



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

UNITED STATES AND RUSSIA SIGN JOINT CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR POLLUTION RESPONSE IN THE BERING AND CHUKCHI SEAS

On Feb. 1, 2021, the Acting Director Andrey Khaustov of the Russian Federation's Marine Rescue Service (MRS) and the U.S. Coast Guard's Deputy Commandant for Operations, **Vice Adm. Scott Buschman** signed the 2020 update to the Joint Contingency Plan (JCP), which is a bilateral agreement focused on preparing for and responding to transboundary maritime pollution incidents. The updated JCP promotes a coordinated system for planning, preparing and responding to pollutant substance incidents in the waters between the U.S. and Russia. The U.S. and Russian Federation have shared a cooperative bilateral agreement on trans-boundary marine pollution preparedness and response in this area since 1989. The newest JCP revision requires joint planning and trans-boundary exercise efforts to be coordinated by a Joint Planning Group led by Coast Guard District Seventeen and is guided by a non-binding two-year work plan. In addition, the updated JCP creates the new International Coordinating Officer role to help facilitate the critical sharing of information during coordinated response efforts. Alaska Native News / [Read more](#) See also [Press Release from US Coast Guard](#)

USA & CANADA: GREAT LAKES CLEANUP OF CONTAMINATED AREAS MAKING PROGRESS AFTER 35 YEARS

During 35 years of restoration in the Great Lakes Areas of Concern, there has been gradual progress and a hopeful future ahead, according to a new study. Development of a remedial action plan to restore heavily contaminated sites in 42 Great Lakes Areas of Concern in the U.S. and Canada began in 1985. Restoration hasn't been easy, the study said, and it requires focusing on gathering stakeholders, coordinating efforts and ensuring the restoration of a variety of safe uses. Still listed as Areas of Concern are parts of the Detroit River, Clinton River, River Raisin, Manistique River, Muskegon Lake, Saginaw River and Bay, St. Clair River, Kalamazoo River, St. Marys River, Rouge River and the Upper Peninsula's Torch Lake. Michigan State University / [Read more](#)

PEMSEA, OSRL RENEW PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT ON OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) and Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) recently held a virtual signing ceremony for a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU). PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

ITOPF PRESENTS AT OILED WILDLIFE WEBINAR

On 2nd February, ITOFF presented at the EUROWA (European oiled wildlife response assistance) Virtual Information Session. EUROWA is designed to provide mutual assistance for oiled wildlife incidents in Europe. Its members include WWF Poland, Submon (Spain), Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend (Belgium), ProBird (Germany), Oiled Wildlife Network (Ireland), WWF Finland, SON-Response (Netherlands) and ONIRIS/CVFSE (France). ITOFF / [Read more](#)

TOXIC REMNANTS OF WAR

Collectively referred to as toxic remnants of war (TRW), these include any toxic or radiological substance resulting from military activities that form a hazard to humans or ecosystems, including long-term health and environmental risks as well as long-lasting environmental degradation caused by abandoned military debris and explosive munition remnants. Military activities in this context encompass operations during peacetime, during or after an armed conflict and during the period of occupation.

A recent report from Harvard Law School's International Human Rights Clinic and the Conflict and Environmental Observatory titled Confronting Conflict Pollution sought to address the gap through the development of principles that will help to articulate how assistance programs should be designed, formulated and implemented. Manila Times / [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CROATIA: TRAINING COURSE IN SPLIT



February 4 - On January 26, 2021, ATRAC held a one-day training course "Basics of accidental oil pollution on the sea" for twelve employees of the company "Cian d.o.o.", a leading response contactor in the central and southern Adriatic.

The aim of the training was to provide operational staff responsible for field cleaning operations with a complete overview of the behavior and properties of spilled oil at sea, health and safety at work, the impact of pollution on the environment and the economy, initial intervention steps and response methods and specialized equipment used. to remove pollution. Given the fact that these are employees who have already had experience with sea pollution, a very interesting discussion and exchange of experiences was held, which will certainly help them in responding to future pollution of the sea and the marine environment.

<http://atrac.hr/en/training-course-in-split/>

ITALY: NATO MARINE RESEARCH CENTER REACHES OUT TO YOUNG SCIENTISTS

Photo: A competitor launches an autonomous underwater vehicle during CMRE's European Robotics League (ERL) competition (file image courtesy CMRE)

February 3 - NATO knows it must help create and develop its own workforce for tomorrow. That's why the scientists, engineers and technicians at the NATO Centre for Maritime Research and Experimentation (CMRE) in La Spezia, Italy, are looking for the next generation to take their place, and they're starting with high school and college students.

