



ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness & co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, marine & freshwater pollution by plastics, promoting technical development and professional competency, & 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 & observer Status at the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund

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INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



NOTE FROM EDITOR - Due to a computer problem some of the notes made on news items for inclusion in this week's ISCO Newsletter were lost. If possible, these will be recovered and missing reports included in a later issue.

GEF COUNCIL APPROVES PLANS FOR 'GAME-CHANGING' GLOBAL BIODIVERSITY FUND

June 29 - The Global Environment Facility's governing board has approved plans to establish a "game-changing" new fund to finance the implementation of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which aims to put nature on a recovery path by the end of this decade.

The GEF Council decision, taken during a meeting in Brazil, clears the way for the launch of the Global Biodiversity Framework Fund at the [Seventh GEF Assembly](#), to take place in Vancouver, Canada, in August. The GEF / [Read more](#)

OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE IN THE MEDITERRANEAN REGION

On 18th May 2023 a meeting was held in MOIG office between MOIG Director and representatives of AQUAQUICK North Africa. MOIG and AQUAQUICK North Africa agreed to enhance exchange of information on oil spill preparedness and response. MOIG / [Read more](#)

THE FUTURE OF PROFESSIONAL OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE IN EUROPE

Today, 28th of June, European Oiled Wildlife Assistance (EUROWA) launched their [Proposal for the future of professional oiled wildlife response in Europe](#), calling on authorities to get better prepared for an oiled wildlife incident. The Proposal was launched to coincide with the 5 year anniversary of the Bow Jubail incident which occurred in The Netherlands. During this incident, over 500 swans became oiled in the Rotterdam harbour within just a few hours, garnering massive media and public interest. Luckily, the authorities adopted the wildlife response plan. EUROWA / [Read more](#)

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA: GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN REMOTE MONITORING OF HAZARDOUS VESSELS

June 29 - Efficient response to marine hazards is a priority for the Government of Canada. Abandoned, wrecked or hazardous vessels can threaten marine environments, local communities and economies. The Canadian Coast Guard is taking action to address these vessels across the country through innovative technology.

Today, the Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, the Honourable Joyce Murray, announced that the Canadian Coast Guard has purchased BRNKL Rapid Deploy units from Barnacle Systems Inc. Through a partnership with Innovative Solutions Canada, 39 of these remote monitoring devices are being installed on hazardous vessels across the country. Canadian Coast Guard / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: OIL SPILL FROM SHELL PIPELINE FOULS FARMS AND A RIVER IN A LONG-POLLUTED PART OF NIGERIA

June 26 - The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, or NOSDRA, told The Associated Press that the spill came from the Trans-Niger Pipeline operated by Shell that crosses through communities in the Eleme area of Ogoniland.

The volume of oil spilled has not been determined, but activists have published images of polluted farmland, water surfaces blighted by oil sheens and dead fish mired in sticky crude. Africa News / [Read more](#)

PHILIPPINES: GOVERNMENT URGED TO INVEST IN BETTER OIL SPILL RESPONSE

June 26 - The Philippine government should invest in technology that would beef up its response to oil spills, an environmental disaster expert said Monday. This, as DOST scientist Dr. Hernando Bacosa slammed the slow response to the oil spill in Oriental Mindoro. The oil spill affected tens of thousands of fisherfolk, with the damage to the environment estimated at around P7 billion. ABS CBN News / [Read more](#)

SOUTH AFRICA: NEW OIL SPILL MODEL ON THE CARDS TO PROTECT MARINE BIODIVERSITY, PROTECTED AREAS

June 27 - A new oil spill model to make it more difficult for approvals to be obtained by big industry for risky proposals that threaten marine biodiversity, marine protected areas, fisheries, tourism and coastal community livelihoods is

on the cards for South Africa. The model is the brainchild of local non-profit organisation, Wildtrust, which is focused on conserving the natural world and has spearheaded a project titled "Oil Spill Model for South Africa's Exclusive Economic Zone". IOL / [Read more](#)

SURINAME: RAC/REMPEITC PARTICIPATION AT SEOGS 2023



Photo courtesy of RAC / REMPEITC

June 9 - RAC/REMPEITC-Caribe was invited to participate in a workshop at the Suriname Energy, Oil and Gas Summit of 2023 in Paramaribo, Suriname. Matthew Martin represented the Center on 21 June 2023 at the Cross-Border Oil Spill Prevention, Preparedness and Response Workshop with industry and local partners. Matthew provided an overview of the Center and reviewed previous activities, proposed future activities, and pathways forward to advance the preparedness efforts surrounding the new oil and gas activities in the Guyana Basin.

