

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



**SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR READERS**



NEARLY \$226M TO RESTORE OPEN GULF AFTER 2010 BP OIL SPILL



In this April 2010 file photo, oil can be seen in the Gulf of Mexico, more than 50 miles southeast of Venice on Louisiana's tip, as a large plume of smoke rises from fires on BP's Deepwater Horizon offshore oil rig. Federal agencies have approved \$225 million in settlement money from the BP oil spill for 18 projects to restore the open ocean. The projects are described in a 490-page report released Tuesday, Dec. 10, 2019. (AP Photo/Gerald Herbert, File)

The projects range from \$52.6 million to study deep-sea habitats to \$290,000 to find ways to keep sea turtles from swallowing or getting snagged on hooks or tangled in lines set out for miles along reefs.

They are described in a [490-page report](#) released Tuesday.

The nonprofit Ocean Conservancy said it's "the world's first plan to restore the open ocean and deep-sea environment from a major oil disaster."

The open ocean recovery plan was drawn up by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration with help from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Park Service, Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. AP News / [Read more](#)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

IMO, NORWAY AND FAO LAUNCH PLASTIC LITTER PROJECT



The GloLitter Partnerships Project agreement was signed by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim and His Excellency Wegger Chr. Strømme, Norway's Ambassador to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, on December 5, 2019.

December 7 - A new global project to prevent plastic litter from shipping and fisheries has been launched by the IMO and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO). Initial funding for the project is from the Government of Norway.

The GloLitter Partnerships Project aims to help shipping and fisheries move to a low-plastics future by identifying opportunities to prevent and reduce marine litter. It will consider the availability and adequacy of port reception facilities; look at enhancing awareness of the marine plastics issue within the shipping and fisheries sectors and encourage fishing gear to be marked so it can be traced back to its owner if discarded.

10 countries from five high priority regions (Asia, Africa, Caribbean, Latin America and Pacific) will be selected to spearhead the project. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

COORDINATION MEETING ON RATIFICATION OF THE HNS CONVENTION

December 13 - At the invitation of the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management of the Netherlands, representatives from Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands met at The Hague on Thursday 12 December 2019, to discuss the progress made thus far by their States towards the ratification of the 2010 HNS Protocol. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

EMSA UNVEILS NEW 5-YEAR STRATEGY TO TAKE EFFECT FROM JANUARY 2020

December 12 - "This EMSA 5-year strategy comes at just the right time: on the crest of a new wave that will have a big impact on the course of maritime transport and all the actors and lives that are linked to it", these are the opening lines of EMSA's Executive Director to the new strategy which will take the Agency through to the end of 2024. Five priority areas are highlighted – sustainability, safety, security, simplification and surveillance – together with the four key functions of service provider, reliable partner, international reference and knowledge hub. The new strategy reflects EMSA's important role in the implementation of the European Commission's priorities in all policy areas related to the seas. Both forward thinking and intentionally ambitious, it is the fruit of a joint exercise which gathered the views of EMSA's main stakeholders, the Administrative Board and EMSA's key asset, its staff. The [strategy is now available](#) for download from the EMSA website. EMSA / [Read more](#)

MEETING OF THE OSPAR INTERSESSIONAL CORRESPONDENCE GROUP ON MARINE LITTER

December 10 - Cedre attended the quarterly meeting of the OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (ICG-ML) held in Wexford, Ireland from 12th to 15th November. The first two days of the meeting focused on marine environment surveillance and quality assessment in relation to litter. The work in progress under the various marine litter surveillance programmes was reviewed and the preparation of the 2023 Quality Status Report (QSR) was discussed. The following two days focused on the Regional Action Plan and the advances made by Member States on the different actions.

Cedre presented a progress report on the CleanAtlantic project and its contribution to the Regional Action Plan on behalf of the project consortium. Strategic questions such as the preparation of the North-East Atlantic Environment Strategy 2020-2030 and the update of the Regional Action Plan, which will reach its term in 2020, were also addressed. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

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: AMSA IS CLOSE TO AWARDING A CONTRACT TO CLEAN UP CONTAINERS THAT FELL FROM YM EFFICIENCY

December 6 - A multimillion-dollar contract to clean up the remains of last year's container spill off the Hunter coast is due to be signed by the end of the year with the intention of commencing the salvage operation early next year.

