

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

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

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

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



FIFTH SESSION OF THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY

Hosted by the UN Environment Programme, the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) brings together representatives of the 193 Member States of the UN, businesses, civil society and other stakeholders to agree on policies to address the world's most pressing environmental challenges.

The resumed Fifth Session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) takes place online and in Nairobi on **28 February – 2 March 2022**.

The overall theme for UNEA-5 is "[Strengthening Actions for Nature to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals](#)".

This highlights the pivotal role nature plays in our lives and in social, economic and environmental sustainable development.

UNEA-5 is an opportunity for Member States to share best practices for sustainability.

It will create momentum for governments build on and catalyze impact on multilateral environmental efforts to protect and restore the natural world on which our economies and societies depend.

Immediately after UNEA-5.2, the Assembly will hold a Special Session on 3 - 4 March 2022, which is devoted to the commemoration of the [50th anniversary of the creation of UN Environment Programme in 1972 \(UNEP@50\)](#).

The secretariat notification on UNEA-5.2 and UNEP@50 is available [here](#).

UNEP / [Read more](#)

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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 (CONTINUED)

ISCO NEWS

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL FOR BRAZIL

February 26– ISCO is pleased to announce the appointment of Flavio P. de Andrade as the new Member of ISCO Council for Brazil. An introductory profile will be published in the next ISCO newsletter.

ISCO WILL BE ATTENDING THE CLEAN WATERWAYS CONFERENCE

You are invited to visit ISCO at the Clean Waterways Exhibition being held on April 5-7 at Pittsburgh, PA, USA. VP Mary Ann Dagleish and Helena Rowland will be in attendance to welcome you and give you an update on our latest developments. Several ISCO members will be exhibiting or giving presentations during the conference – a great opportunity to catch up with people you know and make new friends.

ISCO supports this event and strongly recommends that you attend. A \$100 discount is available for ISCO members – Please quote VIP Code ISCO when making your booking”.

MORE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL NEWS

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN WORKSHOP AT THE ONE OCEAN SUMMIT

February 18 - Several participants in the "Mediterranean 2030" workshop—which took place on 9 February 2022 in Brest, in the context of the One Ocean Summit—paid tribute to the UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention system's role in facilitating multilateral action for healthy marine and coastal ecosystems and sustainable development in the Mediterranean region.

The opening session included high-level interventions by Bérangère Abba, Secretary of State for Biodiversity of France, Hugo Moran, Secretary of State for the Environment of Spain, and Vassilios Demetriades, Shipping Deputy Minister to the President of Cyprus.

The speakers unanimously applauded the landmark decision on the designation of the Mediterranean Sea, as a whole, as an Emission Control Area for Sulfur Oxides (Med Sox ECA), adopted at the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 22 Antalya, Turkey, 7-10 December 2021). Mr. Demetriades called on the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to initiate work for the designation of a complementary Emission Control Area for Nitrogen Oxides. UNEP / [Read more](#)

DEADLY NIGERIAN OIL-BLAST SHIP HAS PEERS ALL OVER THE WORLD

February 21 - The decades-old, oil-storage ship that blew up off the coast of Nigeria recently -- killing some of its crew and spewing its contents into the Atlantic Ocean -- is one of many vessels of similar vintage dotted across the globe.

That ship, still partially floating above the surface, was first launched 46 years ago when U.S. President Gerald Ford still held office and was reconfigured for storage 25 years ago. There are over 30 others still in operation that were originally constructed before 1977, according to data compiled by Bloomberg.

Vessels like Trinity Spirit typically start out as oil tankers before reaching the end of their useful lives as transporters -- typically a lifespan of not more than 20 years. To prolong their worth as assets, they get converted to vessels that float -- usually in a single location -- producing or just storing crude for other ships to collect.

“It is a challenge for FPSOs in the late stage of their lifetime, especially when there has not been sufficient maintenance and necessary upgrade, as corrosion develops and equipment condition gets worse, and system integrity is a headache,” said Zhenying Wu, a senior analyst for Rystad Energy. Bloomberg / [Read more](#)

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PEMSEA: THANK YOU TO OUR YOUTH

FEBRUARY 21 – PEMSEA values the role and importance of youth participation and engagement in fostering healthy and resilient coasts and oceans. One of the programs we offer are internships to select college graduates and early career professionals interested in ‘hands-on’ research and ‘on the job training’ from all over the world.

