

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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- Mr John McMurtrie, VP and Editor (UK)
- Ms Mary Ann Dalgleish, VP M'ship (USA)
- Mr John Wordrop (Australia)

Other Members of Executive Committee who also act as members of the SECRETARIAT

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- Mr Marc Shaye (USA)
- Mr Michael Watson (UK)

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- Dr Larissa Montas (USA)
- Capt. D C Sekhar (India)
- Dr Mervyn Fingas (Canada)
- Ms Jane Delgado (USA)
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- Mr Wu Yue (China)

HEADLINE INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



SECOND SESSION OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

Process continues towards international, legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in marine environment

The second session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-2), is scheduled to take place from 29 May to 2 June 2023, at the UNESCO Headquarters in Paris, France. The session will be preceded by regional consultations on 28 May 2023, at the same venue.

In February 2022, at the resumed fifth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA-5.2), a historic resolution (5/14) was adopted to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment with the ambition to complete the negotiations by end of 2024.

The instrument is to be based on a comprehensive approach that addresses the full life cycle of plastic. UNEP / [Read more](#)

NEW UN 'ROADMAP' SHOWS HOW TO DRASTICALLY SLASH PLASTIC POLLUTION

Plastic pollution could be slashed by 80 per cent by 2040 if countries and companies use existing technologies to make significant policy shifts and market adjustments, according to a new UN Environment Programme (UNEP) report released on Tuesday.

"The way we produce, use, and dispose of plastics is polluting ecosystems, creating risks for human health and destabilizing the climate," said UNEP Executive Director [Inger Andersen](#).

"This UNEP report lays out a roadmap to dramatically reduce these risks through **adopting a circular approach** that keeps plastics out of ecosystems, out of our bodies, and in the economy," she said. UNEP / [Read more](#)

ISCO AMBASSADORS

(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)

Carlos Sagrera Latin America (Spanish speaking)
Matthew Sommerville UK London
John Noble UK London & South'ton

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a comprehensive overview of our activities, including the achievements and challenges in the 17 different areas HELCOM works on. In 2022, these included Species and habitats, Spatial conservation and MPAs, Agriculture, Nutrients, Hazardous substances, Marine litter, Dredging and seabed, Underwater noise, Shipping, Response to spills, Submerged hazards, Fisheries, Maritime spatial planning, Climate change, Economy and society, Monitoring and assessment as well as International processes. The major events of the year for HELCOM included the strategic pause, change of chairmanship, and the preparations for holistic assessments of the state of the Baltic Sea (HOLAS 3). HELCOM / [Read more](#)

ADRIASPILLCON REPORT



May 16 - Four years after the last one, the 5th ADRIASPILLCON took place in Opatija, Croatia from 16th to 18th May. The conference which is organized by ATRAC has received a very encouraging response since the beginning of its conception. This year has also gathered participants from Croatia and all the countries in the Adriatic region (Bosnia and Herzegovina, Italy, Montenegro and Slovenia), as well as from other European countries. Among the participants were representatives of national and regional governments, oil and maritime industry, independent experts, academic institutions, specialized companies, and equipment producers. This year's Conference addressed current oil spill preparedness and response related issues on the sea, as well as hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) incidents and problems related to marine

INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS

USA: BIDEN ADMINISTRATION PLEDGES \$500 MILLION TO THE AMAZON FUND

May 15 - On April 20, during a meeting of the Major Economies Forum on Energy and Climate (MEF), President Biden pledged \$500 million to the Amazon Fund, Brazil's signature fund set up to raise donations for investments to prevent, monitor and combat deforestation in the Brazilian Amazon region. If approved by Congress, the pledge would make the U.S. the largest donor to the Amazon Fund after Norway, which has already donated more than \$1.2 billion. Cadwalader / [Read more](#)

60+ INNOVATORS AGAINST PLASTIC POLLUTION CALL FOR PRAGMATIC, INCLUSIVE GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY

May 15 - Over 60 major players against plastic pollution HAVE formed the Innovation Alliance for a Global Plastics Treaty (IAGPT). Recognizing that the ongoing United Nations-led treaty-negotiation process represents humanity's single most important opportunity to alter the trajectory of the global plastic pollution crisis for decades to come, the IAGPT aims to broaden the discussion to include crucial perspectives from those on the front lines tackling plastic waste worldwide. SB / [Read more](#)

AFRICAN COUNTRIES RECEIVE SUPPORT FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE INCIDENT COMMAND

May 15 - The basics of how to manage an incident in the event of an oil spill were covered at an in-person regional workshop in Nairobi, Kenya (9-12 May). The aim of the event was to enable African countries* to better understand and exercise the national Incident Command System (ICS) for responding to oil pollution, guided by their National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). The training was targeted particularly at Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Less Developed Countries (LDCs).

Mirage News / [Read more](#)

ANNUAL REPORT PROVIDES AN OVERVIEW OF HELCOM ACTIVITIES IN 2022

May 16 - HELCOM Annual Report 2022 has been published. The report provides

INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

debris. ADRIASPILLCON 2023 discussed issues considered to be of particular interest to the Adriatic coastal States, which fall into one of the two thematic groups of the Conference -

Legal, organizational, administrative, and financial aspects of preparedness and response, including contingency planning and training; Relevant practical, technical, and scientific aspects of response to marine spills of oil and other hazardous and noxious substances.

