

## ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals

ISCO holds consultative status at the International Maritime Organisation and observer Status at International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFO ON THE EVENTS FEATURED



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Use VIP code **ISCO** to save \$100 on your registration  
APRIL 7-9, 2020  
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## IOSC 2020

May 11-14 | New Orleans, LA



**CLEAN PACIFIC**  
JUNE 9-11, 2020  
HYATT REGENCY LAKE WASHINGTON  
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Real Strategies & Solutions for Spill Prevention, Response and  
Remediation in the Western United States and Canada  
Use VIP code **ISCO** to save \$100 on your registration!

## IMO FACING CALL TO ADOPT HFO BAN IN ARCTIC

Proposals seen by Lloyd's List to the International Maritime Organization's sub-committee on pollution suggests a ban on the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil in the Arctic Sea is edging closer.

Denmark, Finland, Norway and the US are among a group of countries will propose a ban on at the committee's meeting next month, but their call for a five-year delay for some ships may complicate international negotiations.

The sub-committee is a technical body where much of the legwork for the development of rules and regulations happens. But its decisions are not irreversible and the IMO's supreme environmental authority, the Marine Environment Protection Committee, is the group that has the final say.

Eleven countries are proposing an HFO ban on all shipping in Arctic waters, though vessels involved in search rescue operations would be exempt.

A group of non-governmental organisations, including the Clean Shipping Coalition and the WWF, have come out in support of this multinational push for a ban, though their own document. The ban on the HFO is also endorsed by Arctic indigenous communities, leaders of whom have taken to the IMO during the past few years to voice their support.

Lloyd's List / [Read more](#)

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[Benefits of Membership](#)

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The organization offers independent validation and integrity. Each grade of membership reflects an individual's professional training, experience and qualifications.

You can apply for Student Membership, Associate Membership (AMISCO), MEMBERSHIP (MISCO) or FELLOWSHIP (FISCO)

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Go to [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) and enter your name and email address in the Registration Form (located on the right-hand side of the home page) then click on "subscribe"

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

# INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL RESPONSE IN A CHANGING WORLD



Despite oil being a naturally occurring substance a spill can pose significant short and long term threats to both environmental and socioeconomic resources. The words "oil spill" usually conjure up images of a stricken tanker with vast lengths of shoreline covered in thick, heavy black oil. While such events are becoming increasingly rare, the oil industry has long been working towards being adequately prepared to mount an effective response should an incident occur. However, it is not just these catastrophic ship-sourced oil spills that pose a risk. Exploration and production is now being undertaken in more and more remote, inhospitable, sensitive, potentially politically unstable areas. In such areas there is often little experience of oil spill response arrangements. These factors combined can result in the oil spill risk being inflated.

A Changing World - The world is changing in terms of oil spill preparedness and response. Industry is becoming more aware of the risk of oil pollution and has long been working towards mitigating and minimising the threat posed. In the marine transportation sector, a downward trend can be seen in the frequency of major oil spills occurring over the past 30 years. This is due to better safety practices, operational and management control and improvements in ship construction. In other sectors of the oil industry, comprehensive global statistics on oil spills simply do not exist. It is however clear that the number of major spill events in other areas, like exploration and production, are very rare. While this is obviously encouraging, the oil spill risk is changing; with more remote marine and terrestrial oil fields being exploited in lesser developed and politically-unstable areas with no prior experience of oil spill arrangements, the risk and impact of accidental oil spills can be magnified. Cleaner Seas / [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 follow multiple social media platforms. If you have news you would like to share with readers of the ISCO Newsletter in over 60 countries (probably including your own country), you should send it by email to the editor [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

### AZERBAIJAN: DISPERSANT APPROVAL WORKSHOP

January 15 - On 4th and 5th December, Cedre was involved in a workshop on dispersant product approval and authorisation for their use, organised by OSPRI (Oil Spill Preparedness Regional Initiative) in Baku, Azerbaijan. The objective of this workshop was to present to the Ministry of Emergency Situations and to the Ministry of Ecology and Natural Resources the various issues related to this technique, with a view to defining a national policy. Several representatives of oil companies located in Azerbaijan also took part in the meeting. CEDRE / [Read more in the Cedre Newsletter](#)

### CANADA: GROUP CLEANING UP OLD OIL WELLS SAYS ALBERTA GOVERNMENT RULES INADEQUATE



*Alberta's energy regulator is considering the transfer of hundreds of toxic gas wells, pipelines and other facilities from energy giant Shell Canada to Calgary-based Pieridae Energy, a much smaller company. (Kyle Bakx/CBC)*

January 15 - A group tasked with cleaning up thousands of abandoned energy facilities in Alberta says the province's rules for ensuring polluters reclaim their wells before selling them are inadequate.

The industry-funded Orphan Well Association made the criticism in a letter to Alberta's energy regulator, which is considering a proposed transfer of

hundreds of toxic gas wells, pipelines and other facilities from an energy giant to a much smaller company.

