



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community

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ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO has Consultative Status at IMO, Observer Status at IOPC Funds and is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

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ISAA

Oil Spill Training Days
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International news

INTERNATIONAL SPILL ACCREDITATION ASSOCIATION (ISAA) LAUNCHES ACCREDITATION OF INLAND OIL SPILL RESPONSE TRAINING PROVIDERS AND COURSES



For a number of years The International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) has been asked by training organisations to approve and accredit inland spill training courses.

The ISAA Board has now approved a syllabus and training requirements for an inland surface waters spill training course.

In a similar way to the accreditation by the Nautical Institute of marine response training organisations offering IMO, MCA and DEC courses, the accreditation process not only verifies course content but also assesses the competence of trainers' personnel on course delivery.

It is expected that syllabi for various other non-marine spill courses will be drawn up over the coming months.

It should be understood that none of these courses will be directly provided by ISAA but through training providers accredited by ISAA.

ISAA was formed in 2003 as a not-for-profit international association dedicated to improving standards of spill response by awarding accredited status to oil spill response organisations that meet required standards. ISAA auditors examine every aspect of each candidate's operations in accordance with a comprehensive accreditation matrix. The objective is not only to determine appropriate levels for award (or otherwise) of accreditation, but to help accredited spill response organisations, over time, to progress towards higher levels of accreditation. ISAA also organises training events and seminars, designed to help responders to maintain and enhance response capacity.

The launch of accreditation for providers of inland spill response training is a logical development and wholly aligned with ISAA's mission to improve standards of spill response. For further details please contact the ISAA Administrator at john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

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International news (continued)

700,000 BARREL OIL SPILL CAPTURE VESSEL DELIVERED TO AET IN SINGAPORE



March 10 - Eagle Louisiana, the second of two Modular Capture Vessels (MCVs) built for Singapore-based AET by Drydocks World has been delivered. The first MCV, Eagle Texas, was delivered in August 2013.

She is assigned via a 20-year agreement to the Marine Well Containment Company (MWCC), a consortium of 10 major energy firms – Anadarko, Apache, BHP Billiton, BP, Chevron, ConocoPhillips, ExxonMobil, Hess, Shell and Statoil – which came together post-Macondo to develop a solution to preventing major oil spills as a result of deepwater drilling.

The vessel has 700,000 barrels of liquid storage capacity, and can process, store and offload the liquids to shuttle tankers. gCaptain [Read more](#)

EUROPE: KILL-SPILL PROJECT: OFFICIAL START WITH A SUCCESSFUL KICK-OFF MEETING



February 26 - The Technical University of Crete represented by Prof. Nicolas Kalogerakis, coordinator of the Kill Spill project, together with the project Management team, Prof. Philippe Corvini and Dr. H el ene Bouju from the University of Applied Sciences and Art Northwestern Switzerland, were glad to invite all project partners to the kick-off meeting. Kill Spill is a European funded FP7 project focusing on the development of highly efficient, economically and environmentally viable solutions for the clean-up of oil spills caused by maritime transport or offshore oil exploration and related processes.

The consortium, composed of thirteen European universities, one American university, fourteen SMEs, four national research centres and one spill industry trade association, met from the 6th to the 8th of January 2013 in Athens, Greece. The thirty-three partners, from thirteen countries, will work together for the next four years with a total budget of about 9 Million Euro.

The aim of the project is to develop novel biotechnologies with a reduced ecological impact for the clean-up of oil spills, to limit the use of non-environmentally friendly solutions. This encompasses the development of biosensors to monitor hydrocarbon degradation, as well as novel dispersants, adsorbents, combined microbial and additives formulations,

International news (continued)

Multifunctional bioremediation agents, and tools for sediments decontamination. The impact and toxicity of the developed products will be assessed, and they will then be validated in mesocosms and on real oil spills.

During this first meeting, the different partners could organize the work and define the immediate next steps necessary for a successful project. The high number of partners and their geographical distribution imply a high level of management operated by TUC and FHNW, but also a good communication between partners.

The kick off meeting will be followed by biannual meetings, as well as dedicated workshop sessions at renowned international conferences and exhibitions.

More info about the Kill Spill Project can be found at http://www.killspill.eu/sites/all/themes/killspill/Killspill_flyer.pdf

EUROPE: EUROPEAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY 2014 WORK PROGRAMME PUBLISHED



Photo: Frans van Rompuy, Chairman of the EMSA Administrative Board

Work Programme 2014 is the first annual programme drawn up in accordance with the new legal basis for the tasks of the Agency, following amendment by Regulation (EU) No 100/2013. An important novelty, in that perspective, is the introduction by the amending regulation of the concept of “ancillary tasks”, alongside “core tasks”. This novelty enhances the possibilities for both the Commission and the Member States to take full advantage of the well-established and recognised expertise and tools that EMSA has. Activities that fall under this new category are highlighted accordingly in the present document.

Another new element in place is the updated 5-year Strategy as approved by the Administrative Board at its recent November 2013 session. It lays down the medium term objectives to be met. The Work Programme 2014 reflects those revised objectives, e.g. in the risk-based prioritisation across the inspection programme to support the monitoring of EU Recognised Organisations, as an example among many others. [Download the Work Programme Document](#)

EU ARCTIC RESOLUTION “NOT BINDING”

March 14 - The European Parliament passed a resolution on the EU strategy for the Arctic (2013/2595(RSP)) on March 12 which includes support for the creation of an Arctic sanctuary.

However, Olivier Dobbels, chief legal risks analyst at Polaris Analytics, cautions: “The text voted is just a mere resolution. In other words it is a strong signal, but has no binding effect whatsoever. This resolution is definitely politically oriented.”

