



## 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

### ISCO EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Members of the Executive Committee who act as the INTERIM EXECUTIVE (Acting in lieu of President, and as Members of SECRETARIAT (Core Management Team)

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

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

- Captain Bill Boyle (UK)
- Mr Marc Shaye (USA)
- Mr Michael Watson (UK)

Other Members of the EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

- Mr Kerem Kemerli (Turkiye)
- Mr Dan Sheehan (USA)
- Mr Matthew Sommerville (UK)
- Mr Neil Marson (UK)
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- Capt. D C Sekhar (India)
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## INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



## OIL TRANSFER BEGINS FROM DERELICT FSO SAFER IN UN-LED EFFORT OFF YEMEN



Above: FSO Safer oil transfer Crude oil tanker renamed Yemen is now alongside the FSO Safer as well as the Boskalis salvage vessel conducting the operation (Photo courtesy of Boskalis)

July 25 - After years of negotiations and planning, the United Nations with its contractor Boskalis' SMIT Salvage announced that the oil transfer from the derelict FSO Safer off the coast of Yemen has begun. UN officials said the pipes have been laid and the precautions taken and as of this morning at 10:45 a.m. local time "the pumps are on."

"With every gallon of oil now being pumped off the Safer the threat of a potential spill that has loomed over the people of Yemen and indeed the countries and economies depending on the shared Red Sea ecosystem, recedes," said UNDP Administrator Achim Steiner.

## ISCO AMBASSADORS

(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)

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

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## INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

After the tanker was put in place, SMIT reports that oil booms were installed on the bow and stern between the two vessels as a precaution during the ship-to-ship oil transfer. The technical team had previously surveyed the Safer reporting that it was stable enough to begin the transfer and prepared the equipment aboard for the process. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

## KOREA SUPPORTS PHILIPPINES, TIMOR-LESTE TO COMBAT MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION

To aid the current plastic pollution situation, the Republic of Korea grants USD 9 million assistance to the Philippines and Timor-Leste to combat marine plastics pollution in their respective countries. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

## NOVEMBER 2023 MEETING OF THE IOPC FUNDS' GOVERNING BODIES

The invitation and agenda have now been issued for the next sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies, which will be held in person at the IMO Headquarters building from 7 to 10 November 2023 (IOPC/2023/Circ.5). During this meeting, a streaming service will be provided to allow additional members of delegations to follow the proceedings remotely. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

## ISU PUBLISHES 2022 SALVAGE INDUSTRY STATISTICS

ISU President, Captain Nicholas Sloane, said: "The 2022 ISU statistics show a 38 per cent decrease in the income received by our members compared with the previous year. Emergency Response services generated US\$ 166 million split between LOF, US\$ 66 million and other contracts, \$100 million. ISU / [Read more](#)

## EUROWA LAUNCHES AFFILIATE MEMBERSHIP

EUROWA would like to announce a new form of network Membership – Affiliate Members. We would also like to welcome our first two Affiliate Members, the RSPCA in the UK and Associazione Caretta caretta – Lampedusa Turtle Rescue in Italy.

Affiliate Membership was created to allow organisations with qualified experts to take part in technical network activities, but at a less intensive level than Associate (full) members. Affiliate Members can participate fully in all technical network activities. At formal EUROWA governance meetings, they can participate and make recommendations without having formal voting rights. EUROWA / [Read more](#)

## ITOPF MOVES INTO NEW OFFICE HEADQUARTERS

ITOPF has moved headquarters in London to Dashwood, Old Broad Street. The company emergency and landline numbers remain the same, its new address is: ITOPF Ltd., Dashwood, 69 Old Broad St., London EC2M 1QS UK. ITOPF / [Read more](#)

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### CANADA: BRITISH COLUMBIA TAKES ACTION ON PLASTIC WASTE

July 20 - On July 14, 2023, the Province of British Columbia published the Single-Use and Plastic Waste Prevention Regulation, which will come into effect on December 20, 2023. This regulation will lead to the phasing-out of oxo-degradable plastic packaging and products, shopping bags, and food service ware and accessories in British Columbia.

The publication of this regulation ends a multi-year consultation process pursuant to the CleanBC Action Plan, which launched in 2019. Business operators and food service providers can expect significant changes when this regulation comes into effect in December. Mondaq / [Continue reading this article](#)

### CANADA: GOVERNMENT INVESTS IN YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND SKILLS IN STEM-RELATED FIELDS

July 25 - Today, the Honourable Greg Fergus, Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister and to the President of the Treasury Board, on behalf of the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, was joined by scientific and

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

engineering employer BioTalent Canada to announce the launch of 581 scientific research jobs for young Canadian post-secondary graduates, now open for applications through the Science Horizons Youth Internship Program.

Through the program, four companies—BioTalent Canada, Clean Foundation, Colleges and Institutes Canada, and ECO Canada—have been chosen to place post-secondary graduates in internship positions in environmental science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) across Canada for 2023–25. In partnering with the Government of Canada, they will match 581 young graduates with employers, providing the graduates with invaluable experience and an opportunity to actively work in their area of specialized knowledge, while hiring organizations will benefit from their new energy, ideas, and approaches. Canada / [Read more](#)

### CHILE: SHOA CONDUCTS TSUNAMI DRILL EXERCISE AS PART OF ITS ONGOING TRAINING PLAN

July 17 - With a seismic movement of a preliminary magnitude of 7.0 located 20 km deep in the town of Lebu, on Friday, July 14, a tsunami simulation exercise began, an activity organized by the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Navy (SHOA), which is part of the continuous improvement processes that are established within the tripartite protocol with the National Service for Prevention and Response to Disasters (SENAPRED) and the National Seismological Center (CSN). During the exercise, the Directors of SENAPRED, Álvaro Hormazábal and the CSN, Dr. Sergio Barrientos, were present, who were able to verify in the field the different actions that are executed at the time of a tsunamigenic event off the coast of Chile. Directemar / [Read more](#)

### EGYPT: NEW MENA REGIONAL IMO PRESENCE OFFICE IN EGYPT SET TO OPEN BY YEAR END

July 24 - A new Regional Presence Office (RPO) for IMO in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region in Alexandria, Egypt is set to open by the end of the year, following the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) (20 July 2023) between IMO and Egypt.

