



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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PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



INTERNATIONAL NEWS

IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL SETS FRESH AGENDA FOR MARITIME

IMO Secretary-General Arsenio Dominguez shared the Organization's plans and focus areas for the next four years, with the aim of ensuring safer, more secure and environmentally friendly shipping.

Speaking at a press conference at IMO Headquarters in London, Mr. Dominguez outlined four strategic priorities: IMO's work to regulate international shipping; its support to Member States – particularly Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries; enhancing public awareness and image; and relations with people and stakeholders. IMO / [Read more](#)



GEF COUNCIL APPROVES \$916 MILLION FOR URGENT ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION

The Global Environment Facility's 186 member governments on Monday allocated \$916 million for international action on biodiversity, climate change, nature renewal, and pollution control, and advanced five Integrated Programs designed to tackle complex challenges in their entirety.

The GEF Council, meeting in Washington DC, approved funding for 45 projects and programs, including four blended finance initiatives involving the private sector. The support will directly help more than 12 million people, including Indigenous Peoples and local communities. The GEF / [Read more](#)

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ISCO NEWS

INTRODUCING WU YUE, ISCO'S AMBASSADOR IN CHINA AND MEMBER OF EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

With over 20 years of experience in the oil and gas industry, WuYue is a seasoned professional presently serving as the General Manager of Hong Kong Spill Response Technology Limited (RuiSi Tech), a pioneering technology and investment firm specializing in environmental protection and safety training solutions. As a dedicated Council Member of the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO), WuYue is committed to upholding the highest international standards and best practices to cater to clients in China and globally.

WuYue holds additional roles as a Distinguished Professor at Shandong Maritime Vocational College and a Member of the IMRF #FutureSAR Workgroup, where he shares valuable insights and knowledge on the maritime and offshore sectors. As the co-founder and CEO of the Shandong International Ocean Engineering Training Center (SIOETC), WuYue oversees a premier provider of industry safety training in China, accredited by OPITO, GWO, PADI, and CDSA. His expertise spans ocean engineering, maritime safety, and offshore operations, demonstrated through contributions to reputable journals and conferences on oil spill emergency response and prevention.

NEWS FOR ISCO STUDENT MEMBERS

WEBINAR - Career Progression from Academia to Graduate to Principal: Empowering Young Professionals to Thrive Through Authenticity and Soft Skills

This webinar offers a unique opportunity to hear from two industry professionals who will share their experiences and career progression—from academia to graduate to principal. Land & Grounwater / [Read more](#)

REGIONAL NEWS

IOPC FUNDS PRESENTATION FOR THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION



Following an invitation from the Presidency of the Council of the European Union (EU), the IOPC Funds delivered an online presentation on 6 February 2024 giving a general overview of the international liability and compensation regime and, in particular, the payment and reporting obligations under the 1992 Fund Convention.

The event was attended by representatives of EU Member States and experts from the Working Party on Global Issues tasked with examining potential provisions related to the financing of the implementation of a future legally binding instrument related to plastic pollution. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY - SVENDBORG 30-31 MAY 2024

The European Maritime Day (EMD) is the annual two-day event during which Europe's maritime community meet to network, discuss and outline joint action on maritime affairs and sustainable blue economy. Europa / [Read more](#)

ADRIATIC – ATRAC OPEN-DOOR DAY 2024

On February 8th, 2024, ATRAC held an Open-Door Day to commemorate 9 years since its establishment. This event was attended by representatives of all important stakeholders in the field oil spill preparedness and response, such as Ministry of the Sea, Transport and Infrastructure, several Harbour Master's Offices, several members of Croatian coastal counties, Dezinskcija, INA, LUVETI, La Fornitrice, Faculty of Maritime Studies in Rijeka, CIKLON, CIAN, Civil Protection of Croatia and MRCC. ATRAC / [Read more](#)

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AUSTRALIA: ACCREDITED OSR TRAINING COURSES FROM AMOSC

February 9 - Course in Oil Spill Response Command and Control (IMO III equivalent) and other courses AMOSC / [Read more](#)

CAMBODIA: SEA TURTLE NESTS SPARK HOPE AMID COASTAL DEVELOPMENT & SPECIES DECLINE

February 1 - Conservationists in Cambodia have found nine sea turtle nests on a remote island off the country's southwest coast, sparking hopes for the critically endangered hawksbill turtle (Eretmochelys imbricata) and endangered green turtle (Chelonia mydas). It's the first time sea turtle nests have been spotted in the country in a decade of species decline. Mongabay / [Read more](#)

CANADA: NEXT STEPS ON THE RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE AND RACISM

February 8 - On February 8, 2024, the Government of Canada launched consultation and engagement activities with Canadians on the right to a healthy environment in the Canadian Environmental Protection Act, 1999 (CEPA) to develop a national strategy to advance environmental justice, and to assess, prevent, and address environmental racism. [Read more](#)