"The [association] has seen a dramatic increase in the number of orphan properties over the last several years and we believe part of the issue stems from a historically inadequate assessment of the transfer risks," says the letter from association head Lars DePauw. CBC News / [Read more](#)

### CANADA: VARCOE -THREE OIL PIPELINE PROJECTS INCH TOWARD CANADA'S TARGET LINE

January 17 - On the playing field with the Canada Pipeline, there have been more head-to-head counterfeits and false starts than at a weekend flag football game.

But reading this week's status report on the long-delayed Keystone XL project, it certainly looks like TC Energy Corp is planning to move forward with its \$ 8 billion pipeline.

And Thursday's ruling by the Supreme Court of Canada, rejecting a move by the British Columbia government to restrict heavy oil moving into that province and control what flows through the Trans Mountain pipeline, is a victory for that project.

More significantly, the three major oil pipeline developments that will expand removal capacity from Western Canada – Keystone XL, the Trans Mountain expansion and Enbridge's Line 3 replacement project – are all gaining traction at the same time. The Media Times / [Read more](#)

### CHINA TO STRENGTHEN FIGHT AGAINST ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION IN 2020

January 15 - China's top environmental watchdog has reiterated its ambition to fight environmental pollution in 2020, as positive results have been reaped through efforts to clean up the environment in the past year.

"Practice has proved that the current direction and path of pollution control are correct and should be adhered to and improved in the long run," said Li Ganjie, minister of ecology and environment, at the ministry's two-day annual work conference which ended on Monday.

Any one-size-fits-all approach in environmental governance should be avoided, while accurate and scientific methods in pollution control should be promoted, Li said. China.org / [Read more](#)

### FRANCE: CEDRE ACTIVITY REPORT FOR DECEMBER 2019

January 15 - In the final month of 2019, Cedre's duty team received several calls to request advice following spills of home heating oil, one in Tarn-et-Garonne, another in the Manche area and finally in Vendée. Two witnesses also contacted Cedre after three 0.5 litre bottles of oil washed up in Finistère. Tests were conducted on the contents of one of the bottles in our laboratory and identified it as heavy fuel oil. Several calls were also received in relation to nurdles found on the beaches of Finistère. Finally, the Bouches-du-Rhône Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea (DDTM) contacted Cedre following reports of an oil slick observed off the coast of Marseille. Following aerial investigations, this proved to be a thin slick which was undergoing natural dispersal. In terms of exercises, we were contacted by the naval base in Réunion during a POLMAR oil spill framework exercise. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

### GHANA: FON ADVOCATES A COMPREHENSIVE PLAN ON OIL SPILLAGE

January 15 – The Friends of the Nation, an environmentally-minded NGO has urged the EPA to take the lead role in transforming the current National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) rather than relying on industry players.

"We are of the opinion that the Environment Protection Agency should take the lead by transforming the NOSCP into a true and comprehensive Oil Spill Prevention and Contingency Plan rather than provide guidance to the oil and gas companies and other agencies for the development of the OSCPs". Ghana News Agency / [Read more](#)

### NIGERIA: GOVERNMENT OPENS MULTI-MILLION NAIRA LABORATORY IN PORT HARCOURT



January 10 - The Federal Government on Friday inaugurated a multi-million naira laboratory in Port Harcourt to detect and analyse samples of oil spillage in the country.

The Minister of State for Environment, Mrs Sharon Ikeazor (pictured), disclosed this while also inaugurating the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) office building in Port Harcourt. NOSDRA is a parastatal under the Federal Ministry of Environment.

She said the Federal Government was worried by the activities of oil thieves that had contributed largely to crude oil spillages in the Niger Delta.

"We are sad that majority of the oil spills that occur almost on a daily basis are caused by artisanal refining, pipeline vandalism, oil theft and illegal bunkering. PM News / [Read more](#)

## **NIGERIA: IMO APPROVES NIGERIA'S SOP FOR OIL POLLUTION CLAIMS**

January 15 - The International Maritime Organization, IMO, has approved the Standard Operation Procedure, SOP, of the Nigerian Maritime Administration and Safety Agency, NIMASA, for oil pollution claims from the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, IOPCF, which provide financial compensation for oil pollution damage that occurs in member states, resulting from spills.

Disclosing this, weekend, in Lagos, Director General of NIMASA, Dr. Dakuku Peterside, said that before now, Nigeria never had such a Standard Operating Procedure for claims adding that Nigeria is one of the very few countries in Africa with such approval now. Vanguard / [Read more](#)

## **NORTH MACEDONIA: BALKAN STATES FACE UPHILL TASK OVER ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION**

January 17 - 8 November 2019 started like any regular Friday for the residents of Kisela Voda, a suburb of the Macedonian capital, Skopje. However, during the morning, people began complaining to authorities of a bad smell, burning eyes and itching throats. Soon afterwards, the cause was discovered – a methyl acrylate spill during cleanup of a site owned by the defunct chemical company OHIS.

