

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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

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CLEAN WATERWAYS REPLAY

Access all content you would find at the in-person event, but at your pace and convenience.

11 Sessions and Presentations + Exhibitor and Sponsor Directory

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Due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the October 20-22, 2020 **CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition** is being postponed to November 16-18, 2021.

CELEBRATING 75 YEARS OF THE UN



As the UN reaches a landmark year, IPIECA Executive Director Brian Sullivan looks back at some of its major milestones, highlights the environmental and social impacts made by UN-IPIECA partnerships and reflects on why it is now more important than ever to solving the world's shared challenges.

This year the United Nations (UN) celebrates its 75th anniversary, and while the milestone comes at a time of great disruption, the COVID-19

pandemic is a stark reminder of the importance of cooperation across borders, sectors and generations.

As a truly global organization, the UN – formed by 193 member states – is leading the response to this unprecedented health crisis and the social and economic impacts left in its wake.

Working with hundreds of partners the UN is supporting the development of a vaccine, deploying emergency medical support around the world, and providing technical inputs to countries' response plans.

As part of efforts to tackle the socio-economic issues triggered by COVID-19, it has produced a framework to safeguard essential services and jobs, and launched a Build Back Better Fund to enable a recovery process that addresses the climate crisis, inequalities and exclusion.

IPIECA / [Continue reading](#)

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

ARAB MINISTERS WARN OF OIL SPILL DISASTERS IN THE RED SEA

September 21 - Arab ministers have warned of oil spill disasters in the Red Sea and called on international and regional bodies to maintain maritime security in the area.

An Arab League video conference session on Monday brought together ministers responsible for environmental affairs.

The session was held at Saudi Arabia's request to discuss ways of avoiding a disaster in the Red Sea because of an oil tanker that has been anchored off Yemen's Ras Isa port since 2015. Arab News / [Read more](#)

EMSA'S OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSEL PARTICIPATES IN BALEX DELTA EXERCISE

On 26 August, EMSA took part in the operational pollution response exercise Balex Delta 2020 organised by the Estonian Police and Border Guard, and with the participation of the Baltic Member States, thus providing a good opportunity for cooperation with the participating states. The Agency mobilised the stand-by oil spill recovery vessel in the Baltic Sea - Norden (based in Malmo, Sweden). The vessel simulated oil spill recovery by using its rigid sweeping arms and simulated ship-to-ship transfer operations with some of the other participating vessels. In addition, one lightweight RPAS on board Norden, with a pilot, was also provided for the exercise, with a live video streaming made available to the exercise organisers. [Read more](#)

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

CROATIA: "SEA 2020" – EXERCISE HELD IN ZADAR COUNTY



September 24 - On September 23rd and 24th 2020, ATRAC organized a two-day workshop in co-operation with the Zadar County Operational Centre, which included an exercise at sea. On the first day, we had a preparatory meeting for the exercise that was held on the next day, ATRAC presented the most important cases of pollution this year, and representatives of the Development Agency ZADRA NOVA presented the activities of the PEPSEA project related to the procurement of equipment for Zadar County. On the second day, the exercise "Sea 2020" was held. Its aim was testing the alert systems and incident management system in Zadar county, as well as mobilization and deployment of equipment available in that area. ATRAC / [Read more and see more photos](#)

JAPAN COAST GUARD OFFICIAL DETAILS MAURITIAN OIL SPILL RESPONSE

September 24 - A Japan Coast Guard unit specializing in cleaning up oil and toxic liquids spilled into the ocean was deployed to Mauritius last month to assist local authorities in responding to a fuel oil leak from a stranded Japanese-owned cargo ship.

Hisashi Otsuka, head of a National Strike Team deployed to Mauritius, said that it worked behind the scenes to offer technical and coordination support. According to Otsuka, expert teams from the United Nations and other institutions were already on the island when the Japanese delegation arrived there. The group's main task was to advise local authorities on preventing the further spread of oil from the Wakashio freighter, which grounded off the Indian Ocean island state in late July.

When the Japanese group arrived, removing oil that had washed up in mangrove forests along the coast was a major challenge in the disaster. The group briefed disaster response personnel, including members of the Mauritian government, on the state of the oil spill using satellite images from the Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, or JAXA. Nippon / [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: ENVIRONMENTAL ACCIDENTS THE FINAL DAMAGE FROM THE MAURITIUS OIL SPILL IS STILL UNCLEAR – PRELIMINARY INVESTIGATION SHOWS SHIP RAN AGROUND WHILE SEARCHING FOR INTERNET CONNECTION

September 24 - The accident in Mauritius in July is the first in which a new type of low-sulfur marine fuel has entered the sea.

In Mauritius The oil from a large cargo ship that sank in the Indian Ocean in July is still being cleaned off the island state's ecologically sensitive beaches two months after the accident.

