



ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness & co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, marine & freshwater pollution by plastics, promoting technical development and professional competency, & to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals. ISCO holds consultative status at the International Maritime Organisation & Observer Status at the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

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 - Mr Matthew Sommerville
- Other members of the Board will be advised later

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- Mr Flavio P. de Andrade (Brazil)

PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNER BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



PIVOTAL FOURTH SESSION OF NEGOTIATIONS ON A GLOBAL PLASTICS TREATY OPENS IN OTTAWA

April 23 - The fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to develop an international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution, including in the marine environment (INC-4), opened today in Canada's capital, Ottawa. The session aims to advance negotiations so that the Committee can finalize, at its [fifth session \(INC-5\)](#) in November, the text of the instrument. UNEP / [Read more](#)

STORIES FROM THE UN ARCHIVE: UN PROCLAIMS WORLD'S FIRST EARTH DAY



In 1971, UN Secretary-General U Thant held a special ceremony at UN Headquarters in New York, proclaiming 22 April the world's first Earth Day.

This week, the UN launched Climate Promise 2025 to help countries stay on track towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and from Rio to Beijing and Stockholm to Funafuti, Earth Day was celebrated around the world. UN / [Read more](#)

THE OCEAN CLEANUP BREAKS 10,000,000 KG BARRIER

The Ocean Cleanup, the global non-profit project, has removed a verified all-time total of ten million kilograms (22 million lbs.) of trash from oceans and rivers around the world – approximately the same weight as the Eiffel Tower. To complete its mission of ridding the oceans of plastic, the Ocean Cleanup uses a dual strategy: cleaning up the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP) to remove the

plastic already afloat in the oceans, while stopping the flow of plastic from the world's most polluting rivers.

Ocean Cleanup / [Read more](#)

REGIONAL NEWS

The latest News and Press Releases collated from websites of Regional Organisations on ISCO's checking list. To add a website to this list please send the link to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org If your website's News releases are not being kept up-to-date, you can send information directly to the Editor.

REGIONAL WORKSHOP PREPARES CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES FOR IMO AUDITS



April 17 - Senior maritime administrators from seven Caribbean countries completed a regional workshop in preparation for forthcoming audits under the IMO Member State Audit Scheme (IMSAS). The workshop took place in Kingston, Jamaica (8-12 April), organized by IMO and the Maritime Authority of Jamaica, as host country.

In total, 23 participants from Antigua and Barbuda, the Bahamas, Belize, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Jamaica, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and Trinidad and Tobago gained the knowledge and skills required to undergo IMO's mandatory audit and post-audit activities. Most of the participating countries will be

undergoing audits in 2024 and 2025.

The audit scheme aims to provide a comprehensive and objective assessment of how effectively a State is applying certain fundamental IMO treaties relating to safety, marine protection and seafarer training. IMO / [Read more](#)

BALTIC: RIGA MINISTERIAL MEETING BOLSTERS COMMITMENTS FOR THE BALTIC SEA MARINE ENVIRONMENT

April 19 - On 25 April 2024, ministers and high-level representatives of Baltic Sea coastal states and the European Union will gather in Riga, Latvia at a joint meeting within the Latvian Chairmanship of HELCOM, for the 2024 Ministerial Meeting on the Baltic Sea Marine Environment. They will discuss the way forward in protecting the Baltic Sea marine environment. Helcom / [Read more](#)

EAST ASIA: YOUNG LEADERS FROM EAST ASIAN SEAS REGION CALL FOR URGENT ACTION TO PROTECT THE OCEAN



April 24 - Nineteen (19) young leaders from 10 countries in the East Asian Seas region convened at the East Asian Seas Congress Youth Forum for a week of learning exchange and regional cooperation on the roles of youth in sustainable development of coastal and marine areas in the region. The forum was hosted by Korea National Ocean Science Museum (KOSM) and Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia (PEMSEA) on April 16 to 18, 2024 in Uljin.