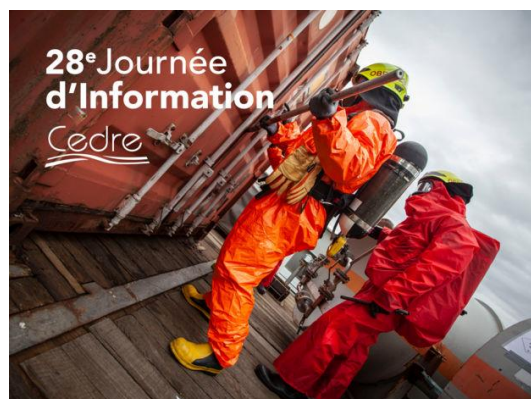
CYPRUS: CYMEPA'S PROGRAMS OF EDUCATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT ARE THOSE OF FEE (FOUNDATION FOR ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION)

February 9 - The driving force of our Association still remains the voluntary contributions of the Shipping Community, together with the commitment of the local Business Community. While CYMEPA maintains among its prime targets the enhancement of environmental awareness among seafarers and shipping executives, an ever - increasing spectrum of activities for the landbased population has been created. CYMEPA / [Read more](#)

DENMARK: NEW DIGITALISATION STRATEGY STRENGTHENS KNOWLEDGE ABOUT GROUNDWATER

February 9 - In Denmark, we have extensive knowledge about our geology and groundwater. Access to and quality of data will now be strengthened through the government's new digitisation strategy, which allocates DKK 24 million to improve the national database with data on geology, groundwater and drinking water – the so-called Jupiter database. The update of the database will, among other things, ensure easy access and a better data basis for the management of the drinking water resource, the management of soil contamination, the development of models for climate adaptation and the planning of construction projects. Mst.dk / [Read more](#)

FRANCE: CHEMICAL RISKS AT SEA - CEDRE INFORMATION DAY, 21ST MARCH 2024, IN PARIS.



February 9 - Although accidents involving chemical tankers have so far been fewer than those involving petroleum products, it is a safe bet that their occurrence will increase in view of the decarbonisation imposed on players in the maritime world. This sector is currently undergoing major upheavals aimed at significantly reducing the carbon footprint of ships. Propulsion methods are at the heart of the problem. Ammonia, LNG, methanol, ethanol and lithium-ion batteries are on the list of new propulsion energies that will eventually be used by ships to replace traditional heavy fuel oil. The environmental and operational consequences of their accidental release into the environment should therefore prompt us to carefully assess these risks and the means of dealing with these pollutants.

In this context, Cedre's strategic committee has chosen to address the issue of the transport of chemicals at sea from the point of view, on the one hand, of their associated risks and, on the other hand, of the development of scientific and technical knowledge in this field. Cedre has invited a panel of representative speakers (energy producers, maritime operators, maritime institutions, port operators, emergency actors) to illustrate this information day through the prism of prevention, regulation and intervention. CEDRE / [Read more, view programme and register](#)

IRELAND: EPA'S REVIEW OF 2023 SHOWCASES WORK TO ADDRESS ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES

January 31 - In its [2023 Highlights](#) the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) showcases its work in addressing environmental challenges across Ireland. Publishing the review, EPA Director General, Laura Burke said: "2023 marked the thirtieth anniversary of the EPA's establishment. While our remit has grown, the core of what we do remains the same – we regulate activities that have the potential for significant pollution. We produce timely, reliable, trustworthy data on Ireland's environment. And we work with others to protect and preserve our environment. EPA / [Read more](#)

UK: NATURE RECOVERY TO BE ACCELERATED AS THE GOVERNMENT DELIVERS ON MEASURES TO PROTECT LAND AND SEA



January 31 - Puffins, porpoises, and pine martens are just some of the species set to benefit from new measures set out by the Government today (31 January) to boost nature recovery on land and at sea.

The new plans - announced one year on from the launch of the Environmental Improvement Plan – will see a permanent closure of the sandeel fisheries in English waters of the North Sea from April, further targeted restrictions on damaging bottom trawling and a new framework for national parks and protected areas to help them better deliver for nature. UK Govt. / [Read more](#)

UK: UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION MEMBER HAS BEEN WORKING WITH PLANET AWARE ON THE ISLE OF WIGHT

February 6 – Planet Aware (PA), a local voluntary Community Action Group based on the Isle of Wight (IoW), were "thrilled" by the attendance at their presentation and demonstration around plastic pellet (a form of microplastic) pollution, which took place on Friday 26 January at Seely Hall in Brook and Compton Bay. This was in partnership with environmental consultant and pollution response organisation Oracle Environmental Experts (OEE). The aims were to raise awareness on nurdle pollution, to gain support from local and national government, to draw attention to ways of tackling this unrelenting issue to ensure plastic pellet pollution is on the IoW and UK agenda.

