

## 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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ISCO is managed by an EXECUTIVE

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CLICK ON THE BANNER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION

CLEAN EVENTS PRESENTS:  
**2020 Industry Summit  
RESPONSE IN A PANDEMIC**  
November 17, 2020 | Houston, TX

Register to attend virtually  
or in-person & save \$50 with  
VIP code **ISCO**

*Although the Summit is over, you will still be able to make connections and network using our web platform + view sessions on-demand! The virtual experience will stay open through the end of the year. See more on Page 11.*

## IOSC IS GOING VIRTUAL: MAY 10-14, 2021

Earlier this year, the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) shared its decision to postpone the 2020 International Oil Spill Conference until May 10-13, 2021 due to the escalating global novel coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. The health and safety of our attendees remains top priority for IOSC. Due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding this global pandemic, IOSC 2021 will be transitioning to a fully virtual event experience. For more information please look at Page 11

## OIL SPILL MONITORING AND SAMPLING

November 20 – A new resource - Good practice guidelines for incident management and emergency response personnel.

This joint IPIECA-IOGP technical support document helps operators navigate the steps and good practices involved in planning for, and implementing, a monitoring and sampling (M&S) programme.

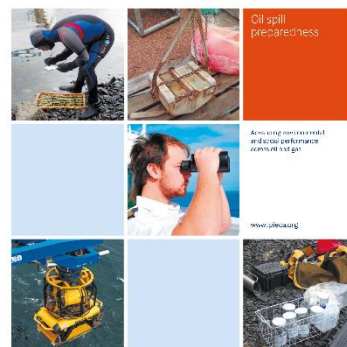
Regardless of the type, size or location of an oil spill, M&S activities are an important component of the incident response and are often a regulatory requirement. Typically occurring within the active response phase, M&S activities provide reference data that is critical to understanding the spill and evaluating the effectiveness of a response plan, as well as accommodating wider scientific impact analysis.

The IPIECA-IOGP *Oil spill monitoring and sampling* technical support document aims to help ensure M&S activities are incorporated early in an oil spill response, by outlining the aspects that may be planned in advance, and providing guidance and tools to facilitate the initiation of an M&S plan during the early days of an incident and as the incident evolves. [More info and link for downloading](#)

**ipieca** 

### Oil spill monitoring and sampling

Good practice guidelines for incident management  
and emergency response personnel



## MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO

[Benefits of Membership](#)  
[Online Membership Application Form](#)

### ADVANCE YOUR CAREER BY GAINING PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION.

Professional recognition is a visible mark of quality, competence and commitment, and can give you a significant advantage in today's competitive environment.

All who have the relevant qualifications and the required level of experience can apply for Professional Membership of ISCO.

The organization offers independent validation and integrity. Each grade of membership reflects an individual's professional training, experience and qualifications.

You can apply for Student Membership, Associate Membership (AMISCO), MEMBERSHIP (MISCO) or FELLOWSHIP (FISCO)

[About Professional Membership Application Form \(Professional Membership\)](#)

### TO RECEIVE THE FREE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

# SEA ALARM'S FIRST 20 YEARS: IT'S GOOD PRACTICE TO PREPARE FOR OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE

November 14 - Failing to prepare is preparing to fail say emergency responders, their clients and employers. It goes without saying that this is also true for the field of wildlife response and for Sea Alarm as an organisation. What does preparedness for wildlife response mean, and what did we do contribute to the use of good practices in response and preparedness?

For Sea Alarm, developing good practice in preparedness and response has two main components:

1. Bringing experts together to define, agree, write down and jointly promote what an effective oiled wildlife response is, the details of its components, what it takes to be able to deliver it, and to never stop learning.
2. Assisting authorities and organisation in putting well-structured processes in place by which key stakeholders can train and exercise to develop their personal and collective skills and ability to deliver good practice and be effective on a response.

Sea Alarm / [Continue reading](#)

## BALTIC SEA ACTION PLAN: HELCOM REVAMPS ITS TOOL FOR TRACKING IMPLEMENTATION PROGRESS

November 19 - HELCOM has recently refreshed its [HELCOM Explorer](#) tool, an online and open-access database displaying the progress by the HELCOM countries made on the implementation of the [Baltic Sea Action Plan](#) (BSAP).

"With the freshly revamped HELCOM Explorer, it's now much easier to see where we currently stand on the progress we're making on the agreed actions and measures under the BSAP," said Susanna Kaasinen who coordinates BSAP activities at HELCOM.

The BSAP is HELCOM's strategic programme of actions and measures for achieving good environmental status in the Baltic Sea, addressing eutrophication, hazardous substances, maritime activities and biodiversity. HELCOM / [Read more](#)

## US MARINE DEBRIS PROGRAM ANNOUNCES NOTICE OF FUNDING OPPORTUNITY FOR NORTH AMERICA MARINE DEBRIS PREVENTION AND REMOVAL PROJECTS

November 16 - On November 10, the US NOAA Marine Debris Program announced the fiscal year 2021 notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for North America Marine Debris Prevention and Removal projects.

NOAA will provide up to \$5 million to fund projects that address common marine debris issues in the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada border areas. The grant competition will focus on projects that prevent or reduce the occurrence of marine debris, and projects that remove marine debris from the environment. Projects that include collaboration with partners in Mexico and/or Canada will be prioritized.

