

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
SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE FOR
INLAND REGIONS AND WATERWAYS
Use VIP code ISCO to save \$100 on your registration
APRIL 7-9, 2020
JW Marriott Indianapolis
INDIANAPOLIS, IN



International Oil Spill Conference

API • BSEE • IMO • IPIECA • NOAA • PHMSA • USCG • USEPA

IOSC 2020

May 11-14 | New Orleans, LA



CLEAN PACIFIC
JUNE 9-11, 2020
HYATT REGENCY LAKE WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE'S SOUTHPORT
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 MEPC MEETING POSTPONED

Taking into account the rapid increase of cases worldwide and the continuing difficulties for some delegates from IMO Member States travelling from abroad to attend IMO meetings, and the determination by the World Health Organization, on 11 March, that the outbreak is now pandemic, the 75th session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), scheduled to take place from 30 March to 3 April 2020, has been postponed.

A number of other upcoming IMO meetings have also been postponed. [More details](#)

OTHER POSTPONED EVENTS

At time of writing (1200 GMT Saturday 14th March) advice has been received that the following events have been cancelled or postponed –

Oceanology International 2020 has been postponed to 1 - 3 December 2020

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

Intertanko Annual Tanker Event 50th Anniversary has been postponed

<https://www.intertanko.com/news-desk/newsdeskarticle/save-the-date-annual-tanker-event-50th-anniversary-oslo-june-2020>

Note from Editor – Sadly, the above event postponement announcements are unlikely to be the last. If any further cancellation announcements are received before this issue goes to press, they will be announced under “Stop Press” on the last page of the newsletter.

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

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[About Professional Membership](#)

[Application Form \(Professional Membership\)](#)

TO RECEIVE THE FREE ISCO NEWSLETTER

Go to 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)

ITOPF R&D AWARD 2020 WINNER ANNOUNCED

ITOPF is pleased to announce that the beneficiary of the 9th annual ITOPF R&D Award is BAUPRE (Biological Assessment Under Hydrostatic Pressure), a project led by Orphy (a research unit in physiology from the University of Western Brittany, France), in partnership with Cedre and TOTAL SA.

This project is designed to improve the methodology used by laboratories to simulate the effect of hydrostatic pressure. Specifically, the project will investigate how pressure influences microbial activity and toxicity of oil and chemicals on deep-sea ecosystems. The researchers will use the scenario of a deep-sea leakage of fuel oil to measure the rate of biodegradation of the fuel oil at different pressures by simulating depths of up to 1500m.

In addition, the researchers will measure the toxic effect of pressure on bacterial strains using reference toxins. The outcome of this research should provide data on the effect of hydrostatic pressure on the survivability, growth, and activity of bacteria responsible for biodegradation of pollutants at depth e.g. from sunken vessels or blow-outs.

ITOPF's Managing Director, Dr. Karen Purnell, said "This is an original and promising project using cutting-edge methodology. Its findings should pave the way to providing better quality biological data, more quickly, in the event of a spill of oil or HNS from a vessel sinking at depth." ITOPF / [Read more](#)

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

AUSTRALIA: AMSA SAFETY ALERT - DANGEROUS MARINE FAUNA

March 11 - This safety alert aims to raise awareness on the risks posed by dangerous marine fauna.

Australian waters contain a range of dangerous fauna that secrete toxins, inject venom, release or contain poison, harbour dangerous bacteria, give electric shocks or just have sharp teeth. Some can become aggressive once disturbed.

An unwanted encounter with any of these dangerous fauna can happen without warning, so it is essential that you, your crew and passengers are prepared. [My sailing.com / Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: GOVERNMENT TO PAY \$212M TO TOXIC FOAM VICTIMS

March 11 - Residents in three Australian communities who had their groundwater contaminated by toxic firefighting foam will receive hundreds of millions of dollars after winning a class action against the Australian Government.

The Department of Defence will pay \$212.5 million to the communities of Williamstown in NSW, Oakey in Queensland and Katherine in the Northern Territory. [Daily Mercury / Read more](#)

CANADA: OTTAWA SET TO DECLARE PLASTICS AS TOXIC SUBSTANCE

March 11 - The federal government intends to designate plastics as toxic substances, a move industry stakeholders say is unduly aggressive and detrimental to the sector's brand.

