

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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

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TIME RUNNING OUT TO PREVENT CATASTROPHIC SPILL FROM ABANDONED OIL TANKER IN YEMEN



Editor: No apologies for once again highlighting the ongoing threat of the entirely preventable oil spill that would represent the most serious oil spill event since Deepwater Horizon. ISCO urges all concerned parties to co-operate and take preventative action. This excerpt from an article in Yemen Online underlines the importance of finding a solution and suggests a potential approach.

“Negotiations between parties remain in a stalemate, and with every passing day we are a day closer to catastrophe.

The Houthis may be skeptical about negotiating with U.N. officials, as the U.N. and Coalition support the government in Aden, the Houthis' main adversary. If this is the

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

case, then an independent, non-governmental intermediary should be appointed to seek resolution to the dispute. If what we are doing isn't working, then we need to try something different. Clearly, what the U.N. has been doing to resolve this is not working, and it is time to admit such and try another approach.

The Houthis hold the cards here, and they need to be heard and respected. An independent intermediary could help clarify Houthi demands, and sort out a reasonable middle ground with the opposing Coalition. We have proposed this very approach for over a year, but the U.N. and governments of the region remain unresponsive to the suggestion.

As efforts continue to arrange the safe offloading of the SAFER, governments in the region need to prepare for the worst – a full discharge of the SAFER's million barrels of oil. This would require thousands of trained response personnel (Deepwater Horizon used 48,000 personnel, Exxon Valdez used 11,000), hundreds of miles of oil containment and sorbent booms, thousands of vessels, hundreds of oil skimmers, and dozens of oil transfer barges, all costing billions of dollars. The Deepwater Horizon response cost \$14 billion, Exxon Valdez cost \$2 billion, both took over 3 years, and both were ineffective. It is unclear who would foot the bill for a SAFER spill. And given the high COVID infection rate in the region, it is hard to imagine how such a massive spill response could be mounted.

The bottom line here is this: it would be reckless and unacceptable for the opposing parties to remain stuck in rigid positions on the SAFER, exposing this war torn region to yet another grave, and avoidable, calamity. Both the Coalition and Houthis will need to make concessions. A deal to offload the oil may be as simple as agreeing to a substantial aid package for Yemen's people, including health care, education, and economic opportunity. If so, let's make that deal. The Houthis would enhance their

cause and international reputation immeasurably if they would take such a deal, and allow the SAFER to be offloaded. There is always a deal to be made, and we urgently need to find a deal here to offload this derelict tanker before it spills its toxic cargo into the Red Sea". [Read the complete text of this article.](#)

PEMSEA FORGES NEW PARTNERSHIPS WITH NIVA, COMI

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) capped off the first half of the year 2020 by welcoming two new partners to join its work in implementing the shared regional marine strategy called the 'Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA).'

The Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) joins PEMSEA as its 23rd Non-Country Partner following the approval of NIVA's application as PEMSEA non country partner during the PEMSEA Council Partnership Meeting this July.

NIVA is Norway's leading institute for fundamental and applied research on marine and freshwater. The institute's research comprises a wide array of environmental, climatic and resource-related fields. Its world-class expertise is multidisciplinary and covers a broad scientific scope—combining research, monitoring, evaluation, problem-solving and advisory services at the international, national and local levels.

The Centre for Marine Environmental Research and Innovative Technology (MERIT), was designated as the first PEMSEA RCOE, focusing on Marine Pollution. The second RCOE is the Marine Science Institute of the University of the Philippines (UP-MSI), focusing on Coral Reef Research and Marine Protected Areas. In 2019, the Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES) was chosen as the third RCOE, focusing on Climate Change Adaptation and Disaster Risk Reduction.

This year, the East Asian Seas Partnership Council approved the application of the Coastal and Ocean Management Institute (COMI) of Xiamen University as an RCOE in Sustainable Coastal Development. COMI integrates both natural and social science and promotes interdisciplinary research on sustainable coastal and ocean management and governance. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

UNEP/MAP SECRETARIAT JOINS EU4OCEAN PLATFORM AS A FOUNDING MEMBER

The [European Ocean Coalition](#) (EU4Ocean) launched on 8 June 2020 (World Oceans Day). The initiative connects organizations, projects and people that contribute to ocean literacy and to the sustainable management of the ocean. Supported by the European Commission, the initiative, which was launched on World Ocean Day, aims at boosting public awareness and advocacy for a healthy ocean across the European Union.

The Mediterranean Sea is a part of the global ocean that humanity depends on for the air we breathe, the food we eat and

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

countless other ecosystem services. As the largest of the semi-enclosed seas in the European space, *Mare Nostrum* hugs the southern border of the European Union—one of the 22 Contracting parties to the [Barcelona Convention](#).

