



## 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

### WHY OCEAN POLLUTION IS A CLEAR DANGER TO HUMAN HEALTH



Plastic waste is the most visible component of ocean pollution. Photo: Maxim Blinkov

February 7 - A short article by Jacqueline McGlade, Professor of Natural Prosperity, Sustainable Development and Knowledge Systems, UCL

Ocean pollution is widespread, worsening, and poses a clear and present danger to human health and wellbeing. But the extent of this danger has not been widely comprehended – until now. [Our recent study](#) provides the first comprehensive assessment of the impacts of ocean pollution on human health.

Ocean pollution is a complex mixture of toxic metals, plastics, manufactured chemicals, petroleum, urban and industrial wastes, pesticides, fertilizers, pharmaceutical chemicals, agricultural runoff, and sewage. More than 80 percent arises from land-based sources and it reaches the oceans through rivers, runoff, deposition from the atmosphere – where airborne pollutants are washed into the ocean by rain and snow – and direct dumping, such as pollution from wastewater treatment plants and discarded waste. Ocean pollution is heaviest near the coasts and most highly concentrated along the coastlines of low-income and middle-income countries.

Ocean pollution can also be found far beyond national jurisdictions in the open oceans, the deepest oceanic trenches, and on the shores of remote islands. Ocean pollution knows no borders.

Plastic waste is the most visible component of ocean pollution. More than ten million tons of plastic enter the seas every year. The majority of this breaks down into microplastic particles and accumulates in coastal and deep-sea sediments.

Some large pieces float in the water for decades ending up as massive concentrations where currents converge and circulate. [Continue reading this short article](#)

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[Benefits of Membership](#)  
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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)

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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)

# EARTHSHOT PRIZE MEETS THE 2020 YOUNG CHAMPIONS OF THE EARTH

[Watch the video](#)

On 3rd February 2021, [The Duke of Cambridge, Prince William](#) spoke to [seven young environmentalists](#) from the UN Environment Programme's (UNEP) [Young Champions of the Earth initiative](#) to hear their perspectives on the environmental challenges facing our planet and the innovative solutions needed to address these issues.

During the call with The Duke, which was chaired by UNEP's Executive Director Inger Andersen, the Young Champions discussed the environmental challenges affecting their regions and the response to their projects from local communities, as well as the challenges that have presented themselves during the COVID-19 pandemic. They also spoke about the importance of inspiring optimism, and how entrepreneurship and innovation can create tangible environmental impact.

UNEP is a Global Alliance Partner of The Earthshot Prize, and shares the Prize's mission to incentivise change and inspire people all over the world to work together to repair the planet.

Young Champions of the Earth is UNEP's flagship youth engagement platform on the environment and aims to identify, celebrate, and support individuals between the ages of 18 and 30 who demonstrate the potential to create positive environmental impact.

<https://www.unep.org/news-and-stories/video/earthshot-prize-meets-2020-young-champions-earth>

## THE FIRST STEP IS ADMITTING YOU HAVE A PROBLEM

Published in the New York Times, this short article is by Michael Patrick F. Smith. Mr. Smith is a folk singer and playwright based in Kentucky. He is the author of the forthcoming "The Good Hand: A Memoir of Work, Brotherhood, and Transformation in an American Boomtown," a book about his time working on the oil fields of North Dakota.

"Look around you: chances are that every object within your field of vision contains refined petroleum.

The varnish on your desk, the paint on your walls, the finish on your floors. Unless the chair you are sitting on is made of untreated wood, then your butt is resting on synthetic materials derived from petrochemicals. Plastic is petroleum based: the components of your phone and computer, your printer and audio speakers. Take a sip of coffee and think about it. The glaze on our mugs comes from oil.

Oil was once thought to have mystical properties. In western Pennsylvania, the cradle of American oil exploration and production, shamans from the Seneca tribe used the strange black substance in ritualistic healing exercises. They also used it to cauterize wounds and seal canoes. For white men, the gunk seemed more trouble than it was worth. With grease gumming up salt drilling operations in the area, a local entrepreneur found a way to profit from it, mixing it with liquor and selling the drink as a cure-all. Oil has been linked to medicine ever since". New York Times / [Carry on reading](#) [Thanks to Ed Levine, FISCO]

## UN SPECIAL RAPPORTEUR ON TOXICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS VISITS IMO

The Special Rapporteur, first appointed in 1995, has a mandate to provide detailed, up-to-date information on a number of areas, including the developments, gaps and shortcomings in the effectiveness of international regulatory mechanisms concerning hazardous substances and wastes and their impact on the enjoyment of human rights.

As part of his mandate, the current Special Rapporteur, Marcos Orellana, requested a visit to the IMO Secretariat. The visit allows the Special Rapporteur to assess the work of IMO on questions relating to the toxics mandate in order to identify good practices, as well as areas that may need improvement to make constructive and concrete recommendations.

The assessment is expected to focus on areas within IMO's mandate, under international treaties adopted by IMO, including: the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL); the International Convention for the Safety of Life at Sea (SOLAS); and conventions covering ship recycling (Hong Kong Convention); the control of harmful anti-fouling systems on ships (Anti-Fouling Convention); the control and management of ships' ballast water and sediments (BWM Convention); the dumping of wastes at sea (London Convention and Protocol), and those covering limitation of liability for pollution damage.

The Special Rapporteur conducted online meetings with key members of the IMO Secretariat from 9 to 18 December 2020. The Special Rapporteurs' report is expected in September 2021. The Secretary-General is committed to cooperating with the Special Rapporteur in an open and transparent manner. IMO / [Read more](#)

## **INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE CELEBRATES GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY**

February 8 - January marked the 50th anniversary of the devastating oil spill that fouled the San Francisco Bay, killing thousands of seabirds. It was a tragic event that spawned the creation of a new branch of environmental science that continues to evolve today here in Solano County.

