

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

WORKING TOGETHER TO REGULATE WASTE DUMPING AT SEA



Preventing pollution from dumping of wastes at sea relies on global frameworks, regional conventions and protocols, and national regulations. To be effective, these need to be aligned and implemented effectively. This was the subject of a recent meeting (2 March) organised by IMO's Office of the London Protocol and Ocean Affairs (OLCP&OA) and [UNEP/MAP](#). IMO / [Read more](#)

THE UN ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME NEEDS NEW POWERS

Last week, the UN produced a report in which countries published their progress towards commitments under the 2015 Paris climate agreement, known as nationally determined contributions. The agreement includes almost 200 countries, but just 75 reported their data. There are few incentives for success and no penalties for failure. Without such measures, it is hard to see how meaningful change could ever happen.

In the past, researchers have proposed that UNEP's member states upgrade its powers so it becomes more of a compliance body — a World Environment Organization that, like the World Trade Organization, has the power to censure countries for failing to keep to agreements. But this has been resisted as too radical a step, which would upend the autonomy of the UN biodiversity and climate organizations that UNEP itself helped to bring into being. Twenty years ago, there might have been some justification for such a view, but now, with the world on a path to extreme climate change, any action will need to be radical, including considering how to give UNEP more teeth. Nature / [Read more](#)

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

INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

TACKLING MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION AND PROTECTING OUR OCEANS

In 2020, the world's attention turned to the COVID-19 pandemic. But even as we poured all of energy and resources into tackling it, many pointed to wider issues as contributing factors. Nature and biodiversity loss. Climate change. Pollution and waste. The three planetary crises. All of which are destroying the natural world and threatening our future.

Throughout all of this upheaval and debate, we stayed largely focused on the land. This was understandable, as in all likelihood it was the erosion of wild spaces that helped to create COVID-19. But we must not forget the vast blue world of the ocean – one of the last remaining wildernesses on the planet – that is such a huge asset in maintaining human and planetary health. UNEP / [Read more](#)

IOPC FUNDS: PRACTICAL GUIDANCE ON THE MARCH 2021 SESSIONS OF THE GOVERNING BODIES

The March 2021 sessions of the governing bodies will be held remotely due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. The e-conferencing platform, KUDO, will be used to convene a virtual meeting of the extraordinary sessions of the governing bodies. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

ARGENTINA: IOPC FUNDS - ONLINE SEMINAR ON THE HNS CONVENTION WITH THE UNIVERSIDAD DEL SALVADOR DE ARGENTINA

March 5 - The IOPC Funds were invited by the Universidad del Salvador de Argentina, to participate in an online seminar on 4 March 2021 on the 2010 HNS Convention for a number of Latin American universities. The Director and the Head of Claims delivered presentations explaining the legal framework behind the Convention, international progress towards its entry into force and how the HNS Fund would work in practice. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: 'EXISTENTIAL THREAT TO OUR SURVIVAL': SEE THE 19 AUSTRALIAN ECOSYSTEMS ALREADY COLLAPSING

February 25 – "We found 19 Australian ecosystems met our criteria to be classified as "collapsing". This includes the arid interior, savannas and mangroves of northern Australia, the Great Barrier Reef, Shark Bay, southern Australia's kelp and alpine ash forests, tundra on Macquarie Island, and moss beds in Antarctica". The Conversation / [Read more](#)

CHILE: USING ALL TOOLS TO PROTECT CHILE'S VARIED ECOSYSTEMS

February 18 - Chile's vast and varied landscapes are under strain from deforestation, forest fires, drought, and urban growth. To counter these pressures, the Global Environment Facility is financing a new Food and Agriculture Organization-led project focused on protecting vulnerable ecosystems and plant and animal species where they are the most threatened, as the South American country recovers from the COVID-19 crisis. The GEF / [Read more](#)

IRELAND: ONE YEAR AFTER GROUNDING, CARGO SHIP PRESENTS A HAZARD



March 4 - Authorities in Ireland are still working through details of what to do with a grounded cargo ship that has been stranded along the country's rugged southwest coast for more than a year.

