

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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



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INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE NEW DATES FOR TRIENNIAL EVENTS

IOSC, INTERSPILL, AND SPILLCON SHIFT CONFERENCE DATES
IN UNIFIED RESPONSE TO COVID-19 IMPACT – SEE PAGE 8

INTERNATIONAL GROUP LAUNCHES ONLINE COVID-19 TRACKER

April 6 - The International Group (with particular thanks to the North) has today launched a new publicly accessible online digital tool (dashboard) to assist shipowners, charterers, operators and other parties in the maritime sector track country and port specific advice around the world, detailing the measures being put in place in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. These are uncertain times as the COVID-19 pandemic has created unique challenges for the industry and society at large. IGP&I / [Read more](#)

NEW ITOPF HANDBOOK PUBLISHED



April 9 - ITOPF has just published its annual Handbook for 2020/21. This contains a wealth of valuable information and guidance for those likely to be involved in spills of oil, chemicals or other substances from ships.

The new edition has been fully updated and includes information on ITOPF's staff and services, oil spill statistics, spill response techniques, environmental effects, and pollution liability and compensation. Owing to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Handbook is currently only available in electronic format. We hope to be able to distribute hard copies later in the summer. [Download the ITOPF Handbook](#)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

IOPC FUNDS - POSTPONEMENT OF PLANNED OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

April 10 - The Secretariat continues to work remotely and is striving to provide its usual services to Member States and stakeholders as far as possible. However, in light of the ongoing difficulties presented by the pandemic in terms of travel and gatherings of groups of people, the decision has been taken to postpone all outreach activities until further notice. The following planned activities have been postponed in liaison with or at the request of the organisations and/or authorities concerned: • National workshop to be delivered in cooperation with the GI WACAF project, Lomé, Togo, originally scheduled to take place from 25 March 2020; • National workshop organised by the Adriatic Training and Research Centre (ATRAC), Opatija, Croatia, originally scheduled to take place from 28 April 2020; • lectures at IMLI and WMU in March and May respectively; • lecture at the University of Athens, originally scheduled to take place on 18 May 2020; • IOPC Funds 2020 Short Course, originally scheduled to take place from 8 June 2020; • visits by universities at the IOPC Funds offices (various dates).

With regard to the IOPC Funds' Short Course, the Director will be monitoring the situation with our supporting organisations to try to reschedule the course for later this year. Any developments regarding new dates for the course will be announced in due course.

For further information or general enquiries regarding outreach activities, please email externalrelations@iopcfunds.org

OSPAR COUNTRIES MAKE COLLECTIVE DECISION TO POSTPONE MINISTERIAL MEETING

April 3 - As a consequence of the Covid-19 outbreak, OSPAR has taken the decision to postpone its Ministerial Meeting, which was due to be held in July 2020. The Ministerial Meeting will be hosted by Portugal in 2021.

Heads of Delegation representing 15 countries from around the North-East Atlantic, and the European Union, took the difficult decision on 3 April. The Ministerial was planned to launch OSPAR's new strategy for the North-East Atlantic for the decade 2020-2030. In the coming year, OSPAR will continue to work on the strategy and also use the available time to improve the quality of the many supporting deliverables. OSPAR / [Read more](#)

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

Note from your Editor: World news is currently dominated by reports on the advance of the Coronavirus pandemic. One consequence is that the usual sources of news that is specifically relevant to the interests of the spill response community have temporarily gone very quiet. Under this circumstance I would be particularly grateful to Members and other readers who send me news reports that will be of interest to Members and readers in their own countries and the wider world. john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

FRANCE: THE LATEST ACTIVITY REPORT FROM CEDRE

Following on from February ([see CEDRE Newsletter n° 287](#)), Cedre's duty team continued to be called upon in relation to reports of tarballs washed up on the Atlantic coastline. Surveillance overflights to monitor the leaks from the wreck of the *Grande America* continued, leading to increased vigilance on land and reports of small quantities of oil on Île de Ré (Charente-Maritime), in Sables-d'Olonnes and in Aytré (Vendée). The samples taken during the latest arrivals will be analysed when Cedre's laboratory reopens. The analysis by Cedre's laboratory of tarballs collected in Finistère (Douarnenez and Plouhinec) confirmed that they were not connected with the fuel oil from the *Grande America*, as was also the case for another report (Saint-Nazaire) which proved ultimately to be a false alarm (deposit of natural origin). Cedre's duty team was also contacted by the maritime authorities in Cherbourg in relation to a

fishing vessel which sank not far off the coast of Le Havre. In overseas France, Cedre contacted the local authorities following the grounding of a fishing vessel on the Arutua coral reef (Tuamotu archipelago) in French Polynesia. Finally, Cedre provided support to a company faced with a spill of surfactants in its retention basin. [Read more in the CEDRE March 2020 Newsletter](#)

