



## 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



## MARITIME SAFETY IN AN ERA OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES AND ALTERNATIVE FUELS CENTRAL TO IMO WORLD MARITIME THEME FOR 2024

"Navigating the future: safety first!" has been selected for the International Maritime Organization's 2024 World Maritime Theme, which will culminate in the celebration of World Maritime Day on 26 September 2024.

The theme reflects IMO's work to enhance maritime safety and security, in tandem with the protection of the marine environment, whilst ensuring its regulatory development process safely anticipates the fast pace of technological change and innovation. IMO / [Read more](#)

## FSO SAFER IN YEMEN – MORE THAN HALF OF OIL HAS BEEN SAFELY TRANSFERRED

August 2 - "More than half the oil aboard the decaying FSO Safer has been transferred to the replacement vessel Yemen in the past seven days," the UN resident coordinator for Yemen, David Gressly, said on social media on Tuesday.

The UN Development Programme project manager for the Safer, Mohammed Mudawi, said more than 636,000 barrels of oil had been pumped to the replacement tanker. Yahoo News / [Read more](#)

## THE FIRST EVER ENVIRONMENTAL-ECONOMIC ACCOUNTS FOR THE OSPAR REGION

August 1 - [A new paper](#) makes significant achievements in the field of ecosystem accounting for the ocean by presenting the first attempt at compiling accounts aligned with the [UN System of Environmental Economic Accounting – Ecosystem Accounting](#) (SEEA EA) at a regional sea scale to reveal the wealth hidden below the waves. OSPAR / [Read more](#)

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## INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

### COUNTRIES, ORGANIZATIONS RENEW COMMITMENT FOR THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT OF SEAS IN EAST ASIA



Photo courtesy of PEMSEA

August 3 - Thirty years of partnerships brought 10 countries and 12 organizations to renew their commitment to continue working for the sustainable development of coastal and marine resources in the East Asian Seas region. During the 15th East Asian Seas Partnership Council Meeting last July 26-27, 2023, country and non-country partners of Partnership in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) convened to report their accomplishments and on-going efforts to ensure the sustainable management and conservation of seas and coast in the region. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### BRAZIL: REGISTRATION OPEN FOR IBAMA'S PAID INTERNSHIP SELECTION PROCESS

July 25 - Ibama informs that applications for the selection process for hiring interns remain open until August 9. There are 40 vacancies (27 higher education and 13 high school) distributed among the superintendencies of the Institute in Acre, Alagoas, Amapá, Ceará, Maranhão, Mato Grosso do Sul, Paraíba, Rio de Janeiro, Rio Grande do Norte, Rondônia, Roraima, Santa Catarina, São Paulo, and the headquarters in Brasília. The workload is 20 hours per week - 4 hours/day. Those interested should access the website of the Institute for Human Promotion, Learning and Culture (IPHAC) - organizer of the event. [IBAMA](#)

### CANADA: POLLUTER PAYS (EVEN MORE): SCOPE OF CLAIMS UNDER THE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT INCLUDES CLAIMS FROM UNPAID CONTRACTORS

July 28 - A recent decision has expanded the scope of cost-recovery actions for contaminated sites under the Environmental Management Act, SBC 2003, c.3 (the EMA). The decision confirms that unpaid contractors who have provided remediation services can bring claims against former owners, operators, or other responsible persons (and not just the person who hired them to perform the services). This unexpected decision provides an unusual additional legal avenue for environmental contractors wishing to get paid. It will be particularly useful where the person conducting remediation has become insolvent, or refuses to pay their contractors. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

### CHINA: HOW CHINA PROTECTS ITS 'UNOFFICIAL' WETLANDS

July 28 - Damage done to a wetland in the name of "environmental restoration" raises questions about how China's lesser-known wetlands are protected. The coastal wetlands on the Linhong estuary, by the Yellow Sea in Lianyungang municipality, provide an important feeding ground and stopover for waterbirds migrating between East Asia and Australia.

But in 2021, an "environmental restoration" project put the mudflats at risk of erosion and destruction. They were to be turned into an artificial beach, in order to create a "Blue Bay". In response, the environmental group Friends of Nature filed a public interest lawsuit at Nanjing Intermediate People's Court, against both the project developer and the outfit responsible for the environmental impact assessment report.

Due to the pandemic, it was not until two years later, in May this year, that significant developments occurred in the case. The defendant, Lianyungang Gold Coast Development and Construction Ltd, said it would revise the scheme and cancel the artificial beach plan. Some of the infrastructure works had already been completed by that point, with the construction of an encircling dyke. But the revised scheme will retain the natural ebb and flow of the tide and ensure a sufficient area of mudflats on the inner side of the dyke for a waterbird habitat. Eco-Business / [Read more](#)

### FINLAND: WRECK OF COASTAL DEFENCE SHIP ILMARINEN STUDIED IN THE NORTHERN BALTIC

July 31 - Experts from the Finnish Border Guard and the Finnish Heritage Agency are examining the wreck of the Finnish ship Ilmarinen — which sank in 1941 — for a possible oil recovery operation, the Finnish Environment Institute reported. The wreck's tanks, which are sitting at the bottom of the Baltic Sea, are estimated to contain around 100,000 litres of light fuel oil. If the operation is decided upon, it will be put out to tender and carried out during 2024. Yle.Fi / [Read more](#)

### FRANCE: MONJASA PARTICIPATES IN FUEL OIL SPILL DRILL OFF FRENCH COAST

July 28 - Bunker company Monjasa recently participated in a French Navy-organised drill in coordination with the Fécamp offshore wind farm off the coast of France that simulated a fuel oil spill. Bunkerspot / [Read more](#)

### MEXICO: NATURAL OIL SEEPS AND SPILLS - CONTROVERSY IN MEXICO BETWEEN PEMEX AND NGOS & ACADEMIA

July 30 - A special report received from Carlos Sagrera, ISCO Representative in Latin America (Spanish Speaking)

