



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

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Incident Reports – Because these may be received close to time of sending out the newsletter, they are entered at the latest possible time on the last page/s.

IMO COUNCIL STEPS UP ACTION ON TRANSPARENCY AND ACCESS TO INFORMATION



Above: IMO Secretary-General Mr Arsenio Dominguez (left) with Chair of the 132nd session of Council, Mr Victor Jimenez Fernandez of Spain

Meeting in London from 8 to 12 July for its 132nd session, the Council took a series of decisions to modernize its approach and operations. These include:

- Live-streaming plenary sessions of Council
- Releasing Council documents and summaries of decisions to the public
- Permanently establishing hybrid capabilities to enable for virtual and in-person participation in meetings
- Enhancing multilingualism through a Strategic Framework for Multilingualism IMO / [Read more](#)

NOVEMBER 2024 MEETING OF THE IOPC FUNDS' GOVERNING BODIES

The invitation and agenda have now been issued for the next sessions of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies, which will be held in person at the IMO Headquarters building from 5 to 8 November 2024. ([IOPC/2024/Circ.4](#)). During this meeting, a streaming service will be provided to allow additional members of delegations to follow the proceedings remotely. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#) [See also News & Events](#)

OIL TANKER INSURANCE PAYOUTS AT RISK AFTER UK'S RUSSIA SANCTIONS

Transfers of oil at sea that involve a recently sanctioned Russian insurer may prevent western firms from paying claims if something goes wrong, a key provider of cover said. Moscow-based Ingosstrakh PJSC has emerged of a major insurer to Russian oil-carrying vessels, but was sanctioned by the British government last month. Insurance Journal / [Read more](#)

STUDY FINDS HEALTH RISKS IN SWITCHING SHIPS FROM DIESEL TO AMMONIA FUEL

Ammonia could be a nearly carbon-free maritime fuel, but without new emissions regulations, its impact on air quality could significantly impact human health. The new study indicates that, under current legislation, switching the global fleet to ammonia fuel could cause up to about 600,000 additional premature deaths each year. However, with stronger regulations and cleaner engine technology, the switch could lead to about 66,000 fewer premature deaths than currently caused by maritime shipping emissions, with far less impact on global warming. Massachusetts Institute of Technology / [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

ASIA-PACIFIC: ENVIRONMENTAL REMEDIATION INDUSTRY REPORT 2024: MARKET POISED FOR GROWTH; BIOREMEDIATION LEADS THE WAY - FORECASTS TO 2029

The Asia-Pacific region stands at the forefront of growth in the environmental remediation sector, with expectations to witness a significant Compound Annual Growth Rate (CAGR) of over 9.05% from 2024 to 2029 Yahoo Finance / [Read more](#)

EUROPE: HOW ARE DANUBE COMMUNITIES COMING TOGETHER TO TACKLE PLASTIC WASTE?

The Danube, Europe's most iconic river, traverses 10 countries, providing freshwater to millions of people and a home to countless aquatic species. But there is one unwanted item increasingly found flowing with it: plastic pollution. To address this problem, the PET Kupa (Plastic Cup) project has turned a river cleanup initiative into a fun competition for local volunteers to see who can collect the most plastic waste from the Danube and Tisza rivers. On average, they collect about 1,000 kg of plastic waste per day. They also hope to involve other stakeholders and policymakers, to help tackle this issue from source to sea. Environment.ec / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

ISCO LINKED-IN PAGE ACTION NEEDED

As advised last week, ISCO is focused on building followers on its main Linked-In page and will be phasing out its secondary discussion group page. If you are currently signed into our secondary page, please make a change to following our main page at <https://www.linkedin.com/company/1765944> Having a unified site will help us have a stronger Linked-in presence and add more value for members.

NEWS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

AZERBAIJAN: COP29 HOST AZERBAIJAN SEEKS \$1BN FROM FOSSIL FUEL PRODUCERS FOR CLIMATE FUND

July 20 - Fossil-fuel producing countries and companies are being asked to pay into a new international fund to help poor countries cope with the effects of the climate crisis. the climate investment fund is being set up by the [Azerbaijan government, host country of the cop29 un climate summit](#) in November. The Guardian / [Read more](#)

CHILE: SHOA PRESENTED ON THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE NATIONAL OCEANOGRAPHIC COMMITTEE IN MARINE SCIENTIFIC RESEARCH TO THE DIRECTOR OF ANID