The youth delegates learned from experts from the government and select organizations of the Republic of Korea on various topics such as use of big data in marine conservation, existing business models that mainstream

upcycling of marine plastics, advanced technology that promote sustainable use of marine resources, and marine mammal field rescue. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO

[Benefits of Membership](#)

[Online Membership Application Form](#)

YOU ARE INVITED TO JOIN THE ISCO DISCUSSION GROUP ON LINKED-IN

 Click on the link below – <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4016064/>

WHATSAPP GROUP FOR STUDENTS, TRAINEES & APPRENTICES

<https://spillcontrol.org/membership-application-form/>

ADVANCE YOUR CAREER BY GAINING PROFESSIONAL RECOGNITION

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

[Professional Membership Application Form](#)

REGIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

EUROPE: EU COMMEMORATES 50 YEARS OF COOPERATION TO PROTECT BALTIC SEA UNDER HELSINKI CONVENTION

April 25 - A ministerial meeting held in Riga on Thursday marks the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Convention and HELCOM, established to protect the marine environment of the Baltic Sea since 1974. Environment EC / [Read more](#)

EUROPE: EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT VOTES IN FAVOUR OF PLASTIC PELLET POLLUTION-FREE EUROPE

April 25 - The European Union's efforts to slash microplastic pollution finally moved forward, as the European Parliament adopted its position on the Proposal for a Regulation aimed at preventing pellet losses to reduce microplastic pollution. This positive vote comes at a time when plastics are in focus on the international stage, as global plastic treaty negotiations resume, and just after Earth Day's plastic focus on Monday, 22 April.

Members of the European Parliament (MEPs) met in Strasbourg to approve the proposal, which is urgently needed to reduce the risk of pellet spills and hold plastic producers, transporters, converters and recyclers and all other actors involved accountable for pellet leaks across the plastic supply chain. UKEireSpill.org / [Read more](#)

EUROPE: WORLD OCEAN INITIATIVE SUMMIT

April 26 - The ocean conference season kicked off with Economist Impact's World Ocean Summit in Lisbon and Monaco Ocean Week in March, swiftly followed by the UN Ocean Decade Conference in Barcelona and Our Ocean in Athens in April.

Economist / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

USA: ISCO AT INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

Join the International Spill Control Organisation Booth #633 at the 2024 International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC), taking place May 13-16, 2024, at the New Orleans Ernest N. Morial Convention Center in New Orleans, LA USA. As a leading event in the spill response community, IOSC brings together hundreds of experts that are eager to discuss challenges, exchange ideas, and find solutions in spill prevention, preparation, response, and restoration.

This conference will feature:

- Short Courses
- More than 200 paper presentations
- Poster presentations detailing research findings on a wide-range topics
- New, highly engaging open dialogue sessions featuring expert panels.
- And expanded Technical Demonstrations

With the popular Film Festival & Photo Contest, and robust exhibit hall, IOSC continues to be the most comprehensive conference for the oil spill response community. Connect with your peers and colleagues at dedicated networking events, such as the Awards Luncheon, and the Closing Event at the National WWII Museum.

This year's exhibit hall will feature over 100 organizations show-casing their latest innovations. Stop by the International Spill Control Organisation (ISCO) Booth #633 to meet with ISCO Council Members Jane Delgado, Larissa Montas, Ed Levine and find out more about our membership benefits!

NEWS FOR ISCO STUDENT MEMBERS

EUROPE: EMSA OPPORTUNITY FOR YOUNG PROFESSIONALS



A traineeship at EMSA is a great opportunity to learn in a multinational environment while contributing to the mission of our Agency.

EMSA / [Read more](#)

NEWS FOR ISCO STUDENT MEMBERS

LOOKING FOR A JOB WITHIN ISCO'S SPHERE OF INTEREST ?

You can post information about yourself, what kind of job you're looking for and even your CV on the ISCO website. In addition, we'll alert readers of the ISCO Newsletter (which goes out to about 3,000 people in 60 countries) about your interest. For more info contact our Technical Manager, Mike Watson, at spillcontrol@mwadigital.com

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

FREE ADVERTISEMENT

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BRAZIL: REGISTRATION IS OPEN FOR THE EAD COURSE TECHNICAL COOPERATION AGREEMENTS OF THE CTF/APP

April 24 - The Brazilian Institute of the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources (Ibama) has opened registration for the 2024 class of the distance learning (EaD) course: CTF/APP Technical Cooperation Agreements, until December 20. The training is aimed at public agents of the Environmental Administration at the federal, district, state and municipal levels, to strengthen the National Environmental System (Sisnama). Gov.br. Ibama / [Read more](#)

CANADA: GOVERNMENT INVESTS TO SUPPORT CANADIAN INNOVATORS TO FIND WAYS TO REDUCE PLASTIC POLLUTION

April 23 - Today, as Canada welcomes the world to Ottawa for the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on Plastic Pollution (INC-4), the Honourable Steven Guilbeault, Minister of Environment and Climate Change, announced over \$3.3 million in funding to support Canadian organizations that are developing innovative solutions to address plastic pollution. Canada.ca / [Read more](#)

CANADA: THE SHIP FUND MARKS ITS 35TH ANNIVERSARY: DRIVING ACCESS TO JUSTICE BY ASSISTING THOSE AFFECTED BY SHIP-SOURCE OIL POLLUTION

April 24 - The Ship-source Oil Pollution Fund proudly celebrates its 35th anniversary. Since 1989 it has been a crucial support to those affected by oil spills from ships and boats in Canadian waters. For over three decades, we have provided financial resources to impacted individuals and communities, demonstrating our commitment to aiding in their recovery and resilience.

