

## 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

ISCO COMMITTEE & COUNCIL  
ISCO is managed by an EXECUTIVE

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- Mr John Wardrop (Australia)
- Mr Marc Shaye (USA)
- Mr Michael Watson (UK)

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



## US EPA ANNOUNCES \$524 MILLION INVESTMENT TO IMPROVE HEALTH OF WATERWAYS AND OCEANS AS BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION CELEBRATES EARTH WEEK

April 18 - As the Biden-Harris Administration celebrates Earth Week, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing a \$542 million investment to reduce pollution and plastic waste in our shared oceans.

The significant investment is substantially funded by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

The investment was announced by EPA Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs Jane Nishida at the 7th Our Ocean Conference in Palau. At the Conference, Assistant Administrator Nishida, together with Special Presidential Envoy for Climate John Kerry, represented the United States and affirmed the nation's commitment to work with a broad international coalition to protect our shared oceans and combat the climate crisis.

"Thanks to funding from EPA and the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, we're able to make significant investments in the health of our shared oceans," said EPA Assistant Administrator Jane Nishida. "The vast majority of the plastic trash entering our oceans is due to inadequate waste management. EPA is committed to reducing plastic waste from the United States and we look forward to working with governments around the world to reduce the threat to ocean ecosystems."

EPA's funding is part of a package totaling \$895 million that will address marine pollution through the implementation of 21 commitments undertaken by a number of agencies including EPA, the U.S. Agency for International Development, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Science Foundation, the Department of State, the Department of Energy and the National Institute of Standards and Technology. US EPA / [Read more](#)

## ISCO AMBASSADORS

(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)

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Matthew Sommerville	UK London
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Wu Yue	China

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[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 (CONTINUED)

### ISCO NEWS

#### IMPLEMENTATION OF ISCO'S 2021 REVISED CONSTITUTION

Following up on the extensive work done by John Wardrop (Member of ISCO Council for Australia) in updating ISCO's Constitution and the accompanying Schedules, a draft Action Plan for implementing these documents has been developed and is currently being reviewed by the Executive Committee.

The updated Constitution and Schedules were approved at the December 2021 AGM and can be viewed in the Members' Area of the ISCO website.

#### ISCO WELCOMES RECENTLY JOINED NEW MEMBERS

During the first quarter of 2022 the following new members have joined ISCO –

##### New Corporate Members

**HalenHardy LLC (USA)** – Based in Pennsylvania, USA, HalenHardy produces a wide range of spill prevention and response products. The company experienced response team also assists client with the creation of proactive clean-up plans that help ensure SPCC compliance. The company's website is at <https://www.halenhardy.com/>

**Welhai Wes-tech Equipment Co. Ltd.** – Based in Shandong, China and established in 2013, the company is mainly engaged in R&D, production and sales of surface oil recovery equipment. Products include oil skimmers, oil recovery vessels, oil containment booms, and sorbent products. <http://westech001.en.hisupplier.com/>

**Alaska Chadux Network** – Based in Alaska, USA, the company brings together the best of Alaska expertise in oil spill prevention, removal and response, and federal Alternative Planning Criteria (APC) compliance in consolidating Alaska Chadux Corporation and the Alaska Maritime Prevention & Response Network into one nonprofit organization. (Rejoined March, 2022) <https://alaskaosro.org>

##### New Individual Member

Rupert Bravery – is an experienced crisis management and emergency response practitioner, located in West Sussex, UK.

##### New Student Members

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Sumit Narayan (India)       | Franklin Magada (Nigeria)      |
| Augustine Destiny (Nigeria) | Maria Vasques Barroso (Brazil) |
| William Thomas (USA)        | William Wooten (USA)           |
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| Jordyn Mullin (USA)         | Erin Mueller (USA)             |
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#### ISCO WILL BE AT THE CLEAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION ON AUGUST 23-24 AT LAKE WASHINGTON, USA

ISCO supports this event and recommends you attend. See more on Page 12.

#### NEW ISCO MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT – JOBS BOARD ON WEBSITE

If you open the ISCO website at [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) and click on 'news', you will see "job vacancies" in the drop down menu.

Each entry on the page shows job information under the headings Job Title, Employer, and Location, plus a short Job Summary. On clicking the button "CLICK HERE FOR FURTHER INFORMATION" comprehensive info on the job and how to apply can be viewed. To post employment opportunities please send job particulars to Mike Watson at [spillcontrol@mwadigital.com](mailto:spillcontrol@mwadigital.com) This FREE facility for ISCO Members adds to the many other advantages of being a member of ISCO.

### WASTE MANAGEMENT

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## PEMSEA PRESENTS SOLUTIONS TO RID RIVERS OF PLASTIC WASTE FOR EARTH DAY



Above: The Imus River originates from the upland streams of Silang and flows down to the ocean via Manila Bay. Combined, all segments of the river span 186.5 kilometers and pass through major towns and cities like Silang, Imus, Dasmariñas, Kawit and Bacoor, shown here. (Gregg Yan / PEMSEA)

April 19 - To celebrate Earth Day 2022, PEMSEA (Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia) released a set of studies to help manage plastic waste entering the world's rivers.

The five studies were launched under Project ASEANO, a three-year initiative to stem the flow of plastic pollution in two pilot sites – the Imus River in the Philippines and the Citarum River in Indonesia. Funded by the Norwegian Development Program to Combat Marine Litter and Microplastics, Project ASEANO is led by the Norwegian Institute for Water Research (NIVA) and the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS) in Indonesia, together with the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF) and the ASEAN Secretariat under the purview of the ASEAN Working Group on Coastal and Marine Environment (AWGCME).

