



## ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for profit organisation 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

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Mr Rupert Bravery (Chairman)
  - Mr Matthew Sommerville
- Other members of the Board will be advised later

### MEMBERS OF ISCO COUNCIL

- Mr John McMurtrie, (Editor) (UK)
- Dr Larissa Montas (USA)
- Captain Bill Boyle (UK)
- Mr Marc Shaye (USA)
- Mr Michael Watson (UK)
- Mr Kerem Kemerli (USA)
- Ms Helena Rowland (USA)
- Mr Dan Sheehan (USA)
- Capt. D C Sekhar (India)
- Dr Mervyn Fingas (Canada)
- Ms Jane Delgado (USA)
- Mr Carlos Sagrera (Panama)
- Mr Ed Levine (USA)
- Mr Wu Yue (China)
- Mr Zal Rustom (UK)
- Captain Nicholas Sloane (South Africa)

NATIONAL REPRESENTATIVES - ISCO is currently in discussion with its National Representatives and some changes and additions will soon be advised.

**PLEASE CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION**



## TO THE READERS OF THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

When the Assembly of the IMO, representing 176 national governments, approved the granting of Consultative Status to ISCO it marked the international recognition of the vital role made by our industry in supporting worldwide efforts to mitigate the adverse effects of marine pollution.

The environmental aims of ISCO were accepted as being well aligned with those of IMO and, now having a privileged status, ISCO is recognised as the ONLY organisation representing the spill response community.

This enables ISCO to make contributions to decision-making processes regarding the implementation of IMO's international conventions and rules governing marine pollution.

At this time, pollution of the marine environment has reached unprecedented levels and poses irreversible changes that harm the world's population. The need for ISCO to step up its worldwide efforts is greater than ever.

But to do this we need to build our resources. ISCO has therefore embarked on a determined effort to increase its membership. With more support we could do much more, including our efforts to engage with the younger generation.

We're very aware that many subscribers to the ISCO newsletter are not currently members of ISCO and we urge you to join now – Click this link: [Membership Application Form - Spillcontrol - Spill Control](#)

Through your membership of ISCO you have a voice at an international level – be aware that through our Consultancy Status at IMO members can have an input that is not available to individual members and national groups.

## CAPTAIN NICHOLAS SLOANE ELECTED AS A NEW MEMBER OF THE ISCO COUNCIL

ISCO Chairman, Rupert Bravery, and the ISCO Council are pleased to welcome Nichollas Sloane as a member of the ISCO Council.

For the interest of our members and readers, and by way of an introduction, here is a short bio –

**Captain Nicholas Sloane** was born in Zambia and finished high school at Kearsney College in South Africa, where he still lives just outside of Cape Town.

In 1980, Nick joined the merchant navy with SAFMARINE and was appointed master in 1990 and salvage master in 1991. He has been involved in casualties and salvage for over 40 years, his first LOF being in August 1983. Nick has responded to incidents on a global basis including the middle east, far east, north and south America and islands around Africa and responses around the world.

**MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO**[Benefits of Membership](#)[Online Membership Application Form](#)

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

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

ISCO 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)



Raising the grounded cruise ship, Costa Concordia is one of Nick's widely publicised achievements but as well as this, he has attended major casualties such as Rena; Tasman Spirit; Jolly Rubino; Sealand Express, Tochal, Treasure, Ikan Tanda, Castillo del Bellver and Brillante Virtuosa. Nick has also attended to aircraft recoveries from deep water (SA Helderberg Flight 295), eight oil rigs and over 100 other casualties and oil spill the world.

In 2010, Nick was appointed to the Lloyd's Panel of Special Casualty Representatives and sat as the President of the ISU (International Salvage Union) from November 2021 until the end of 2023. He is a Fellow of the Nautical Institute and a Fellow of the International Institute of Marine Surveyors, in addition to being a member of the Scopic Committee at Lloyd's and The South African Maritime Law Association he has been awarded:

- the German Ocean Award in 2015;
- an Italian Knighthood after the Costa Concordia project;
- the Gold Medal: Society of Master Mariners of South Africa; and
- the Sir Liege Hulett Award (2020).

As well as being the Chairman of the SAMGA and an executive of the SAEF (SA Equestrian Federation), Nick also sits as the Chair of "World Sailings" safety commission.

**IOPC FUNDS ADDRESSES THE DANGERS OF DARK FLEET TANKERS**

The International Oil Pollution Compensation (IOPC) Funds convened in London (29 April- 1 May) to address critical issues surrounding compensation and treaty matters related to oil pollution damage caused by tanker spills, BIMCO informs.