The image below is reproduced courtesy of Instituto de Geografía y del Laboratorio Nacional Obs. UNAM



The controversy continues between PEMEX and Mexican environmental NGOs over the origin of the extensive oil slicks detected with satellite images in the Cantarell field, Campeche Sound (ISCO Newsletter N° 899) and the international Spanish-language press critically echoes the management of the company and responsible Mexican authorities (<https://elpais.com/mexico/2023-07-28/el-derrame-silenciado-nuevas-imagenes-muestran-que-hubo-otro-accidente-de-pemex-en-el-golfo-de-mexico-en-junio.html>). In fact, on July 6-7 there were incidents of spills in a pipeline and a fire in the Nohoch-A platform, both situations close to the Ek Balam Tango Alpha area (ISCO Newsletter No. 897), after which PEMEX disassociated both incidents and notoriously minimized the size of the incident, in spite of the fact that satellite photos indicated otherwise. The President of the Republic (AMLO) himself indicated that according to PEMEX these were all "small oil leaks". Now the Environmental Law Center of Mexico has published a report that indicates, first of all, a previous spill (early June) of an extension of 200 km<sup>2</sup> detected in that same area of Ek Balam Tango Bravo and that has not had any public information from PEMEX. Secondly, it criticizes PEMEX's information regarding the July incidents, showing satellite photos on different dates and the opinion of academic experts that explain their

validity and refute PEMEX's minimization of the spills. The President of PEMEX, Mr. Octavio Romero Oropeza, also indicated this week that these spills were due to "small leaks" due to leaks in Ek Balam pipelines, which have 32 years of service and are in the process of being replaced. He estimated the crude oil leak now at 1,368 bls during the 18 days that the leak lasted. He pointed the finger of blame at the sub-contractor company responsible for the pipeline replacement work and stressed that there is no lack of maintenance of the facilities by PEMEX. About the large stains observed in the satellite images he said that they are due to natural oil leaks (called "chapopoteras" in the Mexican lexicon) that have always been present in the W of the Gulf of Mexico (<https://www.elfinanciero.com.mx/economia/2023/07/26/derrame-en-sonda-de-campeche-pemex-informa-que-fue-provocado-por-chapopoteras-y-pequena-fuga/>). According to "Oil in the Sea IV" (U.S. National Academy of Sciences - Co-Author Ed Levine Vice-Chair - ISCO EC Member), in effect the W zone of the Gulf of Mexico is an area with recognized natural oil seeps, estimating them at 60,000 tons annually, although he has estimated them down in relation to his previous report by 35%. It indicates that: "These estimates are constrained by the accuracy of the estimated value of the average oil thickness and by the ability of satellite methods to identify all natural seeps, which may be influenced by anthropogenic sources from oil and gas exploration and production in the Gulf of Mexico" (<https://spillcontrol.org/2023/06/05/nueva-publicacion-disponible-para-america-latina-en-idioma-espanol-resumen-de-petroleo-en-el-mar-iv-entrada-destino-y-efectos-de-la-academia-nacional-de-ciencias-de-ee-uu/>). With the support of more than 20 Mexican and Argentine NGOs, CEMDA issued a report critical of PEMEX and ASEA, based on satellite images and technical opinions about them, concluding with the following claims (<https://www.cemda.org.mx/pemex-se-contradice-y-minimiza-los-impactos-del-derrame-en-el-golfo/>):

- The ASEA must make its reports transparent. This will reduce inconsistencies between fragmented communications and will allow estimating the impact of each incident.
- A review of PEMEX's spill response protocols should be carried out, as there are obvious serious flaws in them. In the case of recent disasters, there should be a clarification of responsibilities and the corresponding sanctions.
- There must be a plan for the removal of obsolete infrastructure in which safety is prioritized and not production goals.

### **NIGERIA: FG HANDSOVER Ogoni CLEAN-UP PROJECT SITES TO CONTRACTORS**

July 31 - The federal government has handed over Ogoni clean-up project sites to contractors, saying that the developmental projects would continue to impact positively on the socio economic development of the area

Ibrahim Haruna, Head, Press and Public Relations Unit, Federal Ministry of Environment disclosed this in a press release on Monday. He said the Permanent Secretary, Federal Ministry of Environment, Ibrahim Yusufu, FCA, officially flagged-off the Water Projects and sites handover ceremony to the contractors in Ogoniland, Rivers State. Authority / [Read more](#)

### **SEYCHELLES TAKES PART IN WESTERN INDIAN OCEAN POLLUTION REGIONAL EXERCISE**

July 26 - With the aim of further strengthening regional response to pollution incidents at sea, a three-day tabletop exercise is being organised in Seychelles for the western Indian Ocean, putting to test an existing regional contingency plan. Dubbed the 'Western Indian Ocean Pollution Regional Exercise (WIOPOLREX)', the exercise is being organised jointly by the Regional Coordination Operations Centre (RCOC) and the Regional Maritime Information Fusion Centre (RMIFC) from July 25 to July 27.

Through the exercise, the two regional centres will be able to assess preparedness to respond to oil pollution incidents in the region, similar to the incident on July 25, 2020, where MV WAKASHIO spilled approximately 1,000 metric tonnes of oil at sea, off the southeastern coast of Mauritius. The principal secretary for the environment, Denis Matatiken, stated that oil spills have boundaries and "no matter its scale, an oil spill can wreak havoc on our ecosystems, causing devastating impacts on the environment and disrupting the delicate balance of marine life." Seychelles News Agency / [Read more](#)

### **USA: LATEST NEWS REPORT FROM NOAA OR&R**

July 31 – Please click on the link below to download and read the latest news from NOAA OR&R

#### **First Activation of the NOS Incident Management Team for the 2023 Hurricane Season**

The National Ocean Service (NOS) Incident Management Team (IMT) conducted its first activation in the 2023 hurricane season for Tropical Storm Calvin, which impacted the Pacific.

