

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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OIL SPILL IN MAURITIUS CALLS FOR MORE EFFORTS TO SAFEGUARD CORAL REEF ECOSYSTEMS



On July 25, 2020, a Japanese cargo ship struck a reef on the southeast coast of Mauritius, leaking tons of oil into coral reefs, pristine turquoise water lagoons and unique ecosystems of the island nation. The grounded ship split up, releasing more oil in the sea that is home to some of the finest coral reefs and marine protected areas in the world.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

Oil, a complex mixture of many chemicals, [can kill corals, depending on species and exposure](#). Chronic oil toxicity impedes coral reproduction, growth, behavior, and development. The time of year when a spill happens is critical since coral reproduction and early life stages are particularly sensitive to oil.

Efforts are already underway to better protect the underwater world.

Just two months before the Mauritius oil spill; the [International Coral Reef Initiative \(ICRI\)](#), a long-standing partner of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), adopted a [Recommendation](#) to safeguard the future of coral reefs. It recognizes the vulnerability of coral reefs to climate change, ocean acidification, land-based pollution such as nutrients and sediments from agriculture, sea-based pollution, overfishing, among other activities.

Corals support a [quarter of all marine life](#), provide at least half a billion people with food security and livelihoods; protect coastlines from damage by buffering shorelines against waves, storms and floods. Estimates indicate [coral reefs account for \\$2.7 trillion per year in ecosystem service value](#).

The Recommendation, adopted in May 2020, after more than 18 months of work and stakeholder consultations, aims to get coral reefs and related ecosystems prioritized and monitored with rigorous indicators within the [Convention on Biological Diversity Post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework](#) being decided in May of 2021.

It calls on countries to safeguard coral reef ecosystems, identifying a set of six coral related indicators for adoption and a further five indicators for priority development, to provide improved information on ecosystem integrity, function, intactness, and resilience. UNEP / [Read more](#)

BALEX DELTA 2020: REGIONAL RESPONSE TO MAJOR MARITIME INCIDENTS TESTED IN ESTONIAN WATERS



Photo: Estonian helicopter landing on Finnish vessel Turva during the BALEX DELTA 2020 exercise. Photo: Marit Mätik/Ministry of Interior of Estonia

The 2020 edition of the annual BALEX DELTA exercise took place on 26 August 2020 off the coast of Tallinn, Estonia, testing the readiness of the Baltic Sea countries to respond to major maritime incidents such as oil and chemical spills.

This year, the exercise scenario involved a collision between two oil tankers in Estonian waters, simulating

a large-scale pollution event with a spill of 200 tonnes of oil and missing crew members at sea, triggering a search and rescue (SAR) action.

Besides host Estonia providing several ships and equipment including a surveillance plane and a helicopter, Denmark, the EU, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania and Sweden also participated and sent vessels.

"Major accidents are not frequent in the Baltic Sea but BALEX DELTA is one of the tools at our disposal to keep us ready for the worst case," said Markus Helavuori who oversees response activities at HELCOM.

The BALEX DELTA exercises have been held every year since 1989 to check and improve the operational capacity and skills of the Baltic Sea countries to respond to maritime incidents affecting the waters of HELCOM countries.

They help the HELCOM countries "to maintain the ability to respond to pollution incidents threatening the marine environment of the Baltic Sea Area" as formulated in the Annex VII on Response to Pollution Incidents of the Helsinki Convention.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

During the exercises, both ships, cleaning equipment and procedures required for response operations at sea and on the shore were tested.

The BALEX DELTA 2020 edition is coordinated by the Estonian Police and Border Guard. The exercise is Estonia's third, with previous ones held in 1997 and 2007. HELCOM / [Read more](#) Related Report in [Port News](#)

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

AUSTRALIA FLOATS PLAN TO BETTER PROTECT GREAT BARRIER REEF

August 25 - Australian officials plan to redouble their efforts to save the Great Barrier Reef from the effects of global warming.

The world's largest coral reef system is under threat from rising ocean temperatures, ocean acidification and violent tropical weather. Scientists also have struggled to contain outbreaks of the crown-of-thorns starfish, a polyp-eating predator that can threaten the reef's health.

In response to these dangers, Australia's Department of Agriculture, Water and the Environment is floating a 30-year plan to protect the natural wonder.

The Australian and Queensland governments are planning to spend up to \$2 billion over the course of a decade as part of an initial phase of reef protection and recovery efforts. The new draft plan was opened for public comments last week.

Scientific American / [Read more](#)

INDIA: WEBINAR ON SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE READINESS DURING A CRISIS

August 27 - ITOPF was invited to join a 90-minute online panel discussion on best practice for the mitigation and management of oil and HNS spills during the current pandemic. The session took place on Thursday 27th August and was organised under the auspices of Oil Spill India.

Richard Johnson and fellow panellists from OSRL, the Indian Coast Guard, Oil and Natural Gas Corporation (ONGC Limited) and AlphaMers looked at the current state of preparedness and response readiness and discussed the impact of COVID-19 on spill-related activities.

Around 200 delegates tuned in for the discussion from over 20 countries and from a variety of backgrounds, including government departments, oil companies, spill response organisations and academia. ITOPF / [Source article](#)

UGANDA: OIL SPILLS: GOVERNMENT DRAFTS STRINGENT CONTINGENCY PLAN

August 26 - "A licensee, operator, or other responsible person is liable for pollution damage caused by the escape or discharge of oil during an oil spill incident, regardless of fault," the draft contingency plan states.

The government is in the final stages of developing an oil spills contingency plan, which will introduce stringent guidelines for concerned oil companies.