A part of NATO's Science and Technology Organization, CMRE has a vibrant outreach effort to encourage young people to get involved with science, technology, engineering and math (STEM) subjects. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)



KUWAIT: SIGNING AN AGREEMENT WITH THE ENVIRONMENTAL VOLUNTEER ASSOCIATION

January 28 - In the presence of His Excellency Sheikh Abdullah Al-Ahmad Al-Hamoud Al Sabah, Director General of the General Environmental Authority and Chairman of the Board of Directors, a special agreement was signed for the initiative to lift the waste and recover the ships and boats sunken in the Sea of Kuwait with the environmental volunteer pool, which includes the Kuwaiti diving team with the support of the Fund for environmental protection in order to contribute to the recovery of boats, ships and tons of marine and coastal waste in order to reduce the destruction of the marine environment. Kuwait EPA / [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: NORNICKEL MUST PAY €1.62 BILLION FOR ITS HUGE OIL SPILL ON ARCTIC TUNDRA

February 5 - More than 21,000 tons of diesel oil spilled into rivers, lakes and vulnerable wetlands. Now, the company has to pay the biggest fine ever issued in modern Russia.

Judges at the Krasnoyarsk Court of Arbitration on the 5th of February announced their verdict in the case against the Norilsko-Taymyrsky Energy Company. The company that is owned and managed by mining and metallurgy giant Nornickel will have to pay 146,18 billion rubles (€1.62 billion) for the grave environmental damage inflicted on nature in the Taymyr region. The Barents Observer / [Read more](#)

USA: MICHIGAN APPROVES GREAT LAKES OIL PIPELINE TUNNEL PERMITS

January 29 - Michigan's environmental agency said Friday it has approved construction of an underground tunnel to house a replacement for a controversial oil pipeline in a channel linking two of the Great Lakes.

The decision, a victory for Enbridge Inc., comes as the Canadian company resists Democratic Gov. Gretchen Whitmer's demand to shut down its 68-year-old line in the Straits of Mackinac. AP News / [Read more](#)

USA: BIDEN ADMINISTRATION DELAYS TRUMP ROLLBACK OF MIGRATORY BIRD PROTECTIONS

February 4 - The Biden administration has put a one-month delay on the Trump administration's rollback of protections to migratory birds and is opening the rule back up for public comment.

The Interior Department said Thursday that it would delay the effective date of the rule, which removed penalties for companies that accidentally or incidentally killed migratory birds and was slated to go into effect on Feb. 8.

The department is working to determine what additional steps it can take and the Fish and Wildlife Service will give the public 20 days to comment on the rule to allow for "additional engagement." The Biden administration also expects "further opportunities to engage" on the rule. The Hill / [Read more](#)

USA: AN INVISIBLE, ODORLESS GAS IS PITTING TEXAS AGAINST THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

February 5 - Deep in the heart of Texas, above an oil patch about the size of Kansas, a little team in a small plane is trying to reveal a big problem.

They are methane hunters. With an infrared camera and a Picarro Cavity Ring-Down Laser Spectroscopy, they fly spirals over pumps and compressor stations that stretch to both horizons. With each tight corkscrew, the little airplane sniffs out and measures planet-cooking, climate-changing pollution as the region below braces for an energy revolution amid a cold civil war.

The Picarro spectrometer is so sensitive, it caught the number of carbon dioxide molecules in my breath as we walked around the hangar. In the sky, it counts the density of carbon dioxide molecules on their way to heating up the sea, land and sky for the next 300 to 1,000 years.

More importantly, it also measures methane, which is 80 times more potent than carbon dioxide over the next 20 years. You know it better as natural gas. Heating and cooking are not the only methane culprits. Two-thirds of emissions come from belching cows, factory farms and rotting landfills. But as any Texan will tell you, it's a lot easier to control gas coming out of the ground than gas coming out of cows. CNN / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

USA: OIL AND GAS CLEANUPS ON BIDEN'S AGENDA. WILL TEXAS EMBRACE IT?

February 5 - Some areas of Texas could benefit from Biden's federal directive to accelerate cleanups of legacy oil and gas, mining and hazardous waste contamination.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

In East Austin, one plot of land near a decommissioned natural gas and oil-fired power plant now produces fruits and vegetables in a community garden. In South Houston, land that was contaminated by an old landfill will soon be occupied by a commercial solar farm.

Based on his recent executive order on climate, President Joe Biden wants to see more projects like these that combine efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions with jobs cleaning up contaminated sites that are disproportionately located in communities of color.

In Texas, the president's directive to prioritize such projects could present opportunities for neighborhoods that have been left with the toxic legacies of the early days of the oil, gas and chemical industries. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, Texas has 69 Superfund sites, which are extremely toxic sites the federal government has prioritized for cleanup. The state also has several recently mothballed natural gas plants and thousands of old and abandoned oil and gas wells.

But Biden's vision is at odds with Republican leadership in Texas. Gov. Greg Abbott and the state's GOP members of Congress have mostly criticized it for prioritizing renewable energy sources over the oil industry, which remains a pillar of the state's economy.

"Texas is not going to stand idly by and watch the Biden administration kill jobs in Midland, in Odessa or any other place across the entire region," Abbott said last week during a visit to the Permian Basin, one of the most productive oil fields in the world.

Texas Tribune / [Read more](#)

YEMEN: ONCE AGAIN, HOUTHI INTERFERE WITH UN MISSION TO SAVE DECAYING TANKER

February 4 - The UN project to assess and stabilize the deteriorating FSO Safer has been put on hold yet again by the Houthi rebels who control Yemen's northwestern coastline. This time, the delay could be more serious.

