

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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**SEASON'S GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR READERS**



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CLICK ON THE BANNER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



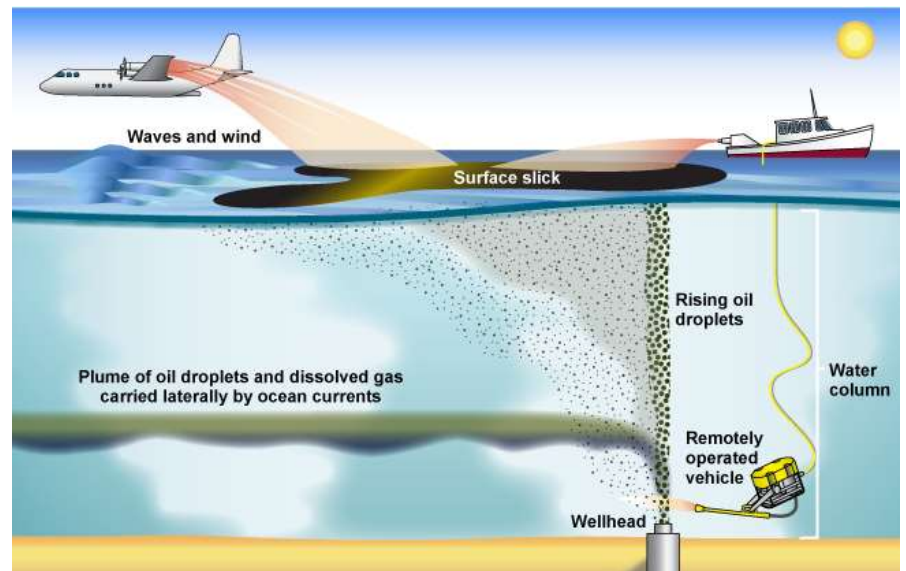
OFFSHORE OIL SPILLS: ADDITIONAL INFORMATION IS NEEDED TO BETTER UNDERSTAND THE ENVIRONMENTAL TRADEOFFS OF USING CHEMICAL DISPERSANTS

December 15 - In 2010, an explosion on an oil rig in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in 11 deaths and the largest oil spill in U.S. history.

Responders applied chemical dispersants to the surface oil slick—to break oil into smaller droplets. This can keep oil from reaching shoreline ecosystems, but may also increase toxic compound exposure for some sea life.

Responders also used dispersants at the wellhead, over 1,500 meters deep, without much information on the risks or effectiveness of doing so.

Subsurface dispersant use isn't well understood. The US Government Accountability Office (GAO) has recommended that the Coast Guard and EPA find ways to improve understanding of using dispersants below the surface.



Source: GAO review and analysis of scientific literature. | GAO-22-104153

ISCO AMBASSADORS

(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)

Carlos Sagrera	Región Iberoamericana
Matthew Sommerville	UK London
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Wue Yu	China

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AND ISCO'S FACEBOOK GROUP

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388528312842431>

WHATSAPP GROUP FOR STUDENTS, TRAINEES & APPRENTICES

Here is the link for joining this group –

<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KMxdW7IEal79namyNlbVqg>

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Professional recognition is a visible mark of quality, competence and commitment, and can give you a significant advantage in today's competitive environment.

All who have the relevant qualifications and the required level of experience can apply for Professional Membership of ISCO.

The organization offers independent validation and integrity. Each grade of membership reflects an individual's professional training, experience and qualifications. You can apply for MEMBERSHIP (MISCO) or FELLOWSHIP (FISCO)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

When an oil spill occurs, responders have several options to manage the environmental effects, including using chemical dispersants (see figure). Chemical dispersants used on a surface oil slick can be effective at breaking up floating oil, which can help prevent the oil from reaching shore and harming sensitive ecosystems, according to studies GAO reviewed and stakeholders GAO interviewed. However, the effectiveness of applying dispersants below the ocean surface—such as in response to an uncontrolled release of oil from a subsurface wellhead—is not well understood for various reasons. For example, measurements for assessing effectiveness of dispersants applied at the subsurface wellhead during the Deepwater Horizon oil spill had limitations and were inconclusive. In addition, there are limited experimental data on the effectiveness of subsurface dispersants that reflect conditions found in the deep ocean.



Sources: U.S. Coast Guard (left image); SINTEF (right image). | GAO-22-104153

Chemically dispersed oil is known to be toxic to some ocean organisms, but broader environmental effects are not well understood. Dispersants themselves are considered significantly less toxic than oil, but chemically dispersing oil can increase exposure to the toxic compounds in oil for some ocean organisms, such as early life stages of fish and coral. Other potentially harmful effects of chemically dispersed oil, especially in the deep ocean, are not well understood due to various factors. These factors include laboratory experiments about the toxicity of chemically dispersed oil that use inconsistent test designs and yield conflicting results, experiments that do not reflect ocean conditions, and limited information on organisms and natural processes that exist in the deep ocean.

Since the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, the U.S. Coast Guard, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), and other agencies have taken some actions to help ensure decision makers have quality information to support decisions on dispersant use. For example, the Coast Guard and EPA have assessed the environmental effects of using dispersants on a surface slick. However, they have not assessed the environmental effects of the subsurface use of dispersants. By assessing the potential environmental effects of the subsurface use of dispersants, the Coast Guard and EPA could help ensure that decision makers are equipped with quality information about the environmental tradeoffs associated with decisions to use dispersants in the deep ocean.