### **USA: NORTH TEXAS HAS BEEN PREPARING FOR TRUCK CRASHES INVOLVING HAZARDOUS MATERIAL FOR DECADES**

August 2 - Every day, thousands of 18-wheelers loaded with hazardous material drive through Dallas-Fort Worth—most without incident. But when one is involved in crash, the impact is often great.

Around 5 a.m. Wednesday morning, a tanker truck carrying unleaded fuel lost control, flipped, and caught on fire on U.S. Highway 75 in Plano. Emergency responders elected to let the fuel fire burn rather than to risk contaminating the local sewer system by dousing it with water. As a result, all northbound lanes of the busy highway were closed for more than seven hours.

North Texas officials have been concerned about crashes involving trucks carrying hazardous material for decades.

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

In the 1980s, local city leaders who were concerned about a potential chemical spill in densely populated areas came up with designated hazmat routes. At the time, these designated routes put trucks carrying hazardous material on the outer loops of Dallas and Fort Worth, such as I-635 around Dallas, I-820 around Fort Worth, as well as U.S. 75—north of I-635, the location of Wednesday's crash. Over the next four decades, the population of North Texas exploded from three million to eight million residents, yet the designated hazmat routes have stayed the same. CBS News / [Continue reading this article](#)

### YEMEN: ENHANCING MARITIME SECURITY GOVERNANCE

August 1 - A national workshop is taking place to improve maritime security decision-making, policy development and implementation in Yemen. The aim of the workshop, which uses the Whole of Government Approach to Maritime Security, is to support the development of a national maritime security committee, along with a national strategy and a risk register.

The event (30 July-3 August), in the port city of Aden, has brought together 32 participants from different government departments and agencies with an interest in maritime security. It will highlight the importance of multi-agency collaboration and active participation and engagement of all stakeholders for the effective application of maritime security measures. IMO / [Read more](#)



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## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### AUSTRALIA: AMOSC WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS TO ITS TEAM

**PILAR MEDINA - Administration Officer – Fremantle**



Pilar Medina is an Administrative Officer, having joined AMOSC in June 2023 following over ten years working in the manufacturing and education sectors.

Pilar holds a Bachelor of Environmental Engineering and a Master of Environmental Management. She spent a few years working for Votorantim Siderurgia, responsible for emissions management, QMS and EMS.

Her passion for sustainability, health and safety and quality auditing has driven her career. Her academic journey has instilled a deep appreciation for the balance between human progress and environmental conservation, and made her join the Turtle Monitoring Program led by Care for Hedland Environmental Association.

Pilar's blend of skill sets in engineering, environmental and education consciousness, dedication to safety, and a keen eye for administrative details offer organisational growth and success to AMOSC.

**CLAIRE DALY - Senior Technical Officer – Policy & Advocacy**

Claire Daly joined AMOSC in July 2023 as Senior Technical Officer, Policy and Advocacy following 23 years in the Victorian Public Sector.

Commencing her government career in junior administration roles, she moved onto business management, parliamentary & cabinet liaison and advisory, then further to manage large teams delivering multi-million-dollar projects. Claire's experience spans many portfolios including local government, agriculture, biosecurity, public transport and resources to name a few.

Passionate about contributing to a fairer, healthier, and safer future, through active connection, innovation, and advocacy, Claire provides solutions focused strategic and operational advice, for better policy and performance uplift.



## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS – AN ISCO MEMBERSHIP BENEFIT

*Corporate Members of ISCO can benefit 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.*



### DEVELOPING YOUR PREPAREDNESS JOURNEY: A FOUR-WEBINAR SERIES BY OIL SPILL RESPONSE SPECIALISTS

Join us for an engaging and informative four-webinar series designed to equip you with the knowledge and tools necessary to enhance your preparedness for oil spill incidents. Led by industry-leading oil spill response specialists, this comprehensive series will guide participants through key

aspects of developing a robust preparedness strategy, ensuring efficient response and minimizing the environmental impact.

[Download the details of these new webinars and other upcoming events](#)

### PACIFIC TOWING - 'PACTOW INVOLVED IN PNG PORT UPGRADES'

Papua New Guinean marine services company Pacific Towing (PacTow) is assisting Australia's Pacific Marine Group (PMG) with the upgrade of two major PNG ports. PacTow's commercial dive team completed work at the Alotau provincial wharf in Milne Bay Province in May and is part way through similar work in Manus Province. The two port upgrades are part of a broader infrastructure program funded by multiple parties including the PNG and Australian governments.

PacTow General Manager, Neil Papenfus, confirms that PacTow and PMG collectively hold nearly 70 years marine services' experience in PNG and that their working relationship commenced in 2017 with a 900-metre ocean outfall pipeline project in Port Moresby's Fairfax Harbour. PacTow



## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

commercial divers were involved in several aspects of the project including the relocation of hundreds of living corals from the new pipeline footprint.

The more recent Alotau provincial wharf project involved the demolition of an existing jetty, followed by the installation of a new jetty made from tubular steel piles and a concrete deck. A new floating concrete pontoon, together with an access walkway from the jetty and associated site buildings were also delivered as part of the project.

PacTow's commercial dive team's involvement in the Alotau project included a seabed survey, debris clearance, underwater cutting of broken steel piles, gridline mark outs, and the application of pile jackets on all new piles. PacTow divers worked on the Alotau project for approximately five weeks split over a seven-month period (i.e., Oct 2022 - May 2023). Commercial Dive Manager, Ricky Leka, reports that the project went well although it was called off at one point for three days due to strong wind (i.e., 25-30 Knots) and rough seas.

PacTow divers commenced work for PMG in Manus in May on the upgrade and extension of an existing marine facility as part of a significant and ongoing infrastructure project. Their responsibilities have included clearing debris, removing old anode straps, and installing new anode straps. Similar to the Alotau wharf project, they will work on the project in several different stages, returning to site when required until its estimated completion in Q4 2023.