IoW MP Bob Seely, alongside representatives from organisations such as the National Trust, Crown Estates, Maritime and Coastguard Agency, Visit IoW, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust, and local councillors and parliamentary candidates from all parties, participated in this initiative. Bob Seely MP, when asked about plastic pellet pollution, stated: "I hadn't noticed these horrible plastic balls before, they are all along the high water mark and are a big problem. They are endemic. What can we do about them?". During the afternoon, Bob also committed to bringing up the issue in Parliament. UK & Ireland Spill Association / [Read more](#)



UK: ANALYSING THE DETAIL IN DATABASE HELPS CREATES A SAFER PIPELINE NETWORK

February 2 - A recent report from UKOPA's Fault & Risk Working Group highlights the pipeline and product loss incident data from onshore Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHPs), operated by the UK's leading pipeline operators. The collaborative report covers reported incidents where there was an unintentional loss of product from a pipeline within public areas rather than active compounds or other operational areas.

The top-line findings show a positive trend and a decrease in incidents along the pipeline network, with data from 1962 to 2021 showing 0.197 incidents per 1000 km years, which is lower than the previous report covering the period from 1962 to 2020 (0.201 incidents per 1000 km years).

The overall trend continues to show a gradual reduction in failure frequency, with figures showing that for the last five years the failure frequency is 0.076 incidents per 1000 km years, whilst in the previous report this figure was 0.077 incidents per 1000 km years (covering the five year period up to the end of 2020). UKOPA / [Read more](#)

UKRAINE: NUCLEAR POWER PLANT UPDATE

February 8 - The head of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) this week undertook his fourth visit to the beleaguered Zaporizhzhya Nuclear Power Plant (ZNPP) in southern Ukraine, his office said on Thursday. Director General Rafael Mariano Grossi took stock of the safety and security situation at the plant as part of ongoing efforts to help prevent a nuclear accident during the ongoing war. UN / [Read more](#)

USA : LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OA&A

February 5 – Please click on the links below to read the latest news.

NOAA Participates in Caribbean Regional Response Team Meeting to Support Emergency Preparedness

On January 23-25, the Caribbean Regional Response Team (CRRT) meeting took place in Puerto Rico. The CRRT serves as the regional body for planning and preparedness activities before a response to an oil or hazardous substance incident is taken, and for coordination and advice during response actions. Participants include the Environmental Protection Agency, U.S. Coast Guard, NOAA, Federal Emergency Management Agency, and agencies from Puerto Rico and the U.S.

International Experts Reconvene to Develop an Ecological Risk Assessment Framework for Microplastics in the Great Lakes

Building from the [first workshop](#) held in September 2023, the International Joint Commission's Microplastics Monitoring and Risk Assessment Working Group reconvened with interdisciplinary experts in Windsor, Ontario, Canada from January 17-18, 2024. OR&R's Research Coordinator Carlie Herring and Great Lakes Regional Coordinator Haley Dalian, within NOAA's Marine Debris Program, once again participated in this effort.

OR&R Charts a Path for Remote Sensing Research and Applications

On January 9-10, more than 30 OR&R researchers and users of remote sensing products met at NOAA's Western Regional Center in Seattle to outline operational applications in support of OR&R's mission spectrum and to chart a near-term research path on the topic of remote sensing and uncrewed aerial systems (UAS).

OR&R Joins Workshop on the Social Cost of Plastic Pollution

The NOAA Marine Debris Program's (MDP) Chief Scientist, Amy V. Uhrin, and Research Coordinator, Carlie Herring, attended Duke University's Workshop on the Social Cost of Plastic Pollution held January 26 in Washington D.C. The workshop brought together a small group of experts, with expertise in climate economics, the social cost of carbon, environmental justice, and plastic pollution to discuss the feasibility of measuring the social cost of plastic, and to propose a research agenda moving forward.

USA: YEARS AFTER RED HILL SPILL, RESIDENTS REPORT PETROLEUM IN TAPWATER

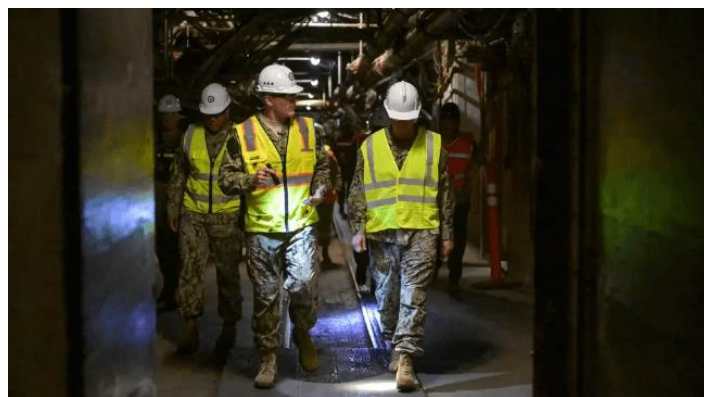


Photo - Vice Adm. John Wade, Commander, Joint Task Force-Red Hill (JTF-RH), escorts Vice Adm. Scott Gray, Commander, Navy Installations Command, during a visit to the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage Facility (Photo courtesy of USN)