Mr. Xiaojie Zhang, Director, Technical Cooperation Division, IMO, and Rear Admiral Hussein El-Geziry, Chairman of the Egyptian Authority for Maritime Safety, signed the agreement at IMO Headquarters in London. IMO Secretary General, Kitack Lim, His Excellency Mr. Sherif Kamel, Egyptian Ambassador Extraordinary & Plenipotentiary, Rear Admiral Reda Ismail, Head of the Maritime Transport Sector and representatives of Egypt were also present during the signing ceremony. IMO / [Read more](#)

### GUYANA: OIL SPILL RESPONSE SIMULATION HELD IN BERBICE



Above: Two of the vessels involved in the simulation (Photo courtesy of Guyana Civil Defence Commission)

July 22 - The National Oil Spill Committee (NOSC) along with other local and international agencies participated in a simulated oil spill activity on Tuesday in Berbice as part of the US-led EXERCISE TRADEWINDS 2023. Stabroek News / [Read more](#)

### ITALY: SIGNED AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ITALIAN NAVY AND ISPRA FOR THE PROTECTION AND MONITORING OF THE SEAS



*Photo courtesy of ISPRA*

July 25 - The signing of the implementing agreement between the Navy and ISPRA was held today in the morning. The agreement was signed by the Chief of Staff of the Navy, team admiral Enrico Credendino, and the Director General of ISPRA, Dr. Maria Siclari.

The agreement formalises the collaboration between the two institutes, in projects, research and studies concerning the knowledge and protection of the marine environment, also in the context of the National Military Research Plan, the exchange of oceanographic data relating to activities of common interest and professional updating. ISPRA / [Read more](#)

### KUWAIT: SOUTHERN ISLANDS CLASSIFIED AS NATURE RESERVES

July 25 - The Kuwaiti islands have a unique and distinctive nature due to their biodiversity and based on the sensitivity of the southern islands, the Council of Ministers issued Resolution No. (1078) in its meeting No. (49/2002 held on 27/10/2002 allocating the southern Kuwaiti islands (Qaruh, um Al-Maradam, Kubar) as nature reserves, and based on the Environmental Protection Law No. 42 of 2014 and its amendments and Resolution No. (2) of 2022 issued on 27/3/2022 regarding the identification of nature reserves and fences, the owners and supervisors thereof, and the classification of Kubar Island Nature reserve. Kuwait EPA / [Read more](#)

### NIGERIA: NMDPRA RELEASES 4 NEW REGULATIONS ON ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION FUND

July 24 - The Nigerian Midstream and Downstream Petroleum Regulatory Authority, (NMDPRA), has released four new regulations to address environmental and safety concerns in the midstream and downstream petroleum sector. The Authority, in a statement signed by its general manager, Corporate Communications and Stakeholders, Kimchi Apollo, yesterday, said the other regulations would govern decommissioning and abandonment, environmental and safety issues. Leadership / [Get the details](#)

### SINGAPORE & MALAYSIA: HOW A CHEMICAL SPILL ON THE TUAS SECOND LINK GETS CONTAINED

July 26 - Sixteen government agencies and companies from Singapore and Malaysia held a joint chemical spill exercise at Tuas Second Link on Wednesday - The response plan, developed by Singapore's National Environment Agency (NEA) and Malaysia's Department of Environment, comprises a notification procedure to alert authorities early, and a procedure for the emergency response actions carried out by both countries. Channel News Asia / [Read more and see multiple photos of the exercise in progress](#)

### SOUTH AFRICA: ACTION ALERT! THE MAJORITY OF THE PROVISIONS IN THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS AMENDMENT ACT 2 OF 2022 CAME INTO EFFECT

July 24 - On 24 June 2022, the much-anticipated National Environmental Laws Amendment Act 2 of 2022 ("NEMLAA") was enacted after more than 5 years since it was introduced as a Bill to the National Assembly.

The NEMLAA has made significant changes to the National Environmental Management Act 107 of 1998 ("NEMA") and some of the specific environmental management Acts, including the National Environment Management: Air Quality Act 39 of 2004 ("NEMAQA"), the National Environmental Management: Waste Act 59 of 2008 ("NEMWA"), the National Environmental Management: Protected Areas Act 31 of 2004 ("NEMPAA") and the National Environmental Management: Biodiversity Act 10 of 2004 ("NEMBA"). Mondaq / [Read more about the key changes](#)

### UK: 'POLLUTERS MUST PAY' SAYS ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY, AS UNLIMITED PENALTIES UNVEILED

July 12 - New laws will scrap the cap on civil penalties and significantly broaden their scope to target a much wider range of environmental offences. Those that pollute the environment will face unlimited penalties under new legislation announced today by the government (Wednesday 12 July).

The current limit of £250,000 on variable monetary penalties that the Environment Agency and Natural England can impose directly on operators will be lifted, following a government consultation which received widespread public support. DEFRA / [Read more](#)

### UK: NATURE RECOVERY PROJECTS TO BOOST WILDLIFE AND ACCESS TO NATURE

July 20 - An area bigger than the size of Hertfordshire is to be dedicated to fast tracking nature recovery as six new landscape-scale nature recovery projects are launched by Natural England and the government.

The multi-partnership collaborative projects covering 176,000 hectares of land across England – from the Tees Estuary to the South Downs – will create improved and better-connected habitats for wildlife and improve public access to nature. The projects will strengthen the national Nature Recovery Network and showcase delivering nature recovery at scale. DEFRA / [Read more](#)

### USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

July 24 – Please click on the links below to read more

#### Draft Damage Assessment Plan for the Anacostia River Available for Public Comment

The [Anacostia River](#), which runs through Maryland and the District of Columbia, has suffered from many decades of pollution, from multiple sources including hazardous waste sites, runoff, and combined sewers. Communities along the Anacostia have been [disproportionately impacted by this pollution](#).