The contents of 66 containers lost overboard from the YM Efficiency during heavy seas last June are still washing up on Hunter beaches. Newcastle Herald / [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA TO APPEAR BEFORE UNITED NATIONS OVER MONTARA SPILL

December 10 - On August 21, 2009, the Montara-H1 well blew out on the wellhead platform. An uncontrolled spill continued pumping up to 2,000 barrels of oil per day into the Timor Sea until November 3, after a relief well was drilled and the leak stopped. The blowout caused the worst oil spill in the history of Australia's offshore oil and gas industry.

Overnight prominent international barrister Monica Feria-Tinta from Twenty Essex chambers announced she had brought a human rights claim against the Commonwealth of Australia on behalf of 13 communities from West Timor, Indonesia. The claim against Australia was filed in Geneva and formally lodged with the United Nations Special Rapporteurs to Australia on Wednesday last week. Energy News Bulletin / [Read more](#)

CANADA: THE SUPREME COURT OF CANADA OVERTURNS ONTARIO'S INTERPRETATION OF THE GREAT LAKES INDEMNITY CLAUSE

December 12 – On December 6, 2019, the Supreme Court of Canada released its decision in R. v Resolute FP Canada Inc, 2019 SCC 60. In a 4-3 decision, the Supreme Court overturned the Ontario Court of Appeal's decision, with the majority finding that a contractual indemnity was limited to pollution claims advanced by third parties and could not be relied upon by a "first party" in the face of an order for remediation from the provincial authority. Environmental and Resources Law Blog / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE ACTIVITY REPORT FOR NOVEMBER 2019

December 10 - A call was received from MRCC Corsen reporting pollution on the shores of Plougasnou and dead oiled birds on the beaches of Plougasnou and Saint-Jean-du-Doigt (Finistère). Following various surveys, no shoreline pollution was confirmed. The oil on the birds' feathers was analysed and compared with the oil found on other birds taken to the LPO Ile Grande bird sanctuary, then with that sampled recently at sea by the French Navy off Batz Island. All the results matched and pointed to the same source: the heavy fuel oil from the Tanio spill. Cedre's duty team was contacted by the municipal authorities of Ile d'Yeu (Charente-Maritime) to analyse samples taken on the beaches of Vieilles, Soux and Fontaines, as well as by the commune of Guissény (Finistère) in relation to the presence of fatty lumps. In both cases, Cedre's laboratory identified the product as palm oil. An individual based in Largentière (Charente-Maritime) contacted us in relation to a smell of fuel following a pollution incident in a watercourse.

The Finistère departmental operational centre requested advice as part of an exercise involving an aircraft accident and spill of the substances it was carrying into the bay of Brest. On 19th November, an engineer from Cedre attended the public meeting organised by the Yvelines Prefecture in Autouillet in relation to the consequences of the oil leak detected on 24th February after the Ile-de-France pipeline burst. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE TECHNICAL DAY 2019

December 10 - Like each year, the Cedre Technical Day was held the day before the Strategy Committee meeting. This technical event was attended by some thirty representatives of our members, as well as of organisations with which Cedre has assistance agreements and project partners. This year, the focus was on the evolution of response equipment: the international perspective, the work of Cedre and its partners in this area, trends and expectations for the future in France.

After a brief outline of the objectives behind the creation of Cedre's Strategy Committee 25 years ago and its contributions to Cedre's work by Mr B. Tramier, the committee's Honorary President, various issues were addressed based on a similar format: a recap by Cedre of the work conducted on the issue and the trends observed internationally, followed by a presentation of the current situation in France and the expectations and future needs by a French specialist. Presentations were also given on the detection and monitoring of slicks and ship discharges by French Customs, on drift modelling for oil slicks and floating objects at sea by Météo-France, on response at sea by CEPPOL, on shoreline response by the Directorate of Maritime Affairs (DAM) and DIRM NAMO, on response equipment and products by Sycopol and on the response capacities and methods by response contractors Le Floch Dépollution and Séché Urgences Interventions. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

ICELAND BANS USE OF HEAVY FUEL OIL

December 10 - Iceland is moving to ban the use of heavy fuel oil as the Nordic island nation looks to clean up air quality in and around its coastal areas. The new regulation was issued this month as an amendment to existing regulations by Iceland's Ministry for the Environment and Natural Resources.