This is one of the first accidents in the world in which modern, low-sulfur ship fuel has entered the sea. The International Maritime Organisation's (IMO) requirements for marine fuel tightened from the beginning of this year.

Limiting the amount of sulfur in the fuel is intended to reduce sulfur emissions into the air. The effects of the new so-called VLSFO fuel on the sea, on the other hand, are not yet fully known, said the environmental expert Sunil Dowarkasing news agency for AFP.

According to the Panamanian report, the alert was issued by the Mauritian authorities. The Mauritius Coast Guard tried to warn the ship five times before the ship ran aground, the Mauritian government said in a statement released at the end of August. in the bulletin. The Coast Guard had been monitoring the ship's movements since it entered the Mauritius EEZ 200 miles off the coast.

According to the preliminary conclusions of the AMP, the accident could have been avoided by following good seafaring practice. Pledge Times / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: GROUP SEEKS STATE, FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS INTERVENTION IN Ogoni CLEANUP

September 21 - To achieve environmental justice in the Niger Delta region, the State and Federal Governments have been implored to strengthen coordination of the Ogoni cleanup exercise and remove any political undertone in the project. The Executive Director, Civil Society Legislative Advocacy Centre (CISLAC), Auwal Ibrahim Musa said this during a regional capacity building workshop for newsmen in Lagos.

On the remediation, he noted that the competence of the contractors; access to funds, the Ogoni context, and terrain, as well as the choice of 'one-size-fits-all technology', remain major challenges for contractors. Guardian Ng / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: OGONI CLEAN-UP: MINISTER HANDS OVER SEVEN COMPLETED SITES IN OGONILAND

September 25 - The Minister of Environment, Dr Mahmood Abuakar, has handed over seven completed remediated oil spill polluted sites in Ogoniland in Rivers State to the National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) for scientific certification.

The sites are among the first 21 sites awarded to contractors by the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) for clean-up in Ogoniland. The Tide / [Read more](#)

NORWAY: CONTINUED HIGH INTEREST FOR NEW EXPLORATION ACREAGE

September 25 - The Norwegian Ministry of Petroleum and Energy has received a large number of applications from 33 oil companies in the licensing round Awards in Predefined Areas (APA) 2020.

The level of safety on the NCS is high, and normal exploration-activities, development and production has no proven negative effects on the natural environment. As in all other industrial activity, there is a risk of accidents that may have consequences for life, loss of infrastructure or damage to the environment. A strong focus has therefore been aimed at reducing the risk of large, unwanted incidents.

Potential damage to the natural environment is limited to large accidental oil spills. There has been very few larger oil spills on the NCS, and there are strict requirements in place for emergency preparedness in order to reduce the consequences in the event of an accidental oil spill. During 50 years of petroleum activities, no accidental oil spills have reached Norwegian shores, and no damage to the marine environment has been proven. Market Screener / [Read more](#)

SAUDI ARABIA CALLS FOR UN TO TACKLE YEMENI TANKER PROBLEM

September 24 - Saudi Arabia has written to the United Nations Security Council warning of an “oil spot” has been detected offshore Yemen.

Saudi’s permanent representative to the UN Abdallah Y. Al-Mouallimi said a pipeline attached to the FSO Safer vessel “is suspected to have been separated from the stabilisers holding it to the bottom”. The line is now “floating on the surface of the sea. Moreover, an oil spot has been observed 50 km west of the vessel inside the transit area of merchant ships.”

The Safer has “reached a critical state of degradation”, posing a serious threat to all countries around the Red Sea, particularly Yemen and Saudi, Al-Mouallimi said. Energy Voice / [Read more](#)

SRI LANKA LOOKING FOR NEARLY \$2M (AT LEAST) FROM OWNER OF THE NEW DIAMOND

September 18 - Sri Lanka has said that it would be seeking at least SRI340m (\$1.9m) from the owner of stricken VLCC New Diamond (IMO 9191424) as fees for assistance given by Sri Lankan forces to the vessel since it caught fire on September 3rd.

Nishara Jayaratne, coordinating officer to the country’s attorney general, said that the cost was for services provided by various departments, including the Sri Lankan navy, air force, ports authority and Marine Environment Protection Authority, among others, between September 3rd and September 15th.

The New Diamond, which is fully-loaded vessel remains in Sri Lankan waters, although the fire has been extinguished and its situation is now seen as stable. Insurance Marine News / [Read more](#)

TAIWAN, CHINA: SEA-CLEANING SHIP TO KEEP KEELUNG PORT WASTE-FREE

September 26 - A multi-purpose, sea-cleaning vessel is next month to begin operating in the Port of Keelung to remove liquid and solid waste, the Taiwan International Port Corp (TIAC) said on Friday last week.

The vessel has dual-flow technology that allows clean water to be evacuated as water polluted with hydrocarbons is stored, it said.

“Suppose there is an oil spill. The vessel’s cleaning rate of 105m³ per hour would dramatically reduce the use of absorbent cotton and lower the effects on the marine ecosystem,” TIAC chief secretary for the Port of Keelung Chen Shih-hung said.

