

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

ISCO COMMITTEE & COUNCIL

ISCO is managed by an **EXECUTIVE** Directors

- Mr David Usher, President (USA)
- Mr Matthew Sommerville, Secretary (UK)
- Mr John McMurtrie, VP and Editor (UK)
- Ms Mary Ann Dalgleish, VP M'ship (USA)

Members

- Mr Li Guobin (China)
- M. Jean Claude Sainlos (France)
- Mr Kerem Kemerli (Turkey)
- Mr Marc Shaye (USA)
- Mr Dan Sheehan (USA)
- Captain Bill Boyle (UK)
- Lord Peter Simon Rickaby (UK)

Assisted by COUNCIL

(National Representatives)

- Mr John Wardrop (Australia)
- Mr Osman Tarzumanov (Azerbaijan)
- TBA (Brazil)
- Dr Merv Fingas (Canada)
- Captain Davy T. S. Lau (China)
- Mr Darko Domovic (Croatia)
- Eng. Ashraf Sabet (Egypt)
- Mr Torbjorn Hedrenius (Estonia)
- Mr Pauli Einarsson (Faroe Islands)
- TBA (Greece)
- Captain D. C. Sekhar (India)
- Major Ben Benny (Israel)
- Mr Sanjay Gandhi (Kenya)
- Mr Dennis van der Veen (Netherlands)
- Chief Kola Agboke (Nigeria)
- Mr Carlos Sagrera (Panama)
- TBA (Singapore)
- Mrs Fatima B. Shaik (South Africa)
- Dr Ali Saeed Al Ameri (UAE)
- Mr Kevin Miller (UK)
- Dr Manik Sardessai (USA)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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

CLEAN PACIFIC ON-DEMAND

SESSIONS. PANEL DISCUSSIONS. SPONSOR DIRECTORY

Access curated and customized content specifically for the response community - all on your time!

REGISTER HERE

CLEAN WATERWAYS

SPILL PREVENTION, RESPONSE & HAZARDOUS MATERIALS MANAGEMENT FOR INLAND REGIONS & WATERWAYS

Use VIP code **ISCO** to save \$100 on your registration

AUGUST 3-5, 2020

JW Marriott Indianapolis
INDIANAPOLIS, IN

OSITM

OIL SPILL INDIA

OIL SPILL INDIA 2020

6TH INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

23RD & 24TH SEPTEMBER 2020, JW Marriott, Mumbai Sahar, India

THEME: COMMITMENT, SYNERGY, EXCELLENCE

CLEAN GULF

CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Celebrating **30** YEARS

OCTOBER 20-22, 2020

Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center | San Antonio, TX

SAVE \$100 ON REGISTRATION WITH VIP CODE ISCO

ARCTIC CIRCLE OIL SPILL PROMPTS PUTIN TO DECLARE STATE OF EMERGENCY



June 4 - Russia's President Vladimir Putin has declared a state of emergency after 20,000 tonnes of diesel oil leaked into a river within the Arctic Circle. Full report on Page 12

MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO

[Benefits of Membership](#)

[Online Membership Application Form](#)

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER BY GAINING PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION.

Professional recognition is a visible mark of quality, competence and commitment, and can give you a significant advantage in today's competitive environment.

All who have the relevant qualifications and the required level of experience can apply for Professional Membership of ISCO.

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

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

[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)

2020 WORLD ENVIRONMENT DAY: SPOTLIGHT ON BIODIVERSITY

The theme for World Environment Day, 5 June 2020 is biodiversity — a call to action to combat the accelerating species loss and degradation of the natural world. One million plant and animal species risk extinction, largely due to human activities. Hosted by Colombia, in partnership with Germany, World Environment Day urges us to rethink how our economic systems have evolved and the impact they have on the environment.

These are issues the world cannot lose sight of even as we tackle the coronavirus pandemic and the ongoing climate crisis. Colombia has one of the highest diversities of species in the world, boasting among many others, 3500 types of orchids and 19 per cent of the world's bird types. The government has made biodiversity preservation a national priority. UN Environment / [Read more](#)

NATURAL WORLD HERITAGE

The World Heritage Convention is one of the most successful international instruments to recognize the most exceptional natural places in the world, characterized by their outstanding biodiversity, ecosystems, geology or superb natural phenomena. The Convention has provided international recognition to around 3,500,000 km² in over 250 marine and terrestrial sites across more than 95 countries, and while certain gaps in the World Heritage List remain, it currently protects an extremely valuable sample of our natural heritage. UNESCO / [Read more](#)

TIME FOR NATURE, WITHOUT GARBAGE & PLASTIC



In these special circumstances that humanity is currently experiencing, the celebration of this World Environment Day is an opportunity to consider that we are just a link in the chain of life on our planet and that we must always act with respect for our natural environment, without degrading it. For 2020, the United Nations has therefore chosen the motto "It's Time for Nature."