These youth are able to assist across PEMSEA activities, including in our youth program. They provided core support for the inaugural EAS Futures Youth Photo and Video Competition. This provided a platform for later iterations of the event, as well as to other youth engagement activities such as potential youth innovation grants. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

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For information contact
Mike Watson at
spillcontrol@mwadigital.com

EUROPEAN GREEN DEAL: COMMISSION CONSULTS ON REDUCING THE RELEASE OF MICROPLASTICS INTO THE ENVIRONMENT

February 22 - Today, the European Commission launched a [public consultation](#) on how best to reduce the amount of unintentionally released microplastics into the environment. This public consultation will support the European Commission’s initiative on [Microplastics pollution – measures to reduce impacts on the environment](#) a key deliverable of the Circular Economy Action Plan and the Zero Pollution Action Plan.

The consultation focusses on sources which are known to release the largest quantity of microplastics are plastic pellets, synthetic textiles and tyres. Additional sources such as paints, geotextiles, and detergent capsules for laundry and dishwashers are also being evaluated. European Commission / [Read more](#)

SEA ALARM’S COUNTRY WILDLIFE RESPONSE PROFILES: UPDATES AND A NEW LOOK

February 22 - Sea Alarm are pleased to announce that our Country Wildlife Response Profiles (CWRPs) went through a format revamp last year and the 16 CWRPs updated in 2021 integrate these improvements. The new format is more user-friendly and includes new sections dedicated to:

- main coastal/marine habitats and ecosystems in the country
- main coastal/marine protected areas, biodiversity hotspots areas in the country
- main coastal/marine species under threat in case of an oil spill, including an appendix listing threatened species according to IUCN (Vulnerable to extinction, Endangered or Critically Endangered)
- international and regional Treaties/Agreements with regards to Oil spill and HNS spill Response as well as Marine Biodiversity Protection

The CWRPs updated in 2021 are Bangladesh, Canada, Ecuador, India, Kenya, Madagascar, New Zealand, Russian Federation (Baltic Sea), Russian Federation (Black Sea), Russian Federation (Caspian Sea), South Korea, Sudan, Tanzania, Thailand, Turkmenistan and Yemen. Sea Alarm / [Read more](#)

BIMCO TO OPEN OFFICE IN HOUSTON

February 23 - To create a truly global organisation, BIMCO is opening an office in the US. After consultation with key members and the industry, we have chosen to locate it in Houston. BIMCO / [Read more](#)

IMO: SUPPORTING OIL SPILL RESPONSE, LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION IN THE PACIFIC ISLANDS REGION

February 24 - IMO has been continuing its work to help make oil spill response, liability and compensation a priority on the national and regional agenda in the Pacific Islands region. Phase two of a virtual workshop on the ratification and effective implementation of conventions relating to oil pollution preparedness, response and co-operation (OPRC) and the liability and compensation regime in the Pacific Island Region was underway over four days (15, 16, 22, 25 February 2022) this month.

Both workshops recognize the that the region’s progress is inextricably linked to the seas of the Pacific, thereby making marine environment protection a priority on the national agendas of every State.

The workshop was attended by participants from the Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. In-kind contributions to the event came from Australia, New Zealand, United States Coast Guard, International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs, ITOPF Ltd and Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL). IMO / [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA TO ASSIST SRI LANKA IN DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE NATIONAL MARITIME DISASTER PREPAREDNESS MECHANISM

February 18 - The Ocean Affairs, Environment & Climate Change Division of the Foreign Ministry, together with the High Commission of Australia to Sri Lanka and the Maldives, held a multi-stakeholder meeting recently, to discuss international best practices, application of Systems Engineering model to work on the vision, mission and needs of Sri Lanka to establish a holistic and state-of-the-art Maritime Safety Authority.

The discussion was carried out to learn from the Australian experience on managing maritime disasters, in the aftermath of the MV-X Press Pearl, which is considered as the worst such disaster that ended up with polluting the ocean with a cargo containing large quantities of hazardous and noxious materials, chemicals and plastic nurdles. MFA / [Read more](#)

CROATIA: TRAINING COURSE WITHIN THE PEPSEA PROJECT



February 24 - In addition to the training, there was a demonstration of equipment purchased within the project, which will be given for use to the Zadar County Fire Brigade. The second day of training was held in the municipality of Sali and was attended by representatives of the municipality, tourist board, nature park Telašćica and local residents as well as the media. After the training, participants were taken on a tour of the pilot site where part of the purchased equipment is situated.

