



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

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IMO'S MEPC 77 MEETING TOOK PLACE LAST WEEK

The 77th session of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) - took place in London on 22-26 November 2021.

Highlights on the agenda included - Tackling climate change, Cutting GHG emissions from ships, Air pollution and energy efficiency, including exhaust gas cleaning systems and Black Carbon; Harmful aquatic organisms in ballast water and Marine plastic litter.

Of particular interest to ISCO members were the discussions on pollution of the oceans by plastics, a subject that has featured in several articles in the ISCO newsletter.

The Working Group (WG) on Marine Plastic Litter was chaired by Ms. A. Sly (Australia) and was attended by delegates from 47 member governments, other agencies and NGOs. The focus of the WG was on IMO's commitment to reducing marine plastic litter entering the marine environment from international shipping, including fishing vessels.

Matters considered included measures to reduce plastic pollution resulting from loss of fishing gear, mandatory requirements for maintaining records of shipboard garbage, improvement of port reception facilities for acceptance of marine plastic litter, upgrading of procedures following overboard loss of shipping containers, and measures to raise awareness and enhance relevant training.

Of special interest was the submission from Sri Lanka on the impacts of the MV X-Press Pearl spill of 11,000 tonnes of plastic pellets off the shore of Colombo, Sri Lanka in May 2021. The ensuing pollution caused an overwhelming economic, social and environmental impact, and a legacy of pollution that will continue to have a profound and enduring impacts for generations to come.

The submission from Sri Lanka and the proposals therein will be further addressed at the next meeting of the MEPC Sub-Committee Pollution on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR 9) which will also progress other follow-up actions.

The development of IMO's strategy and forward action plan in regard to prevention and response to plastic pollution will continue to evolve. The Committee has requested the Secretariat to engage a consultant, using financial contributions received to date, to review the terms of reference for the IMO Study on Marine Plastic Litter.

On a related issue, we have noted that there is a dearth of practical guidance and training available on equipment and techniques that response contractors can use for dealing with nurdle (plastic pellet) spills. Over coming weeks ISCO will aim to address this issue.

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INTERNATIONAL SPILL CONTROL ORGANISATION NEWS

ISCO'S 2021 AGM IS ON THURSDAY THIS WEEK

ISCO's 2021 AGM will be a virtual meeting and will be held on 9th December 2021. The meeting will be at 3 pm EST / 8 pm GMT or the equivalent time in your own time zone.

The link for joining the meeting is <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5220550000>

Meeting ID: 522 055 0000

REMINDER – THE LINK FOR REGISTERING YOUR VOTES IS –

<https://forms.gle/CoDgYA5pFGNDMX8x5>

For your votes to be counted you must be a fully paid-up member of ISCO. Any members who have allowed their memberships to lapse should immediately renew at <https://spillcontrol.org/subscriptions/>

IN CASE YOU DIDN'T RECEIVE THE AGENDA AND MEETING PAPERS - DOWNLOAD AT

<https://spillcontrol.org/2021/11/09/isco-2021-notice-of-annual-general-meeting/>

We look forward to seeing as many Members as possible on Thursday. Please do not forget to register your votes for or against the proposed motions. The closing time for submitting your votes is midnight GMT on Friday 10th December 2021.

NEXT ISCO MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING

As we are holding the ISCO AGM in December the next of our regular monthly meetings will be on Thursday 27th January 2022 at 3 pm EST. The link for joining the meeting will be advised nearer the time.

MORE INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS REPORTS

RESULTS ARE IN FOR THE 2021 GREAT GLOBAL NURDLE HUNT



November 9 - A huge **THANK YOU** to everyone who took part in the 2021 Great Global Nurdle Hunt. whether you ran an event, encouraged others to take part or were on the beach counting and sieving, you did an incredible job! The survey **revealed the global scale of plastic pellet (nurdle) pollution** - 91% of participating countries found nurdles (21 out of 23 participating countries). So many people sent in fantastic photos and submitted data to our nurdle map, providing evidence of global pellet pollution and that hundreds of people want to see further action. Please also read and share our **new solutions pages** summarising and showcasing different approaches to nurdle pollution all around the world. Nurdle Hunt / [Read more](#)

LIFE PROGRAMME: MORE THAN €290 MILLION IN EU FUNDING FOR NATURE, ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE ACTION PROJECTS

November 25 - The Commission has today approved an investment package of more than €290 million for 132 new projects under the LIFE programme for the environment and climate action. This EU funding will mobilise a total investment of €562 million, with projects in almost all Member States. The new LIFE projects will help Europe become

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a climate-neutral continent by 2050, put Europe's biodiversity on a path to recovery by 2030, and contribute to the EU green recovery post-Covid-19. European Commission / [Read more](#)

REMPEC: THE FINAL CHAPTER IN THE TRILOGY OF SESSIONS ON A COMMON FOUNDATION FOR THE ASSESSMENT OF NATIONAL OIL SPILL RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS PROGRAMMES

November 25 - In the wake of the first session of the [Sub-regional Online Workshop on the Assessment of the Level of Oil Spill Response Planning and Readiness Management for the Central and Eastern Mediterranean countries](#) (7-8 September 2021), practical country-specific sessions on the use of the [Readiness Evaluation Tool](#) for Oil Spills and the [Self-Assessment Tool \(SAT\)](#) for Oiled Wildlife Response, were organised in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Greece, Israel, Libya, Monaco, Montenegro, Slovenia, and Turkey, between 21 September and 4 November 2021.

