



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

50 YEARS OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION



Ships today must take measures on board to stop sewage, garbage and operational waste entering the sea without restriction – and ships must control emissions into the air. Ships must be designed and built to prevent and limit accidental spills of oil and chemicals. This is all thanks to rules adopted by the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

On 2 November, IMO is marking 50 years since the adoption of the International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL), the primary global treaty for the prevention of pollution of the marine environment by ships from intentional, operational or accidental causes.

The anniversary has been marked throughout the year under the 2023 World Maritime theme: "MARPOL at 50 – Our commitment goes on". IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim said: "Today, 2 November, is a landmark milestone – 50 years since IMO Member States adopted this key treaty to protect the marine environment from pollution by ships from intentional, operational or accidental causes. IMO / [Read more](#)

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(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)


Carlos Sagrera Latin America (Spanish speaking)
Matthew Sommerville UK London
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INTERNATIONAL & REGIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

UN-CONVENED PLASTIC POLLUTION COMMITTEE PROPOSES ZERO PLASTICS TREATY

On September 4, 2023, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INCPP) released a draft proposal on the reduction of global plastic pollution. The so-called "**Zero Draft**" proposes measures to address issues associated with plastic pollution, with a specific focus on reducing production and minimizing the use of dangerous chemicals.

The draft treaty outlines several key strategies for countering plastic pollution:

- **Reduction of Production:** Encouraging countries to set targets for reducing plastic production and considering bans on certain types of plastics.
- **Economic Measures:** Recommending the elimination of subsidies for plastic production and introducing plastic taxes to discourage its use.
- **Microplastics:** Focusing on the eradication of microplastics and suggesting strategies for reusing, repairing, repurposing, and refurbishing plastic products.
- **Chemical Control:** Proposing enhanced transparency and restrictions on the export of materials containing hazardous substances used in plastic production. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

REPORT - ISCO-OCEANPACT SEMINAR, RIO DE JANEIRO, 27.10.2023 - CASE STUDIES PREVENTION AND RESPONSE: THE TWO LATIN AMERICAS

Author Carlos Sagrera, MSc. and edit from Matthew Sommerville, Eng.

Note from John McMurtrie, Editor of the ISCO Newsletter -

An abbreviated version of the Seminar Report is published below but longer versions can be downloaded and read in both English and Spanish languages by clicking on the links below. The unabridged versions also include links that you can use to look at many additional photographs taken at the seminar.

Link to the English version - <https://spillcontrol.org/2023/11/03/isco-oceanpact-seminar-rio-de-janeiro-27-10-2023-case-studies-prevention-and-response-the-two-latin-americas/>

Link to the Spanish version - <https://spillcontrol.org/2023/11/03/articulo-para-el-boletin-de-la-isco-seminario-isco-oceanpact-rio-de-janeiro-27-10-2023-estudios-de-casos-prevencion-y-respuesta-las-dos-americas-latinas/>

[el-boletin-de-la-isco-seminario-isco-oceanpact-rio-de-janeiro-27-10-2023-estudios-de-casos-prevencion-y-respuesta-las-dos-americas-latinas/](https://spillcontrol.org/2023/11/03/articulo-para-el-boletin-de-la-isco-seminario-isco-oceanpact-rio-de-janeiro-27-10-2023-estudios-de-casos-prevencion-y-respuesta-las-dos-americas-latinas/)

From outside of the region Latin America may be seen by many as simply one region but for those that live there see distinct blocks-based on location, east or west coast, economic situation and or language.

While Spanish and Portuguese speaking countries the most significant separation if looked at in detail it's much more complex with 68 recognised languages in Colombia, 8 in Argentina and 5 in Brazil for example.

But even between the two most prominently spoken languages we can in many areas of life, thinking, food and business and even in relation to oil spill prevention and response see significant differences in approach, stage of development, direction, and pace of change. So while the rest of the world is looking at maturing fields Latin America is still developing new fields and building and growing its interest and desire for knowledge.

In the Spanish speaking countries of Latin America, there are in many recognized gaps remain in planning and response capabilities which in spite of pockets of enthusiasm and burst of activity from government, industry and the spill response industry these have yet to become as firmly embedded, funded, or politically supported by government or civil society. Much of which can be excused by the focus on other economic factors and national priorities as long as no accidents occur.



In contrast in Portuguese speaking Latin America, we can see a very different reality. There the pace of economic and linked oil and gas industry development has been matched with evolving and more demanding environmental legislation, licensing requirements, contingency planning, and evolution of the response capabilities alongside real and enforced demands to test, validate, and ensure that capability can be deployed.

On the ground that means that authorities and industry demand and expect strict compliance with regulations. Even in countries with much longer history in oil production the standards and compliance in Brazil exceeds what they apply or could expect industry to support. The oil spill equipment holding in Brazil exceeds that of the global oil industry Tier 3 provider OSRL by a factor of 10.

While it has not been tested to its limits and small unattributed spills have test the issue of who will pay to mobilise the capability its existence and the depth of trained manpower and equipment resources allowed it to help North America with the Deep-Water Horizon without significantly affecting its own capability.