The MV Alta actually has quite the back story. The 250-foot Tanzania-flagged ship had been abandoned at sea for over a year when it finally washed up in Cork County, Ireland back on February 16, 2020. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

ISRAEL: 'DUE TO INSUFFICIENT BUDGET, ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY CAN'T DEAL WITH A WIDE-SCALE ECOLOGICAL DISASTER'

March 3 - Committee Chairwoman Haimovich said the Ministry of Environmental Protection is significantly underfunded. "You are saving, but then cause damage that will cost the state budget more," she said. "We will all pay if, chalah, a major contamination will take place here. "We all understand that it is only a matter of time before a wide-scale contamination disaster takes place at sea. Unfortunately, from what we have heard today, the Ministry of Environmental Protection is not prepared to deal with such a wide-scale disaster, due to the lack of sufficient funding for the ministry] over the past few years. Hamodia / [Read more](#)

LEBANON: FOREIGN MINISTRY COMPLAINS TO UNITED NATIONS OVER OIL SPILL

March 3 - Lebanon's Foreign Ministry has filed a complaint to the UN, asking for investigations into an oil spill that reached the country's shores late last month. The Ministry said in a statement on Tuesday that it has asked for the UN's technical support, stressing the need for the world body to determine the causes of this leakage, and the party responsible for it, enabling Lebanon to claim compensation for the environmental damage caused by the oil spill, reports Xinhua news agency. Business Standard / [Read more](#)

LEBANON: INVESTING IN THE ENVIRONMENT FOR LEBANON'S FUTURE

March 3 – An article by Nancy Khoury – "Lebanon is facing several environmental challenges that are creating pressure points. From my own perspective, integrated management of waste is one such example, as poorly planned urbanization has made it difficult to secure treatment sites. Similarly, efforts to conserve Lebanon's natural capital and very rich ecosystems are threatened by urban and commercial expansion, deforestation, unorganized quarrying, forest fires, and other activities". The GEF / [Read more](#)

MADAGASCAR: PROTECTING SEA TURTLES AND SEAGRASS



Photo: The GEF and UNEP are supporting efforts by Madagascar's Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development to protect the country's sea turtles and seagrass meadows from a host of human-caused threats. Photo: Laura Dinraths/Shutterstock

February 25 - Sea turtles play a special role in Madagascar, a global biodiversity hotspot. They naturally clean up and help maintain the health of marine habitats, especially seagrass meadows and coral reefs. The critically endangered hawksbill turtle, for instance, feeds on sponges that compete with coral reefs for space, thus allowing fish access to the reef to feed. And yet turtle numbers are declining sharply, under pressure from global warming, fisheries,

the harvesting of adults and eggs, coastal development, pollution, pathogens, and wildlife trafficking. The GEF / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: BODO REMEDIATION PROJECT SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES: JAN–FEB 2021



March 3 - Good progress continues to be made on cleanup to meet the first visually based criteria of completion.

(The second stage consists of verification by chemical analysis that the selected work area meets the regulatory Site-Specific Target Level (SSTL)).

- In the first two months of 2021, hectares confirmed rose from 205 to 327. The total to be treated is 966 ha.
- Confirmed Grids rose from 79 to 111. There are 363 Grids to be treated.
- At end of February, 34% of total hectares, and 31% of all Grids have been confirmed.
- Average weekly progress is 15 ha and 2.9 Grids.
- With this progress, there is a strong likelihood that cleanup will be completed within the estimated two years from Project restart in November 2020. To request a complete copy of the report please contact BMI Communications Officer - Bariton Lezabbey - BMICommunications2@gmail.com

NIGERIA: 15 Ogoni POLLUTION SITES CLEANED UP

March 4 - No fewer than 15 of the oil-polluted sites in Ogoniland have been cleaned up, the Federal Government has said.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

“The mandate of the project is not just cleaning up the contaminated areas by oil pollution, but also to provide drinking water and three to also provide alternative livelihood for the people of that area.