FRENCH GUIANA: BEHAVIOUR & FATE OF OIL IN A TROPICAL ENVIRONMENT

As mentioned in our February newsletter, an engineer from Cedre travelled to French Guiana as part of a project on the behaviour and fate of oil in a tropical environment. This project, launched in 2019, is funded by the [French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition \(MTES\)](#), Cedre, and oil and gas company [Total](#). It is run by a team of scientists from Cedre and the [Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography \(MIO\)](#). The first phase of the project consisted in studying the behaviour at sea of crude oil, using an experimental “microcosm” set-up. During this two-week assignment, 16 m³ of equipment was transported from the Dégrad-des-Cannes naval base to Île Royale (former French penal colony) off Kourou. The trial system was set up on site then deployed in the bay of Île Royale, while the chemistry and microbiology laboratories were set up in the buildings which formerly housed the wardens and their families at the time of the penal colony. Although smaller quantities of oil than initially planned were released, very important observations were nonetheless made for the study of oil behaviour in this very specific environment. The second phase of the project, which was to take place at the Dégrad-des-Cannes naval base, was interrupted due to the COVID-19 epidemic. It will be rescheduled in the second half of 2020. During this assignment in French Guiana, we received help and support from organisations, services and people, without which the experiment would not have been possible: Dégrad-des-Cannes naval base, the [CSG](#), the 3rd Foreign Infantry Regiment, the Île Royale gendarmerie post, the Auberge des Îles, the warden of Île Royale, [CNRS Cayenne](#), [AEM](#), and [DGTM](#). We would like to extend a special thank you to them. [Read more in the CEDRE March 2020 Newsletter](#)

ITALY: HOW CORONAVIRUS CLEARED VENICE'S WATERS



April 7 - While coronavirus continues to claim tens of thousands of lives across the globe, there are some bright spots among the darkness. One of these appears to be the unanticipated side-effect that COVID-19 has had on the street canals of Venice, where the clarity of water has improved markedly over the last several weeks. But while residents have reported being able to see little fish swimming amongst waterways that are normally so contaminated that visibility is terrible, the authorities have stressed that the water may be clearer – but it is unfortunately not cleaner. Rather, reduced traffic and activity in the water has allowed sediment to sink to the bottom, creating the illusion that water quality has improved. Environmental Technology / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: DUTCH AMBASSADOR VISITS BODO CLEANUP PROJECT WORK AREA

April 8 - The Government of the Netherlands through their Embassy to Nigeria has supported the Bodo (Ogoniland) mediation process since 2013. As a continuation of that effort, Ambassador Harry Van Dijk visited Bodo's Paramount Ruler at his residence and the Project work area on Wednesday 11 March 2020.

Ambassador Van Dijk presented the International Marine Organization (IMO) Level 1 and Level 2 certificates to representatives of the 800 community workers trained as international oil spill responders in October 2019.

Personages at the event included the Paramount Ruler of Bodo King John Berebon, Deputy Paramount Ruler Chief Monday Koottee, members of the Bodo Council of Chiefs and Elders, the Bodo Mediation Initiative (BMI) Chairman and Project Director, Inemo Samiama and Erich Gundlach, Chairperson of the Bodo Contact Committee (BCC) Hon. Dr. Gabriel Pidomson and the Stakeholder Democracy Network (SDN) Programme Manager Calvin Laing. ND Link / [Read more](#)



NIGERIA: BODO REMEDIATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES - UPDATE 11: 05 APRIL 2020

In response to the potential spread of COVID-19 to Project workers and communities, all cleanup activities were suspended as of Saturday 28 March, affecting nearly 1000 persons. The Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique (SCAT) team, maintaining safety protocols, completed field surveys of Grid areas defined as ready for review on Wednesday, 1 April. BMI, SPDC and Contractors are



maintaining communications and readiness to restart activities when deemed safe to do so. Contractors have completed almost 11 percent of the hectares needing treatment but has expended one third of the Contracted time period.

Photo: Removal of collected oily sludge to government-authorized waste treatment facility.

To request a copy of the latest report with multiple photos and schematics, please contact BMI Project Director - Erich Gundlach, PhD, BMI Communications Officer - Bariton Lezabbej BMICommunications2@gmail.com

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

April 6 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R.

[Digital Debris - Learn about Marine Debris Online](#)

On Wednesday, March 25, the NOAA Marine Debris Program [shared a blog](#) outlining educational content about marine debris available online.

[National Ocean Service Awarded Department of Commerce Green Grant](#)

On March 13, the National Ocean Service (NOS) was awarded a Department of Commerce (DOC) Green Grant. The Green Grant Program is intended to stimulate investment in sustainability, environmental stewardship, and employee support programs within the department.

