



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



MR. ARSENIO DOMINGUEZ (PANAMA) ELECTED AS IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL



July 18 - Mr. Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco (Republic of Panama) has been elected as the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), with effect from 1 January 2024, for an initial term of four years.

The IMO Council voted to appoint Mr. Dominguez during its 129th session (C 129), which met from 17 to 21 July 2023. The decision of the Council will be submitted to the IMO Assembly, which meets for its 33rd session from 27 November to 6 December 2023, for approval.

Mr. Dominguez is currently Director of IMO's Marine Environment Division. IMO / [Read more](#) Related reports in [Lloyds List](#) and [The Maritime Executive](#)

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INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

TANKER ARRIVES IN YEMEN TO START RISKY OIL PUMPING OPERATION



The Nautica VLCC departs from Zhoushan, China. (Photo courtesy of UNDP)

July 16 - A United Nations oil tanker arrived in Yemen on Sunday to begin the risky operation of pumping over a million barrels of crude oil from a decaying tanker in danger of exploding and causing an environmental disaster. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

GLOBAL ASSESSMENT OF MARINE PLASTIC EXPOSURE RISK FOR OCEANIC BIRDS

July 4 - Understanding where wildlife encounters plastic is crucial for targeting research and mitigation. Oceanic seabirds, particularly petrels, frequently ingest plastic, are highly threatened, and cover vast distances during foraging and migration. However, the spatial overlap between petrels and plastics is poorly understood. Here we combine marine plastic density estimates with individual movement data for 7137 birds of 77 petrel species to estimate relative exposure risk. Article published in Nature Communications / [Read this article](#)

US EPA ADMINISTRATOR REGAN AND SINGAPORE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENT AGENCY MINISTER FU SIGN MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING TO ENHANCE ENVIRONMENTAL COOPERATION

July 20 - Today, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Singapore's National Environment Agency signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to enhance bilateral cooperation on environmental management and protection between the two nations. EPA / [Read more](#)

MR. DOMINIK ENGLERT AND MR. RICO SALGMANN, REPRESENTATIVES FROM THE WORLD BANK AND MS. LUCIENNE MEILAK FROM THE MINISTRY FOR TRANSPORT VISIT REMPEC

July 14 – The Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) welcomed the visit of Mr. Dominik Englert, Economist, Global Transport Unit and Mr. Rico Salgmann, Transport Specialist, Global Transport Unit – World Bank Group along with Ms. Lucienne Meilak, Director, Policy Development and Programme Implementation – Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure and Capital Projects, on 13th July 2023. During the meeting future cooperation was discussed. REMPEC / [Read more](#)

IOPC FUNDS - VISIT FROM THE DELEGATION OF INDIA

July 21 - The Director, Mr Gaute Sivertsen, and Deputy Director, Ms Liliana Monsalve, were honoured to have the opportunity to meet with the Secretary to the Government of India, Ministry of Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Mr T. K. Ramachandran, and the Director General of Shipping, Mr Shyam Jagannathan, on 20 July 2023

India is the largest contributor to the 1992 Fund, importing some 16% of the total oil receipts reported annually by Member States. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

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CANADA: COAST GUARD PRACTISES NEAR UCLUELET FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE



A crew member on Atlantic Eagle holds a drone as part of an oil spill response exercise conducted off the coast of Ucluelet this weekend. (Photo courtesy of Canadian Coast Guard)

July 17 - On the emergency tow vessel Atlantic Eagle, the coast guard tested new technologies and ran through scenarios for cleaning a large vessel in the event of an oil spill. It worked in partnership with the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation.

“Marine training exercises are an opportunity for us to practise a scenario with response partners like WCMRC, and then apply lessons learned to any potential future real life situations,” Canadian Coast Guard spokesperson Kiri Westledge said in a statement. Vancouver Sun / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: RESPONSE TEAM ACTIVITY DURING JUNE 2023

- Discussions with MRCC Corsica, Corsen, Jobourg and Lagarde following CleanSeaNet detections or aerial observations of marine pollution: discussions on the nature of the products spilled, requests for drift forecasts, advice on the operations to be carried out;
- On-site response mission at a shipyard in Brest following a spill of oily residues in a dry dock;
- Activation by EMSA of the MAR-ICE service for a real incident;
- Discussions with DDTM 59 in relation to an orange-coloured product on the shoreline;
- Advice to the Bordeaux harbour master's office and DDTM 33 following a small spill of diesel and engine oil in the port;
- Advice to DREAL PACA after unusual phenomena were observed in the Anse d'Auguette and the Anse du Verdon;
- Advice to DDPP 02 following a fuel oil spill in the Aisne river,
- Support to DDTM 62 in relation to a product washed up on the shoreline. This product may be paraffin; samples are to be sent to Cedre;
- Participation in an exercise organised by BUNGE, a Brest-based company that receives cargoes of vegetable oil;
- Participation from Brest in: an exercise (HNS) organised at EUROFOS, a MAR-ICE exercise organised by Spain, the NJORD exercise (wind farm incident) organised by the Prefecture for the Channel and North Sea (advice to authorities and to EDF Renouvelables) and 2 ICE ring tests organised by Norway and Switzerland.

OCA Taiwan training



Cedre once again hosted a Taiwanese delegation, led by Taiwan's Vice-Minister of the Ocean Affairs Council and an expert representing the Taiwan Ocean Conservation Administration, comprising representatives of administrations and private companies for 10 days of training. Two crisis management courses were organised: the first dedicated to oil pollution (IMO level 3) and the second to HNS (IMO manager level). In addition to these 2 training courses, the delegation attended a visit to the POLMAR stockpile in Brest and a demonstration of Brest naval fire brigade's mobile chemical response unit. Two crisis management tabletop exercises were also organised. CEDRE / [Read more in the Cedre Newsletter](#)

SOUTH KOREA: REPUBLIC OF KOREA BOOSTS FUNDING FOR DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS



Photo courtesy of IMO

IMO and the Republic of Korea have signed agreements to boost Official Development Assistance (ODA) funding for two new projects, to tackle marine litter in East Asia and to develop and pilot test a tailor-made web-based e-navigation service in the Philippines; A third agreement was signed to support the port-related training needs of LDCs and SIDS to reduce emissions from the maritime sector.

