

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 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 of Newsletter 763.

UN RECEIVED APPROVAL TO BOARD DECAYING FSO OFF WAR-TORN YEMEN



After months of stalled negotiations, UN representatives said they have received official permission to inspect and repair an aging FSO off Ras Issa, Yemen. Since 2019, the UN has been sounding the alarm that the vessel built in 1976 and not maintained in over five years posed a serious environmental threat to the region.

In his daily briefing on November 24, Stéphane Dujarric, spokesman for the UN Secretary-General said "I can tell you that we have now received an official letter from the de facto Ansar Allah authorities indicating their approval for the UN proposal for the planned expert mission to the tanker." He said this followed several weeks of constructive technical exchanges on the activities that will be undertaken by the expert team.

The objective of the UN-led expert mission is to assess the vessel and undertake initial light maintenance, as well as to formulate recommendations on what further action is required to neutralize the risk of an oil spill.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

The UN team will immediately focus on deployment preparations. This includes the procurement of necessary equipment, entry permits for the staff, agreement of a work-order system onboard, and logistical planning. The de facto authorities have assured the UN that they will provide all the necessary facilitation to ensure that the expert team can deploy as quickly as possible.

The UN anticipates that its team will begin the work of stabilizing the vessel in January or February 2021. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

IMO APPROVES HEAVY FUEL OIL BAN IN ARCTIC WITH EXEMPTIONS

In a virtual session of its [Marine Environment Protection Committee \(MEPC\)](#) the UN's International Maritime Organization (IMO) approved a ban on the use of HFO and its carriage for use by ships in Arctic waters after July 1, 2024.

The Clean Arctic Alliance coalition described the regulations as "outrageous" as it included exemptions and waivers, which would mean a complete HFO ban would only come into effect in mid-2029.

"In its current form, the ban will achieve only a minimal reduction in HFO use and carriage by ships in the Arctic in mid-2024," said Sian Prior, lead advisor to the Clean Arctic Alliance.

An IMO spokeswoman said there would be an exemption for ships with oil fuel tanks located inside their double hull. There would also be a provision allowing countries with coastlines bordering Arctic waters to issue waivers to ships flying their flag while they operate there until July 1, 2029. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

INTERTANKO AND OCIMF THROW COMBINED WEIGHT BEHIND NEW TANKER ACCIDENT DATABASE

INTERTANKO and the Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF) have joined forces to create the Tanker Accident Database, an anonymous reporting tool for use by vessel owners and technical managers to document measurable accident data.

Visit: <https://www.tankeraccidentdatabase.org>

The main aim of the Tanker Accident Database, which will be open to use from 1 December, is to help industry learn from accidents in order to help prevent repeat occurrences. The free-to-use database will collate a stock of anonymous tanker accident details which, over time, will allow for a root cause analysis of tanker accidents and aid with the identification of trends, helping to further advance maritime best practice and safety measures. Users can also benchmark their own fleet against wider industry data.