#### Pacific Northwest Region Benefits from NOAA Oil Spill Science Training

During the week of July 10, spill specialists from OR&R's Emergency Response Division conducted a [Science of Oil Spills \(SOS\) class](#) for the Pacific Northwest region in Portland, Oregon. The class was jointly hosted by OR&R and the Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

#### NOAA Highlights United States and Mexico Cross-Border Coordination at Novel Marine Debris Leadership Academy

On July 13th, the Marine Debris Leadership Academy (MDLA) was launched at the Tijuana National Estuarine Research Reserve in San Diego, California. The MDLA was founded as an opportunity to empower leaders to continue to cultivate change in communities, systems, and themselves.

#### NOAA Provides Training for Spill Responders in Guyana

On July 11-13, 2023, staff from OR&R's Emergency Response Division provided a three-day, virtual training in [Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique](#) (SCAT) for the country of Guyana.

#### Marine Debris Program Staff Participate in NOAA Science Camp

From July 10-14, students from Rainier Prep and Showalter Middle Schools spent the week as NOAA Science Campers at the Western Regional Center in Seattle, Washington. NOAA Science Camp is a program of Washington Sea Grant and offers hands-on science learning opportunities, as well as exposure to NOAA's mission areas and science careers.

#### More than 40 International Journalists Learn About Marine Debris

On July 18, Nancy Wallace, Director of the NOAA Marine Debris Program, participated in a virtual workshop organized by Internews' Earth Journalism Network as part of its [Ocean Media](#) Initiative

### USA: CSB CUTS REPORT BACK-LOG BY TWO-THIRDS IN JUST THE LAST TWELVE MONTHS

July 24 - Today the U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) announced that it has released twelve final investigation reports since July 2022, thereby eliminating two-thirds of the agency's backlog during the last twelve months. CSB Chairperson Steve Owens said, "When I became the Interim Executive in late July 2022, the CSB had an enormous backlog of seventeen open investigations, some dating as far back as 2016. Reducing the backlog so significantly as we have done so quickly has taken an extraordinary effort by every employee at the CSB, working together as a team. The CSB has never before issued so many reports in such a short period of time." CSB / [Read more](#)

### USA: MICHIGAN - COAST GUARD, PARTNER AGENCIES TO HOST ENVIRONMENTAL TRAINING EXERCISE IN ROGERS CITY

July 25 - U.S. Coast Guard Sector Sault Sainte Marie personnel and partner agencies will be conducting an environmental response exercise Thursday at the Carmeuse facility in Rogers City, Michigan. Operation "Frog Pond" will involve the deployment of pollution response equipment to include oil spill response vehicles and equipment, unmanned aerial vehicles and response watercraft. The drill will also emphasize Incident Management Team coordination and stand up of the Incident Command System, utilizing members of the Northern Michigan Area Committee. US Coast Guard News / [Read more](#)

### VENEZUELA'S OIL INDUSTRY IS BROKEN. NOW IT'S BREAKING THE ENVIRONMENT

July 22 - Gas flares and leaking pipelines from Venezuela's once-booming oil industry, hobbled by U.S. sanctions and mismanagement, are polluting towns and a major lake. The state-owned oil company has struggled to maintain minimal production for export to other countries, as well as domestic consumption. But to do so it has sacrificed basic maintenance and relied on increasingly shoddy

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

equipment that has led to a growing environmental toll, environmental activists say. N Y Times / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Ed Levine]

### VENEZUELA TO CLEAN UP ITS LARGEST LAKE, VICTIM OF OIL SPILLS

July 25 - President Nicolás Maduro on Monday launched a plan to decontaminate Lake Maracaibo, regularly affected by oil spills and victim of toxic algae. Venezuela will implement a plan to decontaminate Lake Maracaibo, the largest in the country, affected by incessant oil spills and bacteria that produces toxic algae, President Nicolás Maduro promised Monday. 20min.ch / [Read more](#)



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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### SCAA ANNOUNCES NEW TECHNICAL ADVANCEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR, JANE-ELLEN DELGADO WITH BSEE'S OHMSETT FACILITY



Photo courtesy of SCAA - The Spill Control Association of America (SCAA) is excited to announce its newly elected Technical Advancement Committee Chair, Jane-ellen Delgado. She will be stepping in to fulfill these duties for Wally Landry of Crucial, Inc. Jane holds an MBA in Marketing from the City University of Seattle, Washington, and a B.S. in Journalism from the State University of New York at Brockport. She is currently the Marketing Director for the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) Ohmsett Facility. She started with Ohmsett in 2004 when she came on board to develop and execute marketing strategies to promote Ohmsett's brand within the oil spill and emergency response, marine energy, and Blue Technology communities and industries. She participates in major oil spill conferences staffing the Ohmsett booth and attending technical sessions, including events such as Clean Gulf, Clean Waterways, IOSC, and Interspill. SCAA / [Read more](#)

## ISCO NEWS

### LINKS FOR INSERTION IN THE ISCO NEWSLETTER AND ISCO WEBSITE

Organisations and individuals sending the editor links for readers to use in order to download and read reports and other info are reminded that he can only use proper URL links .

Content for inclusion sent by email can include the option "To view this message in a browser, please click [here](#)" – when this option is provided, the version that can be viewed in the browser displays a usable link.

Links like "<https://outlook.office.com/mail/inbox...>" will not work and cannot be used.

### ISCO REFORMS UPDATE FROM JOHN WARDROP, MEMBER OF ISCO INTERIM EXECUTIVE

Two years ago ISCO began updating the ISCO Constitution and the revised document was approved at an Annual General Meeting (AGM) in early 2023. The revision process was accompanied by a series of reforms aimed at making ISCO management more inclusive and democratic and also progressing membership and member's benefits.

This process was compromised by the death of our President and sole Shareholder, David Usher. This left the Presidential role vacant and the shareholding 'in Probate', i.e. in transition to David's son Charlie.

The Executive Committee put in place an 'Interim Management' whereby Presidential functions were undertaken by a 3-person 'Interim Executive' while maintaining the overall decision making role of the Executive Committee.

The transition of the shareholding has now been completed and the two shares are to be transferred from Charlie Usher to Mary Ann Dagleish and John McMurtrie, to be held in trust until reforms of the ISCO legal structure are completed. Both Mary Ann and John are members of the 'Interim Executive' and are Vice Presidents of ISCO. Both are committed to the reform process and will maintain the Interim Management arrangements.

