

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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ISAS - A COMBINATION OF UK SPILL AND ISAA ACCREDITATION SCHEMES



The joining-up of the spill response accreditation schemes operated by the INTERNATIONAL SPILL ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION (ISAA) and by UK SPILL has moved forward – the new ISAS website is now active at www.isaa.org.uk and a hard A5 booklet detailing all accredited organisations has been published.

The link-up under the name “ISAS” marks the conclusion of discussions that have been ongoing for the past two years.

As soon as COVID-19 restrictions allow, meetings for all accredited organisations together with Regulators and other interested parties will be held regionally every 6 months. Regions will be England, Wales, Scotland, Northern Ireland, and the Republic of Ireland. Actual venues will vary depending on availability. These meetings will be an opportunity to discuss Scheme improvements and provide a networking venue.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

PROGRESS TOWARDS ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE 2010 HNS PROTOCOL

Since the October 2019 session of the 1992 Fund Assembly, no State has deposited an instrument of ratification or accession to the 2010 HNS Protocol with the Secretary-General of IMO. Therefore, as of 22 July 2020, there are five Contracting States to the Protocol, namely, Canada, Denmark, Norway, South Africa and Turkey.

However, a number of States have continued their efforts to implement the HNS Convention into their domestic legislation, and it is hoped that more States will be able to ratify or accede to the Protocol in the next few years.

Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands have all reported positive progress towards an accession or ratification of the 2010 HNS Protocol during 2020. The Secretariat has been informed that in particular, the governments of Belgium, Germany and the Netherlands have exchanged letters with the purpose of providing a commitment from all three governments to move forward with the procedures necessary for the implementation of the 2010 HNS Convention.

Simultaneous ratification after the necessary decisions by the Parliaments of those countries would give the assurance that they will be able to join this important Convention, while ensuring a level playing field among potential large contributing States. The letter also calls for a mutual update on the progress made by the neighbouring countries towards implementation.

IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

NEW INSIGHTS INTO PRESSURE EXERTED ON MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE MED

Maritime traffic and offshore oil and gas exploration and production constitute important drivers of marine pollution in the Mediterranean. The Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean conducted by REMPEC, jointly with three other [UNEP/MAP system components](#) (namely Plan Bleu, MED POL and SPA/RAC) compiles the best available knowledge on four aspects: pollution from oil and chemicals, marine litter, air pollution, non-indigenous species and underwater noise.

In addition to identifying gaps related to data collection and proposing measures to ensure compliance with reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the study will support efforts to achieve the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean (GES). It feeds into relevant Ecological Objectives and Common Indicators of the [Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme \(IMAP\)](#)—the Mediterranean region's first common instrument developed by UNEP/MAP for harmonized monitoring and assessment underpinning the pursuit of GES. REMPEC / See Contributed Article on Page 7.

UNDP, PEMSEA SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING FOR KNOWLEDGE SHARING

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that aims to facilitate cooperation and strengthen collaboration between the two parties via the free use of mutually agreed knowledge products, experience and good practices in relation to their respective programs.

UNDP, represented by its China office, is implementing the regional project called Restoring Ecosystem Goods and Services of YSLME (Yellow Sea Large Marine Ecosystem), funded by the Global Environment Facility (GEF). PEMSEA is currently executing its Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) 2018-2022 Implementation Plan, also funded by GEF and implemented by UNDP.

The MOU, which will run until 2022, seeks to provide unrestricted access to knowledge products for knowledge development and replication in the areas both parties are pursuing: strategic action program for YSLME, and implementation of the SDS-SEA for PEMSEA. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

CROATIA: ATRAC COMMENCES WORK ON TWO NEW PROJECTS

FIRESPELL project - As part of the program 2014 – 2020 Interreg V-A Italy – Croatia, ATRAC began work on the strategic project FIRESPELL – Fostering Improved Reaction of crossborder Emergency Services and Prevention Increasing Safety Level. The duration of the project is 33 months (April 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022), and the total value is € 16,492,799.60. The leading partner is the public institution RERA from Split, and the other fourteen project partners are from the Croatian and Italian coastal regions. The project aims to improve the capacity of emergency services to increase cross-border efficiency in combating natural and man-made disasters and to increase the safety of the Adriatic basin by improving measures and instruments to prevent and manage emergencies.

CASCADE project - As part of the program 2014 – 2020 Interreg V-A Italy – Croatia, ATRAC began work on the strategic project CASCADE (Coastal and marine waters integrated monitoring systems for ecosystems protection and management). The duration of the project is 36 months (January 1, 2020 – December 31, 2022), and the total value is € 5,817,547.00. The leading partner of the project is Regione Puglia, and the other nineteen project partners are from the Croatian and Italian coastal regions.

