

## 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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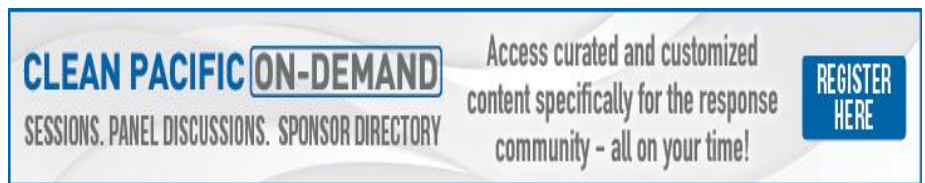
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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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## IMO TO RESET MEETINGS CALENDAR



The International Maritime Organization (IMO) has announced that the original 2020 calendar of meetings has now been rescinded, as work gets under way to reschedule IMO meetings.

The Organization advised in a [Circular Letter](#) that the IMO Council, which is meeting by correspondence for its thirty-second extraordinary session (C/ES.32), is considering the reconstruction of the schedule of meetings for 2020, including the possibilities for virtual meetings. As discussions on the reconstruction of the schedule are still under way, the previously issued programme of meetings for 2020 (and preliminary programme for 2021) should not be used for planning purposes. Information regarding the rescheduling of postponed meetings and scheduling of future meetings will be made available in good time, to allow Member States and other participants to make appropriate arrangements.

All IMO meetings originally planned to be held between late March and July 2020 have been postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic (read more [here](#)).

Resuming physical meetings will depend on guidance from the World Health Organization (WHO) and the UK Government, as well as the situation of IMO Member States. A trial of a platform (KUDO) which provides for simultaneous interpretation into the six official languages of the Organization was conducted during one of a series of informal virtual discussion sessions being held to facilitate discussions during the current extraordinary session of the Council. IMO / [Read more](#)

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Go to [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) and enter your name and email address in the Registration Form (located on the right-hand side of the home page) then click on "subscribe"

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

# ITOPF SERVICES AND CORONAVIRUS AN UPDATE

ITOPF continues to provide its core services and remains ready and prepared.

In light of the easing of restrictions in the UK, ITOPF's office in London is now open from Monday to Thursday with a limited workforce. However, we are not accepting visitors at the current time. As a precautionary measure, the majority of staff continue to work remotely and are operating virtually.

In the event of an incident, our usual emergency notification procedure still applies. Please call +44 (0)20 7566 6998 for immediate attention. (Do not email for an emergency situation.) Your call will be put through to a Duty Officer, who will take details and provide you with technical advice.

The team remains well prepared and fully able to provide technical advice remotely and continues to support incidents and response operations worldwide. We are monitoring the situation with regard to international travel and will work with you to evaluate the options available should an incident arise.

ITOPF staff also remain available for non-emergency technical services. For ongoing cases, damage assessment, claims analysis or advice on contingency planning, advisory work or training we remain at constant readiness to assist in the usual manner.

All staff members are contactable through their usual email addresses (i.e. [namesurname@itopf.org](mailto:namesurname@itopf.org)) and direct dial telephone numbers. For general enquiries please call +44 (0)20 7566 6999 or email [central@itopf.org](mailto:central@itopf.org)

## GI WACAF WEBINAR ON PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE TO MARINE OIL SPILLS

The IOPC Funds was pleased to contribute to a webinar organised by the GI WACAF Project on oil spill preparedness and response on Wednesday, 15 July 2020.

It was the second webinar in a series of events organised by GI WACAF, and the focus was on the international legal framework of oil spill preparedness and response. Head of External Relations and Conference, Thomas Liebert and Claims Manager, Mark Homan, joined presenters from GI WACAF and IMO and delivered presentations, in French and English respectively, on the liability and compensation regime for oil pollution damage from tankers.

The French session attracted over 60 participants and the English session was attended by around 140 participants, including representatives from 16 GI WACAF States as well as others with a general interest in the subject matter. Both sessions led to interesting and interactive question and answer sessions.

The IOPC Funds are looking forward to further cooperating with GI WACAF and IMO in the coming months to provide remote assistance to a number of African States on the correct implementation of the 1992 Fund Convention. <https://iopcfunds.org/>

## MILESTONE DECISION ON OCEAN GOVERNANCE FOR THE WIDER CARIBBEAN

The Steering Committee of the UNDP/GEF CLME+ Project "Catalyzing implementation of the Strategic Action Programme for the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems project, Chaired the Government of Panama, convened virtually from 16-18 June 2020. 105 delegates representing 22 countries and 14 international organisations participated in this meeting, which led to this important milestone decision which lays the foundations for a region-wide "ocean governance" Coordination Mechanism. The rationale for the creation of such a Coordination Mechanism has been outlined under a 10-year (2015-2025) Strategic Action Programme politically endorsed by 26 countries. Such a decision will advance work, commenced almost two decades ago, on enhancing the management of marine and coastal ecosystems, and improving the livelihoods of the communities dependent on them.

Once operational, the Coordination Mechanism is expected to improve collaboration and communication amongst participating countries and regional intergovernmental organisations for the conservation and sustainable use of goods and services provided by the Caribbean and North Brazil Shelf Large Marine Ecosystems. Maintaining healthy marine and coastal resources are critical to enhance the resilience to the impacts of unsustainable use, climate change and natural disasters of these Large Marine Ecosystems as a whole. UNEP / [Read more](#)

## EUROPE: EMSA'S OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSELS PARTICIPATE IN THE OPERATIONAL EXERCISE BREEZE 2020



On 17 July, EMSA participated in the operational exercise Breeze 2020, organised by the Bulgarian Navy in conjunction with the Maritime Administration. The Agency mobilised for the exercise two stand-by oil spill recovery vessels in the Black Sea: Galaxy Eco, based in Varna, Bulgaria, and Amalthia, based in Constanta, Romania. The vessels simulated oil spill recovery under different operational configurations with the sweeping arms, booms and skimmer. During this exercise, the vessel Galaxy Eco demonstrated at-sea dispersant spraying capabilities.