Taipei Times / [Read more](#)

USA: STRICTER FUNDING RULES FOR ABANDONED OFFSHORE OIL WELLS

September 18 - The U.S. is looking to tighten requirements on bonds issued by a growing number of bankrupt oil producers to deal with abandoned offshore wells that could eventually become environmental disasters.

The Interior Department is proposing rules to strengthen the issuance criteria after companies have filed for Chapter 11 and escaped financial obligations to cap their non-producing wells, said Walter Cruickshank, acting director of the department’s Bureau of Ocean Energy Management. The measure, being proposed jointly with the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, will be subject to a 60-day public comment period. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

USA: OIL COMPANIES ARE PROFITING FROM ILLEGAL SPILLS. AND CALIFORNIA LETS THEM

September 19 - In May 2019, workers in California’s Central Valley struggled to seal a broken oil well. It was one of thousands of aging wells that crowd the dusty foothills three hours from the coast, where Chevron and other companies inject steam at high pressure to loosen up heavy crude. Suddenly, oil shot out of the bare ground nearby.

Chevron corralled the oil in a dry streambed, and within days the flow petered out. But it resumed with a vengeance a month later. By July, a sticky, shimmering stream of crude and brine oozed through the steep ravine.

Workers and wildlife rescuers couldn’t immediately approach the site — it was 400 degrees underground, and if the earth exploded or gave way, they might be scalded or drown in boiling fluids. Dizzying, potentially toxic fumes filled the scorching summer air. Lights strobed through the night and propane cannons fired to ward off rare burrowing owls, tiny San Joaquin kit foxes, antelope squirrels and other wildlife.

Over four months, more than 1.2 million gallons of oil and wastewater ran down the gully.

California had declared these dangerous inland spills illegal that spring. They are known as “surface expressions,” and the Cymric field was a hot spot. Half a dozen spills and a massive well blowout had occurred there since 1999. This time, faced with news headlines and a visit by Gov. Gavin Newsom to the site, officials with the California Geologic Energy Management Division, or CalGEM — the main state agency overseeing the petroleum industry — ordered Chevron to stop the flow. Regulators later levied a \$2.7 million fine on the company.

Instead, Chevron profited - Amid the noise and heat, trucks arrived daily to vacuum out the oil from a safe distance. It was refined, sold and shipped to corner gas stations, bringing the company \$399,000, according to state records. Chevron appealed the fine, saying while “we fully accept — and take responsibility for — our actions,” it does not believe the spill, known as Cymric 1Y, posed a threat to human health. The company has yet to pay, and CalGEM has not moved forward with an appeal hearing. Pro Publica / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dan Sheehan, HonFISCO, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

September 25 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[Sediment Sampling near the U.S. Steel Superfund Site in Duluth, Minnesota](#)

The Environmental Protection Agency and U.S. Steel Corporation are making final preparations to initiate a joint sediment cleanup in the Saint Louis River in Duluth, Minnesota. They will dredge and excavate (link is external) over 780,000 cubic yards of material in and around the former U.S. Steel Duluth Works site.

[2020 Spill of National Significance Executive \(SONS\) Seminar](#)

On September 9, OR&R Director Scott Lundgren joined the 2020 Spill of National Significance Executive (SONS) Seminar as the key advisor to the NOAA Principals — NOAA Administrator Dr. Neil Jacobs and National Ocean Service Acting Assistant Administrator Nicole LeBoeuf.

[Virtual Symposium on OR&R Pollution Research](#)

The first of three virtual symposia was held on Monday, September 21 to discuss key scientific results from ongoing research ranging from Arctic cod and forage fish impairment after oil spills to marine debris impacts nationally and internationally.

[Marine Debris Program Participates in Local Washington State Podcast](#)

On September 17, Andrew Mason, Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator of the Marine Debris Program (MDP), joined the host of the local Washington State podcast Coastal Café to discuss the effects of marine debris on boaters in the region.

[Marine Debris Program Shares Updates from Florida](#)

On September 15, Ashley Hill, the Marine Debris Program’s Florida and Caribbean Regional Coordinator, presented on marine debris activities in Florida during a Coastal Conservation Panel as part of the Florida Master Naturalist Program (FMNP) hosted by [Loggerhead Marinelife Center](#)

[Virtual Science of Chemical Releases \(SOCR\) Course](#)

Did you know that depending on the wind, a heavy gas could follow the terrain rather than be carried by the wind? This is one bit of critical knowledge that was shared with responders during our week of online Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) training.

[Multi-office Collaboration Brings NOAA Resources to Teachers in Hawaii](#)

The weekend of September 12, the NOAA Marine Debris Program participated in a virtual workshop for Hawaii science fair teachers. The workshop was developed through coordination between NOAA, Hawaii Academy of Science, and Students Corner, an online student and teacher project development platform.

