



ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals

ISCO holds consultative status at the International Maritime Organisation and observer Status at International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CLICK ON THE BANNER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



ISCO IS INTERESTED IN FINDING OUT MORE ABOUT THE STATUS OF ONGOING WORK ON IMPROVING NURDLE SPILL RESPONSE

Members and other readers will have noticed that the ISCO Newsletter has regularly reported on spills of plastic pellets or “nurdles” around the world. One of the worst in recent months was a spill of 11,000 tonnes of plastic pellets from the MV X-Press Pearl which polluted the shores of Sri Lanka in May 2021.

Every single day, large numbers of shipping containers filled with nurdles are shipped around the world. The numbers of containers being lost overboard at sea has been increasing in recent times and a significant number of these contain nurdles. The ensuing pollution has a severe environmental impact and leaves a legacy of pollution that will have enduring consequences for generations to come.

Nurdles are about the same size a lentils and, when deposited on shorelines, they get mixed with beach materials and are extremely difficult to collect.

Up to now, clean-up has been very labour intensive and the achievement of anything approaching complete removal has proved to be impossible.

Manual clean-up has involved simple tools – scoops, shovels, brushes and sieves. Other techniques that have been used or suggested include small mesh netting for collecting floating patches on the sea surface and flotation in seawater to separate from sand and other debris. Mechanical methods may include vacuum pick-up, use of rotary screens, and beach graders.

Vacuum pick-up doesn't appear to be a very selective technique but may be capable of refinement. Rotary screens should allow for particle size differentiation. Beach graders suggests variants of beach cleaning machines commonly used for cleaning holiday resort beaches – some beach cleaners operate like shaking sieves and should therefore be capable of particle size differentiation.

It seems that some mechanical methods may be effective in at least concentrating nurdle content of recovered beach materials but clearly there's scope for R&D and experimentation in order to develop more productive techniques that are practical and can be used without unacceptable environmental downsides.

A key area for future development might include the processing of beach material mixtures containing nurdles to extract the plastic pellets for reprocessing.

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(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

ISCO would like to reach out to spill responders, manufacturers, consultants, R&D organisations, universities and others who have some relevant experience or interest in developing solutions. Currently there seems to be a dearth of readily available guidance on things that actually work well.

It may be that a Working Group should be formed to address the problem. Within the worldwide spill response community represented by ISCO there is a resource of knowledge and experience that can be applied to the task. If you are interested please drop a line to the ISCO team at info@spillcontrol.org

MORE NEWS FROM ISCO

SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING REPORT

The 2021 AGM was held online via the Zoom network with members logging into the meeting from round the globe. In opening the meeting Neil Marson, General Secretary, welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked them for their support during what was another difficult year due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

The AGM presented the members with the opportunity to review the events and developments of the last year, exploring the progress that ISCO is making in establishing working groups. A key one is the Communications Working Group which is reviewing the overall communications networks and media platforms that are available to promote the work, and give access to enable members to interact within, and collaborate with, other members throughout the various forum platforms such as LinkedIn, Facebook and the ISCO website.

Adopting modern communication's systems is instrumental in being able to move forward in advancing the message of ISCO. Another area of development is the creation of the student programme, with the focus on encouraging students to take-up membership, and to introduce fresh ideas and concepts, whilst having the ability to tap into the wealth of experience and knowledge held by the members of ISCO to enhance their educational developments.

Further changes during the last year involved the establishing of the Ambassador role. These are members appointed by the ISCO Secretariat to represent the organisation at one-off specific events or in longer term role representing ISCO at meetings with other external bodies. Ambassadors have been appointed in China, Latin America and the UK. The intention is to continue to develop and expand the role over the coming year.

ISCO has taken the opportunity to update its Constitution to reflect the changes in the way that the Organisation needs to function in the present time. An overview of the changes was presented during the meeting, with the members having the opportunity to vote on the new proposals. We are currently awaiting the results of the vote in respect to these items, members will be updated on the outcome in the next Newsletter.

ISCO cannot operate without the committed support of its membership, and to those members who have risen to the challenge we are extremely grateful. Thanks, were also extended to our National Council Members around the globe, who continue to promote the work of ISCO within their own Regions.

There is a need to develop further working groups and membership support in doing so would be appreciated.

On a final note, ISCO holds monthly Zoom meetings at which all members are welcome to participate, and which is used as a communications tool for the working groups to report progress. Details relating to the next date and time of the monthly meetings are published in the Newsletter.