So when the a meeting with OceanPact, CEO Flavio P. de Andrade and some of his team Erik Cunha, Marcelo Cortés, Bernardo Assis at the Clean Gulf in New Orleans in October 2022 turned to why Latin America did not have its own oil spill knowledge sharing events. It was clear that Latin America had both a further need for knowledge in some countries and knowledge and experience in others which could be shared.

While the USA series of Clean Gulf, Clean Pacific, Clean Waterways, and the international conferences IOSC, Interspill or SpillCon, SpillTech, RECSO were available the focus was in most cases on USA, Europe or on the region in which the event was held rather than directly relevant to Latin America. Clearly these fill a need in these regions geared to the state of the spill control industry in that potential audience. As a result, numbers travelling from Latin America to such events is limited.

Further the multitrack 15 or 20 minute presentation format seen in many conferences means that there is little depth to the information that is shared and the speakers are often duplicated between conferences or from the organising committee bodies rather than direct from those involved in response, legislation development or manufactures (although the later often underwrite the conference with an exhibition but little access to talk or attend the conference elements). As a clear example of the gap being in the incidents constantly used as reference and the global picture.

Why do we always talk about the same reference incidents:



UK, Torrey Canyon, March 1967	Chile, Napier, June 1972
	Chile Metula, , August 1974
France, Amoco Cadiz, March 1978	Trinidad and Tobago, Atlantic Empress, July 1979
	Mexico, Ixtoc, June 1979
	Panama, Bahía Las Minas, April 1986
USA, Exxon Valdez, March 1989	Uruguay, San Jorge, February 1997
France, Erika, 1999	Argentina, Magdalena, January 1999
	Brazil, Guanabara Bay, April 2000
	Brazil, Iguazu River, July 2000
	Brazil, P-36 Platform incident, March 2001
Spain, Prestige, 2002	Brazil, Vicuna 2004
	Chile, Eider 2005
	Mexico, Campeche Sound, Usumacinta-2007
USA, DWH spill, November 2011	Colombia, Barranca Bermeja, March 2018
	Ecuador, Coca and Napo rivers, April 2020
	Chile, Bahía de Quinteros, September 2014
	Mexico, Ojo de Fuego, Campeche Sound, July 2021

The result was the idea to organize a seminar in Latin America, limited to a small number of speakers and incidents with relevant learning for Latin America. This was an idea not left aside but actioned and delivered 1 year later.

**Maritime Pollution and 21st Century Oil Spills
Lessons Learned for Brazil & Latin America Preparedness, Response and Crisis Management:
Cases Studies
The Volcano, Tsunami and the Mare Doricum Tanker, Peru 2022
VLSFO, Covid 19 and the Bulk Carrier Wakashio, Mauritius 2020
VLSFO, Scuttled Validation, MV Stellar Banner, Brazil 2020**

Panel I - Case Study Mare Doricum - Peru		
09:00 – 09:45	Peru Case Study: Mare Doricum Incident Response & Organization	Carlos Sagrera (ISCO)
09:45 – 10:30	Peru Case Study: The International Support	Fanny Chever & Elizabeth Marin (CEDRE)
10:30 – 11:00	Peru Wildlife Response	Valeria Ruoppolo (AIUKA)
11:00 -11:15	Coffee	Administration OceanPact
Panel II - Case Study Wakashio - Mauritius		
11:15 – 12:00	Mauritius Case Study: Wakashio Incident and Response	Matthew Sommerville (ISCO)
12:00 - 12:45	Mauritius Case Study: The International Support	Fanny Chever & Elizabeth Marin (CEDRE)
12:45 - 14:00	Lunch	Free for Participants
Panel III - Case Study Stellar Banner - Brazil		
14:00 – 14:45	Spill Control in Brazil: Prevention and Response in the 21st Century	Marcus Vinicius Lisboa - ARPEL
14:45 – 15:30	Brazil Case Study: Stellar Banner Incident and Response	Adriano Ranieri - EnvironPact
15:30 – 16:00	Brazil Case Study: Current Demands and Actions by Brazilian Authorities on Oil Spills	Brazilian Authorities <i>(to be confirmed)</i>

The day concluded with a panel session with all of the speakers and moderated by none other than Flavio P. de Andrade who made his final reflections.

The experts presented multiple lessons learned from incidents focusing on the issues and opportunities from which others could learn now in order to improve their own preparedness, training and response capabilities.

Be that related to understanding changing risks, pollutants, contingency plans, incident management, data collection, interpretation and dissemination, resource issues and tiered response, integrating on site and remote international experts, wildlife response and communication internal external and in the modern world to and from civil society.

In the final part of the event, Matthew Sommerville, on behalf of the ISCO Executive Committee, with emotional words (they have known Flavio P. de Andrade since 2004 with the Vicuña case in Paranagua) imposed him as ISCO Ambassador in Brazil, the Portuguese-speaking Latin America, and what a well-deserved and well-earned role for someone who has shared ISCO's objectives and principles for more than 20 years.

The two ambassadors of ISCO were joined on the stage by Carlos Sagrera ISCO Latin American Ambassador bringing three of ISCO Ambassadors together for the first time



The question now based on feedback is not if there will be further seminars but only when and where they will be delivered. ISCO looks forward to supporting that when even end wherever it occurs.

