



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

FROM IOPC FUNDS - THE POTENTIAL IMPACT OF SANCTIONS ON THE INTERNATIONAL LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION REGIME

Note from your editor – “This note from the IOPC Funds Secretariat cannot easily be summarised. Concerned ISCO Members and Readers are recommended to carefully read the complete text at - https://documentservices.iopcfunds.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2024/03/IOPC-APR24-4-1_e.pdf

It's all concerned with what has been described as the growth of what is described as Russia's “dark fleet”, which includes many aged oil tankers that may not be well maintained and pose a significant threat of causing very serious pollution. There are also concerns that there are potential problems with insurance policies that may be ineffective against clean-up costs of major oil pollution events.

In case you missed it an article in last weeks Financial Times revealed that “dark fleet” oil tankers that do not comply with international sanctions and rules may not be covered by valid disaster insurance.

In last week's ISCO news I printed a short excerpt from the FT article and provided a link for you to read the article in its entirety but unfortunately the link only gave you the option to take out a paid subscription if you wanted to read the article.

However another journal – “Insurance Business Magazine” – has since published a news story that covers much of the content of the FT article and I recommend that you read it by clicking on <https://www.insurancebusinessmag.com/asia/news/breaking-news/did-general-partowned-company-offer-worthless-marine-insurance-481574.aspx>

This article opens “Leaked documents have unveiled that Russian oil tankers are sidestepping Western sanctions by using insurance policies that are nearly impossible to claim against - showcasing the risky tactics of Moscow's secret maritime operations”. The matter has very serious implications and it will be very interesting to find out how it develops”.

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

85% OF SHIP ENGINES ORDERED IN 2030 LIKELY TO BE DUAL-FUELED: MAN SINGAPORE

MAN Energy Solutions expects the order book for dual-fuel engines to ratchet, with around 85% of all ship engines ordered in 2030 to be dual-powered, as the global shipping industry speeds up maritime decarbonization efforts, its Singapore Managing Director Nicolas Brabeck said.

The 2030 estimates compare to just around 35% dual-fuel engines ordered in 2021 and 56% in 2022, Brabeck told S&P Global Commodity Insights in an interview. Hellenic Shipping News / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

ISCO CHAIR, RUPERT BRAVERY, ADVISES ON PROGRESS TOWARDS COMPLETION OF ISCO TRANSITION

At the online meeting of the ISCO Council on Thursday 21st March, Rupert Bravery announced that ISCO is making excellent progress towards completion of its transition to becoming a Company Limited by Guarantee.

This will mark the end of a long and difficult journey. Your editor awaits a special article about the transition – why it was necessary, how it was achieved and the benefits that will follow from the change. It is hoped that a further update can be released in next week's newsletter.

ISCO REPRESENTED ON PANEL OF JUDGES AT 2024 ASIA SAFETY AND HEALTH WORLD SPILL CONTROL AWARD

ISCO Council Member, Mr Wu Yue and Mr John A. Wardrop, Hon.FISCO will be on the Panel of Judges at the awards ceremony being held in Singapore on 5th September 2024.

The Spill Control Award will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

- Risk assessment and management of oil and chemical spills
- Monitoring and reporting of oil and chemical spills
- Emergency plans and response for oil and chemical spills
- Cleanup and restoration of oil and chemical spills
- Innovative technologies and solutions for oil and chemical spills
- Education and training on oil and chemical spills
- Social responsibility and public engagement in oil and chemical spills

NEWS FOR ISCO STUDENT MEMBERS

SA YOUNG SCIENTISTS TO SHOWCASE RESEARCH AT TUNISIA SCIENCE FESTIVAL

Innovative South African research which includes a cost-effective triage test for real-time detection of Tuberculosis (TB) and a nature-based technology that brings about environmental remediation, will be showcased at this year's International Festival of Engineering, Science and Technology in Tunisia (I-FEST2).

Smedmor, a Silver medal recipient at last year's Eskom Expo ISF, utilised four different fuel cells as a nature-based technology to bring about environmental remediation while producing energy. The Spekboom Microbial Fuel Cells generated enough current for low-voltage remote monitoring devices. Monitoring plays a crucial role in environmental management activities. In this regard, Microbial Fuel Cells can be effectively used to self-power sensors and electronic systems.

This year's I-FEST2 will be held in Mahdia, Tunisia, and is organised by the Tunisian Association for the Future of Science and Technology. The programme is designed to offer a one-of-a-kind, educational, and enjoyable experience, featuring a range of activities and opportunities for new discoveries. Registration to take part in Eskom Expo is open. Learners in grades 4 to 12, along with TVET college learners (NC2 to NC4) can register their research projects by visiting www.exposcience.co.za.

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

NORTH AMERICA: CANADIAN AND UNITED STATES COAST GUARDS RECOMMIT TO CLOSE PARTNERSHIP ON GREAT LAKES AND ST. LAWRENCE RIVER DURING MINISTER LEBOUTHILLIER'S U.S. VISIT

The Honourable Diane Lebouthillier, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans, and the Canadian Coast Guard, met today with Commandant Admiral Linda L. Fagan at the United States Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, D.C., to discuss the close partnership between the two coast guards on maritime safety and protection. This visit comes on the heels of the Canadian and United States Coast Guards signing an updated Memorandum of Understanding on February 15, 2024, renewing the two organizations' coordination of icebreaking and buoy tending operations on the Great Lakes, connecting waterways, and the shared portion of the St. Lawrence River.

The Canadian and United States Coast Guards share a long history of collaboration on the Great Lakes and St. Lawrence River. These inland waters are vital to both countries' supply chains and economies, and both coast guards play a key role in ensuring safe and efficient transit across this freshwater region. This shared area of responsibility extends along the Canada-United States border, from the St. Lawrence River to the western point of Lake Superior – a distance of approximately 2,400 kilometers.