The spill happened during what was supposed to be routine treatment of chemical waste from the abandoned plant. By the afternoon, the police and the army were on site, making sure that the situation didn't get out of hand. Fortunately, the incident didn't cause any casualties, with authorities reassuring local residents that there was no immediate danger. However, in the days that followed, there was a startling revelation about the site – the amount of toxic waste present at the facility makes it a huge potential hazard. Chemistry World / [Read more](#)

## **SENEGAL - GI WACAF – SAMAREX RESPONSE EXERCISE**

January 15 - From 10th to 12th December, an engineer from Cedre was commissioned by IPECA/IMO to represent GI WACAF during the national real-scale exercise in Senegal, SAMAREX 2019, alongside other observers representing Cape Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mauritania, Mali and Gambia. This exercise, organised by the High Authority in charge of coordinating maritime security, maritime safety and marine environmental protection (HASSMAR), drew together 30 participants and aimed at testing the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. In the wake of this safety, rescue and marine pollution exercise, the comments and observations of the different participants were recorded and will be used to update the NOSCP. SAMAREX 2019 was also the opportunity to train the local and national authorities involved in the management of pollution in water or on the shoreline to implement an efficient response in the event of an oil spill and to provide training on various aspects related to pollution management, for instance crisis communication, boom deployment and shoreline response. CEDRE / [Read more](#)

## **SPAIN: FOURTH OCEANWISE PROJECT COORDINATION MEETING**

January 15 - The fourth coordination meeting for the European project OceanWise was held on 11th and 12th December in Vigo, Spain. This project, led by the Portuguese Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM), aims to develop concrete solutions, based on resource-efficiency, circular economy and participatory methods, to reduce the impact of expanded and extruded polystyrene (EPS/XPS) in the marine environment within the Atlantic area. This meeting was the opportunity for the 13 project partners (Irish, British, French, Spanish and Portuguese) to review the progress of the various actions, in particular knowledge acquisition on the production and use of EPS/XPS in Europe, assessment of their impact, research into pre-existing alternatives, the running of participatory workshops in the 5 countries as well as the evaluation of potential solutions and proposals for new measures. #BeOceanWise: If you would like to contribute to the project or be updated on its progress, you can register with the project's online platform: <http://www.oceanwise-project.eu/your-ideas/> CEDRE / [Read more](#)

## **UK NATIONAL STANDARD FOR MARINE OIL SPILL RESPONSE ORGANISATIONS**

January 17 – Guidance Document update - A document outlining standards to be met by organisations delivering Tier 2 response services in the UK.

The Merchant Shipping (Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation Convention(OPRC)) Regulations 1998 (SI 1988 No.1056) (as amended) state that certain UK ports, harbours and oil-handling facilities and all offshore installations on the UK Continental Shelf must submit OPRC Plans to the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) (in the case of ports, harbours and oil handling facilities) or the Offshore Petroleum Regulator for Environment and Decommissioning (OPRED) (in the case of offshore installations, as defined in the Regulation) for approval.

As part of the approvals process for ports, harbours and oil handling facilities to which the Regulations apply, the MCA require contingency plans to detail the contract they hold with an accredited third-party Tier 2 Oil Spill Response Organisation (OSRO). OPRED similarly require responsible persons of offshore installations to detail in Oil Pollution Emergency Plans (OPEPs) any arrangements in place with an OSRO.

Following a consultation with industry on the creation of a UK National Standard for OSROs, carried out between January and March 2018, a final version has been published. UK Government / [Read more](#)

### USA: USF COLLEGE OF MARINE SCIENCE - SEEKING ANSWERS TO AN OCEAN OF QUESTIONS



*Photo: Patrick Schwing measures a sediment core from the sea floor. Courtesy of Devin Firesinger*

January 13 - Erin Symonds is a postdoctoral researcher who investigates water quality on the coast of Costa Rica; Brian Barnes is a postdoctoral research associate who uses satellite data to measure the impact that dredging has on bodies of water; Patrick Schwing is a research associate who studies the way organisms on the ocean floor have responded to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico. From the ocean floor of the Gulf to the beaches in Costa Rica, the three researchers at the USF College of Marine Science are looking for answers to an ocean of questions.

The college is recognized internationally for its graduate education programs and research in ocean science. With scientists in every ocean, the college researches global and regional issues, including red tides, coral reef health, sea level rise and ocean acidification. Crow's Nest / [Read more](#)

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

January 17 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[NOAA-Specific Incident Command System Training in Silver Spring](#)

This week in Silver Spring, Maryland OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) held a 3-day NOAA-specific Incident Command System 300 (ICS 300) Level Training.

[OR&R Testing Methods for Remote Detection of Marsh Vegetation Health in Support of Oil Spill Assessments](#)

Last week NOAA OR&R scientists were invited by scientists from Watermapping LLC, to participate in field experiments to help determine the potential for using remote sensing to characterize marsh vegetation health following an oil spill event.

[Disaster Preparedness Program Announces First Annual Preparedness Lagniappe Awards](#)

On January 9, 2020 the Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) announced the recipients of the first annual Preparedness Lagniappe Awards.

[New Publication on the Habitat Based Resource Equivalency Method \(HaBREM\)](#)

OR&R led a team of NOAA and Department of Interior scientists in publishing an improved method for determining how much, and what type of environmental restoration will compensate for ecological injuries that result from releases of hazardous substances or oil spills.