February 6 - The U.S. Navy is getting close to emptying the last pipes of the Red Hill Bulk Fuel Storage facility, but dealing with its environmental legacy may take longer. Years after the fuel spill that contaminated the drinking water supply for servicemembers and family members at Joint Base Pearl Harbor, the Navy still faces ongoing complaints of petroleum in the base's tapwater. A new class action lawsuit brought by 2,200 residents contends that

the contamination has not stopped, and that the Navy has still not done enough to protect servicemembers.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: EPA TO REVIEW EFFECTIVENESS OF CLEANUPS AT 14 PRIVATELY-OWNED CALIFORNIA SUPERFUND SITES IN 2024

February 8 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will perform comprehensive five-year reviews this year of 14 National Priorities List Superfund privately-owned sites in California where cleanup remedies have been implemented. The sites will undergo a legally required review to ensure that previous remediation efforts continue to protect public health and the environment. Once the five-year reviews are complete, the findings will be posted to each Superfund site's web page. "Reviewing the cleanup work that has occurred at these Superfund sites across California is critical to ensuring that public health and the environment are protected," said EPA Pacific Southwest Superfund and Emergency Management Division Director Mike Montgomery. EPA / [Read more](#)

USA: RESPONDERS CONDUCT SUCCESSFUL POLLUTION TRAINING, SUPPORTING GUAM'S SPILL RESPONSE READINESS

February 9 - Responders and the U.S. Coast Guard held a three-day oil spill response certification course required under the Code of Federal Regulations for First Responder Operations Level Training given at Cabras Marine Guam from Jan. 17 - 19, 2024, focused on operational requirements for responding to pollution spills, particularly with oil spill recovery organizations. USCG / [Read more](#)

VIRGIN ISLANDS:

Twenty-two public officers and partners attended a marine pollution training and table top exercise designed to test and strengthen the Virgin Islands Oil Spill Contingency Plan.

Director of Disaster Management Mr. Jasen Penn said the training exercise allowed Virgin Islands responders to work together and talk through how they would coordinate, prioritise, and execute a complex marine response. BVI.gov / [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.

28. Effects of petrogenic pollutants on North Atlantic and Arctic Calanus copepods: From molecular mechanisms to population impacts

Hansen B.H., Tarrant A.M., Lenz P.H., Roncalli V., Almeda R., Broch O.J., Altin D., Tollefsen K.E.
(2024) Aquatic Toxicology, 267, art. no. 106825,
DOI: 10.1016/j.aquatox.2023.106825

ABSTRACT: Oil and gas industries in the Northern Atlantic Ocean have gradually moved closer to the Arctic areas, a process expected to be further facilitated by sea ice withdrawal caused by global warming. Copepods of the genus *Calanus* hold a key position in these cold-water food webs, providing an important energetic link between primary production and higher trophic levels. Due to their ecological importance, there is a concern about how accidental oil spills and produced water discharges may impact cold-water copepods. In this review, we summarize the current knowledge of the toxicity of petroleum on North Atlantic and Arctic *Calanus* copepods. We also review how recent development of high-quality transcriptomes from RNA-sequencing of copepods have identified genes regulating key biological processes, like molting, diapause and reproduction in *Calanus* copepods, to suggest linkages between exposure, molecular mechanisms and effects on higher levels of biological organization. We found that the available ecotoxicity threshold data for these copepods provide valuable information about their sensitivity to acute petrogenic exposures; however, there is still insufficient knowledge regarding underlying mechanisms of toxicity and the potential for long-term implications of relevance for copepod ecology and phenology. Copepod transcriptomics has expanded our understanding of how key biological processes are regulated in cold-water copepods. These advances can improve our understanding of how pollutants affect biological processes, and thus provide the basis for new knowledge frameworks spanning the effect continuum from molecular initiating events to adverse effects of regulatory relevance. Such efforts, guided by concepts such as adverse outcome pathways (AOPs), enable standardized and transparent characterization and evaluation of knowledge and identifies research gaps and priorities. This review suggests enhancing mechanistic understanding of exposure-effect relationships to better understand and link biomarker responses to adverse effects to improve risk assessments assessing ecological effects of pollutant mixtures, like crude oil, in Arctic areas.

29. Environmental effects from petroleum product transportation spillage in Nigeria: a critical review

George I.I., Nawawi M.G.M., Mohd Z.J., Farah B.S.
(2024) Environmental science and pollution research international, 31 (2), pp. 1719 - 1747
DOI: 10.1007/s11356-023-31117-z

ABSTRACT: Nigeria has struggled to meet sustainable development goals (SDGs) on environmental sustainability, transportation, and petroleum product distribution for decades, endangering human and ecological health. Petroleum product spills contaminate soil,

water, and air, harming humans, aquatic life, and biodiversity. The oil and gas industry contributes to environmental sustainability and scientific and technological advancement through its supply chain activities in the transport and logistics sectors. This paper reviewed the effects of petroleum product transportation at three accident hotspots on Nigeria highway, where traffic and accident records are alarming due to the road axis connecting the southern and northern regions of the country. The preliminary data was statistically analysed to optimise the review process and reduce risk factors through ongoing data monitoring. Studies on Nigeria's petroleum product transportation spills and environmental impacts between the years 2013 and 2023 were critically analysed to generate updated information. The searches include Scopus, PubMed, and Google Scholar. Five hundred and forty peer-reviewed studies were analysed, and recommendations were established through the conclusions. The findings show that petroleum product transport causes heavy metal deposition in the environment as heavy metals damage aquatic life and build up in the food chain, posing a health risk to humans. The study revealed that petroleum product spills have far-reaching environmental repercussions and, therefore, recommended that petroleum product spills must be mitigated immediately. Furthermore, the study revealed that better spill response and stricter legislation are needed to reduce spills, while remediation is necessary to lessen the effects of spills on environmental and human health.

