



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

*The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community*

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A banner advertisement for an oil spill training event. On the left, there is a logo for 'CLEAN GULF' with a map of the Gulf of Mexico and the text 'ANNIVERSARY'. The main text reads 'North America's Largest Oil Spill Training Event & Exhibition' in a large, bold, blue font, followed by 'October 19-20 | Tampa Convention Center | Tampa, FL' in a smaller blue font. On the right, a dark blue box contains the text 'Register Today' in a yellow, stylized font.

## **USA: DEEPWATER HORIZON – BOTTOM KILL OF WELL IS IMMINENT**

Last Thursday night Admiral Thad Allen issued the following statement – “I have received extensive briefings over the last 24 hours regarding the final effort to intercept the Macondo well. Through a combination of sensors embedded in the drilling equipment and sophisticated instrumentation that is capable of sensing distance to the well casing, BP engineers and the federal science team have concluded that the Development Driller III relief well has intersected the Macondo well. This determination was made based on a loss of drilling fluids that indicated communication had been established beyond the relief well, the pressure exerted against the drill bit as it came in contact with the well casing and, finally, an increase in pressure in the choke line of the Macondo well blow out preventer. While each of these indicators taken separately would not necessarily be conclusive, the aggregate data available supports the conclusion that the two wells are joined. It is also important to note that none of the measurements supported a scenario where the annulus of the well is in communication with the reservoir. Accordingly, we intend to proceed with preparation to cement the annulus and complete the bottom kill of the well.”

In recent editions of this Newsletter we have focused on progress being made in sealing the well but readers should be aware that operations of clean-up and wildlife rescue are continuing and this part of the response is expected to continue long after the bottom kill has been completed.

## **INDIA: OIL SPILL CLEAN-UP BEGINS ALONG MUMBAI COAST**

One month after the collision between MV Khalijia3 and MSC Chitra that resulted in a major oil spill, along the Mumbai coastline, the cleaning operation has begun. The MSC Agency (India) Pvt. Ltd, which owns the MSC Chitra has taken up the salvaging operation of the major areas affected by the oil spill-Elephanta Island and Navha Island.

The company is working in collaboration with the Environment ministry, pollution experts from The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF) and the Maharashtra Pollution Control Board (MPCB). "The clean-up operation along the Elephanta Island is in its final stages. The Ferry services which were hit after the collision have resumed services. The work on Nhava will begin next week," said Captain Deepak Tewari, CEO, MSC Agency (India) Pvt. Ltd.

Of the 270 containers on deck of the ship around 111 containers have been removed until now. Of the 31 hazardous containers holding caustic soda, phosphine and pesticide on board the MSC Chitra, 9 had sunk into the sea. Only one among these has been recovered, the other eight are still lying on the seabed. "Our dive teams have identified these containers, which will be recovered shortly," said Tewari. A total of \$10 Million has been spent on the cleaning operation, which will take at least 10 weeks to be fully complete. The equipment has been imported specially from Singapore, Holland and the UK. Meanwhile 51 containers have been recovered along the Mumbai Harbour, which is now oil-pollution free. More: <http://indiatoday.intoday.in/site/Story/112935/India/msc-chitra-begins-oil-spill-cleanup-along-mumbai-coast-.html>

## **CHINA: TECHNICAL CO-OPERATION WITH ITOPF**

Natasha Lippens, one of ITOPF's technical advisers, has recently returned from a month's internship with the Maritime Safety Administration (MSA) in China. Natasha spent time at various MSA offices around the country and also met with other government bodies, equipment manufacturers, oil spill response organisations (OSROs) and research institutes. ITOPF has been involved in a number of recent - and often complex - incidents in China and Natasha's visit has enabled us to gain a better understanding of how spills are dealt with by the authorities, what expertise and resources are available within the country for responding to spills and how ITOPF may be able to assist at such times. This trip was part of a reciprocal arrangement with the MSA which last year saw ITOPF host two Chinese interns for a month. The exchange has provided an excellent opportunity to build ties and share experiences on marine pollution response issues. <http://www.itopf.com/news-and-events/#china>

## **TURKEY: WRECKED SHIPS' TOXIC WASTE THREATENS ISTANBUL'S ENVIRONMENT**

Nearly two dozen ships that have sunk in or near Istanbul's Bosphorus Strait could pose a danger to the environment due to their potentially toxic cargo, Turkey's Coast Guard has said.

