

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

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CELEBRATING THE OCEANS ON WORLD OCEANS DAY – A MESSAGE FROM IMO SECRETARY GENERAL KITACK LIM



On World Oceans Day, Kitack Lim, Secretary-General, International Maritime Organization (IMO) invites a celebration of the majesty, beauty and sheer wonder of our oceans and the ships that ply their trade on them.

"June 8th was World Oceans Day and the theme this year is "Innovation for a Sustainable Ocean". The purpose of the Day is to educate and inform about how

vital the oceans are to us all, about the impact of human actions on the ocean, to help foster a worldwide movement of citizens for the ocean, and to mobilize and unite the world's population to support sustainable management of the world's oceans. It is also a day to simply celebrate together the beauty, the wealth and the promise of the oceans. IMO / [Continue reading](#)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

WESTERN MEDITERRANEAN REGION MARINE OIL AND HNS POLLUTION COOPERATION (WEST MOPOCO)

The Project Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil and HNS Pollution Cooperation (West MOPoCo) supports Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia in collaboration with Monaco in strengthening their cooperation in the field of preparedness for and response to oil and Highly Noxious Substances (HNS) marine pollution and in improving the quality and interoperability of their response capacities.

The Project is implemented through an inter-regional effort, including the participation of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Bonn Agreement for the Greater North Sea and its approaches and the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) for the Baltic Sea. The project benefits from the technical support of expert partner institutions such as Cedre, ITOFF Ltd. and the Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale (ISPRA). The West MOPoCo project aims specifically at:

- Enhancing emergency decision-making capabilities;
- Assessing national contingency plans;
- Strengthening cooperation and national emergency procedures.

The Project will complement existing cooperation frameworks, namely the [Union Civil Protection Mechanism](#), the [WestMED Initiative](#), the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol (Barcelona Convention), the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2016-2021) and other established multilateral agreements. <https://www.westmopoco.rempec.org/en/project>

IMO AND ITS ROLE IN PROTECTING THE WORLD'S OCEANS

The world's oceans are one of our planet's most valuable environmental resources. Seas cover around 70% of the world's surface, providing raw materials, energy, food, employment, a place to live, a place to relax and the means to transport more than 80% of global trade by volume. Shipping is a key user of the oceans, delivering essential goods and commodities, taking ferry passengers to their destinations and carrying millions of tourists on cruises.

As the United Nations agency responsible for developing and adopting measures to improve the safety and security of international shipping and to prevent pollution from ships, and for the prevention of pollution by dumping of waste at sea, IMO has an integral role in meeting the targets set out in the United Nations Sustainable Development [Goal \(SDG\) 14](#): Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. IMO's work is also linked to many other SDGs too, for example [SDG 13](#) on climate action, since the oceans are impacted by increasing carbon dioxide (CO₂) and other greenhouse gas emissions (GHG) from human activities, but also SDGs 6 and 9, aiming at a sustainable society, with infrastructure, transportation and waste management that can support societies now and into the future. IMO / [Read more](#)

LESS THAN A THOUSAND REMAIN: NEW LIST OF ANIMALS ON THE BRINK OF EXTINCTION



Photo: An Iberian lynx (Lynx pardinus) cub. Less than 100 individuals remained in 2002. Now there are around 400. Image by Ex-Situ Conservation Program of the Iberian Lynx via Wikimedia Commons

A newly published [study](#) in the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* lists 515 animal species with fewer than a thousand individuals remaining.

Overall, the report is grim: Earth is experiencing its sixth mass extinction; extinction rates are accelerating; and humans are to blame.

Researchers evaluated 29,374 land-based vertebrates using IUCN Red List and Birdlife International data. They identified 75 mammal, 335 bird, 41 reptile and 65 amphibian species "on the brink of extinction." Mongabay / [Read more](#)

UPDATE ON THE REOPENING OF THE IOPC FUNDS' OFFICES AND PLANNED ACTIVITIES IN 2020

As a precautionary measure in the context of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the IOPC Funds' Secretariat has been working remotely since 12 March 2020. However, the Claims Submission Office for the Agia Zoni II incident in Greece has recently reopened and as the situation in the UK is gradually improving, the IOPC Funds, in close cooperation with IMO and with full regard to the advice of the UK Government, is taking steps to enable a limited number of staff to return to the IOPC Funds' offices in the coming weeks. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

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

FRANCE: CEDRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITIES DURING MAY 2020

Cedre was contacted by the Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon authorities (DTAM) to provide advice on the management of spill response operations following a fuel tank leak near a centre for the disabled. We also received a request for advice from the Communauté d'Agglomération de La Rochelle in relation to the treatment of residual pollution in a stream, following a domestic fuel oil leak, treated by pumping and laying sorbent booms. SAUR in La Roche-sur-Yon questioned Cedre's duty team on the issue of sheen often observed on a water body under their management.