In November, a UN technical mission reached formal acceptance with the Houthis on a scope of work for inspection and "light maintenance" aboard the decaying FSO, which is laden with 1.1 million barrels of oil. However, UN officials report that the Houthis will not guarantee the security of the team, and may be reconsidering the agreement to allow inspectors onto the ship at all.

"We have been preparing for mission deployment and have committed, to date, up to \$3.35 million for the procurement of items and the deployment of personnel," said UN spokesman Stephane Dujarric in a statement. "In order to facilitate the leasing of technically equipped service vessels, which are required for the mission, we have requested the Houthi de-facto authorities to provide a letter with security assurances. We regret that, to date, we have not received a response to our multiple requests for this letter, the lack of which would increase the cost of the mission by hundreds of thousands of dollars."

In addition, Dujarric said, Houthi authorities appear to be considering a "review" of their formal approval of the UN mission to the Safer. Houthi officials have advised the UN to pause some of the preparations until after the outcome of a review, creating further delays. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

NEIL MARSON ELECTED AS FELLOW OF INTERNATIONAL SPILL CONTROL ORGANIZATION (FISCO)



Neil Marson has recently retired. Since 2013 he has been been Regional Manager in charge of the Caspian Regional Tier 2 Oil Spill Response Base, supported by a Team of 50 skilled professional Oil Spill Responders, and 65 Fire-Fighters working on behalf of several International clients in support of their oil and gas exploration and production projects. Additional duties included the provision of Crisis Management and Oil Spill Response Training to external organisations within the Region.

Over a career spanning more than 30 years he also served as Country Manager (Egypt), and has acted as Senior Consultant for assignments in Libya, Kazakhstan, Qatar, and India. In addition to his extensive operations management and national contingency planning experience he has been much involved in the design and presentation of training courses, notably for the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), HM Coastguard, as well as for many oil companies and government agencies.

ISCO NEWS

ISCO IN PROCESS OF REORGANISING ITSELF FOR THE 21ST CENTURY

Since ISCO's December 2020 online AGM and January 2021 Zoom meeting members and other interested parties, participants have been working on new ideas and proposals for the next phase of ISCO's evolution. ISCO is forming a "way forward" group, which will comprise those who have indicated their wish to take part in various ways in ISCO's future development.

ISCO NEWS (CONTINUED)

This will be progressed at our next Zoom meeting scheduled for Thursday 25th February at 1400 EST and 1900 GMT or Friday 26th February at 0600 AEDT (or the equivalent date and time in your own time). Invitations and joining instructions will be sent out to all interested parties in the near future.

If you would like to join the next meeting send an email to mrydetroit@aol.com It's not too late to join this new initiative.

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

NEW INTERNATIONAL OPS MANAGER AT PACIFIC TOWING



In the picture - International Operations Manager, Captain Marcelo Santini, brings with him 35+ years maritime experience from South America including valuable oil and gas expertise.

Pacific Towing – the Marine Services division of Steamships Limited – has added an International Operations Manager to its team. Captain Marcelo Santini will help 'PacTow' take advantage of international project opportunities, further increase its salvage capabilities, and add to the company's Oil and Gas expertise.

Captain Santini is a Senior Master and Salvage Master and has 35+ years maritime experience (river and open ocean). He has operated a great

variety of vessel types: Ocean Going Tugs, Harbour Tugs, Push Tugboats and 32 barges convoy, AHTS's, PSV's, Tankers, Containerships, Dredges, Buoy Tenders, Sand Vessels, Passenger, Mix Passenger, RoRo, and Bulk Carriers.

Captain Santini's last 25 years have been dedicated to towage and salvage throughout South America. He's worked on salvage projects the scale and likes of which have not been seen in Melanesia, including a multi-vessel river collision resulting in a fire, loss of life and the unloading of 3,000,000 litres of gasoline, as well as requiring towage through water less than 1 metre deep. Importantly, Captain Santini increases PacTow's oil and gas expertise having not only crewed on LPG vessels but also having towed them.

Originally from Argentina, Captain Santini has relocated to PNG with his wife and two young children. He speaks four languages; his native Spanish as well as English, Italian and Portuguese.

To learn more about Pacific Towing's services – towage, moorage, salvage, commercial diving, life rafts, hull cleaning – and its customised project solutions: www.pacifictowingmarineservices.com.

OSRL - COVID-19 UPDATE (5th FEBRUARY 2021)

OSRL continues to work with our logistics providers to understand the market which shows improved availability of AN-124 aircraft since the beginning of the year. OSRL is also in contact with freight forwarders regarding the movement of goods to Europe following the new Trade Agreement. Feedback so far has identified teething problems with new systems, however goods continue to be transported. This will be reviewed as levels of freight increase over the next few months.

OSRL's Travel team are closely monitoring the situation regarding travel bans and quarantine requirements in the UK and overseas. We continue to support our members in-field and therefore are using our travel procedures to meet COVID-19 requirements.

