



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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- Mr Neil Marson, Secretary General (UK)
- Mr John McMurtrie, VP and Editor (UK)
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- Captain Bill Boyle (UK)
- Mr John Wardrop (Australia)
- Mr Marc Shaye (USA)
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*We Wish You All
A Happier New Year*



INTERNATIONAL NEWS – ISCO NEWS

CLICK ON THE BANNER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



A NEW YEAR MESSAGE FROM ISCO SECRETARY-GENERAL NEIL MARSON

It is difficult to comprehend that 2021 would follow very closely to that of 2020 with the ongoing pandemic still playing a major part in our lives, the existence of COVID-19 has had a major impact upon all of us, in many difference ways, and has brought into play new ways of communicating.

Through such platforms we have being able to successfully manage our organisation and develop several working groups to explore various options for ISCO, the creation of a Student Group is expanding daily, it is hoped that this group will provide new impetus into ISCO and in turn the students can gain access to the vast knowledge and experience that is held amongst our membership. Other activity has come in the form of the creation of the Ambassador role, which was primarily developed to enable members to be appointed to temporarily represent ISCO at certain events or conferences, in some cases the appointment can be more permanent, to date with Ambassadors in China, Panama and the UK, to those I extend my sincere thanks for the work that they are carrying out on behalf of ISCO.

We have also seen the appointment of National Representative for the USA of Dr Tim Gunter, Tim is the Director of the National Spill School at Corpus Christi in Texas, with Tim's wealth of knowledge I am sure he will bring a positive drive to ISCO within the USA. ISCO is still keen to recruit additional National Council members in different parts of the World, so if you feel this is something which would be of interest to you, then we would look forward to hearing from you.

Once again, the number of live exhibitions and conferences was limited, ISCO was fortunate in being able to attend them virtually, and in the case of Clean Gulf thanks to Mary Ann Dalglish and Helena Rowlands ISCO was able to provide physical attendance at the event, many thanks to both Mary Ann and Helen for their efforts.

If you are reading this and you are not a member, ISCO would welcome you onboard as a member, if you are a member then can I ask you to consider joining in on our monthly Zoom meetings, and hopefully to contribute to the working groups, it is your organisation.

Finally, I cannot end without extending my thanks to all our members and in particular

ISCO AMBASSADORS

(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)

Carlos Sagrera	Región Iberoamericana
Matthew Sommerville	UK London
John Noble	UK London & South'ton
Wue Yu	China

MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO

[Benefits of Membership](#)

[Online Membership Application Form](#)

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ISCO DISCUSSION GROUP ON LINKED-IN



Click on the link below –

<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4016064/>



AND ISCO'S FACEBOOK GROUP

Click on the link -

<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>

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER BY GAINING PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

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)

[About Professional Membership](#)

[Professional Membership Application Form](#)

INTERNATIONAL NEWS – ISCO NEWS (CONTINUED)

to John McMurtrie and Mary Ann Dalglish who have worked tirelessly during the year to keep the wheels of ISCO turning, I look forward to ISCO strengthening its position in 2022.

On behalf of ISCO President, David Usher, and all the Secretariat Team, I hope you all keep safe and wish you a great 2022.

Neil Marson,
Secretary-General

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 WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

ISCO is pleased to welcome the following new members who have recently joined the organisation –

NEW INDUSTRY PARTNER

Texas A&M University, National Spill Control School, USA.

<https://www.tamucc.edu/research/nscc/>

NEW CORPORATE MEMBERS

Pearl Fire Pty. Ltd., Australia - 25 years' experience in the Fire and the Emergency Response industry. <https://www.pearlfire.com.au/>

Balaena LLC., Texas, USA – Developer of a very high efficiency oil spill recovery vessel with onboard recovered oil storage. <http://balaenah2o.com/>

NEW INDIVIDUAL MEMBERS

Shailindraa Kumar Singh (India)

Izuchukwu Callistus Uche (Nigeria)

Lawrence Daniel (Nigeria)

Karla Lopez (USA)

Josie Wilson (USA)

Marko Dordevic (Croatia)

ISCO NEWSLETTER UPDATED CIRCULATION INFORMATION

As at the end of 2021, the free ISCO Newsletter is circulated each week to subscribers in the following countries –

United States	United Kingdom	Canada	Netherlands
Norway	Australia	Spain	France
UAE	Germany	Ireland	Greece
Croatia	Turkey	Italy	Saudi Arabia
Belgium	Finland	India	Russia
Denmark	Austria	Korea	Sri Lanka
Puerto Rica	Sweden	China	Nigeria
Panama	Thailand	Tunisia	Colombia
Israel	Japan	Portugal	Singapore
Vietnam	Netherlands Antilles	Bahrain	Estonia
Egypt	Jordan	Kuwait	Malta
Poland	Slovenia	Syria	Taiwan
Paraguay	Uruguay	Belize	

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Mike Watson at
spillcontrol@mwadigital.com**

ONLINE 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”.

