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## 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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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS

### PREVIEW: MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (MEPC 81), 18-22 MARCH 2024



The Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC), 81st session, meets in-person at IMO Headquarters in London (with hybrid participation) from 18-22 March 2024.

#### MEPC 81 highlights:

- Tackling climate change - Cutting GHG emissions from ships – implementing the 2023 IMO GHG Strategy - continuing discussions on economic GHG pricing mechanism and technical fuel standard
- Energy efficiency of ships - reports on fuel oil consumption
- Tackling marine litter – Adoption of amendments on reporting procedures for lost containers / recommendations on carriage of plastic pellets by sea in freight containers
- Ballast Water Management Convention implementation - experience-building phase, approval of operational guidelines and adoption of amendments to the BWM Convention
- Proposals for Emission Control Areas
- Implementation of the Hong Kong Convention on ship recycling
- Marine diesel engine replacing a steam system – draft MARPOL Annex VI amendments
- Underwater noise reduction - draft action plan to be considered

IMO / [More details of the MEPC Agenda](#)

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## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

### MARCH-BRIEFING-LOOK-BACK-AT-UNEA-6

Highlights of the just-ended sixth session of the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-6) - 5,600 people – representing 190 countries – took part in UNEA-6 in Nairobi which wrapped up on 1 March. From negotiations and exhibitions to leadership dialogues and moments with activists, the schedule was packed. Look back at highlights in this special list of recaps. Looking for the Ministerial Declaration and all outcome documents? The full list is online. If you missed any sessions, watch the on-demand videos. At UNEA-6, 15 resolutions were adopted. UNEA / [Details of the resolutions](#)

### INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY: UN CHIEF LAUNCHES PLAN TO TACKLE 'BAKED-IN BIAS'

The UN chief on Friday [launched a plan](#) to boost empowerment of women and girls around the world, unveiling details at a meeting commemorating [International Women's Day](#) on the theme of investing in women and girls. "Equality is overdue; to achieve it, we must match rhetoric with resources," said UN [Secretary-General António Guterres](#). "We must invest in women and girls, turbocharge progress and build a better world for us all." His new *UN System-Wide Gender Equality Acceleration Plan* "commits to placing women and girls at the centre of our work across the board". "We will support governments around the world to design and implement policies, budgets and investments that respond to the needs of women and girls." UN News / [Read more](#)

### IPIECA CELEBRATES 50 YEARS

Ipieca was founded in 1974 at the request of the UN Environment Programme to act as the UN-industry interface on environmental and climate issues. In the five decades that have followed, Ipieca has formed impactful partnerships with a [wide range of UN, NGOs and academic organizations](#), and is now involved with the UN on all its strategic pillars: climate, nature, people and sustainability. IPIECA / [Read more](#)

### BIMCO CHIEF URGES IMO FUEL STANDARD AS 'CENTRAL' TO CUTTING SHIPPING'S CARBON

The head of shipowners group Bimco has urged the International Maritime Organization to take strides toward adopting a global fuel standard next year. The proposed regulation, which would put gradually tightening limits on the carbon intensity of fuels, is being discussed alongside a carbon price as the IMO aims to adopt measures to turn its 2050 net-zero goal into a reality. Trade Winds / [Read more](#)

## ISCO NEWS

### NEXT MEETING OF ISCO COUNCIL

The next ISCO Council meeting will be on the 21st March 2024 at 1PM UK time. Joining info has been circulated to all members of the ISCO Council.

### SPILL RESPONSE TO INCIDENTS INVOLVING NEW ALTERNATIVES TO USE OF HFO AND DIESEL IN SHIPPING.

This is an area of operations that must be taxing the "little grey cells" of members and readers will be of considerable interest. In the newsletter I would like to publish more info about the experience of members, potential response techniques, and new technology that may be useful. Contributions from members would be appreciated in order to help expand knowledge in dealing with spills of the new alternative fuels coming into the market. Reply to Editor at [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

## NEWS FOR ISCO STUDENT MEMBERS

### NANOTECHNOLOGY: 10 DIVERSE CAREER PATHS IN THIS FIELD OF ENGINEERING

Discover the myriad career pathways within nanotechnology engineering, where innovation knows no bounds.

Times of India / [Read more](#)

## REGIONAL NEWS

The latest news and press releases that are collated from websites that include regional organisations on ISCO's checking list. to add a website to this list please send the link to [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

### NORTH AMERICA: CANADA AND THE US TACKLE MINE POLLUTION WITH AN INTERNATIONAL STUDY

The inquiry aims to address contamination affecting the Elk and Kootenay rivers, with a focus on selenium's risk to aquatic life. Efforts include forming a governance body and a two-year study to develop action plans and understand the pollution's impact.

EHU.org / [Read more](#)

### ARCTIC: MARINES HIT THE HIGH NORTH IN SEPARATE ARCTIC EXERCISES



*Marines with Headquarters Company, Chemical Biological Incident Response Force prepare to conduct practical application drills using the AN/PDR-77 Radiac Set and the joint chemical agent detector during exercise Arctic Edge 2023 in May 2023. (Photo courtesy of Staff Sgt. Jacqueline A. Clifford/Marine Corps)*

Marines are spread across the northern reaches of both Alaska and Europe in simultaneous, but separate Arctic exercises this winter. Leathernecks from the 2nd Marine Expeditionary Force are in Norway for the U.S. European Command's Nordic Response 2024.

The exercise coordinates U.S. and Norwegian forces with the United Kingdom-led Joint Warrior, a naval exercise that takes place between Scotland, Norway and Iceland the week before Nordic Response.

The joint, multinational exercise is part of the larger NATO Steadfast Defender exercise that takes place throughout Germany, Poland and the Baltic region. Marine Corps Times / [Read more](#)

## ANTARCTICA: EYSEEA AND AURORA EXPEDITIONS RECORD FIRST POLLUTION DATA FROM ANTARCTICA

In a groundbreaking collaboration, [Eyesea](#), a global maritime pollution mapping initiative, and Aurora Expeditions, a leading expedition travel company, have successfully recorded Eyesea's first in-app marine pollution data reports from Antarctica. This effort marks a significant milestone in the project's pollution monitoring reach and underscores the importance of preserving the pristine ecosystems of the southernmost continent. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

## SCIENTISTS CONFIRM FIRST CASES OF BIRD FLU ON MAINLAND ANTARCTICA

Fears for penguin colonies after the discovery of the highly contagious H5N1 virus in two dead skuas - Bird flu has reached mainland of Antarctica for the first time, officials have confirmed.

