



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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- Mr John Wordrop (Australia)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



IMO ASSEMBLY, 33RD SESSION, 27 NOVEMBER - 6 DECEMBER 2023

The IMO Assembly will meet for its 33rd session from 27 November – 6 December 2023 and will be preceded by the IMO Council 130th session, 21-24 November 2023. The Assembly is open to all 175 IMO Member States and three Associate Members. It will also be attended by observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations. IMO / [Read more](#)

THIRD SESSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY OPENS IN NAIROBI

November 13 - The third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-3), opened today in the Kenyan capital, Nairobi. INC-3 members will start negotiations on the basis of the Zero Draft text prepared by the Chair of the INC.

INC-3 marks the mid-point of the journey towards a global treaty. It follows two earlier rounds of negotiations: INC-1, which took place in Punta del Este, Uruguay, in November 2022, and INC-2, which was held in Paris in June. Two more INC sessions are planned for 2024. UNEP / [Read more](#)

ITOPF ATTENDS REGIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLANNING WORKSHOP IN MALAYSIA



November 14 - ITOPF attended an Association of Southeast Asian Nations Regional Oil Spill Contingency Plan (The ASEAN Secretariat ROSCP) workshop in Klang, Malaysia.

The workshop was organised by the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GISEA) and aimed to test the implementation of ASEAN

ROSCP as well as provide a platform for information exchange among attendees. ITOPF / [Read more](#) (Photo courtesy of ITOPF)

ISCO AMBASSADORS

(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)


Carlos Sagrera Latin America (Spanish speaking)
Matthew Sommerville UK London
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ISCO NEWS

CLEAN GULF 2023 REPORT

(from Ed Levine - SS&C, LLC / ISCO EC)

As an Executive Committee member of the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO) [<https://spillcontrol.org/>] it was a great honor to represent the organization at the Clean Gulf 2023 conference in San Antonio, TX from 7-9 November. In this article I will enumerate some of the highlights of the conference and reasons for being a member of ISCO.

The stated goal of Clean Gulf (<https://www.cleangulf.org/>) is to serve the evolving energy industry in prevention, preparedness, response, and recovery. It gives environmental and emergency response professionals a forum to come together with their peers to discuss case studies and lessons learned from both recent and past incidents and discover the latest technologies advancing the industry. This year's exhibit hall had 100+ companies showcasing the latest technologies and services for prevention, preparedness, response and recovery.

The exhibition hall at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center was continually trafficked by industry, government, and non-governmental organization (NGOs) representatives. There was a very congenial atmosphere among everyone attending. The exhibition area was the central location for gathering and conversations between presentation sessions that took place in second floor meeting rooms.

The opening day session I was able to attend was the "Maintaining Response Industry Integrity" panel discussion organized by the Spill Control Association of America (SCAA) [<https://www.scaa-spill.org/>]. Over one hundred attendees participated in a panel discussion lead by industry, government, and NGO representatives. The discussion started with acknowledging that the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 in addition to other rules, laws and legislation are doing their job protecting the environment by reducing the number of spill incidents. This led to focused discussions on the current status of preparation of all aspects of response capabilities. The reduction in the number of personnel currently employed in the response community due to retirement of many knowledgeable professionals, difficulties recruiting Coast Guard and industry new hires, as well as retaining current OSRO and agency staff could lead to potentially defaulting on contractual and legal obligations.

Questions discussed by the panelists and amongst the audience included: Are these laws helping or hurting the response industry? Are there sufficient partnerships amongst OSRO contractors, plan holders and regulatory bodies? Are the partnerships strong? An emphasis identified how industry, regulators, and contractors can partner together to be better prepared for responses. Highlighted were ideas for retention, recruitment, gaining experience and

knowledge, sharing resources, and finding new funding opportunities.

While staffing the booth I had the very enjoyable opportunity to sit and talk with Mr. Charles Usher (Marine Pollution Control – MPC) [<https://www.marinepollutioncontrol.com/>] and hear an oral history of ISCO and Mr. David Usher, Charlie's father and ISCO founder. Dave was someone I have known for almost my whole career as a spill responder and greatly respected. One of the highlights of getting to know Dave was reading his book "Music is Forever" (Red Anchor Publications, available on Amazon) describing his entry into the spill response business in Detroit, MI and his life-long friendship with Dizzy Gillespie. Charlie was able to fill in some of the details and added much background and color to Dave's upbringing, described his entrepreneurial spirit, love of life and jazz. Charlie also spoke of the creation of ISCO and the current situation with changing the business structure after Dave's passing. It was time well spent.

As the former Vice-chair of the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's (NASEM) report on Oil in the Sea IV [<https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/oil-in-the-sea-iv-inputs-fates-and-effects>], there was a display copy of the book available to peruse at the booth. The publication is the latest update in the series and contains detailed information on chemical makeup of oil, inputs, accidental spill mitigation, fates and effects of oil in the sea. It was an excellent opportunity to educate people on the contents of the report. Several individuals were surprised to learn the relative order of input sources of oil into the oceans

were first from consumption of petroleum (including runoff from land), next natural seeps, extraction activities, and then transportation.

While spending the days at the ISCO booth I was able to have many conversations with conference attendees. One of the consistent comments heard was concerning the ever-changing mergers, growth, and other fluctuations in organizations and companies over the years. This is an ever-evolving industry. Many people needed clarification of the difference between ISCO and IOSC (International Oil Spill Conference) [<https://www.iosc.org/>]. Multiple times people would start a conversation about looking forward to attend the upcoming conference in May. This was a good opportunity to discuss what ISCO is and its mission. There were several international attendees who were not aware of ISCO and found interest in the organization's activities and benefits. Additionally, numerous US companies and organizations expressed interest in what ISCO provides.