The UNEP/MAP—Barcelona Convention Secretariat is a founding member of the [EU4Ocean Platform](#) : a hub for organizations and initiatives to connect, collaborate and mobilize efforts on ocean literacy. By joining the platform, members can share ideas, build partnerships and collaborate to ensure a more coordinated approach to ocean literary activities in Europe. UNEP/MAP / [Read more](#)

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

INDIA: TN GOVERNMENT BEGINS DEPLOYMENT OF ARTIFICIAL REEFS ALONG CHENNAI COAST TO SUPPORT MARINE LIFE



Photo: Fisheries minister D Jayakumar flagged off and personally supervised the deployment of 200 units. (Photo | Ashwin Prasath, EPS)

August 5 - The Tamil Nadu government on Wednesday began a major exercise to deploy artificial reefs along the Chennai coast. A total of 30 sites have been chosen in Chennai, Kancheepuram, Tiruvallur and Chengalpattu districts for the purpose.

Fisheries minister D Jayakumar flagged off and personally supervised the deployment of 200 units of artificial reefs over three nautical miles off the Urur Kuppam fishing village in Besant Nagar. New Indian Express / [Read more](#)

KOREA: MARINE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY, WITH KOMSA, LEADS THE WAY IN PROMOTING SAFETY CULTURE

July 29 - The Korea Maritime Environment Agency (KOEM, Chairman Park Seung-ki) announced on 29 July that it will conduct joint inspections and campaigns in preparation for marine safety accidents in the summer for the internalization and proliferation of safety culture in eight waters across the country, including Busan Port, along with the Korea Maritime Traffic Safety Authority (KOMSA, Chairman Lee Seung-seung). KOEM / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: Ogoni CLEAN-UP: HYPREP COMPLETES REMEDIATION OF FIVE SITES

August 6 - The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) set up by the federal government to implement the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on the clean-up of Ogoniland in Rivers State has completed the remediation of five impacted sites.

The Project Coordinator of HYPREP, Dr. Marvin Dekil, who addressed journalists in Port Harcourt yesterday to mark the 9th anniversary of the submission of the UNEP report on Ogoniland to the federal government, said the project had overcome its teething problems and has fully embarked on the remediation of impacted sites. This Day Live / [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: MOSCOW FINALLY ADDRESSING NUCLEAR DUMPING IN ARCTIC THAT IT CHARGED NIKITIN WITH TREASON FOR REVEALING – OPED

August 8 - During the last 30 years of Soviet power, Moscow dumped some 18,000 radioactive items in the Arctic Ocean. When retired Soviet naval captain Aleksandr Nikitin revealed that in a report for the Bellona environmental organization in 1996, he was charged with treason, although he was eventually acquitted by the Russian Supreme Court.

Now, nearly 25 years later, Rosatom has announced that over the next eight years, it will remove two entire submarines and four reactor units from the Arctic floor but says the other radioactive items pose little or no risk and will be left in place Eurasia Review / [Read more](#)

UK: OIL STORAGE REGULATIONS FOR BUSINESSES - UPDATED

August 6 - How to store oil, design standards for tanks and containers, where to locate and how to protect them, and capacity of bunds and drip trays.

You could be fined or prosecuted if you do not follow the requirements in this guide. The Environment Agency can also serve an anti-pollution works notice to make you bring your oil store up to legal standards. UK Government / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

July 31 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[American Shad Return to Habitat Inaccessible for Centuries](#)

Tuesday, August 28, was a historic day in Wilmington Delaware on the Brandywine River. American Shad were documented using a portion of the Delaware River for juvenile production that hasn't been available for centuries.

[Marine Debris Program Participates in Department of Energy Coordination Call](#)

On July 22, 2020, Nancy Wallace, Director of the Marine Debris Program (MDP), joined the Department of Energy (DOE) Plastics Upcycling coordination call to present on the activities of the MDP.

[OR&R Lecture Series: Tri-State Bird Rescue and Research Oil Programs Manager, Michelle Knapp](#)

One of the saddest and most rewarding jobs at a major environmental emergency response is that of wildlife rescue, recovery, and rehabilitation. Animals in dire condition are captured, evaluated, treated, rehabilitated and, with luck, released back into the wild.

[Marine Debris Program Project Approved by Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum](#)

On July 27, the secretariat of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum approved a project submitted jointly by the Marine Debris Program (MDP) and Department of State Office of Ocean and Polar Affairs to help enable governments, researchers, and others to more effectively monitor marine debris.