In April 2010, an explosion onboard the Deepwater Horizon drilling rig in the Gulf of Mexico resulted in 11 deaths and the release of approximately 206 million gallons of oil. During the Deepwater Horizon oil spill, responders applied dispersants to the oil slick at the ocean surface as well as at the wellhead more than 1,500 meters below the surface. The subsurface use of dispersants was unprecedented and controversial.

GAO was asked to review what is known about the use of chemical dispersants. This report examines, among other things, what is known about the effectiveness of dispersants, what is known about the effects of chemically dispersed oil on the environment, and the extent to which federal agencies have taken action to help ensure decision makers have quality information to support decisions on dispersant use. GAO reviewed scientific studies, laws, regulations, and policies. GAO also interviewed agency officials and stakeholders from academia and industry.

GAO is making four recommendations, including that the Coast Guard and EPA assess the potential environmental effects of the subsurface use of dispersants. The Department of Homeland Security agreed with the three recommendations GAO made to the Coast Guard, and EPA agreed with the one recommendation to the agency.

To read the complete recommendations made by GAO and access the full report you can use this link <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-22-104153>

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For information contact
Mike Watson at
spillcontrol@mwadigital.com

ISCO MEMBERS NEWS

AGM - The 2021 AGM took place virtually on 9th December. Secretary-General Neil Marson reported – “Based on the votes cast, all the motions proposed in the agenda were accepted”. The number of members who attended was lower than expected but did include members from USA, UK, Australia, China, Vietnam, China and Panama. However, the relatively low number of participants made it possible to have a lively and wide-ranging discussion. A fuller report is being compiled from the record of the meeting and will be published later.

With the updated Constitution having been approved, it will soon be published in the Members’ Area of the ISCO website, together with the Schedules which will replace the former Bye-Laws.

NEXT ISCO MONTHLY ZOOM MEETING – The next monthly meeting will be on Thursday 27th January 2022 at 3 pm EST. The link for joining the meeting will be advised nearer the time.

ISCO NEWSLETTER – Your editor is taking a short holiday break and the next issue will be at the beginning of 2022.

ISCO STUDENTS, TRAINEES & APPRENTICES NEWS

UPCOMING ZOOM MEETINGS WITH STUDENT MEMBERS

Capt. D. C. Sekhar, Member of ISCO Council, advises “We have organized these talks to establish the diversity of resources that the students bring to ISCO. Peter has done a neat job of organizing the schedules. We invite other ISCO members to join in”.

Peter Balogun writes – “These will be Zoom meetings where each student presents for about 15 to 20 min. We will learn about this student's area of work and how this stream of science adds value to domain of oil spill response / plastic pollution or such related areas. Another ten minutes will be available for Q & A”.

Meetings will be held at 2 pm GMT. The Schedule for the initial meetings with Capt. D. C. Sekhar are as follows -

Akshaya Thakku Rajan: Thursday 23rd December, 2021

Kayode Peter Balogun: Thursday 6th January, 2022

Larrisa Montas: Thursday 20th January, 2022

Marko Domevis: Thursday 3rd February, 2022.

For more info please contact balogunkayodepeter@yahoo.com or captcdcsekhar@gmail.com

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/KMxdW7IEal79namyNibVqq>”

- **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 and 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

CELEBRATION DATE OF THE WORLD MARITIME DAY IN 2022

The 2022 World Maritime Day celebration, will be held on Thursday, 29 September 2022. As this annual event represents one of the most prestigious occasions for IMO and the maritime community, we would kindly request that you take note of the above date when preparing your calendar of events in order to avoid any potential clashes. Further information on the event celebration will be provided in due course. <https://www.imo.org/>

MORE INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS

MARINE ENVIRONMENT: EU CONFERENCE URGES STRONGER RULES TO PROTECT OUR SEAS

December 17 - The time is right to review existing EU laws on the protection of the marine environment, according to stakeholders meeting at a conference on the future of our seas today. The European Commission organised the conference to listen to expert views in the context of the ongoing review of the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) [Search for available translations of the preceding link...](#), a key piece of EU legislation protecting our seas. European Commission / [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA: SHIP-SOURCE OIL POLLUTION FUND – 2020-2021 ANNUAL REPORT

December 13 – News received from SOPF – “Our 2020-2021 annual report is now available! Check out all the updates about our work in the past year. Read our Annual Report to learn more about how we compensate victims of oil pollution damage and support the polluter pays principle”. http://sopf.gc.ca/?page_id=309#AnnualReport

December 7 - December 7: “Our legal counsel, in collaboration with a representative from Transport Canada, delivered a presentation in the session: “NPD50 – Maritime shipping in the Arctic: Observations, management, and adaptation”. The presentation called “Who Pays for an Oil Spill? Compensation in the Arctic” covered the Fund’s claims portfolio for incidents in the Arctic. Over the past 32 years, while more than a dozen incidents were monitored in the Arctic, the Fund only received three claims. Less than \$92,000 was paid out to claimants, representing 0.35% of the total amount paid from the Fund (over \$26 million)”.