The H5N1 virus was found on Friday in two dead scavenging birds called skuas near Primavera Base, the Argentinian scientific research station on the Antarctic peninsula. Additional suspected cases have been reported in brown skua, south polar skua and kelp gull in Hope Bay, also on the Antarctic peninsula, according to data from the Scientific Committee on Antarctic Research. "This discovery demonstrates for the first time that the highly pathogenic avian influenza virus has reached Antarctica, despite the distance and natural barriers that separate it from other continents," said a Spanish government report on Sunday. The Guardian / [Read more](#)

## MEDITERRANEAN: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE : COMMITMENT AND SYNERGY

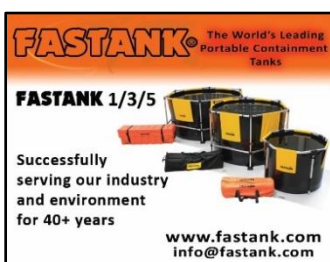
The Mediterranean Oil Industry Group (MOIG) and MEKE Marine are very pleased to announce that the Regional Workshop on "Oil Spill Preparedness and Response: Commitment and Synergy" will be held; from 12 to 14 November 2024; in Elites World Hotel in Istanbul-Turkey.

The main objectives of this regional workshop will be to improve the level of preparedness and response, to promote international sharing of best practices and lessons learned from previous oil spill incidents and exercises, to stay abreast of the newest technologies, to benefit from responders and manufactures technical expertise and to enhance communication and expert networking. Medoil Group / [Read more](#)

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

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## BELIZE STRENGTHENS OIL SPILL RESPONSE READINESS WITH NATIONAL WORKSHOP

March 13 - In an effort to bolster preparedness for potential oil spill incidents, a national workshop on oil spill response is currently underway in Belmopan, Belize. The four-day workshop (March 12-15) brings together 48 participants from the Belize government to enhance their capacity to address this environmental threat. The workshop focuses on understanding the devastating impacts of oil pollution on the marine environment, emphasizing the need for rapid decision-making and effective collaboration between national agencies, regional partners, and the international community. Belize News / [Read more](#)

## BELGIUM: A YEAR BEFORE THE DEADLINE, ONLY 660 LEAKING FUEL OIL TANKS WERE REGISTERED

March 10 – Flanders - Anyone with a leaking fuel oil tank still has a year to sound the alarm. At least, if you want the Promaz fuel oil fund to clean up the pollution without you having to pay the costs. However, figures requested by Flemish MP Robrecht Bothuyne (CD&V) show that – despite the approaching deadline – there is anything but a stampede. "While Flanders has an estimated between 6,000 and 9,500 privately leaking fuel oil tanks, only about 660 files were received by Promaz from Flanders. So less than 10 percent." Time is running out: a remediation of the contaminated soil – at the expense of Promaz – can be requested until March 31 next year. Breaking latest news / [Read more](#)

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READINESS RESPONSE

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### CANADA: EMPOWERING KEY REGIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL GROUPS TO PROTECT HABITATS AND SPECIES AT RISK IN QUEBEC AND ACROSS CANADA

March 4 - Today, the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, announced up to \$7.5 million in funding over the next five years through the Habitat Stewardship Program for Species at Risk. This funding will support 56 conservation projects across Canada, led by communities, individuals, and non-government organizations taking action to recover species at risk in their communities. [Canada.ca](https://Canada.ca) / [Read more](#)

### CANADA: CALL FOR APPLICATIONS FOR THE NEXT ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE YOUTH COUNCIL: A CHANCE TO HELP SHAPE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL FUTURE

March 14 - The Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, is inviting young people in Canada between the ages of 18 to 29 to show their interest in becoming a member of the Environment and Climate Change Youth Council by applying to the anticipatory recruitment process.

Since 2022, the Environment and Climate Change Youth Council has provided opportunities for youth in Canada to participate in meaningful discussions with the federal government on the key challenges of our time. Youth Council members are appointed by the Minister for two years to provide non-partisan advice to the Minister and Environment and Climate Change Canada to help shape Canada's environment and climate policies. Members gain skills and experience to build or advance their careers and expand their networks of youth and environmental and climate leaders. [Canada.ca](https://Canada.ca) / [Read more](#)

### FRANCE: EMERGENCY RESPONSE - FEBRUARY REPORT FOR CEDRE'S DUTY TEAM:

- Discussions with MRCC Corsen and the POLMAR correspondent for the Landes area after litter and plastic pellets washed up on the shoreline. The plastic pellets were morphologically different from those lost by the Toconao (Galicia);
- 5 requests from MRCCs relating to drifting slicks (proven pollution) and from JRCC Tahiti, seeking our expertise for the analysis photos of oil slicks taken from a helicopter;
- Participation in two exercises (AEM PREMAR Cherbourg, POLMAR-Mer French Guiana);
- Advice to a private company following a leak of hydraulic oil;
- Advice following a leak of marine diesel in the port of Lorient;
- Request from the Finistère fire brigade (SDIS 29) following a diesel spill in the port of Guilvinec;
- Discussions with MRCC Jobourg, PNE and CEPPOL after a fire broke out on board the fishing vessel Alexis IV in the North Sea then the vessel ran aground;
- Request from DDTM 56, following the discovery of a drum on the shoreline, for analyses to be carried out;
- Discussions with a local government body in the Oise department following a fire involving a tanker truck carrying 800 litres of diesel, which caused sheen to appear in a nearby pond;
- Pollution in Trinidad and Tobago: search for information on the vessel, discussions with PNE and EMSA;
- ICE network ring test organised by Germany (BASF).

### FRANCE: TRAINING COURSES AND CEDRE AT IMO & IOPC FUNDS

- [Training course on crisis management for oil spills at sea – IMO level 3](#): 18-22 March for representatives of the Gulf of Guinea in Libreville, Gabon
- [Training course on spill response at sea](#): 21 March for students at the [École du Service Public de la Mer \(ESPMER\)](#) in Le Havre
- [Training course on marine pollution crisis management - IMO level 3: 25-28 March at Cedre](#)
- [Training course on oil spill response in ports](#): 4-5 June at Cedre. [Last places available, register now!](#)
- Cedre Information Day: 21 March 2024 in Paris, [Chemical risks at sea](#)

**PPR session in London and meeting with IOPC Funds** - From 19 to 23 February, a team from Cedre travelled to London to take part, as experts within the French delegation, in the 11th session of the International Maritime Organization (IMO)'s Sub-committee on Pollution Prevention and Response (PPR). In particular, Cedre led the group in charge of finalising the drafting of guidelines for the clean-up of plastic pellets from ship-source spills, followed the discussions on recommendations for the carriage of plastic pellets by sea and participated in the drafting of a guidance document on best practices for drawing up spill contingency plans to help States implement the OPRC Convention and its HNS Protocol. The opportunity was also taken to hold discussions with the IOPC Funds, with which Cedre has observer status. [CEDRE / Read more](#)

