

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

BONN AGREEMENT CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY



Ministers from around Europe gathered in Bonn (Germany) last week on the invitation of German Federal Minister Andreas Scheuer to celebrate 50 years of successful cooperation in dealing with pollution of the North Sea by oil and other harmful substances. Within the framework of the Bonn Agreement, Ministers renewed and expanded their commitments for the protection of the Greater North Sea and its Approaches.

The Bonn Agreement is the mechanism by which the North Sea States, and the European Union (the Contracting Parties), work together to help each other in combating pollution in the North Sea Area from maritime disasters and chronic pollution from ships and offshore installations; and to carry out surveillance as an aid to detecting and combating pollution at sea. It is the oldest regional agreement established by governments for responding to pollution incidents.

The North Sea States are Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Spain has become the 11th Bonn Agreement Contracting Party on 11 October 2019.

Bonn Agreement / [Read more](#)

UPCOMING REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMO CIVIL LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION

The Federal Transport Authority of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP), is hosting a regional workshop on IMO Civil Liability and Compensation Conventions from 8–12 December 2019 in Dubai. The workshop will focus on the importance and need for improved implementation of the IMO liability

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

conventions, and the IOPC Funds have been invited to participate in the event to deliver presentations on the international liability and compensation regime for oil pollution (the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions) as well as the 2010 HNS Convention. <https://www.iopcfunds.org/>

ITOPF HAS MOBILISED EXPERTS TO THE BRAZIL OIL SPILL

ITOPF is currently on-site in north-east Brazil attending the recent oil spill that has contaminated approximately 2,500 km of coastline in nine states. The source of the pollution remains unknown.

Our involvement was requested directly by IBAMA, the Brazilian Institute of Environment and Renewable Natural Resources, on 16th September 2019, a couple of weeks after oil was first spotted washing up on shore. ITOPF is normally requested on-site by a shipowner or their insurer, but in the case of an unattributed spill, we would not have been involved without this proactive approach. ITOPF is well known to the Brazilian authorities and has developed good working relationships with them over recent years, supporting numerous initiatives to promote effective preparedness and response to oil and chemical spills and help build national capacity to deal with pollution incidents.

We initially provided advice remotely from London, primarily on trajectory modelling and reviewing satellite imagery, and soon after travelled to Brazil. Our role on site has been to assist IBAMA, the Brazilian Navy and clean-up teams, helping to determine the scope and severity of the pollution and offering advice on the best methods and techniques to clean up. On a practical level, this has included the production of a series

of Technical Guidance Notes on key activities, as aids for the clean-up operatives led by the local municipalities, and developed an online form for systematically reporting new oiling of the shore. We have jointly surveyed the contaminated coastline with the authorities, both in the air and on the ground, and provided daily advice to the central command. ITOPF / [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

AUSTRALIA: TAXPAYERS MAY FACE \$230 MILLION BILL TO CLEAN UP TOXIC STOCKPILES



Photo: The bush block in western Victoria where more than 50 million litres of chemical waste has been buried. Credit: Joe Armao

October 29 - Taxpayers could be forced to spend at least \$230 million to clean up a minimum of 15 toxic waste stockpiles linked to the largest illegal dumping syndicate in Victoria's history.

The Environment Protection Authority and WorkSafe are bracing for budget blowouts amid concerns those responsible for the illegal waste operation can't be held financially accountable for the clean-up bill. The biggest expense is expected to come from an eventual EPA operation to neutralise an estimated 50 million litres of chemical waste buried on a bush block in the

state's west, which is threatening to contaminate water supplies for a swath of agricultural land near the South Australian border. The SydneyMorning Herald / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

AUSTRALIA: AUSMEPA VISIT TO HELMEPA IN ATHENS

November 11 – “I had a fabulous time visiting the HELMEPA office in my recent visit to Athens in October. AUSMEPA are working with HELMEPA in order to expand the cooperation between the two associations, within the spirit of the MEPA philosophy.