For more information: http://sopf.gc.ca/?tribe_events=arcticnet-virtual-annual-scientific-meeting-2021

FINLAND: POLLUTANT RELEASE AND WASTE TRANSFER DATA FOR FINNISH INDUSTRY AND AGRICULTURE PUBLISHED IN THE MAP SERVICE

December 15 - Information on the largest sources of pollutant releases and waste transfers for Finnish industry and agriculture can now be found in the public data service at prtr.fi. The purpose of the map service developed by the Finnish Environment Institute is to provide information on releases to air and water as well as on waste transfers by area selections to improve the conditions for citizens, organisations and companies to participate in decision-making that has an impact on the environment. Further information: Project Manager Kristina Saarinen, Finnish Environment Institute, kristina.saarinen@syke.fi

FRANCE: CEDRE RESPONSE ACTIVITY DURING NOVEMBER 2021

December 14 - Madrid’s Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) activated the **MAR-ICE** network in relation to two exercises, the first simulating a methanol spill in Tarragona port and the second an ammonia spill. **MRCC Corsen** requested an opinion on satellite images. An industrial firm in charge of water management for an airport contacted Cedre following a kerosene spill. The duty team received several reports of oiled birds on the beaches of Finistère and Côtes-d’Armor: oiled feathers were sampled and are under analysis in Cedre’s laboratory to identify the pollutant and possibly link it to a known pollution incident. A coastal warden in Pleubian (Côtes-d’Armor) questioned Cedre on the procedure to be followed after discovering 2 jerrycans on the shoreline. The **Finistère fire brigade** requested advice relating to different pollution incidents: to confirm the actions to be implemented following a small spill of a light product in Portsall port (Finistère); following infiltration of home heating oil into a concrete floor in a private home; and following a spill of detergent at an industrial premises into a watercourse in Plouguerneau (Finistère). Finally, the **Morlaix federation of municipalities** (Finistère) requested information on possible contamination from silage.

More news from CEDRE in the November News Letter at http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10762/file/306_EN.pdf

GHANA: EPA SAYS GHANA IS PREPARED FOR ANY OIL SPILL EMERGENCY

December 13 - Ghana has no issue presently with spillage, but equipment, personnel and inter-operability mechanisms among sector players place Ghana on a high pedestal for future crisis management. The Environmental Protection Agency says the many simulation exercises and observation of best practices around the globe give Ghana a proper stand to manage any oil spill issues. GBN/[Read more](#)

NIGERIA: UNEP SUPPORT PROJECT TO HYPREP – LATEST NEWSLETTER

December 13 – For all the latest news, interviews, progress reports, training, etc. and lots of photographs. You can subscribe for free at <https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSfCZwqnDQs79S-h63R0ANP2ScRYIsqRjZEZyVwsvGyleHzmFA/viewform>

PORTUGAL CREATES EUROPE'S LARGEST MARINE PROTECTED AREA

December 13 - The Portuguese government has approved a decision to expand the marine protected area around Selvagens Islands, making it the largest fully protected marine reserve in Europe, with an area of 780 square nautical miles. The title was formerly held by Alonissos Marine Park in Greece, which covers 660 nautical miles. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: OUTRAGE OVER UPL PLAN TO DUMP MORE TOXIC WASTE INTO DURBAN'S SEA

December 15 - Barely a month after several Durban beaches were re-opened to tourists and locals, the UPL farm chemicals giant is hoping to dump even more poisonous pesticides into the sea - in an apparent bid to save money on land-based disposal costs. Several of the city's most popular swimming beaches were closed for nearly four months as a safety precaution after a torrent of pesticides and other agro-chemicals poured into the sea in the wake of the July arson attack on the UPL chemicals warehouse in Cornubia, north of Durban. All Africa.com / [Read more](#)

SOUTH KOREA: COORSTEK PLANT IN SOUTH KOREA EARNS TOP CHEMICAL SAFETY AWARD

December 16 - The CoorsTek plant in Gumi, South Korea was recently presented with an award from the National Institute of Chemical Safety (NICS) in recognition of the facility's exceptional safety protocols and best-in class chemical accident prevention plan. Taiwan News / [Read more](#)

USA: BSEE CONDUCTS UNANNOUNCED OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE IN GULF OF MEXICO

December 3 - As part of its mission to protect the environment and in order to ensure that oil and gas companies are able to quickly and effectively respond to offshore oil spills, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) preparedness analysts and engineers conducted a virtual Government Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE) in the Gulf of Mexico Region on December 1. GIUEs test an operator's ability to timely employ its Incident Management Team and execute its oil spill response plan.

"BSEE plans and executes these no-notice exercises to witness and evaluate an oil spill response plan holder's ability to employ public and private equipment, resources, and staff to respond to a hypothetical oil spill," said Eric Miller, chief BSEE Oil Spill Preparedness Division. "GIUEs are a critical tool for BSEE to gauge current response plans and capabilities." BSEE / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

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

[Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Marine Debris Emergency Response Workshop](#)

On November 17, NOAA's Marine Debris Program (MDP) hosted a virtual Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Marine Debris Emergency Response workshop. The CNMI experiences a high number of storms and is located in an area referred to as "Typhoon Alley," making it especially important for the region to be prepared.

[OR&R Trainers Are Getting Schooled](#)

OR&R staff are participating in a training to improve their training and instruction skills. While the training team spends a great deal of time educating others, very rarely do they have the opportunity to be the students themselves.

[Virtual Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference April 26-28, 2022](#)

The 2022 virtual Salish Sea Ecosystem Conference is the latest in a long history of regional gatherings about the inland seas of Washington and southern British Columbia, collectively known as the Salish Sea.