We cannot end this article without mentioning the commitment and quality of the organisation that OceanPact had in this Seminar, perhaps a Brazilian trademark, but which surely also differentiates this organisation from its peers worldwide.

The seminar was free to participants with Ocean Pact covering the costs of the venue and refreshments as well as speakers' accommodation. A not insignificant cost.

ISCO NEWS (CONTINUED)

In addition, they undertook to translate the 300 page book of "Fundamentals of Oil Spill Clean-up", authored by Merv Fingas of Canada a globally recognised figure in the industry, ISCO Executive Committee member and Council Representative for Canada, into Portuguese and to distribute a copy to each participant in the conference. An action that went simply beyond sharing knowledge but include cost, time and effort to bring the knowledge into a format more easily digested by Latin American oil spill professionals.

From ISCO's our personal thanks and recognition goes especially to Anna Gomide, Paulo Fonseca and all the OceanPact administrative and IT team that made this successful event possible and that sets the bar very high for what is to come.

Mr. Flavio P. de Andrade, CEO of OceanPact and ISCO Ambassador in Brazil: Mission Accomplished...!!!



NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CAMBODIA: TOWARDS A NATIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

October 30 - Work to further develop Cambodia's national oil spill contingency plan has been underway at a workshop in Phnom Penh, Cambodia (24-26 October). Some 50 delegates from across key government entities, ports, and the oil and gas and shipping industry took part in the workshop, the latest in a series of IMO-assisted events on oil spill contingency planning in South-East Asia.

The workshop supported participants to update the existing draft National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP), to provide for effective response to oil spill incidents. An action was developed, towards finalization and implementation of the NOSCP.

The workshop was organized under the framework of the Global Initiative project for South East Asia (GI SEA), a joint project with the oil and gas industry (IPIECA), which supports implementation of the OPRC Convention. IMO / [Read more](#)

GREECE: STUDY FINDS "ENDANGERED" WHALES IN OFFSHORE LEASE BLOCKS OFF CRETE

October 29 - Plans by Greece to advance hydrocarbon exploration off its coast face new opposition after a new survey showed that endangered whales and dolphins live in the area year-round.

The survey indicates that at least four species, including the regionally endangered sperm whale, live in the deep waters of the Hellenic Trench in both summer and winter. Previously, various cetacean species were known to inhabit the Hellenic Trench in the summer but little was known about their winter whereabouts.

The research, carried out in 2021-22 by the University of Exeter, Greenpeace Greece and the Pelagos Cetacean Research Institute, could affect plans by Greece to advance offshore gas and oil exploration activities. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

INDIA: MARINE POLLUTION RESPONSE SEMINAR AND MOCK DRILL CONDUCTED BY COAST GUARD DISTRICT HEADQUARTERS -14

October 26 - The Indian Coast Guard, District Headquarters-14 conducted a Pollution Response Seminar and Mock Drill from 25 to 26 Oct 23, at Port Blair. The Training and Workshop was in sync with the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOSDCP) for which Indian Coast Guard is Competent National Authority for coordinating marine oil pollution response.

Dy Inspector General Pradeep B Mandal, TM, District Commander No. 14 (South & Little Andaman) chaired the seminar and highlighted the importance of preparedness by all stakeholders including A&N Administration, Disaster Management Board, Port Management Board, Forest Dept., IOCL, PMF, etc. Andaman Sheekha / [Read more](#)

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NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

NIGERIA: NNPC UNCOVERED OVER 150 ILLEGAL PIPELINES, DESTROYED 172 UNAPPROVED REFINERIES IN ONE MONTH

November 1 - The Nigerian National Petroleum Company Limited (NNPC), has continue to record significant milestone in its fight against crude oil theft and pipeline vandalism as it destroyed 172 illegal refineries and uncovered 150 illegal connections.

The National Oil company, recorded this feat between September 30 and October 27, 2023, based on analysis conducted by THE WHISTLER from a weekly data published by the company. During the period under review, the NNPC reported a total of 625 incidents of oil theft and vandalism. According to the NNPC, at least 400,000 barrels of crude oil are lost daily, translating to a lost of \$34.8 million daily. The Whistler / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: HYDROCARBON POLLUTION REMEDIATION PROJECT COMMENCES SKILL DEVELOPMENT FOR 5000 Ogoni WOMEN AND YOUTHS

November 1 - The Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP) has commenced the training of five thousand Ogoni youths in Rivers State under its alternative livelihood programme whose sources of income were impacted by oil pollution.

The training of the five thousand youths took off with an orientation programme which was held in batches at the Khana Local Government Secretariat, Bori, Rivers State. Tech Economy / [Read more](#)

TURKIYE: BLUE SAIL WAS LAUNCHED WITH THE COOPERATION OF TURMEPA AND TUI CARE FOUNDATION



October 18 - The "TUI Junior Academy Turkey" training and awareness project, implemented by TURMEPA in cooperation with @tuicarefoundation, successfully completed the first year of training and reached 4,520 students and 536 teachers.