12 REASONS WHY YOU SHOULD BE A MEMBER OF ISCO

Even when budgets are tight, you can fully justify the cost of ISCO membership:

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4. ISCO Initiatives, Contractual Arrangements, Etc.
5. PR, Publicity and Announcing New Products and Services
6. Exhibitions and Conferences
7. Enhance Response Knowledge of Your Staff
8. Curated News in the ISCO Newsletter
9. Opportunity for Lobbying for Legislative Change
10. Use of ISCO Logo in Promotional Material
11. Corporate Members Access Low-Cost Advertisements in the ISCO Newsletter
12. Students, apprentices and trainees have free membership



Above - This year's lucky winner of the ISCO raffle was Mr. Clayton "Lee" Reid, Environmental Coordinator for TransMontaigne, being congratulated by Ed Levine (ISCO).

ISCO NEWS (CONTINUED)

While at Clean Gulf I asked the ITOPF rep if they had any news updates. Here is what they sent me – “We have a few things coming up we’d like to feature in ISCO’s Newsletter.

ITOPF celebrates its 55th year and in this year, it has moved location in London to Dashwood, Liverpool Street. The location change occurred in August and has seen the company move into a space tailored to activity-based working, in a building with the highest BREEAM rating for sustainability.

The company also marks one year of its office opening in Singapore and has seen its team in the region now complete with two Technical Adviser hired in Rachel Rayne and Crystle Wee, and two positions for Technical Advisers rotating from its London location, alongside an Office Manager, Marie Lee, and Head of Office in Senior Technical Adviser, David Campion. Throughout the year ITOPF has been able to respond effectively to pollution events in the region and carry out numerous outreach activities with key stakeholders, covering contingency planning and spill response preparedness.

ITOPF also announces a change in its Executive Team as it welcomes Jenny Edwards as Company Secretary and Director of Governance designate. Jenny replaces David Cooper who is retiring in December. Jenny has extensive experience as a corporate/commercial lawyer before moving into the not-for-profit sector. Her main responsibilities at ITOPF are ensuring ITOPF follows good governance standards and the smooth operation of the office administration and travel, finance & pensions and membership functions”.

RETIRAL OF MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL FOR ISRAEL

ISCO Member of Council representing Israel Ben Benny has advised the ISCO IE that he has moved on and is retiring from his current position. ISCO has written to thank Ben for his valued support over the years and to wish him well in the future.

Ben has recommended a successor for the position of ISCO Member of Council for Israel and it is expected that the EC will be announcing a new appointment in the near future.



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REGIONAL NEWS

ARAB REGION & EUROPE – CEDARE

The Center for Environment and Development for the Arab Region and Europe (CEDARE) was established in 1992 as an international

REGIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

inter-governmental Organization with diplomatic status. This was in response to the convention adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers Responsible For the Environment (CAMRE), in 1991 and upon the initiative of the Arab Republic of Egypt, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Arab fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD). Cedare / [Read more](#)

HOW WASTE PICKERS ARE FIGHTING FOR RECOGNITION IN THE UN GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY

November 9 - A little over a decade ago, Luyanda Hlatshwayo lived a double life. During the day, he woke early, donned a balaclava, and went through bins on the streets of Johannesburg, South Africa. He learned which types of materials could and could not be recycled, as he sifted through PET bottles, polystyrene foam, and multilayered plastic packaging. He kept a running tab on the going rate for recycled plastic, which rose and fell with the price of oil. At night, he returned to his family, who believed he still worked in hospitality. Grist / [Read this story](#)

EUROPE: COMMISSION WELCOMES AGREEMENT BETWEEN EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND COUNCIL ON NATURE RESTORATION LAW

November 9 - The Commission welcomes the provisional agreement just reached between the European Parliament and the Council on the Nature Restoration Law. Once adopted and applied in the EU Member States, the law will be a key contribution to reaching climate neutrality by 2050 and increasing Europe's preparedness and resilience to the effects of climate change.

The law should set in motion a process for continuous and sustained recovery of nature across the EU's land and sea. As an overall target to be reached on EU level, Member States will put in place restoration measures in at least 20 % of the EU's land areas and 20 % of its seas by 2030. By 2050 such measures should be in place for all ecosystems that need restoration. EC EU / [Read more](#)

OSPAR: PROTECTING SPECIES AND HABITATS IN THE NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC

November 17 - For OSPAR's Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023, OSPAR's group on the Protection of Species and Habitats (ICG-POSH) prepared status assessments for 12 habitats and 26 species that are listed as being threatened and/or declining by OSPAR Contracting Parties.

Measures have been adopted for almost all of the 42 species and 16 habitats listed as threatened and/or declining which include actions to be implemented by Contracting Parties nationally and other actions to be implemented collectively. OSPAR / [Read more](#)

REMPEC: TABLETOP EXERCISE WITHIN THE SUB REGIONAL MARINE OIL POLLUTION CONTINGENCY PLAN BETWEEN CYPRUS, GREECE, AND ISRAEL

November 21 - A Tabletop exercise will be organised in the framework of the Sub regional Marine Oil Pollution Contingency Plan between Cyprus, Greece, and Israel. It will consist in a two-day joint spill response desktop exercise between the operational authorities of the three countries. REMPEC / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AUSTRALIA'S TOP SCIENCE AGENCY FACES SCRUTINY OVER INDUSTRY INFLUENCE

November 14 - Australia's leading research agency is facing questions about possible ethical lapses after a U.S. law firm released documents suggesting some of its scientists did not disclose that they had allowed oil giant BP to review studies prior to publication in a journal or presentation at a conference.