As in previous years, the Conference was complemented by an Exhibition of spill response equipment and products, and presentations of services offered by organizations and companies engaged in the field of oil and HNS spill preparedness and response



Two photos in this report are provided by courtesy of ATRAC

The goals of ADRIASPILLCON 2023 were therefore to present the latest developments in the technical, scientific, legal, and organizational fields of dealing with accidental marine pollution, and to provide a forum where national, regional, and international institutions, oil, chemical, and shipping industries, individual experts, specialized companies and equipment manufacturers could share their knowledge and experience which were completely fulfilled.

Key international organizations that work on improving the preparedness and response systems to oil spills (IMO, REMPEC, EMSA, ITOPI, CEDRE, IOPC Funds, ISCO, OSRL, SEA ALARM, VIKOMA, DESMI, MEKE) also gave their support to the work of the Conference and participated in its programme as speakers / exhibitors.

Mr. Kerem Kemerli, from the Turkish company MEKE, welcomed the participants in the name of ISCO. [Thanks to anja.pilepic@atrac.hr

INTERNATIONAL GROUP SIGNS UPDATED MOU IN THE US WITH NOAA

May 17 - The International Group recently signed an updated Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the US National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) in Washington DC.

The MoU is an update from the existing MoU signed in 2007 and seeks to clarify the co-operation between individual Group Clubs, NOAA and its co-Trustees in the event of a ship source oil spill in US waters. The aim of the MOU is to promote expeditious and cost-effective restoration of injured natural resources and services resulting from ship-source oil spills and from response actions to address the threat of an oil spill in the US, as authorized by the US Oil Pollution Act of 1990 and as determined by the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA). IG P&I / [Read more](#)

NCEI AND WHOI BEGIN RESEARCH COLLABORATION

May 16 - NOAA's National Centers for Environmental Information (NCEI) and the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) established a Cooperative Research and Development Agreement (CRADA) to share high-quality oceanic data collected from the National Science Foundation (NSF)-funded Ocean Observatories Initiative's instrument arrays. The goal of the partnership is to archive and deliver the initiative's data for continued research on ocean processes. "Under this partnership agreement, NOAA expects to be provided at least 30 years of high-quality oceanographic data produced by the Ocean Observatories Initiative, commissioned in 2017, for preservation and stewardship" said Jason Cooper, NCEI's Archivist. Eco magazine / [Read more](#)

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INTERGOVERNMENTAL NEGOTIATING COMMITTEE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

See event information on Page 1 – Capt. D. C. Sekhar’s company, AlphaMERS. Is a corporate member. Capt. Sekhar represents India on the ISCO Council and is a Member of the Executive Committee.

He writes “We have had excellent success in controlling riverine plastics draining into the ocean with our homegrown patented technology. We are taking on projects to trap and recover floating plastics and debris from rivers across the entire Indian coastline, quite unprecedented in the world. With one of the biggest successes in this activity, we would like to engage, share our views and experience with the world.

Capt. Sekhar has noted the forthcoming meetings of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution and would like to engage in its efforts to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment. He would like to share his extensive experience in dealing with marine plastics. This group could benefit from hearing about real life issues and solutions.

Capt. Sekhar is recommending that we should attend the September 2023 meeting of the Committee and has offered to represent ISCO at this event. “ISCO has the best credentials to share knowledge with this body and I do not see any other organisations coming close in profile to advise UNEP on this matter”.

Capt’ Sekhar’s initiative has been welcomed by members of the ISCO Executive Committee and action is now being taken to progress the necessary arrangements

The following articles are relevant –

<https://apnews.com/article/technology-netherlands-india-pollution-f659cc1e89bac5294f0a6478e64bbbfe>

<https://www.cnbc.com/2022/08/03/how-to-clean-the-worlds-most-polluted-rivers.html>

<https://www.thehindu.com/news/cities/chennai/a-mountain-of-trash-fished-out-of-cooum/article26115438.ece/amp/>

CHANGE OF ROLE WITHIN ISCO FOR WU YUE IN CHINA

The ISCO Interim Executive has approved a request from Wu Yue of Hong Kong Spill Response Technology Ltd to represent China on the ISCO Council.



In parallel, Wu Yue is also the owner of the Shandong International Ocean Engineering Training Center (SIOTEC), which is qualified by OPITO, GWO, TECC, PADI, CDSA and a member of IMRF and JOIFF.

Wu is in discussion with Chinese governmental authorities and has been approached regarding a need to improve facilities for oil spill response training.

He has himself been involved in oil spill response for many years, wants to build SIOTEC’s OSR training capacity and says “I am openly to co-operating with anyone who would want to do OSR training with me”.

In China the effects of the Covid shut-down have persisted for much longer than in other countries and this has frustrated Wu’s efforts to grow ISCO membership in China but his appointment as a Member of ISCO Council will be of positive help.