This is the first out of four training courses that ATRAC plans to deliver in the PEPSEA project, which aims to increase the level of protection of the sea and coast from pollution from ships, platforms, and land sources and protect the lifestyle of the Adriatic coast and preserve the biodiversity of the Adriatic region. <http://atrac.hr/en/1972/>

INDIA: KERALA STUDENTS' PROJECT ON OCEAN OIL-SPILL GOES GLOBAL; TO REPRESENT INDIA AT INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FAIR



February 24 - In a proud moment, two class 12th students from Kochi city of Kerala have been selected to represent India at the Regeneron International Science and Engineering Fair (ISEF) 2022, which is to be held in May in Atlanta city of the United States. Both 17-year-old Sarah Varghese and Devika Girish of St. Peter's Senior Secondary School, Kadayiruppu, carried out a project at the Department of Polymer Science and Rubber Technology at Cochin University of Science and Technology (CUSAT). It was featured in the list of Top 20 Projects in the Research and Innovation (IRIS) National Science Fair, 2022.

The Logical Indian / [Read more](#)

JAPAN HELPS ENHANCE SRI LANKA COAST GUARD'S CAPACITY TO HANDLE OIL SPILL CONTROL, RECOVERY

February 24 - More than 80 Sri Lanka Coast Guard (SLCG) members are now competent enough to handle oil spill control, and recovery, thanks to training and patrol craft and equipment received from Japan.

The training programme was evaluated by a team from the Japanese Coast Guard (JCG) Mobile Cooperation team and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA). The delegation, headed by Senior Advisor of JICA – Japan Koji Tsuchiya, comprised three JCG and three JICA personnel evaluating the exercise. The Island / [Read more](#)

KENYA SET TO HOST UN ENVIRONMENT ASSEMBLY AS UNEP TURNS 50

February 24 - Kenya is set to host the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) from February 28 to March 2, and a special session to mark the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) 50 years in Nairobi.

The biannual UNEA will mark the fifth session since the first Environmental Assembly that was held in Nairobi in 2014. The East African / [Read more](#)

NETHERLANDS: EUROWA - 37 RESPONDERS NOW TRAINED TO ADVANCED LEVEL



February 24 - Thirty-seven responders have reached the ADVANCED level in the Netherlands, providing a solid base of workers who can apply EUROWA oiled wildlife rehabilitation protocols during an incident, as well as supervise and train volunteers.

Thirteen trainees completed the four-day ADVANCED course in February 2022, hosted by SON-Respons member [De Fûgelhelling](#) in Ureterp.

The course took place thanks to support from Dutch authority [Rijkswaterstaat](#) within the framework of the Dutch oiled wildlife preparedness programme. EUROWA / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: UNEP SUPPORT PROJECT TO HYREP JANUARY NEWSLETTER



February 2022 – Contents include - A look back at the year that was; Milestones 2021; UNEP engages the Nigerian Upstream Petroleum Regulatory Commission (NUPRC); Outputs delivered and lots of other news.

[Download and read the UNEP Support Project January 2022 Newsletter](#)

PERU: OIL SPILL: UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCIES UNIT RELEASED ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY REPORT

February 21 - The Joint Unit for Environmental Emergencies, made up of the United Nations Environment Program (UNEP) and the UN Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA), issued a report on the findings and recommendations following the oil spill in front of the Ventanilla sea on January 15.

The article details that among the main findings of the environmental disaster -product of the oil spill in the Peruvian sea- is that the Government had an initial difficulty in determining what was the best mechanism for conducting and coordinating response actions in the face of “this major environmental emergency.

Also, he maintains that great challenges have been evidenced in everything that has to do with coordination to meet the needs of the affected population and with articulating the demands of the Government with the offer received from the actors of international cooperation.

Regarding the recommendations, the United Nations Environmental Emergencies Unit advises the Government to develop a specific mechanism for responding to this type of environmental disaster.

More concretely, recommends that the Government approve a national contingency plan in the next six months in the event of a disaster caused by the contamination of hydrocarbons or other polluting substances in the sea. TheN24 / [Read more](#)

SOMALIA: UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION PRESENT TO A WORKSHOP ON PLANNING FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE IN SOMALIA

February 21 - At the invitation of the Ministry of Ports and Marine Transport for Somalia, UK and Ireland Spill Association participated in a two-day national workshop on oil spill response and contingency planning from 15 to 16 February 2022 in Mogadishu, Somalia.

The workshop focused on the national contingency plan currently being developed and highlighted the operational and legal requirements for preparedness, the importance of prompt response and the need to practice these plans frequently to maintain capability. Executive Director, Mark Orr , delivered a remote presentation on some of the early lessons to be learned in oil spill prevention planning from the MV Wakashio incident when the vessel struck the southeast coast of Mauritius in July 2020. Some attending the workshop has seen some of the webinars the Association has run since the incident occurred.