This year, HELMEPA celebrates World Environment Day with two actions. We choose June 5th for the start of our summer campaign with the slogan "Clean Seas and Beaches" starring HELMEPA's popular 'Seagull' in the new Poster, which reminds us that we return to the beaches, but with CAUTION and RESPECT towards our marine and coastal environment, without disposable plastics and other litter.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

GEF COUNCIL AGREES ON \$700 MILLION FOR URGENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

The Global Environment Facility's governing body, meeting remotely, has agreed on \$700 million for projects and programs to help developing countries keep advancing urgent environmental priorities through and beyond the coronavirus pandemic. The new and expanded programming under the GEF-7 replenishment cycle spans oceans, chemicals, land use, wildlife trafficking, green shipping, and climate change adaptation, and the LDCF work program focuses on helping vulnerable countries and communities continue to build their climate resilience. The GEF Council also selected a new CEO and Chairperson, Carlos Manuel Rodriguez, who will take over from Naoko Ishii in August. In a boost to international environmental action at an uncertain time for the world economy, the Global Environment Facility's governing body has agreed on \$700 million for projects and programs that will help developing countries protect marine biodiversity, fight wildlife trafficking, tackle dangerous uses of mercury, and fortify defenses against climate change in the agriculture and fisheries sectors, in basic services such as drinking water, and other areas.

NORTH ATLANTIC: MARINE LITTER SPRING 2020 MEETING

OSPAR's marine litter group met online on 27 and 28 May 2020. The remote nature of the meeting failed to curtail the ever-enthusiastic marine litter group who managed to get through a packed schedule with their usual grace and dedication to the cause. OSPAR / [Read more](#)

IMO AND IPIECA REAFFIRM THEIR COMMITMENT TO SUPPORT NATIONAL AUTHORITIES TO REMAIN PREPARED FOR OIL SPILLS DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

In a [joint letter](#), IMO and IPIECA, as the principals underpinning the Global Initiative (GI) Programme, reaffirm their commitment to support national authorities to remain prepared for marine pollution incidents especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. They underline the fact that the risk of an oil spill or other consequences arising from a maritime accident remains ever-present.

During this unprecedented crisis, IPIECA and IMO continue to engage with the international preparedness and response community, and encourage Member States and stakeholders to keep abreast of the latest COVID-19 guidance provided on the [IMO website](#) and to engage with the GI projects, such as GI WACAF, to seek assistance in preparing for a possible spill response during this pandemic, or to help sustain capacity building efforts more generally. GI WACAF / [Read more](#)

ITOPF R&D AWARD 2021 - FIRST ANNOUNCEMENT

The ITOPF R&D Award provides up to £75,000 each year to fund R&D projects to improve our knowledge and understanding of issues related to accidental marine pollution from ships.

The award is intended to support a combination of PhD projects and/or short-term projects which have the potential to lead to improvements in all spill related matters. This funding typically supports research costs, plus a student stipend and university fees in the case of a PhD project.

The purpose of this initiative is to facilitate and encourage organisations worldwide to develop ideas that can potentially provide solutions to some of the challenges faced by the spill response community.

For more information on the 2021 ITOPF R&D Award, please see our [flyer](#) and visit our website at: <http://www.itopf.org/in-action/r-d-award/> The application process is open from 1st September 2020 to 30th November 2020 The 2021 Award winner will be announced in February 2021.

If you have any questions regarding the Award or if you are unsure whether your project will qualify, please don't hesitate to contact us at any time, either at rdaward@itopf.org or duartesoares@itopf.org.

ITOPF R&D AWARD 2019 – SINTEF PROJECT UPDATE

The final report of the Sintef project on low sulphur fuel oils which won the 2019 ITOPF R&D Award is now available on our website. The main objective of this study has been to provide better documentation of the variability of the weathering properties and behaviour of new low sulphur marine fuel oils when spilled at sea, and to determine mitigation effectiveness of different oil spill response options.

The project was also funded by the Canadian government "Multi-partner Oil Spill Research Initiative program" (MPRI) and the Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA).

[Characterization of Low Sulfur Fuel Oils \(LSFO\)](#) – A new generation of marine fuel oils - Weathering, dispersibility, WAF and toxicity, and ignitability / in-situ burning ITOPF / [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 world 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

CANADA: HEAVY FUEL OIL USED BY MORE THAN ONE-THIRD OF SHIPS IN CANADIAN ARCTIC WATERS, STUDY FINDS

June 3 - During a span of eight years, 37 per cent of ships in the Canadian Arctic were run on heavy fuel oil, according to a new report.

This research is the first in Canada to quantify the use of what's considered to be the dirtiest type of fuel. Arctic countries and the International Maritime Organization have been discussing a ban on heavy fuel oil for several years and plan to start phasing out its use in 2024 due to concerns about spill risks and a type of emission known as "black carbon."

"The Canadian government has been interested in looking at a ban in more detail, but we don't have the data available for people to think about what has been happening in the Canadian Arctic," said Nicolien Van Luijk, the lead author of the study out of University of Ottawa. "As researchers, we're trying to provide that data." The Narwhal / [Read more](#)

GREECE: MEMORANDUM OF COOPERATION BETWEEN HELMEPA AND THE IONIAN ISLANDS REGION

May 27 - With the aim to jointly promote educational and information sharing cooperation in the fields of Marine Environment Protection and Maritime Safety, HELMEPA and the Region of Ionian Islands have undertaken a specific initiative.

