

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



CLEAN WATERWAYS
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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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KEY IMO MEETING ON POLLUTION PREVENTION AND RESPONSE SET FOR FEB. 18-22 IN LONDON



The seventh session of the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR7) will be held in London on Feb. 18-22, 2020, with a number of the agenda items likely to impact IMO 2020 regulations and enforcements.

Among the notable agenda items to be discussed are the development of guidelines for onboard sampling of fuel oil not in use by a vessel, a review of the 2015 Guidelines for Exhaust Gas Cleaning Systems (EGCS), and an evaluation and "harmonization" of rules and guidance on the discharge of liquid effluents from EGCS into waters. Holland & Knight / [Read more](#)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

NEW WEBSITE SHOWCASES GI WACAF OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE PROJECT

Improving west, central and southern African countries' ability to prepare and respond to oil spills is key to protecting the marine and shoreline environment in the region.

This is where the GI WACAF* project comes in – a cooperation between IMO and IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance.

Want to know how GI WACAF works with relevant national authorities in 22 African countries? Go to the brand-new website www.giwacaf.net to find out everything from latest news and progress map, to country profiles, conventions and publications.

Support for these countries includes helping to designate authorities in charge; ratifying relevant international conventions; and developing a National Oil Spill Contingency Plan. GI WACAF also runs training courses and exercises, and supports the structuring of regional agreements.

To-date more than 5,000 people have been trained under the project in over 100 activities across the 22 countries.

* The Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa

IMO / [Read more in IMO "What's New"](#)

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

CANADA: DRAFT SCIENCE ASSESSMENT OF PLASTIC POLLUTION CONFIRMS NEGATIVE IMPACT OF PLASTIC POLLUTION ON THE ENVIRONMENT IN CANADA

January 30 - Plastic pollution has emerged globally as a key environmental issue with increasing concerns on the impacts it has on the environment, human health, and the economy. Plastic ends up in our landfills; litters our parks and beaches; and pollutes our rivers, lakes, and oceans. Small particles of plastic are also pervasive in our environment, and people and wildlife are exposed through air, water, and food. To protect human health, safeguard the environment, and grow the economy, we must take action to reduce plastic pollution.

Today, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, and the Minister of Health, the Honourable Patty Hajdu, published the Draft Science Assessment of Plastic Pollution, which sheds light on the extent of the plastic pollution problem in Canada. Environment & Climate Change Canada / [Read more](#)

CANADA: ESQUIMALT'S EXPENSES FOR ONGOING OIL-SPILL CLEANUP TOP \$50,000



February 1 - Esquimalt has already spent more than \$50,000 cleaning up an oil spill that contaminated sensitive ecosystems in Gorge Creek, says the township's director of engineering and public works.

Jeff Miller said the final price tag will depend on how long the cleanup lasts, the amount of equipment deployed and whether crews encounter any unexpected issues.

Heavy rains in recent days have complicated the work, however, by forcing more water out of the storm system and into the booms. "If the volume becomes too much, there's a potential that some of the sheen — that hydrocarbon — might sneak underneath the booms," he said. "But we do have our booms set up so that that should be minimized." Times Colonist / [Read more](#)

CANADA: FEDERAL COURT DISMISSES CHALLENGE TO TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE EXPANSION

February 4 - B.C. First Nations and environmental groups are promising to continue the fight against the Trans Mountain pipeline expansion. But B.C. business leaders are celebrating Tuesday's court decision that upheld the federal government's approval of the project.

The Tsleil-Waututh Nation, Squamish Nation, Coldwater Indian Band and a coalition of small First Nations in the Fraser Valley filed a legal challenge in the Federal Court of Appeal arguing that the government's consultation with them was inadequate.

The court ruled in a unanimous 3-0 decision on Tuesday that the government met its duty to consult, clearing a major legal hurdle for construction to continue on the expansion of the pipeline from Alberta's oilsands to B.C.'s coast. Vancouver Sun / [Read more](#)
Related report in [The New York Times](#)

ESTONIA: BIRDS INJURED BY OIL POLLUTION FOUND IN SAAREMAA

February 4 - Several very ill and oil-sodden birds have been found on the shore of Sõrve in Saaremaa in the last week

Birdwatcher Mati Martinson wrote on Meie Maa that as of January 30, she has found four or five gulls covered in oil at Sõrve on the beach. "I have found four or five of them so far, but exactly how many oily birds there are is unknown because some of the weakened birds are also prey to foxes on the beach," Martinson wrote, adding that there does not appear to be a major oil spill nearby. News Err / [Read more](#)

GREECE: INCREASED POLLUTION FINES

January 29 - Shipowners Club has issued an updated response to the recent changes in Greek environmental law and the higher pollution fines that are now being imposed by the authorities.

By virtue of Presidential Decree 113/2019, the administrative fines for breaches of the Greek statute on ship-source pollution have been increased to implement EU Directives 2005/35 and 2009/123. This coincides with an increase of the administrative fines for breaches of the General Marine Environment Protection Statute (Law 743/1977 as codified by PD 55/1998). Specifically, there have been major increases for fines in the event of oil pollution which came into effect on December 31st 2019.