Funding for this NOFO was provided through the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) Implementation Act. The USMCA recognizes the importance of taking action to prevent and reduce marine debris, including plastic litter and microplastics, in order to preserve human health and marine and coastal ecosystems, prevent the loss of biodiversity, and mitigate the costs and impacts of marine debris. NOAA / [Read more](#)

## MEDITERRANEAN BASIN FACING IRREVERSIBLE ENVIRONMENTAL DAMAGE, WARNS NEW UNEP REPORT

November 18 - Rising inequality, biodiversity loss, the growing impact of climate change and unrelenting pressure on natural resources could lead to irreversible environmental damage in the Mediterranean basin, according to a new report by the UN Environment Programme (UNEP).

Published today, the State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean finds that, unless urgent and resolute action is taken to halt current trends, environmental degradation could have serious and lasting consequences for human health and livelihoods in the region. Last published in 2009, the report is produced by Plan Bleu, a regional activity centre of the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). REMPEC / [Continue reading](#)

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

### AUSTRALIA: NEW NATIONAL SAFETY COMMITTEE FOCUSES ON SAFER VESSELS AND OPERATIONS

November 16 - We have established a National Safety Committee, bringing together a network of peak bodies and industry representatives from across the maritime sector to focus on improving safety outcomes nationally.

In setting up the committee, our aim was to have national representation, diverse perspectives and experience. We sought nominations from groups across the maritime, safety and related industries with deep experience and knowledge in their sectors and a focus on wide representation. We received 37 applications from interested parties, with 14 representative groups selected as members for the next two years.

The committee complements the Regional Safety Committees established earlier this year and will focus on safety and environmental issues common to domestic commercial vessel operations across Australia. Its role is to inform effective policy, regulations and standards with the aim of bringing those who work on domestic commercial vessels home safely. AMSA / [Read more](#)

### CANADA: ENVIRONMENTAL LAW 2020

November 17 - In Canada, the federal (national) and provincial/territorial (regional) governments have responsibility for the protection of the environment. Federal laws will generally apply to all projects or operations throughout the country, while provincial/territorial laws apply only to those projects or operations located within the specific province or territory.

The key federal laws governing environmental protection include the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, the Fisheries Act, the Impact Assessment Act, the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and the Canadian Navigable Waters Act. Provinces bolster these laws with legislation within their jurisdiction, such as British Columbia's Environmental Management Act or Ontario's Environmental Protection Act. Territories also have legislation within their jurisdiction, such as Nunavut's Environmental Protection Act.

Each one of these acts is underscored by regulations, orders and guidelines designed to ensure compliance and further the goals of each respective act. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

### CANADA: TOWING OPERATIONS BEGIN TO REMOVE CORMORANT FROM THE PORT OF BRIDGEWATER

November 18 - Today, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, announced the beginning of towing operations to remove the Cormorant vessel, moored for about 20 years at the Port of Bridgewater, Nova Scotia.

A 2019 assessment showed the Cormorant posed an imminent threat of pollution to the marine environment with no clear evidence of active maintenance on the vessel, among other findings. The Cormorant was secured and work has been underway since October to remove pollutants and stabilize the vessel to prepare for towing.

The Canadian Coast Guard has been working closely with RJ MacIsaac Construction Ltd. of Antigonish, N.S., which was awarded the contract to remove the remaining bulk pollutants from the Cormorant, and to tow and dismantle the vessel safely. Canadian Insider / [Read more](#)

### FRANCE: CEDRE – EMERGENCY RESPONSE SUMMARY FOR OCTOBER 2020

November 16 - Following notification from Cap Atlantique (Loire-Atlantique) and the discovery of tarballs on the shoreline, an expert from Cedre took samples from a beach in the Turballe area and issued clean-up recommendations. After analysing the oil's chemical composition, Cedre's laboratory concluded that it was fuel oil from the Erika. Based on the analyses and on-site observations, this weathered fuel oil would appear to be from an old deposit. It is therefore not due to a recent leak from the wreck.

We received an enquiry from DREAL Auvergne-RhôneAlpes on the analysis of firewater following a blaze in a supermarket logistics zone with a hypothetical risk of the firewater retention tanks overflowing. Samples of paraffin found on the beaches of Porspoder were brought to Cedre by an individual.

We were informed by another individual of the possible contamination of their well with effluent from an e-liquid manufacturing plant in Marseille. Cedre advised them to contact the local council and the regional health board, ARS.

We were mobilised (at our response centre and on site) for various local and regional exercises (POLMAR-Mer/Atlantique coupled with POLMARTerre/17 and POLMAR-Terre/29) as well as through a private agreement for an exercise scenario involving a spill of 45

tonnes of methane. We also received several enquiries: the Pyrénées-Atlantiques fire brigade (SDIS 64) seeking sources of information on chemicals and a private company interested in the possibility of adding Cedre to its list of organisations able to provide assistance in the event of a spill (as part of the revision of their contingency plan). [Read more in Cedre Newsletter for October 2020](#)

### CEDRE TRAINING COURSES RECEIVE NI ACCREDITATION

November 16 - In 2019, Cedre began the certification process with the UK's Nautical Institute in order to become an NI-accredited training provider in compliance with IMO standards. This accreditation was granted in October 2020 for our IMO OPRC level 0, 1, 2 and 3 oil spill response training courses and our IMO OPRC-HNS level 1 and 2 chemical spill response courses. For IMO OPRC courses, level one consists in an introductory day on oil spill response, level 1 training is for operational staff, level 2 for supervisors and on-scene commanders and level 3 for senior management personnel. In the case of OPRC-HNS courses, level 1 courses are for first responders, supervisors and on-scene commanders, while level 2 courses are for administrators and senior managers. [Read more in Cedre Newsletter for October 2020](#)

### RUSSIA: PERMAFROST MELTING DID NOT TRIGGER OIL SPILL CATASTROPHE, SAYS RUSSIAN CONTROL AUTHORITY



*Photo:* More than 21,000 tons of diesel oil in May and June spilled local waterways from Norilsk's oil reservoir in Taymyr. Photo: Rosprirodnadzor

November 17 - A report from federal technical inspection authority Rostekhnadzor concludes that construction faults and maintenance negligence were main reasons for the spill of 21,000 tons of diesel oil in the far northern Taymyr tundra.