[Washington Alliance for Better Schools' 2020 ACCESS STEM Virtual Program](#)

NOAA hosted 44 educators during the 2020 [ACCESS STEM\(link is external\)](#) program, run by the [Washington Alliance for Better Schools \(WABS\)\(link is external\)](#), WABS works with 12 school districts around Puget Sound and recruits teachers to learn about local industries/organizations. These teachers then create science/technology units based on the information they learned during their placements.

[Marine Debris Program Participates in National Ocean Service / Ocean Discovery Institute Career Panel](#)

On July 21, the Marine Debris Program (MDP) participated in a National Ocean Service (NOS) career panel for the staff, AmeriCorps Fellows, and other volunteers at the Ocean Discovery Institute (ODI).

USA: CALIFORNIA - CDFW PROPOSES NEW REGULATIONS FOR OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT TEAM CERTIFICATION WITH A SEPTEMBER 14 COMMENT DEADLINE

August 4 - Last week, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (“CDFW”) Office of Spill Prevention and Response (“OSPR”) issued notice that it proposes to add ten new regulations (sections 830.1 through 830.11 to Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations) to implement statutory changes resulting from Assembly Bill (“AB”) 1197. AB 1197 establishes criteria and a process for the certification of oil spill management teams.

The proposed new regulations will build on the current oil spill response organization ratings requirements and will generally:

Clarify what a “team” is comprised of;

Establish criteria for SMTs to become certified based on the SMT’s capacity to respond to and manage spills effectively;

Establish criteria for SMTs to successfully accomplish objectives of announced and unannounced exercises;

Establish timeframes for designated personnel to arrive on-scene;

Establish training requirements;

Provide for an application process to commence the certification process. J D Supra / [Read more](#)

USA: STATEMENT FROM CSB CHAIRMAN KATHERINE LEMOS ON MASSIVE EXPLOSION AND FIRE IN BEIRUT

August 8 - As Chairman of the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB), an independent federal agency that investigates major chemical incidents in the United States, I would like to extend my deepest condolences to all those impacted by the devastating incident in Lebanon. Although there are many details about this week’s incident we do not yet know, it is imperative that we revisit what we have learned about the storage and handling of ammonium nitrate since the deadly 2013 incident in West.

The fire and explosion in West, Texas killed 15 people, injured more than 260 others, and caused widespread community damage. The CSB’s investigation determined that the fire and explosion was caused by inadequate storage and handling of ammonium nitrate. As it is becoming clear, this is the same hazardous chemical that was involved in the explosion in Beirut. US CSB / [Read more](#)

THE ISCO NEWSLETTER WELCOMES NEW READERS

During the months of June and July 2020 the recipients of the Newsletter were joined by 100 new readers.

CORRESPONDENCE

USA: FROM THE BUREAU OF SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement has published a request for white papers on beta.sam.gov. If you feel appropriate, please include an announcement in your next ISCO newsletter. Below is a synopsis of the announcement, and I have also attached the full announcement for reference.

Synopsis

The U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) is hereby soliciting White Papers in the subject topic areas of interest to BSEE's Oil Spill Preparedness Division (OSPD), Response Research Branch on Improved Oil Recovery in Thin Oil Slicks and Oil Sheens. The topics under consideration include the following:

Topic 1 Development of Innovative Materials and/or Surface Geometries to Improve Performance of Oleophilic Skimmers While Recovering in Thin Oil Slicks

The use of innovative materials and surface geometries to improve a skimmer's recovery of slicks less than 1/2 inch would be beneficial to responders. These materials could possibly be incorporated into an existing skimmer by replacing a drum or disc with comparable components using these materials. White papers submitted under this topic should propose ideas to improve recovery of thin oil slicks on the surface of water where thin is defined as less than 1/2 inch thick. Ideas could target new microgeometries, super adsorbent materials, innovative surface treatments, nanotechnologies, or other concepts. Concept will be tested at Ohmsett as part of the project.

Topic 2 Development of Materials and/or Technologies to Improve Oil Sheen Recovery

Development of a prototype system that could quickly and effectively clean up sheens while reducing a responder's exposure and secondary waste would be of benefit to responders. White papers submitted under this topic should propose ideas to improve recovery of oil sheens. Ideas should consider effectiveness of approach, responder safety, portability of technology, simplicity of use, and reduction of secondary waste. Prototype will be tested at Ohmsett.

The full announcement can be found

at: https://beta.sam.gov/opp/ae87b9e3c0ba4a0f855513bd55ef5226/view?keywords=%22thin%20sheen%20recovery%22&sort=-relevance&index=opp&is_active=true&page=1

Questions are due August 18, 2020.

White papers are due September 4, 2020.

Thank you for your consideration. Please let me know if I can answer any questions or provide additional details.

Best Regards,

Kristi McKinney

Program Manager, Engineer

U.S. Department of the Interior

Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement

Oil Spill Preparedness Division

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FROM JOHN RAUSEO, POLARIS SENSOR TECHNOLOGIES, INC.