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

NORTH AMERICA: REPORT REVEALS ELK VALLEY'S \$6.4 BILLION WATER POLLUTION PROBLEM

A new [Wildsight-commissioned report](#) has revealed it will cost at least \$6.4 billion to reverse rising selenium concentrations in Canadian and United States waterways due to toxic runoff from British Columbia's Elk Valley coal mines. Selenium contamination from the Teck-owned mines has been a topic of increasing concern over the past decade, with concentrations consistently breaching both B.C. and Montana's water quality standards. The Transboundary Ktunaxa have consistently called for greater protections and remediation in these waterways, with limited success. Their efforts were rewarded recently with [the announcement of an investigation](#) into the selenium issue by the International Joint Commission. Wildsight / [Read more](#)

EUROPE: NEW PROCUREMENT PROCEDURE FOR OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSELS

To strengthen its response capacity network EMSA announces the launch of a procurement procedure to contract a new stand-by oil spill recovery vessels in the following areas:

- Lot 1 - Black Sea South.
- Lot 2 - Canary Islands and Madeira.

More details are provided in the procurement section: [Procurement - EMSA - European Maritime Safety Agency \(europa.eu\)](#)

BALTIC: HELCOM'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY: STELLAR LINEUP OF SPEAKERS UNVEILED

Joining the distinguished roster of speakers for the commencement of [HELCOM's 50th anniversary celebrations](#) in Riga, Latvia on 25 April 2024 are:

- **Pekka Haavisto**, Member of the Parliament of Finland.
- **Karen Ellemann**, Secretary General of the Nordic Council of Ministers.
- **Leena Ylä-Mononen**, Executive Director of the European Environment Agency.
- **Alan Haynie**, General Secretary of the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea.

Hosted by Latvia, which currently holds the Chairmanship of HELCOM, the event will be opened by the Ministers of the Environment of Latvia and Finland, **Inga Bērziņa** and **Kai Mykkänen**. You can also participate in the festive event online by [registering here \(provided link\)](#). The event will take place on Thursday 25 April 2024, from 14:30 to 18:45 (CET). HELCOM / [Read more](#)


NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA: FRUSTRATED WITH CANADA'S SPILL RESPONSE, HEILTSUK LEADERS TAKE THEIR FIGHT INTERNATIONAL

March 20 - In the lasting aftermath of the Nathan E. Stewart spill off coastal B.C., Heiltsuk leaders embark on a mission to reshape maritime law, advocating for recognition of cultural losses and justice for their community. The Narwhal / [Read more](#)

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CANADA: MINISTER GUILBEAULT TO MAKE AN ANNOUNCEMENT TO SUPPORT THE CONSERVATION AND IMPROVEMENT OF THE ST. LAWRENCE ECOSYSTEM

March 21 - Media representatives and others are advised that the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, will make an announcement to support the conservation and improvement of the St. Lawrence ecosystem. He will be joined by Sophie Lemire, Executive Director, Comité ZIP des Seigneuries; Théo Allart, Environmental Project Manager, Abenaki Council of Odanak; and Pascale Bilodeau, Project Coordinator, Comité ZIP du Haut Saint-Laurent. Following the announcement, Minister Guilbeault will hold a media availability.
Canada.ca / [Read more](#)

CHINA: 2024 ASIA SAFETY AND HEALTH WORLD AWARDS: FOCUSING ON SPILL CONTROL AWARD

March 9 - In September 2024, the 5th Asia Safety and Health World Awards (WSHAsia 2024) will be grandly held in Singapore. As the most influential annual event in the occupational safety and health (OSH) field in the Asia-Pacific region, WSHAsia 2024 will recognize individuals and companies that have made outstanding contributions in the OSH field. This year, WSHAsia has specially established the Spill Control Award to focus on outstanding performance in the field of oil and chemical spill emergency response. More info - Spill Control Award: <https://award2024.wshasia.com/categories>

DENMARK: THE DANISH ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY LAUNCHES NEW STRATEGY FOCUSING ON THE OUTSIDE WORLD

March 22 - "It's time to look more outward." This is according to the Danish Environmental Protection Agency's new strategy, which is presented today. The strategy will thus shape the agency's work towards 2027 and will focus on the outside world to a greater extent than before. The relatively short strategy text initially deals with the Environmental Protection Agency's main challenges, where the so-called 'wild' problems are part of the challenge picture. Society is in the midst of and facing a number of large and complex environmental and climate problems that cut across disciplines, legislation and actors, and they often represent different interests and considerations. Mst.dk / [Read more](#)

EGYPT: THE AUTHORITY'S DEVELOPMENT PLAN AND THE CURRENT SITUATION IN THE RED SEA ARE IMPORTANT TOPICS ON THE TABLE OF DISCUSSIONS OF THE TWENTIETH SESSION.

March 18 - The Minister of Environment chairs the work of the twentieth session of the ministerial meeting of the Council of the Regional Authority for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden... Dr. Yasmine Fouad: The Authority's development plan and the current situation in the Red Sea are important topics on the table of discussions of the twentieth session... The Minister of Environment stresses: the importance of intensifying efforts in dealing with marine boats in light of the current events and repeated accidents to confront the crises of marine pollution in the southern Red Sea. EEAA / [Read more](#)

FIJI: IMO TO OPEN REGIONAL OFFICE IN FIJI TO SERVE THE PACIFIC



March 18 - IMO will open its seventh Regional Presence Office, in Suva, Fiji, to serve countries and territories in the Pacific Islands region.

IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez (left) and Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport of Fiji, Hon. Ro Filipe Tuisawau.

IMO Secretary-General Mr. Arsenio Dominguez and the Minister for Public Works, Meteorological Services and Transport of the Republic of Fiji, Honourable Ro Filipe

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

Tuisawau, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) at the IMO Headquarters in London on 18 March, confirming the arrangement. The Regional Presence Office will support the maritime needs and priorities of countries in the Pacific Islands region, aligning IMO actions with national and regional development policies, while providing advice on key maritime issues such as training, safety and security, legislation and marine environment. The Office will facilitate active field-level engagement in the delivery of IMO's technical cooperation framework. IMO / [Read more](#)

INDIA: GLOBAL COAST GUARDS UNITE IN CHENNAI FOR IMO OIL POLLUTION RESPONSE COURSE

March 18 - Participants from Maldives, Cambodia, Mauritius, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, and Indonesia are currently in Chennai, undergoing the IMO Oil Pollution Response Course, hosted by the Indian Coast Guard. This training program is aimed at enhancing the capabilities of friendly foreign countries in handling oil pollution incidents, reflecting a concerted effort to foster stronger maritime relationships and preparedness among regional maritime nations. BNN breaking / [Read more](#)

MEXICO: MAJOR DEVELOPMENT IN SPANISH-SPEAKING LATIN AMERICA WITH THE ENTRY INTO FORCE OF THE NEW NATIONAL CONTINGENCY PLAN FOR MEXICO.