PacTow has PNG's (as well as broader Melanesia's) only permanent commercial dive team. Its divers are internationally trained and certified with a wealth of experience servicing diverse sectors throughout the region. Oil and gas majors are among PacTow's clients, and the company has introduced numerous niche services for PNG's growing oil and gas sector, including emergency response and spill services.

PacTow delivers excellent, reliable, and safe marine services through PNG and the broader region. A well-maintained fleet, as well as a dedicated and exceptionally trained team underpin the company's ongoing expansion and success. PacTow is part of a larger sea and land logistics group wholly owned by Steamships Limited. To learn more about PacTow: [www.pacifictowingmarineservices.com](http://www.pacifictowingmarineservices.com)

## 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.***

Policy development is the means by which problem identification, technical knowledge of possible solutions, and societal values join to set a course of action. Robust scientific analysis can be a strong propeller of policy change. At ISCO we aim to make the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to the IMO and other organisations. To raise worldwide preparedness and cooperation in response to oil, chemical, and nurdle spills in the marine environment.



Photo courtesy of OCG Saving The Ocean on Unsplash. OCG Saving The Ocean is based in Bali, Indonesia. <https://ocg.org/>

## NURDLES - PREVENTION, CLEAN-UP TECHNOLOGY AND ONGOING R&D WORK (CONTINUED)

Multiple studies have been conducted following the MV X-Press Pearl disaster in the Indian Ocean, the majority of which have focused on environmental impacts. Researchers at Uva Wellassa University, in Sri Lanka reviewed recent peer-reviewed research. The main societal impacts based on research outcomes are summarized in a report. The production of knowledge about this disaster has had positive societal benefits via policy changes: a national policy and contingency plan (coastal zone management framework) has been proposed, and the government of Sri Lanka is now implementing regulations to reduce consumption of single-use plastics, and to increase recycling rates. [Marine pollution after the MV X-Press Pearl maritime disaster: Societal impacts based on research outcomes - ScienceDirect](#)

As MARPOL, turns 50 this year, and September's World Maritime Day shines a spotlight on the IMO's legacy of pollution prevention of the marine environment from ships, this article sponsored by Fauna and Flora International sets forth a request for a more robust, regulatory approach from industry, governments and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to truly put a halt to plastic pellet loss at sea. [States and regulators such as the IMO must put an end to plastic pellet pollution :: Lloyd's List \(informa.com\)](#)

The Scottish NGO Fidra, announced the publishing of a new report, mapping the global plastic pellet supply chain, including transport routes, industrial locations and pellet pollution sites while identifying key data gaps on both a global and regional scale. Fidra and Oracle Environmental Experts will present and discuss the findings and results of the report in a webinar to be held on August 9, 2023: [Meeting Registration - Zoom](#)

The health threat posed by microplastics has led the WHO to place them on the list of environmental determinants of health. The WHO's Pan American Health Organization will hold a webinar focused on the health and environmental challenges of Microplastics. In particular, discussions will highlight the challenges in Latin America and the Caribbean linked to microplastic waste, health and the environment. [Webinar on Microplastics: Health and Environmental Challenges / August 10, 2023 - PAHO/WHO | Pan American Health Organization](#)

## 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.

### 193. Coral skeletons reveal the impacts of oil pollution on seawater chemistry in the northern South China Sea

Xie S., Jiang W., Feng C., Sun Y., Han Y., Xiao Y., Wei C., Yu K.  
(2023) Chemosphere, 338, art. no. 139632  
DOI: 10.1016/j.chemosphere.2023.139632

**ABSTRACT:** Oil pollution can release trace metals (TMs) with cumulative toxicity into seawater, harming marine ecosystems in the long term. However, the lack of studies has inhibited our understanding of the effects and mechanisms of oil pollution on TMs in seawater. Hence, we investigated the 10-year monthly variation of TMs in Porites coral skeletons from the northern South China Sea (SCS), complemented by spatial distribution of TMs in seawater, sediments and characterization of TMs in fuel oil. The results of principal component-multivariate linear regression showed that the total contribution of oil pollution as a source to TMs in surface seawater was 77.2%, where the residence time of TMs (Ni, V, Cr, Co, Cu, Mn, Fe, and Mo) released from oil spills in surface seawater was approximately 1.4 months. Due to the geochemical nature of the metals, their seasonal variations are controlled by tropical cyclones (Ni, V, Cr, Co, Cu, Mn, Fe, and Mo), winter monsoons (Pb, Cd, Ba, and Zn) and sea surface temperature (Sr). This study shows that coral skeletons can be used as a new tool to study marine oil pollution. This provides valuable reference data for accurately identifying and quantifying the effects of oil pollution on TMs in seawater from a spatial and temporal perspective.

### 194. Impacts of offshore oil spill accidents on island bird communities: A test run study around Orkney and Svalbard archipelagos



Pavlov V., James N.A., Masden E.A., de Aguiar V.C.M., Hole L.R., Liimatainen H., Pongrácz E.  
(2023) *Environmental Pollution*, 334, art. no. 122193  
DOI: 10.1016/j.envpol.2023.122193

**ABSTRACT:** The sea area around the Orkney archipelago, Scotland is subjected to substantial maritime shipping activities. By contrast, the Svalbard archipelago, Norway currently has a rather low marine traffic profile. Future projections, however, indicate that the Trans-Arctic route might change the whole transportation picture and Svalbard may be at the centre of maritime activities. Both archipelagos have sensitive environmental resources at sea and inland, including bird communities. There are, for instance, 13 Red Listed species present in Orkney and 2 in Svalbard. In this regard, it is important to address oil spill risks along existing and projected shipping routes. Hypothetical spills were simulated in twelve scenarios for both the Orkney and Svalbard archipelagos with the OpenDrift open-source software. The results indicate risks to seabird communities. For Orkney, the spills resulted in the most extensive contamination of the sea and land environments in autumn. For Svalbard, autumn spills on the contrary presented the lowest risk to seabirds. Based on the simulations, we recommend increased caution for shipping activities in the problematic seasons, improved local readiness for ship accidents and sufficient pre-incident planning.