The three agreements were signed (17 July) by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim and Mr. Jonguk Hong, Director General of Ministry of Oceans and Fisheries of Republic of Korea, during an event on the sidelines of the IMO Council 129th session. IMO / [Read more](#)

MALAYSIA: IOPC FUNDS VISIT FROM THE DELEGATION OF MALAYSIA



Photo courtesy of IOPC Funds

July 18 - The Director was delighted to welcome the Malaysian Deputy Minister of Transport, Mr Datuk Haji Hasbi bin Haji Habibollah, to the IOPC Funds offices on 17 July 2023. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by the representative of Malaysia to IOPC Funds meetings, Mr Mohd Fairoz Rozali, and several senior officials from the Ministry of Transport, the Malaysia Marine Department and Port Authority. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

MAURITIUS: OFFICIAL WAKASHIO ACCIDENT REPORT MADE PUBLIC

July 20 - After months of trying Splash was finally to obtain this week Panama's final accident report into the grounding of the Wakashio newcastlemax bulk carrier, an accident that sparked the worst environmental disaster in the history of Mauritius with bunker fuel washing up along huge areas of coastline. The accident, which led to a total loss, happened on July 25, 2020, and although an accident report was lodged with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) a couple of years ago by the ship's register, Panama, it has only just been made public. Splash / [Read a summary of the Report](#) [Thanks to Ed Levine]

NIGERIA: Ogoniland: ERA/FOEN, OTHERS TASK HYPREP'S NEW LEADERSHIP ON FULL IMPLEMENTATION OF UNEP REPORT

July 18 - The Environmental Rights Action/Friends of the Earth Nigeria, ERA/FoEN, and over 20 Civil Society Organizations, CSOs, tasked the new leadership of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project, HYPREP, on full implementation of the United Nations Environment Programme, UNEP, Assessment Report on Ogoniland in Rivers State.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

Speaking during a One-day National Roundtable on the HYPREP organised by the Peoples Advancement Centre, PAC, in Port Harcourt, the Executive Director, ERA/FoE, Chima Williams, as contained in a statement signed by the Communications Officer, Elvira Jordan, pointed out that despite HYREP now has an activist as its Project Coordinator, Prof Nenibari Zabbey, the CSOs will not slow down to press for full implementation of the UNEP report. Vanguard / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: WE WILL WORK WITH CIVIL SOCIETY TO DELIVER ON CLEANUP OF Ogoniland — HYPREP BOSS

July 20 – The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) Project Coordinator, Professor Nenibari Zabbey, has promised to work with civil society to improve the operations of the agency, particularly the clean up of Ogoniland. He said this after interacting with some environmental non-governmental organisations recently. Tribune Online / [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: NEW APP HELPS YOUNG PEOPLE TURN TIDE ON PLASTIC POLLUTION

July 17 - A new app is aiming to help young people in Trinidad and Tobago, along with other small-island developing states, counter the damage done by plastic pollution. Called Tide Turners, the app was developed by the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) with the help of young people, like Sobrian. It challenges users to record their plastics consumption and develop an action plan to reduce their use of the material UNEP / [Read more](#)

TURKIYE: TURMEPA ACADEMY IS ONLINE



July 17 - **TURMEPA Academy**, where the learning programs prepared by our association with 29 years of experience are shared with all sea lovers as open source, has started to broadcast.

Up-to-date, easy and accessible, learning programs prepared to raise awareness on Marine Ecosystem, Sustainable Development Goals and Climate Change and to provide fast access to reliable information are waiting for their visitors at **TURMEPA Academy**.

@turmepepaeitim our instagram account has been changed to TURMEPA Academy. You can reach **our Instagram account** by clicking on the link below:

[@turmepepaakademi](#) TURMEPA / [Read more](#)

UKRAINE: NATIONAL UNIVERSITY 'ODESSA MARITIME ACADEMY' PRESENTED WITH TOP IMarEST AWARD

June 27 - The National University 'Odessa Maritime Academy' (NUOMA) has been awarded the 2022 IMarEST Outstanding Contribution Award, sponsored by P&S Automation. The award has been presented for the Academy's excellence and commitment to marine education, and in special recognition of its resilience and determination to continue its mission in the face of extreme adversity.

Since the start of the war in Ukraine the Academy has continued to educate its students, taking measures to adapt to the disruption created by air raids, power outages, curfews, lack of internet, etc. Despite operating under martial law, it welcomed 400 first year cadets for in-person initiation at the end of September 2022 IMarEST / [Read more](#)

USA: OESI ANNOUNCES FUNDING FOR RESEARCH PROJECTS TO IMPROVE SAFETY OF OFFSHORE OIL AND GAS OPERATIONS

June 8 - The Ocean Energy Safety Institute (OESI) is pleased to announce it will fund 10 proposals for research to improve the safety and environmental sustainability of oil and gas energy development. OESI received 41 project proposals for 12 distinct research pathways. Total funding for the 10 research projects selected will reach \$3,885,057, pending successful contract negotiations.

Organized under an agreement between the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement, Department of Energy, and Texas A&M Engineering Experiment Station, OESI is a consortium of industry, national labs, NGOs, and academia created to support the development of critical safety and environmental improvements for all offshore energy activities, including renewable and traditional energy. These are the first grant awards from the OESI consortium, which includes wind energy, marine energy, and oil and gas. Grant awards for marine and wind energy research proposals will be announced in the coming weeks/months.