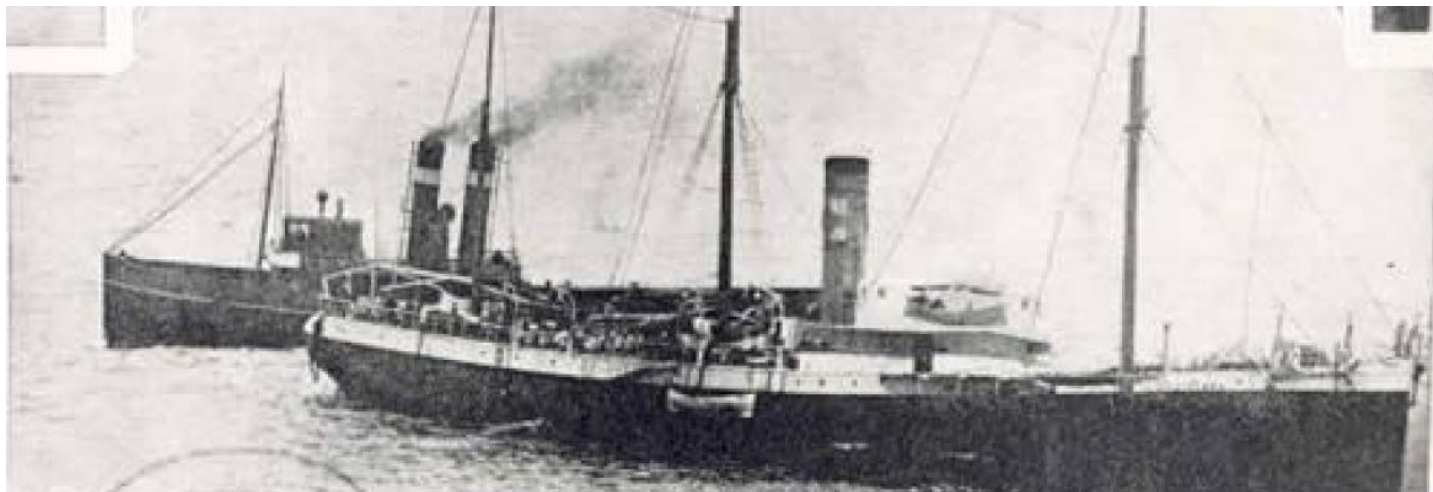
A key feature of the database is its security, with the anonymity of each user protected via a three-tier data protection model. In the interests of transparency, neither OCIMF nor INTERTANKO will have access to the data collection area, or any involvement with the running of the database itself – the platform being run instead by an independent concern. INTERTANKO / [Read more](#)

CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES RECEIVE URGENT SUPPORT TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES FROM LEADING INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

In an effort to strengthen the response of Caribbean countries to address the environmental concerns they face and enhance their capacities to fully engage in Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs) implementation, the Secretariat of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cartagena Convention, along with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) are jointly implementing a 5-year programme (2020-2024) funded by the European Union. This programme, will support and guide Caribbean countries as they address the challenges associated with the sound management of chemicals and waste, marine pollution, coastal erosion and loss of biodiversity.

Similar to previous phases of the project, experiences and lessons learned will be shared among African, Caribbean and Pacific countries and the participation of the African Union Commission and Secretariat of the Pacific Regional Environment Programme who will facilitate the integration of activities. CARICOM, along with the UNEP Cartagena Convention Secretariat and FAO will continue to empower key stakeholders to address environmental challenges and achieve improved environmental management at the national and regional levels. UN Environment / [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: PETRIANA, 28 NOVEMBER 1903



Australia's first recorded major oil spill occurred on Saturday 28 November 1903 in Port Phillip Bay.

The Petriana (1821 gross tonnage) was a screw steamer powered by both steam and sail. It was owned by the Asiatic Petroleum Company and operating on behalf of the Shell Transport and Trading Company.

The Petriana was bound for Melbourne Victoria from Borneo. It was laden with 1300 tonnes of bulk oil as well as an unrecorded quantity of naptha and benzene. A pilot boarded the vessel at 6 am and proceeded towards the notorious Rip at the entrance to Port Phillip Bay.

The fog was thick and the shoreline was obscured but the pilot hoped the fog would clear by the time the leading lights could be seen. Unfortunately the fog did not clear and the Petriana went aground on Portsea Back Beach at 7 am. Within moments the engine room and stokehold were flooded leaving the vessel without power. Attempts made to refloat the Petriana throughout the day using the steam tug James Patterson were unsuccessful. AMSA / [Read more](#)

CANADA: GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSE ACROSS THE COUNTRY

November 20 - Following an open competitive process, Public Services and Procurement Canada, on behalf of the Canadian Coast Guard, has awarded a \$219,226 contract to Margo Supplies Ltd. of High River, Alberta for the acquisition of 22 wildlife hazing portable kits. This contract includes options for up to 34 additional kits.