### INDIA: INDIAN ARMY TACKLES PLASTIC POLLUTION IN THE MOUNTAINS!



March 12 – The Indian Army in Kameng sector of Arunachal Pradesh has set its sights on controlling plastic pollution in the mountain streams. AlphaMERS adapted its river clean up technology to arrest plastics in the treacherous mountain streams. This technology was installed as part of the 'Operation Sadhbavna' programme of the Indian Army in this sector. This work with the Indian Army is close to the heart and the team is rightfully feeling proud! [Original Post in Liked-in](#) [Thanks to Capt. D. C. Sekhar]

### INDIA: ONLINE TRAINING FOR INDIAN OIL CORPORATION

March 14 - On 13 March 2024, the IOPC Funds had the pleasure of delivering an online presentation for over 30 staff members of the Indian Oil Corporation Ltd., one of the largest oil companies in India and a significant contributor to the 1992 Fund. Claims Manager, Mark Homan, provided an insight into the existing international liability and compensation regime for ship-source oil pollution, based on the 1992 Civil Liability and the 1992 Fund Conventions. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

### NIGERIA: WHY TRADITIONAL LEADERS MUST SPEAK NOW ON ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE TO SAVE NIGER DELTA'S FUTURE

March 7 - Niger Deltans, demanding for environmental justice for pollution and degradation of our lands will be more impactful if our local community and traditional leaders join their voices with that of the youths and shun the temptation of receiving gratification, contracts and employment for their household from the polluting oil companies and their sympathisers. Gas flaring has damaged the respiratory system, unleashed mental health issues and reduced life expectancy in the region to just 43 years, aside destroying the traditional economic means of survival. EnviroNews / [Read more](#)

### POLAND: THE VOLUNTEER BLUE PATROL: PROTECTING MARINE MAMMALS AND SEABIRDS ON THE SOUTHERN BALTIC SEA COAST

March 14 - WWF Poland has created the "WWF Blue Patrol", a network of 200 volunteers who have been actively involved in a series of conservation initiatives targeting marine mammals (grey seal, ringed seal, harbour seal and harbour porpoise) and coastal birds (ringed plover, little tern, sandwich tern, common tern and oystercatcher). The patrol covers the entire 500-kilometre Baltic coast in Poland, including 23 Natura 2000 sites (16 sites protected for habitats and seven protected for bird species). WWF / [Read more](#)

### RUSSIA: RUSSIAN 'DARK FLEET' LACKS DISASTER INSURANCE, LEAKS SUGGEST

March 15 - Russian oil tankers circumventing western sanctions are relying on insurance that appears impossible to claim against, according to leaked documents exposing the risks taken by Moscow's "dark fleet". The cache of shipping files, seen by the Financial Times and the Danish media group Danwatch, reveals that a number of Russian vessels travelling from the Baltic are relying on insurance that can be easily voided in the event of a disaster.

Ingosstrakh, a Moscow-based insurer, provides coverage that is essential for its shipping clients to enter ports around the world. But the contractual fine print includes a "sanctions exclusion clause", which would invalidate claims involving most tankers moving Russian oil. The Russian dark fleet's insurance arrangements with Ingosstrakh potentially expose coastal states in Europe and Asia to huge potential clean-up costs in the event of a spill. It also highlights how a complicated western sanctions regime, which sought to crimp Moscow's energy revenues following its 2022 full-scale invasion of Ukraine, may have inadvertently increased environmental threats from inadequately insured ships. Financial Times / [Read more](#)

### UK: AERIAL DISPERSANT SPRAY (ADS) SERVICE

March 11 - Information relating to the procurement of the Aerial Dispersant Spray service including background information, upcoming events and links to resources. Gov.UK / [Read more](#)

### UK: WALES - URGENT CLEANUP NEEDED: 500 TONNES OF METALS POLLUTE WELSH ENVIRONMENT ANNUALLY FROM ABANDONED MINES

March 11 - At least 500 tonnes of harmful metals find their way into the Welsh environment each year from abandoned mines, spotlighting a critical pollution crisis. This alarming figure, sourced from government estimates obtained by the Financial Times, involves just 129 mine sites identified by Natural Resources Wales (NRW) as significant contributors to water quality criteria failures. Highlighting the gravity of the situation, Plaid Cymru MP Ben Lake has called for immediate action from both Welsh and UK Governments to address this legacy of Britain's mining past. BNN Breaking / [Read more](#)

### USA: NOAA OR&R WEEKLY REPORTS

March 11 – Please click on the links below to read the latest reports

#### OR&R Collaborates with U.S. Coast Guard for Enhanced Coordination for Emergency Response



On February 15, the Office of Response and Restoration met with the U.S. Coast Guard to commemorate the signing of the [Environmental Response Management Application](#) (ERMA®) Interagency Agreement. This milestone agreement sets forth standardized protocols for employing ERMA in U.S.

#### HAZMAT Workshop to Support Emergency Preparedness in the Panama Canal

OR&R staff conducted a five-day Hazardous Materials Contingency Planning Workshop at the Panama Canal in support of the Panama Canal Authority (ACP).

#### Seeking Public Comment on Shoreline Restoration Projects in the Draft Restoration Plan for Metal Bank Superfund Site in Philadelphia, PA

On February 27, the Trustee Council for the [Metal Bank Superfund Site](#) in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania released a [Draft Restoration Plan and Environmental Assessment](#). The Restoration Plan recommends one habitat restoration project to compensate the public for natural resource injuries that were the result of contaminant releases at the site.

#### NOAA and University of Florida Celebrate Installation of Trash Boom

On March 4, officials from the NOAA Marine Debris Program, the University of Florida, Florida Sea Grant, and Pasco County, Florida gathered with partner organizations and members of the media to celebrate the installation of a trash capture device on Bear Creek in Pasco County.

#### OR&R Welcomes Public Comment on Newtown Creek Draft Damage Assessment Plan

The Newtown Creek Trustees are announcing to the public the Draft Natural Resource Damage Assessment Plan outlining potential injuries to natural resources related to releases of contamination at this Superfund site. Public participation, review, and input are an important part of the process of assessing and restoring natural resources.