Listing plastics as toxic under Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act (CEPA) will provide the government with the authority to regulate and limit certain products. The Liberals campaigned during the fall election on a promise to ban some single-use plastics as early as 2021, as part of a national strategy to reduce waste and pollution. In a minority parliament, it is considered more expedient for the government to use the existing act than to curry multiparty support for new legislation regulating plastics. In an e-mail, Environment and Climate Change Canada signalled that the government will, indeed, designate plastics as toxic. "In order to take concrete regulatory action to reduce plastic waste and pollution under CEPA, substances must first be added to Schedule 1," the department said in an e-mail. [The Globe & Mail / Read more](#)

CROATIA: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION

At the invitation of the Adriatic Training and Research Centre (ATRAC), the IOPC Funds have been invited to deliver a two-day national workshop in Rijeka, Croatia, on liability and compensation for oil pollution incidents. Participants are expected from maritime administrations and other public authorities potentially involved in pollution response. Venue: Croatia, 28/04/2020 IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE ACTIVITIES REPORT FOR FEBRUARY 2020

The leaks detected from the wrecks of the Grande America and the Tanio have led to heightened vigilance along the shoreline, generating a high number of alerts. Currently, only the tarballs which washed up on the shores of the Loire-Atlantique area have been linked to the Grande America by Cedre's laboratory (samples from Vendée have not yet been received). The pollutant discovered in Belle-Île-en-Mer was shown to be a mixture of oils, suggesting that it is the result of illegal discharge. Several "false alarms", due to natural plant matter, raised doubts in the Finistère, Morbihan and Landes areas. Finally, the analyses conducted on the feathers of a guillemot taken to the Ile Grande rehabilitation centre (LPO) showed that they were covered in a substance resembling lubricant, with evidence of the presence of alkylphenols. Cedre took part, through video conferencing, in a follow-up meeting in relation to the Bassin aux Bois pollution following the fire at the Lubrizol plant (Rouen). We were also contacted by the Compagnie Fluviale de Transport following an incident involving the self-propelled barge Pampero on the Rhone in the Isère area. We supplied information on the risks relating to the cargo (vinyl chloride) and provided remote advice on the prevention plan established in case of a spill of diesel. Finally, we took part in an ICE (Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies) network ring test launched by the Polish focal point. CEDRE / [Read more in the CEDRE February Newsletter](#)

INDIA: MANGALURU: SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENT POLLUTION HELD AT MANGALORE UNIVERSITY



March 8 - Biology department of Mangalore University under the special UGC grant, conducted a national seminar on the subject 'Environment and Ecology Solutions - Present situation and future expectation' at Mangala Auditorium on Saturday, March 7.

Discussion and lectures were given on purifying the polluted soil and the use of living beings for the ecological process of cleaning the same. The seminar was inaugurated by Prof Indrani Karunasagar, director of UNESCO centre for medical and marine technology and director R&D Nitte university.

Daiji World / [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: PHOTOS: CHEMICAL SPILL DRILL IN KERIKERI

Photo: Firefighters wash off in a decontamination shower.
Photo / Peter de Graaf

March 5 - One person dead. Four workers overcome by toxic fumes. Firefighters in hazchem suits scouring a building for victims. It must have looked grim for people passing by on Kerikeri's Fairway Drive on Monday evening, but it was all just an exercise designed to hone firefighters' skills and improve inter-agency cooperation. About 20 members of Kerikeri Fire Brigade, half a dozen St John Kerikeri medics, a police officer and a council environment protection officer took part in the drill with staff at Bunnings Warehouse playing the role of victims in the simulated chemical spill scenario. New Zealand Herald / [Read more](#)



NIGERIA: BODO REMEDIATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES UPDATE 09: 08 MARCH 2020

March 8 - Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) surveys monitored Contractor cleanup actions and reviewed defined work areas (Grids) for Phase 2 completion, using a field definition of 25% or less oiling observed in a pit dug minimally to 25-30 cm deep. To request a copy of the latest report with maps and photos contact Bariton Lezabbey BMICommunications2@gmail.com

NIGERIA: REPS COMMITTEE SEEKS SPEEDY CLEAN-UP OF OGONI LAND

March 10 - The House of Representatives Committee on Environment has expressed dissatisfaction over the slow pace of work on the cleaning of oil spill-impacted sites in Ogoni land.

Johnson Ogburn, the committee's Chairman, made the expression on Tuesday in Alode, Eleme, during a three-day inspection tour of remediation sites in Eleme and Gokana Local Government Areas of Rivers. Recalls that President Muhammadu Buhari launched the clean-up project in 2016. Reports show that so far, a total of 360 million dollars has been released for the implementation of the one billion dollar project. All Africa.com / [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: OIL COMPANIES SHOULD ACT RESPONSIBLY IN THE ARCTIC



In the photo: Roman Polshvedkin, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in the Komi Republic

March 10 - In this Arctic.ru interview, Roman Polshvedkin, Minister of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection in the Komi Republic, discusses new oil spills and technologies for containing them, unpleasant record-breaking incidents and volunteer projects.