Within the scope of the project carried out in Muğla, Antalya, Izmir and Aydın, the leading cities of our country in marine tourism, TURMEPA organized an educational trip with students and teachers from Fethiye project schools on October 18 in order to share the project trainings with the public and to emphasize the importance of the seas and marine tourism. TURMEPA / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

USA: CLEANUP IS DONE ON A BIG KANSAS OIL SPILL ON THE KEYSTONE SYSTEM, THE COMPANY AND EPA SAY

November 1 - The operator of the [Keystone](#) pipeline system has finished cleaning up a massive December 2022 oil spill, and the creek affected by it is flowing naturally again, the company and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency say. Pipeline operator TC Energy promised to continue monitoring the site along Mill Creek in [Washington County](#), about 150 miles (241 kilometers) northwest of [Kansas](#) City. Independent / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

November 6 – Click on the links below to download and read the latest news from NOAA OR&R

\$33.2 Million Pollution Settlement Proposed for Portland Harbor, OR to Benefit Fish and Communities

On November 2, 2023, [the U.S. Department of Justice \(DOJ\)](#) announced a [proposed settlement\(link is external\)](#) valued at approximately \$33.2 million to compensate for natural resource injuries that resulted from hazardous substance releases and oil discharges into the Willamette River and Portland Harbor in Oregon.

OR&R Schedules Emergency Response Training for 2024

The OR&R Training Team recently completed its [final response training event of fiscal year 2023](#), providing training to over 2,300 emergency responders and planners over the course of the year.

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 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 He will be happy to help you.

NEWS FROM LAMOR - A major oil spill is threatening the fragile Swedish marine ecosystems in the Karlshamn region due to the grounding of the passenger ferry Marco Polo in Pukaviksbukten on 22.10



While passengers and crew were thankfully unharmed, the ecological impact is substantial, as the ferry has leaked diesel fuel for several kilometers before running aground where it was stuck.

Oil spills can have serious impacts on marine life and the natural environment depending on the amount and type of oil and the actions taken to clean it up. The Swedish authorities are mobilizing to address the oil spill, reflecting the urgency to mitigate environmental damage. Lamor's Oil Spill Response Equipment,

including the Bow Collector and, LORS inbuilt system are being used in the cleanup effort helping to contain and manage the spill.

Despite the challenging situation, we hope that all the vital ongoing efforts will help reduce the long-term impact on the environment. <https://www.lamor.com/> [#lamor](#) [#letscleantheworld](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

FINLAND: EEVA PRIMMER APPOINTED AS SYKE'S RESEARCH DIRECTOR FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM

Eeva Primmer has been appointed Research director at the Finnish Environment Institute (Syke) for a fixed term from 1.1.2024 to 31.12.2028. Eeva Primmer has worked at Syke since 1997 and has acted as group manager, research professor, and research director.

Syke's Research director is responsible for the quality, assessment and integrity of Syke's research as well as strengthening its impact and resources. The director is also closely involved in the strategic leadership of Syke as well as in the development and implementation of our activities and policies. SYKE / [Read more](#)



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.

Dr. Larissa Montas attended the Nurdles/Plastic Pellets Response workshop held on September 6 & 7, 2023 at the NOAA Center for Weather & Climate Prediction (NCWCP).

The “Nurdles Spills in Coastal and Marine Environments Workshop”, sponsored by NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R), and facilitated by the University of New Hampshire Coastal Response and Research Center (CRRC), was held at the NOAA Center for Weather & Climate Prediction at the University of Maryland, College Park. The two-day workshop was well attended in-person with virtual participation by some international attendees.

The [CRRC](#) has a well-established trajectory of successfully facilitating workshops in line with its objectives. The event opened with welcome remarks by Dr. Nancy Kinner, Co-Director CRRC, and Scott Lundgren, Director NOAA’s OR&R. Charlie Henry, Director, Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center, presented the workshop objectives and sparked everyone’s interest with a personal anecdote on a nurdle spill 35 years ago. The workshop comprised 15 presentations, including two case studies, delivered by a various participants including NOAA scientists, members of academia, spill response and NGO representatives. Jon Burton, Oracle Environmental Experts, presented the results of the “[The Mapping Global Plastic Supply Chain](#)” report commissioned by [Fidra](#). Case studies focused on plastic pellet spills from container ships, in Sri Lanka and South Africa, and Norway were presented by ITOPF and Norwegian Coastal Administration representatives, respectively.

[Dr. Deborah French-McKay](#), Director, Research and Model Development, RPS, shared important considerations and research needs for modeling plastic pellet spills. [Dr. Anthony Andradý](#), professor, author and researcher, discussed the potential impacts of pellet spills-his presentation included an informative video of plastic pellet manufacturing by extruding fluff plastic. Finally, Jace Tunnell, Director of Community Engagement, Harte Research Institute, Texas A&M University, and founder of the [Nurdle Patrol](#) presented on risks and threats from plastic pellet spills. His presentation included a photo of a 1992 U.S. [EPA report on plastic pellets](#).

Due to space constraints more information on the workshop will be provided in the next edition of the newsletter

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.

Editor – A message has been received from Dr Fingas - “it looks like the column will be delayed at least another week as I still have to get access to the databases” and on Friday 27th October, Dr Fingas added – “This will unfortunately be delayed again, the prognosis is that next week will see progress”. On 5th November Dr Fingas apologised for the continuing delay. It is hoped that normal publication will be resumed next week.

