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UN IN FINAL \$29M PUSH TO AVERT OIL SPILL OFF YEMEN

April 18 - A fundraising event next month will attempt to secure the final \$29m needed to remove 1.14m barrels of oil from a decaying tanker off the coast of Yemen.

The UN appeal has bought a VLCC to receive oil from the 406,600-dwt floating "time-bomb" FSO Safer (built 1976) but the spiralling cost of the operation means more money is needed.

The conference, co-hosted by the UK and Dutch governments, will attempt to fill the funding gap and allow the salvage operation to start. The appeal has nearly hit \$100m, United Nations officials said. Trade Winds / [Read more](#)

UNITED NATIONS TAKES NEXT MAJOR STEP TO PREVENT CATASTROPHIC OIL SPILL IN RED SEA



The multipurpose support vessel Ndeavor, which will sail with its crew and experts, is loaded with generators, hydraulic pumps and other specialized equipment to carry out the operation on the Safer, which no longer has functioning systems. Photo courtesy of Boskalis

April 20 - In the latest critical step towards preventing a massive oil spill off Yemen's Red Sea coast, the global leading maritime services company Boskalis's support vessel Ndeavor will sail en route to the Red Sea in the coming hours.

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 the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

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HEADLINE INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

On Wednesday, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) finalized the contract for the Boskalis subsidiary SMIT Salvage to transfer the million barrels of oil aboard the FSO Safer to a safe replacement vessel and prepare the Safer for towing to a green scrapping yard.

The work off Yemen's Ras Isa peninsula is expected to begin in May. UNDP earlier secured the replacement vessel, Nautica, which will take on the oil from the Safer.

"The agreement today between UNDP and Boskalis subsidiary SMIT Salvage, to deploy a team of leading experts aboard the Ndeavour marks another critical milestone of the 'Stop Red Sea Spill' operation to transfer oil from the decaying FSO Safer to a safe temporary vessel," said Achim Steiner, UNDP Administrator. UNDP / [Read more](#) Related Report in [The Maritime Executive](#)

INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS

THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF SANCTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY & COMPENSATION REGIME

April 5 - The Secretariat of IOPC Funds has issued a report with updated information on the potential impacts. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

2023 IOPC FUNDS ANNUAL ACADEMY

April 17 - The Director has the pleasure to announce that the annual IOPC Funds Annual Academy will take place from Monday, 12 June to Friday, 16 June 2023 at the IOPC Funds headquarters in London.

The week-long programme will cover all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and will include practical exercises involving a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process. The Annual Academy, which is supported by the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), the International Group of P&I Associations, INTERTANKO and ITOFF, will also offer participants the opportunity to understand the relationships and common objectives of those stakeholders which are particularly important in tanker incidents where the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions apply. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

VISIT | DR MOHAMMED ISMAIL, REPRESENTATIVE OF

PERSGA/ EMARSGA TO DISCUSS WAYS FOR FUTURE SYNERGIES BETWEEN THE TWO CENTERS.

April 18 - The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) has received the visit of Dr Mohammed Ismail, Representative of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea & Gulf of Aden (PERSGA/ EMARSGA) on 28-29 March 2023 for a bi-lateral consultation on maritime environment conservation and Pollution Prevention and Preparedness.

REMPEC / [Read the complete discussion report](#)



ITOPF GRANTS 12TH ANNUAL RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT (R&D) AWARD TO PLASTOIL PROJECT BY CEDRE

April 19 - ITOFF is pleased to announce the winner of its 2023 Research and Development (R&D) award as the PLASTOIL project, with funding granted to the Centre for Documentation, Research and Experimentations on Accidental Water Pollution (CEDRE).

PLASTOIL will research how a mixture of low-density polyethylene (LDPE) plastic pellets (nurdles) and propulsion fuel behaves and interacts in the marine environment, using two types of fuel oil: one low sulphur fuel oil (LSFO) and one gasoil. The goal of the project is to produce guidelines on response techniques and to provide an overview of the waste treatment options available when responding to spills of this type. The goal of the project is to produce guidelines on response techniques and to provide an overview of the waste treatment options available when responding to spills of this type. "Increasing the knowledge bank on how plastic pellets behave in the marine environment will only bolster the ability to respond effectively to these spills and sharing the knowledge with coastal states and other response organisations will benefit us all in the future." ITOFF / [Read more](#)

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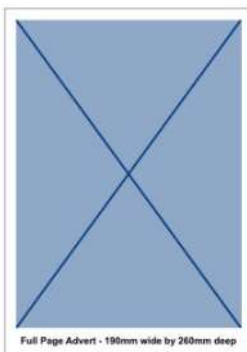
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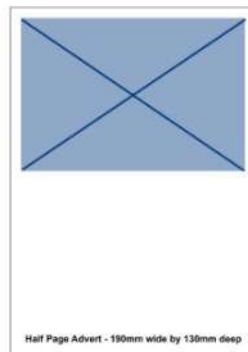
What is the ISCO Newsletter?

ISCO's weekly newsletter is focused in international, regional and national news that is of interest to professionals, companies and organisations involved in oil and chemical spill control and the emerging field of CBRN incident response.

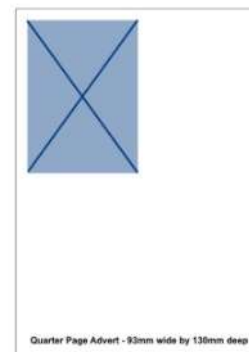
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AUSTRALIA: TESTING OUR RESPONSE TO OFFSHORE OIL SPILLS

April 14 - The Australian Government took part in an exercise to test our emergency response to offshore petroleum incidents.