NEXT ISCO MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING

As we held 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.

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**For information contact
Mike Watson at
spillcontrol@mwadigital.com**

EUROWA LAUNCHED AND WAITING TO LAND!

November 22 - EUROWA (EUROpean Oiled Wildlife Assistance) is a network of European oiled wildlife response experts who are working together to improve professionalism in marine wildlife emergency response. EUROWA have been building their network of wildlife professionals for many years and with the help of EU Civil Protection funding through the EUROWA-1 and EUROWA-2 projects, the network is now solidifying.

The key to successful wildlife response is preparedness and understanding how a wildlife response is best integrated into the overall oil spill response organisation.

Large-scale oil spill response operations are complex, long-lasting and logistically challenging. Wildlife responders need to have access to key decision making structures and situation awareness tools – and there must be pre-agreed structures in place to accommodate the needs of the Wildlife Branch. Therefore, EUROWA through their mission want to actively educate and involve national authorities, to increase their awareness of the risks and possible scales of wildlife emergencies and advise on how to successfully plan and prepare for them as part of an integrated emergency management system. This will be the main focus of our two authority workshops under the EUROWA-2 project planned in January and March 2022.

EUROWA member organisations are in France, Ireland, Germany, Spain, Belgium, Finland and Poland.

EUROWA / [Read the complete article and learn about each member organisation's insights into the need for the EUROWA network \(written in their national languages\)](#)

EUROPE: EMSA NEWSLETTER FOR DECEMBER 2021

December 9 - In this issue: Seafarer Statistics in the EU – statistical review out now; Coast guard global summit – working level meeting – pioneering solutions for emerging ocean challenges; Newly contracted oil spill recovery vessel enters into stand-by service; EMCIP marine casualty platform user group meets online; EU Satellite-AIS Collaborative Forum meeting; First Administrative Board in-person meeting since pandemic began; EMSA eLaboratory and Virtual Reality Room open doors to EMSA Admin Board members; CISE network starts to take shape with roll-out of new Node; Facilitation of ship-to-shore reporting: pilot project demonstration held in Copenhagen; EQUASIS editorial board gathers at their 38th meeting; Annual Diplomatic Bazaar proceeds go this year to organisations supporting people in extreme need. [Download the EMSA Newsletter](#)

GEF-7 CORPORATE SCORECARD - DECEMBER 2021

December 9 - The GEF-7 Corporate Scorecard is a comprehensive report on the performance of the Global Environment Facility during the GEF-7 period. In particular, the Scorecard reports on the progress made towards the achievement of the GEF-7 targets. It also looks at how the GEF is utilizing resources made available for its seventh replenishment cycle and making progress in the implementation of key policies. The Scorecard is published twice a year and this issue includes all projects approved from June 2018 up to and including the December 2021 work program. The GEF / [Read more](#)

IMO ASSEMBLY ELECTS NEW 40-MEMBER COUNCIL

December 10 - The Assembly of the International Maritime Organization has elected the Members of its Council for the 2022-2023 biennium. The Council is the executive organ of IMO and is responsible, under the Assembly, for supervising the work of the Organization.

The Assembly of the International Maritime Organization has elected the following States to be Members of its Council for the 2022-2023 biennium. [Continue reading to see the complete election results and view photographs of the election.](#)

SEASON'S GREETINGS FROM THE IOPC FUNDS AND OFFICE OPENING HOURS

December 10 - The IOPC Funds' offices will be closed from the close of business on Friday, 24 December 2021 and reopening on Tuesday, 4 January 2022. [See our Greetings Card](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

BRAZIL: INVESTIGATORS BLAME GREEK OIL TANKER FOR MYSTERIOUS OIL SLICKS

December 6 - Federal Police in Brazil have concluded that a Greek-flagged oil tanker was responsible for a mysterious oil spill that fouled large stretches of the country's beaches over the course of several months back in 2019 and 2020. The Federal Police said the shipping company as well as the captain and chief engineer of the vessel have been indicted on environmental crimes related to the incident, although the name of the vessel or those indicted have not been released. The oil slick was a big story back in 2019 when crude oil from an unknown origin began washing ashore along thousands of miles of beaches. Officials say the slick impacted more than 1,000 locations across 11 coastal states between August 2019 and March 2020. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

CANADA INVESTS \$3.1 MILLION TO PROTECT THE GREAT LAKES AND LAUNCHES NEW CALL FOR PROPOSALS

December 8 - Today, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, announced that the Government of Canada is investing more than \$3.1 million over three years in thirty-two new projects funded under the Great Lakes Protection Initiative. The projects will address priorities to restore water quality and ecosystem health in Areas of Concern, prevent toxic and nuisance algae, and enhance engagement with Indigenous Peoples and the public.