At 2 pm GMT on Thursday 23rd December the first of these meetings took place.

Ms Akshaya Thakku Rajan, MS-PhD, Dept. of Ocean Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology, Madras, gave a presentation on "oil spill weathering and its interactions with the biological carbon pump". The main focus of this work is to understand the mechanisms of interactions between oil droplets and marine snow component of the BCP. Developing a long term weathering oil spill model will help in forecasting the ultimate fate of the dispersed and dissolved portions of the oil spill and planning response measures

Meetings will be held at 2 pm GMT. The Schedule for the next meetings with Capt. D. C. Sekhar are as follows - Kayode Peter Balogun: Thursday 6th January, 2022; Larrisa Montas: Thursday 20th January, 2022; Marko Dordevic: Thursday 3rd February, 2022.

For more info please contact balogunkayodepeter@yahoo.com or captdcsekhar@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/KMxdW7IEal79namyNlbVqq>”

- **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 Dalglish (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

MORE INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS

MEDITERRANEAN: MEETING MOIG-NOC-ANPE

December 25 - A delegation from the National Oil Corporation Libya (NOC); corporate member: composed of MM. Khaled Bukhatwa, HSE Manager, Salem Eljawashi, HSE Advisor and Mohamed Maamer Adbeib; Head of Environment Division; were the MOIG guests. Two meetings were held between the MOIG Director and the NOC delegation; in which were presented the MOIG forthcoming activities planned in 2022 and the Memorandum of Understanding in Respect of Mutual Assistance in the Control of Marine Pollution Events Tier 2. The MOIG Director also delivered a demonstration of the oil spill response equipment database recently displayed on MOIG website under the Member Area. MOIG / [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA: NEW EQUIPMENT FOR COAST GUARD WILL HELP CLEAN UP OIL SPILLS

December 20 - Following open and competitive processes, Public Services and Procurement Canada, on behalf of the Canadian Coast Guard, has awarded two contracts: a \$6-million contract for three offshore skimmers to GRIFFIN Engineered Systems Inc. of Halifax, Nova Scotia, and a \$3.5-million contract for five high-speed sweep systems to Navenco Marine Inc. of Chateauguay, Quebec. In the event of an oil spill, the new equipment will help recover spilled oil and prevent it from spreading further.

Canadian Coast Guard / [Read more](#)

CANADA: GOVERNMENT MOVING FORWARD WITH BANNING HARMFUL SINGLE-USE PLASTICS

December 21 - Plastic pollution litters our beaches, parks, streets, shorelines and other places Canadians value. It is harmful to our nature and wildlife and Canadians are demanding action. That is why the Government of Canada is moving forward with a comprehensive plan to address plastic pollution in the long term that includes a ban on certain harmful single-use plastics in the short term.

Today, the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, and the Minister of Health, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, announced that draft regulations prohibiting certain single-use plastics have now been published for public comment. Environment & Climate Change Canada / [Read more](#)

CYPRUS: FINANCIAL BOOST FOR IMO'S TECHNICAL COOPERATION WORK

December 14 - Cyprus has made a contribution of € 20,000 to IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP).

Under the ITCP, developing countries are supported to improve their ability to comply with international rules and standards, with priority given to technical assistance programmes focusing on human resources development and institutional capacity-building. IMO / [Read more](#)

DENMARK: CLEAR MESSAGE ABOUT COMPANIES' DISCHARGES OF ENVIRONMENTALLY HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES



December 21 - Companies' discharges of waste water are regulated in order to avoid pollution of nature, the environment and the impact on human health. New guidance tells about the rules. You can read about this in a new, updated guidance from the Danish Environmental Protection Agency, which is designed as a so-called FAQ with a total of 71 questions and related answers.

Updated with the latest knowledge, the guide contains 18 completely new questions and answers and has been developed in areas related to the designation of mixed zones in coastal waters, discharges to waters where environmental quality requirements have been exceeded, conditions around mercury and other substances where a general quality requirement is missing, as well as in relation to reassessments.