The agreement was formalized on Monday, May 25th, by signing a Memorandum of Cooperation between the Governor of the Ionian Islands Region, Mrs. Rodi Kratsa-Tsagaropoulou and the Chairman of HELMEPA, Dr. Georgios Gratsos, at the organization's premises, keeping all security provisions due to Covid-19. HELMEPA / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: BAYELSA COMMUNITY WANTS AGIP TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS

June 5 - Brass, the host community of one of Nigeria's crude oil export terminals, has asked Nigerian Agip Oil Company (NAOC) to carry out the cleaning of the community in order to restore the damages that the 48 years old operation of the company has done to the Brass canal and surrounding environment.

The demand of the community was contained in a letter to the managing director of Agip by lawyers, Ntephe, Smith and Wills, dated May 25, 2020. This Day Live / [Read more](#)

USA: MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY TO HOLD CONTESTED CASE HEARING ON ENBRIDGE LINE 3 WATER PERMIT

June 3 - The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency will hold a contested case hearing on a key water permit for Enbridge's proposed Line 3 oil pipeline. Environmental groups and Minnesota tribes requested a hearing over concerns the pipeline could harm wetlands and streams.

The contested case hearing, planned for later this summer, will put the proposed 340-mile pipeline's 401 certification, a permit awarded by a state's regulators if the project's impact on water falls within the state's standards, in front of an administrative law judge to examine additional evidence and testimony on the project. Federal agencies cannot issue a federal permit or license without a state approving the 401 certification. Duluth News Tribune / [Read more](#)

USA: NEW PFAS CHEMICAL CONTAMINATION DISCOVERED IN NEW JERSEY

June 4 - Government scientists suspected that the factory was releasing a dangerous PFAS chemical, and they had good reason to think so.

The company operating it had knowingly released another PFAS chemical from this site before — and the first toxic industrial compound, which persists indefinitely in nature, had contaminated local drinking water and accumulated in the bodies of the people who drank it. The company phased out that first problem chemical as part of an agreement with the Environmental Protection Agency and began using another in its place.

The challenge was to identify the new compound. Because the company didn't reveal the chemistry of the replacement — in fact had kept its details purposefully obscured on the grounds that it was confidential business information — the scientists had to resort to expensive, painstaking detective work to figure out what chemical the company was now using and whether they were releasing it into the environment. The Intercept / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CARLOS MANUEL RODRIGUEZ NAMED NEW CEO OF GLOBAL ENVIRONMENT FACILITY



June 2 - Costa Rican Environment and Energy Minister Carlos Manuel Rodriguez has been selected as the next CEO and Chairperson of the Global Environment Facility, the largest multilateral trust fund supporting environmental action in developing countries and the main financing mechanism for multiple United Nations environmental conventions.

The GEF Council, meeting virtually, selected Rodriguez today as the trust fund's next CEO for an initial term of four years. He will succeed Naoko Ishii, who became the GEF's CEO and Chairperson in 2012 and served two terms marked by an expansion of the trust fund's approach to better-address environmental degradation at its root causes, including a greater focus on transformation of key economic systems that are driving climate change, deforestation, and ecological damage.

The GEF / [Read more](#)

THE ISCO NEWSLETTER ADDS NEW READERS

June 2 – Last month 90 new readers joined the ISCO Newsletter mailing list. These new readers are located in Vietnam (15), USA (13), Russia (10), Brazil (5), India (4), UK (3), Sweden (3), China (2), France (2) and other countries (31).

NEWS FROM ISCO CORPORATE MEMBERS

DAVID COLE RECOMMENDS SPILL MAPPING

David Cole of Penstock Solutions writes – “As we all prepare to get back to work we are aware that the water pollution prevention systems that you implement have to be more cost effective and less disruptive than ever.

Historically water pollution risk assessment has largely been conducted based on assumptions, relying on the intuitive ability of the assessor to predict what may happen during a pollution event. This assumption based assessment most often provides the justification for businesses to invest in water pollution prevention, ranging from reactive, low cost clean up products at one end of the scale to hundreds of thousands of pounds of bunding, civil works and containment devices at the other extreme. Except, of course, an assumption based offers no evidence or confidence that the proposed systems will be effective at containing pollutant materials if the worst were to happen and you were to suffer a pollution event - and lots of water pollution prevention projects struggle to get approved for this reason.

This is why we developed [Spill Mapping](#) at Penstock Solutions. [Spill Mapping](#) is a more scientific approach to this challenge. Spill Mapping is a computer-generated modelling process with animations that map the flow of materials from your site in the event of a spill, fire or flood. [Spill Mapping](#) provides an evidence based animation of a pollution release, enabling businesses to develop an appropriate pollution containment solution and invest in the right controls or methods to meet that actual risk precisely”.

LAMOR CLEANS UP ENVIRONMENTAL INCIDENTS IN LATIN AMERICA DESPITE COVID-19 CHALLENGES



8 April 2020 - Oil Spill in Ecuador, the Coca and Napo rivers.

On April 8th, Corena, a Lamor Group company, received a call to assist with oil spills in eastern Ecuador from three major pipelines, broken due to landslides in the area. As one of the three companies coordinating the response actions, Lamor was given the responsibility of a 118 kilometre-long part of the contaminated area. In total, more than 260 people participated to clean up different zones of the Coca and Napo rivers.