This said, this resolution shouldn't be overlooked, says Dobbels. “This resolution can be read as an evolution of the EU's threefold strategy. For instance, standards of responsibility have been much increased. A good example is Article 38, in which the Parliament “supports the development of a network of Arctic conservation areas” and calls specifically for “the protection of the international sea area around the North Pole”. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

GCC COUNTRIES: MEETING OF RESPONSE OFFICERS



March 14 - The eighth meeting of the Response Officers to Combat Oil Spills and Maritime Accidents, was held in Doha at Grand Heritage Hotel recently. The event was organised by the Permanent Emergency Committee in association with Ministry of Environment and Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre (MEMAC), subordinate to the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment.

The meeting was attended by delegations from GCC countries and some other neighbouring states with authorities from International Marine Organization (IMO), Interpol and Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA).

The meeting comes in line with Resolution No. 15-2 of the 16th meeting of the Ministerial Council of the ROPME, which was held in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia on November 28, 2013. Capt Abdul Moneim al

Jenahi, the Director of Memac Center lauded the role of Response officers in protecting the marine environment answering to the importance of our marine regions and praised the suggestions and recommendations made by the officers to the TOPME ministerial council. *The Peninsula* [Read more](#)

13 MARCH 2014: IPIECA'S 40TH ANNIVERSARY (1974 - 2014)

This day marks the 40th anniversary of the foundation of IPIECA. Over the last four decades the association and its members have enabled continued improvements in the global oil and gas industry's environmental and social performance.

IPIECA was formed by the industry in 1974 to act as a channel of communication with the then recently formed [United Nations Environment Programme \(UNEP\)](#).

Growing from a small group of founding companies, today we have [36 members](#) operating across 146 countries and covering over half the world's oil and gas production.

Since its foundation, IPIECA has deepened its interaction with UNEP and established relationships with other UN bodies including the [International Maritime Organisation](#), UNEP's [World Conservation Monitoring Centre \(UNEP-WCMC\)](#), the [UN Framework Convention on Climate Change \(UNFCCC\)](#), the [Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change \(IPCC\)](#) and the [UN Forum on Business and Human Rights](#).

IPIECA develops and shares good practice in the areas of climate and energy, environment and social responsibility. Our activity now involves over 550 industry experts working together towards the vision of an industry that improves its operations and products to meet society's expectations of environmental and social performance.

Looking forward, IPIECA will continue to play a leadership role for the industry on environmental and social issues by enabling improved performance through providing tools and guidance; informing key stakeholders proactively about industry progress and positions; and anticipating and responding to emerging issues. <http://www.ipieca.org/news/20140313/ipiecas-40th-anniversary-1974-2014>



Incident reports

CANADA: TWO NEW CRUDE OIL AND PRODUCED WATER SPILLS IN ONE DAY

March 6 - There was two more spills in Alberta again on Mar 4, 2014, One took place about 20 km East of High Prairie at a "Well", The AER report states that the company Arc Resources had a incident that spilled 1,500 Litres of Crude oil / 12,500 Litres Produced water,

Emulsion release from stationary tanks on lease as the result an over pressurization causing a pop valve to release. Emulsion overflowed secondary containment and migrated off lease. Land owner has been notified and cleanup is underway. No reported impacts to waterbodies or wildlife.

The other spill though smaller in size was about 13km Northeast of Drayton Valley also the AER states that Whitecap Resources pipeline spilled 3,000 Litres of Crude oil / 3,000 Litres Produced water. [WC Native News](#) [Read more](#)

USA: SHELL PIPELINE HIT, SPILLS 100 BARRELS OF CRUDE OIL IN PORT NECHES

March 7 - A Shell spokeswoman says a crew is working to clean up 100 barrels of crude oil that spilled during an accidental pipeline break.

The pipeline is in an open pasture on Huntsman plant property, near the intersection of State Highway 136 and Farm to Market Road 366 in Port Neches. A Huntsman shift supervisor said a Shell contractor hit the Shell crude oil pipeline, which caused it to break. Destin Singleton, a Shell spokeswoman, says Shell immediately shut down and isolated the pipeline. Huntsman shift supervisor Charles Downs explained that the Shell contractor hit the Shell crude pipeline and that's when the line broke. [KFDM News](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NEW ZEALAND: SPILLED FUEL ESCAPES INTO LYTTTELTON HARBOUR

March 7 - Firefighters are still pumping leaked jet fuel off the ground in Lyttelton, but about 1500 litres has already leaked into the harbour. The Mobil jet fuel tank, containing 1.2 million litres of fuel, was severely damaged from a landslide next to the Lyttelton terminal about 2pm on Wednesday following heavy rainfall.

The leak was contained yesterday and a Fire Service spokesman said firefighters were working with Mobil to continue pumping spilled fuel into other tanks at the terminal today. [National](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Incident reports (continued)

USA / GUAM: HAZMAT TRANSPORTED FROM SHIPWRECK FOR PROPER DISPOSAL



Photo: Daiki Maru 7 (U.S. Navy photo by Lt. Matt Knight)

March 7 - The U.S. Navy, in partnership with the U.S. Coast Guard and civilian contractors, safely removed 49 55-gallon drums filled with hazardous materials from the grounded Japanese commercial fishing vessel Daiki Maru 7 at the Spanish Steps on Naval Base Guam (NBG) March 6.

The Navy-led unified command consisting of representatives from the base, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Guam, Guam Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the responsible party have worked together daily to secure the site and coordinate removal of the hazardous waste since the vessel ran aground Feb. 13. [MarineLink.com](#) [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

GREECE: CONTAINER SHIP YUSUF CEPNIOGLU HITS ROCKS OFF GREEK ISLAND - VIDEO

March 10 - The Turkish-flagged container ship, "Yusuf Cepnioglu" ran aground near the Greek island of Mykonos, 2 days ago. 14 crew members were successfully rescued from the sinking vessel. The boxship (6,928-deadweight tonne) was at anchor at a port in the city of Izmir and was sailing to Tunisia.