The workshop, funded by EUCAP Somalia (European Union Capacity Building Mission) and UNEP (United Nations Environment Program), brought together the various participants that would have some role in preparing and responding to an oil spill off the coast of Somalia.

<https://ukeirespill.org/uk-and-ireland-spill-association-present-to-a-workshop-on-planning-for-oil-spill-response-in-somalia/>

USA: REGIONAL RESPONSE TEAM (RRT) MEETINGS FOR 2022

February 18 - 2022 information for RRT meetings is posted by month. SCAA / [Read more](#)

For more information about RRT meetings, please reference our earlier post:

[Why You Should Participate in Regional Response Team and Area Committees](#)

USA: OR&R OIL SPILL RESPONSE SPECIALISTS DEPLOY TO PERU



Above: OR&R Branch Chief John Tarpley collects an oil sample between shoreline boulders at Playa Positos, Ancon Marine Base. Image credit: NOAA

February 22 - On Feb. 2, two oil spill response specialists from NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration—John Tarpley, response operations branch chief of the Emergency Response Division, and Brandi Todd, scientific support coordinator—joined the U.S. National Response Team deployed to Lima, Peru to support the Peruvian government's response to a spill that occurred Jan. 15 at an oil refinery off the coast of Callao. Twenty-four beaches have been impacted, with five natural reserve areas threatened. The spill also threatens commercial and artisanal fisheries, and the tourism industry.

The NOAA team has been providing oil trajectory modeling forecasts and analysis, satellite imagery and analysis, and site assessment. Marine pollution surveillance reports produced by NOAA's National Environmental Satellite, Data, and Information Service are available on the OR&R IncidentNews website and the website of The International Charter Space and Major Disasters(link is external).

Since the OR&R specialists were able to be on scene, they could view the oil behavior, weathering, and level of oil/water emulsification (a mousse-like oily froth), and view and photograph the oil characteristics and behavior on the shorelines. An OR&R specialist participated in an aerial overflight to observe oil conditions on the water and to help map the extent and severity of oil contamination along affected areas of shoreline. NOAA's work is helping Peruvian authorities focus clean-up activities and interventions, and assess the threat the oil may pose to biological and human-use resources. NOAA / [Read more](#)

USA: PERMIT PROBLEM STALLS INVESTIGATION INTO HUNTINGTON BEACH OIL SPILL

February 25 - A federal investigation into the October oil spill that tarred the Orange County coast has been stalled for several months while officials wait for permission to cut apart, remove and analyze a portion of the ruptured pipeline.

The U.S. Coast Guard said Wednesday that the agency is still waiting for permits from federal officials before cutting apart the San Pedro Bay pipeline and transporting the damaged section to a lab for analysis. That analysis, which was expected to start in 2021, could help reveal how long ago the damage to the pipeline occurred, a key factor in determining responsibility for the disaster. Los Angeles Times / [Read more](#)

USA: EPA AND ARMY SELECT 10 ROUNDTABLES TO HIGHLIGHT REGIONAL IMPLICATIONS OF WOTUS



EPA and Army Select 10 Roundtables to Highlight Regional Implications of WOTUS

On February 24, 2022, EPA and Army announced the selection of ten roundtables that highlight geographic differences and a range of perspectives—including agriculture, conservation groups, developers, drinking water and wastewater managers, environmental organizations, communities with environmental justice concerns, industry, Tribal nations, and state and local governments. The agencies will work with each selected roundtable to facilitate engaging discussion on implementation of "waters of the United States" (WOTUS), while highlighting regional differences. The agencies anticipate hosting these regional roundtables virtually over the spring and summer.

February 24 – EPA / Click on <https://www.epa.gov/wotus>

VENEZUELA: AN ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER IS UNFOLDING

February 23 - An often overlooked and ignored aspect of Venezuela's crisis is the considerable environmental degradation occurring at the hands of the OPEC member's decrepit oil industry.

Two decades of malfeasance, mismanagement, and corruption coupled with chronic under-investment in maintaining, repairing, and refurbishing industry infrastructure means oil spills are nearly an everyday occurrence.

Frequent spillages of crude oil and emission of toxic gases, through flaring, as well as liquids from severely corroded infrastructure, including pipelines, storage facilities, and refineries, are creating an environmental crisis of catastrophic proportions in one of the world's most biodiverse countries Oil Price / [Read more](#)

YEMEN: FSO SAFER – CONTINGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOPS IN YEMEN

February 25 - As part of United Nations-coordinated efforts to address the risk of an oil spill from the FSO SAFER moored off the coast of Yemen, the International Maritime Organization and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Yemen are supporting contingency planning workshops to strengthen Yemen's oil spill response capability.