We have received over 560 claims, paying out \$28 million to compensate claimants for spill prevention measures or to aid in their clean-up efforts. Over the past year, we have experienced a remarkable surge with a record-breaking 41 claims received. This underscores the growing, nationwide recognition of the Ship Fund, a testament to the effectiveness of our outreach program. SOPF / [Read more](#)

CHILE: SAN VICENTE MARITIME AUTHORITY PARTICIPATED IN A DRILL TO COMBAT POLLUTION AT THE ABASTIBLE DOCK

April 18 - In order to comply with the Security and Maritime Protection Policy of ABASTIBLE S.A. and the Port Operator Hualpén Gas S.A., the verification of the level of training of the personnel of the Maritime Terminal and the emergency brigade was carried out on April 15.

The drill included capacity assessment and coordination both locally and externally. Likewise, the provisions of the Maritime Authority regarding Circular O-71/034, the Contingency Plan for the Control of Spills of Hydrocarbons and Other Substances Susceptible to Contamination of the Aquatic Environment and the Emergency Plan of the San Vicente Maritime Terminal were complied with. Directemar / [Read more](#)

EGYPT: MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT RECEIVES DELEGATION FROM THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE (IUCN) FOR WEST ASIA

April 21 - Dr. Yasmine Fouad, Minister of Environment, received Dr. Hani Al-Shaer, Regional Director of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) for West Asia (IUCN), and Mr. Maher Mahjoub, Director of the Union's office in the Mediterranean and North Africa, in the presence of Dr. Ali Abu Sunna, Head of the Environmental Affairs Agency, to discuss ways of cooperation in

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

the field of nature protection and biodiversity conservation at the regional level, the development of work in the field of Mediterranean marine reserves and Egypt's participation in the 2024 IUCN regional forums for African and West Asian countries were discussed. Sis.gov.eg / [Read more](#)

FINLAND: FINNISH ECOSYSTEM OBSERVATORY MAKES NATURE DATA ACCESSIBLE TO ALL

April 22 - The significance of nature data in society has grown significantly in recent years, as decision-making often requires more accurate, up-to-date, and diverse information about nature. The Finnish Ecosystem Observatory project has responded to society's information needs by, for example, building the Finnish Nature Information Hub website. In addition, a group bringing together different organisations has been established to coordinate nature information. SYKE / [Read more](#)

GHANA: PURE EARTH GHANA INTENSIFIES EFFORTS TO COMBAT MERCURY AND LEAD POLLUTION ON INTERNATIONAL EARTH DAY

April 24 - As the global community observes International Earth Day, Pure Earth Ghana, a non-governmental organization reaffirms its dedication to addressing the critical issues of mercury and lead pollution, emphasizing the profound impact on health and ecosystems. Peacefmonline / [Read more](#)

GREECE: INAUGURAL MARINE INSURANCE GREECE CONFERENCE

April 24 - The agenda is now complete for the inaugural **Marine Insurance Greece** conference under the auspices of Posidonia, taking place on the 30th of May at The Marriott Hotel, Athens and we are pleased to announce a special opening keynote address from **Leonidas Eugenides**, Chairman of the Eugenides Foundation and Maritime Ambassador of Greece to the IMO.

The night before the conference will also see us host a special **Welcome Party** sponsored by *Polygreen S.A.* at DOT Beach Vibes from 20.00 until late. All delegates are warmly invited to attend. [CLICK HERE](#) for the full AGENDA.