Yusuf Cepnioglu was reported sinking on the northwestern shore of Mykonos at 03:30 GMT on Saturday morning. 12 of the people aboard the boxship were rescued by coast guard boats, the rest of the crew had to be airlifted by a helicopter which was dispatched to the location of the incident. No injuries were reported.

The container ship "Yusuf Cepnioglu" was carrying 204 containers and ran aground because its engine room took on water. Apparently the ship was damaged and near the location of the incident has been reported marine pollution. [Vessel Finder](#) [Read more](#)



CANADA: CREWS WORRY ABOUT OIL SPILL AS OLD FISHING BOAT SINKS IN LAHAVE RIVER



Photo: Cape Rouge takes on water while docked in Bridgewater on the LaHave rRiver on Nova Scotia's South Shore on Monday. (TED PRITCHARD / Staff)

March 10 - A fishing vessel tied up to Bridgewater's town wharf began sinking Monday, forcing emergency crews to scramble to contain oil that may have leaked into LaHave River.

It was feared that 4,500 litres of diesel fuel and another 180 litres of engine oil from the Cape Rouge's tanks could spill into the river.

"The stern is underwater," said Keith Laidlaw, a Canadian Coast Guard senior response officer. "There is a chance that it could get out through the tank vents."

By late Monday afternoon, the vessel's owner had contacted a salvage operator to help refloat the boat, said David Walker, the town's mayor. [Herald News](#) [Read more](#)

LIBYA: NORTH KOREAN TANKER SNEAKS OUT OF LIBYA, VESSEL FIRED UPON – UPDATE

March 11 - Libya's Navy has reportedly fired upon the tanker, causing some damage to the vessel, a Libyan military spokesman said.

A North Korean-flagged tanker that loaded crude oil at a rebel-held port in eastern Libya is now in international waters, rebels at the harbour and a state oil company official said on Tuesday. [gCaptain](#) [Read more](#)

Incident reports (continued)

INDIA: MAJOR OIL SPILL AT SHESHPURA VILLAGE IN AJMER

March 13 - Hundreds of gallons crude oil gushed out from a main oil pipeline on Tuesday night in Sheshpura village of Beawer block. This main pipeline comes from Mundra port of Kutch area in Gujarat and goes to the refinery at Panipat. The crude oil spread all over the village which not only destroyed crops but also poisoned the water of wells. Indian Oil Corporation closed all the valves of the main line to check the oil flow of crude oil but the oil kept spilling out of long pipelines.

According to sources, a big oil leakage started at 1am on Tuesday and the oil soon spread everywhere. When the matter was reported to the Indian Oil Corporation they rushed on the spot at 4am, "We took it to be a small leakage but it was uncontrollable," said an official source. *The Times of India* [Read more](#)

CANADA: RADIOACTIVE SCARE AT HALIFAX SHIPPING TERMINAL



March 14 - Shortly before 10 p.m. Thursday, Halifax Regional Fire & Emergency Hazardous-Materials first responders were called to the Ceres shipping terminal for a reported radiation incident.

Upon arrival, Fire officials were informed a 20-foot container was being moved from a ship to the dock. As many as four cylinders containing Uranium Hexafluoride fell about 20 feet from inside the container, landing in a contained portion of the ship. There is no indication anything leaked from the cylinders. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

INCIDENT REPORTS: ROAD TANKER ROLLOVERS, FUEL STATIONS, STATIC TANKS, ETC.

Your Editor would like to remind readers that the ISCO Newsletter does not usually report on incidents of these kinds because there are far too many and, in any case, these are already really well covered by Don Johnston in his excellent newsletter "Newsy Stuff".

"Newsy Stuff" is circulated free of charge every few days to members of the DG & Hazmat Group and each issue contains around 20 pages of incident reports and other mainly downstream related news.

The ISCO Newspaper does not aim to compete with "Newsy Stuff" and vice versa. The Editor of the ISCO Newsletter does pick up on some news stories in "Newsy Stuff" and Don does the same with links in the ISCO Newsletter but, as far as incident reports are concerned, the two publications complement each other.

The DG & Hazmat Group is an Industry Partner of ISCO.

To find out more about joining DG & Hazmat Group and subscribing to "Newsy Stuff", visit - <http://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/DangerousGoods/info>

Other news reports from around the world

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA

March 8 - Events to recognize 25th Anniversary of Exxon Valdez Oil Spill

On March 24, 1989, the Exxon Valdez (a 984-foot long tanker) struck a reef in Prince William Sound, spilling more than 11 million gallons (about 17 Olympic-sized swimming pools) of crude oil. Despite containment efforts, the oil coated 1,300 miles of coastline (over three times of all combined coastlines in San Juan County), and covered an area about 25 times the area of San Juan County waters. 25 years later, an estimated 20,000 gallons of Valdez crude oil is still in Alaska's sand and soil. There are various events in San Juan County to recognize the 25th Anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. *The Islands Weekly* [Read more](#)

March 11 - IG: Coast Guard falling short on Deepwater Horizon recommendations

The U.S. Coast Guard did not properly track its progress in carrying out the hundreds of recommendations resulting from the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill, according to a recent [inspector general's report](#).

In a review last year, federal auditors could only confirm that the agency had implemented less than 10 percent of the 549 proposals that came in response to the Gulf Coast disaster, which was the largest oil spill in U.S. history. *Federal Eye* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (Continued)

March 10 - Lawmakers approve chemical response bill

Three days into the legislative session, Freedom Industries spilled chemicals into the water supply for 300,000 people. A water-use ban lasted up to 10 days, and the issue consumed lawmakers for the next two months. But the issue didn't produce late-night drama Saturday.