Layman versions of the studies are publicly downloadable. The studies cover the social implications of plastic pollution mitigation, assess the knowledge, attitudes and practices on plastic waste and offer maps of the Imus River watershed while identifying hotspots of plastic waste. Waste entering this river system is liable to flow into the ocean via Manila Bay. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

## STOCKHOLM +50 EVENT – 2-3 JUNE, 2022

April 21 - In May 2021, the United Nations General Assembly adopted [a resolution](#) to bring the global environmental community together in Stockholm, Sweden for a major international environmental meeting on June 2 and 3 2022, the week of [World Environment Day](#).

“Stockholm+50: a healthy planet for the prosperity of all – our responsibility, our opportunity” (Stockholm+50) will take place five decades after the 1972 [United Nations Conference on the Human Environment](#). The event will provide leaders with an opportunity to draw on 50 years of multilateral environmental action to achieve the bold and urgent action needed to secure a better future on a healthy planet.

By recognizing the importance of multilateralism in tackling the Earth's triple planetary crisis – climate, nature, and pollution – the event will to act as a springboard accelerate the implementation of the [UN Decade of Action](#) to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals, including the 2030 Agenda, [Paris Agreement](#) on climate change, the [post-2020 global Biodiversity Framework](#), and encourage the adoption of green post-COVID-19 recovery plans.

The meeting will also reinforce the messages and the outcomes of the event to commemorate UNEP's 50th anniversary ([UNEP@50](#)), which will have taken place in March 2022, in Nairobi. Stockholm +50 / [Read more](#)

## NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### BELGIUM: OILED WILDLIFE WASH AND DRY SPECIALIST TRAINING

April 15 - In March, eleven participants from five European countries successfully completed the Skills Module of the Specialist Oiled wildlife responder Wash and Dry training during a two day in-person course. This hands-on session was preceded by a half day online webinar earlier in the year during which participants earned their Knowledge Module qualification.



Both training modules, Skills and Knowledge, will lead to better prepared responders which, through a 'life learning' process (with real life experiences such as responding to incidents) will eventually qualify them as full 'Specialists' – having essential knowledge and key responsibilities in the delivery and management of any department in a wildlife rehabilitation centre during an emergency.

The Skills course, hosted by EUROWA member Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend, began with table-top exercises on management of an oiled wildlife incident, understanding relationships between different departments in a wildlife response, and the movement of animals through each stage of care while in the facility.

The participants also learned how to prepare for the needs of different species, to set up washing and drying rooms, and to staff and manage those areas. EUROWA / [Read more](#)

## CANADA: THE GOVERNMENT OF CANADA SUPPORTS NEW BRUNSWICK ORGANIZATIONS IN KEEPING WATER CLEAN AND PROTECTING KEY ECOSYSTEMS

April 21 - From addressing water quality to plastic pollution, the Government of Canada is working with Canadians across the country to keep water safe, clean and well-managed, now and for future generations.

Today, Member of Parliament for Fredericton, Jenica Atwin, on behalf of the Minister of Environment and Climate Change, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, announced \$440,000 in funding for three new projects to directly address water-quality issues in the Wolastoq/Saint John River watershed. The funding comes from the Atlantic Ecosystems Initiatives, which aims to improve the health, productivity, and sustainability of priority ecosystems in Atlantic Canada.

Three New Brunswick-based organizations will lead clean water initiatives to help protect Canada's environment from pollutants such as plastics and harmful bacteria. The projects will be carried out in collaboration with local Indigenous organizations and youth. Government of Canada / [Read more](#)

## GREECE: FIRST OILED SEA TURTLE RESPONSE TRAINING PRESENTED

April 18 - April marked the first ever EUROWA training workshop on oiled sea turtle response, which was held in Glyfada, Greece. The 3-day workshop was part of the EUROWA-2 project, which aims to establish an oiled sea turtle response training module for the EUROWA network.

Sea turtle specialists with long-standing expertise in sea turtle rehabilitation, nesting beaches and ecology from around the Mediterranean basin, attended this first workshop.

Sixteen experts came from Spain, France, Italy, Slovenia, Croatia, the Netherlands, Greece, Cyprus, Turkey, Lebanon, Tunisia and Israel to attend the workshop, organised by SUBMON, the Sea Alarm Foundation and Royal NIOZ, with the help of local organiser Archelon, the Sea Turtle Protection Society of Greece. Sea Alarm provided training in general oil-spill response and preparation, and presented the philosophy, setup and activities of the EUROWA network.

Divided into two training courses, the workshop included both theory and practical sessions. The one day Basic Responder course included lectures on how a general oil spill response works, and how to organise an oiled sea turtle response within it. The participants also learned how to coordinate search & collection of animals at sea and along the shore, what the basic needs of oiled sea turtles in a rescue center are, how to look after them and how to reduce the impacts of beach clean-up activities on sea turtle nesting beaches.

EUROWA / [Read more](#)



## INDIA: COAST GUARD CONDUCTS COURSE ON OIL SPILL FOR 17 COUNTRIES

April 18 - According to an official release, ICG is conducting the International Maritime Organisation level-I & II course for 17 friendly foreign countries including Iran, Thailand, Somalia, Mauritius, South Africa and Sri Lanka. Energy World / [Read more](#)

## INDIA: KERALA TO FORM OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN, BIDS INVITED

April 19 - Almost five years after a decision was taken to prepare an oil spill contingency plan, the state is all set to get it done. The Kerala State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) recently invited bids for preparing the Kerala State Oil Spill (SOS) Contingency Plan (CP) for the shoreline clean-up.