Mary Ann, John and the ISCO Executive Committee would like to sincerely thank Charlie Usher for his support, assistance and generosity in this transition.

Members will be kept informed via regular updates posted in ISCO News

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS – AN ISCO MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

**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](mailto:John.McMurtrie@spillcontrol.org)***

**Members who would like to place a regular advertisement in the ISCO Newsletter can also benefit from preferential discounted rates. For more info please contact Mike Watson at [mike@mwadigital.com](mailto:mike@mwadigital.com) He will be happy to help you.**

## 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.*



*Above: Opening of the 80th Session of the Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) at IMO HQ (03/07/2023). Photo credit: IMO.*

The IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC 80), 3-7 July 2023 held its 80th session from July 3 to 7, 2023. We provide a summary of the major issues regarding plastic pellets (nurdles) progressed at this session.

The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) noted and concurred with the two-stage approach agreed by the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) in relation to reducing the environmental risk associated with the maritime transport of plastic pellets in freight containers:

1. Firstly, the development of a draft circular containing recommendations for the carriage of plastic pellets by sea in freight containers,
2. The development of amendments to appropriate mandatory instruments, which could be informed by the experience gained from the implementation of the voluntary measures.

The MEPC noted that the PPR Sub-Committee has agreed that plastic pellets should not be carried in bulk. MARPOL Annexes III and V and the IMDG Code were identified as potential instruments that may form a legal basis to regulate maritime transport of plastic pellets. More information available here: <https://www.imo.org/en/MediaCentre/MeetingSummaries/Pages/MEPC-80.aspx>

Bureau Veritas Marine & Offshore, one of the world's leading ship classification societies and offshore safety and verification bodies, has prepared a report on the IMO's MEPC 80. In addition to a brief summary regarding ongoing work by the PPR, the report also provides information on other items progressed at the MEPC 80, including the reduction of emissions from ships, interim guidelines for the use of biofuels among others. The full report can be downloaded here: [https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/sites/g/files/zyfpx136/files/media/document/BV%20Summary%20MEPC%2080\\_6.pdf](https://marine-offshore.bureauveritas.com/sites/g/files/zyfpx136/files/media/document/BV%20Summary%20MEPC%2080_6.pdf)

Please access ISCO Newsletter Issue 888 ( May 6, 2023) to read a summary of the major issues regarding plastic pellets (nurdles) progressed in the IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR) 10th session held April 24 to 28, 2023: <https://spillcontrol.org/2023/05/06/isco-888-newsletter/>

In line with ISCO's objectives ( <https://spillcontrol.org/2013/02/04/objectives/> ) readers of the ISCO Newsletter from all countries and territories are invited to contribute information that can be shared within our community and hopefully improve our capability to counter marine plastic pellet pollution in more effective ways. We encourage our readers to contribute information on preparedness and response to incidents involving plastic pellets. Please send to our editor [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

## 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.

### 186. Long-term biodegradation of crude oil in high-arctic backshore sediments: The Baffin Island Oil Spill (BIOS) after nearly four decades

Schreiber, L., Hunnie, B., Altshuler, I., Góngora, E., Ellis, M., Maynard, C., Tremblay, J., Wasserscheid, J., Fortin, N., Lee, K., Stern, G., Greer, C.W.

(2023) *Environmental Research*, 233, art. no. 116421,

DOI: 10.1016/j.envres.2023.116421

**ABSTRACT:** With an on-going disproportional warming of the Arctic Ocean and the reduction of the sea ice cover, the risk of an accidental oil spill from ships or future oil exploration is increasing. It is hence important to know how crude oil weathers in this environment and what factors affect oil biodegradation in the Arctic. However, this topic is currently poorly studied. In the 1980s, the Baffin Island Oil Spill (BIOS) project carried out a series of simulated oil spills in the backshore zone of beaches located on Baffin Island in the Canadian High Arctic. In this study two BIOS sites were re-visited, offering the unique opportunity to study the long-term weathering of crude oil under Arctic conditions. Here we show that residual oil remains present at these sites even after almost four decades since the original oiling. Oil at both BIOS sites appears to have attenuated very slowly with estimated loss rates of 1.8–2.7% per year. The presence of residual oil continues to significantly affect sediment microbial communities at the sites as manifested by a significantly decreased diversity, differences in the abundance of microorganisms and an enrichment of putative oil-degrading bacteria in oiled sediments. Reconstructed genomes of putative oil degraders suggest that only a subset is specifically adapted for growth under psychrothermic conditions, further reducing the time for biodegradation during the already short Arctic summers. Altogether, this study shows that crude oil spilled in the Arctic can persist and significantly affect the Arctic ecosystem for a long time, in the order of several decades.

### 187. Microbial community composition and degradation potential of petroleum-contaminated sites under heavy metal stress

Wang, X., Wang, X., Wu, F., Zhang, J., Ai, S., Liu, Z.

(2023) *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, 457, art. no. 131814,

DOI: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2023.131814

**ABSTRACT:** Total petroleum hydrocarbons (n-alkanes), semi-volatile organic compounds, and heavy metals pose major ecological risks at petrochemical-contaminated sites. The efficiency of natural remediation in situ is often unsatisfactory, particularly under heavy metal pollution stress. This study aimed to verify the hypothesis that after long-term contamination and restoration, microbial communities in situ exhibit significantly different biodegradation efficiencies under different concentrations of heavy metals. Moreover, they determine the appropriate microbial community to restore the contaminated soil. Therefore, we investigated the heavy metals in petroleum-contaminated soils and observed that heavy metals effects on distinct ecological clusters varied significantly. Finally, alterations in the native microbial community degradation ability were demonstrated through the occurrence of petroleum pollutant degradation function genes in different communities at the tested sites. Furthermore, structural equation modeling (SEM) was used to explain the influence of all factors on the degradation function of petroleum pollution. These results suggest that heavy metal contamination from petroleum-contaminated sites reduces the efficiency of natural remediation. In addition, it infers that MOD1 microorganisms have greater degradation potential under heavy metal stress. Utilizing appropriate microorganisms in situ may effectively help resist the stress of heavy metals and continuously degrade petroleum pollutants.

### 188. Cell surface hydrophobicity and petroleum hydrocarbon degradation by biofilm-forming marine bacterium *Pseudomonas furukawii* PPS-19 under different physicochemical stressors

Vandana, Das, S.