By adding inspections at many above-ground storage tanks, legislators say they've crafted a bill reforming a regulatory gray area that let the spill occur. *The Register-Herald* [Read more](#)

March 13 - EPA to Lift Suspension and Debarment of BP from Federal Government Contracts

Agreement contains strong provisions to continue safety and ethics improvements in order to comply – The Environmental Protection Agency and BP today executed an agreement resolving all suspension and debarment actions against BP that barred the company from doing business with the federal government following the company's guilty plea in the Deepwater Horizon disaster of April 2010. The administrative agreement will be in place for five years.

"This is a fair agreement that requires BP to improve its practices in order to meet the terms we've outlined together," said EPA Assistant Administrator of Administration and Resources Craig Hooks. "Many months of discussions and assessments have led up to this point, and I'm confident we've secured strong provisions to protect the integrity of federal procurement programs."

Under the agreement, BP is required to retain an independent auditor approved by EPA who will conduct an annual review and report on BP's compliance with the agreement. There are also specific provisions addressing ethics compliance, corporate governance, and process safety. The agreement additionally provides EPA the authority to take appropriate corrective action in the event the agreement is breached. EPA coordinated this matter with the Department of Interior, Defense Logistics Agency and U.S. Coast Guard.

Since November 2012, EPA has suspended 25 BP entities and disqualified BP Exploration and Production, Inc. from performing federal contract work at its corporate facility in Houston, Texas, stemming from its criminal conviction in the U.S. Government's Deepwater Horizon case. Suspensions are issued where there is an immediate need to protect the public interest supported by adequate evidence. The suspension did not affect existing agreements BP had with the government.

The agreement announced today takes effect immediately. *EPA Press Release* [Thanks to Jeff Taylor of ISCO Corporate Member, Marine Pollution Control Corp.]

March 13 - Ecology preparing for oil spills to Lake Washington, seeks public comment

Billions of gallons of oil move through Washington's waters and lands every year. With even more oil on the way, plans are being drafted for how best to respond if a spill ever hits Lake Washington. The Washington Department of Ecology and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency are preparing for an expected increase in oil transport through the state and, for the first time, are developing a response plan for Lake Washington. *Bothwell/Kenwood Reporter* [Read more](#)

March 14 - Here's where all the US shale oil and gas wells are – map

Post Carbon Institute has an incredibly detailed (and gorgeous!) map of all US shale oil and gas wells (they count 63,000 through June 2012 using data from Drilling Info). *Scientific American* [View the map](#)

March 15 - Oil mars Ala. swamp 4 months after crude train crash; critics raise questions about oil trains

Environmental regulators promised an aggressive cleanup after a tanker train hauling 2.9 million gallons of crude oil derailed and burned in a west Alabama swamp in early November amid a string of North American oil train crashes. So why is dark, smelly crude oil still oozing into the water four months later? *TribTown.com* [Read more](#)

CANADA: OIL LEAK NEAR COLD LAKE ALMOST CLEANED UP, SAYS COMPANY



In the Picture: CNRL President Steve Laut tours the Primrose operation in Cold Lake. (CBC)

March 6 - Canadian Natural Resources Ltd. (CNRL) executives tried to reassure shareholders Thursday that an oil spill at their Primrose oilsands operation near Cold Lake is mostly under control.

CNRL President Steve Laut said three of the four sites have been cleaned up at a cost of \$60 million. *CBC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

AUSTRALIA: NSW TO FORCE OLD FUEL TANKERS TO BE RETROFITTED WITH ELECTRONIC STABILITY CONTROL

March 10 - New South Wales is set to make it compulsory for all fuel tankers to be fitted with an electronic system which helps prevent rollovers.

In a move which is expected to force the hand of other states and territories, NSW will require all dangerous goods tankers, new and old, to be fitted with electronic stability control (ESC) by 2019. *ABC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

JAPAN MARKS 3RD ANNIVERSARY OF QUAKE-TSUNAMI DISASTER

March 11 - Japan on Tuesday marks the third anniversary of the quake-tsunami disaster which swept away 18,000 victims, destroyed coastal communities, and sparked a nuclear emergency that forced a re-think on atomic power.

Remembrance ceremonies will be held in towns and cities around the disaster zone and in the capital Tokyo, where Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are to lead tributes to those who lost their lives in Japan's worst peace-time disaster. *TerraDaily* [Read more](#)

FRANCE: POLLUPROOF PROJECT UPDATE

March 11 - The POLLUPROOF project (Consolidation of proof of marine chemical pollution by airborne radar and optical means) was selected by *ANR* as part of the 2013 "EcoTechnologies and EcoServices (ECO TS)" call for proposals. The project kick-off meeting was held on 13th and 14th February on the premises of the Directorate-General of Customs and Indirect Taxes in Montreuil under the coordination of the project leader *ONERA*.

This two-day meeting provided the opportunity to outline the general project organisation and the expected contributions of the various partners and to begin to detail the technical and scientific content of the different tasks as well as the related work schedule. The project officially began on 3rd February 2014 and is set to last 42 months.

It aims to improve capacities to detect, locate and categorise polluting substances (excluding petroleum oil) and gas and particle releases in order to gather evidence to prosecute offenders while ensuring an efficient response in the event of a spill. *Further information.* *Cedre Newsletter*

FRANCE: CEDRE – RESPONSE CENTRE & TEAM REPORT

March 11 - The response centre and emergency response team were particularly in demand by the areas of Morbihan, Loire-Atlantique, Charente-Maritime and Vendée following sporadic, repeated occurrences of tarballs being washed up on their shores. These oilings occurred between 5th and 20th February, mobilising 4 agents on site for a dozen days in total in order to conduct surveys and assist the authorities in setting up clean-up sites, choosing appropriate response techniques and managing waste.

The samples taken on the shoreline in these areas were analysed in Cedre's laboratory to attempt to pinpoint their origin. The results showed that all the samples (23 in total) had the same chemical signature, which was very different from the reference oils from the pollution incidents having affected the area over the past years: Erika, Prestige and TK Bremen.