30. Do distributions of diamondoid hydrocarbons accumulated in oil-contaminated fish tissues help to identify the sources of oil?

Scarlett A.G., Spilsbury F.D., Rowland S.J., Gagnon M.M., Grice K.
(2024) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 198, art. no. 115836,
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.115836

ABSTRACT: Identifying the sources of environmental oil contamination can be challenging, especially for oil in motile organisms such as fish. Lipophilic hydrocarbons from oil can bioaccumulate in fish adipose tissue and potentially provide a forensic “fingerprint” of the original oil. Herein, diamondoid hydrocarbon distributions were employed to provide such fingerprints. Indices produced from diamondoids were used to compare extracts from fish adipose tissues and the crude and fuel oils to which the fish were exposed under laboratory conditions. A suite of 20 diamondoids was found to have bioaccumulated in the dietary-exposed fish. Cross-plots of indices between fish and exposure oils were close to the ideal 1:1 relationship. Comparisons with diamondoid distributions of non-exposure oils produced overall, but not exclusively, weaker correlations. Linear Discriminatory Analysis on a combined set of 15 diamondoid and bicyclic molecular ratios was able to identify the exposure oils, so a use of both compound classes is preferable.

31. The role of habitat heterogeneity and timescales on the recovery of reef epifaunal communities affected by a massive oil spill in the tropics,

Rosa Filho J.S., Alves R.V.A., Santos I.T., Oliveira M.A., Frédou F.L., Craveiro N.
(2024) *Marine Pollution Bulletin*, 199, art. no. 116001
DOI: 10.1016/j.marpolbul.2023.116001

ABSTRACT: From August 2019 to January 2020 the Brazilian Coast was impacted by the largest oil spill in the Tropical oceans ever since. Paiva Beach, one of the most preserved sandy beaches in the northeast tropical Brazilian coast, was among the most affected regions by the oil spill in October 2019. This area has important reef systems that harbor abundant macroalgal assemblages with very diverse epifaunal communities. The present study aims to evaluate the impacts of the 2019 oil spill on epifauna associated with the seaweed species *Jania capillacea* and *Penicillus capitatus* collected in Paiva Beach from July 2019 to October 2022, and use the interaction macroalgae/epifauna/timescale as a proxy to quantify the effects of oil spills on communities structure and recovery. The epifauna of both algae did not suffer severe changes in abundance immediately after the spill, however, the abundance of taxa like echinoderms, sea spiders (Pycnogonida) and peracarid crustaceans dropped during or soon after the event, whereas others, like sabellid worms, had strong increase in abundance, possibly related to the spill. Both phytal assemblages also had distinct temporal patterns in species diversity and abundance, the last being strongly correlated to amphipod abundance for some taxa. The epifauna of *J. capillacea* had a short-term tendency of decrease in taxonomic diversity, whereas the epifaunal communities of *P. capitatus* gained a few taxa in the months immediately after the disaster. The diversity profiles of both communities returned to pre-spill conditions a few months later, with a slower abundance recovery in *J. capillacea*. Local environmental characteristics like landscape heterogeneity, connectivity with other environments, and critical-species (mainly amphipods) were possibly the main buffering factors for the phytal communities after the oil spill.

32. Monk seals (*Monachus monachus*) in the Mediterranean Sea: The threat of organochlorine contaminants and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons

Capanni F., Karamanlidis A.A., Dendrinis P., Zaccaroni A., Formigaro C., D'Agostino A., Marsili L.
(2024) *Science of the Total Environment*, 915, art. no. 169854
DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.169854

ABSTRACT: The Mediterranean monk seal (*Monachus monachus*) is an emblematic species of conservation concern. Anthropogenic pressures have led to severe population declines and significant fragmentation of the remaining populations. Because of their close relationship with coastal areas, Mediterranean monk seals may be potentially exposed to pollution from agricultural sources, as well as from oil tanker spills. Although monitoring of pollution has long been considered a priority for this species, data on monk seal contamination levels are scarce. In this study, 55 blubber samples of all genders and age classes collected during necropsies (1995–2013) from seals of the Eastern Mediterranean subpopulation were analyzed for organochlorine compounds (OCs), i.e., hexachlorobenzene (HCB), polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dichlorodiphenyltrichloroethane (DDTs), and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs). Overall, PCBs > DDTs >> PAHs > HCB in all samples. Results showed a significant downward trend over the 19-year period for DDTs and HCB. No marked pattern was found for PAHs, even though relative abundance of cancerogenic PAH fraction rose in recent years. PCB levels in subadult specimens increased noticeably over time despite worldwide ban. Our findings did not suggest recent releases of DDT or new pesticides (e.g., Dicofol) in the environment, but may indicate an improper disposal of ancient storages of PCBs or a remobilization from reservoirs. OC levels exceeded thresholds that are commonly associated with immunosuppression and reproductive impairment in other pinnipeds. Hence, OCs could be responsible of potential toxicological effects in this subpopulation. This study represents the first report on PAH and one of the few reports on OC bioaccumulation in Mediterranean monk seals. Based on the levels found in the blubber of monk seals from the Eastern Mediterranean, and given the known harmful effects associated to the prolonged exposure to these substances and the reduced long-term expectations of species recovery, regular monitoring is advocated.