On 23 November 2021, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) organized, in the framework of the [Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme \(ITCP\)](#), the Online Closure session of the Workshop with the support of [Sea Alarm](#), [ITOPF](#), [ARPEL](#), and [Polaris Applied Sciences](#). Over 22 representatives from Central and Eastern Mediterranean countries participated in the closure event. The above-mentioned countries, together with Egypt and Lebanon, attended this event. REMPEC / [Read more](#)

OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE REMAINS ON THE AGENDA AT HELCOM RESPONSE

November 27 - Baltic countries are continuing their efforts to look at oiled wildlife issues in the framework of regional cooperation and capacity building. Sea Alarm, who hold observer status at HELCOM, took part in the online HELCOM Response meeting on 29 September 2021.

Sea Alarm's Saskia Sessions-Puplett made a presentation to the Contracting Parties on recent activities and news from the expert working group on oiled wildlife response, including developments in Baltic countries preparedness arrangements and the highlights of an online seminar on euthanasia, which can be viewed [here](#). This seminar provided insights into veterinary and ethical aspects of this important, and sensitive, topic. Sea Alarm / [Read more](#)

GEF COUNCIL TO BUILD UPON THREE DECADES OF ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

December 1 - Marking 30 years of support for environmental action worldwide, the Global Environment Facility's member governments will meet next week to consider their next steps to build a nature-positive, carbon-neutral, and pollution-free future.

The GEF Council and Least Developed Countries Fund Council meetings will be held virtually as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Representatives of 184 countries will review a \$191 million work program that would fund initiatives enabling developing countries to address biodiversity loss, climate change, and land degradation, and to improve the management of international waters, chemicals, and waste. It will be the second-to-last financing tranche to be released under GEF-7, the four-year funding period which ends in June 2022. The GEF / [Read more](#)

2021 EAST ASIAN SEAS CONGRESS OPENS SUCCESSFULLY, CARRIES MESSAGE OF H.O.P.E

December 1 - True to its theme of "Charting a New Decade of H.O.P.E. (Healthy Ocean, People and Economies), the 2021 East Asian Seas (EAS) Congress opened successfully onsite in Sihanoukville, Cambodia and virtually today, December 1. An atmosphere of optimism, determination and resilience following a challenging year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, marked the beginning of a two-day series of events and sessions that brought together various ocean stakeholders from 11 countries across the region. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

REMPEC: FIRST ONLINE TRAINING WORKSHOP ON OFFSHORE COMMON STANDARDS AND GUIDANCE

December 1 - A recent study on trends and outlook of marine pollution, maritime traffic, and offshore activities in the Mediterranean prepared by REMPEC in collaboration with UNEP/MAP Secretariat, MEDPOL, SPA/RAC and Plan Bleu, shows that although oil production is characterised by a decreasing trend in the Mediterranean, the region plays a significant role in gas production at the global level. The trends in offshore gas production show a clear and marked increase since the 1980s. Hence, the importance of fostering a regional technical forum on oil and gas offshore activities sector, with the aim to enhance regional cooperation and ultimately reduce the environmental impacts on the Mediterranean coastal and marine ecosystems.

On Tuesday 30 November 2021, REMPEC organized the online training workshop on "The application of Common Standards and Guidance on the Disposal of Oil and Oily Mixtures and the Use and Disposal of Drilling Fluids and Cuttings". REMPEC / [Read more](#)

21 MEDITERRANEAN COUNTRIES AND THE EU MEET UNDER THE AUSPICES OF UNEP/MAP TO TACKLE THE TRIPLE CRISIS OF POLLUTION, BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND CLIMATE CHANGE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

December 2 - The 22nd Meeting (COP 22) of the Contracting Parties to the Convention for the Protection of the Marine Environment and the Coastal Region of the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) and its Protocols is scheduled to take place in person on 7-10 December 2021 in Antalya (Turkey).

COP 22 will mark the 45th anniversary of the Barcelona Convention, which was adopted in 1976 and amended in 1995. The Convention is one of the main achievements of the United Nations Environment Programme's Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP). REMPEC / [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA: ARCTIC WHALES MAY BE CONSUMING THOUSANDS OF MICROPLASTICS EACH YEAR

November 7 - Canadian researchers found that even in the remote waters of the Arctic, the whales aren't safe from human impacts. This exposes them to a range of potential health impacts.