#### Draft Damage Assessment Plan for Gowanus Canal, New York Open for Public Comment

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, on behalf of the Gowanus Canal Natural Resource Damage Assessment and Restoration (NRDAR) Trustees, invites public comment on a [Draft Damage Assessment Plan](#), which details the Trustees' proposed approach to conducting a natural resource damage assessment for the Gowanus Canal. **We encourage the public to review the draft plan and share comments through April 15, 2024.**

#### NOAA Presents at the Tijuana River Valley Binational Emergency Response Guide Workshop to Address Land-Based Marine-Debris

On March 5, the NOAA Marine Debris Program's Preparedness and Response Specialist Jessica Conway and California Regional Coordinator, Christy Kehoe, presented at the Binational Emergency Response Guide (BERG): Coordinating to Address Land-Based

## NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

Marine Debris Workshop. This one-day workshop, hosted by the Tijuana River National Estuarine Research Reserve (NERR), brought together agencies and organizations involved in preparedness and response from the United States and Mexico. This hybrid virtual and in-person event was located in San Diego, California.

### Disaster Response Center Hosts Small Boat Summit

On March 5-6, the NOAA Gulf of Mexico Disaster Response Center in Mobile, Alabama hosted the 2024 NOAA Small Boat Program Summit. Organization for the summit was a collaborative effort by the Small Boat Safety Board, Small Boat Program Office, and others within the NOAA vessel community. The Disaster Response Center, managed by OR&R, served as the host.

## USA: STATEMENT BY ADMINISTRATOR REGAN ON THE PRESIDENT'S FISCAL YEAR 2025 BUDGET

March 11 - President Biden's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget requests \$11 billion to support EPA's essential work to tackle the climate crisis, advance environmental justice, and protect human health and the environment

Today, March 11, 2024, the Biden-Harris Administration released the President's Budget for Fiscal Year 2025. Following historic progress made since the President took office—with nearly 15 million jobs created and inflation down two-thirds—the Budget protects and builds on this progress by lowering costs for working families, protecting and strengthening Social Security and Medicare, investing in America and the American people, and reducing the deficit by cracking down on fraud, cutting wasteful spending, and making the wealthy and corporations pay their fair share.

"President Biden's Investing in America agenda and the FY 2025 Budget for EPA deliver bold environmental actions and economic benefits for communities across the country," said EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan. "The Budget announced today will advance the agency's ongoing efforts to address our most critical environmental challenges, from combating climate change, to ensuring clean air, safe water, and healthy lands, to protecting communities from harmful chemicals. EPA's work will benefit all Americans and we have made it a priority to ensure that a commitment to environmental justice is central to all of the agency's efforts as we continue our work to help disadvantaged and overburdened areas become healthier, more resilient, communities."

EPA / [Read more](#)

## USA: EPA ANNOUNCES STRICTER RULES TO PREVENT CHEMICALS INCIDENTS

March 13 - On March 1, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) published updates to its Risk Management Plan (RMP) rule with stricter regulations for chemical accident prevention.

The Coalition to Prevent Chemical disasters estimates that one chemical incident occurs every other day in the U.S and our previous reporting shows disproportionate impacts on Latino communities in Texas. Annually, the state has more chemical disasters than any other: 49 incidents in 2023, with the Houston-Galveston area accounting for 26 of them.

The updated regulations were proposed in August 2022 and signed on Feb. 27, 2024. Its stated goal is to "protect vulnerable communities from chemical accidents, especially those living near facilities in industry sectors with high accident rates," according to the EPA. The Risk Management Plan rule published its first regulation in 1996, regulating nearly 12,000 facilities in the U.S. that manufacture, store or use hazardous chemicals. EHN.org / [Read more](#)

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS



### MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP – MEETING - MEKE MARINE AND MOIG

05-06 March 2024, The MOIG Director visited MEKE Marine, Member based in Istanbul-Turkey. We were very pleased to meet, Mr. M. Kerem Kemerli, Chairman, Hakan Ciner, General Manager, Alkan Elkir, Oil Spill Response Director and Ms. Deniz Barlan, Executive assistant.

MOIG has beautiful memories in Turkey and maintained solid relationships with MEKE Marine who supported MOIG in many Regional



## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Workshops and the training course OPRC IMO level 2 & 3 held over the past years. The main objectives of these meetings were to discuss the first draft programme and the logistical aspects of the Regional Workshop on "Oil Spill Preparedness and Response: Commitment and Synergy"; to be held from 12 to 14 November 2024, in Istanbul-Turkey. [MOIG and Meke Marine are longstanding members and supporters of ISCO] MOIG / [Read more](#)

### LAMOR PARTNERS WITH WWF FINLAND TO ENHANCE OIL SPILL RESPONSE PREPAREDNESS IN THE BALTIC SEA

Lamor ja WWF yhteistyössä öljyntorjunta-osaamisen kehittämiseksi



WWF organises a few annual pool exercises for volunteer oil spill response teams. Lamor's experts are involved, and technology introduced in this year's exercises in Kotka and the Upinniemi home region exercise where various parties practice cooperation in possible disruptions.

"The threat of a major oil spill in the Baltic Sea is real. When an oil spill occurs, WWF acts quickly to assist the authorities. It is crucial to remove oil from nature as soon as possible, as it causes

serious harm to the environment. With the support of Lamor, we are able to provide more comprehensive training for oil spill response teams. The expertise provided by our corporate partner is crucial for maintaining the knowledge and skills of these teams, and to and developing the trainings further", says WWF's marine expert Vanessa Ryan. Lamor / [Read more](#)

## 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.*

#### 65. Systematic characterization of the influence of petroleum spill on terpene metabolism in *Suaeda salsa* (L.) Pall from coastal wetland: Implication by compound-specific stable isotope

Dong X., Liu Y., Fan J., Wang G., Fan W., Wang H.  
(2024) Environmental Pollution, 344, art. no. 123298,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.envpol.2024.123298

**ABSTRACT:** With the increasing industrialization and urbanization, the ecological environment is suffering from severe deterioration in Liaohe coastal wetland, and petroleum spill is one of the pollution sources. *Suaeda salsa* (L.) Pall (*S. salsa*), one of the predominant plants in Liaohe coastal wetland, is facing the increasing degradation. Terpenes are a class of inherent compounds in plants, and play key role in maintain the growth of plants. However, the environmental stress on the terpene metabolism remained unclear in the plants. In the present study, the influence of petroleum spill on terpene metabolism in *S. salsa* was systematically investigated by analysis of concentrations, compositions and stable carbon isotope. Under the stress of petroleum spill, terpene concentrations showed the decreasing trend, indicating the inhibition effect of petroleum spill on terpene synthesis in *S. salsa*. The proportions of Sabinene and A-humulene showed the obviously increased with the influence of petroleum spill, implying that these congeners were more sensitive to petroleum spills. The significant changes in stable carbon isotope compositions were observed for Borneol, Dlimenthol, A-humulene and (-)-bisabolol, with the enrichment in heavier isotopes in residual fractions. This result indicated that the heavier <sup>13</sup>C was preferentially fixed on terpene by *S. salsa* under the petroleum stress. The similar change trends along the incubation time was observed for A-humulene and (-)-trans caryophyllene, which might imply that A-humulene was one of the products of (-)-trans caryophyllene in *S. salsa*. Overall, the findings of present study verified the influence of petroleum spill on terpene metabolism in *S. salsa*, and were meaningful for protecting the plants in the petroleum-pollution wetlands.