The project aims to restore endangered species and support integrated management with coordinated actions that include monitoring, observation, modeling and management to improve knowledge and assess the vulnerability of terrestrial, coastal and marine environments and ecosystems in Italy and Croatia. The project covers 11 pilot areas, and joint actions will assess and protect coastal and marine biodiversity, establish restoration actions, assess the impact of extreme events on ecosystems and strengthen synergies in these areas. ATRAC / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE TO LEAD THE TCG-HNS GROUP

The TCG-HNS(*Technical Correspond Group - Hazardous Noxious Substances*)is an expert group set up by [the European Maritime SafetyAgency \(EMSA\)](#) to facilitate the exchange of knowledge and expertise.

The first objective of this group is to propose a training programme, prepared by the Member States and aimed at the Member States. The main objective of this training action would be to enhance the achievements in the field of preparation and response to incidents of marine pollution involving harmful and potentially dangerous substances (NHS).

Appointed **leader of this group**, Cedre is working with EMSA and expert partners to organize the first module of this programme, which could be organised next spring at the Cedre premises in Brest. CEDRE / [Source document](#)

JAPAN OFFERS MAURITIUS ‘UNPRECEDENTED’ SUPPORT IN OIL SHIP ACCIDENT

September 8 - Japan has told Mauritius it would offer support on an “unprecedented scale,” Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi said on Monday, after a Japanese-owned ship struck a coral reef off the country’s southeast coast in late July and spilled oil. Motegi was speaking to reporters after a phone call with Mauritius Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth.

Motegi said Japan’s support measures include helping introduce a maritime navigation safety system in Mauritius, providing fishing gear to small fishing operators, and promoting Mauritius’s trade and tourism. Insurance Journal / [Read more](#)

JAPAN: MAURITIUS LEADER THANKS JAPAN, SAYING GOVERNMENT NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR OIL SPILL



Photo: An undated photo shows oil containment booms along the coast of Mauritius following a massive oil spill. | MAURITIUS GOVERNMENT / VIA KYODO

September 8 - Mauritian Prime Minister Pravind Jugnauth said Monday he is thankful for the Japanese government’s assistance over a major oil spill despite it not being responsible for the accident, according to Foreign Minister Toshimitsu Motegi.

Motegi spoke by phone with the prime minister for the first time since the oil leakage from a Japanese freighter in July. Jugnauth asked Japan for continued support to restore the Indian Ocean island nation’s economy and nature following the spill, Motegi told reporters following their conversation, which was carried out at the request of the Japanese government. Japan Times / [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: SILICON VALLEY SYN BIO FIRMS IN RACE TO SAVE MAURITIUS UNIQUE BIODIVERSITY FROM OIL SPILL

September 8 - As the true enormity dawns of the large oil spill in Mauritius caused by Japanese bulk carrier, The Wakashio, Silicon Valley synthetic biology companies have been racing to offer support to the Indian Ocean island famous for its rare biodiversity.

The prospect of a Silicon Valley-European BioTech-Mauritian partnership could be a very powerful approach to capture and understand the complex biological functioning within this unique environment.

Krishnee Appadoo is a lecturer at the University of Mauritius. She is a specialist in environmental law and policy with a focus on the law of the sea, oceans, biodiversity and climate change. She had previously seen the power of Silicon Valley innovation from the time she had spent at the University of California in Berkeley, just outside San Francisco, on a research fellowship.

In looking at the potential of biotechnology and synthetic biology to address the biodiversity loss challenge now facing Mauritius, she said, "Silicon Valley has some of the most exciting companies focused on synthetic biology. Such a partnership with Mauritius and offers of support could really help Mauritius recognize the value of the rich ocean biodiversity that we have around the coastline. Forbes / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: SPDC DISMISSES 45,000 BARREL OIL SPILL REPORT, AS NOSDRA ADMITS ERROR

September 9 - The Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Limited (SPDC) has dismissed a report that it spilled 45,000 barrels of oil from an incident at its facility in Nun River in Angiama area of Bayelsa State in March, 2020.

A statement, last Monday, signed by the SPDC's Media Relations Manager, Bamidele Odugbesan, said, "The outcome of the government regulator-led Joint Investigation Visit (JIV) into the spill incident of 27th March, 2020, was published in a report that is available on the publicly accessible SPDC spill website, and the volume of oil spilled from the regrettable operational incident was 43 barrels".

According to Odugbesan, the JIV spill report, including photographs of the incident site, conducted on 28th March, 2020, was signed off by the regulator, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), and representatives of the community, the Bayelsa State Government and SPDC.

Responding to an enquiry on its twitter handle, NOSDRA had erroneously said that 45,000 barrels of oil were spilled from the wellhead leak, but the agency admitted the error in a subsequent tweet where it claimed that the actual volume of oil spilled should be 45 barrels. The Tide / [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: UNC CALLS ON ROWLEY TO ACT ON OIL TANKER

September 6 - THE United National Congress (UNC) is calling on the Prime Minister to act with haste to treat with a contingency response for TT to the unstable oil tanker stuck in Venezuelan waters in the Gulf of Paria.