Danish Environment Protection Agency / [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: WAKASHIO'S CAPTAIN AND FIRST OFFICER FOUND GUILTY FOR 2020 GROUNDING

Photo: Wakashio went aground and later broke in two on Mauritius (IMO photo)

December 21 - Nearly 18 months after the Japanese-owned bulker went aground on Mauritius causing one of the worst environmental disasters, the captain and first officer of the Wakashio were found guilty on December 20 by a magistrate on the island. The two officers informed the court last week that they were pleading guilty to the charges of "Endangering Safe Navigation" under Mauritius' Merchant Shipping Act 2007. They will be sentenced on December 27



The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: WAKASHIO CAPTAIN, CHIEF MATE TO BE RELEASED FROM MAURITIUS JAIL AFTER SENTENCING

December 27 - The captain and first officer of the MV Wakashio are set to be released from custody in Mauritius following their sentencing Monday.

Having already spent 16 months in custody, Captain Sunil Kumar Nandeshwar will be reunited with his family back in India. Together with his first officer, the pair was sentenced to 20 months in prison Monday by the Intermediate Court for the grounding of the MV Wakashio on the night of Saturday, July 25, 2020, on the reefs of Pointe-d'Esny, in the southeast of the island of Mauritius, in the Indian Ocean. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: NEMBE SPILL: FG RECOVERS 16,200 BARRELS OF CRUDE, WATER SEDIMENTS

December 22 - The federal government has disclosed that so far, 16,200 barrels of crude oil and water sediments have been recovered from the Oil Mining Lease (OML) 29 in Nembe Local Government Area of Bayelsa State. This was disclosed ahead of investigations which are set to return today, to further understand the cause of the spill which commenced on November 5.

Business Post / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: OGOINI COMMUNITIES URGE FG TO EXPEDITE ACTION ON CLEAN-UP



December 24 - Some oil-bearing communities in Ogoniland under the aegis of Ogoni Liberation Initiative (OLI) have urged Federal Government to partner international agencies towards expediting cleanup of Ogoniland in line with recommendations of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Report.

The group also advised President Muhammadu Buhari to halt further payment to the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), alleging that the agency has not utilised the monies released for the cleanup.

The Guardian NG / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: JOINT INVESTIGATION FINDINGS ABSOLVE AITEO OF FAULTS IN NEMBE OIL SPILL

December 28 - The joint investigation committee comprising regulators, operators of the well Aiteo, regulators, Nembe community representatives and engineering consultants from Kenyon International dispatched to the Nembe spill has determined that the spill was caused as a result of third party interference. Vanguard / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: SHELL, EXXONMOBIL FACE HUGE REMEDIATION COSTS OVER ABANDONED ONSHORE ASSETS

December 28 - Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria and ExxonMobil are presently faced with huge remediation costs over their failure to properly decommission and cap oil and gas assets across the Niger Delta, especially the ones sold to Nigerians in recent divesture programmes. A situation that creates severe environmental risks and pollution to host communities in the oil-rich Niger Delta. This Day Live / [Read more](#)

SRI LANKA: X-PRESS PEARL'S INSURER RELEASES \$2.5M FOR ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN-UP

December 22 - The insurer of the X-Press Pearl has agreed to pay an additional \$2.5 million in compensation for environmental harm in connection to the vessel's sinking off Colombo, Sri Lanka in May.

Sri Lanka's Marine Environment Protection Authority announced Wednesday that the insurer will be compensating the government for some of its cleanup expenses. The payment applies to costs incurred in June, July and August, and covers most - but not all - of the government's claims for the period. MEPA chairperson Dharshani Lahandapura told local media that the total expenditures come to \$3.9 million, but more documentation is required first. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: REPAIR TO RUPTURED CALIFORNIA OIL PIPELINE TO START FRIDAY, LEAKED DOCUMENTS REVEAL

December 17 - The oil company accused of negligence this week for failing to properly respond to an October oil spill off the Southern California coast is set to begin permanent repair work, according to leaked documents reviewed by NBC News, but critics say approval of the work appears rushed.

As early as Friday morning, divers will descend about 160 feet below the surface to begin placing what documents describe as a “steel patch” over a cracked area of pipe that was temporarily repaired in the wake of the Oct. 1 spill. The patch is designed to allow the pipeline to be thoroughly cleaned and flushed before two large sections of pipe — totaling nearly 300 feet — are removed from the seafloor and ultimately replaced at a later date. NBC News / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

December 20 – Please click on the links below to download and read the latest news from NOAA OR&R

[Next Generation ESI Workshop Report Completed](#)

The Office of Response and Restoration released a report on Nov. 20 detailing the proceedings and recommendations of last year’s workshop on the Next Generation of the Environmental Sensitivity Index (ESI) program and products.

[Marine Debris Program Presents at the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management](#)

Last month, Peter Murphy, Alaska Regional Coordinator for the NOAA Marine Debris Program, participated in a session focused on the issue of marine debris as part of the [Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management\(link is external\)](#) (ATCEM).