We will provide a more detailed update on logistics issues, including the post-Brexit landscape for UK:Europe routes in our next communication.

We have sadly seen an increase in Covid-19 rates in Bahrain which have resulted in additional Governmental controls in the Kingdom and OSRL has increased it's alert status from Yellow to Amber in this location. There is no change to the alert status of any other OSRL locations.

Country plans updated since our last communications are Egypt, Kuwait, Nigeria, Japan, Sakhalin, Cameroon, Russia, Spain, UAE, French Guyana. These can all be accessed on our website [here](#).

OSRL's WASP service provider recently supported the Gabonese Navy in a fantastic collaboration between multiple agencies to save lives at sea. A Mayday message was received from a fishing trawler in distress before contact with the vessel was lost. With the Libreville-based aircraft available on standby, the aircraft was able to complete a search and rescue mission on behalf of the Gabonese Navy. Click here to [read more](#).

We continue to release new seminars with [Dispersant effectiveness monitoring – surface and subsea](#) on the 17th February and [planning for a successful capping operation](#) on the 23rd February. We also have our first Arabic seminar available focussing on lessons learned from several exercises conducted over the last 20 years, on the 10th February. All are available on our [website](#) now.

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

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

THE DRASTIC IMPROVEMENTS OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE OVER 50 YEARS – PART 1



Christian Ingvorsen (pictured on left) is a marine engineer who was educated in Maersk's apprentice system in the 1980s.

At the start of the 1990s, he worked for Roulunds, which manufactured containment boom systems for oil response and was eventually acquired by DESMI.

DESMI's expert in oil spill response, marine engineer Christian Ingvorsen, gives a big picture view on oil spills and their impact on how governments and the private sector have learned to respond to them over five decades

In March 1989, the Exxon Valdez oil tanker struck a reef off the coast of Alaska and spilled 37,000 tonnes of oil (257,000 barrels) into Prince William Sound. It was an environmental catastrophe with severe economic impact. It was also one of the big oil spills in the last five decades that served as a catalyst, pushing governments and industry to develop effective oil spill response.

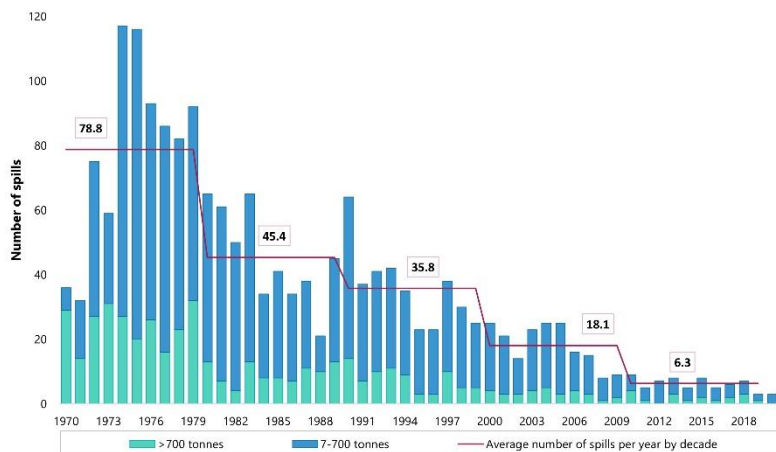
DESMI's Christian Ingvorsen gives a lesson on oil spills and their impact, oil spill response and equipment.

A drastic decline in oil spills

It is important for Christian to make one thing clear in the beginning: as long as we need oil for heat and power, we will need to transport it. "And whenever you transport something, there is a risk of accident," he says.

Christian Ingvorsen is a marine engineer who was educated in Maersk's apprentice system in the 1980s. At the start of the 1990s, he worked for Roulunds, which manufactured containment boom systems for oil response and was eventually acquired by DESMI. He also helped write the "First Responder Oil Spill Response" manual and do live courses of training in oil response for Denmark and the Baltic countries for the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

So, let us start with some good news. Ship-based oil spills have reduced drastically in the last five decades. In the 1970s, the average number of spills per year was 78.8. By the 2010s it was 6.2. That is according to the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Ltd. (ITOPF), a non-profit organisation established on behalf of the world's shipowners to promote an effective response to marine spills of oil and other hazardous substances.



Christian Ingvorsen says there are three main reasons we have 12 times fewer oil spills today compared to 50 years ago.

First is that today's vessels are better, with a double hull.

"Second, you have standard operational procedures now. When I was young, you didn't have any manual to tell you what to do and in what steps. You just had the guy next to you tell you, 'Do this and do that.' You didn't get any proper training. So the risk for you doing something wrong was much bigger that time.

Thirdly the entire world has changed its attitude towards safety and being 100 % concentrated on your professional duties"

Big spills and impact

Christian points to four spills that have had impact on today's oil spill response policies and guidelines.

In 1967, the **Torrey Canyon** ran aground on a reef on the southwest coast of the United Kingdom. It spilled 100,000 tonnes of oil into the English Channel, leaving beaches knee-deep in sludge. More than 15,000 sea birds were killed. It was the first major oil spill in British and European waters, leading to changes in the way people viewed the environment.

