



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 NEWS

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IMO ASSEMBLY OPENS



IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim has opened the 33rd session of the IMO Assembly (A 33), which is meeting at IMO Headquarters in London from 27 November – 6 December 2023.

The Secretary-General highlighted the Organization's achievements during the current biennium, including the adoption of the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy, and emphasized the need to decarbonize and digitalize shipping in the years ahead.

IMO / [Read more](#)

ARSENIO DOMINGUEZ VELASCO CONFIRMED AS NEXT IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL

Mr. Arsenio Antonio Dominguez Velasco has been confirmed as the next



Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO). The IMO Assembly unanimously approved (30 November) the decision of the Council at its 129th session (C129) to appoint him to the role.

Photo: Mr. Kitack Lim handed a briefing paper to Mr. Dominguez to assist him in his preparation for the role of Secretary-General. (Photos courtesy of IMO) IMO / [Read more](#)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

DANGEROUS GOODS CODE FOR PACKAGED GOODS – LATEST AMENDMENTS ENTER INTO FORCE ON 1 JANUARY 2024



The International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code, an important mandatory code for the shipment of dangerous packaged goods by sea, will be entering into its 41st amendment on 1 January 2024. The amendment, known as Amdt 41-22, will enter into mandatory force on 1 January 2024. It is currently running under voluntary application where member government states have the option to implement it earlier. This also means that Amdt 40-20 will cease to apply on 31 December 2023 when Amdt 41-22 takes over BIMCO / [Read more](#)

SEA ALARM: ONE INCIDENT, ONE RESPONSE FRAMEWORK PROPOSED AT WORKSHOP IN BRUSSELS

Last week, Sea Alarm organised the 'One Incident, One Response' workshop in Brussels to explore the future needs of maritime incident response in a changing world. At the workshop, Sea Alarm revealed a draft proposal for a framework for holistic and integrated management and launched the brand new OneX tabletop package.

Under the EU funded IRA-MAR project, Sea Alarm welcomed a range of onshore and offshore authorities to Brussels from 16 different European and North African countries, as well as representatives from the European Commission. The aim of the workshop was to give the opportunity to different countries to discuss, tabletop and compare emergency systems, structures of incident management and ways of decision making to improve the effectiveness of European marine emergency response.



The world is changing, and with it so too is the maritime world. The use of new fuels for vessels, increasing size of vessels, transport of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS), new infrastructure at sea such as wind farms, and increasing intensity of storms due to climate change are just some of the new challenges that are emerging.

These changes are bringing a wide range of new risks and challenges to the emergency response capabilities of both maritime and onshore authorities. With an increasing variety of possible incident scenarios, it is important that maritime and onshore authorities can come together as one to address and manage the emergency at hand. An effective response must be holistic, in that it should connect the variability of scenarios to the variability of values and stakeholders. Sea Alarm / [Read more](#)

ISCO LAUNCHES NEW BENEFIT FOR CORPORATE MEMBERS

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This week ISCO is launching a major new benefit in the form of FREE advertisements for our Corporate Members.

Each advertisement provides a “one click” facility that instantly downloads and displays the advertiser’s web page.

The ISCO Newsletter goes out every week to companies involved in servicing the pollution response industry in about 60 countries worldwide. Government agencies, oil companies, port authorities, and many others also use the Newsletter as a key source of information.

The new ads will be regularly be seen by a very large number of potential purchasers of the featured products and services.

The ads will be positioned alongside text in the ISCO website and an example is shown on this page.

Please try this out by clicking on the advertisement.



During an initial discussion, long time ISCO member FASTANK welcomed the new initiative and opportunity to participate in its launch.

Over time more advertisements will be added as members provide Mike Watson with copy and website links.

APPOINTMENT OF NEW MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL IS CONFIRMED

Following on the recent retirement of Ben Benny (see Newsletter 914), ISCO is pleased to announce the appointment of Uri Golan as the new Member of Council (National Representative) for Israel.

Ben wrote “I strongly recommend that Uri Golan, DANCHORs Chief Projects will replace me and will take the lead instead of me. Uri has a vast background in spill response cases, methodologies and contracts.

The new appointment has been approved by the EC and we wish him well in his new role. Uri has confirmed his willingness to accept the appointment.

REGIONAL NEWS

PLASTIC WASTE ‘SPIRALLING OUT OF CONTROL’ ACROSS AFRICA, ANALYSIS SHOWS

November 8 - Plastic waste is “spiralling out of control” across Africa, where it is growing faster than any other region, new analysis has shown. At current levels, enough plastic waste to cover a football pitch is openly dumped or burned in sub-Saharan Africa every minute, according to the charity Tearfund.