According to BIMCO, a number of important issues were discussed at this week's IOPC Funds meeting, including the potential impact of sanctions on the international liability and compensation regime amongst other resulting from the fact that a continuously growing fleet of tankers, mainly older ships, including some that have not been inspected recently and which have substandard maintenance, unclear ownership and lack of insurance, are being operated as a "dark fleet" to circumvent sanctions. Safety4Sea / [Read more](#)

**IOPC FUNDS AND IMO HOST JOINT WORKSHOP ON THE 2010 HNS CONVENTION**

On 1 and 2 May, the IOPC Funds and the International Maritime Organization (IMO) jointly hosted a workshop on the 2010 Convention on the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) by sea. The workshop, which was held at IMO and was accessible to both in-person and remote participants, attracted 57 States and a wide range of participants from industry and interested organisations. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

**TRANSATLANTIC CO-OPERATION**

A joint meeting of the Spill Control Association of America and UK and Ireland Spill Association was held prior to international oil spill conference on 13 May 2024. The primary objective of the initial senior member meeting is to recognize the importance of Spill Response Associations across the globe and highlight common challenges, opportunities and initiatives that all these Associations share. Although unique in their individual charters, structure and operating mandates, they all share a common interest in improving the planet's oceans and environment from the dangers of pollution in a changing world.

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

In addition to SCAA and UK/EireSpill leadership from both the Association of Petroleum Industry Cooperative Managers (APICOM) and the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO) will be in attendance.

Mark Orr, Executive Director of the UK/EireSpill, and Brian House, Executive Director of SCAA developed the concept and importance of this forum and will execute a formal Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to memorialize the Associations' joint commitment towards a closer working relationship and collaboration. The meeting will include a brief overview presentation from each of the four Associations, and then a facilitated session where common challenges and opportunities are identified that may benefit from greater collaboration and a unified voice across the globe.

For more information, please contact either:

Mark J Orr, Executive Director, UK and Ireland Spill Association [info@ukeirespill.org](mailto:info@ukeirespill.org)

or: Brian House, Executive Director, Spill Control Association of America [bhouse@scaa-spill.org](mailto:bhouse@scaa-spill.org)

## 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](mailto: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.

### EUROPE: EMSA RPAS DEPLOYMENT IN THE NORTH SEA WITH THE ROYAL DANISH NAVY

EMSA has begun a four-month remotely piloted aircraft system (RPAS) service in the North Sea, supporting the Royal Danish Navy and Danish Customs. The service uses a new Hybrid Quadcopter with fixed wing and vertical take-off and landing capabilities; the first time this model has been deployed in an EMSA RPAS operation. EMSA / [Read more](#)

### LATIN AMERICA: COUNTRIES PUSH COORDINATED WORK TO TACKLE MARINE PLASTIC LITTER

Ensuring litter does not reach the sea from shipping and fisheries in both the Atlantic and Pacific oceans is a key ambition for countries in Latin America. Seven countries in the region have set out their priorities for regional action, during a meeting in Brasilia, Brazil (8-12 April): the Latin America Regional Task Force Meeting and Workshop, held under the GloLitter Partnerships Project. IMO / [Read more](#)

### S. E. ASIA: STATE OF RIVER BASIN REPORTING TO START IN SEVEN PRIORITY RIVERS

As part of an evidence-based approach to conserve and improve the water quality of the identified priority river basins in Southeast Asia, a reporting mechanism will be established in six ASEAN member states including Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines, and Viet Nam starting in 2024.

Mainland Southeast Asia is home to five major transboundary river systems including the Mekong River, Red River, Irrawaddy River, Salween River, and Chao Phraya River. Maritime Southeast Asia also hosts major river systems that flow into the adjacent coastal and marine areas. These rivers are vital sources of freshwater for drinking, irrigation, and hydropower. They are also home to unique plants and animals that contribute to healthy and well-functioning ecosystems; support transportation, recreation and tourism, and provide a range of other services. However, these rivers are currently under threat from population growth, urbanization, industrialization, and climate change. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

## ISCO NEWS

### ISCO COUNCIL MEMBER, DR LARISSA MONTAS COMPLETES MIAMI BEACH MARINE STUDY



Dr. Larissa Montas has over 20 years experience in the practice of engineering and corporate governance. She has two undergraduate degrees in civil and environmental engineering, a master's degree in civil engineering, and a Ph.D. in chemical and environmental engineering.

Her work has centered on oil spills, contaminants in the marine environment and GIS analysis.