"It's a mystery why BP's legal team would be reviewing independent scientific publications" by researchers at the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO), says attorney Jason Clark of the Downs Law Group, which last week released the documents. Science / [Read more](#) [Thanks to John Wardrop, Member of ISCO EC]

BAHRAIN: NSA BAHRAIN, NAVSEA CONDUCT OIL SPILL EXERCISE

November 15 - The four-day exercise coincided with the annual maintenance of SUPSALV equipment utilized for rapid response to pier-side oil spills and deployment to the open seas with the objective to demonstrate readiness in deploying its Tiered Preparedness and Response capability in Bahrain. "By actively deploying spill equipment we are able to maintain technical proficiency while maintaining our longstanding partnership with environmental protection organizations in the Kingdom of Bahrain," said Mr. Sean Suk, environmental director, NSA Bahrain. Newswires / [Read more](#)

CANADA : LSSU, ALGOMA U TO LEAD INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL RESEARCH CONSORTIUM

November 14 - Lake Superior State University (LSSU) is proud to announce a substantial funding allocation of \$3.87 million from the Government of Canada, supporting the International Consortium on Oil Research for Our Waters of the North (ICOR-OWN). This collaboration unites 12 organizations and 24 scientists from both the United States and Canada, with LSSU's Center for Freshwater Research and Education and Algoma University as lead partners.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

The funding, unveiled by the Honourable Jonathan Wilkinson, the Canadian Minister of Energy and Natural Resources, is part of the Multi-Partner Research Initiative (MPRI), a five-year, \$30.3 million commitment under Canada's Oceans Protection Plan (OPP). The MPRI's goal is to advance scientific knowledge, develop cutting-edge cleanup technologies, and enhance response strategies to safeguard Canada's marine and coastal areas. Sootoday / [Read more](#)

CANADA : COAST GUARD MARKS THE SHIP CONSOLIDATION MILESTONE OF THE OFFSHORE OCEANOGRAPHIC SCIENCE VESSEL, CRITICAL TO ADVANCING OCEAN SCIENCE IN CANADA

November 15 - Today, the Honourable Jean-Yves Duclos, Minister of Public Services and Procurement was at Seaspan Shipyards in Vancouver, British Columbia, on behalf of the Honourable Diane LeBouthillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard to celebrate the ship consolidation of the Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel.

This marks a major step towards the completion of the Offshore Oceanographic Science Vessel, which is being built at Seaspan's Vancouver shipyard and is expected to be delivered to the Canadian Coast Guard in 2025 as part of the Canadian Coast Guard fleet renewal plan under the National Shipbuilding Strategy. Canadian Coast Guard / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITY DURING OCTOBER 2023

October was a particularly busy month for the on-call team:

Drift request from MRCC Reunion following a CleanSeaNet detection;

Advice to MRCC Corsen following a CleanSeaNet detection after the cleaning of a tank containing FAME, as well as following a diesel spill in the Chenal du Four;

Advice to MRCC Jobourg in relation to a leak of diesel from a sunken wreck;

Advice to the Côtes-d'Armor fire brigade (SDIS 22) in relation to a spill of unknown origin in the Trieux watercourse in Guingamp, to the Indre-et-Loire fire brigade (SDIS 37) during an exercise organised with the release of drums of Pennzoil Synchronmesh into the Cher river, to the Finistère fire brigade (SDIS 29), remotely and on-site, on the techniques to be deployed following a spill from a home heating oil tank which reached a lake with drinking water intakes near Kernilis, to the Haute-Savoie fire brigade (SDIS 74) during an exercise involving a sunken wreck with 5,000 L of diesel onboard and finally to the Yvelines fire brigade (SDIS 78) after sheen was reported on the Seine;

Request from an individual following the discovery of balls resembling weathered oil on Landunvez beach;

Advice to TotalEnergies Luxembourg following a leak of diesel from a facility into the natural environment;

Advice to TotalEnergies Donges during an exercise involving a leaking wagon containing polypropylene;

Advice to the maritime authorities (Maritime Prefecture for the Atlantic, CEPPOL, MRCC Corsen) and onshore authorities (DDTM) as part of the annual ORSEC maritime exercise involving a heavy fuel oil spill following a collision between two vessels. Mobilisation of experts from Cedre to join the incident management units and activation of the Drift Committee;

Advice to the French Navy's Operations Centre in Brest on the action to be taken following a diesel leak from a trawler, causing sheen;

Activation of the MAR-ICE service by SASEMAR (Spain) for an exercise involving a leak of acrylonitrile from a chemical tanker;

Activation of the ICE network as part of a test to send an Ericard to the Italian emergency transport service.

FRANCE: OTHER NEWS FROM THE OCTOBER 2023 CEDRE NEWSLETTER

In October, Cedre took part in numerous meetings and events, including the [ITAC Forum](#) in the UK, the [Grand African NEMO exercise](#) in Togo and the [roundtable discussion "Bioplastic, Biofantastic?"](#) in Caen. Equipment trials were conducted on the Loire and the [Mic GIVER](#) and [IRA-MAR](#) projects saw advances through meetings and trials with the project partners. The training season drew to a close with numerous sessions, giving rise to constructive discussions as well as the renewal of our [Nautical Institute](#) certification



Photo on left courtesy of Cedre - The Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic visits Cedre

On 24 October, Cedre had the pleasure of a visit from Vice Admiral Jean-François Quérat, Maritime Prefect and Commander of the Atlantic maritime zone, accompanied by members of his team and CEPPOL. During this visit, Cedre's missions were presented, in particular those conducted on behalf of the State in the event of accidental water pollution and in the field of chemical risk management on board ships. The visit also provided the opportunity to review the many projects developed in partnership with the French Navy.

[Read all the latest news from CEDRE in the October 2023 Newsletter](#)

KENYA: REPUBLIC OF KOREA SUPPORTS YOUTH ENGAGEMENT ON CLIMATE SOLUTIONS AND MARINE CONSERVATION IN EAST ASIA

November 13 - The Republic of Korea continues to shape future climate and ocean leaders as the Korean National Ocean Science Museum (KOSM) commits to host a regional youth forum in East Asia tackling the ocean and climate nexus.

Partnerships in Environment Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) signed an agreement with KOSM last November 2, 2023 during the GEO Blue Planet 6th Symposium in Seoul, Korea. One of the key highlights of the agreement is the regional youth forum related to marine sciences and technology, climate change adaptation, marine litter, or marine protected areas as part of the East Asian Seas Congress 2024. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: 'HYPREP, COMMITTED TO SUSTAINABLE ECOSYSTEM, PEACE, DEV IN Ogoniland'

November 17 - The Project Coordinator of the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HYPREP), Prof Nenibarini Zabbey has maintained that the project, through the plethora of projects and programmes it is undertaking, is committed to the sustainable ecosystem, peace and development of Ogoniland.