Last year, you talked about oil wells in the republic that have not yet been eliminated. Are you making headway in this respect?

The issue of ownership of the surviving old oil wells remains unresolved. It goes without saying that the state, namely, the Soviet Union and now Russia, owned natural resources that had federal property status and used them rather actively and obtained profits in the form of severance tax. After their potential was used up, these

oil wells fell into disuse and were abandoned. They are in need of attention because some of them pose an environmental hazard. Today, Russian regions are left to deal with this problem on their own. At the meeting the participants pointed out that it was necessary at the outset to conduct an inventory of the oil wells. Last year, we noted that this process would be very expensive because each well is different, and this calls for separate projects involving massive costs. I believe that this point should be included in the agenda of the national project Environment because the problem of abandoned oil wells can only be resolved through federal budget funding. Any region facing this problem will never resolve it. Arctic.ru / [Continue reading the interview and watch the video](#)

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

March 13 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[\\$22.3 Million Proposed to Restore Natural Resources Injured by Refugio Beach Oil Spill](#)

On March 13, the [Department of Justice announced filing for public comment of a consent decree](#) proposing a \$22.3 million settlement to restore natural resources injured by the [Refugio Beach oil spill](#) near Santa Barbara, California in 2015.

[Technical Workshop on Freshwater Mussel Ecosystem Services and Restoration Activities](#)

OR&R, with funding support from the NOAA North Atlantic Regional Team, partnered with the Chesapeake Bay Science and Technical Advisory Committee and several regional experts and partners to organize a technical workshop on freshwater mussel ecosystem services and restoration activities.

[Marine Debris Program Welcomes New Team Members](#)

In early 2020, the Marine Debris Program (MDP) was pleased to welcome several new people to the team. Read on to learn about the new members.

[Florida Emergency Support Function Resource Advisor Training Course](#)

On February 26-27, the NOAA Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) co-hosted a 2-day Emergency Support Function (ESF) Resource Advisor Training course for the state of Florida, at the Apalachicola National Estuarine Research Reserve.

[Marine Debris Program Participates in Ohio Clean Marina Conference](#)

On Thursday, February 27th, the NOAA Marine Debris Program participated in the 4th Annual Ohio Clean Marina Conference in Port Clinton, Ohio.

[NOS Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council Annual Meeting](#)

The NOAA National Ocean Service (NOS) Equal Employment Opportunity, Diversity and Inclusion Advisory Council (NEDAC) met for its annual retreat on February 24-25 in Silver Spring to develop an action plan for FY 20-22, in order to increase diversity and inclusion within NOS.

[NOAA Experts Attend Workshop on Communicating Science During Negotiations](#)

March 9 - This week NOAA experts from Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program (DARRP) and the General Council for Natural Resources gathered at NOAA's office in St. Petersburg, Florida, for a workshop to improve their negotiating skills to help ensure that the best outcomes can be achieved on behalf of the public.

[Marine Debris Program Director Presents at National Association of Counties Conference](#)

On March 1, the Director of the NOAA Marine Debris Program, Nancy Wallace, spoke to the Gulf States Counties and Parishes Caucus at their annual meeting during the National Association of Counties Conference.

[Marine Debris Program Meets with Congressional Staff in Mississippi](#)

On February 24, Caitlin Wessel, Gulf of Mexico Regional Coordinator for the Marine Debris Program, met with Congressional staff from the district offices of Senator Hyde-Smith and Senator Wicker.

USA: ENBRIDGE HIRES TWO COMPANIES TO BUILD OIL PIPELINE UNDER GREAT LAKES

March 6 - Enbridge says it has hired two companies to build a disputed oil pipeline tunnel beneath the channel linking Lakes Huron and Michigan.

The Canadian oil transport company said Friday the job will be handled by Great Lakes Tunnel Contractors, a partnership between a Michigan firm and another based in Japan. Enbridge also has selected multinational firm Arup to design the tunnel, which would extend through bedrock beneath the Straits of Mackinac. WILX / [Read more](#)

USA: CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD STILL GETTING WORK DONE DESPITE A LACK OF MEMBERS

March 9 - Not even many feds may be aware of the small, independent U.S. Chemical Safety Board. It has a critical mission, investigating industrial chemical accidents. The board has had a somewhat rocky time over the past few years. Critics say it's understaffed. But recently it got a crucial rule out the door. For an update, the Federal Drive with Tom Temin spoke to the board's interim executive, Kristen Kulinowski. Federal News Network / [Read more and listen to recorded podcast](#)