As per the proposal, the plan will provide necessary instructions to the state government, district collectors, revenue authorities, KSPCB, maritime board, fisheries and forest departments, ports and other stakeholders regarding their role during an oil spill that washes ashore in the coastal areas. New Indian Express / [Read more](#)

## INDIA: COAST GUARD REVIEWS READINESS TO DEAL WITH MARITIME POLLUTION, OIL SPILL EXERCISE

April 20 - Director General of Indian Coast Guard (ICG) V S Pathania on Wednesday reviewed the preparedness and readiness of oil handling agencies and oil spill response organisations at the sea off the Goa coast as part of a pollution response exercise. The National Level Pollution Response Exercise, NATPOLREX-VIII, started on Tuesday.

On the second day of the event, the ICG, a central coordinating agency, conducted various exercises at sea. A senior ICG spokesman said several exercises, including Heli skimmer, high speed demo by sea boats, fire fighting demo using Fi-Fi system, disembarkation demo to life raft, medical evacuation, winching operation by Coast Guard Helo Chetak, rescue operation by Jason Cradle, life raft drop by Coast Guard Dornier and C130J Hercules, were conducted. A dozen ICG ships, Bangladesh Coast Guard ship Kamaruzamman, Sri Lanka's Coast Guard ship Suraksha, two tugs, as many off-shore surveillance vessels (OSV) from ONGC, Dornier aircraft with spray pods, Chetak and Indian Air Force C130J Hercules took part in the drills, he said.

The spokesman said NATPOLREX-VIII comes at a time when there is an increase in maritime trade due to several initiatives of the government. He said 50 national participants from different agencies and 30 international observers were present for the event. NYOOOZ / [Read more](#)

## INDIA PRESSES FOR REGIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR OIL SPILLS

April 20 - Panaji: Given the large number of vessels transiting the Ocean Region with oil and hazardous chemicals, the Indian Coast Guard on Wednesday urged friendly nations to consider a regional oil spill contingency plan along the lines of India's National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP). Times of India / [Read more](#)

## IRELAND: €11.7 MILLION FUNDING FOR RESEARCH TO SUPPORT THE DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES

April 14 - The EPA is inviting proposals from the research community to help address climate change and other emerging, complex environmental problems. €11.7 million is available for new research projects.

Laura Burke, EPA Director General said "EPA-funded research is essential to improving national understanding of our environment, the challenges it faces and responses to these challenges. The EPA funds research that seeks to address knowledge gaps, provide robust evidence to inform policy and support the implementation of environmental policies in Ireland. This supports an evidence led approach to policy-making based on excellent science and information." EPA / [Read more](#)

## NIGERIA: Ogoni CLEANUP: BUHARI'S ADMINISTRATION CAN'T COMPLETE ENTIRE PROJECT



April 21 - The Federal Government, yesterday said it does not envisage the completion of the entire Ogoni Cleanup project during the lifetime of the current administration.

The Minister of Environment, Mohammed Hassan Abdullahi, disclosed this while addressing State House Correspondents after his first meeting, as Minister, with President Muhammadu Buhari at the Presidential Villa, Abuja. The Minister pointed out that the clean up project was cut into phases, had seen ten formally polluted sites cleaned up, adding that there had been concerns about some aspects of the project. Vanguard / [Read more](#)

## RUSSIA: OIL SPILL OPERATIONS IN 2021

April 22 - In 2021, Marine Rescue Service took part in 137 oil spill response operations. 137 means 1 oil spill in 2.5 days on the average. The guilty were not identified in 116 cases. According to the law, those responsible for the damage should pay for it. First of all, they should cover the cost of response operations. Secondly, they are to be fined by Rosprirodnadzor and compensate for the damage. With no guilty identified in most cases Marine Rescue Service performs large-scale and costly works at its own resources and Rosprirodnadzor gets no resources for the nature recovery. Port News / [Read more](#)

## TUNISIA: REMPEC RESPONDS TO OIL SPILL INCIDENT

April 16 - The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)—administered by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in cooperation with the Mediterranean Action Plan of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP/MAP)—has been informed by the Tunisian competent authority of the incident in which an oil tanker carrying 750 tons of diesel was shipwrecked on 16 April 2022 in the Gulf of Gabès, about 7 km off the south-eastern coast of Tunisia. The tanker is currently at a depth of 20 meters below sea level. As of 16 April 2022, no leak from the oil tanker has been observed. The Tunisian authorities have activated the national emergency plan for the prevention of marine pollution.

Measures taken by REMPEC (under the Barcelona Convention and its Prevention and Emergency Protocol, 2002) -

- REMPEC offered the Centre's assistance and expertise to the Government of Tunisia, and provided guidance for request of assistance and communication with neighbouring countries, in line with established procedures and guidelines.
- Cedre, a member of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit, was contacted by REMPEC, and is on standby for a possible mobilization in Tunisia, if so requested by the Tunisian Government.
- The UNEP/MAP Regional Activity Centre for Specially Protected Areas (RAC/SPA), based in Tunis, offered the Centre's assistance and expertise on aspects related to biodiversity protection.
- REMPEC communicated to the Government of Tunisia the offers of assistance that have already been received from neighbouring countries.
- REMPEC mobilized expert for support on claims and compensation, the expert from ITOPI will be deployed in Tunis from 25 to 29 April 2022.
- REMPEC provided Tunisian authorities on 19 April with prediction simulating the movement oil in case of total loss of the cargo and bunker oils and on 20 April with satellite image showing layer of oil around area of the wreck to facilitate to local authorities the detection of the spills. These were produced by the Euro-Mediterranean Centre for Climate Change (CMCC), member of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit. REMPEC / [Read more](#)

## USA: LATEST NEWS FROM NOAA OR&R

April 18 – Please click on the links below to download and read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

[OR&R Chemist Robert Jones Retires](#)



*Photo: Robert Jones (right) discusses software issues with ERD colleague, Jerry Muhasky. Image credit: NOAA*

NOAA is bidding farewell to longtime chemist, Robert Jones, who recently retired from the Emergency Response Division (ERD) of the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R).