The plan says the oil companies will be held responsible for any kind of spills and damage, as well as compensating all the affected entities.

According to the plan, the move should ensure that the companies involved in the oil activities take extra care to protect the environment and the people in the affected area.

"A licensee, operator, or other responsible person is liable for pollution damage caused by the escape or discharge of oil during an oil spill incident, regardless of fault," the draft contingency plan states. It adds that: "The cost of oil spill response operations, including clean-up and restoration cost, shall be borne by the licensee or operator."

Where Government assists the companies in managing oil spills, the contingency plan says, the costs incurred during the Government involvement too shall be borne by the companies, not the government. In circumstances where financial security is required from the oil companies, the spills plan proposes, the Government may use that security to recover costs incurred in oil spill response operations.

New Vision / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

August 22 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[NOAA Continues to Provide Remote Technical Assistance in Mauritius Oil Spill Response](#)

OR&R's Emergency Response Division (ERD) is coordinating technical assistance remotely to the Mauritius Ministry of Environment, as requested through the U.S. Department of State. On Aug. 17, the NOAA National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service (NESDIS) provided a time series analysis of satellite imagery made available through the Disasters Charter activation.

[OR&R Presents on Data Management at NOAA's 2020 Environmental Data Management Workshop](#)

OR&R's Ben Shorr presented at this year's [NOAA Environmental Data Management Workshop](#)(link is external). The theme of the overall workshop was "Data to Decisions: Putting NOAA Data to Work".

[Marine Debris Program Partner Announces Grant Awards to Reduce Derelict Fishing Gear](#)

On August 19, the [National Fish and Wildlife Foundation](#)(link is external) (NFWF), a partner of the Marine Debris Program (MDP), announced four grants totaling \$643,000 to support activities in Alaska, Florida, Maine, and Washington to reduce the amount of derelict fishing gear in the marine environment through the [Fishing for Energy](#) (link is external) partnership.

[OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program Develops COOP Working Group for National Ocean Service](#)

In today's environment, the need for comprehensive continuity plans is vital. Organizations and agencies must continue to perform essential functions and provide critical services, even when normal operations are disrupted. To meet this growing need, OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) has developed a COOP, which stands for Continuity of Operations Planning, working group for NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS).

[Oil Spills Explained in New NOS Education Resource](#)

Sometimes when you spend your career researching oil spill science, breaking it down into simplest terms can be a little tricky. [A new oil spill education page on the National Ocean Service website](#) aims to help scientists communicate their work, and help students learn about oil spills and marine pollution.

[OR&R Speaker Series: A Subsea Solution to the MC20 Pollution by Timmy Couvillon](#)

The MC20 site in the Gulf of Mexico has been associated with persistent plumes of oil and gas and surface oil slicks. An oil platform owned by Taylor Energy Co., LLC collapsed after an underwater landslide during Hurricane Ivan (2004).

[Last Week's OR&R Tuesday Technical Talks](#)

At this past week's OR&R Tuesday Technical Talks with the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC), Steve Lehmann, Senior SSC with OR&R's Emergency Response Division for the Northeast region, training was offered two topics: Photo-Documentation for Oil Spills, and Considerations during Urban Oil Spill Response. Attendees listened in from across the country and Canada. The program is designed to provide skills training for federal and state response personnel.

USA: COURT PROTECTS MIGRATORY BIRD TREATY ACT

August 28 - The Migratory Bird Treaty Act was enacted in 1918. A federal judge in New York ruled against the Trump administration's reinterpretation of this act, citing that intent does not determine impact.

If this reinterpretation became policy, it would have dire consequences for wildlife. For example, in 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil spill killed over a million birds.

If the Migratory Bird Treaty Act had not been in place, the oil company would have avoided \$100 million in fines toward migratory bird conservation and other wetland protection programs.

The opinion piece proposed by the Trump administration stated that the oil and gas industry was not responsible for the indirect effects of its actions on birds, as long as it was not purposefully attempting to harm them.

The court argued that this interpretation would allow the industry to do whatever it wants to the environment. Ultimately, the opinion piece was overturned and protections were re-instituted against industry — even if bird deaths resulted from incidental take.

The Migratory Bird Treaty Act is one of the oldest legal wildlife protections in the United States. Birds are heavily affected by human activity, especially due to land development and the fossil fuel industry. [The Ecologist / Read more](#)

USA: TRI-STATE BIRD RESCUE & RESEARCH LAUNCH NEW WILDLIFE NEWSLETTER

August 28 – The Newsletter - Tri-State's Oiled Wildlife Log (OWL) will be a bi-annual publication.

Tri-State's Oil Programs encompass a wide variety of functions and activities that extend beyond the local community, and include oiled wildlife response on an international scale. While our industry partners and donors are aware we provide oil spill response assistance with wildlife, they may not be aware of the team's daily planning and preparedness activities to ensure that when we get the call, our service will be professional.

The Oil Programs biannual Oiled Wildlife Log or OWL, will provide you with updates about the organization so that you can better understand the inner workings of Tri-State's Oil Programs and why we are a vital team member within the response community. Articles may be contributed from our executive director, outside partners, or our own highly trained CORE Team volunteers. The newsletter will also provide information on trainings and events that Tri-State is attending or hosting.