The amendment reduces the maximum allowable sulphur content of marine fuels used in Iceland's territorial and inland waters from 3.5 percent currently to 0.1 percent starting on January 1, 2020. This will bring Iceland in-line with current Emissions Control Areas defined by Annex VI of MARPOL. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

ITALY: COAST GUARD AUTHORITIES HOLD ANNUAL PLENARY CONFERENCE

December 12 - The Italian Chairmanship of the European Coast Guard Functions Forum (ECGFF) shared by the Italian Coast Guard and the Guardia di Finanza, with the support of the European Commission, held its annual plenary conference on 12-15 November in Venice. Participants included heads of coast guard authorities from the EU member states and Schengen associated countries. EMSA's delegation presented the results of the EMSA-ECGFF workshop on the topic of 'a new environmental commitment' (held in Lisbon on 27-28 February). Towards the end of the conference, the Italian chairmanship welcomed its hand-over to the French authorities for 2020. EMSA / [Read more](#)

SPAIN: 'POLEX 2019' POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE



Photo: The Monte Anaga, standby oil spill pollution response vessel, was open to visitors on 19 November from the port of Malaga

December 12 – Report received from EMSA - On 19-20 November EMSA took part in a pollution response exercise organised by the Spanish Maritime Safety Agency (SASEMAR) to test the collective response capabilities in the event of a large-scale oil spill in the Mediterranean. Several countries joined in the exercise including Portugal,

Morocco and Spain. Participants had the opportunity to test different response strategies as well as to share and exchange technical know-how on marine pollution. The exercise scenario entailed a collision between two ships – a bulk carrier and a container ship - which led to the triggering of Search and Rescue operations. On the following day of the exercise, participants were faced with the scenario of a spill of 510m³ of fuel oil as well as with the decision of whether and where to grant a place of refuge. EMSA supported the exercise, deploying the Algeciras-based Monte Anaga standby response vessel and providing satellite images over the targeted area of pollution. EMSA / [Read more](#)

UAE: REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON IMO CIVIL LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION CONVENTIONS

December 12 – Report received from IOPC Funds - The IOPC Funds' Director, José Maura, was invited to participate in a regional workshop on the IMO Civil Liability Conventions in Dubai, United Arab Emirates (UAE). The workshop, which took place from 8 to 12 December, was hosted by the Federal Transport Authority of the UAE, in cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) under its Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP).

The Director delivered presentations on the international liability and compensation regime for oil pollution (the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions), the role of the IOPC Funds and the 2010 HNS Convention. The programme was structured to allow for ample debate and discussion.

Overall, the workshop focused on the importance and need for accession or improved implementation of these key conventions and provided 32 participants from nine States with a comprehensive overview of the IMO liability conventions. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

UK: OIL SPILL EQUIPMENT DONATED TO FOREIGN SHORES

December 10 - Oil pollution control equipment, surplus to Lerwick Harbour's requirements, is to be re-used in combating incidents overseas. The gear has been donated by Lerwick Port Authority to Fife-based International Fire and Rescue Association (IFRA), a charity founded in 2002 to assist services in countries where poverty, war or civil unrest affect emergency response.

IFRA director/secretary Gary Johnstone said: "Donations of all sorts are very important to our activities and we are grateful to Lerwick Port Authority for sending the booms.

"Without donations of equipment, vehicles or financial support, the charity would not be able to carry out its aims.

"The equipment will help emergency services provide a response to pollution incidents, a capability many of them do not have.

"We are currently involved in supporting projects in Albania, Argentina, Ecuador, Mexico and Paraguay. Shetland Times / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

December 9 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[Assessing Sea Turtles after Oil Spills, OR&R and Office of Protected Resource Scientists Discuss Research Needs](#)

OR&R staff met with NOAA Veterinary Medical Officer Dr. Brian Stacy of the Office of Protected Resources in St. Petersburg, Florida, on November 21 to discuss research needs for strengthening injury assessments of sea turtles after oil spills.

[Marine Debris Division Chief Attends Trash Free Seas Alliance Annual Meeting](#)

On November 18-20, Nancy Wallace, Marine Debris Division Chief, attended the Ocean Conservancy's Trash Free Seas Alliance annual meeting in San Diego, California.

[Disaster Preparedness Program Participates in the 67th International Association of Emergency Managers Annual Conference](#)

Members of the Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) participated in the 67th International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Annual Conference held in November at the Savannah Convention Center in Savannah, Georgia.