Whales living in the Arctic may be ingesting up to 145,000 small pieces of plastic each year through their prey.

Canadian researchers found that around a fifth of fish eaten by beluga whales are likely to contain microplastics. These plastics, the remains of larger items that have broken down over time, can cause a range of effects on animal life, but their overall impact on the whales remains uncertain. Natural History Museum / [Read more](#)

CANADA: GHOST GEAR FUND DELIVERING RESULTS FOR CLEANER OCEANS

December 2 - the world and has damaging impacts on global fish stocks and marine mammals. Through the Ghost Gear Program, the Government of Canada is working with partners to rid our oceans of ghost gear and create new solutions to reduce fishing debris. This work will help conserve and restore our marine environment to benefit marine life and coastal communities.

Today, the Honourable Joyce Murray, Minister for Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, highlighted that during the past two years, the Ghost Gear Program has helped remove approximately 739 tonnes of abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear from Canada's Atlantic and Pacific coasts. That is the equivalent weight of 231 Zambonis. This includes more than 118 kilometres of rope, an amount that could almost stretch from Fredericton to Saint John, New Brunswick. Fisheries & Oceans Canada / [Read more](#)

CHINA TO SEVERELY PUNISH ENVIRONMENTAL LAW VIOLATIONS IN KEY RIVER BASINS

November 26 - Chinese courts will boost judicial efforts to combat environmental law violations in the Yellow River and the Yangtze River basins, and strengthen legal accountability and penalties for such activities, according to a press conference on Thursday.

The Supreme People's Court (SPC) launched two documents at the press conference, which review the principles and judicial experience of protecting the ecological environment in the two river basins, and provide a universal standard for courts at all levels to make impartial judgments in such cases. China.Org / [Read more](#)

CROATIA: TABLE-TOP EXERCISE HELD IN DUBROVNIK



December 1 - As part of the FIRESPELL project, ATRAC organized a table-top exercise for members of the Dubrovnik-Neretva County Operational Center (COC) on November 24, 2021, in cooperation with the Dubrovnik-Neretva County.

The exercise was conducted as a simulation of accidental oil pollution of the sea, and its aim was to check the readiness of COC in case of said pollution.

ATRAC / [Read more](#)

KUWAIT: SHOIKH BEACH CLEAN-UP CAMPAIGN

November 27 - The General Authority for the Environment participated in the campaign of cleaning the beach of Shoikh in cooperation with the community and the Japanese Embassy in Kuwait in the presence of the Deputy Director General of Technical Affairs Dr. Abdullah al Zaidan. Kuwait EPA / [Read more](#)

THE NETHERLANDS: BEACHHEAD COLLECTION POINT CONCEPT TESTED IN NETHERLANDS EXERCISE



November 27 - Search and collection is the first important stage of an operation to actively mitigate the effects of oil on marine wildlife. Rehabilitation takes place in specially designed facilities – but what needs to happen before that to collect and take the animals to those facilities? This was the focus of an exercise recently held in the Netherlands, to practice the concept of the Beachhead Collection Point (BCP).

The exercise took place in Westkapelle, Zeeland on the 9th of November, as part of the multi-annual Rijkswaterstaat preparedness programme based on the Dutch National Oiled Wildlife Response Plan (or Samenwerkingsregeling afhandeling Besmeurde Vogels – SBV). The plan describes an approach for animals being rehabilitated in permanent facilities and, if those are overwhelmed, in temporary tent-based facilities. Facility response has been practiced several times already in the Netherlands, but this was the first time that setting up a Beachhead Collection Point was tested.

Sea Alarm / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: UNEP SUPPORT PROJECT TO HYPREP

November 29 – Thanks to Rita Corma, Project Advisor for UNEP’s Support Project to HYPREP, here is a link for downloading the October issue of UNEP’s newsletter with news on the progress of this project. Click on www.shorturl.at/mvyCK

The newsletter contains an interview with UNEP Team Leader Dr Iyenemi Kakulu, an article by Michael J Cowing, UNEP’s Chief Technical Officer, updates on the Training Programme and other general news about the project.

NIGERIA: FEDERAL GOVERNMENT PLEDGES TO ADDRESS Ogoni CLEANUP

December 2 - The Federal Government has promised to address concerns raised by an Ogoni community over environmental remediation by Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project.