The sunken ships were not carrying oil but their loads, including iron, cement, wood and waste, as well as their own fuel, could pose a threat over time, daily Milliyet reported Coast Guard General Director Salih Orakçı as saying Sunday.

According to the Coast Guard, 22 of 24 shipwrecks located in or near the Istanbul strait could pose a significant problem in the future to a city already at risk of a major environmental disaster due to the heavy maritime traffic through its waters. More: <http://www.hurriyetdailynews.com/n.php?n=danger-under-the-sea-2010-09-12>

## **MARINE RESPONSE ALLIANCE SADLY ANNOUNCES THE FINAL VOYAGE OF DAVID PARROT**

It is with great regret that the Marine Response Alliance (MRA) announces the passing of David Gray Parrot, founder and former chief of MRA member company, TITAN Salvage. David passed away this past Wednesday morning after a courageous battle with cancer surrounded by family and friends. David is survived by his loving wife Penny, sons Hunter and Gage, and an enormous network of friends and family.



David's love for the sea started in 1945 in Newfoundland, when he moved aboard his father's schooner at the age of six weeks. As an adult starting his career, David sought to purchase the tug TITAN from a Dutch firm however before he could arrange funding she sold. Subsequently, he bought their tug NESTOR and in 1980 Titan Towing and Salvage was born. From these humble beginnings he built a team, which over two decades became known as Titan Salvage, a major salvage and wreck removal company. Crowley purchased Titan in 2005 and David stayed on to ensure continued success of the company. David's success was achieved by a passion for salvage, creativity, honor, energy and will. Throughout his career he inspired and touched the lives of many, stood strongly by his word and ultimately changed the shape of the salvage industry. David will be missed by many people worldwide.

## **MORE SAD NEWS – ALAN STUBBS**

Your editor has just heard of the untimely death, after a short illness, of Alan Stubbs, who until very recently was the Accreditation Scheme Assessor for UK Spill. Alan also carried out response contractor assessment audits for the International Spill Accreditation Association and was well known in both the UK and Ireland. Alan had a long career in the oil spill response industry and was highly respected for the depth of his knowledge and experience. He was involved in the response to many major oil spill events, including the Exxon Valdez spill in 1989. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

## USA: GULF OF MEXICO OIL SPILL RESPONSE LEADER THAD ALLEN TO STEP DOWN OCT. 1



As the subsea effort to permanently plug the blown out Macondo oil well in the Gulf of Mexico draws to a close this week, the man who has been the government's point person for the oil spill response effort said he also is preparing for the completion of his duties.

Retired Coast Guard Adm. Thad Allen, who was named national incident commander on May 1, will step down from that job on Oct. 1, barring any major disruptions in the response effort. Many of Allen's duties will fall to Coast Guard Rear Adm. Paul Zukunft, who has been working with Allen and concentrating on the surface response.

The transition will follow the final steps to kill the once-gushing Macondo well, as well as the release of a report from Navy Secretary Ray Mabus, who was appointed by President Barack Obama to develop an oil spill recovery plan for the Gulf Coast. Allen said the Mabus report is expected next week. Read more at:

[http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2010/09/gulf\\_of\\_mexico\\_oil\\_spill\\_respo\\_2.html](http://www.nola.com/news/gulf-oil-spill/index.ssf/2010/09/gulf_of_mexico_oil_spill_respo_2.html)

## IRELAND : ISAA TRAINING DAYS EVENT SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED



*Trainees prepare to deploy containment booms at the WWII Flying Boat Base on the first day of the ISAA 2010 Training Event at Castle Archdale, near Enniskillen, Northern Ireland.*

Last week trainees from Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland attended a two day training event at Castle Archdale, near Enniskillen. For the practical work Trainees were split into teams and the exercises included the deployment of

booms, shoreline sealing barrier and an oil skimmer in a simulated oil spill incident response. Teams also constructed an interceptor dam in a flowing watercourse.

Classroom training addressed inland spill response, practical applications of bioremediation techniques, waste management for oil spill contractors, and best practice for managing land contamination. Two training films were also screened – one on petroleum tanker roll-over situations, and one on response to incidents involving hazardous waste. <http://www.isaa.org.uk>

## TECHNOLOGY: NEW SLICK SLEUTH™ FOR HAZARDOUS ENVIRONMENTS

OSIL (Ocean Scientific International Ltd.) and InterOcean Systems, Inc. have recently announced the launch of a new oil spill detection system, the Slick Sleuth™ SS300-EX, for use in ATEX Zone 1 / Class 1 Division 1 locations.