Investigation is still underway to determine the origin of this pollution, in particular using drift backtracking from the grounding locations implemented by Météo-France (Toulouse). *Cedre Newsletter* [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA INSTIGATES NEW MARITIME ENVIRONMENTAL EMERGENCY PLAN

March 12 - Australian industry, state and federal governments have endorsed a new National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies.

The plan sets out the cooperative arrangements between governments and industry to respond to maritime pollution and shipping casualty incidents. The plan, managed by the Australian Maritime Safety Authority, was reviewed with extensive input from key stakeholders, from industry and government, drawing on their experience with maritime emergencies both domestically and internationally since the last plan was put in place in 2001.

AMSA Chief Executive Graham Peachey said the new plan combines pollution response and the management of maritime casualties for the first time in its 40 year existence. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

CHINA OUTLINES ENVIRONMENTAL ACTION IN 'WAR' ON AIR, WATER AND SOIL POLLUTION



March 12 - China's Premier Li Keqiang pledged that the country would take stronger measures over the coming year to reduce and control air, water and soil pollution, speaking in his annual address at the opening of the National People's Congress (NPC) meetings in Beijing.

Li said China would "declare war" on pollution, and would raise energy efficiency, reduce vehicle emissions and prevent and monitor airborne dust. He said that "blind and inefficient development" had led to major pollution problems in the nation. *Environmental Expert*
[Read more](#)

NIGERIA: OIL-FOULED WATERS SPOIL NIGER DELTA AS HOMES ABANDONED

March 13 - Residents of the former fishing and farming community of 3,000 in the Ogoni region of southeast [Nigeria](#), fed up with the third and largest oil spill in five years due to sabotage of pipelines, packed up and left the village in 2009-2010.

"We had to move because if we caught fish and opened it up, we found oil; if we harvested cassava, we found it soaked with crude," Eric Dooh said under the shade of wild date palms by his abandoned tin-roof home. "Our well where we got water became contaminated with crude and we decided to seal it up." *Bloomberg* [Read more](#)

CHINA: POLLUTION A GREATER CONCERN FOR DELEGATES TO ANNUAL CPPCC SESSION

March 13 - Pollution has become a much greater concern for delegates to China's top political advisory body, judging by proposals submitted at this year's session.

The National Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference (CPPCC) concluded its annual plenum in Beijing yesterday. The 10-day meeting saw members submit 5,875 proposals, of which 4,982 were formally accepted, the committee said. *South China Morning Post* [Read more](#)

BAHAMAS: 'OIL SPILL COULD BE DISASTROUS'

March 14 - Nick Cutmore, Secretary-General at the International Maritime Pilots Association, has warned that shipping accidents are not cheap and a crude oil spill by a tanker could be very costly and disastrous for the Bahamas.

While in Freeport, Mr Cutmore expressed concerns about the number of maritime accidents and narrow escapes that have occurred in the country, particularly in Grand Bahama.

Last September, the Formosa Falcon tanker carrying almost 13 tons of alkylate went aground off the coast of Eight Mile Rock. The vessel had been grounded at the bow for almost two weeks. Fortunately, the hull remained intact and there was no evidence of a spill or emission of the product into the water. *Tribune 242* [Read more](#)

AUSTRALIA: TOXIC LEAK BURSTS BUBBLE FOR SANTOS

March 15 - The NSW government had declared the company's coal seam gas exploration in the Pilliga Forest a "strategic energy project" on February 20, setting a timetable for approval assessments. "That was really good," Chandran Vigneswaran, head of corporate communications, said on Thursday from Santos' offices overlooking the Opera House. "We were feeling positive that we were moving forward."

Then, as regularly happens in the controversy-dogged industry, the public's perception of CSG safety took a dive. Fairfax Media revealed last weekend that uranium readings in groundwater beneath Santos's leaking wastewater pond near Narrabri in the state's north were 20 times safe drinking water levels. The detail was unearthed by the Wilderness Society via freedom of information requests and then confirmed by the NSW Environment Protection Authority. *The Sydney Morning Herald* [Read more](#)

People in the news

UNITED NATIONS ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, ACHIM STEINER, TO SERVE TWO MORE YEARS, BY GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECISION

Acting on the recommendation of the Secretary-General, the General Assembly extended for two years the appointment of Achim Steiner as Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Programme.

People in the news (continued)

Before joining UNEP, Mr. Steiner served as Director General of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) from 2001 to 2006, and prior to that as Secretary General of the World Commission on Dams. His professional career has included assignments with governmental, non-governmental and international organizations across the globe, including India, Pakistan, Germany, Zimbabwe, USA, Vietnam, South Africa, Switzerland and Kenya. He worked both at grassroots level as well as at the highest levels of international policy-making to address the interface between environmental sustainability, social equity and economic development.



Mr. Steiner, a German and Brazilian national, was born in Brazil in 1961. His educational background includes a BA from the University of Oxford as well as an MA from the University of London with a specialization in development economics, regional planning, and international development and environment policy. He also studied at the German Development Institute in Berlin and the Harvard Business School.

During Mr. Steiner's tenure as UN Under-Secretary-General and UNEP Executive Director, UNEP has made significant strides from the launch of the Green Economy Initiative in 2008 to the strengthening of UNEP

as part of the Rio+20 outcome, the establishment of the first international science-policy platform on biodiversity and ecosystems (IPBES), the adoption of the milestone Minamata Convention on mercury, and the production of authoritative and influential environmental assessments and tools to guide political negotiation processes as well as policy development and implementation at the global, regional and international levels. *UNEP News Centre* [Read more](#)

IOPC FUNDS: NEW HEAD OF CLAIMS DEPARTMENT JOINING THE SECRETARIAT IN MARCH

Ms Liliana Monsalve will be joining the Secretariat on the 24 March 2014 as the new Head of the Claims Department. A British and Colombian national, Ms Monsalve has a legal and insurance background and has been working for P&I Clubs in the UK since 1990.