Minister of State for Environment, Sharon Ikeazor, made this known while meeting with community leaders, youths, women and other stakeholders in Bori, the headquarters of Khana Local Government Area of Rivers State. The Guardian NG / [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: UPL - SIGNS OF ANIMAL AND PLANT LIFE RETURNING FOLLOWING CHEMICAL SPILL

November 30 - UPL South Africa says it's pleased with efforts to restore the environment after the arson attack on its Cornubia warehouse. "During the first two and a half months following the attack there were approximately 130 people working at the spill site 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"Encouragingly, because of these efforts, the independent specialist team of aquatic ecologists appointed by UPL are starting to see animal and plant life returning to some of the most impacted reaches of the river system. East Coast Radio / [Read more](#)

USA: U.S. TO SHARPLY CUT METHANE POLLUTION THAT THREATENS THE CLIMATE AND PUBLIC HEALTH

December 2 - Today, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) took an important step forward to advance President Biden’s commitment to action on climate change and protect people’s health by proposing comprehensive new protections to sharply reduce pollution from the oil and natural gas industry – including, for the first time, reductions from existing sources nationwide. The proposed new Clean Air Act rule would lead to significant, cost-effective reductions in methane emissions and other health-harming air pollutants that endanger nearby communities. As part of today’s action, to inform a supplemental proposal, EPA is seeking comment on additional sources of methane to further strengthen emission controls and increase reductions from oil and gas operations. EPA is issuing the proposal in response to President Biden’s Executive Order on Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis. EPA / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

CHILE: CHANGE OF COMMAND OF THE DIRECTORATE OF MARITIME INTERESTS AND AQUATIC ENVIRONMENT

November 29 - On Monday, November 29 at 11:00 a.m., the Change of Command ceremony of the Directorate of Maritime Interests and Aquatic Environment was held in the premises of the Punta Angeles Lighthouse Complex. The new Director of Maritime Interests and Aquatic Environment, is CN LT Juan Gajardo Romero. Armada de Chile Directemar / [Read more](#)

NEW PRESIDENT FOR INTERNATIONAL SALVAGE UNION

November 30 - The Annual General Meeting of the International Salvage Union (ISU) was held in London (and virtually) 30 November 2021 and the membership confirmed Captain Nicholas Sloane as the new President of the ISU from the end of the meeting.

Captain Sloane succeeds Richard Janssen who will continue as a member of the ISU Executive Committee. Mr Janssen said: "It has been a privilege to be ISU President. Most of my presidency has been conducted under the cloud of the COVID pandemic and restrictions but, like our members, ISU has risen to the challenge and continued to act as the global voice of the industry, serving our members, representing their interests and working on the important issues facing – if not threatening – our sector.

Captain Sloane, a South African, is a director of international salvage, wreck removal, emergency response and training provider, Resolve Marine of Florida USA. He is a Fellow of the Nautical Institute and the International Institute of Marine Surveyors and started his career at sea in 1980 and has worked in many roles, primarily in towage and salvage, rising to become master of the super-tugs John Ross and Wolraad Woltemade and then salvage master. His "case book" includes casualties and wrecks in all classes of ship and oil rigs around the world including leading the team that raised the Costa Concordia from the Italian island of Giglio from 2012 – 2014.

At the same meeting, John Witte was elected as Vice President of the International Salvage Union. Mr Witte is President and CEO of Donjon Marine Co., Inc. of New Jersey, USA. He has more than 40 years' experience of towage, salvage, heavy lift, marine engineering and shipbuilding and repair. Mr Witte is a past-President of both the American Salvage Association and ISU.

The AGM also heard that ISU has selected James Herbert to succeed ISU Secretary General Roger Evans who is to retire at the end of Q1 2022. ISU / [Read more](#)

NEW PRESIDENT OF THE PEMSEA NETWORK OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE COASTAL DEVELOPMENT (PNLG)



In the picture: Dr. Le Quang Nam – the Vice Chairman of People's Committee, New President of the PNLG read his Oath of Office

December 1 - With the great efforts of Da Nang in ICM implementation over the past two decades and the consensus of the PNLG members, Dr. Le Quang Nam – the Vice Chairman of the People's Committee was honoured to be elected as the President of the PNLG for the new term (2022-2025). Speaking at the inauguration, Dr. Le Quang Nam – the Vice Chairman of People's Committee, New President of the PNLG – affirmed that over the next three years, he and Mr. Ahmed Zaki Iskandar – New Vice President of the PNLG – would continue to build on their strengths while taking on new directions and partnerships.

PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

MULTI-YEAR CONTRACTS WITH THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD

December 1 - Aqua-Guard Spill Response Inc. is nearing the completion of multi-year contracts to produce and supply compact/portable, oleophilic oil skimming systems to various Coast Guard bases and facilities across Canada

Under the Oceans Protection Plan, the Government of Canada has ensured the Canadian Coast Guard has the equipment it needs to respond to potential oil spill incidents along our coastlines in a timely and efficient manner.

This equipment includes Aqua-Guard's RBS TRITONTM oil skimming systems which are on constant standby and can be deployed quickly to recover oil in protected waters and the interior spaces of small vessels.