(2023) *Journal of Hazardous Materials*, 457, art. no. 131795,

DOI: 10.1016/j.jhazmat.2023.131795

**ABSTRACT:** Biofilm-forming marine bacterium *Pseudomonas furukawii* PPS-19 showed strong hydrophobicity under different physicochemical stressors, such as pH and salinity. Strong aggregation of *P. furukawii* PPS-19 was observed at hydrophobic interfaces of n-dodecane and crude oil, while uptake of pyrene resulted in blue fluorescence of the bacterium. Changes in biofilm microcolonies were observed under different physicochemical stressors with maximum biofilm thickness of 15.15  $\mu\text{m}$  and 15.77  $\mu\text{m}$

at pH 7% and 1% salinity, respectively. Relative expression analysis of *alkB2* gene revealed the maximum expression in n-dodecane (10.5 fold) at pH 7 (1 fold) and 1% salinity (8.3 fold). During maximum expression in n-dodecane (10.5 fold) at pH 7 (1 fold) and 1% salinity (8.3 fold). During the degradation process, a significant drop in surface tension resulted in increased emulsification activity. *P. furukawaii* PPS-19 showed the respective n-dodecane and pyrene degradation of 94.3% and 81.5% at pH 7% and 94.5% and 83% at 1% salinity. A significant positive correlation was obtained between cell surface hydrophobicity (CSH), biofilm formation, and PHS degradation ( $P < 0.05$ ) under all the physicochemical stressors, with the highest value at pH 7% and 1% salinity. Analysis of metabolites indicated that mono-terminal oxidation and multiple pathways were followed for n-dodecane and pyrene biodegradation, respectively. Thus, *P. furukawaii* PPS-19 is an efficient hydrocarbonoclastic bacterium that may be exploited for large-scale oil pollution abatement.

### 189. REPSOL oil spill off Central Perú in January 2022: A modeling case study

Mogollón, R., Arellano, C., Villegas, P., Espinoza-Morriberón, D., Tam, J.  
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 194, art. no. 115282,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115282

**ABSTRACT:** This study simulates the spillage of 1460 metric tons of oil that occurred in January 2022 off La Pampilla Refinery, in central Perú. The oil slick was predominantly displaced northward along the coastline, driven by prevailing currents and winds in the region. The weathering analysis revealed that the removal of oil was mainly due to evaporation (28%) and beaching processes (70%) within 96 h after the initial release. The coastal areas spanning from Ventanilla to Punta Chancay experienced significant impacts from the oil spill, representing 96% of the total affected coastal extent. Specifically, Ventanilla and Santa Rosa Beaches and the National Reserve System of Islands were heavily impacted during the first 24 h, while the surroundings of Ancón Bay, Aucallama and Pasamayo beaches were affected after two days. This modeling case study provides valuable insights into the fate and transport of the Repsol oil spill.

### 190. Changing course: Relocating commercial tanker lanes significantly reduces threat of chronic oiling for a top marine predator

Wagner, E.L., Frere, E., Boersma, P.D.  
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 193, art. no. 115195,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115195

**ABSTRACT:** A goal for conservation biologists is to show that policies enacted on behalf of an imperiled species results in direct benefits for it. In Argentina, tens of thousands of Magellanic penguins (*Spheniscus magellanicus*) were estimated to have died from chronic oil pollution each year through the early 1980s. From 1982 to 1990, surveys at sites along approximately 900 km of Chubut Province coastline found that >60 % of penguin carcasses had evidence of oiling in some years. In response to these findings, as well as pressure from non-governmental organizations and the public, provincial and federal authorities in Chubut moved the commercial tanker lanes 20 nautical miles farther offshore in 1997 and required oil tankers to have double hulls. During a second round of surveys in 2001, using most of the same sites as the first survey period, the number of dead and oiled penguins dropped effectively to zero. A policy change not only led to fewer oiled penguins, but also likely increased the survival of adult Magellanic penguins near some of their most significant breeding colonies in Argentina.

### 191. Habitat equivalency analysis for oil spill damage assessment in the Bohai Sea, China

Tong, Y., Li, Y., Deng, Z., Yu, T.  
(2023) *Ecological Indicators*, 152, art. no. 110347,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.ecolind.2023.110347

**ABSTRACT:** Oil spill damage assessment is a complex process that requires local specialized institutions. However, such studies are scarce in the Bohai Sea of China. This study presents a Habitat Equivalency Analysis Framework for oil spill damage assessment. The equations of the framework are derived based on oil spill modeling and a case-specific Ecological Risk Assessment (ERA) approach, using data from the Penglai 19–3 oil spill accident. The framework considers both the pollution scale (Extent of Damage) and ecological effect (Degree of Damage) to assess the ecological impacts of the oil spill. The Euler-Lagrange Particle Tracing Equation is used to simulate the oil movement trajectory, while the combination of oil weathering model and ERA is used to evaluate the ecological effects of benzene, a toxic component of oil, on aquatic species. The study finds that the loss of habitat service level in the

## RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

event increases in a quadratic trend, and the accumulated compensation at the initial phase (the first four days) is quantified concretely, i.e., ~Int.\$ 82,191, ~Int.\$ 657,528, ~Int.\$ 2,219,159, and ~Int.\$ 5,260,229, respectively, for the first to fourth days. It is showed that the early-stage damage process of the habitat service value, which plays a crucial role in the decision of the final compensation, is significant and could not be neglected.

### 192. Tidal Currents in Douglas Channel, British Columbia: Evaluation and Prediction

Rabinovich, A.B., Hannah, C.G., Krassovski, M.V.  
(2023) *Water (Switzerland)*, 15 (13), art. no. 2441,  
DOI: 10.3390/w15132441

**ABSTRACT:** Douglas Channel is the principal shipping route between the town of Kitimat and the Pacific Ocean. Prediction of near-surface currents is crucial for safe tanker navigation and cleaning-up oil spills. Three years of current velocity data were collected at two moorings located 30 km apart. Spectral, wavelet, and harmonic analysis of measured currents throughout the upper (40-m) and lower (50–358 m) water columns indicated the predominant influence of semidiurnal (SD) tidal currents. In the upper layer, wind and density flows resulted in considerable seasonal and interannual variability of these currents. Analysis of the SD variance reveals three major components: barotropic, coherent baroclinic, and random baroclinic. The predictability of near-surface currents depends on the relative contribution and stability of the first two components. Tidal constants estimated for one year were used to predict currents for two other years; we found that at the mooring closer to the entrance of Douglas Channel, 80 to 89% of the SD energy in the upper layer and 89–93% in the lower layer can be forecasted, while closer to the two channel head, these numbers are smaller: 55–70% and 79–89%, respectively.