“Currently, there will be six water projects to be provided in these four local government areas of Ogoniland and this has just been approved and work will start immediately.” The Nation / [Read more](#)

TURKEY GETS FALCON FOR EMERGENCY RESPONSE

March 4 - The rapid detection of hazardous substances in Turkey’s offshore water is made possible with a Saab Seave Falcon operated by MOST Maritime and Environmental Services. MOST Maritime’s emergency response team chose the remotely operated vehicle for its speedy deployment complete with cameras and multi-sensor detectors, ready to locate the incident, observe, and secure the danger. Trade Arabia / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

March 1 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[OR&R’s Emergency Response Division Supports Used Vegetable Oil Spill in Essex County, Virginia](#)

On Feb. 22, at approximately 1:45 p.m., a tanker truck carrying approximately 6,500-gallons of used cooking oil crashed in the median of Route 17 in Essex County, Virginia. A clean-out on the top of the tanker ruptured, releasing used cooking oil to a nearby storm water drain.

[Marine Debris Program Presents at Virtual Long Island Sound Marine Debris Action Plan Workshop](#)

On February 17, the Marine Debris Program Northeast and Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinators Demi Fox and Christy Kehoe participated in the first virtual workshop to create the Long Island Sound Marine Debris Action Plan (MDAP).

[Emergency Preparedness “International Request for Assistance” Exercise Concludes in the Arctic](#)

From February 9-23, a virtual international spill response exercise was held to practice how Arctic Council nations would request and receive emergency international support. Support could include aircraft, vessels, response equipment, and personnel. The ‘Arctic Guardian’ exercise involved a hypothetical collision between a cruise ship and an oil tanker in Northern Iceland.

[Marine Debris Program Participates in Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum Oceans and Fisheries Working Group Meeting](#)

On February 24-25, Marine Debris Program (MDP) staff served on the U.S. delegation to the Sixteenth Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) Oceans and Fisheries Working Group (OFWG) meeting, held virtually by the Government of New Zealand. APEC and its member economies continue to focus on addressing marine debris, and the organization is an important venue to promote international collaboration on the topic in the Asia-Pacific region.

[Marine Debris Program Participates in the 2020 Oregon Marine Debris Action Plan Educator Workshop](#)

On February 18 and 19, Marine Debris Program representative Andrew Mason (Pacific Northwest Regional Coordinator) attended a virtual workshop comprised of partners from across Oregon. The gathering allowed participants to share updates on their efforts to educate students and the public about marine debris.

[OR&R Director Briefs Staff of Senator Jeanne Shaheen](#)

On Monday, February 22, Scott Lundgren, Director of OR&R, had a one-on-one briefing with Washington D.C. and district staff from the office of Senator Jeanne Shaheen.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

DANNY MCLAREN TAKES UP APPOINTMENT AS COUNTRY MANAGER FOR BRIGGS IN AZERBAIJAN



Briggs Marine has been operating in the Caspian region since 1996 providing oil spill response services to BP and variety of clients in the area.

Danny advises – “I joined Briggs Marine in 2009 as the Group HSEQ Manager having previously worked as Marine Services Assurance Coordinator with Serco. Based predominantly in the Scottish office I was responsible for overseeing the Health and Safety processes for the Company in the UK and abroad. I managed the health, safety and quality team who play an integral role in keeping Briggs Marine and Environmental Services compliant with all HSEQ guidelines and regulations, ensuring audits and accreditations are completed and up to date.

I was offered the opportunity to take over from Neil Marson as Regional Manager for our environmental division in Baku, Azerbaijan which I gladly accepted. Neil was based in Azerbaijan for close to 12 years and has built a dedicated team which I am proud to join.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

My new role will involve disaster management, contingency planning, business continuity and leading the response team on site and on location. I am looking forward to the challenges my new role will bring and further strengthening Briggs' reputation as a leader in the field of emergency response. <https://www.briggsmarine.com/services/environmental-services/>

MOIG INTRODUCES NEW MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE MEMBER



The Mediterranean Oil Industry Group Management Committee is pleased to introduce Rached Hachemi as the new ETAP representative on the MOIG Committee who takes over from Moncef Saidi.

Rached is an accomplished oil industry executive, with a career of almost 30 years. He started as a producer in the offshore area and the desert of southern Tunisia. Over the years he has covered various management positions and gained experience internationally in all areas of the oil and gas business. www.medoilgroup.org

ISCO NEWS

NOTICE OF PROPOSED ADDENDUM TO ISCO T&C - GENERAL DATA PROTECTION REGULATION (GDPR) – HOW WE SHARE YOUR INFORMATION

“In countries or regions with representation on the ISCO Council contact details of the appointed Member/s of Council for each country or region and the in-country/region Members of ISCO are shared on a mutual basis for communication purposes only”.