July 17 - With the aim of publicizing what the National Oceanographic Committee (CONA) has done to promote the development of Marine Sciences in Chile, on the afternoon of Thursday, July 11, at the Offices of the Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service of the Navy (SHOA), the Director of the Service and President of CONA, Rear Admiral Arturo Oxley, received the Director of the National Agency for Research and Development of Chile (ANID), Alejandra Pizarro Guerrero and her delegation. Directemar / [Read more](#)

EGYPT: FROM EEAA

July 24 - Continuing its series of meetings with the governors to follow up on the environmental files in the governorates and

through the video conference feature: The Minister of Environment and the Governor of Fayoum follow up on the executive position to restore the environmental balance of Lake Qarun. EEAA / [Read more](#)

INDIA: ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY BRINGS DRAFT TO ADJUDICATE POLLUTION OFFENCES

July 23 - Introducing a new regime for adjudicating environmental offences under the Environment Protection Act and Air and Water Act, the Environment Ministry has issued the draft Environment (Protection) (Amendment) Rules, 2024, giving quasi-judicial powers to bureaucrats for probing and penalising such offences. It has also proposed the creation of an Environment Protection Fund, which will get credited with the penalties imposed for environmental offences. Indian Express / [Read more](#)

ITALY: ISPRA IN REMTECH EXPO 2024

July 22 - From 18 to 20 September the XVIII Edition of RemTech Expo will be held in Ferrara, the Environmental Technological Hub specialized in the themes of restoration, regeneration and sustainable development of territories. This year too ISPRA will participate in numerous meetings. There are ten segments that make up the event: REMTECH and REMTECH EUROPE remediation of contaminated sites, COAST coastal protection, ports, sustainability, ESONDA hydrogeological instability, floods, landslides, CLIMETECH climate change, mitigation, adaptation, GEOSISM seismic risk, prevention, reconstruction, INERTIA sustainable works materials, circular economy, RIGENERACITY urban regeneration, CHEMTECH innovative and sustainable chemical industry and FIRE prevention-innovation-research, fire prevention and safety of the Italian Cultural Heritage - and a special HUTTE segment dedicated to the themes of sustainability and integral well-being. ISPRA / [Read more](#)

KENYA: SODIUM CYANIDE: THE DANGERS OF POISONOUS CHEMICAL SPILLED IN KIAMBU

July 22 - A truck containing Sodium Cyanide on Saturday overturned in Rironi, Kiambu County. The Ministry of Health reports that drums containing the poisonous chemical are missing, having been looted from the scene by unknown locals. MoH, in liaison with Kiambu County government, has since asked residents to return the highly toxic chemical. Citizen / [Be aware of the dangers](#)

MEXICO: NEW MILESTONE IN THE REGULATION OF PREVENTION AND RESPONSE CONTROL IN MEXICO – CREATION OF THE INTER-MINISTERIAL COMMISSION TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO OIL POLLUTION IN MEXICAN MARINE ZONES



July 25 – Introduction to a new short article received from Carlos Sagrera, MSc., IMO External Advisor. Hon. FISCO - ISCO Representative in Latin America.

In follow-up to the regulatory actions and Mexico's National Contingency Plan of December 2023 (ISCO Newsletter N°930 – March 2024), the Government of Mexico confirmed the creation of the Inter-Ministerial Commission to Prevent and Respond to Pollution by Oil and Harmful Substances (HNS) in Mexican Marine Zones. In this case, it is understood that this Commission has a permanent character and is in charge of designing an organisation with a unified command, which is essential to update the measures necessary to provide for adequate and timely intervention to protect the marine environment from serious pollution, as well as the participation of the various agencies and other institutions of the Federal Public Administration, so that they cooperate with each other within the scope of their current powers to implement actions in response to pollution by hydrocarbons and other HNS in the Mexico. The Commission is composed of the Ministry of the Navy (SEMAR), which holds the Presidency; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources (SEMARNAT); the Ministry of Energy (SENER); the Ministry of Health (SALUD); the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development (AGRICULTURA). The National Coordination of Civil Protection (CNPC), the National Centre for Disaster Prevention (CENAPRED), the National Institute of Ecology and Climate Change (INECC), the Federal Attorney's Office for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA), the National Agency for Industrial Safety and Environmental Protection in the Hydrocarbons Sector (ASEA), the Mexican Petroleum Institute (IMP), the National Hydrocarbons Commission (CNH), the

Mexican Institute for Research in Sustainable Fisheries and Aquaculture (IMIPAS), and the Federal Commission for the Protection against Sanitary Risks (COFREPIS), are organisations that also participate on a permanent basis with voice, but without vote.