USA: SOUTH FLORIDA - 1,200 VOLUNTEERS JOIN IN 43RD ANNUAL BROWARD COUNTY WATERWAY CLEANUP



March 10 - On March 7th approximately 1,200 volunteers participated in the 43rd Broward County Waterway Cleanup, the county's largest and longest-running environmental event. Presented by the Florida Inland Navigation District (F.I.N.D.) and National Marine Suppliers and organized by the Marine Industries Association of South Florida (MIASF), the Broward County Waterway Cleanup resulted in the collection of nearly 25 tons of trash and debris from 35 sites across the county. Volunteers, ranging in age from nine months to 81, participated on land and in water with 120 vessels, including boats, kayaks, and paddleboards.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: MARINE DEBRIS CLEANUPS MAKE AN IMPACT IN THE FLORIDA KEYS

March 11 - The National Marine Sanctuary Foundation released a [report](#) to show the impact of marine debris cleanups as part of Goal: Clean Seas Florida Keys.

[Goal: Clean Seas Florida Keys](#) is a partnership between Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary, the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation and its local chapter, participating Blue Star dive operators, and Project AWARE® seafloor monitoring program Dive Against Debris®.

The Goal: Clean Seas Florida Keys initiative engages dive professionals and recreational divers in removing marine debris to protect wildlife, corals and sponges; and engages the community in marine debris awareness and prevention through education and outreach.

In its first year (July 2018 to July 2019), Blue Star operators that received funding support from the Foundation completed 49 cleanup trips. The Maritime Executive / [Read more and watch video](#)

TRACKING DOWN “MISSING” ISCO MEMBERS

A message from Mary Ann Dagleish, Membership Director of ISCO.

“I am having trouble reaching some of you as emails, jobs, etc. have changed over the years. My email address is: mrydetroit@aol.com

Please add this to your safe emails. Since we all get so many emails every day it is easy to miss one, especially if the email address is unfamiliar.

We do not want to eliminate anyone from membership because the email went to the wrong person. Please reach out to me if you think you might be one of members I am missing”.

CORONAVIRUS – HOW ARE YOU COPING WITH THE PANDEMIC?

Your Editor would like to hear from Members on how they are managing to overcome the many problems arising from the current coronavirus

ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville has written - “Given the very different advice and policies being followed in different countries I think we can only expect to get a divergent response from the members or the wider newsletter readership. It might be productive and useful to ask them to share what extra precautions or measures they have taken to ensure they can still do their work and respond if necessary to a spill.

The virus issue is going to be ongoing and we have to expect other viruses in the future so the information they provide could become useful in developing future operating procedures.

For example should vehicles and equipment be decontaminated before leaving a site (not just for oil which they should already do) including cleaning the steering wheel, door handles, tools people might have handled or do you do that at the base. Do you, how do you apply the 1m rule when deploying a boom or skimmer? What about decontamination of radios? Gloves for handling equipment but do you use for the day or do you need to change regularly?”

As an example, ISCO Member, Oman Pesco has issued an Advisory Notice – “As the novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) diagnoses continue to increase around the world. OMAN PESCO is committed to providing a safe and healthy environment for our employees and ensure business continuity in service of our customers, partners, and other stakeholders. We are confident that coronavirus (COVID-19) will not significantly impact our ability to provide our services to you. What doesn't change is our commitment to our customers. Thank you for continuing to place your trust in us.

As the situation continues to evolve, we are taking measures to maintain business continuity and protect the health of our employees, customers, and partners.

If any of our employees show signs of symptoms related to COVID-19, have traveled to a restricted destination, or have been in close physical contact with someone who has traveled to a restricted destination and is showing symptoms, we require them to visit the nearest Ministry of Health, Health Centre, as well as working from home for 14 days until the appropriate health screening has been completed by the competent authorities.

In addition, we require visitors to our office and worksites to complete a health assessment form before entering any of our premises or worksites. We have also conducted specialized training for all our employees covering best practice health tips and infection control measures. Furthermore, we have supplied all our offices and worksites with infection control kits including hand sanitizing stations, disposable masks and gloves, as well as increasing the frequency of office and worksite cleaning.

Travel to certain international destinations has been stopped, and all other travel has been restricted to business-critical only. Your OMAN PESCO team will reach out if you have planned meetings or events to explore other meeting options with you.

Additionally, as supply chains worldwide are affected by the current situation, we have devised plans to diversify our supplier-base to include multiple geographical regions, whenever possible, to mitigate or minimize supply disruptions. We have also requested all our suppliers and sub-contractors to provide us with their risk impact assessments as well as risk mitigation plans.

As members of the International Trade Council (ITC), we have adopted the ITC's Guidelines for Managing Business Risks due to COVID-19, and developed a Business Continuity Plan (BCP) which has been devised to ensure that replacement personnel are available in the event that any of our on-duty personnel is affected. The BCP also includes measures to ensure that redundancies are built-into our knowledge management systems to mitigate single-points of failure that may occur due to the current threat.