### 195. A seafloor sensitivity index to oil spills in tropical marine protected areas

Goes E.R., Mallmann D.L.B., Brown C.J., Maida M., Ferreira B.P., Araújo T.C.M.D.  
(2023) *Continental Shelf Research*, 266, art. no. 105069  
DOI: 10.1016/j.csr.2023.105069

**ABSTRACT:** Oil spills are a global environmental challenge with ecological impacts at local and regional scales. In 2019, a major oil spill from an unknown source reached the Brazilian margin and strongly affected tropical marine habitats with high biodiversity. It is therefore important to establish a quick and accessible approach to assist decision-makers for oil spill responses. Based on current Brazilian legislation, only very specific companies (such as organized ports, port facilities, platforms and their auxiliary facilities) are obliged to maintain marine oil spill response structures. This paper aims to develop an approach for mapping seafloor sensitivity to oil spills for continental shelf areas with limited resources and materials. The study was conducted using a pre-existing bathymetric dataset, at mega- and meso-habitat scales. The assessed area extends over 933 km<sup>2</sup>, between the 10 and 90 m isobaths, comprising tropical marine areas of intense maritime traffic due to the strategic location for important international routes and also due to the presence of ports, terminals and shipyards. From the megahabitat-scale analyses (30 m resolution grid), the areas with greatest topographic complexity were selected for subsequent detailed analysis and the development of a seafloor sensitivity index at a mesohabitat-scale (10 m resolution grid). The results revealed that 12.7% of the area was classified at a high seafloor sensitivity index (SI<sub>seafloor</sub>), 28.7% was classified at relatively moderate sensitivity, and 58% was classified at low sensitivity. The seafloor sensitivity methodology presented here can be easily applied to other locations to prepare recovery operations, monitoring plans, and for other forms of environmental planning.

### 196. Modeling the Agia Zoni II tanker oil spill in Saronic Gulf, Greece

Makatounis P.E.Z., Stamou A.I., Ventikos N.P.  
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 194, art. no. 115275, Cited 0 times.  
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115275

**ABSTRACT:** We employed GNOME to simulate the oil spill due to the sinking of the tanker “Agia Zoni II” in September 2017 in Saronic Gulf. We performed simulations using various combinations of wind and current input, and values of the GNOME parameters, and compared the simulated oil spill trajectories with coastal pollution and satellite data. The best scenario, i.e., the combination that showed the most satisfactory agreement with field data, uses wind data from one of the closest meteorological stations, calculated currents by a hydrodynamic model and default values of the parameters, except for the windage and the refloat half-life whose proposed values are 3–4 % and 6 h, respectively. Neglecting the effect of the wind in the best scenario worsened the agreement. Mass balance results depicted that approximately 47 % of the total 500 tons of the oil spill ended up on the coastline of Attica peninsula and Salamina Island.

### 197. Trophodynamics and bioaccumulation of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in marine food web from Laizhou Bay, China

Liu B., Gao L., Ding L., Lv L., Yu Y.

(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 194, art. no. 115307

DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115307

**ABSTRACT:** Here, we collected 16 species ( $n = 298$ ) from Laizhou Bay, China to investigate the trophodynamics, bioaccumulation and cancer risks of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Results demonstrated that naphthalene was the most abundant PAH, followed by phenanthrene and fluorene in the marine organisms. The sum of 16 PAHs concentrations ( $\Sigma 16\text{PAHs}$ ) ranked with algae ( $19,435 \text{ ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  lipid weight, lw) > benthonic animals ( $6599 \text{ ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  lw) > fish ( $1760 \text{ ng}\cdot\text{g}^{-1}$  lw). Combustion and oil spill are two primary sources, contributing 60.3 % and 39.7 % of  $\Sigma 16\text{PAHs}$ , respectively. High values of log BAF were found for 4–6 rings PAHs. Algae and benthonic animals showed a high ability to accumulate 2–4 rings PAHs and 5–6 rings PAHs, respectively. A biodilution pattern for PAHs was found in the marine food web. The carcinogenic risks of some benthos and fish were higher than  $1 \times 10^{-6}$ , threatening resident health by consumption of these seafoods.

### 198. Sensitivity of the Indo-Pacific coral *Acropora millepora* to aromatic hydrocarbons

Brinkman D.L., Flores F., Luter H.M., Nordborg F.M., Brooks M., Parkerton T.F., Negri A.P.

(2023) *Environmental Pollution*, 332, art. no. 121963,

DOI: 10.1016/j.envpol.2023.121963

**ABSTRACT:** The risks posed by petroleum spills to coral reefs are poorly understood and quantifying acute toxicity thresholds for aromatic hydrocarbons to reef-building corals is required to assess their sensitivity relative to other taxa. In this study, we exposed *Acropora millepora* to toluene, naphthalene and 1-methylnaphthalene (1-MN) in a flow-through system and assessed survivorship and sublethal responses including growth, colour and the photosynthetic performance of symbionts. Median 50% lethal concentrations (LC50s) decreased over the 7-d exposure period, reaching asymptotic values of 22,921, 5,268, 1167  $\mu\text{g L}^{-1}$  for toluene, naphthalene and 1-MN, respectively. Corresponding toxicokinetic parameters ( $\epsilon\text{LC}_{50}$ ) defining the time progression of toxicity were 0.830, 0.692, and 0.256 d $^{-1}$ , respectively. Latent effects after an additional 7-d recovery in uncontaminated seawater were not observed. Effect concentrations (EC50s) for 50% growth inhibition were 1.9- to 3.6-fold lower than the LC50s for each aromatic hydrocarbon. There were no observed effects of aromatic hydrocarbon exposure on colour score (a proxy for bleaching) or photosynthetic efficiency. Acute and chronic critical target lipid body burdens (CTLBBs) of  $70.3 \pm 16.3$  and  $13.6 \pm 18.4 \mu\text{mol g}^{-1}$  octanol ( $\pm$  standard error) were calculated for survival and growth inhibition based on 7-d LC50 and EC10 values, respectively. These species-specific constants indicate adult *A. millepora* is more sensitive than other corals reported so far but is of average sensitivity in comparison with other aquatic taxa in the target lipid model database. These results advance our understanding of acute hazards of petroleum contaminants to key habitat-building tropical coral reef species.