In addition, one lightweight RPAS with a pilot was also provided for the exercise. It streamed a live video signal to the VIP vessel, where the President of Bulgaria was observing the exercise activities. EMSA also mobilised for Breeze 2020 one inflatable storage barge from its Equipment Assistance Service (EAS) stockpile in Ravenna, Italy, that was deployed at sea by the organisers. [www.emsa.europa.eu](http://www.emsa.europa.eu)

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

#### AUSTRALIA: AMSA LAUNCHES CAMPAIGN TARGETING CONTAINER SHIPS

July 22 - The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) is launching a focused inspection campaign targeting cargo securing arrangements on container ships visiting Australian ports.

This inspection campaign is being initiated in response to several serious incidents involving shipping containers lost overboard recently.

Incidents like the losses of 81 containers off Newcastle by the YM Efficiency in 2018, 50 containers off Wollongong by the APL England in May and three containers from the Navios Unite off Cape Leeuwin in June have caused significant environmental damage to Australia's iconic marine and coastal environment. These events affect the livelihoods and safety of commercial fishers and, more broadly, communities across Australia

Incident investigations by AMSA have discovered that the improper stacking and securing of cargo and poor maintenance of securing equipment are likely to have been contributing factors to these incidents. AMSA Acting General Manager of Operations Michael Drake says that vessels visiting Australia must ensure they fully comply with the international standards relating to cargo securing laid out in Chapter VI of the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS) Convention. AMSA / [Read more](#)

#### NIGERIA: REPS REVIEW OIL SPILLS, FG'S CLEAN-UP PROJECTS

July 22 - The House of Representatives has begun investigation of oil spills in the Niger Delta region and clean-up projects embarked upon by the Federal Government in the last five years.

The House' Ad Hoc Committee on Oil Spill Clean-Ups in the Oil Producing States of Nigeria, began its investigative hearing on Tuesday. Chairman of the committee, Amuru Tukur, recalled that on March 10, 2020, the House adopted a motion titled 'Need to Investigate the Clean-Up of Oil Spills in the Oil-Producing States in the Last Five Years.'

According to Tukur, the objective of the investigation is to understand the level of clean-ups in the last five years and the extent of compliance with the Environmental Guidelines and Standards in the Petroleum Industry. "It is our firm belief that at the end of this exercise, this ad hoc committee will come up with recommendations that will further strengthen the existing institutional frameworks and ultimately bring succour to the people of the Niger Delta region," he stated. Punch / [Read more](#)

#### RUSSIA: THE 20,000-TONNE OIL SPILL CONTAMINATING THE ARCTIC – IT COULD TAKE DECADES TO CLEAN UP

July 14 - Diesel oil contains between 2,000 and 4,000 types of hydrocarbon (the naturally occurring building blocks of fossil fuels), which break down differently in the environment. Typically, 50% or more can evaporate within hours and days, harming the environment and causing respiratory problems for people nearby.

Other, more resistant chemicals can bind with algae and microorganisms in the water and sink, creating a toxic sludge on the bed of the river or lake. This gives the impression that the contamination has been removed and is no longer a threat. However, this sludge can persist for months or years. The Conversation / [Read more](#)

### UK: POLLUTION SPECIALISTS JOIN FORCES TO OFFER NATIONAL COVERAGE

July 20 - Two environmental firms which deal with pollution incidents have merged to create a national network. Newmarket-based Seed Environmental Ltd – which began as a business dealing with domestic fuel oil spills – has joined forces with Paulex Environmental, based in Exeter. Both companies specialise in a range of services, including environmental and property incident response, site investigation, remediation and restoration services, environmental claims management and monitoring for insurance companies, commercial and public sector clients and homeowners. East Anglian Daily Times / [Read more](#)

### UK: ENGLAND - FIRM WHICH POLLUTED 40KM OF THE RIVER WITHAM SET TO RIGHT IT'S WRONG

July 20 - A company which accidentally killed more than 100,000 fish when it polluted 40km of the River Witham has been told how to help clean up the mess. Omex Agriculture Ltd, which is based in Topholme, was found to have allowed ammonia to leak into the waterway in March 2018. [The accidental fertiliser leak](#) caused major damage to the river between Bardney and the Wash, severely damaging the river and its ecosystems. The [Environment Agency](#) (EA) says it is thought to be the worst river pollution incident ever recorded in Lincolnshire. Now the company has been told it will have to design new habitats to help the ecosystem recover and will be responsible for maintaining parts of the river. Lincolnshire Live / [Read more](#)

### USA: TAYLOR TRIES TO DODGE \$43M BILL FOR OIL SPILL CLEANUP COSTS

July 20 - Taylor Energy Co. LLC said the U.S. Coast Guard has no right to demand \$43 million from the company to cover costs related to cleaning up an undersea oil spill, which began in 2004 and has not been contained. The company on Friday said that under the Oil Pollution Act, the Coast Guard is supposed to — but didn't — present costs to a "responsible party," in this case Taylor, before submitting the costs to the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund for payment. The costs have already been paid from the OSLTF, and the Coast Guard is seeking repayment. Law 360 / [Read more](#)

### USA: MICHIGAN GOV. WHITMER SAYS ENBRIDGE DODGING RESPONSIBILITY FOR POTENTIAL SPILL

July 23 - Michigan Gov. Gretchen Whitmer criticized Enbridge Inc. on Wednesday for what she described as the company's refusal to make an airtight pledge to pay for damages caused by a potential oil spill from its pipeline beneath a Great Lakes channel. The Democratic governor's administration is pressuring the Canadian pipeline company for an explicit acknowledgment of financial responsibility for any release from its Line 5 into the Straits of Mackinac. Enbridge insists it already made such an assurance under a 2018 agreement with former Republican Gov. Rick Snyder to construct an underground pipeline tunnel beneath the straits. The Globe and Mail / [Read more](#)

### USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

July 24 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[FEMA Administrator Visits the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center](#)

On Friday, July 17, the OR&R Disaster Preparedness Program hosted the FEMA Administrator, Pete Gaynor; FEMA Region IV Administrator, Gracia Szczec; Alabama Emergency Management Agency Director, Brian Hastings; and other important partners, at the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center (DRC) in Mobile, Alabama.