[Marine Debris Program Attends MIT's Water Summit](#)

On November 21, the Marine Debris Program's Northeast Regional Coordinator, Demi Fox, served on a panel at the [Massachusetts Institute of Technology \(MIT\) Water Summit](#).

[Marine Debris Program Releases the Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan](#)

On November 26, the Marine Debris Program (MDP) released the [Gulf of Maine Marine Debris Action Plan](#).

[Special Funding Opportunity: Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund](#)

On November 21, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program (MDP), announced a request for proposals under the Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund.

[Marine Debris Program Attends the Clean Ocean Summit](#)

On November 18 and 19, the Marine Debris Program's Northeast Regional Coordinator, Demi Fox, participated in Clean Foundation's Clean Ocean Summit 2019 in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

[OR&R Experts Present on the Role of Academia in Emergency Oil Spill Response at the University of Massachusetts](#)

On November 20, OR&R scientists, Steve Lehmann and Dr. Ken Finkelstein participated in a panel discussion titled "The Role of Academia in Emergency Response" at the University of Massachusetts at Boston.

[Zero Waste Team Releases Guide to a Greener Holiday](#)

On November 21, the National Ocean Service Zero Waste (ZW) Team released a Guide to Hosting a ZW Holiday Party. Following the simple steps in the guide, we can celebrate the season while also protecting our planet.

[\\$25 Million Proposed to Restore Natural Resources in Kalamazoo River, Michigan](#)

December 11 - Today a [consent decree was announced](#) that includes \$25 million as a partial settlement to restore natural resources injured by releases of hazardous substances to the [Kalamazoo River](#) and Portage Creek in Michigan.

[Map of the Month: Geographic Response Plan Information in the Pacific Northwest](#)

This month's map shows the Geographic Response Plans (GRPs) for Oregon and Washington. GRPs are guides for actions during an oil spill response.

USA: REVISED EIS CONFIRMS A REPLACEMENT LINE 3 INCIDENT WOULD NOT INTRODUCE RISK TO LAKE SUPERIOR

December 9 - The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission has directed the Department of Commerce to revise Line 3's Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) regarding spill modeling in the Lake Superior Watershed as required by the Minnesota Court of Appeals.

The DOC's spill modeling confirms that in the unlikely case of a spill the Line 3 replacement segment does not introduce risk to Lake Superior. By design the model did not take into account any response, mitigation or cleanup efforts for 24 hours and even then, none of the simulations resulted in oil reaching Spirit Lake or entering Lake Superior even in high flow conditions. In real life, Enbridge crews would respond immediately and aggressively to actively address the spill and begin cleanup.

The public comment period is an expected next step in the PUC process. It's important to remember that Line 3's Environmental Impact Statement completed previously by the DOC, the Department of Natural Resources and the Pollution Control Agency included extensive review and significant public comment and stakeholder input. Line 3's EIS is already an in-depth 13,500 page environmental study of the project. Enbridge / [Read more](#)

USA: THE CSB PROPOSES RULE ON ACCIDENTAL RELEASE REPORTING

December 11 - The U.S. Chemical Safety Board's (CSB) Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding accidental release reporting is available for public inspection at <https://s3.amazonaws.com/public-inspection.federalregister.gov/2019-26495.pdf>.

The Notice is scheduled for publication in the Federal Register on Thursday, Dec.12, 2019. The CSB will post the published version of the Notice on its web site once it is published by the Federal Register.

The CSB has a statutory duty to issue a rule and is under Court order to do so no later than February 5, 2020. The Notice of Proposed Rulemaking sets out the requirements of the proposed rule and invites comments. Comments are due within thirty days after the date of publication in the Federal Register.

Instructions for submitting comments to the proposed rule are included in the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. The CSB looks forward to receiving comments and finalizing a rule as promptly as possible.

For further information contact Hillary Cohen, Communications Manager, at public@csb.gov or (202) 446-8094.

USA: LIGHTERING OF FUEL FROM GOLDEN RAY COMPLETE



December 12 - Salvors have removed all the fuel from the tanks that are accessible on the capsized car carrier Golden Ray.

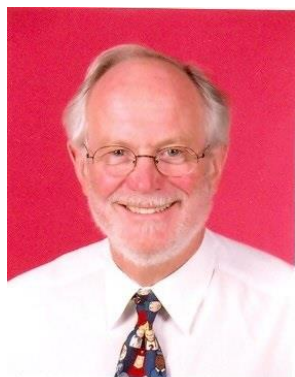
Salvage workers and divers gained access to 26 fuel tanks inside the Golden Ray, some of which were submerged and could only be reached by rappelling and conducting dive operations inside the wreck. Fuel was pumped from the tanks into a barge for proper disposal. The interior of the tanks were then washed with steam to remove residual fuel, which was collected and transferred into containers.