Protecting freshwater demands a collaborative approach. Environment and Climate Change Canada has launched a new call for proposals for project funding under the Great Lakes Protection Initiative for 2022–2023. Applications will be accepted until January 31, 2022. Environment and Climate Change Canada / [Read more](#)

DENMARK: NEW MARINE BIRD PROTECTION AREAS HAVE BEEN DESIGNATED



A red-throated loon.

December 8 - With effect from 1 December 2021, Environment Minister Lea Wermelin has designated six new marine bird protection areas. The new bird protection areas were consulted in March 2021 and were finally designated in November in connection with the publication of a revised Habitats Order. Denmark is a significant country for many migratory birds that rasterise and winter in Danish sea areas. The Danish Environment Protection Agency / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE NEWSLETTER FOR NOVEMBER 2021

December 11 – The latest newsletter from CEDRE include the following articles –

- Intervention
- 54th session of Cedre's Strategic Committee
- Cedre Technical Day
- Plenary meetings of the IOPC Funds
- Headquarters exercise in Fort-de-France
- MANIFESTS project: a gas plant in the Cedre basin
- Testing of control equipment in Cedre facilities
- Experimentation in French Guiana: relaunch of the project
- Workshops for the benefit of the ports of the ANP Morocco
- Ocean Hackathon® and MANIFESTS project
- Training "pollution control techniques" with the PNMI
- Anti-pollution exercise for elected officials and agents of Bray-Dunes
- Inland water wrestling training in La Rochelle
- Representative Office of Taipei in France
- Support for initiatives to combat aquatic litter
- Participation in the OSPAR Working Group on Marine Litter
- ORSEC/POLMAR-Terre training for SDIS 29

[Download CEDRE Newsletter No 306](#)

GREECE: HELMEPA ON THE SIDE OF SCIENTISTS - NEW SCHOLARSHIPS FOR POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

December 11 - Young scientists continue their postgraduate studies in maritime and environmental sciences through the scholarship institution of the Hellenic Marine Environment Protection Association, which has been continuously implemented for 23 years, highlighting HELMEPA's commitment to stand by the new generation over time.

For the academic year 2021-2022, three more scholarships were announced, reaching a total of 45 scholarships awarded by HELMEPA (29 women – 16 men), from 1998 until today, of which 25 in the shipping sector and 20 in the environmental sector, contributing to the need that Greece has for highly skilled and quality human resources. HELMEPA / [Read more](#)

ISRAEL: PANEL URGES NEW POLICY FOR EARLY DETECTION OF COASTAL OIL SPILLS

December 8 - Committee set up after a major oil leak caused Israel's worst-ever maritime pollution urges the creation of an intelligence apparatus to prevent similar cases. A committee set up after the tar pollution of Israel's beaches earlier this year recommended a significant bolstering of personnel and equipment in the Environmental Protection Ministry. Implementation depends on collaboration with the Prime Minister's Office and the Ministries of Defense and Finance. Haaretz / [Read more](#)

ITALY: NEWLY CONTRACTED OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSEL BASED IN NAPOLI ENTERS INTO EMSA STAND-BY SERVICE

December 9 - M/t SB Borea (IMO 9362839) was successfully accepted into stand-by service on 12 November and is now part of the EMSA Network of Stand-by Oil Spill Recovery Vessels. This is the result of an accurate preparation phase to accommodate on board a full set of state-of-the art equipment for pollution response. M/T SB Borea, owned and managed by Sarda Bunkers S.p.a., is based in Napoli and its primary operational area is the Central Mediterranean Sea. SB Borea has an onboard storage heated capacity of 3,558 m3 for recovered oil. The ship is equipped with two main arrangements for mechanical recovery that comprises sweeping arms and offshore booms with high-capacity skimmer system. The recovery operations are supported by radar-based oil slick detection systems. http://emsa.europa.eu/index.php?option=com_flexicontent&view=item&cid=2&id=4615:newsletter-december-2021&Itemid=2

ITALY: PNRR: MITE-ISPRA PROTOCOL SIGNED FOR THE RESTORATION OF THE SEABED AND MARINE HABITATS

December 10 - 400 million euros for interventions in favor of the sustainable blue economy - With the signing of the memorandum of understanding between the MiTE and ISPRA, the M2C4-3.5 investment of the PNRR "Restoration and protection of the seabed and marine habitats" can be carried out, which will allow to the Country to strengthen the observation capacities of marine ecosystems and implement a recovery and restoration campaign of marine habitats degraded by anthropogenic pressure.