"I read the article "A review of oil spill detection techniques on water" in the August 2 edition of your newsletter with interest. I realize you basically just reprinted an article from engineering.com, but what caught my attention was that my company's technology was missing. Below is a brief summary of the technology. Would you be interested in letting us write an article about the technology we've developed with plenty of pictures that will show the benefits of hybridizing the infrared with polarization capabilities?"

One technique that was missed in the article is the hybridization of polarization and LWIR thermal imaging. Polaris Sensor Technologies (www.polarissensor.com) has developed the Pyxis camera (www.polarizingircamera.com) which combines the

day/night capability and sensitivity of polarization detection with the thermal capabilities of LWIR imagery. This camera is light weight enough (less than 0.5 pound) and small enough (less than 4" x 3" x 3") to attach to a drone but robust enough to withstand constant salt spray when mounted on an oil rig. Contact me at john.rauseo@polarissensor.com to learn more".

[Editor: John Rauseo has been invited to submit a short article for consideration]

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WHY SCIENTISTS INTENTIONALLY SPILLED OIL INTO A CANADIAN LAKE

Canada sits on the third-largest oil reserve in the world. Most of it is in the Alberta oilsands, where companies extract bitumen, a crude oil with the consistency of peanut butter.

To get the oil to pass through pipelines, petroleum engineers mix the oil with lighter components — usually byproducts of natural gas production — to dilute and liquefy the bitumen. This mixture is called “diluted bitumen” or dilbit for short.

But oil pipelines can leak or rupture, and spill their contents into the environment. In July 2010, for example, an Enbridge pipeline in Marshall, Mich., spilled at least three million litres of dilbit into the Kalamazoo River, of which an estimated 680,000 litres sank.

The issues of inland spills aren’t new. They are more common than marine spills but often overlooked or unreported. Generally, we know much less about how oil spills affect freshwater ecosystems than the ocean and, when it comes to dilbit spills, we know even less.

To find out, our research team carefully spilled dilbit into mini-lakes to uncover the real-world responses of the oil and its impact on aquatic life. We created mini-lakes with 1,400 litre tanks, filled with lake sediment, water and the natural community of microscopic plankton retrieved from a lake on the Canadian boreal shield. We then spilled a scaled-down volume of dilbit — less than two litres — into the “lake.”

We left the tanks exposed to sunlight, temperature changes and weather while we monitored the viscosity and density of the oil slick on the surface of the water. These parameters are important for understanding when the oil might sink and how it can be cleaned up. We also tracked the oil beneath the surface, its chemical composition and its impact on the plankton living there.



Comparison of the dilbit surface slick on Day 0 (left) and Day 8 (right). Left: The freshly added dilbit initially covers the water surface as a smooth slick. Right: Overtime the dilbit slick grew thicker, developed a surface crust and changed colour. Following heavy rain, roughly half the oil sank to the bottom. (BOREAL Study 2017)

Our research showed that after only one day, dilbit became too viscous for conventional cleanup methods to perform well. When it rained eight days after our experimental spill, the dilbit slicks broke up and about half of them sank to the sediment in these mini-lakes.

Our results show that dilbit can sink in lakes given enough time, and highlight the need to consider different weather scenarios in risk assessments.

We know that freshwater dilbit spills may have different implications for clean up and can dramatically affect aquatic life in the short-term, but we still need to understand the long-term impacts of dilbit in a variety of environments and spill sizes.

Last summer, a follow-up study evaluated different oil cleanup options in a freshwater lake using similar in-lake enclosures to figure out which methods work best. Combined, the results of these studies will help inform the risk assessments for dilbit spills, cleanup methods, environmental policy and hopefully mitigate the impacts of future spills. The Conversation / [Read more](#)

OSRL ANNOUNCES MORE UPCOMING ONLINE TRAINING COURSES

[Remote IMS300 for Expanding Incidents](#)

10-13 August

This remote course will develop your preparedness in dealing with a large-scale incident as well as your tangible skills to manage an incident effectively and efficiently.

[Remote On Scene Commander Level 2](#)

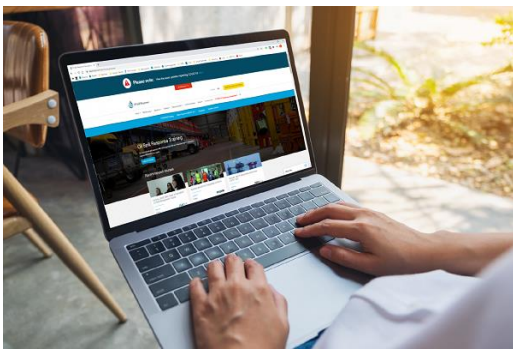
24-27 August

Designed for remote delivery, this popular course is based on the MCA level 4 (IMO2) On-Scene Commander's Course/ It covers both the strategic and tactical elements of oil spill response.