If you are interested in new technology you will find it useful to visit Technology Innovation News Survey at <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> and Tech Direct at <https://clu-in.org/techdirect/archive/>

GENETICALLY ENGINEERED MICROORGANISM BREAKS DOWN PET PLASTICS IN SALTWATER: NEW INSIGHTS

In an innovative study conducted by researchers at NC State, a marine microorganism has been genetically modified to effectively break down a specific type of plastic, polyethylene terephthalate (PET), in saltwater environments. PET is a major contributor to the increasing problem of microplastic pollution in oceans and is commonly found in everyday items such as water bottles and clothing.

The research focused on two bacteria species: *Vibrio natriegens*, which thrives in saltwater, and *Ideonella sakaiensis*, known for its ability to produce enzymes that break down and metabolize PET. Through genetic engineering, the DNA from *Ideonella sakaiensis* was incorporated into a plasmid, a self-replicating genetic sequence. This modified plasmid was then introduced into the *Vibrio natriegens* bacteria. City Life / [Read more](#)

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

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

API WORKSHOP ATTENDEES LEARN ABOUT DISPERSANT USE



Dispersants are one of several response tools that may be considered for use during response operations to minimize the overall environmental impacts of an oil spill. In an ongoing outreach effort to provide an understanding of the benefits and limitations of dispersant use, the American Petroleum Institute (API), in partnership with ExxonMobil, sponsored a dispersant workshop at Ohmsett.

“Dispersants are an essential, but generally misunderstood, oil spill response tool. With recent regulatory updates and continual loss of expertise in the spill response community, API’s role of advancing science, engaging with regulators, and educating stakeholders is crucial in this space,” commented Tim Steffek, senior policy advisor at API.

The two-day workshop took place June 27-28, 2023, and was attended by 30 members from academia, industry, and oil spill responders. The program included a combination of presentations and demonstrations led by subject matter experts in the industry, as well as scientists and researchers.

Classroom discussions provided an overview of dispersant use, industry perspectives on dispersant use, oil and dispersant toxicity, biodegradation of oil, dispersant aerial application operations, and international use of dispersants.

“It was great to hear from a diverse group of stakeholders who were able to provide different perspectives of dispersants. Presentations covered topics from dispersant history, science, operations, and regulations and approvals,” said Steffek.

Out on the Ohmsett test tank, the workshop participants gathered on the main bridge and the side deck for demonstrations where they saw first-hand how dispersant breaks up the oil into droplets small enough to be dispersed into the water column.

During a side-by-side surface dispersant comparison, two frames containing crude oil were placed on the water’s surface; a dispersant was applied to one, and the other was untreated. The frames were lifted to release the slicks. As slicks were subjected to wave energy, the slick treated with the dispersant turned brown, an indication of dispersed oil.

Also on the Ohmsett test tank, a subsurface dispersant application was demonstrated. In this exercise, a subsurface crude oil plume was created using metered subsurface injection from the main bridge at approximately one meter below the surface. This untreated plume was extended down the tank through the advancing travel of the main bridge. After a brief amount of time, a dispersant-treated oil plume was introduced to demonstrate the difference between the non-dispersed plume and the dispersed plume.

“The value of holding the workshop at Ohmsett is the unique ability for participants to witness large scale dispersant demonstrations,” Steffek explained. “For many, this may be their first and only opportunity to see an oil slick dispersed. API looks forward to hosting a dispersant workshop at Ohmsett next year.”

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

TRAINING COURSES

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

USEFUL LINKS

- INTERNATIONAL – IMO E-LEARNING PLATFORM [e-learning platform](#)
- AUSTRALIA – AMOSC - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- CHINA - <http://www.sioetc.com>
- EUROPE – <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/3609-emsa-training-catalogue-2019.html>
- FRANCE - CEDRE - https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023_EN.pdf
- UK & WORLDWIDE – OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD. - <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/courses/>
- UK & WORLDWIDE – BRIGGS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD. - <https://www.briggsmarine.com/services/training/>
- UK – NCEC HAZMAT ACADEMY – [More info](#)
- USA – TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – NATIONAL SPILL CONTROL SCHOOL <https://www.tamucc.edu/research/nscs/>
- USA – MPC, DETROIT - <https://marinepollutioncontrol.com/services/training-and-compliance>
- USA – ALLIANCE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROFESSIONALS - https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event_list.asp
- CANADA - CONTAMINATED SITES HEALTH & SAFETY REFRESHER (8-HOUR HAZWOPER) – FROM ECONEXT – [MORE INFO](#)
- ONLINE – LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY – CERTIFICATE IN ENVIRONMENTAL MARITIME MANAGEMENT. Starts on 24th January

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

TO VIEW UPCOMING EVENTS CLICK ON [HTTPS://SPILLCONTROL.ORG/UPCOMING-EVENTS/](https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/)

To see ALL of the posted events you will need to click on “LOAD MORE” at the foot of each opened “upcoming events” page. Event organisers are requested to notify ISCO immediately if a listed event is cancelled or postponed. Your Editor does his best to keep the listing up-to-date but it should not be assumed that listed events have not been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended that you check with event organisers before finalising your attendance plans. Please advise the Editor if any of the entries require correction or updating. If you are holding an event you would like to be featured here, please send details to John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