To date, CCG has procured the following equipment from Aqua-Guard: 46 x RBS TRITONTM 20 Oil Skimming Systems and 67 x RBS TRITONTM 60 Oil Skimming Systems

Each system includes a dedicated skimmer head (c/w brush, drum and disc recovery modules), a diesel/hydraulic power pack, an oil transfer pump, a custom aluminum storage box and all vital accessories. In addition, 36 separate standalone diesel/hydraulic power packs/oil transfer pumps have been procured from Aqua-Guard for operations outside of oil skimming. www.aquaguard.com

STUDY OUTLINES CHALLENGES TO ONGOING CLEAN-UP OF BURNT AND UNBURNT NURDLES ALONG SRI LANKA'S COASTLINE

An interesting article received from Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution, an independent not-for-profit based in Woods Hole, Massachusetts, U.S.A



Above: An estimated 70-75 billion pellets of preproduction plastic material, known as nurdles, spilled into the ocean and along the Sri Lankan coastline when a fire broke out on a cargo ship in May, 2021, threatening marine life and posing a complex clean-up challenge. © Asha de Vos

November 29 - When a fire broke out on the deck of the M/V XPress Pearl cargo ship on May 20, 2021, an estimated 70-75 billion pellets of preproduction plastic material, known as nurdles, spilled into the ocean and along the Sri Lankan coastline. That spill of about 1,500 tons of nurdles, many of which were burnt by the fire, has threatened marine life and poses a complex clean-up challenge.

A new peer-reviewed study characterizes how the fire modified the physical and chemical properties of the nurdles and proposes that these properties affected their distribution along the coast. The study, published today in the journal ACS Environmental Au, also provides guidance for the continuing clean-up and monitoring effort and for any potential future nurdle spills, whether in Sri Lanka or elsewhere.



Photo on left: A handful of nurdles, or preproduction plastic material. © Asha de Vos

Among the recommendations are educating and empowering citizen scientists to continue safely reporting nurdle sightings to inform clean-up efforts; accounting for the ship's onboard cargo to better gauge future threats from the wreck; continuing the urgency for clean-ups while also revising response efforts to account for any variability of spilled nurdles; and encouraging locally led research efforts on nurdle samples.

"One key impact of this paper is providing actionable and relevant data and recommendations during an ongoing response," said co-author Chris Reddy, senior scientist in the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution's (WHOI) Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Department.

Reddy said that he and other scientists at WHOI became involved almost immediately with studying the nurdles and their potential impact, and they have worked closely on this issue with scientists in Sri Lanka and elsewhere. Reddy added that because the properties of the unburnt and burnt nurdles are different, the spill almost amounts to two separate spills that potentially call for different clean-up strategies.

“Exposure to combustion, heat, and chemicals led to agglomeration, fragmentation, charring, and chemical modification of the plastic creating an unprecedented, complex spill of visually burnt and unburnt nurdles,” according to the study, *The M/V X-Press Pearl nurdle spill: Contamination of burnt plastic and unburnt nurdles along Sri Lanka’s beaches*. “The burnt nurdles span a continuum of colors, shapes, sizes, and densities with high variability that could impact clean-up efforts, alter transport in the ocean, and potentially affect wildlife.”

The study notes that the fire increased the chemical complexity of the plastics up to three-fold, and that burnt nurdles could “camouflage among natural materials” and could break into even smaller pieces because of their brittleness.

The key messages of the study include the fact that some of the burnt nurdles don’t even look like plastic anymore, and that this should be considered during the clean-up, said co-author Anna Michel, associate scientist in WHOI’s Department of Applied Ocean Physics and Engineering. Michel said that she and other WHOI scientists interested in microplastics science quickly utilized multiple labs—including her own lab, which has been developing instrumentation to study microplastics in the ocean and in freshwater—and worked across disciplines to eke out data about the nurdles.

“Another key message is the importance of having international collaborators who can work together when an incident like this happens, where a lab can pivot and make measurements that could help to inform the response to a spill,” Michel said.

“Building an international collaboration in a time of crisis means that we can work faster to get the answers that are crucial for supporting the recovery efforts. It is also key that the initiative is locally-led: this ensures that we are responding to the needs on the ground,” said paper co-author Asha de Vos, founding executive director of Oceanswell, Sri Lanka’s first marine conservation research and education organization. The Oceanswell nurdle tracker provided an opportunity for Sri Lankans across the coastline to participate in science from the safety of their own backyards.

De Vos added, “For me, this is very personal. Sri Lanka is my home, and the ocean is critical to life here and around the world. I want to ensure that I am using my scientific skills to help understand the issues we face and produce science that is useful in the long recovery phase.”

“While there have been massive releases of nurdles from container ships in the past, this event was different,” said co-author Bryan James, a postdoctoral scholar in WHOI’s Marine Chemistry and Geochemistry Department. Unlike previous nurdle spills, this spill released burnt plastic, which is a type of litter that has only recently been documented in the ocean. The burnt plastic poses uncertainties for response activities, its fate and transport, and its potential impact on wildlife, researchers noted.