Ocean Energy Safety Institute / [Funding will be awarded to the following project titles and lead research organizations](#)

USA: FACILITY RESPONSE PLAN (FRP) APPLICABILITY

July 18 - Facilities that could reasonably be expected to cause "substantial harm" to the environment by discharging oil into or on navigable waters are required to prepare and submit Facility Response Plans (FRPs). Facilities that could cause "significant and substantial harm" are required to have their plans approved by an EPA Regional Administrator (RA).

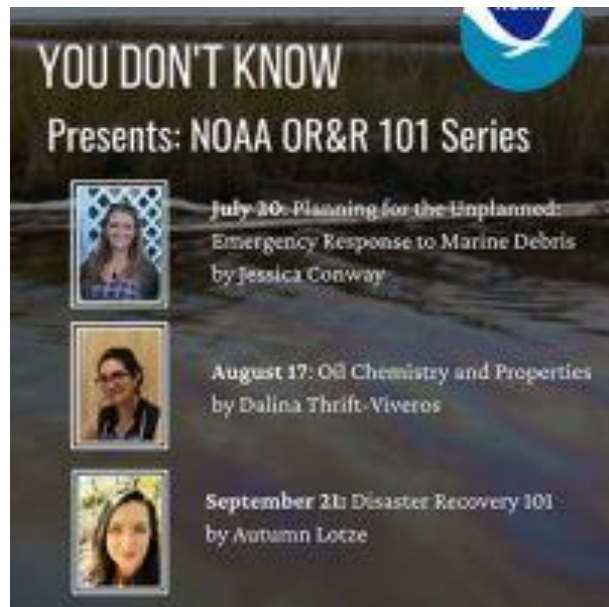
NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

- [Substantial Harm](#)
- [Significant and Substantial Harm](#)

Facilities may be identified as posing substantial harm either through a self-identification process, or by the determination of an RA. Facilities that pose significant and substantial harm must have their plans reviewed and approved by EPA. US EPA / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Mary Ann Dalgleish, Hon.FISCO]

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

July 17 – Please click on the links below to download and read the latest news from NOAA OR&R



New Lectures Announced in OR&R's Lecture Series

On Thursday of this week, July 20th, the [You Don't Know What You Don't Know](#) lecture series begins its second annual OR&R 101 series!

\$5.38 Million Settlement Proposed for Pollution in Gloucester, MA

On July 12, 2023, [a \\$5.38 million settlement was proposed](#)([link is external](#)) in Federal District Court to restore natural resources impacted by contaminants discharged along the Gloucester, Massachusetts waterfront.

Monitoring and Visualizing an Ecosystem's Recovery after a Catastrophic Oil Spill

NOAA scientists, aided in recent years by citizen scientists, have been photographing a boulder in Prince William Sound for 33 years. Why? The rock was coated in oil in 1989 when the Exxon Valdez supertanker ran aground on Bligh Reef, dumping more than ten million gallons of crude oil into the Sound. Today, the boulder is known as Mearns Rock, nicknamed after Dr. Alan Mearns, a scientist emeritus in NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

ANNELIESE JOST TO RECEIVE IMO INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PRIZE FOR HER CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE OBJECTIVES AND WORK OF IMO.

Photo on right courtesy of IMO

July 19 - Anneliese Jost has been selected as the recipient of the prestigious International Maritime Prize for 2022. The decision was made by the IMO Council at its 129th session (17-21 July). Anneliese Jost was nominated for the award by the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany.

In its statement supporting her nomination for the prize, Germany cited Ms Jost's "crucial contribution towards achieving the objectives of IMO, in particular in the area of maritime safety." She is described as having a "calm but firm way of communicating and ability to convince others".

International Maritime Prize

The International Maritime Prize is awarded annually by IMO to the individual or organization judged to have made a significant contribution to the work and objectives of the Organization. The Prize is marked by the presentation to the winner of a dolphin sculpture and includes a financial award, upon submission of an academic paper written on a subject relevant to IMO.

IMO / [Read more](#)



NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

Corporate Members of ISCO can by submitting news about new products and services in the “News from ISCO Members” section of the ISCO Newsletter.

This is a free facility for Members. Given that the ISCO Newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in over 60 countries, it's a cost-effective way to promote your company.

If you have some news you would like to share with readers of the ISCO Newsletter, send it to John.McMurtrie@spillcontrol.org

BALAENA AWARDED DESIGN/ENGINEERING OF A 60' OSRV FOR CLEAN GULF ASSOCIATES



Photo courtesy of Clean Gulf Associates

July 19 - Balaena, Inc. has entered into an agreement with Clean Gulf Associates, Inc. to design a 60' Oil Spill Response Vessel (OSRV). General characteristics of the vessel include 8,000 GPM oil/water intake, over 200 barrels onboard oil storage, 1,200 HP diesel outboard propulsion, satellite station keeping, and a minimum operating crew of two to three personnel.

“We would like to thank the CGA Board, Frank Paskewich, James Hanzalik and the entire CGA team for continuing its commitment of providing the latest technology and supporting the future of oil spill mechanical recovery with Balaena.” - Russell Covington, Balaena

“CGA, the board and their foresight has approved the design of a 60' vessel to replace some of our aging skimmers. Balaena did some tests at Ohmsett with really impressive results, their 34' vessel recovered roughly 10,000 barrels per day. The good thing about it too is that it recovers sheen, which is a plus. We are looking forward to our relationship with Balaena.” – James Hanzalik, VP Clean Gulf Associates. info@balaenainc.com

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.

180. Vulnerability and resilience of living marine resources to the Deepwater Horizon oil spill: an overview

Murawski, S.A., Schwing, P.T., Patterson, W.F., III, Sutton, T.T., Montagna, P.A., Milligan, R.J., Joye, S.B., Thomas, L., Kilborn, J.P., Paris, C.B., Faillettaz, R., Portnoy, D.S., Gilbert, S.