Here is the link for downloading - https://tristatebird.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Oiled-Wildlife-Log_Volume-1-1.pdf

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

USA: PROVISIONAL APPOINTMENTS – NATIONAL ACADEMIES AD HOC COMMITTEE, OIL IN THE SEA IV PROJECT



Dr Kirsi K. Tikka (Pictured on left) and Ed Levine, FISCO (Pictured on right) have been provisionally appointed to serve as Chair and Vice-Chair respectively of the ad hoc committee being tasked to provide an update of the previous report's (Oil in the Sea III: Inputs, Fates, and Effects, 2003).

Dr. Tikka worked at ABS from September 2001 until July 2019. She started as Vice President, Engineering, and subsequently held roles that included VP, Global Technology, Business Development and Special Projects (2005-2011); VP and Chief Engineer, Global (2011-2012); President and Chief Operating Officer, ABS Europe Division, Executive Vice President, Global

Marine (2016-2018); and Executive Vice President and Senior Maritime Advisor (2018-2019).

Ed Levine, FISCO, worked in OR&R's Emergency Response Division for 28 years as scientific support coordinator (SSC) in New York City. During the last three years Ed has served as a response operations supervisor for the East Coast at NOAA headquarters in Silver Spring, Maryland. In this position, he supervised the SSCs located from Maine to Louisiana. SSCs make up an interdisciplinary scientific team that responds to oil and chemical spills in U.S. waters and helps the U.S. Coast Guard make timely operational decisions during a spill response.

The brief of the Ad Hoc Committee can be viewed at <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/oil-in-the-sea-iv-inputs-fates-and-effects>

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

NEWS FROM OSRL - COVID-19 UPDATE (28 AUGUST 2020)

OSRL have been taken part in several planned and no-notice drills that have involved simulating the transport of response equipment and movement of personnel. As part of these drills, we have contacted our air charter brokers to validate the availability of aircraft. The market continues to look positive due to several factors, including the increasing number of passenger flights available, reducing the strain on the charter market.

These drills (and preparations for potential response) have allowed OSRL to test mobilisation procedures for personnel and equipment against specific scenarios. By capturing lessons learned, we are able to develop these procedures and therefore improve our ability to respond in the current COVID-19 environment.

In addition to monitoring the air charter market, we continue to review all critical logistics elements required to support a response – from road haulage to critical transport links. OSRL's global footprint and network of suppliers allow us to monitor the situation and put in place mitigation measures where appropriate. OSRL also continue to ship equipment to support our members preparedness activities, thus ensuring we are aware of the real-time impact that COVID-19 and other global events are having on the movement of goods.

Recently we supported Noble Colombia in the development and socialisation of several critical documents for their first offshore exploration well in the country. Find out how we worked in complex regulatory environments on our website here.

In the last two weeks we have updated the Senegal, Ireland, Gabon, India, Indonesia, New Zealand and Japan Country Plans. We now have 56 country plans live and five translated along with a further two under development: Republic of Congo and Mauritius. All these country plans and COVID-19 Field Guide appendices are available to view and download on our COVID-19 Readiness Dashboard.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

STUDY FINDING FROM FINNISH ENVIRONMENT INSTITUTE SYKE AND UNIVERSITY OF EASTERN FINLAND - MICROPLASTICS ARE FOUND IN ALL WATERS, QUANTITIES IN AQUATIC ORGANISMS AND FISH VARY



Microplastic fragments in a microscope © Photo: Maiju Lehtiniemi SYKE

Microplastics are found in all water systems and in fish, bivalve molluscs and benthic fauna. Microplastics cause stress to the aquatic organisms and may expose them to harmful substances. These were the results of a recently completed project that studied the behaviour of microscopic plastic pollution in water systems and developed research methods focusing on microplastics. The new results and methods will be utilised in, for example, monitoring and conservation in the Baltic Sea and in research on the health impacts of microplastics.

The project's concluding seminar can be viewed online on 24 August 2020 at 12:00–14:30 (In Finnish).

Microplastics were found in all of the studied groups of organisms. The largest number of microplastics were found in blue mussels that filter water in order to feed. Fewer quantities were found in the most common benthic fauna, that is, Baltic clam, *Marenzelleria* polychaetes and chironomid larvae. Microplastics most likely end up in aquatic organisms when they feed. Exposure is affected by the habitat, prey and feeding method. To request a copy of the complete report please email www@ymparisto.fi

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

SEA ALARM'S FIRST 20 YEARS: WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER – BUILDING EXPERTISE NETWORKS (PART 1)



Network is a word that is used a lot nowadays, but what is a network? For Sea Alarm, it is a group of organisations and/or individuals with a common interest working together. We have a strong belief that by cooperating and striving towards common goals, a well-coordinated network can grow to be stronger than the sum of its parts (in other words, its individual members).

This is hugely important in the field of oil spill preparedness and response, which by its nature is an activity that requires many different actors to come together. We see it as our mission to facilitate and coordinate expert networks and assist them in becoming effective in their collective aims and purpose.

Sea Alarm has a long history of initiating and managing NGO wildlife responder networks. In last month's article we reported on the early days, when several major oil spills in Europe led to international mobilisation of expert responders from Europe and further afield to help local organisations deal with oil affected wildlife. Without the contributions of those international experts, the outcomes of those incidents would have likely been very different, since experts bring unique added value, including creating an effective work force, having a management overview, providing coaching, and working to agreed good practice methodology based on lessons learnt elsewhere. Spills tend to overwhelm local resources, and few countries across the globe have invested in national wildlife response planning. Although the situation regarding in-country preparedness has improved over the past 20 years, notably in Europe, hands-on wildlife response assistance from international expert networks is still a crucial element to successfully achieving animal welfare objectives in spill response today.