### 199. Statistically sound comparison of standardized and simulation methods for oil spill source identification in real spill scenarios

Rocha A.C., Bettencourt da Silva R.J.N., Palma C.

(2023) *Science of the Total Environment*, 887, art. no. 163930,

DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.163930

**ABSTRACT:** The comparison of oil patterns of a spill (Sp) and suspected spill source (SS) samples is based on ratios between correlated GC–MS signals of oil-discriminating compounds, i.e., diagnostic ratios (DR). The Student's *t* statistics (*S-t*) and a maximum relative difference (SC), proposed in standard methods, have been used for DR comparison due to their simplicity. An alternative methodology based on Monte Carlo Method (MCM) simulations of correlated signals, capable of accurately defining DR comparison criteria, proved that *S-t* and SC assumptions regarding DR normality and precision are frequently not valid, affecting comparison reliability. The performance of the approaches was accurately compared from independent signals of the same oil sample from a perfect match between Sp and SS. The present study describes the comparison of the approaches in real oil spill scenarios reproduced in International Round Robin Tests. Since as the number of compared DR increases, also rises the probability of not all equivalent DR being actually considered equivalent, the decision of oil pattern equivalence was based on two comparisons of independent sets of Sp and SS signals. The risk of true oil standard equivalency claims is compared for the three oil spill scenarios studied, which are different considering oil types, DR sets and spill weathering. The ability of the approaches to distinguish the Sp sample from an oil sample known not to be the source of the spill was also assessed. The MCM based on two independent DR comparison trials was the only one consistently producing fingerprint comparison risks of correct equivalence claims larger than 98 %. MCM also performed better in distinguishing different oil patterns. It was concluded that comparing >22 DR does not change the risk of correct oil pattern equivalence assessment significantly. The complexity of the MCM approach is overcome by using user-friendly and validated software.

### 200. Oil-contaminated sites act as high-risk pathogen reservoirs previously overlooked in coastal zones

Lin X., Ma J., Zhou Z., Qiao B., Li Y., Zheng W., Tian Y.  
(2023) Water Research, 242, art. no. 120225,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.watres.2023.120225

**ABSTRACT:** In addition to the organic pollutants and disturbance to the microbial, plant and animal systems, oil contamination can also enrich opportunistic pathogens. But little is known about whether and how the most common coastal oil-contaminated water bodies act as reservoirs for pathogens. Here, we delved into the characteristics of pathogenic bacteria in coastal zones by constructing seawater-based microcosms with diesel oil as a pollutant. 16S rRNA gene full-length sequencing and genomic exploration revealed that pathogenic bacteria with genes involved in alkane or aromatic degradation were significantly enriched under oil contamination, providing a genetic basis for them to thrive in oil-contaminated seawater. Moreover, high-throughput qPCR assays showed an increased abundance of the virulence gene and enrichment in antibiotics resistance genes (ARGs), especially those related to multidrug resistance efflux pumps, and their high relevance to *Pseudomonas*, enabling this genus to achieve high levels of pathogenicity and environmental adaptation. More importantly, infection experiments with a culturable *P. aeruginosa* strain isolated from an oil-contaminated microcosm provided clear evidence that the environmental strain was pathogenic to grass carp (*Ctenopharyngodon idellus*), and the highest lethality rate was found in the oil pollutant treatment, demonstrating the synergistic effect of toxic oil pollutants and pathogens on infected fish. A global genomic investigation then revealed that diverse environmental pathogenic bacteria with oil degradation potential are widely distributed in marine environments, especially in coastal zones, suggesting extensive pathogenic reservoir risks in oil-contaminated sites. Overall, the study uncovered a hidden microbial risk, showing that oil-contaminated seawater could be a high-risk pathogen reservoir, and provides new insights and potential targets for environmental risk assessment and control.

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

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## INTERESTING ARTICLE

### AN INSIDE LOOK AT THE BEAUTY AND BENEFITS OF MANGROVES

Mangroves are often misunderstood and undervalued ecosystems. These coastal forests are sometimes perceived as “dirty” or “dead areas”, a wasteland that could be cleared in favour of sandy beaches, swanky resorts or other developments.

These myths about mangroves could not be farther from the truth. They are the only trees that thrive in salty waters and improve water quality by filtering out nutrients and sediments.

They are also teeming with life: more than 1,500 plant and animal species depend on mangroves. This includes fish and birds who use the shallow waters beneath mangrove trees as nurseries. Research now indicates that mangroves are also critical for larger mammals, such as monkeys, sloths, tigers, hyenas and African wild dogs.

Protecting mangroves and restoring damaged ones also helps combat climate change through carbon sequestration as they are some of the most carbon-rich ecosystems on the planet, storing on average 1,000 tonnes of carbon per hectare in their biomass and underlying soils.

But mangroves are threatened. Worldwide, a fifth of them have already disappeared. The main driver of mangrove loss is coastal development, when mangrove forests are cleared to make way for buildings and fish or shrimp farms. UNEP / [Continue reading](#)

## ANNOUNCEMENT



We are pleased to announce that the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), with support from the Government of Norway, are jointly hosting the third IMO-UNEP-Norway Innovation Forum on Thursday, 28 September 2023.