The project, included in mission 2 "Green revolution and ecological transition", provides for a total investment of 400 million euros for the Italian seas, in line with the objectives set by the European strategy for 2030 on biodiversity and the measures envisaged by the Strategy for the marine environment. ISPRA / [Read more](#)

MEXICO'S NATIONAL PROGRAM FOR CONTAMINATED SITE REMEDIATION FOR 2021-2024 APPROVED

December 5 - On Nov. 5, 2021, approval of Mexico's National Contaminated Sites Remediation Program for 2021-2024 was published in the Federal Official Gazette. The program aims to help fulfill the Mexican government's commitments made in the Stockholm and Minamata International Convention agreements. National Law Review / [Read more](#)

RUSSIA RATIFIES IMO CONVENTION ON THE REMOVAL OF WRECKS

December 7 - Russia has ratified the Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks, which entered into force in 2015. Russian President Vladimir Putin signed the ratification law after it was passed by both houses of Russia's parliament.

The convention places placing strict liability on shipowners for locating, marking and removing wrecks that have the potential to impact the safety of lives, goods and property at sea, as well as the marine environment. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: ETHEKWINI MUNICIPALITY URGES BATHERS TO AVOID UMHLANGA RIVER EXCLUSION ZONE

December 8 - As hundreds of people continue to soak up the Durban sunshine at a number of local beaches, eThekweni Municipality is urging bathers to keep away from the uMhlanga River exclusion zone. IOL / [Read more](#)

SRI LANKA: X-PRESS PEARL WRECK REMOVAL SET TO KICK OFF



Photo shows the X-Press Pearl as of June 2, 2020. Photo: Sri Lanka Ports Authority

December 8 - The wreck removal of the stricken X-Press Pearl is set to kick off with the feeder ship's operator announcing the signing of a contract with Shanghai Salvage Company (SSC) for the work.

The ship's operator, X-Press Feeders, says the wreck removal plan will ensure the wreck is completely removed and all debris and pollutants are disposed of in a safe, proper manner. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

December 5 - Please click on the links below to download and read the latest news reports from NOAA OR&R

[New Environmental Sensitivity Index Maps Produced for St. Marys and St. Lawrence Rivers](#)

OR&R's [Environmental Sensitivity Index \(ESI\) program](#) released a new set of ESI data and maps for two critical links in the Great Lakes region. Work was completed in July 2021 to refresh outdated ESI mapping data for the St. Marys and St. Lawrence rivers.

[Marine Debris Program Hosts Webinar on Working with Restaurants to Reduce Plastic](#)

On Nov. 15 and 16 the Marine Debris Program (MDP) hosted a two-part seminar titled, "Working with Restaurants to Reduce Plastic: A NOAA Seminar on Challenges & Successes." The seminar featured presentations and a panel discussion with current and past Marine Debris Program grantees who shared their challenges and lessons learned around how to approach restaurants, how to work with them on plastic reduction, and how to maintain long-term relationships and momentum with the restaurant industry.

[Pacific Region Update and Legacy Award for OR&R Scientist](#)

Several OR&R staff members participated in the 2021 Annual Meeting of the [Pacific States-British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force](#)(link is external), held virtually on November 17. Composed of representatives from the key spill response agencies in Hawaii, California, Oregon, Washington, and Alaska, as well as the Canadian province of British Columbia, the Oil Spill Task Force collects and shares data on oil spills, coordinates oil spill prevention projects, and promotes regulatory safeguards.

USA: THE U.S. HAS A LEADING ROLE TO PLAY IN REDUCING OCEAN PLASTIC

December 5 - Plastic waste of all shapes and sizes permeates the world's oceans. It shows up on beaches, in fish and even in Arctic sea ice. And a new report from the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine makes clear that the U.S. is a big part of the problem.

As the report shows, the U.S. produces a large share of the global supply of plastic resin – the precursor material to all plastic industrial and consumer products. It also imports and exports billions of dollars' worth of plastic products every year.