[2021 Hawai'i Marine Debris Action Plan](#)

On December 8, the Marine Debris Program (MDP) released the [2021 Hawai'i Marine Debris Action Plan](#). This document is the result of a collaborative effort between the MDP and partners across Hawai'i, including federal, state, and local governments, nongovernmental organizations, industry, and academia.

[New App to Document Wildlife Interactions with Marine Debris](#)

December 3, 2021 -- As part of efforts under the [Southeast Marine Debris Action Plan](#), the Wildlife and Habitat Impacts Working Group developed a new tool, [Tangled in Trash: A Reporting Tool For Wildlife](#)([link is external](#)), with funding from the NOAA Marine Debris Program and National Marine Sanctuary Foundation.

[National Academies Study Sponsored by Marine Debris Program Released](#)

On December 1, 2021, the National Academies of Science, Engineering and Medicine (NASEM) [released a report](#)([link is external](#)) on the United States' contributions to global ocean plastic waste.

USA: 3 COMPANIES CHARGED WITH NEGLIGENCE IN S. CALIFORNIA OIL SPILL

December 16 - Three companies have been accused of illegally discharging about 25,000 gallons of crude oil into the Pacific Ocean off

the Southern California coast in October, federal prosecutors announced Wednesday.

Oil company Amplify Energy and its subsidiaries Beta Operating Company and San Pedro Bay Pipeline Company "acted negligently in at least six ways, including failing to properly respond to eight separate leak alarms over the span of more than 13 hours," according to the indictment filed in Los Angeles federal court. CNN / [Read more](#)

USA: SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILLS FROM AFAR

December 17 – From NOAA OR&R, A short article by Doug Helton - Over the past year, NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration provided scientific support for six international spill responses. In collaboration with internal NOAA partners, OR&R provided response products and guidance for the following events:

- Sri Lanka, following the fire and sinking of the container ship X-Press Pearl;
- Trinidad and Tobago, following an oil spill from the tankship Nabarima and a later spill from a shoreside facility;
- Israel, following a mystery dump of oil offshore;
- Haiti, following a devastating earthquake;
- the United Nations, regarding a derelict tanker in the Middle East;
- and Cyprus, after a spill of crude oil off the coast of Syria.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, NOAA scientists were not able to go on scene; however, our improved capabilities to provide support ensured that our remote service continued to be effective.



A quick review of the 4,560 incidents we have supported between 1985 and 2021 shows more than 130 international responses in more than 60 countries, touching all continents including 10 in Africa, three in Antarctica, 23 in Asia, 12 in South America, 47 in Central America and the Caribbean, 14 in Oceania and Australia, and 18 in Europe. These numbers don't include dozens of border spills with Mexico and Canada or a number of incidents in international waters outside of any country's exclusive economic zone. OR&R / [Read more](#)

The distribution of the spill incidents that NOAA supported between 1985 and 2021. Image credit: NOAA.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

IPIECA APPOINTS SHELL'S KAREN WESTLEY AS NEW VICE CHAIR

December 16 - IPIECA, the global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance, has appointed Shell's Karen Westley as its new Vice Chair.

Vice President for Carbon, Environment and Downstream Safety, Environment and Asset Management at Shell, Karen brings over 20 years of oil, gas and energy experience to her new role at IPIECA. Karen first joined the Shell Foundation in 2001 as part of the start-up team responsible for designing and implementing the Foundation's strategy and managing energy and poverty programmes. Since then, Karen has held Vice President roles in both Environment and Business Innovation, as well as managerial positions across Greenhouse Gas Reduction and Carbon Capture, Usage and Storage, and Social Performance at Shell.

Prior to working at Shell, Karen spent 4 years working at CARE, a leading humanitarian global organization which provides emergency relief and implements long-term international development projects including helping children access education, increasing access to clean water and mitigating the effects of climate change.

Karen has been a part of IPIECA's Executive Committee for the past two years and is taking over the role of Vice Chair from Kelly Goddard of bp. Karen's appointment was endorsed during IPIECA's recent 2021 Extraordinary General Meeting.

IPIECA / [Read more](#)

LATEST NEWS FROM OSRL

NEW INSIGHTS ARTICLE: ROGUE STATES: THE NEXT BIG OIL SPILL RISK?

Rogue states such as Iran and Venezuela have long aspired to become energy superpowers but international sanctions have hugely impacted exports from these two countries. Consequently, much-needed oil and gas infrastructure investment in Iran and Venezuela is lacking, and the countries are heavily reliant on old assets.

As sanctions continue to limit experienced international personnel from bringing maintenance and good practice to bear in oil-producing states under sanctions, we have no quantification of the risk of a catastrophic event occurring in these fields.