KENYA: PORT SECURITY TRAINING IN KENYA TACKLES MARITIME SECURITY THREATS



April 18 - What do port security personnel do in the event of a bomb threat or spillage of dangerous goods at the port? These are the kind of scenarios explored in an inter-agency workshop in Mombasa, Kenya on maritime security. The joint training exercise aims to train law enforcement officers and Port Facility Security Officers (PFSOs) on how to manage security incidents within the port. IMO / [Read more](#) [Photo courtesy of IMO]

KUWAIT: LAUNCHING CEREMONY OF THE FIRST STATE OF THE ENVIRONMENT REPORT FOR THE STATE OF KUWAIT IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME

April 23 - The launching ceremony of the first state of the environment report for the State of Kuwait, in cooperation with the United Nations Environment Programme, in the presence of His Excellency the Minister of Oil and Eng. Samira Al-Kandari, Acting Director General of the Environment Public Authority, and in the presence of researchers and specialists from the University of Kuwait, the Kuwait Institute for Scientific Research, and all relevant state agencies. EPA. Gov.kw / [Read more](#)

SINGAPORE MARITIME FOUNDATION AND INTERNATIONAL GROUP OF P&I CLUBS COOPERATE TO PROMOTE MARINE LIABILITY EDUCATION AND TRAINING TO SINGAPORE TALENT POOL

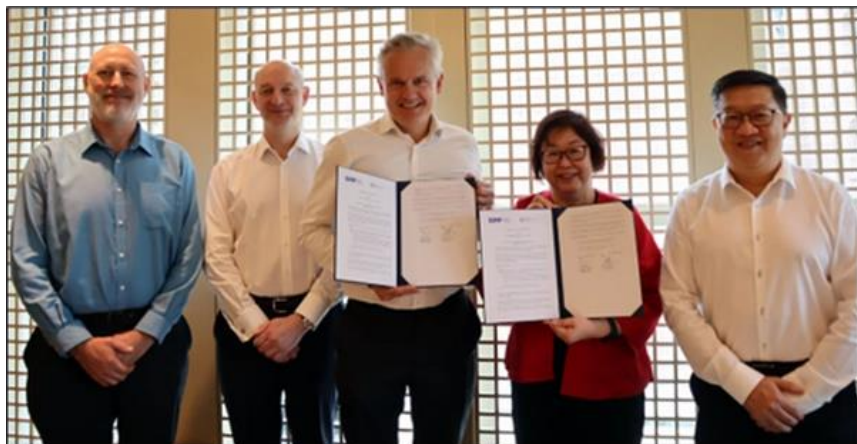


Photo – Courtesy Of IGP&I - From (L) John Martin, SMF Board Member and CEO, Gard Singapore; Andrew Cutler, Chair, IGP&I and CEO, the Britannia Group; Nick Shaw, CEO, IGP&I; Tan Beng Tee, Executive Director, SMF; and Hor Weng Yew, Chairman, SMF and MD & CEO, Pacific Carriers Limited at the MOU signing between SMF and IGP&I on 17 April 2024

April 22 - The Singapore Maritime Foundation (SMF) and the International Group of P&I Clubs (IGP&I) on 17 April 2024 signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to cooperate in the promotion of education and training of marine

liability to the Singapore talent pool.

Signed during Singapore Maritime Week 2024, the MOU provides a framework to leverage on the unique strengths and value propositions of each respective organisation for the shared goal of providing high-quality maritime education and the development of talent for the maritime industry.

As part of the cooperation, SMF and IGP&I will work together to design and deliver professional development courses on topics related to marine liability such as introduction to protection & indemnity (P&I) insurance, limitation regimes, claims case studies, safety at sea, liability and compensation, and more. IGP&I / [Read more](#)

SRI LANKA: TRAINING "AERIAL AND SATELLITE OBSERVATION OF POLLUTION AT SEA" IN SRI LANKA

April 9 - As part of a pilot project dedicated to satellite monitoring of accidental marine pollution, coordinated by [CLS](#) and funded by the [French Treasury](#) in the form of a FASEP grant, two Cedre engineers travelled to Colombo (Sri Lanka) to conduct a two-day training course in cooperation with Cosse Consulting, which followed a first session held in Brest in November 2023.