[New Response Guide for a Difficult Challenge in Oil Spill Response](#)

OR&R's Emergency Response Division has completed a guidance document to help oil spill responders and planners better manage sunken (or submerged) oil mats, known as SOMs. SOMs can form near the shoreline under a range of circumstances and present unique and difficult challenges in oil spill response.

[Disaster Preparedness Program Attends the Pacific Risk Management O'hana Conference](#)

Autumn Lotze, Natural Resource and Community Recovery Specialist, and Genwest contractor, recently participated in the Pacific Risk Management 'Ohana Conference (PRiMO) on behalf of the Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP). PRiMO's membership is a diverse array of more than 100 agencies and organizations who collaborate to develop and implement action plans that improve resilience in the vast Pacific region.

[Disaster Preparedness Program Supports Lessons Learned for NOAA's COVID-19 Response](#)

As NOAA's internal response to COVID-19 continues, the agency is adapting quickly implementing new protocols and policies. Throughout this time, it is critical to capture lessons learned and memorialize new processes to improve the efficacy for the future. Recognizing this need, NOAA's Homeland Security Program Office has stood up an After Action Reporting/Lessons Learned Unit. Work has already begun to generate the best path forward for collecting lessons learned across the agency.

[Marine Debris Program Releases the 2020 Florida Marine Debris Reduction Plan](#)

On April 2, the Marine Debris Program released the 2020 Florida Marine Debris Reduction Plan. This document is the result of a productive and collaborative effort between the MDP and partners from local, state, and federal governments; nonprofits; industry; and academic institutions.

ISCO NEWS

ISCO MEMBERSHIP FEES WILL BE INCREASED WITH EFFECT FROM 1st JUNE 2020

You can take advantage of a window of opportunity to join ISCO or renew your membership before the cost goes up.

The online subscription payments page at <http://www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/subscriptions> will be updated to reflect the new rates on 1st June 2020. This means that there is a limited "window of opportunity" to join ISCO or renew your membership at the old rates before the new rates come into effect. If you would like to join before the rates go up, click on <http://www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/membership-application>

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

CEDRE: CORONAVIRUS ARRANGEMENTS

During lockdown, Cedre's team is adapting and remains mobilised to meet your needs and continue to run our 24/7 emergency hotline. Our premises are closed to the public but we can be contacted by email and phone.

The Cedre Information Day 2020 on the theme of containers has been postponed until spring 2021. You will be informed of the date as soon as possible. <http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/>

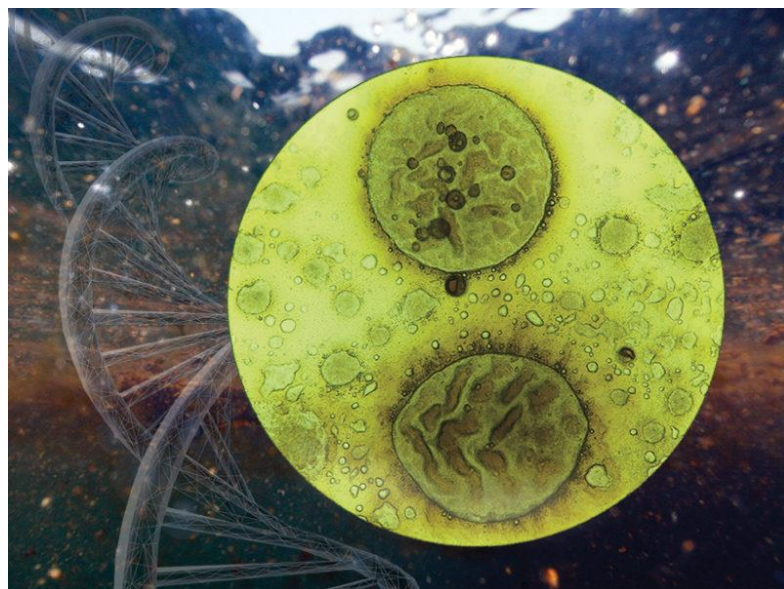
CASCO CONSULTING GROUP: BUSINESS CONTINUITY GUIDANCE

April 7 - Casco Consulting Group has published an article with guidance on maintaining business continuity during the pandemic. It's available in the company's latest newsletter. The article details a recommended business continuity operating strategy and can be downloaded at http://cascocg.com/?wysija-page=1&controller=email&action=view&email_id=40&wysijap=subscriptions

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

DEEPWATER HORIZON AND THE RISE OF THE OMICS

Microbial genomics techniques came of age following the Deepwater Horizon spill, offering researchers unparalleled insights into how ecosystems respond to such environmental disasters.