Dr. Larissa Montas was the lead author in a study that investigated marine water quality issues in a waterway formerly used for recreational swimming and fishing in the Island of Miami Beach, FL U.S.A.

Residents of shoreline property along the waterway have been issued a no contact advisory due to contaminant levels making the marine water unsafe for human health.



Right - Image of study area located on the west coast of the island of Miami Beach.

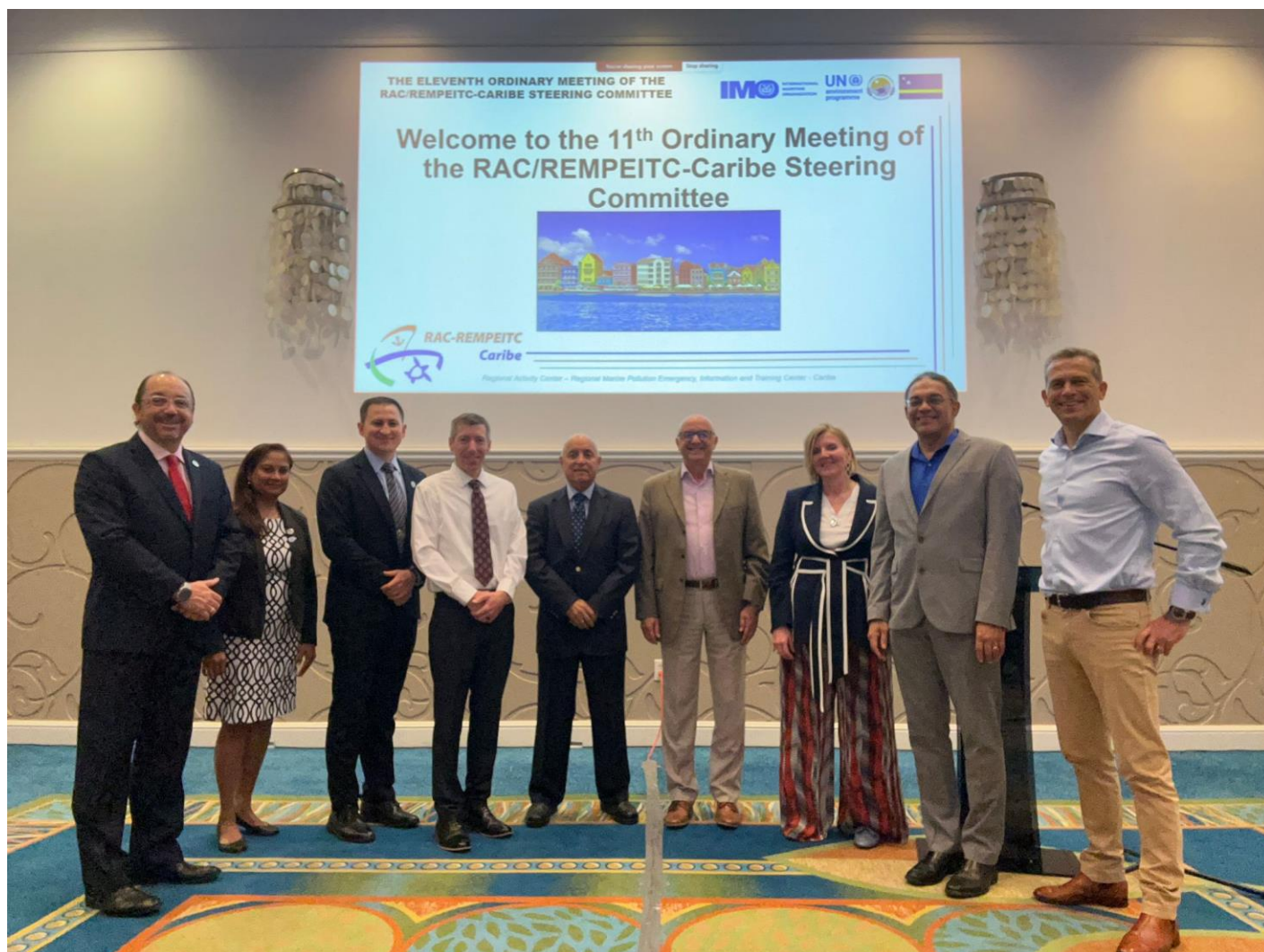
The study was commissioned by the City of Miami Beach (CMB). The research team, including undergraduate and Ph.D. students, analysed historical water quality, tide, and meteorological data collected by the CMB.