The top priority and one of the hardest challenges were to protect the personnel involved in the clean-up operation from the COVID-19 virus, but Lamor responded fast to this. As in every emergency response, the Ecuador team reacted quickly and implemented needed preventive measures to avoid COVID-19 contagion in the responders. LAMOR / [Read more](#)

CORRESPONDENCE

ASSESSMENT OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF ARTISANAL REFINING ON THE PEOPLE OF THE BODO COMMUNITY, RIVERS STATE, NIGERIA

Rita Lawson, MSc. is working on her Master's Degree Research Project at the University of Hertfordshire and has written to ask for some help from readers of the ISCO Newsletter. She is asking you to complete a questionnaire that is strictly for a Masters degree project research. Information gathered will only be used for academic purposes. Answering questions in this questionnaire means you have given your consent for your response to be used for this research. This questionnaire would take at most 15 minutes.

[Download the questionnaire](#) Send the completed questionnaire to rytelaw@gmail.com

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

BETTER TRACK YOUR RESPONSE EQUIPMENT WITH BARCODING

Robin Blandford of D4H advises “I've found that manually tracking equipment with pens, paper, and spreadsheets generates accountability issues. D4H offers a native iOS and Android Equipment Management App with built-in barcode scanning. Just tap the Scan button to pull up the camera on your mobile device and scan a barcode. You can then use these barcodes to easily manage equipment repairs, inspections, mark an item as used at an activity or out of service”. [More info](#)

WHY SUNLIGHT MATTERS FOR MARINE OIL SPILLS



Above: An aircraft releases chemical dispersant on 5 May 2010 over oil floating on the surface of the Gulf of Mexico that was spilled during the Deepwater Horizon disaster. Credit: U.S. Coast Guard photo by Petty Officer 3rd Class Stephen Lehmann

An article by Collin P. Ward, Christopher M. Reddy, and Edward B. Overton

Ten years ago this month, the blowout and explosion aboard the **Deepwater Horizon** (DWH) oil rig killed 11 people and caused hundreds of millions of gallons of oil and natural gas to begin pouring into the Gulf of Mexico, a spill that eventually became the largest marine spill in U.S. history. In 2016, a federal district judge approved a **\$21 billion settlement** with the companies involved—the largest settlement in U.S. history for damage done to natural resources—that included nearly **\$9 billion** for the restoration of natural resources and the services they provide.

One result of this disaster was a **substantial increase** in the **amount of research** focused on **oil spill science**. Approximately 1 month after the spill began, for example, BP committed to providing an unprecedented \$500 million over 10 years to fund independent research on the impacts of the spill. These funds established the **Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative** (GoMRI), which has supported a diverse array of research projects since 2010.

With this level of sustained and directed funding, the number of peer-reviewed papers published on oil spill science skyrocketed. A notable breakthrough that arose from this new body of research is that we now have a better grasp on how oil behaves, physically and chemically, once it enters the environment.

In particular, the role of sunlight in photooxidizing floating surface oil, long discounted or overlooked, has taken on new precedence, and researchers now agree this role must be better accounted for in oil spill assessments and models.

*Continue reading this article to learn how the rate and extent of photooxidation of oil floating on the sea surface after the DWH blowout far surpassed estimates based on early conceptual models of oil weathering and photooxidation was not incorporated into mass balance assessments of spilled oil (e.g., the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's **oil budget calculator**), oil spill fate and transport models, or spill response guidance documents.*

EOS org / [Read more](#)

TRAINING

EMSA: TRAINEESHIP NOTICE REF. EMSA/TRAINEESHIP/2020/02

The European Maritime Safety Agency offers traineeships for a period of at least 3 months and at most 6 months. The traineeship program aims to provide trainees with work experience in the field of maritime safety legislation, response to pollution at sea and cooperation among member states in maritime related matters. Inservice training enables trainees to acquire practical experience by means of their work and put into practice in a “maritime focussed” environment the knowledge they have acquired during their academic studies or professional careers. Detailed information related to the activities and structure of the European Maritime Safety Agency can be found by visiting the EMSA website at <http://www.emsa.europa.eu>.

[More information about EMSA Traineeships](#)

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING

This is a new section in your newsletter. We have often given you news about webinars before but, with many members in “lockdown” and continuing restrictions on travel, webinars are becoming increasingly popular as an alternative to attending traditional training courses and workshops. Send entries to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

SWIRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE: 'VIRTUAL' / REMOTE LEARNING COURSES RUNNING DURING JUNE

“Swire Emergency Response is pleased to announce the following 'virtual' / remote learning courses running during June.

- OPRC Level 3 Oil Spill Management (IMO Level 3 equivalent) - 15th June to 17th June 2020
- OPRC Level 0 Oil Spill Familiarization (IMO Level 0 equivalent) - 18th June 2020
- Emergency Response and Crisis Management - 16th to 18th June 2020

All courses will take place using Singapore Standard Time For more information or to reserve a place, please contact cily.dwidya@swirespo.com or simon.valentine@swirespo.com”

ITOPF: RECORDING AVAILABLE FROM LIVE WEBINAR ON MANAGING A RESPONSE DURING A PANDEMIC

Richard Johnson joined experts from London P&I Club, OSRL and Navigate Response in a webinar that explored the challenges and solutions associated with mobilising a response in our current world of social distancing, quarantines and travel restrictions.