This is to regularise the situation where Members of Council and their in-country Members of ISCO share their contact details. It is intended to facilitate communications between Members of Council and ISCO Members in their countries.

Readers of the ISCO Newsletter are reminded that subscription to the newsletter and use of the ISCO website is subject to acceptance of ISCO T&C. <https://spillcontrol.org/terms-conditions/>

SPECIAL ARTICLE

FROM THE ROUGE RIVER TO PERSIAN GULF, OIL SPILL CLEANUPS ARE HANDLED BY A DETROIT COMPANY

Recently published in Great Lakes Now, this article by John Hartig relates how David Usher's company, Marine Pollution Control began. MPC marked its 50th anniversary in 2017 and David celebrated his 91st birthday at the end of 2020. He was a co-founder of the International Spill Control Organization in 1984 and continues as the organization's life President.



In the photo: “BUDA 1” – MPC's first oil spill response vessel. A model of this vessel is on display at IMO's HQ building in London.

Detroit is well known as the automobile capital of the United States, the Arsenal of Democracy, the home of Motown and techno music, world-class architecture and building the middle class. But far less known is that Detroit is home to one of the leading environmental cleanup services companies in the world.

Marine Pollution Control was founded in Detroit in 1967 as the first oil spill cleanup company in the Great Lakes and one of the very first in the nation.

The oil pollution of the Rouge and Detroit rivers

was not well-known in the '60s – during that time, the U.S. Department of Health, Education, and Welfare reported that Ford Motor Company's Rouge Plant was discharging over 900 gallons of oil per day into the Rouge River.

It only takes one gallon of oil to pollute a million gallons of water.

In 1967, this substantial oil pollution caused the death of 5,700 ducks and geese in both the Rouge and Detroit rivers.

Also, in August 1967 Ford Motor Company spilled about 20,000 gallons of waste oil into the Rouge River. Uncertain about what to

do, Ford personnel met with David Usher who, at the time, headed up Usher Oil Service, which was hauling waste oil from industrial sites. Asked if he could clean it up, Usher said yes without hesitation.

At the time, Usher did not have a good idea of how it could be done or what it would entail, but he bought some vacuum trucks and other equipment to siphon off the oil floating on the Rouge River.

That is how Marine Pollution Control started under the helm of Usher, a Detroit native, who remains the company's chairman. The company is now run by Charles "Charlie" Usher, who serves as its president.

Over the years, Marine Pollution Control has played important roles in many of modern history's most serious pollution incidents. For example, Marine Pollution Control assisted in the second largest oil spill in U.S. waters in history – the 1989 Exxon Valdez oil spill.

The oil tanker Exxon Valdez hit a reef, spilling 11 million gallons of crude oil into Prince Edward Sound.

"I would have to say that the Exxon Valdez was the most challenging emergency response project in our company's history," Charlie Usher noted about the spill.



Photo: Cleanup of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill, taken March 1989 from Smith Island off Valdez, Alaska. (Photo Credit: Jim Brickett via Flickr, CC BY-ND 2.0)

In addition to lightering 40 million gallons of heavy crude oil from the tanker –which refers to removing oil and other hazardous chemicals from a compromised vessel – Marine Pollution Control also participated in the on-water spill response for over six months.

"The whole thing was a logistically and technically complex but successful project for the company," Charlie Usher said.

In 1991, David Usher was asked by then President George H.W. Bush to help guide the cleanup of oil released from sabotaged wells in the Persian Gulf during Desert

Storm. Other major projects included responding to Hurricane Katrina in 2005 –the costliest natural disaster in U.S. history – and the Enbridge oil spill in 2010 in which a 30-inch pipeline belonging to Enbridge, Inc. ruptured near Marshall, Michigan, and contaminated Talmadge Creek and the Kalamazoo River with hundreds of thousands of gallons of crude oil. Marine Pollution Control assisted with the recovery of over 1.2 million gallons of oil from the river between 2010 and 2014.