Insurance Marine News / [Read more](#)

GREECE: INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEANUP CAMPAIGN 2019: HELMEPA ANNOUNCES RESULTS FOR GREECE

January 30 - Even though we are in mid-winter and beaches and the sea are not in our mind, caring for their state should be of our concern. Accordingly, HELMEPA presents today the results of the initiative the association coordinated in Greece, last fall (14 September to 31 October 2019), for the 29th consecutive year, in the framework of the International Coastal Cleanup. This global campaign is the oldest and broadest endeavor to raise awareness among citizens regarding marine pollution and it is coordinated by Ocean Conservancy in the US.

A total of 6,500 volunteers participated, performing 145 activities across the country, collecting more than 13 tons of waste from beaches and the seabed. As in previous years, the involvement of the wider educational community has been noteworthy. Children-members and volunteer teachers of the "HELMEPA Junior" program, young volunteers of the "HELMEPA Cadets" program and students from Kindergartens, Secondary Schools, Junior and High Schools, all together conveyed the message "To Save the Seas" towards the adult society. HELMEPA / [Read more](#)

INDIA: HARYANA'S SOLUTION FOR RIVER POLLUTION: BIODIVERSITY PARKS TO COME UP FOR REJUVENATION OF YAMUNA, GHAGGAR

February 6 - Acting on the National Green Tribunal (NGT)'s recent directions to all states and Union Territories (UTs) to identify polluted river stretches and rejuvenate them, the Haryana government has decided to have huge biodiversity parks along its two rivers – Ghaggar and Yamuna – besides taking other time-bound steps.

Ghaggar which enters Haryana's Panchkula district from Parwanoo side of Himachal Pradesh, with comparatively less water, touches four districts —Panchkula, Ambala, Fatehabad and Sirsa — which hardly have any polluting industries - in the state before entering Rajasthan.

Unlike Ghaggar, Yamuna river, which enters Haryana's Yamunanagar district from Uttarakhand side, however, criss-crosses Yamunanagar, Karnal, Panipat, Sonapat, Faridabad and Palwal districts – which have a number of polluting industries – in the state before entering Delhi.

Hindustan Times / [Read more](#)

JAPAN: EXPERT PANEL AGREES THAT DUMPING RADIOACTIVE WATER INTO THE OCEAN IS BEST

February 1 - Yesterday, an expert panel released a draft report recommending that the Japanese government allow Tokyo Electric Power Company to release radioactive water from its crippled Fukushima nuclear power plants into the ocean.

Either that or evaporate it into the atmosphere. Both are fine, especially since a gallon of this water is as radioactive as a bag of potato chips.

The Fukushima water is stored on-site in almost a thousand large tanks. Tritium is the primary radioactive material in the water, and is the only constituent in the water that could pose a hazard. Forbes / [Read more](#)

KENYA: SENATE REPORT SAYS KPC SHOULD HAVE HAD BETTER LEAK DETECTION ON LINE V PIPELINE

February 7 - The Energy Committee report into an oil spill at Kiboko in March 2019 will be tabled in the Senate in the next session.

The report of the nine-member committee chaired by Senator Ephraim Maina is now with the Clerk to the Senate.

The leak from the Kenya Pipeline Line 1 occurred around March 30, 2019, just 400 metres from Kiboko Springs in Makueni. The underground pipe was damaged by a rock when it was being laid by Lebanese firm Zakhem International nine months earlier. The Star / [Read more](#)

NORWAY: SETS NEW LIMIT FOR ARCTIC OFFSHORE DRILLING

February 4 - Norway may restrict oil firms' access to offshore resources in the Arctic by moving the so-called ice edge, a line that sets a legal limit on the extent to which companies can go north in search of oil.

The ice edge is a legally drawn boundary that is meant to approximate the constantly changing southern fringe of the permanent ice sheet. Anything north of that legal line is off-limits to oil drilling under Norwegian law.

However, instead of redrawing the line further north to reflect the retreating ice sheet, the ruling coalition may move it further south as it responds to political pressure to extend environmental protection of the Arctic. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

UK: UPDATED LIST OF APPROVED OIL SPILL TREATMENT PRODUCTS

January 29 – UK Government / [Download the updated list of approved products](#)

USA: VIRGIN ISLANDS - ST. JOHN FILM SOCIETY TO SCREEN DOCUMENTARY 'SEA OF SHADOWS'

February 2 - The St. John Film Society will present a film screening of Sea of Shadows (104 minutes). It will be screened at 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18, at St. John School of the Arts, Cruz Bay.

Dr. Cynthia Smith, director of the Marine Mammal Foundation, will speak afterwards on "Marine Mammal Conservation in the Caribbean and Beyond." She will also give a lecture at 1 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 18, at the Virgin Islands National Park Visitors Center.

For more information, contact: St. John Film Society at stjviff@gmail.com or visit www.stjohnfilm.com or call 715-0551. St. John Source / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

February 3 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[OR&R Participates in Alaska Marine Science Symposium](#)

Three scientists from OR&R's Emergency Response Division joined their colleagues from the NOS and other state and federal agencies attending the Alaska Marine Science Symposium in Anchorage the week of Jan. 27.

[OR&R at the National Weather Service Alaska Sea Ice Program](#)

While in Anchorage, Alaska to attend the Alaska Marine Science Symposium, Oceanographer Dylan Righi took the opportunity to visit the National Weather Service Alaska Sea Ice Program.