UNC's PRO Anita Haynes, in a statement issued late on Saturday, said, "A potential major environmental crisis is currently brewing in the Gulf of Paria. For the past weeks the Venezuelan oil vessel the FSO Nabarima, which contains nearly 1 million barrels of crude oil, has been listing and leaking in the waters between Trinidad and Tobago and Venezuela. Newsday / [Read more](#)

UK: CONTINGENCY PLANNING: MARINE POLLUTION PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE

September 11 – The Maritime & Coastguard Agency has advised an update to its guidelines for ports to ensure a co-ordinated local and national response to an oil spill. These guidelines are for those involved in the creation of oil spill response contingency plans. They promote a coherent national approach to the successful management of oil pollution incidents. They're designed to ensure that the national contingency plan (NCP) and local plans, including those of harbour authorities, work together to respond effectively. MCA / [Read more](#)

USA: TRUMP EXTENDS OFFSHORE DRILLING BAN FOR SOUTHEAST STATES

September 8 - President Donald Trump on Tuesday signed a memorandum prohibiting offshore drilling for oil and natural gas off the coasts of Florida, Georgia and South Carolina for 10 years. Law 360 / [Read more](#)

USA: NOAA SEEKS FEEDBACK ON OCEAN AND COASTAL MAPPING STRATEGIES

September 11 - NOAA's [Hydrographic Services Review Panel](#), a federal advisory committee that advises the NOAA administrator on products and data related to navigation services, ocean and coastal mapping, water levels and currents, and global positioning, will hold an online public meeting on Sept. 23-24.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

The panel will receive updates on navigation and resource needs, geospatial and positioning data, mapping technology, the NOAA fleet, mapping priorities for the Arctic and Alaska, sea level rise and coastal inundation, and integrated ocean and coastal mapping.

The public is invited to the webinar, and is particularly encouraged to provide comments via email on the development of the national and Alaska ocean and coastal mapping implementation plans. Please submit comments and letters by email by no later than Sept. 15, 2020, to hydroservices.panel@noaa.gov, with subject line: *Public comments HSRP meeting, Sept. 23-24*.

Wed., Sept. 23, 1-5:30 p.m. EDT & Thu., Sept. 24, 1-5 p.m. EDT

Online webinar; [advance registration required: https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8315160447400968715](https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8315160447400968715)

OBITUARY

BILIANA CICIN-SAIN, VISIONARY OCEAN LEADER AND ENTREPRENEUR



Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) mourns the passing of Dr. Biliana Cicin-Sain. She was a great person and a significant force in the drive to put the ocean on the political agenda globally. A true friend and supporter of PEMSEA and the adoption and implementation of integrated coastal management. She will be missed.

Letter from the International Coastal and Ocean Organization (Secretariat of the Global Ocean Forum) Board of Directors

[Celebration of life and legacy](#)

ISCO NEWS

ISCO SECRETARY MATTHEW SOMMERVILLE RETURNS FROM MAURITIUS

As part of the UN team Matthew along with teams from Japan, France, UK, India and ITOPF were providing advice to the government and other bodies on the spill response aspects. Matthew, who has more than 35 years' multi-faceted experience in the incident planning and response industry was contracted as an independent consultant through his company, Spectrum Spill Services Limited.

He writes "It was an interesting spill from a number of aspects but I am sure these will be reported on in detail later and at future conferences and there is a long way yet to go on removal of oil from the most sensitive areas such as mangroves and the wreck removal for the stern of the ship. An integrated monitoring effort was coming into place when I left and that should ensure the recovery is measured and reported on in the future.

The original mission was for 2 weeks but was extended to 4 and could have gone on longer but as the incident had moved from crisis to planned activities the UN team from outside Mauritius including myself withdrew leaving the existing UN team in Mauritius to provide ongoing and longer term support as required".

Matthew will be writing an article about his experiences in Mauritius for later publication in the ISCO Newsletter.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE 1

THE OIL POLLUTION ACT OF 1990: 30 YEARS OF SPILL RESPONSE AND RESTORATION



Photo: On March 24, 1989, the tanker Exxon Valdez ran aground on Bligh Reef in Prince William Sound, Alaska. Within six hours of the grounding, the Exxon Valdez spilled approximately 10.9 million gallons (259,500 barrels) of its 53 million gallon cargo of Prudhoe Bay crude oil. The oil would eventually impact more than 1,100 miles of non-continuous coastline in Alaska, making the Exxon Valdez the largest oil spill in U.S. waters at the time. Image courtesy of the Environmental Protection Agency.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE 1 (CONTINUED)

Looking Back 30 Years

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 significantly improved measures to prevent, prepare for, and respond to oil spills in U.S. waters.

This historic legislation gives NOAA and other agencies the authority to address impacts to natural resources caused by oil spills in U.S. waters and shorelines, and to hold polluters accountable.

Congress passed this legislation, and President George H.W. Bush signed it into law on Aug. 18, 1990.

Thirty years later, we're looking back at the events leading up to the passage of the Oil Pollution Act, what's happened since then, and how NOAA and its partners continue to keep our nation's coast clean from the threat of oil pollution under this important historic legislation.

This month, tune in below as we share blogs, story maps, and more to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the Oil Pollution Act.