Marine Pollution Control is recognized as a true pioneer in the spill cleanup industry. However, it has also helped launch key industry trade associations, including the Spill Control Association of America, the International Spill Control Organization, and the American Salvage Association.

Today, Marine Pollution Control is still headquartered on the banks of the lower Rouge River in southwest Detroit, with branch offices in Holland, Mackinac City, and St. Ignace, Michigan. Their offices in Mackinac City and St. Ignace patrol the waters of the St. Marys River using fast boats and sophisticated remote sensing technologies to monitor all vessel traffic passing through the Straits of Mackinac and over Enbridge's Line 5 pipelines. The goal is to prevent another possible vessel anchor strike of the lines as happened in July 2019.

Marine Pollution Control also has special pump systems for emergency offloading of liquid cargoes from vessels in peril, located at 17 U.S. locations and ports, as well as one each in Hong Kong, Singapore and the Netherlands.

Marine Pollution Control is now expanding into another line of work developed out of their Holland office – cleaning wind towers of various environmental issues from mold contamination of the tower interiors to spills of hydraulic fluids and turbine grease.

Initially, Marine Pollution Control was conceived as a highly mobile, rapid-response organization, but they have evolved from the early years of oil pollution cleanup into a fully equipped and experienced company providing effective solutions to their clients' waste management, pollution prevention and spill response requirements. <https://marinepollutioncontrol.com/>

Great Lakes Now / [Read more](#)

OSRL - COVID-19 UPDATE (5TH MARCH 2021)

This week we have initiated a coronavirus Lateral Flow Testing (LFT) trial at the Southampton base. LFT is used to identify any infectious individuals who would otherwise be unaware due to them being asymptomatic and is, therefore, a useful screening tool to reduce transmission risk. All our existing controls remain in place.

Following the trial, we will assess the ongoing use of LFT in allowing us to open up additional activities on the base. OSRL staff also continue to receive their COVID vaccinations with 16% of staff now vaccinated Globally.

This week we have approved the de-escalation of our Houston base from RED to AMBER. This means a wider range of activities will be able to be undertaken whilst still adhering strictly to the US guidelines.

On 18th January, in Brazil, OSRL and Trendsetter started a critical activity for our response readiness status - the Capping Stack System (CSS) 2021 maintenance program.

COVID-19 restrictions present ever-changing challenges. The key challenge being how can we safely accommodate all this year's planned activities in the current COVID-19 environment?

There are many things to consider:

- response readiness maintenance
- the safety of our people
- resources availability
- window of opportunity
- planning.

All these factors need to be considered and combined to achieve the safest, most efficient outcome for the business. Some countries where OSRL operates currently have severe restrictions regarding the entrance of foreigners or international flights. With light entrance restrictions, Brazil became an opportunity to shift the overall schedule of activities. Putting all mitigation actions & safety precautions in place, and with all involved parties' agreement, we decided to start the Capping Stack System maintenance programme in Brazil.

The SWIS team in Brazil and Trendsetter completed all required maintenance, including Bladders replacement, L3 maintenance program of the CSS, and the swap-out of the HCH4 connector of the CS successfully, safely and efficiently.

Completion of this maintenance represents a significant accomplishment for us. We are very proud of all involved's positive attitude to accept challenges and find safe ways to keep running our operations for Members.

This week we have updated our Malaysia country plan, if you would like to view all our country plans, please use [this link](#).

Recently we have released a blog post about [the benefits of hiring our oil spill response equipment](#) here and [a bird's eye view of seabird rescue](#) where Shamen Bunsee, Response Specialist recounts his experience of helping with the rescue effort of nearly 2,000 Cape cormorant chicks with SANNCOB.

Our next upcoming seminars are [Shoreline Clean-up, Data Driven Strategic Planning](#) and [Preparing for an Extreme Cold Weather Response](#). Please join us by signing up on the website.

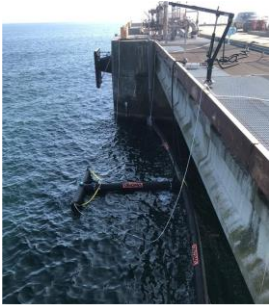
As always, we remain just a phone call away, ready to virtually support you and your operations. Should you have any questions, please email CMT@oilspillresponse.com or contact our Duty Managers.

MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP HAS LAUNCHED NEW WEBSITE

MOIG is pleased to announce the launch of its new website, designed with the aim to make it more user-friendly and easier to navigate for members, technical; partners and visitors.

The new version contains several links in the Home Page that can offer members and technical partners direct access to relevant information related to Latest News, Management Committee Meetings, Latest Newsletter, Covid-19 Updates, Members' Area, Publications and Contacts. Furthermore, the website includes a newly added option that allows selecting the latest news by category: MOIG News, External Events and Upcoming Events. It also contains a small photo gallery illustrating the range of training courses, workshops, conferences and oil spill response exercises performed over the past seven years in co-operation with members and technical partners. We have also integrated all available publications and documents since the initiation of MOIG, such as newsletters, brochures and reports as well as agendas of past events. For more detailed information, please visit the MOIG website at www.medoigroup.org

VIKOMA UPGRADES ITS VIKOSEAL AND PIER SEALING SYSTEMS



VikoSeal pier sealing systems provide an efficient solution for primary containment of oil spills on open piers.

Legged piers can provide a challenge when it comes to oil containment of spills during bunkering and transfer operations.

In the system installed in the picture above, a neoprene sentinel boom is combined with an integrated VikoSeal together with a slider system to accommodate the rise and fall of the tide.

The flexibility and strength of neoprene works perfectly and provides a long term solution as an alternative to surrounding vessels with oil containment boom.

VikoSeal can also be used as a standalone solution without pier sealing in ship to ship or ship to shore transfer operations. VikoSeal has just been upgraded to and is now expandable with interchangeable mid sections for the perfect fit, giving the user greater flexibility and availability on short lead times. <https://www.vikoma.com/>

SURFCLEANER ANNOUNCES PARTNERSHIP WITH ULTRATECH

SurfCleaner, the producer of the world's first hybrid oil skimmer separator, have announced its distribution partnership with UltraTech International Inc., a leader in the environmental compliance industry. The companies aim to enable oil refineries across the world to perform continuous and automatic removal of surface pollution while reducing CO2 and VOC (volatile organic compounds) emissions by up to 95%.

To accomplish this goal, the Swedish-based clean water technology company and the Florida-based pioneer of spill containment products offer a patented solution which uniquely combines the oil skimmer and the oil separator functions, creating a new product category. Surf Cleaner / [Read more](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS

FREE WEBINARS FROM UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION

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.](#)

OSRL: EXPERT SEMINARS THIS MONTH – SHORELINE & EXTREME COLD WEATHER

Friday 12th March 1400 CST - OSRL's Shoreline Core Group will be joined by the Ordinance Survey Group to discuss how technology can be applied to produce a data driven response that is more efficient and effective in a Shoreline Clean-up [REGISTER](#)

Thursday 18th March 1400 GMT - A response in extreme cold weather presents a unique set of challenges. Our core group will discuss issues that can be encountered during a cold weather response and how OSRL has prepared for these challenges. [REGISTER](#)

UPCOMING WEBINARS (CONTINUED)

JOIFF CRISIS MANAGEMENT WEBINAR

One of the most common aspects of crisis events is 'denial of access' to normal workplaces and offices. The best equipped crisis command centres can be rendered useless and ineffective if access is not possible. [More info](#)

ALGA – AUSTRALIAN LAND & GROUNDWATER ASSOCIATION

Over 100 Webinars can be accessed - <https://landandgroundwater.com/webinars>

ONLINE AND OTHER TRAINING COURSES

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](#)

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

LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY – CERTIFICATE IN MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT

Our [Certificate in Marine Pollution Prevention and Management](#) is a powerful tool that can help make a positive change in your career and a real difference for the marine environment. All you need to do is submit your application as soon as possible to secure one of the few remaining spots on this course.

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](#)

INTERTANKO : NEW ENCLOSED SPACE SAFETY VIDEO LAUNCHED

March 5 - The International Group of P&I Clubs has launched a new enclosed space safety video, drawing attention to the risk of fatalities caused by entering enclosed spaces on board ships.