[Read the complete version of Carlos' article.](#) This article is also available in Spanish language [HERE](#) and on the ISCO website.

NETHERLANDS: NEW EUROWA TRAINING MODULES DELIVERED TO DUTCH REHABILITATION FACILITY MANAGERS



July 23 - Hugo Nijkamp (Sea Alarm) and Claude Velter (Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend) delivered new training modules at a EUROWA Rehabilitation Facility Managers training event in April in Ostend, Belgium. The event was delivered to 14 participants from SON wildlife rehabilitation centres in the Netherlands and Belgium, who were already highly qualified before coming to Ostend. On their request, new WildX-materials have been developed to allow facility managers to investigate the complex dynamics of a large temporary facility one week into its operations. Eurowa / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: CLIMATE CHANGE: NIGERIA LOST 35% MANGROVE COVER IN 20 YEARS – USAID

July 18 - The United States Agency for International Development (USAID), on Thursday, raised the alarm that Nigeria is quickly losing its mangrove cover as a result of several activities that are not climate-friendly. Melissa Jones, Mission Director, USAID/Nigeria, disclosed this while speaking at the Mangroves Conference. Daily Trust / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: FG TO CLEAN UP OVER 3000 HECTARES OF MANGROVE IN OGOINLAND

July 22 - Minister of State for Environment, Dr. Iziq Salako, disclosed this at the Mangrove in Focus Conference. Salako who stated that the exercise will be undertaken through the Hydrocarbon Pollution Remediation Project (HPREP), said that youths and women are also being trained in mangrove restoration and raising of mangrove seedlings. He added that the ministry is currently working on a proposal for the development of a framework for a national mangrove park and the establishment of a gazette mangrove park with a buffer zone and inventory of the mangroves resources. The Whistler / [Read more](#)

SRI LANKA: HOW SRI LANKA'S BET ON MANGROVES IS PAYING OFF

July 24 - Since 2015, Sri Lanka's mangroves have been [staging a comeback](#). A government-led effort has helped to restore 500 hectares of mangrove forests, a number officials hope to raise to 10,000 hectares by 2030. The United Nations [recently named](#) Sri Lanka's mangrove regeneration programme among its [2024 World Restoration Flagships](#), an award that recognizes outstanding efforts to rekindle nature. UNEP / [Read more](#)

UK: NEW ENVIRONMENT SECRETARY VISITS WETLANDS TACKLING RIVER POLLUTION

July 24 - On 18 July The Rivers Trust and South East Rivers Trust welcomed the new Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs Steve Reed MP to Chamber Mead Wetlands, a demonstration of how nature-based solutions can be improve river health. The Secretary of State was also joined by Alan Lovell, Chair of the Environment Agency, and Defra Water Director Sebastian Catovsky. Envirotec Magazine / [Read more](#)

UKRAINE: WAR IN UKRAINE: AN OVERVIEW OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS AND CONSEQUENCES FOR HUMAN HEALTH

July 19 - This paper discusses the significant yet often neglected environmental repercussions of the Russian invasion of Ukraine, highlighting the adverse effects on soil, air, water, and biodiversity. Through a comprehensive bibliometric analysis, it examined existing research on the environmental impact of wars, focusing on key dimensions such as water, air, soil, and biodiversity. The study further explores various methods as well as sustainable-oriented solutions aimed at mitigating these effects on the environment.

Furthermore, it discusses the immediate and long-term challenges Ukraine faces in its recovery efforts, emphasizing the need for environmentally conscious approaches to address the many environmental problems caused by the war issues. In the end, the paper presents findings from a workshop involving 15 Ukrainian experts from three different Ukrainian universities, which aimed to understand the broader implications of environmental damages to human health. This interdisciplinary approach offers valuable insights into the intersection of environmental degradation and public health, proposing operational strategies for recovery and sustainability in post-conflict settings. Frontiersin.com / [Read more](#)

USA: ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY ISSUES NEW CIVIL AND CRIMINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ENFORCEMENT POLICY

July 17 - The Assistant Administrator for U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance (OECA) has issued a new Strategic Civil-Criminal Enforcement Policy (the Policy).¹ The Policy requires enhanced civil and criminal enforcement coordination, both on a case-by-case basis and through regular institutional measures. EPA is now requiring civil and criminal coordination during the entire lifespan of a case. The Policy became effective immediately on April 17, 2024. Mondaq / [Read more](#)

USA : MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL & INTERCEPTION – NOAA ANNOUNCES TWO NEW FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

July 18 - NOAA Marine Debris Program is pleased to announce two Fiscal Year 2025 Notices of Funding Opportunity for both Marine Debris Removal and Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The NOAA Marine Debris Program will award up to \$54 million across two funding opportunities: See more under Business Opportunities on Pages 9-10.