Richard addressed some of the practical considerations prior to mobilising staff to site, and highlighted the technical advice we continue to be able to offer remotely. He outlined the response tools and resources at our disposal, including trajectory and weathering models, databases, mapping facilities and satellite interpretation, as well our extensive in-house experience and knowledge. He also emphasised the crucial importance of relationships built with government officials, surveyors, correspondents and other local contacts in-country for response during this time.

A recording from the one-hour live session held on the morning of Thursday 28th May is available at Richard Johnson joined experts from London P&I Club, OSRL and Navigate Response in a webinar that explored the challenges and solutions associated with mobilising a response in our current world of social distancing, quarantines and travel restrictions.

Richard addressed some of the practical considerations prior to mobilising staff to site, and highlighted the technical advice we continue to be able to offer remotely. He outlined the response tools and resources at our disposal, including trajectory and weathering models, databases, mapping facilities and satellite interpretation, as well our extensive in-house experience and knowledge. He also emphasised the crucial importance of relationships built with government officials, surveyors, correspondents and other local contacts in-country for response during this time.

A recording from the one-hour live session held on the morning of Thursday 28th May is available at <https://vimeo.com/423535844>

OR&R LECTURE SERIES FOR SPILL PLANNERS AND RESPONDERS

Welcome to OR&R's lecture series, *You Don't Know What You Don't Know!*

Every Thursday at 3pm ET, an expert presents on a topic related to emergency spill response, environmental protection and sometimes beyond. Topics will range from booms to birds, burning to bacteria, satellites to submarines. The goal of the series is to provide a larger, more diverse audience to presentations and lectures recently given at meetings or conferences.

The lecture speakers are specialists from federal/state government, academia, and industry. The presentation format is a 45-minute (or shorter) lecture via Adobe Connect, followed by 15 minutes of questions submitted on the Q&A (chat) function of Adobe Connect.

Join the lectures via Adobe Connect: [https://noaaorr.adobeconnect.com/orrlectureseries/\(link is external\)](https://noaaorr.adobeconnect.com/orrlectureseries/(link is external)). While our target audience is the professional spill planning/response and environmental science community, others are welcome to join.

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING (CONTINUED)

Each month, the upcoming lectures will be listed in our Response and Restoration Newsletter ([go ahead and subscribe!\(link is external\)](#)) and on this page.

Upcoming Lectures

June 11: **Sunken Oil Mats** with Dr. Jacqui Michel, President/Geochemist, Research Planning, Inc.

June 18: **Liquified Natural Gas (LNG) Releases** with Dr. Bill Lehr, Scientist Emeritus, NOAA OR&R.

June 25: **Remote Sensing, GIS, and Modeling in Texas** with Steve Buschang, Director of Research and Development/Scientific Support Coordinator, Texas General Land Office.

July 9: **Remote Sensing Under Burning Slicks** with Dr. Paul Panetta, Lab Director, Applied Research Associates, Inc.

July 16: **Special Two Hour Program on Corals** with Gary Shigenaka, Marine Biologist, NOAA OR&R.

We welcome ideas for additional topics, speaker suggestions, and comments. Please consider presenting on a topic from your area of knowledge, skills, or expertise. Or, suggest a presentation that you watched and particularly enjoyed. Send your ideas to the lecture planning team at youdontknowwhatyoudontknow@noaa.gov([link sends e-mail](#)).

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

MEETING THE TRAINING NEEDS OF SPILL RESPONDERS



Photo: CHC member organizations participated in training activities including selecting equipment based on operational needs and availability.

Designing an effective training course capable of meeting the changing needs of a diverse group of spill responders was the most important criteria for Clean Harbors Cooperative's (CHC) recent program. According to Brian Bryant of CHC, the key ingredients are a defined objective, instructors with technical experience, and organizational structure. To round out the course, Bryant included the technical expertise of the Ohmsett staff for hands-on activities in the test basin. "The benefits of the Clean Harbors Cooperative and Ohmsett partnership are the on-site training, strong and consistent leadership, and the coordination and communications."

CHC held their training course at Ohmsett the weeks of October 7 and 21, 2019. Member organizations that participated in the course included staff from Phillips 66, ExxonMobil, Con Edison, U.S. Coast Guard Sector New York, and Applied Research Associates, Inc.

The classroom curriculum provided crucial information on the fate of oil spilled and recommendations for determining the projected course of the weathered oil as it travels in the environment. Additionally, students were introduced to detailed guidance for protecting the shoreline with the use of pre-determined tactical response plans and use of the ICS-204 form in support of the plan.

Bryant noted the primary emphasis of the course centered on health and safety precautions for those involved in responding to an oil spill. "The classroom portion of the training included two separate case studies, which proved to be beneficial to all those involved in the discussions."

As the students rotated from the classroom discussions to the tank, they were able to participate in the hands-on portion of the course. The tank exercises provided them with the opportunity to operate various skimmers in different types of oils and wave conditions. "We discussed recovery rates, safe operation, selecting the different skimmers based on operational needs and availability, and a few different physical herding applications."