[When Boats Don't Float: How the NOAA Marine Debris Program Works to Remove Sunken Vessels](#)

While oil spills and marine debris are hardly synonymous, when it comes to abandoned and derelict vessels, the two worlds often meet. In this blog, learn more about how OR&R's Marine Debris program helps keep our nation's coasts clean from threats of oil pollution. [Read the full blog here.](#)

[Story Map: Examining the Oil Pollution Act's Legacy Through 30 Oil Spills\(link is external\)](#)

The legacy of the Oil Pollution Act is that it remains as important in 2020 as it was in 1990. In our latest story map, explore 30 spills from the past 30 years that highlight the importance of this historic oil pollution legislation. [View the story map here.\(link is external\)](#)

[The Oil Pollution Act of 1990: A History of Spills and Legislation](#)

Though a unique and historic piece of legislation, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 was not the first of its kind. Learn more about the various iterations of oil pollution legislation and the spills that inspired them in this blog by marine biologist Gary Shigenaka. [Read the full blog here.](#)

[Argo Merchant: What if It Happened Today?](#)

The history of our office began in 1976 with the grounding of the tanker Argo Merchant near Nantucket Shoals in Massachusetts. But what if the Argo Merchant happened today, with the protections and preventative measures offered by the Oil Pollution Act? [Read the full blog here.](#)

[Keeping the Oil Pollution Act Updated](#)

On Aug. 18, 1990, President H.W. Bush signed the Oil Pollution Act. The act gave NOAA and other agencies improved authorities for spill prevention, response, and restoration in the nation's navigable waters and shorelines. Like many other laws, it has been subject to various amendments over time to address emerging issues or to strengthen or clarify the original law. [Read the full blog here.](#)

[Who Pays for Oil Spills?](#)

After every major oil spill, one question comes up again and again: Who is going to pay for this mess? While the American public and the environment pay the ultimate price (metaphorically speaking), the polluter most often foots the bill for cleanup, response, and restoration after oil spills. In sum: You break it, you buy it. [Read the full blog here.](#)

[An Oil Spill's Silver Lining, 30 Years Since Exxon Valdez](#)

When an oil spill happens, whoever is responsible pays for the cleanup and restoration. But this has not always been the case. Thirty years ago, on March 24, 1989, the oil tanker *Exxon Valdez* grounded on Bligh Reef, rupturing its hull and spilling almost 11 million gallons of crude oil into Alaska's Prince William Sound. [Read the full blog here.](#)

[Story Map: The Spills Behind the Oil Pollution Act](#)

Exxon Valdez wasn't the only big spill of 1989. Between June 23 and 24, three different oil tankers accidentally poured their cargo into U.S. coastal waters. Learn about how the spills of 1989 influenced the work that NOAA does today to respond to and restore the environment after oil spills [in this story map.](#)

[The True Cost of an Oil Spill: Q&A with a NOAA Economist](#)

The Oil Pollution Act of 1990 made a huge shift in how we do natural resource damage assessment. One of the primary roles of damage assessment is to determine the cost of an oil spill. To learn more about how we assess the true cost of an oil spill, [read the full blog here.](#)

[With thanks to NOAA OR&R for kind permission to reprint in the ISCO Newsletter]



NEW INSIGHTS INTO PRESSURE EXERTED ON MARINE ECOSYSTEMS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

Maritime traffic and offshore oil and gas exploration and production constitute important drivers of marine pollution in the Mediterranean. The Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean conducted by REMPEC, jointly with three other [UNEP/MAP system components](#) (namely Plan Bleu, MED POL and SPA/RAC) compiles the best available knowledge on four aspects: pollution from oil and chemicals, marine litter, air pollution, non-indigenous species and underwater noise.

In addition to identifying gaps related to data collection and proposing measures to ensure compliance with reporting obligations under the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols, the study will support efforts to achieve the Good Environmental Status of the Mediterranean (GES). It feeds into relevant Ecological Objectives and Common Indicators of the [Integrated Monitoring and Assessment Programme \(IMAP\)](#)—the Mediterranean region’s first common instrument developed by UNEP/MAP for harmonized monitoring and assessment underpinning the pursuit of GES.

Sneak peek into the findings

- In the last decade passenger traffic increased significantly (1.5 times) while port calls related to merchant shipping increased by 15.2 per cent.
- An important number of old offshore platforms are approaching the end of operational lifetime in the Mediterranean. Their decommissioning has environmental implications that require adequate measures.
- Up to 1,500-2,000 events of operational oil spill are estimated to occur yearly in the basin. The distribution of oil spills is well correlated with major shipping routes, crossing the Mediterranean from east to west and linking major ports.
- Kostianoy and Carpenter (2018) suggests 50,000-100,000 tons per year as possible estimation of volume of oil illicitly discharged every year.
- It is estimated that a million tons of marine litter originates from ships in the Mediterranean.
- Up to 57 per cent of all emissions from international shipping in Europe occur in the Mediterranean Sea.
- Changes in Mediterranean marine biodiversity related to introduction of non-indigenous species (NIS) are attributed to intense maritime traffic, opening of corridors and aquaculture farming (among other activities).
- In the last decade, the species richness of marine organisms in the Mediterranean Sea has been reported to have reached ~17,000 taxa (a measure of biological diversity, among which some 820 can be considered non-indigenous species).
- Background noise levels in *Mare Nostrum* are higher than in any other ocean basin. Ship noise and seismic surveys are among the primary sources of noise that can lead to behavioral disturbances, loss of hearing and mortality of marine species.