Photograph of oil beneath the surface of the Gulf of Mexico during the Deepwater Horizon spill (background). In the inset, microscopic specimens of Candidatus Magnetotaxis macondimonas are visible both inside and around the edges of oil droplets (large round shapes) in this microscope image. Credits: Rich Matthews/AP images (photo); Shutterstock/CoreDESIGN (DNA illustration); and Shmruti Karthikeyan (inset) By Joel E. Kostka, Samantha B. Joye, and Rita R. Colwell 25 March 2020

Almost everywhere scientists have looked on or near Earth's surface—from ice-buried Antarctic lakes to arid, ultraviolet-baked deserts and ecosystems ranging from pristine to heavily polluted—they have found abundant and often highly diverse populations of microorganisms. Microorganisms, or microbes, are everywhere; they are adaptable, and they play key roles in element cycling and ecosystem functioning in nearly every environment on Earth.

Microbes are the great decomposers in ecosystems, breaking down dead and dying organic matter and recycling major nutrients for use by plants. And by reacting rapidly and adapting to changing conditions, they act as first responders in helping restore balance and stability to ecosystems after such disturbances as pollution or catastrophic storms. Microbes are, for example, intimately involved in ecosystem responses to oil spills.

Like organic matter derived from modern-day primary production, oil formed over geologic time can act as a carbon source that fuels microbial growth and metabolism. Hydrocarbon-degrading microbes have been studied for decades and are thought to be ubiquitous and diverse and to have adapted to consuming oil over millions of years [Head *et al.*, 2006]. And biodegradation mediated by indigenous microbial communities is considered the primary fate of most petroleum (oil and gas) that enters the marine environment through natural mechanisms like seeps [Leahy and Colwell, 1990].

As researchers began unveiling the complexity of microbial communities and illuminated fundamentals of how they operate in recent decades, though, much remained unclear about their structure and functioning in nature. The reason for this was in part because of a shortage of techniques for studying them. Because of their small size, microbes evade easy observation, and most cannot be cultured in the laboratory. At the time of the Exxon Valdez oil spill in 1989, for example, environmental microbiology was a relatively nascent field. But in the past decade, a variety of so-called omics techniques, focused on parsing the genetic makeup of cells, have emerged and offered researchers powerful new ways to study microbial communities and the roles played by specific groups of microbes.

The 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico is the largest accidental oil discharge into a marine environment for which a proportional emergency response effort was mounted. In contrast to the Valdez spill, the last major spill affecting the United States before 2010, the DWH discharge occurred in deep water, with extraordinarily large volumes of chemical dispersant applied during emergency response efforts.

The DWH spill was also the first major environmental disaster for which genomics technologies had matured to such an extent that they could be deployed to quantify microbial responses over large spatial and temporal scales. As a result, the field of environmental genomics matured during the past decade in parallel with the DWH response. Technical advances in genomics enabled direct, comprehensive analyses of the microbes in their natural habitat, be it oil-contaminated or uncontaminated seawater or sediments.

EOS / [Continue reading this article](#)

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

Part 7 of a serialised article contributed by IPIECA and IOGP



Response techniques (continued)

Containment and recovery (continued)

For some incidents on large rivers, where it has proven difficult to deploy a boom effectively, barges have been driven onto the river bank to act as barriers. Oil can still entrain beneath the barges and they may need to be angled into the current, as with a containment boom.

Right: a vacuum truck used in conjunction with a drum skimmer to recover the spilled oil.

Recovery of spilled oil can be as simple as using vacuum trucks. Vacuum trucks are best used when connected to an oil skimmer or other recovery device, though they can be used alone when oil is accessible and pooled to larger thicknesses. However, an open suction hose on a vacuum truck can recover large volumes of water; this recovered water can significantly increase waste handling requirements and associated disposal costs.

The most common skimmers are the oleophilic types in which oil is adsorbed onto the skimmer surface with reduced water recovery. Of these, drum and disc skimmers are very popular and rope mops are desirable in locations with heavy debris. For simple suction operations, suction head skimmers that lay flat can be used to limit the amount of water recovered. Response stockpiles typically contain the types of skimmers most likely to be effective on the oils and in the conditions found in the local area.



Below left: oleophilic (oil-loving) drum skimmer. Below right: oleophilic rope mop in heavy debris.



Oil trapped on quiescent water can be physically herded to a skimming location by spraying water. The intent is to push oil towards containment booms and skimmers. Care must be taken not to mix the oil into the water column where it may come into contact with, and attach to, sediments and thereby become more difficult to remove.

Spills on snow and ice

Right: a slot cut into ice allowing oil to rise and flow to a collection point.

Locating oil beneath snow and ice can be challenging, and boring holes through the ice may be the only viable technique to find it. Remote sensing technologies to find the oil beneath the ice have been researched and a number of new promising techniques have been identified but none have yet made it into the response community.

Once located, oil in moving water under ice can be recovered by cutting slots in the ice or by inserting plywood sheets into the ice at appropriate angles to divert the oil (analogous to containment booms) to where it can be recovered. Chainsaws can be used to cut into the ice, and the safety risks when using these saws in adverse conditions while wearing bulky cold-weather protective clothing should be addressed.