These kits can be used to move wildlife away from the predicted pathway of a spill or deter them from entering an area where a spill has already occurred. The kits include sound making deterrents such as propane cannons and visual deterrents such as human effigies, bird of prey kites, and balloons. Canadian Coast Guard / [Read more](#)

CANADA: GOVERNMENT PARTNERING WITH INDIGENOUS COMMUNITIES TO ENHANCE MARINE SAFETY ON THE COAST OF LABRADOR

November 24 - Sheshatshiu and Natuashish, Newfoundland and Labrador - Through the Oceans Protection Plan, the Government of Canada is working in partnership with Indigenous coastal communities to improve marine safety and responsible shipping to protect Canada's marine environment.

As part of this \$1.5 billion plan, in 2017 the Canadian Coast Guard launched the Indigenous Community Boat Volunteer Pilot Program. Under this program, communities are provided with funding to purchase boats and equipment to enhance their marine safety capacity as members of the Canadian Coast Guard Auxiliary. Canadian Coast Guard / [Read more](#)

FINLAND: NEW E-MAIL ADDRESS FOR SYKE: @SYKE.FI

November 26 - SYKE's e-mail address is now @syke.fi. The new address will be SYKE's primary email address. The old @ymparisto.fi addresses will continue working alongside the new addresses for some time. [Finnish Environmental Institute](#)

INDIA - DEVASTATION FROM NORTH-EAST INDIA GAS WELL FIRE STILL FELT FIVE MONTHS ON

November 23 - Like many others in Natun Gaon, a village in the state of Assam in north-eastern India, Mr Bhupen Borgohain heads out to the local wetlands to fish every year after the monsoon waters recede.



Fishing is a critical source of income for locals in the village. This year, however, a dejected Mr Borgohain, who is also a rice farmer, told The Straits Times on the phone that he has not been able to catch any fish.

Natun Gaon is located around 1km from a gas well in the Baghjan oil field, managed by the government-owned Oil India Limited (OIL). The well suffered a devastating blowout on May 27, causing an uncontrollable release of natural gas, including in its liquid condensate form. This hazardous material was dispersed - including aerially - over a wide swathe, causing large-scale damage to the environment. Thousands of locals were also displaced.

"Currently, all parameters are under control. There is no wellhead pressure at all, neither any leakage of any gas. We have also started the final operation of abandoning the well," OIL spokesman Tridiv Hazarika told The Straits Times.

A team of officials from the Singapore-based Alert Disaster Control (ADC) has been helping out and is still at the site, wrapping up final operations. The incident caused the death of three OIL employees - two firefighters in June and an electrical engineer in September. In July, three representatives from ADC suffered burn injuries. Straits Times / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: TRAIN ARTISANAL REFINERS IN OGONI TO AVOID RE-POLLUTION, GROUP TELLS HYPREP

November 23 - The Youths and Environment Advocacy Centre (YEAC) has charged the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) to train artisanal refiners in Ogoni and its environs on modular refineries to provide alternative employment opportunities and prevent re-pollution of the environment.

It gave the charge in Ogoni during a training programme for youths and artisanal refiners on guidelines for the establishment of modular refineries for alternative means of livelihood. Guardian NG / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: BODO REMEDIATION PROJECT ACTIVITIES - UPDATE 13: 27 NOVEMBER 2020



November 27 - In response to the potential spread of COVID-19 to Project workers and communities, all cleanup activities were suspended as of Saturday 28 March 2020 affecting nearly 1000 workers mostly from the Bodo community.

The BMI and all involved parties are pleased that after a diligent and concerted effort cleanup activities began once again on 2 November 2020.

(Note acronyms are defined in the next section.)

A series of actions undertaken collectively during the period of April to October by BMI, the Bodo Community, SPDC, the Remediation Contractors and government

regulatory agencies (DPR, NOSDRA and RSMENV) have led to a successful re-start. Among these actions are the following...