"It was the first time we realized: Whoa, something could happen. And it made a huge impact on the environment, because at that time, we didn't have any sort of specialized equipment for actually recovering the oil," Christian says. *"So they sent in the Navy and the Air Force. They were trying to bomb the area to burn off the oil. And they used a lot of chemicals, which caused more damage than the oil itself."*

This also encouraged a number of European countries to build up their national contingency plans. That includes Denmark, which also formed its Ministry of the Environment in 1971.

Another big spill happened in Europe in 1978, when the **Amoco Cadiz** sailed into some rocks on March 16, 1978. It spilled 223,000 tons of light crude oil, spoiling a large part of the Brittany coast

THE SPILL THAT REALLY HAD AN IMPACT ON THE WORLD, HOWEVER, WAS THE **EXXON VALDEZ** IN 1989. "FOR THE FIRST TWO WEEKS AFTER THE SPILL, VERY LITTLE HAPPENED.

An Alaskan disaster

After two weeks, President George Bush declared a national emergency, and then a lot of things started happening. For its part, DESMI went to all its customers around the world and asked for their usable booms, then made an immediate shipment of 10,000 metres of booms and equipment to Alaska to help with the spill response.

Meanwhile, the environmental impact was massive as well. Seals, birds, otters and other wildlife were covered with oil. Just a drop of oil on a bird or mammal will affect its insulating abilities, causing the animal to freeze. A groundswell of volunteers also came to this remote part of Alaska to help clean the animals with detergents.

"What happened was that a lot of the birds died due to stress. You have to catch them, then wash them, then put them in small cages to dry and maybe even use a hair dryer to speed up the process," Christian says. An estimated 100,000-250,000 seabirds died, as well as nearly 3,000 sea otters and hundreds of seals.

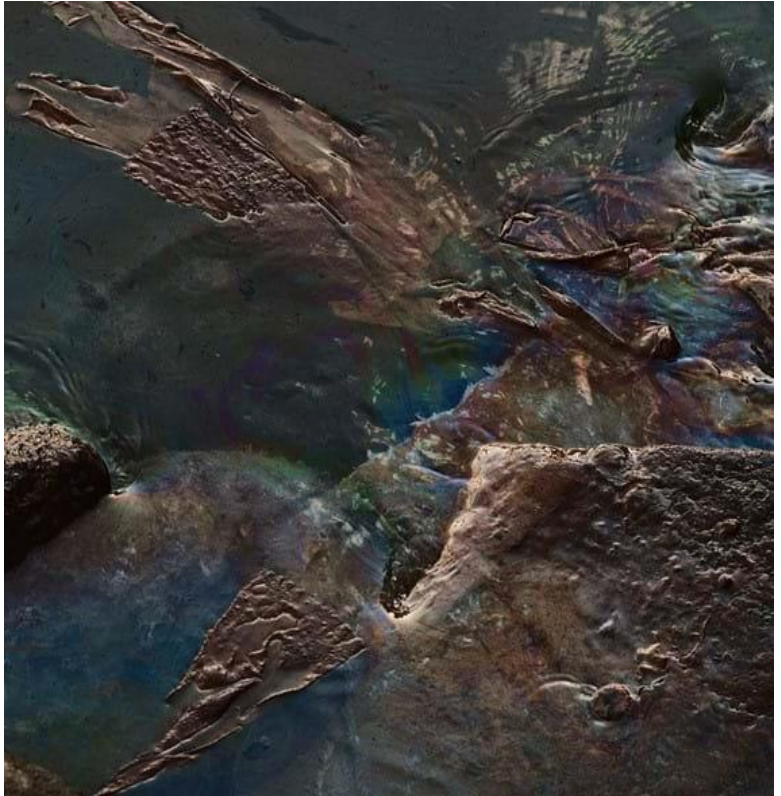
Beach cleaning was done with high-pressure steam.

"What they realized 10 years later was that these steam cleaners removed all the bacteria and simply killed them. So the long term impact of cleaning so efficiently was much bigger than from the oil itself."

The lesson formed today's beach-cleaning practices. "They learned that you must use the water from from the same environment to clean with. So you should use salt water if it's a saltwater environment, because the bacteria cannot survive in freshwater."

By the 2000s the oil spill response practices were improving. This can be seen in the biggest spill in Danish waters, known as the Baltic Carrier Incident. The spill was due to a oil tanker collision in the Baltic Sea north of Germany in March 2001, spilling more than 2,000 tons of oil that drifted north to Danish waters. Uniquely, despite (or perhaps because of) the very viscous oil, the authorities managed to recover some 60% of the oil in the water. "This is far beyond normal, where a good operation may recover some 30% of the oil when still in the water," Christian says, adding that the cold temperatures and type of oil meant evaporation rate was low.