We want to be clear that these policies don't change how we work with you, or our ability to provide the services you rely on. At OMAN PESCO we have a People First culture -- and these measures will help protect not only our employees, customers, and partners, but

ISCO NEWS (CONTINUED)

also our community as a whole. We will be continuously monitoring the situation as it evolves and will make adjustments to our policies accordingly to help keep everyone safe and healthy. As we look ahead, we believe we have an opportunity to use our emergency management and response expertise in helping customers respond fast in critical situations to aid our broader community in handling the challenges of the coronavirus. You'll hear more from us about this soon."

The problems caused by the pandemic are going to be with us for a long time and ISCO Members are asked to share information on the practical measures they are taking to cope with the ongoing situation. It will be of benefit to all of us to do this and the ISCO Newsletter will support this sharing process by publishing helpful contributions received from members and other sources.

CORONAVIRUS – EFFECT ON PLANNED CONFERENCES AND OTHER EVENTS

The ISCO Newsletter has published news on the postponement of IMO events in London, including the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 75) meeting which should have commenced at the end of this month. It is inevitable that more events are going to be cancelled or postponed and we will continue to keep you posted.

Nigel Bennett of ISCO Member, Aqua-Guard Spill Response Inc. has just advised "Most of our international clients are now cancelling their visit to the IOSC show in New Orleans. Most are oil company and government officials and their travel permits have been revoked".

However, at time of writing, it looks as though this event may still go forward. The organizing committee has just released the following statement –

"The International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) Executive Committee and event planning team are paying close attention to the developing news about the novel coronavirus (COVID-19). Given the dynamic nature of this situation and in light of the ever-changing developments, we are assessing all options regarding our meeting in New Orleans in two months. IOSC remains committed to communicate regularly regarding the event status. At this time no decision has been reached. IOSC appreciates your patience during this unprecedented time".

Other upcoming events, including Clean Waterways and Clean Pacific still look like taking place as planned.

ISCO is still planning to hold its 2020 AGM in May during the IOSC Conference in New Orleans but in the event of postponement the probable fall-back plan will be to hold the AGM by exchange of email.

Are you going to cancel your plans to attend any of the forthcoming events? Please advise Mary Ann mrydetroit@aol.com with cc to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

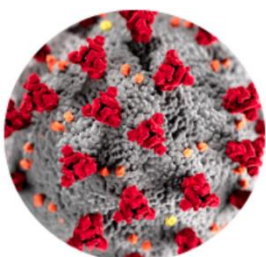
NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

HARBO TECHNOLOGIES AND PARTNERS REPORT ON A SUCCESSFUL DEMO ON THE BAYOU DES ALLEMANDS, LOUISIANA

The Demo on the Bayou Des Allemands was a huge success as we had over 60 attendees from 30 companies! A huge thank you goes out to: **Tucker Mendoza** for helping me set this event up and making sure everything went accordingly to plan, especially the on the water deployment of our Rapid First Response Boom. Your team rocked it yesterday. **Kasen Mendoza** for being the go to guy for all that we asked for. **Joshua Williams** and **Hazmat** for showcasing their response organization and as well as their excellent Crawfish boiling skills. **WALLY LANDRY** and Crucial Inc for demonstrating their Aquagator **Wayne Fellers** for demonstrating their MERV **Dan Beyer** and **Lamor Corporation** for demonstrating their mini skimmer **Mark Ippolito** and **Terry "T-Bone" White** from **SPECIALIZED PROFESSIONAL SERVICES INC** for demonstrating their Magnaseal [hashtag#oilspillresponse hashtag#harbo hashtag#rapidresponse](#) Linked in / [See photos](#)

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

COVID-19 WEBINAR THE FOR MARITIME COMMUNITY



Please join us on March 19 (12:00 PM ET) for a 1-hour Webinar to address what maritime personnel can expect if there is an actual or suspected exposure to COVID-19. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

There will be moderated discussion with representation from the USCG as well as a recap of the SOCP's 2019 Pandemic Exercise. Since the CDC will be unable to join us during this event, they have provided the following information for distribution that we have posted on the SOCP website under COVID-19: <http://www.socp.us/links.html> To register, please click below or email programadmin@socp.us by COB Tuesday, March 17, 2020. Registered participants will receive login information prior to the event. Register [HERE](#).

TRAINING

BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO TOXICOLOGY (VERSION 2.0)

In this newly updated eLearning course, you'll be given a solid introduction to toxicology by expert Laura Robinson. The course is designed to be as engaging as it is informative, using a blend of content types and representing exceptional value for money.