The next steps

REMPEC is currently facilitating a consultation among the [Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention](#) on the study. A complementary technical report on maritime traffic outlook for the next five, ten and thirty years (2025, 2030, 2050) is being carried out.

Based on the findings, strategic and operational measures will be integrated into the Mediterranean Strategy for the Prevention of, and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships (2022-2031) and its Action plan. REMPEC is taking the lead on the development of the draft Strategy and its Action Plan, which will be submitted to COP 22 Barcelona Convention for adoption.

The Outlook section of the study will contribute to the preparation of the Mediterranean [2023 Quality Status Report \(2023 MED QSR\)](#) and the [MED 2050 Foresight Study](#) towards a shared vision on a sustainable Mediterranean in 2050.

The Study on trends and outlook of marine pollution from ships and activities and of maritime traffic and offshore activities in the Mediterranean will be published following its review by the Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of REMPEC, to be tentatively held in Malta, between 25 and 27 May 2020. [With thanks to Gabino Gonzalez, REMPEC]

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

CONTRIBUTION TO REMOVAL OF PLASTICS IN MARINE ENVIRONMENTS WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE THE NEXT 400 YEARS

The following received from ISCO Corporate Member, DESMI Ro-Clean A/S



On Tuesday 8th September 2020, DESMI had the pleasure to arrange the board meeting for Ocean Plastic Forum, a confederation of approx. 60 companies, organizations, and universities. Physically, Ocean Plastic Forum is located at Maskinmestrenes Forening (Association of Mechanical and Marine Engineers) in Copenhagen.

DESMI's EnviRo-Care is 100% dedicated to the development of equipment and complete systems for removal of plastic articles and any other marine and aquatic debris and waste in streaming water bodies and for that reason DESMI is naturally joining Ocean Plastic Forum. However, the philosophy is that marine and aquatic debris and waste in rivers and tributaries must be removed before this is floating into the open sea where it would be a lot more resource demanding to collect. Furthermore, this debris and waste could also harm the flora and fauna a lot more when it first has arrived in the ocean waters.

Since the board members of Ocean Plastic Forum are in Odense, DESMI has used the opportunity to demonstrate a collecting and gathering concept for the representatives of the Danish Department of the Environment, consultants and funding organizations together with representatives from the Danish plastic industry and, not least, from the industry recycling collected plastics.



[Download the EnviRo-Care Brochure](#)

The collector system is placed at the locality of Vandcenter Syd at Ejby Mølle. Vandcenter Syd has been of huge assistance related to the testing of the new collecting and gathering concept. DESMI Ro-Clean A/S / [Read more](#)

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING

NEW WEBINAR ANNOUNCED BY GI WACAF

After a summer break, the [GI WACAF Project](#) webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response resumes and the next webinar will take place on **Wednesday 16th September!** This third webinar will focus on **contingency planning**.

There will be 2 sessions, one in the morning at **11am (London time) in French** and one in the afternoon at **2 pm (London time) in English**.

This live webinar will be dedicated to oil spill contingency planning and will present the key aspects of contingency planning in preparedness and response to oil spills from different perspectives and viewpoints. For this webinar, we will enjoy the company of leading international experts from [Oil Spill Response Limited \(OSRL\)](#), the [South African Maritime Safety Agency \(SAMSA\)](#), and [ExxonMobil Angola](#) for the English-speaking session and from [Cedre](#), [Total](#) and [HASSMAR](#) during the French-speaking one.

Learning objectives:

- Gain an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of the various stakeholders involved in contingency planning (national authorities, oil and gas industry and other industries);
- Gain knowledge on the main tools used in contingency planning such as Oil Spill Contingency Plans and National Oil Spill Contingency Plans;

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING (CONTINUED)

- Gain an understanding of concrete implications of the [OPRC Convention](#); and
- Gain knowledge on the challenges and successes faced when planning for oil spills through case studies shared by the experts.

Do not hesitate to register, and please share this link amongst your network: **all the GI WACAF webinars are free and open to everyone!**

Registration links:

English: <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/18/plr41t2>

French: <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/19/m21vyi9>

WEEK 3 - EM DISPERSANTS / HERDERS WEBINAR SERIES

Please join dispersant / herder webinar series week 3. Note that there is still room for more participants so feel free to forward invite to others but I ask that potential attendees email me to RSVP: tim.j.nedwed@exxonmobil.com

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 Svejkovsky

Zoom Link: Join from a PC, Mac, iPad, iPhone or Android device: Please click this URL to join.