[OR&R Lecture Series: Raising Awareness of Marine Debris](#)

On Thursday, Dr. Caitlin Wessel and Amy Gohres presented problems and solutions to over 250 participants in the NOAA lecture series, YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU DON'T KNOW. They skillfully directed their presentation to the typical audience of the program, coastal response specialists. Raising awareness of marine debris and providing ways to help moves us toward our shared goal of cleaner waters. Learn more about the lecture series and [view the list of upcoming lectures](#).

[Marine Debris Program Participates in Virtual Career Night for High School Students](#)

On July 20, 2020, the Marine Debris Program participated in a virtual career night panel held by the Dauphin Island Sea Lab Science Consortium for their Discovery Hall Programs 2020 High School Marine Science Class.

[Disaster Preparedness Program and University of South Alabama Partner to Develop Fixed Wing Unmanned Aerial Surveillance Aircraft](#)

Disasters often exceed the local, county, and even state capacity to effectively assess impacts and respond to life threatening situations. Aerial surveillance is a critical element to managing an effective response by identifying critical threats and other issues.

## NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

### [Tuesday Technical Talk: Sea Turtles in the Northeast](#)

On TUESDAY TECHNICAL TALKS with the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator this week, Kate Sampson, the Stranding and Entanglement Coordinator for National Marine Fisheries Service Greater Atlantic Regional Fisheries Office perhaps surprised some in the Northeast with the fact that sea turtles ply these northern waters.

### [OR&R Lecture Series: Coral Restoration](#)

Join us next week when we explore NOAA's work to address marine debris after natural disaster events with Dr. Caitlin Wessel and Amy Gohres of the OR&R Marine Debris Program.

### [Texas Hurricane Preparedness](#)

The week of July 13, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) Paige Doelling, along with OR&R's Katie Krushinski and Robb Wright participated in a hurricane preparedness exercise coordinated and planned by the Natural Disaster Operational Workgroup (NDOW).

### [Now Open: FY 2021 Grant Opportunity for Marine Debris Removal Projects](#)

On July 15, the NOAA Marine Debris Program announced the FY 2021 notice of funding opportunity for Marine Debris Removal projects.

### [The United States Becomes a Member of the Global Ghost Gear Initiative](#)

On July 16, the Department of State announced that the United States formally joined the Global Ghost Gear Initiative (link is external) (GGGI) as a member government of this multi-stakeholder partnership, joining 15 other governments and 85 non-government partners.

### [Marine Debris Program Partnership "Fishing for Energy" Announces Grant Awards to Collect and Dispose of Fishing Gear in U.S. Ports](#)

On July 13, a Marine Debris Program (MDP) partner, the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#) (link is external) (NFWF), announced [14 grants](#) (link is external) totaling \$121,700 to prevent the accumulation of derelict fishing gear, or fishing gear that is lost, abandoned, or discarded in the marine environment, in port communities in U.S. coastal waters.

### [Planning for Offshore Response in the Gulf of Mexico](#)

Planning and preparedness for a potential discharge from one of these offshore wells is an important function of the local Area Committees and the Regional Response Teams. Coast Guard District 8 and the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE, a bureau of the Department of Interior) are engaged in a project to evaluate and plan for the Worst Case Discharge (WCD) from existing facilities. Over the past two weeks, NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), Brandi Todd, NOAA SSC Paige Doelling, and NOAA RRO LT Lola Ajilore provided technical support to the Coast Guard units in Louisiana and Texas as they selected scenarios to include in the planning process. Selection of scenarios is a consensus decision between the Federal and State agencies who participate in the local Area Committees. Meetings for Sector Mobile and the States of Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida are planned for next month, SSC Adam Davis will provide technical support.

### [Tuesday Technical Talks with the Scientific Support Coordinator](#)

On July 14 at the TUESDAY TECHNICAL TALKS with the NOAA SSC, responders, planners scientists joined Steve Lehmann, Senior Scientific Support Coordinator in the northeast for another in this weekly series designed to improve response skills and response science awareness.

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

### HARBO LAUNCH NEW BOOM, TRAINING ACADEMY & OPEX OPTION



HARBO announces T6 Multi Use Boom - The 50FT (15M) Reusable Boom weighs only 43 LBS (20KG). T6 total height is 12.5" (32cm) with a 4.5" (12cm) Freeboard and 8" (20cm) Dual Skirt. It is still the lightest reusable boom on the market at under 10oz/foot. The cartridge is smaller than our predecessor making it even easier to carry, store or transport to the most difficult and remote locations.

The best news is that we did not have to sacrifice any oil spill containment capabilities in the design and T6 still has more than one ton tensile strength. See the quick and easy instructions allowing you to deploy with 1-2 people in just a few minutes and then repack in the same short time frame.

HARBO Academy online training - Learn how to deploy/repack in 2-3 minutes. Videos teach anyone how to use HARBO's boom. Especially in COVID times, with no travel for training, watch

these videos and you will be able to deploy a boom 5 minutes after a spill happened. Two people, No ancillary equipment.

We are also offering a cost-effective monthly subscription plan to help your company be prepared for an oil spill at all times, even during the current economic & pandemic crisis. Now, you can get access to HARBO spill equipment either as a Capital expense or an Operating expense. HARBO / [More info](#)

### LATEST NEWS FROM AQUA-GUARD

Aqua-Guard Spill Response, Vancouver Canada has several major developments and deliveries to announce to the Canadian Coast Guard, WCMRC and others.