[Remote OPRC \(IMO Level 3 Equivalent\) Oil Spill Management Course](#)

14-16 September

This course provides delegates with the essential skills and tactical knowledge required to initiate and terminate response, to perform the role of Incident Commander and effectively manage an emergency response team. It builds the delegate's confidence and awareness to make the right decisions and maintain the organisation's reputation.



[Remote OPRC \(IMO Equivalent\) Refresher](#)

20-21 August

Refresh and develop your operational, tactical and strategic skills in spill response management, allowing you to make effective and efficient decisions.

[Remote UKCS Responder Refresher \(OPEP 3/4\)](#)

26-27 August

If you are a Duty Onshore Responder responsible for along with a response to offshore oil spills, this course will refresh your knowledge of oil spill response requirements within UKCS.

E-LEARNING COURSES FROM CHEMICAL WATCH

As many of us continue to work remotely, now is a great time to take advantage of Chemical Watch's expanding library of eLearning courses. Register today to develop your knowledge and understanding on a range of topics, including toxicology, ecotoxicology, the BPR, REACH, TSCA, metals toxicity and chemistry.

Check out our full range of training solutions: [Conferences](#) | [eLearning](#) | [Training courses](#) | [Training webinars](#)

CLEAN WATERWAYS REPLAY – LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

We just wrapped up the in-person CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference and each session that took place was recorded. If you missed out on the live event, you can sign up for our virtual event –[CLEAN WATERWAYS Replay](#) - to access all sessions that took place + 3 bonus sessions and a directory of all exhibitors and sponsors.

[CLEAN WATERWAYS Replay](#) will go live August 17th! We will release 1 bonus session each day, from August 17-19, and after that, all sessions will be available on-demand for the remainder of the year.

Live Release: Monday, August 17 - Storage Tank Emergency Response

This session will provide the opportunity for operators to engage with local fire officials regarding planning and responding to storage tank fires. Case histories will include tank fire events in Louisiana and Texas.

Live Release: Tuesday, August 18 - I've Got 99 Problems:

This session will offer a review of some recent emerging concerns and their potential solutions in the inland response and environmental arena. Industry leaders will discuss resolutions to the rising concern of abandoned and derelict vessels littering U.S. waterways as well as the rising environmental and human health concerns of PFAS products in industrial facilities and aqueous film forming foam (AFFF).

Live Release: Wednesday, August 19 - You Sank my Goo...Now What

This session will give best practice methods for detection and recovery of non-floating oils and other toxic goo.

Access On-Demand: 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.

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING

Access On-Demand: 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.

Access On-Demand: 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.

Access On-Demand: 2020 Industry Challenges Round Table – COVID and Beyond

Listen in as a group of experts informally discuss myriad challenges currently being faced by this industry, least of which is COVID 19.

Additional on-demand presentations include:

- Training the Next Generation of Spill Responders
- Information Sharing in the New World of Privacy
- Pandemic Planning and Response
- Huntington County – A Tale of Two Spills
- Salvage Operations in Dynamic, Fast Water Environments

[Sign up for Clean Waterways Replay](#)

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.

SAFETY BRIEFING

AMSA SAFETY ALERT - FIRE PREVENTION AND PROTECTION

This safety alert aims to raise awareness of measures to ensure the fire risks on your vessel are appropriately managed.



Image: Spirit of 1770 burning off Bundaberg Qld

Addressing the risk of fire - Make sure your safety management system (SMS) includes:

- planned maintenance of your vessel's firefighting, fire-containment and fire-prevention equipment
- emergency procedures in the event of a fire
- training and induction for crew members on emergency procedures and how to use firefighting equipment and
- first aid for injuries caused by fire or smoke.

This Safety Alert covers common issues that reduce fire protection -

Poor maintenance of vessels and its fire protection equipment are major contributors to vessel fires + Fire protection - It is important to ensure that vessels have both passive (for example structural) and active fire protection measures to minimise the spread of fire if it occurs + Maintaining your passive structural fire protection + Reminders - Ensure fire prevention measures are in place and part of your risk assessment to reduce the risk of fire; Review your risk-assessment for your operation regularly; Ensure fire prevention, fire containment, and firefighting equipment are included in your planned maintenance; Ensure the integrity of passive structural fire protection is maintained. If your responsibilities include vessel operations it is strongly recommended that you download and read this briefing - <https://www.mysailing.com.au/cruising/amsa-safety-alert-fire-prevention-and-protection>