If the trend continues unabated, the region is projected to end up with 116m tonnes of plastic waste annually by 2060, six times more than the 18m tonnes of waste produced in 2019. The main driver of rising plastic consumption in sub-Saharan Africa, where 70% of the population is under 30, is demand for vehicles and other products amid rising income and population growth. Overall, plastic use worldwide is projected to almost triple by 2060. The Guardian / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

ANTIGUA & BARBUDA: IOPC FUNDS MEETING IN LONDON



The High Commissioner of Antigua and Barbuda in London, H.E. Dwight Gardiner, together with a delegation of senior officials from the Antigua and Barbuda Ship and Yacht Registry, visited the Director on 28 November 2023. They were also joined by a representative of the West Indies Oil Company Ltd, which is a contributor to the 1992 Fund for the State. It was a very useful meeting which focused primarily on enhancing cooperation between the IOPC Funds and the State. IOPCC Funds / [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: APPLYING FOR CERTIFICATE OF MARINE COMPETENCY

November 30 - Please download a new form for each application you make so we send you the right certificate and charge you the right fee. You need to let us know if you move house. You can call us to give us your new address or send us an email at Connect@amsa.gov.au AMSA form 426 is used for domestic or near coastal qualification applications. For international marine qualifications use [AMSA form 419](#). AMSA / [Read more](#)

CANADA: B.C. GOVERNMENT ENFORCES 'POLLUTER PAYS' PRINCIPLE WITH ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT ACT

November 28 - On November 8, 2023, proposed amendments to British Columbia's Environmental Management Act, SBC 2003, c 53 (EMA) received royal assent.

This article updates our earlier blog post, "The 'polluter pays' principle: Proposed amendments to the Environmental Management Act may usher in a new era for B.C. industrial companies," which summarized the proposed amendments and how they might affect regulated entities.

The article reviews the recent amendments to the EMA in British Columbia, which aim to enforce the "polluter pays" principle and make owners of specified facilities responsible for environmental cleanup and decommissioning. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

CANADA: THE FEDERAL COURT RULES THAT THE ORDER LABELLING PLASTICS AS A TOXIC SUBSTANCE IS UNREASONABLE AND UNCONSTITUTIONAL

November 28 - The Federal Court of Canada (Court) released its decision on November 16, 2023, in Responsible Plastics Use Coalition v Canada,¹ which held that the Federal Government's labelling of all Plastic Manufactured Items (PMI) as toxic was both unreasonable and unconstitutional.

A consortium of companies with petrochemical operations applied to the Court for judicial review of the Federal Cabinet's order (Order) to add PMI to the List of Toxic Substances in Schedule 1 of the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA) on both constitutional and administrative law grounds.² The provinces of Alberta and Saskatchewan intervened to support the argument that the Order was the latest example of federal overreach into provincial jurisdiction. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

CHINA: HONG KONG PROMOTES PRODUCT ECO-RESPONSIBILITY: NEW REGULATIONS ON DISPOSABLE PLASTIC PRODUCTS

November 23 - In Hong Kong, waste plastics continue to make up around 20% of municipal household solid waste disposal. To address growing concerns over the harmful effects of plastic waste on the environment and public health, the Hong Kong government recently passed the Product Eco-responsibility (Amendment) Bill 2023 (the "Bill") to introduce regulations on disposable plastic tableware and other common plastic products, some of which will be banned from sale or free distribution in the coming year. Consequently, businesses in the food and beverage and hospitality industries will have to adapt their business operations. Hong Kong residents and visitors must also modify their consumption habits accordingly.

The implementation dates of the new regulations on disposable plastic products have not been confirmed. However, a spokesperson for the Environment and Ecology Bureau said the government plans to introduce the first phase of the regulations on 22 April 2024 to coincide with Earth Day. The timing for implementing the second phase is tentatively expected in 2025. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

INDIA: TOXIC FOAM COATS SACRED RIVER NEAR NEW DELHI AS INDIAN CAPITAL BATTLES HAZARDOUS POLLUTION

November 9 - A thick layer of toxic foam has once again coated parts of a sacred river near New Delhi as the Indian capital battles an acrid and noxious smog that has settled across the city. The white froth, a mixture of sewage and industrial waste, has formed over sections of the Yamuna River – a tributary of the holy Ganges River – which flows about 855 miles (1,376 kilometers) south from the Himalayas through several states. CNN News / [Read more](#)

INDIA: COAST GUARD INITIATES 9TH EDITION OF NATIONAL LEVEL POLLUTION RESPONSE EXERCISE IN GULF OF KUTCH

November 24 - The Indian Coast Guard initiated the two-day National Level Pollution Response Exercise (NATPOLREX-IX) in Vadinar, Gulf of Kutch, Gujarat, with the exercise set to conclude on Saturday. This marks the 9th edition of the exercise, conducted in accordance with the National Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan (NOS-DCP). The exercise plays a crucial role in testing various aspects of marine pollution response mechanisms and evaluating the preparedness of resource agencies to address potential marine spill incidents, as stated by a Coast Guard official.