33. 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⁻¹. 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.

34. Rapid permafrost thaw under buried oil pipeline and effective solution using a novel mitigative technique based on field and laboratory results

Cao Y., Ma W., Li G., Gao K., Li C., Chen D., Shang Y., Wei X., Chen Z., Wu G., Chen P., Bai L., Tang L., Jia H., Yue J.
(2024) *Cold Regions Science and Technology*, 219, art. no. 104119,
DOI: 10.1016/j.coldregions.2023.10411

ABSTRACT: The China–Russia crude oil pipeline (CRCOP) has been in operation for over 10 years. In order to obtain the necessary data for pipeline research and provide real-time warning for pipeline operation, an in-situ composite monitoring system of pipeline–permafrost interaction along the CRCOP was established. Monitoring results has shown that a thaw bulb develops around the CRCOP, urging consolidation in strongly thawed segments. The key to maintaining the stability of warm-oil pipelines buried in permafrost is to mitigate permafrost thaw and keep the differential settlement of the pipeline in its allowable strain range. To maintain the stability of CRCOP, a novel technique is proposed to mitigate thaw settlement of underlying permafrost, preventing pipeline failure and oil spills and in turn environmental disaster. Its cooling performance is evaluated based on indoor model testing platform using in-situ monitoring data including oil temperature, ground temperature and air temperature. The initiation and development of a thaw bulb was observed around the CRCOP, urging consolidation in strongly thawed segments. Additionally, an indoor model test is conducted to verify the cooling effect of a U-shaped air ventilation duct (U-AVD). The results show that the U-AVD is conducive to mitigating

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

permafrost thaw and removing the thaw bulb around the buried pipeline in the cold season. The findings in this article can provide a reference for studies on the CRCOP and other pipeline engineering in permafrost regions

35. Evaluation of human error in oil spill risk in tanker cargo handling operations

Aydin M., Kamal B., Çakır E.

(2024) Environmental science and pollution research international, 31 (3), pp. 3995 - 4011

DOI: 10.1007/s11356-023-31402-x

ABSTRACT: Cargo handling operations on board tankers pose a significant threat to the cleanliness and health of the ocean ecosystem. Incidents originating from these operations are often attributed to human error, as widely acknowledged. Therefore, it is crucial to control the human factor involved in these operations to enhance ship safety and foster a sustainable, clean marine environment. To tackle this problem, this paper presents a novel model that identifies the causal factors behind oil spills resulting from crew failure in these operations. To attain this, fuzzy Bayesian network (FBN) approach is used in this study to analyse the probabilistic correlations among the causal elements that are disclosed qualitatively and quantitatively. Sensitivity analyses and validation procedures are carried out to enhance the accuracy of results. Eliminating errors in cargo calculation is of paramount importance as research has shown that such errors lead to the largest impact on spill during loading and discharging (L&D) operations. The study's findings offer valuable insights into the causes of L&D operation-related spills. Ship management companies, the loss-prevention division of Protection and Indemnity Clubs (P&I), and regulatory bodies may employ the research results to prevent spill repetitions and protect the marine environment

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

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TOXICITY AND BIODEGRADABILITY EVALUATION OF HCHS-POLLUTED SOILS AFTER PERSULFATE REMEDIATION TREATMENTS

This work studies the feasibility of PS processes (PS/T and PS/NaOH/T) for the remediation of HCH-contaminated soils, ensuring the safety of the treated soils. For that purpose, the toxicity changes of HCHs-contaminated soils (including all the phases involved, i.e. soils, organic extracts, reaction supernatants, and soil elutriates) after PS-based treatment are considered using two acute toxicity assays Researchgate / [Read more](#)

ORGANIC MANURE ENHANCED PHYTOREMEDIATION OF CRUDE OIL CONTAMINATED SOILS IN THE NIGER DELTA

This study, examined the effect of two rates of poultry manure (0 and 20 t/ha) remediating 0 and 5% oil in a 2x2x3 factorial, using cowpea (*Vigna unguiculata*) as possible phytoremediation plant. Two weeks after contamination, Total Petroleum Hydrocarbon (TPH) increased significantly ($P<0.05$) from 0.02 mgkg⁻¹ to 125.1 mg/kg-1 and at eight weeks after remediation, TPH reduced from 125.1 mgkg⁻¹ to 91.86 mgkg⁻¹ in the unamended contaminated soil and the poultry manure amended contaminated soil decreased significantly ($P<0.05$) to 73.08 mgkg⁻¹. EA Journals / [Read more](#)

OBITUARY

IN MEMORIAM: MIKHAIL VOYTENKO



With heavy hearts and deep sorrow, we announce the passing of Mikhail Voytenko, who dedicated over a decade to shaping the success and essence of our maritime news website.