More than 320,000 gallons of oil and water mixture were removed. The St. Simons Sound Unified Command continues a forensic

investigation to determine an accurate measure of the fuel onboard at the time of the incident and the amount discharged into the environment. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

OBITUARY

ROBIN PERRY – A SAD LOSS TO THE OIL SPILL RESPONSE INDUSTRY



Robin Perry passed away peacefully on 30th November surrounded by his family, having bravely fought a prolonged battle with prostate cancer, with stoic resilience.

Robin had a long and varied career reflecting his love of the sea. He qualified from Dartmouth as a Royal Naval officer, serving in the Fleet Air Arm as an Observer and commanding mine hunters on fishery protection duty as Lieutenant Commander.

On leaving the Navy in 1977, Robin then moved into the oil industry with Shell as an Offshore Installation Manager in the Brent field. Having worked in Aberdeen for B.N.O.C., Britoil and BP, Robin then moved to Southampton in 1988 as the General Manager the Oil Spill Service Centre (OSSC), then managed by BP. He managed the significant £10 million modernisation of the base at Northam during a period of unprecedented and since unmatched level of large spill response incidents in the late 80s/early 90s including the Rose Bay, Haven, Braer, Aegean Sea, Sea Empress, Khark 5, Katina P, Mega Borg and Exxon

Valdez. During this time, he worked hard to ensure integration of the OSSC and EARL services provided to member organisations, always keeping as his top priority the welfare of his team. This period led to the transition from OSSC to the organisation now well known as Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL).

Having been on scene as a Naval Officer during the Torrey Canyon spill in 1967, through to his last consultancy work over many years with Captain Al Janahi at MEMAC in Bahrain, Robin's career spanned nearly 50 years in the spill response industry. He loved what he did.

In later life he enjoyed performing with the Bristol Choral Society in a variety of venues across the country from Cardiff to the Royal Festival Hall in London and spending time with his family, including five grandchildren.

A quiet family ceremony is being held at Mendip Crematorium. Donations to Robin's selected cancer support charity, Dorothy House can be made via [this link](#), however if that is not possible then please contact Robin's son Fergus at fergus_perry@hotmail.com.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

PEMSEA WELCOMES HANDOKO ADI SUSANTO TO THE ATSEA-2 PROJECT

December 6 - PEMSEA welcomes Mr. Handoko Adi Susanto as the Regional Project Manager for the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Implementation of the Arafura and Timor Seas Regional and National Strategic Action Programs Phase (ATSEA-2). With over 15 years of experience in conservation and management roles in the region, Handoko will bring his knowledge of integrated coastal management (ICM) to the Arafura and Timor Seas beginning in January next year. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)



ISCO NEWS

ISCO AGM – COMMENTS FROM MEMBERS

Following on the cancellation of this year's traditional face-to-face AGM, the Meeting was held by email and Members were invited to comment on matters raised in the Agenda and other circulated Meeting Papers.

The comments received have been circulated to all members on the mailing list.

ISCO AGM - NEW EASY TO USE PROXY VOTING FORM

If you haven't yet voted - You can now vote online with our new quick and easy Proxy Voting Form. No need to print, scan and email. Just enter your votes and click on SUBMIT. The link for the new voting form has been circulated to all Members.

Voting closes on **Monday 23rd December** but best do it now in case you forget - it only takes a minute

For your vote to count, your subscription must be paid up-to-date. If your payment is currently outstanding you can correct this online at <http://www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/subscriptions>

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

TERRY EDGAR OF CAN-ROSS – “BEST PRACTICES TO PREVENT STORMWATER POLLUTION”

Terry Edgar, President of Can-Ross in Canada, has written a short article. “Best Practices to Prevent Stormwater Pollution”

“Stormwater is water from rain or melting snow that doesn't seep into the ground or evaporate. It flows off of hard surfaces, rooftops, pavement, and sloped lawns. As the water flows to the lowest point, it picks up anything it finds along the way....” In his article Terry identifies a few of the best practices for preventing stormwater pollution and its ill effects. You can download and read his article at <https://www.canross.com/best-practices-to-prevent-stormwater-pollution/>