The findings prompted a comprehensive investigation, including collection and subsequent laboratory analysis of marine water samples by boat, runoff samples from outfalls draining to the waterway, and from upstream locations in the stormwater conveyance system. Additionally, groundwater samples were also collected from monitoring wells in proximity to the shoreline and tested in the laboratory.

The study area sits above an unconfined aquifer, has high groundwater tables, and experiences seasonal tidal inundation of the stormwater conveyance system. Dr. Montas used Geographical Information Systems (GIS) and spatial analysis of existing stormwater and wastewater infrastructure in conjunction with the sampling results to determine the source of the pollution.

The study recommended improvements to the stormwater system and maintenance of the sanitary sewer system to mitigate impacts and minimize transport of pollutants to coastal waters. Further details are available in a peer reviewed paper published by the scientific journal Water Research (click [here](#)). Dr. Montas can be contacted via email at [l.montas@umiami.edu](mailto:l.montas@umiami.edu)

## ISCO AS OBSERVER AT THE ELEVENTH ORDINARY MEETING OF THE RAC/REMPEITC-CARIBE STEERING COMMITTEE – CURACAO, 7-8TH MAY, 2024





This biannual meeting <https://new.racrempeitc.org/11th-ordinary-steering-committee-meeting/> was held with the presence of ISCO as Observer (Carlos Sagrera – ISCO Latin America Representative - Spanish Speaking) and representatives of Curacao (Minister of Transport Charles Cooper, Ms. Gisette Seferina - Chair Person & Carla Bikker - Director of RAC/REMPEITC & Giselle Hollander - Director Ministry of Transport, Aruba (Eurico Hermans - Director Crisis Management Office & Erwin Henriquez - Deputy Harbor Master), Bonaire (Minguelito Abrahams - Harbor Master), Jamaica (Christopher Corbin - UNEP - Cartagena Convention Secretariat), Nicaragua (COCATRAM - José Dopeso ), Honduras (Laura Rivera - Deputy Director DGMM), Netherlands (Andre Eversdijk - Crisis Manager & Adriann Hamelink - Ing. Teamleader Incident), Trinidad & Tobago (Richmond Basant - Maritime Administrator & Nadia Gour - IMO Consultant), UK (ITOPF - Richard Johnson - Technical Director), IMO (Marine Environment Division Patricia Charlebois - Deputy Director, Carlos Salgado - Head Latin American and Caribbean Section Subdivision for Management and Coordination), US (OSRL - Paul Schuler - Director External Affairs; USCG - LCDR Jason Scott - Artic and International Coordination Division Chief & LT Matthew Martin - IMO Consultant), ARPEL (Miguel Moyano - Senior Managing Director).

On the first day (<https://new.racrempeitc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/OSC-11-1-2-Meeting-Agenda.pdf>) they showed up the status of the Ongoing Projects, develop ideas for the sustainability of the center, the development of the 2025-2030 Strategic Plan and the immediate 2024-2026 Work Plan. On the second day, presentations of the Case Study of the Spill in Tobago in February 2024

were carried out by authorities from Trinidad & Tobago, Bonaire and the Netherlands (Dutch Caribbean Coast Guard). Presentations followed from Oilmap (RPS - Eric Comerma), COCATRAM (Activities – José Dopeso), ARPEL (RETOS – Miguel Moyano - [https://new.racrempeitc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/11-9-6-SCM-Proposal\\_ARPEL.pdf](https://new.racrempeitc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/11-9-6-SCM-Proposal_ARPEL.pdf)), IPIECA & OSRL, Honduran Maritime Authority (Actions of the Environmental Department – Laura Rivera - DGMM), Caribbean Disaster and Emergency Management Agency (CDEMA), Caribbean Maritime University's Center for Blue Economy and the Maritime Technology Cooperation Center Caribbean (MTCC). Patricia Charlebois set guidelines and the priority objectives of IMO, highlighting the issue of potential risks with new fuels (LPG, LNG, etc.), noting the need not to duplicate efforts in regional organizations and supported the idea of RAC/ REMPEITC to lead Working Groups and thus create synergies and complementarity for the main objectives of the IMO's Marine Environmental Protection Committee (MEPC): MEPC 1 - MARPOL I-VI Plastic Litter, Polar Code, and Particularly Sensitive Sea Areas (PSSAs); MEPC 2 - AFS/Biofuling & Ballast Water Management Convention; MEPC 3 - Hong Kong Ship Recycling Convention; MEPC 4 - Oil Pollution Prevention, Response and Cooperation (OPRC) Convention and Hazardous Noxious Substances (HNS) Protocol; MEPC 5 - London Protocol & Ocean Governance. Within this framework of the MEPC 4 objective, ISCO made a presentation on the topic: "HNS Management in Mexico and the Region: A Necessary Prioritization" ([https://new.racrempeitc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/11-9-3-SCM-Propsoal\\_ISCO.pdf](https://new.racrempeitc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/05/11-9-3-SCM-Propsoal_ISCO.pdf)), managing to include the HNS topic and for the first time in RAC/REMPEITC, activities to be developed in the Working Groups established as the Spanish translation of the Marine HNS Response Manual (Bonn Agreement, Helcom and REMPECT), which will be a notable and necessary contribution for Spanish-speaking Latin America (<https://helcom.fi/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Marine-HNS-Response-Manual-interactive.pdf>). Carlos Salgado, for his part, and in his leadership role with the IMO Environment Division in the Caribbean and Latin America, pointed out the progress being made in the IMO objectives within the framework of the assigned regional organization, COCATRAM, in topics such as Port Reception Facilities, as well as indicated the agenda of activities at the ROCRAM level that will be developed in the coming months in the region.