Director General Rakesh Pal, along with senior officers, is actively participating in the National Level Pollution Response Exercise-IX (NATPOLREX-IX), alongside other key stakeholders responsible for combating sea pollution. MyInd / [Read more](#)



[Related report in The New India Express](#)

MAURITANIA: STRENGTHENING MAURITANIA'S SPILL RESPONSE PLANNING

November 29 - Preparation for a possible marine oil spill incident is crucial. Mauritania is being supported to develop its National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) - the foundation of an effective and sustainable oil spill preparedness and response framework.

An in-person national workshop in Nouakchott, Mauritania (20-24 November), has been delivered under the framework of the GI WACAF Project, which works to enhance the capacity of partner countries to prepare for and respond to marine oil spills. The workshop was designed to support effective implementation of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC). IMO / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: SHELL TO FACE UK TRIAL OVER DEVASTATING NIGERIAN OIL SPILLS

November 27 - A UK court ruled that a group of Nigerian fishermen can bring claims against Shell Plc over oil pollution that devastated their communities, as a long-running legal case edges closer to a trial.

The 13,000 fishermen from the Ogale and Bille communities in the Niger Delta region claim that Shell breached their right to a clean environment under Nigerian constitutional law, according to an emailed statement Thursday from their law firm Leigh Day. The court ruling published Wednesday deals with procedural issues before a trial in a case that's been going on for eight years. Insurance Journal / [Read more](#)

SLOVAKIA: ANOTHER STEP TOWARDS ENTRY INTO FORCE AS SLOVAKIA RATIFIES THE 2010 HNS PROTOCOL

November 27 - Slovakia has become the latest State to deposit an instrument of accession to the 2010 HNS Protocol, bringing the number of Contracting States to eight.

The official instrument of accession was deposited with the Secretary-General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on 20 November 2023. This positive step by Slovakia follows that by France, who acceded to the Protocol at the end of October, and comes after several other States reported their progress towards accession at the meeting of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

USA: UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL CLEAN UP & REMEDIATION REPORT 2023

November 28 - The United States Environmental Clean Up & Remediation Market is projected to reach a value of \$33.02 billion by 2028 from \$21.87 billion in 2022, growing at a CAGR of 7.1%. The removal of pollutants or contamination from water and soil is known as environmental Clean Up and remediation. In order to preserve human health and to restore the environment, these waste products and harmful compounds are eliminated. Water remediation involves both groundwater and surface water, whereas soil remediation only involves topsoil, subsoil, and sediments. Yahoo Finance / [Read more](#)

USA: RED HILL CONTAMINATION CRISIS: A LONG-TERM JOURNEY TOWARDS ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION

November 29 - The Red Hill contamination crisis has sparked significant concerns regarding the safety of Oahu's water supply. The extensive contamination, resulting from decades of fuel leaks and spills, has prompted county and state officials to take action. Despite the removal of millions of gallons of fuel from the massive tanks, the situation remains dire. The cost of remediation is estimated to be nearly \$2 billion, with the Honolulu Board of Water Supply already demanding over \$1 billion for the replacement of critical facilities.

To ensure the long-term safety of Oahu's water supply, a comprehensive 30-year, \$750 million program has been proposed. The goal of this program is to eliminate all remaining contamination and prevent any future threats to the environment and public health. Designed as the "Red Hill Water Alliance Initiative," it encompasses multiple strategies to address this complex issue. Energy Portal / [Read more](#)

USA: DOD CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL DEFENSE PROGRAM ADAPTS TO EMERGING THREATS AS IT MARKS 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY

November 30 - As the Defense Department marks the 30th anniversary of its chemical and biological defense program, the field's professionals continue to adapt to the future threat environment.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Chemical and Biological Defense Ian Watson said that threat landscape has evolved significantly since the creation of the Pentagon's program responsible for arming the joint force against chemical and biological risks in the wake of the Gulf War. Defence / [Read more](#)

USA: NEW YORK – ENVIRONMENTAL SITE DATABASE SEARCH

December 1 - DEC's Division of Environmental Remediation offers access to its cleanup site and spill data in a searchable format. The following information is available:

[Environmental Remediation Database Search](#) - This is the main page from which the search applications launch.

- [Spill Incidents Database Search](#) has records dating back to 1978 and is updated nightly. This database contains records of chemical and petroleum spill incidents.
- [Remedial Site Database Search](#) is updated nightly. This database contains records of the sites being addressed under one of DER's remedial programs - State Superfund, Brownfield Cleanup, Environmental Restoration and Voluntary Cleanup. This database also includes the Registry of Inactive Hazardous Waste Disposal Sites and information on Institutional and Engineering Controls in New York State.
- [Bulk Storage Database Search](#) is updated nightly. This database contains records of facilities that are or have been regulated under one of the Bulk Storage Programs - Petroleum Bulk Storage, Chemical Bulk Storage and Major Oil Storage Facility. Dec NY / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

December 4 – Please click on the links below to download and read the latest news from NOAA OR&R

OR&R Provides Scientific Support to U.S. Coast Guard for Oil Spill off Louisiana Coast

On November 16, 2023, OR&R and U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) response teams activated as reports came in regarding a leak in a pipeline in the Gulf of Mexico, off the coast of Plaquemines Parish, Louisiana. The source of the leak was reported to be at least 19 miles offshore of the Mississippi River Delta, near the pipeline system of Main Pass Oil Gathering, LLC (MPOG).

New Publication Documenting Pollution Impacts to Resident Fish in the Lower Duwamish River, WA

OR&R staff co-authored a [new publication\(link is external\)](#) in Science of the Total Environment which documents impacts to resident fish due to industrial contamination released into the Lower Duwamish River, Washington.

The 2024 Marine Debris Calendar Is Now Available

On November 30, the NOAA Marine Debris Program announced that our 2024 Marine Debris Calendar is now available for download!

OR&R Partners on New Publication About Biological Responses of Pacific Herring Embryos to Crude Oil

OR&R has a long-term partnership with the NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center (NWFSC) to develop science for natural resource damage assessment and restoration. One area of collaborative research has focused on understanding the impacts of oil exposure on forage fish, such as Pacific herring, which are keystone species in coastal ecosystems.

OR&R Share Assessment and Restoration Science at SETAC Conference

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

The Society of Environmental Toxicology and Chemistry (SETAC) North America annual conference was held in Louisville, Kentucky in November 2023. Staff from all OR&R's Assessment and Restoration Division (ARD) participated in the conference and contributed to a successful and engaging meeting.

Marine Debris Program Supports DOC Business Roundtables at Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum

From November 13-17, global leaders met to attend the [Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation \(APEC\) Forum](#) (link is external) in San Francisco, California. The NOAA Marine Debris Program California Regional Coordinator, Christy Kehoe, attended sustainability and business roundtables facilitated by the Department of Commerce (DOC) U.S. Commercial Service Northern California District of Export Council. The meetings were hosted by the Commonwealth of Australia and the Republic of the Philippines.

Third Session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop an International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution

From November 13-19, 2023, over 1,900 participants—representing 161 governments as well as stakeholders from nongovernment organizations, academia, the private sector, the UN, and other international organizations—met in Nairobi, Kenya, for the third session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC3) to continue negotiations towards a new international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

VENEZUELA: OIL SPILLS INCREASE IN VENEZUELA AS IT REVS UP OUTPUT AFTER THE U.S. LIFTED SANCTIONS

November 29 - The oil slicks, which cover vast stretches of the lakeshore, are the result of constant leaks from underwater oil wells and a spaghetti of aging pipelines that run along the lake bottom. The mess has driven away beachgoers and decimated the fishing industry on Lake Maracaibo, an immense, brackish tidal bay connected to the Caribbean Sea.

After years of falling oil production amid the country's worst economic crisis in history, Venezuela is resurrecting its beleaguered petroleum industry. The country is now producing 850,000 barrels of oil per day, according to Deputy Oil Minister Erick Pérez, more than twice the amount that the country was pumping three years ago. At a conference in the country's capital of Caracas last week, Pérez predicted Venezuela would soon be producing 1 million barrels per day.

The state-run oil company, PDVSA, which produces the vast majority of the country's oil, no longer publishes data on oil spills and did not respond to NPR's requests for comment. But according to a report published in January by the independent Observatory of Political Ecology of Venezuela, there were at least 86 oil spills and natural gas leaks in Venezuela last year, up from 77 in 2021. NPR.org. / [Read more](#)

NURDLES - PREVENTION, CLEAN-UP TECHNOLOGY AND ONGOING R&D WORK

Editor: As advised in last week's news letter, Dr Larissa Montas' column is being temporarily halted at this time.

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.

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

Liu B., Gao L., Ding L., Lv L., Yu Y.
(2023) Marine Pollution Bulletin, 194, art. no. 115307,
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115307

ABSTRACT: Here, we collected 16 species (n = 298) from Laizhou Bay, China to investigate the trophodynamics, bioaccumulation and cancer risks of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Results demonstrated that naphthalene was the most abundant PAH, followed by phenanthrene and fluorene in the marine organisms. The sum of 16 PAHs concentrations ($\Sigma 16\text{PAHs}$) ranked with algae (19,435 ng·g⁻¹ lipid weight, lw) > benthonic animals (6599 ng·g⁻¹ lw) > fish (1760 ng·g⁻¹ lw). Combustion and oil spill are two primary sources, contributing 60.3 % and 39.7 % of $\Sigma 16\text{PAHs}$, respectively. High values of log BAF were found for 4–6 rings PAHs. Algae and

benthonic animals showed a high ability to accumulate 2–4 rings PAHs and 5–6 rings PAHs, respectively. A biodilution pattern for PAHs was found in the marine food web. The carcinogenic risks of some benthos and fish were higher than 1×10^{-6} , threatening resident health by consumption of these seafoods.

268. Potential for natural attenuation of crude oil hydrocarbons in benthic microbiomes near coastal communities in Kivalliq, Nunavut, Canada

Ji M., Smith A.F., Rattray J.E., England W.E., Hubert C.R.J.
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 196, art. no. 115557,
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115557

ABSTRACT: Oil spilled in marine environments can settle to the seafloor through aggregation and sedimentation processes. This has been predicted to be especially relevant in the Arctic due to plankton blooms initiated by melting sea ice. These conditions exist in the Kivalliq region in Nunavut, Canada, where elevated shipping traffic has increased the risk of accidental spills. Experimental microcosms combining surface sediment and crude oil were incubated at 4 °C over 21 weeks to evaluate the biodegradation potential of seabed microbiomes. Sediments sampled near the communities of Arviat and Chesterfield Inlet were assessed for biodegradation capabilities by combining hydrocarbon geochemistry with 16S rRNA gene and metagenomic sequencing, revealing decreased microbial diversity but enrichment of oil-degrading taxa. Alkane and aromatic hydrocarbon losses corresponded to detection of genes and genomes that encode enzymes for aerobic biodegradation of these compounds, pointing to the utility of marine microbiome surveys for predicting the fate of oil released into Arctic marine environments.

269 Strategies for cost-effective remediation of widespread oil-contaminated soils in Kuwait, an environmental legacy of the first Gulf War

Al-Mebayedh H., Niu A., Lin C.
(2023) *Journal of Environmental Management*, 344, art. no. 118601,
DOI: 10.1016/j.jenvman.2023.118601

ABSTRACT: The Kuwaiti oil fire during the first Gulf War resulted in the formation of approximately 300 “oil lakes” of varying sizes that covered over 110 km² of the desert land. This threatens the fragile desert ecosystems and human health. Following the award of over US\$2 billion to the State of Kuwait by the United Nations, large-scale remediation of the oil-contaminated soils has now been on the agenda. However, how to implement the remediation program in a cost-effective way represents a major challenge. In this study, cost-effective remediation strategies were developed based on field and laboratory investigations in a typical oil lake area. Overall, most of the lighter petroleum hydrocarbons (PHCs) were lost due to evaporation. Long-chain aliphatic PHCs dominated the PHCs in the investigated oil lake area. This has implications for developing remediation strategies. Toxicity assessment results showed that the majority of soils pose a low environmental risk with a hazard index <1. Therefore, intensive treatment of these PHCs may not be necessary for these soils. Although active treatment methods are needed to remove the contaminants as soon as practical for the relatively small areas of high contamination, more cost-effective passive methods should be considered to minimize the remedial costs for the larger area of the non-hotspot areas. Given the extremely low risk in terms of groundwater contamination by the contaminated soils, it may not be necessary to remove the soils from the contaminated sites. A low-cost capping method should be sufficient to minimize human exposure to the PHC-contaminated soils.

270. Modeling weathering processes of spilled oil on the sea surface based on dynamic Bayesian network

Chen Q., Liu Z., Chen Y., Han Z., Shi X., Cai B., Liu Y.,
(2023) *Ocean Engineering*, 284, art. no. 115194,
DOI: 10.1016/j.oceaneng.2023.115194

ABSTRACT: Oil spills pose a serious threat to the ecological environment and human health. When the spilled oil enters seawater, oil weathering processes like evaporation, emulsification, biodegradation, photooxidation and dissolution will occur. These processes have high uncertainty and directly affect the spatial distribution and fate of oil spills. This paper presents a stochastic modeling method for weathering process of spilled oil on the sea surface based on Dynamic Bayesian Network (DBN). The physical equations of evaporation, emulsification, biodegradation, photooxidation and dissolution are converted into DBN, and then all the individual DBNs are integrated to obtain the entire DBN of the oil weathering process. The developed DBN could intuitively and graphically express the logical relations and conditional probabilities among physical variables. This method is helpful to find out the influencing mechanism of multi-random variables on the oil weathering process. The proposed method is applied to one type of light oil that is spilled on the sea surface of the Bohai Sea. Based on the developed DBN model, the oil weathering process in the first 18 h are studied by quantitative analysis. Through sensitivity analysis, it shows that the photooxidation and dissolution have greater impact on the heavy oil fraction than biodegradation. For oil-water mixture, it is greatly affected by evaporation in the first few hours, but emulsification becomes the leading weathering process in the 18th hour. The effects of dissolution are low, but higher than

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

biodegradation and photooxidation. The key parameters affecting each oil weathering process are determined. Uncertainty analysis is carried out to reveal the possible upper and lower limit values of some physical quantities caused by the weathering process.

271. Experimental study on remediation of petroleum-contaminated soil by combination of freeze-thaw and electro-osmosis

Yang S., Zhang H., Hu Y., Jin H., Hu J., Li H., Lu M.
(2023) *Environmental Pollution*, 333, art. no. 121989,
DOI: 10.1016/j.envpol.2023.121989

ABSTRACT: Electro-osmosis has been well recognized as a technique for the remediation of petroleum-contaminated soil, however seasonally freezing and thawing adds the complexity of petroleum mobility in cold regions. To investigate the influence of freeze-thaw on the electroosmotic removal of petroleum and explore the enhancement of freeze-thaw on the electroosmotic remediation efficiency in remediating the petroleum-contaminated soils, a set of laboratory tests were performed in three types of treatment modes, freeze-thaw (FT), electro-osmosis (EO) and freeze-thaw combined electro-osmosis (FE). The petroleum redistributions as well as the moisture content changes after the treatments were evaluated and compared. The petroleum removal rates of the three treatments were analyzed, and the underlying mechanisms were elaborated. The results indicated that the overall efficiency of the treatment mode regarding petroleum removal from soil followed the order of FE > EO > FT, corresponding to 54%, 36% and 21% in maximum, respectively. A considerable amount of water solution with surfactant was driven into contaminated soil during FT process, but the petroleum mobilization primarily occurred inside of the specimen. A higher remediation efficiency was yield in EO mode, but the induced dehydration and cracks led to the dramatical depression in the efficiency in further process. It is proposed that the petroleum removal is closely related to the flow of water solution with surfactant that is favorable to the solubility and mobilization of the petroleum in soil. Thus, the water migration induced by freeze-thaw cycles substantially improved the efficiency of the electroosmotic remediation in FE mode that gave the best performance for the remediation of the petroleum-contaminated soil.

272. A comprehensive study on diesel oil bioremediation under microcosm conditions using a combined microbiological, enzymatic, mass spectrometry, and metabarcoding approach

Giovanella P., Taketani R.G., Gil-Solsona R., Saldanha L.L., Naranjo S.B.E., Sancho J.V., Portolés T., Andreote F.D., Rodríguez-Mozaz S., Barceló D., Sette L.D.
(2023) *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*, 30 (45), pp. 101250 - 101266,
DOI: 10.1007/s11356-023-29474-w

ABSTRACT: This study aims at the application of a marine fungal consortium (*Aspergillus sclerotiorum* CRM 348 and *Cryptococcus laurentii* CRM 707) for the bioremediation of diesel oil-contaminated soil under microcosm conditions. The impact of biostimulation (BS) and/or bioaugmentation (BA) treatments on diesel-oil biodegradation, soil quality, and the structure of the microbial community were studied. The use of the fungal consortium together with nutrients (BA/BS) resulted in a TPH (Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon) degradation 42% higher than that obtained by natural attenuation (NA) within 120 days. For the same period, a 72 to 92% removal of short-chain alkanes (C12 to C19) was obtained by BA/BS, while only 3 to 65% removal was achieved by NA. BA/BS also showed high degradation efficiency of long-chain alkanes (C20 to C24) at 120 days, reaching 90 and 92% of degradation of icosane and heneicosane, respectively. In contrast, an increase in the levels of cyclosiloxanes (characterized as bacterial bioemulsifiers and biosurfactants) was observed in the soil treated by the consortium. Conversely, the NA presented a maximum of 37% of degradation of these alkane fractions. The 5-ringed PAH benzo(a)pyrene, was removed significantly better with the BA/BS treatment than with the NA (48 vs. 38 % of biodegradation, respectively). Metabarcoding analysis revealed that BA/BS caused a decrease in the soil microbial diversity with a concomitant increase in the abundance of specific microbial groups, including hydrocarbon-degrading (bacteria and fungi) and also an enhancement in soil microbial activity. Our results highlight the great potential of this consortium for soil treatment after diesel spills, as well as the relevance of the massive sequencing, enzymatic, microbiological and GC-HRMS analyses for a better understanding of diesel bioremediation.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

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BIOHYBRID MICROROBOTS COULD REMOVE MICRO- AND NANO-PLASTICS FROM AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS

As suggested by their name, micro and nano plastics are harmful tiny particles derived from the disintegration of plastic waste released into the water. These particles have been found to disrupt aquatic ecosystems, for instance, delaying the growth of organisms,

reducing their food intake, and damaging fish habitats.

Devising effective technologies to effectively remove these tiny particles is of utmost importance, as it could help to protect endangered species and their natural environments. These technologies should be carefully designed to prevent further pollution and destruction; thus, they should be based on environmentally friendly materials.