I had the opportunity to see first-hand HELMEPA’s and participate in activities such as the voluntary beach cleanup of the Vravrona wetland and the educational visits of students and their teachers at both the environmental Exhibition in Piraeus and the one in Palaio Faliro. I talked to the students about the Great Barrier Reef and the importance of a healthy marine environment for Australia and in Greece”. AUSMEPA / [Read more](#)



CROATIA: “SHORELINE CLEANUP” – WORKSHOP FOR SKC

November 11 - According to the Agreement between ATRAC and Šibenik-Knin County, on 7th November 2019 ATRAC organized a one-day workshop for the members of County Operational Centre and representatives of local government of Šibenik-Knin County. The workshop was focused mainly on shoreline cleanup in case of an oil spill at their territory, as well as introduction to the tiered response and tier 1 contingency plans. ATRAC / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR OCTOBER 2019

November 13 - In the wake of the Lubrizol fire in Rouen, several advisers from Cedre have been on site to directly provide technical support at the Bassin aux Bois spill response site and at the command centre at the Seine-Maritime Prefecture. We were also called upon by the Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean to assess the potentially hazardous nature of the cargo (galvanised steel) of the Rhodanus, which ran aground in Corsica. We advised the Finistère fire brigade following an incident involving a lorry which caused a diesel leak. Following the pollution of Guindreff lake, Cedre responded to enquiries from the Syndicat du bassin versant du Brivet (Loire-Atlantique), and Cedre’s laboratory was tasked, by the Communauté d’agglomération de la Région Nazairienne et de l’Estuaire, with characterising the pollutant released in the environment. Finally, Cedre took part in the LION POL 2019 exercise, organised by the Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean as a technical adviser within the command centre (CTC), as well as in the coordination centre set up by the Aude Prefecture. CEDRE / [Read more in the October 2019 Cedre Newsletter](#)

INDONESIA AND KOREA: KOEM, STRENGTHENING AND IMPROVEMENT FOR MARINE LITTER RESPONSE IN INDONESIA

November 4 - Capacity Building Workshop on Marine Litter Monitoring - KOEM(CEO Park Seung-gee) said it held a workshop on capacity building monitoring of marine litter monitoring in Indonesia from Oct. 28 to Nov. 1 at the Rabuan Bajo Rwanda Beach Resort in Indonesia

The "Indonesia Marine Litter Management Improvement Project" is a project jointly developed by South Korea's Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries and Inni Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries to transfer Korea's know-how in managing marine litter. The corporation is implementing the project after signing a contract with the Ministry of Maritime Affairs and Fisheries, and plans to build a foundation for marine litter management in Indonesia, one of the major emitters of marine litter, and strengthen its capacity over three years from this year. KOEM / [Read more](#)

ITALY AND CROATIA: PEPSEA PROJECT – 1ST CO-ORDINATION MEETING



November 8 - 1st Coordination meeting of the EU project PEPSEA, in which ATRAC acts as a project partner, took place in Palmanova, Italy, from November 04 – 06th 2019.

PEPSEA Project started in May 2019., and the main goal of the Project is to protect the enclosed parts of the sea in the Adriatic from pollution, whereas 3 pilot areas are on the Croatian, and 2 on the Italian coast.

The meeting was hosted by the Regional Environmental Protection Agency of Friuli-Venezia-Giulia region (ARPA FVG), and the programme started on Monday afternoon, when ARPA's team presented their activities and research of the marine environment to project partners and the public. ATRAC / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: BODO REMEDIATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES - UPDATE 03

November 10 - The BMI was initiated in 2013 through the efforts of the Dutch Ambassador to bring the principal parties together for the remediation of oil-affected areas in the Bodo creeks. The BMI includes representatives of the Bodo Community, federal and state regulatory agencies, The Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC) and international experts. The BMI has an office and staff in Port Harcourt and relies extensively on the participation of other BMI representatives.

There is no link available for downloading the latest update, dated 10th November 2010, but on request your editor will be pleased to forward a copy of the update to interested readers.

NORWAY: REPORT ON THE ANNUAL NOSCA SEMINAR

November 13 – Report received from CEDRE – The 2019 NOSCA seminar in Norway Cedre was in Trondheim from 14th to 17th October to attend the NOSCA (Norwegian Oil Spill Control Association) Seminar which gathered over 20 Norwegian spill response equipment and product manufacturers and suppliers. In addition to presentations on the Norwegian response set-up and recent equipment, this annual seminar also comprised an equipment deployment demonstration in the coastal waters of the Hitra region (southern Norwegian Sea). This demonstration simulated containment and mechanical recovery operations, based on a scenario involving the loss of pressure control at an offshore well to the west of the Fram oilfield (North Sea), resulting in floating slicks, which had not been recovered offshore, drifting across almost 70 km, driven by coastal currents. The focus was thus on coastal operations to protect the sensitive shoreline of the Froya and Froan region, in particular through trawling with recovery booms suited to strong currents by Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) vessels. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: ADMIRAL MAKAROV SUMIS PARTICIPATES IN THE INTERNATIONAL INVESTIGATIVE PROJECT ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE

November 12 - Admiral Makarov State University of Maritime and Inland Shipping takes part in the international oil spill response investigative project «SIMREC» («Simulators for improving Cross-Border Oil Spill Response in Extreme Conditions»), the University says in a press release.