About the Tobago spill incident, the role of RAC/REMPEICT was also explained, which provided training to more than 100 volunteers in shoreline cleanup efforts. On the other hand, information was provided on the coordination of RAC/REMPEICT between Trinidad & Tobago and the potentially affected neighboring territories: Grenada, Barbados, the Kingdom of the Netherlands and Bonaire. It must be taken into account that the oil spill moved more than 400 miles from its origin in Tobago and passed off the coast of Venezuela, with which Bonaire indicated some type of exchange took place, although without specific details. Nor was the issue of responsibilities developed, which was carried out by the investigation of the affected country, nor was there any discussion about the sunken ship that caused the spill and the tugboat that changed Flag State on the date of the spill, those that departed from Panama and that had as final destination Guyana, with a cargo of fuel oil in Venezuela, before its incident off the coast of Tobago

<https://www.bellingcat.com/news/2024/02/20/how-a-leaking-barge-became-an-oil-spill-disaster-off-the-tobago-coast/>) - ISCO Newsletters N° 924 – 925 - 926 (February 2024); ISCO Newsletters N° 927 – 928 – 929 (March 2024).

This case alone justifies the existence of RAC/REMPEICT and the greater role it can play in this type of incidents in the region. Once responsibilities have been determined, it would be interesting to generate an objective report on this Case Study that would be available to all countries in the region.



Finally, and at the end of the event, two emotional events were held and two emblematic figures in the region were honored, who are entering a well-deserved retirement after exemplary years of activities in support of the RAC/REMPEICT activities in the case of the Master Mariner Johannes Kooijman (Netherlands Shipmaster's Association), iconic figure in Curacao, and in the case of Paul Schuler (CCA-OSRL) also for that reason and for his paradigmatic role for more than 30 years in oil spill control issues in the region.

**NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD**

**FREE ADVERTISEMENT**  
Corporate Members can place a free website-linked ad here. Contact Mike Watson for details [spillcontrol@mwadigital.com](mailto:spillcontrol@mwadigital.com)

World News is collated from websites located at <https://spillcontrol.org/national-organizations/> On request we can add websites to our checking list but we are also planning to remove sites that fail to provide interesting up-to-date news and press releases appropriate for inclusion in your weekly newsletter.

**AUSTRALIA: REGISTER FOR THE INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR WOMEN IN MARITIME 2024 EVENT**

Join us either online or in-person for a panel discussion on how the maritime industry can shape the future of the maritime workforce by creating safe and inclusive workplaces, followed by breakout discussions and networking. Date: Thursday 16 May 11:30 am – 3:30 pm AWST (in-person) or midday – 1.30 pm AWST (online) Location: East Fremantle Yacht Club, East Fremantle WA (or join us online) The event is co-hosted by AMSA, WISTA Australia and the Nautical Institute. [Register now](#)

**AUSTRALIA'S STRONGEST ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS HAVE COMMENCED IN NSW WITH SIGNIFICANT CHANGES TO EPA POWERS AND PENALTIES FOR ENVIRONMENTAL OFFENCES**

May 3 - The Environment Protection Legislation Amendment (Stronger Regulation and Penalties) Act 2024 (the Amendment Act) has now commenced, which introduces into NSW the strongest environmental laws in Australia. The overhaul has occurred at the same





time as the NSW Environment Protection Authority (EPA) has carried out criminal investigations into the asbestos-contaminated mulch, emphasised the need to strengthen environmental legislation.