[Now Open: FY2021 Grant Opportunity for Marine Debris Research Projects](#)

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

[The Twelfth Natural Resources Symposium, Natural Resources at a Crossroads, Presented Virtually](#)

On September 17, the Twelfth Natural Resources Symposium, Natural Resources at a Crossroads, was presented virtually for the first time. This year’s focus was on private and public sector collaboration and management of natural resources and in the midst of the recent health emergency, climate change, the EU Green Deal, judicial decisions, and other influences.

[OR&R's Michel Gielazyn Earns EPA Bronze Award for Superior Service](#)

This past week Michel Gielazyn, a Regional Resource Coordinator with OR&R’s Assessment and Restoration Division in Florida, was part of a team awarded the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 2020 Bronze Award for Superior Service.

[NOS Supports FEMA's National Response Coordination Center \(NRCC\) During Response](#)

Recently, NOAA’s National Ocean Service (NOS) virtually deployed staff to FEMA’s National Response Coordination Center (NRCC) to support ongoing response efforts for Hurricane Laura and Tropical Storm Marco.

[DARRP Website Gets a Fresh New Look](#)

Oil spills, hazardous waste pollution, and ship groundings are events that can leave a lasting impact on coastal communities and ecosystems. NOAA’s Damage Assessment Remediation and Restoration Program (DARRP) works with partners across the United

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

States to hold polluters accountable for pollution and help the environment recover. The DARRP website is an important tool for sharing information about this work with the public.

[OR&R Lecture Series: RDML Gallaudet, Crisis Leadership](#)

Did you know that NOAA is chock-full of exceptional leaders? On September 10, as part of the “You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know” lecture series, we were honored to have the Deputy NOAA Administrator and retired U.S. Navy Rear Admiral, Dr. Timothy Gallaudet as our speaker.

[Upcoming Presentations by Marine Debris Program Research Grant Awardees](#)

On September 24, from 12:00 pm-1:00 pm EST, Beth Polidoro, an FY17 Marine Debris Program Research Grant awardee, will present her research during a OneNOAA Science Seminar.

ISCO NEWS

ISCO’S 2020 AGM

With the postponement of the Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition, the ISCO Secretariat has had to abandon its plan to hold its 2020 AGM during this event at San Antonio in November 2020.

The ISCO Secretariat is now looking into options to hold the 2020 AGM as a virtual online event and a further announcement will be made as soon as possible.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

NEIL HORNBY APPOINTED AS NEW CEFAS CHIEF EXECUTIVE



September 24 - Following the retirement of Tom Karsten earlier this year, Defra has appointed Neil Hornby as the new Chief Executive of Cefas. Neil will take up his new post in January 2021. Until then Tim Green will continue as Interim Chief Executive.

Neil Hornby is currently the Director of Marine and Fisheries in Defra, a post he has held since 2016.

CEFAS / [Read more](#)

UK SPILL CHAIRMAN, VICE-CHAIR AND EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPOINTED AT AGM



At the UK Spill Association Board Meeting held on 16th September, Lee Barber (pictured on left), was appointed as Chairman, Richard Proctor (centre) as Vice Chairman, and Mark Orr (on right) as Executive Director of the UK Spill Association at the Board Meeting held on 16th September. Other appointments made were Ruairaidh McKinnon as Inland Spill and Consultancy Representative, Mark Shepherd as Marine Spill Representative and Robert Evans as Regulator, Accreditation and Best Practice Representative. <https://www.ukspill.org/home/>

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

FROM OSRL ON 25th SEPTEMBER

Inevitably, the current situation in each of our locations varies at present. In Singapore we are at OSRL’s “Yellow alert” status and are starting to gradually increase activities on the base accordingly.

In the UK this week, the UK Government announced some further tightening of restrictions in response to the recent increase in COVID-19 cases. The new measures advised that where people can work from home, they now should and that this could be for a sustained period of up to six months. The UK remains at OSRL’s “Amber Alert” status and working from home where possible fits with this status. The concern, however, is that we must also maintain our ability to deliver Preparedness and Response services safely, efficiently and effectively. We are currently reviewing all activities in the Southampton base to assess the work we can carry out from home and the tasks that require base access. We need to maintain our equipment, exercise our response teams and be able to deliver the practical aspects of external training courses. For some people their mental well-being will also be improved by working from OSRL offices rather than at home. All these factors will be taken into account in our planning.

In the last two weeks we have updated the Nigeria, Singapore, Brazil, Gabon and Senegal Country Plans. We have also published one new country plan – Mauritius. We now have 58 country plans live and five translated. All these country plans and COVID-19 Field

Guide appendices are available to view and download on our COVID-19 Readiness Dashboard.

We announced this week that Ship-to-Ship transfer specialist, STS Marine Solutions joined our growing roster of shipping industry members, securing access to a range of global preparedness and response services. [Read more here](#).