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	CANCELLED	Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR)	Seattle
ESTONIA	August 25-27	BALEX DELTA 2020 pollution response exercise	Talinn
USA	CANCELLED	Oil Spill Response Strategies & Tactics Training	Leonardo, NJ
ONLINE	Sept. 15-17	Ecoforum Conference & Exhibition (Virtual)	Internet
INDIA	POSTPONED	Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition	Mumbai
ONLINE	September 16	UK Spill Annual General Meeting	Internet
ICELAND	Sept. 28-30	International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region	Reykjavik
MALTA	October 6-7	Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships	Valetta
UK	October 12-13	El Hazardous Area Classification	London
UK	October 19-23	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
USA	October 20-22	Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition	San Antonio, TX
ONLINE	October 27-29	Arctic Shipping Forum North America	Internet
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
UK	December 2-3	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	London
BAHREIN	December 7-8	El Middle East HSE Forum	Bahrein
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
FRANCE	March 23	CEDRE Information Day on Containers	Paris
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
USA	September 7-10	Hazmat Emergency Response Workshop	Sacramento, CA
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](#)

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

June 2020

Publication paused

Current issue

Current issue

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

GEF Newsletter	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	Subscription
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	Q2 2020
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Summer 2020
IMO Publishing Newsletter	New and forthcoming IMO publications	June-July 2020
ITOPF Ocean Orbit	News magazine from ITOPF with interesting spill response articles	October 2019
JOIFF Catalyst Newsletter	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q3 2020 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	March–April 2020
MEDNEWS	News from UNEP Mediterranean Action Programme	02 / 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	June 2020
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	July 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	March 2020
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	June 16-30, 2020
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	August 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

USA: SALVAGE OF GOLDEN RAY SUSPENDED DUE TO COVID-19 AND HURRICANE SEASON

July 28 - The removal of the wreck of capsized car carrier Golden Ray (IMO 9775816) from St Simon's Sound off Brunswick, Georgia, USA, has been suspended because of the combined impacts of the hurricane season and the Covid-19 pandemic, the Unified Command has announced. Insurance Marine News / [Read more](#)

PANAMA: FUEL OIL SPILL AT PETROAMERICA TERMINAL, S.A. (PATSA)

August 3 – News just received from Juan Diego Reyna, Director, GRUPO OPC – “From this side of the world, there was a significant oil spill that went on on the pacific side near to the canal side in a loading operation for bunkering. Here are links to reports in the local newspapers –

<https://elcapitalfinanciero.com/barcaza-sea-lion-protagoniza-derrame-de-combustible-en-las-aguas-de-patsa/>

<https://www.critica.com.pa/nacional/fuerte-dano-ambiental-por-derrame-de-combustible-582392>

ISCO Member, Ocean pollution control (Grupo OPC) – [company web site](#) - was activated to carry out the response to the spill. [Thanks to Juan Diego Reyna]

LEBANON: BEIRUT EXPLOSION - DOZENS DEAD AND THOUSANDS INJURED

Editor: Because of the already very extensive media coverage in the papers and TV, only the links for the initial report with video of the explosion and the most recent news about the International Aid Summit are included below.

August 5 - Video of the initial explosion - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/live/world-middle-east-53664184>

August 9 - **Beirut explosion: international Aid summit opens with Macron call for quick action** "The objective today is to act quickly and effectively to co-ordinate our aid on the ground so that it goes as efficiently as possible to the Lebanese people," Mr Macron said. International support should also go towards an impartial, credible and independent inquiry into how the disaster was allowed to happen, he told fellow leaders. Representatives from European Union member states, China, Russia, Egypt, Jordan, the UK and the USA were also due to take part, with many others invited to attend. In a statement, the UK said it would pledge an additional £20m in "urgent humanitarian support" at Sunday's talks, on top of a £5m aid package announced earlier this week. BBC News / [Read more](#)

August 9 - Search and rescue teams from Greece, Czechia, Poland, France, Germany and The Netherlands and a team of chemical experts from Italy, mobilised through the EU Civil Protection Mechanism, are assisting the national authorities with the initial search and rescue phase. <https://ercportal.jrc.ec.europa.eu/>

VENEZUELA: SHIP SUSPECTED AS SOURCE OF OIL SLICK THREATENING VENEZUELAN BEACHES

August 3 - An oil slick washed up over the weekend on the coastline of Venezuela's western Falcon state, known for pristine beaches and nature preserves, two opposition lawmakers said on Monday, though there was no official comment on the spill's provenance. A satellite image posted on Twitter by vessel tracking service TankerTrackers.com showed the black slick approaching the coast just south of Morrocoy National Park, known for palm-lined beaches and mangrove swamps. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