Above – Participants - Mexican people who are referents on this topic and who we have contacted in our role as ISCO Representative in Spanish-speaking Latin America.

A Report from Carlos Sagrera, Member of ISCO Council and ISCO Representative in Latin America.

“Continuing with its Work Plan, the Mexican Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR) and its responsible division PROMAM (<https://digaohm.semar.gob.mx/promam.html>) have put into effect the new National Contingency Plan for Spills of Oil and Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS) in Mexican Marine Zones by means of Secretarial Agreement N°512/2023 dated 28 December 2023 (https://www.dof.gob.mx/nota_detalle.php?codigo=5712727&fecha=28/12/2023).

Indeed, following the initial announcements by SEMAR in August last year, in which it announced the progress of coordination meetings with representatives of the Ministries of National Defence, Agriculture and Rural Development, Public Education, Health, Foreign Affairs, Security and Citizen Protection, Finance and Public Credit, Environment and Natural Resources, and Energy, as well as the National Security Agency, the Ministry of the Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT), the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and the Ministry of Energy,; as well as CIGOM and the National Agency for Industrial Safety and Environmental Protection in the Hydrocarbons Sector (ASEA), the Federal Attorney's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) and PEMEX, finally reached the required consensus among all the public actors concerned, which will have repercussions on the Mexican oil and chemical industry, ports and maritime transport in general due to its level of requirements (<https://www.gob.mx/semar/prensa/marina-informa-reunion-sobre-el-plan-nacional-de-contingencia-para-derrames-de-hidrocarburos?idiom=en>).

The new NCP will be in force for 4 years until 2027, which ensures that it will be reviewed and updated periodically, which is essential in the face of new and constantly evolving risk scenarios. ISCO has been following this process and had the opportunity to participate as an Observer in Tampico as advisor of the principal regional OSRO MARTERRA (ISCO Newsletter N°910, October 2023) during the Natural Gas Release and Oil Spill Drill Solseg Energia RN-1) and there the main guidelines of this new NCP were presented by the responsible of PROMAN of this Naval Region.

In parallel, contact was established there with Dr. Edward Peters, the main reference of CIGOM (Gulf of Mexico Research Consortium) and authors, among other paradigmatic works, of the monumental Environmental Baseline Atlas of the Gulf of Mexico (<https://atlasigom.cicese.mx/>), unique reference at the level of Spanish-speaking Latin America. This group of CIGOM scientists are the ones who have largely promoted this new NCP with their rational and specialized contribution. We can announce that in future editions of the ISCO Newsletter we will have the contribution of Dr. Edward Peters, which will expand with his experience the evolution of these recent processes in Mexico, essential for the prevention and response to the incidents concerned.

The new PNC of Mexico - 2023 can be obtained at the following link:

https://digaohm.semar.gob.mx/PROMAM/anexos/Plan_Nacional_de_Contingencia.pdf

NIGERIA: UNEA 6: HOW MINISTER OF STATE FOR ENVIRONMENT, SALAKO SHOWCASED NIGERIA TO THE WORLD.

March 20 - The delegation of Nigeria was led by the Minister of State for Environment, Dr Iziq Adekunle Salako, who appears to be carving a niche as the international environmental ambassador Tinubu's administration. This writer was able to sight the report of Nigeria's participation at the assembly which clearly showed an intensive and strategic high level engagement showcasing the leadership position of Nigeria in the African continent especially in the ECOWAS subregion.

Nigeria has been at the forefront of promoting Nature Based solutions (NBS) as an important approach to addressing socio-environmental challenges like climate change, biodiversity loss, and disaster risk reduction. NBS refers to "actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems" including afforestation, mangrove restoration, urban greening, wetlands management, agroforestry and so on are less technology intensive and sits better with the traditional livelihoods of the people. This approach offers a cost-effective pathway to address global environmental, economic, climate, and societal challenges.

In the spirit of promoting NBS, the Nigerian delegation at UNEA 6 was very visible at events that speak to this important strategy of addressing the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution. Nigeria co-chaired with Costa Rica the intergovernmental consultation on NBS and at UNEA 6. The report of the consultation was presented with the Nigerian minister of State for Environment playing a leading role as a keynote speaker. On the same day, Dr. Salako participated as a panellist in a high-level side event put together by the Global Environment Facility with the theme "Scaling up investment in Africa to tackle the triple planetary crisis." At each of these events, Minister Salako showcased Nigeria's contributions to address the global environmental challenges citing specific examples like the afforestation and mangrove restoration by the National Agency for Green Wall and the Hydrocarbon Pollution and Remediation Project. This Day Live / [Read more](#)

PERU: AFTER YEARS OF INDIGENOUS-LED CAMPAIGNING, COURT GRANTS RIGHTS TO PERU'S MARAÑÓN RIVER

March 18 - The Marañón supplies drinking water directly to communities in Loreto, and is a vital habitat for fish that help sustain Indigenous communities. "We do not live on money. We live from what we grow on our land and our fishing. We cannot live without fish," Isabel Murayari, a board member of the federation, told the Earth Law Center, when the group filed its lawsuit in 2021.

The Kukama women also aimed to halt infrastructure projects including hydroelectric dams and the Amazon Waterway—recognized as environmental risks by the International Union for Conservation of Nature—and warned that illegal gold mining has left the Marañón with mercury contamination that must be remedied. Martiza Quispe Mamani, an attorney representing the Huaynakana Kamatahuara Kana Federation, said the "historic ruling is an important achievement of the Kukama women."

Common Dreams / [Read more](#)

SPAIN: THE BLUELAB PROJECT: A STEWARDSHIP AGREEMENT FOR CONSERVING THE L'ALBERA MARINE NATURA 2000 SITE IN SPAIN

March 14 - The conservation of marine Natura 2000 sites requires the collaboration of all interested parties, including the competent authorities, relevant industry sectors (especially fisheries and recreational tourism), sea users and local communities. However, such collaboration is often difficult to put into practice.