(2023) *Frontiers in Marine Science*, 10, art. no. 1202250,
DOI: 10.3389/fmars.2023.1202250

ABSTRACT: The 2010 Deepwater Horizon (DWH) oil well blowout in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM) was the largest and perhaps most consequential accidental marine oil spill in global history. This paper provides an overview of a Research Topic consisting of four additional papers that: (1) assemble time series data for ecosystem components in regions impacted by the spill, and (2) interpret temporal changes related to the vulnerability of species and ecosystems to DWH and the ensuing resilience to perturbation. Time series abundance data for many taxa pre-date DWH, often by decades, thus allowing an assessment of population- and community-level impacts. We divided the north central GoM into four interconnected “eco-types”: the coastal/nearshore, continental shelf, open-ocean pelagic and deep benthic. Key taxa in each eco-type were evaluated for their vulnerability to the circumstances of the DWH spill based on population overlap with oil, susceptibility to oil contamination, and other factors, as well their imputed resilience to population-level impacts, based on life history metrics, ecology and post-spill trajectories. Each taxon was scored as low, medium, or high for 13 vulnerability attributes and 11 resilience attributes to produce overall vulnerability and resilience scores, which themselves were also categorical (i.e., low, medium, or high). The resulting taxon-specific V-R scores provide important guidance on key species to consider and monitor in the event of future spills similar to DWH. Similar analyses may also guide resource allocation to collect baseline data on highly vulnerable taxa or those with low resilience potential in other ecosystems. For some species, even a decade of observation has been insufficient to document recovery given chronic, long-term exposure to DWH oil remaining in all eco-types and because of impacts to the reproductive output of long-lived species. Due to the ongoing threats of deep-water blowouts, continued surveillance of populations affected by DWH is warranted to document long-term recovery or change in system state. The level of population monitoring in the open-ocean and deep benthic eco-types has historically been low and is inconsistent with the continued migration of the oil industry to the ultra-deep ($\geq 1,500$ m) where the majority of leasing, exploration, and production now occurs.

181. Parametric study of the oleophilic skimming process: CFD simulation using VOF model

Lotfy, E.R.

(2023) *Journal of Marine Science and Technology (Japan)*, 28 (2), pp. 524-535.
DOI: 10.1007/s00773-023-00938-5

ABSTRACT: Oleophilic skimming is a primary alternative when addressing oil spill accidents. However, the existing literature does not define accurately the optimum design and operating conditions of the oleophilic skimmer. In this research, an extensive CFD investigation was conducted on the performance of the drum skimmer. Seven parameters were tested, namely drum diameter, drum centre height, oil slick thickness, rotational speed, oil density, oil viscosity and oil surface tension. The simulations were performed by applying the volume of fluid technique using the OpenFOAM package. The two-dimensional numerical setup was tested for grid size, domain extension and time-step convergence, and the results were validated with experimental data from the literature. The skimmer performance was evaluated through the oil recovery rate and water ingestion rate. The study illustrated that the oleophilic drum skimmer best functions at rotational speed within 30–60 rpm, drum diameter within 200–300 mm, drum centre-height-to-diameter ratio within 0.3–0.4, oil slick thickness ≥ 15 mm and oil viscosity within 10–100 cSt.

182. Sensitivity index for conservation priority ranking in the oil spill response: A case study for the coastal and marine species and habitat types in the Baltic Sea

Venesjärvi, R., Jolma, A., Helle, I.

(2023) *Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety*, 257, art. no. 114936,
DOI: 10.1016/j.ecoenv.2023.114936

ABSTRACT: Numerous anthropogenic stressors, such as habitat alteration and nutrient enrichment, affect coastal and marine ecosystems around the globe. An additional threat to these ecosystems is accidental oil pollution. The proactive planning of efficient oil spill response actions requires a firm understanding of the spatiotemporal distribution of ecological coastal values at stake, and how these values can be protected in case of an oil spill. In this paper, literature and expert knowledge regarding the life history attributes of coastal and marine species were used to build a sensitivity index to assess the differences in the potential of species and habitat types to be safeguarded from oil. The developed index prioritizes sensitive species and habitat types based on 1) their conservation value, 2) the oil-induced loss and recovery potential, and 3) the effectiveness of oil retention booms and protection sheets to safeguard these entities. The final sensitivity index compares the predicted difference in the state of populations and habitat types five years after an oil spill with and without protective actions. The higher the difference, the more worthwhile the management actions are. Hence, compared to other oil spill sensitivity and vulnerability indexes presented in the literature, the

developed index considers the usefulness of protective measures explicitly. We apply the developed index to a case study area in the Northern Baltic Sea to demonstrate the approach. It is noteworthy that the developed index is applicable to other areas as well, as the approach is based on the biological attributes of species and habitat types instead of individual occurrences.

183. Geotechnical Properties of Clay Soil Contaminated with Different Types of Oil

Karabash, Z., Al-Obaydi, M.A., Awad, M.A., Al-Khashab, M.N.
(2023) *Geotechnical and Geological Engineering*, 41 (4), pp. 2677-2689.
DOI: 10.1007/s10706-023-02420-w

ABSTRACT: The soil contaminated by oil product has geotechnical and environmental issues that rise from leakages in oil storage tanks, accidental spills, and supply and transition pipelines. For instance, a leakage has been recorded in the refinery station near the vicinity of Nineveh province where the soil's site is known with its high plasticity. The present study investigated comprehensively the engineering properties of soil contaminated with crude oil, diesel, kerosene, and gasoline at both dry and wet sides of compaction curve. Results show that the shape of the compaction curve changes to a double peak curve with a reduction in maximum dry density of 6% due to oils contamination. The soil plasticity decreases by approximately two-third upon contamination. Furthermore, the swelling percent increases by 1.9 to 2.5 times on dry side and by 3.8 to 4.3 times on wet side. The swelling pressure also increases by 1.2 times for soil contaminated with 5% diesel or 4% kerosene, while it decreases with crude oil. Strength results show that the cohesion (C) decreases by 45.2, 60.8, and 78.8% upon soil contaminated with 18% crude oil, 17% diesel, and 17% kerosene respectively; however, the corresponding angle of internal friction (ϕ) increases by several degrees. Likewise, a considerable reduction in the unconfined compressive strength is reported upon contamination. Moreover, the permeability decreases by 25% to 50% on dry side while it increases 2 times on wet side.