[Marine Debris Program Chief Scientist Participates in National Academies of Science Workshop](#)

On January 27-28, the Marine Debris Program's Chief Scientist, Amy V. Uhrin, participated in the National Academies of Science workshop, Emerging Technologies to Advance Research and Decisions on the Environmental Health Effects of Microplastics held in Washington, D.C.

[“No Spills Conference” in the Great Lakes](#)

Great Lakes Scientific Support Coordinator LCDR Michael Doig, was in Traverse City, Michigan, from Jan. 27-31 for the Northern Michigan Area Committee meeting and the annual [No-Spills Conference](#).

[Marine Debris Program Presents at the “Wave of Plastic” Teacher Workshop in Solomons Island, Maryland](#)

On Jan. 23, the Marine Debris Program’s (MDP) Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator, Christy Kehoe, and Education and Communication Specialist, Jennifer Simms, presented at the “Wave of Plastic” Workshop located in Solomons Island, Maryland.

[Marine Debris Program Attends Nanoplastics Workshop](#)

On Jan. 29, the Marine Debris Program’s Chief Scientist, Amy V. Uhrin, and Research Analyst, Carlie Herring, participated in the United States Government Informal Nanoplastics Interest Group workshop held in Washington, D.C.

USA: WILL THE GOLDEN RAY SALVAGE THREATEN OPA 90?

February 4 - This year marks the 30th anniversary of the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA-90) — one of the most successful disaster response and environmental protection laws in U.S. history. Enacted with unanimous support in Congress and incorporating lessons learned from the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, OPA-90 has dramatically reduced the number of oil spills and related hazardous materials releases across the United States. OPA-90 ended the failed history when polluters were entrusted to protect the public interest. OPA-90 requires the Federal government (typically the Coast Guard or EPA) to take charge of disaster-related decision-making while keeping the host State closely informed and involved in safeguarding the local natural environment.

An important test case of OPA-90 is currently playing out just off the coast of St. Simons, Georgia where the M/V Golden Ray – the largest cargo shipwreck in U.S. coastal waters since the Exxon Valdez – ran aground on September 8, 2019. Five months after the wreck of the 656’ (longer than two football fields) Golden Ray car carrier, 4,200 cars, each containing various pollutants, remain trapped in the cargo hold, as the foreign ship owner and insurers work to influence removal and environmental protection decision-making process from the Federal government and the State of Georgia. Contrary to OPA-90, the Coast Guard is in the process of delegating, without legal justification, its authority to those responsible for the disaster. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

February 5 - Golden Ray Wreck Removal Plan Announced

An environmental protection barrier will be built around the grounded vessel before it is cut into sections and removed. The barrier will include a large floating boom to help contain surface pollutants, as well as double layer netting to contain subsurface debris. Construction of the barrier will begin in about two weeks.

“We recognize that the floating boom of the environmental protection barrier alone will probably not be enough to contain surface pollution when we cut into the hull,” said Coast Guard Cmdr. Norm Witt, federal on scene coordinator for the response. “That’s why we’ll have crews and equipment, both inside the barrier and out, ready to respond.”

Contractors will remove the wreck using the VB-10,000 floating crane to cut through the hull with a large diamond-cutting chain. The plan is to make seven cuts and remove eight large sections. Each section of the Golden Ray, weighing approximately 2,700 to 4,100 tons, will be lifted by the VB-10,000 onto a barge, then transported to a certified off-site recycling facility for further dismantling and recycling. Each individual large-section cut will take approximately 24 hours. The Maritime Executive / [Read more and watch video](#)

February 5 - Here’s How They Plan to Cut Up and Remove the Golden Ray

“There’s no way to remove the Golden Ray without making noise—there’s no way around it,” said Kevin Perry of Gallagher Marine Systems, incident commander for the responsible party. “The EPB construction noise will be limited to daylight hours. We appreciate everyone’s patience with the noise levels as we work to remove this wreck as quickly and safely as possible.”



Prior to the cutting operation, crews will construct a so-called “environmental protection barrier” that will have a large floating boom to help contain surface pollutants and double layer netting to contain subsurface debris. Environmental monitoring will also take place both inside and outside of the barrier.

“We recognize that the floating boom of the EPB alone will probably not be enough to contain surface pollution when we cut into the hull,” said Coast Guard Cmdr. Norm Witt, federal on scene coordinator for the response. “That’s why we’ll have crews and equipment, both inside the barrier and out, ready to respond.”

Officials say construction of the barrier is already permitted and expected to begin in about two weeks, with pile driving taking place during daylight hours.

Cutting will follow, but the exact timing has not been finalized. gCaptain / [Read more and see more photos](#)

USA: STATEMENT FROM CSB INTERIM EXECUTIVE DR. KRISTEN KULINOWSKI ON THE CSB'S CHEMICAL INCIDENT REPORTING RULE

Washington, D.C., February 5, 2020: Today I am pleased to announce that the U.S. Chemical Safety Board and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) has approved a final rule on accidental release reporting. The CSB has posted a prepublication version of the final rule available at the following link: <https://www.csb.gov/assets/1/6/prepublicationcopy2-3-20.pdf> The official version should be published early next week in the Federal Register.