Two Standard Oil tankers – the Arizona Standard and the Oregon Standard – collided in the bay near the Golden Gate Bridge on an early foggy morning, Jan. 18, 1971. The collision resulted in 800,000 gallons of caustic, sticky crude staining the bay and surrounding beaches and in its wake, created a wildlife emergency like no other that led to the formation of International Bird Rescue in Berkeley.

Only about 300 birds were successfully rehabilitated and released – in part given the lack of established oiled bird rehabilitation practices at the time. Jay Holcomb, Bird Rescue’s longtime director – who died in 2014 – told the San Francisco Chronicle in 2012, “No one knew what to do. It was as horrible as you can imagine. . . . It was then that we realized there needs to be an organized attempt for their care.” Daily Republic / [Read more](#)

## **HELCOM JOINS UN INITIATIVE ON MARINE LITTER**

February 11 - HELCOM has recently become a member of a United Nation initiative on land-based pollution, the Global Partnership on Marine Litter (GPML).

Bringing together various stakeholders dealing with marine litter and microplastics challenges, the GPML partnership was launched at the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) in June 2012. The GPML is hosted under the umbrella of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). The GPML further seeks to facilitate the implementation of the commitments expressed in the Manila Declaration, under which 65 countries pledged to develop policies to reduce and control wastewater, marine litter and pollution from fertilizers.

Marine litter and microplastics are of particular concern in the Baltic Sea. In response, HELCOM has adopted its own Regional Action Plan on Marine Litter (RAP ML) in 2015. HELCOM / [Read more](#)

## **NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

### **ANGOLA: LAUNCH OF A STUDY ON TRANSBOUNDARY OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

The overall objective of the study is to propose an effective and detailed approach to developing a tailored multilateral agreement between the Republic of Angola, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This will lead to the development of a transboundary oil spill contingency plan between these three countries during a face-to-face trilateral conference in 2021. 31 Mar 2021, 10:00am - 2:00pm GI WACAF / [Read more](#)

### **BENIN: INVESTING IN MANGROVES FOR CLIMATE RESILIENCE**



*Photo: A FAO project funded by the GEF and its Least Developed Countries Fund will protect and restore Benin's mangroves. Photo: Joachim Huber/Flickr*

January 12 - The latest work programs of the Global Environment Facility and GEF-managed Least Developed Countries Fund (LDCF) include a series of projects designed to help countries protect and regenerate nature amid the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. This is one of these projects. For details on the Council proceedings, please click here.

The coastal West African country of Benin relies on fishing, farming, and forestry for its economic growth and exports. Reduced access to international markets for its agricultural products during the COVID-19 pandemic is expected to exacerbate poverty and food insecurity in the country in a lasting way – added stressors in a population already vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

To counteract this, the Global Environment Facility and Least Developed Countries Fund are jointly supporting a new project led by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations that will enable communities along Benin’s southern coast to restore

and sustainably manage the endangered mangrove forests they inhabit by helping them to find more resilient and less environmentally damaging livelihoods.

Mangroves – coastal tree and shrub formations that are sources of food, fuel, and income for many communities – are also vital for Benin’s biodiversity. They help protect coasts from wave and wind erosion and storm damage, are home to a rich array of flora and fauna, reduce pollutant levels, act as a nutrient sink and, by trapping upland runoff sediment, safeguard near-shore reefs.

The GEF / [Read more](#)

### **CANADA: WÄRTSILÄ HYBRID SOLUTION WILL MINIMISE CARBON FOOTPRINT FOR NEW CANADIAN FERRY**



February 9 - The technology group Wärtsilä’s delivery of its advanced hybrid solution will be for a new Ro-Ro ferry being built for the British Columbia Ministry of Transportation and Infrastructure. The vessel is being built at the Western Pacific Marine shipyard, and when delivered will serve the Balfour – Kootenay Bay route across Kootenay Lake. The order with Wärtsilä was placed in January 2021.

By opting for Wärtsilä’s Hybrid Solution rather than a conventional propulsion arrangement, the operator will benefit from reduced fuel consumption and a far lower level of exhaust emissions.

gCaptain / [Read more](#)

### **CHILE PUBLISHES DECREE IMPLEMENTING GHS AND ESTABLISHING INVENTORY**

February 11 - First Latin American country to finalise initial plans for chemicals management system - Chile's decree to implement the UN's GHS, create a national inventory of industrial chemicals and establish a method for risk evaluation of priority substances in the country has been published in the country's Official Journal. Chemical Watch / [Read more](#)

### **CONGO: LAUNCH OF A STUDY ON TRANSBOUNDARY OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING IN CENTRAL AFRICA**

The overall objective of the study is to propose an effective and detailed approach to developing a tailored multilateral agreement between the Republic of Angola, the Republic of the Congo and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. This will lead to the development of a transboundary oil spill contingency plan between these three countries during a face-to-face trilateral conference in 2021. 31 Mar 2021, 10:00am - 2:00pm GI WACAF / [Read more](#)

### **MONACO: PRINCE ALBERT II FOUNDATION ACTS TO PROTECT THE POLAR REGIONS FROM HEAVY FUEL OIL**

February 9 - Heavy Fuel Oil, a viscous fluid which if spilled can cause major environmental damage, comprises up to 80% of all marine fuel. If spilled in pristine environmentally sensitive areas like the Arctic it is a recipe for a disaster – not to mention the regular polluting effects of the black carbon emitted from burning the fuel.