Support for this research was provided by the WHOI Postdoctoral Scholar Program, the Weston Howland Jr. Postdoctoral Scholarship, the WHOI Marine Microplastics Catalyst Program, the WHOI Marine Microplastics Innovation Accelerator Program, the Investment in Science Fund, March Limited, the Seaver Institute, Gerstner Philanthropies, the Wallace Research Foundation, the Richard Saltonstall Charitable Foundation, the Harrison Foundation, the Richard Grand Foundation, and the Hollis and Ermine Lovell Charitable Foundation. This material is based upon work supported by the National Science Foundation. Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation. Field work conducted by Oceanswell and Asha de Vos was funded by the Schmidt Marine Technology Partners. The Oceanswell nurdle tracker was made possible by the National Geographic Society.

About Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution

The Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) is a private, non-profit organization on Cape Cod, Massachusetts, dedicated to marine research, engineering, and higher education. Established in 1930, its primary mission is to understand the ocean and its interaction with the Earth as a whole, and to communicate an understanding of the ocean’s role in the changing global environment. WHOI’s pioneering discoveries stem from an ideal combination of science and engineering—one that has made it one of the most trusted and technically advanced leaders in basic and applied ocean research and exploration anywhere. WHOI is known for its multidisciplinary approach, superior ship operations, and unparalleled deep-sea robotics capabilities. We play a leading role in ocean observation and operate the most extensive suite of data-gathering platforms in the world. Top scientists, engineers, and students collaborate on more than 800 concurrent projects worldwide—both above and below the waves—pushing the boundaries of knowledge and possibility. For more information, please visit www.whoi.edu

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[Editor: ISCO thanks Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution for its kind permission to reprint this article. The authors are acknowledged above and we are also grateful for permission to reproduce the included photographs. The original text of the article can be found at <https://www.whoi.edu/press-room/news-release/study-outlines-challenges-to-ongoing-clean-up-of-burnt-and-unburnt-nurdles-along-sri-lankas-coastline/>]

ISCO STUDENTS, TRAINEES & APPRENTICES CORRESPONDENCE PAGE

ISCO OFFERS A FREE MEMBERSHIP FOR STUDENTS, TRAINEES AND APPRENTICES

Download the application form at <https://spillcontrol.org/membership-application-form/>

- **A NEW WHATSAPP GROUP HAS BEEN CREATED FOR STUDENT MEMBERS**

Kayode Peter Balogun advises “A student WhatsApp group has been created. Here is the link to add other students: Follow this link to join my WhatsApp group: <https://chat.whatsapp.com/KMxdW7IEal79namyNlbVqg>”

- **DURATION OF FREE PERIOD OF MEMBERSHIP FOR STUDENTS, TRAINEES AND APPRENTICES**

ISCO provides Student Membership free of charge during the period of the student’s studies. More detailed information about Student Membership will soon be available as an outcome of work currently being done on the revision of ISCO’s rules and regulations.

Members who are students, trainees or apprentices are invited to send in their profiles, a photo and share news of their activities for sharing information and possibilities for ideas-exchange and co-operation.

Student Group leader Peter Balogun can be reached at balogunkayodepeter@yahoo.com He can relay any messages you would like to send to Student Members of iSCO. Mary Ann Dalglish (VP Membership) can be reached at mrydetroit@aol.com.

Following on the Group’s inaugural online meeting and launch of the WhatsApp platform, Peter reported “The response was quite impressive and we had lots of contributions. All students were happy. I believe subsequent meetings will create more bond and commitment within the students”.

For your interest – US EPA Opens Competition for 2022 President’s Student and Teacher Environmental Awards – For details, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-opens-competition-2022-presidents-student-and-teacher-environmental-awards>

We do our best to alert you about things that may be of interest to you and ask that you reciprocate by sending me info on events, opportunities, etc. that may be of interest to others and can be shared on this page. John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

DEALING WITH SPILLS OF BIOFUELS ISN’T THE SAME AS FOR TYPICAL OILS

In case you missed the excellent webinar from the UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Inland Spill Response to Biofuels” it is now available online on Youtube – Visit <https://ukeirespill.org/response-to-biofuels-webinar-now-live/>

TRAINING COURSES

USEFUL LINKS

- **AUSTRALIA – AMOSC**
- **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA** - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- **FRANCE - CEDRE** - Click on these links [training catalogue](#) and [2021 calendar](#).
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD.** - <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/courses/>
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – BRIGGS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.** - <https://www.briggsmarine.com/services/training/>
- **UK – NCEC HAZMAT ACADEMY – [More info](#)**
- **USA – TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – NATIONAL SPILL CONTROL SCHOOL**
<http://nscs.tamucc.edu/schedule-2020-2021.html>
- **USA – MPC, DETROIT** - <https://marinepollutioncontrol.com/services/training-and-compliance>

If you would like to be listed here, please contact your editor – john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

TRAINING COURSES (CONTINUED)

CERTIFICATE IN MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

From Lloyds Maritime Academy - Starts 27 January 2022 | 12 weeks | 100% online | Tutor-led

This all-encompassing 12-week course will cover all impacts of the maritime sector on environmental management, providing the essential tools you need to minimise your environmental footprint and maximise commercial effectiveness. [More info](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS PLEASE CLICK ON <https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/>

To see ALL of the posted events you will need to click on “LOAD MORE” at the foot of each opened “upcoming events” page. Event organisers are requested to notify ISCO immediately if a listed event is cancelled or postponed. Your Editor does his best to keep the 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.