Author: Rob James [Read here](#)

ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2021

We are pleased to highlight our achievements, financial and business performance and key deliverables in this 2021 Report of Activity. During this year, we have continued to work in a hybrid manner which has enabled us to remain response ready while continuing to deliver preparedness work for our Members and other stakeholders. We continue to ensure no compromise in our ability to respond to meet the evolving needs of members, industry, regulators and the wider communities we serve. [Download full report](#)

CLEAN PACIFIC ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSES NEED FOR EFFECTIVE PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE FOR OIL SPILL INCIDENTS

Marine pollution is widely recognised as one of the three major threats to our oceans, along with habitat destruction and over-exploitation of living marine resources. Oil spills, chemicals spills, and plastics spilled from ships and pumped from land-based sources, cause detrimental ecological, socio-economic, and cultural impacts. [Read more](#)

OSRL TO PARTNER WITH CTEH AND CSA

Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) is partnering with two leading environmental consulting firms, CTEH and CSA Ocean Sciences (CSA), to provide its members with additional specialist monitoring and sampling (M&S) services. These services cover the fields of human health, marine environmental monitoring, impact assessment and complementary spill response skills such as Shoreline Clean-up Assessment Technique (SCAT), crisis management and Geographic Information System (GIS) mapping. [Read more](#)

ITAC FORUM 2022

OSRL is pleased to announce the annual ITAC meeting will take place during the International Oil Spill Science Conference in Halifax, Canada in March 2022. To register your interest in this event email myosrl@oilspillresponse.com

UPCOMING SEMINARS & RECORDINGS

Seminar in Arabic: Spill Impact Mitigation Assessment (SIMA) - A Methodology for Net Environmental Benefit Analysis (NEBA)
Wednesday 22nd December 1300 Bahrain Time (1000 GMT) Please note, this seminar will be in Arabic.

Our Arabic speaking members are invited to join us for this expert seminar where Senior Response Specialist Mohamed Darwish Moustafa discusses any changes in the principles of NEBA, the stages and features of NEBA/ SIMA and how it can provide guidance in decision making. [Register Here](#)

UPCOMING COURSES

Plan Your 2022 Oil Spill Response Training. The 2022 Course Calendar is available offering face to face, remote and online training courses. [Download 2022 Calendar](#)

EMERGENCY CONTACT NUMBERS

Response services are guaranteed ONLY for Members. Non-members are not guaranteed a response and will be required to sign a Non-member contract.

Europe, Middle East & Africa +44 (0)23 8033 1551, Asia Pacific +65 6266 1566, Americas +1 954 983 9880

THE NETHERLANDS: SUBSIDY FOR INNOVATIVE FORU SOLUTION OIL SKIMMER



NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

December 14 - The company FORU Solution B.V. from Harlingen will further develop, test and demonstrate their innovative oil skimmer in the Wadden Sea ports. The intention is to use the device in the Wadden Sea ports to suck up spilled oil when refueling ships in the ports. For two years, the company will carry out tests in the Wadden Sea ports. To carry out these tests, the company receives a subsidy of € 300,000 from the Wadden Fund. <https://foru-solution.com/>

CORRESPONDENCE

NURDLES – LETTER FROM ANDY NICOLL, OSRL

December 17 - Dear Sir,

In reading the top article in newsletter 817, it struck a chord with OSRL who have been deeply involved in the Shoreline response in the X-Press Pearl incident since the outset and have collectively delivered over 1200 man-days to the ongoing response effort in Sri Lanka.

At the beginning of June, OSRL were mobilised under a 3rd party BIMCO RESPONSECON contract by the London P&I club to respond to the X-Press Pearl incident. From an initial concern around a spill from any remaining bunkers on the vessel, the response has now moved into a beach clean-up operation to remove plastic nurdles that were being carried as part of the cargo. Throughout this response OSRL have demonstrated how we can successfully repurpose our oil spill response training and tools to the ongoing nurdle response. It is likely that the response will continue into 2022 as we move into a project phase supervising contractors in the clean-up operations.

We have already established an internal, informal study group to explore the problems of plastic pollution and therefore, if a working group is to be set up through ISCO, then it would make sense to link up these efforts to share knowledge and develop a deeper understanding of the problem and solutions.

By way of adding some context to what we are dealing with I am re-sharing an article recently published on the OSRL website written by our Regional Director: <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/news--media/insights/plastics---not-so-fantastic/>

If a Working Group on this topic becomes established, as is proposed, then OSRL, as a corporate member of ISCO, will be happy to support and contribute to this effort.

Best regards, Andrew Nicoll | Principal, Preparedness & Response

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE



COMMUNICATING INTERNALLY AND EXTERNALLY DURING A RESPONSE: LIFE'S LESSONS OVER 32+ YEARS....

PART ONE OF AN ARTICLE BY ED LEVINE, (NOAA, RETIRED) NEPTUNE, NJ

INTRODUCTION

The author has served over 32 years with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) first in the role of Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) for 28 years and then as a supervisor of SSCs for five years. During this period, he participated in hundreds of actual emergency response events and exercises. He had numerous opportunities to witness both effective and not-so-effective methods of communicating, within a command post situation with other responders and incident command staff, and externally with the general public and media. The effective delivery of a message is greatly affected by circumstances under which you are operating, with whom you are talking, the information or message you are conveying, and the situation surrounding the event. Over many years, the author has gained practical experience through a variety of learning opportunities including professional development programs and on-the-job. His insights on effective communications are provided in this paper to show how messages can be delivered effectively, heard clearly and understood. Practical "tips," best practices, anecdotes, and concrete examples will be shared to help ensure your message is heard and understood. The author provides examples drawn from actual incidents including the Deepwater Horizon, MT Heibi Spirit, TS Athos I, as well as exercises including PREPs, EcoCanal, and SONS. In addition to these incidents, exercises and drills, the author has continued to expand his knowledge through classes presented by leading subject matter experts involved with the Alan Alda Center for Communicating Science, National Academy of Science, US Coast Guard, and NOAA.