USA: HOW THE EPA'S NEW PFAS HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCE DESIGNATION UNDER CERCLA IMPACTS YOU

July 22 - Effective July 8, 2024, entities throughout the country, including those in New Jersey, will be required to immediately report releases of perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctanesulfonic acid (PFOS) that meet or exceed the reportable quantity. Such new reporting requirements are the result of the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) release of its final rule, which designated PFOA and PFOS, including their salts and structural isomers, as hazardous substances under Section 102(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) (Final Rule). Mondaq / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

July 22 - To read these reports click on the links below

OR&R's Annual Safety Training Takes to the Road in Threes

The commonly held belief that good things come in threes was evident this year when NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration (OR&R) followed up on the success of last year's inaugural safety training by providing not one, but three Safety Academy training opportunities. Geared toward the continuous improvement and maturation of OR&R's safety culture, this year took a more inclusive approach by offering safety training relevant to both field and office staff.

NOAA Coordinates California Ocean Litter Strategy Webinar

On July 10, the NOAA Marine Debris Program (MDP) and the California Ocean Protection Council hosted an Ocean Litter Strategy webinar. Bringing together over 50 partners from across the state, the webinar reached a diverse set of sectors including state

agencies, nonprofits, private organizations, and academia.

New Report on Microfiber Pollution Released By Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee

On July 8, the NOAA Marine Debris Program and Environmental Protection Agency’s Trash Free Waters Program, on behalf of the Interagency Marine Debris Coordinating Committee, released a [report to Congress on microfiber pollution](#).

OR&R Prepares Great Lakes Partners for Shoreline Oiling Response



On June 10-12, OR&R conducted shoreline oiling assessment and treatment training with federal, state, tribal, and local partners in the Northern Michigan Area Committee of the Great Lakes

Twenty-five emergency responders based in Northern Michigan gathered in Sault Ste. Marie, Michigan for the training.

NO NEWS FROM YOUR PART OF THE WORLD ?

Members and other readers are invited to help rectify the balance of world news reporting. News stories from North America, UK, Australia, much more accessible than reports from other parts of the world and especially from non-English-speaking countries. If you come across a report that you think worth sharing with other members of the response community, why not send it to the editor at info@spillcontrol.org

OBITUARY

DR DOUGLAS CORMACK

ISCO Director, Matthew Sommerville writes –

An obituary for DOUGLAS CORMACK, BSc. PhD. formerly Director, Warren Spring Laboratory, Dept of Trade and Industry, UK

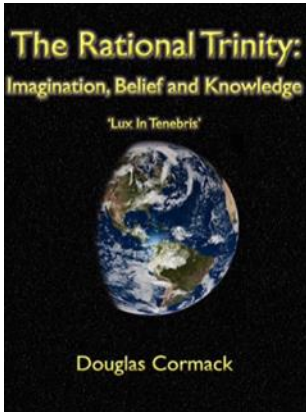
It was with great sadness that the family advised us at ISCO of Douglas Cormack’s passing on the 14th on July 2024 (As reported in brief the July 15 edition No 946 of the newsletter).

We now have an opportunity to reflect on his passing and legacy.

Doug aged 85 passed quietly and without any pain suffering and free any long term ailments or suffering to what was believed to be a sudden heart attack. Doug would we know have been pleased to have left a challenge to those determining the cause of his death. As while he was getting older, he had no healthy or cause to visit his doctor for many years and hence no simple history or trend on which to simply place the cause. As a result, there was a need for those involved to move beyond imagination and belief to and obtain knowledge of the cause.

Doug’s later and post-retirement life included the writing and promotion of the Rational Trinity and the desirability of knowledge only marine policy rather than one based on imagination and belief.





Many ISCO members and readers of obituary may not have known Doug directly but if involved in the spill response industry will find that the knowledge that underpins your work will likely be that which Doug developed, documented, initiated, promoted and or inspired others to take on and expand into what we see today as our oil spill 101 knowledge.

Doug obtained a 1st class Honours BSc and a PhD in Physical Chemistry from Glasgow University after which he spent 2.5 years at Woodshole Oceanographic institute in Massachusetts, USA.