Mikhail joined FleetMon (acquired by Kpler in 2023) in 2012, a few years after its founding, and from the outset, his passion for maritime incidents and their investigations became the driving force behind our success. He was instrumental in transforming our website into a leading source of maritime news, setting the bar for rapidity and relevance in the field of investigative journalism in shipping.

We will remember Mikhail as an inexhaustible journalist and expert

OBITUARY (CONTINUED)

and expert within the maritime community. As we bid farewell to a remarkable colleague and friend, we extend our gratitude to Mikhail for his tireless efforts, unwavering passion, and significant impact on creating transparency about the incidents and accidents that happen on the seven seas day by day. Fair winds and following seas, Mikhail. Fleetmon / [Read the complete text of this obituary](#)

Note from Editor of the ISCO newsletter – My thanks to Dr Conor Bolas of ITOPF for writing to bring this sad news to my attention. For a very long time Mikhail has recorded worldwide marine incidents and I am very grateful that he allowed me to use many of his reports in the Incident Reports section of this newsletter. As Conor wrote “his website was great for his insights, incident updates and alternative views”. I shall very much receiving his news and interesting comments. John McMurtrie

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

SALVOR RESOLVE ALASKA EXPANDS TO MEET CLIENTS' NEEDS "UPSTREAM"

Resolve Marine is known for its prowess in solving complex salvage jobs, like the raising of the Costa Concordia or the response to the Deepwater Horizon spill. But in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska, it's known for a lot more. To learn about how Resolve's business has evolved to meet the needs of customers in this region, TME spoke with A.W. McAfee, Resolve's West Coast Regional Manager. The Maritime Executive / [Read more about Resolve Marine's expanded service and support portfolio in Alaska and NW Pacific](#)

"SIX POLLUTION PREVENTION QUESTIONS INSPECTORS MAY ASK" - HALEN HARDY ANNOUNCE FEBRUARY WEBINAR



Save the date! Join us on February 28, 2024, at 10 AM as we delve into the six most important pollution prevention questions that inspectors might throw your way. Reserve your spot now and get ready for a successful journey towards compliance!

Overview - The EPA encourages facilities to look for opportunities to prevent pollution instead of responding to incidents and to elaborate on their efforts in plans. During NPDES inspections, inspectors may review a facility's waste stream generation and their pollution prevention strategies.

We'll cover - Identifying pollution prevention inquiries that present opportunities for enhancement. The reasons behind the EPA's focus on Pollution Prevention Opportunities. EPA's Waste Management Hierarchy and its Implications

Live Q&A - Our team of experts will be available during the webinar, prepared to address any questions you may have. We encourage you to take part in the discussion.

Featured Speaker - Karen D. Hamel CSP, CIT, WACH, Regulatory Expert & Trainer. Karen is a regulatory expert and trainer with more than 26 years of experience helping EHS professionals find solutions to meet regulations and industry standards.

Karen is a Certified Safety Professional (CSP), Certified Instructional Trainer (CIT), Walkway Auditor Certificate Holder (WACH), OSHA-Authorized Outreach Trainer for General Industry, Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) Trainer and Hazmat Technician. She serves on the Blair County, PA LEPC. HalenHardy / [Read more and register](#)

INTERESTING NEW PRODUCT

SALA ROLL PUMP - HIGH VISCOUS AND DEBRIS LADEN LIQUID HANDLING



INTERESTING NEW PRODUCT (CONTINUED)

Salarollpump clean up system for oil and chemicals is a unique patented system designed for response, recovery and cleanup of oil spills, chemical spills and other debris laden liquids. Tank cleaning and transfer pumping is another area of use for the Salarollpump system. The extremely strong suction (vacuum) and the debris tolerance of 37 mm (1 ½”) solids makes it suitable for pumping debris laden viscous oil. The high discharge pressure makes it possible for liquids to flow through a long distance of hose. The combination of handling weight and portability enables the user to deploy the system in remote areas. Salarollpump / [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-ems-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/12ErXbQNGaNK08lQrkPeg62v/wv>

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

FEBRUARY 2024

- **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**

MARCH 2024 AND ONWARDS

- **PORTUGAL – Economist – “11th Annual World Ocean Summit & Expo”, Lisbon, 11-13 March 2024**
- **USA – Conference & Exhibition – Clean Waterways – April 9-11, Cincinnati, Ohio**
- **TUNISIA – MOIG TRAINING COURSE – IMO Level 3, 22-25 April 2024, South Hammamet**
- **USA – Intrnational Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition, 13-16 May 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana**

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

- USA – AHMP – EHS HAZMAT SUMMIT, 14-17 July, 2024, Kansas City, Missouri
- 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 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
- 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 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.