[Read more](#)

### **CANADA: VANCOUVER NOT READY FOR OIL SPILL, AS PIPELINE STARTS PUMPING**

May 7 - A B.C. advocacy group says authorities are not prepared to protect Metro Vancouver residents in the event of an oil tanker spill in the Burrard Inlet. *Ladysmith Chronicle* / [Read more](#)

### **GUAM: U.S. COAST GUARD CONDUCTS SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE WITH SUPREME PETROLEUM GUAM**

May 9 - On May 1, 2024, U.S. Coast Guard Forces Micronesia/Sector Guam personnel executed a Government-Initiated Unannounced Exercise (GIUE) at the Harbor of Refuge testing Supreme Petroleum, a key player in Guam's petroleum industry. *USCG* / [Read more](#)



### **JAPAN: OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING PROGRAMME**

View timetable at <https://www.pcs.gr.jp/p-shikizai/kunrenplan-e.html>

### **TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: OIL SPILL VESSEL OWNERS COULD BE 'ROGUES'**

May 7 - ENERGY Minister Stuart Young says Government has been advised by some of its international partners that the owners of two vessels involved in the February 7 oil spill off Tobago's southeast coast could be members of a group of rogue vessel owners who breach international maritime laws with impunity. *Newsday* / [Read more](#)

### **UK: CHEMUK 2024 – 15-16 MAY, BIRMINGHAM**

UK & Ireland Spill Association - CHEM UK Expo is one of the best face to face events we attend each year. Very well organised and with an educated audience of professionals in the chemical industry and its supply chain. It is a busy show with many attending. Consequently, we are privileged to have been invited to hold a 2-day 'Chemical incident response' open house clinic from our stand #N94. Come and talk to chemical spill responders and seek advice and guidance! [More info](#)

### **USA: NEW YORK - GRAVEYARD OF CHEMICAL DRUMS UNEARTHED**

May 3 - Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino has renewed demands for Northrop Grumman to excavate all contaminated soils at Bethpage Community Park following the recent discovery of six 55-gallon chemical drums buried just 7 feet underground near the ballfield and skate park. These chemical drums are encased in concrete coffins, which is highly uncommon according to environmental experts. *Nassau Observer* / [Read more](#)

### **USA: LATEST NEWS FROM NOAA OR&R**

May 6 – Please click on the links below to read the latest news.

#### **Pollution Settlement Finalized to Restore Wetlands, Floodplains, and Riverbanks in New Jersey**

On April 8, 2024, the New Jersey District Court [accepted the entry of a settlement](#) reached by NOAA and our co-trustees with Wyeth Holdings, LLC. This settlement compensates for natural resource injuries resulting from hazardous substance releases at/near the [American Cyanamid](#) Superfund Site in Bridgewater, New Jersey.

#### **NOAA Advances Science, Tools and Coordination for Marine Pollution and Coastal Emergencies at Annual National Response Team Meeting**

From April 23-25, OR&R staff participated in the annual meeting of the National Response Team (NRT) held in St. Louis, Missouri. The NRT provides technical assistance, resources and coordination on preparedness, planning, response and recovery activities for emergencies involving hazardous substances, pollutants and contaminants, oil, and weapons of mass destruction in natural and technological disasters and other environmental incidents of national significance

#### **OR&R Spotlights Environmental Restoration and Debris Removal Projects in Visit to Washington State Field Projects**

On April 23 - 24, the Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R), led by Director Scott Lundgren, hosted a two-day tour of major restoration and debris removal projects in Washington State for Deputy Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management Paul Scholz. A congressional staffer for Senator Patty Murray's (D-WA) also joined for key events.

### **OR&R Continues to Support Coast Guard Response to Diesel Spill in U.S. Virgin Islands**

On October 25, 2023, a local power and water utility experienced a release of diesel fuel from a tank at a plant in Havensight, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The spill of No. 2 diesel was discharged outside the tank's secondary containment. Original spill estimates of 33,600 gallons of diesel have since been updated and calculated to be over 50,000 gallons.

### **Fourth Session of Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee to Develop International Legally Binding Instrument on Plastic Pollution**

From April 22-29, 2024, over 2,500 participants—representing 170 governments as well as stakeholders from nongovernment organizations, academia, the private sector, the United Nations, and other international organizations—met in Ottawa, Canada, for the fourth session of the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee (INC-4) to continue negotiations towards a new international legally binding instrument on plastic pollution.