ELASTEC OFFERS CUSTOM FABRICATION AND MANUFACTURING

Finding solid solutions to unique problems is one of the things Elastec does best. Our team can fabricate a custom solution to fit the needs of your particular project. Whether it's a custom skimmer application or a special boom to protect your water intake, we can manufacture the product you need. Elastec has over 50 years experience in the design and development of containment boom and 30 years experience solving oil spill and other manufacturing related issues. [More info](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

NEW MATERIAL CAPTURES TOXIC AIR POLLUTANT AND CONVERTS INTO USEFUL CHEMICAL

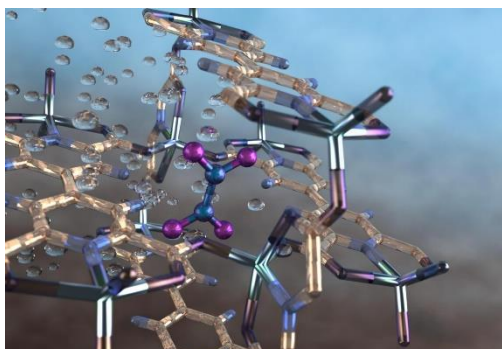


Illustration of a nitrogen dioxide molecule (depicted in blue and purple) captured in a nano-size pore of an MFM-520 metal-organic framework material as observed using neutron vibrational spectroscopy at Oak Ridge National Laboratory. Credit: Jill Hemman/Oak Ridge National Laboratory/US Dept. of Energy

Metal-organic framework material requires only water and air to convert the captured gas into nitric acid for industrial use.

An international team of scientists, led by the University of Manchester, has developed a metal-organic framework, or MOF, material that provides a selective, fully reversible and repeatable capability to capture a toxic air pollutant, nitrogen dioxide, produced by combusting diesel and other fossil fuels.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

The material then requires only water and air to convert the captured gas into nitric acid for industrial use. The mechanism for the record-breaking gas uptake by the MOF, characterized by researchers using neutron scattering at the Department of Energy's Oak Ridge National Laboratory, could lead to air pollution control and remediation technologies that cost-effectively remove the pollutant from the air and convert it into nitric acid for use in producing fertilizer, rocket propellant, nylon and other products.

As **reported** today (November 22, 2019) in the journal *Nature Chemistry*, the material, denoted as MFM-520, can capture atmospheric nitrogen dioxide at ambient pressures and temperatures—even at low concentrations and during flow—in the presence of moisture, sulfur dioxide and carbon dioxide. Despite the highly reactive nature of the pollutant, MFM-520 proved capable of being fully regenerated multiple times by degassing or by treatment with water from the air—a process that also converts the nitrogen dioxide into nitric acid. SciTechDaily / [Read more](#)

TRAINING

USA: OHMSETT OIL SPILL RESPONSE STRATEGIES & TACTICS TRAINING

April 28 - May 1, 2020 - Reserve your seat with paid registration - Start the new year right! Attend the hands-on training course where you will learn the strategies and tactics for successful spill response operations.

Course Topics: Fates & effects of spilled oil + Factors affecting oil spill movement + Oil skimmer & containment boom selection, use & recovery strategies + Hands-on skimmer operations + River & tidal inlet strategies + Shoreline characterization (Introduction to SCAT) + Incident Command System (ICS) + and more!

Class size is limited to 16 students. Registration ends March 23, 2020. Classroom curriculum and instruction is provided by Texas A&M University National Spill Control School. Ohmsett staff provides professional training services to support the hands-on portion of training. [More info and registration](#)

AUSTRALIA: AMOSC 2020 SCHEDULED TRAINING COURSES

It's time to plan your training. For details of 2020 Scheduled Training Courses visit <https://amosc.com.au/training/scheduled-courses/>

RECENTLY ANNOUNCED NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES

FIXED VOC DETECTOR FOR THE CONTINUOUS DETECTION OF VOLATILE ORGANIC COMPOUNDS

The manufacturer claims – “Fast, accurate detection of VOC gases + In-built humidity resistance with no need to compensate + Anti-contamination design for extended field operation + Three detection ranges: 0-10, 0-100 or 0-1000 ppm + Rugged, robust design withstands harshest of environments + Easy access PID sensor for fast, simple servicing + ATEX and IECEx approved”.