He was targeted to reverse the UK brain drain back to the UK and into a role in the Scientific Civil Service as a Senior Scientific Officer at Warren Spring laboratory (WSL). He progressed through various roles and positions within WSL and in the wider civil service including in that seven years in HQ Policy Division, Marine Pollution Control Unit (which became the Maritime and Coastguard Agency counter pollution branch). Finally returning to becoming Director of WSL.

The last role is one in which he served in the UK it would normal one that would merit receipt of official recognition on his retirement for a long and senior service to the crown. However, Doug took a strong position to the then government plan to merge WSL and parts of AEA Technology (Atomic Energy Authority) to sweeten its pool of expertise and in preparedness for the then policy of privatising parts of government. This was not a political position but one where Doug did not accept the belief or imagination that the results would benefit the UK or society but that in the absence of or knowledge and knowledge that contrary it was likely to be the deficit and driven by commercially lucrative research which would not bring the knowledge that government funded based on scientific advancements and research had or could. It may have cost him a decoration and title in from of his name but it gained him much in respect from those who worked with and for him as director of WSL.

Warren Spring Laboratory was the UK government environmental science research centre that operated in Stevenage, Hertfordshire from 1958 until its closure in 1994. Described by New Scientist as "Britain's leading laboratory for environmental research", and by The Times as "one of Europe's most important environmental research centres", it had an international reputation in areas such as air and water pollution, waste management and recycling, land remediation, alternative fuel research, chemical engineering and marine pollution.

In 1960, Warren Spring Laboratory was tasked with "deciding the best ways to deal with oil pollution of the foreshores of coastal resorts" (a mission later extended to include "the treatment and disposal of floating oil at sea").

This was pre the Torry Canyon and Amoco Cadiz which many bodies including IMO claim as their inspiration for creation and or action on oil and later chemical pollution.

In the following 36 years WSL undertook a broad range of work in laboratory, test tank and field experiments (deliberately discharging oil, chemicals to advance the knowledge we rely on today. The fate, modelling, emulsification, dispersants, demulsifiers, aerial observation and tracking, booms, skimmers, beach cleaning and more all investigated, refined and developed to operational use.

All well before these became popular fields of research and funding.

In 1994, after some political controversy, the laboratory was closed and some of its work and staff moved and merged with AEA Technology to form the National Environmental Technology Centre (NETCEN) as a precursor to privatisation while the site was sold for £25million to a pharmaceutical company.

In 1994 having seen WSL merged he left the civil service to join British Maritime Technology Ltd until 1996 when he was invited to become Chairman of the British Oil Spill Control Association (BOSCA) (the predecessor of the UK Spill Association).

Subsequently he become the member and active representative for the International Spill Control Organisation (ISCO): Where he contributed to obtaining the non-governmental organisation observer status at the UN International Maritime Organisation (IMO) and the same with the associated International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund (IOPCFunds).

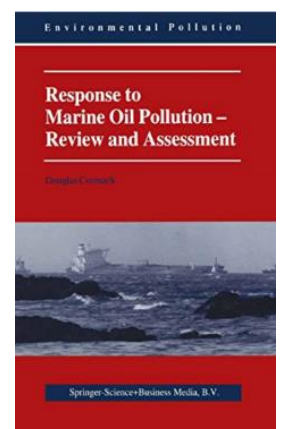
Doug was a frequent contributor to the ISCO news drawing from his published books and new developments which he kept a keen interest in.

He also served as the first Chairman of the International Spill Accreditation Association

In his time he wrote three books:

- Response To Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution (1983);
- Response to Marine Oil pollution (1999), an update of the former book and:
- The Rational Trinity; Imagination, Belief and Knowledge.(2010)

None of the above are light reads or holiday fare but they are full of valuable knowledge which has shaped the way we respond or should respond to marine pollution incidents. They are still available to buy from many internet sources. The third book was in some ways a life work as Doug had begun to hear about climate change through his role as part of the UK delegation to the International Maritime Organisation in the early 1970s. He often remarked on how from the beginning he judged this to be purely a matter of belief and its opponents simply to be replying with counter-belief, neither side quoting any knowledge whatsoever. Doug understood from his scientific background and life work that global weather has always been variable but believers in anthropogenic global warming "Climate Change" had simply assumed (imagined or come to believe) that it is due to our emissions of CO2 into the atmosphere without any consideration or quantification of what natural alternatives there might be for this warming. His book the Rational Trinity delves deeply into some of the thinking and knowledge that he felt should be considered more openly and with scientific vigour rather than a political driven policy.