#### 66. On quantifying global carbon emission from oil contaminated lands over centuries

Sookhak Lari K., Davis G.B., Bastow T., Rayner J.L.

(2024) *Science of the Total Environment*, 907, art. no. 168039,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.168039

**ABSTRACT:** Petroleum releases into the subsurface contribute to global soil carbon emissions. Quantifying releases and changes in releases of carbon from soils over the lifetime of a spill is complex. Natural source zone depletion (NSZD) of light non-aqueous phase liquids (LNAPLs) embodies all key mechanisms for transformation to carbon gases and their release from soils including partitioning, transport and degradation of petroleum components. Quantification of the interconnected behaviours of the soil microbiome, fluid flow, multi-component transport, partitioning, and biodegradation is crucial for understanding NSZD. Volatilization from LNAPL, aerobic biodegradation, methanogenesis, and heat production all lead to release of greenhouse gases to the atmosphere. To estimate carbon emissions, using a validated computational platform, we modelled the long term NSZD of four petroleum hydrocarbon types; crude oil, diesel, jet fuel and gasoline, to span the major products used globally. For two soil types, we estimated 150 years of carbon emissions from annual minor and 25 mostly major petroleum hydrocarbon land release incidents since 1950 – with an estimated released mass of ~9 million tonnes across the circumstances considered. Up to 2100 the mass of carbon emitted to the atmosphere is estimated to range from 4 to 6 Teragrams, with nearly 60 % currently released. Nomographs generated help predict the fate of LNAPL plumes and carbon emissions due to NSZD, which is crucially important to management of soil and groundwater contamination. The method provides a basis to include additionally identified and future petroleum releases. It is noted that the petroleum mixture composition, degradation rates, volatilization, and subsurface characteristics all can influence carbon emission estimations.

### 67. Application of whole-cell bioreporters for ecological risk assessment and bioremediation potential evaluation after a benzene exceedance accident in groundwater in Lanzhou, China

Liu Y., Zhao X., Wang X., Ding A., Zhang D.  
(2024) *Science of the Total Environment*, 906, art. no. 167846,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.167846

**ABSTRACT:** Oil spill events challenge human health and ecosystem safety, which are priority concerned issues for sustainable development. There is then an increasing demand of tools for ecological risks assessment at contaminated sites. In this study, we introduced two whole-cell bioreporters, ADPWH\_alk and ADPWH\_recA, to measure the available n-alkanes and the genotoxicities of total petroleum hydrocarbons in soils and groundwater which were contaminated by the Benzene Exceedance Accident in Lanzhou, China. Comparing to traditional chemical analysis methods, the whole-cell bioreporter method could provide risk assessment on cell level within a shorter time and a less cost, which is economical and environment friendly. The highest contents of available alkanes in soil and groundwater were 18,737 mg/kg and 308.4 mg/L, respectively. In addition, the available n-alkanes significantly ( $p < 0.01$ ) correlated to chemical analysis of total n-alkanes. The highest genotoxicity level was found in soil and groundwater samples with lower TPHs concentration (4338.0 mg/kg and 1.4 mg/L Mitomycin C equivalent), suggesting the significant impacts of geochemical variables and alkane availability on the ecological risks of petroleum contamination. Combining chemical analysis and whole-cell bioreporter results, bioremediation strategies were suggested for groundwater and soils with higher n-alkane availability and lower ecological risks, whereas chemical oxidation were suggested for other contaminated sites. For the first time, we mapped the distribution of available n-alkanes and petroleum toxicities in a large scale soil-groundwater system using whole-cell bioreporters, showing their huge potential for rapid contaminant detection and fast risk assessment.

### 68. An NAD<sup>+</sup>-dependent group III alcohol dehydrogenase involved in long-chain alkane degradation in *Acinetobacter venetianus* RAG-1

Chen S., Liu J., Gao G., Li M., Cao L., Liu T., Li G., Ma T.  
(2024) *Enzyme and Microbial Technology*, 172, art. no. 110343,  
DOI: 10.1016/j.enzymictec.2023.110343 <https://www.scopus.com/inward/record.uri?eid=2-s2.0->

**ABSTRACT:** Alcohol dehydrogenases (ADHs) are a class of key enzymes responsible for the oxidation of alkyl alcohols in the aerobic alkane metabolic pathway. Currently, the degradation mechanisms of short- and medium-chain alkanes are commonly reported, while those of long-chain alkanes have received less attention. In this work, a putative long-chain ADH was screened from *Acinetobacter venetianus* RAG-1 via RNA-seq with n-octacosane (C28) as the sole carbon source. Conserved sequence analysis revealed that it is a group III (Fe-containing/activated) ADH, which is widespread in the genus *Acinetobacter*. The deletion of adhA led to a significant reduction in the degradation of C28. AdhA exhibited optimal oxidative activity at pH 8.0 and 50 °C with NAD<sup>+</sup> as coenzyme, while showing better tolerability to chemical reagents. Enzyme activity assay showed that AdhA owed the oxidative activity to a wide range of substrates including alkyl alcohols (C1-C32) and some isomeric alcohols, such as isopropanol, isobutanol, isoamyl alcohol, and propanetriol, and could reduce the alkyl aldehyde (C1-C12). Meanwhile, the binding of AdhA to different alkyl alcohols was mediated by different amino acids. AdhA is an ADH with an extremely broad substrate utilization range and excellent biochemical characteristics. These results provided important insights in the subsequent investigation of long-chain alkane degradation and petroleum pollution bioremediation.