It was on the 29th May this year that the ground gave in and an oil reservoir owned and managed by the Norilsk-Taymyr Energy Company ruptured. More than 21,000 tons of diesel oil spilled into the surrounding tundra of the far northern Taymyr Peninsula.

It was long believed that the rapid warming and subsequent melting of the permafrost was what

triggered the accident. However, the Russian state service Rostekhnadzor concludes otherwise. Barents Observer / [Read more](#)

### THAILAND: SCALING UP OF SDS-SEA AND ICM IMPLEMENTATION

November 17 - The National Forum on Scaling Up the Implementation of the Sustainable Development Strategy for the Seas of East Asia (SDS-SEA) and Integrated Coastal Management (ICM) in Thailand was conducted in Chonburi, Thailand, from 24-25 August 2020. The forum also served to conclude the GEF/UNDP/PEMSEA Project on Scaling Up the Implementation of the SDS-SEA in Thailand and discuss opportunities for sustainability and scaling up of project results and good practices.

Co-organized by the Department of Marine and Coastal Resources and the PEMSEA Resource Facility with the support of the PEMSEA ICM Learning Center in Burapha University, the forum had 168 participants. These included representatives from four coastal provinces, national government departments, ports, the private sector, community organizations, and academe. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)



### UK TO SUPPORT PLANS FOR NEW GLOBAL TREATY TO 'TURN TIDE' ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

November 19 - Britain has thrown its weight behind a new global agreement to tackle the plastic pollution crisis, which Lord Goldsmith said would go “far beyond” existing international agreements.

The minister for Pacific and the Environment said on Wednesday he believes it is time to start negotiations on a UN treaty on plastics similar to the Paris agreement on the climate crisis. He suggested the UK could provide a leading role in negotiating the terms of such an agreement, as it had with [the leaders’ pledge for nature](#).

The UK will be hosting the G7 and the all-important Cop26 in 2021, he said, and it is committed to doing all it can for nature and to “turn the tide” on plastic waste. The Guardian / [Read more](#)

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

November 13 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[OR&R and Coast Guard NPFC Leadership Celebrate Relationship Supporting Oil Spill Response and Damage Assessment](#)

OR&R and [Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center](#) (link is external) (NPFC) representatives met virtually on October 30th to discuss their ongoing relationship. The NPFC provides funding to support OR&R's response to oil and hazardous substance releases and initiation of natural resource damage assessment.

[Vice-Commandant of the United States Coast Guard Visits NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center](#)

On November 6, 2020, Admiral Charles Ray, Vice-Commandant of the United States Coast Guard (USCG), visited the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center (DRC) in Mobile, Alabama, to see first-hand where USCG Sector Mobile Hurricane Sally operations were managed, and to thank key staff that supported them.

[New Reports on Freshwater Mussels in Upper Hudson River, New York](#)

The [Hudson River](#) Natural Resource Trustees released two data reports presenting findings on freshwater mussels in the Upper Hudson River in support of the Hudson River Natural Resource Damage Assessment. One report features the [findings of a population assessment](#), while the other reports [results for age determination](#).

[Staying Connected through the Southeast Marine Debris Collaborative Portal](#)

On October 22, the Southeast and Great Lakes Regional Coordinators for the NOAA Marine Debris Program teamed up to host a virtual training on using the [Southeast Marine Debris Collaborative Portal](#). This online portal allows visitors to view marine debris-related resources and information such as projects, cleanups, funding opportunities, and events for Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

[Environmental Sensitivity Index \(ESI\) Maps Workshop](#)

OR&R completed the second of four workshop days focused on helping to define what the next generation of Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) maps should/could look like in a resource constrained environment.

[Marine Debris Program Announces Notice of Funding Opportunity for North America Marine Debris Prevention and Removal Projects](#)

On November 10, the NOAA Marine Debris Program announced the fiscal year 2021 notice of funding opportunity (NOFO) for North America Marine Debris Prevention and Removal projects.

### USA: MICHIGAN V ENBRIDGE: READ THE LAWSUIT SEEKING LINE 5 SHUT DOWN

November 13 - Gov. Gretchen Whitmer ordered the shutdown of Enbridge's Line 5 on Nov. 13, sending a notice to Enbridge that it was revoking the easement for numerous violations. Concurrently, Attorney General Dana Nessel also filed a lawsuit effectively asking an Ingham County Circuit Court judge to agree with and enforce the revocation of the easement.

Line 5 sends crude oil and natural gas liquids under the Straits of Mackinac. The controversial line has been under scrutiny for years, with environmental groups calling for the governor to revoke the easement and get the line out of the water. MLive / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

### YEMENI OFFICIALS REPEAT WARNINGS OVER SAFER OIL TANKER

November 18 - AL-MUKALLA: Iran-backed Houthi's use of naval mines and bomb boats, and the group's resistance to maintaining the Safer tanker are serious threats to international maritime traffic and ecological life in the Red Sea, senior Yemeni officials warned on Monday. The officials repeated concerns about the collapse of the tanker, urging the international community to act now to avert a major disaster in the Red Sea. Yemeni Vice President Ali Mohsen Al-Ahmer said that the Yemeni government is still open to all peace initiatives, but the Houthi's continuing use of land mines and their refusal to allow UN experts to visit the decaying tanker show that they are not serious about peace, state news agency SABA reported. Arab News / [Read more](#)

### EMAIL ACCOUNT OF ISCO NEWSLETTER EDITOR HACKED

On Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> December the email account of the Editor of the ISCO Newsletter was the subject of a hacking attack. A phishing email, which pretended to be from your editor, John McMurtrie, was sent to a large number of recipients. This email invited those who received it to click on a link in order to listen to a “voice message”. This email was **NOT** sent by your editor and should be deleted immediately.