Toxicology is the study of adverse effects of chemicals on living organisms, more specifically, how chemicals can cause harm to humans. Understanding the potential hazards and risks of using chemicals in both daily and work life is a key component to keeping yourself and others around you safe. Chemical Watch / [Read more](#)

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 invitations in this section.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

Note from your Editor – For some time I have been conscious that the content of the ISCO Newsletter tends to be very marine orientated despite the fact that many of our Members are more involved in provision of services, materials and equipment for Inland Spill Response. In preparing your newsletter, I find that marine-related content is much easier to source than inland / onshore matter and I would like to redress the balance. Contributions of news, articles, case histories, etc. from our inland spill response members would be very much appreciated.

In the meantime ... IPIECA and IOGP have kindly given me permission to re-publish their article on Inland Spill Response.

INLAND RESPONSE - GOOD PRACTICE GUIDELINES FOR INCIDENT MANAGEMENT AND EMERGENCY RESPONSE PERSONNEL

Part 2 of a serialised article contributed by IPIECA and IOGP



Preface

This publication is part of the IPIECA-IOGP Good Practice Guide Series which summarizes current views on good practice for a range of oil spill preparedness and response topics. The series aims to help align industry practices and activities, inform stakeholders, and serve as a communication tool to promote awareness and education.

The series updates and replaces the well-established IPIECA 'Oil Spill Report Series' published between 1990 and 2008. It covers topics that are broadly applicable both to exploration and production, as well as shipping and transportation activities. The revisions are being undertaken by the IOGP-IPIECA Oil Spill Response Joint

Industry Project (JIP). The JIP was established in 2011 to implement learning opportunities in respect of oil spill preparedness and response following the April 2010 well control incident in the Gulf of Mexico.

Inland aquatic environments

For the purposes of this guide, inland aquatic environments or habitats encompass:

- freshwater rivers and streams, lakes and ponds, and wetlands;
- estuarine water bodies and shorelines; and
- shore or riverbank habitats including bedrock, man-made structures, sand, mixed sand and gravel, vegetated shores and mud.

Large inland water bodies, such as the North American Great Lakes and Lake Victoria in Africa, have waves and currents. However, compared to oceans, the currents are usually weak, and waves fluctuate with local wind conditions with no oceanic swell. Tides are low or non-existent, and water level fluctuations may be driven by water inputs and evaporation rates. Shores are usually narrower than marine beaches. Smaller lakes and ponds may have limited flushing rates and also be subject to variations in water levels due to seasonal effects and/or flooding. If water exchange rates are low, high nutrient levels and low oxygen levels can occur which can affect the biodegradation rates of the spilled oil. Lakes in higher latitudes can be subject to winter icing. Even large lakes can freeze over substantially, and ice cover along the shore is common.

Large rivers can have variable flow rates; these may be seasonally high which may lead to substantial flood events. River flows in estuarine environments are usually subject to tides and have varying salinity. Some rivers have multiple channels with mid-channel islands, and some have controlled flow due to the construction of locks and dams. Sediment loads can be high. There will be floodplains of varying widths with associated wetlands and backwaters.

Small rivers and streams can be shallow, with flow characteristics ranging from fast currents with falls and rapids to slow winding channels. All can freeze over during winter in colder climates. The channels can contain varying amounts of debris and sediment load.



Heavy rains caused a spill that led to the oiling of vegetation in the resulting flood.

Ecological effects

Exposure of the environment to oil can lead to several types of effects. There are two key concepts to consider: vulnerability (able to be exposed) and sensitivity (reactivity to exposure). It is the sensitivity of exposed habitats and organisms that dominates considerations of the environmental effects of a spill. Habitat characteristics which influence sensitivity include:

- species diversity and abundance;
- climate extremes and types of precipitation; and
- the amount of water circulation and flushing

Exposure to oil can have two types of effects on animals and plants:

1. Many compounds in oil are acutely (short-term and lethal) or chronically (long-term and sublethal) toxic, and exposure to sufficient concentrations for a long enough duration can cause sickness or death in plants and animals. Toxicity from ingestion and inhalation mostly results from the BTEX and PAH compounds because they are more soluble in water, especially the BTEX compounds. Light crude oils and petroleum products (gasoline, kerosene, diesel and No. 2 fuel oil) contain more of these compounds and are therefore more toxic than heavier oils that contain fewer of these compounds. These aromatic compounds are also the most easily weathered compounds in oil, and as spilled oil weathers, it becomes less toxic as a result. The PAHs persist in the environment longer than the BTEX compounds, and much longer-term toxicity results from their presence.

2. Physical smothering can occur if plants and animals become coated in thick layers of oil. Physical smothering is more likely with heavier crude and fuel oils, especially if they become emulsified, because of their greater viscosity and adhesion potential. These heavier oils can persist for long periods of time and cause longer-term environmental disruption, but their toxicity is minimal.