The SIMREC project implies close cooperation between authorities and research institutes in reducing risks caused by increased shipping intensity and oil spills in extreme conditions. Its goal is the creation of educational technical complexes and procedures for effective cross-border training and management.

SIMREC involves the international team of scientists under the coordination of Kotka Marine Research Association. Apart from Admiral Makarov SUMIS, the team includes representatives of the St. Petersburg State Marine Technical University, Aalto University, Finnish Environment Institute SYKE, South-Eastern Finland University of Applied Sciences and the University of Helsinki.

Port News / [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: TRAINING FOR SPILL RESPONSE PLAN IMPLEMENTATION



November 7 - With important maritime traffic and offshore oil and gas exploration and production off the coast of South Africa, there is increased risk of an oil spill occurring, which poses a threat to the marine environment and wildlife. Improving the efficiency, effectiveness and management of emergency response operations for both governments and industry alike is a key element in minimizing environmental and socio-economic impacts of oil spills.

To address this, a two-day Incident Management System Training Course was held in South Africa (6-7 November) to help participants test their National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and deepen their understanding of the roles and responsibilities of various stakeholders and entities in preparing for and responding to oil spills.

More than 60 South African delegates from governmental and industry bodies attended the event which was hosted by the Ministry of Transport and its agency, the South African Maritime Safety Agency (SAMSA), in cooperation with the Ministry of environment, forests and fisheries under the operation Phakisa. IMO / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA OFFICIALS SEEK TO REVISE OIL SPILL PREVENTION STANDARDS

November 12 - Alaska's environmental conservation agency is looking for public input into revising oil spill prevention and contingency plan requirements, prompting criticism from the advisory council created in the wake of the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill disaster.

"Strong statutes and regulations are a big part of why Alaska has not had a major oil spill since the Exxon Valdez disaster," said Donna Schantz, executive director of the Prince William Sound Regional Citizens' Advisory Council. "It is unreasonable for the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to claim now, after 30 profitable years of industry compliance, that the requirements are too onerous."

The council wants the state to halt the scoping process until more information is offered to the public on the driving factors that have prompted the move for changes in current regulations.

DEC officials said they specifically want to hear whether the current regulations can be made more understandable without compromising environmental protection or if any portions of those regulations may be outdated or duplicative. The agency also is seeking comment on its statutory authorities relevant to contingency planning. Current regulations on both issues are available online as 18 AAC 75 Article 4 (<http://www.legis.state.ak.us/basis/aac.asp#18.75.400>) and AS 46.04

(<http://www.akleg.gov/basis/statutes.asp#46.04>). Alaska Native News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Steve Candito]

USA: WYOMING - CLEANING NEWLY FOUND POLLUTION IN NORTH PLATTE RIVER WILL COST MORE THAN \$500K



November 13 - The City of Casper's long-running project to rehabilitate the North Platte River hit a huge snag when the [NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center Hosts Leadership](#) next phase of construction near the Poplar Street bridge uncovered far more contamination, costing far more to remediate, than expected.

It was known that there would be past refinery pollution in the nearly half-mile phase extending from the Poplar Street bridge to the BNSF bridge, and that there would be environmental oversight during the construction.

"No one expected, however, to find a good deal of unmitigated pollution remaining in this stretch of the river,"

Martinez wrote. K2 Radio / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

November 18 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[New Paper on Classifying Oil Thickness Using Remote Sensing Showcases Advances in Oil Spill Science](#)

OR&R Scientists George Graettinger and Lisa DiPinto recently published a paper titled "Classification of oil spill by thicknesses using multiple remote sensors" in the journal Remote Sensing of the Environment.

[NOAA's Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center Hosts Leadership](#)

On Wednesday, November 6, the Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center (DRCO in Mobile, Alabama hosted not one, but two distinguished guests - RDML Timothy Gallaudet, Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Oceans and Atmosphere, and CAPT van Westendorp, of the Office of Coast Survey, Navigation Services Division.

[Marine Debris Program Participates in Coastal Estuarine Research Foundation Conference](#)

On November 5, Caitlin Wessel, Gulf of Mexico Regional Coordinator for the NOAA Marine Debris Program, co-chaired a session at Coastal Estuarine Research Foundation's (CERF) biennial conference.

[Disaster Preparedness Program Participates in Region 6 Regional Response Team Meeting](#)

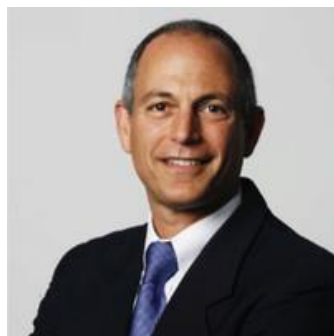
On November 6-7, 2019, members of the OR&R Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) and the OR&R Emergency Response Division attended the Regional Response Team 6 fall meeting in Addison, Texas.