The BlueLab project, led by Spanish NGO SUBMON, has been actively working to protect and restore marine biodiversity, and to highlight the importance of the Natura 2000 network to visitors and the local population. The project is a pioneering example in the region of Catalonia, aimed at supporting the competent authorities in their conservation efforts and promoting community management in an area of great conservation interest. Environment.ec / [Read more](#)

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

March 13 - 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. More details on this event will be provided to members and technical partners in due time. MOIG / [Read more](#)

UK: MARINE SPILL AND PLASTIC POLLUTION CONFERENCE ON 11 AND 12 JUNE 2024

The UK and Ireland Spill Association is running a Marine Spill and Plastic Pollution Conference on 11 and 12 June 2024 at the National Oceanography Centre Southampton.

The Conference is focussed on exploring two current dilemmas for spill and incident responders:

The increasing adoption of less polluting fuels is encouraged by the International Maritime Organisations' drive to decarbonise shipping by 2050. A consequence of this is that responders are dealing with pollution from spills involving existing hydrocarbon products such as Marine Diesel and VLSFO. At the same time, they are expected to prepare to attend fuels involving emerging propulsion fuels such as methanol, ammonia and hydrogen often with LNG/LPG and possibly Li-Ion batteries also involved as alternate means of propulsion.

Concurrently the proliferation of plastic already existing in the marine environment is being added to by increasing plastic nurdle spills which are often into fragile coastal marine environments. These disrupt already delicate marine ecosystems, affect coastal fishing activity, have a long-lasting pollution effect and persist in the environment for centuries. The imperative to recover lost nurdles quickly with minimal harm to the existing coastal environment is clear. However little guidance and best practice exists. Our Plastic Pollution Working Group has been developing this over the last 24 months using member experience gained from attending spills in UK waters and overseas. The goal has and remains to provide best practice guidance for ALL who respond to or have responsibility for contingency planning to ensure environmental protection.

Conference speakers are drawn from experienced response professionals, regulators, manufacturers and academics and are all delivering sessions that aim to share knowledge, inform and stimulate discussion with both the audience in the room but also those who may wish to see the recorded sessions after the conference.

An exhibition accompanies and supports the conference with the aim of providing practical solutions to the topics being discussed in the conference from which some speakers are drawn. For more details on how to attend, exhibit or sponsor this cost-effective event please visit the website: <https://conference.ukairespill.org/>

UK: IMPACT REPORTS PUBLISHED FOLLOWING OIL SPILL AT POOLE HARBOUR

March 20 - As the one-year anniversary of the oil spill at Poole Harbour approaches, two reports have been published that look at the incident, the clean-up operation, and the local impacts of the spill.

A report into the incident, undertaken by consultants Hatch, and commissioned by Dorset Council and BCP Council on behalf of the Recovery Co-ordination Group (RCG), highlights the actions taken by all agencies that ensured the leak was contained to prevent long-lasting contamination. It also notes that the impacts on the local area through health and community, the environment, local business, and the economy were very limited. A further report on the environmental impacts of the incident has been put together by the multi-agency Monitoring Coordination Cell (PMCC), led by CEFAS and the Environment Agency. The summary of this report has now been published along with the Hatch report. Dorset Eye / [Read more](#)

USA: BIDEN-HARRIS ADMINISTRATION ANNOUNCES \$24 MILLION IN POLLUTION PREVENTION GRANTS UNDER PRESIDENT'S INVESTING IN AMERICA AGENDA

March 18 - Today, March 18, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency announced the availability of nearly \$24 million in grants to support states, U.S. territories, and Tribes in providing technical assistance to businesses to develop and adopt pollution prevention practices. The funding is available through two Notice of Funding Opportunities (NOFOs) for EPA's Pollution Prevention program, with approximately \$14 million in grants available at no cost share/match requirement, thanks to funding made possible by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

"Pollution prevention practices are an important and cost-effective strategy to protect communities and the environment by helping businesses prevent pollution before it's even created," said EPA Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention Deputy Assistant Administrator for Pollution Prevention Jennie Romer. "Thanks to the historic investment from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is helping to spur economic growth by expanding and accelerating the practices that are win-wins for human health, the environment and American businesses." EPA / [Read more](#)

USA: SOUTH CAROLINA TO REMOVE TOXIC WASTE FROM HISTORIC WORLD WAR II AIRCRAFT CARRIER

March 19 - More toxic waste will be extracted from a World War II aircraft carrier in Charleston Harbor to prevent leakage that would imperil the commercial shipping industry and coastal ecosystems central to the South Carolina port city's identity. The removal of over 1.2 million gallons (4.5 million liters) of petroleum and other hazards is part of an \$18 million remediation effort for the USS Yorktown, which powered through tours in the Pacific Ocean and off Vietnam before the U.S. Navy donated the decommissioned ship in 1975. The waterfront attraction at Patriots Point Naval and Maritime Museum has since become one of South Carolina's most popular tourist stops, but the increased potential for leaky tanks poses a threat to the surrounding waters. Washington Post / [Read more](#)

USA: U.S. NAVY TASK FORCE FINISHES REMOVING FUEL FROM RED HILL FACILITY AFTER STORAGE LEAKS

March 18 - a joint task force put together by the Department of Defense and U.S. Navy has completed the removal of residual oil from the Red Hill storage facility in Hawaii, following fuel leaks that have caused severe water contamination and reports of health problems among nearby residents. [about lawsuits / read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

March 25 – Please click on the links below to read these reports

OR&R Trains Emergency Responders through Science of Oil Spills Class in Mobile, Alabama

During the week of March 18, oil spill specialists from OR&R's Emergency Response Division conducted a [Science of Oil Spills](#) (SOS) class for the Southern region in Mobile, Alabama. SOS classes aim to help spill responders increase their understanding of oil spill science when analyzing spills and making risk-based decisions.

NOAA-Specific Incident Command System Training in Honolulu Supports Emergency Response and Preparedness

During the week of March 11, OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) held a three-day NOAA-specific Incident Command System 300 (ICS 300) Level Training at NOAA's Inouye Regional Center in Honolulu, Hawaii. This training was the first in-person NOAA ICS 300 class since the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. During the interim, the class has been held virtually to ensure NOAA staff are trained in ICS 300.

OR&R Supports U.S. Coast Guard in Oil Spill Exercise in Puerto Rico

OR&R's Brad Benggio, the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator (SSC) assigned to the U.S. Coast Guard's (USCG) Seventh District in Miami, Florida, recently participated in a tabletop oil spill exercise in Ponce, Puerto Rico to support emergency response training.