Highlights of the summit can be found [here](#)

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UK & BELIZE: MARINE LITTER SCIENTISTS FROM THE UK AND BELIZE WORKING TOGETHER TO TACKLE PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE OCEAN



Photo courtesy of Cefas

June 28 - Scientists and leaders from across Belize came together at the Water Quality and Marine Pollution Workshop on 27th June 2023 in Belize City, to share their ideas and develop next steps to tackle ocean pollution and support a healthy marine environment. At the event, hosted by the Department of the Environment (DOE), experts shared current monitoring practices, scientific knowledge, and identified opportunities to collaborate and coordinate Belize's national response to river and marine pollutants. Among the attendees were key stakeholders from the Government of Belize, managers of Marine Protected Areas, and scientists from water quality monitoring laboratories. CEFAS / [Read more](#)

USA: EPA APPROVES NEW ASTM STANDARD FOR PHASE 1 ENVIRONMENTAL SITE ASSESSMENTS

June 26 - Every eight years, standards for environmental Phase I reports are updated – and, typically, made more detailed and stringent. The standards were most recently updated in 2021, and the updated version was approved by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") for use beginning in February 2023. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

USA: CONTRACTORS AND OWNERS WILL HAVE AN EASIER TIME IDENTIFYING REGULATED WETLANDS FOLLOWING U.S. SUPREME COURT OPINION

June 28 - Contractors understand how difficult it can be on a technical level to do work in or near wetlands or other environmentally-sensitive areas. Such work is even more difficult due to complex, ever-changing regulations coming from the federal government under the Clean Water Act ("CWA"). The CWA applies to "navigable waters", which are defined as "the waters of the United States." To determine whether certain wetlands are "the waters of the United States", contractors and owners have had to engage in fact-intensive "significant-nexus" determinations that turned on a lengthy list of hydrological and ecological factors found in regulations from the U.S. EPA. Recently, the U.S. Supreme Court struck down the applicability of those regulations and instituted a simpler test to determine whether wetlands on an owner's property are regulated. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

VENEZUELA: OIL SPILLS IN LAKE MARACAIBO - STATE OF ZULIA - VENEZUELA

June 26 – Report from Carlos Sagrera, MSc, Hon.FISCO, ISCO Representative in Latin America - Below is news for an article on the consequences of the oil spill in Lake Maracaibo announced in ISCO Newsletter N°895. Links from the local press are attached, including a YouTube video filming the oil leak at PDVSA facilities, as well as some selected photos from the press and NGOs.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

Reactions continue in Venezuela after reports of oil spills in Lake Maracaibo in the state of Zulia in Venezuela (ISCO Newsletter N° 894). The endemic state of contamination of Lake Maracaibo is well known, not only due to oil spills but also due to the sewage that discharges into it. However, recent images and complaints have worsened and generated a reaction from public opinion led by municipal authorities who have demanded responses from the Ministry of the Environment and PDVSA, the latter announcing the start of cleanup actions after videos of oil leaks were released in the Urdaneta field in the W zone of the lake by NGOs. Articles and photos from the Venezuelan press in relation to the event are attached.

<https://elvigilanteweb.com/denuncia-ecocidio-contaminacion-lago-de-maracaibo-petroleoaguas-servidas/>

<https://concejomunicipaldemaracaibo.org/2023/06/22/concejales-marabinos-exigen-respuestas-ante-el-derrame-petrolero-en-el-lago-de-maracaibo/>

<https://www.analitica.com/actualidad/actualidad-nacional/pdvsa-comienza-a-limpiar-el-lago-de-maracaibo-afectado-por-derrames-de-petroleo/>

<https://www.ntn24.com/noticias-actualidad/las-dramaticas-imagenes-en-la-fauna-animal-que-deja-un-nuevo-derrame-petrolero-en-zulia-427264>

<https://finanzasdigital.com/pdvsa-inicia-limpieza-del-lago-de-maracaibo-por-derrames-petroleros/>

<https://primeraedicioncol.com/derrames-de-petroleo-siguen-afectando-al-lago-de-maracaibo/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WwuUtMVQBm4>

[Note from your editor – Carlos attached some photos with this report but I have not printed them because it's possible that some of them may be protected by copyright and publishing them could cause some problems. However, the attached links for the local press reports will include photos that you can look at].

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

AQUA-GUARD COMPLETES 3RD CONTRACT FOR THE CANADIAN COAST GUARD



Aqua-Guard completes 3rd contract for the Canadian Coast Guard for the supply of sixteen (16) light-weight RBS TRITON™ 10 Micro oil skimming systems

The new RBS TRITON™ 10 oil skimming system is designed to be deployed by a only one personnel to recover spilled oil in sheltered and constrained locations, including within stricken vessels.

Each system is fully containerized complete with power pack, pump and all accessories required to operate without logistical support for extended periods of time. The RBS TRITON™ 10 oil skimming system is constructed under ISO 9001:2015 and is 100% designed, manufactured and tested in Canada.

Following an international, open and competitive process, Public Services and Procurement Canada, on behalf of the

Canadian Coast Guard, awarded Aqua-Guard Spill Response Inc a contract for the supply sixteen (16) RBS TRITON™ 10 oil skimming systems.

Under the Oceans Protection Plan, the Government of Canada has ensured the Canadian Coast Guard now has the equipment it needs to respond to potential oil spill incidents along our coastlines in a timely and efficient manner with the delivery of RBS TRITON™ oil skimming systems.