To continue reading and request a PDF copy of the latest report which includes a full report of Field Activities and about 20 photographs of work in progress, please contact BMI Communications Officer - Bariton Lezabbey BMICommunications2@gmail.com

UK: SCOTLAND - OVERHAUL OF CHEMICAL GROUNDWATER POLLUTION RULES PLANNED

November 27 - Changes to the rules on toxic chemicals in groundwater and related aspects of the contaminated land regime are being planned by the Scottish environmental regulator in a move it claims will help address Scotland's industrial pollution legacy.

The regulator plans to make changes to environmental standards for substances that affect groundwater by reviewing the concentration at which chemicals can damage a water body and impact its health status. The Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) also wants to amend the [rules used to assess](#) whether substances are affecting groundwater and revise its [list](#) of hazardous substances.

Some substances are "so toxic, persistent and liable to bioaccumulate that we need to prevent their entry to groundwater to avoid a

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

risk of deterioration”, states the regulator as part of its [consultation](#) on the changes. The revised standards will have a “better environmental basis”, be “transparent” and will be a “fair judge of impact across all sectors”, it says. ENDS Report / [Read more](#)

UK: SCOTLAND - LET’S KEEP LOADED TANKERS FURTHER OFFSHORE

November 27 - Fully-laden oil tankers from the Sullom Voe oil terminal in Shetland have been loitering near two internationally famous island nature reserves while they wait to be told where to take their cargo, writes former SIC councillor and honorary warden of Noss nature reserve Jonathan Wills.

THE Malaysian-registered tanker Eagle Bintulu (62,150grt) left Sullom Voe on 14 September with 600,000 barrels of oil in her tanks and then drifted for two whole months inside an environmentally sensitive ‘Precautionary Area’ before sailing on to Scapa Flow in Orkney on 14 November. Another AET-managed ship, the Singapore-registered Eagle Kuching (60,379grt), left Sullom Voe with a similar-sized cargo on the evening of 23 November. Today, (27 November) Eagle Kuching is still ‘waiting for orders’ in the approaches to Lerwick Harbour, between the Isle of Noss National Nature Reserve and the RSPB reserve on the island of Mousa.

Both ships entered and stayed inside a ‘Precautionary Area’ where mariners are advised that they are likely to meet “large, deep-draught vessels of limited manoeuvrability”. The Precautionary Areas were designed to allow large ships to approach the tanker port of Sullom Voe and the Lerwick cruise ship anchorage in Bressay Sound.

As the enclosed chart shows, the Precautionary Areas on the north-western and south-eastern coasts of Shetland are different from the ‘Areas to Be Avoided’ (ATBAs) covering the remainder of our coastline, where vessels of more than 5,000 gross registered tonnes carrying oil or other hazardous cargoes in bulk should stay at least 20 miles offshore. The notes to the official charts, approved by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) say the ATBAs are there “in order to avoid the risk of oil pollution and severe damage to the environment of Shetland”. The Shetland News / [Continue reading](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

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

[OR&R 2020 Accomplishments: The Fiscal Year in Review](#)

In fiscal year 2020: OR&R provided scientific support for 200 pollution-related incidents. View our full [FY20 Accomplishments Report here](#)

[Marine Debris Program Proudly Presents their FY 2021-2025 Strategic Plan](#)

On November 19, the Marine Debris Program released its [Strategic Plan](#) for fiscal years (FY) 2021-2025.

[OR&R Speaker Series: Tom Coolbaugh of Ohmsett](#)

Ever wonder how oil spill responders come up with the ideas and suggestions for oil spill cleanups? Well, this last episode of the You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know lecture series explains it all. Dr. Tom Coolbaugh, program/facility manager of Ohmsett for the Applied Research Associates, Inc. dives into all the extraordinary studies and experiments they are conducting at Ohmsett’s wave and test tank.

[OR&R Emergency Response Division Co-teaches at SETAC North America 41st Annual Meeting](#)

Assessing the hazards and risks posed by oil and petroleum products is challenging due to the complex nature and variable physiochemical properties of constituents comprising these substances.