The loss prevention units of the 13 IG clubs (i.e. the ex-seafarers who provide advice and guidance on technical matters to shipowner members of the clubs) worked in collaboration with a media company to produce the animation – and while the central tenet focuses on seafarers, the message applies equally to stevedores and surveyors who are among those to die in these tragic circumstances.

The issue is hugely important and the IG is very keen to play a part in the mitigation of preventable deaths on board ships.

The animation is available on the International Group website [Enclosed Space Entry - The International Group of P&I Clubs \(igpandi.org\)](#) and has been added to the Group's [LinkedIn](#) channel.

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

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

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	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 15-18	OSPAR Commission – Environmental Impact of Human Activities 2021	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
VIRTUAL EVENT	March 29-31	Meeting of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies	Online
USA	May 9	APICOM GM Meeting	New Orleans LA
NETHERLANDS	May 11-12	Envirotech for Shipping Forum	Rotterdam
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 10-13	International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021)	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 20-21	European Maritime Day	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 25-27	Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)	Online
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

NEW PUBLICATIONS

EMSA OUTLOOK 2021

This publication presents the main steps the Agency plans to take in 2021 to deliver on its multi-annual strategic objectives based on the information contained in the Single Programming Document (2021-2023) as adopted by EMSA's Administrative Board. [More info](#)

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[AMSA Update](#)

[ATRAC Newsletter](#)

[AUSMEPA Bulletin](#)

[BIMCO Bulletin](#)

[Newsletter from George Holliday](#)

[Cedre Newsletter](#)

[EMSA Newsletters](#)

[Environmental Expert](#)

Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority

News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre

News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n

Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO

News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday

News from Cedre in Brittany, France

News from the European Maritime Safety Agency

Environmental News from Environmental Expert

Current issue

October 2020

Summer 2020

March 2021

Free on request

January 2021

Current issue

Current issue

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

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	February 2021
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	Jan. 1-15, 2021
The Maritime Advocate	Maritime News from Sandra Speares	Current issue
UNEP News	Latest News from United Nations Environmental Programme	Latest News
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	March 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

ISRAEL: SHORELINE OIL POLLUTION – CONTINUING REPORTS

Editor: *There are hundreds of media reports on this incident. Continuing from the reports in last week's ISCO newsletter, I am giving our readers links to selected press reports that contribute added information to the developing scenario. The reports are in chronological order of their publication dates. To download additional report content, click on the name of the publication.*

- Feb 27** - Oil spill in Mediterranean: Additional slick confirmed, might hit Israel [The Jerusalem Post](#)
- Feb 28** - Search widened for oil spill culprit after ruling out ship in Greece [Economic Times](#)
- Feb 28** - As more tar sweeps beaches, nature authority says sand will never be 100% clean [The Times of Israel](#)
- Mar 3** - Israel Accuses Iran of Deliberately Spilling Oil in the Mediterranean [The Maritime Executive](#)
- Mar 3** - Israel Links Iran to Ship Behind Mystery Oil Spill [gCaptain](#)
- Mar 4** - Iran tanker oil spill in Israeli waters 'deliberate' [Lloyds List](#)
- Mar 4** - Defense establishment probe finds no proof of Iran terror role in oil spill [The Times of Israel](#)
- Mar 5** - Gantz says no evidence found so far that oil spill was deliberate [The Times of Israel](#)
- Mar 5** - Middle East rivalries must come second to oil spill response [Lloyds List](#)
- Mar 7** - Soldiers with disabilities clean Israel's beaches following oil spill [The Jerusalem Post](#)