[Watch the video](#) [More info](#)

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
For more information click on Title of Event			
USA	Dec. 17-18	US National Response Team RRT2 Meeting	New York
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	April 28 – May 1	Oil Spill Response Strategies & Tactics Training	Leonardo, NJ
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, WA
NETHERLANDS	June 24-25	European Environmental Ports Conference 2020	Rotterdam

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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

THE USE OF DISPERSANTS IN MARINE OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Whether the result of an oil well blowout, vessel collision or grounding, leaking pipeline, or other incident at sea, each marine oil spill will present unique circumstances and challenges. The oil type and properties, location, time of year, duration of spill, water depth, environmental conditions, affected biomes, potential human community impact, and available resources may vary significantly. Also, each spill may be governed by policy guidelines, such as those set forth in the National Response Plan, Regional Response Plans, or Area Contingency Plans. To respond effectively to the specific conditions presented during an oil spill, spill responders have used a variety of response options—including mechanical recovery of oil using skimmers and booms, in situ burning of oil, monitored natural attenuation of oil, and dispersion of oil by chemical dispersants. Because each response method has advantages and disadvantages, it is important to understand specific scenarios where a net benefit may be achieved by using a particular tool or combination of tools.

This report builds on two previous National Research Council reports on dispersant use to provide a current understanding of the state of science and to inform future marine oil spill response operations. The response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon spill included an unprecedented use of dispersants via both surface application and subsea injection. The magnitude of the spill stimulated interest and funding for research on oil spill response, and dispersant use in particular. This study assesses the effects and efficacy of dispersants as an oil spill response tool and evaluates trade-offs associated with dispersant use.

National Academies Press / [Read more](#)

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	Summer 2020
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	December 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	November 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	December 2019
GEF Newsletter	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	December 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	November 2019
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	November 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	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	Oct. 16-31, 2019
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	December 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.

USA & CANADA: OFFICIALS INVESTIGATING AGGREGATE SPILL IN DETROIT RIVER

December 5 - Michigan officials are investigating a spill of an unknown amount of construction aggregate material into the Detroit River from an industrial site with a history of [environmental](#) contamination. The release happened Nov. 26 at the Detroit Bulk Storage property, Nick Assendelft, a spokesman for the Michigan Department of Environment, Great Lakes and Energy said Thursday. ABC News / [Read more](#)

December 13 - No Public Health Threat After Former Uranium Site Spill, But Slow Response Angers Residents

Michigan's environmental agency says there is no imminent threat to public health after material from a former uranium-processing site spilled into the Detroit River. But residents who live nearby are still concerned. Elected officials and members of various environmental agencies held a town hall last night, Thursday, Dec. 12, to address the material spill. Residents from Detroit and Downriver expressed frustration about the government's slow response and the possibility of water contamination. Michigan environmental officials say the incident does not pose a risk to drinking water, but the state is awaiting results of additional tests from drinking water intakes along the Detroit River. WDET / [Read more](#)

NETHERLANDS: SHELL SHUTS UNIT AT PERNIS OIL REFINERY AFTER CRUDE SPILL

December 9 - Royal Dutch Shell RDSa.L said on Monday it had shut a unit at its Pernis oil refinery in the Netherlands after a crude spill a day earlier. Shell did not specify the unit concerned, but industry monitor Genscape said the 200,000 barrel per day (bpd) crude unit (CD6) was shut on Monday morning. Nasdaq / [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH DAKOTA - WELL SPILLS OIL NEAR WATFORD CITY AFTER TANK BOLT COMES OFF

December 9 - A vibration in an oil tank apparently caused a bolt to come off and spill more than 20,000 gallons of oil in western North Dakota, the North Dakota Oil and Gas Division said. The spill happened Saturday at a well about 6 miles (9.7 kilometers) west of Watford City. Newfield Production Co. reported Sunday that 20,160 gallons of oil was released after an equipment failure at the location. All of the spilled oil has been recovered. The spill was contained by dikes, state Oil and Gas Division spokeswoman Katie Haarsager said. Kansas City Star / [Read more](#)

CANADA: SASKATCHEWAN - 'ALL I COULD SEE WAS FLAMES': CRUDE OIL TRAIN DERAILMENT FILLS SKY WITH SMOKE, FIRE



Photo: A CP train carrying crude oil derailed early Monday. Melanie Loessl, whose farmstead is near Guernsey, Sask., took this photo from her driveway. (Melanie Loessl/Facebook)

December 9 - Canadian Pacific Railway said the train was carrying crude oil when it derailed. The company isn't sure how many cars were involved. A hazardous materials crew was sent to the scene, as well as a CP emergency response team. Heavy smoke from the train filled the air, forcing police to close Highway 16 for hours. Later Monday, a small army of heavy equipment descended on Loessl's farm as CP crews began the process of cleaning up the mess. CBC News / [Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Canada]

December 13 - Derailed Sask. CP train leaked more than 6 times the amount of oil than 2016 Husky pipeline spill.