In 1988, Robert joined what was then NOAA HAZMAT (Hazardous Materials Response Division—which later transitioned to NOAA OR&R ERD), serving as part of the Modeling And Spill Simulation (MASS) team that complemented the Scientific Support Coordinators (SSCs) who were generally on-scene at spills around the country.

[3rd Annual NOAA Hurricane Preparedness Summit was on April 20 and 21, 2022](#)

Hurricanes and typhoons are powerful storms that cause loss of life and billions of dollars of destruction each year.

## NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

### [Marine Debris Program Virtually Participates in Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop](#)

From March 28-30, the NOAA Marine Debris Program's Pacific Island Regional Coordinator, Mark Manuel, participated in the [Territorial Climate and Infrastructure Workshop](#)([link is external](#)) hosted by the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs (D.O.I.).

### [Marine Debris Program Presents at Virtual Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific Naturalist Program Meeting](#)

On April 6, Christy Kehoe, the California Regional Coordinator for the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) and California Sea Grant Extension Fellow, Tanya Torres, presented at the Long Beach Aquarium of the Pacific's April 2022 Naturalist Program Meeting.

### [CAMEO Chemicals Released with Emergency Response Data Updates](#)

The latest version of the CAMEO Chemicals hazardous materials database is now available, and it includes key emergency response data updates. The desktop and mobile app platforms have also been updated for the latest operating systems.

## USA: HOW MICHIGAN PILED UP THOUSANDS OF TOXIC SITES WITH CASH SHORTFALL FOR CLEANUP

April 19 - Lana Pollack isn't happy to have been right in predicting Michigan would end up with a lengthy list of contaminated sites, lots of them left to the taxpayers to clean up and an environmental department with little ability to manage the thousands in its purview. When Pollack, 79, represented Washtenaw County in the state Senate, the Democrat drafted what would become known as the strictest anti-pollution law in the nation. The law, known as the Polluter Pay law, was based on the federal Superfund program and held current and previous owners of contaminated places widely accountable for pollution whether they caused it or not. Detroit News / [Read more](#)

## USA: COVID-19 RECOVERY MEANT MORE OIL SPILLS IN NEW MEXICO, STUDY SAYS. WHAT CAN THE STATE DO?

April 19 - Oil and gas companies spilled about 658,000 gallons of oil into New Mexico's environment last year, along with 657,720 gallons of wastewater, per a recent study.

These pollutants came from a record 1,368 total spills, reported the Center for Western Priorities, which authored the study, along with "billions" of cubic feet of methane released into the air. That marked an increase from 2020's total of 1,217 and even more than 1,352 reported in 2019 – a year known for record-high oil production in the state, the study read. Current Argus / [Read more](#)

## USA: EARTH DAY 2022: LEARN ABOUT THE INTERNATIONAL BIRD RESCUE IN SAN PEDRO

April 22 - The Dawn Duck has cared for wildlife for 45 years, dating back to the oil spill in South Carolina in the early 80s. "At the time, no one knew what to do with oiled animals and no idea how to clean them. In fact, in the early days they used kerosene, mineral oil, all these things that actually caused additional damage and ruined feathers," said JD Bergeron of International Bird Rescue.

The International Bird Rescue was after a product that's effective, affordable and accessible. "We actually chased Dawn for a long time to convince them that this quality of their product was valuable not just for dishes but we had been using it on birds," said Bergeron. So much so, the non-profit often brings bottles of backup to oil spill responses across the globe. Dawn has helped rescue 150,000 animals and on World Wildlife Day just committed to saving 1 million more by 2030. Fox 11 / [Read more](#)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### DAVID ATTENBOROUGH RECEIVES THE UN'S MOST DISTINGUISHED ENVIRONMENT AWARD



April 21 - The UN Environment Programme (UNEP) announced today that Sir David Attenborough is the recipient of the [Champions of the Earth](#) Lifetime Achievement Award for his dedication to research, documentation, and advocacy for the protection of nature and its restoration.

"Sir David Attenborough has devoted his life to documenting the love story between humans and nature, and broadcasting it to the world. If we stand a chance of averting climate and biodiversity breakdowns and cleaning up polluted ecosystems, it's because millions of us fell in love with the planet that he showed us on television," said Inger Andersen, UNEP Executive Director. "Sir David's work will continue to inspire people of all ages to care for nature and to become the [restoration generation](#)."

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

Attenborough's career as a broadcaster, natural historian, author, and environmental advocate spans over seven decades. He is most famous for his work with the BBC's Natural History Unit, including documentaries such as Life on Earth, the Living Planet, Our Planet and Our Blue Planet. In addition, his advocacy to preserve and restore biodiversity, transition to renewable energy, mitigate climate change and promote plant-rich diets contribute to the realization of many of the [Sustainable Development Goals \(SDGs\)](#).

"The world has to get together. These problems cannot be solved by one nation – no matter how big that single nation is. We know what the problems are and we know how to solve them. All we lack is unified action," Attenborough said upon receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award. "Fifty years ago, whales were on the very edge of extinction worldwide. Then people got together and now there are more whales in the sea than any living human being has ever seen. If we act together, we can solve these problems." UNEP / [Read more](#)

## ITALY: MARIA SICLARI IS THE NEW ISPRA DG

April 21 - Dr. Maria Siclari takes over from Dr. Alessandro Bratti who has concluded his mandate. The President of ISPRA and SNPA, Stefano Laporta, and the Board of Directors wish the new Director Siclari good work and thank Dr. Alessandro Bratti for the work done and for having contributed in a decisive way to position the Institute among the most important on the national and European scene, as well as consolidating its economic and organizational structure.