[Story Map: Using NOAA's Mapping Tool for Tracking Displaced Vessels](#)

When hurricanes push displaced boats into shipping channels or sensitive habitats, they need to be cleared out fast. NOAA uses the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) to gather and display information about boats that are displaced during hurricanes so responders can efficiently address these threats.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CHARLIE MILLER RETIRES AS CEO OF ECOCHLOR; STEVE CANDITO NAMED AS SUCCESSOR



August 8 - Ecochlor, Inc. announced that Charlie Miller has retired as CEO with Steve Candito (in the photo) named as his successor. Steve started his new role on August 8, 2017 with Charlie to assist during the transition.

Tom Perlich, Ecochlor Founder and President, said, "Charlie has been instrumental in Ecochlor's growth over the last 15 years. During his tenure, we have put together a skilled and experienced team, and find ourselves positioned as a global front-runner in the BWT industry. While Charlie will be missed, I am equally confident in the leadership of his replacement, Steve Candito, as he assumes the role of our new CEO. Steve comes from a strong background in the maritime industry and has an excellent performance record in all that he has undertaken. I look forward to being part of Steve's vision for Ecochlor's continued growth!"

Prior to joining Ecochlor, Steve was Founder, President and CEO of Foresea Consulting where he provided various advisory services including strategic planning, regulatory compliance and crisis management to the maritime and environmental communities. Before Foresea, he was President and CEO of National Response Corporation (NRC). During his 20+ years at NRC he grew the business from a start-up to a leading global emergency response and environmental services firm. Ecochlor / [Read more](#) [Editor – This announcement came out way back in August. Apologies for having missed out in including it sooner. I'm not infallible and really do appreciate when readers send me reports for the newsletter]

NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL AT NORAD FROM 2020

November 8 - Mr. Bård Vegar Solhjell was appointed new Director General at Norad by the Government on Friday 8th of November. Mr. Solhjell comes from a position as Secretary General of WWF Norway, a position he has held since 2018.

Mr. Solhjell has previously served as Minister of Environment (2012-2013) and Education (2007-2009), State Secretary at the Prime Minister's office (2005-2007), member of Parliament and Party Secretary for the Socialist Left Party.

Mr. Solhjell is appointed as Director General in the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (Norad) by the Norwegian Government for a fixed-term contract for four years with effect from January 1st 2020. Bård Vegar Solhjell succeeds former Norad Director General Mr. Jon Lomøy. NORAD / [Read more](#)



ISCO NEWS

DECIDING ON THE FUTURE OF THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO management team is currently reviewing its options in regard to continuing the publication of the ISCO Newsletter.

ISCO's funding is 100% dependent on receipts of Members' annual subscriptions. The organization is run in a very economical way and its staff are all unpaid volunteers.

Since publication of the ISCO Newsleeter began in 2005 it has been a free publication but, with relentless increases in running costs, the organization needs additional funding.

We need more paying members and it has been suggested that one way to achieve this would be to limit the free delivery of the newsletter to Members only.

At this time a high proportion of our readers get the newsletter for free and do not make any contribution to ISCO funds. Some members feel that it is unfair that through their membership dues they are subsidising others who make no contribution.

The management team needs to be able to estimate how many of our non-member readers would be willing to join ISCO in order to continue receiving the newsletter for free.

Currently, the minimum cost of ISCO membership (for individuals) is only GBP 75 / USD 98 / Euro 88 per year.

You can join and pay on line –

www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/membership-application
www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/subscriptions

Your response will be a critical factor in our decision-making in regard to the future of the ISCO Newsletter.

Please respond by email to 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

NRC RESPONDS TO CALL FROM US COAST GUARD

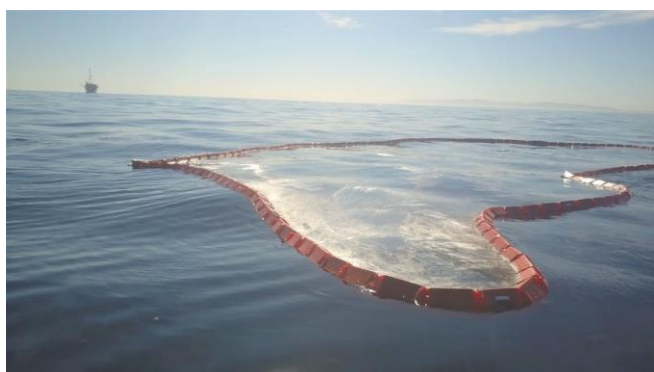
November 12 - US Ecology's NorCal Marine Operations Team responded to a USCG call for a 75' sinking vessel this weekend. Crews were able to deploy containment before any residual oils were released. Project will remain on-going until all hazmat is removed [Thanks to Cody Campbell, NRC]