She joins the IOPC Funds from the Britannia P&I Club and brings with her a wealth of experience in claims and incident management, claims-related legal proceedings as well as fluency in Spanish and English.

Source: [IOPC Funds](#)

NEW COMMERCIAL MANAGER AT OIL SPILL RESPONSE LTD.



Gemma Burns has stepped up to the position of Commercial Manager at OSRL. She has been with OSRL since 2006 and in her previous position she was Business Development Manager (Asia Pacific), based in Singapore.

Gemma is described as Highly experienced oil spill industry professional with expert consultancy and business development skills working internationally to deliver effective preparedness solutions that establish OSRL as the Customer's partner of choice. Diverse industry knowledge accumulated over eight years of working with Oil Spill Response Ltd worldwide, a commitment to continuous improvement and excellence, and a people-oriented leadership style has proven invaluable in exceeding client expectations and strengthening customer relations in the Asia Pacific region. Known for natural talents in prioritising, inspiring others to take action and getting the job done. Source: [Linked-in](#)

OSRL APPOINTS NEW BRAZIL RESPONSE BASE MANAGER

Max Freitas has been appointed as OSRL's Brazil Base Manager. Previous work experience includes oceanographer/HSE professional with post graduate degrees in Sedimentary Geology and Environmental Science. Highly skilled at the implementation and coordination of oceanographic monitoring, environmental management, impact assessment and licensing projects. Strong knowledge in the ecology of coastal and marine sedimentary environments (beaches, mangroves, reefs).



He has expertise in the development and implementation of oil spill emergency plans, working in industrial areas and onboard offshore units, knowledge of marine/port/harbour operations, knowledge of HSE regulations and ability to work with multidisciplinary teams. Source: [Linked-in](#)

People in the news (continued)

FERGUS PERRY APPOINTED AS OSEC RESPONSE SPECIALIST, CENTRAL TEAM, STASCO LTD. AT SHELL



Fergus is a skilled and motivated manager with over 20 years international experience in the incident response industry. He has particular expertise in company management, territory and account management, incident response management, oil and chemical response operations, business development, international technical sales, contingency planning, consultancy and training. He has managed significant projects with regulators, non-governmental organisations and major oil companies at senior management and Board level.

Specialties: The combined incident response experience in Europe, UK, the Middle East, Far East and the Americas, with commercial experience in management, business development, consultancy and training has given Fergus a unique blend of skills, which transfer well to all business sectors. Source: Linked-in

GUIDELINES FOR PREPARING YOUR COMPANY PROFILE

Corporate Members of ISCO are now able to have a one page company profile published in the ISCO Newsletter. It's a great way to introduce your company to the international spill control community.

The rules are very simple – One page – A readable informative interesting article – Factual, no sales hype or exaggerated claims – Logo, photos, etc. can be included – Just send text as a word document and attach photos, logo, etc. as jpg files.

The editor will take care of the lay-out design of the page.

The opportunity to feature your company profile in the ISCO Newsletter is only available to Corporate Members of the organization and each member is permitted to submit one profile per calendar year.

Profiles should be sent to the editor at info@spillcontrol.org and will be published as soon as possible after receipt. Only one Corporate Profile will be published in any issue of the ISCO Newsletter. A contribution of £150 to ISCO funds is payable for insertion of a Company Profile.

Science and Technology

NEW IDEA FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE MEETS INNOVATIVE APPROACH FOR RESEARCH FUNDING

Can naturally occurring, soap-like materials be used for oil spill response? Professor Faye McNeill's research team at Columbia University thinks so. The McNeill group has shown that natural materials which already exist in the sea may provide an effective, economical, and safer alternative to the chemicals commonly used for oil spill recovery today.

Each year, more than 100,000 metric tons of oil or refined petroleum product worldwide are released into the sea due to spills. Large releases such as the Deepwater Horizon/Macondo Well oil spill in 2010, which resulted in the release of more than 4 million barrels of oil, pose an acute risk to the surrounding ecosystem, especially nearby coastal areas. Chemical dispersants, which are mixtures of soap-like organic chemicals (called 'surfactants') and solvent, are valuable tools for marine oil spill response. The surfactants facilitate the breakdown of the oil into droplets, so that they can be washed away. The solvent helps the surfactants penetrate the oil layer. 2.1 million gallons of chemical dispersants were applied in response to the Deepwater Horizon/Macondo Well oil spill. Synthetic chemical dispersants are expensive. Many are also harmful to marine and coastal flora and fauna, and exposure also can be harmful to the health of workers.

"Natural surfactants like fulvic and humic acids, when combined with slow-evaporating solvents, may provide effective, economical alternatives to synthetic chemical dispersants," says McNeill. "These alternative dispersants are also expected to be less harmful to workers and the marine ecosystem. We have very promising preliminary data showing that these substances reduce the interfacial tension between oil and seawater, promoting the formation of small oil droplets, but we need to make some upgrades our experimental setup so that we can obtain reproducible, publishable results."

The group is using an unconventional approach to seek funding for this work. They have launched a crowdfunding campaign on Experiment.com, a donation-based crowdfunding platform designed to support independent, innovative science-based research projects. Experiment.com, formerly microryza.com, was launched in April 2012 by researchers from the University of Washington. They have raised over \$600,000 from public donations to fund over 80 projects.

To learn more about this study, the scientific issues, and the scientists involved, please contact: V. Faye McNeill, Associate Professor, Department of Chemical Engineering, Columbia University, vfm2103@columbia.edu Source: Columbia University



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 167 in a series of articles contributed by Dr Douglas Cormack.