After three days of classroom instruction and tank exercises, Bryant brought the students to the Arthur Kill Waterway where they were able to conduct on-water operations using the CHC self-contained skimming barge platform, along with CHC boom deployment vessels and boom tending boats. "Booming strategies from the tactical response plans were tested, skimming vessel operations were demonstrated, and boom was deployed and anchored in accordance with the New York/New Jersey Area Contingency Plan."

The well-rounded, hands-on training program provided the benefit of networking with various members of the response community, helping to build strong port partnerships. "Four different companies attending the course were able to train and work side-by-side with USCG pollution response regulators; strengthening and building relationships for future endeavors in the response community,"

Acknowledgement: The above article was first published in the Spring 2020 issue of the Ohmsett Gazette and is reprinted here with the kind permission of the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE). Ohmsett, The National Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility will be exhibiting at Clean Waterways 2020, August 3-5, 2020 in Indianapolis, IN (Booth #314) and at Clean Gulf 2020, October 20-22, 2020 in San Antonio, TX (Booth #415). You are invited to call in by for more information on Ohmsett's testing, training and research facilities. The Spring 2020 issue of the Ohmsett Gazette can be downloaded at <https://www.ohmsett.com/Gazette/Ohmsett%20Gazette%20Spring%202020.pdf>

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.

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

USA: CLEAN PACIFIC *ON DEMAND*

When we had to make the decision to postpone the 2020 CLEAN PACIFIC Conference until next year, we knew that we didn't want to wait a full year to connect with you and deliver valuable content. **We're happy to announce that we're launching [CLEAN PACIFIC On-Demand](#), an online portal you can access on your time, with curated and customized content specifically for those involved in spill prevention, response and remediation in the Western United States and Canada.**

The online portal will be **accessible starting on July 6th and will contain at least five sessions and panel discussions and our sponsor directory**, which includes virtual business cards, company collateral, and general company information for each of our CLEAN PACIFIC On-Demand sponsors. Watch sessions and browse the sponsor directory on your time. You'll even be able to reach out to our speakers with questions.

Registration is now open for CLEAN PACIFIC On-Demand. Use VIP code: ONDEMAND to [secure your registration](#). You can either register as an individual for \$149 or as a group for \$799, which gives your entire company access to the online portal. **Take a peek at the sessions offered in the portal [here](#).**

Additionally, we're happy to announce that our in-person CLEAN PACIFIC Conference has been rescheduled to June 28-30, 2021, at the originally scheduled venue, Hyatt Regency Lake Washington in Seattle's Southport.

While it may be some time before we are all able to meet in person, we are very excited to bring you this on-demand portal and deliver the valuable content you've come to expect at the CLEAN PACIFIC Conference.

Interested in sponsoring CLEAN PACIFIC On-Demand? - Sponsoring will give your company an elevated listing in our sponsor directory + highlight your company as a sponsor in marketing promoting access to the portal.

Contact Anastasia Bisson at 530-363-3506 or abisson@accessintel.com for more information or view benefits [here](#).

AUSTRALIA: ECOFORUM CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

16 & 18 September 2020 - Call for Abstracts Submission Deadline Extended to June 15th!

EcoForum is going virtual! We are seeking papers that identify challenges and suggest solutions to difficult contaminated site problems.

Share your experience and gain insight as to how to better solve any environmental issues that challenge the world. Click on the link below for all proposed themes. Submit your abstract today.

How to Submit an Abstract

Abstracts should be on topic, based on the conference themes, demonstrate the value of the material to the audience and submitted no later than Monday 15 June 2020.

Given that a large number of abstracts will be received for review, each should be well-written, and clearly and concisely outline the material proposed for presentation. Abstracts with a pronounced commercial or marketing tone will not be accepted. Abstracts that have been presented at other conferences may also not be accepted.

Please [click here](#) to submit your abstract via our online abstract management portal.

You will not be required to upload a word document as per ALGA's previous conferences, however you are welcome to use the [template](#) as a guide. Please 'copy & paste' into the abstract portal. [More detailed instructions](#)

[More information on the Conference and the Programme](#)

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 may be because the website is not yet available or because the link for the website has not yet been sent to the Editor.

COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
NETHERLANDS	June 24-25	European Environmental Ports Conference 2020	Rotterdam
USA	August 3-5	Clean Waterways Conference & Exhibition	Indianapolis, IN.
USA	August 17-20	Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR)	Seattle/Online TBA
ESTONIA	August 25-27	BALEX DELTA 2020 pollution response exercise	Talinn
USA	CANCELLED	HazMat Emergency Response Workshop	Sacramento, CA
USA	Sept. 8-11	Oil Spill Response Strategies & Tactics Training	Leonardo, NJ
AUSTRALIA	Sept. 15-17	Ecoforum Conference & Exhibition	Darwin
ICELAND	Sept. 28-30	International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region	Reykjavik
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	El 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
UK	November 2 -	Meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies	London
GREECE	POSTPONED	Posidonia 2020	Athens
BAHREIN	December 7-8	El Middle East HSE Forum	Bahrein
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
USA	May 10-13	International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021)	New Orleans, LA
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
USA	June 28-30	Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition	Seattle, WA
COUNTRY	2022	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
NETHERLANDS	Details TBA	Interspill Conference & Exhibition	Amsterdam