The French Navy Operational Centre (COM) in Brest informed Cedre of the presence of a slick, believed to be of diesel, in the Bay of Douarnenez, which naturally evaporated and dispersed at sea. The MRCC Jobourg alerted Cedre as to a collision between a chemical tanker and an oil tanker off Ostend, resulting in a small oil leak, most likely from the chemical tanker's propeller shaft. The MRCC requested a drift forecast using the Mothy model. The substance dispersed naturally.

The MRCC Med La Garde requested Cedre's expert opinion after pollution was observed near Cap Béar semaphore and between Corsica and the mainland. The Yvelines fire brigade (SDIS 78) informed Cedre of a small spill on the River Seine, in the Port-Marly area. Finally, the ICE mechanism was activated for an exercise on dichloromethane (UN 1593) launched by the Swiss focal point. <https://wwz.cedre.fr/en>

FRANCE: CEDRE - EXPERIMENTATION ON CHEMICAL BEHAVIOUR

As part of the "Chemical behaviour at sea and response sheets" project, funded by the French Navy and MTES, Cedre performed trials in the Cedre Experimentation Column (CEC). These trials were designed to study the fate of three chemicals (isopropylbenzene, 5-methylhexan-2-one and 2-butoxyethyl acetate) in the event of controlled release from a sunken wreck. The aims were to determine whether the released substance would rise through the water column to the surface and, if so, to estimate the proportion.

This study will be followed, in the coming weeks, by trials in floating mesocosms to assess the fate of a chemical slick at the sea surface. The results of these different experimentation programmes will be used to draft response sheets.

CEDRE / [Read more on Cedre's recent activities in the May 2020 issue of the Cedre Newsletter](#)

NEW ZEALAND: UP TO \$1.2 BILLION INSURANCE COVER FOR MARINE OIL SPILLS

June 11 - Maritime NZ has published guidelines about a major increase required in insurance cover or other financial security for marine oil spills from offshore installations.

Amendments to the Marine Protection Rules Part 102 now require owners of offshore installations to have insurance or another form of financial security from a third party of up to \$1.2 billion. This is an increase from approximately \$28 million.

Maritime NZ Director, Keith Manch, said the insurance or other form of financial security is in addition to the unlimited liability imposed by the Maritime Transport Act for spill response costs and compensation for pollution damage to property.

The certificate of insurance provides assurance that the money that would be needed is available to meet the costs of clean up and compensation for damage to property in case of an oil spill. Scoop / [Read more](#)

USA: LSU, NOAA CONTINUE PARTNERSHIP IN EMERGENCY CHEMICAL HAZARD RESPONSE

June 11 - LSU is helping the U.S. respond to hazards from environmental releases of oil and toxic chemicals. A team of seven researchers from the LSU College of the Coast & Environment, or CC&E, will be partnering with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, or NOAA, to provide primary emergency response to chemical hazards in support of NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration's Emergency Response Division, according to CC&E press release.

NOAA has awarded \$6.7M to Research Planning Inc., an environmental consulting firm that partners with the LSU team as part of the NOAA ProTech Oceans Task Order to help assess chemical hazards associated with oil and hazardous materials releases across the nation's navigable waterways. KATC / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

June 12 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[Marine Debris Program Funded Project Releases Video on Debris Removal Accomplishments](#)

In 2018, the Town of Beaufort in North Carolina began to clean up marine debris in the waters around the Town and the Rachel Carson Reserve with the support of a [NOAA Marine Debris Program Marine Debris Removal Grant](#).

[OR&R Lecture Series: Dr. Jacqui Michel Speaks on Submerged Oil Mats](#)

What do you get when you mix heavy oil, sand and a light surf? Submerged Oil Mats (SOMs), that's what. They are difficult to find, difficult to recover and pose a continued threat to beaches following a major oil spill.

[OR&R Disaster Preparedness Program Hosts Virtual Briefing for Gulf of Mexico Congressional Delegation](#)

On May 28, the Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) hosted a virtual briefing for the Gulf of Mexico congressional delegations. The briefing was open to all interested staff from the Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas delegations, and relevant Senate and House Committees.