On a per capita basis, the U.S. produces an order of magnitude more plastic waste than China – a nation often vilified over pollution-related issues. These findings build off a study published in 2020 that concluded that the U.S. is the largest global source of plastic waste, including plastics shipped to other countries that later are mismanaged. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: LEAKING CALIFORNIA OIL PIPE'S SAFEGUARDS NOT FULLY WORKING

December 8 - The ruptured offshore pipeline that spilled tens of thousands of gallons of crude oil off the Southern California coast this fall did not have a fully functioning leak detection system at the time, according to a report obtained by The Associated Press.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

The report was compiled by pipeline operator, Beta Offshore, a subsidiary of Houston-based Amplify Energy, and filed with federal regulators. It reveals Amplify is investigating whether personnel or control room issues contributed to the accident but does not explain what was wrong with the detection system. Greenwich Time / [Read more](#)

USA: MINNESOTA POLLUTION CONTROL AGENCY ISSUES A COMPREHENSIVE DRAFT PFAS REMEDIATION PROGRAM PLAN

December 9 - On Nov. 16, 2021, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency (MPCA) released a Draft PFAS Monitoring Plan. This plan signals that MPCA will continue its efforts to address historical per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) contamination through enforcement actions to remove that contamination and redevelop those sites. The MPCA is seeking comments on the plan through Dec. 20, 2021, and plans to implement it beginning in early 2022.

The MPCA currently uses its authority under Minn. Stat. ch. 115B, the Minnesota Environmental Response and Liability Act (MERLA), to respond to PFAS contamination through remediation and redevelopment. MERLA authorizes the MPCA to take removal or remedial action when there is a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance from a facility (see Minn. Stat. § 115B.17). MERLA also authorizes MPCA to undertake other actions, including investigations, to identify the existence and extent of a release or threatened release of a hazardous substance, or a pollutant or contaminant. Taft Law / [Read more](#)

USA: VIRGINIA - DOE AND BIDEN TEAM MOTIVATED TO TACKLE ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES, SAYS DEPUTY SECRETARY

December 9 - Department of Energy leadership and the Biden administration, more broadly, are poised to tackle substantial environmental cleanup issues, including at the Savannah River Site, the deputy secretary of energy said Wednesday. Yahoo News / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ITOPF ANNOUNCES NEW MEMBER OF THE TECHNICAL TEAM



December 9 - ITOPF has welcomed Natálie Kirk to the team as Technical Adviser.

Natálie has a BSc in earth sciences and a GradDip in economics. She previously worked as an oil spill responder, deploying to and providing remote assistance on a number of spills in the UK and abroad. As a spill responder, Natálie was also involved in planning deployment exercises with a range of oil spill response equipment; developing contingency plans for West Africa-based oil production operations; and delivering IMO accredited courses. Prior to this, Natálie worked as a consultant for a natural resource governance institute in Myanmar, and as a financial analyst for an oil major.

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

RESOLVE MARINE CONTRACTED FOR ARCHAEOLOGICAL STABILIZATION OF CLOTILDA

December 2 - Resolve Marine, a global leader in specialized marine, emergency response, salvage, wreck and recovery services, today announced that Phase 3 exploration and site evaluation of the Clotilda is underway. Working jointly with Southeastern Archaeological Research, Inc (SEARCH), Resolve Marine is the lead contractor for the Alabama Historical Commission, and brings decades of experience working along the Gulf Coast of Alabama to survey, locate, and archaeologically document and assess historic shipwrecks. Working on different aspects of the project since 2018, the assembled team brings extensive knowledge of Clotilda, as a vessel, a shipwreck and archaeological site with powerful, emotional connections to the community of descendants and others who care about its story.

Over the course of several months, Resolve Marine and partners will conduct a structural and engineering assessment; a maritime archaeological and environmental investigation; and prepare an in-situ conservation and preservation plan. The RMG-60, a 100 x 40 FT crane barge locally based in Theodore, AL will be moored at the site with topside support equipment for dive operations, artifact stabilization and storage, equipment use and staging, analyses and archeological documentation. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

PACIFIC TOWING (PACTOW) ANNOUNCES 'TEN NEW FEMALE 'OFFICERS OF THE WATCH' FOR PNG'

December 6 - Ten young PNG women graduated as 'Officers of the Watch' last week. The women, who were all cadets at Pacific Towing (PacTow), represented the first intake of scholarship awardees in the trailblazing 'Women in Maritime' program. The training program is a partnership between PacTow, the Australian Government, Swire Shipping, and Consort Express Lines.