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

ALGA Cronicle	News from Australasia on Contaminated Land Remediation	April 2020
AMSA Update	Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
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	April 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
Environmental Expert	Environmental News from Environmental Expert	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	Q1 2020
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Summer 2020
IMO Publishing Newsletter	New and forthcoming IMO publications	April-May 2020

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

ITOPF Ocean Orbit	News magazine from ITOPF with interesting spill response articles	October 2019
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q2 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	Spring 2020
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	April 16-30, 2020
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	June 1, 2020
WestMOPoCo	Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation	January 2020

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

INCIDENT REPORTS

Editor – Very few spill reports in the press recently – probably not because there's only a few spills – but because the news media is focused on the Coronavirus Pandemic. Currently I depend on readers who send me reports and on Mikhail Voytenko of the Maritime Bulletin. He regularly advises on vessel abandonments, groundings and sinkings – several every week – but, unless there is an immediate release of oil or chemicals, spillages are not reported in the Maritime Bulletin. However, some of his reports cover incidents that are likely to result in significant pollution by oil or chemicals.

INDIA: ASSAM OIL WELL STILL LEAKING GAS ONE WEEK AFTER BLOWOUT



June 2 - An oil well within the Indian state of Assam is still leaking gas "uncontrollably" after a blowout a week in the past that it's feared has killed endangered river dolphins and birds and compelled 2,500 individuals to evacuate their properties. For days authorities have didn't plug the leak from the well within the village of Baghjan after the incident on 27 May. The blowout – an uncontrolled launch of oil and gas because of the failure of stress management techniques – despatched a fountain of crude oil into the air. Armenian Reporter / [Read more](#)

June 3 - OIL exploration in Assam: But at what cost to biodiversity? From flying in four Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Limited (ONGCL) experts from Vadodara in Gujarat to seeking global experts' help, the Oil India Limited (OIL) is going all out to control the gas well "blowout" before it turns out to be the worst tragedy to hit the public sector giant in more than a decade.

The gas well "blowout" at an existing well number 5 at the Baghjan oilfield of OIL in Assam's Tinsukia district, situated in close proximity to Dibru Saikhowa National Park and the famous migratory birds habitat Maguri-Motapung Beel, has left natural gas gushing out to a height of hundreds of feet for

the past six days, turning the entire area beyond a kilometre, including Baghjan village, into a "gas chamber". EastMojo / [Read more](#)

June 5 - OIL urged to decontaminate areas around its blown-out well in Assam. A group of 45 individuals and organisations from the north-eastern States has asked Oil India Limited (OIL) to decontaminate the area around one of its wells in Assam where a blowout on May 27 led to the "uncontrollable" spewing of natural gas. The demand, made on Thursday, coincided with OIL engaging a consultant to carry out an environment impact assessment study around the Baghjan well in Tinsukia district that adjoins the Maguri-Motapung wetland, part of the eco-sensitive zone of the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. The Hindu / [Read more](#)

June 6 - Oil well spews out dangerous gas for 10 days in Assam. Scared local residents staged a protest on Saturday demanding steps to quickly plug the damage complaining that the condensates are "dangerously contaminating" the water bodies near the Baghjan oilfield in Tinsukia district, where the mishap took place on May 27. They also expressed fear that it could affect the flora and fauna in Dibru Saikhowa National Park situated about 4-km away. An official statement issued by OIL on Saturday said associated condensates was coming out with the gas but water was being sprayed and collected in a pond near the well site itself and then safely transported to its headquarters at Duliagan. "Utmost care has been taken to arrest condensate spillage to surrounding areas. A bund has been created around the well site to prevent the contaminated water runoff to surrounding areas and nearby water body," it said. Deccan Herald / [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: EMERGENCY DECLARED IN SIBERIA AFTER DIESEL FUEL LEAK



June 3 - Russian President Vladimir Putin has declared a state of emergency in a region of Siberia after an estimated 20,000 tons of diesel fuel spilled from a power plant storage facility and fouled waterways. The spill took place Friday at a power plant in an outlying section of the city of Norilsk, 2,900 kilometers (1,800 miles) northeast of Moscow. Booms were laid in the Ambarnaya River to block the fuel; the river feeds a lake from which springs another river that leads to the environmentally delicate Arctic Ocean. The Washington Post / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye Hon.FISCO]

June 3 – Putin will ask law enforcement agencies to probe Norilsk fuel spill reporting timeliness. Russian President Vladimir Putin said on Wednesday that he would have to ask law enforcement agencies to deal with information about the timeliness of reporting information about a fuel spill at a thermal power plant in Norilsk to the Emergencies Ministry. UrduPoint / [Read more](#)

June 3 - Arctic river will take decades to recover from fuel spill: Russian official. Russia's state fishing agency said on Tuesday an Arctic river would need decades to recover after 20,000 tonnes of oil products spilled out of a power station in the industrial city of Norilsk last week. A fuel tank at the power station lost pressure on May 29 and leaked out fuel and lubricants, causing a fire and spreading across an area of 350 square metres, the Investigative Committee, a law enforcement agency, said. The spill leaked into the river Ambarnaya, something that Dmitry Klovov, a spokesman for the Rosrybolovstvo state fishing agency, described as an ecological catastrophe. An expanse of crimson water could be seen stretching from shore to shore down a river and an offshoot of the river in aerial footage posted online by the RIA news agency. CBC News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas Hon.FISCO]