Under the Australian Government's Crisis Management Framework, we are the lead agency for any spills involving an offshore petroleum facility in Commonwealth waters. To evaluate how prepared we are for an offshore oil spill, we regularly participate in exercises that simulate one of these unlikely incidents.

The evaluation report for the latest exercise – Exercise Zephyr – is now available. We undertook this exercise in partnership with the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSOC) and Western Australia Department of Transport. Its aims were to:

- test government and industry emergency response to an offshore oil spill
- further develop our crisis management response framework
- highlight areas of the response framework that could be improved.
- Exercise Zephyr demonstrated that we have appropriate and effective arrangements to lead the Australian Government's strategic response to a significant oil spill. [Read the Exercise Zephyr evaluation report.](#)

CANADA: QUEBEC PUBLISHES A SECOND ENVIRONMENTAL REGULATORY OMNIBUS

April 18 - On February 22, 2023, building on a series of legislative and regulatory changes that have been enacted over the past two years, the Government of Quebec ("Government") proposed amendments to 24 regulations covering a wide range of activities with potential environmental impact. Public consultation ends next April 8. We will describe the proposed changes in more detail below after a review of the legislative and regulatory changes that preceded the current proposal. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

CANADA: HOW CAN CANADA CUT POLLUTION, RECYCLE MORE PLASTIC, AND TRACK PLASTIC PRODUCTS NATIONALLY? CONSULTATIONS LAUNCHED.

April 18 - Canadians are concerned about plastics littering beaches, parks, streets, shorelines, and other places they value. It is time to stop the harmful impacts of plastic pollution on nature and wildlife. The Government of Canada is taking ambitious action to reduce plastic pollution through a comprehensive approach that protects the environment, conserves biodiversity, and strengthens the economy.

As part of its broader commitment to move toward zero plastic waste, the Government of Canada is consulting on:

- A regulatory framework that serves as the starting point for the proposed Recycled Content and Labelling for Plastic Products Regulations.
- A technical paper that outlines the reporting requirements for the federal plastics registry. Govt. of Canada / [Read more](#)

CANADA: SUPPORT OF LINE 5 PIPELINE TO COME UNDER SCRUTINY OF UNITED NATIONS

April 20 - Canada is being called out by Indigenous nations on both sides of the border for its support of the continued operations of Enbridge's Line 5 pipeline.

A report signed by the Anishinabek Nation, which represents 39 First Nations in Ontario, along with 10 tribes in Michigan and two tribes in Wisconsin, as well as a handful of environmental organizations, was submitted earlier this month to the United Nations Human Rights Council as part of the fourth universal periodic review of Canada. WindSpeaker / [Read more](#)

DENMARK: EMSA REMOTELY PILOTED AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER NORTH SEA FOR ENHANCED MARITIME SURVEILLANCE IN SUPPORT OF DANISH AUTHORITIES



Photo courtesy of EMSA.

April 21 - EMSA RPAS operational flights started in mid-April delivering enhanced maritime surveillance capabilities over the North Sea region in support of coast guard functions. Given the positive outcome of last year's RPAS campaign in the region, EMSA has returned to the region following a request from the Royal Danish Navy in cooperation with the Danish Customs and Danish Fisheries Agency. EMSA / [Read more](#)

ICELAND: COAST GUARD ASSISTS GROUNDED CARGO SHIP

Assistance is being provided to the grounded cargo ship (Guomundur St. Valdimarsson photos courtesy of Icelandic Coast Guard)

April 19 - The Icelandic Coast Guard is assisting a small cargo ship that grounded off the coast on Tuesday, April 18 while also monitoring for pollution. No sign of pollution has been found at the scene. As a precaution, this morning the Coast Guard vessel strung an oil containment boom around the cargo ship.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)



INDIA: COAST GUARD HOLDS MOCK DRILL ON OIL SPILL IN SURYARAOPETA BEACH

April 14 - The Indian Coast Guard on Thursday carried out a mock drill to show how to tackle a possible oil spill in the sea from ships at Suryaraopeta Beach. The exercise was conducted by involving Coast Guard units, state government administration, oil companies and other partner organisations participated in the drill. Sakshi Post / [Read more](#)

ITALY: POLLUTANT CHEMICALS FOUND IN STRANDED SPECIMENS OF ENDANGERED DOLPHIN ON THE ITALIAN COASTLINE

April 12 - The Mediterranean Sea subpopulation of Risso's dolphin, *Grampus griseus* is endangered, with population numbers falling. These dolphins are sensitive to environmental contaminants. This study tested dolphin samples from Italy for the presence of 3 banned toxic chemicals – all persistent organic pollutants (POPs). European Commission / [Read more](#)

KOREA: IOPC FUNDS DIRECTOR VISIT TO REPUBLIC OF KOREA

April 19 - On 17 and 18 April 2023, the Director, Gaute Sivertsen, visited Seoul, Republic of Korea to meet with Mr Seong-yong Choi, Director of Maritime Safety Policy Division of the Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries. They discussed various points of interest, including the conclusions of the meeting held last year to review the handling of the Hebei Spirit incident, the importance of continuing the close cooperation between the State and the IOPC Funds and the latest developments with regards to incidents involving the IOPC Funds and challenges facing the organisation at present. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: UNEP'S Ogoni CLEANUP PROJECT ENDS 2023

April 17 - Minister of Environment, Mohammed Abdullahi, has said the mandate of United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on Ogoni cleanup project will end this year.