The inspiration for this paper stems from the professional need to communicate science to emergency response staff, command and stakeholders, and the personal observations of how this can go surprisingly wrong or right. Sometimes it is a fluke or coincidence that can cause a situation to go from good to bad, or vice versa. Most of the time, it is accounted for in preparation. Preparation includes understanding your subject matter, knowing subject matter experts (SMEs) to consult with, making connections with your audience

– be they the unified command or the general public, understanding the level and depth of information that needs to be passed, and remaining calm.

In total, through 28 years as a National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) plus additional five years as a Response Operations Supervisor (managing the SSC program from Maine to Louisiana), the author was the lead SSC for over 250 responses, and participated in numerous drills and exercises. The types of oil spills attended range from minor oil leaks from home heating oil tanks, to fishing vessels aground, to large oil tanker spills, to the mega Deepwater Horizon and Exxon Valdez spills. Additionally, our science support covers a host of other possible catastrophes. From biological contamination, radiation, chemical releases and train derailments, to terrorism attacks (World Trade Center), whale carcasses, floatable garbage events, sewage releases, marine debris events, medical wastes, law enforcement activities, and natural disasters such as hurricanes and flooding. Each incident required a different knowledge set concerning the data analyzed and information shared.

The manner in which the information was delivered was customized to the audience. Some examples of the different audiences would include: United States Coast Guard (USCG) – from enlisted petty officers in the field to captains in the command post, up to admirals and the Commandant – industry responsible parties, state agencies representatives, politicians, lawyers, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), the media, and the general public.

In the Boston Globe Opinion section (McIntyre, 2019) makes the case that “In graduate school, scientists are trained to become expert researchers, but almost none are schooled in effective public communication. Neither are scientists customarily asked to reflect on the logical or methodological roots of their disciplines. As a consequence, some come quite close to buying into a fairly unsophisticated view called “naive realism,” which holds that science simply discovers the truth. When called on to defend their results, some therefore seem tempted to present their findings as fact and seem shocked when an audience of doubters doesn’t believe them. But you don’t convince someone who doesn’t believe in evidence by presenting them with more evidence. You do so by helping them to improve their reasoning.” This is clearly the goal of a science advisor, to ensure the recipient of the data understands the value of the information presented and correctly interprets it to make the appropriate decisions.

DISCUSSION

In a report after a 2019 workshop held by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (AAAS), Colwell & Machlis, 2019, discuss the need for science communications during crisis situations and identify areas for improvement. Of the five recent crises referenced in the report (the World Trade Center attack, Deepwater Horizon oil spill, Super Storm Sandy, Oso Landslide, and Zika virus outbreak) the author was the science officer for the US Coast Guard for the first three. Colwell & Machlis define science during crises to include conducting scientific research and analyzing data, as well as organizing staff, communicating, and archiving scientific and technical resources during the crisis event. Crisis events are most often acute disruptions and place-specific, with consequences for both people and the environment.

Colwell & Machlis further go on to identify science during crisis as requiring the engagement of scientists and engineers across a broad range of disciplines, including emergency managers, resource managers, policy-makers, business owners, and the public. Because crises impact people and infrastructure and/or environmental assets of societal value, science during crisis is necessarily human-centric. Science during crises helps guide decision-making, from search and rescue operations and environmental remediation plans to health monitoring and evacuation planning. Further, scientific work done in emergency response directly impacts the lives and livelihoods of survivors in a crisis-affected area.

Historically, science has played an important role in emergency response situations, and the scope of that work is broadening. The Office of Strategic Services (OSS), predecessor to the Central Intelligence Agency (CIA), recruited scientists and engineers to provide expertise and support intelligence efforts during World War II. More recently, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Scientific Support Coordinators have served as technical experts to support the response to oil and chemical spills in U.S. waters. Other examples include the National Weather Service (NWS) Incident Meteorologist positions, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) created Global Rapid Response Teams, the Department of the Interior’s (DOI) Strategic Sciences Group (SSG), and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) coordination with the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to ensure scientists are on site to provide situational awareness.

It is important to remain aware of the different circumstances surrounding internal communications within the command post setting and external communications with stakeholders and the public. In the command post the SSC or other Technical Specialist (Tech Spec) is invited to be a part of the command structure, and as such is a known entity coming with credentials and history. This makes the SSC a trusted individual with an unbiased focus. To external audiences, this person is an unknown quantity. There may be misconceptions since this science person is working with the Responsible Party that they may be “in bed” with and plotting against the public interest.

Trust has to be built over a very short period of time to ensure that the information is passed and understood. This is where the soft skills come into play.

Suggested recommendations from the report (Colwell & Machlis, 2019) relevant to this paper include: emergency-response and scientific communities should expand joint training and outreach/education and at the onset of a crisis, a central curated clearinghouse developed in advance should be activated to collect, disseminate, and coordinate relevant scientific information. These suggestions are all leading to the fact that it is not enough to just have the best data available, one must also know how to convey that data into understandable information.

Recommendations highlighted in the report for future research in the area of communicating science during crisis specifically mention that the delivery and presentation of scientific information during a crisis—to decision-makers, the media, and the public—can significantly affect emergency response, public safety, and restoration activities.

Key questions to address include:

1. What visualization techniques and methods of delivery or presentation are best-suited to communicating scientific information to different audiences?
2. What is the best way to:
 - a) streamline technical communications for different audiences at different times;
 - b) account for a variety of scientific perspectives and findings;
 - c) address potential ethical concerns in the communication of sensitive data; and
 - d) avoid information overload, misinterpretation, and unnecessary confusion?