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### **OR&R Hosts 5th Annual NOAA Hurricane Preparedness Summit**

Ahead of the approaching hurricane season, the Office of Response and Restoration's (OR&R) Disaster Preparedness Program, in conjunction with the [Coastal Response Research Center](#) (link is external) (CRRC) at the University of New Hampshire, held its 5th annual Hurricane Preparedness Summit.

### **OR&R Promotes Marine Debris and Emergency Response Awareness for New England Partners and Stakeholders**

On April 30, several members from the [NOAA Marine Debris Program](#) within the Office of Response and Restoration joined OR&R's Scientific Support and Regional Preparedness Coordinator William Whitmore to host a Marine Debris 101 workshop for partners and stakeholders in the New England region. Roughly three dozen participants attended the 90-minute virtual workshop.

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

### **ALPHAMERS SIGNS MOU WITH GOVERNMENT OF GOA**



An MOU was signed between GOA CSR Authority (Govt of Goa) and AlphaMERS to arrest plastics and marine debris in rivers and streams along the coast of Goa.

Called "Mhazo Daryo" ("My rivers") this project once completed, will be the largest river clean-up project in the world.

This will lead to cleaner rivers and coastline in Goa, benefitting marine ecology, fisheries and tourism.

<https://alphamers.com/>

### **OSRL ANNOUNCES UK TRAINING COURSES**

#### **Environmental Advisor –**

21st May, 3 Days, Pembroke, UK - Environmental Advisor is tailor-made for an HSEQ position or a dedicated environmental custodian with responsibility for oil spill preparedness and response.

A unique and invaluable environmentally focused three-day course delivered in Pembrokeshire, Wales, the site of the most recent UK Tier 3 oil spill incident involving a large-scale shoreline impact.

Other upcoming UK training courses will be held in Shetland, Southampton and Aberdeen.

[Read more about these courses](#)



## 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.*

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/>

## ANNOUNCEMENT

**SEATRADE MARITIME SALVAGE & WRECK, LONDON – AGENDA NOW LIVE** [View Agenda](#)

## 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/>*

### **BIOMASS-DERIVED ADSORBENTS: UNIVERSAL DATABASE DEVELOPMENT FOR THEIR SYNTHESIS AND REMEDIATION EFFICIENCY AS A NECESSARY STEP TO MOVE FROM LABORATORY- TO PILOT-SCALE APPLICATIONS**

Biomass derived materials should be assumed as efficient and sustainable adsorbents + Pointing out the necessity for development of a universal database for bio-adsorbents + Standardization of protocols for the synthesis and evaluation of biomass derived adsorbents. ScienceDirect / [Read more](#)

### **BACTERIA AND MATERIAL MADE FROM CORN KERNELS CAN CLEAN UP PCBs IN AQUATIC ENVIRONMENTS**

Researchers funded by NIEHS demonstrated a new method to clean up aquatic ecosystems using biochar — the carbon-rich byproduct of burning plant matter — and bacteria. Their cost-effective strategy has the potential to destroy polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), a group of harmful chemicals that persist in sediments. Factor.niehs.nih.gov / [Read more](#)

## TRAINING COURSES

### **WORLD-LEADING TRAINING COURSE PROVIDERS**

Click on this link below to get details and links for Training Course Providers – Worldwide and in Europe, Australia, China, France, UK and USA - <https://spillcontrol.org/training-courses/>

## UPCOMING EVENTS

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

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

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

### **APRIL AND MAY 2024**

- USA – International Oil Spill Conference & Exhibition, 13-16 May 2024, New Orleans, Louisiana
- AUSTRALIA – ALGA – Contaminated Land & Groundwater Conference, 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> 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 29<sup>th</sup> May at 10am Eastern Time

## UPCOMING EVENTS (CONTINUED)

### JUNE 2024 Onwards

- UK – UK & Ireland Spill Association – Marine Spill & Plastic Conference, 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> 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 – “14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation”, Berlin, August 25-27, 2024
- SPAIN & ONLINE – “14<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Environmental Pollution & Remediation, Barcelona, August 25-27, 2024
- CHINA / ONLINE – WSH Asia Awards 2024, 5<sup>th</sup> September 2024
- UAE - SPE International Health, Safety, Environment, and Sustainability Conference and Exhibition 10–12 September 2024, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates
- USA – Elastec River Spill Workshop, Carmi, Indiana, 8-10 October 2024
- UK – Water, Waste & Environmental Monitoring – 9-10 October 2024, NEC, Birmingham, UK
- CHINA – 8<sup>th</sup> East Asian Seas Congress, Xiamen, 6-8 November 2024
- UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, London, 11-12 December 2024