[OR&R Lecture Series: Dr. Michel Boufadel Speaks on Oil Droplet Formation and Transport](#)

Oil slicks form, break apart in waves and turbulence and reform again. Oil droplets move through the water column at the surface or rise from the ocean floor as a result of well blowouts.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

THE IMAREST APPOINTS FIRST AMBASSADOR FOR THE UN OCEAN DECADE



On World Ocean Day, the IMarEST has appointed Dr Stephen de Mora as its first Ambassador for the UN Decade of Ocean Science for Sustainability. Dr Stephen de Mora BSc PhD FRSA FIMarEST CSci, was elected to the IMarEST Council this year and has led a varied career in marine science, with experience working in diverse environments, disciplines and cultures.

Recently retired as chief executive of both Plymouth Marine Laboratory and PML Applications Ltd, he is now an independent consultant and a PML Emeritus Fellow. He has served on numerous national and international committees. Presently, he is a Sargasso Sea Commissioner and a member of scientific advisory panels in Canada, Ireland and the British

Geological Society. His academic career encompassed research and teaching at the University of Quebec in Rimouski, the University of Auckland, and the University of Lancaster. IMarEST / [Read more](#)

JPI OCEANS: FAREWELL TO OUR STRATEGIC DIRECTOR, KATHRINE ANGELL-HANSEN

Throughout the last 10 years, Kathrine Angell-Hansen has played a central role in the inception and development of JPI Oceans into the platform it is today. As the first Executive Director of JPI Oceans, Kathrine was key in orchestrating the development of the initial vision of the new initiative, as well as the co-designing of the Strategic Research and Innovation Agenda, which consolidated the role of JPI Oceans in the European landscape. With a powerhouse combination of enthusiasm and perseverance, Kathrine was also at the forefront of initially piloting - and then fully developing - the JPI Oceans Joint Actions, including iconic ones such as the ecological aspects of microplastics. JPI Oceans / [Read more](#)



CORRESPONDENCE

COMMENTS FROM JOHN BRINKMAN OF IMBIBER BEADS

Re: ISCO Newsletter #738 – June 1st, 2020 – article by Steve Guy on “Vapours versus Fumes”

The interchangeability of the terms “fumes and vapours” as it relates to the spill response industry is a common mistake and the difference is not very well understood generally speaking, as is evident within Steve Guy’s article. As a public-service the article brings to light some of the dangers such as flammability, explosion, and toxicity, inherent with misunderstanding the differences.

Making the Connection – Similarly, as a specialty absorbent manufacturer, Imbibitive Technologies (IMBTEC) endeavours to educate industry-at-large about the difference in performance between “adsorbents” and “absorbents”. In accordance with American Society

of Testing & Materials (**ASTM**) Performance Standards the prefixes “ad” and “ab” define the features and benefits of their use and are more often than not incorrectly interchanged with little concern about the implications.

As it relates to hazardous vapours the willful interchange of the term absorbent and adsorbent does not make note of the increased risk to response personnel or the surrounding environment. Our experience over the years is that most responders are not aware that there is a fundamental difference in the performance and incorrectly assume that everything, including clay granules and polypropylene pads are “absorbents”. (False).

Super-Absorbent Polymers (SAPs) – Most people are familiar with how the super-absorbent polymers used in disposable baby diapers (nappies) revolutionized the personal hygiene industry. Procter & Gamble invented the first “**water-sensitive**” super-absorbent, circa 1966, and trademarked their invention as “**Pampers®**” shortly after; the rest is history.

Prior to the introduction of Pampers® the product of choice for Mothers all over the world was cloth diapers, usually made from cotton due to cotton’s softness and affinity to water. The problem with cloth diapers was that they did not eliminate the water and unless the diaper was changed frequently and shortly after an “event” the baby’s bottom would remain wet and more likely to develop rashes and infections. Purists argued that cotton is “all-natural”, is reusable and had been used for diapers for hundreds of years.

The superior performance, convenience and health benefits of disposable diapers far outweighed the purist argument and premium pricing of Pampers® and Mothers the world over made the switch.

What made Pampers® so unique over their cotton competitors was their ability to “**eliminate the liquid phase**”. Water “**diffused**” into the polymer’s solid structure, which caused them to “**swell**” and was physical evidence of the absorption process in action. It is the “swelling” process that distinguishes “absorption” from “adsorption” in accordance with ASTM F-716, F-726, and F-1127.

Television commercials for feminine napkins demonstrate the ability of a relatively small pad to completely absorb/imbibe a significant volume of water without re-releasing the contents. The swelling characteristic of the super-absorbent allows the pad to pick up several “volumes” of liquid per volume of super-absorbent.

Conversely, cloth diapers held water in discrete droplets, which were readily available for re-release through compression or simply leaking upon saturation and the volume of liquid was very limited relative to the volume capacity of the SAP. Pampers® SAPs eliminated both of these issues.