The first workshop took place in Sana'a, Yemen. A second workshop will be organized in Aden, Yemen, in mid-March.

The workshops aim to address current capacity to respond to a spill from FSO SAFER. They will assist in clarifying equipment and resource requirements; developing response strategies; and addressing the topic of waste management. The information gathered will serve to identify further training needs for the respective authorities and will allow for the updating of the country's national oil spill contingency plan.

The workshops are being coordinated by UNDP Yemen, under the umbrella of IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme and with technical support provided by IMO. Mirage / <https://www.miragenews.com/fso-safer-contingency-planning-workshops-in-732149/>

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

USA: EPA ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF DAVID CASH AS REGIONAL ADMINISTRATOR FOR EPA REGION 1

February 24 - Today, Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Administrator Michael S. Regan announced that President Biden has appointed Dr. David Cash to become EPA's Regional Administrator for Region 1. Dr. Cash will lead the

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

implementation of the Biden-Harris environmental agenda in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut and in 10 Tribal Nations. Dr. Cash's appointment began on February 7, 2022.

"Dr. Cash brings deep experience in environmental policy, equity, and economic justice. I know he will ensure voices throughout Region 1 are heard on key issues," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "Dr. Cash has hit the ground running and I'm very excited to welcome him to the team. EPA / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

USA: RESOLVE MARINE EXPANDS OPA 90 SMFF EMERGENCY TOWING SERVICES IN THE GREAT LAKES

February 23 - Resolve Marine, a global leader in specialized marine services, emergency response, salvage, and recovery, today announced an exclusive agreement with The Great Lakes Towing Company (GLT) to provide OPA 90 Salvage and Marine Firefighting (SMFF) services in U.S. Coast Guard District 9. The joint arrangement, effective February 2022, ensures continuity of service for all Resolve Marine clients in Buffalo, Detroit, Lake Michigan, Sault Saint Marie, and Duluth COTPs. Ships with vessel response plans for the Great Lakes COTP zones that are not Resolve Marine clients can also be served under the agreement by contacting Resolve Marine.

Todd Duke, general manager, Compliance Services said, "We are excited to be working with The Great Lakes Towing Company. The joint effort means that Resolve Marine is the only SMFF provider able to list GLT emergency towing assets in vessel response plans, ensuring continuity of service for Resolve Marine clients in the Great Lakes. The combination also allows us to expand response capabilities to our clients in compliance with OPA 90 regulations."

Resolve Marine has provided continuous emergency maritime response coverage since the inception of OPA 90 and maintains 23 equipment depots and an extensive network of regional partners covering all COTPs in the United States and its territories
gCaptain / [Read more](#)

TRAINING COURSES

USEFUL LINKS

- AUSTRALIA – AMOSC - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- 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>
- USA – ALLIANCE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROFESSIONALS - https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event_list.asp

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

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

February 28 – PAJ Oil Spill Workshop 2022 More info - <http://www.pcs.gr.jp/p-kokusai/pdf/work-9-e.pdf>

Several new NOAA OR&R events have been listed at <https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/>

UPCOMING WEBINARS & PODCASTS

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

Message from ExxonMobil - Due to unforeseeable circumstances, we have to cancel the webinar session that was planned to be held on March 1st, 2022.

ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer Webinars 7-8

Please join us for April and May webinars as follows:

Webinar 7: April 5th, 10-11:15 am Houston time

Dr. Dagmar Etkin (Environmental Research Consulting (ERC)) will be talking about her experiences with interpreting and modeling the patterns in oil spills, including 50 years of spill statistics, analyses of spill response, and spill costs.

Webinar8: May 3rd, 10-11:15 am Houston time

Dr. Michael Ziccardi (University California, Davis), Paul Kelway (Oil Spill Response Ltd) and Rich Davi (ExxonMobil Biomedical Sciences Inc.) will provide an overview of scientific and technical developments in oiled wildlife response and rehabilitation and explore how these have shaped global good practice, tiered preparedness, and international response systems.

The ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer Webinar series is a monthly webinar to allow highly experienced OSR experts to share their knowledge to attendees. The webinar series will provide a platform to communicate, transfer, and preserve OSR knowledge, and to share insights and perspectives from industry, academia, oil spill responders, and other oil spill response experts.