[Marine Debris Division Participates in French-American Science Workshop](#)

On December 12-13, the Marine Debris Division's Chief Scientist, Amy V. Uhrin, participated in the French-American Workshop, Responding to Plastic Pollution through Science: From Research to Action held in Le Mans, France.

[Local Middle School Students Learn About Oil Spills in the Arctic](#)

On January 8, a group of about 30 students from Billings Middle School in Seattle, Washington, visited the NOAA Sand Point campus to learn about impacts of climate change on the oceans, including the impact of oil spills due to increased transportation and oil exploration.

[Map of the Month: Natural Resource Damage Assessment Settlements: 1990-2019](#)

The Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA®) is NOAA's online mapping tool that integrates both static and real-time data, enabling users to quickly and securely access, analyze, and display spatial data. This map shows the locations of over 200 oil spill and hazardous waste sites where NOAA and partners from state, tribal, and federal agencies and industry have recovered over \$10.4 billion to restore a wide variety of critical public habitats and resources nationwide.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### BIMCO APPOINTS DAVID LOOSLEY AS SECRETARY GENERAL & CEO

BIMCO has appointed David Loosley as its new Secretary General & CEO with effect from June 2020.

Loosley joins from the Institute of Marine Engineering Science & Technology (IMarEST), which he led for the last eight years. Loosley was a member of the UK Government's Maritime 2050 Expert Panel and is a member of the UK Clean Maritime Council. Maritime Logistics / [Read more](#)



## OBITUARY

### SAD NEWS FROM OSPAR - THE LOSS OF A DEAR FRIEND AND COLLEAGUE, STEPHAN LUTTER FROM WWF



It is with great sadness that we announce the loss of a dear friend and colleague, Stephan Lutter from WWF Germany. Stephan passed away on 22 December 2019.

For very many years Stephan worked with dedication and enthusiasm within OSPAR, sharing his vast knowledge and passion for the sea, in order to support efforts to protect the North-East Atlantic. He is particularly remembered for his contributions in relation to OSPAR's Network of Marine Protected Areas, but he was also deeply involved in many other areas of OSPAR work. OSPAR Commission / [Read more](#)

## ISCO NEWS

### MAKING THE RIGHT CONNECTION - INVOICES FOR PAYMENT OF FEES

Recent advice from some of our readers on staff of Corporate Members indicates that there is a low awareness of whether annual membership dues are paid up-to-date. The email address used by ISCO for sending out membership renewal invoices is usually the one provided by the individual who completed the original membership application. Because of this (and the possibility that this person may not even still be with the company or organisation) it's quite possible that renewal invoices are failing to reach the department responsible for making payments. If you are unsure whether your membership dues are being paid regularly, please help us by sending Mary Ann Dalgleish, ISCO's VP (Membership), the name, email address and telephone number of the responsible person in your Accounts Payable Department.

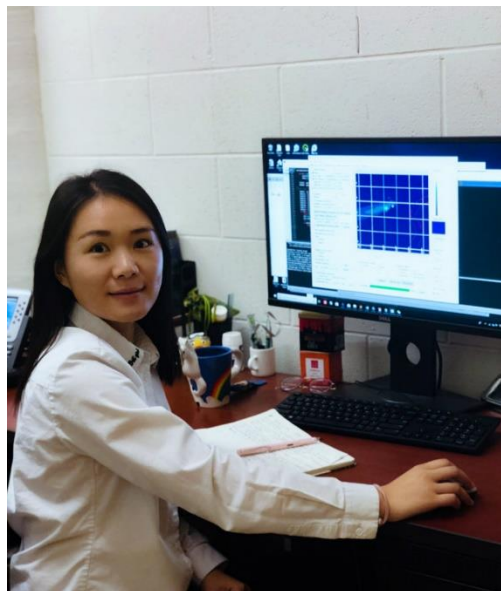
ISCO is grateful that most members pay their annual dues on time but unfortunately there are exceptions.

All members are reminded that membership fees should be paid annually in advance on the date of the anniversary of the date on which they first joined the organization.

Currently, our Membership Director Mary Ann Dalgleish is spending a considerable amount of time in chasing up overdue subscriptions. This task is made even more difficult in cases where invoices and reminders get bounced because contact details are no longer valid. If you have not received an invoice or payment reminder please contact Mary Ann at [mrydetroit@aol.com](mailto:mrydetroit@aol.com) without delay.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### GRAD STUDENT HELPS IMPROVE TOOL TO LOCATE OIL BENEATH THE OCEAN SURFACE



*In the photo: University of Miami Ph.D. student Chao Ji with the SOSim (Subsurface Oil Simulator) model. (Provided by Chao Ji)*

When a marine oil spill occurs, it is vital to quickly determine where and when to dispatch response operations. Visualization and remote sensing techniques help locate oil on surface waters but have limitations in locating subsurface oil, such as oil that lingers in the water column or settles to the bottom. During Deepwater Horizon, researchers developed for the NOAA Response and Restoration's Emergency Response Division an open-source predictive model that infers where submerged oil is and predicts where it will go using near real-time field sampling data. This model, called the inferential Subsurface Oil Simulator (SOSim) model, could assess sunken oil on relatively flat bay bottoms and continental shelves but only for a single complete discharge of oil.