An estimated 1.5 million litres of crude oil leaked from the train, the TSB says. The Canadian Pacific Railway train that derailed in rural Saskatchewan earlier this week leaked more than six times the amount of oil spilled during the 2016 Husky Energy pipeline disaster in the same province. Thirty-three tank cars jumped the tracks, leaking oil into the ground and atmosphere, and igniting a large fire that kept firefighters busy for two days. No waterways were affected, said the TSB. Its definition of "waterways" does not include the water table. Of the 33 derailed cars — which ended up in a large pile over some 500 metres — about 20 were breached and spilled out product that became engulfed in flames that burned for about 24 hours. CBC News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Canada]



CELTIC SEA: CONTAINER SHIP CAUGHT IN STORM, AT LEAST 12 CONTAINERS LOST

December 10 - Container ship ELBCARRIER lost containers overboard in Celtic sea in the afternoon Dec 8, while en route from Rotterdam to Dublin Ireland, being caught in rough weather. 12 drifting containers were spotted at 2330 UTC in vicinity 51 40N 005 50W. Number of lost containers unknown. The ship reached Dublin in the afternoon Dec 9. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

PHILIPPINES: TANKER WITH 15500 TONS OF PETROLEUM AGROUND, LUZON

December 11 - Tanker with 15500 tons of petroleum aground, Luzon South China sea
Product tanker CHEMITEC with 15471 tons of petroleum on board ran aground at night Dec 10 on Pangasinan province coast, western Luzon, Philippines, while en route from Brunei to Ningbo China. Grounding was caused by engine failure. Tug MTUG PROCYON (IMO 9005936) at her side as of 1730 UTC Dec 10. No info yet on hull breaches, leaks. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, vmd@odin.tc]

GUYANA: CHEMICAL SPILL HALTS OPERATIONS AT GNIC WHARF

December 12 - The Guyana National Industrial Company (GNIC) wharf on Lombard Street, Georgetown was closed yesterday as a result of a chemical spill, which was being cleaned up by authorities, including the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), up to yesterday afternoon. A statement issued by GNIC said the container with the chemical, "Rheduce," was "ruptured" during the handling of cargo at the GNIC Terminal. "The chemical, which is non-hazardous, non-toxic and harmless to human and marine life, was stored in a designated area. Stabroek News / [Read more](#)

HISTORY

PHOTOS - THROUGH THE NORTHWEST PASSAGE WITH THE MANHATTAN IN 1969



Photo: Manhattan courtesy of John Dalziel

50 years ago, in the summer of 1969, I sailed through the North West Passage on the Canadian icebreaker John A. Macdonald, escorting the large American tanker Manhattan. This was considered a historic voyage, the Manhattan being the first very large commercial vessel to transit the Northwest Passage.

The purpose of the voyage was to test the feasibility of using the Northwest Passage as a year-round transport route for Alaskan oil to the U.S. eastern seaboard (the decision was later made to build a pipeline across Alaska and ship the oil down the Pacific Coast).

I gather there was some dispute between the U.S. and Canada at the time whether the Northwest Passage was Canadian territorial waters. However, if there were a significant pollution incident, it would be Canada's problem. Having Canadian icebreakers escort and assist the large American tanker (accompanied by her own USCG Wind Class icebreaker escort) was the pragmatic, diplomatic solution. It can be strange how life works out. I was studying naval architecture in the U.S.; this became exceedingly expensive for a Canadian, and there was no government support. I wrote to a range of politicians and bureaucrats, complaining about my "unfair" treatment.

My Member of Parliament was not able to come up with any funding but suggested I should sail with the Canadian Coast Guard, and he made the necessary introductions. Thus, began a wonderful experience which I remember to this day; most of this article is written directly from my recollections of that voyage. The Maritime Executive / [Continue reading this fascinating article by John Dalziel](#)

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