ISCO ZOOM MEETING OF VOLUNTEERS & MEMBERS HELD ON THURSDAY 18th MAY

The meeting was well attended despite some technical problems reported by members who have reported problems in gaining internet access to the meeting. Minutes of the meeting have not yet been received by your editor.

AFTER DISAPPEARING AUSTRALIA: PLATYPUSES RETURN TO SYDNEY'S ROYAL NATIONAL PARK FOR DECADES

May 14 - Platypuses have been relocated to the Royal National Park in Sydney, after they disappeared from the park's waterways about 50 years ago. The iconic Australian animal is believed to have disappeared from the national park after a major chemical spill on the Princes Highway in the 1970s, but numbers may already have been in decline. ABC News / [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: CONTRACTORS PICKED TO STOP SEDIMENT FLOW INTO THE GREAT BARRIER REEF

The Queensland government has invested \$6 million in fixing streambanks that have lost vegetation and that are sending harmful sediment from the Lower Burdekin, Herbert River and Fitzroy River catchments into the ocean The Mandarin / [Read more](#)

BELIZE: SEVERAL MEANS BY LAND AND SEA MOBILISED BETWEEN RIBEIRA DO NATAL BEACH AND BAÍA D'ABRA

May 12 - The coastline of Caniçal, between Ribeira do Natal beach and Baía d'Abra, is this Friday the setting for a nationwide exercise to combat pollution in the marine environment. The 'ATLANTIC POLEX.PT' is an annual exercise to respond to pollution incidents in the marine environment, which aims to test the national contingency plan against pollution incidents in the different types of scenarios likely to occur an incident: at sea (offshore), in the port, in marinas and on the beach. Madeira Island News / [Read more](#)

CANADA: NO TIME TO WASTE—CONSULTATION OPEN ON FEDERAL PLASTICS INITIATIVES

May 12 - On April 18, 2023, the Government of Canada announced the launch of consultations under the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA) with respect to: a Regulatory Framework that serves as the starting point for the proposed Recycled Content and Labelling for Plastic Products Regulations; and a Technical Paper outlining the reporting requirements for the federal plastics registry. The Government is moving forward with these initiatives in support of its Canada-wide Strategy on Zero Plastic Waste, which was adopted by the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME) in November 2018. Bennett Jones / [Read more](#)

MOROCCO: OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING, MOHAMMEDIA

May 18 - The IOPC Funds participated in an oil spill response training event in Mohammedia, Morocco, from 15 to 17 May 2023. The training was organised by VIVO Energy, a contributor to the 1992 Fund for the benefit of all stakeholders who would be involved in a marine pollution incident. Amongst the participants various Moroccan Administrations were represented including the Department of Fisheries (Département de la pêche maritime), the Department of Fuels and Renewable Energies (Département des combustibles et des énergies renouvelables), the Directorate-General of Civil Protection (Direction Générale de la protection civile), the Port Authority and VIVO Energy. IOPC Funds / [Read morer](#)

NIGERIA : FOR WEARY NIGER DELTA RESIDENTS, SHOCKING OIL POLLUTION REPORT OFFERS LITTLE HOPE

May 16 - A new report commissioned by the Bayelsa state government in Nigeria holds international oil companies like Shell, TotalEnergies, and ExxonMobil responsible for spilling at least 110,000 barrels of oil there over the past 50 years. Researchers found alarming levels of toxic chemicals in soil, water, and in the air. Blood and tissue samples taken from residents found elevated levels of heavy metals including lead, nickel and cadmium. The report calls for extensive cleanup and recovery efforts, as well as sweeping changes to oil industry regulations and the setup of a \$12 billion fund for remediation, paid for by the oil companies. Activists and residents say they're largely skeptical of any meaningful changes arising from the report, including the prospect of compelling oil majors to pay into a remediation fund. Mongabay / [Read more](#)

UK: MCA - MGN 468 - AMENDMENT 1 (M) - VOLUNTARY TOWAGE ENDORSEMENT SCHEME

May 11 - Describing the arrangement for the voluntary towage endorsement scheme; outlining competence standards and necessary knowledge Gov.UK / [Read more](#)

USA: EPA CONTINUES THE BEAT WITH AN ADVANCED NOTICE OF PROPOSED RULEMAKING FOR ADDITIONAL CERCLA HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DESIGNATIONS FOR PFAS

May 12 - On April 13, 2023, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued an Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) requesting input on seven potential future hazardous substance designations of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

(CERCLA). (See [Addressing PFAS in the Environment](#), 88 Fed. Reg. 22399, Apr. 13, 2023.) Mondaq / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

May 22 – Please click on the links below to download and read the latest news from NOAA OR&R

NOAA Achieves Restoration Settlement for the Tug Powhatan Oil Spill, Alaska

NOAA recently accepted a settlement for damage assessment and restoration for the Tug Powhatan oil spill. The \$1.3 million dollar settlement will fund two restoration projects in Sitka, Alaska that will benefit Pacific herring spawning habitat, as well as local Tribes and communities. It will also reimburse costs incurred during the assessment.

OR&R Leads Training at 37th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference

Last week a team of experts from across the National Ocean Service (NOS) delivered a training session at the [37th Annual Governor's Hurricane Conference](#) (link is external). The training team, led by the OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program, was made up of representatives from five program offices.