**69. Impacts of crude oil on Arctic sea-ice diatoms modified by irradiance**

Dilliplaine K., Hennon G.  
 (2023) Elementa, 11 (1), art. no. 11,  
 DOI: 10.1525/elementa.2023.00074

**ABSTRACT:** Anthropogenic climate change is reducing ice and snow thickness in the Arctic. The loss of summer sea ice has led to increased access to Arctic waters and the development of marine resources, which raises the risk of oil spills. Thinning ice and snow also increases irradiance in the upper ocean which is predicted to increase primary productivity, disfavoring shade-adapted sea-ice algae while benefitting phytoplankton and cryopelagic taxa. Studies have confirmed the lethality of crude oil and its distillates to Arctic phytoplankton; less well-constrained are the sublethal impacts to sea-ice algae in combination with other drivers. This study investigates the combination of two drivers, crude oil exposure and irradiance, on the growth rate and maximum cell concentration of four sea-ice diatoms (*Attheya septentrionalis*, *Fragilariopsis cylindrus*, and two strains of *Synedropsis hyperborea*) isolated from landfast sea ice near Utqiagvik, Alaska. Crude oil inhibition of growth was complex and dependent on species and irradiance level. *A. septentrionalis* was generally tolerant to crude oil exposure, but toxicity was enhanced at the highest irradiance. The cryopelagic taxon, *F. cylindrus*, exhibited strong growth inhibition at TPH concentrations greater than approximately 6 mg L<sup>-1</sup>. Growth rates of *S. hyperborea* strains were stimulated at low concentrations of oil at all light levels. A simple numerical model was used to simulate an oil spill under varying snow depths to follow composition of a mock community comprised of these four isolates across a spring season. Results highlight that the reduction of algal biomass accumulation and the community composition change following a crude oil spill are more severe in a simulated low-snow spring, due to the relative sensitivity of *F. cylindrus*. We show that a brighter Arctic, which is predicted to increase the relative importance of cryopelagic taxa like *F. cylindrus*, may render the Arctic ecosystem more vulnerable to crude oil spills.

**70. Improved prediction of oil drift pattern using ensemble of ocean currents**

S.J, Prasad; T.M, Balakrishnan Nair; B, Balaji,  
 (2024) Journal of Operational Oceanography, 17 (1), pp. 12 - 27,  
 DOI: 10.1080/1755876X.2022.2147699

**ABSTRACT:** Indian Coast Guard and oil spill responders utilise the operational oil spill advisory services of the Indian National Centre for Ocean Information Services (INCOIS) during the event of oil spills for setting up spill response operations. Oil drifts in marine zones are dominated by ocean currents. Ocean currents generated by numerical models have errors and uncertainties due to model approximations, inaccurate initial and boundary conditions in the model setup. An attempt was made to generate an oil spill advisory using a weighted ensemble of ocean currents. In this study, the oil spill trajectory model, General National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Operational Modeling Environment (GNOME) was forced using a weighted ensemble of ocean currents for the Heavy Furnace Oil (HFO) spill reported off Ennore port during 0400 hours (IST) of 28 January 2017. The inverse-variance weighting method was used to estimate weights by comparing zonal and meridional components of individual model ocean currents, with that of High Frequency (HF) Radar currents. The zone of HFO spread obtained while using an ensemble of ocean currents was compared with oil slick signatures obtained from Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) data on 0600 hours (IST) of 29 January 2017. It was noted that the trajectory patterns obtained from the weighted ensemble of ocean currents were well within the observed zone of oil slicks, compared to that of individual model ocean currents.

**SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (**

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**MECHANISMS OF BENZENE AND BENZO[A]PYRENE BIODEGRADATION IN THE INDIVIDUALLY AND MIXED CONTAMINATED SOILS**

There is a lack of knowledge on the biodegradation mechanisms of benzene and benzo[a]pyrene (BaP), representative compounds of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), and benzene, toluene, ethylbenzene, and xylene (BTEX), under individually and mixed contaminated soils. Therefore, a set of microcosm experiments were conducted to explore the influence of benzene and BaP on biodegradation under individual and mixed contaminated condition, and their subsequent influence on native microbial consortium Science Direct / [Read more](#)

**RECENT ADVANCES IN BIOREMEDIATION OF BIOFUEL BLENDS**

Biofuels are frequently used in blends with petrofuels (i.e. biodiesel/diesel, ethanol/gasoline). The presence of biofuels changes the

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

degradation dynamics and rates of petroleum hydrocarbons. There are several works focused on the assessment of bioremediation approaches applied to biofuel/petrofuels blend contamination. Despite all the knowledge yielded, hitherto this information has not been compiled and organized to have a global overview on the best remediation alternative(s) depending on the different blends and factors influencing the degradation processes. Therefore, we reviewed and compiled the literature information available on bioremediation strategies applied to degradation of biofuel/fossil fuel blends in different contamination contexts (i.e. matrix, time of exposure, biofuel concentration), focusing on the best performing bioremediation options. Science Direct / [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-emsatrainingscatalogue2019.html>
- **FRANCE - CEDRE** - [https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023\\_EN.pdf](https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023_EN.pdf)
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD.** - <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/courses/>
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – BRIGGS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD.** - <https://www.briggsmarine.com/services/training/>
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – AMBIPAR GROUP** <https://ambipar.com/uk/training/>
- **UK & WORLDWIDE – SIGMA ENVIRONMENTAL** <http://www.sigma-environmental.com>
- **UK – NCEC HAZMAT ACADEMY** – [More info](#)
- **USA – TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – NATIONAL SPILL CONTROL SCHOOL** <https://www.tamucc.edu/research/nscs/>
- **USA – MPC, DETROIT** - <https://marinepollutioncontrol.com/services/training-and-compliance>
- **USA – ALLIANCE OF HAZARDOUS MATERIALS PROFESSIONALS** - [https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event\\_list.asp](https://www.ahmpnet.org/events/event_list.asp)
- **CANADA - CONTAMINATED SITES HEALTH & SAFETY REFRESHER (8-HOUR HAZWOPER) – FROM ECONEXT – [MORE INFO](#)**
- **Members who would like to be listed here, please contact your editor – [john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto: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](mailto:John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

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

### APRIL 2024

- USA – Conference & Exhibition – Clean Waterways – April 9-11, Cincinnati, Ohio
- TUNISIA – MOIG TRAINING COURSE – IMO Level 3, 22-25 April 2024, South Hammamet
- UK – IOPC Funds Meeting of the Governing Bodies, IMO London. 29 April to 2 May

### MAY 2024 Onwards

- USA – International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition, 13-16 May 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana
- USA – AHMP – EHS HAZMAT SUMMIT, 14-17 July, 2024, Kansas City, Missouri
- CANADA – International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Montreal, 5-6 August 2024
- GERMANY – “14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation”, Berlin, August 25-27, 2024
- SPAIN & ONLINE – “14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Barcelona, August 25-27, 2024
- CHINA / ONLINE – WSH Asia Awards 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- UAE - SPE International Health, Safety, Environment, and Sustainability Conference and Exhibition 10–12 September 2024, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- USA – Elastec River Spill Workshop, Carmi, Indiana, 8-10 October 2024
- UK – Water, Waste & Environmental Monitoring – 9-10 October 2024, NEC, Birmingham, UK