<https://exxonmobil.zoom.us/j/91394551832?pwd=d1hDUGwwUk5xWGpKVVdTQUiNDNadz09> Passcode: 201669

Details of the complete series of the ExxonMobil webinars and joining instructions were published in Issue 751 of the ISCO Newsletter. For more info and to register please send email to tim.j.nedwed@exxonmobil.com

LECTURE SERIES FROM NOAA

["You Don't Know What You Don't Know"](#) lecture series (every Thursday at 3 p.m. ET):

- **Sept. 17:** Movement of Sunken Oil with Missy Gloekler, PhD candidate, University of New Hampshire.
- **Sept. 24:** The History of Oil Spills with NOAA OR&R's Senior Marine Biologist Gary Shigenaka.
- **Oct. 15:** Harmful Algal Blooms with Quay Dortch, senior harmful algal bloom (HAB) scientist, NOAA.

More info: https://response.restoration.noaa.gov/oil-and-chemical-spills/oil-spills/orr-lecture-series-you-dont-know-what-you-dont-know?utm_medium=email&utm_source=GovDelivery

ONLINE TRAINING FROM LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY

Certificate in Marine Pollution Prevention and Management - Study marine pollution issues, management strategies and contingency planning to minimise the environmental impact of shipping. Starts 17 March 2020. [More info](#)

WEBINARS FROM UK SPILL

UK Spill will be starting a series of webinars between now and Christmas. The first of these is on 29th September and is entitled MV Wakashio – lessons to be learned. This tells the story of the Japanese ship which struck a coral reef off Mauritius in July and subsequently broke up spilling around 800 – 1000 tonnes of bunker fuel oil into the pristine, protected marine environment. Further details on how to join the webinar will be available from chairman@ukspill.org

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

HOW WEEDS ARE BEING USED TO CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS

August 26 - With its succulent leaves and violet flowers, water hyacinth may look beautiful, but it is in fact deadly.

The invasive species, introduced to Africa from South America in the late 1800s, has wreaked havoc by clogging up lakes and waterways, destroying ecosystems and putting livelihoods at risk. Recent data on the plant's economic impact is lacking but in Benin, an infestation during 1999 was found to reduce the annual income of 200,000 people by about \$84 million.

That's why Green Keeper Africa, a Benin startup founded in 2014, is trying to reduce the weed's spread by ripping it out of

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

waterways and using it to create a fibrous substance that can help mop up oil spills.



Photo: Green Keeper Africa employs women from local communities to harvest the aquatic weed.

Green Keeper Africa harvests the hyacinth, dries the plant and breaks it down into a loose fiber marketed as GKSORB, that can be packed into bags, pillows and "socks." The products are sold in emergency spill kits that can be kept on site or in a vehicle, and are able to soak up spills of up to 58 gallons (220 liters).

Oil and gas companies, such as Puma Energy Benin, buy the products, says Yehounme, adding that they provide an eco-friendly alternative to existing methods and work on both land and in water. CNN Business / [Read more](#)

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

NATIONAL ACADEMIES - OIL IN THE SEA IV MEETING 1

The first public meeting of the Committee on Oil in the Sea IV: Inputs, Fates, and Effects will take place on September 18, 2020, 11am – 4:30pm EDT. During this meeting, the committee will discuss the statement of task and hear perspectives on the committee's charge from the study sponsors and other relevant stakeholders. To attend, please register [here](#).

ARCTIC SHIPPING WEEK 2020 – VIRTUAL

NEW PERSPECTIVES ON THE WORLD'S MOST CHALLENGING ARENA FOR MARITIME COMMERCE

Early Bird Discount - save up to £100.00 when you book by 2nd October
27th – 30th October 2020

[More info](#) To register online: [Online Booking Form](#)

NAMEPA VIRTUAL CONFERENCE & MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION AWARDS

NAMEPA (North American Marine Environment Protection Association) will hold its Annual Conference and Marine Environment Protection Awards Program on November 5th. In order to safeguard the well-being of all participants, as well as expand the reach of the event, it will be held virtually.

The conference will be followed by NAMEPA's annual Marine Environment Protection Awards Program, which recognizes the achievements of industry leaders and companies to "Save Our Seas".

When: Thursday, November 5, 2020 from 1:00 PM to 6:00 PM EST [More info](#)

PUBLICATIONS

REVIEW OF WATER TREATMENT SYSTEMS FOR PFAS REMOVAL

Report prepared by Concaawe Special Task Force on Soil and Groundwater (WQ/STF-33)

Due to the persistence, bioaccumulation potential and toxicity of several members of the PFAS family these substances are regarded as environmental contaminants of concern. CONCAWE / [Download an abstract and the complete review](#)

HELCOM PUBLISHES REPORTS ON CHEMICAL CONTAMINANTS

In a bid to better understand the effects of certain hazardous substances on the Baltic Sea, HELCOM, in collaboration with Stockholm University's Baltic Sea Centre, has compiled the latest science on selected chemical contaminants.

The results were published in four reports, namely on dioxins and PCBs, brominated flame retardants, PFOS and PFAS, and diclofenac.