Abdullahi, who stated this when responding to the Award of Outstanding Performance presented by Ogoni Youth Federation Worldwide in Abuja, said the government is working with United Nations for Offices for Project Services (UNOPS) to take over the entire process in January 2024. The Guardian / [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH CAROLINA - MORRIS LANDING PRESERVE CLEANUP SLATED FOR APRIL 28

April 18 - Celebrate Earth Day by volunteering for a cleanup at [Morris Landing Clean Water Preserve](#) in Holly Ridge from 12:30-2:30 p.m. Friday, April 28. Volunteers will work to remove marine debris from the estuarine shoreline, roadside and oyster shell and help maintain the living shorelines by replacing and adjusting oyster shell bags on the reef. The North Carolina Coastal Federation is coordinating the cleanup. No special skills or knowledge are required. Coastal Review / [Read more](#)

USA: FLORIDA GOV. DESANTIS DEDICATES MILLIONS TO FIGHTING HARMFUL BLUE-GREEN ALGAE BLOOMS

April 19 - [Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis](#) announced the awarding of more than \$13 million to go toward short-term solutions and innovative technologies to help clean up and prevent harmful blue-green algal blooms. The \$13.6 million will be split between 10 different grantees for a variety of [preventative projects in Florida](#) that include things like an automation system that removes algae, phosphorous remediation and a nutrient reduction. Fox News / [Read more](#)

USA: SPILL CONTROL ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA ANNUAL MEETING AND 50TH ANNIVERSARY

April 19 - On April 5th and 6th, 2023, the Spill Control Association of America (SCAA) held its Annual Meeting and Conference at the Hyatt Regency Riverfront in Jacksonville, FL. This meeting had a record attendance of over one and twenty-five (125) SCAA members, speakers and guests that enjoyed two full days of presentations and lively interaction. The program was designed around SCAA's three pillars of Advocacy, Education and Engagement, and with an eye towards a number of emerging issues and market trends facing SCAA membership. In addition to the regular items that were included for the Annual Meeting and Conference, SCAA celebrated its 50th Anniversary and welcomed its newest President, Angie Martin. SCAA / [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

USA: PRESERVING ALASKA'S LIVING MARINE RESOURCES

April 20 - Alaska supports some of the most abundant and diverse marine ecosystems in the world. With more than 46,000 miles of shoreline – more than all of the lower 48 U.S. states combined – the ocean is an integral part of Alaska's ecosystems, economy, history and culture. According to National Marine Fisheries Service's (NMFS) Fisheries of the United States 2020 report, U.S. commercial fisheries landed 8.4 billion pounds of seafood valued at 4.7 billion dollars, 199-million saltwater recreational fishing trips were taken, and recreational anglers caught one billion fish with 65 percent released alive. According to the 2019 report, commercial and recreational saltwater fishing supported 1.8 million. Alaska produces more than half the fish caught in waters off the U.S. coast, provides jobs and a stable food supply for the nation, and supports a traditional way of life for Alaska Natives and local fishing communities. Protection of the state's 5.7-billion-dollar domestic fishery has never been more crucial.

USCG / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

Corporate Members of ISCO can by submitting news about new products and services in the "News from ISCO Members" section of the ISCO Newsletter. This is a free facility for Members. Given that the ISCO Newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in over 60 countries, it's a cost-effective way to promote your company. If you have some news you would like to share with readers of the ISCO Newsletter, send it to John.McMurtrie@spillcontrol.org

HALEN HARDY – "SPILL AND SEDIMENT CONTROL SHOULDN'T BE COMPLICATED"

[News from Halen Hardy highlights more effective spill and sediment control options.](#)

Keep Silt & Sediment Out of Storm Drains - Water from wet concrete cutting, power washing, landscaping and other outdoor activities sends silt and sediment straight to the nearest storm drain. From there, it can build up and pollute waterways. Capturing sediment on land is faster and easier than digging it out of drain traps or outflows.

Halen Hardy has submitted an informative article that describes Five Construction General Permit (CGP) SWPPP Solutions.

"Technologies and Best Management Practices (BMPs) continually emerge and improve. This constant state of progress is a great thing when it comes to improving the quality of our nation's waters. It's also one of the reasons why the Clean Water Act (CWA) tasks the federal Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) with reviewing and renewing the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit (CGP) every five years.

Between permit cycles, EPA collects comments and proposals from various stakeholders, identifies changes and modifications to state permits, and reviews information from other sources when considering which permit clarifications and additions to propose and adopt for the next five-year cycle. In 2022, nine additions and 21 clarifications were made to the existing 2017 Construction General Permit (CGP).

The federal EPA issues NPDES permits in Massachusetts, New Hampshire, and New Mexico as well as US territories (except the Virgin Islands,) Puerto Rico, the District of Columbia, Tribal Lands, and for federal projects in certain states. In the other 47 states, permitting occurs at the state level.

Whether you're getting ready to submit your next Notice of Intent (NOI) or looking for some new BMPs to strengthen your Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), focusing on these five areas can help you improve your operations and prevent pollutants from leaving your construction area" [Continue reading this article](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

USA: NEW DIRECTOR APPOINTED AT TEXAS A&M NATIONAL SPILL CONTROL SCHOOL



April 19 - Dr. Keith Muhlestein returns to the Texas A&M family as the new Director of the National Spill Control School. Dr. Muhlestein previously served as the Science and Natural Resources Director for the Base Realignment And Closure (BRAC) actions at Brooks Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. His role, under the TAMU umbrella, was to represent the State of Texas, facilitating the transfer of Brooks AFB to Brooks City Base. During this time, he directed the environmental compliance for the federal and state agencies allowing for the Base conveyance. Additionally, his work, as a TAMU/TEES Senior Research Engineer had him on the design team for the City/County Emergency Operations Center located at Brooks City Base.