Which is why it is a hot topic with the global governing body for shipping, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) which is making slow progress on the issue but which is still far from providing comprehensive solutions rapidly enough.

There is progress however with active support from the Prince Albert II of Monaco Foundation which has teamed up with the Clean Arctic Alliance by being the latest eminent signatory of the Arctic Commitment, joining more than 165 companies, explorers, politicians and NGOs who have pledged their support for a ban on the use and carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) from Arctic shipping. Hello Monaco / [Read more](#)

### **SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE: CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT NATIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN (NOSCP)**

This remote assistance activity aims at performing a review of the draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) sent by Sao Tome and Principe national authorities; providing them with a gap analysis and agreeing on a set of recommendations during a face-to-face national workshop that will be organized in 2021. 1 Jun 2021, 10:00am - 2:00pm GI WACAF / [Read more](#)

### **SENEGAL: CRITICAL REVIEW OF THE DRAFT SHORELINE RESPONSE PLAN**

This remote assistance activity aims at performing a critical review of the draft Shoreline Response Plan (Plan POLMAR-Terre) shared by the Senegalese authorities, providing them with a gap analysis, and agreeing on a set of recommendations to be presented during

a remotely-held activity in the first quarter of 2021. 31 Mar 2021, 10:00am - 2:00pm GI WACAF / [Read more](#)

### SWITZERLAND HAS A ROLE TO PLAY IN THE ARCTIC

February 7 - The Arctic region is attracting more and more international attention. However, the race to the far north involves risks, notes Anna Stünzi, president of the Swiss think-tank foraus. She tells SWI swissinfo.ch how Switzerland can contribute to sustainable and peaceful development in the Arctic. Swiss Info / [Read more](#)

### TOGO: ONLINE TRAINING ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION IN CASE OF AN OIL SPILL

This activity aims at training the authorities on the scope of action and the implementation of the IMO Conventions relating to liability and compensation in the event of oil spill, in particular through case studies and table-top exercises (assessment and settlement procedure, cost calculation, etc.). Due to travel restrictions linked to the COVID-19 pandemic, the national workshop initially planned in Lomé will take place remotely, using teleconferencing services. 26 Feb 2021 GI WACAF / [Read more](#)

### UK: OIL TANKERS SITTING OFF SHETLAND ISLES CAUSE CONCERNS

February 5 - THE ISSUE of oil-laden tankers sitting off the coast of Shetland until market conditions change is to be discussed at a council meeting next week. A report said that “engagement is ongoing with the industry”, while it will also be discussed at the next meeting of the Sullom Voe Association. The council report insists that no regulations are being broken, but concerns have been raised over the potential environmental impact of fully-laden tankers lying near the coastline. Shetland Times / [Read more](#)

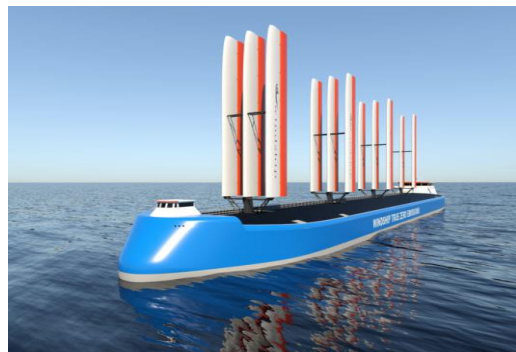
### UK: HULL INTEGRITY PROBLEMS REPORTED IN OFFSHORE PROCESSING SHIP

February 9 - More safety problems have been discovered by the UK Health & Safety Executive (HSE) on (IMO 8887595) relating to the integrity of the hull, including cracks reported to measure almost a third of a metre. BP, which owns the Foinaven field, said: “Safety is BP’s core value and we take matters such as these very seriously. “We are working with the duty holder on their proposed way forward to swiftly address the issues raised.” Insurance Narine News / [Read more](#)

### UK: EXERCISE CELTIC DEEP REPORT

February 9 - Exercise CELTIC DEEP was a multi-agency exercise which took place in October 2020 to test the United Kingdom’s (UK) response to a major shipping incident within the UK Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ). Exercise CELTIC DEEP was conducted in real time on 20 and 21 October 2020. Originally scheduled to be held in southwest Wales in June 2020, due to COVID-19, the decision was made to postpone the exercise. Given ongoing uncertainties, the exercise was rescheduled for October and planned and conducted remotely. UK Maritime & Coastguard Agency / [Download the report](#)

### UK: ‘TESLA OF THE SEAS’ – BRITISH COMPANY UNVEILS ZERO-EMISSION SHIP CONCEPT



February 10 - The design, which is currently applicable to bulk carriers and oil tankers, was developed by Windship Technologies’ Technical Director, Simon Rogers, whose team tested the design at the renowned Wolfson Unit at the University of Southampton. “The holistic approach demonstrated in this solution whereby wind power, solar power and the reduction of harmful exhaust emissions to effectively zero, are all brought together, means that at last there is a design solution that the International Maritime Organisation can champion to achieve its requirements for ‘at least’ zero carbon shipping,” said Philip Wilson, former Professor of Ship Dynamics at the Ship Science Department at the University of Southampton. Windship has now also partnered with international classification society DNV to further develop its concept. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

### USA: HUNDREDS OF INDIGENOUS LEADERS, INFLUENCERS CALL ON PRESIDENT BIDEN TO STAND WITH STANDING ROCK & SHUT DOWN THE ILLEGAL DAKOTA ACCESS PIPELINE

February 8 - A broad coalition of Native-led groups, environmental organizations, and influencers released a letter calling on President Biden and Vice President Harris to stand with the Standing Rock Sioux Tribe and shut down the Dakota Access pipeline (DAPL) following the Jan. 27 court ruling that the pipeline is operating illegally without the necessary federal permits.