184. Population Status of the Globally Threatened Long-Tailed Duck *Clangula hyemalis* in the Northeast European Tundra

Mineev, O., Mineev, Y., Kochanov, S., Novakovskiy, A.
(2023) *Diversity*, 15 (5), art. no. 666,
DOI: 10.3390/d15050666

ABSTRACT: Arctic Russia is home to more than 90% of all Long-tailed Ducks in the *Clangula hyemalis* species from the Western Siberia/Northern Europe population. The breeding population in European Russia was estimated to be about 5 million birds in the 1960s, while today, estimates have declined to 1 million birds. Up until now, the main reasons for the overall population decline of the Long-tailed Duck were related to wintering conditions in the Baltic Sea. Our data indicate that the loss or deterioration of key breeding habitats in the Arctic regions of Russia is one important factor influencing the rapid population decline. Many key breeding habitats of the Long-tailed Duck were completely lost in the Bolshezemelskaya tundra, as this area was transformed into major oil and gas extraction sites. The transformation of these sites increased the disturbance and oil pollution of adjacent habitats, leading to the direct loss of certain key nesting sites and a marked and rapid decline of the breeding population of the Long-tailed Duck in the Bolshezemelskaya tundra. Oil-spills during transportation by sea may also be an important factor of decline in the Long-tailed Duck population. Meanwhile, in the Malozemelskaya tundra, which did not experience oil and gas development, the breeding population over the last decades remained stable. Urgent establishment of new protections in key breeding areas in Arctic Russia, sustainable population management, and new research programs are necessary for the conservation and enhancement of this globally threatened species.

185. Comparison of vegetation indices and image classification methods for mangrove mapping at semi-detailed scale in southwest of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

Rodrigues, F.H., Cerri, R.I., de Andrade Kolya, A., Veiga, V.M., Gomes Vieira Reis, F.A.
(2023) *Remote Sensing Applications: Society and Environment*, 30, art. no. 100965,
DOI: 10.1016/j.rsase.2023.100965

ABSTRACT: This paper presents the mangrove mapping carried out in the Rio de Janeiro City, Brazil, using two remote sensing data processing approaches in order to evaluate their potentialities as a complementary tool for oil spill sensitivity mapping. Ten vegetation indices were computed using the Landsat 8 imagery available in Google Earth Engine, and subsequently their spectral patterns were classified through three supervised and five unsupervised methods. Additionally, one pre-processed Landsat 8 OLI

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

bands composition were classified by these eight classification algorithms. To role as a ground-truth for the comparison of 88 automatically produced maps, a mangrove map was prepared based on the methodological guidelines of Oceanic Atmospheric Administration of United States of America for Environmental Sensitivity Index. The best results were presented by Cobweb unsupervised classification of Mangrove Vegetation Index, properly identifying a great mangrove habitats diversity, such as inland brackish, riverine fringe and seaward forests.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

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EXPLORING THE POTENTIAL OF CARBON NANOTUBES IN ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION: A REVOLUTIONARY APPROACH TO POLLUTION CONTROL

Carbon nanotubes (CNTs) have been the subject of extensive research in recent years due to their remarkable properties, such as high mechanical strength, excellent electrical conductivity, and unique chemical stability. These properties make CNTs ideal candidates for a wide range of applications, including electronics, energy storage, and medicine. One of the most promising and impactful applications of CNTs lies in the field of environmental remediation, where they have the potential to revolutionize the way we tackle pollution and clean up contaminated sites.

One of the main advantages of CNTs in environmental remediation is their high surface area, which allows for the efficient adsorption of pollutants. This property has been exploited in the development of CNT-based adsorbents for the removal of heavy metals, organic pollutants, and radioactive materials from water and soil. For example, CNTs have been shown to effectively remove toxic metals such as lead, mercury, and cadmium from water, with adsorption capacities significantly higher than those of conventional adsorbents like activated carbon. Moreover, the adsorption process can be further enhanced by functionalizing the CNTs with specific chemical groups or nanoparticles, which can improve their selectivity and affinity for target pollutants.

Another promising application of CNTs in environmental remediation is their use as catalysts for the degradation of organic pollutants. Due to their excellent electrical conductivity and unique electronic properties, CNTs can act as efficient electron transfer mediators in redox reactions, which can be exploited for the catalytic degradation of contaminants. TS2 Space / [Read more](#)

ARAMCO, TOTALENERGIES AND SABIC CONVERT OIL FROM PLASTIC WASTE INTO CIRCULAR POLYMERS

The process allows the use of non-sorted plastics, which can be difficult to recycle mechanically, and consequently contributes to solving the challenge of end-of-life plastics.

TotalEnergies, Aramco and SABIC have for the first time in the Middle East and North Africa successfully converted oil derived from plastic waste into ISCC+ certified circular polymers. The plastic pyrolysis oil, also called plastic waste derived oil (PDO), was processed at the SATORP refinery jointly owned by Aramco and TotalEnergies, in Jubail, Saudi Arabia. It was then used as a feedstock by Petrokemya, a SABIC affiliate, to produce certified circular polymers, Aramco said in a statement. The project aims to pave the way for the creation of a domestic value chain for the advanced recycling of plastics to circular polymers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. The process allows the use of non-sorted plastics, which can be difficult to recycle mechanically, and consequently contributes to solving the challenge of end-of-life plastics, the companies said. The first milestone for the project was obtaining ISCC+ certification to assure transparency and traceability of the recycled origin of feedstock and products. Three industrial plants were involved in the process: SATORP refinery, Aramco's Ju'aymah NGL Fractionation Plant and Petrokemya. All successfully obtained the ISCC+ certification, enabling the production of circular materials. Energy Connects / [Read more](#)

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

MPRI STUDY TO UNDERSTAND OIL-IN-WATER EMULSIONS

An article contributed by OHMSETT, The National Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility

The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement and the Ohmsett Facility are international research members of Fisheries and Oceans Canada, a Multi-Partner Research Initiative whose mission is to foster an integrated, global research network with government agencies, academia, response organizations, the oil industry, indigenous communities, and other oil spill science and response experts. A recent MPRI research project focuses on studying and understanding the chemical and physical characteristics of water-in-oil emulsions. A portion of this study compares the oil-in-water emulsion production, testing, and characterization protocols developed

by different research groups in the U.S., Canada, and Norway.