### SOME OTHER INFORMATION

- IOPC Funds has released a calendar of its upcoming events – to view, click on <https://iopcfunds.org/news-events/events/>
- Econext has released a programme of upcoming courses and webinars. This can be viewed at [https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/product-category/webinars/?orderby=date&mc\\_cid=9c2c758fcd&mc\\_eid=6a430f153](https://econext.myvirtualcampus.co/product-category/webinars/?orderby=date&mc_cid=9c2c758fcd&mc_eid=6a430f153)
- Recordings of past ExxonMobil OSR Knowledge Transfer Webinar Recordings – [Access and Download](#)
- UK & Ireland Spill Association Alternative Marine Fuels and their Implications For Spill Response Webinar is [available to watch on YouTube](#). All six of UK & Ireland Spill Association’s Webinar Series on the Wakashio Spill are also available to watch. [More info](#)
- Gulf-Alaska Knowledge Exchange – A Workshop Series chaired by Ed Levine, Hon.FISCO – [More information](#)
- IG P&I Podcast - Exploring some of the topics discussed at the Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference - [Listen](#)

## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### USA: FINAL CHANCE TO ATTEND 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](#) [EMERGING LEADERS PROGRAM](#) [SHORT COURSES](#) [EDUCATIONAL SPONSORSHIPS PROVIDE PRIME VISIBILITY AND IMPACT](#) [COMPLETE PROGRAM](#) [FILM FESTIVAL & PHOTOGRAPHY CONTEST](#)

**Learn More about IOSC 2024** Be sure to follow IOSC on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [LinkedIn](#) for updates and announcements about #IOSC2024.

### USA: CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION 2024

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

The 2024 [CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition](#) is 6 months away but only 45 exhibit spaces remain! Book your space today and secure access to 1,500+ potential buyers from oil & gas, maritime, rail, environmental companies, and regulatory agencies. These buyers will be walking the exhibit hall, actively looking for practical solutions, emerging technologies, and services to help them better prepare, respond, or recover from, an environmental emergency.

Click on the links for updated information - [REGISTRATION](#) [SUBMISSION OF ABSTRACTS](#) [INTRODUCING THE PLANNING COMMITTEE](#) [LIST OF EXHIBITING COMPANIES](#) [SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES](#) [SPONSORS & PARTNERS](#)

Contact Renie Mayfield - 720-289-7008 or [rmayfield@accessintel.com](mailto:rmayfield@accessintel.com) - to discuss the exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities available for this year’s event!

### 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](#)



## UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

### 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>

For information updates, click on the links - [PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME AND CALL FOR PAPERS](#) [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](https://clu-in.org/products/tins/US%20Federal)

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.

### USCG - BROAD AGENCY ANNOUNCEMENT FRESHWATER OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND SCIENCE RESEARCH PART III [More info](#)

## 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](mailto:mike@mwadigital.com)



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## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### CANADA – ECONEXT BULLETIN MAY 2024

<https://us4.campaign-archive.com/?u=4f8c4bcee850d1a36755864b0&id=069418e00b>

### MEDITERRANEAN OIL INDUSTRY GROUP (MOIG) NEWSLETTER

[https://medoilgroup.org/newsletters/Newsletter\\_Issue\\_64.pdf](https://medoilgroup.org/newsletters/Newsletter_Issue_64.pdf)

## INCIDENT REPORTS

### USA: MARYLAND - SALVORS WILL USE EXPLOSIVES TO FREE UP BALTIMORE BOXSHIP DALI



*Above: Section four atop Dali's port bow (Photo courtesy of US Army Corps of Engineers)*

May 7 - The unified command tasked with overseeing the refloat operation has previously hinted at a precise, simultaneous, safe cutting method that would safely free up section four. The task will be accomplished with precision explosives, a Coast Guard spokesperson confirmed. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

### US VIRGIN ISLANDS: OR&R CONTINUES TO SUPPORT COAST GUARD RESPONSE TO DIESEL SPILL

May 8 - On October 25, 2023, a local power and water utility experienced a release of diesel fuel from a tank at a plant in Havensight, St. Thomas, U.S. Virgin Islands. The spill of No. 2 diesel was discharged outside the tank's secondary containment. Original spill estimates of 33,600 gallons of diesel have since been updated and calculated to be over 50,000 gallons.

In January 2024, the USCG Federal On-Scene Coordinator (FOSC) requested continued support from NOAA for the ongoing response, through the initial assessment phase that is estimated to last about three months. OR&R / [Read more](#)

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