[Disaster Preparedness Program Participates in the 68th Annual IAEM Conference](#)

Last week, members of the Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) participated in the 68th annual International Association of Emergency Managers (IAEM) Annual Conference, which was held for the first time as a virtual event.

[Marine Debris Program Addresses Microfibers in California](#)

On November 17, the Marine Debris Program (MDP) and the National Marine Sanctuary Foundation sponsored a half-day virtual workshop [California Microfiber Workshop: Science, Innovation & Connection](#)

[OR&R Participates in “GoMRI Contributions to Dispersant Science”](#)

During the week of November 16, the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) hosted a virtual synthesis workshop titled “GoMRI Contributions to Dispersant Science.”

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

DR LEIF SCHULMAN IS THE NEW DIRECTOR GENERAL OF SYKE

November 19 – Today, the Finnish Government has appointed Leif Schulman, PhD, as the Director General of the Finnish Environment Institute for the period from 1 January 2021 to 31 October 2025. Schulman will move to his new position from the University of

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)



Helsinki's Finnish Museum of Natural History Luomus, which he has been head of for the past ten years. Lea Kauppi, who served as Director General of SYKE for 25 years, retired from her position at the beginning of November.

SYKE, which will be led by Leif Schulman, is an environmental research and expert institute that produces information and expertise for the use of public and private decision-making. SYKE / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

ISCO MEMBERS – HAVE YOU RECEIVED THE 2020 AGM NOTICE OF MEETING ?

It has been found that some ISCO Members may have dropped out of our mailing list, also possible that some names and addresses are out-of-date.

IF YOU HAVE NOT RECEIVED THE NOTICE OF MEETING, AGENDA AND VOTING FORM, PLEASE NOTIFY info@spillcontrol.org

Please advise your name and email address. We will forward the Notice of Meeting, etc. to you and update our mailing list.

ISCO POLICY – IMPLICATIONS OF THE RISE OF ALTERNATIVE FUELS

A possible matter for discussion at the upcoming ISCO AGM – “Should ISCO be looking to broaden its focus?”

With the world's focus on decarbonisation the longer term outlook for oil exploration, production and transportation may not be ideal for the oil spill response industry.

ISCO's historical main focus has been on marine oil spill response but in recent years the frequency of major oil spills has seen a steady decline. The world is gradually increasing its adoption of alternative fuels – electricity, natural gas, wind, solar, atomic, hydrogen, etc. – to replace oil as an energy source.

The spill response industry is a valuable resource – dedicated people with talent to develop new products and services to help counter environmental degradation. Responders are people with valuable experience and the special kind of dedication and work ethos needed for meeting the challenges presented by a 24/7 readiness for engagement in emergency response.

Already many of our members are diversifying their activities in order to improve cash flow and help retain their skilled teams of people in this difficult time.

Examples include Flood response (portable barriers, emergency pumping, post-flood clean-up), Mould removal, Dehumidification services, Plastics pollution prevention and recovery (waterway collection and recovery systems, coastal and ocean clean-up operations), Harbour flotsam and debris removal, Chemical spill response (as an extension of oil spill response capability), Counter-pollution operations required in oil platform, pipeline, and tank farm decommissioning, Decontamination of historic polluted industrial sites, Post-fire clean-up operations, Clean-ups after road / rail accidents, Fuel/cargo removal from grounded vessels, Product uplift (recovery of off-spec or contaminated fuels), Coronavirus precautions (decontamination, deep-cleaning operations), Support of Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear incident response, Shoreline clean-up after beaching of containers (and their contents) lost at sea, Clearance of sites where fly-tipping has occurred, Emptying and cleaning of industrial drainage interceptors, BOD correction measures following silage / sewage spills into waterways, Decontamination of polluted water wells, provision of other equipment and emergency services needed in response to natural or man-made disasters.

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING

Postings for publication in this section should be sent to the Editor – john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

GI WACAF: WEBINAR #5: THE RESPONDER'S TOOLBOX. PART 2 – SHORELINE RESPONSE TECHNIQUES

Objectives - Once a pollution occurs, response becomes the priority. Responding to a marine oil spill with the adequate response techniques is paramount to ensure the best possible protection of the marine environment and coastal communities.