Chao Ji is helping to develop a next-generation SOSim model that integrates reconnaissance, flow field, and bathymetric data to address a continuous spill situation and various seafloor topography. "The model's output is a 3D map showing the probability of finding submerged oil in different locations," she explained. "The

updated SOSim model can provide a sampling plan that tells emergency responders where they can get a submerged oil sample in the event of a future spill." GoM Research Initiative / [Read more](#)

## EYE IN THE SKY – THE ROLE OF DRONES IN OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT

UAVs and what they might mean for the future of spill management - The best way to tackle such events is to respond quickly and effectively. However, doing so is a major challenge for oil companies and other responders. Can the latest technologies help?

Terra Drone believes it has proven they can. One of its subsidiaries, Terra Drone Angola, says it has successfully demonstrated how drones can be used as a surveillance and reconnaissance tool for oil spill incidents, speeding up the decision-making process in the event of a spill. During the oil spill response exercise conducted by a major oil and gas producer, an oil spill was simulated off the coast of West Africa to assess how drones or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) can be used to quickly collect critical information to relay to responders.

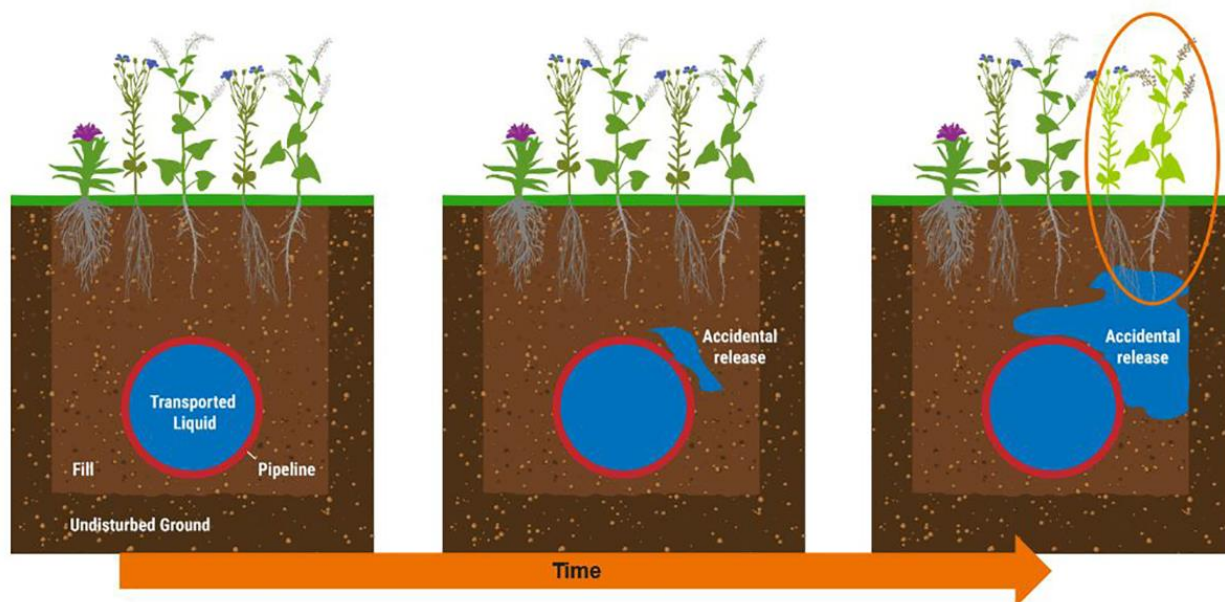
“Environmentally friendly dye was released at the surface of the sea a few hundred meters from the nearest floating production storage and offloading (FPSO) platform using a surfer,” explains Terra Drone Angola’s operations director, Siva Keresnasami. The dye simulated an offshore spill with the aim of demonstrating how UAVs can support response measures.

Offshore Technology / [Read more](#)

## HOW SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY CAN MONITOR BURIED PIPELINES—AND FIND LEAKS MORE QUICKLY

The solution to monitoring pipelines buried beneath the earth’s surface can be found in outer space. No oil and gas company wants a pipeline to leak. Aside from the potential effects on the environment, wildlife, and local communities, a contaminant release costs time and money, and can negatively impact a company’s reputation. That’s why companies must invest substantial time and money to constantly monitor pipelines.

While newer pipelines may utilize fiber optics and computational monitoring systems, it’s extremely difficult to retrofit older pipelines with that kind of technology. So, for pipelines that are already buried, companies often use ground patrols, either by ATV or foot, or fly planes over pipeline rights-of-way using pilots trained to visually detect a release. But those processes are labor intensive and incredibly expensive.



If PipeWATCH indicates a drop in the health of the vegetation, that raises a red flag. It could be due to a contaminant release.