Polypropylene Sorbents – In 1965, Exxon was looking for air filtration solutions to remove radioactive particulates from the atmosphere for the US Navy and developed a process to make finely divided fibers for this application. The process involved melting polypropylene resin pellets and air blowing the resultant molten liquid through a series of small gauge nozzles onto a take-up roller. As the liquid cooled, fibers were formed under pressure and congregated onto the take-up roller in a tangled, non-woven mass. The process is called melt-blowing and the size of the fibers is determined by the nozzle aperture. Finer fibers result in increased “surface-area” and greater “adsorption” capability.

Exxon patented the melt-blowing process and licensed the technology to 3M. Patent protection typically has a twenty-year lifespan and expired in the late 1980s. As a result, several new companies surfaced and started producing melt-blown polypropylene sorbent products as a spill clean-up product.

The Exxon Valdez oil spill occurred in March 1989, and Exxon commissioned companies such as 3M, Sorbents Products Company (SPC) and Pig Corporation to ship plane loads of mb-pp to the spill, in a desperate effort to try and control the damage to Prince William Sound, Alaska.

This event and the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of polypropylene purchased provided the mb-pp industry with the financial boost it needed and dramatic expansion occurred through the 1990s and as a result polypropylene sorbent products are at commodity price levels and available from hundreds of suppliers.

Adsorbent – Like the cotton diapers of the 1960s polypropylene sorbents exhibited a number of very similar performance characteristics when dealing with oils, fuels, and solvents. Liquids “**coated the surface**” of the matted fibers or filled interstitial spaces between them. The liquid was still available in “**discrete droplets**” and available for re-release through compression, gravitational pull or would release an amount of its contents in the presence of water.

Anyone who has tried to pick-up a fuel spill with sorbent pads will testify to this fact.

From an occupational safety & health perspective this can have detrimental effects upon the wellbeing of those responding due to **secondary contamination** upon retrieval. As a “surface-coating” phenomena adsorption relies upon increased exposed surface area. The greater the surface area the greater the adsorption capacity, which is typically measured by weight.

However, any increase in surface area exposes more of the liquid to the atmosphere and consequently increases the “rate” at which hazardous vapours are released. As Steve Guy’s article notes it is the vapours that are the problem when dealing with aromatic and aliphatic liquids. Similarly, crude oil as was identified within the article contains a cocktail of aromatic and aliphatic components that increase the risk to responders and the surrounding area via off-gassing hazardous vapours. (Witness the use of water-fog over the DWH/Macondo wellsite in an attempt to suppress the buildup of a vapour cloud).

It is the vapours that support combustion and it is the vapours that are toxic when inhaled.

Accordingly, use of adsorbent products such as polypropylene pads or even clay granules **increase the risk** to response personnel and the surrounding environment by “**lowering the flashpoint**” and increasing the concentration-in-air of flammable and toxic vapours.

Why would anyone knowingly increase the risk to themselves, their colleagues, or the local environment? The chances are very real that they are not aware that alternatives exist that can make the spill site that much safer for all involved.

Absorbents – Circa 1968, Dr. Richard Hall, then of the Central Research Department of The Dow Chemical Company invented the first “**oil-sensitive**” super-absorbent polymer, which went on to become known by the brand name **Imbiber Beads®** - the words imbibe and absorb being synonyms.

Dr. Hall “engineered” Imbiber Beads® to have an affinity for a broad range of organic liquids such as crude oil, benzene, toluene, xylene, styrene, gasoline, diesel fuel, aviation fuel, chlorinated solvents, and literally thousands more.

Like their water-sensitive counterparts Imbiber Beads® “**swell**” in the presence of oils, fuels and solvents and contain liquids within their solid polymer structure. Liquids “**diffuse**” into Imbiber Beads® and cannot be re-released through compression, gravitational pull, or leach in the presence of water.

The “imbibition” process **eliminates the liquid phase** and in doing so also eliminates secondary contamination of response personnel and the local surroundings.

Unlike their water-sensitive counterparts Imbiber Beads® are completely unaffected by water, are “**oil-sensitive**” and will selectively remove oil from water.

With respect to hazardous vapours, the elimination of the liquid phase drastically reduces the “rate” at which hazardous vapours are released. Third-party independent testing has demonstrated the ability of Imbiber Beads® to “**raise the flashpoint**” and **reduce the concentration-in-air** to below the Lower Explosive Limit, in many instances.

This performance characteristic, which is unique to Imbiber Beads® as an oil-sensitive SAP, has serious occupational safety & health implications for responders and environmental services organizations.

During fuel or solvent releases, standard operating procedure is to apply vapour-suppressing foam to the release in order to contain the spread of explosive, flammable or noxious vapours. As long as the contaminant remains in its liquid state hazardous vapours will continue to be released, which can result in ongoing applications of suppressing foam until clean-up can be affected.