La Dr.ssa Maria Siclari è il nuovo Direttore Generale di Ispra. Subentra al Dr Alessandro Bratti che ha concluso il suo mandato. Laureata in Economia e Commercio all'Università degli studi di Messina, già Capo Dipartimento del Servizio geologico d'Italia dell'ISPRA, tra i precedenti incarichi ricoperti quello di Direttore generale dell'Ingv e Vice Capo Dipartimento della Protezione Civile ISPRA / [Read more](#)



## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### CARBON FOAM SOLUTIONS FOR POLLUTED SOIL REMEDIATION

April 19 - New research available in the journal Chemosphere focuses on a novel material made from carbon foam infused with goethite nanoneedles, evaluating its influence on the movement and accessibility of several metals such as Cadmium, Arsenic, and Lead in a commercial soil.

Goethite is a common soil component and an essential element of many ores and sedimentary deposits. It is also one of the most stable iron oxyhydroxides. In hand specimens, goethite is usually dark or brownish-black. In reflected light, it resembles steel grey with a blue tinge and grey tints that highlights the round curvy structures. The researchers have compared the results of carbon foam (CF) with the novel material containing carbon foam impregnated with goethite (CFGo). The key topographical feature of the carbon foams was their heterogeneous porous structure, which included an open network of interconnecting macropores. SEM scans of CFGo revealed that well-dispersed and homogeneous goethite nanoneedles were implanted in the CF external layer.

TPD study of hydroxyl groups on the surface of carbon foams revealed a larger occurrence of carboxylic acid-type groups in CFGo than in CF, based on CO<sub>2</sub> desorption at low temperature. In general, the TCLP tests revealed that using CF and CFGo reduced metal solubility in the soil, with this decrease varying depending on the element.

Furthermore, the Tessier studies reported a significant increase in the non-available fraction (RS) for all pollutants examined following CFGo treatment. Finally, the accessible Fe in the amended soil was found to be lower in TCLP testing. The addition of CF and CFGo reduced the pH of the soil from 8.3 to 6.7 and 7.3, respectively

In short, the technique is useful to reduce soil toxicity while conserving the biological components of the soil. AzoNano / [Read more](#)

### AN INNOVATIVE METHOD FOR SOIL VAPOR EXTRACTION TO IMPROVE EXTRACTION AND TAIL GAS TREATMENT EFFICIENCY

April 20 - In this study, the influence of three factors (soil water content, organic matter content and air flow rate) on the extraction efficiency of SVE was revealed, and the self-designed heating device was added to improve the extraction efficiency of soil pollutants. In the aspect of tail gas treatment, the natural material-scoria and oxidizer are innovatively filled into the tail gas treatment device to improve the efficiency of tail gas treatment.

This study aims to improve soil vapor extraction (SVE) to address its shortcomings in treating halogenated hydrocarbon-contaminated soil. Indoor simulation experiments based on SVE were conducted to provide technical guidance for the remediation of 1,2-DCA-contaminated soil, with the overall intention of soil repair and ecological restoration.

- Under the soil condition of this study, the SVE efficiency reached about 55% when the soil moisture content was 15%.
- The separation efficiency of pollutants was effectively improved by heating device from soil to more than 60–80%.
- Scoria with smaller particle size has more significant adsorption effect on pollutants in tail gas and improved the oxidation efficiency of pollutants after mixing with oxidizer.

Nature / [Read more](#)



## RESEARCHERS DEVELOP SPONGE THAT CAN COLLECT OIL, PHOSPHATES AND NOW MICROPLASTICS FROM POLLUTED WATERS

April 21 - With a sponge that looks like one you might find in your kitchen, Northwestern University researchers have discovered how to effectively clean up oil, microplastics and phosphate pollution.

This sponge could help clean up oil spills without harming marine life and prevent algae blooms from forming when phosphate builds up to dangerous levels. To recover and reuse dwindling natural resources—like oil and phosphate—the sponge can simply be wrung out.

Northwestern engineer Vinayak Dravid, who developed the new tool, said the novel technology can accommodate multiple functions, much like a Swiss Army knife. The sponge absorbs 99% of phosphate ions it encounters and 30 times its weight in oil. Dravid is the Abraham Harris Professor of Materials Science and Engineering at Northwestern's McCormick School of Engineering and the founding director of the Northwestern University Atomic and Nanoscale Characterization Experimental Center (NUANCE). Vikas Nandwana is a research assistant professor of materials science and engineering at McCormick and co-founder of MFNS Tech, a startup in the process of commercializing oil-absorbing sponges. [VerveTimes / Read more](#)

### CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE: RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS



#### CONTINUING THIS COLUMN CREATED BY DR. MERV FINGAS

This is part of a weekly column which provides the references and abstracts of new peer-reviewed scientific publications on oil spills. These references are selected on the basis of those papers that provide new insights into the fate, effects and control of oil spills. Readers may choose to obtain the full publications and to do so, one of three methods is suggested; contact your library, search the internet with the DOI (digital object identifier) provided, or search the internet for the exact title. These are given in the order of likely success in obtaining the article. We hope that this provides useful information. Merv Fingas, ISCO colleague.