Zabbey stated this when he presented a status update brief to the Ogoni community and other diaspora stakeholders in the United States of America at the November 10th Anniversary organised by MOSOP USA Chapter, as part of HYPREP's strategic stakeholder engagement and inclusivity. The Tide News / [Read more](#)

POLAND: ONLINE IMS AWARENESS SESSION FOR POLAND

November 16 - A national session on Integrated Maritime Services (IMS) awareness for Poland has been delivered by EMSA. More than 40 users from the Polish maritime administration (Maritime Office Szczecin, Maritime Office Gdynia, Ministry of Infrastructure) and Maritime Search and Rescue services participated in the session, which was geared towards providing users with a more in-depth awareness of the vessel traffic monitoring and information system (VTMIS) organization, as well as the VTMIS-related graphical and system-to-system (s2s) features and functionalities.

Participants received an overview of the Automated Behaviour Monitoring (ABM) algorithms which help to alleviate the workload of maritime surveillance operators. They also learnt about the Integrated Maritime Services (IMS), SafeSeaNet (SSN), Copernicus Maritime Surveillance (CMS) and IMS and SSN Graphical interfaces (SEG, IMS App) enhancing the maritime domain awareness on the global level. EMSA / [Read more](#)

USA: WOTUS WHIPLASH 4.3: THE REVISION TO THE REVISED DEFINITION OF "WATERS OF THE UNITED STATES"

November 15 - The third major development of 2023 for defining "Waters of the United States" ("WOTUS") has arrived.

First, in early 2023, the United States Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and the United States Army Corps of Engineers ("USACE")(together, the "Agencies") revised the definition of "Waters of the United States" (the "2023 Rule"). This definition controls which water resources qualify for federal protection under the Clean Water Act ("CWA") (see WOTUS Whiplash 4.0 for a description of the 2023 Rule). Second, in May, the United States Supreme Court released its Sackett v. EPA decision. Third (and likely the final WOTUS milestone of the year), the Agencies recently issued yet another revised WOTUS definition in light of Sackett. This article breaks down the Supreme Court's impactful Sackett decision, the Agencies' corresponding 2023 Rule revision, and the consequences of such changes for states like North Carolina – which is simultaneously undergoing state environmental statutory changes. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

USA: US ARMY NORTH, NATIONAL GUARD HIGHLIGHT ROLE IN DOMESTIC CBRN RESPONSE MISSIONS

November 15 - Experts from U.S. Army North and the National Guard Bureau discussed the importance of having trained and ready multicomponent military units to conduct domestic Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN) response missions.

Leaders from U.S. Army North and the National Guard Bureau participated in a virtual Leader Professional Development Program session with officers, noncommissioned officers and Army civilians from the 20th Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear, Explosives (CBRNE) Command, Nov. 14. US Army / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

November 20 – Please click on the links below to download and read the latest news from NOAA OR&R

Legacy Award for Alaska Scientific Support Coordinator

Catherine Berg, retired NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) for Alaska, was recently selected as one of four recipients of the 2023 Legacy Awards bestowed by the British Columbia/Pacific States Oil Spill Task Force. Berg was presented with the award at the Annual Meeting of the Oil Spill Task Force on November 16, 2023 in Sacramento, California.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

NOAA Present at the 10th California Islands Symposium

On November 7th, the NOAA Marine Debris Program California Regional Coordinator, Christy Kehoe, presented at the [10th California Islands Symposium](#)(link is external).

This multi-day event included the latest research in all disciplines of natural, environmental, and cultural science on the California Islands. This unique area includes all of the islets, rocks, and islands off the Pacific coast of California and Baja California, Mexico.

Coastal Response Research Center Co-Director Nancy Kinner Receives Prestigious Profile of Service Award

Nancy Kinner, Ph.D. the University of New Hampshire co-director of the joint OR&R-University of New Hampshire (UNH) [Coastal Response Research Center](#)(link is external)(CRRC), [received the prestigious Profile of Service Award](#)(link is external) from the University at an Evening of Distinction celebration on October 12, 2023



OR&R Engages with Stakeholders at Clean Gulf Conference



Last week, over a dozen members of OR&R's science team attended the annual Clean Gulf conference in San Antonio, Texas.

Altogether, OR&R staff participated as presenters and panelists in eight different sessions, covering an A-to-Z range of response topics: dispersants, estimation of oil slick thickness, hurricane pollution targets, in situ burns, natural resource damage assessment, chemistry of unconventional oils, data sharing, and wildlife response

NOAA Joins Plastic Reduction Workshop for Lake Erie Communities

On November 7th, the Great Lakes Regional Coordinator for NOAA's Marine Debris Program, Haley Dalian, presented at the Plastic Reduction Strategies Workshop for Lake Erie Businesses and Communities. Hosted at Old Woman Creek National Estuarine Research Reserve and State Nature Preserve in Huron, Ohio, the workshop gathered participants from diverse perspectives to connect and learn about the ever-present type of marine debris: plastic.

OR&R Scientist Chairs Southern Regional Education Board's Annual Meeting

OR&R's Bryand Duke, Ph.D. served as a chair during the Southern Regional Education Board's (SREB) annual meeting which was held in Tampa, Florida on October 27, 2023.

SREB is a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that works with 16 member states to improve public education at every level, from pre-K to Ph.D.

OR&R Receives Marine Environmental Protection Award from the North American Marine Environment Protection Association

On November 2, 2023, NOAA's OR&R Director Scott Lundgren joined maritime and environmental protection colleagues at State University of New York (SUNY) Maritime College at Fort Schuyler for the [North American Marine Environmental Protection Association \(NAMEPA\) conference and Marine Environmental Protection awards dinner](#)(link is external).

Subscribe to Coastal Recovery News for the Latest on Natural Resource Damage Assessments

NOAA's [Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Program \(DARRP\)](#) is excited to announce the launch of the [Coastal Recovery email newsletter](#)(link is external)!

Subscribers will have access to semi-monthly news of interest delivered straight to their inboxes. This is a new way to stay in tune with work that NOAA and our co-trustees are doing that matters to you.

OR&R Team Crowned "Tampa Bay Debris Derby Heavyweight Champions"



On November 4, OR&R team participated in the inaugural Tampa Bay Debris Derby hosted by Tampa Bay Estuary Program, Tampa Bay Waterkeeper, and Ocean Aid 360.