Dr. Muhlestein has a long career in Environmental Health and Safety. He was the environmental manager and emergency response coordinator for the City of San Antonio for ten years. His work as the Department of Defense Liaison during this time allowed him to engage with the command leadership at all military bases in

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)

the region. He has worked and trained with the San Antonio Fire Department HazMat First Responders and has conducted numerous tabletop and live training scenarios.

Dr. Muhlestein's research area includes spatial analysis, and remote sensing. His dissertation focused on thermal infrared target detection. He has also spent many years as a professor teaching and mentoring at St. Mary's University, UTSA, and ITT Tech.

<https://www.tamucc.edu/research/nsacs/> [Thanks to Carlos Sagrera, MSc, Hon. FISCO - ISCO Representative in Latin America Spanish Speaking, for passing on this report]

CANADA: SHIP SOURCE OIL POLLUTION FUND - FAREWELL TO ANNE LEGARS, OUR OUTGOING ADMINISTRATOR

April 2023 - It is with both sadness and gratitude that we must announce that Anne Legars left her functions at the expiry of her mandate as Administrator of the Fund after seven years of leadership.

Mark Gauthier will be our Interim Administrator until a new person is selected for the role.

Please join us in congratulating Anne on her leadership and dedicated service over the past seven years.

Here is a message from Anne: "The Fund has a long history. It started over 50 years ago with, the Maritime Pollution Claims Fund. Over time, Parliament has kept expanding the role of the Fund. It ensures better compensation and access to justice for those impacted by ship-source oil spills. I feel privileged to have been part of its story.



I am mostly proud of leaving to my successors an organisation that has gained internal capacity and expertise, and a wonderful staff willing to keep improving and developing the organisation further for the benefit of the public. I am confident that under Mark's leadership and this team, the upcoming year will see ongoing progress in the delivery of the Fund's mandate." If you wish to send a farewell message to Anne, please email: info@sopf-cidphn.gc.ca

NURDLES - PREVENTION, CLEAN-UP TECHNOLOGY AND ONGOING R&D WORK



The ISCO Executive Committee is looking into how our organisation can assist by co-operating with others in promulgating better prevention and response capabilities that can be adopted on a worldwide basis. Readers of the ISCO Newsletter are invited to contribute information that can be shared within our community and help to improve our capability to counter this pollution in more effective ways.

ISCO Committee Member, Dr Larissa Montas, is now a regular contributor to this section in the ISCO Newsletter.

Nurdles are produced by petrochemical companies from oil and gas and transported by truck, rail, and container vessels to the manufacturers of the end product. Pellet losses and leakage into the environment can take place at any point from the manufacturing site to the end-user. Preventing plastic pellet loss in inland or marine environments requires engaging with governments, civil society and local communities, companies, and organizations across the plastics value chain. Plastic industry associations lead in-land plastic pellet loss prevention programmes in Europe and North America. These organizations coordinate the implementation of loss prevention programmes, such as the Operation Clean Sweep Programme (OCS), by encouraging the entire plastics value chain, from member companies to logistics providers, transporters to converters and recyclers to join.

In 2019, the European organization, Plastics Europe, strengthened their commitment to pellet loss containment by making the Operation Clean Sweep programme compulsory for all its members. Over 1,400 companies and associations along the plastics value chain in Europe have joined the OCS programme. In addition, five major European ports that handle plastic pellets are also engaged with the OCS programme.

In Belgium, Plastics Europe also leads the Antwerp Zero Pellet Loss Platform – a value chain initiative gathering plastics producers, logistics and transport companies active in the Port of Antwerp – to initiate collective actions to tackle pellet loss in the Port of Antwerp. This includes a biennial Operation Clean Sweep of the Port of Antwerp activity report and the launch of a sweeping plan for the port roads. In addition, there are regular best practice exchanges and awareness-raising communication sessions about pellet loss prevention. Multi-lingual communication tool kits have also been developed for truck drivers. A link to download the OCS Port of Antwerp Activity Report 2021 and more information available here: <https://plasticseurope.org/knowledge-hub/port-of-antwerp-activity-report-2021/>

Our common goal is to eliminate all loss of pellets to the environment. Readers of the ISCO Newsletter from all countries and territories are invited to contribute information that can be shared within our community and hopefully improve our capability to counter this pollution in more effective ways. We encourage our readers to contribute information on collaborations between the plastic industry, and government, public and private partnerships aimed at reducing plastic pellet loss. Please send to our editor john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org



A COLUMN CREATED BY DR. MERV FINGAS, MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL

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. Merv Fingas, ISCO Colleague.