This live webinar is dedicated to shoreline response techniques and discusses the key technical aspects of these oil spill response

WEBINARS & ONLINE TRAINING (CONTINUED)

techniques. For this webinar, we will enjoy the company of leading international experts from Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL), ITOPE and TRIOX Environmental Emergencies.



 GI WACAF webinar series

Webinar #5: the responder's toolbox
Part 2 – shoreline response techniques

9 December 2020 at 2:00 pm (GMT)

Also available in French, same date, at 11:00 am GMT

REGISTER NOW
Link in description

Speakers:

- Ken Church, Deputy Aberdeen Manager, OSRL
- Dr Annabelle Nicolas-Kopec, Senior Technical Adviser, ITOPE
- Stéphane Grenon, Principal - Managing Director, TRIOX

Facilitation by:
Chloé Gondo, GI WACAF Project Coordinator

Countries invited - Angola, Benin, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mauritania, Namibia, Nigeria, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, The Gambia, Togo. GI WACAF / [Read more](#)

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

RDG will soon be the operator of onshore oil and gas wells and related facilities in Germany and is looking for a contractor who can provide emergency response to support the company's as well as public emergency response teams in case of major onshore oil spills. RDG GmbH & Co. KG is an independent company under the aegis of the specialist investment company Shorelight. RDG's long-term objective is to align existing development sites towards sustainable, environmentally friendly extraction processes, including potential secondary usage with renewable energies and full ecological restoration.

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			
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	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	December 7-11	59th GEF Council Meeting	Online
UK	December 8-10	Marine Insurance London	Online
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
VIRTUAL EVENT	February 2-4	Sustainability Leaders Forum 2021	Online
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)	Online
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
BAHREIN	Nov. 28-30	International Conference & Exhibition on Spills, Clean Seas & Environment	Bahrein

Please advise the Editor if any of the above entries require correction or updating. John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

PUBLICATIONS

CONCAWE: HAZARD CLASSIFICATION AND LABELLING OF PETROLEUM SUBSTANCES IN THE EUROPEAN ECONOMIC AREA – 2020

This report updates ConcaWE's classification and labelling recommendations Report No. 13/17 to address changes to CLP regulation and include classification and labelling recommendations for Petroleum Gases and Other Petroleum gases.

A RESPONSE GUIDE FOR SUNKEN OIL MATS (SOMS): FORMATION, BEHAVIOR, DETECTION AND RECOVERY

Prepared by: Jacqueline Michel and Phil Bambach, Research Planning, Inc., Columbia, South Carolina 29201

Most oil spill response strategies are based on the concept that oil floats. However, oil does not always float. Sometimes it is suspended in the water column; sometimes it sinks to the bottom of the water body; and sometimes it does all three: floats, suspends, and sinks.

PUBLICATIONS

The following terminology is used in this guide based on the American Petroleum Institute (2016) report on Sunken Oil Detection and Recovery:

- Floating oil. Spilled oil that is on the surface of the water.
- Submerged oil. Spilled oil that is in the water column, below the water surface, including oil that is in temporary suspension due to turbulence and will refloat or sink in the absence of that turbulence.
- Sunken oil. Spilled oil that is on the bottom of the water body.

Oil can sink and form sunken oil mats because:

1. The initial density of the oil is greater than that of the receiving water body (this process is more common in freshwater);
2. The initial density of the oil is lower than that of the receiving water body but the density of the oil increases as the floating oil weathers; or
3. Interaction with sediment (mostly sand) that causes the oil-sediment mixture to become heavier than the receiving water body.