The Debris Derby brought together Tampa Bay's coastal residents, boaters, anglers, watershed groups, and industry partners to improve the local marine habitat and promote community awareness of marine debris.

Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Action Plan Community Comes Together for a Mid-Point Review

On October 24, the NOAA Marine Debris Program coordinated a mid-Plan review workshop to discuss progress made on the Mid-Atlantic Marine Debris Action Plan (Action Plan).

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.

Due to a major work overload the preparation of Dr Montas’ report with more information on the workshop has been delayed but will be provided here as soon as possible.

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.

252. Modeling the long-term transport and fate of oil spilled from the 2021 A Symphony tanker collision in the Yellow Sea, China: Reliability of the stochastic simulation.

Cao R., Rong Z., Chen H., Liu Y., Mu L., Lv X.
(2023) *Ocean Modelling*, 186, art. no. 102285,
DOI: 10.1016/j.ocemod.2023.102285

ABSTRACT: Coupled with a 3D hydrodynamic model, a well-established 3D oil spill model is used to simulate the transport and fate of oil spilled from the A Symphony oil tanker collision in the Yellow Sea on April 27, 2021. The model is first validated by airborne mini-SAR and shipborne X-band radar observation in a 30-day simulation. Subsequently, the model prediction capabilities are investigated over a longer period when hydrodynamic data may not be available. In these cases, hydrodynamic data in earlier years are used for stochastic simulation, and the reliability of a multi-year stochastic simulation is tested. To evaluate the impact of hydrodynamics and meteorological conditions, indexes including oil sweeping area for surface oil, as well as oil centroid trajectory and oil fate for both the surface and subsurface oil, are statistically analyzed for a period up to 90 days after the spill. Over time, the deviation in the stochastic simulation relative to the deterministic simulation increased in the modeled oil transport, indicating an error accumulation. However, in the modeled oil fate, the deviation showed an interesting variation of first increasing and then gradually decreasing. This phenomenon can be attributed to three contributing factors: (1) limitations in empirical equations used in the model; (2) limited environmental impact of the spill; (3) differential role of small-scale ocean processes in short- and long-term simulations. The uncertainty in stochastic members may serve as an indicator of forecast accuracy.

253. Trends in marine pollution mitigation technologies: Scientometric analysis of published literature

Anthony D., Siriwardana H., Ashvini S., Pallewatta S., Samarasekera S.M., Edirisinghe S., Vithanage M. (1990-2022)
(2023) *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 66, art. no. 103156,
DOI: 10.1016/j.rsma.2023.103156

ABSTRACT: Marine pollution presents a pressing environmental issue in the oceanic realm. To examine the identification, detection, and mitigation technologies employed for marine pollution, a chronological review and analysis were conducted using a systematic search of 90,893 peer-reviewed Scopus-indexed journal articles on the SCOPUS database. From 1990 to 2022, research on marine pollution encompassed a wide range of topics including heavy metal pollution, oil spills, microplastics, and eutrophication. Detection technologies such as image processing, biomonitoring, spectroscopy, and microscopy emerged as prominent technologies, while mitigation strategies revolved around physical, chemical, and biological methods. In order to enhance the effectiveness of marine pollution mitigation, emerging technologies such as cloud-native platforms, decision intelligence, artificial intelligence (AI) and

machine learning (ML) should be employed. This review highlights the importance of interdisciplinary involvement and the need to reinforce scientific areas to prevent future marine disasters and pollution, such as the recent incident with the X-Press Pearl.

254. Recurrent arrival of oil spill remnants along the Brazilian coast: In situ long-term weathering of the largest spill in Brazil's history

Lourenço R.A., Lassalle G., Scafutto R.D.M., de Souza Filho C.R.
(2023) *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 66, art. no. 103175,
DOI: 10.1016/j.rsma.2023.103175

ABSTRACT: Three years after the most severe oil spill affected Brazil's coastline, tar balls still recurrently reach the Brazilian northeastern beaches. New accidents involving oil spills have not been reported since 2019. Information on the origin of these new oil deposits remains scarce. Samples of the tar balls found along Brazilian beaches in May 2022 were analyzed for hydrocarbon signatures, revealing a clear link with the oil that washed ashore in 2019. The new tar balls were more affected by biodegradation than photooxidation, suggesting the oil was trapped in the subtidal sediments and was later transported to the coast by marine currents. This work provides the first evidence of the persistence of oil in the marine environment and raises concerns regarding future oil influxes on the Brazilian coast.

255. Methodology for the estimation of an oil spill origin: Analysis of the 2019 Brazilian coast oil spill

Sbragio R., Filho O.R., Martins M.R.
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 197, art. no. 115676,
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115676

ABSTRACT: This research presents a procedure for determining the origin of marine pollution through the use of a time-direct trajectory modeling, associated with a Kriging metamodel technique and Monte Carlo random sampling. These methods were applied to a real case, specifically the oil spill that affected the Brazilian coast in the second half of 2019 and early 2020. A total of 140 trajectories, defined by the geographical coordinates of the origin and the spill date, were generated through Latin Hypercube Sampling and simulated using the PyGNOME model to construct the Kriging metamodel. The metamodel demonstrated cost-effectiveness by efficiently simulating numerous input data combinations which were compared and optimized based on available real data regarding temporal and spatial pollution distribution.

256. Marine oil spill photodegradation: Laboratory simulation, affecting factors analysis and kinetic model development

Li P., Lu Z., Zou S., Yang L.
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 197, art. no. 115729,
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115729

ABSTRACT: Photodegradation significantly influences marine oil spill behavior, yet its role remains underrepresented in current models, impairing predictive accuracy. Addressing this, our study rigorously examined oil properties and environmental determinants affecting marine oil spill photodegradation through laboratory simulations. We identified and quantified key factors and their interactions, noting particularly the positive influence of asphaltene and negative implications of oil density. We also discerned a negative correlation between n-alkane degradation and carbon numbers. Our findings underscored the pivotal roles of temperature and irradiance in photodegradation. All tested oils adhered to first-order kinetics, with rate constants ranging from 0.0348 to 0.0645 day⁻¹. Finally, we introduced a novel model incorporating temperature, irradiance and their interactions, ensuring reasonable simulations for marine oil spill photodegradation, fortifying marine oil spill management strategies.