If fire is involved, as was the situation at the Intercontinental Terminals Company (ITC - Houston, TX) fire in March 2019, the resultant run-off liquor consisting of petrochemicals, foam and water can be of considerable concern to the local environment and public safety. (A similar situation occurred during the Buncefield, UK storage tank fire in 2005).

Use of Imbiber Beads® in this instance is complementary to the use of vapour or fire-suppressing foams. Use of Imbiber Beads® “blankets” placed under the foam initiates the clean-up, eliminates the liquid phase and in doing so reduces the threat of fire, explosion, and migration of toxic vapours.

Similar applications exist for the safe removal of organic liquids from confined spaces such as manholes, vaults, and oil/water separators, where concentrations of hazardous vapours can build to dangerous levels. An Imbiber Beads® “pillow or blanket” left in-situ eliminates the “free” liquid and consequently lowers the concentration of hazardous vapours. jsb@imbiberbeads.com

FROM JOHN MEADE OF EUROFINS TESTAMERICA

“I have attached a white paper put out by Eurofins on recommendations for companies in development of a viral environmental monitoring program (EMP) to protect employees and their businesses. You may find this informative for your readers and members”.

Editor: This is a very detailed paper and too long to reproduce here but you can download the white paper by clicking [HERE](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

UNDERSTANDING HOW UV LIGHT BREAKS DOWN AND KILLS VIRUSES

Ultraviolet (UV) light has long been known to be a viable disinfectant for water, air and surfaces. If the UV light is used properly it can help mitigate the risk of contracting an infection from a virus if one comes into contact with a contaminated surface. However, there are many different types of viruses and UV light making it difficult to understand the nuances of how UV light actually kills a virus.

The aim of this paper is to give the reader a clear understanding of what UV light is, the different degrees and uses of various ranges of UV light, what a virus is, its makeup and how it can be degraded and killed using UV light. Larson Electronics / [Continue reading](#)

SPECTROSCOPY FROM SPACE LETS SATELLITES SPY OUT OCEAN PLASTIC PATCHES

Satellite images can now be used to detect small patches of plastic litter floating in coastal water, thanks to the unique way they reflect light.¹

The ‘spectral signature’ of the floating plastics distinguishes them from natural materials, like seaweed and timber – and the method is sensitive enough to spot plastics floating among natural materials in patches smaller than 10m across.

Lead author [Lauren Biermann](#), a biogeochemist at the Plymouth Marine Laboratory, UK, says the method detects floating patches containing macroplastics – like plastic bottles or pieces of polystyrene foam – that are destined to degrade into even smaller microplastics. Chemistry World / [Read more](#)

FSU RESEARCHERS STUDY GULF OF MEXICO IN INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Photo: Rachel Kalin, left, an alumna of Eckerd College, and FSU research assistant Samantha Bosman transferring a core sample during a research cruise. (Photo: Devon Firesinger)

When the Deepwater Horizon oil rig suffered a blowout in 2010 and began spilling oil into the Gulf of Mexico, scientists got to work understanding the effects of that disaster.

But limited data on the typical conditions in the Gulf made understanding the potential changes from the spill more difficult. To make sure scientists weren’t caught unaware in the future, Florida State University and partner universities investigated current baseline conditions in the southern Gulf to create a series of maps and guides that detail the distribution of carbon, nitrogen and the carbon-14 isotope.



These elements are all important ecological factors that contribute to the natural habitat supporting untold number of plants, fish and other marine life. Florida State University / [Read more](#)

TRAINING

FRANCE: CEDRE – UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES IN SEPTEMBER 2020

- ▶ 7th to 11th September, oil spill response in inland waters
- ▶ 14th to 18th September: oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline
- ▶ 28th September to 1st October, pollution crisis management

[Request more information](#)

AUSTRALIA: COURSES PROVIDED BY AMOSC

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

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

LAUNCH OF GI WACAF WEBINAR SERIES

The [GI WACAF Project](#) is pleased to launch its webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response!

This series aims at presenting the key aspects of oil spill preparedness and response. Various aspects (technical, legal, institutional) will be covered, from the regulatory international framework to the shoreline or at sea response techniques as well as the importance of contingency planning.

The first webinar of the series will take place very soon on the **24th June 2020, 2 pm BST (London time)**. Please note that it will also be broadcast in French at 10 am BST (London time).

In this first session 3 international experts from leading institutions (International Maritime Organization, ITOFF and OSRL) will provide an introduction to oil spill preparedness and response (risk and sources of oil spills, potential impacts, possible mitigation measures) and present the critical role of technical cooperation and the work of the Global Initiative.