For further information see the Arctic Oil Spill Response Technology Joint Industry Programme website (IOGP, 2012).



Sorbents

Sorbents (materials that can absorb or adsorb oil) are frequently used for collecting oil on hard surfaces. For small spills, they may be the only recovery method needed. Oil spilled on roads can be very slippery and must be removed before the road can be reopened. Often, mineral particulates (such as sand, vermiculite, clay mixtures) are used because they are inexpensive and can be easily applied and then collected.



Left: Workers recover sorbent material that has been used to clean an oiled road.

The use of straw bales and other sorbent barriers is a viable recovery technique, especially if only natural materials are available. Wire mesh fencing can be installed across narrow, slow moving waterways to support and anchor sorbent materials placed on the upstream side to contain and absorb floating oil while the water continues to flow through the barrier. These barriers will not stop the flow of high levels of oil but can adsorb light quantities of oil. While straw is most commonly used, other sorbent materials can also be substituted. A major operational challenge is the recovery, handling and disposal of the oiled sorbent. Controlled burning at the site is sometimes an option.

Traditional synthetic sorbents are often used to help contain and recover oil. They may be placed outside drains and along containment booms to adsorb small amounts of oil. They can be overused and create a recovery and waste disposal problem when it might have been better to use a skimmer or controlled in-situ burning. Used, oily sorbents create waste and usually have to be disposed of as hazardous waste. The logistics of moving them to the spill site, using them, recovering them and then removing them from the site need to be considered in advance.

Below left: straw used to hold back and absorb low quantities of oil. Below right: oiled

straw is disposed of by burning on site.



Solidifiers

Solidifiers are products which mix with, and immobilize, oil. They consist of dry, granular polymers that partially melt when contacting petroleum oils, and which act to bind or encapsulate oil. Heavy, viscous oils and emulsified oils do not react well due to poor penetration and mixing. Manufacturers often recommend that they be broadcast over spilled oil as powders.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

These powders can be difficult to recover on water but can be easier to deploy and recover for small spills on land or hard surfaces.

Solidifiers can also be placed in disposable booms, pillows, sausages, etc., and deployed and recovered like sorbents. They create stronger bonds with oil than sorbents and will not leak oil as sorbents may do. They can remove oil sheens from water. There may be regulations restricting the use of solidifiers, particularly those in loose powder form.

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To be continued next week

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.

JOB VACANCIES

USA: POSITION WITH NOAA'S OFFICE OF RESPONSE & RESTORATION

Received from NOAA OR&R – “We currently have a vacancy for a Supervisory Physical Scientist (ZP1301-05), that has been advertised on USAJobs. This position serves as the Chief for our Emergency Response Division and we would like to ensure that the members of your organization have a chance to view the vacancy and apply if they are interested.”

SUPERVISORY PHYSICAL SCIENTIST

This position is located in the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Ocean Service (NOS), Office of Response and Restoration (ORR), Emergency Response Division (ERD), with one vacancy in Silver Spring, MD.

The closing date for applications is 24th April 2020

Full details of the position and how to apply are available at <https://www.usajobs.gov/GetJob/ViewDetails/564835400>

NEWS FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

NEW DATES FOR TRIENNIAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCES

In response to the escalating global novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), in conjunction with Interspill and Spillcon, have made the decision to shift their triennial events by one year, to allow for IOSC to occur in 2021. This decision follows the cancellation of IOSC 2020, May 11 – 14 in New Orleans, LA, USA. IOSC 2021 will now take place May 10 – 13, 2021 in its original host city of New Orleans.

Interspill will now be held in 2022 in Europe and Spillcon in 2023 in Australia. The rotating conferences provide a platform for the sharing of oil spill preparedness and response expertise and ideas from around the globe. The decision to postpone IOSC and shift the triennial series by one year was made with the best interest of all involved, with the well-being of constituents being top priority. The ongoing spread of COVID-19 has resulted in continued concern over health and safety, along with travel advisories, event size restrictions, and closures.

More details will be provided closer to the events.

USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

The [CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition](#) has been in operation for 30 years, and during this time it has been a place for the emergency and spill response community to gather face-to-face for networking, learning and sharing. I have had the honor of

NEWS FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

working with many of you for twelve of them.

We currently face a new reality fighting a global pandemic and are all stepping back from large gatherings, even if it means disruption of business or denying us the ability to catch up with friends.

We are all in this together and we will get through it together, especially knowing this wonderful community we serve is out there helping to disinfect and decontaminate businesses and sites to keep everyone safe and healthy.

Like you, we are optimistic that it will get better well before October, when CLEAN GULF kicks-off in San Antonio. While we can't be certain what the future holds, we are moving full steam ahead to plan the best event possible for you. CLEAN GULF prides itself on the ability to address current events and issues in its programming so you can be sure that we'll be covering best practices and lessons-learned from the pandemic we are currently facing.