Please note that the webinar series are recorded, and the previous recordings are posted at https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL5-xnKVew34ZbOGOB_EC7JXSIscXEC7BV.

The webinar series started on Tuesday, August 10 from 9 - 10 am Houston time and continue every first Tuesday of the following months. We intend to continue the webinars indefinitely depending on response and our ability to schedule appropriate speakers. To receive the link and other joining info, please send an email to Lin Zhao at: lin.zhao@exxonmobil.com. Note that there is still room for more participants so feel free to forward this invite to others but ask that potential attendees RSVP Lin Zhao to get on the distribution list.

Message from MOIG - We would like to inform you that for those who were unable to attend the webinar on “Points to consider in the selection of oil spill booms” held on 09 February 2022, that we posted the recording on MOIG website in Latest News. <http://medoilgroup.org/index.php/news-events>

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

JAPAN: PAJ OIL SPILL WORKSHOP 2022

February 28 - “Challenges Facing Oil Spill Response Operations During the Recent COVID Pandemic”

The focus of this years Workshop will be on the incidents that have happened during the last 2 years, the planning that has gone into dealing with incidents on a global perspective and successful execution of the respective responses under the restrictions.

You will hear firsthand from the people involved in the planning of their respective organizations and from the people who have responded to the incidents. After all presentations have been given, the session will be opened to the audience of this Workshop for free discussion with each presenter to deepen and confirm understanding of the issues raised and to answer any questions that the audience may have.

Language: English & Japanese (with simultaneous interpretation) More info at <http://www.pcs.gr.jp/p-kokusai/pdf/work-9-e.pdf>

USA: NOW ACCEPTING ABSTRACTS FOR THE 2022 CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE

The 31st annual CLEAN GULF Conference is extending an industry-wide call for participation. Prospective speakers are invited to

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

submit a 200-300 word abstract(s) online for consideration by the program committee by Friday, April 1st. All abstracts are reviewed for content and relevance by the planning committee and are selected by consensus. [Get more details](#)

USA: THE CLEAN WATERWAYS CONFERENCE BROCHURE IS NOW AVAILABLE!

A full, printable program is now available for this year's [CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference](#), taking place April 5-7 at the David L. Lawrence [Convention Center in Pittsburgh, PA](#). Check out all that we have planned for CLEAN WATERWAYS!

Inside the brochure, you will find:

- Overview of the conference
- Schedule of events
- All sessions and speakers
- Networking events
- List of exhibitors and sponsors
- Code to access a \$50 registration discount

[Register for Clean Waterways](#) [View full Conference Agenda](#)

EUROPE: INTERSPILL FEBRUARY NEWSLETTER WITH UPDATED INFORMATION

The Interspill Committee have been working hard to prepare for Interspill 2022 to be held at RAI Amsterdam between 21 – 23 June 2022.

Interspill 2022 conference will have three streams throughout which is possible as we received so many high quality abstracts. The scope of the conference is intentionally broad and reflects the principal issues facing our sector over the next decade. There are many themes within the 21 sessions but some highlights are emergent fuel technologies, increase in shipping risks, management of aged oil and gas infrastructure, protecting our oceans from further harm and lessons learned working during a pandemic.

[Download the February newsletter with updated information](#)

INDIA: OIL SPILL INDIA – 6th INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

4-5 August 2022 at Taj Palace, New Delhi. Theme: Commitment, Synergy, Excellence.

Based on its theme the 2022 Preliminary Conference Programme will focus on the stimulating landscapes of Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness, Response & Restoration activities. Highlighting case studies on some of the world's worst spills in the backdrop of the global oil industry moving into more challenging environments and the increasing public sensitivities to oil spill disasters.

More info - <http://www.oilspillindia.org/>

USA: CLEAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION: AUGUST 23-24

Registration has officially opened for the [2022 CLEAN PACIFIC Conference](#), taking place at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington, August 23-24. Registration rates are currently at a discount of \$350! These are the lowest rates offered for CLEAN PACIFIC 2022 and discounts expire on Friday, March 25th.

CANADA: NEW DATES ANNOUNCED FOR IOSSC 2022: OCTOBER 4-7, 2022

With the ongoing rise in COVID-19 and full respect for the impact on our attendees, the decision was reached to postpone the [International Oil Spill Science Conference 2022 \(IOSSC 2022\)](#) to October 4-7, 2022.

IOSSC 2022 will still be a hybrid event, comprising both in-person and virtual sessions. The abstract submission remains open. Abstracts can be [submitted online](#) before June 17, 2022. We continue to welcome your submissions.