Relating to this, we published the latest in our insights series 'The Shipping Industry has gone beyond 'Black Swans' and is now on the lookout for 'Grey Rhinos' – should you be too? We discuss how some industry players in the shipping industry are already going beyond legal minimums relating to sustainability and the safeguarding of the environment. Whether or not this is a universal commitment by all shipping owners and operators remains to be seen. [Read more here](#).

Our Global Logistics Team has published a blog providing an overview of what a Logistics Execution Plan, what it should include and why you should have one. [Read more here](#)

On Wednesday 16th September, Principal Consultant, Richard Tindell contributed to the GI-WACAF webinar 'Oil spill contingency planning, perspectives from the private sector and national authorities.' The webinar presented the key aspects of contingency planning in preparedness and response to oil spills from different perspectives and viewpoints. Richard was one of several leading international experts including those from the South African Maritime Safety Agency (SAMSA) and ExxonMobil Angola. If you missed the webinar it is available to view on the GI-WACAF website. Click [here](#) for the French version and [here](#) for the English version.

Our remote training courses are still available and continue to be popular. We have been using Zoom which is proving an effective platform although we are platform agnostic and can use different platforms depending on the client's requirements. We ensure engagement in our remote courses by making good use of the breakout rooms to give interactive tasks with video links shared through the chat facility. Feedback has been excellent, and the modifications to the courses for remote delivery have been successful. The most recent Refresher course this week was attended by 9 delegates from Ports and Harbours, the MOD and a UK based Oil Company. If you're interested in our remote training courses, they are available on our website [here](#).

As always, we remain just a phone call away, ready to virtually support you and your operations. Should you have any questions, please email CMT@oilspillresponse.com or contact our Duty Managers.

FROM PACIFIC TOWING



Photo: *The 2019 wreck retrieval of the Southern Phoenix in Fiji.*

Pacific Towing (PacTow) has nearly 40 years' salvage experience in not only its home country of Papua New Guinea but in the waterways of many countries in Oceania and South East Asia. Whether working in partnership with international operators, or individually, PacTow has considerable open ocean, coastal and also river and estuary salvage expertise and capacity. The company is a full member of the International Salvage Union and the International Spill Control Organisation.

PacTow built its salvage capacity in the 1980's through early joint venture partners, Howard Smith Towage and United Salvage.

Initially, United Salvage undertook the major salvages in PNG using PacTow crew and equipment supplemented with plant, tugs, salvage master, salvage engineers and other technical personnel from Australia where required.

An early salvage project in the 1980s in partnership with United Salvage involved the Lady Jane. A coastal products tanker, the Lady Jane blew up and sank at the offloading mooring in Wewak (a small town on PNG's northern coast).

The explosion resulted because petrol being carried as cargo in two tanks leaked from the cargo pump room into the engineroom through corrosion of the separating bulkhead where it was ignited by sparks from the pump machinery drive clutch. The resulting fire gutted the aft end of the ship and opened rust holes in the hull through which the vessel's accommodation and engineroom flooded. The Lady Jane sank by the stern with her bow afloat.

A PacTow tug, the Pacific Salvor and crew were mobilised from Port Moresby, together with a Salvage Master from Sydney. The salvage team found the Lady Jane in terrible condition upon arrival. She was extensively patched and sealed below water, refloated by pumping and then towed out to sea and scuttled in an approved dump site.

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

More than 30 years later PacTow partnered with Queensland company Perrott Salvage on a somewhat similar project in Fiji, namely the wreck retrieval and scuttling of the container ship the Southern Phoenix which had sunk two years previously while loading at the main wharf in Suva. The 2019 salvage first involved the retrieval of cargo, followed by the cutting and dumping of the vessel's two crane pedestals which had become bogged in the harbour floor. The superstructure and funnel were then cut and likewise dumped. All of the fuel tanks (which had previously been emptied by another salvor) were stripped out to eliminate the risk of any pollution and the remnant hull, lying on its port side was parbuckled and re-floated, prior to being towed upside down 9 NM to its designated dumping ground.

PacTow has salvaged numerous and diverse vessels and their cargos, as well as saved the lives of multiple crews and protected the region's marine environments and coastlines in between the salvages of the Lady Jane and the Southern Phoenix. General Manager, Neil Papenfus, says that the company's salvage capacity and expertise has grown considerably with each operation since the 1980s. "In terms of vessels, we now have a fleet of 15 tugs, four of which are central to the majority of our salvage work. We also have a low draft vessel which is ideal for shallow water salvage operations in rivers and estuaries, such as one we're working on right now on the Fly River. Our fleet of tugs is complemented by numerous additional support vessels, including dedicated dive vessels and a barge fitted with a 150 tonne capacity crane."