96. Recommendations for advancing media preparation methods used to assess aquatic hazards of oils and spill response agents

Parkerton, T., Boufadel, M., Nordtug, T., Mitchelmore, C., Colvin, K., Wetzel, D., Barron, M.G., Bragin, G.E., de Jourdan, B., Loughery, J. (2023) *Aquatic Toxicology*, 259, art. no. 106518, DOI: 10.1016/j.aquatox.2023.106518

ABSTRACT: Laboratory preparation of aqueous test media is a critical step in developing toxicity information needed for oil spill response decision-making. Multiple methods have been used to prepare physically and chemically dispersed oils which influence test outcome, interpretation, and utility for hazard assessment and modeling. This paper aims to review media preparation strategies, highlight advantages and limitations, provide recommendations for improvement, and promote the standardization of methods to better inform assessment and modeling. A benefit of media preparation methods for oil that rely on low to moderate mixing energy coupled with a variable dilution design is that the dissolved oil composition of the water accommodation fraction (WAF) stock is consistent across diluted treatments. Further, analyses that support exposure confirmation may be reduced and reflect dissolved oil exposures that are bioavailable and amenable to toxicity modeling. Variable loading tests provide a range of dissolved oil compositions that require analytical verification at each oil loading. Regardless of test design, a preliminary study is recommended to optimize WAF mixing and settling times to achieve equilibrium between oil and test media. Variable dilution tests involving chemical dispersants (CEWAF) or high energy mixing (HEWAF) can increase dissolved oil exposures in treatment dilutions due to droplet dissolution when compared to WAFs. In contrast, HEWAF/CEWAFs generated using variable oil loadings are expected to provide dissolved oil exposures more comparable to WAFs. Preparation methods that provide droplet oil exposures should be environmentally relevant and informed by oil droplet concentrations, compositions, sizes, and exposure durations characteristic of field spill scenarios. Oil droplet generators and passive dosing techniques offer advantages for delivering controlled constant or dynamic dissolved exposures and larger volumes of test media for toxicity testing. Adoption of proposed guidance for improving media preparation methods will provide greater comparability and utility of toxicity testing in oil spill response and assessment.

97. Environmental sensitivity index maps to manage oil spill risks: A review and perspectives

D'Afonseca, F.M., Vieira Reis, F.A.G., Corrêa, C.V.D.S., Wieczorek, A., Giordano, L.D.C., Marques, M.L., Rodrigues, F.H., Costa, D.M., Kolya, A.D.A., Veiga, V.M., Santos, S.F., Magalhães, L.M., Gatto, I.T., Riedel, P.S. (2023) *Ocean and Coastal Management*, 239, art. no. 106590, DOI: 10.1016/j.ocecoaman.2023.106590

ABSTRACT: Environmental sensitivity index (ESI) maps and data are employed worldwide to prepare contingency planning and responses for oil spills. The ESI approach has been successfully applied for various marine and continental shorelines, terrestrial pipelines, and roads. Originally, ESI maps were configured as printed cartographic products. With the incorporation of geographic information systems (GIS), ESI maps gained a digital perspective, allowing static correlations between biological and socioeconomic parameters through various operations and methods. Recently, ESI and simulation approaches have been combined to develop quantitative risk assessments, and artificial intelligence and deep learning algorithms support integrated classifications of sensitivity indices. Although challenging, valuations and vulnerability aspects, such as seasonal and multidimensional approaches, should be considered in ESI maps, as well as the integration of monitoring, detection, decision, and response systems. By incorporating dynamic systems into the approach, ESI maps become a social and environmental sensitivity system (SESS). This paper aims to provide a comprehensive review of the development of the ESI concept and to identify and propose future directions.

98. Impacts of suspended sediment on oil spill in macro-tidal turbid waters: An example in Zhoushan Archipelago

Li, L., Feng, Y., Chen, X., He, Z., Wang, H., Xia, Y. (2023) *Journal of Marine Systems*, 240, art. no. 103879, DOI: 10.1016/j.jmarsys.2023.103879

ABSTRACT: The concentration of suspended sediment was found to impact the characteristics and dynamics of oil spills, as indicated

by the rate of formation of oil particle aggregates (OPA). The transport and fate of oil spills in the Zhoushan Archipelago were simulated by using a combined hydro-sediment-oil spill model. We studied the impacts of suspended sediment on oil spills in macro-tidal turbid archipelagic seas. The model results indicated that the formation of OPAs is affected by the concentration of suspended sediment, energy dissipation rate, oil density, and hydrodynamics (winds and tides). An increase in oil density accelerated the formation of suspended buoyant OPAs but suppressed the formation of negatively buoyant OPAs. Winds and tides affected the rate of OPA formation by changing the energy dissipation rate and the concentration of suspended sediment, respectively. Oil spill dispersion is impacted by winds, tides, and oil spill location, through the changes in the formation of both suspended buoyant OPAs and negatively buoyant OPAs. Although strong winds promote the formation of OPAs and tend to reduce oil content they also potentially enlarge the oil film (depending on tidal currents). OPAs form more readily in oil spills in main tidal channels, likely due to the high concentration of suspended sediment and high degree of mixing generated by strong currents. The findings of this study provide theoretical foundations for the studies of oil spills and coastal management in turbid coastal zones.

99. Microbial degradation mechanisms of surface petroleum contaminated seawater in a typical oil trading port

Zhou, Y., Wang, Y., Yang, L., Kong, Q., Zhang, H.
(2023) *Environmental Pollution*, 324, art. no. 121420,
DOI: 10.1016/j.envpol.2023.121420