"We must identify the major sources of the hazardous substances and understand how they move in the ecosystems to be able to do something about the problem," said Emma Undeman, a researcher at Stockholm University and lead author of the reports.

PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

The reports give insights into the sources and pathways to the sea of the addressed substances, as well as on how their concentrations have changed in the Baltic Sea over time.

Information from the reports will notably serve to evaluate the efficiency of currently implemented measures under the present BSAP, and for suggesting additional measures needed to improve the Baltic Sea's state in regard to the reduction of concentrations of hazardous substances. HELCOM / [Read more](#)

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			
AUSTRALIA	Sept. 15-17	Ecoforum Conference & Exhibition (Virtual)	Online
UK	September 16	UK Spill Annual General Meeting	Online
ICELAND	POSTPONED	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	Online
UK	October 12-14	IMO Council Meeting	Online
UK	October 19-23	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	Online
USA	October 20-22	Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition	San Antonio, TX
UK	October 27-29	Arctic Shipping Forum North America	Online
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
USA	November 5	NAMEPA Marine Conference & Awards	Online
SWEDEN	Nov. 26-27	Swedish National Oil Spill Conference 2020	Online
UK	December 2-4	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	Online
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
ICELAND	March 2-4	International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region	Online
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

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	August 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 16-30, 2020
The Maritime Advocate	Maritime News from Sandra Speares	Current issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	September 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.

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.

INCIDENT REPORTS

CHINA: ENVIRONMENTAL NGO CALLS FOR INVESTIGATION AFTER BLACK RUBBER GRANULES WASH UP ON HONG KONG BEACH

August 28 - Hong Kong based environmental organisation, [Plastic Free Seas \(PFS\)](#), has called for an investigation after more than two tonnes of black rubber granules washed up on a beach in Discovery Bay last month. South China Morning Post / [Read more](#)

USA: MONTANA - CHEMICAL SPILL AT DICKEY LAKE UNDER INVESTIGATION

September 2 - An investigation into a chemical spill that occurred at a Dickey Lake campground last week is currently underway, according to Kootenai National Forest officials. Daily Inter Lake / [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: GREEN SCORPIONS PROBE OIL SPILL IN DURBAN RIVER

September 3 - South Durban Community Environmental Alliance along with the Green Scorpions, the eThekweni Municipality and Transnet have taken samples along the entire Amanzimnyama River after oil sludge began flowing into the Durban harbour recently. According to the SDCEA, All the mangrove trees are covered with oil and the sand bank nursery of birdlife and to a large variety of fish, crab, shrimp, and mollusks species has been destroyed because of this incident. "With all that has taken place we have seen immediate action from Transnet in getting the booms installed yesterday across the Durban harbor to avoid further damage and here we recognize the Durban Harbour Port manager and his officials who acted immediately in appointing Spill Tech". IOL / [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: CHEMICAL LEAK ONBOARD ARRIVING SHIP AT PORT OF TAURANGA, TWO FIRES CREWS ON SCENE

September 4 - Port of Tauranga communication manager Rochelle Lockley said the chemical leak happened onboard the container ship Spirit of Auckland before it arrived from Panama this afternoon. Lockley said the leak was from a valve on one of the containers and the ship's crew fixed the leak and contained the solvent spill onboard the ship. New Zealand Herald / [Read more](#)

SRI LANKA: REPORTS TIMELINE – CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

September 6 - Oil tanker fire: No oil spill, boundary cooling operation in progress - Fire at MT New Diamond is under control and the oil tanker that has been on fire since Thursday afternoon, is currently being held in position by a tug boat 42 miles from the Sri Lankan Coast. WION / [Read more](#)

September 6 – Indian Coast Guard pollution response ship joins firefighting onboard oil tanker off Lankan coast - A specialised Indian Coast Guard (ICG) pollution response ship, Samudra Paheredar, joined the firefighting operation onboard an oil tanker off the Sri Lankan coast on Sunday, the coast guard said. The ship is equipped with an ocean boom, four oil skimmers and oil spill dispersant to handle pollution response in event of an oil slick," a statement issued by the coast guard said. Deccan Herald / [Read more](#)

September 6 - Fire Extinguished on VLCC New Diamond Drifting off Sri Lanka - After a joint effort by Indian and Sri Lankan forces, the fire aboard the VLCC New Diamond was reported extinguished on Sunday afternoon, September 6. The fire had burned for nearly 79 hours at times raising fears of an environmental disaster as the crude oil tanker loaded with approximately two million barrels of oil drifted closer to the Sri Lanka coast. On Friday, they reported one crack approximately two meters long located about 10 meters above the waterline. The discovery of the crack had led MEPA to warn of the potential of explosions and oil spills from the fully loaded tanker. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

September 7 - Fire Reignites on VLCC New Diamond off Sri Lanka - The fire aboard the VLCC New Diamond has reignited less than a day after authorities announced that it had been extinguished. High internal temperatures aboard the crude oil tanker combined with high winds, which were also causing adverse sea conditions, are being blamed for the reignition. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