When it comes to personnel, Papenfus is proud of the 200+ PacTow team, 97 per cent of whom are Melanesian. "We enjoy a position of market leadership in Melanesia because of our staff, many of whom have been with our company in excess of 10 years. No one knows the waterways and weather patterns here better than the locals and because of their longevity with our company, their salvage experience is the best in our region." Critical to PacTow's salvage capacity is its internationally trained and accredited commercial dive team, with members having worked on salvage operations as far afield as New Zealand, Australia, Fiji and Solomon Islands.

PacTow's salvage capacity is due to grow with the recent recruitment of an International Operations Manager. "Our new International Ops Manager has 25 years towage and salvage experience, including 15 years as a Salvage Master. He's worked on salvage projects the scale and likes of which have not been seen in Melanesia, including a multi-vessel river collision resulting in a fire, loss of life and the unloading of 3,000,000 litres of gasoline, as well as requiring towage through exceptionally shallow water." PacTow's latest recruit also brings with him oil and gas expertise, having not only crewed on LPG vessels but also having towed them.

The company's salvage capacity is complemented by its spill response capabilities. PacTow is a member of the International Spill Control Organisation and partners with 'sister' company and global operator, Swire Emergency Response (SER) on spill control and prevention in PNG. SER stores its oil spill response equipment (e.g., booms, skimmers, pollutant recovery and storage pods) at PacTow's dedicated tug base in Port Moresby for ease and speed of deployment. Both SER and parent company Swire Pacific Offshore (SPO) also provide PacTow staff with valuable training.

Although not immune to the impacts of COVID-19, PacTow is still managing to crew and despatch its vessels and has additional capacity to support other marine service providers and salvage operators in the region. It has proactively and strategically deployed assets to four major PNG ports in a 'standby' capacity so as to better provide rapid emergency response, salvage and spill services when required. <https://pacifictowingmarineservices.com/>

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING

UK SPILL WEBINARS

As we are unable to meet face to face and conduct our Regional Meetings we are hosting a series of webinars between now and Christmas. They are as follows:

- 29 Sept – Application of spill response principles to the MV Wakashio grounding and spill
- 27 Oct – Inland spills in challenging environments
- 24 Nov – Commercial outlook – R&D tax credits, Innovation funding and support
- 15 Dec – Review of 2020 and look forward to 2021

Each event will require registration so look for emails with the link to our Eventbrite page.

For the MV Wakashio webinar please register [here](#). The webinars will last no more than one hour and consist of a series of presentations with questions at the end of each presentation.

WEEK 5 - EM DISPERSANTS / HERDERS WEBINAR SERIES

Please join dispersant / herder webinar series week 5. The primary focus for week 5 is dispersants. 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

The agenda for week 5 is as follows and Zoom link to join is below that:

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING (CONTINUED)

The agenda for week 5 is as follows and Zoom link to join is below -

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

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=d1hDUGwwUk5xWGpKVVdTQUNiNDNadz09>

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):

- **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

A PANDEMIC OF PLASTIC: WEBINAR ON THE IMPACT OF COVID-19 IN THE MED

UNEP/MAP and its Mediterranean Marine Litter Node, in coordination with the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML), will host a webinar on "The Impact of COVID-19 on the Increase of Plastic Waste in the Mediterranean".

The webinar will take place on Tuesday, 29 September 2020, 10:00–11:00 Nairobi time. [Registration](#) is mandatory.

CANADA: INTRODUCTION TO COMPENSATION FOR FISHERS, AQUACULTURISTS, AND ALL INVOLVED IN RELATED ACTIVITIES

Did you know that there is a federal Fund that compensates those who suffer damages caused by any type of oil, from any type of ship or boat, anywhere in Canadian waters?

Over the past 30 years, however, all involved in the fishing sectors, from catch or harvest to consumption or use have been missing out! The Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund (the Fund) has received very few claims from the fishing sectors: **less than 1%** of total compensation paid from the Fund. We are therefore increasing our outreach efforts by inviting you to our **webinar on October 7, 2020.**

[REGISTER TO SAVE YOUR SEAT NOW!](#) This webinar will cover new tools designed to help navigate through the claims process.

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

THE CLEAN EVENTS TO HOST 2020 INDUSTRY SUMMIT: RESPONSE IN A PANDEMIC

Houston, TX: The organizers of the CLEAN Events (CLEAN WATERWAYS, CLEAN PACIFIC and CLEAN GULF) are excited to announce the launch of the 2020 Industry Summit: Response in a Pandemic to be held in Houston, Texas, on November 17th.

The Summit was created for the response community to come together in-person, or virtually, to discuss best practices and lessons learned utilizing virtual command post during an actual response and to understand other ways to accomplish the virtual ICS process.

There will be an option to attend the Summit in-person or virtually. All sessions will be live-streamed for those attending virtually, and networking with speakers, attendees and tabletop sponsors will be available through the mobile app or web platform experience.

The sessions and panel discussions for the 2020 Industry Summit are being put together by a small committee of major operating companies, including BHP Billiton, Occidental Petroleum Corporation, Marine Well Containment, Shell Exploration & Production Company, TOTAL E&P USA, Inc., Phillips 66, ExxonMobil, and bp.