[To learn more about this event click here to visit the Innovation Forum Website](#)

## TRAINING COURSES

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

### USEFUL LINKS

- **INTERNATIONAL – IMO E-LEARNING PLATFORM** e-learning platform
- **AUSTRALIA – AMOSC** - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA** - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- **CHINA** - <http://www.sioetc.com>
- **EUROPE –** <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/3609-ems-a-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)

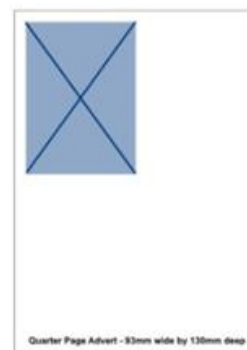
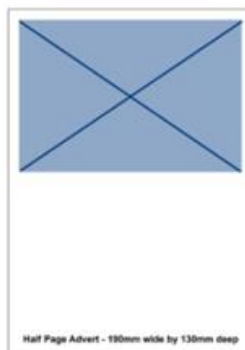
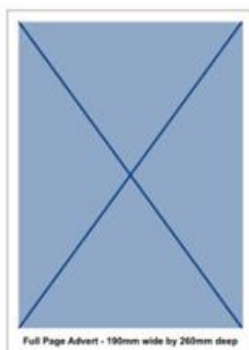
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## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

### 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

- **WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Oil Chemistry and Fates of Oil in the Sea”, Webinar 20, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023**
- **UK – OSRL – “Subsea Well Response Forum” 6<sup>th</sup> September, Aberdeen, Lunch 1215-1300, Workshop 1300-1630**
- **AUSTRALIA – SPILLCON Conference & Exhibition, Brisbane, 11-15 September 2023**
- **WEBINAR – OSRL “Understanding the Oil Spill Landscape” 12<sup>th</sup> September, 1400-1500 BST**
- **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**
- **WEBIBAR – CEDRE – “Projet CleanAtlantic”, 18<sup>th</sup> September (English language)**
- **BAHREIN – OSRL – “Middle-East Member Forum” 25<sup>th</sup> September, Bahrein**
- **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**

### OCTOBER 2023 & ONWARDS

- **WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Environmental Effects of Oil in the Sea”, Webinar 21, 3<sup>rd</sup> October, 2023**
- **MALAYSIA – OSRL – “Subsea Forum in Malaysia”, 4<sup>th</sup> October, KL**
- **WEBINAR – OSRL – “Risk Assessment and Contingency Planning” 10<sup>th</sup> October, 1400-1500 BST**
- **CANADA – Remediation Technologies Symposium (REMTECH) 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**
- **UK – ITAC Annual Meeting, 24<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup> October, National Oceanography Centre, Southampton**
- **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 – OSRL – “Equipment and Resources for Effective Response”, 14<sup>th</sup> November, 1400-1500 GMT**

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- **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**
- **WEBINAR – OSRL – “Training, Exercises and Continuous Improvement” 12<sup>th</sup> December, 1400-1500 GMT**

**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](#).

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### 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

**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 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

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

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

#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 IO SC 2024** Be sure to follow IO SC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for updates and announcements about #IO SC2024. Please contact [registration@iosc.org](mailto:registration@iosc.org) for questions or additional information. Interested in exhibiting or sponsorship? Please reach out to: [exhibits@iosc.org](mailto:exhibits@iosc.org)

## CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATIONS

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

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: USA & EUROPE

US Government solicitations are frequently posted in Technology Innovation News Survey <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/>

US Federal Contract Opportunities are posted at <https://clu-in.org/Federal-Contract-Opportunities>

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

### US EPA METHANE EMISSIONS REDUCTION PROGRAM

July 24, 2023 – EPA and DOE Announce Intent to Fund Efforts to Reduce Methane Emissions July 6, 2023 – EPA Proposes Updates to Greenhouse Gas Emissions Reporting Requirements June 30, 2023 – EPA and DOE Announce Partnership to Provide More than \$1 Billion to Reduce Methane Emissions The Inflation Reduction Act provides new authorities under Section 136 of the Clean Air Act to reduce methane emissions from the petroleum and natural gas sector through the creation of the Methane Emissions Reduction Program. The Methane Emissions Reduction Program includes the following components:

Financial and Technical Assistance— More than \$1 billion to reduce methane emissions from the petroleum and natural gas sector by providing financial and technical assistance for preparing and submitting greenhouse gas reports, monitoring methane emissions, and reducing methane and other greenhouse gas emissions from petroleum and natural gas systems, including improving and deploying equipment to reduce emissions, supporting innovation, permanently shutting in and plugging wells, mitigating health effects in low-income and disadvantaged communities, improving climate resiliency, and supporting environmental restoration. The program specifies that at least \$700 million must be used for activities at marginal conventional wells. EPA / [Read more](#)

## JOB VACANCIES

### OILED WILDLIFE PROGRAMS STAFF POSITION

Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research, Inc., is seeking a manager for our Oiled Wildlife Programs department to oversee and coordinate the projects and resources of the department in conjunction with the mission of the organization. For more information please visit - <https://spillcontrol.org/job-vacancies/>

### RESEARCH SCIENTIST IN WATER QUALITY AND EMERGING CONTAMINANTS AT LSSU'S CENTER FOR FRESHWATER RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Lake Superior State University's Center for Freshwater Research and Education (CFRE) seeks qualified applicants for a permanent Research Scientist position focusing on water quality and contaminants in freshwater ecosystems. For more information please visit - <https://spillcontrol.org/job-vacancies/>

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

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](mailto:mike@mwadigital.com)

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### FROM CEDRE - AERIAL OBSERVATION OF OIL POLLUTION AT SEA

This publication dedicated to aerial observation is an update of the guide published in 2009 [More information](#)

### JULY NEWSLETTER FROM MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG)

[http://medoilgroup.org/newsletters/Newsletter\\_Issue\\_60.pdf](http://medoilgroup.org/newsletters/Newsletter_Issue_60.pdf)