Cedre also took part in a workshop on the incorporation of MARPOL 73/78 into Sri Lankan regulations. The aim of the expertise provided by Cedre was to help [MEPA](#) integrate satellite observation into a more global framework for preparedness and response to pollution at sea. CEDRE / [Read more](#) [Photo courtesy of Cedre]



UK: CREATING RESILIENCE IN HAZARDOUS INDUSTRIES, THURSDAY 3RD OCTOBER 2024, P&J LIVE, ABERDEEN

April 18 - The Enviro Risk Exchange conference and exhibition leverages experiences from across the hazardous industries value chain. Through the exchange of this knowledge and best practices in safety and environmental management, we will showcase the sectors commitment to achieving Net Zero targets, fostering safe, sustainable development and enhancing existing operating practices. The event is an open forum to learn from the early adopters and those that have crossed industry markets, to share knowledge and collaborate. EnviroRisk Exchange / [Learn more](#)

USA: BOEM IMPOSES STRICTER CLEANUP BOND REQUIREMENTS FOR OFFSHORE O&G

April 15 - For the first time in 20 years, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management has changed the rules on how offshore oil and gas operators guarantee that they will clean up after a platform is decommissioned. These costs are high, and BOEM says that it wants to ensure that the expense does not fall on the federal government. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: US DESIGNATES PFAS CHEMICALS AS SUPERFUND HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

April 19 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency on Friday designated a pair of widely used industrial chemicals as hazardous substances under the country's Superfund program, accelerating a crackdown on toxic compounds known as "forever chemicals." The rule will require companies to report leaks of two of the most commonly used per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, or PFAS, and help pay to clean up existing contamination. Wtaq.com / [Read more](#)

USA: NEW YORK SETS UP DEDICATED OFFICE FOR REMOVING DERELICT VESSELS

April 21 - New York City is tackling the perennial problem of abandoned vessels with the establishment of an office that will be tasked with keeping waterfronts clear of marine hazards, which are becoming a threat to health, safety and the environment.

New York's Parks Department says that over 800 derelict boats are located along the city's 520 miles of shoreline. These deteriorating hulls pose a serious risk to navigation and public safety. They are also a threat to marine habitats and ecosystems in the event of oil and fuel leaks, and their fiberglass hulls leach large amounts of microplastics into the waters.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: ALASKA - ALYESKA PIPELINE TAKES DELIVERY OF NEW SPILL RESPONSE BARGE



Photo courtesy of Elliott Bay Design Group

April 23 - Recently delivered to the Alyeska Pipeline Service Company by Anacortes, Wash., shipbuilder Dakota Creek Industries, the 13,600 barrel oil spill response barge Allison Creek is specifically designed to meet the rigorous requirements in Alaska's Prince William Sound.

Designed by Seattle headquartered Elliott Bay Design Group (EBDG), the Allison Creek has a capacity of 13,600 barrels, an overall length of 200 feet, beam of 42 feet, depth of 16 feet and is outfitted with a deck crane and on-deck houses to store emergency response equipment. The spill response barge is certified by the United States Coast Guard for the recovery and disposal transport of petroleum products, ensuring compliance with applicable requirements outlined in USCG 46 CFR Subchapter D. Additionally, it is classed by ABS for Oil Spill Recovery. Marine Log / [Read more](#)

USA: U.S. EPA FINALIZES RULE REQUIRING FACILITY RESPONSE PLANS FOR HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DISCHARGES

April 23 - On March 28, 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued a final rule requiring certain onshore facilities to prepare Facility Response Plans (FRPs) for the worst-case discharges of Clean Water Act (CWA) hazardous substances. FRPs are due to EPA by June 1, 2027, or prior to the start of operations for facilities constructed after June 1, 2027. The FRP requirements are located in a new Part 118 of Title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR). Mondaq / [Read more](#)

USA: RISK EVALUATIONS FOR EXISTING CHEMICALS UNDER TSCA

April 24 - This page provides an overview of how EPA conducts risk evaluations for existing chemical substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA), as amended by the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act and the status of EPA's ongoing risk evaluations and other assessment-related activities and document

The Risk Evaluation process is the second step, following Prioritization and before Risk Management, in EPA's existing chemical process under TSCA. The purpose of risk evaluation is to determine whether a chemical substance presents an unreasonable risk to health or the environment, under the conditions of use, including an unreasonable risk to a relevant potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulation. As part of this process, EPA must (1) evaluate both hazard and exposure, (2) exclude consideration of costs or other non-risk factors, (3) use scientific information and approaches in a manner that is consistent with the requirements in TSCA for the best available science, and (4) ensure decisions are based on the weight-of-scientific-evidence. EPA / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

April 29 – Please click on the links below to read the latest news.

Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund 2024 Request for Proposals

On April 23, the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation (NFWF), in partnership with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Marine Debris Program, announced a request for proposals under the Hurricane Response Marine Debris Removal Fund.

OR&R Trains Emergency Response Agencies On Oil Spill Shoreline Cleanup

During an early April Nor'easter, team members from OR&R's Emergency Response Division hosted two dozen students at a [Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique \(SCAT\)](#) training in Gloucester, Massachusetts.