I personally had had the fortune to know Doug for 36 years having joined WSL in 1988. I was interviewed before joining by a three man civil service panel, a scary business, which included Doug. On being shown out from the interview Doug explained the formal and procedural civil service decision making and communications process. In essence “you will have to be patient”. However on shaking my hand he said “see you in September then”. On joining the then oil pollution soon to be marine pollution division Doug was well above the day to day team and at the top of the Laboratory hierarchy. But his door as always open for a new scientific officer to have a chat about what to expect when we pumped 200 tonne of crude oil into the sea or what to expect at 30ft above the sea in a C47 Dakota when spraying dispersants for the first time. There were many more like him in WSL who inspired me to what has been a life working in the pollution industry and many moved on to other bodies like MCA, ITOPF, IOPC Funds etc.

In due course we will be looking to draw again on Doug’s books, articles and re-release some of his past contributions with any updates. He was an advocate for sharing knowledge and in doing so replacing imagination and belief, something that always fitted well with ISCO.

Editor: Your editor and many other ISCO members are very much saddened by the sudden death of Dr Douglas Cormack. We are all going to very much miss him and we send our sincere condolences to his wife and family.

At Doug’s own request there will not be a funeral service but later on his ashes will be scattered at a favourite place near his former home in Scotland.

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/>

USA: MICHIGAN - BEACH-CLEANING BOOST: ROVING ROBOT BEHIND CLEANER BEACHES THROUGHOUT THE STATE



A beach-cleaning robot known as “BeBot,” an advanced method of managing litter that’s electric-powered and remote-operated, is helping keep Michigan's inland lake beaches and Great Lakes shorelines clean. Courtesy of DNR. Cigarette butts, discarded food wrappers, shards of plastic – all items we wish to avoid when we’re at the beach and have our toes in the sand.

Thanks to new technology – a beach-cleaning robot known as “BeBot,” developed by Niteko Robotics – we’ll be seeing less trash at our beloved inland lake beaches and Great Lakes shorelines. Several state park beaches are now using BeBot, an advanced method of managing litter that’s electric-powered and remote-operated. Michigan.gov / [Read more](#)

RECENT INTERESTING PEER-REVIEWED OIL SPILL PUBLICATIONS

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



Dr Fingas is currently away from home and no new addition to his column will be published this week.

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/>

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

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

AUGUST 2024

- 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

SEPTEMBER 2024 ONWARDS

- 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
- NEW ZEALAND - Land and Groundwater Conference, Auckland, 22-24 October 2024 AND
- CHINA – 8th East Asian Seas Congress, Xiamen, 6-8 November 2024
- USA - Industry Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) - Fort Lauderdale, FL, USA, 13-15 November 2024
- UK – Seatrade Maritime Salvage & Wreck Conference, London, 11-12 December 2024

SOME OTHER INFORMATION

- Recordings of past ExxonMobil OSR Knowledge Transfer Webinar Recordings – [Access and Download](#)
- 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](#)
- Marine Insurance Events: Issue 18 of *The Marine Insurer*: 'Dali incident: Largest ever marine claim?'. [CLICK HERE](#)
Our next three live events will be: Marine Claims International, 25th-27th September, Malahide, Ireland [Click here](#) to register your interest. Marine Insurance Nordics, 16th October, Oslo, Norway [Click here](#) to register your interest. Energy Insurance Americas, 21st November, Houston, USA [Click here](#) to register your interest.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

News of upcoming Webinars is often given without the type of URL provided for conferences. Because of this they will now be listed separately from “Upcoming Events” and a link for more info given will be given.

- 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
- IOPC Funds Webinar Series – Full programme announced IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

UPDATES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

Every week we add links for new updates as they are received

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 – [UPDATED EXHIBITOR LISTING & PARTIAL LIST OF ATTENDEES](#) [FRANCIS SCOTT KEY BRIDGE RESPONSE UNIFIED COMMAND SESSION](#) [EXHIBIT AT CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE PROGRAMME](#) [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 - to discuss the exhibiting and sponsorship opportunities available for this year's event!