At the end of the webinar, participants should be able to:

- Understand oil spill risks and the behaviour of spilled oil;
- Understand the potential impacts (economic, social and environmental) of an oil spill;
- Understand what actions could be taken to prevent and mitigate that risk; and
- Understand the critical role of the International Maritime Organization and of the oil and gas industry, notably through technical cooperation and the Global Initiative.

Do not hesitate, register [here](#) and please share this link amongst your network: all the GI WACAF webinars are free and open to everyone!

CEDRE TRAINING VIA DISTANCE LEARNING!

Under the impetus of its Strategy Committee, Cedre has launched an online training centre, developed in partnership with the International Office for Water (IOWater) and the Region of Brittany.

This new platform offers two e-learning modules, currently available in French and soon in English. The first, on surveying sites polluted by oil, is geared towards any personnel liable to assist the response authorities (fire fighters, municipal agents, private contractors, fishermen, seafarers, etc). This module provides practical insight into site surveys for a large number of first-line responders as “information relays” for the authorities. The second module, on the behaviour of chemicals spilt in water, funded with support from the Region of Brittany, is targeted towards local authorities, seafaring personnel as well as anyone interested in the fate of chemicals spilt in the aquatic environment and their consequences.

Each module lasts around 2 hours and can be followed up by discussions with one of Cedre’s training engineers via a discussion forum. Specialised documents on the issue (survey forms, guides, etc.) are also available. This “Online Training Centre” will also be used to post content for participants on our on-site courses, attended by over 1,300 trainees each year, both in France and abroad. This new development will enable Cedre to organise hybrid courses combining on-site and online training.

[Request more information](#)

AUSTRALIA : AMOSC NOW HAS AN ONLINE LEARNING PORTAL

AMOSC now has an Online Learning Portal and we are offering our Course in Oil Spill Response Management (IMO II equivalent) and Course in Oil Spill Response Command & Control (IMO III equivalent) through three modes of delivery – online, blended and face-to-face. [More info](#) [Training Calendar and Booking Form](#)

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.

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			
USA	July 6 -	Clean Pacific Conference	Internet
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	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
UK	November 2 -	Meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies	London
NETHERLANDS	November 4-5	European Environmental Ports Conference 2020	Rotterdam
GREECE	POSTPONED	Posidonia 2020	Athens
UK	December 2-3	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	London
BAHREIN	December 7-8	EI 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](#)

[AMSA Update](#)

[ATRAC Newsletter](#)

[AUSMEPA Bulletin](#)

[BIMCO Bulletin](#)

[Newsletter from George Holliday](#)

[Cedre Newsletter](#)

[Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter](#)

[EMSA Newsletter](#)

[Environmental Expert](#)

[GEF Newsletter](#)

News from Australasia on Contaminated Land Remediation

Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority

News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre

News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n

Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO

News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday

News from Cedre in Brittany, France

News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria

News from the European Maritime Safety Agency

Environmental News from Environmental Expert

Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility

April 2020

Current issue

December 2019

Summer 2020

June 2020

On request email

May 2020

December 2018

Current issue

Current issue

December 2019

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

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
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	May 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.

USA: SUMMARY OF MAY 2020 INCIDENT RESPONSES FROM NOAA OR&R

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

This month OR&R responded to 13 incidents, including oil discharges, sunken vessels, and other pollution-related incidents. For detailed reports and photos, please click on the links below

[Main Pass 75 Pipeline Release](#)

[FV MACH III](#)

[Navy Vessel Diesel Spill, York River, VA](#)

[Fishing Vessel "Bay of Isle" Aground, Barnegat Inlet, NJ](#)

[Tug "Lucedale" Mile Marker 279 Ohio River](#)

[Whale carcass](#)

[Saginaw River Flooding](#)

[S/V FREEDOM adrift](#)

[Gray whale carcass](#)

[Natural Gas Line Leak Vermilion 114/129](#)

[F/V ARIANA MARIE](#)

[Un-Manned Rocket Failure](#)

[Whitney Oil South Pass Platform Leak](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: TANK RUPTURE DURING TESTING



June 8 - The floodwaters at the Heritage Petroleum compound in Point Fortin, as well as on nearby roads, have subsided after a tank ruptured on Sunday. Tank 27 was being tested on Sunday to determine whether it was suitable for storing oil. But as water was pumped into the tank, it could not "take the pressure," according to one worker, and ruptured at 6pm. "The leak caused the sea water utilised in the hydro test to flow out of the tank, overflowing the area and into the roadway and the nearby Atlantic LNG compound. The seawater would also have caused the overflow of residual oil from the sump pit located at the tank farm." [Newsday / Read more](#)

RUSSIA: UPDATES ON THE SIBERIA DIESEL OIL SPILL

June 8 - Big clean-up after the catastrophe, but spilled oil will be removed from Taymyr tundra only next winter



Photo: Oil products are first pumped into temporary reservoirs and then further into bigger more permanent containers. Photo: Morspas.com

About 21 thousand tons of oil products [spilled from a reservoir owned by company Norilsk-Taymyr Energy Company on the 29 May](#). At least 15,000 tons are believed to have ended up in the local rivers and creeks.