Above: These recently graduated 'Officers of the Watch' represent 10 of the 26 young PNG women having their careers fast tracked by Pacific Towing and the Women in Maritime program.

The Women in Maritime program commenced in 2018. To date, 26 women have been awarded a scholarship as either a Deck or Engine cadet. A further four women will commence the program in 2022.

The ten newly graduated Officers of the Watch are listed below. They are now fully qualified to take on full watch keeping duties in their capacity as either a Mate3 or Engineer 3. As such, they are poised to make vital contributions to growing and further professionalising PNG's shipping and marine services sector.

- Eddesha Aigil
- Glenda Amu
- Jamie-Lee Baim
- Kimberly Kipla
- Lylella Kunai
- Venessah Philipai
- Mary Roroipe
- Irima Rua
- Salomie Tomwarie Wole
- Amy-Lee Turia



PacTow General Manager Neil Papenfus, (pictured on left) describes the Women in Maritime program as "a trailblazing initiative that is helping train PNG's next generation of seafaring professionals." He says that "the skills and knowledge gained by the ten new Officers of the Watch will benefit PNG for decades to come."

Scholarship holders in the Women in Maritime program receive both classroom and practical training. The practical training comprises an onshore component, as well as vital sea time. The women's PNG sea time is on PacTow vessels as well as on sister company Consort Express Lines' vessels. Significantly, Swire Shipping provides the cadets with international sea time.

During their cadetships, the recent graduates visited ports in Singapore, Vietnam, Australia, New Zealand, China, and Thailand on Swire Shipping vessels. The international sea time exposed the cadets to much bigger, more sophisticated, and diverse vessels, than those that typically enter PNG waters.

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

The graduation ceremony took place last Friday evening on Steamships' pleasure cruiser 'Moresby Chief' during an evening cruise on Fairfax Harbour. In addition to the graduates, the ceremony was attended by several VIP guests including the Secretary of the Department of Higher Education, Research, Technology & Science, Dr Francis Hualupmomi, the Deputy High Commissioner of the Australian High Commission, Paul Lehmann, the First Secretary Education & Leadership of the Australian High Commission, Shaun Liew, the Country Manager of Swire Shipping, Alistair Skingley, and the Managing Director of Steamships, Rupert Bray.

Although the officers will be able to accept employment elsewhere, Steamships' businesses such as PacTow will be making several offers. It is almost certain that some of the female officers employed, will help PacTow achieve its goal of having an all-female operated tugboat operating from its Port Moresby headquarters in 2023.

To learn more about Pacific Towing, including its commitment to gender equality and training initiatives:

www.pacifictowingmarineservices.com

RESOLVE MARINE BEGINS DEBRIS REMOVAL FROM X-PRESS PEARL



Above: Resolve Marine has begun removing debris from the X-Press Pearl site in Sri Lanka (The Pearl Protectors)

December 8 - The first phase of the salvage efforts has begun at the wreck site of the containership X-Press Pearl that sunk off Colombo, Sri, Lanka in June 2021. This comes as the vessel's owners reported that they have also contracted for the removal of the hulk that remains partially exposed while sitting in the bottom outside the harbor and compensation discussions are ongoing.

Removal of the debris and the wreck was delayed during the monsoon season, but has now commenced with the government anxious for the cleanup to proceed. During the summer additional side scan sonar surveys were undertaken in the area around the wreck to identify the containers and other debris lost from the vessel during the firefight and subsequent effort to tow it to deep water. The Maritime Executive / [Read more https://resolvemarine.com/](https://resolvemarine.com/)

SURFCLEANER & BRIGGS MARINE TEAM UP ON WATER TREATMENT FOR UK MARKET



Pictured on left - SurfCleaner Founder Christina Lundback and CEO Mikael Andersson

December 8 - Swedish tech developer SurfCleaner has partnered with Briggs Marine to unleash its revolutionary water treatment systems in the UK market – including the world's first 'hybrid' skimmer separator.

SurfCleaner's products are designed to separate and recover contaminants from the water surface – including oil, diesel, petrol, sludge and other pollutants.

The versatile technology can be used across multiple sectors from industrial wastewater and municipal water-treatment to oil-spill clean-up and recovery. It also holds major potential for use across the maritime sector, covering harbours, coastlines and nearshore markets.