257. Survivability and growth performance of using *Rhizophora* mangrove life stages in the revegetation of mangrove forest

Uche I., Gundlach E., Mbamalu G.
(2023) *Regional Studies in Marine Science*, 67, art. no. 103228,
DOI: 10.1016/j.rsma.2023.103228

ABSTRACT: Mangrove forests play critical environmental, social and economic roles; however, these forests have been threatened globally for decades. In Nigeria, oil spills in mangroves are among the leading causes of mangrove degradation in the Niger Delta. This study analyses the survivability and growth performance of three *Rhizophora racemosa* mangrove life stages, propagules, sprouted propagules, and seedlings planted on a remediated mangrove forest. Three sites were used for the study; before planting, the total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPH) and nutrient concentration (Nitrogen, Phosphorus, and Sulphur) in the sediments of each site were analysed. Surface and subsurface composite sediment samples were analysed for TPH, while sub-surface sediment samples were

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

analysed for nutrient concentration. A total of 100 propagules, 46 sprouted propagules, and 141 seedlings were planted in three sites. Monitoring for growth and survivability started after one month, and plants were monitored for one year. Growth monitoring (Increase in height and leave count) was limited to 20 tagged propagules, 5 tagged sprouted propagules, and 25 tagged seedlings, while survivability monitoring was done for the entire plant. The average TPH values at all sites were 192 mg/kg for surface samples and 145 mg/kg for subsurface samples. Nutrient concentration values slightly varied at all sites. A one-way ANOVA showed no significant difference in the TPH values ($p = .205$) and nutrient concentration values ($p = .411$) across the three sites. Sprouted propagules had the best growth rate and showed a significant height difference ($p = .02$) from propagules. Seedlings had a better growth rate than propagules after one year. Survival rates for sprouted propagule were 100%, while seedlings had a 95% survival rate, and propagule had a survival rate of 87% after one year of monitoring.

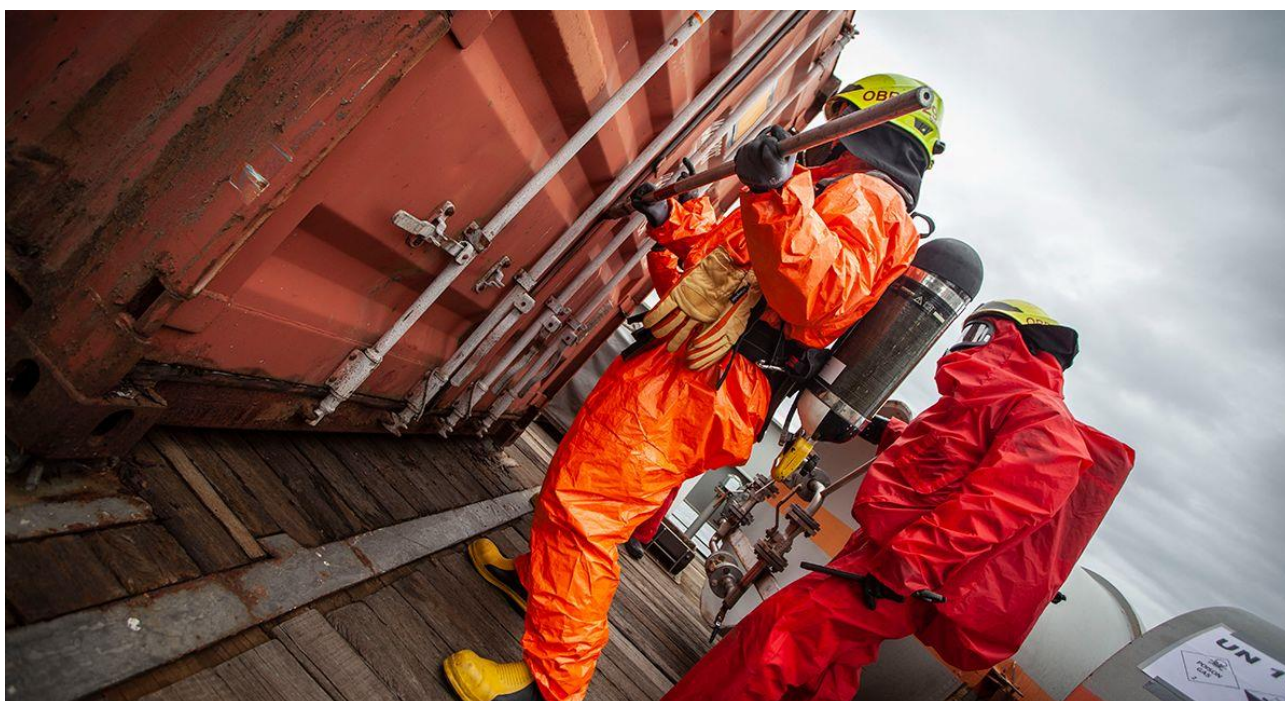
258. Research advances on impacts micro/nanoplastics and their carried pollutants on algae in aquatic ecosystems: A review.