[Marine Debris Regional Collaboration Project Announced at Gulf of Maine Council Meeting](#)

On Dec. 9, members of the [Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment\(link is external\)](#) and its working group gathered virtually to share updates, review new work plans, and identify areas for collaboration.

[Marine Debris Program Hosts Informational Webinar for Invited Applicants to FY22 Removal Competition](#)

On Dec. 6, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) hosted an information-sharing webinar for grant applicants.

[Disaster Preparedness Program and National Estuarine Research Reserves Team Up for Tabletop Exercise](#)

On Dec. 8-9, staff from the Office of Response and Restoration Disaster Preparedness Program and the Great Bay (New Hampshire) and Wells (Maine) National Estuarine Research Reserves walked through a tabletop exercise designed to test the Research Reserves’ Disaster Response Plans.

[\\$15.3 M Settlement Proposed for Oil Spill Case in Galveston Bay, Texas](#)

On Dec. 3, 2021, a \$15.3 million settlement was proposed in Federal District Court to restore natural resources damaged from the 2014 [Texas City Y oil spill](#) in Galveston Bay, Texas.

[OR&R Contributes to Oil Industry Webinars](#)

Former OR&R scientific support coordinators (SSCs) Steve Lehmann and Ann Hayward Walker recently participated in several of ExxonMobil’s 2021 “Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer Webinars,” a series brought back after its success last year.

USA: TAYLOR ENERGY REACHES SETTLEMENT OVER LONGEST-RUNNING OIL SPILL IN U.S. HISTORY

December 22 - Louisiana oil and gas company Taylor Energy will be liquidated and required to turn over all its remaining assets to the United States to resolve its liability for an oil spill at its former Gulf of Mexico offshore oil production facility — the source of the longest-running oil spill in U.S. history which has been ongoing since 2004.

Under a proposed consent decree announced Wednesday by the U.S. Justice Department, Taylor Energy will transfer to the Department of the Interior (DOI) a \$432 million trust fund dedicated to plugging the subsea oil wells, permanently decommissioning the facility, and remediating contaminated soil. The consent decree further requires Taylor Energy to pay over \$43 million for civil penalties, removal costs and natural resource damages.

The settlement comes after the U.S. filed a civil complaint against Taylor Energy in District Court in New Orleans in October 2020 seeking removal costs, civil penalties and natural resource damages under the Oil Pollution and Clean Water Acts arising from the discharge of oil from facility.

Between 2016 and 2020, Taylor Energy filed several lawsuits against the U.S., including challenging the Coast Guard’s decision to install a spill containment system and appealing the Coast Guard’s denial of Taylor Energy’s \$353 million spill-cost reimbursement claim submitted to the U.S. Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund. gCaptain / [Read more](#)



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

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

FUTURE IMPLICATIONS

In an attempt to broaden the use of a science advisor to different disaster events, several Coast Guard officers and NOAA SSC described and proposed to FEMA the concept of a multi-hazard response science advisor based off the NOAA SSC role. FEMA adopted this concept and added the Science and Technology Advisor (STA) position onto the Incident Command staff in the September 2017 FEMA-509-v20170717 National Incident Management System (NIMS). Under the resource typing definition for the National Qualification System Emergency Management the STA “provides advice and informs decision-making for all science and technology-related incident activities” including:

1. Monitors incident operations and provides scientific and technical advice on matters relating to the integration of science and technology into incident response efforts
2. Enhances safety, assists in incident action planning, and informs decision-making for all science and technology-related incident activities
3. Consults with subject matter experts in the scientific and technological communities to gather information, serve as a liaison, and make recommendations to the incident command, Unified Command, or center director
4. Maintains an extensive network throughout the scientific community and draws from this resource as necessary to help inform incident operations
5. Ensures proper information management of scientific data acquired during incident operations and field testing
6. Disseminates technical information and training to all response personnel who may need special knowledge relating to incident planning and response activities

It is further suggested here, that the STA position also include skills and training in communications and outreach (as listed above for the SSCs), for communications both internal to the ICS and externally to other stakeholders.

LIFE LESSONS LEARNED THROUGH THE YEARS

Know Your Facts:

- People want accurate information about what happened and how that event might affect them. (Barton. 2001)
- Information should be consistent.
- Because of the time pressure in a crisis there is a risk of inaccurate information, if mistakes are made, they should be corrected ASAP.
- The philosophy of speaking with one voice in a crisis is a way to maintain accuracy.
- Speaking with “one voice” does not mean only one person speaks for the organization. It refers to using an agreed upon set of facts to disseminate information.

Talk About What You Know:

- Let the audience know your credentials and reason for talking with them – why they should believe you.
- This includes life experiences as well as academic degrees. The life experiences may even outweigh academic learnings.