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

The health and safety of the attendees and sponsors remains to be of the utmost concern and priority of the 2020 Industry Summit. In addition to the enhanced event hygiene protocol implemented by event staff and venue, online wellness screening questionnaires and temperature checks will be required at entry for all attendees prior to checking in; wellness screenings provided by CTEH.

Registration for the Summit will open next week and sponsorship opportunities are already available, with Phillips 66, CTEH and Antea Group having already secured sponsorship. If you would like more information on Summit participation, please contact Summit Director Kayla Sparks at 713-343-1869 or ksparks@accessintel.com. For more information on the Summit, visit the website: www.cleanevents.org/2020-industry-summit/

REMPEC-EVENT CALENDAR UPDATE

Please be advised that we updated the date for the Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Marine Pollution from Ships. So it will take on 10 March 2021 instead of 10 December 2020. In case you will find here the link to REMPEC events [Link](#)

PUBLICATIONS

ITOPF ANNUAL REVIEW 2020 & NOTICE OF AGM

ITOPF has just published its Annual Review for 2020. This report incorporates financial statements for the year ending 20th February 2020 and provides notice of its Annual General Meeting on 2nd December 2020. Due to uncertainty regarding Covid-19 restrictions, the venue for the AGM will be announced at a later date.

In the Review, ITOPF's new Chairman, Erik Hånell, President & CEO of Stena Bulk, reflects on the organisation's activities and achievements during the last financial year.

ITOPF attended 12 incidents, three involving tankers, one from an unknown source and the remainder predominantly from bulk carriers and containerships. Advice on the technical merit of claims was provided for 24 incidents, and, in addition, ITOPF undertook numerous contingency planning, advisory and training assignments.

The end of the financial year coincided with the unprecedented challenges and disruption brought by the Covid-19 pandemic. ITOPF has been adapting to the 'new normal' and, through enhanced use of technology, continues to fulfil its key service functions.

[Download the ITOPF Annual Review](#)

THE HANDBOOK OF ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION: CLASSIC AND MODERN TECHNIQUES

Hussain, C.M. (ed). Royal Society of Chemistry. ISBN: 978-1-78801-380-2, ISBN: 978-1-83916-172-8, 506 pp, 2020

This handbook brings classical and emerging techniques together for hazardous wastes, municipal solid wastes, and contaminated water sites. Chapter topics include chemical oxidation, thermal treatment, air sparging, electrokinetic remediation, stabilization/solidification, permeable reactive barriers, thermal desorption and incineration, phytoremediation, biostimulation and bioaugmentation, bioventing and biosparging, electrochemical remediation methods, nanoremediation, green sustainable remediation, economics, health and safety issues, and environmental regulations. *View the table of contents and abstracts at <https://pubs.rsc.org/en/content/ebook/978-1-78801-380-2>.*

CONTRACTS, TENDERS & BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

This is a subscription service. [Have a look to see examples of open tenders.](#)

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: USA & EUROPE

USA - Government solicitations are frequently posted in Technology Innovation News Survey and US EPA Tech Direct.

EUROPE – European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter.

See "Links for other publications" for links to download current issues. ISCO Members are welcome to post tender invitations in this section.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event organisers are requested to notify ISCO immediately if a listed event is cancelled or postponed

Your Editor is doing his best to keep this listing up-to-date but it should not be assumed that listed events have not been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended that you check with event organisers before finalising your attendance plans.

If an event title is not printed in blue ink it is not hyperlinked to the event website. This may be because the website is not yet available or because the link for the website has not yet been sent to the Editor.

COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
MALTA	POSTPONED	Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships	
UK	October 12-13	El Hazardous Area Classification	Online
UK	October 12-14	IMO Council Meeting	Online
UK	October 19-23	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	Online
USA	POSTPONED	Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition	
UK	October 27-29	Arctic Shipping Forum North America	Online
MONACO	October 27-28	Regional Workshop to enhance Marine Oil and HNS regional cooperation in the Mediterranean (MEDEXPOL 2020)	Online
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
MALTA	December 2	Fourth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention	Online
UK	December 2-4	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	Online
UK	December 2-4	Meetings of the IOPC Funds' Governing Bodies	London
MALTA	December 10	Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Marine Pollution from Ships	Online
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
VIRTUAL EVENT	February 8-9	The JOIFF Industrial Fire & Hazard Management Virtual Conference & Exhibition 2021	Online
ICELAND	March 2-4	International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region	Online
MALTA	March 10	Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships	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
USA	Nov. 16-18	Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition	San Antonio, TX
COUNTRY	2022	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
NETHERLANDS	Details TBA	Interspill Conference & Exhibition	Amsterdam

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[ALGA Cronicle](#)
[AMSA Update](#)
[ATRAC Newsletter](#)

News from Australasia on Contaminated Land Remediation
 Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
 News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre

April 2020
 Current issue
 December 2019

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING & READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

AUSMEPA Bulletin	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Summer 2020
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	September 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	July-August 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	September 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	August 1-15, 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 Co-operation	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. Publishers are kindly requested to advise the editor if any of the links are not up-to-date.