NOAA Coordinates California Ocean Litter Strategy Workgroups

On March 14, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) wrapped up a month of partner-led virtual workgroup meetings to discuss the California Ocean Litter Strategy (OLS). The meetings brought together over 75 partners from across the state and included a diverse set of sectors, including state agencies, nonprofits, private organizations, and academia.

NOAA Presents at Oil Spill Response Workshop in Timor-Leste

OR&R's Ruth Yender, the NOAA Scientific Support Coordinator for Oceania, assisted with an oil spill response workshop sponsored by [U.S. Indo-Pacific Command](#)([link is external](#)) (USINDOPACOM), held in Dili, Timor-Leste from March 18–22. The workshop was intended to assist Timor-Leste agencies as they develop national level emergency response plans.

Congressional Staff Visit Derelict Vessel Removal Project in North Carolina

On March 15, 2024, NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) staff met on Harkers Island, North Carolina with North Carolina Coastal Federation (NCCF) grantees and staff from the offices of U.S. Senators Tom Tillis and Ted Budd to share highlights of their derelict vessel removal project supported by Inflation Reduction Act funds.

Proposed Settlements to Benefit Fish and Wildlife on the Lower Duwamish River Released for Public Comment

In March of 2024, the U.S. Department of Justice announced two proposed settlements to compensate for natural resource injuries resulting from hazardous substances released in the Lower Duwamish River in Washington state.

NOS Presents on Hurricane Preparedness and Response in Florida Floodplain Managers Association's Hot Topics Class

On March 13, several offices from NOAA's National Ocean Service (NOS) participated in the Florida Floodplain Managers Association's (FFMA) virtual "Hot Topics" class focused on hurricane preparation. Participants from various organizations in Florida, including local governments and private industries, joined NOS representatives to learn more about our organization's capabilities for hurricane preparation, response, and recovery.

Disaster Response Center Hosts Science of Chemical Releases Class for Spill Responders

OR&R's Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) classes are back at the NOAA Disaster Response Center (DRC) in Mobile, Alabama. After being held virtually for several years after the COVID-19 pandemic, SOCR classes returned to in-person in 2023 with a class at USCG Sector Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Florida

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

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.

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

MEETING UDEB - MEKE MARINE – MOIG



06 March 2024, The MOIG Director accompanied by Mr. Hakan Ciner, General Manager and Alkan Elkir, Oil Spill Response Director of MEKE Marine ; performed a visit to the Directorate of National Maritime Safety (UDEB) ; located in Tekirdag in the Northwest of Marmara Sea in Turkey,

UDEB has been established as Europe's largest Emergency Response Center and operates as a decision support system of the Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure, executing all tasks related to maritime safety including personnel, equipment, hardware, software, and all necessary infrastructure facilities. UDEB serves as the brain and coordination center for Turkish country's intervention against pollution. It was designed to be an International training and R&D center, beyond its effective intervention system for marine accidents.

The MOIG Director met Mr. Bülent Sönmez, President and Captain Mustafa Tasan.

This visit was a good opportunity to undertake fruitful discussions and exchange information on oil spill preparedness and response in the Mediterranean region as well as to explore possibilities for future cooperation. In addition, the MOIG Director afforded the opportunity to see all the types of simulators available in the centre, the control and operations rooms as well as the conference center dedicated to trainings.

The Management Committee Members would like to thank MEKE Marine for facilitating this visit and UDEB representatives for their warm welcome and hospitality as well as for agreeing to host participants in their Centre during the forthcoming Regional Workshop to be held from 12 to 14 November 2024 in Istanbul-Turkey. MOIG / [Source document](#)

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.

71. Oil spill in an amazon blackwater environment: Biochemical and physiological responses of local fish species

Sadauskas-Henrique H., Braz-Mota S., Campos D.F., dos Santos Barroso H., Kochhann D., Luis Val A., Maria Fonseca de Almeida-Val V. (2024) Environmental Research, 250, art. no. 118347, DOI: 10.1016/j.envres.2024.118347

ABSTRACT: The accidental spill of petroleum asphalt cement (PAC) in São Raimundo (SR Harbor, located on the Rio Negro (Manaus, Amazonas, Brazil) was monitored through the analysis of polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) in water and a set of biomarkers in fishes (exposure biomarkers: PAHs-type metabolites concentrations in bile; the activities of ethoxyresorufin-O-deethylase (EROD), glutathione-S-transferase (GST), catalase (CAT), superoxide dismutase (SOD), and glutathione peroxidase (GPx) in liver. Effect biomarkers: lipid peroxidation concentration (LPO) in liver, acetylcholinesterase activity in brain, and genotoxic DNA damage in erythrocytes). Two fish species, *Acarichthys heckelii* and *Satanoperca jurupari*, were collected 10, 45, and 90 days after the PAC spill in São Raimundo. At the same time, fish were collected from the Tupé Sustainable Development Reserve (Tupé) which served as a

reference area. The sampling periods were related to the rising waters of the natural flood pulse of the Rio Negro. Higher concentrations of PAHs in water were observed at 10 and 45 days and returned to the values of TP 90 days after the PAC spill, a period in which harbor waters rose about 0.2 m. Unlike the PAHs in water, biomarker responses in both fish species significantly increased following the PAC spill in SR. Hepatic ethoxyresorufin-O-deethylase (EROD), PAH-like metabolites in bile, and erythrocyte DNA damage increases, together with inhibition of acetylcholinesterase (AChE) activity in the brain were the most evident responses for both fish species. The calculated pyrolytic index showed mixed sources of PAHs (petrogenic and pyrolytic). The applied PCA-FA indicated important relationships between dissolved organic carbon (DOC) and PAHs concentrations in water, where DOC and PAHs concentrations contributed to biomarkers responses for both fish species in all collection periods.