Since 2018, Aqua-Guard has become the primary oil skimmer supplier to the Canadian Coast Guard with the supply of one-hundred and twenty-nine (129) oil skimming systems ranging in applications from skimming inside vessel's hulls to shorelines, lakes, rivers, harbours and onboard vessels. These systems were supplied via three separate international, competitive tenders. Aqua-Guard / Read more by clicking on the link below –

<https://aquaguard.com/news/aqua-guard-completes-3rd-contract-for-the-canadian-coast-guard-with-the-sup>

NEWS FROM CAPT. D. C. SEKHAR OF ALPHAMERS IN INDIA

We are taking up one of the biggest plastic projects in the world for all the rivers in the whole state of Goa.



DC Sekhar
Managing Director
AlphaMERS

We also have one of the best technologies of hydraulic robots to clean crude oil tanks. We are fielding queries from refineries around the world for the robots.

A new article published in the Indian publication India CSR (Corporate Social Responsibility) is titled -

ALPHAMERS SPEARHEADS INNOVATIONS TO COMBAT PLASTIC POLLUTION IN WATER BODIES

“The impact of AlphaMERS’ FTBs in capturing and removing plastic waste from rivers has been impressive.

Plastic pollution has emerged as a global environmental crisis, particularly in water bodies. In the fight against this pervasive issue, AlphaMERS, led by the innovator DC Sekhar, has been making significant strides with their innovative floating trash barriers (FTBs). AlphaMERS’ mission to restore water bodies to their pristine state within a decade has captured the attention of environmentalists, governments, and communities worldwide.

Inspired by his observations of clean rivers in Europe and a conversation with a municipal engineer, DC Sekhar embarked on a journey to develop a solution for the growing problem of plastic waste in rivers.

AlphaMERS’ innovative FTB technology sets it apart from existing solutions. These FTBs, designed as standing mesh structures with hydrostatic and hydrodynamic stability, effectively capture solid waste while allowing water to flow freely.

The strategic placement of the barriers diagonally across the water ensures that trash is carried to one end, where it can be easily recovered. DC Sekhar emphasized the uniqueness of their design, stating, “This FTB design has been different from any other from day one. It is environmentally and financially one of the very low-cost technologies for this purpose in the world.”

The impact of AlphaMERS’ FTBs in capturing and removing plastic waste from rivers has been impressive. In their first year of operations in Chennai’s Cooum River, approximately 22,000 tons of trash, including 2,200 tons of plastics, were collected and removed from the water”. [Read the rest of this very short article](#)

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



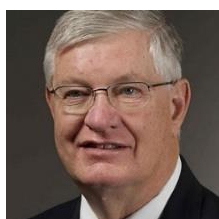
The ISCO Executive Committee is looking into how our organisation can assist by co-operating with others in promulgating better prevention and response capabilities that can be adopted on a worldwide basis.

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 contributor to this section in the ISCO Newsletter. She has been taking a break and her next contribution will appear in a later issue.

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS

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



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.

161. Bioremediation study of a hydrocarbon-contaminated soil by profiling aromatic and aliphatic chains

Guirado, M., García-Delgado, C., Pindado, O., de la Torre, B.O., Escolano, O., Eymar, E., Millán, R. (2023) Applied Soil Ecology, 190, art. no. 104983,

DOI: 10.1016/j.apsoil.2023.104983

ABSTRACT: Efficient decontamination of oil contaminated soils is not always easy, especially when the contamination is aged. In this work, we have opted for bioremediation techniques, with a low environmental impact, whose treatments were selected according to the area and soil to be treated. Thus, an industrial area, which had had fuel oil spills for decades, was our decontamination target, using bioremediation techniques that included bioaugmentation with bacteria (autochthonous bacterial consortium), phytoremediation with a plant (*Medicago sativa* L.) and bioaugmentation with a fungus (*Pleurotus ostreatus*). These treatments were tested alone and in combination to observe any possible synergies. The evaluation of these treatments for the degradation of the total aliphatic and aromatic fractions of total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH), showed a higher efficiency (18–48 %) in the degradation of the aliphatic fractions for all the treatments compared with natural attenuation (11 %). By contrast, lower efficiencies were obtained for the aromatic fractions (0–35 %) compared with natural attenuation, which did not decrease. The removal of these fractions was only effective in the combined treatment using all three organisms: the plant, the bacteria, and the fungus, where the bioaugmentation enhanced the plant-microorganism interaction in the root system. The selection of the biological treatments to a specific contaminated site and the evaluation of decontamination by the aromatic and aliphatic chain profiles, leads to a better understanding of the degradation of the different fractions of fuel.