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### BIOSURFACTANTS MIGHT OFFER AN ENVIRONMENTALLY FRIENDLY SOLUTION FOR TACKLING OIL SPILLS

July 21 - Could biosurfactants potentially enhance microbiological oil degradation in North Sea seawater? A collaborative international research effort involving the universities of Stuttgart, Tübingen, China West Normal University, and the University of Georgia aimed to answer this question. Their findings have unveiled the promising prospects of a more efficient and eco-friendly response to oil spills.

Led by environmental microbiologist Professor Sara Kleindienst, an international research team, including geomicrobiologist Professor Andreas Kappler (University of Tübingen) and biogeochemist Professor Samantha Joye (University of Georgia), conducted a comparative study on the effects of biosurfactants and chemical dispersants. Newswise / [Continue reading](#)

Journal Link - Rhamnolipid Biosurfactants Enhance Microbial Oil Biodegradation in Surface Seawater from the North Sea – <https://pubs.acs.org/doi/10.1021/acsestwater.3c00048>

## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

### ISCO-OCEANPACT BRAZIL INTERNATIONAL SEMINAR – MARITIME POLLUTION AND 21ST CENTURY OIL SPILLS

“Lessons Learned for Brazil & Latin America Preparedness, Response and Crisis Management – Cases Studies”



With the initial initiative and the international support of ISCO experts, the local organization of the ISCO Corporate Member OceanPact, this Case Study Seminar will be held on October 27, 2023 in Rio de Janeiro Brazil. The Program includes three recent specific important cases from this third decade of the 21st century and which are considered to have been paradigmatic due to their causes and consequences, not only in terms of environmental impacts, but also in legal, technical and economic aspects:

### [Case Study 1.- The Volcano, Tsunami and the Refineria La Pampilla & Mare Doricum Tanker, Peru 2022](#)

[\(Spanish Translation\)](#)

### [Case Study 2.- LFSO, Covid 19 and Crisis Management & Bulk Carrier Wakashio, Mauritius 2021](#)

### [Case Study 3.- VLSO, Scuttled Validation, MV Stellar Banner, Brazil 2020](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SEMINAR PROGRAMME IN ENGLISH](#)

[CLICK HERE FOR THE SEMINAR PROGRAMME IN SPANISH](#)

The theme and characteristics of the Seminar are a novelty for Latin America, which does not have regularity and with this type of approach with the industry in cases of incidents and oil spills. Unlike other international industry events (IOSC, Interspill, Clean Gulf, etc.) at this ISCO-OceanPact Seminar, longer presentations will be made in order to be able to deal with the cases in greater depth. In all cases, these are experts who have directly participated in the operations and advising authorities, which will allow them to be viewed in all their implications. Organizations such as CEDRE (2 Speakers) and ITOPI (Speaker to be designated) have confirmed their participation as speakers, as well as the initial interest of IMO and perhaps an eventual participation, conditioned by its priority operations with the FSO SAFER in Yemen, which could coincide in their dates with the Seminar.



*Photo on left: ISCO Representative Carlos Sagrera & OceanPact Staff Erik Cunha, Anna Gomide, Marcelo Cortes, Bernardo Assis, Joao Serra at Clean Gulf – New Orleans, October 2022*

The idea of the event arises from the meeting in the last Clean Gulf (New Orleans, October 2023) of ISCO (Carlos Sagrera, Spanish Speaking Latin America ISCO Representative – Dr. Larissa Montas and Helena Rowland in charge of Stand ISCO) and Flavio P. de Andrade (CEO of OceanPact) and member of the ISCO Council representing Brazil, together with the OceanPact Staff (Erik Cunha – Bernardo Assis – Marcelo Cortes – Joao Serra – Anna Gomide). It was observed there that some of the last major oil spill events in the world

involved tankers and bulk cargo ships with origin and destination in Brazil and that there were no international events for the oil and maritime community in Latin America in which these incidents could be reviewed objectively and with the participation of actors from organizations directly involved in investigations and support for authorities and companies involved in spill incidents. Given this circumstance, ISCO presented the possibility that some of its members and professionals with direct activity in these incidents could present the different cases chosen and also manage the participation of some of the main world organizations with recognized activity in our sector.

*Photo on right: OceanPact CEO Flavio P. de Andrade & ISCO Latin America (Spanish) Representative Carlos Sagrera at Clean Gulf – New Orleans, October 2022*

The final result was the organization of the Seminar with the three selected cases and the Program, which is being adjusted as the international Speakers and the organizations represented at the Brazilian level are confirmed. Local Brazilian experts from Vale ([www.vale.com](http://www.vale.com)) and Aiuka ([www.aiuka.com.br](http://www.aiuka.com.br)) have confirmed their participation as Speakers and other interventions and qualified assistance from environmental, maritime and Brazilian oil industry authorities are expected.