72. Exposure to individual polycyclic aromatic compounds impairs the cardiac performance of American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) larvae

Dubiel J., Scovil A., Speers-Roesch B., Wiseman S., de Jourdan B., Philibert D.
(2024) *Aquatic Toxicology*, 269, art. no. 106863
DOI: 10.1016/j.aquatox.2024.106863

ABSTRACT: The potential for oil spills poses a threat to marine organisms, the toxicity of which has been attributed primarily to polycyclic aromatic compounds (PACs). Predictive tools such as the target lipid model (TLM) have been developed to forecast and assess these risks. The aim of the present study was to characterize the cardiotoxicity of 10 structurally diverse PACs in American lobster (*Homarus americanus*) larvae by assessing heart rate following a 48 h exposure in a passive dosing system, and subsequently use the TLM framework to calculate a critical target lipid body burden (CTLBB) for bradycardia. Exposure to 8 of the 10 PACs resulted in concentration-dependent bradycardia, with phenanthrene causing the greatest effect. The TLM was able to effectively characterize bradycardia in American lobsters, and the cardiotoxic CTLBB value determined in this study is among the most sensitive endpoints included in the CTLBB database. This study is one of the first to apply the TLM to a cardiac endpoint and will improve predictive models for assessing sublethal impacts of oil spills on American lobster populations.

73. Occurrence, sources and water column distribution trends of suspended particle-associated aliphatic and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons in the open northeastern Mediterranean Sea

Parinos C., Skylaki E., Hatzianestis I., Gogou A.
(2024) *Science of the Total Environment*, 914, art. no. 169685,
DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.169685

ABSTRACT: Herein, we study the occurrence and water column distribution trends of suspended particle-associated aliphatic (AHCs) and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) collected from 36 offshore/deep sea locations across the open northeastern Mediterranean Sea. Total concentrations of the determined compounds fall within the range previously reported for non-polluted coastal and open sea locations worldwide. Mixed natural and anthropogenic sources were evident for the studied compounds, based on their molecular profile and several diagnostic indices. In all cases, an enhanced fossil signal typifying chronic oil pollution was evident along the water column. AHCs and PAHs mixtures characteristics varied significantly within the studied sub-regions, highlighting the importance of inputs from various point sources and dispersion pathways. The circulation characteristics of water masses along with biogeochemical features impact on the water column distribution trends and overall fate of the determined compounds in the study area.

74. Long-term effects of the Hebei Spirit oil spill on the prevalence and incidence of allergic disorders

Hwang S.H., Lee Y.-J., Choi Y.-H., Huh D.-A., Kang M.-S., Moon K.W.
(2024) *Science of the Total Environment*, 912, art. no. 168801,
DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.168801

ABSTRACT: The Hebei Spirit oil spill accident occurred in December 2007, approximately 10 km off the coast of Taean, South Korea, a location notably close to residential areas. Crude oil substances have been detected in various environmental mediums since the accident, yet previous studies have primarily focused on the acute effects of oil exposure due to the short latency period of allergic diseases. Therefore, this study evaluated the long-term effects of oil spill exposure on allergic disorders. Our study included adult residents who had participated in the Health Effects Research on Hebei Spirit Oil Spill (HEROS) study up to five years post-incident, which was a prospective cohort to monitor the health status of Taean residents. We used two indicators to assess oil spill exposure, namely the distance from the initial contaminated coastline to each participant's residence and the number of days participants had engaged in oil clean-up work. Current symptoms such as asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, allergic conjunctivitis, and multimorbidity were considered allergic disorders. In the baseline survey, the prevalence of asthma, allergic rhinitis, atopic dermatitis, allergic conjunctivitis, and allergic multimorbidity symptoms was associated with both exposure indicators; however, these

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

associations were not observed in the two consecutive surveys. Significant longitudinal associations between oil spill exposure indicators and the four allergic disorders, as well as multimorbidity incidences, were observed during a five-year follow-up period. Our results suggest that oil spill exposure can affect acute and long-term allergic symptoms in residents near the accident site.

75. PAHs in high Arctic copepods *Calanus hyperboreus* following exposure of residues from in situ burning of oil spill

Fritt-Rasmussen J., Jørgensen C.J., Wegeberg S., Lassen P., Møller E.F., Gustavson K.
(2024) *Science of the Total Environment*, 912, art. no. 169015,
DOI: 10.1016/j.scitotenv.2023.169015

ABSTRACT: In situ burning of marine oil spills reduces the total amount of oil in the environment, but a negative side effect may be the generation of environmentally hazardous polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) that may pose a risk for bioaccumulation, particularly in organisms having a high lipid content. In this study uptake of PAHs from oil and burn residue were examined in the high arctic copepod *Calanus hyperboreus*. A major part of the low ring number petrogenic PAHs in the oil was removed during burning and relative higher concentrations of pyrogenic high ring number PAHs was found in the burn residue. This suggests that burning markedly reduces the general PAH exposure load. Furthermore, the pyrogenic PAHs generated during the burn were not bioconcentrated to quantifiable levels in the copepods. We conclude that in situ burning can mitigate the potential risk of PAH uptake for copepods and other pelagic organisms in the marine environment as the pyrogenic PAHs only pose low risk for uptake from the water by the copepods and other pelagic organisms.

76. *Exophiala chapopotensis* sp. nov., an extremotolerant black yeast from an oil-polluted soil in Mexico; phylogenetic approach to species hypothesis in the Herpotrichiellaceae family

Ide-Pérez M.R., Sánchez-Reyes A., Folch-Mallol J.L., del Rayo Sánchez-Carbente M.
(2024) *PLoS ONE*, 19 (2 February), art. no. e0297232
DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0297232

ABSTRACT: *Exophiala* is a black fungi of the family Herpotrichiellaceae that can be found in a wide range of environments like soil, water and the human body as potential opportunistic pathogen. Some species are known to be extremophiles, thriving in harsh conditions such as deserts, glaciers, and polluted habitats. The identification of novel *Exophiala* species across diverse environments underlines the remarkable biodiversity within the genus. However, its classification using traditional phenotypic and phylogenetic analyses has posed a challenges. Here we describe a novel taxon, *Exophiala chapopotensis* sp. nov., strain LBMH1013, isolated from oil-polluted soil in Mexico, delimited according to combined morphological, molecular, evolutionary and statistics criteria. This species possesses the characteristic dark mycelia growing on PDA and tends to be darker in the presence of hydrocarbons. Its growth is dual with both yeast-like and hyphal forms. LBMH1013 differs from closely related species such as *E. nidicola* due to its larger aseptate conidia and could be distinguished from *E. dermatitidis* and *E. heteromorpha* by its inability to thrive above 37°C or 10% of NaCl. A comprehensive genomic analyses using up-to-date overall genome relatedness indices, several multigene phylogenies and molecular evolutionary analyzes using Bayesian speciation models, further validate its species-specific transition from all current *Exophiala/Capronia* species. Additionally, we applied the phylogenetic conceptual framework to delineate the species-specific hypothesis in order to incorporate this proposal within an integrative taxonomic framework. We believe that this approach to delimit fungal species will also be useful to our peers.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (

If you are interested in new technology you will find it useful to visit Technology Innovation News Survey at <https://clu-in.org/products/tins/> and Tech Direct at <https://clu-in.org/techdirect/archive/>

SCIENTISTS CAN NOW REMOVE MICROPLASTICS FROM OUR WATER WITH 94% EFFICIENCY

University of Waterloo researchers have created a new technology that can remove harmful microplastics from contaminated water with 94% efficiency.