162. Pelagic and estuarine birds as sentinels of metal(loid)s in the South Atlantic Ocean: Ecological niches as main factors acting on bioaccumulation

Lima, G.D.S., Menegario, A.A., Suarez, C.A., Kamazuka, S.H., Gemeiner, H., Sánchez-Sarmiento, A.M., Ferioli, R.B., Barreto, A.S. (2023) *Environmental Pollution*, 326, art. no. 121452, DOI: 10.1016/j.envpol.2023.121452

ABSTRACT: Activities related to the offshore exploration and production of oil and natural gas provide economic development and an essential energy source. However, besides the risk of petroleum hydrocarbon contamination, these activities can also be sources of metals and metalloids for marine organism contamination. In this research, we evaluated the potential use of two pelagic (black-browed albatross *Thalassarche melanophris* and yellow-nosed albatross *T. chlororhynchos*) and one estuarine bird species (neotropical cormorant *Nannopterum brasiliense*) as sentinels of contamination of As, Cd, Cr, Cu, Pb, Mn, Mo, Zn, Ni, Ba, V, and Hg in an area under influence of oil and gas activities. The analyses were carried out in samples collected from 2015 to 2022 from 97 individuals. A factor alert; an adaptation from the contamination factor is proposed to identify individuals with high concentrations that possibly suffered contamination by anthropogenic origin. Grouping all species, the metal(loid)s with the highest concentrations were in decreasing order: Zn > Cu > Mn > Hg > As > Cd > Mo > V > Cr > Ba > Ni > Pb. Similar concentrations were observed for V, Mn, Cr and Pb among the three species. Pelagic birds showed higher levels of concentrations for Hg, As and Cd. Based on the correlations and multivariate analysis performed, the results indicate that the ecological niche factor has greater relevance in the bioaccumulation of these elements compared to the habitat. Although some individuals showed high concentrations in part of the trace elements, suggesting exposure to anthropic sources, the direct influence of oil production and exploration activities was not observed, suggesting that activities on the continent are the primary contamination source. The results of this work highlight the role of seabirds as sentinels for metal(loid)s, contributing to the knowledge of the occurrence of contaminants in the South Atlantic Ocean.

163. Using Blood Gas Analysis and Capnography to Determine Oxygenation Status in Bottlenose Dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) Following the Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill

Sharp, S.M., Gomez, F.M., Meegan, J.M., Rowles, T.K., Townsend, F., Schwacke, L.H., Smith, C.R. (2023) *Toxics*, 11 (5), art. no. 423, DOI: 10.3390/toxics11050423

ABSTRACT: Following the Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil spill in 2010, poor pulmonary health and reproductive failure in bottlenose dolphins (*Tursiops truncatus*) in the northern Gulf of Mexico were well-documented. One postulated etiology for the increased fetal distress syndrome and pneumonia found in affected perinatal dolphins was maternal hypoxia caused by lung disease. The objective of this study was to evaluate the utility of blood gas analysis and capnography in determining oxygenation status in bottlenose dolphins with and without pulmonary disease. Blood and breath samples were collected from 59 free-ranging dolphins in Barataria Bay, Louisiana (BB), during a capture–release health assessment program, and from 30 managed dolphins from the U.S. Navy Marine Mammal Program in San Diego, CA. The former was the oil-exposed cohort and the latter served as a control cohort with known health histories. Capnography and select blood gas parameters were compared based on the following factors: cohort, sex,

age/length class, reproductive status, and severity of pulmonary disease. Animals with moderate–severe lung disease had higher bicarbonate concentrations ($p = 0.005$), pH ($p < 0.001$), TCO₂ ($p = 0.012$), and more positive base excess ($p = 0.001$) than animals with normal–mild disease. Capnography (ETCO₂) was found to have a weak positive correlation with blood PCO₂ ($p = 0.020$), with a mean difference of 5.02 mmHg ($p < 0.001$). Based on these findings, indirect oxygenation measures, including TCO₂, bicarbonate, and pH, show promise in establishing the oxygenation status in dolphins with and without pulmonary disease.

164. Volatile Hydrocarbon Exposures and Incident Coronary Heart Disease Events: Up to Ten Years of Follow-up among Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill Workers

Chen, D., Sandler, D.P., Keil, A.P., Heiss, G., Whitsel, E.A., Edwards, J.K., Stewart, P.A., Stenzel, M.R., Groth, C.P., Ramachandran, G., Banerjee, S., Huynh, T.B., Jackson, W.B., 2nd, Blair, A., Lawrence, K.G., Kwok, R.K., Engel, L.S. (2023) *Environmental health perspectives*, 131 (5), p. 57006.
DOI: 10.1289/EHP11859