The listings below give only very basic details – To get access to all information visit <https://spillcontrol.org/upcoming-events/>

NOVEMBER 2023

- ITALY – ECOMONDO Exhibition & Conference, Rimini, 7-12 November 2023
- UK – IOPC Funds – November 2023 Meeting of the Governing Bodies, 7th to 10th November. IMO HQ London
- NORWAY – “Marine Insurance Nordics”, Oslo, 9-10 November
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Human Health Effects of Oil in the Sea”, Webinar 22, 7th November 2023
- USA – Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition, “Prepare, Respond and Recover”, San Antonio, TX, 7-9 November 2023
- INDIA – SPILLTECH Conference & Exhibition, 8th to 9th November 2023, New Delhi
- WEBINAR – ALGA – “The hidden challenge – Contaminants & Emerging Contaminants in Biosolids” – Thursday 9th November, 12.00pm – 1.00pm, AEDT
- UK – BIMCO – “Towage & Salvage Masterclass”, London, 9-10 November 2023
- WEBINAR – OSRL – “Equipment and Resources for Effective Response”, 14th November, 1400-1500 GMT
- WEBINAR from UK & Ireland Spill Association – “Early lessons to be learned from the Poole Harbour incident”, 15th November 2023, 1500-1630 GMT

DECEMBER 2023 & ONWARDS

- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, “Round Table Discussion to provide Summary and Recommendations”, Webinar 23, 5th December 2023
- UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, 6-7 December 2023
- UK – Panel Discussion at Salvage & Wreck Conference – “Effective Casualty Management – A Joint Session with Maritime Authorities and Industry”, Wednesday 6th December, 1200-1245 GMT
- WEBINAR – OSRL – “Training, Exercises and Continuous Improvement” 12th December, 1400-1500 GMT
- AUSTRALIA – Alga – “Chlorinated Hydrocarbons Groundwater Fate & Transport Symposium”, Adelaide, 22-23 February 2024

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- PORTUGAL – Economist – “11th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo”, Lisbon, 11-13 March 2024
- GERMANY – “14th International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation”, Berlin, August 25-27, 2024
- SPAIN & ONLINE – “14th International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Barcelona, August 25-27, 2024

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

USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – SAN ANTONIO, NOVEMBER 7-9, 2023

[New Press Release](#) - Additional Information just released

[Need more reasons to register for CLEAN GULF? and Quick Registration](#)

New Response Professionals Program at CLEAN GULF 2023 [About this program](#)

A full, printable program is available for the 2023 CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition, taking place November 7-9 in San Antonio, TX. Check out the digital program and see what's in store at this year's CLEAN GULF! [Download the program](#)

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](#)

NORWAY- MARINE INSURANCE NORDICS, OSLO, 9-10 NOVEMBER [Download the Agenda](#)

USA: SAVE THE DATE FOR IOSC 2024

[International Oil Spill Conference \(IOSC\)](#) in New Orleans, May 13-16, 2024

Registration has officially opened for the International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), May 13-16, 2024 at the New Orleans Convention Center in New Orleans, LA USA.

IOSC provides a vital forum for professionals from the international response community, private sector, government, and non-governmental organizations to come together to tackle the greatest challenges facing us with sound science, practical innovation, social engineering and imagination. Mark your calendars and start planning your trip to join over 1,500 attendees from over 50 countries, representing government agencies, contractors, researchers, industry, and other stakeholders as they exchange ideas and lessons learned from actual spill responses and research around the world. Stay tuned, registration details will be announced in August. We look forward to seeing you in New Orleans next year. **Learn More about IOSC 2024** Be sure to follow IOSC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for updates and announcements about #IOSC2024. Please contact registration@iosc.org for questions or additional information. Interested in exhibiting or sponsorship? Please reach out to: exhibits@iosc.org

USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS 2024 – REGISTRATION

[2024 PRELIMINARY SESSION LINE-UP](#)

[Meet the 2024 CLEAN WATERWAYS Planning Committee](#) Registration Now Open for CLEAN WATERWAYS 2024 - Registration has officially opened for the 2024 CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference, taking place at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH, April 9-11. Registration rates are at the lowest rates we will offer all year and increase by \$150 after Friday, October 27th. [Registration information](#) April 9-11, 2024, Cincinnati, OH – “Incident Prevention & Response for Inland Regions & Waterways” [View the website](#)

The CLEAN WATERWAYS program is developed by a government/industry-based committee of approximately 50 professionals, and the committee is looking for leaders to help shape the conference. All abstracts submitted are reviewed for content and relevance by the committee and are selected by consensus.