For most recipients this scam message will have been blocked by the recipients own security systems or directed into a junk folder. Others who did see it thought it looked suspicious and immediately deleted it. As yet, no reports have been received from anyone who actually clicked on the link to listen to the “voice message”.

Action has been taken to change our email account password to make it more difficult for any hacker to gain access. During an internal investigation our internet access was temporarily switched off but this has been reconnected and incoming email is being received. However, ability to send out responses to incoming messages has only just been restored. We apologise to all who got in touch with queries about the fraudulent message sent out by the hacker. It just wasn't possible to respond to you.

It is being reported that, since the beginning of the Coronavirus restrictions, there has been a big upsurge in hacking activity and readers are recommended to be especially careful when opening emails.

At time of writing, your editor continues to work on the preparation of this issue of the ISCO Newsletter but it's not yet known if it will be possible to send it out at the usual time on Sunday evening.

### ISCO AGM – NOTICE OF MEETING, AGENDA AND MEETING PAPERS

A “face-to-face” Meeting will not be possible this year because of the Coronavirus Pandemic.

The 2020 AGM will therefore be held remotely

The Agenda and other papers were prepared and ready to be sent out to all ISCO members earlier this week but unfortunately plans were disrupted by the hacking event. We will send out as soon as outgoing communications are restored, perhaps sooner if we can find an alternative way to send.

In the meantime, the Secretariat can advise that the provisional date for the online remote meeting is as follows -

Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020 15:00 EST. 20:00 GMT  
Sat 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020 07:00 AEDT

A confirmation and full details of how to join the Meeting will be circulated to Members as soon as possible.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### NEW GI WACAF PROJECT COORDINATOR



Chloé Gondo is replacing Emilie Canova as GI WACAF Project Coordinator. Previously, Chloé was in Togo, where she was working as a Program Officer for a corporate foundation, implementing local development projects in the harbour area of Lomé. Before this experience, she spent one year in Côte d'Ivoire, working for an international NGO in the field of environment protection.

Chloé is delighted to join the GI WACAF Project and to continue working with African countries. She is looking forward to meeting the Project's partners during any of the upcoming activities and to working together to achieve the objective of better preparedness and response to oil spills. Chloé holds a Master's degree in International Affairs from Sciences Po Paris. <https://www.giwacaf.net/en/>

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

### AN INTERVIEW WITH BRIGGS MARINE'S NEW SENIOR INSTRUCTOR FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING

Before joining Briggs back in 2001, I spent 15 years working at sea. I started off fishing and during the decline of the fishing industry, I moved into the Oil Industry where I worked as Chief Mate onboard the vessels

When I first joined Briggs Marine, I was based in Burntisland from where I attended oil spills around the UK and also got involved in other projects within the company. In August 2002, the opportunity arose to become an Area Supervisor located in Brazil. This involved dealing with oil spills, training the local people and establishing over 40 response bases for the principal National Oil Company, (Petróleo Brasileiro S.A) and Alpina Briggs (a joint venture company). Up until 2009, I was located in the Amazon region of Brazil

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS



dealing with oil spills and delivering training. In 2009, I was promoted to Operations Manager and moved to Sao Paulo where I managed many major incidents involving shipping and oil platforms in Brazil and other South, Central & North American countries. From 2012 onwards, I became Head of Training delivering accredited courses in Brazil and other countries for all major oil companies, ports and other oil handling facilities. In March 2019, I moved back to the UK, taking on the position as the Senior Instructor with Briggs Marine. Since joining the department, I have been busy updating all of the training courses, refurbishing our training centre in Aberdeen, and preparing new courses for our online platforms.

**How long has Briggs Marine been offering Environmental Training?** - Briggs Marine has been a principal supplier of oil spill training courses for over 30 years in over 30 countries worldwide.

**How many different courses do we offer?** - Today we offer around 20 different training courses relating to oil/chemical response across all sectors of the industry.

For ports, harbours, oil terminals, and the offshore industry we supply the MCA accredited courses which are derived from the IMO OPRC courses. There are 5 levels of certification including Level 1 Familiarisation, Level 2 First Responder, Level 3 On-Scene Supervisor, Level 4 On-Scene Commander & Level 5 Spill Response Manager.

For the offshore industry, we have the DBEIS (Department of Energy and Business strategy), OPEP-1 CBT training, and the OPEP-2 Corporate Management training courses.

Onshore we can supply training courses adapted for the renewable energy sector, industry & fuel transportation companies.

**Is the new online training system live yet and if so, what is it called?** - Our online training courses are now live. OPEP-1 CBT training and other courses are now available. We are looking at developing new online courses throughout the year for all sectors of the industry. Visit our e-learning site [HERE](#) [Continue reading the interview with John Cantlie](#)

<https://www.briggsmarine.com/services/environmental-services/>

## NEWS FROM OSRL - COVID-19 UPDATE (20TH NOVEMBER 2020)

As per our previous communications, OSRL have highlighted the demand on the air charter market since the early stages of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is affecting both standard air freight and chartered freighter options. Q4 is always an historically busy part of the year for the air cargo sector, but the added complexities and demand based on PPE shipments, vaccine contingency measures and lower than normal passenger flights continue to put a strain on capacity. The increase in demand for AN-124 aircraft coupled with a recent incident has also reduced the number of heavy lift aircraft available.