Please advise the Editor if any of the entries require correction or updating. If you are holding an event you would like to be featured here, please send details to John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

UPCOMING WEBINARS

TO VIEW UPCOMING WEBINARS PLEASE CLICK ON <https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-webinars/>

To see ALL of the posted webinars you may need to click on “LOAD MORE” at the foot of the opened “upcoming webinars” page.

Webinar organisers are requested to notify ISCO immediately if a listed webinar is cancelled or postponed. Your Editor does his best to keep the listing up-to-date but it should not be assumed that listed webinars have not been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended that you check with webinar organisers before finalising your attendance plans.

Please advise the Editor if any of the entries require correction or updating. If you are holding a webinar you would like to be featured here, please send details to John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

2022 INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL SCIENCE CONFERENCE, HALIFAX, CANADA

On behalf of the Organizing Committee, we warmly welcome you to the International Oil Spill Science Conference 2022 (IOSSC) on March 21-25, 2022 in Halifax, Canada. The conference aims to provide a platform for professionals, scholars and students from the oil spill response community, government, industry, and academia to work together to deal with the challenges in the field of oil spill response. The conference will bring experts from around the world to present their latest research in the field of oil spill science including spill prevention, contingency planning, and environmental rehabilitation.

Presenters/authors are invited to submit abstracts containing no more than 300 words through the conference website. The deadline to submit an abstract is January 7, 2022. For more details, please visit our IOSSC 2022 conference website at <https://sites.events.concordia.ca/sites/mpri/en/international-oil-spill-science-conference-2022/>. The schedule and other event information will be updated on the website. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at IOSSC2022@gmail.com.

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 <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> US EPA Tech Direct <https://clu-in.org/techdirect/> and USA Federal Contracts Update <https://clu-in.org/Federal-Contract-Opportunities> European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter. (Look in “Links for other publications” for the current issue of this publication)

ENQUIRY FROM KUWAIT

Your Editor has just received the following – Dear Sir, “PQ 21/20 PRE-QUALIFICATION FOR CATEGORY DE-SLUDGING & CLEANING OF CRUDE OIL TANKS AND TREATMENT & CRUDE RECOVERY OF OILY SLUDGE/OILY SAND. We are KOOFAN General Trading and Contracting Company located in Kuwait dealing and focusing on Kuwait Authorities Tenders, KOOFAN GTC is a multi-discipline company as Vendors and Contractors. Referring to the above subject we are looking for interested companies to work with us for this coming project in Kuwait. Please forward my contact details and the prequalification name to your members so they can have the opportunity in this issue.

FAROUC RAJAB, Business Development Manager, Email: farouq_rajab@koofan.com, Mobile : (+965) 97298 333, Skype : koofan.kuwait

Please note – The enquirer is not a member of ISCO and is not known to the organization. The enquiry is forwarded in good faith but responders should note that ISCO cannot accept any responsibility and if you respond you do so at your own risk.

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

TO VIEW LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS PLEASE CLICK ON

<https://spillcontrol.org/2021/10/19/links-for-downloading-and-reading-other-publications/>

As a service to its Members ISCO provides a listing of publications that may be of interest to our community. This page provides details and links for downloading more than 40 publications most of which can be accessed at no cost.

This page is frequently updated. ISCO 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 links are not up-to-date. Readers wishing to recommend the addition of additional publications should contact the editor.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

GESAMP: NEW REPORT EXAMINES SEA-BASED SOURCES OF MARINE LITTER

November 19 - The sources and impact of sea-based marine litter form the focus of a new report by the Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection (GESAMP), an advisory body to the United Nations sponsored by ten UN entities including IMO*. The report, which can be downloaded here, outlines the various sources of marine litter and the impact and assesses the current availability of data and identifies knowledge gaps for the main categories of sea-based sources of marine plastic litter. The Working Group was established by GESAMP, on the request of IMO, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP).

The report stresses the urgent need to reduce marine litter. It outlines a number of ongoing initiatives and suggested steps to combat this issue, providing readers with practical information. It also highlights knowledge gaps and suggested areas for future academic and scientific research, including on the impact of COVID-19 on ocean industries and livelihoods that result in marine litter.