#### 20. MICROPLASTIC-OIL-DISPERSANT AGGLOMERATES IN THE MARINE ENVIRONMENT: FORMATION MECHANISM AND IMPACT ON OIL DISPERSION (2022)

Yang, M., Zhang, B., Xin, X., Liu, B., Zhu, Z., Dong, G., Zhao, Y., Lee, K., Chen, B.  
Journal of Hazardous Materials, 426, art. no. 127825,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2021.127825

**ABSTRACT:** Microplastics (MPs) can interact with spilled oil to form MP-oil-dispersant agglomerates (MODAs) in oceans. This study investigated the MODA formation mechanism and its impact on oil dispersion during marine oil spill responses. Two types of agglomerates, MODA-1 (MP-in-oil) and MODA-2 (MP-oil droplet-embedded), were identified. The 12  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs only formed MODA-1, while 45  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs and 125  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs formed MODA-1 and MODA-2 due to the surface free energy minimization principle. Impacts of MODA on oil dispersion under different mixing energy levels and seawater salinities were explored. We found that MODA reduced oil dispersion effectiveness under different mixing energy levels. Among three MP sizes, 12  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs caused the greatest reduction in dispersion effectiveness due to the formation of MODA-1. Pristine 12  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs reduced dispersion effectiveness by 21.95% under  $5.62 \times 10^{-1}$  W/kg, while pristine 45  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs and pristine 125  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs decreased it by 5.85% and 1.83%, respectively. In addition, MODA formed by pristine MPs has a larger impact on oil dispersion effectiveness than that of aged MPs under different salinities. Under 20psu, pristine 12  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs reduced dispersion effectiveness by 33.68%, while aged 12  $\mu\text{m}$ -MPs decreased it by 24.61%. This study is the first report on the MODA formation mechanism, which is essential for exploring MODA transport and toxicity through marine trophic levels.

#### 21. ADAPTIVE CHANGES OF SEDIMENT MICROBIAL COMMUNITIES ASSOCIATED WITH CLEANUP OF OIL SPILLS IN NIGERIAN MANGROVE FORESTS (2022)

Iturbe-Espinoza, P., Bonte, M., Gundlach, E., Brandt, B.W., Braster, M., van Spanning, R.J.M.  
Marine Pollution Bulletin, 176, art. no. 113406,  
.DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2022.113406

**ABSTRACT:** The objectives of this study were to assess the influence on microbial communities resulting from i) the physical removal of free oil (pre-treatment or post-treatment), and ii) the level of oiling within a contaminated former mangrove forest. Sediment samples were collected before and after the removal of free oil. Before the process of remediation, a highly biodiverse mangrove microbiome which had adapted to history of recurring oil spills was observed. After removing the surface oil, the microbial diversity of the sediments reduced, with members of the phyla Firmicutes and Proteobacteria becoming dominant. This indicates that while water flushing reduced overall microbial diversity, it stimulated the growth of a more specialized bacterial community reported to be involved in hydrocarbon biodegradation. These results provide new insights on microbial communities and their succession in mangrove forest sediments, that will be useful for monitoring oil cleaning programs using water flushing to remove free oil.

### 22. ASSESSMENT OF MV WAKASHIO OIL SPILL OFF MAURITIUS, INDIAN OCEAN THROUGH SATELLITE IMAGERY: A CASE STUDY (2022)

Rao, V.T., Suneel, V., Alex, M.J., Gurumoorthi, K., Thomas, A.P.  
Journal of Earth System Science, 131 (1), art. no. 21,  
DOI: 10.1007/s12040-021-01763-3

**ABSTRACT:** Abstract: Accidental oil spills in the near-shore regions create severe impacts on coastal environments. The bulk carrier MV Wakashio ran aground off Southeastern Mauritius (SEM) on 25 July 2020, resulting in ~1000 tons of oil spillage into the Indian Ocean. The Sentinel-1 synthetic aperture radar (SAR) imagery is used to track and delineate the spilled oil and the affected coastal regions of Mauritius. The results depict that the spilled oil is primarily drifted towards the northwest, and beached along the SEM coastline, covering an area of ~24.42 km<sup>2</sup> on 10 August. Within 6 days, the prevailing spill spreading has significantly reduced to ~5.1 km<sup>2</sup> (on 16 August) and was almost the same even on 22 August. Subsequently, the spill spreading area has diminished further and more or less disappeared on 15 September. The assessment of SAR imagery corresponding to prevailed winds, tides, Stokes drift and currents illustrated that the spill has primarily drifted northwestwards owing to the force instigated by winds, Stokes drift and tides. This study recommends Sentinel-1 imagery to assess any such oil spill incidents in the future. Highlights: Sentinel-1 satellite imagery has successfully captured the spreading of the Wakashio spill. The northwestward drift of spill was primarily due to wind, Stokes drift and tides. The spill deposition is significant along 28 km of coastline from Pointe d'Esny. There was no significant evidence of the southward movement of the oil spill. Sentinel-1 provides a promising imagery results to study any oil spill event.

### 23. EFFECT OF SPILLED DILUTED BITUMEN ON CHEMICAL AIR-WATER EXCHANGE IN BOREAL LAKE LIMNOCORRALS (2022)

Saunders, L.J., Rodriguez-Gil, J.L., Stoyanovich, S.S., Kimpe, L.E., Hanson, M.L., Hollebone, B.P., Orihel, D.M., Blais, J.M.  
Chemosphere, 291, art. no. 132708,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2021.132708

**ABSTRACT:** Following spills into water, petroleum oils can spread widely and produce surface slicks. Resulting slicks may impede volatilization and possibly increase chemical persistence in water. While the influence of oil films on chemical air-water exchange has been examined through theoretical and laboratory studies, field studies have not been conducted to assess the relevance of these effects following actual oil spill events. Here we evaluated the effect of diluted bitumen (dilbit) experimentally spilled in limnocorrals installed in a boreal lake on the volatilization of sulfur hexafluoride (SF<sub>6</sub>), a non-reactive volatile tracer gas. Dilbit spills were monitored over 70 days and SF<sub>6</sub> was introduced twice (after 7 and 48 days) to evaluate the influence of spilled dilbit on the loss of SF<sub>6</sub> from water. Volatilization rate constants of SF<sub>6</sub> (kVOL) significantly decreased by up to 80% with increasing total dilbit spill cover. Using a theoretical equation, decreases in kVOL were largely explained by a reduction in open water area where chemical exchange across the air-water interface occurs. Apparent effects of the slick on SF<sub>6</sub> mass transfer were estimated to be smaller by comparison (20%). To account for this reduction in volatilization, oil spill fate models should include a correction to consider the impact of spill cover on the air-water exchange of organic chemicals.