The movement to stop the Dakota Access pipeline has been one of the most high-profile Indigenous rights and climate justice issues. It was halted by President Obama and then fast-tracked by President Trump in 2017. Yubanet / [Read more](#)

### USA: US OSHA PUBLISHED PROPOSED HCS UPDATE TO HARMONIZE WITH THE 7TH REVISION OF THE GHS

February 12 - The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a proposed regulation on February 5, 2021 to align the Hazard Communication Standard (HCS) with the seventh revision of the United Nations Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS).

The proposed rule is scheduled to be published in the February 16, 2021 Federal Register. OSHA will accept comments on the proposed rule until April 19, 2021. MSC / [Read more](#)

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

February 12 – Please click on the links below to download the latest news reports from NOAA OR&R

[OR&R and the Federal Advisory Board for the Oil Spill Recovery Institute](#)

On February 12, 2021, the Federal Advisory Board for the Oil Spill Recovery Institute (OSRI) in Cordova, Alaska, held its winter meeting virtually.

OR&R's Doug Helton is the Federal Chair of OSRI which was established by Congress in response to the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

[Marine Debris Program Collaborative Project on Derelict Fishing Gear in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum](#)

On February 1, the NOAA Marine Debris Program and the U.S. State Department secured project funding from the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum (APEC) for a project that will be led by the Ocean Conservancy's Global Ghost Gear Initiative (GGGI).

The Marine Debris Program is cooperating with the U.S. Department of State and government officials from Malaysia and Thailand to oversee a project in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum (APEC) to develop prevention strategies to address abandoned, lost, or otherwise discarded fishing gear (ALDFG) in the APEC region. The project will engage APEC economy representatives to develop a best practice framework to address ALDFG in the region, building on past work of GGGI and the UN Food and Agriculture Organization's Voluntary Guidelines for the Marking of Fishing Gear (VGMFG). The project will also help to produce a fishing gear marking compendium to help facilitate the implementation of the VGMFG in the region.

[Disaster Preparedness Program Hosts National Ocean Service Incident Management Team Monthly Meeting](#)

On February 10, the National Ocean Service (NOS) Incident Management Team (IMT) held its monthly meeting. Led by the Office of Response and Restoration's [Disaster Preparedness Program](#) (DPP), the NOS IMT is a cadre of staff from across all the NOS program and staff offices who activate in response to emergencies to assist preparedness, response, and recovery activities across NOS; provide incident status reporting to leadership, and support NOAA's Homeland Security Program Office (HSPO) for all disaster activations.

[Marine Debris Program Welcomes New Team Members](#)

In January, the Marine Debris Program welcomed two new members to the Communications Team.

[Planning for the Future: Marine Debris and Long Term Recovery](#)

On February 3 members of OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) and the Marine Debris Program's (MDP) Response Goal Team met to discuss marine debris issues in post-disaster long term recovery.

[Welcome, LCDR Faith Knighton](#)



Please welcome LCDR Faith Knighton to OR&R!

Faith reported to the Seattle office today as the new Scientific Support Coordinator for the Northwest. Faith has been in NOAA Corps since 2007 and has served aboard the NOAA Ships Okeanos Explorer, Hi'ialakai, and Oscar Dyson, as well as shore assignments with the Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center and NOAA Diving Program.

Faith holds a Master's degree in geography and ocean policy from the University of Hawai'i, a Bachelor of Science degree in biology from Florida State University, and a USCG 500-ton Master's license.

[NOAA Study on Field Equipment Cleaning Techniques Accepted for Publication](#)

After the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, field teams collected tens of thousands of samples to analyze for oil constituents as part of a natural resource damage assessment. Care was exercised to avoid cross-contamination by cleaning equipment between samples.

[New Monthly Webinar: Salvaging Solutions to Abandoned and Derelict Vessels](#)

The Marine Debris Program is excited to announce our new monthly webinar series, Salvaging Solutions to Abandoned and Derelict Vessels. Every fourth Wednesday of the month at 3:00 pm ET, the webinar will feature experts on a topic related to abandoned and derelict vessels (ADVs), to share perspectives and solutions from across the country on common ADV issues.

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### ISCO SECRETARY, MATTHEW SOMMERVILLE, HONOURED BY AWARD OF HONORARY FELLOWSHIP OF INTERNATIONAL SPILL CONTROL ORGANIZATION



This honour was accorded to Matthew Sommerville, at the request of Members in grateful recognition of his leadership and service to the organization in his capacity as Secretary General over the years 2017-2021

Matthew is retiring and will be handing the baton over to his successor, Neil Marson, at the next ISCO Zoom meeting to be held on 25<sup>th</sup> February 2021.

Notwithstanding his retirement, he will continue his support of the organization as a Member of the Committee and will be available to act as an ambassador for ISCO in its relationships with IMO, IOPC Funds and other international organizations.

## ISCO NEWS

### “WAY FORWARD” WORKING GROUP OF VOLUNTEERS TO SHARE WORK AND HELP ISCO IN THE NEXT PHASE OF ITS EVOLUTION

Following on discussions at recent Zoom meetings a “Working Group” has been formed with the objective of assisting in the future development of the organization. ISCO is grateful to all who have made commitments to join in this communal initiative.