IMO / [Read more](#)

NEW ISSUE OF MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP NEWSLETTER

December 1 - MOIG Newsletter Issue 044 includes the following articles :

- Training Course on Response to Marine Oil Spills – IMO OPRC Level 2
- Management Committee Meeting N°19
- New Management Committee Member
- INTERSPILL 2022

The link for downloading is http://medoilgroup.org/newsletters/Newsletter_Issue_44.pdf

NEW JOINT PUBLICATION ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION

December 1 - The International Group of P&I Clubs, the IOPC Funds and ITOPF have collaborated on a new booklet on liability and compensation for ship-source oil pollution in the marine environment.

This 35-page document provides an overview of the international and selected national arrangements in place, as well as background information on 'who pays'. It was produced with support from IMO, the Canadian Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund and the US National Pollution Funds Center.

The new publication is based on the collaborators' experience of applying the provisions of the compensation regimes to incidents around the world, and the assessment of associated claims for compensation.

The importance of a close relationship between those claiming compensation, those paying compensation, and technical advisers - who all work together closely during the claims process - is highlighted throughout with case studies. A copy can be downloaded from this page: https://iopcfunds.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/11/ITOPF-IG-IOPC-Compensation-booklet_e.pdf

INCIDENT REPORTS

USA: NOAA OR&R SUMMARY OF INCIDENT RESPONSES FOR NOVEMBER 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 12 incidents in November, 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:

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

- [FV Laura Aground](#)
- [FV Mattie and Maren](#)
- [Derelict Barge, Deep River, WA](#)
- [ADVs Alert & Sakarissa, Columbia River, OR](#)
- [SLOMEN CHENIMUS Mississippi River drum release](#)
- [Pleasure Craft ZUMA Fuel Transfer Diesel Spill](#)
- [Abandoned Vessel Sinking in Friday Harbor](#)
- [Sinking Tow Boat off of Chincoteague, VA](#)
- [WA-OR MPSR](#)
- [Glycerol spill to Duwamish Waterway](#)
- [Mystery Drum, adrift Columbia River](#)
- [Southern Louisiana Oil Platform Breton Sound Release](#)

NIGERIA: NEMBE OIL SPILL (CONTINUED)

November 29 - Halliburton, the Houston-based firm's Boots & Coots unit, was called in by Aiteo to contain the leak and fast-track spill recovery and has mobilised to ground zero. Aiteo, in a statement signed by its Media Contact, Mr. Matthew Ndiana, explained that aside urgent technical responses to contain the leak, it had also sought the collaboration of Clean Nigeria Associates (CNA), which had also since mobilised to site. This Day / [Read more](#)

December 1 - An estimated two million barrels of crude has reportedly been spilled into the river, polluting the flora and fauna of the area, the governor's spokesperson Dan Alabrah, said. The Minister of State of Environment, Sharon Ikeazor, had said the scene of the spill was like a war zone. Premium Times / [Read more](#)

December 2 - The forward plan for today (Thursday) according to the status update received late last night, showed that the schedule would be to scoop and mop up hydrocarbon around wellhead as well as commencement of pumping of kill fluid through the short string. All Africa / [Read more](#)

December 3 - Bayelsa Oil Spill Pollution Crosses Over a Month as Residents Fear for Their Future, Oil Company Offers Hope. "The wellhead, which blew out last month and has been pouring large amounts of oil, was being injected with chemicals that will prevent further leakage in one or two days". "The pressure in the well has already been significantly reduced, since all of the chemicals required to manage the pressure are being pumped in continually, and the pressure has begun to fall Legit / [Read more](#)

JAPAN: OIL SPILLED AS REEFER SMASHES THROUGH BREAKWATER

November 30 - The 552,754-cbf Lady Rosemary (built 2008) smashed into the structure late on the evening of 28 November on the west side of Hakata Port in Fukuoka City. A spill of fuel oil was spotted from the Panama-flag ship, and patrol boats have installed booms around the vessel, owned by Shinsei Kaiun. Trade Winds / [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: FOUR KILOMETRES OF ALGOA BAY COASTLINE CLEANED UP AFTER OIL SPILL

November 30 - Two weeks after an 80-litre oil spill on the coast of Algoa Bay, about four kilometres of the coastline has been cleaned up. In a statement, the South African Maritime Safety Authority (Samsa) said it still had to clean an additional four kilometre stretch of coastline between Hougham Park and Sundays River. The oil spill happened on 17 November when a Croatian-flagged vessel MV Solin took bunkers offshore from the bunker tanker Sea Express at the Algoa Bay anchorage number 1. News 24 / [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: COSCO MASS CONTAINERS COLLAPSE, LOSS, OFF KURIL ISLANDS

December 2 - Container ship COSCO NAGOYA interrupted her voyage from Busan to Long Beach after reportedly, massive containers collapse and loss. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

December 3 - A COSCO containership en route to Long Beach, California reportedly lost dozens of containers overboard in the Pacific Ocean. The incident reportedly occurred on or shortly after November 23rd. The company sent a surveyor to assess the damage who reported back 59 containers impacted including 27 collapsed and 32 overboard. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

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