OSRL continue to work with trusted brokers and carry out exercises to spot test the market, however it should be noted that members should be prepared to expect longer lead times for equipment combined with multiple options being used to support a response. In some cases, commercial freighters and belly freight may not be available for several days.

OSRL's Global Logistics Team will continue to monitor the market and are on hand to provide further information. The team can be contacted on the following email address [globallogistics@oilspillresponse.com](mailto:globallogistics@oilspillresponse.com).

At the end of October and as part of our ongoing assurance exercises with the International Air Response (IAR), our team in Singapore ran a IAR Offshore Sarawak NND Exercise. This was a no notice drill to test response readiness of the IAR operator for the Hercules C130, verify effectiveness of mobilisation procedures and to test assumptions for aerial dispersant spraying in East Malaysia. The objectives were achieved successfully with no safety concerns and OSRL remains response ready and able to respond to and sustain an incident during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. You can read the full report [here](#).

Our latest leadership Insights article is now available, can this pandemic be used as a catalyst to strengthen the implementation of Tiered Preparedness and Response? You can read the thoughts of Paul Foley, one of the authors of IOGP's Tiered Preparedness and Response Good Practice Guide and OSRL's Response Manager (Europe & Africa). [Click here](#) to read the article.

We have also released an article covering Oiled Wildlife Preparedness and Response, reflecting on the past and planning for the future. Paul Kelway, OSRL's wildlife preparedness and response manager talks about our Board of Directors' decision to endorse an ambitious five-year strategic plan for wildlife emergency preparedness and response and why it is such an important milestone for oiled wildlife response. [Click here](#) to read more. Further information on the OSRL wildlife strategy and key priorities for 2021 will be covered in our upcoming webinar on the 14<sup>th</sup> January, you can register now here for the [8am session](#) or the [2pm session](#).

Our latest webinar recording is now available [here](#), Volunteer Management in Oil Spill Response webinar. This was a well-received webinar where Chris Miles, Principle Trainer talked about the value of a volunteer plan as part of oil spill preparedness.

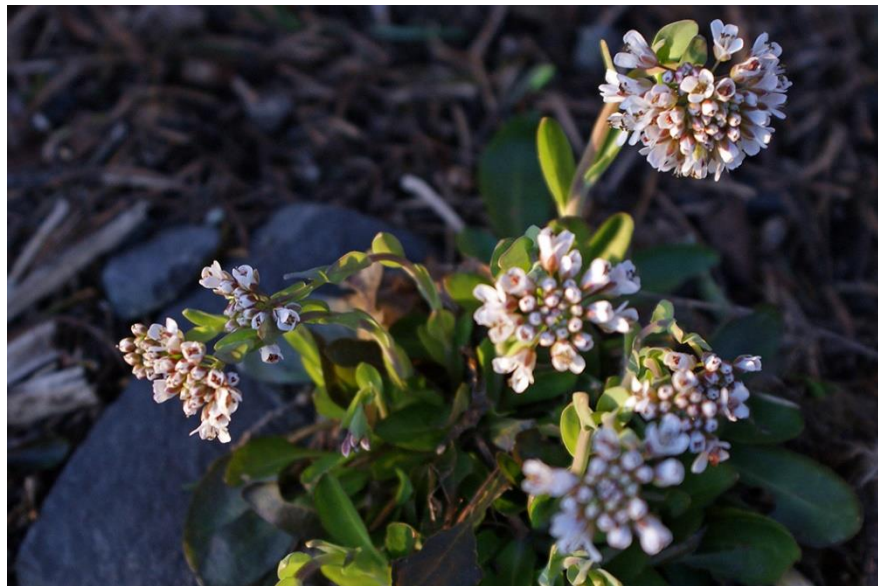
## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Continuing with updating the COVID-19 country plans, Tunisia, Vietnam, Brazil and Malaysia are now updated and we also have Greece in development which will be published soon.

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](mailto:CMT@oilspillresponse.com) or contact our Duty Managers.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### IN PHYTOREMEDIATION, PLANTS EXTRACT TOXINS FROM SOILS



Bioremediation, the microbiologist Carol Litchfield wrote in *BioScience*, is “any use of living organisms to degrade wastes.” Phytoremediation, the use of plants for these purposes, is a part of the larger field of bioremediation. In a sense, people have been using the technique through all of human history, but bioremediation first became a field of scientific study in the 1970s. At first, researchers focused more on microorganisms, either adding nutrients to facilitate the growth of microorganisms at the contaminated site or transporting the contaminated soil or water to bioreactors, where decontamination occurred.

It wasn’t until the 1980s that plants were included in the roster of organisms used in bioremediation, mainly to restore fields contaminated with agrochemicals. Soon after, researchers started to

explore a wider range of compounds that could be cleaned from the environment, including petroleum derivatives, heavy metals, TNT, and volatile compounds from paints and refrigerants.

Most plants cannot grow on contaminated soil or water and, even if they can, most will simply avoid absorbing toxins, leaving them in the soil.

Finding the right plant to use for this purpose is not easy. Most plants cannot grow on contaminated soil or water and, even if they can, most will simply avoid absorbing toxins, leaving them in the soil. Crops used in agriculture also are not ideal, since they have been selected for yield, not remediation. But when the right plant is found, it can pay off.