The initial location of the event has been scheduled in the main auditorium of the OceanPact company (Rua da Glória, 122 – Auditório térreo (ground floor – Glória, Rio de Janeiro/RJ – Brazil) and is expected an important local attendance of the industry and the Brazilian authorities is expected, as well as a specialized Latin American specialized public, since in the previous days (October 24 to 26) the OTC Brazil will take place in Rio de Janeiro (<https://otcbrasil.org/>). See Program in English on ISCO website ([www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org))



## CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

For more general information about the Seminar: Portuguese Brazil – Bernardo Assis ([Bernardo.assis@oceanpact.com](mailto:Bernardo.assis@oceanpact.com)). Tel. +55 21 98893-8011; English – Matthew Sommerville ([matthewsommerville@spectrumspill.com](mailto:matthewsommerville@spectrumspill.com)). Tel. +44 7834 556989; Spanish Latin America – Carlos Sagrera ([carlos.sagrera@mtconsult.org](mailto:carlos.sagrera@mtconsult.org)). Tel. +598 91 230654.- Focal point of the organization: Anna Gomide ([anna.gomide@oceanpact.com](mailto:anna.gomide@oceanpact.com)). Tel. + 55 21 3950-7544 – + 55 21 98864-3194. Open Forms for Interested in <https://oceanpact.com/en/home/>

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

### USEFUL LINKS

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- 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](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](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](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

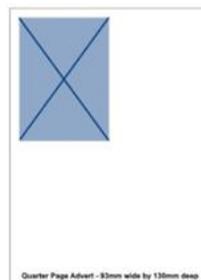
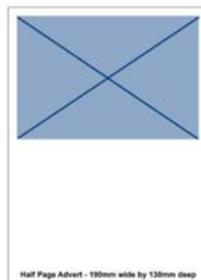
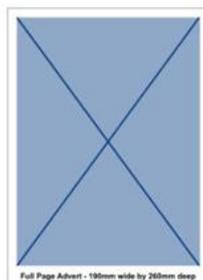
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### AUGUST 2023

- **WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Accidental Spill Mitigation”, Webinar 19, 1<sup>st</sup> August 2023**
- **USA: AHMP - “NPETE US DOT PHMSA HMIT Grant Hazmat Regulations Awareness Training Workshops”, August 8<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> 2023, Cheraw, South Carolina**
- **WEBINAR From HalenHardy “Secondary Containment – Enhance compliance, Protect your site, Avoid costly violations”, August 9<sup>th</sup> 2023**
- **WEBINAR – ALGA – “How to Manage Environmental Risks on Wind Farm Projects”, 10<sup>th</sup> August, 12.00pm to 1.00pm**
- **UK – International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, 19-20 September, NEC Birmingham**
- **USA: AHMP - “NPETE US DOT PHMSA HMIT Grant Hazmat Regulations Awareness Training Workshops”, August 15<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup> 2023, Greenfield, Ohio**
- **USA – AHMP Annual Conference, Nebraska, 27-30 August 2023**

### SEPTEMBER 2023 & ONWARDS

- **WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Oil Chemistry and Fates of Oil in the Sea”, Webinar 20, 5<sup>th</sup> 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, 15<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> September 2023**
- **WEBINAR from UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Inland Spill Equipment Selection for Spill Responders”, 27<sup>th</sup> 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”, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2023, 1500 – 1630 BST**
- **WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Environmental Effects of Oil in the Sea “, Webinar 21, 3<sup>rd</sup> 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”, 18<sup>th</sup> 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, 27<sup>th</sup> October 2023**
- **UK – UK & Ireland Spill Association Conference – Annual Conference, Dinner & Awards, 1-2 November, Nottingham**
- **ITALY – ECOMONDO Exhibition & Conference, Rimini, 7-12 November 2023**
- **UK – IOPC Funds – November 2023 Meeting of the Governing Bodies, 7<sup>th</sup> to 10<sup>th</sup> November. IMO HQ London**
- **WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Human Health Effects of Oil in the Sea”, Webinar 22, 7<sup>th</sup> November 2023**
- **USA – Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition, “Prepare, Respond and Recover”, San Antonio, TX, 7-9 November 2023**
- **INDIA – SPILLTECH Conference & Exhibition, 8<sup>th</sup> to 9<sup>th</sup> November 2023, New Delhi**
- **WEBINAR from UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Early lessons to be learned from the Poole Harbour incident”, 15<sup>th</sup> November 2023, 1500-1630 GMT**
- **WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Round Table Discussion to provide Summary and Recommendations”, Webinar 23, 5<sup>th</sup> 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

We are excited by the number of exhibitors confirmed for Spillcon 2023. We are showcasing a truly international event with exhibitors not only from Australia but also from South Korea and Europe (Denmark, France, Norway and the UK). Full details of all confirmed exhibitors can be viewed [here](#).

As in previous years, the exhibition area will also host catering - morning and afternoon teas plus lunches. In addition, on the evening of Monday 11th September, the formal Welcome Reception will include the Exhibition Opening and provide the initial opportunity for all delegates to view the booths. Should you wish to become an exhibitor yourself, booths can be booked through the following link - [Spillcon 2023 Exhibition Booking Site](#) - where you will also find an interactive floor

plan. <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

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### 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 effective and efficient 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

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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

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## INCIDENT REPORTS

### NOAA OR&R INCIDENT RESPONSES FOR JUNE 2023

So far this year, OR&R has provided support for 77 incidents. During June 2023, OR&R provided response support for 17 incidents, including 12 new incidents in 10 different states.

The 12 new incidents included 10 oil spills, and one potential oil spill (a vessel that grounded but did not spill oil), and one chemical incident. The chemical incident involved a railroad bridge collapse that resulted in 10 railcars laden with hazardous materials falling into the Yellowstone River in Montana. Because this spill occurred inland, our work supported the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, rather than the U.S. Coast Guard.

Here is the complete list of June's incidents. Click on the links to find out more:

- [108' Vessel YTB823; Brownsville Marina, WA](#)
- [Tarballs Reported on Sargent Beach, Bay City, Texas](#)
- [Train Derailment, Yellowstone River, Reed Point, MT](#)
- [Satellite Report Indicates Potential Oil Slick, Fort Lauderdale, FL](#)
- [Oil Anomalies Detected by Satellite Imagery, SE Alaska](#)
- [Commercial Fishing Vessel Hard Aground, Horn Island, MS](#)
- [Tanker Truck Explosion/Fire Leads to Collapse of I-95 Overpass, Philadelphia, PA](#)
- [Discharge of Asphalt-like Oil into Mississippi River at MM 339, Ashland, LA](#)
- [Sheen Discharging Near Abandoned Platform in High Island Block 24, Jefferson County, TX](#)
- [Sheen from Sunken Fishing Vessel in Five Fathom Creek, McClellan, SC](#)
- [Storage Tank Fire at Refinery, Lake Charles, LA](#)
- [Damaged/Leaking 55-gallon Drum, Shishmaref, AK](#)