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>

ISCO Members can post requests for submission of invitations to tender for supplies / services in this section. The ISCO Newsletter is circulated to nearly 3,000 registered subscribers in 60 countries worldwide and represents a well targeted audience for sourcing invitations to tender. Send requests to the Editor – john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

LINKS FOR OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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

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

As a service to its Members ISCO provides a listing of publications that may be of interest to our community. This page provides details and links for downloading more than 40 publications most of which can be accessed at no cost. This page is managed by Mike Watson mike@mwadigital.com

NEW PUBLICATIONS



<https://mailchi.mp/pemsea/pemsea-annual-report-2022-connection-and-empowerment-6678039?e=01b49c8a29>



<https://mailchi.mp/1985d896bd35/many-paths-to-save-the-planet-october-2023-newsletter?e=71dc7897d2>

EUROPE: ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF MARINE CASUALTIES AND INCIDENTS REPORT PUBLISHED

The latest edition of the Annual Overview of Marine Casualties and Incidents, [now available to download here](#), shows that 2022 was a positive year in terms of the reduction or stabilisation of many accident indicators, such as the number of occurrences, ships lost, fatalities or injuries.

In 2022, 2,510 marine casualties and incidents were reported, representing a reduction of 182 marine casualties and incidents in comparison with the year 2021 and 84 marine casualties and incidents in comparison with the year 2020.

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/>

IRELAND: ARMAGH: FISH KILL IN CALLAN RIVER WORST EVER, SAY ANGLERS

October 25 - A fish kill on a tributary of the Callan River in County Armagh is "probably the worst ever" in the area, local anglers have said. It is thought hundreds of juvenile salmon have died as a result of a slurry spill at one of its tributaries, the Corkley River near Keady.

The incident was first reported to the Northern Ireland Environment Agency (NIEA) on Saturday 21 October. Up to a mile-long stretch of the river is believed to have been affected. BBC / [Read more](#)

USA: MARYLAND - TRAIN DERAILMENT SENDS TINY PLASTIC PELLETS INTO ANACOSTIA RIVER, FUELING NEW POLLUTION CONCERN



Above: This handful of plastic pellets, or nurdles, is a sample of those that spilled from derailed train cars in Hyattsville, MD, raising concerns about impacts on waterways and wildlife. Photo Courtesy of the City of Hyattsville

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

October 26 - A train that derailed in the Anacostia River watershed on Sept. 23 introduced local officials to a source of pollution no one was quite prepared to handle: nurdles. These tiny plastic pellets, each about the size of a lentil, are transported around the world as the raw materials of plastic production. At 1 a.m. on Sept. 23, during a tropical storm, a CSX train derailed, spilling an unknown quantity of the pellets from some of its 16 railcars.

The spill occurred in the stretch of tracks that crosses alternate U.S. Route 1 (Baltimore Avenue) on the south side of Hyattsville, Maryland, just outside the District of Columbia and less than a half-mile from the Northeast Branch of the Anacostia River. The nurdles were made of recycled plastic and were on their way to be turned into new products. Chesapeake Bay Magazine / [Read more](#)

SWEDEN: GROUNDED FERRY MARCO POLO SHIFTS IN BAD WEATHER RELEASING MORE OIL



Above: oil slick from grounded ferry. Large oil slick again appeared on the water after the Marco Polo shifted in high seas on Sunday (Photo courtesy of Swedish Coastguard)

October 30 - Salvage teams were forced to evacuate the grounded ferry Marco Polo (15,955 gross tons) after the vessel began moving in bad weather and rough seas on Sunday on the coast of Sweden. While the ferry eventually became stuck for a third time, the release of oil from the damaged fuel tank increased creating a worsening environmental situation.

Efforts had begun the previous day to remove the fuel from the grounded vessel in a salvage operation being undertaken by SMIT. The shallow draft bunker vessel Tresfjord went alongside the Marco Polo on Saturday and they were beginning the efforts to pump fuel from the damaged tank which contained 163 cubic meters of oil at the time of the casualty. The Coast Guard can not confirm the amount of oil that has leaked, but as of Sunday, they were saying 30 cubic meters of oil and oil waste had been recovered from the water and coastline. They believe additional amounts remain under the water's surface and the damaged tank is continuing to leak while the pumping operation was suspended due to the weather. Another undamaged tank holds a further 300 cubic meters of fuel. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

October 31 - Salvage of Marco Polo Accelerated Ahead of Approaching Bad Weather - Reports late on Monday said oil smells had reached the coastline of Sweden some eight nautical miles from the site of the grounding. The vessel remains aground near the small island of Han?, but late on Monday local newspapers reported oil was washing up near the town of Sternö, across Pukavik Bay from where the vessel is stuck. The municipality confirmed the reports saying that barriers had been placed along the beach to catch the oil and help with the cleanup. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

November 1 - Salvage Crews Refloat Marco Polo Ferry in Sweden - Previous attempts to remove oil from the vessel were temporarily halted due to adverse weather conditions. On Sunday, amid severe weather, the ship floated free but subsequently ran aground again, leading to an additional release of oil. The exact amount of oil released has yet to be determined, but it is known that the damaged fuel tanks contained 160 cubic meters of oil prior to the accident. The salvage operation has been closely supervised by the Swedish Coast Guard and the Swedish Transport Agency. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

November 2 - Oil-spill ferry towed to port in Sweden: coast guard - Stockholm: Sweden's coast guard said Thursday the passenger ferry that ran aground last month causing a large oil spill had been safely towed to port without further leaks. The Peninsular Qatar / [Read more](#)

US VIRGIN ISLANDS: SALVAGE CREWS REFLOAT AND TOW CARGO SHIP IN ST. THOMAS

October 31 - Salvage crews have successfully refloated and towed the Bonnie G cargo ship to the Crown Bay Sandfill dock in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The vessel owners and salvors will now coordinate further operations to remove the damaged cargo, remaining oil, and conduct salvage or repair operations for the ship.