The rule requires prompt reports to the CSB from owners or operators of facilities that experience an accidental release of a regulated substance or extremely hazardous that results in a death, serious injury or substantial property damage. The CSB anticipates that these reports will provide the agency with key information important to the CSB in making prompt deployment decisions.

I would like to thank the many organizations and individuals that submitted comments to the CSB concerning the proposed rule. These comments were important to understanding concerns and making appropriate revisions to the final rule.

The rule is required by the CSB's enabling legislation but was not issued during the first 20 years of CSB operations. Last year, a court ordered the CSB to finalize a rule within a year. This was a daunting task, and I want to express my appreciation to CSB staff who worked tirelessly on the effort to complete the rule on a tight schedule.

I am confident that the rule will achieve its intended purpose in a manner that will help improve the CSB's safety mission. The CSB intends to work cooperatively with various stakeholders to ensure that affected parties understand and comply with the rule.

For more information, contact public@csb.gov

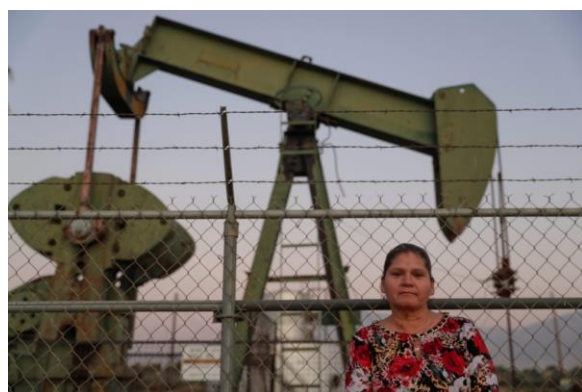
USA: UNIVERSITY OF SOUTH FLORIDA & C-IMAGE CONSORTIUM REVEAL SIGNIFICANT TAKEAWAYS FROM DEEPWATER HORIZON OIL DISASTER RESEARCH DURING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE

February 5 - After nearly ten years of research, hundreds of international scientists are revealing their findings on the effects of the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill. They're attending the final Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill and Ecosystem (GoMOSES) conference hosted by the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI), an independent research program established following the British Petroleum (BP) oil spill, the largest in U.S. history. University of South Florida received one of the largest portions of the grant, totaling \$36 million to establish the Center for Integrated Modeling and Analysis of Gulf Ecosystems (C-IMAGE), an international consortium of professors, post-doctoral scholars and students from 19 collaborating institutions.

As the Deepwater Horizon disaster was unfolding, USF's College of Marine Science (CMS) organized an "all-hands-on-deck" approach to assessing the impacts of and, later, the factors that contributed to the disaster. The goals of this research were to (1) inform the public and regulators of the short-, medium-, and long-term consequences of the disaster to the environment and people, and (2) to better understand the chain of events that lead to the spill and the consequences of response measures undertaken by the responsible parties and government responders to mitigate spill effects. The ultimate objective of this research is to assist society in making ocean energy exploration and production safer, and to make oil spill response more effective and efficient.

The Maritime Executive / [Continue reading](#)

USA: CALIFORNIA'S MULTIBILLION-DOLLAR PROBLEM: THE TOXIC LEGACY OF OLD OIL WELLS



February 6 - Across much of California, fossil fuel companies are leaving thousands of oil and gas wells unplugged and idle, potentially threatening the health of people living nearby and handing taxpayers a multibillion-dollar bill for the environmental cleanup.

From Kern County to Los Angeles, companies haven't set aside anywhere near enough money to ensure these drilling sites are cleaned up and made safe for future generations, according to a months-long data analysis and investigation by the Los Angeles Times and the Center for Public Integrity.

Of particular concern are about 35,000 wells sitting idle, with production suspended, half of them for more than a decade. Though California recently toughened its regulations to ensure more cleanup funds are available, those measures don't go far enough, according to a recent state report and the Times/Public Integrity analysis. California's oil industry is in decline, which increases the chances that companies will go out of business. That in turn could leave the state with the costs for cleaning up their drilling sites, which if left unremediated can contaminate water supplies and waft fumes into people's homes.

Under federal, state and local laws, fossil fuel companies are required to post funds, called bonds, to ensure that wells are ultimately plugged and remediated. Center for Public Integrity / [Continue reading](#)

IN CASE YOU MISSED IT...

Last week in ISCO News your Editor asked Members and other readers for some help –

- The ISCO Secretariat is looking for volunteers
- News for inclusion in the ISCO Newsletter
- Response to Inland Oil Spills

ISCO thanks to all who responded but we are hoping to hear from more from you. If you thought about responding but didn't actually get around to doing anything, please have another look at last week's newsletter. A list of the kinds of help we're looking for is now available on request from john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO RESEARCHERS DEVELOP SPONGE THAT REMOVES OIL FROM WATER



In the picture: Designed to clean oil from industrial wastewater, U of T researchers are exploring whether sponge technology developed by PhD student, Pavani Cherukupally can be adapted to help clean up marine and other spills (photo by Kevin Soobrian)

“Oil extraction operations such as hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, produce nearly 100 billion barrels of oil-contaminated wastewater each year,” says Chul Park, a professor in the department of mechanical and industrial engineering in the Faculty of Applied Science & Engineering.