Providing this international assistance during an oil spill (a highly charged environment where emotions can run high) requires a cooperative expertise network that is ready to respond, is coordinated, works professionally to agreed standards, is friendly, efficient and 'gets the job done'. That kind of situation cannot happen overnight but comes over years of individuals from different NGOs working together to build trust, learn from each other and to write down and apply their jointly agreed methods of working.

The two largest and most significant networks that Sea Alarm partners with are EUROWA (European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance) and GOWRS (Global Oiled Wildlife Response System). The two networks, both initiated and supported by Sea Alarm, have developed in parallel with the same overall mission, but different end users and geographic scope. EUROWA is a European network of oiled wildlife experts, intended to assist governmental end users, that can be mobilised by government agencies via the EU Civil Protection Mechanism. GOWRS is a global network of oiled wildlife response experts initially created to serve the oil industry to provide capacity to respond to incidents occurring anywhere in the world. The story behind the development of the EUROWA network is outlined in this article. Part 2, which looks back on the history and achievements of the GOWRS initiative will follow in the next article.



EUROWA – the backstory through to today

The cooperation between European wildlife response groups has a decades-long history, as groups from different countries mobilised to assist oil-affected wildlife, and found themselves working alongside one another. Methodology between groups was different and communication was difficult, thus often this type of response resulted in segregated action, or many affected animals being transported across borders.

Sea Alarm regularly was activated and supported by groups who thought that international networking and cooperating between spills was

essential. With Sea Alarm's first spill involvement between 2000-2005, we made a start by providing evaluations and moderating discussions on developing good practices. The collaboration with some key organisations was promising, however funds to make structural progress were limited. Once Sea Alarm started working with the oil industry and received structural funding for its mission, it became possible to build a more professional support to developing networks.

European groups began meeting more often during and between spills, and Sea Alarm started messaging European authorities on the need for planning and preparedness. EU-funded projects, and also ad-hoc funding (e.g. Tour Pour La Mer funds, raised for Sea Alarm by the Shipping Industry in 2006), allowed for more frequent structure oriented discussions between an increasing European network of organisations. These meetings began to define and describe the standards that the group as a whole wanted to work to, and which European responders could eventually be trained in.

At the same time, key response organisations saw that they were beginning to have a shared idea of what an appropriate response should be, which treatment should be given to oiled animals and that a basic level of preparedness should be developed. From 2006 onwards, Sea Alarm began to support and represent European oiled wildlife responders, creating a sense of community and moving towards developing common technical principles for international oiled wildlife response. These activities continue today in the framework of EUROWA.

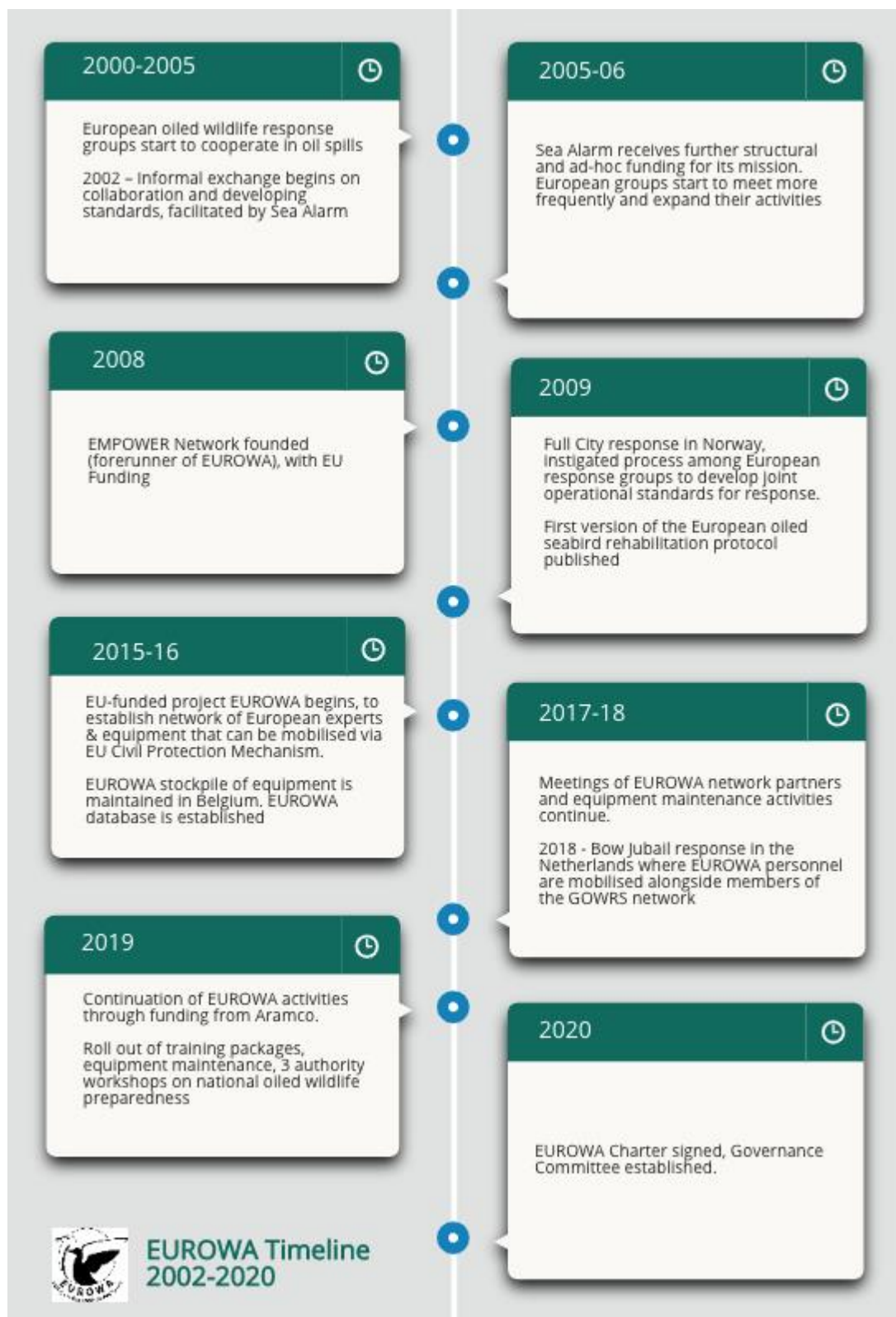
A significant move forward came after the Full City Spill (Norway, 2009), in which a European team assisted their Norwegian colleagues in responding to birds affected by that spill. The groups began to look at joint approaches and training standards for their work, to provide a basis for international assistance which could prevent prolonged discussions, or even conflicts, on the work floor. A first important milestone was when a first draft of a joint "European" seabird rehabilitation protocol was developed via discussions during the course of 2009-2014 between three groups: Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend, RSPCA and ProBird. After a number of draft versions, Sea Alarm published the first version of the European Protocol in 2014. That protocol has been updated over the years and today is part of the EUROWA standards series.