Congratulations to the 2023 Marine Debris Program Art Contest Winners!

We are pleased to announce the winners of the [Annual NOAA Marine Debris Program Art Contest](#)! We received many colorful, creative, and informative entries from around the country, and although we wish we could showcase them all, we are excited to share the winners of this year's contest with you.

NOAA Hosts Coast Guard Rear Admiral at Inouye Regional Center in Preparation for New Regional Activities Center

On May 11, 2023, the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator for the Pacific Islands, Ruth Yender, hosted U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Rear Admiral (RDML) Jo-Ann Burdian at the Inouye Regional Center (IRC) on Oahu's Ford Island.

RDML Burdian toured space at the IRC that will soon be occupied by a new USCG Indo-Pacific Regional Activities Center (IndoPAC RAC).

The mission of the six-person IndoPAC RAC is to build response capacity in the region and to help partner nations implement International Maritime Organization Conventions on marine pollution.

OR&R Convenes Experts in Shoreline Oil Spill Response Technologies

From May 9-11, scientists from multiple agencies, industry, and academia met in Seattle, Washington, to help prioritize the next generation of research related to shoreline effects from spilled oil.

Caribbean Partners Trained to Prepare for and Respond to Marine Debris Emergencies with NOAA

During the first week of May, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP), in collaboration with the U.S. EPA's Trash Free Waters Program and The Nature Conservancy, supported two initiatives to improve preparedness and response to marine debris incidents in Puerto Rico.

NOAA attends Vigor Restoration Project Open House on the Lower Duwamish River

The EPA, Elliott Bay Trustees, and stakeholders attended an open house for the recently constructed Vigor restoration project on Harbor Island on the Lower Duwamish River in Seattle. Trustees finalized a Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) settlement in May 2021 with Vigor Industrial and Exxon Mobil.

OR&R Partners with NCCOS for FAST Field Training Workshop in Charleston

From May 2-4, OR&R's Assessment & Restoration Division (ARD), in partnership with NOAA's National Centers for Coastal Ocean Science's (NCCOS) Ecotoxicology Branch, held its Field Assessment and Support Techniques (FAST) training at and around the Hollings Marine Laboratory in Charleston, South Carolina.

OR&R Attends Hurricane Awareness Tour

On Tuesday, May 2, the Hurricane Awareness Tour for 2023 made a stop in New Orleans, Louisiana. NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) participated and shared information on hurricane preparedness and recovery supported by National Ocean Service (NOS) products and services.

A demonstration of the [Environmental Response Management Application](#) (ERMA®) was on display to show how the public and responders can utilize the available

NOAA Publishes New York Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide

On May 10, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) released the "[New York Marine Debris Emergency Response Guide](#)" (Guide). The Guide is a product of a collaborative process with state and federal agencies.

This work aims to improve preparedness for responding to marine debris after disasters in New York's coastal areas, including the Great Lakes region.

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

OR&R Participates in International Conference on Environmental Chemistry and Toxicology

The NOAA Marine Debris Program's (MDP) Chief Scientist, Amy V. Uhrin, and Research Coordinator, Carlie Herring, presented posters at the Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry ([SETAC\(link is external\)](#)) [33rd Annual European Meeting\(link is external\)](#) held April 30 - May 4 in Dublin, Ireland.

NOAA Partners with Shipping Industry to Improve Oil Spill Coordination

On May 11, NOAA signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the International Group of Protection and Indemnity Clubs to promote the expeditious and cost-effective resolution of natural resource damages resulting from ship-source oil spills and from response actions under the Oil Pollution Act.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ITOPF WELCOMES BRIDGET AND RACHEL



ITOPF has welcomed two new recruits to its team in Bridget Bulana, Company Secretarial Assistant and Rachel Rayne, Technical Adviser.

Bridget has a law degree and previously worked as a paralegal in financial services. She provides company secretarial support and assistance with ITOPF's membership processes, including renewals.

Rachel holds an MChem in Chemistry with Environmental and Sustainable Chemistry and an MSc in Oceanography. Before starting at ITOPF she submitted her PhD thesis in Oceanography at the University of Southampton. ITOPF / [Read more](#)

IPIECA: HOUSTON-BASED SUSTAINABILITY EXPERTS JOIN THE GLOBAL OIL AND GAS SUSTAINABILITY ASSOCIATION'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Houston-based sustainability experts join the global oil and gas sustainability association's Executive Committee.

Ipieca, the global oil and gas industry association for advancing environmental and social performance across the energy transition, has appointed Oxy's Krish Ravishankar (Pictured left) and Hess Corporation's Tony Webster (Pictured right) as its newest Vice Chairs.

Both Krish and Tony have been active Ipieca members for over twenty years.

In addition to his appointment as Vice Chair, Ravi will continue to represent Oxy in several Ipieca working groups, including Climate, Environment, Reporting, Social Responsibility and Water. Tony will also continue to represent Hess in Ipieca's Climate and Reporting working groups. IPIECA



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 a regular contributor to this section in the ISCO Newsletter and her next update will appear in a later issue.

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.