Aqua-Guard is deemed an essential service and therefore our production and deliveries have fortunately not been hampered by Covid-19. We recently secured and delivered two large contracts to the Canadian Coast Guard and the Western Canada Marine Response Corp (WCMRC). The newest contracts included supply of both RBS TRITON 60 and RBS TRITON 20 skimming systems developed to the ASTM F631-2015 standard that may be of interest to OSRO's around the globe.

The newest RBS TRITON 20 It is very compact, can be transported by one person and has a very high recovery capacity/oil to water efficiency. Attached are links for more information on both systems.

<http://aquaguard.com/news/government-of-canada-strengthens-capacity-to-respond-to-marine-pollution>

<http://aquaguard.com/news/aqua-guard-wins-major-three-year-contract-with-canadian-coast-guard>

Aqua-Guard held an equipment demonstration on July 22nd (with all physical distance safety measures in mind). Exhibited were some new state of the art skimming, power and pumping systems. If you couldn't make the demonstration send us an email [demos@aquaguard.com](mailto:demos@aquaguard.com) and we will send you a link to view the demonstration video.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### SWRI'S SLED-W ALGORITHMS DETECT CRUDE OIL ON WATER

Southwest Research Institute has developed computer-based techniques to accurately detect crude oil on water using inexpensive thermal and visible cameras. This machine learning-based solution can detect and monitor oil leaks before they become major threats to lakes, rivers and coastal areas.

With over 80,000 miles of oil pipelines across the United States, many waterways are at risk for environmental damage from incidents such as the 2010 Kalamazoo Spill, which cost more than \$1.2 billion and three years to clean up. Monitoring waterways near oil pipelines is costly and time consuming with conventional solutions that rely upon satellite remote sensing or laser spectroscopy.

SWRI addresses these challenges with its Smart Leak Detection on Water (SLED-W) system, which uses algorithms to process visual and thermal data from cameras affixed to aircraft, stationary devices or watercraft. Phys Org / [Read more](#)

### REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS (RPAS)



Remotely Piloted Aircraft Systems (RPAS) can be used as aerial platforms for sensors such as optical cameras in the visible and infrared (IR) spectral range for night and day maritime surveillance, IR sensors for oil slick detection and analysis, radar for maritime surveillance, and oil spill detection, and gas sensors ("sniffers") to measure the amount of SO<sub>x</sub> in a plume emitted by a ship to be able to calculate the percentage of sulphur used in the fuel burned by the ship. Additionally all RPAS are equipped with AIS sensors to have a complete picture of vessel movements and distress sensors to be able to react in emergencies. EMSA / [Read more](#)

### USING DRONES TO MITIGATE POLLUTION LOSSES

Oil spill incidents often attract enormous pollution liabilities for responsible parties. One need look no further than the BP Deepwater Horizon incident in 2010 and the associated litigation that is still ongoing today to appreciate the significance of the pollution risk involved with offshore oil production and the transportation of crude oil products. Technology and increased maintenance standards mean that the frequency of oil spills is rarer than ever before. However, when an accident does happen, having drones available for immediate deployment can enable:

- rapid shoreline monitoring, including ordinarily inaccessible shoreline, in order to determine the nature and extent of oiling;
  - examination of the condition and anticipated efficacy of response equipment, such as skimming systems and booms, to determine whether they require maintenance or cleaning;
  - accurate imagery and data to validate trajectory maps to improve response decision-making;
  - the provision of accurate GPS coordinates of the locations of spills;
  - the gathering of footage for government agencies to use for media communications to reassure the public;
  - the tracking of vessels sailing through oil slicks if spills occur in areas of high traffic; and
  - monitoring situations where there is a risk to human life and it is too dangerous for a helicopter to monitor.
- Energy Voice / [Read more](#)

## CASE HISTORY

Editor: It's been quite a while since any of our readers has sent me a case history and, in the hope that it may inspire others to put pen to paper, I am reprinting an old – but interesting – record of a real response to a spill that happened many years ago.

# ANATOMY OF AN OIL SPILL – A CASE HISTORY OF AN ONSHORE HEAVY FUEL OIL SPILL IN THE HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND

Based on an actual spill event, this case history was originally published in the Oil Spill Bulletin and Environmental Review (OSBER), a monthly journal published by Alba International Ltd., based in Aberdeen, Scotland. It was reprinted in the ISCO Newsletter during June 2012. One ISCO member, Brian O'Connor, of the Canberra and Regions Oil Industry Response Group in Australia found the article so useful that he had it reprinted as a booklet for training purposes.

The response action was a complete success, preventing the pollution of one of Scotland's greatest fishing rivers. A key feature of the response was the construction of a large interceptor dam which provided a 100% effective failsafe barrier for an extended time during which heavily overgrown watercourses were cleaned, removing all traces of fuel and oiled vegetation.

Another interesting point was a successful co-operation between the experienced Alba team and several employees of the affected industrial premises during an extended and labour intensive clean-up operation. When the clean-up operations were completed, a splendid Ceilidh (celebration) was held at the local inn. With fiddle and accordion music everyone had a great time and many drams were consumed. This was a spill response looked back on with good memories for everyone involved.

### THE STORY AS IT HAPPENED - CONCLUDING PART

The story so far – A leak of heavy oil from an industrial plant in the Scottish Highlands has resulted in major pollution of a local burn, a larger stream and some minor pollution of the river into which they flow. A pollution response company has been called out, and the CONTAINMENT phase has been completed. The RECOVERY and CLEAN-UP work is continuing.