There can be indirect effects from the above through alterations in species diversity and abundance after a spill. For example, removal of grazing animals within a habitat due to toxicity or smothering by oil may allow a subsequent increase in vegetation until ecological balance is restored. Aggressive or invasive clean-up actions can also alter habitats. Care needs to be taken when choosing response techniques to ensure that the overall result is beneficial compared to taking no action.

Impacts on inland and marine habitats are judged by the relative severity of the impact and speed of recovery.

Habitat recovery is dependent on the:

- degree and persistence of oiling;
- characteristics and weathering of an oil;
- circumstances of a spill (especially the weather); and
- response techniques and tactics.

The recovery of species is dependent on:

- rates of reproduction; and
- the rate of recolonization from adjacent habitats.

The effects of oil on various classes of organisms are summarized below. Generally, organisms can accumulate hydrocarbons from surrounding water and air, and by the ingestion of food and contaminated sediment. The concentrations of hydrocarbons which may be found within organisms is a reflection of the physiochemical properties of the hydrocarbon, environmental conditions, characteristics of the exposed organisms, and the food chain.

- **Bacteria:** While some oils can be initially toxic to bacteria, many bacteria use oil as a food source and, consequently, remove spills from the environment. In agricultural areas, and urban or suburban areas with high run-off, nutrient levels from fertilizers are likely to be high, which increases the potential for eutrophication and plummeting levels of dissolved oxygen even without a spill.
- **Algae:** Freshwater and estuarine algae are affected by exposure to the lighter weight, acutely toxic volatile compounds in many oils, but algal populations usually recover very quickly. The acutely toxic effects decline quickly as the toxic components weather. An increase in cyanobacteria (which fix nitrogen) provides nutrients to spur new algal growth. Microorganisms (zooplankton) which feed on algae are usually suppressed by the toxicity of spilled oil, and the subsequent lower predation rate helps algae to repopulate.
- **Invertebrates:** These animals can be subject to acute and chronic toxic effects from exposure to spilled oil. Sub-lethal (chronic) effects include impaired growth and reproduction. After a spill, the invertebrate population density and diversity can be significantly altered and population changes can indirectly affect the survival of organisms higher up the food chain.
- **Fish:** Unlike marine species in the open ocean, which can avoid a slick, freshwater fish may be unable to avoid spilled oil in a smaller water body. Fish kills have occurred after spills in constrained fresh waters, and can be a direct result of hydrocarbon toxicity or may occur indirectly due to low dissolved oxygen. Fish can accumulate hydrocarbons in their tissues but can also metabolize them; short-term exposures may therefore result in few long-term effects.
- **Amphibians:** The permeable skin of amphibians makes them more at risk than reptiles to oiling. The greatest risk to these animals is from smothering by physical coating, and toxicity due to ingestion of the oil.
- **Mammals and birds:** These animals are similarly susceptible to physical coating by oil, and to ingestion of oil through preening and consumption of oiled prey and plants. Physical coating of oil can severely affect the ability of fur and feathers to insulate an animal, resulting in hypothermia and possibly death. These injuries are often highly visible during a spill response and can lead to much public concern. Some species may smell the oil and avoid it.
- **Vegetation:** Oiling can affect more than just the plants themselves. Animals that live among the plants can become exposed to the oil by interacting with the plants. The oil on plants can remobilize during changes in water level or rain events, or can be transferred by animals and cause additional exposure effects

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To be continued next week

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

As at 1400 GMT on Sunday 15th March, ISCO has not received any further advice on event cancellations. Information on events is given on the assumption that the featured events will go ahead as planned but members are advised to check with organisers.

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS, INDIANAPOLIS, 7-9 APRIL 2020

The [CLEAN WATERWAYS conference](#) will be fist bumping for 3 days of collaboration, content, and networking in Indianapolis! Business will still be happening in Indianapolis... Don't miss out on important times like these where the inland response community will be gathering! [Register for Clean Waterways](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE INFORMATION DAY, PARIS, 17TH MARCH 2020

The 25th Cedre Information Day will focus on the issue of containers and the accidental pollution they can generate, both at sea and in inland waters, ports and waterways. The day will be divided into three sessions. The first will address the issue from an operational perspective through the eyes of a ship captain and a shipping company.