A dedicated online Workplace facility is nearly ready for launch. This will provide a platform where members of the Working Group can exchange their ideas and report on progress being made in achieving different goals. Access to the Workplace facility will be restricted to members of the Working Group but, if you would like to join the group, please get in touch with Mary Ann Dalgleish at [mrydetroit@aol.com](mailto:mrydetroit@aol.com)

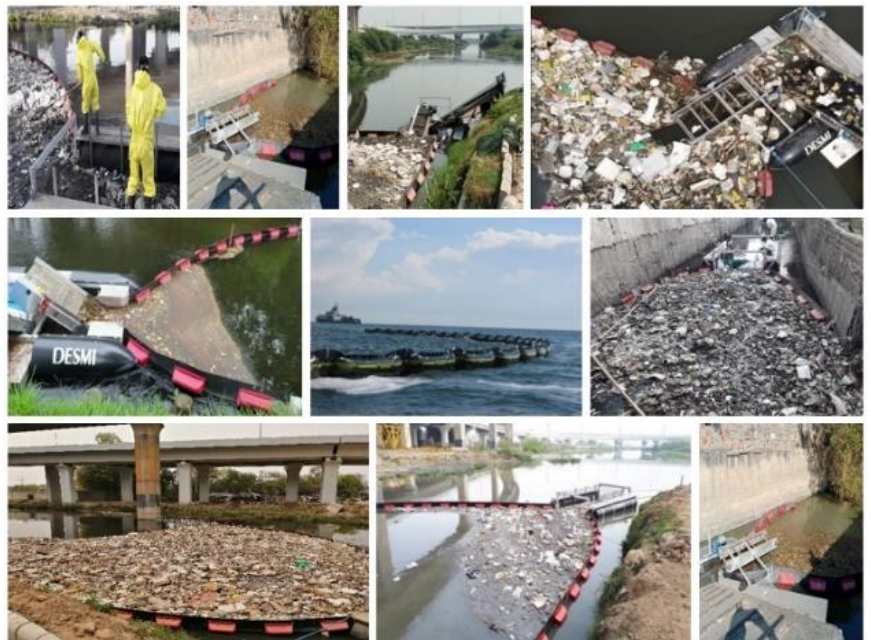
ISCO’s next Zoom meeting will include progress reports and may also address other issues. This meeting is scheduled for – Thursday 25th February at 1400 EST and 1900 GMT or Friday 26th February at 0600 AEDT (or the equivalent date and time in your own time).

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

### DESMI - OIL SPILL BUSINESS EXPERTISE FOR THE GLOBAL CHALLENGE OF PLASTIC POLLUTION

DESMI Ro-Clean A/S, a member company of ISCO and one of the world leaders in manufacturing oil spill control equipment, has initiated a business approach “DESMI EnviRo-Care” to address the global plastic pollution challenge.

The company participated in The Ocean Clean-Up operation in North Sea in 2016 and thereafter, focused on addressing this plastic pollution in inland waters by getting as close to the source of pollution as possible. To date, DESMI has successfully tested and implemented its EnviRo-Care systems in rivers, streams, drains and in various near shore operations. As per DESMI, few of the key factors in this challenge is to ensure the safety of marine life and the health & safety of workers involved in delivering the projects. The other challenge DESMI defines is the accessibility to the global commitments towards protecting the oceans from plastic waste.



DESMI has commissioned various inland water projects since 2019 and have made strong Cooperations with many renowned organizations. The latest project installed by DESMI was in December 2020 and in a months’ time, thirteen tonnes of waste have been stopped from entering the Hussain Sagar Lake (the World’s largest heart shaped lake) in India. [Cleaning Hussain Sagar Lake - Trash and waste removal in India - YouTube](#)

These clean-up initiatives are the great example of how to efficiently support the global authorities in combating marine (plastic) pollution and thereby creating a high positive impact on the society & sustainability of the environment.

Read more about us on our homepage [www.desmi.com](http://www.desmi.com) and [www.desmienviroclean.com](http://www.desmienviroclean.com)  
Send an email on [enviroclean@desmi.com](mailto:enviroclean@desmi.com) or via [desmi@desmi.com](mailto:desmi@desmi.com)

## THE DRASTIC IMPROVEMENTS OF OIL SPILL RESPONSE OVER 50 YEARS – PART 2



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.

DIFFERENT PARTS OF THE WORLD HAVE DIFFERENT CONTINGENCY APPROACHES TO OIL SPILLS, BUT IN EUROPE, AN OIL SPILL IS A NATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY.

### Oil spill response

“So if you have an oil spill in Denmark, if you’re the one observing, you should call the Police. They will be the first responders, and they will then call the appropriate authorities,” Christian says. Then the Danish Navy will take over if it is an offshore spill. If the oil hits the shoreline, the affected municipality has the responsibility for beach cleanup.

In the US, the Coast Guard has authority for initial response, along with the US Navy. In general around the world, the national authorities are responsible for the clean up operation and legislation. However, some countries have their own response teams, and other parts of the world use private contractors for their response teams.

In the United States, the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 requires that tankers may not enter US waters unless they have an agreement with a private contractor who can help respond to a spill. Ship owners caught not following this rule are simply banned from sailing in US waters ever again.

Response falls into two general methods: mechanical or chemical recovery. Europe and the US focus mainly on the former, meaning you physically remove the oil from the water. It is generally seen as the better way environmentally but more expensive.



For chemical recovery, you put chemicals on the oil slick. This removes the surface tension of the oil, separating it into small droplets, which eventually sink. Then nature takes care of the oil – a process that takes a long time.

Mechanical recovery involves using oil containment booms, oil skimmers, sweep systems and more. As one of the world’s most experienced manufacturers of oil recovery systems, DESMI offers [many different variants of the above](#), as well as training and more

### TRAINING ESSENTIAL

Christian says that besides having the right equipment, one thing is vital: “Training, more training and even more training! People need to know how to use the equipment under stress, because you will always be under stress in such a situation. We so often see that because training costs money, it is not always continued after the initial purchase. But your people must know how to use the equipment in stressful conditions.” Training involves creating a line of communication on who does what, as well as learning to work around the slippery oil equipment without causing injuries.



## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

“It’s all about communicating who is doing what and what kind of expressions are we using? What kind of terminology? An interesting challenge is if you have two vessels and they are from different countries, and they need to communicate very precisely to recover the oil. This is first of all difficult under all circumstances, but the fact the one of the captains is in charge of the second captain can cause some communication issues.”

“When your people are properly trained and have practiced a response regularly, then they feel confident with what they should do. You save a lot of time, you solve the problem, and you build confidence.”

Every year the nine countries bordering the Baltic Sea participate in a drill, using different vessels, often using popped popcorn as the “oil”. Regional cooperations like this exist all over the world. However, Helcom – the name of the Baltic Sea Cooperation – is considered as one of the most successful. <https://www.desmi.com/>

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## UPCOMING WEBINARS

### OSRL: MONITORING DISPERSANT EFFECTIVENESS

**17th February at 1400 GMT** - In this seminar, the OSRL Dispersant Core Group will explain what is monitored for, how it is monitored using SMART (Special Monitoring of Applied Response Technologies) protocols and how this information can be used to inform the incident command of the effectiveness of the dispersant operations. [More info](#)

### REMPEC: WEBINAR FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION IN THE SHIPPING AND MARITIME INDUSTRY WITH A FOCUS ON NORTH AFRICAN STATES BORDERING THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA

**Feb 18, 2021 from 09:00 AM to 12:00 PM (UTC +1)** The Webinar is organised by the Maritime Technology Cooperation Centre – Africa (MTCC-Africa), in collaboration with the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), within the framework of the Global MTCC Network (GMN) initiative funded by the European Union and implemented by the International Maritime Organization. The Webinar will be conducted in English, with the English/French simultaneous interpretation service provided. [The provisional programme of the Webinar](#)

### FREE WEBINARS FROM UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION

**Thu, 18 Feb 2021 15:00 GMT** [Spill Knowledge Base: Marine Booms](#)

**Wed, 24 Mar 2021 15:00 GMT** [Spill Knowledge Base: Absorbents](#)

**Wed, 14 Apr 2021 15:00 BST** [Spill Knowledge Base: Marine Dispersants](#)

**Wed, 19 May 2021 15:00 BST** [Spill Knowledge Base: Storage Tanks](#)

**Wed, 16 Jun 2021 15:00 BST** [Spill Knowledge Base: Marine Special Equipment](#)

Click on the blue titles for more info on specified webinars. [view our upcoming virtual events here.](#)

### ALGA: SOIL REGENERATION BIOLOGY – EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES IN BIOREMEDIATION

**Thursday February 25, 1:00 PM - 2:00 PM AEDT** - Microbial ability to degrade pollutants has demonstrated promising results in bioremediation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons-contaminated soils. However, large-scale adoption of bioremediation tools remains low due to inconsistency in efficacy. In this talk, Dr Egidi will provide an overview of a study on the multiple abiotic and biotic factors that can influence the efficacy of bioremediation, highlighting their role in the design and employment of bioremediation management strategies for restoring natural habitats disturbed by organic pollutants. [More info](#)

### 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](mailto:shayemk@aol.com)

### NEW TRAINING SEMINARS ANNOUNCED BY OSRL

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

### CEDRE: "FIGHTING ACCIDENTAL OIL POLLUTION AT SEA AND ON THE COAST - LEVEL IMO 2"

Session in English: March 15-19, 2021

Sessions in French: April 19-23, 2021 & May 31 to June 4, 2021 [More info](#)

### ON DEMAND PFAS TRAINING COURSE FROM ALGA

PFAS101 is an on-demand online course. Once you register you will receive access to the modules to work through at your own pace at a time convenient to you. Once completed you will receive your Certificate of Completion. [More info](#)

### 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 offshore industry. Starts 14<sup>th</sup> 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](#).

### 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](#)

### 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 22-23	<a href="#">5<sup>th</sup> Session of the U.N. Environment Assembly</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	February 22-26	<a href="#">Ninth Technology Workshop for Oil Spill Response</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	March 1-5	<a href="#">World Ocean Initiative Summit Virtual Week</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	March 2-4	<a href="#">International Symposium on Plastics in the Arctic and Sub-Arctic Region</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	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
VIRTUAL EVENT	March 22-26	<a href="#">IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR)</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	March 23	<a href="#">CEDRE Information Day on Containers</a>	Online
USA	May 9	<a href="#">APICOM GM Meeting</a>	New Orleans LA
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 10-13	<a href="#">International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021)</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 20-21	<a href="#">European Maritime Day</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	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>	Online
UAE	April 6-7	<a href="#">HSE Forum UAE 2021</a>	Dubai
VIRTUAL EVENT	April 8	IMO Council Meeting	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	June 8-9	<a href="#">Environment Analyst Global Business Summit 2021</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	June 8-10	<a href="#">43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response</a>	Online
USA	June 8-10	<a href="#">Elastec Spill Workshop 2021</a>	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	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Seattle, WA
USA	September 7-10	<a href="#">Hazmat Emergency Response Workshop</a>	Sacramento, CA
USA	Sept. 13-15	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	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	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	San Antonio, TX
BAHREIN	Nov. 28-30	<a href="#">International Conference &amp; Exhibition on Spills, Clean Seas &amp; Environment</a>	Bahrein

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

## MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### REGISTRATION OPEN FOR IOSC 2021

For the first time, the **International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC)** is going fully **VIRTUAL** in 2021! Join us May 10-14, 2021, to access to the greatest content and research, and broadest range of international oil spill response professionals in the industry. From local response to global application, IOSC 2021 is the premier event of the oil spill response community.