*This sketch shows a "mini" interceptor dam that can be built to catch and retain oil entering a watercourse via a water drain. The advantage is that an oily drain can be decontaminated (flushing or cleaning with a high pressure retrojet) without risk of oil entering the watercourse.*

#### Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday

The washing down of the stream continues and the bank cleaning squad is working its way down from the factory. Most of the river cleaning team carry on where they left off, while three people head downstream to tackle the isolated patches of oil below the village.

The vacuum tanker returns and commences by emptying the portable holding tank at the underpass dam. Open top barrels used for holding recovered oil at the "mini" interceptor where the factory drainage system exits to the small burn also have to be emptied.

#### Thursday evening

Clean-up work on the main river has been completed. Inspections carried out at an earlier stage found no other traces of oiling downstream of the parts that have been cleaned. It is apparent that the decision to build a failsafe interceptor dam in the stream just before it flows into the river was correct. The amount of oil that entered the main river was very small.

The washing-down squad has almost reached the dam, and the clean-up team is almost 2/3 of the way down the stream. Skimming operations at the underpass dam have been continuing throughout.

#### Friday evening

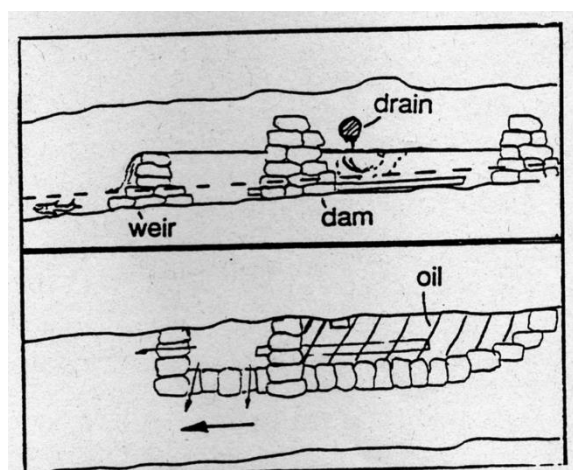
With both the washing-down and bank cleaning completed, the main phase of the response has been completed. All oiled vegetation has been removed for disposal and now there are no signs that an oil spill has occurred apart from some stains on rocks and tree roots. Over time, natural biodegradation will take care of this problem.

The interceptor dams will be left in place for a further three weeks to collect any final traces of oil. They will be inspected daily by factory personnel and weekly by a representative of the response contractor.

For security reasons, the skimmer, pump, hoses and portable tank are recovered and the recovery site is tidied.

#### Three weeks later

No problems have been found during inspections and, over the period, only a small amount of oil has accumulated at the dams.



## CASE HISTORY (CONTINUED)

The contractor's team returns with a pick-up truck and necessary equipment. A final oil skimming operation is carried out, oily twigs and leaves behind the dam are collected and bagged for disposal. The large dam is dismantled and sandbags emptied. Equipment and dam building materials are loaded on the truck. A final site tidy-up is carried out.

There may still be pockets of oil in the factory drainage system and, for this reason, it was decided to leave the "mini" interceptor in place until such time drains have been cleaned and the possibility of any further oil seepage can be discounted.

Together with the factory manager the response contractor's team leader makes a final inspection to ensure that all work has been carried out to the client's complete satisfaction.

*Throughout the duration of the work phase the team leader has been keeping the factory manager regularly informed on progress and forward plans. The client has also been kept informed on costs being incurred.*

## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

### SUSTAINABLE SORBENT PRODUCTS TO PROTECT WATERWAYS



Since 2014 when AquaFlex Holdings, LLC first came to Ohmsett to test their reusable Open-Cell foam sorbent for oil spill recovery, they have been eagerly working to perfect their technology. The AquaFlex products are built on its founder Scott Smith's technology for the detection and removal of oil from water. "AquaFlex technology is based on an Open-Cell foam membrane that traps water contaminants that may otherwise remain undetected," says Smith. "Like a sponge, the flexible elastomeric foam acts like a capillary network similar to the alveoli of the human lungs; the Open-Cell foam absorbs contamination and exhales clear water."

Armed with the successful testing results from 2014 and continued development of the technology, AquaFlex entered into a partnership with the multinational company, Palziv, in 2017 for the development of continuous Open-Cell roll foams. Their efforts came to realization in 2019 with the commercialization of AquaPal.

In August 2019, these new Open-Cell foam rolls and AquaFlex sorbents were brought to Ohmsett for independent testing using the recently developed field-scale sorbent test protocol. During the study, 11 Open Cell foam sorbents were compared to each other, and to commercially available polypropylene and polyurethane sorbents representative of industry standard products. "We wanted to conduct a full test of all Open-Cell products in order to compare the new roll-based Open-Cell foam sorbents," said Smith.

As a part of the evaluation, a total of 27 field tests were performed, in addition to 46 tests using the ASTM F726 Standard Test Method for Sorbent Performance of Adsorbents for use on Crude Oil and Related Spills. The testing method included a number of variables; sorbent types, oil viscosity, as well as static and mixing energy scenarios. The four test oils used for the study were light, medium, heavy, and weathered.

According to Smith, using Ohmsett as a third party, independent testing facility is important to verify the performance of sorbents under the current ASTM F 726. "In addition to ASTM F726, the development of an additional industry standard test method at Ohmsett better reflects the real-world conditions, such as oil mixed with water, moving water, wind, rough seas, etc. during oil spills."

Measurements collected during the tests included: Sorbent Maximum Oil Capacity Tests, Sorbent Water Uptake Tests with Oil, Buoyancy, and Manual Oil Recovery. Also noted during testing was the ability to recover oil from a saturated sample using a manual roller to squeeze the sorbent samples to recover and measure a portion of the oil adsorbed during the saturation tests.