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- CHINA – 8<sup>th</sup> East Asian Seas Congress, Xiamen, 6-8 November 2024
- UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, London, 11-12 December 2024

### SOME OTHER INFORMATION

- 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](https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/product-category/webinars/?orderby=date&mc_cid=9c2c758fcd&mc_eid=6a430f153)
- 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](#)
- Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange – A Workshop Series chaired by Ed Levine, Hon.FISCO – [More information](#)
- IG P&I Podcast - Exploring some of the topics discussed at the Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference - [Listen](#)

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

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

#### [NEW UPDATED INFORMATION - RECEPTION AND NEW EVENTS JUST ANNOUNCED](#) - [READ MORE](#) [NETWORKING OPPORTUNITIES](#)

Check out the 2024 CLEAN WATERWAYS Digital Conference Program! - A full, printable program is now available for this year’s CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference, taking place April 9-11 at the Duke Energy Convention Center in Cincinnati, OH. Check out all that we have planned for the upcoming CLEAN WATERWAYS event! [READ MORE](#)

The exhibit hall at this year’s CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference, April 9-11 in Cincinnati, will feature an array of companies showcasing the latest technologies, services, and equipment for incident prevention and response in the inland environment. You will find consulting services, incident management services, new technology for response, equipment for inland response, GIS products, toxicology, remediation, oil spill removal organizations, and containment boom manufacturers... just to name a few! [READ MORE](#)

[CLEAN WATERWAYS Conference](#), April 9-11 in Cincinnati, OH. We are accepting exhibit/ sponsorship applications and registration is open. [DISCOUNTS](#) [DIGITAL PROGRAMME](#)

[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

Click on links for updated info – [LATEST UPDATED INFO](#) [EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM](#) [EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS PROVIDE PRIME VISIBILITY AND IMPACT](#) [COMPLETE PROGRAM](#) [FILM FESTIVAL & PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST](#)

**Take your 2024 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC) to the next level by adding access to our day 1 Short Courses\* to your registration! Register today to secure your seat as these sessions will fill up quickly.**

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](#)

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

[Why are Sponsorships at IOSC So Valuable?](#) Click to 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.

**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](mailto:registration@iosc.org) for questions or additional information. Interested in exhibiting or sponsorship? Please reach out to: [exhibits@iosc.org](mailto:exhibits@iosc.org)

### USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2024

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

**PAPER SUBMISSION DEADLINE EXTENDED! THERE IS STILL TIME TO SUBMIT AN ABSTRACT FOR CLEAN GULF 2024** [MORE INFO](#)

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](mailto: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](#)

Do you have real-world solutions for evolving environmental emergencies? Don't miss your chance to be heard at this year's CLEAN GULF Conference! Submit your abstract for review and your chance to take the stage this November

### INDIA: OIL SPILL INDIA CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION, NEW DELHI, 11-12 SEPTEMBER 2024

In the backdrop of the recent oil spill incident, caused during cyclone Michaung in Chennai's Ennore Creek, it is with a sense of urgency and shared responsibility that we announce that the 7th edition of Oil Spill India (OSI 2024), the region's flagship conference & exhibition on the Oil Spill Prevention, Planning, Preparedness, Response & Restoration industry, will be organised during 11th & 12th September 2024 at Hotel JW Marriott, Aerocity, New Delhi, India. [View the OSI 2024 website](#)

### EUROPE – INTERSPILL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION – 8-10 APRIL 2025 – ExCeL, LONDON

This internationally respected triennial event (which connects global stakeholders involved in marine oil spill research, prevention, preparedness, response and restoration) will return on 8-10 April 2025 at ExCeL London. <https://www.interspill.org/2025/>

**Preliminary Programme & Call for Papers - Closing deadline 4 June 2024 – [More info](#)**

## CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

### INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATIONS

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

### OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: USA & EUROPE

US Government solicitations are frequently posted in Technology Innovation News Survey <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> US Federal Contract Opportunities are posted at <https://clu-in.org/Federal-Contract-Opportunities> European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter at - <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/newsletters.html>

ISCO Members can post requests for submission of invitations to tender for supplies / services in this section.

## LINKS FOR OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### FRANCE: LATEST ISSUE OF CEDRE NEWSLETTER

In February, Cedre was in London at IMO headquarters for the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response. A number of meetings were also held as part of ongoing projects, including a visit to an anaerobic digestion plant in Plourin-Ploudalmézeau, a kick-off meeting for the MANIFESTS Genius project, a visit from secondary school pupils from Carhaix in relation to the TREASURE project, and the opening of a new litter monitoring site in Loire-Atlantique. Cedre also travelled to Rotterdam for the kick-off meeting of the European project IMAROS 2. Training resumed with a training course on response in ports for Damen ShipRepair in Brest and an audit of spill response equipment for the ports of Calvados. More details about these events are available on our website [www.cedre.fr](http://www.cedre.fr)

### EUROPE: MARCH 2024 ISSUE OF THE EMSA NEWSLETTER

In the March edition of the EMSA newsletter we bring you the latest on our webinar series, held with DG CLIMA at the European Commission, on the extension of the EU emissions trading system to the maritime transport sector. There's a report from the global search and rescue Irit training organised by imso and opened by our executive director, as well as news on the latest common core curriculum developed by the emsa academy. plus we've an update on EMSA's administrative board meeting, and the cybersecurity working group workshop held with the Portuguese presidency of the European Coast Guard functions forum.

<https://emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/newsletters/item/5137-newsletter-march-2024.html>

## SPECIAL ITEM – HISTORY OF ISCO – PART 1

**Many ISCO members who have joined the organization in recent times are not fully aware of ISCO's history, its mission, its objectives and the initiatives it is pursuing. This article aims to correct this situation.**

Before the supertanker Torrey Canyon ran aground on the coast of Cornwall in 1967, oil pollution was not something to which people gave much thought. This event, which resulted in a spill of 120,000 tons of crude oil, was widely regarded as the world's first major marine oil spill, polluting many hundreds of miles of the coast of the UK and France and causing severe environmental damage.

The incident was a wake-up call, demonstrating how poorly the world was prepared to respond to such an event. The event was also the catalyst that led to the development of the oil spill control industry.

Over the following years governments and private companies carried out research and development programmes to create capability to respond to major oil spill events. On the international front the International Maritime Organization enacted measures, the most important of which was the 1973 International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships (MARPOL).