Lt. Cmdr. Jennifer Flowers, the Coast Guard's incident commander for the refloating operation, praised Coast Guard, federal, and local response agency crews, as well as the National Response Corp., Playland Marine, and DonJon-SMIT, for their efforts in the successful operation. gCaptain / [Read more](#)



Above: Conditions on scene during the Bonnie G rescue, October 4 (Photo courtesy of USCG)

October 31 - As soon as it was practicable, responders boomed off the Bonnie G as a precaution against a spill, then began pumping off the vessel's tanks, which contained an estimated 13,000 gallons of fuel. Divers also removed thousands of pounds of debris from the coral reef around the ship.

Over the weekend, salvor DonJon-SMIT made preparations to pump out Bonnie G's tanks and bring her off the bottom. Two tugs, Sentry and Limetree Bay, deployed to the scene to help pull the stricken vessel off the shoal. When ready, the salvors pumped out five compartments with compressed air while pumping water out of the engine room and steering compartments. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

CANADA: CARGO SHIP LOSES CONTAINERS IN NORTHERN CANADA

November 1 - Recovery operations are underway after a Canadian cargo ship lost about 20 containers overboard in northeastern Canada on Friday. The cargo loss involved the M/V Sivumut operated by NEAS near the Port of Iqaluit, the capital city of Canada's Nunavut territory. The Government of Nunavut said the incident involved "a sealift barge." The Canadian Coast Guard and NEAS were working to retrieve the containers, it said. gCaptain / [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: RUNAWAY BARGE WITH FUEL ADRIFT IN BARENTS SEA, RUSSIAN ARCTIC

November 2 - Tug SOLOMBALETS-3 lost barge in southeastern Barents sea, Russian Arctic, reportedly on Nov 2, during towage in stormy weather. Barge with 350 tons of fuel is destined for Kolguyev island nenets settlements, to provide power generators work

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

during winter. Towline snapped, runaway barge is drifting somewhere in the area between island and mainland, understood she's spotted and monitored, but adverse weather hampers attempts to get her back on tow. Barge is danger in itself, considering cargo, and a navigational danger, with a lot of traffic in the area. www.maritimebulletin.net

USA: VIRGINIA - WATER TREATMENT CHEMICAL ACCIDENTALLY RELEASED INTO RIVER

November 3 - Hundreds of gallons of a water treatment chemical were accidentally released into the South Rivanna River on Thursday. The Rivanna Water and Sewer Authority is reporting an unintentional release of some 1,200 gallons of a chemical called liquid lime at the South Rivanna Water Treatment Plant. CBS19 News / [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY INTO SUNSHINE COAST POLYSTYRENE SPILL AT START OF TURTLE NESTING SEASON

November 5 - Thousands of plastic beads (reportedly polystyrene) have been washing up on the south coast of Queensland. Hundreds of people have joined the clean-up and Sunshine Coast Council will continue to comb the sand with tractors over the coming days.

Alison Foley from the environmental group Ten Little Pieces said it's a "pollution event of an industrial scale". She said the spill had come at the beginning of turtle nesting season, and the small plastic beads were a danger to wildlife. "It resembles fish eggs, and it's very easily ingested by turtles," Ms Foley said.

See the full report on ABC News online:

https://www.abc.net.au/news/2023-11-05/sunshine-coast-polystyrene-clean-up-maroochydore/103065542?utm_source=sfmc&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=abc_newsletter_email_sfmc&utm_term=&utm_id=2242424&sfmc_id=343630354 [Thanks to John Wardrop. Member of ISCO Executive Committee]

ADVICE FOR CORPORATE MEMBERS OF ISCO

YOUR COMPANY'S BANNER DISPLAYED FOR FREE IN ISCO'S INTERNATIONAL DIRECTORY

A few of our Corporate Members are not yet taking advantage of the option to display their company banners in ISCO's Directory of Supplies and Services.

All members are listed under one or more classifications – Consultants; Equipment & Materials; Response Organizations; and Training Providers – and every entry is hyperlinked to give one click access to company's website.

As an example, to see how your banner might look click on <http://www.spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-12-36-12/equipment-materials>

Send a copy of your banner to info@spillcontrol.org or, if you don't have a banner, our designer can create one for you at a very modest cost. The option to display your banner is a free benefit only available to paid-up Corporate Members of ISCO.

PROMOTING ISCO AND YOUR COMPANY ON YOUR EXHIBITION BOOTH

While collecting ISCO Membership Placards at the end of the IOSC exhibition (for later re-issue at other events) a member exclaimed "Oh no, we would like to keep it and put it on our booth at other shows".

Displaying the ISCO Membership While Placard on your booth indicates your support of an organization dedicated to improving worldwide co-operation and preparedness. Members who would like to have an ISCO Membership Placard should request one by emailing mrydetroit@aol.com

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