wind. Ship's hull was breached, oil leak reported, spilled quantity unknown. The ship was fenced off with booms, cleansing operation launched. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, ynd@odin.tc]

USA: LOUISIANA - U.S. COAST GUARD RESPONDS TO THREE SPILLS

October 28 - The U.S. Coast Guard is responding to an oil sheen in Breton Sound, Block 37, Louisiana. It is just one of three spill responses underway on Monday.

The three-mile by 10-mile sheen originated from a damaged and inactive wellhead owned by Texas Petroleum Investment Company (TPIC). Currently, the well is intermittently discharging a mixture of oil, water and mud. The cause of the damage to the wellhead is unconfirmed and is currently under investigation.

TPIC has assumed control of the spill as the responsible party contracted. OMI Environmental Solutions, American Pollution Control Corporation and Clean Gulf Associates are cleaning up the spill. Seven response boats from OMI Environmental Solutions and Clean Gulf Associates are on-scene conducting containment and recovery operations, with 84 gallons of oily water mixture reportedly recovered so far. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#) See also related report in [MSN News](#)

INDIA: GOA: GROUNDED SHIP WAITS FOR INSTRUMENTS TO OFFLOAD DANGEROUS CHEMICAL CARGO

October 28 - Four days after a ship laden with naphtha ran aground near a beach in Goa, the state government has said that the

operation to offload the cargo has been delayed by several days due to rough seas. However, the actual operation to salvage the ship will take place in a month as some of the instruments required have not arrived.

According to local media reports, the tanker, known as MV NU SHI Nalini, was anchored near Mormugao port with 3,000 tonne of naphtha – a flammable oil containing various hydrocarbons – when it started to drift toward the Raj Bhawan at Dona Paula last Thursday due to strong winds and heavy rains. The Wire / [Read more](#) See also report in last week's ISCO Newsletter and related report in [Hindustan Times](#)

USA: GEORGIA – MORE NEWS ON THE GOLDEN RAY CAPSIZE



October 28 - Inside Golden Ray - A cargo assessment has taken place on the ninth deck of the capsized car carrier Golden Ray. The Unified Command used laser technology to analyze the inaccessible cargo-hold, which produced 3-D images of inside the grounded vessel. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

October 30 - Rock Operations Commence - Unified Command response crews have begun operations to reduce erosion around the hull of the Golden Ray by placing a rock "blanket" around it. Sonar and GPS technology are being used to guide the knuckle boom excavator used to deploy the one-to-three-inch aggregate. The Maritime Executive / [Read more and watch video](#)

BRAZIL: UPDATES ON THE MYSTERY OIL POLLUTION OF N.E. SHORELINE

October 19 - Mysterious crates washing up on Brazil's oil-stained beaches - Oil spills have been plaguing Brazil's northern coastline for weeks. But before that, another mystery had been puzzling local scientists: shipping crates, thought to be from a German vessel that sank in 1944. DW / [Read more](#) See also the article on Page 1 of this week's ISCO Newsletter.

October 29 - Frustration Grows as Brazil's Mysterious Oil Spill Continues - Nearly two months after a black sludge was first reported on the shore in Pernambuco, the Brazilian government still hasn't determined the source of the oil spill that is polluting beaches along more than 1,000 miles of the country's northeast coast, and Brazilian President Jair Bolsonaro is beginning to draw fire for what some view as an ineffective response to the disaster. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

October 29 - Oil spill in Brazil spreads 1,300 miles - Volunteers and government officials as of Oct. 21 recovered over 600 tons of crude oil from the oil spill that has affected approximately 1,300 miles of Brazilian beaches since the beginning of September.

The origin of the oil involved in the spill remains unknown despite tests having been run by Ibama, the Brazilian environmental agency, and state-run oil company Petrobras. Experts believe the oil could be from a sunken ship or a ship-to-ship oil transfer that went wrong, but no official source has been determined. PSU Vanguard / [Read more](#)

October 29 - Brazil fears oil spill could reach coral reef, readies ships - Brazil's Navy said Tuesday it is preparing for the possibility that an oil spill reaches one of the country's largest coral reef systems, amid public outcry regarding the government's early response to the spill. CTV News / [Read more](#)

November 1 - Brazil blames devastating oil spill on Greek-flagged tanker - A Greek-flagged ship carrying Venezuelan crude was the source of an oil spill which has tarred thousands of kilometers of coastline over the past two months, Brazilian investigators have announced. Police said the tanker appears to have spilled the crude about 700km (420 miles) off Brazil's coast between 28 and 29 July, bound for Singapore with oil loaded at Venezuela's San José terminal. The Guardian / [Read more](#)

November 1 - Brazilian Police Investigate Greek Tanker Operator Over Mystery Spill - Federal prosecutors secured warrants to search the offices of the ship's agent and the shipowner's oil pollution prevention contractor, and police executed the warrants Friday at offices in Rio de Janeiro. Prosecutors suspect that one of the Greek firm's Suezmax tankers released oil on July 28 or 29 while transiting off Brazil on a voyage from Venezuela to South Africa. The ship then called in Nigeria and headed to Melaka to offload. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