August 4 - Bunker Fuel Spill Hits Venezuelan National Park - Video footage of a spill along the shores of the Golfo de Triste - about 60 miles west of Caracas - appeared on social media beginning August 2. A member of Venezuela's political opposition, the National Assembly, confirmed to Reuters that the spill occurred and expressed concern that it would cause harm to the park's sensitive marine environment. A PDVSA source also confirmed the spill. The video shows free-flowing oil, which is not typical for Venezuela's heavy crude. Satellite imagery shows it spread rather quickly and shimmers in sunlight. This is more typical of a refined product; in this case most likely fuel oil. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

August 5 - Venezuela begins cleanup after oil slick hits coast -environment ministry - Venezuelan authorities have begun a cleanup effort after an oil slick washed up over the weekend on the coast of western Falcon state, known for pristine beaches and nature preserves, the environment ministry said in a statement late on Tuesday. Officials had not previously commented on the event, and the ministry said it was still investigating the cause of the spill. An opposition lawmaker and a source at state-run oil company Petroleos de Venezuela had previously said the slick likely resulted from a spill of the contents of a vessel's fuel tank. Devdiscourse / [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: WAKASHIO BREACHED: OIL LEAKS FROM GROUNDING BULK CARRIER, POLICE INVESTIGATION LAUNCHED

Editor: This is a follow-up to the initial report which appeared on Page 13 of last week's ISCO Newsletter.



August 6 - The Indian Ocean island nation of Mauritius is suddenly facing an environmental disaster after the grounded Wakashio began leaking bunker fuel.

The MV Wakashio ran aground off Pointe d'Esny, on the south-east coast of the island, on July 25 during a voyage from China to Brazil via Singapore on ballast.

The owner of the vessel, Nagashiki Shipping Co. of Japan, said a bunker tank has now been breached due to weather. "Due to the bad weather and constant pounding over the past few days, the starboard side bunker tank has been breached and an amount of fuel oil has escaped into the sea. Oil prevention measures are in place and an oil boom has been deployed around the vessel," Nagashiki said in an emailed statement to gCaptain.

The ship was reported to be carrying 3,894 tonnes of low-sulphur fuel oil, 207 tonnes of diesel and 90 tonnes of lube oil, according to an earlier statement from Mauritius' Minister of the Environment, Kavi Ramano.

"The Owner and its P+I Club have contracted a specialist oil response and salvage team who are coordinating with the Mauritian authorities to mitigate the effects of any pollution," the statement from the ship owner said. Smit Salvage has been contracted to respond along with local contractor CELERO. AIS ship tracking data shows two tugs, Stanford Hawk and BOKA Expedition, currently on scene.

Special interest is being paid to the Blue Bay Marine Park, a protected area just south of the grounding site. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

August 6 - Bad Weather Hurts Efforts to Stop Oil Spill Off Mauritius - Bad weather hindered efforts to contain an oil spill from a bulk carrier off the southeastern coast of Mauritius that experts say may cause huge damage to the country's coastal waters and marine wildlife. The National Coast Guard and Polyeco, an environment services company, are trying to contain the leakage from the Panama-flagged MV Wakashio, which ran aground two miles off the coast on July 25.

A floating barrier has been deployed around the vessel to contain the oil, the shipping company said. The government on Thursday closed some of the country's beaches. [Bloomberg Quint / Read more](#)

August 6 - Oil Spill of Tier 3 - Republic of Mauritius - On 6 August 2020, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and International Trade of the Republic of Mauritius requested urgent assistance of the UN system with respect to an imminent risk of oil spill of Tier 3 following the running aground of a bulk carrier vessel, MV Wakashio, on the reef of Pointe d'Esny in Mauritius.

The casualty area is located near ecologically sensitive areas namely, the Pointe d'Esny Wetlands which is a Ramsar site, the Ile aux Aigrettes Nature Reserve, the Blue Bay Marine Park, the Mahebourg Fishing Reserves, barachois and mangrove areas.

The relevant Mauritius authorities urgently require assistance in terms of personnel, equipment and experts in oil spill combat, pollution monitoring, environment protection and evaluation of damages to the environment.

To complement the ongoing response, the UNEP/OCHA Joint Environment Unit (JEU) is looking for one oil spill expert to provide technical advice to national and local authorities for identifying and assessing the situation and any additional environmental and human health risks. [Virtual OSCC / Read more](#)

August 7 - Mauritius facing environmental crisis as shipwreck leaks oil - "We are in an environmental crisis situation," said the environment minister, Kavy Ramano, while the fishing minister, Sudheer Maudhoo, said: "This is the first time that we are faced with a catastrophe of this kind and we are insufficiently equipped to handle this problem."