Know What You Don't Know (as much as you can):

- It is perfectly reasonable to respond to a question by stating that you do not know the answer and will attempt to get that information at a later time.
- My favorite quote from a colleague, Dr. Jerry Galt, is “We reserve the right to be smarter, later.” This infers learning as new data becomes available and adjusting hypotheses and potential outcomes to fit the new information.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

- Deliver all information promised to stakeholders as soon as that information is known.
- A quote, from Dr. Jacqui Michel, pertaining to the vagaries of responding to an oil spill is “I’ve never been to the same spill twice.” The interpretation of this is that something is always different, and just because you were at a similar incident, does not ensure that the new incident will have the same outcome.

Know Your Audience:

- Set the appropriate tone and voice for your message. This includes your appearance.
- Present information clearly by avoiding jargon or technical terms.
- Use analogies as appropriate.
- Lack of clarity makes people think the organization is purposefully being confusing in order to hide something.

Be Empathetic:

- Show your humanity. Allow people to see you are human as well as a representative for the response.
- Connect with the people you are talking with (not to).

“Developing empathy and learning to recognize what the other person is thinking are both essential to good communications. Communications does not take place because you tell somebody something. It takes place when you observe them closely and track their ability to follow you. The responsibility really belongs to the person speaking, not the person listening.” – Alan Alda (Alda, 2017)

Use Your Heart and Mind:

- Remember you are dealing with a stressful situation. Try to not make it any more stressful.
- Be sympathetic to the situation surrounding the incident.
- Remain calm.

Social Awareness:

- Be aware of others inner state (empathy).
- Grasp their feelings and thoughts (Theory of Mind).
- Recognize complicated social situations (understanding).

Instead of But Use And Yes – make it positive:

- “And yes” helps expand the conversation.
- “But” narrows a conversation and appears to contradict.

Tell a Story:

- Stories are powerful ways to connect to people.
- Everyone loves a good story. Take your message and see how you can craft it into a story with a beginning, middle and end. Design a plot – good versus evil, a twist they do not see coming, overcoming adversity, etc.
- Analogies may be helpful if they are understandable and relevant.

Start with the End – Why are you here – your positive goal:

- Introduce up-front the purpose and message synopsis.
- Let people know what to expect.

Avoid:

- “I know what I am talking about and that ends the discussion.”
- “You won’t understand.”

- “Trust me.”

REAL-WORLD CASE LESSONS LEARNED

The following incidents have been real-world case used here to illustrate some of the items enumerated above:

- **Paulsboro, NJ vinyl chloride incident (2012)** – Know Your Audience: A Town Hall meeting was initially set up to inform the public concerning the current state of the response. It was to be a college-fair type of event. The public address system failed and in order to be heard one of the NJ representatives began shouting at the audience. The crowd began shouting back and the moderator began losing control of the situation. Ultimately, a USCG Public Affairs Specialist took the podium and organized people to begin going to the appropriate booths to get their specific questions answered. This refocused the event back on track. Otherwise it was heading to be a disastrous mob situation.
- **DWH (2010)** – Tell a Story: During a briefing with Adm. Thad Allen (USCG, retired) he asked about the status of the dispersant operations that were occurring for many weeks. To best describe the situation, the author used a Star Trek analogy stating “We are in uncharted territory.” He understood that we had exceeded any previous experiences we had using this quantity of dispersants and we were learning as we went along.
- **DWH (2010)** – Use Your Heart and Mind: During a Town Hall meeting set up to discuss dispersant operations with the public a specific connection with a couple stood out. They were very concerned about the possible effects the dispersant would have on the water quality and how it would affect their children. The husband was wearing a Harley Davison tee-shirt. The author connected to him first as another Harley owner, then found out their specific concerns and was able to alleviate them by giving the parents the facts about where the dispersants were being applied, the ongoing monitoring, and the safety measures in place.
- **DWH (2010)** – Be Empathetic: The USCG Incident Commander attended a Town Hall meeting to discuss the response efforts. His opening statements talked personally about his dedication to the public to make the response as effective as possible. He stated he was missing his son’s birthday that evening to be here working and talking to the audience. As most of the audience were parents this had a direct impact on them.
- **DWH (2010)** – Talk About What You Know: In an early press interview with the media, to help set expectations, the author stated what he knew from previous response experience and the movement of oil on the water, that the oil will eventually come ashore. This was the first time the subject was mentioned. Within the next couple of weeks, the oil came ashore.
- **MT Rio Puelo “Lemon” incident (2004)** – Know Your Facts. Know What You Do Not Know: During this response there were many gaps in the knowledge of what the actual threat was. The SSC had to translate a complex bioterrorism threat from the science group to decision-makers with a great deal of uncertainty. As it turned out, the whole incident was a hoax, but it turned out to be a great learning opportunity and exercise for the response community.
- **TV Athos I (2004)** – Start With The End, Managing Expectation: After the Salem Nuclear Power Plant shutdown due to oil in its intakes, the USCG Incident Commander told me “It’s up to you to tell them when to restart the nuclear reactor.” After sleeping on this directive, the next morning, the author told the Captain that it was my job to provide the information to the plant operators and their decision when it was safe to restart the power plant.
- **TV Hebei Spirit (2007)** – Know Your Facts: While discussing the effectiveness of dispersant operations, the Korean Coast Guard commander asked “How do we know if the dispersants are working?” My rhetorical reply was “Did you look?” Not being facetious, the author discussed how to monitor for dispersant effectiveness both in the water with instrumentation and visually from the air.
- **San Jacinto Spill (1994)** – Know Your Audience: The Unified Command attended a town hall meeting with local residents. The degree of outrage by the attendees was not anticipated. There was a great deal of hostility and anger about how the incident was affecting property owners. The Unified Command did not have the confidence of the public nor were they able to overcome the animosity present. This turned into a terrible Town Hall event due to lack of preparation.