A team of researchers led by Waterloo Chemical Engineering professor Tizazu Mekonnen, who specialized in polymer engineering, tackled a new method to address small plastic waste and remove nanoplastics from wastewater systems. Mekonnen and his graduate student Rachel Blanchard used epoxy, a waste polymer that can't be reused or reprocessed and often ends up in landfills or finds its way into water system networks like lakes or streams.

Using a process called thermal decomposition, the researchers converted epoxy into activated carbon, a material capable of removing nanoplastics.

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY (CONTINUED)

The researchers then used the activated carbon to treat water contaminated by nanoplastics after producing nanoplastics from polyethylene terephthalate, a form of polyester often used in plastic water bottles and clothing such as fleece. These tiny contaminants pose a greater health risk compared to microplastics as they can penetrate cells and are hard to detect. The 94 percent removal efficiency of nanoplastics was achieved by physically trapping the nanoplastics in the porous structure of the waste plastic, which generated activated carbon. Eureka Alert / [Read more](#)

CORRESPONDENCE

From Nick Bailey of Ambipar in regard to New Fuels – “We have been doing a fair bit of preparation in this area, getting ready on behalf of several majors and also ports and harbours who are already beginning to take ships powered by new fuels (e.g. Maersk container vessels have dual fuel vessels using methanol), along with majors who are about to start shipping anhydrous ammonia to be converted to hydrogen and liquified carbon dioxide as part of carbon capture programs. We are working with UK HSE and NCEC on emergency response to carbon dioxide and also assisting HSE with some ammonia releases to water. We will be waiting with interest to see the results of the larger scale French releases of ammonia to water involving Cedre and Yarra.

Ship to ship transfers with cryogenic gases are also going to be a bit different in future with the need to use compression pumps for vapour phase and/or vane pumps for liquids. I’m sure I could come up with something on where we are with all this if it’s of interest”

Editor – Thanks for this, Nick. We look forward to hearing more from you.

TRAINING COURSES

Training Course Providers – Please check entries below and advise editor on any necessary updates

USEFUL LINKS

- **INTERNATIONAL – IMO E-LEARNING PLATFORM** [e-learning platform](#)
- **AUSTRALIA – AMOSC** - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- **AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA** - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- **CHINA** - <http://www.sioetc.com>
- **EUROPE –** <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/3609-emsa-training-catalogue-2019.html>
- **FRANCE - CEDRE** - https://www.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
- **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**

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/>

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

UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

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 – “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
- CHINA / ONLINE – WSH Asia Awards 2024, 5th 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
- CHINA – 8th 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
- 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 - CLICK ON LINKS BELOW FOR UPDATES

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

[DISCOUNTS](#) [DIGITAL PROGRAMME](#)

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](#)

[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.

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.

UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

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 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

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 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

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

SPECIAL ITEM – HISTORY OF ISCO – PART 2

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.

In 2007 ISCO was granted Consultative Status at the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and is the only such organisation representing the spill response industry. Members now have a voice in the drafting of legislation, rules and guidelines that impact on their interests.

Since 2007 ISCO has been an active contributor to IMO’s Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC) and its OPRC-HNS Technical Group. Presentations made have included recommendations regarding -

- Collation of Information on HNS response and Sub-Sea Oil recovery;
- Discharge of Settled-out Water during Oil Spill Recovery Operations;
- Independent Training and Accreditation of Private Oil and HNS Spill Response Contractors;
- Knowledge-based response planning for marine incidents
- A New Chemical Spill Response Manual
- The New International and USA Response Contracts (RESPONSECON)

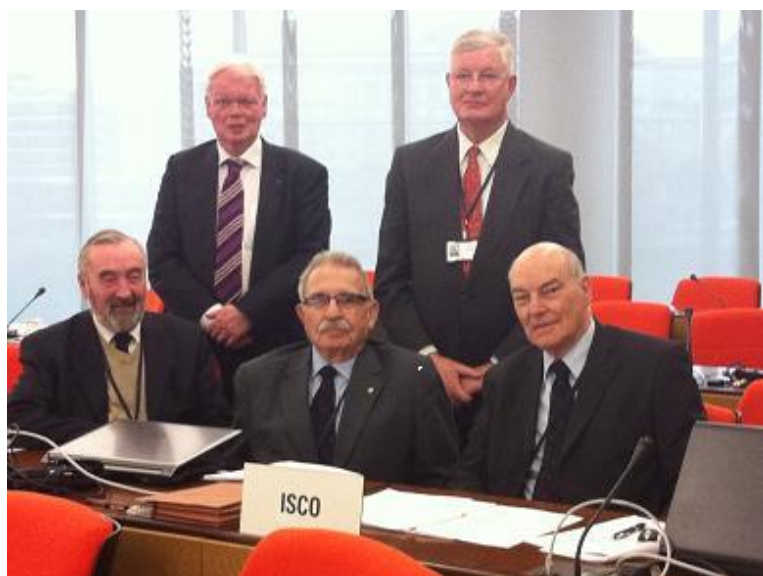


Photo (left): The ISCO Delegation at an IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group meeting. From left to right, standing – Dr Wierd Koops, Honorary Member, (Netherlands); Dr Merv Fingas, Member of ISCO Council for Canada; seated – John McMurtrie, ISCO Secretary (UK); David Usher, ISCO President (USA); Dr Douglas Cormack, Honorary Member (UK). Photo: Courtesy of Josée Lamoureux.

In 2013 ISCO introduced new classes of professional membership that recognise the qualifications and experience of spill responders and others in the international spill response community.

ISCO President David Usher said “This fills a long felt need and will help meet the aspirations of many in the industry who have long felt that their qualifications and experience should be recognised. The creation of professional memberships will encourage all who are making a career in the field of oil and chemical pollution control to take pride in their chosen

profession”.