NOAA Presents on Dangers of Plastic Pollution at Pfizer Earth Week Seminar Series

On April 23, Nancy Wallace, director of the NOAA Marine Debris Program within the Office of Response and Restoration, spoke about the dangers of plastic pollution to an audience of Pfizer employees as a part of its company-wide Earth Week seminar series

NOAA Team Supports U.S. Coast Guard Full-Scale Oil Spill Exercise in Florida

NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) teamed up with the NOAA National Weather Service (NWS) and NOAA National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) to participate in a tri-annual, full-scale national oil spill exercise as part of the Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (PREP). The exercise, hosted by the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) Sector Jacksonville in Jacksonville, Florida, was conducted on April 16-17.

NOAA Participates in Global Standards for the Remediation and Assessment of Shipwrecks

The past century of warfare and commerce has left a legacy of merchant and military shipwrecks across the world's ocean. These wrecks pose threats from oil, munitions, and other hazardous cargo, but are also historical resources, artificial reefs, recreational dive sites, and many are war graves. An estimated 8,000 vessels were sunk in World War II alone and the major flag states, including the U.S., UK, Germany, and Japan, all have potentially polluting wrecks in their waters.

2023 Damage Assessment, Remediation, and Restoration Highlights: Over \$92 Million to Restore Seven Polluted Waterways and Communities

Oil spills and hazardous waste releases can close fisheries and beaches, kill wildlife, and adversely impact the coastal communities that rely on clean and productive waterways.

Special Funding Opportunity Announced under Nationwide Fishing Trap Removal, Assessment, and Prevention (TRAP) Program

On April 15, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science, in partnership with the NOAA Marine Debris Program, announced a request for proposals under the Nationwide Fishing Trap Removal, Assessment, and Prevention (TRAP) Program. With funding from the NOAA Marine Debris Program provided by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, the Virginia Institute of Marine Science will award up to

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD (CONTINUED)

\$1,475,000 in grants to remove derelict fishing traps throughout coastal waterways of the United States while collecting data to prevent future gear loss

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

YVES DE LEENEER ELECTED AS 121ST PRESIDENT OF THE IMarEST



Yves succeeds Martin Shaw and will hold the position of the IMarEST President for one year. Stephen de Mora is deputy for the year, serving as President-Elect.

Yves, a Chartered Engineer and Chartered Marine Engineer, is a Fellow of the IMarEST and of the Royal Institution of Naval Architects. He sits on the IMarEST Board of Trustees and has been Chair of the joint IMarEST and RINA Singapore branch. IMarEST / [Read more](#)

AQUA-GUARD ANNOUNCES JASON OGILVIE AS NEW SALES MANAGER

Aqua-Guard is pleased to welcome Jason Ogilvie to the Aqua-Guard team as a new Sales Manager, bringing over 30 years of experience in mechanical engineering and manufacturing. Jason has a proven track record in project management, sales and customized tooling and parts, where he effectively lead projects from concept to completion. Aquaguard / [Read more](#)



OR&R ANNOUNCES WEST COAST AND PACIFIC ISLANDS REGIONAL PREPAREDNESS COORDINATOR

OR&R's Disaster Preparedness Program (DPP) is expanding west. Kyla Breland, the former Southeastern and Caribbean Regional Preparedness Coordinator, is now our first West Coast and Pacific Island Regional Preparedness Coordinator (RPC). This role signifies an exciting expansion within OR&R. With this new position, OR&R now has RPCs covering New England, the South East/Caribbean, the West Coast/Pacific Islands, and Alaska. NOAA OR&R / [Read more](#)

OBITUARY

OSPAR COMMISSION - REMEMBERING CLAIRE NIHOUL PARKER



It is with great sadness that the OSPAR Secretariat marks the passing of Claire Nihoul Parker, former Executive Secretary of the Oslo and Paris Commissions, and then of the OSPAR Commission.

Claire worked for the Commission(s), firstly as Deputy Secretary, and then as Executive Secretary, in the 1980s and 1990s, and is remembered for her dedication, determination, and hard work to deliver the objectives of the Commissions.

By members of the OSPAR Secretariat, past and present, who worked with her, Claire is very fondly remembered for her enthusiasm, dynamism, wit, humour, kindness, and as a very interesting and cultured person.