Dr Douglas Cormack is an Honorary Fellow of ISCO. As the former Chief Scientist at the British Government's Marine Pollution Control Unit and head of the UK's first government agency, the Warren Spring Laboratory, Douglas is a well known and highly respected figure in the spill response community. He is the Chairman and a founder member of the [International Spill Accreditation Association](#)

CHAPTER 167: THE NEW RESPONSE PLANS AND THEIR USES

As to potential response to releases at sea, the new contingency plan acknowledges that the volatile components of oils and individually volatile HNS simply evaporate to the atmosphere from insoluble surface slicks thus eliminating any need to disperse them or any possibility of recovering them; that their atmospheric concentrations are initially no more than a few ppm in the bottom metre; that they dilute in the upper reaches and degrade by aerial photolysis or biodegrade after rainout to sea or land; that gaseous HNS are emitted from pressurised tanks as jets which dilute with entrained air to plumes of increasing vertical and horizontal cross-sections with distance from source; that they cannot be recovered; that gases transported in pressurised bottles/cylinders are of localised effect if released; that natural gas is transported in specialised-ships' tanks, none of which are likely to be damaged; that flammable gases may be flared at source; that plume dilution to safe concentrations may be modelled and confirmed by direct measurement; and that while downwind evacuations may be necessary, plume dilution may make window-closure intermediately adequate (c.f. articles 31-46).

Further to releases of non-volatile-insoluble liquid oils/HNS, the new contingency plan acknowledges that HNS disperse naturally at rates comparable to the lightest product oils such as gasoline and diesel in having viscosities $< 5\text{cSt}$ at 15 deg. C; that in not forming emulsions with water, they disperse at greater rates than crude oils of viscosities $> 5\text{cSt}$ at 15deg. C which form emulsions of yet higher viscosities; that while the former group disperses rapidly without dispersant treatment, the resulting concentrations are too low to be toxic and thus do not need recovery; that the latter group of oils are amenable to dispersants below temperature-dependent viscosity limits (c.f. articles 47-61); that above these limits mechanical recovery from water surfaces becomes similarly limited and is ultimately limited to scraping from shorelines; that some recovery-equipment designs are successful only at viscosities amenable to dispersants; and that at viscosity ranges common to both, there is no need to recover that which could be dispersed or would disperse naturally (c.f. articles 47-61 and 70-91).

Further to releases of soluble HNS, the new contingency plan acknowledges that these dissolve at rates determined by solubility and mass transfer coefficient; that dissolving continues to completion, the lower surface of the layer tending to produce its saturated solution concentration in a very thin surface-proximate layer of seawater while diffusion dilutes it by transport to greater depths; that as with dispersion of insoluble droplets, the concentration of dissolved molecules in the top metre of the water column cannot be $> 100\text{ppm}$ even if solution/dispersion were instantaneous and must be less in reality, given the competing rates of solution/dispersion and of dilution to greater depths while biodegrading to carbon dioxide and water if organic or neutralising if inorganic.

However, the new contingency plan also acknowledges that the layer thickness of sunken oils/HNS may depend on seabed configuration, with the surface : volume ratio in a hollow being less than for a floating slick; that while seawater concentrations are the same whether arising from the upper surface of a lens in contact with seawater or from the lower surface of a slick, the time for such a lens to dissolve/disperse totally would be greater than for a surface slick; that the source area would be smaller; and that recovery by pumping from a point of maximum lens thickness would be quicker than from a slick were either necessary in reality.

Further to the potential for and the need to respond to non-volatile/insoluble surface slicks of oils/HNS, the new contingency plan acknowledges that their natural dispersion rates can be expressed as half-life values and value-ranges of 4, 12, 24-48 and > 48 hours by reference to Groups I -IV of their relevant physicochemical property values; that those of heavy fuel oils are grouped in three viscosity ranges of 2-4, 4-6 and 6-8 days; that these half-lives indicate the increasing likelihood of having to respond at sea to prevent arrival on shore; and that equipment encounter-rates with the inverse thinness and area of slicks, makes cargo/bunker transfer the more imperative the more persistent the cargo and bunkers.

Again, the new contingency plan acknowledges that HNS packages are smaller than HNS cargo tanks which are smaller than oil cargo tanks, and that only about 3000-5000 tonnes of oil can be released from one damaged oil tank.

As to the potential for, and need to respond to non-volatile/soluble surface slicks of HNS, the new contingency plan acknowledges that the half-lives for solution are likely to be less than the 4 hours of the quickest natural dispersion (c.f. articles 31-46, 47-61 and 70-91).

1 *The Rational Trinity: Imagination, Belief and Knowledge*, D.Cormack, Bright Pen 2010 available at www.authorsonline.co.uk

2 *Response to Oil and Chemical Marine Pollution*, D. Cormack, Applied Science Publishers, 1983.

3 *Response to Marine Oil Pollution - Review and Assessment*, Douglas Cormack, Kluwer Academic Publishers, 1999.

Publications

FOR YOUR INTEREST – LINKS FOR RECENT ISSUES OF PERIODICALS

ASME EED EHS Newsletter	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	February 2014
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	March 10 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	March 1 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	May 2013 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	Jan 16-31 2014 issue
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 11 2014
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	February 2014 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2014
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 4, 2013
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	March 12 issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	February 2014 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2014 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	March 2014 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	January 2014 issue
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 2014 issue
WMU Newsletter	From the World Maritime University in Malmo, Sweden	February 2014 issue

IOPC FUNDS: NEW CLAIMS INFORMATION PACK NOW AVAILABLE

The new Claims Information Pack is now available to download from the publications page. The pack contains the following publications:

- Claims manual (2013 edition)
- Guidelines for presenting claims in the fisheries, mariculture and fish processing sectors (2014 edition)
- Guidelines for presenting claims in the tourism sector (2014 edition)
- Example Claim Form (2014 edition)

The above publications are available to download individually or can be viewed collectively as an ebook here. Hard copies of the pack will be made available on request via the publications page in the next few weeks. An interactive version of the example claim form will also be made available via the compensation page very soon. [IOPC Funds Publications Page](#)

Events

FRANCE: HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES

A few places are still available for the next Cedre Information Day 2014 "Hazardous and noxious substances" on Tuesday 1st April 2014 in Paris. Download [Programme](#) and [Registration form](#).