“Because the oil is in the form of tiny droplets rather than a large oil slick, we can't use the same strategies we would use to clean up a surface spill.”

Park's graduate student, Pavani Cherukupally, took up the challenge. She drew on Park's expertise in microcellular

foams, as well as the water technology experience of her co-supervisor Assistant Professor Amy Bilton.

Cherukupally focused on the use of ordinary polyurethane foams – similar to those found in couch cushions – to separate tiny droplets of oil from wastewater. By carefully controlling the porosity and other properties, she designed sponges that would adsorb – or hold on its surface – oil droplets while letting water flow through efficiently. Two years ago, she reported a prototype that could remove more than 95 per cent of the oil in the samples she tested.

In her latest work, [published today in the journal Nature Sustainability](#), Cherukupally partnered with U of T chemists **Wei Sun** and **Annabelle Wong** in the lab of **Geoffrey Ozin**, a professor in the department of chemistry in the Faculty of Arts & Science, to chemically modify the foams. By adding tiny particles of a material known as nanocrystalline silicon to the foam's surface, they were able to control its critical surface energy.

The current prototype works over a much wider pH range than the previous version. It's also faster. At pH 5.6, the system removes more than 92 per cent of the oil in just 10 minutes. The oil is easy to extract using common solvents, enabling it to be recovered for use. The sponge can be also be re-used – the team tested it 10 times and saw no degradation in performance.

The work has spawned two new collaborations. The first, between Park and researchers at Natural Resources Canada, looks at scaling up the system and adapting it for salt water to clean up marine oil spills. The other, between Bilton and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, focuses more specifically on marine spills in low-temperature environments, where changes to oil's viscosity makes it even more difficult to remove.

The research was supported by the Natural Sciences and Engineering Research Council of Canada and Fisheries and Oceans Canada, among others. University of Toronto / [Read more](#)

ECOLOGICAL IMPACTS OF PALM STEARIN SPILL TO THE COASTAL ECOSYSTEM

In August 2017, a marine accident occurred in the Pearl River Estuary where a cargo vessel accidentally released about 1,000 tonnes of palm stearin into the sea. Over 200 tonnes of palm stearin reached the southwest coasts of Hong Kong. The general public and green groups expressed concerns that such palm oil pollution could adversely affect the marine life and marine ecosystem, yet there was a lack of scientific information on the toxicity of the palm stearin toward marine organisms in the scientific literature, making it impossible to accurately evaluate its ecological risk.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

Subsequently, Professor Kenneth Leung Mei Yee from School of Biological Sciences and the Swire Institute of Marine Science, The University of Hong Kong (HKU) and his research team launched a comprehensive 18-month investigation on the degradation, bioaccumulation, and toxicity of the palm stearin through both field- and laboratory-based investigations. The study sites included Hung Shing Yeh Beach, Deep Water Bay, Repulse Bay, Chung Hom Kok, Outer Tai Tam and Inner Tai Tam. The results of the study were published in the international journal *Environmental Science & Technology*.

The results of the field-based study showed that the palm stearin could dissolve in seawater and sediment under elevated temperature, and marine organisms could be contaminated by the oil. In early August 2017, samples of the tissues of marine gastropod species, seawater and sediment were found to have high level of fatty acids, especially C16:0 fatty acid which is dominant in the palm stearin. Phys Org News / [Read more](#)

AIR-RECOVERABLE MILITARY DRONE SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETES TESTING MILESTONE



Photo: The Dynetics X-61A Gremlins Air Vehicle in flight.

In this week's roundup from the Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International, which highlights some of the latest news and headlines in unmanned vehicles and robotics, the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) gives an update on an experimental drone that can be recovered in the air, residents of Illinois, USA embrace drone flights, and Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi begins automated passenger shuttle services.

Dynetics' X-61A Gremlins Air Vehicle completes first flight - Dynetics, the performer for the Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA) Gremlins program, has announced that in Nov. 2019, it successfully flew its X-61A Gremlins Air

Vehicle (GAV) for the first time at Dugway Proving Ground near Salt Lake City, Utah.

Testing operations involved one captive-carry mission aboard a TBM Inc. C-130A and an airborne launch and free flight of the X-61A, which lasted one hour and 41 minutes. Visions Systems Design / [Read more](#)

TRAINING

AUSTRALIA: AMOSC'S 2020 SCHEDULED TRAINING COURSES ARE NOW OPEN FOR BOOKINGS

AMOSC provides internationally accredited oil spill response courses (through the Nautical Institute) at the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) levels I, II & III. The courses include competence based assessments consistent with national training standards. The interactive elements of the courses are designed to give companies and participants confidence in their ability to perform the tasks and duties required. Uniquely, AMOSC conducts conjoint Command & Control (IMO III) and Management (IMO II) courses where prospective Incident Controllers take charge of their management teams in a scenario based training environment. This enables suitable levels of interaction between participant enhancing training outcomes. [More info](#)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

THREE WAYS TO ASSESS MARINE MAMMALS DURING OIL SPILLS



Since thousands of oil spills of varying sizes occur in U.S. waters each year, oil spill scientists must be prepared to respond to and assess the impacts of oil on marine mammals.