## TRAINING COURSES

### USEFUL LINKS

- INTERNATIONAL – IMO E-LEARNING PLATFORM [e-learning platform](#)
- AUSTRALIA – AMOSC - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- EUROPE – EMSA Academy 2022. Courses Catalogue
- 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](https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event_list.asp)

Members who would like to be listed here, please contact your editor – [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

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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](mailto:John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

**Newly added to the Upcoming Events page – CISE Hybrid Workshop at European Maritime Day, 19<sup>th</sup> May, Ravenna, Italy; UN Stockholm +50 Meeting, 2<sup>nd</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> June, 2022, Stockholm, Sweden**

**Recently added - 5th Premium Conference 2022, The Netherlands, 22<sup>nd</sup> June**

## UPCOMING WEBINARS & PODCASTS

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**From ExxonMobil** - Please join the ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer Webinar series – Webinar 8 on May 3rd, 2022. Note there is still room for more participants so feel free to forward invite to others but ask that potential attendees RSVP me to get on the distribution list: [lin.zhao@exxonmobil.com](mailto:lin.zhao@exxonmobil.com). Wildlife response has become increasingly recognized globally as an essential aspect of oil spill preparedness and incident management. In this session, 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. Webinar 8 on May 3rd, 2022. 10 – 11:15 am US Houston time.

Please click this URL to join. <https://exxonmobil.zoom.us/j/95652855033?pwd=b1NiN1F6bTRlY2hxOGJsMUZOdkd2QT09>

**Newly added to the Upcoming Webinars page – UK & Ireland Spill Association – Specialist Vessels for use in Spill Response, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2022, 1500 BST; UNEP Webinar on Environmentally Sensitive Mapping for Oil Spill Preparedness and Response 24th May 2022; UNEP Webinar on Oil Spill Response Methods and Strategies in Environmentally Sensitive Areas, 22 September 2022**

**Recently added: Informational Webinar on National Resources Canada’s \$10 million Oil Spill Response Challenge**

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### UK & IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION - INLAND CONFERENCE 28 APRIL

The Inland Conference is taking place at The Terrace, Exhibition Centre, Liverpool. [Programme & Registration](#)

### AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ECOFORUM 2022

The papers submission deadline is May 16, 2022 5:00 PM. [More info](#)

### REMINDER: REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON THE ROLE OF VOLUNTEERS IN POLLUTION RESPONSE ALONG THE COAST AND IN THE SHORELINE, 10-11 MAY 2022, SOUTH HAMMAMET-TUNISIA [Registration](#)

### USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – REGISTRATION OPEN

Registration has officially opened for the CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition, taking place November 8-10 in New Orleans. We are currently offering loyalty registration rates, which are the lowest rates we will offer all year! Rates expire on May 13th and will increase by \$150 [Register for Clean Gulf](#)

### CANADA: INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL SCIENCE CONFERENCE 2022 OCTOBER 4-7

Call for Abstracts - Topics include, but not limited to:

- Contingency planning, preparation, and prevention
- Emerging oil spill response challenges
- Spill identification, detection/surveillance, visualization and monitoring
- Response technologies and countermeasures
- Breakdown and transport of hydrocarbons
- Consequences of oil spill and clean-up operations
- Restoration and recovery
- Case studies and lessons learned
- Science communications and out

The deadline to submit an abstract is June 17, 2022.

[About IOSSC 2022](#) [Call for Abstracts](#) [Registration](#)

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

### EUROPE: INTERSPILL DELEGATE REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN

Please [CLICK HERE](#) to register to attend this event at RAI Exhibition and Convention Centre, Amsterdam on 21-23 June. There is a form to fill in which will prompt a request for payment for the options you select.

### USA: CLEAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION: AUGUST 23-24 - PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE AGENDA

We are accepting reservations for exhibit space and sponsorships for the CLEAN PACIFIC Conference, taking place August 23-24 at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington. Those who attend CLEAN PACIFIC are looking for new solutions and technologies to help them better prepare or respond to a hazardous spill or environmental emergency in the Pacific Northwest.

Since opening reservations last month, we have received great interest! Be sure to book your exhibit space or sponsorship early before your competition beats you to it. Contact Renie Mayfield at 720-289-7008 or [rmayfield@accessintel.com](mailto:rmayfield@accessintel.com).

[View the preliminary agenda](#) [Register for Clean Pacific](#) ISCO Members should register with VIP Code ISCO

### CANADA: 44<sup>th</sup> AMOP TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND RESPONSE

The 44<sup>th</sup> AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response will take place from June 7 to 9, 2022. On behalf of Environment and Climate Change Canada, we are announcing that the 44th AMOP Seminar will be a virtual-only format Seminar. The Seminar provides a forum for professionals working in the field of oil and hazardous materials spills.

The forum facilitates the transfer of scientific results and is intended to link research and the operational community. All submitted papers are peer-reviewed by scientific and technical experts.