A successful proposal made to the European Commission in 2014 resulted in the EUROWA project that was carried out in the period 2015-2016. The main outcomes of the project (led by Sea Alarm, in partnership with Wildlife Rescue Centre

Ostend-Belgium, RSPCA-United Kingdom, WWF-Finland and ProBird-Germany) were:

- A Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) for EUROWA, according to DG Echo guidelines and international standards for oiled wildlife response and preparedness.
- A portfolio of professional oiled wildlife responder training packages used to develop the skills and knowledge of European experts from various countries. A range of Manuals and Handbooks were developed and printed to accompany the training courses, which form the backbone of today's EUROWA Standards series.
- Provision of centralised training courses to the project team and interested organisations and individuals from Member States. An accreditation philosophy was defined that allows expertise to be developed and expanded regardless of country borders. Six pilot training events were delivered in 2015-16 to test the new materials.
- Continuation of European expert wildlife responder exchange meetings and expansion of the network.
- A database to keep track of people being trained on the basis of the new material and ensure a central register in order to maintain quality objectives.
- A maintenance programme for a European stockpile of oiled wildlife response equipment ensuring the availability and mobilisation of that stockpile for incidents.

Creation of the EUROWA training portfolio followed a new methodology: project partners and a number of other experienced individuals went back to the beginning to determine which competencies, skills and tasks were required at each level of a wildlife response, then used this information to build a training portfolio from the ground up. Completing this complex objective would not have been possible without the long-standing trust, willingness to 'open their house' and spirit of collaboration amongst European response groups.



The EU project was highly successful in setting a European standard for oiled wildlife response good practice and forms the basis of national approaches in an increasing number of countries. In the time since the project was finalised Sea Alarm has been successful in continuing the cooperation and coordination between a growing number of organisations in Europe, partly through attracting sponsor funding from private entities (e.g. Aramco), to expand the EUROWA training portfolio and roll out a number of training events and meetings in Europe.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)



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In 2019, the EUROWA Charter was established to formalise the EUROWA Network at a summit meeting of the leading organisations. The Charter describes the Network and its objectives and services, provides governance rules, and is a shared vision where European countries are able to deal

effectively with emergencies that affect marine wildlife with each country developing their own integrated plans and preparedness programmes. Critically, the Charter notes that, as part of those programmes, close cooperation with NGOs and formally involving them in training and exercise programmes are basic needs. The Charter will thus help to promote the need for authorities in Europe to be prepared, counting on the assistance of international groups like EUROWA, but recognising that there is still a need to establish local preparedness that international experts can integrate into.

The Charter outlines a joint communications strategy that explains the role of network members and governments in moving towards these aims. It outlines a shared vision of network members to work together to develop joint professional standards and to train and exercise their international assistance function. By signing up, individual NGOs can have a stronger and more unified voice in advocating for marine wildlife emergency preparedness. The Charter also outlines how the EUROWA network operates and its governance structures which are now in place. To date, 8 organisations in different European countries have signed the EUROWA Charter. It is still open to any interested wildlife response organisation or individual in Europe. Further details can be seen at <https://www.oiledwildlife.eu/eurowa> The concluding part will be published in next week's ISCO Newsletter. <https://www.sea-alarm.org/>

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ALSO - Our popular webinar series sees the recording of the 'Utilising Fishing Vessels for Oil Spill Response in the North Sea' webinar go live on the website. <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/>

EXXONMOBIL - EM DISPERSANTS / HERDERS WEBINAR SERIES

You are invited to attend the week 1 Zoom meeting we will hold for our online Dispersant / Herder webinar series. I've copied the agenda below. Week 1 talks will focus on introducing the topic, issues related to performing fate and effects research in closed systems, and a discussion on historic mechanical recovery effectiveness in an offshore environment.

The goal of the series of webinars is to provide a setting to communicate knowledge / perspectives on why dispersants are an

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING (CONTINUED)

important contingency planning tool, dispersant efficacy, and oil / dispersed oil behavior, fate and effects as well as new understandings in these areas. In addition, I've included one webinar focused on herders (September 22). The webinar series will be an opportunity for industry experts, academics, oil spill responders, and oil spill response experts to discuss dispersants and herders with a very broad audience.