ABSTRACT: BACKGROUND: During the 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) disaster, response and cleanup workers were potentially exposed to toxic volatile components of crude oil. However, to our knowledge, no study has examined exposure to individual oil spill-related chemicals in relation to cardiovascular outcomes among oil spill workers. OBJECTIVES: Our aim was to investigate the association of several spill-related chemicals [benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, xylene, n-hexane (BTEX-H)] and total hydrocarbons (THC) with incident coronary heart disease (CHD) events among workers enrolled in a prospective cohort. METHODS: Cumulative exposures to THC and BTEX-H across the cleanup period were estimated via a job-exposure matrix that linked air measurement data with self-reported DWH spill work histories. We ascertained CHD events following each worker's last day of cleanup work as the first self-reported physician-diagnosed myocardial infarction (MI) or a fatal CHD event. We estimated hazard ratios (HR) and 95% confidence intervals for the associations of exposure quintiles (Q) with risk of CHD. We applied inverse probability weights to account for bias due to confounding and loss to follow-up. We used quantile g-computation to assess the joint effect of the BTEX-H mixture. RESULTS: Among 22,655 workers with no previous MI diagnoses, 509 experienced an incident CHD event through December 2019. Workers in higher quintiles of each exposure agent had increased CHD risks in comparison with the referent group (Q1) of that agent, with the strongest associations observed in Q5 (range of formula presented). However, most associations were nonsignificant, and there was no evidence of exposure-response trends. We observed stronger associations among ever smokers, workers with formula presented education, and workers with body mass index formula presented. No apparent positive association was observed for the BTEX-H mixture. CONCLUSIONS: Higher exposures to volatile components of crude oil were associated with modest increases in risk of CHD among oil spill workers, although we did not observe exposure-response trends.

165. High abundance of hydrocarbon-degrading Alcanivorax in plumes of hydrothermally active volcanoes in the South Pacific Ocean

Dede, B., Priest, T., Bach, W., Walter, M., Amann, R., Meyerdierks, A. (2023) *ISME Journal*, 17 (4), pp. 600-610.
DOI: 10.1038/s41396-023-01366-4

ABSTRACT: Species within the genus *Alcanivorax* are well known hydrocarbon-degraders that propagate quickly in oil spills and natural oil seepage. They are also inhabitants of the deep-sea and have been found in several hydrothermal plumes. However, an in-depth analysis of deep-sea *Alcanivorax* is currently lacking. In this study, we used multiple culture-independent techniques to analyze the microbial community composition of hydrothermal plumes in the Northern Tonga arc and Northeastern Lau Basin focusing on the autecology of *Alcanivorax*. The hydrothermal vents feeding the plumes are hosted in an arc volcano (Niua), a rear-arc caldera (Niua-tahi) and the Northeast Lau Spreading Centre (Maka). Fluorescence in situ hybridization revealed that *Alcanivorax* dominated the community at two sites (1210–1565 mbsl), reaching up to 48% relative abundance (3.5×10^4 cells/ml). Through 16S rRNA gene and metagenome analyses, we identified that this pattern was driven by two *Alcanivorax* species in the plumes of Niua-tahi and Maka. Despite no indication for hydrocarbon presence in the plumes of these areas, a high expression of genes involved in hydrocarbon-degradation was observed. We hypothesize that the high abundance and gene expression of *Alcanivorax* is likely due to yet undiscovered hydrocarbon seepage from the seafloor, potentially resulting from recent volcanic activity in the area. Chain-length and complexity of hydrocarbons, and water depth could be driving niche partitioning in *Alcanivorax*.

166. A comparative case study of multistakeholder responses following oil spills in Pointe d'Esny, Mauritius, and Huntington Beach, California

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

Nagea, J., Miller, R.K.

(2023) *Ecology and Society*, 28 (1), art. no. 24,

DOI: 10.5751/ES-13737-280124

ABSTRACT: Oil spills generate negative ecological, societal, economic, and public health impacts, and require rapid response to contain and mitigate damages. Prompt and effective emergency management of acute events like oil spills is highly dependent on the social, institutional, and ecological context. In August 2020, the wreckage of the MV Wakashio spilled 1000 tonnes of fuel oil along an ecologically sensitive coastline in Pointe d’Esny, Mauritius. In October 2021, an offshore pipeline split and released 78 tonnes of crude oil off the coast of Huntington Beach in California. We compare responses among three sets of stakeholders (government, non-governmental organizations, and local residents) during the first 10 days of both oil spills, which also occurred during the COVID-19 pandemic. In Mauritius, unfavorable weather conditions and COVID-19-related border closures that delayed international support impeded government action, creating a leadership and trust vacuum among residents regarding the immediate cleanup response. This perceived gap was subsequently complemented by NGOs coordinating improvised artisanal boom production and local volunteer cleanup efforts, with limited protection or public health training. By contrast, prompt state and local government intervention in Huntington Beach created a clear chain of command with NGOs and residents deferring to official guidance. In both cases, the oil spills created new policy opportunities to improve emergency management plans and reduce future risks. Our results demonstrate the influence of prior local expertise in managing earlier disasters and resources on governmental and organizational capacity. Incorporating and ensuring on-the-ground disaster expertise in response activities improves government-led crisis response, subsequently protecting ecosystems and residents. Effective multi-level crisis response helps address a range of environmental and social justice concerns related to negative impacts of spills on local communities. Our study discusses how learnings from disaster management can reinforce social-ecological resilience in coastal communities dealing with increasing anthropogenic stressors.