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 – [NEW EXHIBITORS CONFIRMED](#) [CALL FOR PAPERS SUCCESS](#) [DELEGATE PASS UPDATE](#) [CALL FOR PAPERS EXTENSION AGREED TO 18 JUNE 2024](#) [PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME AND CALL FOR PAPERS PARTICIPATION UPDATE](#) [SPEAKER TALK SUBMISSION](#)

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>

TWO GRANT OPPORTUNITIES NOW OPEN: FY25 MARINE DEBRIS REMOVAL AND INTERCEPTION TECHNOLOGIES UNDER THE BIPARTISAN INFRASTRUCTURE LAW

July 18 - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Marine Debris Program is pleased to announce its Fiscal Year 2025 Notices of Funding Opportunity for both Marine Debris Removal and Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. NOAA will award up to \$54 million across two competitions to support impactful, large marine debris removal projects, as well as the installation of proven marine debris interception technologies, throughout the coastal United States, Great Lakes, United States territories, and Freely Associated States.

The Fiscal Year 2025 NOAA Marine Debris Removal under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding opportunity prioritizes the development of large scale marine debris removal projects.

These removal projects should focus on large marine debris, including abandoned and derelict vessels, derelict fishing gear, and other debris that is generally unable to be collected by hand.

Applicants may submit letters of intent (LOI) from August 28 to September 27, 2024 for this opportunity.

The second funding opportunity, Fiscal Year 2025 NOAA Marine Debris Interception Technologies under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, focuses on the installation, monitoring, and maintenance of proven marine debris interception technologies that will capture marine debris at or close to known marine debris sources or pathways.

These proven technologies may include litter traps, shoreline removal technologies, booms, skimmers, conveyors, floating collection devices, and other technologies that do not require additional research and development.

LOIs can be submitted for this opportunity from August 28 to October 09, 2024. NOAA / [Read more](#)

LINKS FOR OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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

As a service to its Members ISCO provides a listing of publications that may be of interest to our community. This page provides details and links for downloading more than 40 publications most of which can be accessed at no cost.

This page is managed by Mike Watson mike@mwadigital.com

NEW PUBLICATIONS

To read, click on the links below

Response to Marine Oil Pollution: Review and Assessment: 2 (Environmental Pollution, 2) Hardcover – Illustrated, 30 April 1999 by Douglas Cormack (Author). Amazon / [More info](#)

Accelerating nature policies [GEF Monthly Newsletter](#)



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INCIDENTS

USA: TEXAS - OIL SHEEN SEEN FOR MILES OFF GALVESTON COAST, SPILL COMING FROM 'INACTIVE' OFFSHORE DRILLING PLATFORM

July 19 - A massive oil sheen is stretching for miles along the Galveston coast in the Gulf of Mexico. The sheen is coming from an offshore drilling platform 12 miles from the sandy beaches of the Bolivar Peninsula, near Crystal Beach. Houston / [Read more](#)

SINGAPORE: OIL TANKERS ON FIRE AFTER COLLIDING CLOSE TO SINGAPORE, CREW RESCUED

July 19 - Two large oil tankers were on fire on Friday after colliding near Singapore, the world's biggest refuelling port, with two crew members airlifted to hospital and others rescued from life rafts, authorities and one of the tanker owners said. NBC / [Read more](#)

YEMEN: ISRAELI AIR FORCE DESTROYS TANK FARM AT PORT OF HODEIDAH

July 20 - On Saturday evening, the Israeli Air Force bombed the port of Hodeidah, Yemen in retaliation for the Houthi drone strike on Tel Aviv last week. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

July 24 - Oil leaks, toxic emissions as Israel strike worsens Yemen pollution. The Israeli strike on Yemen's port of Hodeida has released hazardous emissions and caused fuel spills, experts said, compounding environmental pollution already worsened by oil spills from Huthi ship attacks. France 24 / [Read more](#)

USA: ARKANSAS - SMACKOVER OIL SPILL CLEANUP IS FINISHED IN ARKANSAS

July 20 - In announcing a completion of the cleanup, the Environmental Protection Agency stated it had conducted an evaluation and found the creeks were "clear of product with only light sheen in small pockets." OK Energy / [Read more](#)

INDIA: FIRE ON SHIP OFF GOA COAST UNDER CONTROL, OPS CONTINUE

July 21 - The fire that broke out on July 19 on a merchant navy ship off the coast of Goa is under control, a senior Indian Coast Guard official said on Sunday, adding one crew member had died in the blaze. VarthaBharti.in / [Read more](#)

IRAN: IRANIAN NAVY RAISES CAPSIZED FRIGATE SAHAND

July 21 - On Friday night, the Iranian Navy raised the capsized frigate Sahand from the water at the port of Bandar Abbas, according to state media. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: CREW RESCUED AS FIRE DESTROYS FSO OFF NIGERIA