A good example of this was the case of Cabin Creek, in West Virginia. Two sites of the former Pure Oil Refinery held several storage tanks that contaminated both soil and groundwater. The refinery discontinued its operations in 1954, but more than 40 years later, in 1996, researchers still found high levels of petroleum compounds in samples of soil and water from the sites. Due to the high variety of chemical compounds that make up petroleum, situations like this can be a challenge to traditional remediation techniques. Moreover, the sites posed risks of flooding and vandalism, which made the operation and maintenance of a full-scale mechanical remediation system risky. The West Virginia Department of Environmental Protection thus approved the state’s first phytoremediation project.

When the phytoremediation project started, in the spring of 1999, the tanks and facilities had already been cleared. So, all the researchers had to do before starting to plant the trees was to clear brush and debris. The plant chosen for the task was a hybrid poplar tree species (*Populus deltoids* X *Populus nigra*), which had already proven its capacity to degrade organic toxins in controlled tests. More than 15,000 poplar trees were planted that year at the sites, covering 54,000 square meters (14 acres). By September 1999, the researchers noticed that the leaves of many trees were deformed or shed earlier than expected. About 5,000 of the trees eventually died. But it wasn’t the contaminants that killed them; it was lack of water. In March 2000, the researchers replaced the dead poplar trees and installed water taps to avoid future issues with irrigation.

Once the poplars were viable, researchers collected samples of soil and groundwater periodically to measure levels of petroleum derivative compounds, such as gasoline, toluene, and benzene. By 2006, seven years after starting the experiment, levels of gasoline had dropped by 82% in the soil and 59% in groundwater. Levels of toluene dropped 90% and 84% in soil and water, respectively, showing that the poplar trees were successful in cleaning both land and water. The experiment was also very cheap, costing roughly \$80,000 for installation and another \$20,000 for yearly maintenance.

Daily Jstor / [Continue reading](#)

## WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING

Postings for publication in this section should be sent to the Editor – [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

### UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION WEBINAR: MV WAKASHIO - DEALING WITH THE AFTERMATH - NOVEMBER 26TH, 15:00

This webinar is the second we have held on the Wakashio and her loss. The first pointed at some of the possible failings that led to the incident and in the initial response.

This webinar will look beyond the failings on the vessel but to what is happening on the ground now, the progress of the cleanup, the impact of the incident on the marine environment, and how it is likely to recover.

We will hear from two speakers:

Dr Georgina Robinson is a Marine Scientist who is resident in Mauritius and works for Scottish Association for Marine Science. She will talk about what happened locally after the vessel ran aground and before the vessel started to leak; the local response to that; what happened once the spill responders arrived. How they have tackled the spill, what is happening now, and how the environment is recovering.

Dr Suzanne Ware is a Marine Scientist at CEFAS and spent time in Mauritius as part of the UK Government support following the incident. She will explain what CEFAS does, why they were mobilised, what work was undertaken, how they remain involved, and how she thinks the marine environment will recover. She may also touch on some lessons to be learned from this incident that may have application in other marine incidents. [More info and registration](#)

### MANAGING MEDIA COMMUNICATIONS DURING A MARITIME CRISIS

Learn how the communications experts at Navigate Response provide 24/7 global support to shipowners, managers and operators in our series of 20-minute webinars throughout November.

COVID-19: How we're keeping our clients prepared and trained remotely

[Reviving Drills and Exercises with Realistic Media Pressure](#)

24 November at 10 am (GMT)

Why media simulation in drills matters

### UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION - COMMERCIAL WEBINAR FOR CORPORATE AND ACCREDITED MEMBERS

The webinar will be about funding available to support businesses.

We will have a presentation about the various government schemes that are currently running and how to apply for them.

We will also be joined by the UK's largest R&D tax credit specialist, ForrestBrown. They'll be shedding light on this lucrative funding source and explaining how businesses in our sector can qualify for R&D tax incentives. In their 30 minute presentation, you'll learn:

- *How to access this funding quickly and accurately.*
- How much the incentive could be worth to you, with examples from businesses in this sector.
- How to unlock more value from your current claim and use R&D tax credits for long-term financial resilience.

We will also hear about support from UK Trade and Investment for businesses that want to innovate and for those who wish to export.

For more info email [info@ukspill.org](mailto:info@ukspill.org)

### ONLINE TRAINING COURSES

From CEDRE - 7th to 10th December: Shoreline pollution crisis management online training course. <http://wwz.cedre.fr/>

Links for info on Online training courses from Briggs and OSRL can be found within the "News from ISCO Members" section on Pages 6-8

## CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND 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 of these publications.

ISCO Members are welcome to post tender invitations in this section.

## GERMAN OIL COMPANY IS LOOKING FOR AN ONSHORE OIL SPILL RESPONSE CONTRACTOR

For more information please click on <https://spillcontrol.org/business-opportunities/>