### 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/>

### USA: WISCONSIN - TRAIN DERAILS IN SUPERIOR, CAUSES CHEMICAL SPILL

July 24 - Estimated 100 gallons of magnesium chloride released. New details arise as clean up continues in Superior after several train cars derailed. Two cars derailed at the BNSF rail yard on 28th Street Monday afternoon. A spokesperson for BNSF says one of the cars has been re-railed as crews are in the process of emptying the chemical from the other car. No one was hurt and no hazardous materials were compromised. Northern News Now / [Read more](#)

### AUSTRALIA: OIL SPILL REMAINS A MYSTERY AS PELICAN CLEAN-UP CONTINUES

July 25 - Pressure is on Western Australian authorities to identify the cause of an oil spill impacting seabirds as the first rehabilitated pelicans are on track to be released. More than 45 pelicans have been rescued by Western Australia Seabird Rescue and admitted to the WA Wildlife Hospital since late May when oiled pelicans were first sighted south of Perth. International Fund for Animal Welfare (IFAW) deployed to help our partner WA Wildlife Hospital treat and manage the influx of pelicans. The WA Wildlife Hospital is at capacity with 33 pelicans in care and more likely to be rescued in the coming weeks. IFAW / [Read more](#)

### NORTH SEA / NETHERLANDS: CAR CARRIER WITH EV MAJOR FIRE

July 25 – FREEMANTLE HIGHWAY UPDATE 1500 UTC Jul 26: The main aim of salvors is to save the ship from sinking, to avoid mass pollution – said Dutch authorities. Meaning is, they can't pour onto vessel too much water, because it will lead to stability loss. Or they'd be able to do it after they'd manage to control ship's stability. Or else, they'd have to wait and control what they can, until everything on fire burns out. The ship's adrift, AIS off since around 1100 UTC.

UPDATE 0555 UTC Jul 26: 1 crew member died, some 16 crew are treated in hospital, with respiratory problems. Coast Guard and emergency services were alerted around midnight Jul 26 about major fire on board of car carrier FREEMANTLE HIGHWAY in North sea, off Dutch coast. The ship with 2857 cars on board, including 25 EV, left Bremerhaven at around 1430 UTC Jul 25, bound for Egypt, fire erupted at around 2130 UTC Jul 25. FREEMANTLE HIGHWAY went NUC and is drifting since then, with AIS still on. Fire erupted on cargo deck, probably spread to other decks, 23 crew were rescued, with some of them having to jump in water to save themselves from fire. Reportedly, tugs and SAR ships gathered around car carrier, avoid using water to fight fire, fearing, obviously, loss of stability. The ship is said to already develop a list. [www.maritimebulletin.net](http://www.maritimebulletin.net)

Video and pics <http://www.maritimebulletin.net/2023/07/26/car-carrier-with-ev-major-fire-north-sea-off-netherlands/>



Car carrier fire Fremantle Highway is burning off the Dutch coast (Photo courtesy of Dutch Coastguard)

July 26 - Crewmember Killed as Burning Car Carrier is Evacuated in the North Sea. Dutch authorities are leading the response after a car carrier caught fire off the northern coast of The Netherlands around midnight on July 25. As the fire continued to spread, the decision was made to evacuate the ship.

One crewmember was killed and several others injured at taken to hospitals in the Netherlands. The vessel is the Fremantle Highway (18,549 dwt), operating under charter to Japan's K Line. The vessel loaded 2,857 vehicles in Bremerhaven, Germany departing yesterday, July 25. It was bound for the Suez Canal with K Line reporting the ship was sailing to Singapore. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

July 28 - Efforts Underway to Begin Towing Burning Fremantle Highway Car Carrier. With the intensity of the fire aboard the car carrier Fremantle Highway continuing to dissipate, Dutch authorities announced late today that they are preparing to reposition the ship in the first of a series of steps that they anticipate will ultimately bring the wreck to a still to be determined port. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

July 29 - Involved salvage companies together with Dutch maritime authorities, plan to tow FREMANTLE HIGHWAY to a position some 8-9 nm north of Schiermonnikoog island, and anchor her there. Later when situation improves, the ship is to be towed to nearest suitable port. Much will depend on weather, there's a cyclone off NW UK/Ireland, so weather might deteriorate to an extent of endangering disabled unseaworthy ship, either anchored or under tow. It has become known meanwhile, that FREMANTLE HIGHWAY has not 25, but some 500 EVs on board, so nobody is doubting by now the cause of fire, except EVs producers and advertisers. Among other cars there are several hundred BMW and Mercedes. [www.maritimebulletin.net](http://www.maritimebulletin.net)

July 30 - High winds stall efforts to tow a burning cargo ship packed with cars off northern Dutch coast. High winds blowing across the North Sea are delaying efforts to tow a burning cargo ship loaded with thousands of new cars to safety off the Dutch coast, the government said Sunday.

The Fremantle Highway was unlikely to be moved Sunday because of the southwesterly wind, according to the Ministry of Infrastructure and Water Management. "The wind will continue to blow from the southwest for the next few days. The towing of the Fremantle Highway to the new temporary location may therefore still take several days to start," the ministry said in an update Saturday night. WSLs / [Read more](#)

### **CANADA: BUNKER FUEL SPILL REPORTED AT VANCOUVER ISLAND PORT**

July 26 - The Coast Guard said an unconfirmed amount of heavy fuel oil spilled during a fuel transfer operation involving the Hong Kong-flagged M/V Maipo River. An Incident Command Post has been established to oversee the response. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

### **RUSSIA REPORTS FUEL SPILL IN NORTHERN DVINA RIVER**

July 26 - The fuel spilled while a vessel was being filled, Svetlana Radionova wrote on the Telegram messenger app, adding a slick 4.0 kilometres long and 500 metres wide had been detected. Deviscourse / [Read more](#)

### **MADAGASCAR: GRIMALDI CON/RO RUNS AGROUND ON CORAL REEF OFF YUCATAN**

July 26 - The Grimaldi Lines con/ro Grande Senegal has gone aground on a reef off the Yucatan Peninsula, according to local media and AIS data. The extent of any damage along the ship's entry track into the reef is not yet fully known, and local stakeholders are concerned that the process of refloating the ship may cause additional damage. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

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