### PEMSEA BULLETIN JULY 2023

This month's highlights focus on the 15th East Asian Seas (EAS) Partnership Council Meeting and the key decisions approved by the partners. The 30th Anniversary Commemoration of PEMSEA was also launched with the line-up of year-long activities leading to the 2024 East Asian Seas Congress. Our regional projects are also on the roll, with the conduct of participatory planning and consultations to agree on strategies and activities for implementation. [Read more](#)

### EMSA - FEASIBILITY STUDY FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF A SOFTWARE TOOL TO SUPPORT MEMBER STATES ON OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE OPERATIONS AT SEA

This report is the result of an external study to evaluate the feasibility of the development of an enhanced tool to support Member States in their preparedness and operational decision-making process of mobilising and deploying oil pollution response resources at sea. The main goal of this project is to gather information on existing tools to evaluate the feasibility of the development of an enhanced IT system and to define its functional and technical requirements. [Download](#)

## 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/>

### NORTH SEA – FREMANTLE HIGHWAY INCIDENT UPDATES

Jul 31 - Fremantle Highway Moved as Salvage Teams Prepare to Board Ship [The Maritime Executive](#)

Aug 1 - Fire Out On Fremantle Highway [gCaptain](#)

Aug 2 UPDATE 0450 UTC Aug 2: The ship was towed to designated position 8 nm north of Schiermonnikoog, and anchored. Salvage team carried out ship's survey and found the ship to be stable, not compromised below waterline. There are no signs of fire spots, probably about everything which was burning, burned out. Next step is designation of the port to allow the ship in, for further salvage works. [www.maritimebulletin.net](http://www.maritimebulletin.net)

Aug 3 - Burned-Out Fremantle Highway Towed to Dutch Port for Salvage [gCaptain](#)

Aug 3 - Burnt-Out Fremantle Highway Arrives in Dutch Port [The Maritime Executive](#)

### BANGLADESH: CONTAINERS WASH ASHORE AFTER BOX SHIP SINKS NEAR CHITTAGONG

July 26 - At least five containers were reported to have washed ashore at Bhasan Char and Sandwip, near Chattogram, Bangladesh, subsequent to the sinking of box ship Pangaon Express (IMO 8662309). At least two of these were said to have been cut open and looted. It was estimated that 15 to 20 containers might have gone overboard during heavy seas. Insurance Martine News / [Read more](#)

### CANADA: RESPONSE TEAMS HAVE 'SEVERAL AREAS FOR CLEAN-UP' AFTER FUEL SPILL IN NANAIMO HARBOUR

August 1 - Clean-up crews are still handling after-effects from a heavy fuel spill along the city's waterfront. On Wednesday, July 26, the Maipo River cargo ship spilled an unknown amount of heavy marine fuel during an internal transfer, creating a sizeable mess



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creating a sizeable mess around the Nanaimo cruise ship terminal where the boat was docked at the time. Eight vessels and nearly 30 crew members from West Coast Marine Response Corporation and Canadian Coast Guard, in addition to Nanaimo Port Authority, responded to contain the mess however despite the quick action fuel still managed to leach into the surrounding area. Nanaimo News / [Read more](#)

### GIBRALTAR: BUNKER SPILL PROMPTS SUSPENSION OF PORT OPERATIONS AT GIBRALTAR

August 1 - On Tuesday morning, a bunkering accident released fuel into the water at an anchorage in the Bay of Gibraltar, prompting a temporary closure of operations at the busy port. At 0822, a ship that was taking on bunker fuel from a small bunker tanker experienced an overflow, resulting in a spill. The Gibraltar Port Authority activated a response plan, and containment and cleanup operations are under way. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### MEXICO: REPORT - FPSO FOR MEXICO'S BIGGEST OILFIELD SHUTS DOWN

August 2 - Mexican state oil company Pemex has had to temporarily shut down loading from its largest FPSO, Yúum K'ak' Náab, due to a leak from one of its hose trains, according to Bloomberg. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### USA: MICHIGAN - HULL BREACH CAUSES OIL SPILL FROM GREAT LAKES FREIGHTER



*Photo: Great Lakes freighter USCG responded to the laker which was leaking oil due to a hull breach (Photo courtesy of USCG)*

August 3 - The U.S. Coast Guard along with state and local agencies was responding to a Great Lakes freighter that was leaking oil in Lake Michigan while anchored approximately 1.5 miles off the coast.

The current estimate is that the maximum fuel aboard is 45,175 gallons of diesel. They are currently working to determine how much was released into Lake Michigan. The vessel's operators have retained a salvage company to aid in the recovery. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### BAHAMAS: GOVT INVESTIGATING OIL SPILL AT BUCKEYE BAHAMAS JETTY TERMINAL

August 3 - The Ministry of Transport and Housing has launched an investigation into the spill. In a statement, Buckeye Partners said fuel oil was released from a pressurised loading arm at Berth 8 at its marine terminal. The company said it deployed booms and initiated product recovery measures per its emergency response plans. Tribune 242 / [Read more](#)

## HISTORY

### KALAMAZOO RIVER OIL SPILL: A FORGOTTEN ENVIRONMENTAL CATASTROPHE

July 26 - Thirteen years ago, the Kalamazoo River in Michigan experienced a devastating oil spill when an Enbridge Energy pipeline burst. The spill resulted in crude oil flowing into the Talmadge Creek and ultimately contaminating the river. Wildlife biologist Joshua Otten, who witnessed the disaster firsthand, estimated that at least 1 million gallons of oil were spilled into the river.

The aftermath of the spill was horrifying. Oil covered the floodplains, vegetation, and trees, clinging to everything it touched. This was the largest inland freshwater oil spill in the history of the United States, but it received little attention due to the BP spill in the Gulf of Mexico, which dominated the headlines at the time. Energy Portal / [Read more](#)

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