ISCO MEMBER AND FOUNDER OF AQUA-GUARD SPILL RESPONSE IS SLEEPING ON THE STREET ON NOV 21ST THIS IS WHY

November 12 - Lynn Valley author and entrepreneur Nigel Bennett aims to raise \$15,000 to benefit homeless youth through Covenant House. Bennett is participating in the Executive Edition Sleep Out set for Nov. 21. Aqua-Guard / [Read more](#)

RECENTLY ANNOUNCED NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES

ULTRA-LIGHT OIL SPILL CONTAINMENT SYSTEM COULD DRAMATICALLY CUT RESPONSE TIME



Canadian clean tech fund Evok Innovations is introducing a new oil spill containment technology to the oil and gas market that could dramatically reduce response time to spills, and as a result, reduce environmental impacts to water bodies.

Three years ago Evok, which is funded by Suncor Energy and Cenovus Energy, invested in Israel-based HARBO Technologies. The company's new oil spill containment system has undergone extensive research, development and deployment, and is now ready for commercialization, Evok director Jana Hanova told JWN.

Similar to conventional containment booms, HARBO's system, called T-Fence, acts as a floating barrier to keep spilled oil from spreading

while teams mobilize to clean it up. However, conventional systems are heavy and cumbersome, require significant training and often a fleet of vessels to deploy.

HARBO CEO Boaz Ur says its system, which is a series of cartridges small enough to be shipped as luggage on a commercial airplane, is about one-third the weight of conventional booms. "We took different technologies from the plastics industry and put them together to form a completely new and innovative product," Ur says. JWN Energy / [Read more https://www.harbo-technologies.com/](https://www.harbo-technologies.com/)

PFAS AND GENX LC-MS/MS INFO KIT

Get the PFAS and GenX LC-MS/MS Info Kit. You know conventional per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) analytical methods can be cumbersome. You also know you need a method that is selective, sensitive, and facilitates a broad suite of compounds of varying polarity. [Download your free info kit](#) to access protocols and tools to boost your PFAS quantification and screening.

STOP VALVE CONTAINS OIL SPILLS

The AFL Oil Stop Valve (OSV) recently demonstrated its value for a large electrical utility when a fire started at one of its electrical substations. Power transformers installed in substations typically are filled with 2,000 to 10,000 gal of oil. In this case, the fire damaged a power transformer, causing a subsequent oil spill. Fortunately, 15 years earlier, an AFL OSV was installed in the water discharge sump. The OSV performed as designed, automatically closing upon detection of the oil spill. This rapid response and successful operation directly prevented a major environmental disaster.

Facilities that store oil or utilize oil-filled machinery and equipment are familiar with the requirement to design storm water systems in a way that restricts the release of oil into surrounding environments. The U.S. EPA's Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) rule was created to assist facilities in developing safe containment systems and compliant spill control plans. This valve provides immediate compliance with SPCC rules, but more importantly, it protects surrounding environments from accidental oil spills. SWS Storm Water Solutions / [Read more](#)

D4H + SINGLEWIRE: THE ULTIMATE WAY TO KEEP PEOPLE SAFE AND INFORMED.

Singlewire and D4H are delighted to announce that organizations can now leverage Singlewire's InformaCast emergency notification system and D4H Incident Management together. We've combined two of the world's most powerful technologies to create the ultimate way to keep people safe and informed.

RECENTLY ANNOUNCED NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES (CONTINUED)

Following the tragic events of 9/11, leaders from a US Federal agency contacted Singlewire requesting a solution that would be easy to use, could manage 250 separate paging zones, and wouldn't bring their phone system down. InformaCast was the answer. The InformaCast emergency notification system has since been implemented by organizations around the world to assist with their safety and security. D4H Technologies / [Read more](#)

OSIL 450 - COMPLETE OIL SPILL MONITORING SOLUTIONS FOR VULNERABLE AREAS

Global environmental monitoring experts Ocean Scientific International Ltd (OSIL) produce oil spill monitoring solutions for remote areas for both aquatic and terrestrial applications where there is a concern over the potential for exposure to hydrocarbons.