November 2 - Greek tanker not to blame for Brazil oil spill: operator - The operators of a Greek-flagged tanker seen as the "prime suspect" behind a series of oil spills along the Brazilian coast in the past two months denied Saturday that the vessel was to blame



for the leaks. "There is no proof of the vessel having stopped, conducted any kind of STS operation (Ship to Ship), leaked, slowed down or veered off course, on its passage from Venezuela to Melaka, Malaysia," the company Delta Tankers Ltd said in a statement. Deviscourse / [Read more](#)

Press Reports from Brazilian newspapers received from Carlos Sagrera, MSc., FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Panama

<https://www1.folha.uol.com.br/ambiente/2019/11/pf-cumpre-mandados-contr-navio-grego-suspeito-de-vazar-oleo.shtml>

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<https://istoe.com.br/navio-grego-e-alvo-de-operacao-da-pf-por-derramamento-de-oleo-no-brasil/>

<https://politica.estadao.com.br/blogs/fausto-macedo/pf-mira-navio-grego-por-derramamento-de-oleo-no-litoral-brasileiro/>

<https://g1.globo.com/natureza/desastre-ambiental-petroleo-praias/noticia/2019/11/01/navio-grego-suspeito-no-caso-das-manchas-no-nordeste-carregou-1-milhao-de-barris-de-petroleo-na-venezuela.ghtml>

USA: NORTH DAKOTA – REPORTED OIL SPILL FROM KEYSTONE PIPELINE

October 30 - TC Energy reports spill in North Dakota, shuts Keystone pipeline - TC Energy Corp TRP.TOsaid on Wednesday it is shutting its Keystone crude pipeline after a late Tuesday oilspill in North Dakota. The company said it detected a drop in pressure on Tuesday night on its 590,000-barrel-per-day (bpd) Keystone oil pipeline system from Canada, it said in a statement. Nasdaq / [Read more](#)

October 30 - TC Energy says Keystone pipeline spill in North Dakota contained - TC Energy Corp said on Wednesday that a response team contained an oil spill in Walsh County, North Dakota from its Keystone crude pipeline. Oil has not migrated beyond an immediately affected area of about 2,500 square yards (2,090 square meters), the company said in a statement. Reuters / [Read more](#)

November 1 – Leak in Keystone Pipeline spills 9,000 barrels of oil - Crews shut down the pipeline after the leak was discovered Tuesday night, Karl Rockeman, North Dakota's water quality division director, told the Associated Press. The oil spill affected a wetlands area. NBC News / [Read more](#)

November 1 - Work underway to plug Keystone pipeline after oil spill - Cleanup crews in Walsh County, North Dakota, are starting work to plug the Keystone pipeline. The work on the underground pipeline, owned by TC Energy Corp, is intended "to prevent any further oil that may be sitting in the pipeline from being released," said Karl Rockeman, director of the North Dakota Division of Water Quality, whose department is overseeing the cleanup. Financial Post / [Read more](#)

SUDAN: OIL SPILL IN WEST KORDOFAN

October 30 - Water and oil are leaking from an oil well in West Kordofan, contaminating an area of two square kilometres, the West Kordofan Health Ministry reports. The oil spill occurred in the area of Shag El Aradeib in Lagawa locality. The acting governor of West Kordofan, Maj Gen Abdallah Mohamed, announced a committee has been dispatched by the state Ministry of Health and Social Development to investigate the facts and to study the effects of the spill on people and animals. Dabanga Sudan / [Read more](#)

BAHAMAS: CLEAN-UP OF DEBRIS IN ABACO HAS BEGUN, SAYS FERREIRA

November 1 - Nearly two months after Hurricane Dorian ravaged the northwestern Bahamas, the clean-up of debris in Abaco has begun, according to Environment Minister Romauld Ferreira. Last week, the international energy company released a statement that stated additional surveys were conducted by Equinor and two external companies. The surveys revealed the updated estimated volume of the oil spill at the South Riding Point terminal after the impact of Hurricane Dorian was 55,000 barrels (2.3 million gallons) – less than half the initial volume estimate of 119,000 barrels (five million barrels). Tribune 242 / [Read more](#)

Stop Press – Announcement just received

MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR SAM IGNARSKI

There will be a Memorial Service at 1pm on Tuesday, 12th November, at St Mary's Church, West Cowes, followed by refreshments at Northwood House, next to the Church. There is a passenger ferry service from Southampton to West Cowes via the Red Jet. The Church is about a five minute walk uphill from the ferry terminal. If travelling by train to Southampton, there is the Quay Connect bus (approx every half hour) that will take you to the Red Jet terminal. The pick-up point is on the south side of the station. Could those wishing to attend please indicate via contactus@afterofficehours.com so that the family has an idea of numbers. [Editor: See earlier announcement in ISCO Newsletter 707]

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