124. Effects of Dispersant on the Petroleum Hydrocarbon Biodegradation and Microbial Communities in Seawater from the Baltic Sea and Norwegian Sea

Tonteri, O., Reunamo, A., Nousiainen, A., Koskinen, L., Nuutinen, J., Truu, J., Jørgensen, K.S.

(2023) *Microorganisms*, 11 (4), art. no. 882,
DOI: 10.3390/microorganisms11040882

ABSTRACT: Dispersants have been used in several oil spill accidents, but little information is available on their effectiveness in Baltic Sea conditions with low salinity and cold seawater. This study investigated the effects of dispersant use on petroleum hydrocarbon biodegradation rates and bacterial community structures. Microcosm experiments were conducted at 5 °C for 12 days with North Sea crude oil and dispersant Finasol 51 with open sea Gulf of Bothnia and coastal Gulf of Finland and Norwegian Sea seawater. Petroleum hydrocarbon concentrations were analysed with GC-FID. Bacterial community structures were studied using 16S rDNA gene amplicon sequencing, and the abundance of genes involved in hydrocarbon degradation with quantitative PCR. The highest oil degradation gene abundances and oil removal were observed in microcosms with coastal seawater from the Gulf of Bothnia and Gulf of Finland, respectively, and the lowest in the seawater from the Norwegian Sea. Dispersant usage caused apparent effects on bacterial communities in all treatments; however, the dispersant's effect on the biodegradation rate was unclear due to uncertainties with chemical analysis and variation in oil concentrations used in the experiments.

125. Latent Trajectories of Haematological, Hepatic, and Renal Profiles after Oil Spill Exposure: A Longitudinal Analysis

Owusu, B.A., Lim, A., Pongsiri, N., Intawong, C., Rheapumikankit, S., Suksri, S., Ingviya, T.
(2023) *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, 20 (4), art. no. 2871,
DOI: 10.3390/ijerph20042871

ABSTRACT: Exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) and volatile organic compounds (VOCs) in crude oil has carcinogenic effects on various organ systems. This longitudinal cohort study examined the effects of oil spill exposure on the haematological, hepatic, and renal profiles of Rayong oil spill clean-up workers. The sample included 869 clean-up workers from the Rayong oil spill. Latent class mixture models were used to investigate and classify the longitudinal trajectories and trends of the haematological, hepatic, and renal indices. Subgroup analysis was used to evaluate the association between the urinary metabolites of PAHs and VOCs and haematological, hepatic, and renal parameters. Most clean-up workers (97.6%) had increasing levels of white blood cells (WBCs) (0.03×10^3 cells/ μ L), 94.90% of the workers had a significantly increasing trend of blood urea nitrogen (0.31 mg/dL per year), and 87.20% had a significantly increasing trend of serum creatinine (0.01 mg/dL per year). A high-decreasing trend of WBCs was seen in 2.42% (-0.73×10^3 per year). Post-exposure changes in haematological, renal, and hepatic profiles are present in workers exposed to the Rayong oil spill. This indicates possible long-term health complications and worsening renal function after exposure to PAHs and VOCs in crude oil.

126. Biodegradation of Selected Hydrocarbons by Fusarium Species Isolated from Contaminated Soil Samples in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

Al-Otibi, F., Al-Zahrani, R.M., Marraiki, N.
(2023) *Journal of Fungi*, 9 (2), art. no. 216,
DOI: 10.3390/jof9020216

ABSTRACT: Background: Microbial biodegradation of oil-hydrocarbons is one of the sustainable and cost-effective methods to remove petroleum spills from contaminated environments. The current study aimed to investigate the biodegradation abilities of three *Fusarium* isolates from oil reservoirs in Saudi Arabia. The novelty of the current work is that the biodegradation ability of these isolates

was never tested against some natural hydrocarbons of variable compositions, such as Crude oil, and those of known components such as kerosene and diesel oils. Methods: The isolates were treated with five selected hydrocarbons. The hydrocarbon tolerance test in solid and liquid media was performed. The scanning electron microscope (SEM) investigated the morphological changes of treated fungi. 2, 6-Dichlorophenol Indophenol (DCPIP), drop collapse, emulsification activity, and oil Spreading assays investigated the biodegradation ability. The amount of produced biosurfactants was measured, and their safety profile was estimated by the germination assay of tomato seeds. Results: The tolerance test showed enhanced fungal growth of all isolates, whereas the highest dose inhibition response (DIR) was 77% for *Fusarium proliferatum* treated with the used oil ($p < 0.05$). SEM showed morphological changes in all isolates. DCPIP results showed that used oil had the highest biodegradation by *Fusarium verticillioides* and *Fusarium oxysporum*. Mixed oil induced the highest effect in oil spreading, drop collapse, and emulsification assay caused by *F. proliferatum*. The highest recovery of biosurfactants was obtained by the solvent extraction method for *F. verticillioides* (4.6 g/L), *F. proliferatum* (4.22 g/L), and *F. oxysporum* (3.73 g/L). The biosurfactants produced by the three isolates stimulated tomato seeds' germination more than in control experiments. Conclusion: The current study suggested the possible oil-biodegradation activities induced by three *Fusarium* isolates from Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. The produced biosurfactants are not toxic against tomato seed germination, emphasizing their environmental sustainability. Further studies are required to investigate the mechanism of biodegradation activities and the chemical composition of the biosurfactants produced by these species.