ABSTRACT: Petroleum hydrocarbons are significant new persistent organic pollutants for marine oil spill risk areas. Oil trading ports, in turn, have become major bearers of the risk of offshore oil pollution. However, studies on the molecular mechanisms of microbial degradation of petroleum pollutants by natural seawater are limited. Here, an in situ microcosm study was conducted. Combined with metagenomics, differences in metabolic pathways and in the gene abundances of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) are revealed under different conditions. About 88% degradation of TPH was shown after 3 weeks of treatment. The positive responders to TPH were concentrated in the genera *Cycloclasticus*, *Marivita* and *Sulfitobacter* of the orders *Rhodobacterales* and *Thiotrichales*. The genera *Marivita*, *Roseobacter*, *Lentibacter* and *Glaciecola* were key degradation species when mixing dispersants with oil, and all of the above are from the *Proteobacteria* phylum. The analysis showed that the biodegradability of aromatic compounds, polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon and dioxin were enhanced after the oil spill, and genes with higher abundances of *bphAa*, *bsdC*, *nahB*, *doxE* and *mhpD* were found, but the photosynthesis-related mechanism was inhibited. The dispersant treatment effectively stimulated the microbial degradation of TPH and then accelerated the succession of microbial communities. Meanwhile, functions such as bacterial chemotaxis and carbon metabolism (*cheA*, *fadeJ* and *fadeE*) were better developed, but the degradation of persistent organic pollutants such as polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons was weakened. Our study provides insights into the metabolic pathways and specific functional genes for oil degradation by marine microorganisms and will help improve the application and practice of bioremediation.

100. No Evidence of Long-Term Effects on Physiological Stress or Innate Immune Functioning in Northern Map Turtles a Decade After a Freshwater Oil Spill

Refsnider, J.M., Torres, N., Otten, J.G.
(2023) *Herpetologica*, 79 (1), pp. 22-29.
DOI: 10.1655/Herpetologica-D-22-00019

ABSTRACT: Environmental perturbations such as chemical spills often have immediate and obvious effects on the health of ecosystems and individual organisms. However, the long-term effects of such perturbations are less evident and often less well-understood. In July 2010, a ruptured pipeline spilled diluted bitumen into the Kalamazoo River in Michigan, USA, ultimately oiling 56 km of the river channel. During spill cleanup operations, the most common vertebrate species rescued from the oiled river channel was the Northern Map Turtle (*Graptemys geographica*), of which over 2000 individuals were captured, cleaned of oil, and released. We returned to areas along the 2010 spill gradient to determine whether turtles from locations that had experienced different magnitudes of oiling in 2010 differed in baseline stress levels or immune functioning in 2020, which was 10 yr after the oil spill. In 2020, we collected blood samples from 100 individual Northern Map Turtles along the 2010 spill gradient and subsequently quantified the heterophil:lymphocyte ratio, bactericidal capacity, and natural antibody agglutination. We found no correlation between turtles' 2020 capture locations relative to the origin of the 2010 oil spill and either mean stress level (heterophil:lymphocyte ratio) or immune functioning (bactericidal capacity and natural antibody agglutination ability). Thus, we found no evidence that Northern Map Turtles sampled along a gradient of oil exposure resulting from the 2010 Kalamazoo River oil spill experienced long-term effects on physiological stress levels or immune functioning. Importantly, our sampling did not include any individuals that may have died during 2010-2020 from poor health after the oil spill and therefore is biased toward healthy turtles remaining in the population. Interestingly, we found that a subset of turtles known to have been oiled in 2010 actually had higher natural antibody titers than turtles sampled from a control site that presumably had never been exposed to oil. We cannot exclude the possibility of other long-term effects of the oil spill on the Map Turtle population, such as decreased reproductive output. We recommend that long-term monitoring of populations and ecosystems be included in spill mitigation plans to track the

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

recovery of populations and ecosystems over time and to document any effects that may become evident only years after the spill event.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

If you are interested in new technology you might find it useful to visit Technology Innovation News Survey at <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> and Tech Direct at <https://clu-in.org/techdirect/archive/>

LATEST RESEARCH IN MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION: WHAT DOES THE FUTURE HOLD?

April 18 - Microplastics have become a more significant issue as concern has grown around plastic pollution and its environmental effects. Ongoing research has looked into biodegradability and ways to increase this. However, more recent research has focused on how plastic pollutants can damage biological organisms. AZO Cleantech / [Read more](#)

TRAINING COURSES

Training Course Providers – Please check entries below and advise editor on any necessary updates.

USEFUL LINKS

- INTERNATIONAL – IMO E-LEARNING PLATFORM [e-learning platform](#)
- AUSTRALIA – AMOSC - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- CHINA - <http://www.sioetc.com>
- EUROPE – <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/3609-emsa-training-catalogue-2019.html>
- FRANCE - CEDRE - https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023_EN.pdf
- 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 <https://www.tamucc.edu/research/nscs/>
- USA – MPC, DETROIT - <https://marinepollutioncontrol.com/services/training-and-compliance>
- USA – ALLIANCE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROFESSIONALS - https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event_list.asp

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

Lloyds Maritime Academy - Certificate in Combatting Marine and Air Pollution from Shipping - Starting on 26 July [More info](#)

USA: Elastec Fall Workshop, New Harmony, Indiana, 3-5 October 2023. [More Info](#)

UPCOMING EVENTS

TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS CLICK ON [HTTPS://SPILLCONTROL.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS/](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

APRIL 2023

- IMO POLLUTION PREVENTION & RESPONSE (PPR 10) MEETING, 24-28 APRIL, 2023
- WEBINAR from UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Sustainable Spill Response” 26th April, 3pm BST
- MEXICO – Ecomondi Environmental Technology Trade Show, 26-28 April 2023