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/>

ENVIRONMENTAL RISKS AND OPPORTUNITIES OF ORPHANED OIL AND GAS WELLS

Researchers are leading an international team whose goal is to create a framework to help governments in the U.S. and around the world assess and prioritize remediation strategies for orphaned oil and gas wells. These inactive wells represent environmental risks since they have the potential to contaminate water supplies, degrade ecosystems, and emit methane and other air pollutants that are harmful to human health. But plugging the wells also offers various potential environmental opportunities such as underground storage of carbon dioxide and hydrogen, or the development of geothermal energy systems. Science Daily and McGill University / [Read more](#)

MINI-REVIEW ON REMEDIATION OF PLASTIC POLLUTION THROUGH PHOTOREFORMING: PROGRESS, POSSIBILITIES, AND CHALLENGES

The increasing plastic pollution has raised significant concerns about the environment and the destruction of its precious resources. Making value-added products out of plastic waste is an effective way to reduce plastic pollution and use it as a valuable resource. Plastic reforming driven by sunlight offers a quick and low-energy way to produce hydrogen from waste. Photoreforming of plastic waste is an emerging technology that cannot only break down plastic polymer waste into value-added chemicals but also produce solar fuel cell quality H₂. Technologies, such as pyrolysis, combustion, and advanced oxidation, are right now being studied for converting plastic pollution into energy. A thorough summary and comparison of different technologies have not yet been published. Open dumping and combustion are two main steps to deal with waste plastics, but these processes experience inefficiencies and cannot adequately address the challenges. In this mini-review, we aimed to provide a short overview of the recently reported conventional and novel plastic waste treatment methods. The current research on the photoreforming of plastics conducted by various groups and some advantages and disadvantages of this practice has been discussed thoroughly. Also, some notes were made on the prospective future scope present in this particular research area to achieve a carbon-free fuel system. The purpose of this review is to encourage the utilisation of plastic garbage as an alternative source of energy. PubMed / [Read more](#)

STUDY HIGHLIGHTS VERMICULITE AS AN EFFICIENT TECHNIQUE FOR THE REMEDIATION OF EUTROPHIC LAKES

When the amount of nutrients from outside sources is reduced, the release of nutrients already present in the water becomes the main reason for water pollution due to excessive growth of plants and algae. To restore and maintain a healthy balance in lakes

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED) (

affected by this pollution, scientists are focusing on using special mineral-based materials and techniques that involve planting underwater vegetation. These methods have gained popularity as they help promote the long-term recovery of these ecosystems.

Vermiculite is a natural mineral with a unique structure that can absorb nutrients like nitrogen and phosphorus, as well as harmful pollutants like heavy metals. It can also help improve the physical makeup of sediment. However, little is known about how sediment is affected when using vermiculite alongside underwater plants. Phys Org / [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
- USA - Elastec Fall Workshop, New Harmony, Indiana, 3-5 October 2023. [More Info](#)

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

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

JULY & AUGUST 2023

- WEBINAR – Cedre – “Hydrocarbon Behaviour on the Guineese Coast”, 3rd July 2023
- WEBINAR from ALGA – “Tackling Challenges associated with Contaminants of Emerging Concern, Improving our Understanding of Risk, Fate, Effects and Removal Efficiency”, 11th July 2023, 12.00pm – 1.00pm, AEST
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Input of Oil to the Sea”, Webinar 18, 12th July 2023
- USA – AHMP Annual Conference, Nebraska, 27-30 August 2023
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Accidental Spill Mitigation”, Webinar 19, 1st August 2023

SEPTEMBER 2023 & ONWARDS

- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Oil Chemistry and Fates of Oil in the Sea”, Webinar 20, 5th September 2023
- AUSTRALIA – SPILLCON Conference & Exhibition, Brisbane, 11-15 September 2023
- AUSTRALIA – SPREP/IMO/ARPEL Workshop, “Developing Oil Spill Preparedness & Response Planning In Pacific Small Islands & other Developing States”, Brisbane, 15th – 17th September 2023
- USA – Elastec Fall Workshop. New Harmony. Indiana, 3-4 October 2023
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Environmental Effects of Oil in the Sea”, Webinar 21, 3rd October, 2023

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- THAILAND – Economist – “Global Plastics Summit”, Bangkok, 11-12 October 2023
- BRAZIL – International Seminar – ISCO & Ocean Pact Brazil “ Lessons Learned for Brazil & Latin America, Preparedness, Response & Crisis Management, Case Studies”, Rio de Janeiro, 27th October 2023
- ITALY – ECOMONDO Exhibition & Conference, Rimini, 7-12 November 2023
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Human Health Effects of Oil in the Sea”, Webinar 22, 7th November 2023
- USA – Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition, “Prepare, Respond and Recover”, San Antonio, TX, 7-9 November 2023
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Round Table Discussion to provide Summary and Recommendations”, Webinar 23, 5th December 2023
- UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, 6-7 December 2023

SOME OTHER INFO

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

UK & Ireland Spill Association Alternative Marine Fuels And Their Implication For Spill Response Webinar is [now available to watch on YouTube.](#)