127 Toward the Discrimination of Oil Spills in Newly Formed Sea Ice Using C-Band Radar Polarimetric Parameters

Asihene, E., Stern, G., Barber, D.G., Gilmore, C., Isleifson, D.
 (2023) IEEE Transactions on Geoscience and Remote Sensing, 61, art. no. 4300115, .
[https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-](https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0-DOI: 10.1109/TGRS.2022.3232083)
 DOI: 10.1109/TGRS.2022.3232083

ABSTRACT: Climate-driven sea ice loss has exposed the Arctic to increased human activity, which comes along with a higher risk of oil spills. As a result, we investigated the ability of C-band polarimetric parameters in a controlled mesocosm to accurately identify and discriminate between oil-contaminated and uncontaminated newly formed sea ice (NI). Parameters, such as total power, copolarization ratio, copolarization correlation coefficient, and others, were derived from the normalized radar cross section and covariance matrix to characterize the temporal evolution of NI before and after oil spill events. For separation purposes, entropy (H) and mean- α (α) were extracted from eigen decomposition of the coherency matrix. The H versus α scatterplot revealed that a threshold classifier of 0.3- H and 18° - α could distinguish oil-contaminated NI from its oil-free surroundings. From the temporal evolution of the polarimetric parameters, the results demonstrate that the copolarization correlation coefficient is the most reliable polarimetric parameter for oil spill detection, as it provides information on a variety of oil spill scenarios, including oil encapsulated within ice and oil spreading on top of ice. Overall, these findings will be used to support existing and future C-band polarimetric radar satellites for resolving ambiguities associated with Arctic oil spill events, particularly during freeze-up seasons.

128. An experimental oil spill at a tidal freshwater wetland along the St. Lawrence River re-visited after 21 years

Schreiber, L., Fortin, N., Mazza, A., Maynard, C., Wasserscheid, J., Tremblay, J., Lee, K., Greer, C.W.
 (2023) Environmental Research, 216, art. no. 114456, . Cited 3 times.
 DOI: 10.1016/j.envres.2022.114456

ABSTRACT: In 1999, a tidal wetland located along the St. Lawrence River close to Ste. Croix de Lotbinière (Quebec, Eastern Canada) was the site of an experimental oil spill. Test plots were established and subjected to an experimental crude oil spill to evaluate natural attenuation, nutrient amendment and vegetation cropping as countermeasures. In 2020, this study re-visited the test plots to investigate residual oil and habitat recovery. Only concentrations of mid-chain length n-alkanes (C10–C36), but not of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), were significantly above detection limit, and were detected in both test plot and control sediments. Hydrocarbon, total organic carbon, nitrogen and phosphate contents did not differ significantly between test plot and control sediments. Microbial analyses did not detect significant differences in microbial load, microbial diversity or microbial community composition between test plot and control sediments. Key genes for the aerobic and anaerobic degradation of n-alkanes as well as for the aerobic degradation of PAHs were detected in all sediment samples. Associated gene abundances did not differ significantly between test plot and control sediments. This study shows that oil-exposed test plot sediments of the Ste. Croix wetland can be considered completely recovered after 21 years irrespective of the performed countermeasure.

AN ARTICLE FROM ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, ORBITAL EOS – AI AND SATELLITE TECHNOLOGY FOR HSE COMPLIANCE: INTRODUCING “HISTORICAL OIL SPILL ANALYSIS”



Monitoring Oil and Gas (O&G) facilities, especially those located at sea, poses significant logistical and financial challenges. The vast expanses of ocean, volatile weather conditions, remote locations, and geopolitical constraints often complicate the regular surveillance of these facilities. In addition, the human resources required for this task imply significant costs and also introduce potential issues of accuracy and timeliness.

Satellites present a remarkable solution to these challenges, providing the capability to monitor facilities from space, unhindered by geographical

barriers or political boundaries. Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) is a sophisticated radar system mounted on satellites, capable of producing detailed spatial resolution images, regardless of weather conditions or time of day. This radar system operates by emitting radio waves towards the Earth's surface and collecting the echoes as they bounce back, thereby providing comprehensive and precise images. Oil spills alter the reflection of these radio waves, creating identifiable patterns on SAR images. By comparing sequential SAR images, one can track the life cycle of an oil spill from its origin to its dispersion and eventual dissipation.