Thousands of tons of spilled diesel oil are being pumped into special containers placed along affected rivers and creeks. The substances will be removed from the desolate area only after the tundra freezes next winter. Barents Observer / [Read more](#)

June 9 - Russian Arctic oil spill pollutes big lake near Norilsk

Diesel oil from a huge spill in Russia's Arctic north has polluted a large freshwater lake and there is a risk it could spread into the Arctic Ocean, a senior Russian official says. Emergency teams are trying to contain the oil, which has now travelled about 20km (12 miles) north of Norilsk from a collapsed fuel tank. BBC News / [Read more](#)

June 9 - Major Fuel Spill in Russia's North Spreads Toward Arctic Ocean

By Tuesday, fuel was found in a 43-mile-long finger lake called Pyasino, which stretches toward the Arctic Ocean, Aleksandr Uss, the governor of the Krasnoyarsk region, told local media. The accident is one of the largest petroleum spills in modern Russian history, according to WWF, a conservation group. "We are talking about dead fish, polluted plumage of birds and poisoned animals," Sergey Verkhovets, coordinator of Arctic projects for WWF Russia, said in a statement. The New York Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc Shaye Hon.FISCO]

June 9 - Fears grow that huge Russian oil spill could reach Arctic Ocean

[Watch response activity video in The Globe & Mail](#)

June 10 - Warning from eco inspectors: more tundra oil reservoirs could collapse

Photo: More than 20,000 tons of diesel oil spilled from a cracked reservoir tank in Norilsk. Gazprom Neft are among the companies assisting in the clean-up. Photo: Gazprom Neft



On site are another four similar reservoirs, three of which are in operation. They are now a major subject of concern for the environmental inspectors in the area. In a letter addressed to the Norilsk Taymyr Energy Company, the environmental watchdog now warns that the remaining reservoirs could ultimately get the same fate as the first collapsed tank. The reservoirs might together hold more than 60,000 tons of fuel oil. The control authority proposes that the company pumps all the diesel fuel out of the reservoirs and that it carefully studies the technical condition of the facilities. Barents Observer / [Read more](#)

June 10 - 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. Market Screener / [Read more](#)

June 11 - Unprecedented Arctic Diesel Spill Angers Putin and Could Force Green Reform in Russia

Stricter regulation to prevent and liquidate oil spills has been stalled in parliament since 2018, when a draft bill passed its first reading. The law would require companies with fuel storage or pipelines to maintain detailed plans to contain spills and create financial reserves to fix any damage. After the accident, Putin ordered checks of similar tanks around Russia and urged the quick adaptation of new legislation. Insurance Journal / [Read more](#)

INDIA: UPDATES ON THE ASSAM OILWELL BLOWOUT**June 10 - Major Fire at Assam's Baghjan Oil Well Engulfs Nearby Villages**

The massive fire that engulfed Assam's Baghjan oil well two weeks after a blowout in the oil field in Tinsukia district has spread to nearby villages. At least 30 houses have been damaged so far, and locals have reported loss of flora and fauna as well. Two people have also been killed in the massive fire

The Baghjan Oil Well has been blowing out since 27 May. What started as an oil spill and gas leak due to the failure of pressure control systems, has now turned into a massive fire. The fire rapidly spread to nearby villages and set ablaze several houses and other properties.

Close to 30-35 houses near the Baghjan oil field have been destroyed in the fire, which is visible 4-5 km away from the site.

[The Quint / Read more and watch video](#)

June 10 - Concern with Oil Spill at drilling site of Oil India Limited at Baghjan

The oil Blowout, or uncontrolled spillage of oil and gas at the oil drilling site has led to displacement of more than 3000 community members in Baghjan Village and surrounding areas and contaminated much of the Maguri-Motapung wetland, part of the eco-sensitive zone of the Dibru-Saikhowa National Park. The oil spill has had an adverse effect on biodiversity of the two eco-sensitive zone.