September 7 - Sri Lanka assessing environment damage from oil tanker fire - Sri Lanka's government is sending scientists to determine whether a three-day fire on a giant oil tanker off its coast damaged the marine environment, an official said Monday. Inquirer / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, HonFISCO]

September 8 - Seems like the whole structure in aft section is overheated, and there is substantial quantity of bunker fuel left, which didn't burn out, and that leads to repeated reignitions. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

September 8 – Attorney General advises to consider moving ship out of Sri Lankan waters - Attorney General (AG) Dappula de Livera today focused on the urgent need to reach a decision to move the MT New Diamond oil tanker, that caught fire on Wednesday (03), out of Sri Lankan waters. Colombo Gazette / [Read more](#)

September 8 - Sri Lanka spots oil slick from fire-stricken supertanker - Sri Lanka's navy said on Tuesday that an oil slick had been spotted a kilometre from a loaded supertanker off the country's east coast, as efforts to extinguish a fire on board continued. Reuters / [Read more](#)

September 8 - An Indian coast guard aircraft has sprayed a special chemical on a patch of diesel fuel near a large oil tanker off Sri Lanka's coast where firefighters are battling a new blaze that broke out two days after an earlier fire was extinguished ABC News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO]

September 8 - A combined team consisting of nine ships from India and Sri Lanka and five tugboats remain on site fighting the fire along with the aircraft support. They continued to put water on the tanker to cool the vessel and repeated the application of dry

powder to suffocate the fire. As a result, as of this evening, they reported that the fire was contained and greatly reduced.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

September 9 - According to latest SLN statement dated morning Sep 9, fire is under control or extinguished, no flames, no smoke visible. Tanker is said to be under tow in seaward direction. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

September 10 - Salvage team or teams reportedly, already boarded tanker. They'll wait and check until they'll be sure there's nothing smoldering left, no risk of reignition. After that or parallel with cooling, checking and assessing ship's condition, towage to port will commence or already commenced, because tanker and all deployed in salvage ships are already moving northward.

Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

September 10 - Sri Lanka says it will take legal action over New Diamond fire - Jagath Gunsekara, Deputy General Manager of the country's Marine Environment Protection Authority (MEPA) said that legal action would be filed under Sri Lankan laws that protect the marine ecosystem. Insurance Marine News / [Read more](#)

September 11 - Tanker is under tow, with a thin fuel sheen in her wake. According to latest salvage tracks, she's towed eastward, understood to keep her against fresh wind and sea during salvage team survey and preparations for further towage.

Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

September 11 - With the vessel dead in the water after the fire, the Indian Navy said it would be impossible to explore removing the crude oil cargo from the New Diamond before the ship could be brought to port. SMIT has been assigned the task of completing the salvage operation although the Indian and Sri Lankan forces continue to monitor the situation.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: REPORTS TIMELINE – CONTINUED FROM LAST WEEK

September 11 - Ship operator to pay USD 9 million - The Japanese operator of a bulk carrier that struck a coral reef and caused a widespread oil spill off the coast of Mauritius said Friday it will provide 1 billion yen (USD 9 million) to fund environmental projects and support the local fishing community. The Deccan Herald / [Read more](#)

September 11 - The maritime authority of Panama, where the ship is registered, issued a statement saying an early investigation suggested the accident was caused by human error, including a mishandling of a nautical chart and navigation system and lack of supervision and safety monitoring. Star Tribune / [Read more](#)

September 12 - Mauritians on Saturday marched for the second time in a month as public anger festers over the government's handling of a devastating oil spill off the coast. France 24 / [Read more](#)

USA: HURRICANE LAURA'S AFTERMATH: MILES OF OIL SHEEN IN LOUISIANA'S WETLANDS

September 9 - How much oil did Hurricane Laura's impact cause to spill with its powerful winds, rain, and storm surge? While the storm made landfall on August 27, Louisiana Department of Natural Resources (DNR) spokesman Patrick Courreges told DeSmog it is still too early to assess the storm's damage. "We are just 10 days out," Courreges said by phone on September 8.

By August 29, the U.S. Coast Guard's National Response Center had received 31 reports of oil and chemical spills related to Hurricane Laura, according to a U.S. Environmental Protection Agency report reviewed by New Orleans Public Radio. That report suggests that most of the spills occurred in coastal waters, and National Response Center data available online indicates additional spills from Hurricane Laura, including a crude oil spill from a pipeline attached to a platform near Morgan City, about 85 miles west of New Orleans, which was reported August 30. Desmog / [Read more](#)

VENEZUELA: PDVSA CONFIRMS OIL LEAK INTO SEA NEAR REFINERY COMPLEX

September 13 - Venezuela's state-owned oil company PDVSA [PDVSA.UL] on Saturday confirmed an oil leak from an oil line and a gas pipeline into the Caribbean Sea near the largest refining center in the country, but said it had begun repair and cleanup efforts. Business Standard / [Read more](#) Another report in [The Deccan Herald](#)

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