In addition to their involvement with MPRI, BSEE, and Ohmsett have been studying the production and characterization of oil-in-water emulsion formation for several years to enhance Ohmsett's capabilities for oil spill response research. These activities included creating detailed protocols to carefully craft "recipes" for customized and repeatable emulsions at lab-scale, bench scale, and large-scale testing in the Ohmsett wave tank.



The Ohmsett staff developed a new capability enabling them to assess three oil emulsions in the tank simultaneously. The oil slicks were kept physically and energetically isolated using three parallel tracks of oil containment boom along with controlled surface currents while running waves unimpeded through the test area and the slicks.

During Phase I of this MPRI study in the winter of 2022, several participating labs, including the Ohmsett lab, emulsified identical sets of oils and characterized the resulting emulsions. "The goal was to determine if the various emulsion protocols produce emulsions with similar or differing physical and chemical properties," explained Karen Stone, BSEE Response Research Branch chief and principal investigator for the effort.

Phase II took place at Ohmsett on Sept. 12–23, 2022, where the tank-generated emulsions of source oils from the previous lab tests were compared for variation in their properties. "The lab and tank-scale protocols established by Ohmsett offered the only realistic wave tank environment with natural ultraviolet energy," commented Stone.

"This current research focuses on determining if the methods utilized by various laboratories to create stable emulsions matter in the resulting emulsions. Furthermore, it addresses whether photooxidation, caused by the sun's ultraviolet energy to create stable emulsions, plays a role in making the emulsions more difficult to remediate."

To understand the effects of various conditions for emulsification, the Ohmsett and BSEE staff created emulsions on open water in the Ohmsett wave tank. In the controlled saltwater environment, they created real-world conditions that included wave action and sea turbulence, exposure to natural weathering conditions, and including exposure to sunlight to affect photooxidation.

The staff developed a new testing capability that enabled them to assess three oil emulsions in the tank simultaneously. The oil slicks were kept physically and energetically isolated using three parallel tracks of oil containment boom along with controlled surface currents while running waves unimpeded through the test area and the slicks. At night, the emulsions remained isolated using subsurface turbines called "ice eaters." The main bridge was able to pass over the oil test area to provide access for observation and sampling. Samples of the surface oil emulsions were collected and analyzed to determine the role of photooxidation in emulsion stability and to characterize other important physicochemical properties impacting recovery operations during oil spill disasters. According to Stone, the results of this study will aid in calibrating NOAA's spill trajectory models and help the global oil spill response community better understand the recovery mechanisms required for emulsified oils during spill events.

[Editor: This article reprinted here with the kind permission of OHMSETT, The National Oil Spill Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility. For more information on testing, training and research opportunities, visit us on the web www.ohmsett.bsee.gov or call 732-866-718

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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

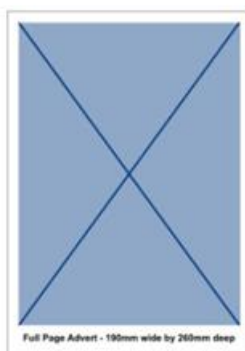
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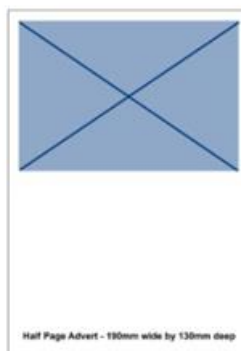
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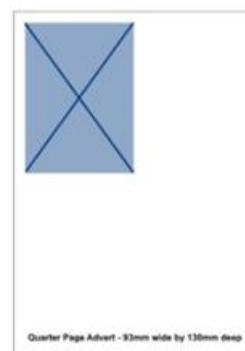
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What is the ISCO Newsletter?

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

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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By advertising in the ISCO Newsletter you will be directly supporting the work of ISCO and helping to ensure the continuation of this publication. ISCO is 100% dependent on the support of the international spill response community it serves.

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 – FROM ALGA, “PFAS 101 – Introduction to everyone’s favourite emerged contaminant”, 27th July, 12.00 pm – 1.00 pm, AET
- USA – AHMP Annual Conference, Nebraska, 27-30 August 2023
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Accidental Spill Mitigation”, Webinar 19, 1st August 2023
- USA: AHMP - “NPETE US DOT PHMSA HMIT Grant Hazmat Regulations Awareness Training Workshops”, August 8th-10th 2023, Cheraw, South Carolina
- WEBINAR From HalenHardy “Secondary Containment – Enhance compliance, Protect your site, Avoid costly violations”, August 9th 2023
- USA: AHMP - “NPETE US DOT PHMSA HMIT Grant Hazmat Regulations Awareness Training Workshops”, August 15th-17th 2023, Greenfield, Ohio

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
- WEBINAR from UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Inland Spill Equipment Selection for Spill Responders”, 27th September, 1500 to 1630 BST
- USA – Elastec Fall Workshop. New Harmony. Indiana, 3-4 October 2023
- WEBINAR from UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Sustainability in Spill Response, Webinar 4”, 20th September 2023, 1500 – 1630 BST
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Environmental Effects of Oil in the Sea “, Webinar 21, 3rd October, 2023
- CANADA – Remediation Technologies Symposium (REMTECCH) 2023, Fairmont Banff Springs, 11-13 October 2023
- THAILAND – Economist – “Global Plastics Summit”, Bangkok, 11-12 October 2023
- WEBINAR from UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Implications of the lessons learned from the Wakashio Incident”, 18th October 2023, 1500-1630 BST
- 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
- INDIA – SPILLTECH Conference & Exhibition, 8th to 9th November 2023, New Delhi
- WEBINAR from UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Early lessons to be learned from the Poole Harbour incident”, 15th November 2023, 1500-1630 GMT
- 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](#).