SSC TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE

Soft skills (identified at <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/>) are the personal attributes, personality traits, inherent social cues, and communication abilities needed for success on the job. Soft skills characterize how a person interacts in his or her relationships with others.

Unlike hard skills that are learned, soft skills are similar to emotions or insights that allow people to “read” others. These are much harder to learn, at least in a traditional classroom. They are also much harder to measure and evaluate.

Soft skills include attitude, communication, creative thinking, work ethic teamwork, networking, decision making, positivity, time management, motivation, flexibility, problem-solving, critical thinking, and conflict resolution.



Image by Kelly Miller. © The Balance 2018

<https://www.thebalancecareers.com/top-soft-skills-for-customer-service-jobs-2063746>

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

NOAA's Emergency Response Division (ERD) spends extensive time and effort training SSCs on "hard" science subjects such as chemistry, biology, physical processes, and health and safety. To provide needed technical services, SSCs must also develop "soft" skills to enable successful interaction with clients and the response community. The soft skills SSCs need are listed below, but this list certainly does not include all the soft skills and abilities SSCs need to bring to bear during responses, planning sessions, meetings, and their many other activities.

"Soft" skills and abilities of SSCs include:

Communicating	Coordinating	Negotiating	Organizing	Humor
Cooperation	Planning	Questioning	Leading	Confidant
Trainer	Writing	Demonstrating	Advocating	Initiative
Mentoring	Compassion	Navigating	Disseminating	Advising
Interpretation	Correlation	Anticipating	Institutional knowledge	
"Watchdog"	Listening	Empathetic	Teaching	Problem-solving

THE CONCLUDING PART WILL BE IN THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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

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

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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 WATERWAYS - APRIL 5-7, PITTSBURGH, PA

Session details for the [2022 CLEAN WATERWAYS program](#) are now available! We're bringing you 10 conference sessions focused on topics specific to fresh water spills and environmental considerations. The information given in these sessions will give you direct applicability to your work and environment your company serves. Go ahead and [register](#) before the year is over and use any leftover budget that is available this year! Registration rates are currently \$200 off regular onsite pricing.

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)

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

"CONDENSATES" – A NEW TECHNICAL PUBLICATION FROM CEDRE



Thanks to financial and technical support from the US Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Cedre has just published an English language version of the Chemical Response Guide on condensates, following the release of the French version last year. The guide is intended for professionals who may be liable to face a condensate spill in an aquatic environment. Targeted towards both operational personnel and decision-makers, this practical guide provides useful information on spill response and contingency planning for such spills. It is designed to enable rapid access to the necessary initial information, in addition to providing relevant bibliographical sources to obtain further information. It contains experimental data as well as the results of scenarios based on real incidents. Cedre extends its warmest thanks to the BSEE. Through this partnership, this very well documented and much awaited guide is now available internationally! The guide can be downloaded in digital format from Cedre's website free of charge.

Contents include – What you need to know about condensates, First line emergency data, Real incidents and modelling of different incident scenarios, Spill response guidelines.

<https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/Resources/Publications/Chemical-Response-Guides/Condensates>

USA: HAWAII - NAVY: JP-5 SPILL CONTAMINATED JOINT BASE PEARL HARBOR'S WATER SUPPLY



Photo: Sailors and Marines hand out fresh water at Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam. 93,000 customers are unable to use tapwater supply due to contamination from the Red Hill tank farm (USN)

December 12 - The U.S. Navy believes that a spill of JP-5 jet fuel that occurred at the Red Hill tank farm last month is the likely source of the petroleum in the potable water supply for its facilities in and around Honolulu, Hawaii.

The November 20 spill event involved the release of at least 14,000 gallons of fuel/water mixture from a fire suppression drain line into one of the Red Hill complex's tunnels. The spill was cleaned up, but it appears that a portion of the petroleum penetrated into the Red Hill potable water well shaft. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

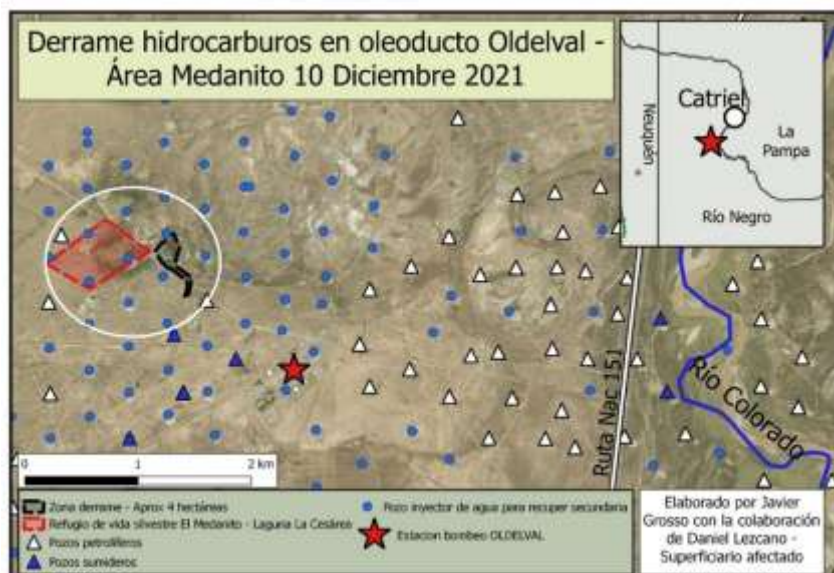
NIGERIA: NEMBE OIL SPILL (CONTINUED)