Slick Sleuth™ Autonomous Oil Spill Detection Stations (ADS) were originally launched in 2008 by InterOcean, and proved extremely popular and successful at providing instant detection and notification of oil spills. The latest model enables them to be used in hazardous environments. For more info contact [sales@osil.co.uk](mailto:sales@osil.co.uk) [Courtesy of Oceanbuzz Newsletter published by Intelligent Exhibitions [www.oceanbuzz.org](http://www.oceanbuzz.org)

## **TECHNOLOGY: COULD ESTIMATING ENVIRONMENTAL RISK SOON BE A CLICK AWAY?**

A new computer model may be a significant step forward in predicting the cumulative environmental risk of new and existing chemicals, say researchers who developed it. The model uses a compound's chemical structure to classify its toxicity, persistence and bioaccumulation – three major traits regulators use to flag a chemical's potential environmental hazards.

The benefits are significant: working computer models could minimize the need for animal testing, identify highly hazardous compounds already in use and tag the most harmful ones before they are manufactured or introduced to the market.

Globally, thousands of new chemicals are produced each year. The United States alone introduces between 700 and 800. New regulations – such as the Toxic Substances Control Act (ToSCA) in the United States and the Registration, Evaluation, Authorization and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH) in Europe – will require toxicity and persistence testing for all new chemicals. However, given the high cost of standard animal toxicity testing, companies may be unable to comply. In addition, current tests can miss some crucial human health risks, such as endocrine activity and fetal toxicity. Additional costly and time-consuming animal studies need to be performed to test for these effects.

The new model developed by researchers at Italy's University of Insubria may go beyond a one-hazard, one-chemical type of approach. The researchers combined information from 180 organic chemicals – including some notorious environmental pollutants such as dioxins, PCBs and polyaromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs) – to build a robust computational model. This model ranked the compounds based on their cumulative harm, such that the highest ranked chemicals would have the greatest potential to be toxic, cumulative and persistent.

According to the paper, the model successfully predicted the simultaneous persistence, bioaccumulation and toxicity (PBT) behavior of chemicals based on their chemical structure. The model is applicable to a wide variety of chemicals but was based on traditional, organic-type compounds. It could act as a qualifying tool and may be useful in helping chemists design less hazardous industrial chemicals and materials

Some limitations exist, however, to this approach. The model might not work as well for new, distinct chemicals designed with different chemical properties from those used to build the model. Read the complete article: <http://www.environmentalhealthnews.org/ehs/newscience/model-estimates-risks-with-some-limitations/>

## **RESOLVE MARINE GROUP OPENS NEW ORLEANS OPERATIONS**

ISCO Member, Resolve Marine Group (RESOLVE) has opened a New Orleans base of operations at 643 Magazine Street, Suite 304. The marine salvage, firefighting and emergency response company is headquartered in Fort Lauderdale, FL and maintains operations in Theodore, Alabama, as well as London, UK and in Singapore. The New Orleans location strengthens Resolve's commitment to the maritime industry in the Gulf states and expands the marine salvor's reach along the Gulf Coast and into the Mississippi River corridor. Since April, RESOLVE has operated a fleet of more than 100 vessels out of Theodore, AL in support of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill skimming and related operations in four Gulf states and offshore, as a subcontractor to BP.

Heading RESOLVE's New Orleans base is former Coast Guardsmen Matthew Hahne. Hahne joins the company as Director of Regulatory Affairs and will focus on OPA-90 implementation, offshore immediate response regulations, and tank barge response, among other marine services for tanker, cargo and other large commercial vessels. Read more at: <http://www.maritime-executive.com/article/resolve-marine-group-opens-new-orleans-operations/>

## **INTERNATIONAL WILDLIFE REHABILITATION COUNCIL**

Kai Williams, Executive Director of the International Wildlife Rehabilitation Council has written to advise that IWRC now has a new domain name, complete with new email addresses. For general inquiries and for questions about classes contact [office@theiwrc.org](mailto:office@theiwrc.org). For other assistance contact [director@theiwrc.org](mailto:director@theiwrc.org).

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter.