



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 Funds

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- Mr John Wordrop (Australia)

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- Mr Kerem Kemerli (Turkiye)
- Mr Wu Yue (China)

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

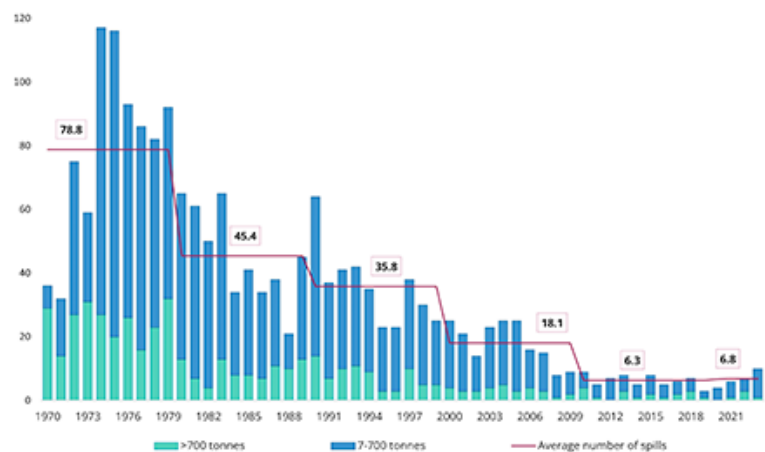
NURDLE SPILL DRAWS ATTENTION TO THE RISKS ALL COASTAL STATES SHARE WHEN CONTAINERS CARRYING PLASTIC NURDLES ARE LOST AT SEA

The containers lost from a vessel sailing up the coast of the North West of Spain a few months ago have started to release their hazardous contents.

Billions of nurdles, the raw material for plastic production, started to appear in the North Western Atlantic Coast of Spain. Tide and wind-driven movement of these releases have now spread the nurdle pollution along the Northern Bay of Biscay coast of Spain. In all 250 km of beaches and coastlines have been impacted. Worryingly we are only at the start of the incident.

UK & Ireland Spill Association / [Read more](#)

OIL TANKER SPILL STATISTICS 2023



ITOPF has published its Oil Tanker Spill Statistics for the year 2023 and it shows 10 oil spills of more than seven tonnes occurred in the year. These statistics bring the decade average to 6.8, which is a dramatic reduction from the numbers reported in earlier decades and in line with the average for the 2010s. ITOPF / [Read more](#)

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(Members with special responsibilities in specified geographical areas)


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 More than 6,000 polluted sites fester across Amazonian countries Click on the link below –
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4016064/>

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<https://www.facebook.com/groups/388528312842431>

WHATSAPP GROUP FOR STUDENTS, TRAINEES & APPRENTICES
Here is the link for joining this group –
<https://chat.whatsapp.com/KMxdW7IEal79namyNibVqg>

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER BY GAINING PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION Professional recognition is a visible mark of quality, competence and commitment, and can give you a significant advantage in today's competitive environment. All who have the relevant qualifications and the required level of experience can apply for Professional Membership of ISCO. The organization offers independent validation and integrity. Each grade of membership reflects an individual's professional training, experience and qualifications. You can apply for MEMBERSHIP (MISCO) or FELLOWSHIP (FISCO)
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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

ECOCIDE: WHAT IS IT AND SHOULD IT BE CONSIDERED AN INTERNATIONAL CRIME?

Campaigners and legal experts say the concept of ecocide should be recognised by the International Criminal Court to punish environmental offences. Addressing the International Criminal Court (ICC) in 2019, John Licht, Vanuatu's ambassador to the European Union, recommended making environmental destruction an international crime: "This radical idea merits serious discussion in the face of the scientific evidence showing that climate change poses existential threats to civilisations." Dialogo Chino / [Read more](#)

LATEST WEBINAR IN THE IOPC FUNDS' SERIES DELIVERED, FOCUSING HOW THE SYSTEM IS FINANCED



The second module in the IOPC Funds' webinar series, "Financing the system", is underway with the first webinar in that module having taken place on 17 January 2023. Policy Officer, Yuji Okugawa, delivered a concise 15-minute presentation entitled "Why are oil reports essential?". He explained the critical role played by receivers of oil in

Member States, who are responsible for submitting oil reports to their government based on the amount of oil they import.

The webinar series, which is being delivered initially in English only, is open to any interested party, and participants can opt to attend either the full series or only those webinars of particular interest to them. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

ISCO EC MEMBER, ED LEVINE, WILL MODERATE SEA IV PANEL DISCUSSION AT EXXON MOBIL WEBINAR

The final segment of the Oil in the Sea IV webinar series will be a Panel Discussion in the final segment of the Oil in the Sea IV webinar series, which we started in June 2023.

Topic of Webinar 23 (February 13, 2024): Oil in the Sea IV - Panel Discussion.

This session will consist of a short recap summarizing the National Academies of Science, Engineering, and Medicine's Oil in the Sea IV (OITS IV) report followed

by an open discussion with committee members concerning various aspects of what is in the report, future activities, impacts, and highlights. Versions of the publication - <https://www.nationalacademies.org/our-work/oil-in-the-sea-iv-inputs-fates-and-effects>

REGIONAL NEWS

OSPAR'S NORTH-EAST ATLANTIC ENVIRONMENT STRATEGY 2030 - PROGRESS REPORT 2023

A significant milestone has been reached this year with the publication of the Quality Status Report (QSR) 2023 – this is our most authoritative assessment yet of the state of the marine environment of the NorthEast Atlantic. While there are some positive indications, many of the findings of the QSR, most notably on the status of marine species and habitats are very concerning.

This short report summarises the progress we have made in the first two years of the Strategy and sets out our priorities up until 2025. OSPAR / [Read more](#)

HELCOM - FIRST DATA CALL LAUNCHED FOR PROTECT BALTIC

HELCOM has officially launched its first data call for PROTECT BALTIC, inviting stakeholders to share crucial biotic, abiotic, and supporting data on the Baltic region. This initiative aims to boost protection efforts and improve strategic planning.

HELCOM is seeking information on a large number of parameters which make up the Baltic Sea ecosystem, including benthic species, birds, bottom organic matter content, chlorophyll-a concentration, dissolved organic matter, fish and decapod crustacean species, hypoxia, sediment maps, sedimentation accumulation rates, fish spawning and nursery areas, and turbidity.

The collected data will be used to update models for both abiotic and biotic parameters, such as species and habitat distribution, as well as mapping ecosystem functions and services.

The deadline for submitting all relevant and up-to-date data, complete with metadata, is 31 March 2024 HELCOM / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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AUSTRALIA: NEW YEAR, NEW ENVIRONMENT LEGISLATION

January 17 - 2024 is tipped to be a big year for environmental law reform, as the Commonwealth Government prepares to introduce legislation to replace the existing Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation Act 1999 (EPBC Act).

While draft legislation is yet to be introduced, the Department of Climate Change, Energy, the Environment and Water (DCCEEW) has been consulting about the proposed reforms, with some of the consultation papers released for public comment by 30 March 2024. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

BAHREIN: NEW OFFICE ADDRESS ANNOUNCED

January 16 - As of today, 16th January 2024, Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC) will be operating from its new Headquarters. All the communication channels will remain the same except the Courier address -

MEMAC new Office Address : Office 601 & 701, Building 3552 (Sehab Tower B), Road 2849, Block 428, Seef, Kingdom of Bahrain

CANADA'S ZERO PLASTIC WASTE AGENDA: UPDATE

January 17 - As the year 2024 starts, the Canadian Government continues to implement its "Zero Plastic Waste Agenda", through judicial and legislative measures.

In advancing this Agenda, on December 30, 2023 the Government of Canada opened a consultation on its publication of a Notice of intent to issue a section 46 for the Federal Plastics Registry. The plastics registry would collect data on plastics by requiring that producers report annually on the quantity and types of plastic they place on the Canadian market and its end-of-life management.1 Stakeholders can send their comments to ECCC until February 13, 2024. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

CANADA: ECONEXT HAS RELEASED DETAILS OF "ON DEMAND" WEBINARS AND OTHER RELATED INFO FOR READERS IN SPAIN, GERMANY AND THE CARIBBEAN

January 18 – See more info and links.

https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/productcategory/webinars/?orderby=date&mc_cid=ed664d16d3&mc_eid=6a430f1539

CHINA: SOME DELAYED NEWS RECEIVED VIA LINKED-IN : ISCO COUNCIL MEMBER MEETS WSH ASIA FOUNDER TO DISCUSS OIL SPILL RESPONSE AWARD

On behalf of ISCO (International Spill Control Organization), Mr. WuYue met with Mr. Raymond, the founder of WSH Asia (World of Safety and Health Asia), to discuss the United awarding the oil spill responders in Asia. The meeting took place on June 7, 2023, at the WSH Asia office in Singapore.

Mr. WuYue is the China Ambassador of ISCO, a not-for-profit organization that aims to raise worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, to promote technical development and professional competency, and to provide a focus for

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO (International Maritime Organization), UNEP (United Nations Environment Programme), EC (European Commission) and other organizations.

WSH Asia is a free web portal for safety and health solutions that curates safety and health information into a single platform for the benefit of all stakeholders. WSH Asia also provides a platform for all safety and health solutions providers to showcase their products, events and courses at no cost.

The United awarding the oil spill responders in Asia is a recognition program that honors the individuals and organizations that have demonstrated excellence and innovation in oil spill response in the Asian region. The award aims to encourage best practices, collaboration and learning among the oil spill response community.



Mr. WuYue and Mr. Lee discussed the criteria, process and benefits of the award, as well as the potential candidates and partners for the program. They also exchanged views on the current challenges and opportunities in oil spill response in Asia, such as the need for rapid and local response to small spills, which are a big problem for the environment and the economy.

The meeting was productive and cordial, and both parties expressed their interest and support for the award program. They agreed to continue their communication and cooperation in the future to promote oil spill response excellence in Asia.

CHILE BECOMES THE FIRST COUNTRY TO RATIFY THE HIGH SEAS TREATY

January 19 - Almost four months after the High Seas Treaty opened for signing at the UN General Assembly, Chile has become the first country to ratify the historic ocean conservation agreement. On Tuesday, Chile's Senate unanimously approved the High Seas Treaty, officially known as the Biodiversity Beyond National Jurisdiction Treaty (BBNJ).

The treaty sets up a procedure to establish large-scale marine protected areas in the high seas, which cover nearly two-thirds of the world's oceans. The goal is to facilitate reaching the target of conserving 30 percent of land and sea by 2030, agreed by UN member states in December 2022 within the Kunming- Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

CYPRUS: UNEP - CYMEPA'S ACCREDITATION AS A NEW MAP PARTNER

January 10 - CYMEPA's accreditation as a new MAP Partner has been endorsed at the 23rd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention and its Protocols (COP 23, Portorož, Slovenia, 5-8 December 2023). CYMEPA / [Read more](#)

EGYPT: EEAA PRESIDENT CHAIRS THE FIRST MEETING OF THE SUPREME COMMITTEE ON "DECLARING THE CORAL REEF ENVIRONMENT OF THE RED SEA AS A NATURE RESERVE".

January 18 - Dr. Ali Abu Sunna, CEO of the Environmental Affairs Agency, chaired the first meeting of the Supreme Committee for setting all the coordinates, controls and requirements necessary to "declare the environment of coral reefs in the Red Sea. EEAA / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CEDRE EMERGENCY RESPONSE ACTIVITY DURING DECEMBER 2023

- Discussions with the MRCCs for French Antilles-Guiana, La Garde and Réunion following CleanSeaNet detections or aerial observations of marine pollution: discussions on the nature of the products spilled, requests for drift forecasts, advice on the operations to be carried out;
- Alert received from CEPPOOL in relation to a vessel in difficulty off the coast of Brittany carrying a cargo of "iron ore". Cedre quickly drew attention to the fact that this could be DRI (Direct Reduced Iron), a potentially hazardous product (see the case of the Adamandas). The product turned out to be steel scrap. The crew was rescued and the vessel towed;
- Provision of information on sulphuric acid to maritime and ministerial authorities, following the loss of tank containers by a vessel off the coast of Italy;
- Discussions with the Port of Papeete after a ferry sank in the port;
- Analysis of feather samples sent by LPO (signature of the Tanio);
- Analysis of tarballs found on the coasts of Côtes d'Armor and Finistère (identical oil, no connection with known spills);
- Participation from Brest in an exercise organised by the Territoire de Belfort authorities (scenario based on a spill of hydrochloric acid from a heavy goods vehicle, with the spill reaching a river). <https://wwz.cedre.fr/>

INDIA: PLASTIC WASTE MANAGEMENT RULES REVISED ANALYSIS OF SIGNIFICANT CHANGES

January 11 - The introduction of the erstwhile Plastic Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 2011 ('PWMH Rules, 2011') marks the first attempt of the government to address the plastic pollution crisis resulting from the unbridled use of plastic packaging in the Indian consumer market. The PWMH Rules, 2011 were aimed at improving the municipal plastic waste management systems requiring municipal authorities to cooperate with local waste pickers for effective collection of plastic waste. Further, the PWMH Rules, 2011 imposed a ban on the use of plastic sachets for storing, packing, or selling tobacco and pan masala besides providing for Extended Producer's Responsibility ('EPR') mechanism applicable to manufacturers to the extent of setting up plastic waste collection centres either individually or in collaboration with municipal authorities. However, the lack of detailed provisions for implementation of the limited EPR framework resulted in inefficacy of the PWMH Rules, 2011. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

LITHUANIA: HELCOM TO COLLABORATE WITH THE SAVE THE BALTIC SEA CAMPAIGN

January 18 - [Save the Baltic Sea](#) is a hiking expedition and an environmental campaign around the Baltic Sea covering eight countries, taking place in 2024. The main organizer is a Lithuanian NGO *Už švarią Lietuvą* ("For a clean Lithuania"). HELCOM will be one of the official partners in the campaign, along with the EU4Ocean Platform, the Ministry of Environment of the Republic of Lithuania and a network of scientific institutes and non-governmental organizations from the eight countries.

The purpose of the expedition is to further improve marine conservation culture in the Baltic Sea countries, inform citizens about the state of our marine ecosystems, and bring together local communities and stakeholders to break down barriers in halting marine pollution. HELCOM / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: AFTER YEARS OF CONTROVERSY, SHELL AGREES TO SELL NIGERIAN OIL BUSINESS

January 16 - Shell agreed to sell its Nigerian onshore oil business to a consortium of local companies for more than \$1.3 billion (R25 billion), a historic shift in a crucial yet controversial part of the energy giant's global operations.

If approved by the government, the deal would fulfill Shell's long-term goal of extracting itself from a challenging operating environment in the Niger Delta. For decades, the company has been at odds with local communities over oil spills and accusations of human rights violations, something that increasingly clashed with its broader efforts to become cleaner and greener.

News 24 / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: NNPCL REPORTS 157 CASES OF CRUDE OIL THEFT IN ONE WEEK

January 17 - The Nigeria National Petroleum Company Ltd has stated that there were 157 incidents of crude oil theft between December 30, 2023 and January 5, 2024 across the Niger Delta. According to the report, the incidents recorded range from illegal refineries, illegal connections, oil spills, illegal storage sites, pipeline vandalism etc. It further stated that there were 52 cases of illegal refineries discovered, 32 illegal connections to pipelines, 25 cases of pipeline vandalism, 2 incidents of oil spill, 3 cases of vessel infringement etc. Nairametrics / [Read more](#)

PERU: TWO YEARS ON FROM THE VENTANILLA OIL SPILL

January 15 - Two years ago today, in the district of Ventanilla, on the north coast of Peru, an immense oil spill occurred during the offloading of the oil from a tanker to La Pampilla refinery, owned by Repsol. Initially, Repsol claimed that only seven gallons had been spilled. It later transpired that approximately 12,000 barrels had leaked into the ocean. An area the size of 270 football pitches was damaged, placing the tragedy in the 'major spill' category.

Repsol has been widely criticised for its inadequate response to the oil spill. The disaster has been described by the United Nations as "the worst ecological disaster" in Peru's recent history.

The International Federation for Human Rights reported that the oil spill killed more than 1,850 species of wildlife, including sea lions, penguins, and several endangered species. As a result, affected communities have been unable to carry on with their usual livelihoods, such as fishing, which are essential for their subsistence. Pogustgoodhead / [Read more](#)

January 20 – From Carlos Sagrera, Hon. FISCO - ISCO Representative in Latin America, ISCO Exec. Committee Member & Council Member – News of the ISCO article available on the ISCO web page in Spanish for Latin America.

<https://spillcontrol.org/2024/01/15/gestion-y-control-de-un-derrame-nivel-iii-en-america-latina-un-escenario-de-peor-caso-en-el-peru/>

Recent updates - Links from the Peruvian press with the latest news on the international lawsuits in this case for labour issues that have been brought against the company REPSOL two years after the incident.

<https://elcomercio.pe/lima/presentaran-demanda-colectiva-contra-repsol-por-mil-millones-de-dolares-ante-corte-distrital-de-la-haya-la-pampilla-reino-unido-ventanilla-petroleo-playa-noticia/>
<https://gestion.pe/peru/presentan-demanda-millonaria-contra-repsol-en-holanda-por-derrame-de-petroleo-en-ventanilla-petroleo-fundacion-holandesa-de-derechos-ambientales-y-fundamentales-noticia/>
<https://elcomercio.pe/lima/repsol-sobre-demanda-judicial-contra-refineria-la-pampilla-no-tiene-fundamento-derrame-de-petroleo-ventanilla-dano-ambiental-ultimas-noticia/>

Some other English language reports -

[Peru Oli Spill Anniversary | World News | wvnews.com](#)
[Repsol Battles \\$1 Billion Lawsuit Over Peru's Largest Oil Spill - BNN Breaking](#)
[Repsol faces second lawsuit in Peru over oil spill | Reuters](#)
[Repsol Sued in Class Action for \\$1 Billion Over Peru's Worst Oil Spill - Bloomberg.com](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: MINISTRY HOSTS FOUR-DAY OIL POLLUTION WORKSHOP

January 16 - Trinidad and Tobago's status as an energy-producing nation whose greatest revenue comes from oil and gas, the Ministry of Works and Transport is hosting a workshop on oil pollution preparedness, response and co-operation.

The four-day workshop, which began on January 16 at the ministry on London Street, Port of Spain, is intended to assist with reviewing contingency planning, with specific focus on the existing national oil-spill contingency plan and to identify areas for improvement within the existing framework. Stakeholders from the Coast Guard, Office of Disaster Preparedness and Management, Ministry of Works and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) attended the opening day. Newsday / [Read more](#)

UAE: ABU DHABI - SPE INTERNATIONAL HEALTH, SAFETY, ENVIRONMENT, AND SUSTAINABILITY CONFERENCE AND EXHIBITION

The SPE International Health, Safety, Environment, and Sustainability Conference and Exhibition is back and will be hosted in Abu Dhabi by ADNOC September 10-12, 2024. IOGP is proud to be an endorsing organization.

The deadline for abstract submissions has been extended until 31 January 2024.

More info <https://www.spe-events.org/health-safety-environment-sustainability/>

UK: CONSULTATION ON THE CARRIAGE OF CARGOES AND DANGEROUS GOODS LAUNCHED

January 18 - Current UK laws on the carriage of cargoes and dangerous goods are being revised and updated by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency, to make sure they continue enforcing safety at sea in line with international safety standards.

The first proposed set of regulations is the Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargoes) Regulations 2024. This will revoke and replace the current Merchant Shipping (Carriage of Cargoes) Regulations 1999. Gov.UK / [Read more](#)

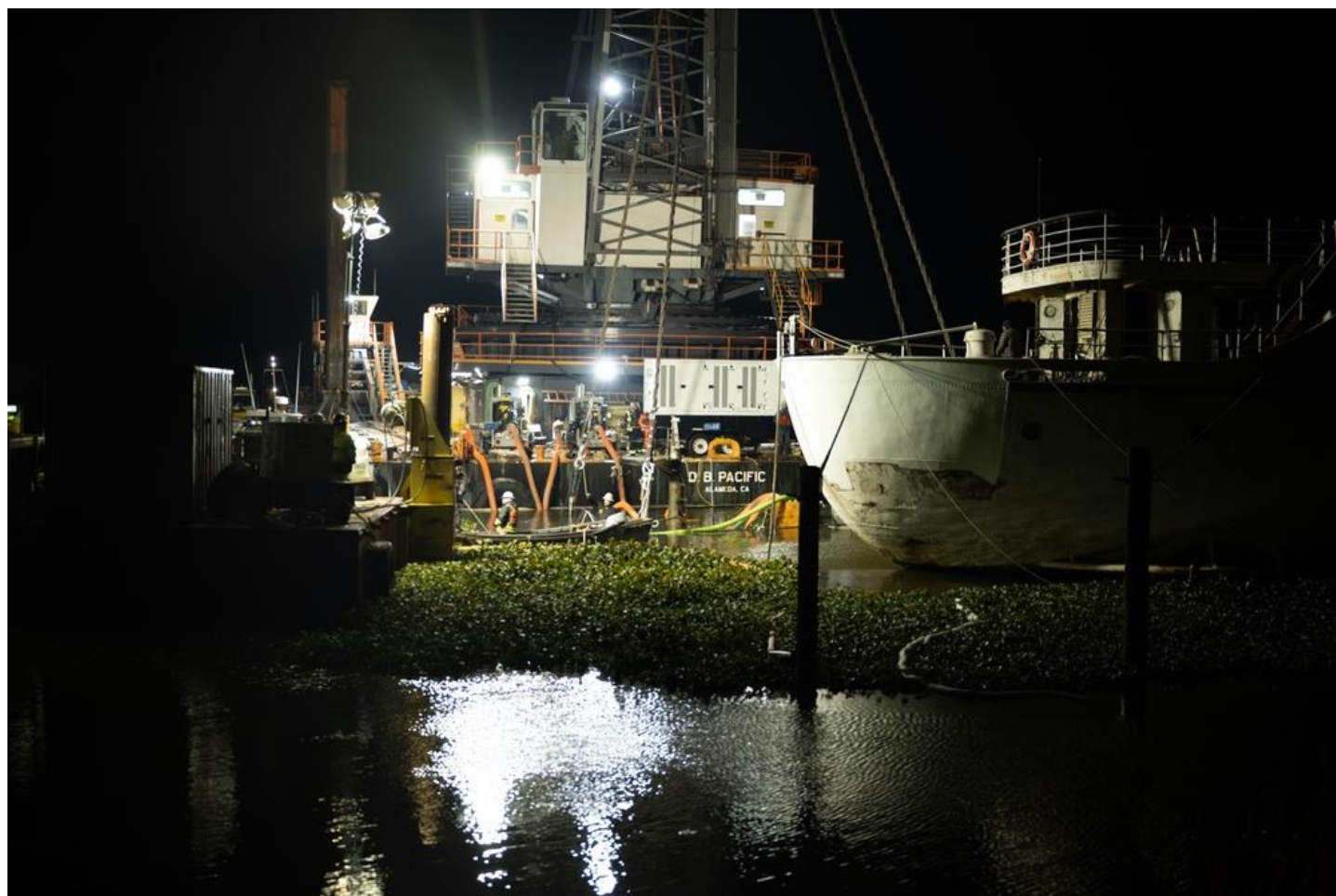
Visit the [Consultation on the merchant shipping \(carriage of dangerous goods and harmful substances\) regulations 2024 - GOV.UK](#) page to take part.

Visit the [Consultation on the merchant shipping \(carriage of cargoes\) regulations 2024 - GOV.UK](#) page to take part.

USA: OIL SPILL PREVENTION AND PREPAREDNESS REGULATIONS

January 2 – Updated EPA Guidance EPA / [Read more](#)

USA: CALIFORNIA - UNIFIED COMMAND COMPLETES POLLUTION REMOVAL FROM TUG MAZAPETA WITH THE RAISING AND LIGHTERING OF SUNKEN WWII TUG



January 17 - A crane barge begins to right the sunken tug Mazapeta, a World War II era tugboat, from the banks of the San Joaquin River Delta, northwest of Stockton, Calif., Jan. 14, 2024. The Mazapeta sunk Sept. 4, 2024 with a reported 1,600 gallons of petroleum product on board. (U.S. Coast Guard photo by Chief Petty Officer Levi Read/Released) DVIDS / [Read more](#) & USCG / [Read more](#)

USA: PROPOSED RULE: AVOIDING A WORST-CASE SCENARIO FOR WORST-CASE DISCHARGES

January 19 - EPA is poised to issue a final rule (the Rule) requiring stringent planning requirements for facilities with the potential for a “worst-case discharge” that could reasonably be expected to cause substantial harm to the environment.[1] A worst-case discharge is defined as the largest foreseeable discharge from a facility in adverse weather conditions.

Facilities subject to this Rule will be required to model a worst-case discharge scenario; complete and submit a Substantial Harm Certification Form (SHCF); and create and submit a Facility Response Plan (FRP). JD Supra / [Read more](#)

LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

January 22 – Please click on the links below to read the latest news.



New Publication on Contaminant Impacts to Growth and Survival of Juvenile Chinook Salmon

OR&R staff co-authored a new publication, "[Dietary Exposure to Environmentally Relevant Levels of Chemical Contaminants Reduces Growth and Survival in Juvenile Chinook Salmon\(link is external\)](#)." This work supports injury determination for Pacific Northwest Superfund sites that have similar contaminants of concern; specifically, mixtures of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethanes (DDTs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs).

Deepwater Horizon Collection of NOAA Science Literature

The NOAA Institutional Repository, a digital space curated by the NOAA Libraries to collect and disseminate materials published by NOAA authorities, has a new collection: [the Deepwater Horizon Collection](#).

YEMEN: STRENGTHENING LOCAL CAPACITIES TO RESPOND TO OIL SPILLS IN SOCOTRA ARCHIPELAGO

January - Following an oil spill that occurred from the stranded "Gulf Dove" tanker in early 2023, polluting the coast of Delisha in [Socotra Archipelago](#), a World Heritage site in Yemen, emergency assistance has been provided by UNESCO World Heritage to carry out an impact and pollution risk assessment and to prepare a response.

Although the coast of Delisha had been mostly cleaned by local authorities and community organizations after the oil spill, a UNESCO field mission to Socotra Island revealed that the "Gulf Dove" tanker still contains some residual oil derivatives, posing a risk to the site.

Contingency plans are therefore needed in order to minimize the impact of the tanker on the coastal and marine biodiversity of the island, in addition to strengthening to deal with man-made hazards, such as oil spills, in the future.

As part of the oil spill response, UNESCO organized a training workshop was held in Hadibo, Socotra, from 15 to 19 November 2023. EIN News / [Read more](#)

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

SINGAPORE ENVIRONMENT COUNCIL ANNOUNCES LEADERSHIP CHANGE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR REPLACED AFTER SHORT TENURE OF TWO MONTHS

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS (CONTINUED)



Four different executives have held SEC's top job in six months. Cheang Kok Chung, the environmental non-profit's incoming executive director, replaces Hazri Hassan, unveiled as SEC's new chief only in last September. It is unclear why his stint was short.

Cheang Kok Chung (left) has been named executive director of non-profit Singapore Environment Council just two months after Hazri Hassan (right) was slated to have started with the organisation as ED. Images: Ministry of Sustainability and the Environment and SEC. Cheang is currently the deputy director-general of environment protection and group director of resource and sustainability at the National Environment Agency, a statutory board under MSE. His appointment as SEC's new chief will take effect from 1 February 2024. Eco Business / [Read more](#)

ITOPF WELCOMES KIM AND MILENA

ITOPF is delighted to welcome two new members to its team in Milena Devine and Kim West, both join the team as Workplace Coordinators.

Milena joined in December 2023 having previously worked in hotel and office administration for more than 10 years.

Kim started her career as a medical secretary before moving to corporate finance. For 20 years she worked in childcare and for a company of transcribers, typing court tapes and assisting with making notes for their transcripts. Latterly, she worked in the leisure industry as a receptionist before joining the team at ITOPF as a Workplace Coordinator in November



OBITUARY

FINLAND: IN MEMORIAM JORMA JANTUNEN



Jorma Jantunen, the Head of Authority Services at the Finnish Environment Institute, passed away on 23 December 2023, aged 66. The news of the sudden passing of a well-liked and warm-hearted colleague in the middle of Christmas preparations have been met with sadness by our working community.

Jorma's passing leaves a void in the Syke community. His character was seen as the bedrock of the work community, especially his warm sense of humour and positive attitude. Jorma brought strength, gentleness, and hope to everyday life. SYKE / [Read more](#)

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

Corporate Members of ISCO can by submitting news about new products and services in the "News from ISCO Members" section of the ISCO Newsletter. This is a free facility for Members. Given that the ISCO Newsletter has a large and highly targeted readership in over 60 countries, it's a cost-effective way to promote your company. If you have some news you would like to share with readers of the ISCO Newsletter, send it to John.McMurtrie@spillcontrol.org Members who would like to place a regular advertisement in the ISCO Newsletter can also benefit from preferential discounted rates. For more info please contact Mike Watson at mike@mwadigital.com He will be happy to help you.

FLOOD RESPONSE AND PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES

ISCO is aware that a number our members are involved in the provision of flood response services such as emergency pumping, flood barriers, dehumidification, post-flood clean-up and other flood-related support.

We would like to hear from you. Through the ISCO Newsletter and this column we can assist you in raising public awareness of the availability of this kind of support from ISCO members. Editor: john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

FROM TIM NEDWED – ABOUT THE EXXONMOBIL WEBINARS

I am retired from ExxonMobil but the webinar series will continue on under the stewardship of Kelly McFarlin — many of you know her. She will be carrying on some of the work I led at ExxonMobil including the KT Webinar series. Lin Zhao has moved on to another role within ExxonMobil.

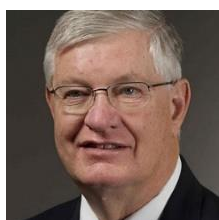
Kelly has over 15 years experience in oil spill response research all the way back to pretty much single-handedly building and running a toxicity / biodegradation lab in Pt. Barrow, Alaska starting in 2008.

She has many fantastic speakers lined up for the webinar series this year. Further, plans are to partly shift to speakers with experience in onshore spill response. So, please welcome Kelly to the stewardship role. I will be helping as needed.

Tim Nedwed

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. A fast energized dispersive guided extraction of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons for risk-based seafood monitoring after an oil spill,

8. 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.

9. Effects of suspended particles and dispersants on marine oil snow formation of crude oil/diesel oil

Lv X., Liu X., Geng R., Hu X., Tang C., Xing Q., Guo J., Wang C.
(2023) Environmental science and pollution research international, 30 (57), pp. 119847 - 119862,
DOI: 10.1007/s11356-023-30670-x

ABSTRACT: Marine oil snow (MOS) potentially forms after an oil spill. To fully understand the mechanism of its formation, we investigated the effects of suspended particles (SP) and dispersants on MOS formation of crude oil and diesel oil by laboratory experiments. In the crude oil experiment, the SP concentration of 0.2 g L⁻¹ was more suitable for crude oil MOS formation. The addition of dispersants significantly stimulated N and TV during MS/MOS formation of SP at 0.4 g L⁻¹ and 0.8 g L⁻¹ concentration (p < 0.05). Without SP, the dispersants also stimulated crude oil MOS formation. Furthermore, the concentration of SP had a significantly positive effect on the reduction of the total amount of N-alkanes (p < 0.05). In the diesel oil experiment, after adding dispersants to diesel oil, the maximum N, Dm, and TV values at a SP concentration of 0.2 g L⁻¹ were significantly higher than those at 0.4 g L⁻¹ and 0.8 g L⁻¹ (p < 0.05). Besides, we found that dispersants stimulated MOS formation in diesel oil at a SP concentration of 0.2 g L⁻¹. However, the dispersants had an inhibitory effect on diesel oil MOS formation without SP. Notably, the MOS formed by diesel oil

appeared white, unlike the black MOS associated with crude oil. These findings are important for the environmental impact of oil spills and elevated SP concentrations. SOURCE: Scopus

10. Effects of suspended particles and dispersants on marine oil snow formation of crude oil/diesel oil

Yoo J.-W., Lee C.-L., Kim S., Seong E.-J., Ahn D.-S., Jeong S.-Y., Kim C.-S., Kim B., Jeong B., Jeong W.-O.
(2023) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 197, art. no. 115791,
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115791

ABSTRACT: We examined long-term response (2008–2017) of the macrobenthos to the Hebei Spirit oil spill that occurred around the Taean coast, Korea, in December 2007. Oil concentrations were below the Korea/US environmental standards as of January 2008. Organic matter, chlorophyll-a, and zooplankton abundance dominated by *Noctiluca scintillans* were higher after the spill. Macrobenthic diversity recovered to pre-incident (2007) level in 2011. Biomass exceeded that level in 2011 and the increase prolonged for 5 years. Cross-correlation and regression analyses showed that chlorophyll-a at year *t* and zooplankton abundance at *t*-2 had a significant relationship with macrobenthic biomass at *t* ($p < 0.05$ for both), suggesting the transfer of increased organic matter (transformed from crude oil within the pelagic ecosystem) into the benthic ecosystem. Coastal wetlands around the incident area, vulnerable to oil pollution and slowly remobilizing accumulated oil, seemed to affect pelagic ecosystem processes and the unexpectedly increased and sustained biomass.

11. Limited impact of weathered residues from the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on the gut-microbiome and foraging behavior of sheepshead minnows (*Cyprinodon variegatus*)

Wigren M.A., Johnson T.A., Griffitt R.J., Hay A.G., Knott J.A., Sepúlveda M.S.
(2024) *Journal of Toxicology and Environmental Health - Part A: Current Issues*, 87 (1), pp. 1 - 21,
DOI: 10.1080/15287394.2023.2265413

ABSTRACT: The Deepwater Horizon disaster of April 2010 was the largest oil spill in U.S. history and exerted catastrophic effects on several ecologically important fish species in the Gulf of Mexico (GoM). Within fish, the microbiome plays a key symbiotic role in maintaining host health and aids in acquiring nutrients, supporting immune function, and modulating behavior. The aim of this study was to examine if exposure to weathered oil might produce significant shifts in fish gut-associated microbial communities as determined from taxa and genes known for hydrocarbon degradation, and whether foraging behavior was affected. The gut microbiome (16S rRNA and shotgun metagenomics) of sheepshead minnow (*Cyprinodon variegatus*) was characterized after fish were exposed to oil in High Energy Water Accommodated Fractions (HEWAF; tPAH = 81.1 ± 12.4 µg/L) for 7 days. A foraging behavioral assay was used to determine feeding efficiency before and after oil exposure. The fish gut microbiome was not significantly altered in alpha or beta diversity. None of the most abundant taxa produced any significant shifts as a result of oil exposure, with only rare taxa showing significant shifts in abundance between treatments. However, several bioindicator taxa known for hydrocarbon degradation were detected in the oil treatment, primarily *Sphingomonas* and *Acinetobacter*. Notably, the genus *Stenotrophomonas* was detected in high abundance in 16S data, which previously was not described as a core member of fish gut microbiomes. Data also demonstrated that behavior was not significantly affected by oil exposure. Potential low bioavailability of the oil may have been a factor in our observation of minor shifts in taxa and no behavioral effects. This study lays a foundation for understanding the microbiome of captive sheepshead minnows and indicates the need for further research to elucidate the responses of the fish gut-microbiome under oil spill conditions.

12. Mind the gap – Relevant design for laboratory oil exposure of fish as informed by a numerical impact assessment model

Frøysa H.G., Nepstad R., Meier S., Donald C., Sørhus E., Bockwoldt M., Carroll J., Vikebø F.B.
(2023) *Science of the Total Environment*, 904, art. no. 166951,
DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.166951

ABSTRACT: Laboratory experiments provide knowledge of species-specific effects thresholds that are used to parameterize impact assessment models of oil contamination on marine ecosystems. Such experiments typically place individuals of species and life stages in tanks with different contaminant concentrations. Exposure concentrations are usually fixed, and the individuals experience a shock treatment being moved from clean water directly into contaminated water and then back to clean water. In this study, we use a coupled numerical model that simulates ocean currents and state, oil dispersal and fate, and early life stages of fish to quantify oil exposure histories, specifically addressing oil spill scenarios of high rates and long durations. By including uptake modelling we also investigate the potential of buffering transient high peaks in exposure. Our simulation results are the basis for a recommendation on the design of laboratory experiments to improve impact assessment model development and parameterization. We recommend an exposure profile with three main phases: i) a gradual increase in concentration, ii) a transient peak that is well above the subsequent level, and iii) a plateau of fixed concentration lasting ~3 days. In addition, a fourth phase with a slow decrease may be added.

13. Challenges and perspectives in applying the environmental sensitivity index to pipelines: a review on the prevention and management of oil spills disasters

Veloso V.Q., Reis F.A.G.V., Cabral V.C., do Carmo Giordano L., dos Santos C.V.C., Kuhn C.E.S.
(2023) Environmental Monitoring and Assessment, 195 (12), art. no. 1449,
DOI: 10.1007/s10661-023-12034-7

ABSTRACT: The oil spill environmental sensitivity index is a key tool for preventing and dealing with environmental disasters caused by oil spills. This study aims to review the available literature on the subject and highlight the importance of methodological advances to improve how the index is applied in continental areas, especially in regions crossed by pipelines. Most current mapping techniques focus on coastal areas and fail to consider the stretches of land that are vulnerable to geodynamic natural disasters. In this context, the need to implement environmental sensitivity indices specific for pipelines has become urgent. This study also presents an overview of the main accidents around the world and a detailed analysis of the history of Brazilian disasters related to oil spills along continental stretches, with a focus on pipelines and natural disasters. In addition, this work highlights the importance of carrying out new research in mountainous areas of Brazil and is aimed at preventing Natechs (natural hazard triggering technological disasters) and improving contingency plans. As a result, several pathways have been identified, which involves the necessity of resolving gaps in terrestrial environmental sensitivity mapping methodologies, particularly as applied to pipelines. Furthermore, solutions must be capable of integrating terrestrial, fluvial, coastal, and maritime environmental sensitivity mapping techniques. Moreover, the need to implement dynamic risk monitoring systems in real time is critical to help manage such a complex problem.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

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WOODS HOLE SCIENTISTS SEEK SOLUTIONS TO OCEANS' PLASTIC PROBLEMS

Just across Vineyard Sound in a laboratory near the shore, environmental chemist Collin Ward monitors four shallow tubs flowing with ocean water. To the naked eye, the water appears clear. But beneath the ripples are samples of the world's most pervasive pollutant of marine ecosystems: microplastics.

Mr. Ward is studying how the plastic particles, which are in every one of the Earth's oceans, biodegrade when submerged in a variety of water temperatures. He is one of several scientists at the Woods Hole Oceanographic Institution (WHOI) researching the behaviors of the toxic debris as part of the organization's initiative to curb plastic pollution.

"With these [tubs] we can measure the degradation of the plastic over time, document how the physical properties of the plastic change and see which microbes are degrading the plastic," said Mr. Ward. "The water gets pumped straight from the ocean . . . We're trying to mimic the normal environment as best as possible." Vineyard Gazette / [Read more](#)

RESEARCH PROGRESS ON REMEDIATION OF ORGANOCHLORINE PESTICIDE CONTAMINATION IN SOIL

To better guide the remediation of contaminated soil, this review summarized the most commonly used strategies for OCP removal, evaluated their merits and limitations and discussed the application scenarios of different methods. It will facilitate the development of efficient, inexpensive and environmentally friendly soil remediation strategies for sustainable agricultural and ecological development. Springer / [Read more](#)

SCIENTISTS FORGE NEW METHOD TO SPOT FOREVER CHEMICALS IN WATER

Researchers have created a new way to detect 'forever chemical' pollution in water, via a luminescent sensor. Scientists in Chemistry and Environmental Science at the University of Birmingham in collaboration with scientists from the Bundesanstalt für Materialforschung und -prüfung (BAM), Germany's Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing, have developed a new approach for detecting pollution from 'forever chemicals' in water through luminescence. Mirage News / [Read more](#)

NEW AI MODEL HELPS DETECT AND IDENTIFY MICROPLASTICS IN WASTEWATER

A new model developed by researchers at the University of Waterloo in Canada uses advanced spectroscopy and artificial intelligence to identify the presence of microplastics in wastewater. Researchers trained PlasticNet to detect microplastics based on how they absorb and transmit different wavelengths of light that they're exposed to. The tool successfully classified 11 types of common plastics with an accuracy of more than 95%; it could potentially be used by wastewater treatment plants and food producers to identify microplastics. Mongabay / [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](#)
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- **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 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

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/>

JANUARY 2024 & ONWARDS

- **WEBINAR - Australian Laboratory for Emerging Contaminants (ALEC) - Microplastics Research Projects - The Hidden Hazards** Thursday, February 1, 2024 12:00pm - 1:00pm AEDT
- **JAPAN and ONLINE - PAJ Oil Spill Workshop 2024 - “Oil Spill Prevention during a Civil War, Recent Oil Spill Response and EffectivePublic Relations”** - February 15th Thursday 2024, International Convention Hall, 2nd Floor, Keidanren Kaikan, 1-3-2, Ohtemachi, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo 100-0004. Virtual on line with limited physical attendance
- **UAE – International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, (ICEPR), Dubai, 15-16 February**
- **WEBINAR - EXXONMOBIL OIL SPILL RESPONSE KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER WEBINAR SERIES – WEBINAR 23. - THE FINAL SEGMENT OF THE OIL IN THE SEA IV WEBINAR SERIES, WHICH WE STARTED IN JUNE 2023. FEBRUARY 13, 2024. PANEL DISCUSSION**
- **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**
- **UAE - SPE International Health, Safety, Environment, and Sustainability Conference and Exhibition 10–12 September 2024, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates**
- **UK – Water, Waste & Environmental Monitoring – 9-10 October 2024, NEC, Birmingham, UK**

SOME OTHER INFO –

IOPC Funds has released a calendar of its upcoming events – to view, click on <https://iopcfunds.org/news-events/events/>

Econext has released a programme of upcoming courses and webinars. This can be viewed at https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/product-category/webinars/?orderby=date&mc_cid=9c2c758fcd&mc_eid=6a430f153

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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](#). All six of UK & Ireland Spill Association's Webinar Series on the Wakashio Spill are also available to watch. [More info](#)

UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

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

If you have leftover funds in your marketing budget from last year, use it to invest in your business for 2024 and secure participation at the [CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference](#), April 9-11 in Cincinnati, OH. We are accepting exhibit/ sponsorship applications and registration is open, with early bird discounts expiring at the end of January! Registration rates will increase by \$100 after the early bird expires on 1/26/2024.

[2024 PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE PROGRAMME](#) [ACCESS EARLY BIRD DISCOUNT](#)

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 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

To qualify for a discounted registration rate, you MUST reserve a room at an [IOSC Hosted Hotel](#). Your room must be booked by the Hosted Hotel cutoff date to receive the discounted rate. Please note that each hotel has their own cutoff date. IOSC will perform an audit on the housing block on April 15. Those that have not booked within the block by the respective hotel cutoff date will have their registration rate changed to reflect the difference.

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.

In order to make it as easy as possible for you to join nearly 2,000 members of the international oil spill response community, IOSC has put together a Justification Toolkit to help you illustrate the value of attending this conference. Use the tools in this kit to explain to your supervisor how attending IOSC will be a smart investment in both your personal career growth and the growth of your organization. [Download the Justification Kit](#)

Meet Dr. Leonard Marcus, IOSC 2024 Keynote Speaker. Join us, May 13 - 16, 2024 in New Orleans, LA for the 2024 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) and be inspired by our opening keynote speaker, Dr. Leonard Marcus. [Read about Dr. Marcus](#)

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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.

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 GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2024

November 18-20, 2024 George R. Brown Convention Center | Houston, TX

Registration for the 2024 event will open in April and Exhibit and Sponsorships are already available! Contact Renie Mayfield at 720-289-7008 or rmayfield@accessintel.com to discuss how you can make an impact on buyers from oil & gas, maritime, rail, environmental companies and regulatory agencies with an Exhibit space or Sponsorship. [More info](#)

JOB VACANCIES

APPOINTMENT OF AN INLAND ASSESSOR FOR INTERNATIONAL SPILL ACCREDITATION SCHEME (ISAS)

Due to a forthcoming retirement, a vacancy will exist within a few months for an Assessor to manage the accreditation of Inland Spill Response companies and the accreditation of spill response courses provided by training companies.

ISAS has a well-developed and functional accreditation scheme for the assessment of companies involved in Inland Spill Response.

Assessors manage a rewarding process as companies grow in confidence and professionalism during the accreditation process. The assessor builds on his/her knowledge and develops a close bond with the company knowing that what the assessor is doing will make a difference.

Assessors are sub contractors and are experienced professional with experience of attending and managing spill response incidents who may have worked for a spill response organisation, environment agency, emergency service with an understanding of response, mitigation techniques and have the ability to liaise with external stakeholders.

More details at: <https://ukeirespill.org/appointment-of-an-inland-assessor-for-international-spill-accreditation-scheme-isas/>

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<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 DECEMBER 2023

In December, Cedre renewed its agreement with Océanopolis and took part in conferences and events such as Campus Mondial de la Mer's general assembly and Ocean Hackathon®. The year 2023 came to a close with meetings and projects such as the presentation of an oil behaviour study on the coast of French Guiana, a review for the Port of Antwerp-Bruges as well as the launch of a new project between OiEau and Cedre on the reduction of aquatic litter. Finally, the last training sessions of the year were conducted in Côte d'Ivoire and at Cedre. [Read the Decemember Newsletter](#)

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/>



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INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

USA: OIL SPILL REPORTED NEAR VENICE, LOUISIANA

January 14 - The U.S. Coast Guard is working with a pipeline operator to clean up a small pipeline spill near Venice, Louisiana.

Last Wednesday, an overflight near the pipeline spotted a sheen on the water. The source was identified as a crude oil pipeline belonging to Texas Petroleum Investment Company (TPIC).

TPIC shut down the pipeline on Thursday and began to organize a response. The line had discharged an estimated 1,000 gallons of oil, and TPIC brought in several spill response contractors to remediate the pollution. The spill amounted to a 13-mile-long sheen with some streaks of recoverable oil, the Coast Guard said. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

GULF OF ADEN: VESSELS HIT BY DRONES

January 15 - US-Owned Bulker Hit by Houthi Missile, Raising Fears of Escalation. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

January 16 - Greek Bulker Hit as Houthis Continue Undeterred in Their Aggression. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

January 17 - Houthi Drone Hits American-Owned Ship, Causing Fire. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

CANADA: FUEL SPILLED FROM FORMER FERRY INTO CHARLOTTETOWN HARBOUR

January 16 - A fuel spill reported in Charlottetown Harbour was the result of a problem during the refuelling of an old Îles-de-la-Madeleine ship. On Sunday afternoon the Canadian Coast Guard received a report from the public regarding a sheen on the Hillsborough River, one of three rivers that feeds into Charlottetown Harbour.

In a news release Tuesday afternoon the coast guard said the source of the fuel was the MV Ancier, currently docked in the harbour. The coast guard said the ship's owner contacted an organization that placed containment booms around it in order to contain the spill.