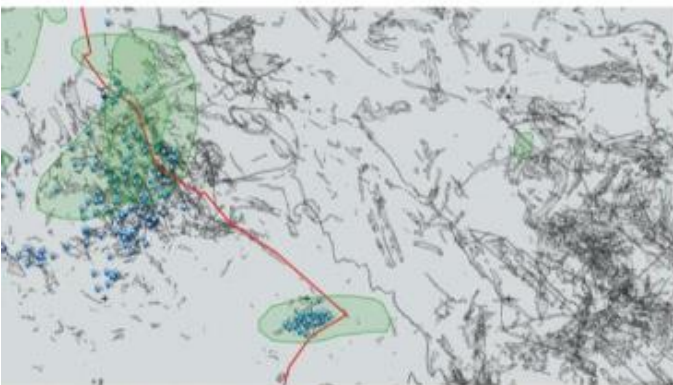
Yet, until now, the analysis of satellite data, specifically SAR imagery, has relied primarily on human expertise. This human involvement brings along its limitations in terms of costs, error margins, and delays in reporting. A transformative approach to this problem lies in the synergy between satellite remote sensing and Artificial Intelligence (AI). This combination offers the possibility to analyse satellite data with speed, accuracy, and efficiency unmatched by human operators. Regardless of the weather, location, or geopolitical hurdles, *this approach enables surveillance of O&G facilities anywhere in the world.*

Orbital EOS, a leader in this emerging field, has developed "Gaia," an AI model capable of historical oil spill analysis with unprecedented precision. Gaia marks a milestone in satellite remote sensing for the O&G industry, offering substantial benefits for Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE) strategies.

The unique aspect of Gaia is its capacity for historical oil spill analysis. This feature enables the system to analyze several hundred images -including past incidents, and extract data from them. The benefits for the O&G industry, particularly in the realm of Health, Safety, and Environment (HSE), are threefold.

First, the algorithm can identify previous spills, recurring patterns, and high-risk areas, providing data for risk assessments. This information allows companies to identify causes, be it operational issues or systemic failures, and take preventive measures for future incidents, thereby improving safety performance.

Second, the model assists in forming effective response strategies. By analysing the behaviour of past spills, companies can better predict the progression of future incidents, allowing them to plan the necessary resources for mitigation more efficiently.



Lastly, Gaia provides verifiable data about incidents and their management. This transparency can enhance the O&G industry's accountability, which can be crucial for maintaining relationships with regulators, stakeholders, and the public, given the increasing importance of environmental responsibility.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED) (

In summary, Orbital EOS' historical oil spill analysis, powered by SAR technology and AI, offers a new avenue for environmental safety in the O&G industry. By providing valuable insights into past incidents, this service can aid companies in preventing future spills, improving response strategies, and maintaining accountability. The product has gained traction among major O&G companies in the United States and the Middle East. Its innovative historical oil spill analysis capability, combined with high-precision oil spill detection, underscores the potential of technology in shaping a safer and more accountable O&G industry. As Orbital EOS continues to pioneer in this field, the industry can look forward to more groundbreaking solutions that leverage technology for environmental safety.

For more information, please contact Juan Peña Ibañez at juan@orbitaleos.com

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

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

COLOMBIA -The OSRO Varichem of Colombia, corporate member of ISCO, announces new course in Latin America - Date: June 14th, 15th and 16th of June 2023.

The IMO I course aims to implement plans to manage and coordinate a first response team and the development and implementation of a contingency plan. This programs provides participants the basic and strategic knowledge to develop skills required to an oil spill response.

Our courses are taught by nationally and internationally trained and certified instructors, with extensive experience in handling all types of environmental contingencies, which guarantees the quality of the programs.

Varichem de Colombia is the only one in Colombia with DIMAR certification for OMI 4.02, 4.03, 4.04; therefore, the students will receive double certification endorsed by DIMAR (General Maritime and Port Authority) and the International Nautical Institute. Cartagena Registration link:

<https://forms.office.com/r/3DpapkivTG>

For more information please e-mail sales@varichem.com

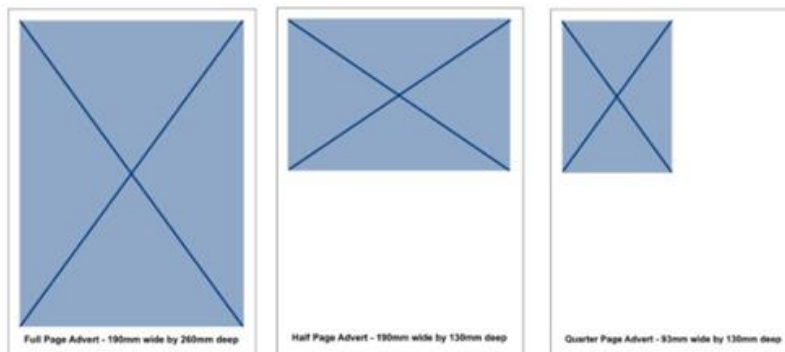
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ISCO's weekly newsletter is focused in international, regional and national news that is of interest to professionals, companies and organisations involved in oil and chemical spill control and the emerging field of CBRN incident response.

Through the Newsletter and its other activities, ISCO is disseminating information on new developments – technical advances, legislation, events and other matters that affect the international spill response community.