USA: CUTTING CHAIN FAILURE FORCES GOLDEN RAY SALVORS TO SHIFT EFFORTS

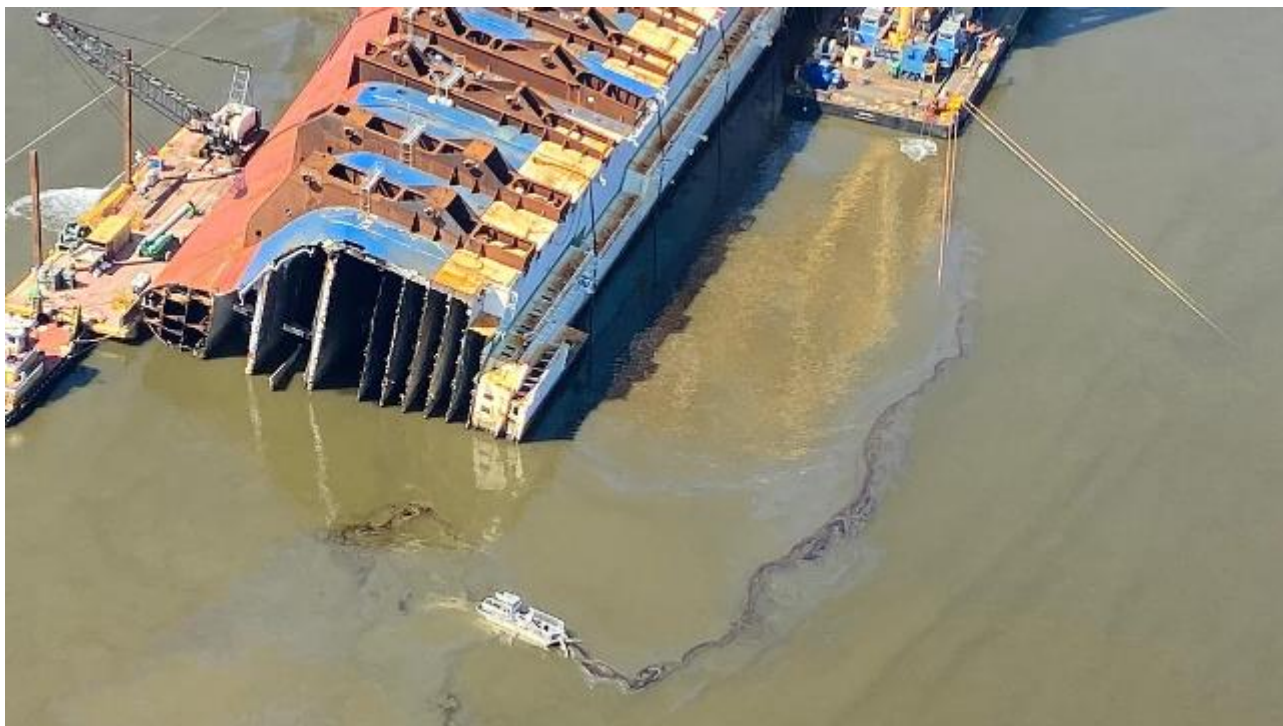


Photo: Fuel oil spill cleanup inside of the environmental protection barrier, February 25 (St. Simons Sound Incident Response)

March 1 - More than a dozen skimmers and pollution response boats were deployed late last week to clean up slicks inside and outside of the environmental protection barrier surrounding the wreck site, according to the Brunswick News. Survey teams are also deployed on the shoreline to find and remove any debris or globules of fuel oil. The salvage team reports that a majority of the oil has been contained within the barrier, which encircles the entire site with containment boom and steel netting.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - FUEL CLEANUP AFTER FISHING VESSEL SINKS OFF SITKA

March 2 - Salvors are working to contain a diesel spill from a sunken fishing vessel near the port of Sitka, Alaska. The vessel discharged an unknown amount of diesel near Cobb Island; the owner told the DEC that there were 1,500 gallons of fuel aboard when it sank, along with 55 gallons of hydraulic oil. [The Maritime Executive](#)

MALAYSIA: VIETNAMESE BULK CARRIER DETAINED ON POLLUTION SUSPICION

March 6 - Malaysian authorities suspect bulk carrier in illegal dumping of oiled water while transiting Perak State waters, northwest Malaysia. Investigation under way, samples are to be taken to determine pollution source. The Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

THAILAND: CAT-ASTROPHE AVERTED: THAI NAVY SCRAMBLES TO SAVE CATS FROM SINKING SHIP - PHOTOS

March 7 - A sailor in a life vest swam out to the capsized boat, on which four ginger cats were huddled together on a wooden beam. The Jerusalem Post / [Read more](#)

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