## 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 given.

COUNTRY	2020	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
SWEDEN	Nov. 26-27	<a href="#">Swedish National Oil Spill Conference 2020</a>	Online
MALTA	December 2	<a href="#">Fourth Meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention</a>	Online
UK	December 2-4	<a href="#">Salvage &amp; Wreck Removal Conference</a>	Online
UK	December 2-4	<a href="#">Meetings of the IOPC Funds' Governing Bodies</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	December 7-11	<a href="#">59th GEF Council Meeting</a>	Online
UK	December 8-10	<a href="#">Marine Insurance London</a>	Online
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
VIRTUAL EVENT	February 2-4	<a href="#">Sustainability Leaders Forum 2021</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	February 8-9	<a href="#">The JOIFF Industrial Fire &amp; Hazard Management Virtual Conference &amp; Exhibition 2021</a>	Online
ICELAND	March 2-4	<a href="#">International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region</a>	Online
MALTA	March 10	<a href="#">Regional Meeting of National Experts on the Post-2021 Mediterranean Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships</a>	Online
FRANCE	March 23	<a href="#">CEDRE Information Day on Containers</a>	Paris
USA	May 9	<a href="#">APICOM GM Meeting</a>	New Orleans LA
USA	May 10-13	<a href="#">International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021)</a>	Online
MALTA	May 25-27	<a href="#">Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)</a>	Valetta
CANADA	June 8-10	<a href="#">43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response</a>	Edmonton, Alberta
USA	June 8-10	<a href="#">Elastec Spill Workshop 2021</a>	Carmi, IL
USA	June 28-30	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Seattle, WA
USA	September 7-10	<a href="#">Hazmat Emergency Response Workshop</a>	Sacramento, CA
USA	Nov. 16-18	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	San Antonio, TX

Please advise the Editor if any of the above entries require correction or updating. [John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

### INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE (IOSC) WILL BE A VIRTUAL EVENT

We have been advised that, due to the ongoing uncertainty surrounding the global pandemic, IOSC 2021 will be transitioning to a fully virtual event experience.

This virtual experience will feature core elements of this triennial event, including the latest research in oil spill response, an interactive virtual exhibit hall showcasing the latest innovations and solutions, and dedicated networking time to grow relationships within the oil spill response community. Participation in the virtual IOSC 2021 will provide access to over 40 platform sessions and the plenary sessions, all of which will be available on-demand after their initial broadcast for three months to registered participants.

In order to incorporate these core features into the virtual event, IOSC 2021 has been expanded to five days, Monday, May 10 through Friday, May 14, 2021. More info - <https://iosc.org/>

### THE 2020 INDUSTRY SUMMIT: RESPONSE IN A PANDEMIC

The [Industry Summit](#) took place on November 17th but that doesn't mean it's over! You can still access the virtual portal to watch sessions on-demand and connect with other attendees, speakers and exhibitors. The virtual platform will remain open through the end of the year so the conversation doesn't have to end just because the live event is over.

[Register for Virtual On-Demand Access](#)

#### Inside the platform, you can:

- Directly search, view and chat with the 250+ Summit attendees, speakers and exhibitors. You can choose to video or text chat through the app or web platform or set up a specific time to meet.
- View sessions/panel discussions on demand
- Enjoy AI-powered matchmaking recommendations as you engage with the app or web platform and other attendees
- Filter and find attendees by topic, meeting availability, participant type (exhibitor, speaker, etc.), job title, and more

#### On-Demand Sessions

##### **Establishing a Command Post in Real Events – Virtually, In-Person or Hybrid**

Running a command post virtually and/or having virtual components is actually not a new phenomenon. Some instances have necessitated hosting participants in separate locations and connecting them virtually. Fast forward to a COVID world and running command posts virtually has become a requirement. Panelists in this session will focus on the process of setting up a virtual or hybrid command post in real events.

##### **Establishing Field Facilities in a Real Event**

During real events field response activities still need to be executed well. Key activities like operational briefings, wildlife response, and oil spill clean-up require some face to face interaction to be successful. The panelists in this session will share and discuss real event case studies and what they have experienced and learned in our current COVID environment.

##### **Conducting Virtual Exercises**

This session will focus on what systems have been used to date to run a variety of exercise scenarios using virtual tools. The presenters will share their experiences including what worked well and what needed improvement, including the most effective techniques for engaging participants. Panelists will elaborate on the future possibilities for a virtual exercise and how to design a valuable training opportunity for IMT members. This session will also include agency expectations for virtual exercises.

##### **Sharing of COVID Guidance – Upstream, Downstream, and Midstream**

The events of 2020 have forced operators to update and rewrite guidance documents practically on the fly in response to constantly changing health environments. This panel will provide an opportunity to discuss what everyone has done to keep their platforms and/or refineries running. Further, this will allow some best practices to surface that can be applied towards the future.

##### **Joint Information Center (JIC) – How Would You Run a Media Event in a Virtual Setting?**

Running media events can be tricky unto themselves, but how would you run it if it was in a virtual setting? The panelists in this session will explore important topics relative to facilitating and managing a media event in a virtual setting, as well as equipment to use.

### MARINE INSURANCE LONDON ONLINE 2020 : 8-10 DECEMBER 2020

For more info, view the agenda, and registration visit <https://marineinsurancelondon.com/agenda/>

## MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

### SAVE THE DATE FOR MARINE CLAIMS DUBLIN 2021 - 20-22 September 2021

For more information visit <https://marineclaimsdublin.com/>

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Some publication links have been removed because they appear to have ceased publication or a URL link is not being provided. The removed links are for the following publications – *ALGA Cronicle*; *Clean Nigeria Associates Newsletter*; *Nautical Institute eNewsletter*; *Maritime New Zealand "Safe Seas, Clean Seas"*. To request renewal of a deleted link or to add a publication link for another publication please contact the editor.