Researchers at Brno University of Technology and Mender University in the Czech Republic recently developed biohybrid microrobots that could remove micro- and nano-plastics from polluted water without causing further pollution. These robots, presented in a paper published in *Advanced Functional Materials*, integrate biological materials, specifically algae, with environmentally friendly materials that respond to external magnetic fields. *Phys.Org.* / [Read more](#)

BIO-SYNTHEZED ZNO NANOPARTICLES AND SUNLIGHT-DRIVEN PHOTOCATALYSIS FOR ENVIRONMENTALLY-FRIENDLY AND SUSTAINABLE ROUTE OF SYNTHETIC PETROLEUM REFINERY WASTEWATER TREATMENT

The design of a green photocatalytic system that harnesses renewable and eco-friendly constituents holds the potential to offer valuable insights into alternative strategies for treating toxic multi-components in refinery water effluents. A significant challenge in implementing a practical and viable approach is the utilization of solar energy—an abundant, natural, and cost-effective resource—for photochemical processes within advanced oxidation processes. In this study, we explored the use of zinc oxide nanoparticles (ZnO NPs) as photocatalyst prepared via an environmentally friendly synthesis approach, resulting in the formation of crystalline wurtzite nanoparticles, with an average size of about 14 nm relatively spherical in shape. Notably, the extract derived from *Moringa oleifera* was employed in this investigation. These nanoparticles were characterized and validated using various characterization techniques, including X-ray diffraction, transmission electron microscopy, field emission scanning electron microscopy, and energy dispersive X-ray spectroscopy. For comparison, conventionally synthesized ZnO NPs were also included in the evaluations. The findings reveal that, under illumination, biosynthesized ZnO nanoparticles (NPs) exhibit photocatalytic performance in effectively breaking down the organic compounds present in synthetic petroleum wastewater. Photochemical analysis further illustrates the degradation efficiency of Green-ZnO, which, within 180 min of irradiation resulted in 51%, 52%, 88%, and 93% of removal for Phenol, O-Cresol. Under optimal loading conditions, NPs produced via the green synthesis approach perform better when compared to chemically synthesized ZnO. This significant improvement in photocatalytic activity underscores the potential of eco-friendly synthesis methods in achieving enhanced water treatment efficiency. *Nature.com* / [Read more](#)

DURABLE PLASTIC POLLUTION EASILY, CLEANLY DEGRADES WITH NEW CATALYST

Fishing nets, carpet, clothing break down without leaving harmful byproducts behind - The main issue behind Nylon-6, the plastic inside these nets, carpet and clothing, is that it's too strong and durable to break down on its own. So, once it's in the environment, it lingers for thousands of years, littering waterways, breaking corals and strangling birds and sea life.

Now, Northwestern University chemists have developed a new catalyst that quickly, cleanly and completely breaks down Nylon-6 in a matter of minutes — without generating harmful byproducts. Even better: The process does not require toxic solvents, expensive materials or extreme conditions, making it practical for everyday applications.

Not only could this new catalyst play an important role in environmental remediation, it also could perform the first step in upcycling Nylon-6 wastes into higher-value products. *Northwestern.edu.* / [Read more](#)

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](#)

TRAINING COURSES (CONTINUED)

- 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/12ErXbQNGaNK08lQrkPeq62v/wv>

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

NOAA OR&R 2024 EMERGENCY RESPONSE TRAINING SCHEDULE IS NOW AVAILABLE



Photo: An OR&R training team guides a student field exercise, in which they practice their newly acquired Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique (SCAT) field skills. Image credit: NOAA

OR&R 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.

OR&R has announced training classes on various spill response topics in a number of locations for fiscal year 2024. All spill responders and planners are encouraged to apply.

Science of Oil Spills (SOS) classes:

- Mobile, Alabama, March 18-22, 2024: [Application form](#) is open until Dec. 7, 2023.
- Seattle, Washington, June 3-7, 2024: [Application period](#) will be open Dec. 11, 2023 - Feb. 8, 2024.
- Ann Arbor, Michigan, September 16-20, 2024: Application period will open on March 25, 2024.

Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) classes:

- Mobile, Alabama, March 11-15, 2024: [Application form](#) is open until Dec. 7, 2023.
- Seattle, Washington, May 6-10, 2024: [Application period](#) will be open Dec. 11, 2023 - Feb. 8, 2024.

OR&R will continue to host its virtual lecture series, [You Don't Know What You Don't Know](#), on the third Thursday of each month. Additionally, OR&R's scientific support coordinators (located regionally around the country) are also planning to host [Shoreline Cleanup and Assessment Technique \(SCAT\) classes](#) with their U.S. Coast Guard districts.

For those planning to attend the triennial [International Oil Spill Conference \(IOSC\)](#) (link is external) in May 2024, OR&R will again be teaching several half-day [Short Courses](#) (link is external). The Short Courses will be on a broad range of response topics, with NOAA scientists presenting: *Aerial Surveillance of Oil Spills*; a hands-on session, *NOAA Tools for Basic Oil Spill Forecasting and Modeling*; and *Responder Safety: Knowledge and Tools to Keep You and Your Team Safe During an Oil Spill*.