The webinars will start on Tuesday, September 1 from 9 - 10:30 am Houston time and continue every Tuesday at the same time until November 3. I will send a separate invite for each meeting to those that have RSVP'd.

We can still accept additional participants, so feel free to forward this invite to others that might be interested in attending -- they will need to respond by sending an email to me to get on the invite list. tim.j.nedwed@exxonmobil.com

I'm looking forward to an online discussion!

Nedwed, Tim J is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://exxonmobil.zoom.us/j/92387115741>

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162.255.36.11 (US East)

115.114.131.7 (India Mumbai)

115.114.115.7 (India Hyderabad)

213.19.144.110 (Amsterdam Netherlands)

213.244.140.110 (Germany)

103.122.166.55 (Australia)

209.9.211.110 (Hong Kong SAR)

64.211.144.160 (Brazil)

69.174.57.160 (Canada)

207.226.132.110 (Japan)

Meeting ID: 923 8711 5741

Agenda Dispersant and Herder Webinars 2020

Introduction: ExxonMobil has coordinated a dispersant workshop at Ohmsett annually since 2018. Ohmsett has an excellent space for a large group meeting but more importantly it provides attendees the opportunity to observe dispersant-effectiveness tests firsthand. Unfortunately, the travel restrictions forced us to cancel this year's workshop. Instead we intend to hold a virtual workshop via a series of webinars starting in September.

The webinar will be held once a week every Tuesday starting September 1 from 9 – 10:30 pm Houston time and proceeding for at least 10 weeks. We intend to broaden the focus from just dispersant topics to include a webinar on the science related to herders. Invited speakers will present research / activities / responsibility / knowledge related to dispersant and herder use.

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING (CONTINUED)

Objective: The goal of the workshop is to communicate knowledge and recent developments on dispersants and herders and to share insights and perspectives from industry, academia, oil spill responders, and other oil spill response experts.

Dispersant and Herder Workshop 2020 Agenda

Details are given in this order - **Date** **Time** **Agenda Item** **Description** **Presenter/Lead +**

Webinar 1 September 1 9 – 10:30 am Central

Basics of dispersant use The what, where, why, and how of dispersant use Tom Coolbaugh +

Industry perspective on dispersant/herder use Unpublished / gray literature studies on dispersant / dispersed oil behaviour
Tim Nedwed +

Effectiveness of mechanical recovery for large offshore oil spills Findings from a study of historical case studies showing the effectiveness of mechanical recovery during offshore oil spills Dagmar Etkin +

Webinar 2 September 8 9 – 10:30 am Central

Biodegradation of oil Perspectives on biodegradation research and testing protocols Roger Prince +

Oil and dispersant toxicity Perspectives on challenges and opportunities related to toxicity testing Tom Parkerton +

Fecundity hind cast modeling to predict ecosystem impacts from large offshore oil spills Findings from modeling studies evaluating the population level impacts of large offshore oil spills to red fish, red snapper, and arctic cod Benny Gallaway +

Webinar 3 September 15 9 – 10:30 am Central

Dispersants and human health The human health risk of oil dispersant ingredients and guidance on future scientific investigators Mary Popovech +

VOCs during DWH Findings from a study comparing surface VOCs measured during the Deepwater Horizon incident to subsea dispersant injection rates Doug Mitchell +

Comparison of aerial images collected during Deepwater Horizon to subsea dispersant injection rates Daily images taken at 10,000 ft over the well sight during the Macondo incident are compared to subsea dispersant injection rates Jan Svejksky +

Webinar 4 September 22 9 – 10:30 am Central

Herders for in situ burning Basics of herder use Tim Nedwed +

Toxicity of herders Summary of studies on herder toxicity testing Kelly McFarlin +

Safety of burning free-floating oil slicks How ISB rates, choice of burn location, and understanding of slick movements allows for safe burns David Cooper +

Webinar 5 September 29 9 – 10:30 am Central

MPRI Research Dispersant / herder related research at MPRI including plans for field trials Ken Lee +

Sea Grant dispersant related activities Outreach efforts to communicate the science behind dispersant & herder use to mixed technical and nontechnical audiences Melissa Partyka +

NASEM Dispersants Study / Upcoming Oil in the Sea Findings from the recently completed NASEM dispersants study and plans for the upcoming Oil in the Sea IV study Susan Roberts / Kelly Oskvig +

Webinar 6 October 6 9 – 10:30 am Central

Dispersant aerial application operations Aerial dispersant spray operation and issues tbd

OSRL's dispersant capabilities OSRL dispersant delivery systems & perspectives Paul Schuler +

ITOPF perspective on dispersants International use of dispersants Richard Johnson / ITOPF

Webinar 7 October 13 9 – 10:30 am Central

NJIT dispersant-related research Tip streaming, wave entrainment and VDROD with waves Michel Boufadel +

Oil slick spreading Oil slick spreading & emulsion stability in closed versus open systems Lin Zhao +

Microbial Stringer Attachment to Rising Oil Droplets Findings from a novel micro-fluidic experimental apparatus studying the formation of EPS stringers on rising oil droplets in unamended seawater samples collected from the GOM Jian Sheng +

Webinar 8 October 20 9 – 10:30 am Central

Bigelow Lab Oil photo-oxidation research Photo-oxidation effects on the composition and properties of oil Christoph Aepli

Marine oil snow and effects of dispersants Summary of the literature on the effects of dispersants on formation of marine oil snow Essex University +

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING (CONTINUED)