CONCLUSIONS

Oil spills, are by definition, chaotic events. Conditions often change rapidly as the oil moves through the environment and is subject to currents, waves, weather and whatever is in its path. When time and resources are limited, responders need sound science to make informed decisions to minimize impacts to natural resources, and the communities and economies that depend on them.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

NOAA scientists must also quickly help determine what the properties of the oil are, where the oil is going, what organisms and environments are in its path, and what can be done to help mitigate the impacts to minimize exposure and injury to natural resources. NOAA experts need to be able to communicate their facts, discuss the uncertainties and discrepancies – as there may be more than one way to interpret data, and enable decision-makers within a command post to understand and move forward as time is usually of the essence in these incidents. Additionally, the data that decisions have been based on need to be made available to the public and media in understandable ways, which will by necessity be different than communicating within the command post.

While the gaining of scientific knowledge can be obtained through books, schooling and study, the ability to pass on that knowledge is another skill altogether. The ability to communicate takes a different set of skills, practice, feedback, and overcoming hurdles. There have been numerous studies and observational instances of leading experts in their field of studies not being capable of fluently explaining the content, context, and implications of their work to people not in their field of expertise. The implications of this are very different when science communications hinges on quick decision-making when 100% of the facts are not in. The essence of this paper is to demonstrate the need for “soft skills” to coherently and sympathetically communicate “hard science” facts and figures to people without advanced degrees in hard science.

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NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

The ISCO team acknowledges and thanks the many members, newsletter readers, and organizations who have sent their good wishes and seasonal greetings over the holiday period. We wish you all the very best in 2022.

TRAINING COURSES

USEFUL LINKS

- AUSTRALIA – AMOSC
- AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- FRANCE - CEDRE - Click on these links [training catalogue](#) and [2022 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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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](#)

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 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.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

ITALY: USE OF BIOPOLYMERS IN SEA WATER

A cutting-edge project for environmental sustainability

A net consisting of a bioplastic identified thanks to a project started in 2016 by A.S.A. was installed in a tank of the Livorno Aquarium. SpA (Azienda Servizi Ambientali SpA) in cooperation with the Department of Civil and Industrial Engineering of the University of Pisa, to which ISPRA and the Department of Biology of the University of Pisa subsequently joined, in 2019 the Livorno Aquarium and more recently, the textile company Coat yarn Srl. It is a network made with technology designed by Coat yarn Srl using a biodegradable bioplastic in the sea, suitable for creating reforestation plants of *Posidonia oceanica* meadows. ISPRA / [Read more](#)

USA: LIGHT-POWERED SOFT ROBOTS COULD SUCK UP OIL SPILLS

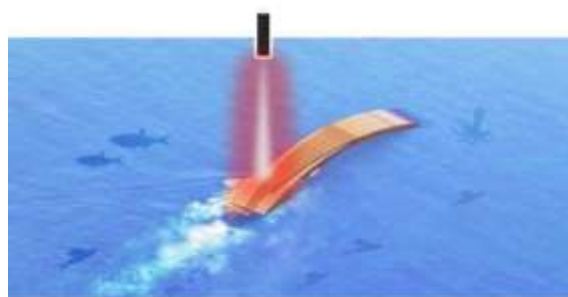


Illustration of Neusbot on open waters, powered from above. (Zheiwei Li/UCR)

Afloating, robotic film designed at UC Riverside could be trained to Hoover oil spills at sea or remove contaminants from drinking water.