Can't attend an in-person training? OR&R also has job aids and on-demand training to help you prepare for disasters. In addition, OR&R's Aerial Observations of Oil Spills course is always available online and OR&R's ERMA® (Environmental Response Management Application) team has completed a series of videos that are available in the ERMA help menu to improve skills in using ERMA.

There is no cost to attend an OR&R training, but participants must cover their own travel expenses for in-person training. OR&R's classes experience high demand and aim to diversify the participant composition to accommodate need, ensure a variety of perspectives and experiences, and enrich the class for the benefit of all participants.

In addition to the courses noted above for FY24, OR&R trainers will offer a Resource Advisor class for field observers assisting with large marine debris removal efforts, a NOAA-specific ICS-300 class [(Incident Command System-300) for candidates internal to NOAA], and an internal Safety Academy to help prepare NOAA staff and U.S. Coast Guard Strike Team Members to safely execute spill response duties in the field. Training dates will be made available on the OR&R Training Calendar.

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/>

DECEMBER 2023

CANCELLATION – The ExxonMobil Webinar scheduled for 5th December 2023 has been postponed

- 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

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: CLEAN WATERWAYS 2024 – REGISTRATION NOW OPEN - CLICK ON LINKS BELOW

[TRACK PLANNING & PREPAREDNESS](#) [PRELIMINARY AGENDA ANNOUNCED](#) [2024 PRELIMINARY SESSION LINE-UP](#)

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

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



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

European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter at -

<https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/newsletters.html>

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

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<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

EAST ASIA: PEMSEA BULLETIN 30 NOVEMBER 2023

It has been a busy November for the East Asian Seas region! PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

GEF MONTHLY NEWSLETTER GEF / [Download the GEF Newsletter](#)

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/>

NIGERIA: 3,000-BARREL SPILL FROM TOTAL'S EGINA FPSO

November 28 - A TotalEnergies-operated FPSO off the coast of Nigeria has spilled more than 100,000 gallons of oil in a loading accident, according to Nigerian spill-response officials, and a cleanup and monitoring operation is ongoing.

On the morning of November 15, the Egina FPSO released about 3,000 barrels of oil from a loading export hose failure, according to Nigeria’s National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA). The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

November 26 - We deploy aircraft, 5 vessels to contain spill at TotalEnergies Egina field – FG - The National Oil Spills Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) says it deployed an aircraft and five vessels to contain the oil leakage from the Egina facility operated by TotalEnergies. News Agency of Nigeria / [Read more](#)

US VIRGIN ISLANDS: COAST GUARD APPROVES OIL RECOVERY PLAN AS CLEAN-UP EFFORTS CONTINUE FOR WAPA’S TANK 11 DISCHARGE, LINDBERGH BAY OIL SPILL IN ST. THOMAS

November 30 - “Cleanup efforts continue to move in the right direction,” said Capt. Robert M. Pirone, Coast Guard Federal On-Scene Coordinator for the response. “There are a lot of moving parts as clean-up crews utilize heavy mechanical equipment to expedite oil recovery activities and build access roads while working in a challenging geographical landscape. These efforts seek to ensure the oil is cleaned up as soon as possible to remove this pollution threat from the environment in the best and safest possible way.”

WAPA oil clean-up crews are employing a low-pressure high-flow of water to flood the oil from sediment and have it flow to the constructed collection points where pooled oil is recovered via the use of sorbent materials, skimmers, and vacuum trucks. Coast Guard Sector and Atlantic Strike Team personnel will continue monitoring this activity through the weekend. USCG / [Read more](#)

USA: NEW JERSEY - UNIFIED COMMAND ESTABLISHED IN RESPONSE TO TAR BALLS NEAR LONG BRANCH

November 28 - A unified command was established Tuesday, consisting of the Coast Guard, New Jersey Department of Environmental Protection, and Monmouth County, New Jersey, in response to reports of tar balls in the vicinity of Seven Presidents Oceanfront Park in Long Branch, New Jersey. Crews are working to assess both shoreline and waterway impacts from Sea Bright, New Jersey to Long Branch Beach, New Jersey, and additional personnel are investigating to determine the source of the tar balls. USCG / [Read more](#)

VIETNAM: ABANDONED TANKER GROUNDINGS IN VIETNAM DRIFTING 1,000 MILES FROM PHILIPPINES

December 1 - Like the legendary “Flying Dutchman,” a product tanker thought lost in the Philippines two weeks ago washed ashore today, December 1, hundreds of miles away in Vietnam. The Provincial Boarder Guard Command was puzzled by an uncrewed vessel grounding on its coastline. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

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