"With the newly proposed standards developed by Ohmsett, the tests have helped us optimize our Open-Cell foams for both efficiency and sustainability. Additionally, under the ASTM F726 various formulations of our Open-Cell foam sorbents were able to absorb 22-35 times their weight in oil," Smith said. "Clearly, the independent testing conducted by Ohmsett has helped us to not only better serve the market and our customers; but better protect and preserve the waterways and the environment with our commitment to sustainability."

*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>*



## WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING

### USA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE | TEEEX.ORG - TEXAS A&M ENGINEERING

OIL320 – Oil Spill Response Workshop #2-Shoreline types, protection, cleanup and restoration. Students in this live **Zoom course** gained an understanding of the types of shorelines and how each can be differently affected by a **spill** in a marine environment. We discussed how each shoreline is rated in the Environmental Sensitive Index and which one should have priority during a release. For info on future availability of courses - <https://teex.org/class/OIL320/>

### USA: ON DEMAND WEBINAR - IS YOUR SPILL PREVENTION, CONTROL, AND COUNTERMEASURE PLAN EPA COMPLIANT?

Do you understand the EPA's regulations for Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure (SPCC)? Is your facility required to have an SPCC plan? Oil spills present real public health and environmental concerns. In response to these concerns, the EPA created rules around SPCC. The EPA's SPCC rules are meant to prevent oil discharge from entering navigable waters and/or adjoining shorelines. <https://www.triumvirate.com/webinar-on-demand-is-your-spill-prevention-control-and-countermeasure-plan-epa-compliant>

### EUROPE: CHANGES TO EU SAFETY DATA SHEET (SDS) REQUIREMENTS

Free webinars from Chemical Watch - Changes to EU Safety Data Sheet (SDS) Requirements - **29 July, 9:00**

Under the EU's REACH Regulation, hazardous chemicals manufactured in, or imported into, the EU must be accompanied by an SDS. Annex II to the Regulation describes how SDSs – which are used to provide detailed information on chemical substances and mixtures – should be compiled. Advances in scientific and technical knowledge about substances have led to many changes and adaptations to existing regulatory instruments. This webinar is intended to provide a detailed overview of these changes and how they will affect the requirements set out in the compilation of SDSs. <https://events.chemicalwatch.com/123463/changes-to-eu-safety-data-sheet-sds-requirements>

## 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.

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### OIL SPILL INDIA IS BEING POSTPONED UNTIL SECOND HALF OF 2021

Following the global outbreak of COVID-19, the Ministry of Home Affairs, the Ministry of Health Family Welfare, Government of India have issued numerous advisories over the last four months covering Travel Restrictions and Social Distancing Measures - including the postponement of mass gatherings - until the outbreak is contained.

Acting in accordance with these public health guidelines and advisories issued by The World Health Organisation and governments in most nations, we have now made the decision to postpone Oil Spill India, originally due to stage on 23-24 September 2020, until second half of 2021, with new dates to be confirmed, subject to formal venue confirmation.

The decision follows numerous consultation with our Advisory Committee, Partners and Stakeholders including Oil Producers, Refinery Operators, Shipping & Response Organisations to mitigate any health risks and ensure successful delivery of the event maximising ROI for our partners, exhibitors and ensuring excellent content and experiences for our attendees. Our venue remains unchanged.

The pandemic has been impacting everyone from our families to our businesses. As the situation continues to affect our world, we wanted to reach out to you personally. A seismic event like this reminds us that we must all work together to overcome the complex challenges now before us. Our team are here for you, ready to support you in any way we can during this period and ensuring we keep you updated and informed.

As we continue to navigate through these unprecedented and challenging times together, our primary responsibility is to exercise caution in all we do. As professionals and responsible citizens, we are expected to act with a duty of care, minimising the chances of infection and keeping others safe. The health and safety of all our partners, customers & attendees thus remains our first priority

and that primarily informs the decision we have made.

To reiterate, we strongly believe that in times of uncertainty it is best to look forward and keep moving as a community. Thank you for your continued support. Please stay safe and let's get through this together. <http://www.oilspillindia.org/>

### POSTPONEMENT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON ENHANCING OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE ADRIATIC AND MEDITERRANEAN REGIONS

MOIG, ATRAC and JANAF have made the decision to postpone the regional workshop on "Enhancing Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Adriatic and Mediterranean Regions"; scheduled to be held from 13 to 15 October 2020; in Opatija-Croatia over the next year; due to event size restrictions and the current travel conditions. More details on the event will be provided in due time. <http://www.medoilgroup.org/index.php/news>

### SALVAGE & WRECK REMOVAL CONFERENCE – LONDON, 2 - 3 December 2020

We are hopeful that the salvage community will be able to come together in London this December and we are thrilled to release the preliminary [agenda](#) for the annual [Salvage and Wreck Removal](#) conference – the world's largest salvage industry gathering for salvors, insurers, lawyers and maritime administrations.

### NEW ZEALAND: ECOFORUM 2022 E-CONFERENCE PROGRAMME RELEASED

In 2020, the New Zealand Land & Groundwater and EcoForum Conference will come together in one exciting event duo that will garner the power of global perspectives to help solve our local problems.

[https://landandgroundwater.com/media/eConference\\_program.pdf](https://landandgroundwater.com/media/eConference_program.pdf)

### USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – OCTOBER 20-22

Only 2 Weeks Left Until Early Bird Discounts Expire. [CLEAN GULF](#) is one of the few in-person events happening this year, and while we're looking forward to getting together this Fall to celebrate our 30th anniversary, we know it will be different. We're working with the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center and our host hotels to ensure your health and safety. You can view the safety and hygiene protocols in place [here](#). We're also working to add a virtual component should you be unable to attend the in-person event.

### USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – AUGUST 3-5

The 4th Annual [CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference](#) is scheduled for August 3-5 at the JW Marriott in Indianapolis, IN. The topics to be covered include hazardous materials management, spill prevention & response, waste management and environmental considerations, which focus largely on the Mid-West region. A few session highlights include:

**Case Studies in Inland Response** - This session will share experiences and lessons learned from three separate incidents including a fire at a popular distillery, a fish-kill in a scenic river and a derailment.