To do this, the NOAA has published: "Guidelines for Assessing Exposure and Impacts of Oil Spills on Marine Mammals," which is available for the public on the [NOAA Central Library website](#).

These guidelines provide a review of considerations for marine mammals under NOAA's jurisdiction, incorporating knowledge gained from previous oil spills.

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

SPEAKER LINEUP JUST RELEASED FOR THE [CLEAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE](#), TAKING PLACE JUNE 9-11 AT THE HYATT REGENCY LAKE WASHINGTON IN SEATTLE’S SOUTHPORT

- Adam Adams, On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. EPA, Region 6
- Angie Perez Ph.D., Senior Toxicologist, CTEH, LLC
- Benjamin Shorr, Physical Scientist/GIS Analyst, NOAA/NOS-Office of Response and Restoration
- Brendan Cowan, Emergency Management Director, San Juan County
- Captain Michael Long, Coast Guard Liaison Officer to Indo-Pacific Command, U.S. Coast Guard
- Chris Graff, Director, Response Services, Gallagher Marine Systems LLC
- Colin McWilliams, Director ER & Planning, Rio Environmental Consultants
- Conor Keeney, Lead Contingency Planner, Marathon Petroleum (formerly Andeavor)
- CWO2 Russell Strathern, Marine Safety Specialist Response, U.S. Coast Guard
- Danielle Richards, Operations and Compliance Specialist, 1-Call Alaska/ Resolve Marine Group
- David Byers, Response Manager, Washington Dept. of Ecology-Spill Program
- Devon Grennan, President, Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.
- Diane Radymski, Director, CCEM Strategies
- Donald Noviello, Response Specialist, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife
- Doug Helton, Regional Operations Supervisor, NOAA - Office of Response & Restoration, *Invited*
- Ed Owens, President, Owens Coastal Consultants
- Eddie Murphy, Emergency Management Specialist, U.S. DOT PHMSA
- Elizabeth Shanchey, Emergency Manager, Yakama Nation
- Greg Buie, Regional Manager, Western States and Pacific Region, U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center
- Haley Kennard, Environmental Policy Analyst, Makah Office of Marine Affairs
- J. Havner, Chief, Lopez Island Fire Department
- Janet Niessner, Tribal Resource Response Specialist, Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians
- Jeff Brady, Deputy Superintendent, Canadian Coast Guard
- Jim Elliott, Immediate Past President, American Salvage Association
- Jim Morris, Director of Emergency Preparedness, Crowley Shipping
- Jocelyn Gardner, Response Manager, Western Canada Marine Response Corporation
- Jon Gardiner, Hazmat and Emergency Response Officer, Canadian Pacific Railway
- Judd Muskat, Senior Environmental Scientist (Specialist), California Office of Spill Prevention and Response, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Kai Sanburn, Liaison Officer - Board of Directors, Islands Oil Spill Association
- Kari Walker, Co-Managing Member, Induced Polarization Associates (IPA)
- Keal MacNaughton, Western Canada Area Manager, GHD
- Kelly Malinoski, Director, Emergency Management, Trans Mountain
- Kerry Walsh, Global Diving Project Manager, Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.
- Linda Pilkey Jarvis, Preparedness Program Manager, Washington Dept. of Ecology-Spill Program
- Mark Jasper, Associate, GHD, Inc.
- Mark Toy, Environmental Engineer, Washington Department of Health
- Michael McClendon, Director - Office of Public Health Preparedness & Response, Harris County Public Health
- Michael Ziccardi DVM MPVM PhD, Director, Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- Nhi Irwin, Plan Development Review Supervisor, Washington Dept. of Ecology-Spill Program

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

- Peter Murphy, Regional Coordinator, NOAA, Marine Debris Program, *Invited*
- R.W. "Bob" Royall Jr., Assistant Chief Emergency Operations, Harris County Fire Marshall's Office
- Rick Haase, Director Emergency Response and Security / Fire Chief, WRB Refining Phillips 66 Wood River Refinery
- Sandy Borthwick, Vice President, T&T Braveheart
- Scott Buhl, Responder Specialist, Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- Scott Knutson, Consultant, U.S. Coast Guard, District 13 (retired)
- Sonja Larson, Response Technology Specialist, Washington Dept. of Ecology-Spill Program
- Steve Hampton, Asst. Deputy Administrator, California Office of Spill Prevention and Response, Dept. of Fish and Wildlife
- Susan Forsythe, Emergency Management Division Manager, Washington Military Department
- Todd Nicholson, Director, Port of Friday Harbor
- Troy Wood, Environmental Specialist 5, WA State Dept. of Natural Resources/Aquatics Division
- Zach Malinoski, Emergency Management Director - Americas, Ardent Americas LLC

You'll hear these speakers during the 18 conference sessions planned for [CLEAN PACIFIC 2020!](#) [Register](#) for CLEAN PACIFIC to access this elite group of speakers + the exhibit hall, featuring 40+ vendors, networking receptions, breakfast and lunch!

UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
UAE	February 13-14	ICOSM 2020: Intl. Conf. on Oil Spill Management	Dubai
JAPAN	February 14	PAJ Oil Spill Workshop	Tokyo
UK	February 17-21	IMO MEPC Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 7)	London
DENMARK	February 26-28	HELCOM Response Working Group Meeting	Vejle
UK	March 11-13	Meeting of IOPC Funds' governing bodies	London
COLOMBIA	March 17-19	SPE HSE & Sustainability Conference	Bogotá
UK	March 20	Marine Insurance London Conference	London
USA	March 24-25	SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Arlington, VA
TOGO	March 25-27	Workshop on oil spill liability and compensation	Lome
UK	Mar. 30 – Apr.3	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
TUNISIA	April 1-2	Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Waste Management	Tunis
USA	April 7-9	Clean Waterways Conference	Indianapolis, IN
USA	April 20-24	Interstate Technology & Regulatory Council	Minneapolis, MN
USA	April 28 – May 1	Oil Spill Response Strategies & Tactics Training	Leonardo, NJ
USA	May 10	APICOM GM Meeting	New Orleans, LA
USA	May 11-14	International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition	New Orleans, LA
IRELAND	May 14-15	European Maritime Day Forum Event	Cork
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
UK	June 8-12	2020 IOPC Funds' Short Course	London
USA	June 9-11	Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition	Seattle, WA
NETHERLANDS	June 24-25	European Environmental Ports Conference 2020	Rotterdam
USA	Sept. 8-11	HazMat Emergency Response Workshop	Scaramento, CA
AUSTRALIA	Sept. 15-17	Ecoforum Conference & Exhibition	Darwin
INDIA	Sept. 22-24	Oil Spill India Conference & Exhibition	Mumbai
UK	October 19-23	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
USA	October 20-22	Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition	San Antonio, TX
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

WORLD CATALOG OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE PRODUCTS

February 4 - SL Ross Environmental Research, producers of the World Catalog of Oil Spill Response Products, is now soliciting updates and new information from manufacturers and suppliers that wish to be part of the Catalog. Projected publication date is May 2020, in time for the International Oil Spill Conference.

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

The World Catalog can be found wherever oil is produced, wherever oil spill equipment is available, wherever decision-makers and equipment buyers are located. Our coverage is worldwide. Major oil companies, government agencies, shipping companies, terminal facilities, and oil spill co-ops all use the Catalog and have done so for years. If you want to be part of the most important worldwide reference book in the industry, please contact the editor, Steve Potter: Steve@slross.com

To receive a 10% discount, mention Promo Code: CLEANUPOIL2020.

Cleanupoil.com publishes The Little Black Book of oil spill response contractors. Together the two books provide excellent coverage of equipment and manpower to respond to oil spills. To receive your free copy of the Little Black Book of Oil Spill Contractors, visit our booth at IOSC <https://www.cleanupoil.com/>

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Alga Chronicle	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	October 2019
AMSA Update	Latest news from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	January 2020
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	December 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	Current issue
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	Q4 2019
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Winter 2019
IMO Publishing Newsletter	New and forthcoming IMO publications	January 2020
ITOPF Ocean Orbit	News from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	October 2019
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q1 2020 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	January 2020
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	January 2020
OHMSETT Gazette	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Summer 2019
OSPAR Newsletter	Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources	End of year 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	Dec. 16-31, 2019
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	February 1, 2020
WestMOPoCo	Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation	January 2020

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

INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

USA: CALIFORNIA VINEYARD SPILLS NEARLY 100K GALLONS OF RED WINE

January 24 - More than 97,000 gallons of red wine spilled from a tank at a vineyard in Sonoma County and eventually leaked into the Russian River, an accident officials said could hurt water quality in the 110-mile tributary flowing into the Pacific Ocean. SFGate / [Read more](#)

USA: REPORT FROM NOAA OR&R ON INCIDENT RESPONSES JANUARY 2020

Every month our Emergency Response Division provides scientific expertise and services to the U.S. Coast Guard on everything from running oil spill trajectories to model where the spill may spread, to possible effects on wildlife and fisheries and estimates on how long the oil may stay in the environment.

This month OR&R responded to eight incidents, including oil discharges, sunken vessels, and other pollution-related incidents. Here is the complete list of last month's incidents, click on the links to find out more:

- [FV Scandies Rose sinking](#)
- [FV Pappy's Pride](#)
- [LifeMed Airplane Crash](#)
- [Possible sheen report](#)
- [50 gal diesel spill Old Fort Bayou NRC 1269451](#)
- [Diesel and sulfuric acid discharge in Mississippi River MM 123](#)
- [Buoy Adrift and Lost: Long Island Sound](#)
- [Mystery Sheen Mississippi River mm93](#)

USA: NORTH DAKOTA - PIPELINE SPILL OF OIL WASTEWATER BIGGER THAN FIRST REPORTED

February 1 - A pipeline spill of oilfield wastewater in northwestern North Dakota has affected more cropland than originally reported.

State environmental scientist Bill Suess said regulators were notified earlier this month of the 8,400 gallon (31,797 liter) pipeline leak in Renville County. The pipeline is operated by Texas-based Cobra Oil and Gas.