Past incidents and the associated risks will then be presented by Cedre and an insurance specialist. The day will conclude with a session on response to a container incident, from the point of view of maritime and port authorities. The presentations will given by key players in the field. [Programme and Registration](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
FRANCE	March 17	25th Cedre Information Day	Paris
COLOMBIA	March 17-19	SPE HSE & Sustainability Conference	Bogotá
USA	March 19	2020 MI-AHMP Annual Conference	Howell, MI
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	POSTPONED	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
GHANA	April 27-30	Workshop on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation	Accra
CROATIA	April 28	National workshop on liability and compensation	Rjeka
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
UK	May 13-14	HAZMAT 2020 Conference	Stratford on Avon
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
USA	June 8 -	Science of Oil Spills Class	New London, CT
UK	June 8-12	2020 IOPC Funds' Short Course	London
NORWAY	POSTPONED	INTERTANKO Annual Tanker Event	Oslo
USA	June 9-11	Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition	Seattle, WA
USA	June 22 -	Science of Oil Spills Class	Seattle, WA
NETHERLANDS	June 24-25	European Environmental Ports Conference 2020	Rotterdam
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	August 3-7	National workshop on the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan	Sao Tomé
ESTONIA	August 25-27	BALEX DELTA 2020 pollution response exercise	Talinn
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

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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			

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Alga Cronicle	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	December 2019
AMSA Update	Latest news from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	February 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	February 2020
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	February 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	Jan.-Feb. 2020
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	February 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	Jan. 16-31, 2020
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	March 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.

CORRECTION

ARTICLE ABOUT SEA ALARM'S 15 YEAR PARTNERSHIP WITH OSRL

From Saskia Sessions of Sea Alarm - "Please would you be able to make a correction in the article in last week's newsletter – we made a typo in the sentence "This cooperation started January 1, 2015", it should have read January 1, 2005".

INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

PAKISTAN: CRUDE OIL SPILL IN NARALI DAM POSES SERIOUS THREAT TO HUMAN HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT



March 12 - Assistant Director Punjab Environment Protection Department (EPD) Amin Baig told APP that the crude oil leakage occurred in the Adhi Oil field of Pakistan Petroleum Limited (PPL). "After reports of the oil flow over into the reservoir, EPD team visited the site and took the PPL administration on board whereas DO Fisheries Muratab Ali also accompanied the team. Water samples have been collected from the banks of the dam and also from the middle of the water reservoir to ascertain the level of oil contamination in the reservoir," he added. He noted that the water color and shining surface in the centre of the dam indicated the presence of crude oil. To a question, he said Well No.5 at the Oil field was suspected to be the oil leaking sources where we had collected random samples from final outlet of the oil field and then the dam. Urdu Point / [Read more](#)

BRAZIL: ARDENT-SMIT TEAM BEGINS DEBUNKERING STELLAR BANNER

March 12 - Salvage crews have started the operation to remove fuel oil from the stricken Stellar Banner off the coast of the Brazil. The debunkering operation is being carried out by a jointly by Ardent and Smit Salvage with support from the offshore vessel ALP Defender and an oil spill response vessel from OceanPact, a Brazilian shipping company. During the operation, crews will pump fuel from the Stellar Banner's tanks to a receiving vessel for transport. Experts said previously that approximately 3,500 tons of fuel oil and 140 tons of gas oil remain on board the grounded the VLOC. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

USA: GEORGIA - GOLDEN RAY SALVAGE: DYE TEST COMING TO ST. SIMONS SOUND

Photo: Crews onboard the work barges Farrell [left] and Columbia [right], work to clean residual fuel oil from tanks inside the M/V Golden Ray, St. Simons Sound, Dec. 3, 2019.

The Unified Command overseeing the salvage of the Golden Ray car carrier is getting ready to literally dye the St. Simons Sound. Crews will introduce the non-toxic, water-soluble dye into the water to determine just how far potential contaminants will travel within the St. Simons Sound waterway, giving experts an idea of how any potential oil discharges will spread when the Golden Ray is cut up.

The dye is the same fluorescein disodium salt commonly used in places like Tampa and Boston when they dye rivers in celebration of St. Patrick's Day. The natural color is orange-red to dark red, but the color of the dye to be used was not specified. The dye testing is planned to take place on Tuesday, March 17, during the maximum ebb tide and again at the maximum flood tide the following day. gCaptain / [Read more](#)



Stop Press – Breaking News

As at 1800 hrs GMT on Sunday 15th March ISCO has not received any further news on cancellation / postponement of events additional to those already advised, but the situation can change very quickly. In the USA some states and localities have already banned large gatherings.

Inward travel to the USA from a large number of countries worldwide is banned. The list of affected countries continues to grow. Intending visitors should check before finalising travel plans.

On Saturday a 30-day US ban took effect on all travel from the EU's Schengen border-free zone, part of a global clampdown on travel to curtail the virus. The ban includes Britain and Ireland as of midnight EST on Monday (0400 GMT on Tuesday).

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