INCIDENT REPORTS

FINLAND: VIKING'S FERRY AMORELLA GROUNDED TO AVOID SINKING, PASSENGERS EVACUATION

September 20 - VIKING LINE ro-pax ferry AMORELLA contacted bottom at around 0940 UTC Sep 20 in Åland islands waters, west of Turku, Finland, while en route from Turku to Stockholm, with 207 passengers and 74 crew on board. Understood the ship had to intentionally run aground on one of archipelago's island coast, in order to "stabilize the vessel". Probably, or highly likely, her hull was breached with ensuing water ingress, and danger of losing stability. Latest reports as of 1200 UTC said, that all passengers were already evacuated, or probably, evacuation is still under way. The ship remains aground, with a number of SAR and anti pollution boats around. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

SRI LANKA: VLCC DIAMOND INCIDENT UPDATE

September 23 - Two weeks after the joint teams from India and Sri Lanka were successful in dousing the fire aboard the VLCC New Diamond, the salvage crews are still working on a plan for the ship. They are looking for a port and a means to off load the cargo of 270,000 tonnes of crude oil aboard.

Speaking to the media in India, Shrikant Madhav Vaidhya, who is chairman of the Indian Oil Company, said that the salvage team is still searching for a port for the burnt out tanker. The tanker was operating on charter to the Indian Oil Company when the fire broke out on September 3. It took a week to put out the fire which spread from the engine room to the deck house. The teams had succeeded in putting out the fire only to have it reignite due to the heat on the vessel and high winds in the area.

Vaidhya said that the salvage team, SMIT Singapore Pte, is managing the efforts. SMIT will decide on towing the vessel to a location for the transfer of crude oil to another ship. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

YEMEN: SAUDI ARABIANS WARN UN OF OIL SPOT IN SHIPPING LANE NEAR DECAYING TANKER

September 24 - Saudi Arabia warned the UN Security Council on Wednesday that an "oil spot" had been seen in a shipping transit area 31 miles (50 km) west of a decaying tanker that is threatening to spill 1.1 million barrels of crude oil off the coast of Yemen.

The Safer tanker has been stranded off Yemen's Red Sea oil terminal of Ras Issa for more than five years. The United Nations has warned that the Safer could spill four times as much oil as the 1989 Exxon Valdez disaster off Alaska.

In a letter to the 15-member body, reviewed by Reuters, Saudi Arabia's UN Ambassador Abdallah Al-Mouallimi wrote that experts had observed that "a pipeline attached to the vessel is suspected to have been separated from the stabilizers holding it to the bottom and is now floating on the surface of the sea." Deccan Herald / [Read more](#)

VENEZUELA: TWO REPORTS ON THE NABARIMA FSO

September 24 - An idled oil storage facility off Venezuela's eastern coast is in "satisfactory" condition, an official with state company Petroleos de Venezuela said, after a series of incidents in recent months raised concerns about [environmental hazards](#).

In the company's first public comments on the issue, PDVSA offshore executive director [Pedro Figuera](#) said in a [late Wednesday night tweet](#) that the vessel "complied with environmental and operational standards."

"The conditions of normalcy and operational reliability of the Nabarima vessel have been deemed satisfactory," Figuera wrote, along with a video of workers aboard the vessel. Eni had said earlier on Wednesday that the vessel was "stable" and that it was evaluating options to offload the crude, some of which would need authorization under the U.S. sanctions regime. Energy World / [Read more](#)

September 25 - Analysts and oil workers are growing increasingly concerned about the FSO Nabarima, a rusting vessel laden with 1.3 million barrels of crude that is taking on water in the Gulf of Paria. They fear the floating storage and offloading unit is at risk of sinking and creating a major environmental disaster in the Caribbean Sea. UP News / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: 40 KILLED IN KOGI TANKER INFERNO ...AS GAS PLANT BLAST ROCKS LAGOS



September 25 - Tears flowed freely yesterday morning in Felele, a community on the outskirts of Lokoja along Abuja-Lokoja highway, as a tanker truck laden with fuel caught fire and roasted no fewer than 40 people to death.

Most of the victims were said to be school children and their parents who were said to be going to school.

Also, five students of Kogi State Polytechnic living in the area, were reported to have been killed as they were heading to school along the highway

Several passersby, Okada riders and taxi cabs were also said to be trapped in the inferno which caused serious traffic gridlock on the highway.

A witness, who spoke to newsmen said no fewer than 40 corpses were counted on the scene, including those who were roasted beyond recognition. But the Federal Road Safety Corps (FRSC), confirmed 23 deaths, including seven school children. The Tide / [Read more](#)

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