The key word is “professional” when applied to men and women who are making a success in their careers and have the necessary levels of knowledge and expertise. Professional recognition is a visible mark of quality, competence and commitment, and can offer a significant advantage in today’s competitive environment.

Students, apprentices and trainees can join ISCO as student members and pursue a career development path that, as qualifications and experience are gained, can lead to eligibility for Associate Membership (AMISCO), Membership (MISCO) and, eventually, Fellowship (FISCO). Academic qualifications are not a requirement if applicants can demonstrate the necessary levels of competence through their experience, skills and professional development.

In any major pollution event there are well established mechanisms for inter-governmental co-operation. ISCO provides a complementary facility for authorities and other entities to quickly access support from the private sector, assisting in the rapid sourcing of specialised know-how, equipment and materials. An example was during the Deepwater Horizon spill. The support provided by ISCO was personally acknowledged by the National Incident Commander, Admiral Thad Allen. Following on the more

SPECIAL ITEM – HISTORY OF ICCO – PART 2 (CONTINUED)

recent emergency in Bangladesh, the facility was further improved to help ensure rapid relay of requests for assistance to ISCO member companies interested in providing spill response support (see <http://www.spillcontrol.org/emergency-assistance>) ISCO was a significant contributor to the IMO working group working on the development of the International Offers of Assistance (IOA) Guidelines which have since been approved by IMO's Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC).

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

DENMARK: REPORT: DARK FLEET TANKER HAD A COLLISION OFF DENMARK

March 19 - A recent collision involving a "dark fleet" tanker has revived Denmark's worst fears about the ships that carry hundreds of thousands of barrels of Russian crude through the Danish Straits every day. If something should go wrong, it is unclear whether the true owner could be found, or whether an insurer would pay to cover the costs of a cleanup.

On March 2, the 15-year-old tanker Andromeda Star was involved in a collision with an unnamed vessel, the Danish Maritime Authority confirmed to Bloomberg. AIS data provided by Pole Star shows that at about 0700 hours that morning, the tanker slowed to a sudden stop as it rounded the northern tip of Jutland. The ship was in ballast condition at the time and was headed for a Russian port to load oil. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: VISTABELLA OIL SPILL CONTAINED, BLOCKED FROM REACHING GULF OF PARIA

March 20 - Emergency responders from Heritage Petroleum Company Limited are working assiduously to ensure that an oil spill in south Trinidad does not enter the Gulf of Paria. Minister of Finance Colm Imbert said so as he responded to questions from Opposition Senator Wade Mark in the Upper House yesterday. Reading from a statement, Imbert said absorbent and containment booms were deployed at strategic locations along all of the water courses leading to the Vistabella River in an attempt to contain the oil. Additionally, vacuum tankers are being used to extract the oil contained in the booms. "Barring unforeseen circumstances, it is expected that no more oil will be released to the environment from this location," he said. Guardian.co.tt / [Read more](#)

USA VIRGIN ISLANDS: COAST GUARD UPDATES CLEAN-UP EFFORTS FOR TANK 11 DIESEL SPILL AT THE RANDOLPH HARLEY POWER PLANT IN ST. THOMAS, U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

March 21 - Coast Guard oversight efforts continue, Thursday, for ongoing Virgin Islands and Water and Power Authority (VIWAPA) clean-up operations at the Randolph Harley Power Plant in St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands, following the tank 11 diesel discharge that occurred at the facility, Oct. 25, 2023.

Since the day of the incident, the original estimates of 33,600 gallons of No. 2 diesel discharged outside tank 11's secondary containment have been updated and calculated to be over 50,000 gallons.

The Coast Guard has been communicating and consulting with local government agencies, stakeholders, and partner members from the Caribbean Regional Response Team, including local Department of Natural Resources, the Environmental Protection Agency, the National Oceanic Atmospheric Administration, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Corps of Engineers and the Department of Transportation Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, among others, which are collaborating with the Federal On-Scene Coordinator during this response.

"This is a long-term and complex response which includes several phases and matters that are being resolved with VIWAPA to ensure the most diligent and effective clean-up of the site," said Capt. Jose E. Díaz, Coast Guard's Federal On-Scene Coordinator for the VIWAPA Tank 11 diesel spill. "As good stewards of the environment, removing this pollution threat is our top priority and should be carried out with the diligence and expedience it requires to ensure the safety of our citizens and the proper remediation of the affected environment."

Current clean-up operations remain actively focused on the recovery of the subsurface diesel material along the hillsides leading to Lindbergh Bay and Krum Bay, as well as the affected coastal area of Lindbergh Bay. Presently, clean-up crews continue irrigation tactics utilizing a high-volume low-pressure flow of water to help move the subsurface diesel through seven natural land veins to established collection points from where the diesel is being recovered. VIWAPA contractors are conducting weekly sampling for the response and management of an established collection system on the Krum Bay side of the site. Furthermore, Coast Guard Atlantic Strike Team personnel provide continuous technical and regulatory compliance consultation to the Federal On-Scene Coordinator and VIWAPA, contractor oversight of collection and recovery activities of diesel free product and contaminated soils on-scene, and monitoring of VIWAPA's site safety plan, which includes managing air monitoring activities for clean-up crews at the site.

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

INDIA TURNING AWAY RUSSIAN TANKERS DUE TO FEARS FROM U.S. SANCTIONS

March 22 - India which emerged as one of Russia's largest oil customers in the two years since the invasion of Ukraine appears to have formally decided to turn away Russian tankers due to fears of the increased U.S. sanctions. There had previously been individual reports of India delaying tankers or Russian vessels turning around after they were sanctioned since the U.S. began late in 2023 increasing enforcement of the price cap on Russian oil imposed by the West.

Reliance Industries, India's largest private refiner, was reported earlier in the week by Bloomberg and Reuters to have begun closely scrutinizing the ownership of the tankers transporting oil purchases. The company was reported to be refusing shipments carried on the vessels of Sovcomflot, which the U.S. officially sanctioned in February following earlier individual actions.

The unofficial ban on oil coming to India aboard Sovcomflot or other vessels subject to the U.S. sanctions has been expanded to all of India's largest buyers Bloomberg reports today. They are citing "people familiar with the matter," saying that the ownership of the tankers is being reviewed for exposure to the sanctions. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

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