The ministers said all attempts to stabilise the ship had failed because of rough seas and efforts to pump out the oil had also failed. Ecologists fear the ship could break up, which would cause an even greater leak and inflict potentially catastrophic damage on the island's coastline. [The Guardian / Read more](#)

August 8 - Mauritius declares emergency as stranded ship spills fuel - The Indian Ocean island of Mauritius has declared a "state of environmental emergency" after a Japanese-owned ship that ran aground offshore days ago began spilling tons of fuel.

Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth announced the development late Friday as satellite images showed a dark slick spreading in the turquoise waters near environmental areas that the government called "very sensitive." Jugnauth said his government had appealed to France for help, saying the spill "represents a danger" for the country of some 1.3 million people that relies heavily on tourism and has been hit hard by the effects of the coronavirus pandemic. "Our country doesn't have the skills and expertise to refloat stranded ships," he said. Bad weather has made it impossible to act, and "I worry what could happen Sunday when the weather deteriorates."

"When biodiversity is in peril, there is urgency to act," French President Emmanuel Macron tweeted Saturday. "France is there. Alongside the people of Mauritius. You can count on our support dear Jugnauth." A separate French statement from Reunion said a military transport aircraft would carry pollution control equipment to Mauritius and a navy vessel with additional material would set sail for the island nation. [Star Tribune / Read more](#)

August 9 - Locals scramble to contain environmental damage



Volunteers in Mauritius are scrambling to create cordons to keep leaking oil from a tanker away from the island. Their actions go against an order from the government asking people to leave the clean-up to local authorities. Mitsui OSK Lines, the operator of the ship, said it had tried to place its own containment booms around the vessel but had not been successful owing to rough seas. Helicopters are attempting to move some of the fuel and diesel off the ship.

France has sent a military aircraft with pollution control equipment from its nearby island of Réunion. On Sunday, Japan announced it would dispatch a six-member team to assist the French efforts. Mr Jugnauth is set to hold an emergency meeting later on Sunday amid fears that bad weather could further complicate efforts to hold back the oil. [BBC News / Read more](#)

USA: NORTH CAROLINA - BARRIER ISLAND VESSEL DEFUELING



August 6 - F/V Tamara Alane lost power and ran aground in the Shackleford Banks Marine Protected Area in North Carolina, a sensitive island habitat for wild horses, plovers and sea turtles. It was reported that the vessel had an estimated 7,000 gallons of fuel on board. Global Diving & Salvage's parent company, Moran Environmental Recovery, was contacted to defuel the vessel; Global's marine casualty team led the defueling project and together the team quickly executed the response. Timing was critical because the sea turtles' egg laying season was only a few weeks away.

The vessel was in a challenging location; crews could not gain access from the water side due to the surf zone. Operations could not disrupt the island's grass as it provided food for the protected wild horses, and could not disrupt the sand on the north end of the island as it was sea bird nesting habitat. For this

reason, a Sikorsky S61N helicopter was contracted to transport equipment and fuel totes on and off the wreck site. Pumping equipment and 550 gallon stainless steel fuel totes were flown in and staged in a containment area on a bluff near the site, with minimal impact to the grass area. The response team transited to and from the island on a 38' Munson landing craft and a MER spill response crew was on standby in nearby Wilmington if needed.

The vessel was resting upright and buried to its waterline in the sand; in preparation for defueling the crew secured the vessel with three large anchors on the shore side to keep the vessel in position as the weight of the fuel was removed. The crew pumped the fuel from the vessel's tanks to the totes; from there it was lifted by helicopter to the staging area where crew transferred the fuel to a frac tank truck. Air monitoring and venting was conducted during the vessel defueling process. Over the course of the project crews removed 12,500 gallons of fuel; the helicopter performed 58 individual picks of fuel, oily water and equipment. The vessel defueling was completed to the client's satisfaction. SCAA / <http://spill-control.blogspot.com/2020/08/barrier-island-vessel-defueling.html>

HISTORY

USA: 10 YEARS AGO, KALAMAZOO RIVER OIL SPILL WAS 'AN AWAKENING' IN PIPELINE DEBATE

As citizens across the United States continue to debate the pros and cons of piping oil across the country, a decade-old disaster in the Kalamazoo River serves as an example of what can happen when things go wrong.

The Line 6B pipeline near Marshall ruptured on July 25, 2010, sending 843,000 gallons of oil flowing into a creek leading to the Kalamazoo River, investigators later determined, marking the start of what would be classified among the largest inland oil spills in U.S. history. The ensuing cleanup lasted several years and cost more than a billion dollars. Michigan Live / [Read more](#)

Here are links for some other articles recalling the Kalamazoo River oil spill – [Western Michigan University](#) [Battle Creek Enquirer](#) [Lansing State Journal](#)

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