MAY 2023 & ONWARDS

- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer – “Why Science Matters: How Decision Makers use Science during Spill Response, Hosted by Ed Levine, 2nd May 2023
- CROATIA – ADRIASPILLCON Conference & Exhibition, Opatija, 16-18 May 2023
- CANADA – 45th Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination & Response, Edmonton, Alberta, 4-6 June, 2023
- AUSTRALIA – University of NSW, “Bioremediation Symposium”, 7th June 2023
- TUNISIA – Regional Workshop on Waste Management & Water Treatment, 9-10 May 2023
- FRANCE - European Maritime Day, Brest, France, 24-25 May, 2023
- UK: Hazmat 2023 Conference, 24-25 May 2023
- AUSTRALIA – Risk Assessment Symposium, Adelaide, 22 June 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- USA – Elastec Fall Workshop. New Harmony. Indiana, 3-4 October 2023
- UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, 6-7 December 2023

WHEN YOU OPEN THE UPCOMING EVENTS PAGE YOU WILL SEE MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

SOME OTHER INFO AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Australia – April 26 & 27 – PFAS Training & Workshop, University of Technology, Sydney – [More info](#)
USA: May 8, 2023 - APICOM GM Meeting, Santa Barbara, CA, Location - MSRC's facility at Carpinteria
Recordings of past ExxonMobil OSR Knowledge Transfer Webinar Recordings – [Access and Download](#)

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

CROATIA: ADRIASPILLCON 2023, OPATIJA, 16th - 18th MAY, 2023

ADRIASPILLCON 2023 will be held in Opatija, Croatia, between 16 and 18 May 2023 and is being organized by ATRAC - Adriatic training and education centre for accidental marine pollution preparedness and response, with the support of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure. The Conference, complemented with an exhibition of relevant products and services, aims at providing a forum for exchange of experience and knowledge in the fields of prevention, preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution by oil and other hazardous and noxious substances (HNS), among the participants from the Adriatic region and their counterparts from other parts of Europe and the Mediterranean.

All the relevant information is now available on the Conference website <https://adriaspillcon.com/>.

CANADA: 45TH AMOP TECHNICAL SEMINAR ON ENVIRONMENTAL CONTAMINATION AND RESPONSE: EDMONTON, 6-8 JUNE 2023

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. The Technical Seminar features plenary sessions of 10- or 20-minute presentations on spill-related topics including Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, and Explosives (CBRNE). Sessions will begin at 8:00 a.m. each day. The presentations are followed by a 5- or 10-minute question and answer period. Sessions may also conclude with Speaker's Corner presentations at which results of more recent research can be discussed without an associated paper. Government of Canada / [Seminar Information](#)

AUSTRALIA: BRISBANE - SPILLCON 2023: 11-15 SEPTEMBER 2023

The Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) and the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSOC) invite you to attend the international oil spill conference for the Asia-Pacific region, Spillcon 2023. Spillcon 2023 will bring together local, regional and global environmental and shipping representatives across industry, government and non-government organisations to provide an avenue to discuss issues including causes and prevention, preparedness, response management and environmental issues. Spillcon 2023 has been confirmed for 11 – 15 September 2023 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia. This website will be regularly updated with further information for sponsors, exhibitors and delegates. <https://www.spillcon.com/>

USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – SAN ANTONIO, NOVEMBER 7-9, 2023

Now Accepting Reservations for Exhibit Space and Sponsorships for CLEAN GULF 2023 - Make an impact on buyers from oil & gas, maritime, rail, environmental companies and regulatory agencies with an exhibit space or sponsorship at the [CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition](#). Attendees at CLEAN GULF are looking for new products, services, and technologies to help them better prepare or respond to a hazardous spill or environmental emergency. Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition | November 7-9, 2023 | Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center | San Antonio, TX [Registration Now Open for CLEAN GULF 2023 + Sessions Announced!](#)

USA: IOSC 2024 CALL FOR PAPERS AND POSTERS

The International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) brings together the broadest range of global oil spill response professionals to discuss the latest research, technology, and resources impacting our community today. Submit a proposal to become a leader at our next convening in New Orleans, Louisiana, May 13 - 16, 2024. The IOSC is looking for technical and policy papers and posters under five general categories: Preparedness, Prevention, Remediation, Response, Restoration. [More info](#)
You are invited to submit a proposal by April 24, 2023 for either a paper or poster presentation. [More info](#)

CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATIONS

This is a subscription service. <https://www.tender247.com/keyword/oil+spill+tenders+global>

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/archive/> and USA Federal Contracts Updates <https://clu-in.org/Federal-Contract-Opportunities> European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/newsletters.html>

TEXAS GENERAL LAND OFFICE (GLO) – OIL SPILL PREVENTION & RESPONSE DIVISION (OSPR) FUNDING OPPORTUNITY

The GLO OSPR Research & Development Program's Request for Applications has been posted to the GLO website here: <https://www.glo.texas.gov/coast/grant-projects/osr/index.html>

Applications are managed through SurveyMonkey Apply (SMA). First time SMA users will need to create an account. Navigate to the Oil Spill R&D portal to get started. If you have any questions, contact me at brent.koza@glo.texas.gov. Brent Koza, State Scientific Support Coordinator, Research & Development, Texas General Land Office. [Thanks to Helena Rowland, ISCO Committee]

INCIDENT REPORTS

MARITIME ACCIDENT REPORTS FROM THE MARITIME BULLETIN

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

PHILIPPINES: MT PRINCESS EMPRESS OIL SPILL UPDATES

April 17 - Underwater ROV Operations for Mindoro oil spill 'completed' —PCG [OGV Energy News](#)

April 17 - NAVSUP WSS provides logistical support for Philippine oil spill [DVIDS](#)

April 18 - French experts: Oil spill samples same as 'black oil' from San Miguel's tank in Bataan [Rappler](#)

April 18 - Pola still reeling from oil spill impact [Manila Times](#)