The Dibru Saikhowa National park is home to at least 36 species of mammals including feral horses and at least 382 species of birds. Locals found a carcass of a Gangetic dolphin, declared as "endangered" by the International Union for Conservation of Nature, with its skin peeled in the Maguri wetland. The OIL company has contracted experts from Singapore based Alert Disaster Control to control the oil spill. E Pao / [Read more](#)

June 11 - Fire at Assam Oil Well After Gas Leak Threatens Life, Livelihood and Biodiversity

OIL has also approached CSIR- National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI) and Wildlife Institute of India (WII), Dehradun for conducting a detailed impact assessment study. OIL has also served a show-cause notice to Gujarat based Chartered Hired Rig M/s John Energy Pvt Ltd who were carrying out the workover operations in the well. Also, a five-member inquiry committee has been formed to find out if there is any prima facie evidence of human error.

Three members team from the Singapore based firm Alert, who have come in to manage the crisis, expressed that it is now a safe environment for working and they are confident that the well can be capped safely. A statement released by OIL said, "The situation demands arrangement of large quantities of water, installation of high discharge pumps and removal of debris. All the operations as per Alert will take about 4 weeks. Efforts will be made to reduce the timeframe as much as possible." Science / [Read more](#)

June 14 - A video explainer on the oil well blowout that led to a fire in OIL's Baghjan oilfield in Assam

[The Hindu / Read article and watch the video](#)

USA: TRAIN DERAILS IN OKLAHOMA, SPILLING TOXIC CHEMICAL

June 13 - Dozens of residents of a small Oklahoma city were temporarily evacuated early Saturday after a train derailed and spilled a hazardous chemical, officials said. The train went off the tracks at around 2 a.m. in Wynnewood, a community about 65 miles (105 kilometres) south of Oklahoma City, according to BNSF Railway spokeswoman Amy Casas. No one was hurt in the derailment, she said. Two of the 11 derailed cars began leaking sodium hydrosulfide onto railway property, leading the local fire department to order nearby residents to evacuate, Casas said. The chemical compound is toxic, flammable and potentially combustible. The leak has been contained on railroad property and there is no ongoing threat to public safety. USA News / [Read more](#)

CANADA: TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE SHUTS AS CREWS CLEAN SPILL IN ABBOTSFORD, B.C.

June 13 - A crude oil spill from the Trans Mountain pipeline in Abbotsford, B.C., has been contained and crews are working to clean up the site. The company says in a news release that an alarm was received early Saturday and the pipeline was immediately shut down as crews went to investigate. The statement says the pipeline remains closed, an incident command post has been set up to manage the cleanup and local authorities have been informed. It says an investigation into the cause of the spill is underway and there's no estimated volume of what spilled at the time, but that it has been fully contained. Canadian Press / [Read more](#)

ANNOUNCING NEW PRODUCTS & SERVICES

Disseminating news about new technical developments is of value to our community. Corporate Members are invited to contribute articles.

Corporate Members of ISCO can benefit from submitting news about new products and services in the “News from ISCO Members” section of the ISCO Newsletter. This is a free facility for Members. Given that the ISCO Newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in over 60 countries, it’s a cost-effective way to promote your company.

Because the ISCO Newsletter is initially prepared as a Word document it’s essential that text and photographs submitted can be easily copied and pasted into the preliminary draft of the newsletter. Please note that submissions must also comply with ISCO’s editorial policy.

1. The Editor has sole discretion over what is accepted for publication
2. The Editor reserves the right to edit press releases
3. Information in press releases must be factual and free from sales hype and exaggerated claims
4. Subject matter of press releases must be relevant to the interests of the spill response community
5. Space availability for printing press releases is limited and they should be kept short
6. If a press release is too long only part of it will be printed but a link can be included for downloading its entirety
7. Links for downloading additional information or viewing video material can be included
8. Depending on space availability press releases may be included in the next newsletter or held over for later.

HAVE YOU ALLOWED YOUR MEMBERSHIP TO LAPSE?

ISCO welcomes lapsed members who decide to re-join. This way you can preserve your access to all our membership benefits, including delivery of the ISCO Newsletter. To re-join, just click on <http://spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/membership-application>

TIMELY PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEES

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

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

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

ISCO RESPECTS YOUR PRIVACY - UNSOLICITED MAIL

ISCO does not buy or make use of contact lists offered by data vendors. We do not send out unsolicited promotional mail to ISCO newsletter subscribers. We will only send you the ISCO Newsletter if you are a Member or have subscribed or given your contact information to ISCO. If you would like to receive the ISCO Newsletter you can subscribe online at www.spillcontrol.org If at any time you decide you do not want to continue receiving the Newsletter you should click on the “unsubscribe” button at the foot of the covering letter sent out with each issue of the ISCO Newsletter.

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