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

LAMOR AT THE ENVIRONMENTAL COMPLIANCE FORUM 2024



The Environmental Compliance Forum 2024 in Riyadh has wrapped up after two days of insightful discussions, organized by the National Center for Environmental Compliance. Experts from various sectors convened to explore sustainable practices aligned with Vision 2030, emphasizing the crucial role of technology, governance, and youth engagement in environmental preservation.

The Environmental Compliance Forum in Riyadh has concluded after two days of engaging discussions. Organized by the National Center for Environmental Compliance, the event brought together specialists and decision-makers from local, regional, and global levels to explore sustainable practices and future trends in environmental conservation.

We were delighted to participate in this significant event and enjoyed many fruitful discussions. LAMOR / [Read more](#)

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS

A COLUMN CREATED BY DR. MERV FINGAS, Hon.FISCO, MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL



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.

Dr Fingas' column has moved to the ISCO website. To read Dr Merv Fingas' weekly column, please click on –

<https://spillcontrol.org/interesting-peer-reviewed-oil-spill-publications-collated-by-dr-merv-fingas-member-of-isco-council-for-canada/>

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/>

DIAGNOSTIC FEATURES EMERGING IN NEAR-INFRARED REFLECTANCE SPECTROSCOPY FOR LOW PETROLEUM HYDROCARBON POLLUTION AFTER SPECTRAL SUBTRACTION

Diagnostic features in near-infrared reflectance spectroscopy (NIRS) are the foundation of knowledge-based approach of petroleum hydrocarbon determination. However, a significant challenge arises when analyzing samples with low levels of petroleum hydrocarbon pollution, as they often lack distinctive diagnostic features in their sample NIRS spectra, limiting the effectiveness of this approach. Science Direct / [Read more](#)

ACCIDENTAL DISCOVERY TRANSFORMS CORK INTO AN ECO-FRIENDLY OIL SPONGE

In *Applied Physics Letters*, by AIP Publishing, researchers from Central South University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, and Ben-Gurion University of the Negev used laser treatments to transform ordinary cork into a powerful tool for treating oil spills. Scitech / [Read more](#)

STUDY SHOWS THE LONGER SPILLED OIL LINGERS IN FRESHWATER, THE MORE PERSISTENT COMPOUNDS IT PRODUCES

Researchers concluded that as the oil weathered, more and more oxygen atoms were incorporated into some compounds, causing them to become more persistent in water. As a result, higher concentrations of the oxygen-loaded chemicals could build up, potentially increasing the impact on aquatic organisms. PhysOrg / [Read more](#)

TRAINING COURSES

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

USEFUL LINKS

- INTERNATIONAL – IMO E-LEARNING PLATFORM [e-learning platform](#)
- AUSTRALIA – AMOSC - <https://amosc.com.au/training/>
- AUSTRALIA & NEW ZEALAND – ALGA - <https://landandgroundwater.com>
- CHINA - <http://www.sioetc.com>
- EUROPE – <https://www.emsa.europa.eu/newsroom/latest-news/item/3609-emsa-training-catalogue-2019.html>
- FRANCE - CEDRE - https://wwz.cedre.fr/en/content/download/10912/file/CalendrierFormation2023_EN.pdf
- UK & WORLDWIDE – OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD. - <https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/courses/>
- UK & WORLDWIDE – BRIGGS ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES LTD. - <https://www.briggsmarine.com/services/training/>
- UK & WORLDWIDE – AMBIPAR GROUP <https://ambipar.com/uk/training/>
- UK & 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://ahmpnet.org/events/events_list.asp

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

TECHNICAL SUPPORT

FUEL FOR THOUGHT: AMMONIA REPORT

In the second report in our “Fuel for thought” alternative fuels series we evaluate ammonia. We will explore the current state of ammonia as a clean fuel, including its safety considerations, drivers for adoption, production and supply chain, and technology readiness. We will also examine the potential implications of widespread adoption of ammonia as a clean fuel and its role in achieving a sustainable future. Ir.org / [Read more](#)

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 AND MAY 2024

- UK – IOPC Funds Meeting of the Governing Bodies, IMO London. 29 April to 2 May
- WEBINAR from ALGA –Environment Impairment Liability Insurance – the Insurance you didn’t know you needed, Tuesday 30th April, 12.00pm to 1.00pm AEST
- GLOBAL WEBINAR – UNEP – Utilising UNEP’s Free Online Training Resources for Reducing Pollution Risks in the Upstream Oil and Gas Sector, Tuesday 7th May 2024 at 2.30 pm BST
- USA – International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition, 13-16 May 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana
- AUSTRALIA – ALGA – Contaminated Land & Groundwater Conference, 16th – 17th May 2024, Perth
- UK – HAZMAT 2024 Forum for Hazmat Professionals, 22nd May 2024, Stratford-upon-Avon
- WEBINAR – from Exxon Oil Spill Response Knowledge Transfer – “Inland Spill Response: Coordination Challenges and Lessons Learned”, Wednesday 29th May at 10am Eastern Time