June 4 - Arctic Circle oil spill prompts Putin to declare state of emergency. The spill happened when a fuel tank at a power plant near the Siberian city of Norilsk collapsed last Friday. The power plant's director Vyacheslav Starostin has been taken into custody until 31 July, but not yet charged. The plant is owned by a subsidiary of Norilsk Nickel, which is the world's leading nickel and palladium producer. The Russian Investigative Committee (SK) has launched a criminal case over the pollution and alleged negligence, as there was reportedly a two-day delay in informing the Moscow authorities about the spill. Ground subsidence beneath the fuel storage tanks is believed to have caused the spill. Arctic permafrost has been melting in exceptionally warm weather for this time of year. BBC News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye Hon.FISCO]

June 4 - Gazprom Neft sends an emergency rescue team to help with Norilsk oil-spill emergency response. Gazprom Neft has sent a mobile emergency rescue team — equipped with specialist tools and machinery, and including 70 rescue professionals and specialists from Khanty-Mansiysk, Megion, Noyabrsk and St Petersburg — to help in emergency response following the major oil-products spill in Norilsk. Gazprom Neft is also air-freighting more than 85 tonnes of specialist machinery — including oil-gathering and pumping equipment, excavators, earth-moving equipment, oil-spill booms, tent-camp facilities and standalone power supply systems — and is planning to deploy freight helicopters to transport equipment from its fields in the Yamal and Gydan peninsulas. EIN News / [Read more](#)

June 5 - Putin chastises Russian tycoon over massive Arctic oil spill. Russian President Vladimir Putin on Friday chastised the billionaire owner of a nickel giant for negligence resulting in a massive fuel oil spill that has inflicted huge damage on a fragile Arctic region. An estimated 20,000 tons of diesel oil spilled into the Ambarnaya River last Friday from a broken tank at a power plant in Norilsk, 2,900 kilometers (1,800 miles) northeast of Moscow. Booms were laid across the river to prevent the fuel oil from getting into a lake downstream that feeds another river leading to the environmentally delicate Arctic Ocean. ABC News / [Read more](#)



June 5 - Arctic Circle oil spill: Russian prosecutors order checks at permafrost sites. Russia's chief prosecutor, Igor Krasnov, gave orders for regional and environmental prosecutors to conduct a "thorough check" of "particularly dangerous installations" located on "territories exposed to permafrost melting". The aim is to prevent a repeat of the incident at the plant near Norilsk. BBC News / [Read more](#)

June 5 - Russia's Nornickel says it will pay for clean-up after fuel spill. Russian mining giant Norilsk Nickel will fully finance the clean-up operation after a major fuel spill in the Arctic and sees it costing around 10 billion roubles (\$145 million), the company's president, Vladimir Putin, said on Friday. Newsbrig.com / [Read more](#)

CHINA: CHEMICAL LIQUID LEAK, TANKER CREW EVACUATED

June 4 - Chemical tanker GUAN GHUI 616 on Jun 4 reported cargo leak in pump room, while passing Shidao, China, Yellow sea. Tanker is loaded with tert-butyl methyl ether (MTBE) chemical, used as blending component of gasoline. It's a volatile and flammable liquid. The ship was anchored at Shidao anchorage, all crew evacuated, all power and mechanisms cut off. Cleansing said to be under way, carried out by chemical hazard responding team. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

MEXICO: CYCLONE CRISTOBAL DAMAGED OIL PLATFORM, FLOATING DOCK

June 4 - Cyclone Cristobal, which battered on Jun 3 Ciudad del Carmen and offshore oil fields areas, southeast Mexico, Gulf of Mexico, reportedly damaged PEMEX oil platform, probably more than one. Port was also damaged, there's a photo apparently, of broken floating dock with the ship in it. No details yet on damaged platform or platforms, and ships. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

IRAQ: IRANIAN CARGO SHIP SANK AFTER CONTACTING CONSTRUCTIONS

June 5 - Iranian cargo ship BEHBAHAN sank at night Jun 4 in northern Persian Gulf, SE of Umm Qasr, apparently after hitting some constructions. The ship was en route from Iranian port to Kuwait. Of reportedly, 9 crew, 4 were rescued, 5 remain missing. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

Stop Press – Breaking News

RUSSIA OIL SPILL: U.S. OFFERS HELP IN CLEANING HUGE ARCTIC CIRCLE FUEL SPILL



Picture: A photo made available on June 5, 2020 by the European Space Agency shows a satellite image captured on May 31 by the Copernicus Sentinel-2 mission of the extent of an oil spill after some 20,000 tonnes of diesel oil leaked into a river within the Arctic Circle. Environmentalists said the oil spill, which took place last May 29, was the worst such accident ever in the Arctic region. | Photo Credit: AFP PHOTO /EUROPEAN SPACE AGENCY

June 7 - The United States on Saturday offered to help Russia clean up a **vast fuel spill that has fouled an arctic river** in northern siberia.

“Saddened to hear about the fuel spill in Norilsk, Russia,” Secretary of State Mike Pompeo wrote on twitter. “despite our disagreements, the United States stands ready to assist Russia to mitigate this environmental disaster and offer our technical expertise.” The Hindu / [Read more](#)

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.