Exchange best practices and processes with response professionals from around the world. Hear what worked well, what didn't, and bring back tangible resources and actions you can implement at your organizations. By going virtual, IOSC 2021 is removing barriers to attend, ensuring this will be the most internationally diverse audience we've ever had!

## MESSAGES RECEIVED FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

Secure your spot before the Early Bird registration rates expire April 2, 2021.

What to Expect:

- Access all the educational content from the in-person event in a new virtual format, including 200 papers, 150 posters, 13 Short Courses and more
- Tour the Virtual Exhibit Hall, filled with 100+ industry leading organizations showcasing their latest innovations and solutions
- Grow your professional networking by attending dedicated networking breaks throughout the week to connect with your peers and colleagues
- Add a Short Course for a deep dive into one topic area prior to IOSC 2021 in a small group setting with trainers
- Enjoy all this from the comfort of your own home or office. You'll have access to all the sessions and educational content on-demand for up to 3 months, so you can learn at your own pace and don't need to miss a thing!

If you have any questions, please contact [info@iosc.org](mailto:info@iosc.org) or +1-202-973-8689. [Register now](#)

## REGISTRATION NOW OPEN FOR CLEAN WATERWAYS 2021

[Registration](#) has officially opened for the [2021 CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference](#), taking place at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY, on September 14-15. If you are unable to travel or attend in-person, there is an option to attend virtually.

CLEAN WATERWAYS serves the spill response industry in prevention, preparedness and response in the inland environment. It delivers a forum for you to come together with your peers to discuss case studies and lessons-learned from both recent and past incidents and discover the latest technologies advancing our industry. You'll walk away energized with new strategies, solutions and working relationships among all parties involved in a response that will better prepare you for future incidents.

The agenda for [CLEAN WATERWAYS](#) will be finalized next month by a core committee of professionals from maritime, facilities, rail, pipeline and governmental units and session topics will be announced at that time. Our committee is dedicated to planning an agenda that covers the most pressing issues happening in our industry and what keeps you up at night.

**Registration rates are currently at a discount of \$350 for the in-person experience and \$150 for the virtual experience. Rates will increase after Friday, March 26th so the *earlier you register, the more you save!***

## REGISTER NOW FOR ELASTEC'S SPRING WORKSHOP 2021

This year's instructor will be Trever Miller of SWAT Consulting. Trever has 29 years of experience in all aspects of environmental field operations with a focus on emergency spill response. Elastec's Spring Workshop 2021 is an intensive, hands-on oil spill response training course designed for spill responders who desire in-depth river booming and oil skimmer training.

The price of the **Spring Workshop 2021** is **\$1,250.00** and includes all workshop events, training and lunches. It also qualifies as an 8-hour Hazwoper refresher course. Travel and lodging are additional. First priority will be given to paid registrants as space is limited.

[Click Here](#) to learn more about Elastec's Spring Workshop 2021.



Trever Miller

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### THIS SAILING YACHT FEEDS ON OCEAN PLASTIC



*Franco-Swiss skipper and founder of 'The SeaCleaners' NGO, Yvan Bourgnon, poses next to a model of the 'Manta', a giant sailing boat which will collect and recycle the oceans' floating plastic waste, during an interview with Reuters in Paris, France, January 26, 2021. REUTERS/Lucien Libert*

February 1 - A French ocean adventurer and his team have designed a yacht that he says can scoop up plastic garbage to stop it blighting the world's oceans, and converts the same waste into fuel to help power the boat.

That inspired his new venture: the Manta, a 56-metre (183 foot) long catamaran propelled by a combination of high-tech sails and electric motors. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

## SEAFARERS COMPLETE SUCCESSFUL TESTS OF APP TO MAP OCEAN POLLUTION

February 2 - Successful tests were completed in a first of its kind effort that will leverage the resources of the shipping industry to map the global oceanic and coastal pollution. Not-for-profit organization Eyesea completed its first deep-sea pollution-mapping app test and now plans to extend the trials to more global trade routes and shipping companies.

The proof-of-concept readings using the prototype app were taken last month by crew members aboard one of Oldendorff's dry bulk carriers sailing in the Atlantic Ocean off the east coast of Florida and by seafarers manning a vessel managed by Union Marine Management Services sailing near Guinea-Bissau and Senegal off the west coast of Africa. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

## FLYLOGIX, OSRL ASSESSING UAS FOR REMOTE OIL SPILL TRACKING

February 2 - Unmanned aerial system (UAS) provider Flylogix has entered a strategic partnership with Oil Spill Response Ltd. (OSRL).

The two-year development agreement will investigate potential benefits of using long-range UAS – operating beyond visual line-of-sight – for oil spill identification, quantification, and monitoring. Long-range UAS are said to be uniquely suited to lengthy monitoring missions and early confirmation of spills. Offshore Magazine / [Read more](#) Report in [Commercial Drone Professional](#)

## 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

<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	December 2020
<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Free on request
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	November 2020
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletters</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	Current issue
<a href="#">Environmental Expert</a>	Environmental News from Environmental Expert	Current issue
<a href="#">GDACS Newsletter</a>	Daily alerts for natural disasters – earthquakes, floods, typhoons, etc.	Free on request
<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	Autumn/Winter 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	Q1 2021 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Current issue
<a href="#">MEDNEWS</a>	News from UNEP Mediterranean Action Programme	02 / 2020
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	February 2021
<a href="#">NCEC Newsletter</a>	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	December 2020
<a href="#">Navigate Response</a>	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	Current issue
<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	Current issue
<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	January 2021
<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

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

<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="#">Spill Alert</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from UK & Ireland Spill Association	December 2020
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Dec.16-31, 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	February 1, 2021
<a href="#">Water Pollution &amp; Flood News</a>	Monthly round-ups of UK & Worldwide Spill and Flood News	Free on request
<a href="#">WestMOPoCo</a>	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](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org) if any of the links are not up-to-date.