This guide addresses the third type of sunken oil—oil that has mixed with enough sand either after stranding on a sand beach or mixing with sand suspended in the water column in the nearshore to cause the oil to sink and form bulk oil in the form of Sunken Oil Mats (SOMs). Following the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, SOMs (which were called submerged oil mats) formed across the Gulf Coast region but were found most commonly along the sand beaches of the Panhandle of Florida and coastal Alabama. SOMs were a constant source of reoiling of the beaches during the four years of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill response, and chronic reoiling has continued for years. The challenge of detecting and removing these SOMs led to more research into the formation process and persistence of SOMs.

This guide does not address oil that is transported to the seafloor via the process of marine oil snow sedimentation and flocculent accumulation (MOSSFA), which is the capture of oil droplets in the water column by the web-like, mucus-rich marine snow (Passow et al., 2012; Vonk et al., 2015). Under this process, oil is deposited as oiled fine-grained and organic-rich sediments over a large area of the deep sea floor and is generally not recoverable.

This operational guide includes: 1) a table of case histories where SOMs formed after oil spills; 2) a summary of the literature on SOMs; 3) a description of conditions necessary for SOM formation and persistence; 4) the most effective survey methods to detect SOMs; and 5) the most effective removal methods that also minimize environmental impact. NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

SOIL AND GROUNDWATER REMEDIATION TECHNOLOGIES: A PRACTICAL GUIDE

This book offers various soil and water treatment technologies due to increasing global soil and water pollution. In many countries, the management of contaminated land has matured, and it is developing in many others. Topics covered include chemical and ecological risk assessment of contaminated sites; phytomanagement of contaminants; arsenic removal; selection and technology diffusion; technologies and socio-environmental management; post-remediation long-term management; soil and groundwater laws and regulations; and trace element regulation limits in soil. Future prospects of soil and groundwater remediation are critically discussed in this book. Hence, readers will learn to understand the future prospects of soil and groundwater contaminants and remediation measures. Hazmat Magazine / [Read more](#)

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.

[AMSA Update](#)
[ATRAC Newsletter](#)
[AUSMEPA Bulletin](#)
[BIMCO Bulletin](#)
[Newsletter from George Holliday](#)
[Cedre Newsletter](#)
[EMSA Newsletter](#)
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Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
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News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday
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News from the European Maritime Safety Agency
Environmental News from Environmental Expert
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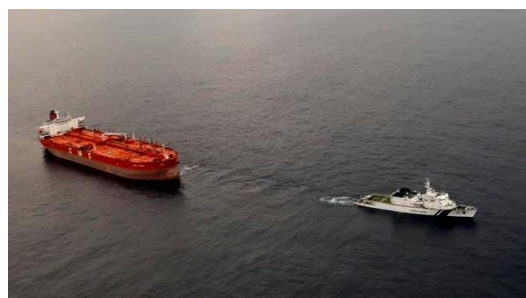
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 News from the International Maritime Organization
 New and forthcoming IMO publications
 News magazine from ITOPF with interesting spill response articles
 Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management
 Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community
 News from UNEP Mediterranean Action Programme
 News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group
 News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre
 Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine
 Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration
 Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry
 News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum
 Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly
 Bi-annual Newsletter from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research
 Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources
 Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas
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 Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union
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INCIDENT REPORTS

INDIA: IN A SEA-AIR OPERATION INDIAN COAST GUARD VESSEL SUCCESSFULLY TOWS DRIFTING OIL TANKER TO SAFETY



November 23 - In a swift and coordinated sea-air operation on Sunday, Indian Coast Guard multi-mission vessel Vishwast towed to safety tanker MT Anastasia-1 which was drifting dangerously towards Kachall island in the Nicobar Islands.

The Coast Guard said that Anastasia-1, which was enroute to Dubai with 24 crew onboard, experienced a total power failure since Thursday and threatened the bio-sensitive ecology of the pristine Nicobar Islands. The tanker had approximately 910 tons of bunker fuel.

On receipt of information by the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Port Blair, a navigational warning was issued and an international safety net was activated for alerting merchant mariners.