Webinar 9 October 27 9 – 10:30 am Central
 Fundamentals and challenges of oil spill modeling Perspectives from an experienced modeler on the challenges of predicting the fate and effects of oil spills Wolfgang Konkel +
 Subsea Dispersant Injection Comparative Risk Assessment Sensitivity Analysis for Oil Fate and Exposure Modeling of a Subsea Blowout Debbie French McCay +
 An Evaluation of Models that Estimate Droplet Size from Subsurface Oil Releases Findings from a study comparing seven droplet size prediction algorithms to published datasets of droplet size measurements Cort Cooper +

Webinar 10 November 3 9 – 10:30 am Central
 Dispersant related research at SINTEF Ongoing research at Sintef Per Johan Brandvik +
 Dispersant related research at John Hopkins Impacts of dispersants on formation of oil aerosols and their risks Joe Katz +

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			
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	EI Hazardous Area Classification	London
ONLINE	October 12-14	IMO Council Meeting	Internet
ONLINE	October 19-23	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	Internet
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
NETHERLANDS	November 4-5	European Environmental Ports Conference 2020	Rotterdam
UK	December 2-3	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	London
UK	December 2-4	Meetings of the IOPC Funds' Governing Bodies	London
BAHREIN	December 7-8	EI Middle East HSE Forum	Bahrein
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
FRANCE	March 23	CEDRE Information Day on Containers	Paris
USA	May 9	APICOM GM Meeting	New Orleans LA
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 8-10	Elastec Spill Workshop 2021	Carmi, IL
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

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.

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

ALGA Cronicle	News from Australasia on Contaminated Land Remediation	April 2020
AMSA Update	Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	December 2019
AUSMEPA Bulletin	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Summer 2020
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	June 2020
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	June 2020
Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter	News from CNA about Oil Spill Response in Nigeria	Publication paused
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	Current issue
Environmental Expert	Environmental News from Environmental Expert	Current issue
GEF Newsletter	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	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
Oiled Wildlife Log	Bi-annual Newsletter from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research	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	July 1-15, 2020
The Maritime Advocate	Maritime News from Sandra Speares	Current issue
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

MAURITIUS: CONTINUATION OF TIMELINE REPORTS

August 23 - Despite protests from environmental groups, the scuttling of the bow section of the grounded bulker Wakashio is moving ahead, according to Mauritius' unified response command. The sinking operation had to be temporarily halted on Saturday due to rough seas, salvors reported, but it is now moving ahead again. To accelerate the process, crews are cutting holes through the Wakashio's bulkheads, which will allow water to flow between the holds. Images from the scene show all hatches open and a response tug spraying in water with a fire monitor.



Photo: Response tug spraying water into the bow section's open hatches (Mobilisation Nationale Wakashio)

At the stern section, which is still grounded northeast of Mauritius' Blue Bay Marine Park, the pumping operation to remove fuel has now been completed. The bulk containers used to hold the recovered fuel (IBC totes) have all been flown off the deck onto a nearby PSV, and the salvors' attention has turned to removing solid wreckage, like wood, paneling and floating debris. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

August 23 - Don't assume the worst about the Mauritius oil spill – Comment from Christopher Reddy, Senior Scientist at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution – “Few sights prompt such dispiriting gut punches as an oil spill casting a blackened pall on pristine waters, beaches, and wildlife. [Video](#) and photos from the remote Indian Ocean island of Mauritius, where thousands of gallons of fuel oil leaked from a cargo ship that [ran aground recently](#), stoke a hopeless narrative that a paradise will be forever lost.



But the story doesn't have to end here -- the fate of Mauritius is not cast. I'm a scientist who has studied oil spills all over the world for more than three decades, including the [Deepwater Horizon disaster](#) in 2010. I've learned that the way an oil spill unfolds is not always simple or straightforward, and the worst-case scenario isn't a fait accompli.

In fact, assuming that the worst will happen can often make a bad situation worse. And in disasters like these, among the least resilient species in the ecosystem are humans -- because unlike clams or tuna, they suffer very real impacts simply by feeling hopeless. CNN / [Continue reading this article](#) [Thanks to Ed Levine, FISCO]

August 24 - In the waters around Mauritius, 40 local fishermen are working with 10 boats from the salvage operation to remove <https://allafrica.com/stories/202008260871.html> the artisanal booms that had been strung when the ship first began to leak oil. The crews are now relocating approximately 1,000 meters of absorbent booms while the skimming operations and shoreline cleanup continues. According to a government statement on August 24, a total of 1,122 tons of liquid waste has been collected and 792 tons of contaminated solid waste.

The investigation into the cause of the ground is also ongoing. The captain of the ship, who was arrested by Mauritius, is tentatively scheduled to make another court appearance later in the week. In the meantime, the Japanese news outlet Kyodo News is now reporting that the ship moved closer to the shore seeking a cell phone signal so that crew members could call home to check on their families during the pandemic. The news outlet repeats the reports of the birthday party, which they report the captain attended and the acknowledge the serving of alcohol at the party. They report however that they do not know which officer was on bridge watch at the time of the grounding. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

August 25 - Long-term threat to Mauritius ecology after spill: Japan experts. The major oil spill caused by a Japanese ship that ran aground in Mauritius may pose a long-term threat to the region's ecology, including to the Indian Ocean island's delicate mangroves, Japanese experts said Tuesday. Energy World / [Read more](#)

August 26 - Ocean Pollution Bulletin on the Wakashio oil spill accident. Relief Web / [Read this report](#)