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UPCOMING EVENTS

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MAY 2023

- **WEBINAR – "Incident Command in Canadian Waters", 23rd May, 1500 UTC**
- **WEBINAR From Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution – "How new technologies are advancing ocean research, expand science-based solutions", 24th May, 7.30-8.30 pm ET**
- **WEBINAR – From UK & Ireland Spill Association – "Alternative Fuels for Shipping – Risks & Implications for Responders & Salvors", 1500 hrs. BST, 24th May 2023**
- **FRANCE – European Maritime Day, Brest, 24-25 May**
- **UK – NCEC Hazmat Conference, Stratford-upon-Avon, 24-25 May**
- **FRANCE UNEP Meeting – "Second Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution" – Paris, 29th May to 2nd June 2023**
- **WEBINAR From ALGA – "Treatment Technologies for PFAS destruction – How far are we from Off-the-shelf Solutions?" 30th May 2023**

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- **WEBINAR From Halen Hardy – SWPPP Spring Maintenance”, 31 May 2023, 10am EST**

JUNE 2023 & ONWARDS

- **CANADA – 45th Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination & Response, Edmonton, Alberta, 4-6 June, 2023**
- **AUSTRALIA – University of NSW, “Bioremediation Symposium”, 7th June 2023**
- **WEBINAR – From ITRC & ALGA, “Microplastcs”, 13th June**
- **NETHERLANDS – Chemical Watch Expo – “Emergency Response Compliance”, Amsterdam, 15-16 June 2023**
- **AUSTRALIA – Risk Assessment Symposium, Adelaide, 22 June 2023**
- **AUSTRALIA – SPILLCON Conference & Exhibition, Brisbane, 11-15 September 2023**
- **USA – Elastec Fall Workshop. New Harmony. Indiana, 3-4 October 2023**
- **ITALY – ECOMONDO Exhibition & Conference, Rimini, 7-12 November 2023**
- **UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, 6-7 December 2023**

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SOME OTHER INFO AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Recordings of past ExxonMobil OSR Knowledge Transfer Webinar Recordings – [Access and Download](#)

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

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 (AMOSC) 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/>
<https://mailchi.mp/64c839ee8f69/spillcon-2023-delegate-bookings-open?e=ce373d43ca>

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 | <https://ssl.linklings.net/conferences/IOSC/> 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

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

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](#)

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>

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As a service to its Members ISCO provides a listing of publications that may be of interest to our community. This page provides details and links for downloading more than 40 publications most of which can be accessed at no cost.

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/>

NEW ZEALAND: RESCUERS RESPONDING TO NEW MAYDAY CALL FROM PROBLEM PLAGUED BOXSHIP

May 11 - Maritime New Zealand is responding to a Mayday call issued midday Friday, May 12 from a problem plagued containership that has been the center of a controversy at the Port of Wellington. They are reporting that the ship has once again lost power and steering and is drifting, but that while it is listing there is no immediate danger. Conditions improved after they issued the Mayday call and an ocean-going tug has been dispatched. A police launch is also standing-by as a precaution while reports indicate that an Air Force Hercules and a rescue helicopter have also been dispatched to the scene. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: OHIO - ANOTHER NORFOLK SOUTHERN TRAIN DERAILS 15 MILES FROM SITE OF EAST PALESTINE, OHIO DISASTER

May 14 - Late Wednesday night, another Norfolk Southern train derailed only 15 miles away from the site of the February 3rd derailment and toxic chemical spill of a Norfolk Southern train in East Palestine, Ohio. The latest accident occurred in New Castle, Pennsylvania just across the Ohio-Pennsylvania state line. WSWS.Org / [Read more](#)

GIBRALTER: WRECK OF OS 35 OFF GIBRALтар WILL BE REMOVED IN THE COMING WEEKS

May 16 - The Port of Gibraltar reports that plans are being finalized for the removal of the wreck of the bulker OS 35 with the operation slightly behind the anticipated schedule. They point out that it will be a variety of intricate operations to remove the wreck of the 584-foot bulker which has fully broken in two and sits on the sea floor nearshore.

Efforts are also underway to finalize a tactical oil spill response plan anticipating that trapped oil residues will be released as the hulk is lifted and removed. They are planning to use booms around each section and the contractor reports they have oil spill response

assets on site to deal with any potential oil release. The lifting and removal operation and the potential for a release of oil are not anticipated to impact port operations. The teams however are conscious that it is happening during the beach season and are trying to limit the impact to the shoreline. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)



OS 35 off Gibraltar, Photo courtesy of Gibraltar Port Authority

NEW ZEALAND: NEW CALEDONIA, VANUATU, - EARTHQUAKES

May 19 - Seismic activity is occurring in the South Pacific Ocean 400 km east-southeast of New Caledonia. The main earthquake of 7.7 M at a depth of 38 km occurred on 19 May at 2.57 UTC (13.57 local time).

A total of 14 aftershocks of magnitude between 4.8 M and 5.9 M have been recorded in the area.

Small tsunami waves have been registered along the coast of New Caledonia, Vanuatu and New Zealand. The highest recorded, 0,61 m, is in Lenakel Town (Tanna Island, Vanuatu). According to initial media reports, people in Vanuatu Islands have been advised to evacuate from coastal areas to higher grounds. GDACS / [Read more](#)

NICARAGUA: CHEMICAL SPILL IN RESERVE RAISES QUESTIONS ABOUT INDUSTRIAL MINING

May 20 - Although a Hemco statement said the spill was addressed immediately, community leaders reported pollution in the Kukalaya and Tungki rivers. Mongabay / [Read more](#)

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