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

The Australian Institute of Petroleum (AIP) and the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSOC) invite you to attend the international oil spill conference for the Asia-Pacific region, Spillcon 2023. Spillcon 2023 will bring together local, regional and global environmental and shipping representatives across industry, government and non-government organisations to provide an avenue to discuss issues including causes and prevention, preparedness, response management and environmental issues. Spillcon 2023 has been confirmed for 11 – 15 September 2023 at the Brisbane Convention and Exhibition Centre, Queensland, Australia. This website will be regularly updated with further information for sponsors, exhibitors and delegates. <https://www.spillcon.com/>
<https://mailchi.mp/64c839ee8f69/spillcon-2023-delegate-bookings-open?e=ce373d43ca>

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! More info](#) Time to Lock in Your Participation at CLEAN GULF 2023 The 2023 CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition is still 4 months away but only 25 exhibit spaces remain! Book your space today and secure access to 1,500+ potential buyers from oil & gas, maritime, rail, environmental companies, and regulatory agencies. These buyers will be walking the exhibit hall, actively looking for new technologies, equipment, and services to help them better prepare, respond, or recover from, an environmental emergency. [View Floor Plan](#) [See who's already exhibiting](#)

INDIA: SPILLTECH – “PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF OCEAN HEALTH” NEW DELHI, 8-9 NOVEMBER 2023

The SPILLTECH Conference provides a vital forum for professionals from the international response companies, private sector, government & non-governmental organizations and academia to come together to come-out with an effectively & efficiently methodologies to tackle the spill challenges faced by Industries. The practical knowledge sharing, discussions on New innovation in this field and latest technological development will help to safely & effectively handle these spill situations to save marine life and save the environment. [Download the Event Brochure](#)

USA: SAVE THE DATE FOR IOSC 2024

We're excited to be back in person for the [International Oil Spill Conference \(IOSC\)](#) in **New Orleans, May 13-16, 2024**

#IOSC2024 provides a vital forum for professionals from the international response community, private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations to come together to tackle the greatest challenges facing us with sound science, practical innovation, social engineering and imagination.

Mark your calendars and start planning your trip to join over 1,500 attendees from over 50 countries, representing government agencies, contractors, researchers, industry, and other stakeholders as they exchange ideas and lessons learned from actual spill responses and research around the world.

Stay tuned, registration details will be announced in August. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans next year

[Learn More about IOSC 2024](#) Be sure to follow IOSC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for updates and announcements about #IOSC2024.

Please contact registration@iosc.org for questions or additional information. Interested in exhibiting or sponsorship? Please reach out to: exhibits@iosc.org

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

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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>

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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. This page is managed by Mike Watson mike@mwadigital.com

NEW PUBLICATIONS

CEDRE NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2023

In June, Cedre held its 57th Strategy Committee meeting at the Maritime Port of Nantes-Saint-Nazaire and also took part in various meetings in France and abroad: in Malta for the REMPEC Focal Points meeting, in Spain for the closing meeting of the CleanAtlantic project and in Cherbourg for the "Rade Propre" initiative. Several trials were carried out this month, including in floating mesocosms in the port of Brest and aerial drone trials at Cedre for the IRA-MAR project. Numerous training courses were run for clients based in France (fire brigade, public and private sector) and internationally (Taiwanese delegation). [Download the CEDRE Newsletter](#) and [visit the CEDRE website](#)

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/>

CHINA: CONTAINER SHIP CAPSIZED AFTER COLLISION OFF NINGBO, DOZENS OF CONTAINERS IN WATER

July 17 - Container ship XIN YUAN LONG 6 collided with sand carrier (no details) in the morning Jul 17, shortly after leaving Ningbo, China. Sand carrier sank. XIN YUAN LONG 6 suffered hull breach or breaches, developed heavy portside list and capsized, with at least 40 containers falling into water. Salvage operation under way with several SAR ships and tugs deployed, container ship crew evacuated. Understood the ship though partially submerged, is still afloat Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

July 18 - Video: Chinese Feeder Ship Partially Submerged After Collision off Ningbo. A small Chinese feeder ship built to move containers from the Ningbo port is partially submerged in the harbor estuary after a reported collision. Chinese officials are saying that there were no injuries but the barge was lost in the collision. The containership is listing after having lost 40 or more containers. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: PENNSYLVANIA - EVACUATIONS ORDERED IN PENNSYLVANIA AFTER 40-CAR TRAIN DERAILS: OFFICIALS

July 17 - A Norfolk Southern freight train derailment in Pennsylvania has forced the evacuation of the town of Whitemarsh Township, officials said on July 17. Officials told local media that the derailment took place at about 5 a.m. on July 17 in the township, which is about a 30-minute drive north of Philadelphia. The train was carrying silicone pellets and other materials, according to police. The Epoch Times / [Read more](#)

USA: ALABAMA - TOWBOAT SINKS AT ITS BERTH ON TENNESSEE RIVER



Photo courtesy of US Coast Guard

July 17 - At about 1400 hours on Sunday, fleet and towing operator RMB Marine Services reported that the towboat Michael R. had partially sunk at its berth at the Port of Florence, located on the Tennessee River. A boom was deployed around the vessel to contain the spill, and a team of Coast Guard pollution responders have been deployed from Nashville to assess the extent. About 200 feet of hard boom contained most of the fuel, and it is being recovered with a vacuum truck and drum skimmer. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#) Related Report in [gCaptain](#)