Zhao Y., Tao S., Liu S., Hu T., Zheng K., Shen M., Meng G.
(2023) Aquatic Toxicology, 264, art. no. 106725,
DOI: 10.1016/j.aquatox.2023.106725

ABSTRACT: The widespread presence of micro/nanoplastics in aquatic ecosystems has certainly affected ecosystem functions and food chains/webs. The impact is worsened by the accumulation of different pollutants and microorganisms on the surface of microplastics. At the tissue, cellular, and molecular levels, micro/nanoplastics and the contaminants they carry can cause damage to aquatic organisms. Problematically, the toxic mechanism of micro/nanoplastics and contaminants on aquatic organisms is still not fully understood. Algae are key organisms in the aquatic ecosystem, serving as primary producers. The investigation of the toxic effects and mechanisms of micro/nanoparticles and pollutants on algae can contribute to understanding the impact on the aquatic ecosystem. Micro/nanoplastics inhibit algal growth, reduce chlorophyll and photosynthesis, induce ultrastructural changes, and affect gene expression in algae. The effects of energy flow can alter the productivity of aquatic organisms. The type, particle size, and concentration of micro/nanoparticles can influence their toxic effects on algae. Although there has been some research on the toxic effects of algae, the limited information has led to a significant lack of understanding of the underlying mechanisms. This paper provides a comprehensive review of the interactions between micro/nanoplastics, pollutants, and algae. The effects of various factors on algal toxicity are also analyzed. In addition, this article discusses the combined effects of microplastics, global warming, and oil pollution on algae and aquatic ecosystems in the context of global change. This research is of great importance for predicting future environmental changes. This review offers a more comprehensive understanding of the interactions between microplastics/nanoplastics and algae, as well as their impact on the carbon cycle.

ANNOUNCEMENT

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ARAGORN – A NEW PROJECT SET TO HELP REMEDIATE AND RESTORE CONTAMINATED SOIL

ARAGORN is a new EU-funded project with the goal of addressing the critical need for immediate action towards restoration and remediation for polluted soils, by selecting contaminated sites with specific characteristics, assess persistent pollutants interferences and develop site-specific solutions and tools. The ultimate goal is to deliver benefit for both the soil itself and the communities living in proximity. Sciencex / [Read more](#)

DREDGING COMPANIES - CARETAKERS OF THE AQUATIC PLANET

Dredging companies do more than just deepen harbors and riverbeds to facilitate domestic and global trade. They also recycle and repurpose the dredged materials, restore eroded beaches and reclaim damaged wetlands. The first job of any company is to make a profit, and when Lasse Petterson took the reins as CEO at Great Lakes Dredge & Dock (GLDD) in 2017 it was struggling. Finances were strained. The market was soft. It had too many idle vessels. It needed fixing. So the former oil and gas man quickly put together his team and came up with a strategy to right the ship and fix the ailing giant.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (

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

MONITORING SURFACE WATER DROPLET SIZE DISTRIBUTION



The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) Response Research Branch, along with scientists from the New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT), is working on a project to gain a better understanding of how surface water dispersant monitoring can be practically implemented with current technology, as required by new Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulations. The EPA recently finalized the new monitoring requirement under Subpart J of the National Contingency Plan (NCP) for dispersant use during oil discharges and in the navigable waters of the United States and adjoining shorelines.

"In response to the new requirement, this research project is designed to test existing sensors and cameras in surface waters to measure droplet size distribution (DSD) and fluorescence, which are characteristics that can predict and track the transport and fate of oil in water," said Ann Slaughter, BSEE chemical treatments program manager.

The three main goals of the project are to validate the instrument's accuracy in a lab setting at NJIT, deploy the instruments in the Ohmsett tank to test a variety of operational aspects of the instruments, including towing capacity, carriage systems, data processing, etc., and conduct a field evaluation at sea to test the instruments on a ship.

The technology purchased for the project was the Towed Silhouette Camera (Towed SilCam) from SINTEF and the Laser In-situ Scattering and Transmissometry (LISST) Black from Sequoia Scientific. "These instruments measure DSD, fluorescence, depth, and temperature, in both stationary and towed positions," Slaughter explained. "Other existing Ohmsett and NJIT instruments were included in tests to validate the data from the LISST Black and Towed SilCam."

The week-long tank deployment phase of the project took place at Ohmsett June 12-16, 2023, where NJIT researchers tested the deployment, tow configuration, and real-time data processing of the instruments below a slick of Hibernia crude oil in untreated (oil-only) and treated (oil and Corexit 9500 dispersant) conditions. Initially, dry runs were conducted to determine the location for a breaking wave to target the instruments and oil containment boom locations. "The wave conditions place a breaking wave directly on the slick to generate a realistic at-sea mixing energy," said Slaughter.

For static tests, the Ohmsett staff attached the instruments to a metal frame and secured the frame to the bottom of the tank near

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

the breaking waves. Once the breaking wave location was determined and the instruments were in place, untreated crude oil was poured and confined within a containment square and released before the breaking wave reached the target. For the treated oil, the oil slick was sprayed with dispersant using a hand-held portable pressurized sprayer prior to the breaking wave. "This setup allowed the instruments to measure the effects of the breaking wave on the oil in the water approximately one meter below the surface," Slaughter commented.

For dynamic tests, the Towed SilCam was secured to the main bridge to simulate towing as the bridge moved up the tank.

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 & WORLDWIDE – AMBIPAR GROUP <https://ambipar.com/uk/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 <https://informaconnect.com/certificate-in-maritime-environmental-management/>
- ONLINE - LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY – CERTIFICATE IN MARINE POLLUTION PREVENTION & MANAGEMENT. Starts on 14th March 2024 - <https://email.informaconnect.com/q/12ErXbQNGaNK08lQrkPeg62v/wv>

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 & DECEMBER 2023

- WEBINAR – UK & Ireland Spill Association - "Lessons to be learned from the MV Wakashio Incident", 22nd November 2023
- WEBINAR – ExxonMobil Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer, "Round Table Discussion to provide Summary and Recommendations", Webinar 23, 5th December 2023
- UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, 6-7 December 2023
- 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

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

JANUARY 2024 & ONWARDS

- UAE – International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, (ICEPR), Dubai, 15-16 February 2024
- AUSTRALIA – Alga – “Chlorinated Hydrocarbons Groundwater Fate & Transport Symposium”, Adelaide, 22-23 February 2024
- 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 Implications For Spill Response Webinar is [available to watch on YouTube](#).

UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

USA: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN 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.

Why are Exhibitors So Excited for IOSC 2024? [Read more](#)

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 NOW OPEN

[PRELIMINARY AGENDA JUST ANNOUNCED](#) [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.