It was ten years later, in 1983, that representatives of the US, British, French and Swedish spill control associations (SCAA, BOSCA, SYCOPOL and SWEMARPOL) met at the International Oil Spill Conference (IOPC) in San Antonio, Texas to discuss the formation of the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO).

The organisation was incorporated in London the following year as a not-for-profit international organisation with clearly defined objectives which included promotion of international co-operation and practical support for implementing OPRC and other relevant IMO conventions. Further meetings took place over the next ten years in Aberdeen, London, Tampa, Valetta, and Long Beach. Practical outcomes included positive contributions to international co-operation during the Exxon Valdez spill (1989) and Gulf War pollution (1991). but eligibility for membership of ISCO was restricted to national associations, of which only a very few exist.

This membership restriction was seen as incompatible with recognition that the fulfilment of ISCO's objectives depended on involvement of both public and private sector working together in a co-operative way. Membership of ISCO was opened up to all entities, public and private, as well as private individuals with a legitimate interest in furthering the objectives of the organisation.

This major change was made in 2005 when ISCO was re-launched at IOPC, Miami in 2005. Virtually all of ISCO's original objectives were retained including ISCO's Mission "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 making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, and other organisations".

At the same time the ISCO Council was established as a non-executive body composed of national representatives of ISCO in various countries. ISCO Council Members are consulted by the ISCO Executive Committee on policy matters, have represented members in their countries, providing an interface between ISCO and national governments and other in-country organisations, and helping to

## SPECIAL ITEM – HISTORY OF ICCO – PART 1 (CONTINUED)

advance ISCO objectives in their countries. Over the years, Members of ISCO Council have organised in-country meetings, recruited new members, and have promoted ISCO at conferences and workshops.

In its Constitution, revised in 2005, ISCO's aims and objectives included a commitment to the International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) - "To support the work of the International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) in raising professional standards in the spill response industry" – This being seen as being closely aligned with ISCO's aim to promote technical competency. For ten years from 2007 until 2017 ISCO operated the administration function for ISAA and continued to be represented on the ISAA Supervisory Board.

ISCO grew rapidly and soon had an international membership in about forty countries (now more than 60). Members include many of the major response organisations, equipment manufacturers and many individual professionals; also training providers, consultants, academia, government agencies, and others with a professional interest in spill control.

For the convenience of members ISCO's Annual General Meetings were arranged to coincide with major international conferences. Over the years since 2005, AGMs venues have included Miami (USA), London (UK), Savannah (USA), Marseille (France), Portland (USA), Cairns (Australia), Amsterdam (The Netherlands), and Long Beach (USA). Members unable to attend AGMs are able submit their proxy votes via email on matters covered in the meeting agendas which distributed to all members.

The organisation provides significant benefits for its members. In addition to being part of a worldwide community of professionals who share a common interest, members receive a weekly newsletter that keeps them up-to-date on events, developing technologies, new legislation and other items of mutual interest. They are alerted to opportunities for providing new products and services necessary for implementing legislation and meeting new challenges. Most importantly, ISCO is a source of practical help in building response capacity and enhancing professional competency. The Technical and Reference pages in the members' area of the ISCO website is a valuable and growing resource.

**To be continued - The next part of ISCO's History, will be published soon. Our aim is to complete this short series before ISCO celebrates its 40th Anniversary in September 2024.**



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## INCIDENT REPORTS

### TRINIDAD & TOBAGO (CONTINUED) – DONATION FROM CAF DEVELOPMENT BANK OF LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

March 9 - After the CAF Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean donated US \$250,000 to the Tobago oil spill clean-up drive, chief secretary Farley Augustine said yesterday he was made aware of the donation via an online release. "CAF stands in solidarity with Trinidad and Tobago and offers all its technical and financial tools to support the government in facing the effects of the oil spill on the country's coasts and achieving a prompt solution to the problem," Díaz-Granados said. Guardian tt / [Read more](#)

### USA: CALIFORNIA: AN OIL SHEEN THAT APPEARED NEAR SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA'S HUNTINGTON BEACH WAS LIKELY 'LOCAL CRUDE OIL,' COAST GUARD SAYS

March 10 - The source of an oil sheen spotted in the Southern California waters of Huntington Beach late last week appeared to be "lightly weathered crude oil" and not gasoline or diesel, the US Coast Guard said Monday. CNN / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Marc Shaye, Hon.FISCO]

March 11 - Huntington Beach Slick May Have Been From a Natural Seep - The U.S. Coast Guard has concluded its response to a large oil sheen off the coast of Orange County, California, and the cause remains unknown. The area is home to natural oil seeps, and it is possible that the crude leaked out of the seabed on its own, though the event remains under investigation. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### USA: IOWA - STATE FINDS DEAD FISH IN 50 MILES OF FERTILIZER-CONTAMINATED RIVER

March 16 - State conservation officials found no living fish this week in the East Nishnabotna River south of Red Oak — the result of a massive fertilizer spill at a farmers cooperative. The effects of the river contamination continued into Missouri, where the Nishnabotna flows about another 10 miles until it reaches the Missouri River. Lorenzen said conservation officials in that state discovered dead fish near the mouth of the river. Iowa Capital Dispatch / [Read more](#)

## HISTORY

### FLASHBACK IN MARITIME HISTORY: SUPERTANKER TORREY CANYON GROUNDING + OIL SPILL 18 MAR 1967

On the world stage, the grounding of the supertanker TORREY CANYON on Pollard's Rock in the Seven Stones reef between Cornwall and the Scilly Isles is more significant than the 1989 EXXON VALDEZ oil spill. The TORREY CANYON was one of the first tankers large enough (120,000 tons capacity) to be designated a supertanker. It was also the first loaded supertanker to spill its entire cargo.

TORREY CANYON ran aground on the Seven Stones Reef, off Lands End, Cornwall, UK on 18th March 1967. The tanker was one of the largest vessels afloat at the time, with a cargo of 119,000 tonnes of Kuwaiti crude oil for discharge at Milford Haven, Wales. Over the following 12 days the entire cargo was lost.

In recognition of the difficulties of governments in obtaining compensation, the tanker shipping and oil industries established TOVALOP and CRISTAL in 1968 to provide a temporary measure pending widespread acceptance of the international conventions.

At the time, and when faced with the potential recurrence of such an incident, the incumbent UK Prime Minister Harold Wilson called on the Council of IMCO (now IMO) to meet in extraordinary circumstances to consider possible changes in maritime law and international regulations. IMCO met in May 1967 and drafted 21 "proposals for study", including requiring all vessels to carry compulsory liability insurance, and to make shipowners responsible for the damage caused by their vessel "without consideration of negligence". These proposals formed the basis of the subsequent international conventions. Maritime Cyprus / [Read more](#)

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