Powered by light and fueled by water, the film could be deployed indefinitely to clean remote areas where recharging by other means would prove difficult.

“Our motivation was to make soft robots sustainable and able to adapt on their own to changes in the environment. If sunlight is used for power, this machine is sustainable, and won’t require additional energy sources,” said

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

UCR chemist Zhiwei Li. “The film is also re-usable.”

Researchers dubbed the film Neusbot after neustons, a category of animals that includes water striders. These insects traverse the surface of lakes and slow-moving streams with a pulsing motion, much like scientists have been able to achieve with the Neusbot, which can move on any body of water.

While other scientists have created films that bend in response to light, they have not been able to generate the adjustable, mechanical oscillation of which Neusbot is capable. This type of motion is key to controlling the robot and getting it to function where and when you want.

Technical details of this achievement are described in a new Science Robotics [paper](#).

“There aren’t many methods to achieve this controllable movement using light. We solved the problem with a tri-layer film that behaves like a steam engine,” Li explained. University of California / [Read more](#)

UK: A MACHINE FOR PICKING UP NURDLES FROM BEACHES



[Editor: Responses from readers of the ISCO Newsletter to the appeal made on Page 1 of issue 817 were disappointingly low but the good news is that searching on the internet has revealed more information on technical developments for addressing the difficult work of nurdle recovery. A UK company has, in association with Karcher and other partners, developed new tools for this work. More information can be found at <https://nurdle.org.uk/> and at <https://www.inyourarea.co.uk/news/nurdle-sucking-machine-to-be-put-through-its-paces-on-cornwall-beaches-this-autumn/> ISCO would welcome letters from readers who can comment on their experience of using these tools and news about any other related new technological developments for dealing with nurdles].

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

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

details and links for downloading more than 40 publications most of which can be accessed at no cost.

This page is frequently updated. ISCO depends on regular receipt of updated URL links for listed publications. If these are not received, relevant entries will be discontinued. Publishers are kindly requested to advise the editor john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org if any links are not up-to-date. Readers wishing to recommend the addition of additional publications should contact the editor.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

EUROPE: EMSA OUTLOOK 2022

This publication presents the main steps the Agency plans to take in 2022 to deliver on its multi-annual strategic objectives based on the information contained in the Single Programming Document (2022-2024) as adopted by EMSA's Administrative Board.

<http://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/4621-emsa-outlook-2022.html>

INCIDENT REPORTS

BAHAMAS: PRODUCT TANKER SINKS AFTER BEING HIT BY LUXURY YACHT

December 26 - A Belize-registered product tanker operating in the Bahamas sunk after it was "rear-ended by a 207-foot super yacht," according to its operators Maritime Management of Miami. The product tanker was carrying a cargo of "non-persistent materials, LPG, Marine Gas, and automotive gas," according to Maritime Management. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

YEMEN: YEMENI MINISTER'S REPORT OF OIL LEAK FROM FSO SAFER IS DISPUTED

December 27 - The fate of the aging FSO Safer off the west coast of Yemen caught in the politics of the war-torn region was thrust back into the headlines after a Yemeni minister issued a new Tweet saying the vessel has developed an oil leak. Long described as a "time bomb," the Tweet set off a flood of messages on social media predicting the long-feared environmental disaster while others are dismissing the posting as more political posturing.

The First Undersecretary of Hodeidah Governorate in Yemen, Walid Al-Qadimi, posted a message on his Twitter account saying that the FSO was leaking oil at the connection to the pipeline from shore. He said the urgent disaster was the fault of the United Nations Security Council who he accused of inaction. The deputy governor called for an immediate response of neighboring countries including Saudi Arabia and Egypt to prevent the leak from becoming a full-scale environmental disaster.

The UN so far has not responded to the latest accusations, saying repeatedly in the past that it was seeking a path to proceed but that the Houthis were not committed and changed their positions. Over a year ago, the UN reported it had an agreement to inspect the tanker but later said the rebels refused to ensure the security of the team and were demanding that the inspection and repairs be completed in a single visit. After months of back and forth, the deal collapsed.

Among the responses to the minister's message was an undated image showing oil leaking from the pipeline connection. Another source posted a map showing the broad area that they said would be polluted by the leak.

An independent NGO, however, responded saying that it had seen no firm evidence of a new leak. They contend that the pipeline in question was disconnected from the FSO nearly two years ago. However, everyone agrees the danger is real and that action is required to reduce the threat from the aging vessel. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: CALIFORNIA - NEW PIPELINE LEAK IN SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATERS

December 27 - Officials in California are investigating a new pipeline leak in San Pedro Bay, California, near the congested ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.