Now, pipeline owners can look to the stars for help detecting contamination leaks. Stantec has developed a new technology called PipeWATCH, a remote sensing service that uses dove satellites to scan the earth’s surface and collect imagery daily. PipeWATCH is an industry game changer, because it’s not just a “Where” technology—it’s a “Where When” technology, one that lets you look at things in near real time—like the accidental release from a pipeline

By analyzing the satellite images and running the highly sensitive vegetation change detection analysis, PipeWATCH determines the location of the release and when it started. Ideas Stantec / [Read more](#)

### USA: CONTINUING CHALLENGE HAZMAT WORKSHOP

The Continuing Challenge HazMat Workshop is now accepting Instructor, Exhibitor, and Grant applications.

Please go to the Challenge website at [www.hazmat.org](http://www.hazmat.org), under the workshop tab to apply for any of the above. Deadline for applications is 2/14. The conference has returned to its old schedule – the week after Labor Day.

Student Registration will be open in June.

If anyone has questions about teaching at the Challenge feel free to give me a call.

Vance Bennett, Emergency Management Coordinator/Instructor II, CalOES/CSTI Hazmat Section 805-594-2111 (o) 805-431-3076 (c)

### UK: 2020 IOPC FUNDS' SHORT COURSE

The Director has the pleasure to announce that the 10th annual IOPC Funds' Short Course will take place from Monday, 8 June to Friday, 12 June 2020 in London.

The week-long programme will cover all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and will include practical exercises involving a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process. The Short Course, which is supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the International Group of P&I Associations and ITOPF, will also offer participants the opportunity to understand the relationships and common objectives of all stakeholders which are particularly important in tanker incidents where the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions operate.

The 2020 Short Course is now open for applications. Although candidates do not need to meet any specific requirements, the Course will be most beneficial to those with an in-depth involvement and interest in the practical application of the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions. It is expected that Member States nominating a candidate will ensure that this is the case. In addition, as the Short Course will be delivered exclusively in English, it is expected that participants are fully conversant in English. IOPC Funds / [More info](#)

### USA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE STRATEGIES & TACTICS TRAINING

April 28 – May 1, 2020 and September 8-11, 2020 - Ohmsett, in partnership with Texas A&M National Spill Control School, offers the hands-on training course you can't afford to miss! In three and a half days you will learn the strategies and tactics for successful spill response operations.

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

Register online at [www.ohmsett.com/registration.html](http://www.ohmsett.com/registration.html) Email: [jdelgado@ohmsett.com](mailto:jdelgado@ohmsett.com) Phone: 908-601-7082 [www.ohmsett.com](http://www.ohmsett.com)

## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

### POLARIZED MEASUREMENTS OF OIL SPILLS

Over the past seven years, Polaris Sensor Technologies, Inc. of Huntsville, Alabama has been developing an infrared polarimetric sensor called the Pyxis, to passively measure not only the conventional thermal intensity of a scene, but also the polarized nature of the infrared (IR) scene. The Pyxis was previously tested at Ohmsett (Gazette, Fall 2016) and in the field for measuring oil spills with an operator on-site monitoring the oil detection imagery.



“The measurement of the polarization gives details in a scene that are not readily apparent when using conventional thermal imagers alone due to differences in the optical properties (refractive index) and surface roughness of the oil and water,” said David Chenault, president of Polaris. “In fact, polarization measurement works well even if the oil and water are at the same temperature, which makes the oil invisible in the IR. Further, the fact that the polarization signal is based on emission means that the polarization signal is available for day/night operations.”

Building on the success of the Pyxis, Polaris developed autonomous detection algorithms that are integrated into the sensor. The system was installed at Ohmsett this summer to collect imagery on a variety of oil spill response scenarios to exercise and improve the algorithms. The sensor head is installed on the crow's nest with a display located in the bridge



## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

house. “We typically collect the imagery as the oil is placed in the tank and then again when the recovery operation is initiated, whether the recovery is mechanical or chemical,” Chenault said. “The collected data is sent to Polaris where the autonomous detection algorithms are tested. The sensor operation is monitored from the Ohmsett bridge and remotely at Polaris’ headquarters.”

“The camera, installed since June, has already seen several interesting spill response and clean up tests by Ohmsett customers. It will remain in place possibly until November to be used during the workshop on Comparing Recent Advances in Estimating and Measuring Oil Slick Thickness sponsored by NOAA Office of Response and Restoration, BSEE Oil Spill Preparedness Division, and hosted by the Coastal Response Research Center, University of New Hampshire.”

*ISCO thanks OHMSETT for kind permission to reprint this article originally published in The Ohmsett Gazette.*

<https://www.ohmsett.com/>

## CONTRACTS, TENDERS & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

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

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: USA & EUROPE

USA - Government solicitations are frequently posted in Technology Innovation News Survey and US EPA Tech Direct. EUROPE – European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter. See “Links for other publications” for links to download current issues. ISCO Members are welcome to post tender opportunities in this section.

## MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### CLEAN GULF CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS NOW OPEN

The 30th annual CLEAN GULF Conference is extending an industry-wide call for participation. Prospective speakers and poster presenters are invited to submit a 200-300 word abstract(s) [online](#) for consideration by the program committee by Friday, February 28th. Those accepted to speak (one per presentation) receive complimentary registration to the conference; co-authors and poster presenters receive a heavily discounted registration rate.