MEXICO: LARGE OIL SPILL REPORTED NEAR SITE OF PEMEX PLATFORM BLAST IN GULF OF MEXICO

July 18 - A large oil spill has been spotted in the Gulf of Mexico near the site of a deadly explosion at a Petroleos Mexicanos natural gas platform, according to a report released by Greenpeace and other groups. Scientist Guillermo Tamburini Beliveau detected the leak on July 4, days before the blast off the coast of Mexico's Campeche, Greenpeace and others said in a press statement. The spill was about 400 square kilometers (154 square miles) earlier this month and may have grown to about two-thirds the size of Mexico City, Tamburini said in a presentation that includes satellite imagery of the leak. [gCaptain](#) / [Read more](#)

July 19 – Report from Carlos Sagraera, ISCO Representative in Latin America (Spanish Speaking) - Announcement of giant oil slick in the Sonda de Campeche - News in development in Mexico

An initial report of an oil spill in the Campeche Sound was reported by the Mexican press on Monday, July 17, with the surface area of the slick detected being approximately 400 km², according to reports from two Mexican environmental NGOs (Centro Mexicano de Derecho Ambiental - <https://www.cemda.org.mx/> and confirmed by Greenpeace Mexico).

The slick was initially reported to have been detected on July 4 and since then has not stopped growing according to aerial photos and estimates by these organizations. PEMEX reported the day after the public complaint that there had indeed been a spill due to cracks in one of its underwater pipelines in the Ek Balam marine field and minimized it to 0.6 km² in size, although admitting that the entire network of oil pipelines in that oil field has exceeded its useful life of 30 years. PEMEX also denied that this spill had anything to do with the incident on the Nohoch-A platform that occurred the following day (ISCO Newsletter No. 897) and also reported that it informed ASEA and SEMAR of this situation.

The NGOs, for their part, criticized the fact that information was not made public when incidents and their consequences occur. News from the Mexican press is given below –

www.reforma.com/aplicacioneslibre/preacceso/articulo/default.aspx?_rval=1&urlredirect=https://www.reforma.com/oculta-pemex-megaderrame-petrolero-en-la-sonda-de-campeche/ar2642025?utm_source=bcm_nl_noticias_reforma&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=nl_noticias_reforma_20230718&utm_term=usr_registro&referer=--7d616165662f3a3a62623b6770737a6778743b767a783a--
<https://jornadaveracruz.com.mx/nacional/confirman-derrame-en-campo-ek-balam-por-una-fuga-se-sustituye-ductos-pemex/>
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www.energiadebate.com/deja-insatisfechas-explicacion-de-pemex-con-respecto-al-derrame-de-crudo-en-ek-balam/

ECUADOR: OIL SPILL BLAMED ON 'HUMAN ERROR' SULLIES WATERS, LOCAL BEACH

July 20 - An offshore oil spill near Ecuador's coast reached a popular beach on Wednesday, authorities said, while also showing up in nearby waters as one local official blamed "human error" following a preliminary investigation into the incident. State oil company Petroecuador, which runs the Balao maritime terminal where the spill originated, said in a statement it had mobilized workers to contain it but did not disclose how much crude was unleashed into the ocean. The company added it had launched clean up efforts. Reuters / [Read more](#)

July 20 - Negligence and sabotage could be behind oil spill in Ecuador - The state-owned company Petroecuador is investigating the causes of the spill of 1,200 barrels of crude oil in the coastal province of Esmeraldas and is considering negligence, technical failure or sabotage among the possible hypotheses. The state oil company informed that so far they have recovered 50% of the spilled barrels, although a final estimate will be available in the next few days, they detailed. Prensa Latina / [Read more](#)

July 21 - Report from Carlos Sagrera, ISCO Representative in Latin America (Spanish Speaking) - In the early morning hours of July 19, an oil spill of approximately 1,200 bls of light crude oil occurred at Petroecuador's Balao Terminal, reportedly due to an overflow of a tank and the containment basin, failing prevention schemes which made it possible for the oil to reach the sea and contaminate 4 km of coastline until reaching Las Palmas beach. In its press release Petroecuador indicated that: "During the process of reversion of light crude oil and packing of the line from the ship through the Esmeraldas Terminal, a failure occurred in the relief system, which caused an oil spill". 48 hours after the spill occurred, the oil company indicated progress of 50% in the recovery at sea and also on land, although these percentages do not correspond with the photos published in the Ecuadorian press of the contaminated beaches and the oil scattered in the sea. The press reports that dispersants were used to dilute the slick, which explains the progress reported by the authorities as the slick is less visible on the surface. According to the Esmeraldas Port Captaincy, the slick in the sea extends for more than a mile and a response has been given by deploying containment barriers to prevent the spill from impacting the beaches of Rioverde, Atacame and Muisme, with the beach of Las Palmas completely contaminated and closed. Petroecuador personnel are working with reinforcements from the Armed Forces (Army Corps of Engineers) to clean up the coast, and there is a risk that some 500 sea turtle nests will be affected. Ecuadorian NGOs indicate in their press releases that the wildlife has been affected and its effects will be visible in the next few days. Attached are news and photos from the Ecuadorian press.

TAIWAN, CHINA: CONTAINER SHIP AT KAOHSIUNG ANCHORAGE SANK, HUNDREDS OF CONTAINERS AFLOAT

July 21 – UPDATE - Container ship ANGEL capsized and sank in the morning Jul 21, leaving on the surface hundreds of floating containers.

July 20 - Container ship ANGEL alerted Kaohsiung port authorities, Taiwan, at around 0930 LT Jul 20, reporting water ingress and heavy portside list. It was decided to evacuate all 19 crew, they've been transferred to port. Several containers, reportedly empty, fell overboard, respective navigational warning was circulated. Maritime Bulletin / [Read more](#)

July 21 - Related Report in [The Maritime Executive](#)

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