I'm truly excited about the opportunity for all of us to come together in October at CLEAN GULF, where the networking will feel extra special and the trials and tribulations that we've all faced this year will add to the 30 years of courageous and selfless response stories that you have to share. If you're feeling the excitement of gathering with your peers as well, you can [sign up early](#) and put the event in your calendar to remind you of the good times ahead. Even better, we're offering some pretty low registration rates through April 24th. [Thanks to Kayla Sparks, Group Show Director, CLEAN GULF, ksparks@accessintel.com]

USA: NOAA OR&R SCIENCE OF OIL SPILLS CLASSES

The next SOS classes will be held as follows:

New London, Connecticut, the week of June 8, 2020: The application period for this class has closed. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by Friday, April 17.

Seattle, Washington, the week of June 22, 2020: The application period for this class has been extended to Wednesday, April 22. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance status by Friday, May 1.

There are many concerns over COVID-19 worldwide, including travel restrictions. We are monitoring the situation closely and will be keeping you updated if something changes with regards to these classes. As of April 3, 2020, we are proceeding with the classes as planned, in hopes that the situation will improve by June. [More info](#)

PUBLICATIONS

IPIECA HAS RELEASED IT'S 2019 ANNUAL REVIEW

The theme of this year's Review is 'Celebrating 45 years of industry collaboration and global partnerships'. It reflects both the long-standing partnerships and new collaborations between IPIECA, its members and stakeholders that have collectively advanced the social and environmental performance of the global oil and gas industry since 1974.

The Review looks at IPIECA's key achievements during 2019. It also looks back at some of the key milestones throughout our 45 years of history.

In his statement, IPIECA Chair, Rupert Thomas, discusses how IPIECA 'leveraged the expertise of our members, collaborated with a wide range of partners and used the full reach of our collective networks to make a real difference to complex climate, energy, environment and social issues.'

Looking to the future, IPIECA Executive Director, Brian Sullivan, comments 'To address climate change and achieve sustainable development, all parts of society will have to work together. I am excited about the part that IPIECA will play in meeting the most critical challenges facing our generation and those to come.' [Download the Annual Review](#)

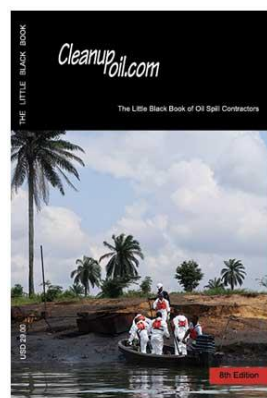
LITTLE BLACK BOOK OF OIL SPILL CONTRACTORS

Due to the COVID-19 cancellation or postponement of many trade shows and conferences, the Little Black Book 8th Edition internet price is reduced to just \$1 (plus shipping).

Oil spill contractors provide a valuable resource in times of crisis and many of SCAA's members are listed and/or advertise in the book.

The publisher would like to do their small part to help get resource information into as many hands as possible.

<https://www.cleanupoil.com/little-black-book>



UPCOMING EVENTS

Event organisers are requested to notify ISCO immediately if a listed event is cancelled or postponed

Your Editor is doing his best to keep this listing up-to-date but it should not be assumed that listed events have not been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended that you check with event organisers before finalising your attendance plans.

If an event title is not printed in blue ink it is not hyperlinked to the event website, this because the website is not yet available.

COUNTRY	2019	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
GHANA	POSTPONED	Workshop on the ratification and effective implementation of IMO conventions relating to oil pollution and liability and compensation	Accra
CROATIA	POSTPONED	National workshop on liability and compensation	Rjeka
USA	CANCELLED	Oil Spill Response Strategies & Tactics Training	Leonardo, NJ
USA	POSTPONED	APICOM GM Meeting	New Orleans, LA
USA	POSTPONED	International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition	New Orleans, LA
UK	POSTPONED	HAZMAT 2020 Conference	Stratford on Avon
IRELAND	POSTPONED	European Maritime Day Forum Event	Cork
CANADA	POSTPONED	43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response.	Edmonton, Alberta
USA	CANCELLED	Elastec's Spring 2020 River Workshop	Carni, IL
USA	June 8 -	Science of Oil Spills Class	New London, CT
UK	POSTPONED	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
USA	August 3-5	Clean Waterways Conference & Exhibition	Indianapolis, IN.
SAO TOME & PRINCIPE	POSTPONED	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	Sacramento, CA
AUSTRALIA	POSTPONED	Ecoforum Conference & Exhibition	Darwin
MALTA	October 6-7	Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships	Valetta
UK	October 12-13	EI Hazardous Area Classification	London
UK	October 19-23	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
USA	October 20-22	Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition	San Antonio, TX
CANADA	October 27-29	Arctic Shipping Forum North America	Montreal
MONACO	October 27-29	Regional Workshop to enhance Marine Oil and HNS regional cooperation in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020)	Monaco
GREECE	POSTPONED	Posidonia 2020	Athens
BAHREIN	December 7-8	EI Middle East HSE Forum	Bahrein
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
NETHERLANDS	POSTPONED	Interspill Conference & Exhibition	Amsterdam
USA	May 10-13	International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021)	New Orleans
MALTA	May 25-27	Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)	Valetta
CANADA	June 8-10	43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response	Edmonton, Alberta
COUNTRY	2022	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
	Details TBA	Interspill Conference & Exhibition	