August 26 - MOL seventh update on “MV Wakashio” reveals plans for safe removal of stern. Japanese shipping firm Mitsui O.S.K. Lines, Ltd. (MOL) on Tuesday (25 August) published a seventh update on grounded bulk carrier MV Wakashio summarising shipowner Nagashiki's plans to salvage parts of the vessel before its disposal as well as MOL's own efforts to supply clean-up experts and equipment. Manifold Times / [Read more](#)

August 26 - MV Wakashio - a Court of Investigation to Be Set Up. 'A preliminary enquiry will soon be concluded and its findings will determine a comprehensive set of terms of reference which would be presented before a Court of investigation. This Court of investigation, with at its helm an Official of the judiciary, will shed light on the circumstances that led to the grounding of MV Wakashio at Pointe d'Esny'. Government of Mauritius / [Read more](#)

August 26 – From ITOPF - Oil spill in Mauritius - update 25th August. [ITOPF / Read the latest sitrep from ITOPF](#)

August 26 - Anger and questions as 17 dead dolphins wash ashore. BBC News / [Read more](#)

August 27 - Oil not found in dead Mauritius dolphins - preliminary autopsy. Reuters / [Read more](#)

August 28 - Environmental Monitoring of Terrestrial and Marine Resources. A continuous environmental monitoring of terrestrial and marine resources is being maintained by the Ministry of Environment, Solid Waste Management and Climate Change and key stakeholders following the grounding of MV Wakashio at Pointe d'Esny and the resulting oil spill in the region. population. The monitoring is being done with the collaboration of the National Environmental Laboratory (NEL), the Albion Fisheries Research Centre (AFRC) and the Mauritius Oceanography Institute (MOI). All Africa / [Read more](#)

August 29 - 39 Dolphins And Whales Dead In Mauritius Amid Growing International Outrage. 39 dolphins and whales had washed up dead on the beaches of the Indian Ocean Island of Mauritius by Friday 28 August. This was the third day running that dead dolphins had washed up after 18 were first discovered on Wednesday as numbers steadily rose since then. Forbes / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO]

August 29 - Oil Spill: Thousands march in Port Louis - Thousands of people have marched through the Mauritian capital, Port Louis, in protest at the authorities' handling of a massive oil spill, and the discovery of 39 dead dolphins. BBC News / [Read more](#)

USA: SOUTH CAROLINA - FUEL SPILLS INTO MARSHLAND NEAR CHARLESTON HARBOR

August 16 - On Saturday, the U.S. Coast Guard and the South Carolina Department of Health and Environmental Control responded to a fuel spill at the Plum Island Wastewater Treatment Plant, across the Ashley River from downtown Charleston. The accident resulted in the release of up to 3,100 gallons of red-dye diesel, and about 80 percent went into nearby marshlands, according to local media. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

VENEZUELA: EL PALITO SPILL

August 20 - Coast could take half a century to recover from oil spill, researcher says. A strip of Venezuela's western coastline boasting pristine beaches and fragile ecosystems like mangroves and coral reefs could take more than half a century to fully recover from the environmental impacts of a recent [oil spill](#), a researcher said on Wednesday. Economist Times / [Read more](#)

August 21 – From Carlos Sagrera, MSc, MISCO - “I just received the presentation of Mr. Klein, from the Simon Bolivar University – https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/17mAomMI33FDvU9P90HHADQORZbpNtQ1hOcxFkO3H-8/edit#slide=id.g8f90e33d64_0_15 Also a summary about the origin and consequences of the spill with the references of the Scientific Associations of Venezuela” <http://www.ipsnoticias.net/2020/08/cientificos-venezolanos-lideran-lucha-ciudadana-nuevos-derrames-petroleros-caribe/>

August 26 - Faulty heat exchangers spill oil. An estimated 25,000 bl of oil spilled along western Venezuela's coastline in recent weeks came from faulty heat exchangers at state-owned PdV's El Palito refinery, three officials at the plant told Argus. At least three oil spills since early July have coincided with PdV attempts to boost gasoline and diesel production at El Palito. Argus Media / [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: CONCERN OVER TILTING OIL TANKER IN THE GULF

August 27 - Energy Minister Franklin Khan says the Maritime Division is unaware of a tilting Venezuelan oil tanker which is purportedly in danger of capsizing near Guiria. The matter was raised by Secretary of Fishermen and Friends of the Sea Gary About yesterday. Saying the tanker posed a potential environmental catastrophe in the Gulf of Paria, About noted, “Reports from Venezuela and in global media have indicated that a Venezuelan oil tanker in Guiria, containing approximately of 1,300,000 (1.3 M) barrels of crude oil, is presently tilted and at risk of capsizing thus contaminating the Gulf of Paria.” T&T Guardian / [Read more](#)

UAE: OIL SPILL OFF UAE'S EAST COAST FORCES CLOSURE OF KALBA BEACH

August 27 - Black sludge has washed up across three kilometres of pristine Kalba coastline after a suspected oil spill at sea. The slick caused the suspension of fishing activities and the partial closure of Kalba beach. Tuesday's spill is the fourth along the east coast of the UAE this year and the second in the Sharjah enclave of Kalba. The National / [Read more](#)

GREECE: TURKISH FREIGHTER RAN ONTO COASTLINE OF GREEK ISLAND, FULL SPEED

August 27 - General cargo ship MESSILA with cargo of wind turbine blades ran aground on eastern coast of Tilos island, Greece, Aegean sea, in the morning Aug 27, while en route from Mersin Turkey to Istanbul. Judging from track, the ship didn't change course as she should, and headed straight ahead, at full speed. She's probably seriously damaged. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

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