**Back to the Future – Oil Spill Response Technology** - This session will provide a glimpse of the future of oil spill response and some of the latest technologies presented by industry experts.

**After the Spill...Handling the Waste** - During the recent public announcement of the Generator Improvement Rule, the EPA stated perhaps as much as 30% of the waste in the United States is mis-classified. Every response is different producing various types of wastes. Determining the proper waste classification of materials collected during a spill response is the last thing on a responder's mind, but it is extremely important. In this session, we will walk through the process of how to make a proper waste determination based on federal and state regulations

**Just Added to the [CLEAN WATERWAYS Program: 2020 Industry Challenges Round Table – COVID and Beyond](#)** - Listen in as this group of experts informally discuss myriad challenges currently being faced by this industry, least of which is COVID 19. Time permitting questions will be taken from the audience. [Registration and more information](#)

Can't attend the in-person event? This Round Table Session, along with all other sessions, will be available in our virtual event - CLEAN WATERWAYS Replay. In addition to the sessions recorded during the in-person conference, we'll have 3 bonus sessions and a directory of exhibitors and sponsors. Content will be released in the digital portal starting the week of August 17th.

Sign up for CLEAN WATERWAYS Replay [here](#).

## 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           |
|-----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|
| <b>For more information click on Title of Event</b> |                  |                                                                                                                                                            |                    |
| ONLINE                                              | July 27-31       | <a href="#">SPE International Conference and Exhibition on HSE &amp; Sustainability</a>                                                                    | Internet           |
| USA                                                 | August 3-5       | <a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>                                                                                                | Indianapolis, IN.  |
| USA                                                 | August 17-20     | <a href="#">Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR)</a>                                                                                                        | Seattle/Online TBA |
| ESTONIA                                             | August 25-27     | <a href="#">BALEX DELTA 2020 pollution response exercise</a>                                                                                               | Talinn             |
| USA                                                 | Sept. 8-11       | <a href="#">Oil Spill Response Strategies &amp; Tactics Training</a>                                                                                       | Leonardo, NJ       |
| ONLINE                                              | Sept. 15-17      | <a href="#">Ecoforum Conference &amp; Exhibition (Virtual)</a>                                                                                             | Internet           |
| INDIA                                               | <b>POSTPONED</b> | <a href="#">Oil Spill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>                                                                                                      | Mumbai             |
| ICELAND                                             | Sept. 28-30      | <a href="#">International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region</a>                                                                    | Reykjavik          |
| MALTA                                               | October 6-7      | <a href="#">Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships</a> | Valetta            |
| UK                                                  | October 12-13    | <a href="#">EI Hazardous Area Classification</a>                                                                                                           | London             |
| UK                                                  | October 19-23    | <a href="#">IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee</a>                                                                                                | London             |
| USA                                                 | October 20-22    | <a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>                                                                                                     | San Antonio, TX    |
| ONLINE                                              | October 27-29    | <a href="#">Arctic Shipping Forum North America</a>                                                                                                        | Internet           |
| MONACO                                              | October 27-29    | <a href="#">Regional Workshop to enhance Marine Oil and HNS regional cooperation in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020)</a>                                  | Monaco             |
| UK                                                  | November 2 -     | <a href="#">Meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies</a>                                                                                               | London             |
| NETHERLANDS                                         | November 4-5     | <a href="#">European Environmental Ports Conference 2020</a>                                                                                               | Rotterdam          |
| UK                                                  | December 2-3     | <a href="#">Salvage &amp; Wreck Removal Conference</a>                                                                                                     | London             |
| BAHREIN                                             | December 7-8     | <a href="#">EI Middle East HSE Forum</a>                                                                                                                   | Bahrein            |
| COUNTRY                                             | 2021             | TITLE OF EVENT                                                                                                                                             | LOCATION           |
| FRANCE                                              | March 23         | <a href="#">CEDRE Information Day on Containers</a>                                                                                                        | Paris              |
| USA                                                 | May 10-13        | <a href="#">International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021)</a>                                                                                             | New Orleans, LA    |
| MALTA                                               | May 25-27        | <a href="#">Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)</a>       | Valetta            |
| CANADA                                              | June 8-10        | <a href="#">43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response</a>                                                                    | Edmonton, Alberta  |
| USA                                                 | June 28-30       | <a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>                                                                                                  | Seattle, WA        |
| USA                                                 | September 7-10   | <a href="#">Hazmat Emergency Response Workshop</a>                                                                                                         | Sacramento, CA     |
| COUNTRY                                             | 2022             | TITLE OF EVENT                                                                                                                                             | LOCATION           |
| NETHERLANDS                                         | Details TBA      | <a href="#">Interspill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>                                                                                                     | 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](#)