<a href="#">AMSA Update</a>	Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
<a href="#">ATRAC Newsletter</a>	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	October 2020
<a href="#">AUSMEPA Bulletin</a>	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Summer 2020
<a href="#">BIMCO Bulletin</a>	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	September 2020
<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request email
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	September 2020
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	Current issue
<a href="#">Environmental Expert</a>	Environmental News from Environmental Expert	Current issue
<a href="#">GEF Newsletter</a>	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	Subscription
<a href="#">GESAMP</a>	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection	Latest news
<a href="#">GISEA Quarterly Newsletter</a>	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	Q3 2020
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Summer 2020
<a href="#">IMO Publishing Newsletter</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	September 2020
<a href="#">ITOPF Ocean Orbit</a>	News magazine from ITOPF with interesting spill response articles	October 2019
<a href="#">JOIFF Catalyst Newsletter</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q4 2020 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	March–April 2020
<a href="#">MEDNEWS</a>	News from UNEP Mediterranean Action Programme	02 / 2020
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2020
<a href="#">NCEC Newsletter</a>	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	October 2020
<a href="#">Navigate Response</a>	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	June 2020
<a href="#">NOAA OR&amp;R</a>	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
<a href="#">Oceanbuzz</a>	Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry	Current issue
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	August 2020
<a href="#">OHMSETT Gazette</a>	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Autumn 2020
<a href="#">Oiled Wildlife Log</a>	Bi-annual Newsletter from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research	Fall 2020
<a href="#">OSPAR Newsletter</a>	Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources	End of year 2019
<a href="#">PEMSEA Newsletter</a>	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	Current issue
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	Current issue
<a href="#">Salvage World</a>	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Current issue
<a href="#">Society of Maritime Industries</a>	News from the UK's maritime engineering and business services sector.	October 2020
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	October 1-15, 2020
<a href="#">The Maritime Advocate</a>	Maritime News from Sandra Speares	Current issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	November 1, 2020
<a href="#">WestMOPoCo</a>	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

### USA: CALIFORNIA - CREWS WORK TO LIMIT CHEMICAL SPILL INTO PETALUMA RIVER AFTER BARGE PARTIALLY SUBMERGES

November 16 - Actions to limit a potential spill of petroleum products from a barge sinking in the Petaluma River were under way Sunday, and are expected to result in an "extended incident" involving multiple agencies and a coordinated plan to recover the barge, Petaluma Fire Department officials said Sunday afternoon. When emergency personnel arrived, the diesel fuel on the barge had been removed, but an unknown volume of lubricants and other petroleum products were still aboard. ABC7News / [Read more](#)

### INDONESIA: CONTAINER SHIP CAPSIZED AT SURABAYA, EAST JAVA

November 17 - Container ship MENTARI CRYSTAL capsized with her starboard resting on bottom along pier at Teluk Lamong Terminal, Surabaya, East Java, Indonesia, at night Nov 15. There were 137 containers on board at the time of an accident, understood crew are safe. The ship most probably, became highly unstable due to faulty ballasting and containers stowage. Containers recovery operation was launched, but no more details are available at the moment, as of morning Nov 17. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

Related report in [The Maritime Executive](#)

### USA: COAST GUARD RESPONDS TO OIL DISCHARGE FROM PARTIALLY SUNKEN TUGBOAT IN ST. CROIX, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

November 17- Coast Guard pollution teams continue responding Tuesday to an active oil discharge from the partially sunken and abandoned tugboat Cape Lookout within Krause Lagoon in St. Croix. The amount of oil discharged from the Cape Lookout remains unknown, while the maximum potential discharge based on the size of the vessel fuel and lube oil tanks is approximately 48,000 gallons of fuel and 2,000 gallons of lube oil. It is unknown how full both tanks are at this time. USCG / [Read more](#)

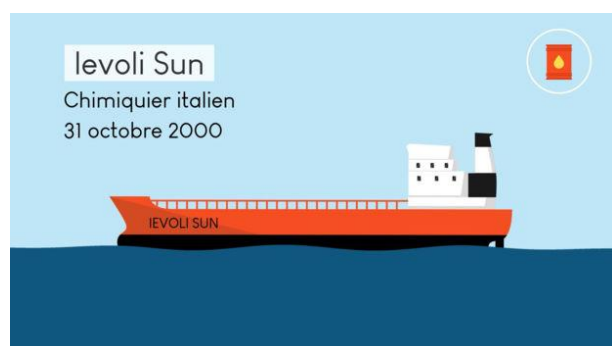
November 18 - Update 1: Coast Guard monitors clean-up operations for oil discharge from partially sunken tugboat in St. Croix, U.S. Virgin Islands - Coast Guard pollution teams are monitoring clean-up operations Wednesday to recover discharged oil from the partially sunken and abandoned tugboat Cape Lookout within Krause Lagoon in St. Croix. "The National Response Corporation in the U.S. Virgin Islands has been hired as the Oil Spill Removal Organization that will be conducting oil recovery and clean-up operations for the Cape Lookout," said Lt. Cory Woods, Coast Guard Resident Inspection Office St. Croix supervisor. "Our primary objective is to remove this pollution threat and help the affected area and environment return to its pristine state as soon as possible." USCG / [Read more](#) Related report in [The Maritime Executive](#)

### 27 CONTAINERS LOST IN THE ATLANTIC

November 20 - Post-Panamax container ship lost at least 27 containers in the Atlantic At least 27 containers were lost in the Atlantic in vicinity 38 36N 019 26W, east of Azores, early in the morning Nov 20. Looks like they fell overboard from container ship NORTHERN JADE, which is en route from Newark USA to Suez Canal. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

## HISTORY

### 20 YEARS AGO, THE IEVOLI SUN SANK



On 30 October 2000, chemist Ievoli Sun issued a distress call north of Batz Island following a waterway in its double bottom as it made its way from Fawley (United Kingdom) to Barcelona(Spain) with 6,021 tonnes of chemicals on board.

The Cedre has developed an animation of this accident - [Il y a 20 ans, le Ievoli Sun sombrait - Cedre](#)

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