Meanwhile, a Coast Guard airplane from Campbell Bay was rushed for assessment of the situation and Vishwast, which was on routine surveillance off Nicobar Islands, was also diverted to the spot. [Weather.com / Read more](#) Related report in [The Maritime Executive](#)

USA: CALIFORNIA - HIGHWAY 99 REOPENS FOLLOWING TRAIN DERAILMENT AND SPILL NEAR FRESNO-TULARE COUNTY LINE

November 23 - Highway 99 is reopening partially following the seven-car train derailment just north of Goshen earlier in the day, the Tulare County Sheriff's Office reported at 4:30 p.m.

Tim S. McMahan, a Union Pacific railroad spokesman, said the crash took place about 6:45 a.m. and six cars derailed on the southbound freight. Four cars carried butane and two carried hydrochloric acid. McMahan said one tank car released five gallons of hydrochloric acid but is no longer leaking. He added that there were no injuries. [FresnoBee / Read more](#)



INDONESIA: VIDEO: CONTAINER SHIP STRIKES GROUNDED VESSEL

November 23 - The Cypriot-flagged containership Tina 1 went aground in the Singapore Strait overnight after striking an Iranian containership that has been aground in the area for the past six months near Batam. The 67,270 dwt containership was reported to be sailing from Singapore to Jakarta loaded with 4,096 TEUs. The nature of the incident and what lead up to the allision and grounding are unknown, and an investigation by the Indonesian authorities is under way. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

BRAZIL: VIDEO: CAR FERRY SUNK AS ARTIFICIAL REEF

November 24 - After a COVID-related delay, a ropax ferry and an offshore tug have been sunk as part of an artificial reef in Bahia, Brazil. Over the weekend, local dive tour operators and contractors sent down the tug Vega and the 300-passenger car ferry Agenor Gordilho in 100 feet of water off Salvador, Brazil. The operation followed a long series of preparatory steps, including the removal of all pollutants. The sinking took about an hour and thirty minutes. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

SAUDI ARABIA: TANKER SUSTAINS DAMAGE IN ATTACK AT MARINE TERMINAL

November 24 - The Greek-owned tanker Agrari has been damaged in an apparent attack at the marine terminal for Saudi Arabia's Al Shuqaiq steam power plant, according to multiple sources. Ship manager TMS Tankers has confirmed that the vessel was struck about three feet above the waterline and sustained a hull breach. She had finished discharging her cargo at the Al Shuqaiq pier and was preparing to depart when an "unknown source" carried out the attack, the firm said. Security consultancy Ambrey has identified the source of the blast as a mine.

Saudi officials have described the incident as a "thwarted" terrorist attack; as of Wednesday, no entity has claimed responsibility.

Based on satellite imagery provided by PlanetLabs, Tankertrackers.com has identified visual evidence of a spill adjacent to the Agrari on November 23. The vessel's AIS signal ceased on the same day, the consultancy confirmed. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

NORWAY: VLCC TANKER CAUGHT IN STORM, ORDERED TO REMAIN ADRIFT, DAMAGED

November 29 - VLCC DILAM was cruising off Bergen Norway, waiting for orders (understood in ballast), since Nov 18. Tanker was caught in passing storm while drifting, bunker tanks vents were torn off, fuel spilled out onto cargo deck. There were serious problems in engine room too. Master asked owner to allow tanker to get under way and shelter somewhere, but company said he had to drift and "wait for orders". Tanker reached Bergen and was berthed on Nov 26, was still berthed in the morning Nov 29. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

THE EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter has in the past published excellent serialised articles on such matters as inland spill response, aerial observation of oil spills, in-situ burning, sunken oil, etc. by respected experts such as Dr Merv Fingas, Dr Jacqueline Michel and others. Your editor is currently looking for more interesting articles of this kind. If you think you can help, please get in touch. john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

Disseminating news about new technical developments is of value to our community. Corporate Members and others are invited to contribute articles.

You editor is also interested to receive interesting case histories for publication. Dealing with spill events often requires an innovative approach and you are invited to share your experiences.

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following issue of this newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org and your acceptance of ISCO's Data Protection and Privacy Policy.