JUNE 2024 Onwards

- UK – UK & Ireland Spill Association – Marine Spill & Plastic Conference, 11th-12th June 2024, Southampton
- 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: TIME IS RUNNING OUT TO REGISTER FOR IOSC 2024

[International Oil Spill Conference \(IOSC\)](#) in New Orleans, May 13-16, 2024 Click on links for updated info – [OPENING PLENARY SESSION](#) [JUSTIFY YOUR ATTENDANCE AT IOSC 2024](#) [LISTEN TO TESTIMONIALS](#) [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.

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 CLEAN GULF 2024 IS NOW OPEN

Click on the links for update information - [REGISTRATION](#)

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

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](#)
[PARTICIPATION UPDATE](#)

The Interspill conference is recognised for its excellence, focus on emerging research and depth of scientific content. It is organised by the Conference Committee that has new chairs Rob Holland and Richard Johnson, who were appointed at the Conference Committee Meeting held in London on 20 February 2024.

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



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NEW PUBLICATIONS

IPIECA ANNUAL REVIEW 2023

<https://www.ipieca.org/resources/annual-review/2023-annual-review>

FIDRA – NURDLE NEWS APRIL 2024

<https://mailchi.mp/fidra.org.uk/nurdle-newsletter-sep-15646187?e=864209fad1>

INCIDENT REPORTS

EGYPT: GAS VESSEL RUNS AGROUND IN THE RED SEA, ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY

April 15 - [The Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency](#) (EEAA) received a report from the Director of the South Sinai Reserves and the Mutual Aid Center at the Regional Authority for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden about the stranding of a gas vessel on the Ras Nasrani reef at the entrance to the Gulf of Aqaba. Egyptian Independent / [Read more](#)

USA: GUAM - OIL SPILL AT HAGÁTÑA MARINA

April 16 - An oil spill at the Gregorio D. Perez Marina in Hagåtña occurred during the dredging operations at Guam Fishermen's Co-op property yesterday, the Port Authority of Guam said in a press release. The Guam Fisherman's Co-op subsequently engaged services from an environmental response company to assist in containing the oil spill. Dredging Today / [Read more](#)

INCIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

CHINA: FOUR CREWMEMBERS MISSING AFTER CHINESE VESSEL HITS BRIDGE AND SINKS

April 23 - Chinese officials report a massive search is underway for four missing crewmembers after a vessel hit a bridge crossing the Xijian river and sunk. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

SUEZ CANAL - VIDEO: SUEZ CANAL RESPONDS TO DISTRESS CALL FROM LISTING VESSEL

April 23 - The Suez Canal Authority is reporting that it responded to a distress call from a small cargo ship that was waiting off the northern terminus of the canal. The vessel lost stability this morning, April 23, and was listing causing a concern that it would capsize. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: ARIZONA / NEW MEXICO - TRAIN CARRYING FUEL DERAILS AT ARIZONA-NEW MEXICO STATE LINE, CAUSES INTERSTATE CLOSURE

April 27 - [A train derailment at the Arizona-New Mexico state line](#) is reportedly under investigation. The freight train was carrying propane and gasoline, according to The Arizona Department of Transportation. MSN / [Read more](#)

HISTORY

FLASHBACK IN MARITIME HISTORY AND INFOGRAPHIC: DEEPWATER HORIZON EXPLOSION AND FIRE, 20 APRIL 2010

On 20 April 2010, the MODU Deepwater Horizon, engaged in drilling for oil and gas in the Gulf of Mexico, suffered a catastrophic explosion and fire. Eleven workers died. Due primarily to the heroic efforts of the crew of the OSV Damon B. Bankston, the other 115 persons on the MODU were evacuated safely.

A massive oil spill ensued; the cleanup has been completed; and restoration work is slowly beginning. Most of the damage claims have been settled, but some litigation is ongoing. While root cause and ultimate responsibility for this casualty continue to be disputed, it is clear that the tragic incident was preventable. Maritime Cyprus / [Read more](#)

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