July 22 - Reports of the fire were received on July 18 by the central control station in Lagos, Nigeria. A Nigerian Navy ship, NNS Delta, was sent to the scene and when it reached the platform approximately 11 nautical miles from shore the FSO was engulfed in flames with the crew calling for help. Some of the crewmembers jumped into the water to escape the flames. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

SPAIN DETAINS CARGO SHIP OVER FUEL SPILL NEAR CEUTA

July 23 - Spanish authorities have detained a German-operated ship for causing a spill during a refuelling operation near the Spanish enclave of Ceuta, Spain's Merchant Fleet said on Monday. Hellenic Shipping News / [Read more](#)

UK: SWANS COVERED IN 'THICK OIL' AFTER RIVER SPILL

July 23 - Berkshire-based Swan Support was first alerted to the birds wading in "thick, black oil" in the River Kennet, in Reading, on 16 July. Wendy Hermon, who has worked with the charity for 30 years, said it was a regular feeding area for more than 40 birds, and oil spills were now an "annual occurrence". Thames Water described it as a "third party spill" and said it had worked with the Environment Agency (EA) to place booms on the river to "minimise impact to wildlife in the area". BBC News / [Read more](#)

MALAYSIA APPREHENDS SHADOW TANKER AFTER IT IS TOWED FROM SCENE OF ACCIDENT

July 23 – A tanker that fled the scene of a fiery Friday collision off Singapore entered the area of Malaysia's floating oil terminal on Monday after being tracked down by Malaysian authorities. International Shipping News / [Read more](#)

PHILIPPINES: RACE TO CONTROL OIL SPILL AS TANKER SINKS IN MANILA BAY

July 25 - Philippine officials said they are "racing against time" to prevent an environmental disaster in Manila Bay after a fuel oil tanker sank as the country was lashed by a typhoon. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

July 26 - The Philippine Coast Guard reports it is not wasting time in its efforts to prevent what could become the worst oil spill in the history of the country potentially damaging Manila Bay. The owners of the fuel tanker Terranova retained a salvage company and they are meeting with the Coast Guard regarding the plans to address the fuel and oil cargo on the vessel.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

July 27 - Oil tanker sinks, hundreds of thousands affected as 'super typhoon' batters Philippines. Aside from the human impact, an oil tanker carrying 1.4 million litres (about 400,000 gallons) of industrial fuel sank in the Manila Bay amidst the strong waves and winds. The Philippine Coast Guard rescued 16 of the 17 crew from the ship but containing the oil spill is complicated by strong winds and sea conditions. The spill is said to have stretched out over several kilometres and could reach the shores of capital Manila, according to media reports. UN.org / [Read more](#)

July 27 – Philippines detects "minimal" oil leaks from sunken tanker. PCG spokesperson Rear Admiral Armando Balilo said divers inspected the tanker MT Terra Nova on the sea floor and saw oil leaking from the valves. "there were minimal leaks from the valves, but as observed, the leaks are not alarming yet", Balilo said, adding that the leaks are still "manageable" at this point. The Agency said it hopes to start siphoning fuel oil from the tanker on Sunday and that the extraction will take at least seven days. "One thing is sure: the fuel cargo tanks are still intact" Balilo said, adding that PCG has deployed oil spill booms and sprayed dispersant in areas with oil slicks. Pune News / [Read more](#)

TAIWAN: TYPHOON HITS TAIWAN: 6 CREW MISSING, 3 RESCUED, MULTIPLE VESSELS GROUNDED

June 25 - The strongest typhoon to hit Taiwan in eight years has left multiple vessels in distress with six crewmembers from a small cargo ship registered in Tanzania missing while three others were found along the coast. One of Oldendorff's bulkers briefly reported it was in distress while other vessels were driven ashore. Taiwan's Ministry of Transport reports at least 58 crewmembers were aboard the vessels caught in the force of the typhoon.

The Coast Guard reports it was unable to send planes or boats due to the ferocity of the storm. Seas were running 16 to 23 feet and the highest recorded wind speed during the storm was 118 mph. They broadcast asking for vessels in the area to provide assistance and about two hours later a Taiwanese freighter was able to make it to the area and found no sign of the cargo ship. Later three crewmembers were found along the coast while six remain missing.

Officials reported that they have launched satellite monitoring and oil pollution control efforts as the storm began to dissipate. The typhoon was continuing to track west and predicted to make a second landfall in China later Thursday.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

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