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Alga Cronicle	News from Australia on Contaminated Land Remediation	February 2020
AMSA Update	Latest news from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	April 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	March 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	April 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
MEDNEWS	News from UNEP Mediterranean Action Programme	01 / 2020
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2020
NCEC Newsletter	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	March 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	Feb. 16-29, 2020
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	April 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.

HEALTH & SAFETY

UV SAFETY FOR SANITATION LIGHTS

When using ultraviolet (UV) light for disinfection, there are several safety precautions to consider.

When using ultraviolet (UV) light for disinfection, there are several safety precautions to consider. These units are equipped with lamps that emit the UV-C range (wavelengths ranging between 200 nm and 280 nm). Long-term intense exposure to this range is harmful to human eyes (corneal injuries) and skin (erythema/skin cancer). Eye-related burns caused by UV light may feel like getting sand in the eye. Because of this, individuals should proactively ensure safety standards are properly observed at all times during operation of the light.

Minimizing Exposure - As a general guideline, individuals should minimize exposure to UV-C light beams from artificial light sources when possible. Looking directly at the lamp at close distances is not recommended. At times when exposure to the light is unavoidable (for example, when using UV handlamps to disinfect a surface or object), use protective eyewear such as glasses, covered visors or full face masks. Cover as much of the hands, arms, legs and neck as possible. Avoid touching a disinfection lamp that is on.

During large-scale sanitation with UV disinfection carts, people should not be present inside the room. Block off access to the general area by setting up signs, markers or cones around entrances and connecting hallways. For designated sanitation areas, a permanent warning sign can be used. Close and cover all windows to contain stray UV-C light beams in the room and prevent exposure to external locations.

When deploying UV lights, direct the lamp toward the target surface, area or object before activation. Do not stand in front of the lamps when turning on the UV disinfection cart. After sanitation, power down the UV light before entering the room or handling the cart.

HEALTH & SAFETY (CONTINUED)

Light Maintenance and Care - Periodically check the UV lamp before and after use for damage (especially when experiencing light flicker). If the lamp becomes too hot to touch, allow it to cool down before inspection. Do not handle broken or cracked UV bulbs with bare hands.

Protection from infectious viruses and bacteria should be top priority during UV sanitation. Wearing respiratory masks while performing UV disinfection is an effective way to avoid breathing in harmful microbes and chemicals (such as concentrated cleaning solutions). It also reduces direct contact with skin, when touching the face and mouth. [Thanks to [Larson Electronics](#)]

INCIDENT REPORTS

Editor – Very few spill reports in the press recently – probably not because there’s only a few spills – but because the news media is almost exclusively focused on the Coronavirus Pandemic. Members and other readers are invited to send in spill reports.

UPDATES ON THE GOLDEN RAY SALVAGE OPERATION

March 28 - First Floating Pipe Barrier Segment Installed Around Golden Ray - The first 36-inch diameter high-density polyethylene (HDPE) floating pipe barrier segment has been installed around the wreck of the Golden Ray. The environmental protection barrier is being built by Weeks Marine. The HDPE pipe, which is foam filled and one of 36 segments in total, will float on the water surface between steel buoys constrained by the structural framing at each pile group. The HDPE barrier will secure and protect a floating offshore oil boom that will be installed outside of the pipe and will completely surround the wreck site.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

April 4 - First Lifting Lug Installed on Golden Ray - T&T Salvage has installed the first lifting lug on the Golden Ray wreck in St. Simons Sound off St. Simons Island, Georgia. In total, 16 lugs are scheduled to be installed with two lugs installed on each of the eight sections of the car carrier. The lifting lugs will be used as a connection point between the rigging of the heavy lift catamaran VB-10,000 and each section of the Golden Ray. The lugs are designed to distribute the weight of each particular section during the cutting and lifting operation. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

April 6 - Golden Ray Salvage Continuing ‘Day and Night’ - The coronavirus pandemic is showing no sign of slowing down the salvage of the Golden Ray wreck in St. Simons Sound. The Unified Command responsible for overseeing the operation says contractors have now started working around the clock in constructing an environmental barrier around the wreck and also preparing the wreck for the cutting and lifting operation. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

TAIWAN: TAINAN OFFICIALS SEE HEAVY RAINS BEHIND MASSIVE FISH KILL

April 3 - Nearly a metric ton of floating dead fish have been scooped up from Tainan's old transport canal, their deaths likely caused by a lack of oxygen in the water, the city's Environmental Protection Bureau said Friday. The fish, varying from milkfish to mullet, were found in the canal, which separates Anping District from downtown Tainan, in the section between Xinlin'an Bridge and Yunghua Bridge. Focus Taiwan / [Read more](#)

ECUADOR TRYING TO CONTAIN OIL SPILL

April 10 - Ecuadorean authorities on Thursday were scrambling to limit the environmental impact of a crude oil spill in the country's Amazon region, where pipeline bursts prompted by a landslide this week caused crude to enter the Coca river.