Over the weekend, California's Office of Spill Prevention and Response confirmed that DCOR, LLC has been identified as a responsible party after reports of sheens off Bolsa Chica State Beach, adjacent to Huntington Beach.

The U.S. Coast Guard was first alerted to the sheen on December 15, reported about a half-mile offshore near Bolsa Chica State Beach. However the source of the sheen could not be determined. A new sheen was again reported offshore of Bolsa Chica State Beach on December 22nd, prompting a closer inspection and clean-up of tarballs reported washing ashore near Huntington Beach and Dog Beach. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

PASSING ON KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCE

By contributing articles and case histories for publication you can help ISCO achieve its objective of advancing response preparedness, professional development and competency. As the years go by, hard won knowledge and experience is lost as people retire or move on. The benefits of past learning and new R&D work both need to be widely shared.

Articles that pass on valuable know-how are particularly useful – overcoming difficult challenges, innovating, relating what you did, why you did it that way, how you did it and what was achieved.

TEN GOOD REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF ISCO

Even when budgets are tight, you can fully justify the cost of ISCO membership

1. **INDUSTRY RECOGNITION** - Be recognised as a member of a worldwide community of professionals who share a common interest.
2. **EXPOSURE ON ISCO DIRECTORY** - Corporate Members enjoy FREE Listing in ISCO's International Directory of Spill Response Contractors, Equipment Suppliers, Training Providers, and Consultancy Services. All your information displayed and one click access to your website. It's a great search facility for potential customers.
3. **RECEIVE REQUESTS FOR EMERGENCY PROVISION** - Corporate Members receive requests for emergency provision of resources for spill response support. The Emergency Assistance facility is there for government agencies, oil companies and response organizations - not only for rapid sourcing of additional resources in large spill events, it can be used to help find specialised equipment not often available in response inventories, people with specialised experience and know-how, etc. Contractors can use the facility to supplement their own internally available resources.
4. **ISCO INITIATIVES - CONTRACTUAL ARRANGEMENTS, ETC** - Benefit from ISCO initiatives that are of practical value to Members – for example, the free and widely used RESPONSECON contracts that you can use - speeding up contractual arrangements for mobilisation of spill response resources, with positive implications for protecting your cash flow.
5. **PR, PUBLICITY AND ANNOUNCING NEW PRODUCTS AND SERVICES** - Free publicity – News from ISCO Members - Announce your new products and services developments in the weekly ISCO Newsletter – reaching out to a highly targeted customer audience in over 50 countries. Corporate Members of ISCO can submit news about new products and services in the “News from ISCO Members” section of the ISCO Newsletter. It's a cost-effective way to promote your company. Disseminating news about new technical developments is of value to our community. Corporate Members are invited to contribute articles.
6. **EXHIBITIONS AND CONFERENCES** - Benefit from negotiated discounts in attending conferences and exhibitions – the savings can significantly offset the cost of maintaining your membership.

Promoting ISCO and your company on your exhibition booth - While collecting ISCO Membership Placards at the end of the IOSC exhibition (for later re-issue at other events) a member exclaimed “Oh no, we would like to keep it and put it on our booth at other shows”. Displaying the ISCO Membership Placard on your booth indicates your support of an organization dedicated to improving worldwide co-operation and preparedness.

7. **ENHANCE RESPONSE KNOWLEDGE OF YOUR STAFF** - To enhance response knowledge of your staff - Freely downloadable technical articles, response guidelines and loads of other useful reference information available in the Members' Area of the ISCO website.
8. **CURATED NEWS ON ISCO NEWSLETTER** - The ISCO Newsletter keeps you up-to-date on events, developing technologies, new legislation and other matters of mutual interest. This will save many hours a week of scanning, browsing and searching for all the news that matters and puts it in your inbox every week.
9. **OPPORTUNITY FOR LOBBYING FOR LEGISLATIVE CHANGE** - Through ISCO, Members have a voice in the drafting of new legislation that will affect their areas of interest. We introduce new initiatives at IMO and give our support to other delegates advancing developments that will be of benefit for improvement of response effectiveness.

ISCO provides an interface with National and International Government Agencies, Industry, the Scientific Community, R&D Establishments and Academia, actively supporting new developments that will be of benefit to our Members.

10. **USE OF ISCO LOGO IN PROMOTIONAL MATERIAL** - Members have the right to display the ISCO logo on their headed notepaper, brochures, business cards, etc. to denote that they are part of an international organisation dedicated to improving worldwide co-operation and preparedness.

For more information visit www.spillcontrol.org

Apply for Membership of ISCO at <https://spillcontrol.org/membership-application-form/>

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