December 14 - Bayelsa Communities Cry Out As Oil Spill Spreads To Their Rivers, Farmlands. Sahara Reporters / [Read more](#)

December 18 - Ijaw Diaspora Council writes Minister of Humanitarian Affairs, demands independent investigation. "A full, independent investigation commissioned by the Nigerian Federal Government, as to the causes and consequences of the oil spill disaster, including an engineering analysis of the cause of equipment failure carried out by an independent organization (e.g., the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE), and/or Det Norsk Veritas (DNV) in Norway, at the official request of the Federal Government of Nigeria and Aiteo Eastern Exploration and Production Company, as a matter of urgency, and that this independent investigation involve our technical advisor, Rick Steiner." Vanguard / [Read more](#)

ARGENTINA: PIPELINE OIL SPILL - PROVINCE OF RÍO NEGRO

December 14 – Report received from Carlos Sagrera, MSc., ISCO Representante América Latina, ISCO Council Member.



The oil spill from Oldelval oil pipeline (Oleoductos del Valle) occurred on December 10 between the Medanito and Puesto Hernández pumping stations (30 km from the city of Catriel), that joins the Neuquina basin with Puerto Rosales, in the Province of Río Negro towards the south of the province of Buenos Aires

According to the local press, it is the most important spill in the area (see map) in the last 10 years. The company indicated in a statement that the spill had been contained 24 hours after it occurred and that the planning of the remediation projects was beginning, with no impact on the water courses in the area. The causes were speculated on issues of corrosion of the pipeline, which is with maintenance processes significantly delayed (893 km inspected in the year, subtracting 1,273 km from those planned for 2021). Notwithstanding the foregoing, due to the size of the incident, other situations were not ruled out, which are under investigation by the authorities.

Local press reports –

<https://mase.lmneuquen.com/oldelval/rio-negro-mide-el-dano-ambiental-del-derrame-petroleo-oldelval-n868590>

<https://econojournal.com.ar/2021/12/que-se-sabe-hasta-ahora-de-las-causas-que-provocaron-el-derrame-de-petroleo-en-rio-negro/>

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/sociedad/un-gran-derrame-de-petroleo-genera-preocupacion-en-rio-negro-e-investigacion-el-impacto-de-los-danos-nid11122021/>

<https://www.pagina12.com.ar/389014-derrame-de-petroleo-en-rio-negro-el-ministerio-de-ambiente-b>

December 15 - The Ministry of Environment and Climate Change indicated said Oldelval, in charge of the pipeline, reported the magnitude of the environmental incident Tuesday.

Ministry sources said the provisional environmental remediation plan will be made public once it is approved, so as to explain how the company intends to clean up the two hectares affected by the failure in the pipeline connecting the pumping station in Medanito and Puesto Hernández.

The authorities also explained that amount of oil spilled on the ground is much higher than what had been reported previously. The government and the company estimated that it was 2,000 m3. Yesterday it was known that 1,400 m3 had been recovered from the affected land. Merco Press / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - SOURCE OF SITKA OIL SPILL NOT YET FOUND, COAST GUARD SAYS

December 17 - The investigation into the oil spill at the Sitka Sound Science Center is still ongoing. The amount of oil released has not been determined and the source is unknown at this time. The spill was discovered mid-morning on November 18 near the center's hatchery penstocks which were empty at the time. Oil was observed seeping from an exposed crack in the concrete seawall. Kiny Radio / [Read more](#)

TAIWAN, CHINA: GROUNDED OFFSHORE PLATFORM RECOGNIZED AS TOTAL LOSS

December 19 - Offshore support platform DONG JI NO 2 under tow of Korean tug JAEWON 9 broke off towing line on Dec 12 between Wangan and Penghu islands, Penghu islands, Taiwan, Taiwan Strait, in rough weather. Platform drifted ashore on eastern coast of Jianguo island, eastern Wangan, early Dec 13. Platform was towed from Hong Kong to Korea. After refloating attempts hampered by unfavorable weather, platform was recognized as total loss, because of damages it sustained, including numerous hull breaches. Fuel on board was removed, though there are some residuals left. Owner of the platform is required to remove wreckage, as required by regulations. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

BANGLADESH: COASTAL TANKER STRUCK UNDERWATER WRECK, DAMAGED

December 19 - Tanker loaded with fuel oil collided with underwater wreck in Mongla port area, Bangladesh, at around 0900 LT Dec 18. Tanker's ballast tank was breached with ensuing water ingress, understood she's either resting on bottom or on wreck, and there's no danger of sinking. No leaks reported, cargo is to be transferred to another tanker. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

HISTORY

CANADA: THE NATHAN E. STEWART SPILL: FIVE YEARS AFTER

December 9 - When the U.S. registered tug ran aground in British Columbia's Inside Passage, the event not only affected the local marine environment, but the response effort shone a light on the importance of working with Indigenous Peoples. While the unified command structure put in place immediately by the incident responders included the Heiltsuk Nation in the decision making and spill response from the beginning, the First Nation community felt "anger, alienation and discrimination" that persists to this day. The sinking has also prompted important changes in marine safety and oil spill response preparedness, including valuing the knowledge of and participation from Indigenous Peoples. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

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