This article will be continued in next week's newsletter



UPCOMING WEBINARS

UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION: SPILL KNOWLEDGE BASE: SKIMMERS

February 10th, 15:00 GMT - We're delighted to announce the launch of our Spill Knowledge Base webinar series. The first in this series by UK & Ireland Spill Association will be on Skimmers. Presented by Marc van der Zwan (Zwanny) and Gareth McCorkhill

UPCOMING WEBINARS (CONTINUED)

(Ambipar), this webinar will look at the options available, where they should be used and what to consider when using them. Both Marc and Gareth have extensive experience of supply, maintenance, selection and use of skimmers in marine and inland water spill events.

The webinar starts at 1500hrs and will last no more than 90 minutes with the opportunity to ask questions at the end of each session. [Please register here](#). If you are interested in the rest of our Spill Knowledge Base webinars, you can [view our upcoming virtual events here](#).

WEBINAR FROM ALGA: WASTE: ADDRESSING THE REGULATORY MAZE

Thursday, February 11, 2021. 11:00 AM - 12:00 PM AEDT. Waste management of contaminated soils is an essential skill for any contaminated site professional. It is a complex area, where getting it wrong can cost millions. This is an introductory webinar for a series of detailed seminars dealing with waste issues. This webinar will cover:

- Why it is important to manage your wastes as a contaminated site professional
- Some traps for the unaware
- Waste definitions – Australia focus some state differences
- Basic waste classifications – NSW and Victoria examples provided briefly
- Recycling, disposal and treatment cost comparisons
- Options for management of contaminated soils from on-site to treatment and disposal

A short Q&A session will follow. [More info and registration](#)

RECOGNITION TRAINING FOR STRUCK-BY AND CAUGHT-IN-BETWEEN HAZARDS

Advice has been received that this webinar is being rescheduled with further details to be given later. In the meantime the organisers would still like to receive case histories from interested persons. To register interest and get more information about the webinar please contact Marc K. Shaye Hon.FISCO at shayemk@aol.com

ONLINE AND OTHER TRAINING COURSES

NEW TRAINING SEMINARS ANNOUNCED BY OSRL

OSRL continues to release new seminars with [Dispersant effectiveness monitoring – surface and subsea](#) on the 17th February and [planning for a successful capping operation](#) on the 23rd February. We also have our first Arabic seminar available focussing on lessons learned from several exercises conducted over the last 20 years, on the 10th February. All are available on our [website](#) now.

INCIDENT COMMAND TRAINING FROM SPILLCONSULT ONLINE TRAINING PORTAL

For information on these courses, please visit <https://spillconsult.learnupon.com/store>

Details of these courses were published on Page 7 of ISCO Newsletter 769 (Link at <https://spillcontrol.org/newsletters/>)

ENERGY INSTITUTE - FIVE ONLINE TRAINING COURSES FOR OFFSHORE WORKERS

The Energy Institute has announced the availability of currently available short online environmental training courses for offshore workers. Details of five currently available training courses were published on Page 10 of ISCO Newsletter 770. (Link at <https://spillcontrol.org/newsletters/>)

EMPIRE EGYPT - OIL SPILL RESPONSE - 1 DAY FOUNDATION COURSE

1 Day online self-paced training program which provides a foundation knowledge and skills for on-site first response to oil spills with the emphasis on combating and the various clean-up methods, supported by exercises and quizzes. A Certificate of Completion will be issued for candidates who pass the final assessment exam.

[More info](#) For ISCO members and readers a 50% discount is available until 31 March 2021. Using the code: ISCO50

TRAINING COURSES FROM CHEMICAL WATCH

- THE PRACTICAL GUIDE TO ECOTOXICOLOGY AND THE ENVIRONMENT - [More info](#)
- THE BASICS OF REACH REGULATION - [More info](#)

LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY – CERTIFICATE IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE

This safety training course has been designed in line with the OPRC Convention and is vital for first-time responders in the oil and

ONLINE AND OTHER TRAINING COURSES (CONTINUED)

offshore industry. Starts 14th April; Online | Study in your own time; Duration: 12 weeks | 6 modules; Taught by: Colin Drake, Managing Director of OSCAR – Oil Spill Consultants & Advisory Response; Fees: £1,529.19/ \$1,988.10 (includes a saving of £170/ \$221 until 19 February 2021). Find out more about this course – [download the full course syllabus](#).

USA: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CODE ENFORCEMENT P0615

June 13-18 2021. Emmitsburg, Maryland. 6-day on-campus - This six-day course is designed to guide students in gaining and sharing the knowledge, skills and abilities to effectively recognize and analyze hazardous materials risk, classify the materials, and apply the codes, standards, and regulations to prevent incidents and mitigate threats to life and property. [More info](#)

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.