[DISCOUNTS](#) [PRELIMINARY AGENDA](#)

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

Click on links for more info – **NEW !** [VIEW THE COMPLETE PROGRAM](#) [FILM FESTIVAL & PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST](#)

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](#)

[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

UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

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](#)

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 at CLEAN GULF. Abstracts are due by **March 1, 2024**. [More info about submitting abstracts](#).

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/>

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 professionals 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/>

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

TO VIEW LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS PLEASE CLICK ON <https://spillcontrol.org/2021/10/19/links-for-downloading-and-reading-other-publications/>

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

NEW PUBLICATIONS

EMSA - STUDY ON SAFE BUNKERING WITH BIOFUELS

As the maritime industry moves towards greater sustainability, biofuels have emerged as a possible option for decarbonising the deep-sea sector of the global fleet.

However, even though neat biofuel and biofuel blends are currently bunkered in shipping, the safety aspects of these fuels have not been widely studied or understood.

In 2022, EMSA released [an updated study on the potential of biofuels in shipping](#), which identified a selection of biofuels as the most promising for maritime operations. These biofuels include bio-methanol, bio-FT-diesel, bio-DME, HVO, and FAME and relevant blends.

Now, EMSA has published the first part of a study on the safety aspect of bunkering with biofuels, providing a comprehensive analysis of a pre-selection of biofuels in terms of safety aspects like flashpoint, toxicity, and cold-flow properties, among others. The study looks at how those aspects can raise safety concerns during bunkering operations in a preliminary hazard identification.

The study also examines practices in other industries that may be applicable to the maritime sector and reviews the status of development of regulations for maritime use, specifically considering conventional bunkering arrangements.

Forthcoming reports in this series will build on the conclusions of HAZID workshops to draw up a guidance and safety checklists for the bunkering of these fuels, including comparison with conventional fuels.

Download the first part of the **Study on the Safe Bunkering with Biofuels (bio-methanol, FT-diesel, DME, HVO and FAME)** using this link [📄 EMSA Safe Bunkering of Biofuels - Part 1.pdf](#)

INCIDENT REPORTS

USA: MICHIGAN - 3K GALLONS OF OIL RECOVERED FROM MICHIGAN TRUCKING FIRM SPILL

January 31 - Federal regulators say they have recovered more than 3,000 gallons of oil and counting after the material escaped a Saginaw County truck yard. Mlive / [Read more](#)

BRAZIL: OIL SPILL OFF BRAZIL SPARKS HUNT FOR PANAMA-FLAG TANKER

February 5 - Brazil is seeking further information over an alleged oil spill from a tanker off its northern coast in September. The executive secretary of the country's environment ministry, Joao Paulo Capobianco, told reporters the government wants more details on the incident, Reuters reported. He said early indications were that the spill was located in international waters, although the information needed to be corroborated. Non-governmental organisation Arayara Institute has said satellite images showed a 170 square-kilometre slick. Tradewinds / [Read more](#)

GERMANY: BARGE CARRYING SALT SINKS CAUSING ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS FOR HAMBURG

February 6 - The Port of Hamburg and emergency services are responding to the sinking of an inland barge this morning, February 6, while moored at one of the port's terminals. Officials are reporting that there was no immediate environmental hazard but they are discussing the salvage of the vessel to prevent damage to the Elbe and surrounding area.

According to local media reports, the barge Alster was docked overnight at the Kalikai terminal. The vessel is approximately 263 feet (80 meters) long and was loaded with 1,400 tons of potassium chloride. The salt is commonly used in the production of fertilizer.

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

The vessel also had 3,500 liters of diesel fuel aboard. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)



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INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

SYRIA: OIL SLICKS BLAMED ON TURKISH STRIKES BLIGHT NORTHEAST SYRIA RIVER

February 7 - Farmer Nizar al-Awwad has stopped irrigating his land in northeast Syria from a local river polluted by an oil spill that residents and officials in the Kurdish-held area blame on Turkish strikes. "All the farmers in the area have stopped using the river for irrigation," said Awwad, 30, from a village near Tal Brak, in Hasakeh province.

Oil pollution has been a growing concern in Syria since the 2011 onset of civil war, which has taken a toll on infrastructure and seen rival powers compete over the control of energy resources. France 24 / [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: TOBAGO MAY NEED INTERNATIONAL HELP AFTER OIL SPILL

February 8 - THA Chief Secretary Farley Augustine says there is a strong possibility Tobago may need international assistance to address the environmental fallout from an oil spill caused by a boat found overturned on Wednesday in the sea about 200 metres off the coast of the Cove Eco Industrial Park.

Thick oil blackened the shorelines of several coastal villages, including Petit Trou beach, Lambeau, Lowlands, near the Magdalena Beach & Golf Resort and along the Scarborough waterfront, Milford Road. There are reports the oil has seeped into waters as far east as Roxborough. Newsday / [Read more](#) February 9 - [Related Report in YouTube](#) [Thanks to Matthew Sommerville Hon.FISCO]

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