SALVAGE & WRECK CONFERENCE [Latest news](#)

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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

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NEW PUBLICATIONS

CEDRE NEWSLETTER FOR OCTOBER 2023

Download at <https://mailchi.mp/ff4514c55416/la-lettre-du-cedre-17584639?e=388f6944fd>

OCTOBER ISSUE OF MARITIME EXECUTIVE MAGAZINE

The September-October edition of The Maritime Executive Magazine is out now and available online! [Read on for a summary of what you'll find inside.](#)

NEW REPORT OUT NOW: THE GREAT NURDLE HUNT 2013-2023

Today Fidra launched the results from 10 years of The Great Nurdle Hunt! Between 2013 – 2023 volunteers and organisations have taken part in nurdle hunts to help gather important evidence of nurdle pollution around the world and call for action.

To mark 10 years of the Great Nurdle Hunt, we analysed nurdle hunt data submitted by amazing volunteers from around the world between 2013-2023. In 10 years 7,144 nurdle hunts have taken place across 73 counties, with nurdles documented from Canada to Kenya, demonstrating that nurdle pollution is a truly global issue.

Read the report at <https://mailchi.mp/fidra.org.uk/nurdle-newsletter-sep-14235164?e=864209fad1>

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/>

RUSSIA: RUSSIANS ATTEMPT TO PUMP FUEL FROM TANKER GROUNDING IN WINTER STORM

November 14 - Russia's Marine Rescue Service is attempting to pump the fuel off a stranded product tanker that is aground off Sakhalin Island and caught in fierce winter storms. The efforts began today, Tuesday, November 14, and they are working to complete it before there is a significant oil leak and environmental situation

The tanker has 700 tons of diesel aboard as cargo and a further 60 tons of fuel in its tanks. Media reports are that there is no visible oil in the water, but residents are saying there is a strong smell of fuel onshore. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

LUXEMBOURG: OIL SPILL IN BASCHARAGE PROMPTS EMERGENCY RESPONSE

November 14 - An oil leak in Bascharage on Monday evening prompted concerns about the potential contamination of nearby bodies of water, the Water Management Authority said on Tuesday. Officials from the Water Management Administration and units of the Grand-Ducal Fire and Rescue Corps responded to a significant oil spill linked to a leak in a private tank. A portion of the spilled oil managed to infiltrate a stream connected to the Chiers river, which is a tributary of the Meuse. The Meuse river, one of Europe's major waterways, flows through multiple countries, including France, Belgium, and the Netherlands.

Luxembourg Times / [Read more](#)

CARIBBEAN: CANADIAN BULK CARRIER ASKS SHELTER FEARING COAL-SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION

November 17 - Locals prevented CSL TARANTAU docking at Puerto Punta Rincón Coal Terminal, where she is supposed to offload

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

coal. Servicio Nacional Aeronaval (Senan) on Nov 16 tried to convince protesters to let the ship in, but judging from ship's Nov 17 morning position, unsuccessfully. If coal temperature exceeds 55 deg, coal might combust or explode, on the ship with 24 crew on board. www.maritimebulletin.net

USA: LOUISIANA: UNIFIED COMMAND RESPONDS TO OIL DISCHARGE NEAR MAIN PASS, LA

November 17 - The Coast Guard, Main Pass Oil Gathering Company, LLC and the Louisiana Oil Spill Coordinator's Office established a Unified Command in response to a crude oil release in the Gulf of Mexico near the Main Pass Oil Gathering (MPOG) company's pipeline system close to Plaquemines Parish, southeast of New Orleans, Louisiana, Thursday.

An overflight by an MPOG aircrew confirmed the presence of crude oil. MPOG is implementing its federal and state approved emergency oil spill response plan. MPOG has organized response resources through Forefront Emergency Management and local Oil Spill Removal Organizations including Environmental Safety & Health Consulting Services, Inc. and Clean Gulf Associates.

US Coast Guard News / [Read more](#)

STOP PRESS – BREAKING NEWS

PLASTIC-FREE PLANET: 3RS OF MANAGING WASTE, ADDRESSING PLASTIC POLLUTION CRISIS AT SOURCE COME UP AT INC-3 DAYS 3 & 4

The 3Rs of waste management, 'Reduce, Reuse, Recycle' and addressing the plastic pollution crisis at source, were some of the issues that came up at the ongoing third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-3) at the United Nations Environment Programme headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya.

The economics of reuse in Europe was brought up Joan Marc Simon, the Director of Zero Waste Europe, a network working towards the elimination of waste.

Simon brought up examples of economy of reuse, mentioning one in India. "In only one city Kolkata (in West Bengal), for example transitioning about 80,000 street food vendors to reusables (stainless steel), would reduce plastic waste by over 86 per cent, create over 2,250 jobs and give a return on investment of 21 per cent over a payback period of 2.3 years," he said.

The discussions were overall focused on scaling reuse systems and deposit-return systems.

"We all have heard (the phrase) Reduce, Reuse, Recycle. The reason why we hear these three terms in order instead of hearing 'Recycle, Reuse, Reduce' is because there is supposed to be an order of priority; something not to be taken for granted. What you cannot recycle, reuse is what you should do for it. And what you cannot reuse anymore should go to recycling. But not many people get it and Brussels (in Europe) where I come from has a problem with this not being practiced. It's very important that we understand that for reuse to play in equal conditions with single use. It (reuse) should have its own infrastructure dedicated for the purpose, and it should be optimised the same way as single-use has been optimised over the last decades."

A question was raised from BFFP about ensuring that plastic-free, toxic-free reuse is prioritised over the circularity of plastics in the global plastics treaty. UNEP responded that reusable materials don't necessarily have to be single-use plastics and the right criteria around safety and reusability could help move away from reusing plastic items.

In other candid discussions that unfolded between Day 3 and 4 of INC-3 proceedings, delegates shared both preferences for and aversions to certain elements that could form part of the future treaty on plastic pollution. Stumbling blocks pitting developing countries against developed countries arose during the discussions. One of them is provision of technology to developing countries. There was ambiguity on whether such a transition should be on mutually agreed terms—which to some is a reference to commercial terms—or should it be on preferential terms. <https://www.downtoearth.org.in/news/world/plastic-free-planet-inc-3-day-3-and-4-talks-bring-up-3rs-of-managing-waste-addressing-plastic-pollution-crisis-at-source-92874>

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