OSIL build and install systems including oil spill monitoring buoys that are capable of detecting and monitoring surface sheens, oil in water monitoring buoys that can identify and quantify crude oil and refined fuels present in the water column using submersible sensors, and land-based non-contact oil spill detection systems. These structures can detect a variety of hydrocarbon based substances, and can be set up to ignore other materials that fluoresce in the same wavelength. Ocean Buzz / [Read more](#)

CONTRACT & TENDERS

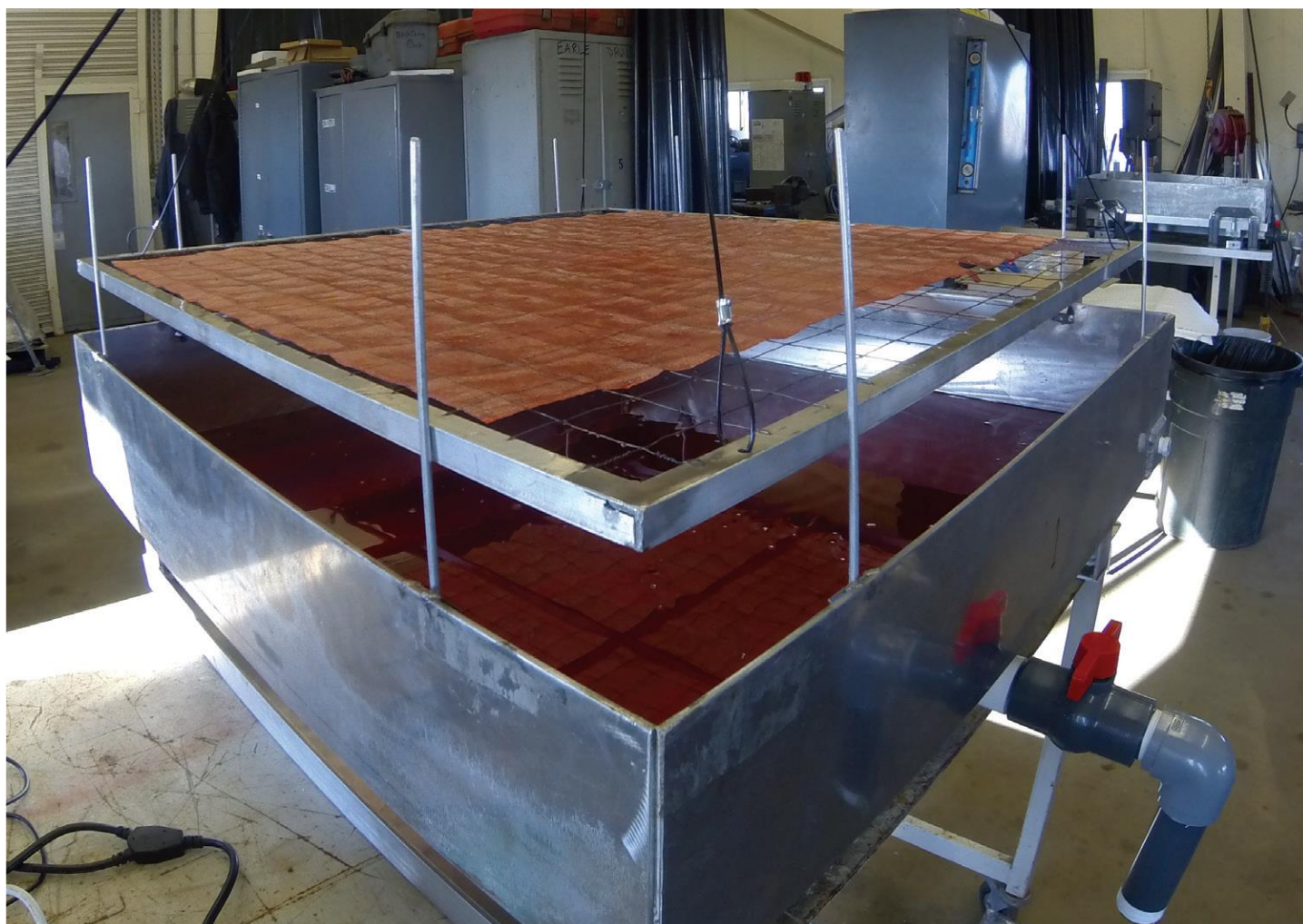
OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

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

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

FIELD SCALE SORBENT TEST PROTOCOL – A REPORT FROM OHMSETT

For more than a year, Ohmsett and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) have been developing a field scale test protocol for full-scale and mesoscale sorbent materials to address the lack of a recognized test protocol for performance evaluation. Phase II of testing the protocol took place February 25 - March 15, 2019 to build upon the data gathered during phase I, which was conducted in June 2018 (Gazette, Fall 2018).