If you want to request the addition of an event please contact the Editor.

| For more information click on Title of Event | | | |
|--|----------------|--|-----------------|
| COUNTRY | 2021 | TITLE OF EVENT | LOCATION |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | February 8-9 | The JOIFF Industrial Fire & Hazard Management Virtual Conference & Exhibition 2021 | Online |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | February 22-23 | 5th Session of the U.N. Environment Assembly | Online |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | February 22-26 | Ninth Technology Workshop for Oil Spill Response | Online |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | 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 |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | March 22-26 | IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) | Online |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | March 23 | CEDRE Information Day on Containers | Online |
| USA | May 9 | APICOM GM Meeting | New Orleans LA |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | May 10-13 | International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021) | Online |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | May 20-21 | European Maritime Day | 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 |
| UAE | April 6-7 | HSE Forum UAE 2021 | Dubai |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | April 8 | IMO Council Meeting | Online |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | June 8-9 | Environment Analyst Global Business Summit 2021 | Online |
| VIRTUAL EVENT | June 8-10 | 43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response | Online |
| USA | June 8-10 | Elastec Spill Workshop 2021 | Carmi, IL |
| TUNISIA | June 15 | Training on Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills | Hammamet |
| TUNISIA | June 16-17 | Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Waste Management | Hammamet |
| USA | June 28-30 | Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition | Seattle, WA |
| USA | September 7-10 | Hazmat Emergency Response Workshop | Sacramento, CA |
| USA | Sept. 13-15 | Clean Waterways Conference & Exhibition | Louisville, KY |
| CROATIA | October 26-28 | Regional Workshop – Enhancing Preparedness and Response in the Adriatic & Mediterranean Regions | Opatija |
| CROATIA | October 29 | MOIG General Assembly Meeting | Opatija |
| 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

MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

ACCELERATING A SUSTAINABLE OCEAN ECONOMY – MARCH 1-5, 2021

The Economist Group's World Ocean Initiative Summit Virtual Week – The 2021 agenda will deliver fresh, robust, and action-oriented insights into creating a sustainable ocean economy. The virtual week offers the opportunity to access highly curated content and the chance to make meaningful connections no matter where you are in the world - [More info](#)

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ENGINEERING SOLUTIONS TO THE PLASTIC WASTE CHALLENGE

ExxonMobil is a founding member of the Alliance to End Plastic Waste, which is focused on developing safe, scalable and economically viable solutions that will help end plastic waste in the environment. The Alliance aims to accelerate additional investment by proving the effectiveness of these plastic pollution solutions, particularly in markets with the highest levels of plastic waste.

Among its many initiatives, the Alliance is providing funding to Project STOP Jembrana, a group helping communities in Bali to prevent 2,200 tons of plastic waste leaking into the environment each year, while collecting and processing an additional 18,000 tons of waste annually. Another project, Closing the Loop, helps Ghanaian communities collect and sell plastic waste, which is then reused to create household products and building materials.

Another example - In the Patagonia region of Chile, discarded plastic fishing ropes were contaminating beaches. Several groups came together and launched the [Atando Cabos project](#) with a simple goal: Collect the ropes and recycle them into high-quality products. But that's harder than it sounds. The clean-up crews discovered the ropes were made of two incompatible materials that wouldn't mix and couldn't be separated. That's when ExxonMobil stepped in.

We collaborated with Atando Cabos and found that adding our Vistamaxx™ performance polymers to the ropes' two materials made them compatible and fully recyclable. Now, discarded ropes are being turned into sturdy end products, such as crates used for agricultural purposes. In just one year, more than 1,000 tons of rope have been recycled through this partnership.

ExxonMobil / [Read more](#)

NEWLY LICENSED UK TECHNOLOGY WILL IMPROVE MARINE OIL SPILL RESPONSE



Photo: Boeing 737 using normal cargo loading converting it to an oil spray dispersion aircraft

Agile Spray Response Ltd has been granted the Export Sales Licence to manufacture, market and sell CONVERT400, the HM Government Maritime Coastguard Agency's (MCA) chosen oil dispersant spray system (ODSS). CONVERT400's design improves accessibility to and affordability of airborne spray response strategies used to disperse oil spills quickly and effectively, around the world.

CONVERT400 does not require a dedicated aircraft or the associated annual costs of its maintenance, storage and personnel. Instead, CONVERT400 is 'rolled on and rolled off' a cargo Boeing 737, as required, which eliminates the need for countries and companies to maintain fixed aviation assets to manage the risk of offshore oil

spills. The Boeing 737 type is among the most widely used cargo aircraft and CONVERT400 can be used by existing in-country aircraft when they have been modified for both roles. Hellenic Shipping News / [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. Readers are welcome to post tender invitations in this section.