April 18 - DENR hoping oil spill leakage to be fully controlled 'within the month' [ABS / CBN News](#)

PERU FINDS NEW OIL SPILL NEAR REPSOL'S LA PAMPILLA REFINERY

April 16 - Peruvian authorities said they spotted a new oil spill near a Repsol SA-operated refinery during a routine inspection, according to a statement. [Bloomberg](#)

GULF OF GUINEA: PIRATE ATTACK: TANKER AND CREW SAFELY RECOVERED OFF ABIDJAN COAST

April 16 - A Singapore-registered oil tanker that was boarded earlier this week by "unidentified persons" off the coast of Africa has been located. The Success 9 was found off the coast of Abidjan, Ivory Coast, on Saturday and the crew was reported safe, according to a statement from the government of Singapore, where the vessel is registered. A commercial ship passing by had picked up and reported a distress call from the tanker, which has since safely arrived in Abidjan port. [gCaptain / Read more](#)

UK: CLEAN-UP REMOVES 400,000 LITRES OF OILY WATER FROM POOLE HARBOUR AFTER SPILL

April 19 - About 200 barrels of reservoir fluid made up of 85% water and 15% oil were released into Ower Bay last month from a pipeline operated by gas company Perenco, prompting a major containment and clean-up operation to protect the sensitive natural habitats in the area. Now, Poole Harbour Commissioners (PHC) have said that "good progress" is being made and no oil had been spotted outside of the harbour. [Darlington & Stockton Times / Read more](#)

INDIA: OIL SPILL OFF NAGAPATTINAM COAST | CPCL REMOVES 850-METRE STRETCH OF UNDERWATER PIPELINE

April 19 - The Chennai Petroleum Corporation Limited (CPCL) has removed an 850-metre stretch of an underwater crude oil pipeline owned by the company, in the Pattinamcherry fishing hamlet, off the Nagapattinam coast.

The removal of pipelines from the region on Tuesday, came in the aftermath of a series of leakages and subsequent protests by fisherfolk demanding the removal of the pipelines, permanently, from the village. [The Hindu / Read more](#)

COLOMBIA'S CANO LIMON-COVENAS PIPELINE ATTACKED FOR NINTH TIME IN 2023

April 21 - The suspension of pumping operations at Colombia's Cano Limon-Covenas oil pipeline will be prolonged after a new bombing attack damaged its infrastructure in the country's Arauca province, oil transportation company Cenit said. The attack, the ninth this year, took place on Thursday in the Saravena municipality, prompting the company to activate its emergency contingency plan to control the subsequent oil spill and mitigate pollution, said Cenit, a subsidiary of Colombia's majority state-owned oil company Ecopetrol. Reuters / [Read more](#)

USA: MONTANA - MISSOULA'S CLARK FORK: 'IT'S A TICKING TIME BOMB AND THE ONLY WAY TO DEFUSE IT IS TO CLEAN IT UP'

April 21 - National environmental nonprofit American Rivers has included an iconic western Montana river in its 2023 list of America's Most Endangered Rivers, citing its proximity to the site of a former 1,000-acre pulp mill still rife with contaminants.

The river is the Clark Fork, which flows from the Continental Divide before running through Missoula, Alberton, St. Regis and Thompson Falls on its journey to Lake Pend Oreille in the panhandle of Idaho. The pulp mill operated northwest of Missoula for more than 50 years before Smurfit-Stone declared bankruptcy in 2010 and walked away from the sprawling site, which includes hundreds of acres of unlined ponds that were used to store wastewater — some of it untreated — as well landfills and sludge ponds. Montana Free Press / [Read more](#)

USA: MAINE TAKES RAILROAD TO TASK OVER CLEANUP AFTER DERAILMENT

April 21 - The Maine Department of Environmental Protection is taking Canadian Pacific Kansas City to task over the cleanup following a freight train derailment and fire. Two concerns are a failure to move a pair of rail cars containing hazardous material farther away from the site in a timely manner, and the failure to remove diesel fuel from the locomotives' saddle tanks, causing a diesel fuel spill, the agency said. An estimated 500 gallons (1,895 litres) of fuel spilled. CTV News / [Read more](#)

HISTORY

ON THIS DAY: DEEPWATER HORIZON - THE MOST DEVASTATING ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTER

On April 20, 2010, the Deepwater Horizon oil rig, located in the Gulf of Mexico, experienced a massive explosion that would result in one of the most devastating environmental disasters in history.

The disaster took the lives of 11 workers and injured 17 others. Over the course of 87 days, millions of gallons of crude oil spilled into the Gulf, causing extensive damage to marine life, coastal ecosystems, and the economy of the surrounding region.

The Explosion: The Deepwater Horizon was a semi-submersible oil rig owned by Transocean and leased by BP, one of the world's leading oil and gas companies.

On April 20, while drilling the Macondo Prospect, a deep-sea well, a series of events led to a massive explosion. A surge of natural gas from the well shot up the drilling pipe, ignited by a spark, and caused a massive fireball. The explosion and subsequent fire resulted in the tragic loss of 11 lives and severely injured 17 others.

Two days later, on April 22, the burning rig sank, leaving the well gushing crude oil into the Gulf of Mexico.

The Oil Spill: The explosion caused the Deepwater Horizon well to leak uncontrollably, releasing an estimated 3.19 million barrels (approximately 134 million gallons) of oil into the Gulf over 87 days. Efforts to contain the spill included the use of containment booms, controlled burns, and chemical dispersants.

Read more at: <https://yourstory.com/2023/04/deepwater-horizon-explosion-environmental-disaster>

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