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

April 2020

Current issue

December 2019

Summer 2020

June 2020

On request email

May 2020

Publication paused

Current issue

Current issue

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

|                                                   |                                                                               |                  |
|---------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------|
| <a href="#">GEF Newsletter</a>                    | Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility                       | Subscription     |
| <a href="#">GESAMP</a>                            | Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection | Latest news      |
| <a href="#">GISEA Quarterly Newsletter</a>        | News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia                               | Q2 2020          |
| <a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>                 | News from the International Maritime Organization                             | Summer 2020      |
| <a href="#">IMO Publishing Newsletter</a>         | New and forthcoming IMO publications                                          | June-July 2020   |
| <a href="#">ITOPF Ocean Orbit</a>                 | News magazine from ITOPF with interesting spill response articles             | October 2019     |
| <a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>              | Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management                           | Q2 2020 issue    |
| <a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>       | Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community           | March–April 2020 |
| <a href="#">MEDNEWS</a>                           | News from UNEP Mediterranean Action Programme                                 | 02 / 2020        |
| <a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>                   | News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group                                | January 2020     |
| <a href="#">NCEC Newsletter</a>                   | News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre                              | March 2020       |
| <a href="#">Nautical Institute News</a>           | News from the Nautical Institute                                              | Jan.–Feb. 2020   |
| <a href="#">Navigate Response</a>                 | Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine                    | June 2020        |
| <a href="#">NOAA OR&amp;R</a>                     | Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration          | Latest issue     |
| <a href="#">Oceanbuzz</a>                         | Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry                       | Current issue    |
| <a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>                  | News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum                        | May 2020         |
| <a href="#">OHMSETT Gazette</a>                   | Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly        | Spring 2020      |
| <a href="#">OSPAR Newsletter</a>                  | Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources                   | End of year 2019 |
| <a href="#">PEMSEA Newsletter</a>                 | Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas                   | March 2020       |
| <a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>       | News for pollution prevention & control professionals                         | Current issue    |
| <a href="#">Safe Seas, Clean Seas</a>             | Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand                                | July 2018 issue  |
| <a href="#">Salvage World</a>                     | Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union                       | Current issue    |
| <a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>   | Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm                  | Current issue    |
| <a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a> | News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination                          | June 1-15, 2020  |
| <a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>               | Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater                              | July 1, 2020     |
| <a href="#">WestMOPoCo</a>                        | 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

### RUSSIA: A RIVER HAS TURNED ORANGE AFTER ACID LEAKED INTO IT FROM NEARBY ABANDONED MINES

July 19 - A river in Russia has turned bright orange after a poisonous acid leak took place from old abandoned copper mines. An Instagram travel blogger, who goes by the name Zamkad\_Life, posted a drone footage of the bright-orange landscape near a disused copper-sulphide mine that lies close the village of Lyovikha in the Urals. Ever since the video was uploaded, it has gone viral. After the video went viral, Russian prosecutors said that they are conducting an inspection of a facility that is supposed to treat acid runoff from an abandoned Urals mine. Scoopwhoop / [Read more and watch video](#)

### LIBERIA: ECONOMIC HARDSHIP COMPEL DOZENS TO DANGEROUSLY RUSH FOR SPILL FUEL OIL IN MESURADO RIVER



July 20 - What seems to be a serious economic hardship for Liberians show its face early at 7am today, July 20, 2020, in the Via Town Community where a scene of huge crowd with several gallon of Jerry can containers gathered in their bid to hunt for spilled of fuel oil on the bank of the Mesurado River. Our reporter who visited the scene saw dozens of women, children and the older man using canoes to dangerously fetch the spilled fuel oil floating over the river with gallons, while others who could not take hold of canoes also jumped in the water to collect the fuel oil over the water. GNN Liberia / [Read more](#)

**July 24 - Africa Environmental Watch & Liberia Emergency And Disaster Relief Fund – Liberia Fuel Spill** - The attention of Africa Environmental Watch and the Liberia Emergency And Disaster Relief Fund has been drawn to the massive oil spill in the thousands of gallons accidentally discharged from the Liberia Petroleum Refinery (LPRC) storage tank into the Mesurado River on July 19, 2020 in the vicinity of the Vai Town Community and other nearby environs. Consequently, the toxic oil appeared on the riverbanks, and residents in the community, including pregnant women and children began to fetch the toxic oil perhaps for personal usage. From a professional point of view, we are concerned because the toxic oil spill: poses potential public health danger to the residents of the communities;

## INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

threatens aquatic population; affects the function of the natural microbial communities; contaminates surface and underground water, biodiversity, livestock, farm crops and impacts the entire ecosystem. GNN Liberia / [Read more](#)

### ICELAND: INVESTIGATION INTO CONTINUED OIL LEAKAGE FROM WW2 WRECK IN SEYÐISFJÖRÐUR

July 21 - The Coast Guard is investigating a new oil spill from a wrecked British WW2 tanker in Seyðisfjörður in east Iceland just two months after a major project to stop leakage was completed.

As reported in May, the Coast Guard oversaw an initiative to fill the hull of the El Grillo wreck with concrete. But locals have reported seeing oil on the surface of the fjord in recent weeks, prompting a fresh investigation. El Grillo has been leaking oil sporadically into Seyðisfjörður for over 75 years, causing considerable harm to local wildlife. The British tanker was sunk in 1944 when it was attacked by German fighter planes. Reykjavik Grapevine / [Read more](#)

### SYRIA: OIL SPILLS POLLUTE NORTHEAST CREEKS



*Photo: Youths ride donkeys near a US military vehicle crossing a stream polluted by an oil spill near the village of Sukayriyah, in the countryside south of Rmeilan. Credit: AFP*

July 23 - In his village near a northeast Syria oil facility, Abdulkarim Matar said he has watched his horses die because of oil spills that have polluted waterways in the resource-rich region. The landowner said winter floods caused oil waste from a nearby storage facility to spill over onto his land. "I have lost two Arabian horses because of the river water", he added, explaining they had drunk water contaminated by oil. Oil pollution in Syria has been a growing concern since the 2011 onset of a civil war that has taken a toll on oil infrastructure and seen rival powers compete over control of key hydrocarbon fields. Deccan Herald / [Read more](#)

### FRANCE: CHEMICAL LEAK FROM PVC PLANT HITS SOUTHERN COAST

July 24 - Bathers are being warned to avoid a stretch of coast near the Mediterranean port city of Marseille in southern France after an iron chloride leak from a PVC plant as emergency services assess the damage.

A spokesman for Kem One, whose plastic materials are used in cars and medical equipment, confirmed the leak at the plant in Martigues, an industrial enclave wedged between natural parks and beaches.

Local maritime authorities said they were investigating the extent of the spill, which took place early on Thursday, and had sealed off the area to boats. Reuters / [Read more](#)

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