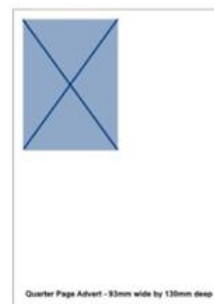
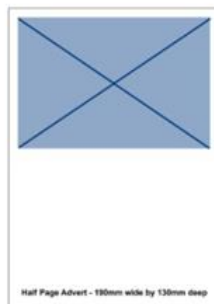
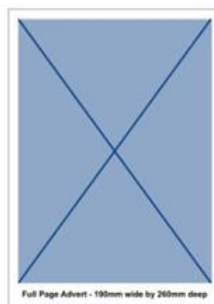
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CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

REMOTELY OPERATED SURFACE VESSEL FOR IN-SITU BURNS DEMONSTRATION

An article received from Scott Pegau, OSRI Research Programme Manager in Cordova, Alaska

Oil spill response in the Arctic is challenging because of the remoteness, lack of infrastructure, and the harsh environment. In situ burning of spilled oil minimizes some of these challenges because much of the logistics associated with oil recovery, transport, and disposal are eliminated. Herders further minimize response challenges because they increase the thickness of a slick allowing the

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

ignition and burning of oil without deployment of fire boom. Testing in 2015 of the aerial application of herders and ignitors for potential rapid response in the Arctic found that there was a need for a rapidly deployable system that combined the herders and ignitors on a single platform. A joint industry project (JIP) examined approaches to meet this need and chose to develop a remotely operated surface vessel (ROSV) that could be launched from shore, a boat, or a helicopter and Tactical Electronics was contracted to build the ROSV.



Above: ROSV applying the ignitor to generate an in-situ burn.

The ROSV developed for the JIP is based on a commercially available jet ski. This platform was chosen for its durability, fuel efficiency, ease of maintenance, and ability to be launched in a variety of manners. The jet ski is heavily modified and uses modular components that can be rapidly swapped if they malfunction or to reconfigure it for other uses. For example, a second vehicle is under construction that focuses on remote sensing capabilities. Note that the ROSV is not just a response tool for challenging Arctic environments as it can operate anywhere a jet ski can operate (Arctic, subarctic, temperate, or tropical; marine or freshwater)



Inside the ROSV Command and transport trailer



ROSV with the command & transport trailer in the background

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

The ROSV is capable of speeds up to 50 miles-per-hour with a 500-mile range and up to 200 hours of loitering. It can be operated through a wide array of communication approaches from local operations to remote operations via satellite communications. It has cameras and radar for collision avoidance, along with a suite of sonar systems. A tethered quadcopter provides aerial observation capability with both a visible and infrared camera. A 30-liter tank for herders allows treatment of more than 1,000 bbls of spilled oil. Herded slicks are ignited with burning gelled gasoline fired from the ROSV. The ROSV is designed for rapid resupply in the field allowing it to potentially treat many thousands of barrels of spilled oil in a single day.

Testing of the vehicle's burn capabilities was conducted in early June on a 100 m x 100 m burn tank located at the University of Alaska Fairbanks' Poker Flat Research Range. An approximately 1 mm thick oil slick was placed on the tank before the vehicle applied herders around it. The herders caused the slick to contract, thickening it to >3 mm, sufficient for the vehicle's gelled gasoline thrower to ignite the slick. Five burns were conducted over a four-day period. A short video of the testing can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Px7RorCO768> A longer version showing a full test, walk-through of the vehicle and command trailer, and other details can be found at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fla-7WMh04U>

Testing of other capabilities, such as open water operations and satellite control, are planned in the summer of 2023. A presentation describing the ROSV will be given at the Clean Gulf Conference this fall, and it will be on display in the exhibit hall.

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

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

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>

Early bird rates of \$1,645 (including GST) are available until 11th July - [BOOK NOW!](#)

A [Regional Workshop](#) has been organised by SPREP/IMO/ARPEL for the weekend immediately following Spillcon 2023. 15 - 17 September 2023 [Brisbane Convention & Exhibition Centre](#). The [Regional Workshop](#) aims to share international experience and up-to-date knowledge on key issues of oil spill preparedness and response, aimed specifically at those based in the island nations of the South Pacific Area. It will also assist in the use of a suite of environmental management and governance tools for governments as well as present the experience gathered in other parts of the world with similar characteristics. Information, including the registration form for this Regional Workshop being held on 15 - 17 September 2023 in Brisbane, will be available [here](#). Should you have any additional questions please [contact Paul Irving at SPREP](#).