"[The coast guard] is still on site and is working with partners to ensure and maintain an appropriate response to the incident," the news release said. CBC / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: POLLUTION: 3 WEEKS LATER, PLASTIC CYLINDERS CONTINUE TO WASH UP IN SAINT-NAZAIRE

January 16 - On Tuesday, December 26, 2023, Cristina Barreau, a member of the Surfrider team, [discovered a large quantity of biomedica on the Commando beach in Saint-Nazaire \(Loire-Atlantique\)](#). Identical cylinders were also found on other beaches in the city and in Pornic, in the Pays de Retz. Three weeks later, strandings continue in Saint-Nazaire, the NGO told [L'Écho de la Presqu'île](#). L'Echo / [Read more](#)

USA: NORTH DAKOTA - COLD WEATHER CAUSES SPILLS IN OILFIELD

January 17 - The North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality and N.D. Oil and Gas Division were contacted in recent days about six spills in the oil field. According to some of the reports, the spills were related to the extreme cold weather. Scout Energy Management, LLC notified the North Dakota Department of Environmental Quality of a produced water and crude oil spill resulting from a tank overflow in Bottineau County. The incident occurred about six miles northwest of Maxbass on Monday. Scout Energy estimated about 6,720 gallons of produced water and 1,680 gallons of crude oil released from the tanks, with 2,520 gallons leaving the location and impacting surrounding rangeland. Produced water is a byproduct of oil and gas development.

MinotDaily News / [Read more](#)

ARGENTINA: NEW OIL SPILL RECORDED OFF BAHÍA BLANCA

January 18 - Argentine authorities in the city port of Bahía Blanca in the province of Buenos Aires said a new oil spill had been reported after the one late last month. However, this time around the damage would have been controlled in less time, it was explained.

The new spill Wednesday at 5.30 am was due to a malfunction in an unloading maneuver in the monobuoy operated by the company Oiltanking, which said in a statement that this time it acted more quickly to contain the leak. The incident also involved the tanker San Matías.

"The contingency plan for spills of hydrocarbons in water (PLANACON) was activated by notifying the Argentine Coast Guard (PNA), Bahía Blanca District," the document read. Merco Press / [Read more](#)

January 19 – Report received from Carlos Sagrera, ISCO Representative for Latin America



Two incidents of crude oil spills have occurred between the end of December 2023 and January 204 at the monobuoys located in Puerto Rosales (Bahía Blanca) south of Buenos Aires. In the first one, the company Oiltanking Ebytem SA (Marquard & Bahls AG from Germany and YPF from Argentina) reported that on December 26th and due to a storm, a breakage occurred in the area called "Punta Ancla", due to a strong pull that caused one of the anchors of the monobuoy to fail. This resulted in the spillage of 6 barrels of crude oil (a figure provided by the company and not confirmed by the authorities), although three nearby coastal areas were affected: Reserva Blanca, Bahía Falsa and Bahía Verde, which protects one of the most important systems of islands, tidal channels, muddy intertidal areas and marshes on the Argentine coast.

This information contradicts information from local NGOs, which report that based on satellite images there was an area of 21 square kilometres of sea affected by the spill. According to local press reports, the authorities did not intervene until the following day (15 hours after the incident). This situation caused the affected monobuoy to be out of service and its repair in dry dock is estimated to take until February 2024.

In addition to the previous situation, there was another incident at the other monobuoy "Punta Cigüeña" which operates in the port, in the early hours of 17 January 2024. In this case, the information is that this incident, the causes of which have not been specified, also generated a spill of 6 bls of crude oil. The responsible authorities (Naval Prefecture) immediately activated the Contingency Plan for Hydrocarbon Spills (PLANACON) and the local OSRO company CINTRA was activated, which was reported to have contained the spill (<https://www.cintra.com.ar/>). The authorities suspended the operations of the company Oiltanking. Attached are Argentinian links to press and NGO reports on the incident and photos and a map of the incident.

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

<https://www.lanacion.com.ar/economia/derrame-de-petroleo-dos-incidentes-en-menos-de-20-dias-tensionan-la-operacion-de-produccion-de-nafta-nid19012024/>

<https://www.pagina12.com.ar/704961-cual-es-la-petrolera-suspendida-por-otro-derrame-en-bahia-bl>

<https://www.ambiente.gba.gob.ar/noticias/derrame-de-petr%C3%B3leo-en-la-r%C3%ADa-de-bah%C3%ADa-blanca-la-provincia-de-buenos-aires-suspende-las>

<https://www.anred.org/2024/01/05/derrame-de-petroleo-en-la-ria-de-bahia-blanca-al-menos-21-kilometros-cuadrados-de-mancha/>

SPAIN: MORE INFO ON NURDLES SPILL

January 18 - Several tonnes of plastic pellets have spilled along the northern coast of Spain it has now been officially confirmed. The spill was first spotted by environmental associations in December, after a Liberia-registered cargo ship lost six Maersk containers at sea, one of which held over a thousand 25kg bags of pellets – an estimated total of 1.5 billion pieces of microplastics. So far, the spill has reached beaches in Galicia and Asturias in Spain, as well as some parts of Portugal.

Recently, researchers confirmed the composition of the pellets, manufactured by Bedeko, from the labels of the bags that were recovered undamaged. 'Although the first rumours pointed at polyethylene terephthalate polymers, Bedeko manufactures mostly masterbatch,' explains Patricia Forcén, an expert in polymers at D3O in London, UK. Masterbatches combine complementary compounds to give polymers different properties during production, such as plasticity, colour or mechanical resistance. 'In this case, the masterbatch pellets' principal component is polyethylene, and also include an additive to enhance resistance to ultraviolet radiation,' adds Forcén. An analysis commissioned by Galician authorities and first reported by Spanish newspaper El Diario concluded that this masterbatch contains around 90% polyethylene and 10% additive, sold under the product code UV622. However, other sources report up to 30% of UV stabilisers. Chemistry World / [Read more](#)

GULF OF ADEN: HOUTHİ FORCES CLAIM ANOTHER HIT ON "AMERICAN" TANKER

January 18 - Hours after American forces conducted strikes on Houthi missile launch sites in Yemen, the group claimed another attack on a merchant ship linked to American operators. U.S. forces denied that the missiles struck their target.

"The naval forces of the Yemeni Armed Forces carried out a targeting operation against an American ship (Chem Ranger) in the Gulf of Aden with several appropriate naval missiles, resulting in direct hits," Houthi spokesman Yahya Saree said in a statement.

In a statement late Thursday, U.S. Central Command confirmed that Houthi forces launched two ballistic missiles at an American-owned, Greek-managed chemical tanker, the Chem Ranger. However, the U.S. authorities said that both missiles splashed down in the water without causing any damage. Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: OIL SPILLS AGENCY INVESTIGATING SHELL PIPELINE LEAK REPORT

January 20 - The spill was detected on Friday by local communities who reported it to Shell Petroleum Development Company of Nigeria Ltd (SPDC) and the Nigerian Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA).

SPDC did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

NOSDRA has received a report on the spill and will hold a joint investigation visit to the site on Sunday, Ime Ekanem, the agency's head in Rivers State, told Reuters. Reuters / [Read more](#)

HISTORY

USA: WEST VIRGINIA - JANUARY 9 - 10 YEARS LATER: ANNIVERSARY OF ELK RIVER CHEMICAL SPILL

Wchsty / [Read more](#)

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