<https://surfcleaner.com/>

<https://www.briggsmarine.com/>

THE EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

No contributed article this week but members and readers are reminded that your editor welcomes submission of articles.

The ISCO Newsletter has often published excellent serialised or shorter one-off articles on such matters as response case histories, marine and inland spill response, aerial observation of oil spills, in-situ burning, plastics pollution reduction, shoreline clean-up, etc. Some of these can be found in the Technical & Reference section within the Members Area of the ISCO website under the heading "Technical Articles".

Preference is given to publication of articles that include author's experience in pollution response and remediation activities and of practical help to our members. One option may be to re-print content from papers presented by authors at conferences and seminars, passing on useful experience and lessons learned to a wider audience.

Your editor is always looking for interesting articles of this kind. If you think you can help, please get in touch. john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

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 WHATSAPP GROUP HAS BEEN CREATED FOR STUDENT MEMBERS**

Group leader Kayode Peter Balogun advises "Follow this link to join the ISCO 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.

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

Student Members are invited to submit articles about the work they are doing.

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 Dagleish (VP Membership) can be reached at mrydetroit@aol.com.

We do our best to alert you about things that may be of interest to you and ask that you reciprocate by sending us info on events, opportunities, etc. that may be of interest to other Student Group Members and can be shared on this page.

John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

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

CERTIFICATE IN MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

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

TRAINING COURSES (CONTINUED)

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

For more information visit <https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/> 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.

USA: CLEAN EVENTS IN 2022

CLEAN WATERWAYS – April 5-7, Pittsburgh, PA

CLEAN PACIFIC – Dates/Location to be determined in the next few weeks. It will be in August or September on the West Coast

CLEAN GULF – November 8-10, New Orleans, LA

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)

EQUIPMENT FOR SALE

EQUIPMENT EX PAJ'S OIL SPILL RESPONSE EQUIPMENT STOCKPILE

December 1 - Public Tender Offer Notice. Petroleum Association of Japan (PAJ) has decided to dispose some of the oil spill response equipment that was acquired in the program of PAJ's “Major Oil Spill Response program”.

PAJ believes such equipment still can be used in normal operation or for training purpose if it is maintained and repaired properly. For that reason, PAJ seeks applicants who wish to purchase the equipment. [More info](#)

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.

PUBLICATIONS

IMO PUBLISHING : LISTING OF 2021 PUBLICATIONS

Complete listing of new IMO publications from January to November 2021 with links for downloading details, including available languages and prices. <https://www.imo.org/en/publications/Pages/JustPublished.aspx>

INTRODUCING SOME USEFUL PUBLICATIONS

The Maritime Executive

<https://maritime-executive>

The Maritime Executive provides regular articles and other information relating to the maritime industry. These include articles relevant to marine spills. Information can be accessed through their magazine (online), website and newsletter (free subscription).

 **MONGABAY**
NEWS & INSPIRATION FROM NATURE'S FRONTLINE

<https://www.mongabay.com>

Mongabay is a U.S based non-profit conservation and environmental online news platform. It publishes original articles in English, Indonesian, Spanish, Brazilian Portuguese, Hindi and French. In addition to news articles they produce educational materials (go to <https://mongabay.org>)

[Thanks to John Wardrop, Member of ISCO Council for Australia]

INCIDENT REPORTS

USA: SOUTH CAROLINA - CREEK THAT DRAINS INTO CONGAREE RIVER TURNS RED AFTER FUEL SPILL IN DOWNTOWN COLUMBIA



Photo: An apparent fuel spill turned the water bright red in a creek that runs through downtown Columbia, S.C., and feeds the Congaree River. An odor of petroleum was strong near the creek Friday afternoon, Dec. 3. SAMMY FRETWELL SFRETWELL@THESTATE.COM

December 4 - A fuel spill in downtown Columbia turned a creek that drains into the Congaree River bright red Friday, sending the odor of petroleum wafting through a park and past a riverside observation deck. Cleanup crews were working to contain the spill before any fuel reached the Congaree. About 800 gallons polluted the unnamed creek that winds through Memorial Park and past the Gervais Street bridge.