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/td012022.htm> 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.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

WÄRTSILÄ AND GRIMALDI UNVEIL NEW MICROPLASTICS FILTER SYSTEM



February 18 - The technology group Wärtsilä, together with the shipping company Grimaldi Group, have unveiled a new system that uses exhaust gas scrubber washwater to tackle the amount of microplastics in the world's oceans; a critical and growing global environmental challenge.

To tackle the growing amount of microplastics in the world's seas, Grimaldi has developed and patented a system that filters out microplastics from open loop scrubber washwater.

Wärtsilä, in partnership with the Neapolitan group, will take the microplastics filtration system - which traps plastic particles before the washwater is returned to the ocean - to market. The capability to filter microplastics will be an integrated feature of Wärtsilä's future wash-water treatment system.

The new system requires very little changes to onboard procedure and uses the natural capabilities of an open loop scrubber to contribute to cleaning the oceans during each voyage. Currently, a 10-megawatt engine will require scrubbers to process approximately 450 m³ of water per hour, potentially resulting in a large amount of microplastics being captured from seawater. According to early test results, the microplastics filtration system is efficient in capturing particles smaller than 10µm and the captured concentration by volume equals around 76 particles/m³. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

EXPERTS EXPLORE THE PHYTOREMEDIATION POTENTIAL OF BIRCH TREES IN SOIL WITH MICROPLASTIC CONTAMINATION

February 22 - Until now, only little has been known about the interaction of microplastics with greater-order terrestrial plants. New studies have displayed that microplastics are taken up in the roots of agricultural plants like wheat.

Being a part of the cutting-edge interdisciplinary project headed by Berlin-based art studio, Studio Austen, the research group from the IGB and the German Research Centre for Geosciences (GFZ) has demonstrated for the first time that longer-lived woody plants absorb and store microplastics in their tissue.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

Already, birch trees (*Betula pendula* Roth.) have been utilized to rectify contaminated land since they sequester and store industrial pollutants and heavy metals in their tissues, which later enable the colonization of microbial communities that collapse polyaromatic hydrocarbons.

This tree species' roots tend to grow close to the soil surface, where microplastic pollution is the greatest, thereby making them a good choice for the study.

Journal Reference: Austen, K., *et al.* (2022) Microplastic inclusion in birch tree roots. *Science of The Total Environment*. doi.org/10.1016/j.scitotenv.2021.152085. Source: <https://www.igb-berlin.de/en> AZO Cleantech / [Read more](#)

INCIDENT REPORTS

FRANCE: REUNION - GROUNDED TRESTA STAR BREAKING UP ON REUNION ISLAND

February 21 - The Mauritian-flagged tanker that ran aground earlier this month on Reunion Island in the Indian Ocean is in the process of breaking up.

A breach on the port side of the MT Tresta Star, exposed to the heavy swell caused by the recent passage of tropical cyclone Emnati, has "widened significantly" in size, according to an update from the Préfet of Reunion Island. Parts of the hull have also been torn off, revealing a gaping hole of "several meters" through which water can enter the vessel, the Préfet reported. The Préfet also says it fears "an "imminent dislocation" with pieces of the vessel breaking off and sinking on the spot or coming aground on the coast.

It is also dismayed by "new discharges of oily water" expected in the coming days after an oil slick of 2.5 km in length has been reported off the coast of Saint-Philippe. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

February 22 - The 2,924 dwt tanker Tresta Star that was driven ashore nearly three weeks by a cyclone in the Indian ocean has now broken apart with reports of an oil slick after a second cyclone struck Reunion Island on Sunday. The French territory's prefecture confirmed reports of the vessel breaking up after an overflight of the area on Monday saying that resources had been deployed but that weather conditions remained too harsh in the area at this time.

The prefect first reported on February 18 that two oil slicks stretching nearly one mile were spotted in the area near the vessel with residents also reporting that oil was coming onshore. A tug with anti-pollution equipment was in the area. Officials reported that the oil was believed to be residue from the vessel's empty tanks The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

THAILAND: SPILL UPDATE

February 22 - Star Petroleum vows to seal underwater pipeline and "clean up" oil slicks in Rayong. Star Petroleum Refining, the petrochemical company behind 3 separate oil leaks about 20 kilometres off the Rayong coastline, has now been approved by Map Ta Phut Provincial police and Marine Department to seal leaks in their underwater pipeline.

The company says that works have begun today, starting with clearing the most recent oil leak of around 12,000 spare metres that occurred about 2 days ago.