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 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](#)

Scholarship Applications Now Accepted - In order to make it as easy as possible to attend this important conference, IOSC is launching the Scholarship Program. This program is intended to assist government representatives, academics, NGO's or those involved in spill response whose attendance will enhance preparedness in their region of the world. Scholarships are need-based and awarded to applicants only after review and approval by the IOSC 2024 Scholarship Committee. Key Deadlines - Application site closes: June 29, 2023; Scholarship recipient selection: Late August 2023; Official notification: September 5, 2023 [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 Federal Contract Opportunities are posted at <https://clu-in.org/Federal-Contract-Opportunities>

European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter at - <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/newsletters.html>

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

TO VIEW LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS PLEASE CLICK ON

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

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

NEW PUBLICATIONS

PEMSEA – JUNE 2023 E-BULLETIN

This month's bulletin highlights the kick-off of planning and assessment works of two PEMSEA projects — the Integrated River Basin Management Project and the Reducing Marine Plastics in East Asian Seas Region Project. We are also sharing the key highlights of the Regional Forum on Blue Carbon that we organized this month. This issue also features the published works of our Arafura and Timor Seas Ecosystems Action Programme - 2 including the study on climate change impacts in ATS Region and an opinion article to commemorate the World Ocean Day . [Read more](#)

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/>

TURKIYE: MINE THREAT ON BOARD OF GENERAL CARGO SHIP

June 24 - Zonguldak Port authorities, Turkey, Black sea coast, on Jun 24 were alerted by mine threat on board of general cargo ship AZOV FORWARD, berthed at port in the morning Jun 24. The ship with cargo of ore arrived from Novorossiysk, Russia, at Zonguldak anchorage, on Jun 11. Mine or mines were reportedly, attached to hull. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

USA: MONTANA - TRAIN DERAILS AFTER YELLOWSTONE RIVER BRIDGE COLLAPSE

June 27 - The derailed cars were carrying hot asphalt and molten sulfur, officials said. Cleanup is continuing at the site where a Train carrying potentially hazardous materials derailed into the Yellowstone River in Montana, according to officials. The incident left multiple tankers in the Yellowstone River and decimated the railroad portion of the Yellowstone Twin River Bridges in Stillwater County, Montana. ABC News / [Read more](#)

SINGAPORE: OIL SLICKS SPOTTED ON SHORES OF EAST COAST PARK

June 28 - Nature enthusiast Jay Yip was at East Coast Park on Tuesday morning hoping to spot some wildlife, but was instead he was greeted by the jarring sight of oil slicks on the shore. "Each year, during some periods of the south-west monsoon, oil slicks arrive on our local shores, creating a sticky, black tarry mess," said the 50-year-old educator in a post on Nature Society Singapore's (NSS) Facebook page.

In response to queries, the Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore said it is aware of the oil slick along the beach at East Coast Park, but could not ascertain if it had originated from land or was swept into Singapore's port waters due to prevailing tides.

The Straits Times / [Read more](#)

YEMEN: CONTAINERS LOST OVERBOARD IN ARABIAN SEA

June 28 - Containers loss - 6 containers were reported adrift in Arabian sea E of Socotra, probably lost from container ship AL NEFUD – coordinates of drifting containers coincide with ship's track and time, the ship reduced speed and as of 0950 UTC Jun 28, continues sailing at reduced speed, en route from Singapore to Suez. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

USA: MICHIGAN – OIL SPILL IN FLINT RIVER CONTAINED

June 30 - The spill of what appears to be a petroleum-based substance into the Flint River has been contained and appears far less significant than another discharge that occurred here one year ago. In a message broadcast on Facebook on Friday, June 30, Genesee County Sheriff Chris Swanson said the substance appears to have been contained by booms that were deployed in the area of the Utah bridge and dam after the spill was discovered late on Thursday, June 2. MLive / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA : BONGA OIL SPILL VICTIMS, COMMUNITIES THREATEN TO OCCUPY SHELL FACILITIES

July 1 - There is palpable tension among oil workers in Shell facilities in the Niger Delta as a group under the aegis of Concerned Bonga Oil Spill Victims and Impacted Communities (CBOSIC), yesterday, issued a fresh threat to occupy facilities of the Shell Exploration And Production Company Ltd (SEPCO). The moves followed the expiration of an earlier 14-Day ultimatum and seven days notice given to the company to address their demands. This Day / [Read more](#)

INFORMATION FOR ISCO MEMBERS AND OTHER READERS

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

It has been quite a long time since your editor last revised the list of websites (including those of national environmental authorities and agencies) that are checked every week for news content likely to be of interest to members of our community.

A revision of the list is due because some of these websites are, in the news sections of their websites, giving out only “static” content with no real news content. In several other instances, the websites being checked are not properly maintained with content not having been updated for several months or even years. Your editor is planning to remove these very unhelpful websites from his weekly checking list.

However, it may be that other websites that are not currently being visited should be added to the check list. Members and readers are asked to send their recommendations to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

It's noticeable that despite having members in over 60 countries, news from many of these countries is never printed in “News from Around the World” and this situation needs to be corrected. Members and Readers are asked to assist.

As always, the editor will use his discretion in deciding which reports should be included in the newsletter, taking into account probable interest to members and readers in the concerned countries. Some stories refer to new and especially worthwhile initiatives and are included because they alert other readers to ideas that they may be interested in adopting in their own countries.

The ISCO newsletter is always grateful to members and readers who send the editor news reports

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