The Energy Ministry said in a Wednesday evening statement that it had placed barriers around the spill in an area home to several indigenous communities and near the source of drinking water for the city of El Coca, with some 45,000 residents.

State-run Petroecuador, which manages the SOTE pipeline, and private Heavy Crude Pipeline (OCP) said they had deployed six teams across several areas to “contain the spill.” Authorities have not yet provided an estimate for how much crude was lost due to the pipeline ruptures. Nation News / [Read more](#)

PANAMA: SUPERTANKER CONTACTED TERMINAL, HOLED

April 11 - Crude oil tanker NEW ASSURANCE contacted Petroterminal oil pier in the morning Apr 12, at Charco Azul, Charco Azul Bay, Panama Pacific coast. Tanker hull was breached in portside area. Tanker is in ballast. Pier loading arm was reportedly damaged with some small quantity of oil leaking in the water. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

HISTORY

RECALLING THE 2010 DEEPWATER HORIZON SPILL

NOAA OR&R has published a series of articles about the Macondo Oil Well Spill, its environmental effects, remedial action undertaken and lessons learned. The links below will allow you to download and read these interesting articles written by members of the staff at OR&R and others. Some of the articles were originally written some time ago and are being republished here.

HISTORY (CONTINUED)

[Effects of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill on Coastal Salt Marsh Habitat, by Mary Baker, Office of Response and Restoration](#)
[In Mapping the Fallout from the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, Developing One Tool to Bring Unity to the Response, by Katie Wagner, Amy Merten, and Michele Jacobi, Office of Response and Restoration](#)

[Attempting to Answer One Question Over and Over Again: Where Will the Oil Go? by Doug Helton, Office of Response and Restoration](#)

[https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/Deepwater Horizon: Response in the Midst of an Historic Crisis](https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/Deepwater-Horizon-Response-in-the-Midst-of-an-Historic-Crisis) Doug Helton and Kathleen Goggin of NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration contributed to this article.

[NOAA Data on Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Plume Now Available Online, by NOAA Physical Scientist Ben Shorr](#)

[Recalling the Early Hours—and Challenges—of the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill, by Charlie Henry, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration and Director of the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center](#)

[10 Things a Non-Scientist Has Learned in the Decade Since Deepwater Horizon, by Tara Skelton, Mississippi-Alabama Sea Grant Consortium](#)

[From the Deepwater Horizon Incident Command, to the Helm of the Disaster Preparedness Program: A Career Built Around Disaster Coordination, by Disaster Preparedness Program Chief Kate Wheelock](#)

[Advances in Science: How Deepwater Horizon Helped Improve NOAA's Oil Spill Modeling, by Donna L. Roberts, in collaboration with Amy MacFadyen and Chris Barker, Office of Response and Restoration](#)

[With thanks to NOAA OR&R] <https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/>

AND NOW SOMETHING TO MAKE YOU SMILE ... MAJOR MINOR IRRITATIONS

The person behind you in the supermarket runs his cart into the back of your ankle.
The elevator stops on every floor and nobody gets on.
There's always a car riding your tail when you're slowing down to find an address.
You open a can of soup and the lid falls in.
It's bad enough that you step in dog ordure, but you don't realize it till you walk across your living room rug.
Three hours and three meetings after lunch you look in the mirror and discover a piece of parsley stuck to your front tooth.
You slice your tongue licking an envelope.
Your tire gauge lets out half the air while you're trying to get a reading.
You wash a garment with a tissue in the pocket and your entire laundry comes out covered with lint.
The car behind you blasts its horn because you let a pedestrian finish crossing.
A piece of foil candy wrapper makes electrical contact with your filling.
You set the alarm on your digital clock for 7pm instead of 7am.
You rub on hand cream and can't turn the bathroom doorknob to get out.
People behind you on a supermarket line dash ahead of you to a counter just opening up.
You can't look up the correct spelling of a word in the dictionary because you don't know how to spell it.
You have to inform five different sales people in the same store that you're just browsing.
You had that pen in your hand only a second ago and now you can't find it.
You reach under the table to pick something off the floor and smash your head on the way up.
[Thanks to Paul Dixon]

Members and readers are invited to send contributions to the Editor. We could all be doing with something to cheer us up.

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.