UK: 5TH MARITIME SALVAGE AND CASUALTY RESPONSE

London, 3-4 September 2014 – News Speakers announced include Peter Townsend, Vice President, Senior Underwriter Hull & Liability, Swiss Re "Mega Ship Salvage: The Underwriters Perspective", Laura Scaife, Solicitor, Hill Dickinson "Managing Media/Social Media Risk Reputation in an Open Manner:" - Social Media Management - Containing the Situation - Case Study Analysis – Costa Concordia. [Download the Agenda](#)

INDIA: OIL SPILL INDIA 2014

Oil Spill India 2014 (OSI 2014) at Goa, India will focus on the prevention of, and response to environmental incidents in the marine environment. This dedicated area will feature the latest technology and service solutions for assessing the potential of spill related impacts, mitigating against and, if necessary, responding to them.

OSI 2014 scheduled from 18-20 September 2014 at Holiday Inn Resort, Goa, India will bring together key players in the oil & gas, safety & health, HSSE services & equipments industries to probe and explores winning strategies and technologies in tackling the challenges of the globally Oil Spills. [More info](#)

Training

NEW PROGRAMME FROM EMERGENCY FILM GROUP – “ANALYSING THE INCIDENT”

This new program examines the critical process hazmat responders of all levels should take when sizing up a hazardous materials incident. This exciting new program helps unravel the complexities of the latest edition of NFPA 472: Standard for Competence of Responders to Hazardous Materials/Weapons of Mass Destruction Incidents. [More info](#)

OIL SPILL RESPONSE LIMITED (OSRL) INTRODUCES INTERNATIONAL WELL CAPPING EQUIPMENT AT NEW BASE IN BRAZIL

Oil Spill Response Ltd opens new Brazil base to support global response capability • Advanced capping equipment now stored in Brazil on standby for international use • Developed through unprecedented industry collaboration • Available to companies across the industry via OSRL. [Oil Spill Response Limited](#) (OSRL), the global oil spill response co-operative funded by some 160 oil and energy companies, today announces the opening of a new base in Angra dos Reis, Brazil, marking a major advancement for regional and global response operations.

The base houses one of OSRL's four cutting-edge well capping stack systems designed to shut-in an uncontrolled subsea well. With capping systems also stored at strategic locations in Norway, Singapore and South Africa, the delivery of the Brazil stack signifies the full availability of OSRL's international well capping capability, providing for swift response in the event of a subsea well incident around the world.

Oil and gas companies across the industry can access the equipment through OSRL's Subsea Well Intervention Services (SWIS). SWIS provides subscribers access to four response-ready Capping Stack Systems and two Subsea Incident Response Toolkits for debris clearance, blow out preventer intervention and the subsea application of dispersant at a wellhead. The equipment can be used for the majority of known subsea wells in water depths up to 3000m. A global containment solution to supplement the well intervention system is also in development and will be ready for use by the end of 2014.

SWIS is the culmination of unprecedented industry collaboration. In 2011, nine international oil and gas companies formed the Subsea Well Response Project (SWRP), pooling resources to develop equipment that could enhance subsea well control capability. OSRL collaborated with SWRP to make this equipment available for the benefit of wider industry, and companies can now subscribe to SWIS to incorporate this essential subsea well contingency into their own incident response plans.

NATIONAL RESPONSE CORPORATION ("NRC") ANNOUNCES THE ADDITION OF SURECLEAN LIMITED TO THE NRC GROUP OF COMPANIES

March 10 - National Response Corporation ("NRC") announced today the completion of a deal which sees UK-based Sureclean Limited ("Sureclean") become part of the NRC group. NRC is a leading global provider of diversified environmental, industrial, and emergency response solutions. Headquartered in Great River, New York, with regional offices throughout the U.S. and internationally, NRC has approximately 800 employees.

Operating both in the UK and internationally, Sureclean is a provider of specialty industrial and environmental solutions to the oil & gas, petrochemical, renewables, utilities, civil engineering and construction sectors. The Company is headquartered in Alness, Scotland with additional offices in the Aberdeen area and employs a permanent staff of 135.

Steve Candito, CEO of NRC, commented, "NRC has experienced significant growth in its international business in recent years and the addition of Sureclean to the group further strengthens and broadens our service offerings. We believe the combination of NRC's global footprint and Sureclean's quality personnel, cutting edge technology and proven track record makes for a strong strategic fit. We are very happy to welcome the Sureclean team in to the fold and look forward to further growth in NRC's international activities."

John Barron, Managing Director, Sureclean stated, "We are excited about moving forward as part of the NRC group. Sureclean has developed a great reputation as a provider of superior, solution-driven services through the hard work and dedication of our staff, and we believe the global strength and financial resources of NRC will allow us to continue with our international expansion and add new services while ensuring the continuation of high quality services to our customers wherever we operate."

NRC was acquired in March 2012 by investment affiliates of J.F. Lehman & Company, a leading middle-market private equity firm focused on the defence, aerospace, and maritime sectors. "Since the acquisition in 2012, NRC has demonstrated strong growth and we are delighted to be able to announce the addition of Sureclean to the group, bringing with it expansion into new geographies and a range of new, complimentary service capabilities," said Alex Harman, Partner. Senior debt financing for the acquisition was arranged by BNP Paribas Securities Corp. (as sole lead arranger). Ernst & Young LLP served as financial advisor to NRC and Jones Day LLP provided legal counsel to NRC.

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