Meanwhile, the underwater pipeline has 2 leaking points. Thai media report that the repair process will be divided into 3 steps, including spraying the leak sealant on the valve to prevent oil spills, clearing the crude oil still stuck in the pipe, and sealing the 2 leaks. The Haiger / [Read more](#)

USA: ARIZONA - MASSIVE TRAIN DERAILMENT LEADS TO HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL SPILL AS HAZMAT CREWS RUSH TO SCENE

February 22 - A massive clean-up operation involving hazmat teams has begun a after freight train derailed and spilled hazardous chemicals into the ground, with as many as 25 carriages toppling over. The Star / [Read more](#)

USA: MICHIGAN - FLAT ROCK GETS ANOTHER CHEMICAL SPILL, BUT THIS TIME IN NEW LOCATION

February 22 - Federal and state environmental regulators are working to contain a reported chemical release on a tributary to the Huron River in Flat Rock, a city hit last year by a gas leak that caused it to order a third of its residents to evacuate their homes. The Detroit News / [Read more](#)

February 23 - Flat Rock chemical leak: Substance coming from underwater; source still undetermined. Officials have contained substance in section of Huron River.

Officials are still trying to determine the exact source of the chemical leak in the Huron River in Flat Rock, but they have learned that the substance is coming from underwater. On Tuesday (Feb. 23), Flat Rock Mayor Mark Hammond said the chemical floats on top of water, has a blueish sheen, and smells like gasoline and kerosene. Click on Detroit / [Read more](#)

UK: WALES – OIL SPILL UPDATE

February 22 - Worries of oil on Prestatyn beaches calmed following inspections. Last week, Prestatyn resident Jon Harland shared pictures taken from the western and eastern ends of Ffrith Beach, and from Prestatyn Central beach, showing dark streaks in the sand, which Mr Harland believed to be oil. This followed the failure of an oil pipeline supplying fuel approximately 33km from the North Wales coast on February 14 which, according to Eni, the company responsible, involved a “limited hydrocarbons release of less than 500 barrels”.

As soon as it was detected, an incident management team was formed to understand the situation and limit any environmental impact, which includes specialist international spill contractors Oil Spill Response Ltd (OSRL) and Ambipar Response.

Rhyl Journal / [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: THREE TAIWANESE FISHING VESSELS RUN AGROUND IN MAURITIUS

February 23 - On Tuesday night, three large Taiwanese fishing vessels ran aground near Pointe-aux-Sables, Mauritius, a few miles to the west of Port Louis.

An estimated 120 tonnes of diesel fuel is aboard the three vessels, and salvors will prioritize its removal, according to environment minister Kavi Ramano. The Mauritius Ports Authority has activated a spill response plan to minimize the risk of pollution, and boom deployment efforts have begun. Images from the scene show that the vessels are located in pounding surf, which may complicate pollution containment and lightering. So far, no signs of a spill have been reported. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

ATLANTIC: FELICITY ACE RESPONSE UPDATE

February 24 - Felicity Ace Response Stretches Into Second Week as Fire Continues to Burn. MOL Ship Management (Singapore) said the fire on the Felicity Ace is assumed to be still burning. Currently there is no confirmed oil leaking from the ship and its stability remains stable. White smoke from the vessel is still visible, but has reduced comparing to the past few days, the update said. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

ANSWERING YOUR QUESTIONS – ABOUT THE ISCO COUNCIL

The ISCO Council National Representatives is appointed by ISCO to represent the country in which there are Members of ISCO. The ISCO Council acts as an advisory and consultative body, assisting ISCO on policy, new initiatives, and other matters.

Each Member of Council is the primary point of contact between the Membership in the country (or region) represented and the organisation. ISCO also looks to Members of Council for support in facilitating communications between ISCO and government ministries or agencies, and other national authorities, institutions or bodies in the countries (or regions) represented.

Members of Council are expected to promote ISCO’s objectives and to encourage growth of ISCO Membership in their countries”.

The key deliverables for ISCO Council Members are as follows: -

- Making recommendations to the Executive Committee on policy and other matters
- Giving practical support to ISCO initiatives that are of benefit to our community
- Acting as a point of contact between ISCO and national authorities
- Organising “in-country” meetings of members
- Helping to grow the organisation by recruiting new members
- Publicising the aims and work of ISCO at national conferences
- Representing the organisation at international conferences, IMO and other meetings.
- Contributing to working groups (ISCO, IMO, and others) on projects for improving spill response
- Providing technical articles, case histories, etc. for publication in the ISCO Newsletter
- Sending interesting news reports for inclusion in the ISCO Newsletter

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