## INCIDENT REPORTS

### NOAA OR&R SUMMARY OF INCIDENT RESPONSES FOR JANUARY 2021

Every month our [Emergency Response Division](#) provides scientific expertise and services to the U.S. Coast Guard on everything from running oil spill trajectories to model where the spill may spread, to possible effects on wildlife and fisheries and estimates on how long the oil may stay in the environment.

This month OR&R responded to four incidents, including oil discharges, grounded vessels, and other pollution-related incidents.

Here is the complete list of last month's incidents, click on the links to find out more:

- [MV Kempton](#)
- [TPIC In Situ Burn, South Pass 24, LA](#)
- [M/V MAERSK ESSEN](#)
- [F/V SUNUP grounded/sunk](#)

### TURKEY: POLLUTION BARRIERS HAVE BEEN PLACED AROUND DAMAGED VESSEL

February 9 – An underwater inspection has been carried out on cargo ship Streamline (IMO 8866711) at Istanbul. Structural damages in the bottom section, rudder and propeller units were observed by divers. Water ingress was noted from the ballast tanks to the cargo compartment. Pollution barriers have been placed all around of the vessel. Insurance Marine News / [Read more](#)

### NEW ZEALAND: HEALTH WARNING REMAINS AFTER CHEMICAL SPILL IN NAPIER ESTUARY

February 9 - A health warning continues after a Hawke's Bay business spilt 1000 litres of hydrochloric acid into a storm water system that flows into Ahuriri Estuary, in Napier. The spill, which came from Galvanising Hawke's Bay, occurred on Friday in the Thames St area, which then entered the storm water system and into the Tyne St drain. The Napier City Council used vacuum trucks which extracted 40,000 litres of acid-contaminated water, during the night. Stuff NZ / [Read more](#) See also [Radio New Zealand](#)

### USA: CALIFORNIA - CHEVRON OIL SPILL LEAKS 600 GALLONS OF PETROLEUM INTO SAN FRANCISCO BAY

February 10 - An oil spill close to Chevron's Richmond refinery has leaked approximately 600 gallons of a petroleum and water mixture into San Francisco Bay and San Pablo Bay. The pollutant was pouring into the estuary at a rate of five gallons per minute, according to Contra Costa County Supervisor John Gioia, who described the incident as "unacceptable," and said that it "will harm wildlife and marine life." The source of the leak is believed to be a pipeline on Chevron's "long wharf" tanker terminal. OSPR's Field Response Team has mobilized to the scene to manage the incident in coordination with other responding agencies. Newsweek / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc K. Shaye, Hon.FISCO]

### INDIA: COMMITTEE FORMED TO ASSESS DAMAGE CAUSED BY THIRUVANANTHAPURAM OIL SPILL

February 11 - Around 2000 litres of furnace oil from the state-run chemical company leaked into the sea following a pipe burst on Wednesday morning. The oil was leaked through the drainage pipe. Though the leak was quickly plugged, preventing a large flow into the sea, the marine ecosystem on the one kilometre stretch has been affected. The company removed coastal sand polluted with oil. New Indian Express / [Read more](#) See also [Business World](#)

### SOLOMON ISLANDS: BULK CARRIER ARRESTED ON OIL SPILL SUSPICION

February 11 - Bulk carrier QUEBEC is a suspect in oil spill in Temotu province waters, Solomon islands, during her stay at Lata between Jan 20 and Feb 11. Bulk carrier allegedly, dumped overboard sludge and oily wastes after cleaning engine room. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

### GIBRALTER: CAPE-SIZE BULKER LEAKED OIL INTO HARBOUR

February 13 - About 0.85 ton of oil leaked from AM GHENT into the harbor, according to latest reports. Gibraltar is to take legal actions against the ship and her owners, as expected. Mishap occurred during bunkering operation, when anchored bulk carrier was receiving fuel from bunker tanker. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

## HISTORY

### UK: A BLACK DAY FOR PEMBROKESHIRE - SEA EMPRESS OIL DISASTER RECALLED 25 YEARS ON



*Photo: Brown sludge seen washing up on Tenby's North Beach (Pic. Gareth Davies Photography)*

Twenty-five-years-ago, Pembrokeshire was at the heart of one of the worst environmental disasters to hit Britain's coastline.

The grounding of the 147,000-ton supertanker Sea Empress at the mouth of the Cleddau Estuary on her way to Milford Haven on that fateful day - Thursday, February 15, 1996, grabbed international headlines as the county faced a pollution nightmare which threatened its economic and environmental future.

Tenby Today / [Read more](#)

## AND NOW FOR A DASH OF HUMOUR ...

### ZOOM CAT FILTER: HOW TO USE FEATURE THAT LED LAWYER TO DECLARE 'I AM NOT A CAT' IN HILARIOUS VIDEO

A video showing Texas lawyer Rod Ponton declaring to a judge "I am not a cat" has been viewed by millions of people in cringing delight at the fact that he was, to all appearances, a cat.

Mr Ponton was the victim of a webcam feature that turned his video into that of a kitten, and made it difficult to change back.

And he is more than justified, since turning the feature off does seem to be a little complicated. It is relatively easy to turn yourself into a cat, however, should you want to follow in Mr Ponton's pawsteps. If you, too, would like to (not) be a cat on Zoom, then here's everything you need to know about how to change your video chats to be more feline. Independent / [WATCH THE VIDEO](#)

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