**Based on demand and support CLEAN GULF will continue to cover inland spill issues including, but are not limited, to:**

- Clean-up tools and techniques
- Inland response techniques
- Inland waterways
- Fast water response
- Response and salvage in fast or flooded rivers
- Leaking pipes
- Non-floating oil (tools for assessment, tracking, containment and recovery)
- Oil and HAZMAT Transportation
- Onshore/inland facility SPCC/FRP compliance
- Pipeline incidents
- Railway incidents
- Refineries
- Rivers and ice
- Storage Tanks

**Other Abstract topics include, but are not limited, to:**

- Advances in shoreline cleanup
- Aerial Surveillance
- Alternative spill technologies
- Area contingency plans
- Asset security
- Availability of qualified response contractors
- Bakken crude and inland US Oil capacity expansion
- Bakken crude rail marine interface
- Dispersants (subsea & surface)
- Drills/exercises
- EDRC requirements
- Emerging spill response technologies
- Environmental communication and response
- Environmental data management
- Environmental issues
- Federal, State and Local integration- during pre-planning and response
- Group V oil detection and recovery
- Gulf of Mexico issues
- New regulations
- New technologies
- Oil recovery
- Oil sands transportation and spills
- Oil spill risk assessment
- Oil water separation
- Pending Gulf of Mexico offshore regulatory changes
- Personnel issues for response companies
- Platform decommissioning
- Preparedness
- Prevention
- Quality assurance
- Remote sensing technology
- Resource equivalency analysis

- Best practices for spill response
- Bioremediation
- Cascading equipment internationally
- Case studies
- Challenging science and situations
- Common Operating Picture
- Communication
- Compliance with BSEE planning standards
- Contingency planning
- Coordination issues between Federal, State and Industry
- Coordination of Mutual Aid Organizations
- Costs minimization
- Current oil rig regulations and enforcement
- Dealing with foreign governments
- Debris removal
- Deepwater containment/capping
- Deepwater drilling
- Deepwater planning requirements
- Deepwater well blowout response
- Discharge prevention
- Dispersant approval process
- HazMat response techniques and safety
- Health and Safety for Issues for Responders
- Human Resources during a response
- Hurricane response
- Incident Command Systems optimization and lessons learned
- Incident documentation and action plans (streamlining, size reduction)
- Industry initiatives in R&D
- Information management processes and practices
- International Response
- Lessons learned from spill responses
- Marine Firefighting and Salvage
- Media relations
- Multi-agency ICS application
- Natural disasters
- Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) - Restoration & Planning/Scaling
- Responder training
- Risk management and mitigation
- RULETS (Remediation of Underwater Legacy Environmental Threats)
- Safety assessments and planning
- Security concerns during an incident
- Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT)
- Strategic planning/foresight
- Submerged oil
- Subsea monitoring/sampling
- Unified Command
- Update on the well capping systems
- Use of the Area Command
- Vessel oil spill response plans
- Wetland restoration methods
- Wildlife care issues

All submissions must be completed by Friday, February 28<sup>th</sup>. [More info, submitting presentations, helpful tips and advice](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
<b>For more information click on Title of Event</b>			
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
JAPAN	February 14	<a href="#">PAJ Oil Spill Workshop</a>	Tokyo
UK	February 17-21	<a href="#">IMO MEPC Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 7)</a>	London
DENMARK	February 26-28	<a href="#">HELCOM Response Working Group Meeting</a>	Vejle
UK	March 11-13	<a href="#">Meeting of IOPC Funds' governing bodies</a>	London
USA	March 24-25	<a href="#">SCAA Annual Meeting &amp; Conference</a>	Arlington, VA
UK	Mar. 30 – Apr.3	<a href="#">IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee</a>	London
USA	April 7-9	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference</a>	Indianapolis, IN
USA	April 28 – May 1	<a href="#">Oil Spill Response Strategies &amp; Tactics Training</a>	Leonardo, NJ
USA	May 10	<a href="#">APICOM GM Meeting</a>	New Orleans, LA
USA	May 11-14	<a href="#">International Oil Spill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	New Orleans, LA

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

CANADA	June 2-4	<a href="#">43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response.</a>	Edmonton, Alberta
USA	June 2-4	<a href="#">Elastec's Spring 2020 River Workshop</a>	Carni, IL
UK	June 8-12	<a href="#">2020 IOPC Funds' Short Course</a>	London
USA	June 9-11	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Seattle, WA
NETHERLANDS	June 24-25	<a href="#">European Environmental Ports Conference 2020</a>	Rotterdam
USA	Sept. 8-11	<a href="#">HazMat Emergency Response Workshop</a>	Scaramento, CA
INDIA	Sept. 22-24	<a href="#">Oil Spill India Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Mumbai
UK	October 19-23	<a href="#">IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee</a>	London
USA	October 20-22	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	San Antonio, TX
<b>COUNTRY</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>TITLE OF EVENT</b>	<b>LOCATION</b>
NETHERLANDS	March 22-26	Interspill Conference & Exhibition	Amsterdam
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

## PUBLICATIONS

### ARCTIC COUNCIL – RECENT PUBLICATIONS ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE

[Details and content summaries of publications from the ac working group: emergency prevention, preparedness and response \(eppr\)](#)