Regulators initially said about 1,000 square feet (92.9 square meters) of cropland was affected. The landowner, Sherwood resident Allan Engh, said people involved in the cleanup of the site told him the brine could have contaminated as much as 400,000 square feet (37,161 square meters) of soil. [Kansas City Star / Read more](#)

USA: GEORGIA - ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION BARRIER TO BE BUILT AROUND GOLDEN RAY



Photo: Ramp being removed from Golden Ray, credit: Coast Guard Petty Officer 3rd Class James Himes

February 1 - The Unified Command (UC) responding to the grounding of the car carrier Golden Ray is finalizing plans for the construction of an environmental protection barrier to be built around the vessel.

The 20,000 dwt Golden Ray partially capsized on September 8 last year while heading outbound from the Port of Brunswick with 4,200 vehicles on board. All crewmembers were rescued safely, though it took about 30 hours to free four crewmembers who were trapped in the vessel's engine room.

Salvors have already removed more than 320,000 gallons of oil and water mixture from the vessel.

The salvage effort for Golden Ray is particularly challenging as the wreck sits on its side on shifting sands and cannot be righted. In the initial response, salvors with DonJon-Smit stabilized the site with a blanket of rock on the bottom surrounding the ship, and a separate team from T&T Salvage has been contracted to demolish the vessel in place. [The Maritime Executive / Read more](#)

USA: TEXAS – OIL SPILL CONTAINED IN BAY ON EASTERN OUTSKIRTS OF HOUSTON

February 3 - A 630-gallon (2,385-liter) oil spill in a bay on the eastern outskirts of Houston has been contained and is being cleaned from the water, the U.S. Coast Guard said Monday.

Coast Guard Petty Officer Paige Hause said the mile-long (1.6-kilometer-long) spill occurred Saturday at Baytown from a wellhead that was closed and abandoned in 1980s, but it is unclear who the current owner is. [The Kansas City Star – Read more](#)

February 3 - Oil spill restarts after previous containment: U.S. Coast Guard - A crude oil spill near Baytown, Texas, has restarted after earlier being contained, U.S. Coast Guard officials said in an updated statement on Sunday. About 630 gallons of diesel fuel spilled in Tabbs Bay and approximately one mile (1.6 km) of shoreline has been affected, officials said. [Yahoo News / Read more](#)

February 3 - Oil Spills from Out-Of-Service Wellhead - Over 6,400-feet of boom has been deployed in three stages to contain the spill. Vacuum trucks and a floating drum skimmer are on-scene to collect and recover discharged crude oil and prevent impact to the Houston Ship Channel and the surrounding environment. Nearly 12,500-feet of absorbent material has been placed along the shoreline, and workboats are onsite to collect soiled absorbent boom. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

INDIA: FISHING, AGRICULTURE IMPACTED BY BURNING RIVER IN UPPER ASSAM



February 4 - A four-day fire on the Burhi Dihing, a tributary of the Brahmaputra, at Pandharaghat village, 450 kilometres east of Guwahati, has affected fishing and farming, locals said. The riverine ecosystem in the region enables fishing and farming of food grains.

The area is part of 'rice bowl' Sasoni, a region that encompasses the Dibrugarh and Sivasagar districts of Upper Assam. Comprising 85 villages, Sasoni is crisscrossed by oil pipelines and small rivulets that join the Burhi Dihing, which then flows into the Brahmaputra.

On the morning of January 28, 2020, the central tank farm (CTF) of public-sector Oil India Ltd (OIL) shut off all inlets from various oil wells, or outlets, in the region. Within a few hours, authorities observed leakages at five different points within the periphery of the CTF as pressure started building on all the pipelines. By the end of the day, two leakages were also observed in the delivery pipelines. The press release states that some miscreants may have set the oil slick on the river on fire. The fire started on January 31, according to media reports. Down to Earth / [Read more](#)

USA: HAWAII - POLLUTION ABATEMENT BEGINS FOR GROUNDED SAILING VESSEL NEAR HILO

February 6 - Responders are working to remove diesel and oil from the sailing vessel Midway Island, which ran aground off Hilo, Hawaii on Monday during a transit from Los Angeles.

The Coast Guard is working with Hawaii's Department of Land and Natural Resources and private contractors to mitigate the potential pollution threat from the vessel. Reportedly, a maximum of up to 1,800 gallons of diesel and two marine batteries are on board. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

CANADA: TOWN EVACUATED AFTER ANOTHER OIL TRAIN DERAILS AND BURNS

February 6 - Early in the morning of Feb. 6, an oil train derailed and caught fire near Guernsey, Saskatchewan, resulting in the Canadian village's evacuation. This is the second oil train to derail and burn near Guernsey, following one in December that resulted in a fire and oil spill of 400,000 gallons.

The Canadian Pacific (CP) train was carrying crude oil and reportedly derailed approximately 2.5 kilometers (1.5 miles) from town. News reports indicate that the train crew escaped without harm. Eco Watch / [Read more](#)

CANADA: COMBINED OIL SPILL CLEAN UP EFFORTS REDUCE CONTAMINATION LEVELS IN ESQUIMALT CREEK

February 7 - Surface contamination levels in the Gorge Creek area have been "reduced considerably" according to the Township of Esquimalt. On Jan. 18 a resident in the area reported an oil spill and five days later the Township identified a leaking residential home heating oil tank as the cause. The tank leaked oil into both the ground and stormwater system, aided by recent rain and snowfall. Victoria News / [Read more](#)

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