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

| | | |
|---|---|--------------------|
| AMSA Update | Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority | Current issue |
| ATRAAC Newsletter | News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre | October 2020 |
| AUSMEPA Bulletin | News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n | Summer 2020 |
| BIMCO Bulletin | Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO | December 2020 |
| Newsletter from George Holliday | News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday | Free on request |
| Cedre Newsletter | News from Cedre in Brittany, France | November 2020 |
| EMSA Newsletters | News from the European Maritime Safety Agency | Current issue |
| Environmental Expert | Environmental News from Environmental Expert | Current issue |
| GDACS Newsletter | Daily alerts for natural disasters – earthquakes, floods, typhoons, etc. | Free on request |
| GEF Newsletter | Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility | Subscription |
| GESAMP | Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection | Latest news |
| GISEA Quarterly Newsletter | News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia | Q3 2020 |
| IMO News Magazine | News from the International Maritime Organization | Autumn/Winter 2020 |
| IMO Publishing Newsletter | New and forthcoming IMO publications | September 2020 |
| ITOPF Ocean Orbit | News magazine from ITOPF with interesting spill response articles | October 2019 |
| JOIFF Catalyst Newsletter | Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management | Q1 2021 issue |
| Maritime Executive Magazine | Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community | Current issue |
| MEDNEWS | News from UNEP Mediterranean Action Programme | 02 / 2020 |
| MOIG Newsletter | News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group | February 2021 |
| NCEC Newsletter | News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre | December 2020 |
| Navigate Response | Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine | Current issue |
| NOAA OR&R | Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration | Latest issue |
| Oceanbuzz | Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry | Current issue |
| OCIMF Newsletter | News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum | Current issue |
| OHMSETT Gazette | Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly | Autumn 2020 |
| Oiled Wildlife Log | Bi-annual Newsletter from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research | January 2021 |
| OSPAR Newsletter | Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources | End of year 2019 |
| PEMSEA Newsletter | Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas | Current issue |
| Pollution Online Newsletter | News for pollution prevention & control professionals | Current issue |
| Salvage World | Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union | Current issue |
| Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter | Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm | Current issue |
| Society of Maritime Industries | News from the UK's maritime engineering and business services sector. | October 2020 |
| Spill Alert | Quarterly Newsletter from UK & Ireland Spill Association | December 2020 |
| Technology Innovation News Survey | News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination | Dec.16-31, 2020 |
| The Maritime Advocate | Maritime News from Sandra Speares | Current issue |
| USA EPA Tech Direct | Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater | February 1, 2021 |
| Water Pollution & Flood News | Monthly round-ups of UK & Worldwide Spill and Flood News | Free on request |
| WestMOPoCo | Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Co-operation | November 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 john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org if any of the links are not up-to-date.

INCIDENT REPORTS

TURKEY: TERRIFYING VIDEO SHOWS CARGO SHIP BREAK IN HALF



Photo: A screenshot of video showing the MV Arvin breaking in half, January 17, 2021.

January 31 - Turkish maritime authorities have published some terrifying video showing a cargo ship breaking in half in a matter of minutes. The incident took place January 17 when the Palau-flagged Arvin broke in half and sunk at a Black Sea anchorage off the Port of Bartın. The 1975-built ship was reported to be carrying 2,902 tons of urea. Sadly, this incident did not end well. A day after the ship broke, six of the ship's 12 crew members were still reported missing.

gCaptain / [Read more and watch video](#)

UK: WALES - LLANGENNECH DIESEL SPILL: 'MOST CHALLENGING RECOVERY OPERATION SINCE SEA EMPRESS'

Photo: Remedial works are due to complete by the end of February 2021, with ongoing monitoring and ecological restoration over the next two to five years.

February 1 - The ongoing clean-up of the Llangennech freight derailment and diesel spill site is the most challenging recovery operation since the Sea Empress disaster 25 years ago, according to the incident recovery manager.

Environmental contractors Adler and Allan have been working around the clock to complete the complex remediation work at the site where a freight train pulling 25 wagons each containing up to 100,000 litres of diesel derailed near Llangennech in Carmarthenshire on 26 August 2020. The derailment and the subsequent damage to the wagons resulted in a significant spillage of diesel and a major fire.

South Wales Guardian / [Read more](#)



PACIFIC OCEAN: MORE CONTAINERS LOST AS 41 GO OVERBOARD FROM MSC SHIP

February 2 - An MSC containership has become the latest giant boxship to lose containers overboard in the Pacific Ocean. Cargo casualty firm WK Webster [reports](#) that the MSC Aries lost about 41 containers overboard as it sailed from Long Beach, California to China on January 29. MSC has since confirmed the incident and informs that the containers lost were all [empty](#),

“MSC Aries, deployed on the Sequoia service on voyage US053S, met with heavy weather while en route from Long Beach to Ningbo,” MSC said in a statement, as [reported](#) by Splash247.com. “A limited number of empty containers were impacted and initial reports from the vessel suggest that no cargo was spilled overboard.” gCaptain / [Read more](#)

USA: KENTUCKY - CHEMICALS SPILL INTO OHIO RIVER IN OWENSBORO

February 4 - Daviess County EMA Director Andy Ball confirms there was a chemical spill in the Ohio River at Dart Polymers. Kentucky Emergency Response Team is on scene. Dart Polymer has a spill contract company on scene. Officials say they haven't been able to determine what caused the spill, but it remains under investigation. 14News / [Read more](#)

HISTORY

USA: MASSIVE 1971 SAN FRANCISCO BAY OIL SPILL LED TO FOUNDING OF INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE IN BERKELEY

February 1 – This month marks the 50th anniversary of the devastating oil spill that fouled San Francisco Bay, killing thousands of seabirds. In its wake, the spill created a wildlife emergency like no other, and led to the humble formation of International Bird Rescue in Berkeley, CA. Yubanet / [Read more](#)

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