### U.S. INTEGRATED OCEAN OBSERVING SYSTEM (IOOS®) – REPORT FOR 2019

[Download the NOS Fiscal Year 2019 Year in Review](#)

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

<a href="#">Alga Chronicle</a>	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	October 2019
<a href="#">AMSA Update</a>	Latest news from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
<a href="#">ATRAC Newsletter</a>	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	June 2019
<a href="#">AUSMEPA Bulletin</a>	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Summer 2020
<a href="#">BIMCO Bulletin</a>	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	December 2019
<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	November 2019
<a href="#">Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter</a>	News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria	December 2018
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	Current issue
<a href="#">GEF Newsletter</a>	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	December 2019
<a href="#">GESAMP</a>	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection	Latest news
<a href="#">GISEA Quarterly Newsletter</a>	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	Q4 2019
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Winter 2019
<a href="#">IMO Publishing Newsletter</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	December 2019
<a href="#">ITOPF Ocean Orbit</a>	News from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	October 2019
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q4 2019 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Jan.-Feb. 2019
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2020
<a href="#">Nautical Institute News</a>	News from the Nautical Institute	October, 2019
<a href="#">Navigate Response</a>	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	October 2019
<a href="#">NOAA OR&amp;R</a>	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
<a href="#">Oceanbuzz</a>	Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry	Current issue
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	December 2019
<a href="#">OHMSETT Gazette</a>	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Summer 2019
<a href="#">OSPAR Newsletter</a>	Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources	End of year 2019
<a href="#">PEMSEA Newsletter</a>	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	September, 2019
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	Current issue
<a href="#">Safe Seas, Clean Seas</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	July 2018 issue
<a href="#">Salvage World</a>	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Current issue
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Nov. 1-15, 2019
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	January 1, 2020
<a href="#">WestMOPoCo</a>	Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation	August 2019

Your editor depends on regular receipt of updated URL links for listed publications. If these are not received, relevant entries will be discontinued.

### PHILIPPINES: VESSEL SPILLS ‘CHEMICAL’ IN MISAMIS WATERS



January 13 - A white substance allegedly discharged from an international cargo vessel alarmed residents of a coastal village in Jasaan, Misamis Oriental on Saturday. Sabas Tagarda Jr., chairman of Barangay Lower Jasaan, expressed fear the incident on Friday might ruin the village’s marine resources.

He said the substance might contaminate fish cages and the mangrove forest in the area.

The regional office of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) said the incident is under investigation.

“If the local government units have an ordinance banning the discharge of any substance at sea, municipal or barangay officials can file appropriate charges against the perpetrators,” Teodoro Bacolod Jr., BFAR regional director, said. Philstar / [Read more](#)

### SPAIN: LIVESTOCK CARRIER SPILLS FUEL OIL AT PORT OF CEUTA

January 13 - The captain of the port of Ceuta has requested that the livestock carrier Holstein Express pay a bond of about \$410,000 after the vessel allegedly spilled five tons of fuel oil into the harbor during bunkering operations. It is reportedly the largest spill at the tiny Spanish autonomous territory in two decades, according to local TV media. The spill occurred during bunkering operations in the early hours of Friday morning. Initial reports indicate that human error led to a tank overflow, and an investigation into the root cause is under way. Pollution containment and abatement began immediately when the spill was detected.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### CYPRUS: GHOST TANKER BEACHED BY STORM, NORTHERN CYPRUS

January 17 - Product tanker RAWAN dragged anchor in stormy weather and was pushed ashore on a Famagusta coast, Northern Cyprus, on Jan 17 or earlier, no news on damages. 6 crew are safe. Tanker AIS off since late 2017, probably she’s intentionally hiding voyages records in order to avoid sanctions. Local media says she arrived at Famagusta with cargo on board, type and quantity unknown. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Voytenko Mikhail, [ynd@odin.tc](mailto:ynd@odin.tc)]

### FEWER SPILL REPORTS

This is not just because there are fewer spills – Many spill reports from North America continue to have access by readers in EU countries (still including the UK) blocked as an effect of the EU’s GDPR regulations. Also, Don Johnston, who regularly provides your editor with spill reports, is currently taking a break – Don is based in Australia and, although not directly involved in our bushfire crisis, is involved with some of its outcomes specifically regarding storage’s of DG and the like. Some ISCO members and readers of the ISCO Newsletter help by providing your editor with spill reports – this support is very much appreciated.

## HISTORY

### TIMMY COUVILLION: DEVELOPED A SYSTEM TO CONTAIN A LONG-NEGLECTED OCEAN OIL SPILL

January 17 - Crude oil gushed for nearly 15 years from collapsed wells in the Gulf of Mexico after the Saratoga production platform, with 28 working wells, was toppled by Hurricane Ivan in 2004. By April 2019, when the discharge was contained by an innovative system designed by Couvillion Group LLC, it had earned distinction as the longest offshore oil spill in U.S. history, polluting the Gulf with as much as 107 barrels of crude oil per day.

[Read how Timmy Couvillion developed and installed a system that provided a successful solution to the problem](#)

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