Above - A support rack was designed to provide consistent handling of the sorbents for minimal contact with the sample. It has the ability to support the sample horizontally and includes a digital weight measurement device.

The objective of phase II was to develop an inclusive set of tests for evaluating fundamental sorbent performance comparable to practical use in the field. The set of tests focused on roll, mat, and pad sorbents, which are designated as Type I sorbents per the ASTM F726 Standard Test Method for Sorbent Performance of Adsorbents for use on Crude Oil and Related Spills.

“In the phase I set of tests, a large focus was on designing, fabricating, and evaluating the test apparatus. Based on the results, the test apparatus underwent some modifications including enlarging the drain holes and improving the structure of the test rack,” said Kristi McKinney, an engineer for the BSEE Oil Spill Preparedness Division. “In the phase II series of tests, the focus was on the test methods themselves. This involved exercising the test methods with multiple oils and multiple sorbent materials.”

Six types of sorbent were chosen to represent a wide variety of products with respect to base material and in varying quality. “The variety of sorbents tested led to valuable insights and data that continued to shape the methods throughout the test series,” McKinney said.

Two of the oils used during each test were oil types identified in the ASTM F726 standard; they included #2 fuel oil (light type) and mineral oil (medium type). “A small sample of tests was also conducted with crude oils having comparable viscosities to assess how a crude adsorption might compare to the fuel and mineral oil adsorption. This is an area that should be further investigated,” McKinney explained.

Tests focused on functional characteristics that would be important for field use including: volume of oil recoverable by the sorbent; rate at which the sorbent will adsorb; amount of water the sorbent may adsorb; buoyancy; and the ability for the sorbent to be retrieved when fully saturated. “Other important aspects of this test series included comparative maximum adsorption testing to compare results from this test method to those obtained using the ASTM F726 test method, and a focus on using oils that are generally available and test equipment that can be easily fabricated so that this method is useful to a wide number of users.”

“Throughout the phase II test series, insights and knowledge gained were used to drive the evolution of the test methods. It has been socialized through the ASTM Committee F20 on Hazardous Substances and Oil Spill Response, and will continue to be discussed within the committee, with the goal of eventual incorporation as an ASTM standard,” McKinney commented.



Ohmsett Technician Allen Cannone prepares the support rack with a known quantity of oil where sorbent samples would be placed. Sorbents were

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

tested for volume of oil recoverable, the rate at which it will adsorb; the amount of water it will adsorb; buoyancy; and the ability for it to be retrieved when fully saturated.

This article, which was originally published in the Summer 2019 issue of the Ohmsett Gazette, is reprinted here with the kind permission of Ohmsett and BSEE.

CORRESPONDENCE

NANOMATERIALS – THE IMPORTANCE OF AWARENESS OF POTENTIAL RISKS

This received from Dr CJ Beegle-Krause and Dr Andy Booth of SINTEF Ocean AS, Trondheim, Norway.

“A recent ISCO newsletter had an article about a laboratory application of nanomaterials for oil spill response.

We recommend that ISCO members should consider the application of anthropogenic nanomaterials in oil spill remediation strategies from an impact perspective as well as from a technological perspective.

To our knowledge, there are no licenses in any country allowing permission of anthropogenic nanomaterials to be released into the environment in large quantities. This is predominantly due to large unknowns of how nanomaterials would interact, potentially negatively, with the environment. There has been much work on studying the environmental and human health effects of nanomaterials, and in establishing a regulatory framework based on risks related to nanomaterial physicochemical properties.

Evidence suggests any risk is likely to vary between materials depending on a number of factors. Developing spill response applications of nanomaterials requires an appropriate regulatory framework that ensures safe development and application protocols for nanomaterials. Caution with new technology and materials in the environment is prudent to prevent replacing one serious release problem with another” <https://www.sintef.no/en>

TRAINING

TRAINING COURSES FROM OSRL - WORLDWIDE

Find the course that's right for you and your team with oil spill response training developed and delivered by our experts. OSRL training is designed to develop essential skills and knowledge, and are conducted at various convenient locations globally. We even offer online learning.

The 2020 courses are now available for online booking, to help you plan your training early.

[Download the full 2019/2020 Calendar](#) [Book Here](#)

USA: TRAINING FROM OHMSETT IN LEONARDO, NEW JERSEY

OHMSETT has the largest outdoor saltwater wave/tow tank facility in North America and is the only facility where full-scale oil spill response equipment testing, research, and training can be conducted in a marine environment with oil under controlled environmental conditions (waves and oil types). The facility is managed by the U.S. Department of Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE).