Read more at: <https://www.thestate.com/news/local/environment/article256319127.html#storylink=cpy>

NIGERIA: NEMBE OIL SPILL (CONTINUED)

December 5 - Monarch seeks more relief for victims of Nembe oil spill. King Biobelemoye Josiah of Opu-Nembe Kingdom has called for more relief for victims of the recent Nembe oil spillage in Bayelsa State. ICIR / [Read more](#)

December 6 - More trouble for Aiteo, Nembe communities as contractor threatens to exit oil spill contract. There appears to be no

respite for Nembe communities in Bayelsa State as contractor engaged by Aiteo Eastern Exploration and Production(AEPCO) to checkmate the over one month of oil spill from a ruptured well head in Oil Mining Lease (OML) 29 have pulled out. The decision by Halliburton to disengage from the containment of the oil spill, Daily Sun learnt was connected to the inability of AEPCO to have an agreement on terms of payments. It was, however learnt; at the weekend that Halliburton has officially notified AEPCO of its decision to pull out of the deal. Sun News Online / [Read more](#)

December 6 - Bayelsa Communities Protest, Ask Nigerian Government To Declare Pollution Areas As Disaster Zone. The apex socio-cultural group of the Nembe ethnic Nationality, Nembe Se Congress, has protested and demanded that the Federal and Bayelsa State governments should designate the impacted areas in the Santa Barbara Oil Spill as a major disaster zone.

Sahara Reporters / [Read more](#)

December 7 - Niger Delta residents protest against month-long oil spill. Locals take to the streets to demand action after the latest spill affecting fishing communities in southern Nigeria. Al Jazeera / [Read more](#)

December 8 - Nembe month-old oil spill finally stopped. Aiteo, operator of oil mining lease (OML) 29, on Wednesday, announced it has succeeded in putting out the leak on its Santa Barbara wellhead in Nembe, Bayelsa State. The Minister of State for Petroleum, Timipre Sylva, also said the well has been capped. "We have put out the leak at SBAS-1. We are grateful for all the support," Mr Sylva said in a statement, according to Reuters. The OML 29 Well 1 platform, which is operated by Nigeria's largest indigenous oil firm, Aiteo Exploration and Production Company Limited, had been spilling crude unabated into the Santa Barbara River for about one month, impacting marine lives and polluting the environment. Premium Times / [Read more](#)

December 8 - Relief In Bayelsa As Nembe Oil Spill Contained after 32 Days. LEADERSHIP gathered from experts on the site of the massive oil leakage that control packages have been successfully installed on both arms of the well. In a statement made available to journalists via electronic mail, the Minister of State for Petroleum Resources, Chief Timipre Sylva, confirmed that, "To the glory of God, we have put out the leak at SBAS – We are grateful for all the support. We have successfully installed control packages on both arms. Rig up pump on the long string and pump open the ball valve. "Closed both control packages and shut-in well flow. Currently preparing to pump kill fluid into the long string. Note that the short string is already killed and dead with zero pressure."

According to the statement, the next steps for the Well 1, OML 29 will be to complete pumping of kill fluid into the long string. "Achieve zero psi on surface, Rig down pump and rig up wire line. Drift both tubings and run in hole to install isolation plugs. Install non-return valves, Nipple down Christmas Tree and carry out comprehensive service on wellhead and Christmas Tree. Install Christmas Tree and secure well and Clean up wellhead platform and surroundings," it added. Leadership / [Read more](#)

USA: WISCONSIN - 400 GALLONS OF OIL SPILLED INTO MEMPHIS RIVER IN MILWAUKEE

December 10 - Crews with Wisconsin manufacturing company Komatsu are working to clean up an oil spill on the Memphis River in Milwaukee. The Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources said in a statement that Komatsu, a company based in Japan, spilled 400 gallons of oil into a storm sewer drain at its facility in Milwaukee last week. The company is trying to clean up the spill by cleaning the storm sewer and placing absorbent booms on the Memphis River. It has also employed a boat and vacuum truck to remove oil. Spectrum News 1 / [Read more](#)

EGYPT: CONTAINER SHIP CONTAINERS COLLAPSE, LOSS OFF ALEXANDRIA

December 11 - Container ship WADI ALRAYAN reportedly suffered containers collapse causing containers loss and damages, off Alexandria, Egypt. Understood accident occurred late Dec 8 – early Dec 9, when the ship was caught in storm raging in the area, shortly after leaving Alexandria. Exact number of lost and damaged containers unknown. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

In the Maritime Bulletin, Mikhail Voytenko regularly advises on vessel abandonments, groundings and sinkings – several every week – but, unless there is an immediate and significant release of oil or chemicals, spillages are not reported. However many of Mikhail's reports cover incidents that may have potential to cause pollution. To view all of his reports, visit <https://www.maritimebulletin.net/>

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