<https://www.canada.ca/en/environment-climate-change/services/science-technology/arctic-marine-oilspill-program.html>

[Registration form: 44rd AMOP technical seminar on environmental contamination and response - Canada.ca](#)

### THE NETHERLANDS – 5<sup>th</sup> PREMIAM CONFERENCE

5th Premiam Conference 2022 – book your place! Registration is now open. It is our pleasure to announce after previous years delays due to COVID we can announce that the 5th Premiam conference will be held on the 22 June 2022 at the RAI, Amsterdam as part of the larger Interspill Conference running between 21-23 June. [More info](#)

## 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

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

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Readers wishing to recommend the addition of additional publications should contact the editor.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### JUST RELEASED – LATEST ISSUES OF THE MOIG NEWSLETTER

Issue 048 contains –

- Regional Workshop on Enhancing Oil Spill Preparedness and Response in the Adriatic and Mediterranean Regions – Call For Papers
- Bunker Tanker Xelo Sank off the Gulf of Gabes in Tunisia
- Participation in the Commissioning of STIR Oil Spill Response Equipments
- Webinar on In-Situ Controlled Burning
- INTERSPILL 2022

Issue 049 contains –

- Tanker Xelo Sinking – Update
- UIA Survey 2022 – COVID 19 Impact on International Association Meetings

<http://medoilgroup.org/>

## JOB SEEKERS

### ISCO STUDENT MEMBER MARKO DORDEVIC

Marko is looking for a company to challenge him and grow his skill set in oil spill response, environment, and new technology. Marko's CV and contact info can be found at <https://spillcontrol.org/job-seekers/>

## INCIDENT REPORTS

### USA: MARYLAND - STUCK BOXSHIP EVER FORWARD FINALLY REFLOATED IN CHESAPEAKE BAY

April 17 - After more than a month of complex salvage response efforts, the boxship Ever Forward has been refloated and removed from the Chesapeake Bay. "A tremendous team effort with a little help from the Easter Sunday rising tide in the Chesapeake Bay. The Evergreen Ever Forward has been [refloated]," Maryland Port Administration director William P. Doyle said in a social media message. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### USA: NORTH DAKOTA - TWO RECENT PRODUCED WATER AND OIL SPILLS IN WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA

April 19 - The first one was last Wednesday, April 13 at a Tank Battery location about three miles east of Keene, which started with a fire, followed by the spill of 24 hundred barrels of produced water and 50 barrels of crude oil. And on Saturday, 11 miles southwest of Mandaree, 400 barrels of oil leaked because of a valve failure. Both spills were contained on site and cleanup is underway KFYRTV / [Read more](#)

### SOUTH AFRICA: eTHEKWINI NGOS SPEARHEAD PLASTIC CLEANUP AT BEACHES AFTER DEVASTATING FLOODS

April 19 - Non-governmental organisations are turning their attention to the city's beaches as clean-up operations continue across eThekweni following the severe flooding in KwaZulu-Natal.

The Litterboom Project – an organisation dedicated to removing plastic from rivers in the Durban metro – says last week's floods left beaches full of plastic litter. The storm also washed away their critical booms that catch plastic and debris, preventing it from reaching the ocean. TDPL Media / [Read more](#)

### USA: OREGON - AGENCIES, COMPANY CONTINUE OIL SPILL CLEANUP AFTER FIRE

April 20 - Oil cleanup continues after a gas station fire in Medford last week, state officials said. The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality said Tuesday that the agency and NEXGEN Logistics had collected and disposed of most of the recoverable oil in and around Bear Creek. The Intelligencer / [Read more](#)

### USA: ARKANSAS: DIVERS AND USCG SURVEY WWII-ERA DESTROYER FOR ONGOING SALVAGE EFFORT

April 20 - A week after the WWII-era destroyer the USS The Sullivans began taking on water, divers and drones were finally able to survey the extent of the hull breach. The U.S. Coast Guard joined the efforts to survey the vessel and begin to determine a plan to

stabilize and salvage the destroyed turned museum ship.



*Photo: Containment booms were reinforced due to winter weather and shifting water levels (Buffalo Navy Park)*

At the conclusion of today's efforts, the team reported that the vessel has settled to the bottom. They remain concerned about shifting water levels from Lake Erie to the canal but they believe the vessel will not sink further and that they have been successful in containing the oil leaks from the vessel. A containment boom was strung and reinforced yesterday before a late-season winter storm passed over the area. Oil, however, continues to leak into the water around the ship. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### **VIETNAM: OIL SPILL RISK AS SHIP SINKS FOLLOWING COLLISION**

April 21 - Two ships collided off the south central coast on Wednesday night, causing one to sink and posing an oil spill risk. Tran Quoc Nam, chairman of Ninh Thuan People's Committee, on Thursday requested the Department of Natural Resources and the Environment to cooperate with relevant authorities to inspect the scene and prepare for possible oil leakage. VNExpress / [Read more](#)

### **NIGERIA: MORE THAN 100 KILLED AT ILLEGAL OIL REFINERY BLAST**

April 21 - More than 100 people were killed overnight in an explosion at an illegal oil refining depot on the border of Nigeria's Rivers and Imo states, a local government official and an environmental group said on Saturday. "The fire outbreak occurred at an illegal bunkering site and it affected over 100 people who were burnt beyond recognition," the state commissioner for petroleum resources, Goodluck Opiah, said. The Guardian NG / [Read more](#)

### **TUNISIA: TANKER XELO UPDATE – NO IMMEDIATE RISK OF POLLUTION**

April 23 - On 22th April 2022, the Tunisian authorities announced that the tanker Xelo sank on Saturday, 16th April 2022 in the offshore of the Gulf of Gabes in south-eastern coast of Tunisia was empty avoiding any risk of pollution; after indicating in a first step that the tanker was carrying 750 tons of Gas Oil. "The tanker Xelo that sank in the Gulf of Gabes does not contain Gas Oil and its tanks are empty and there's no risk of pollution, immediately", indicated by the ministry of Environment. According to the release, the ongoing preparations to pump the Gas Oil from the tanks of the tanker will cease and the authorities will now explore the possibility to move and tow the shipwreck at a later stage [News just received by email from Houcine Mejri, Director, ISCO Industry Partner, MOIG]

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