Registration is now open for 2020 Oil Spill Strategies & Tactics Training Courses <https://www.ohmsett.com/>

CERTIFICATE IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE: AN ON-LINE TRAINING COURSE

A safety training course based on the Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation convention (OPRC) from Lloyds Maritime Academy. Starts 27 November 2019. [More info](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			

FRANCE	November 21	Cedre Technical Day	Brest
UK	Nov. 21-22	IMO Council Extraordinary Session	London
CANADA	Nov. 25-26	Hazardous Waste & Environmental Response Conference	Mississauga, Ontario
UK	Nov. 25 – Dec. 4	IMO Assembly	London
GERMANY	November 29	South Baltic Oil Spill Conference	Rostock
ITALY	December 2-5	Meeting of Parties to Barcelona Convention	Naples

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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			

PUBLICATIONS

WORK ON THE 12TH EDITION OF THE WORLD CATALOG IS UNDERWAY

SL Ross Environmental Research, producers of the World Catalog of Oil Spill Response Products, is now soliciting updates and new information from manufacturers and suppliers that wish to be part of the Catalog.

The World Catalog started out as a basic listing of equipment specifications in 1986, and has since evolved to be an invaluable reference book with descriptions of how equipment works, how to select equipment for different applications, summaries of field and tank tests, and recent experiences in actual spills and experiments.

The World Catalog can be found wherever oil is produced, wherever oil spill equipment is available, wherever decision-makers and equipment buyers are located. Our coverage is worldwide. Major oil companies, government agencies, shipping companies, terminal facilities, and oil spill co-ops all use the Catalog and have done so for years.

If you want to be part of the most important worldwide reference book in the industry, please contact the editor, Steve Potter: Steve@slross.com. For more information on the Catalog please go to: OilSpillEquipment.com

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Alga Chronicle	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	October 2019
AMSA Update	Latest news from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	June 2019
AUSMEPA Bulletin	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Winter 2019
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	June 2019
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	October 2019
Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter	News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria	December 2018
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	November 2019
GEF Newsletter	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	October 2019
GESAMP	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection	Latest news
GISEA Quarterly Newsletter	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	Q3 2019
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2019
IMO Publishing Newsletter	New and forthcoming IMO publications	November 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	October, 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

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

PEMSEA Newsletter	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	September, 2019
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	Current issue
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. 16-30, 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)

SOUTH KOREA: RIVER TURNS RED AFTER BEING POLLUTED WITH PIGS' BLOOD

November 12 - A river near the inter-Korean border has turned red after being polluted with blood from pig carcasses. South Korean authorities had culled 47,000 pigs in an attempt to halt the spread of African swine fever (ASF). Heavy rains caused blood to flow from a border burial site into a tributary of the Imjin River. BBC News / [Read more](#)

INDIA: DUTCH SALVAGERS CHOSEN FOR CHEMICAL TANKER GROUNDING OFF GOA

November 13 - The stricken ship Nu Shi Nalini -- a chemical tanker loaded with 2,500 tons of naphtha -- which broke loose from its anchor during the squally weather that accompanied the Cyclone Kyarr on October 25, and ran aground on the rocky shoreline off Dona Paula, a sea facing locality of the capital city Panaji, has remained there for the past 21 days.

A Netherlands-based professional salvager Marine Masters BV has been chosen to salvage the grounded chemical tanker Nu Shi Nalini, the Goa Chief Minister's Office has informed.

"The work will be awarded to a professional salvor after approval of the committee's recommendation by the inter ministerial committee at the Government of India level, possibly within a week," The Chief Minister's Office said in a statement released on Wednesday morning.

Hindustan Times / [Read more](#)



BRAZIL: FUEL LEAK IN RIO GRANDE PORT, BRAZIL

Some 2 tons of fuel leaked into Rio Grande Port harbor, Brazil, at night Nov 13, during bunkering of a bulk carrier DIMITRIS L, berthed at Termasa terminal. Bulk carrier was surrounded by booms, cleansing operation launched. No details on bunkering and spill circumstances – was oil leaked from tanker, or from bulk carrier. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

Note from Editor – Seems to have been quite a quiet week for spills. I have been keeping an eye on the mystery spill that has ravaged the N. E. coast of Brazil but no major developments to report and they haven't yet been able to positively identify the source of the oil. I've also been trying to get an update on the UN's plan to carry out an assessment of the current state of the FSO Safer in Yemen. You will remember that the vessel is in a bad state and threatens an enormous oil spill with devastating consequence for the region. In the absence of any news it looks like ongoing hostilities continue to make it unsafe for the UN team to progress its investigation.

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following issue of this newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org and your acceptance of ISCO's Data Protection and Privacy Policy.
