



ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community
Issue 439 8 July 2014

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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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Oil Spill India 2014
International Conference & Exhibition
18-20 September 2014, Holiday Inn Resort, Goa



International news

INTERNATIONAL FORUM: PRELIMINARY PROGRAMME AND SPEAKERS ANNOUNCED



International Forum on Group V (Non-buoyant) Heavy Oils
9-10 September, 2014
Detroit, Michigan, USA

Preliminary Program: below is a partial list of presentations that have been processed to date.

Title: **NRDA Considerations for Release of Dilbit and Bitumen Products into the Environment.**

Presenter: Jessica Winter, NOAA

Authors: Jessica Winter-NOAA , Bob Hadad-NOAA

Title: **Fast Attack Spill Response for Diluted Bitumen and Bakken Shale Oil**

Presenter: John S. Brinkman, President & CEO Imbibitive Technologies.

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International news (continued)

Title: **Canadian Case Studies**

Response techniques used in 2013 for submerged oil recovery in the Chaudière River of a Bakken Formation Crude oil.

Response techniques used in 2005 and 2006 for the recovery of submerged Bunker C oil in Lake Wabamun.

Presenter: Mark Brown, ECRC Manager Great Lakes Region

Title: **Diver Safety and Production when working with Submerged Oil Recovery**

Presenter: David DeVilbiss, Vice President, Global Diving Services

Title: **Prospective Shipping of Heavy Oils: USCG 9th District Perspective**

Presenter: Jerry Popiel, USCG 9th District Incident Management Advisor

Title: **Properties and Behavior of Dilbits and Bitumen**

Presenter: Dr Merv Fingas, Spill Science

Title: **Case Study: DBL 152 Detection Methods, Recovery Techniques, Response Measures Considered and Adapted, End Point Clean Up Determination and Resource Trustee Cooperation**

Presenter: Steve Lehmann, NOAA

Title: **Canadian Oil Sands Preparedness: Adapting Existing Response Capabilities**

Presenter: Lt. Sarah Booth, USCG Industry and Interagency Coordination

Title: **Changing Legal Landscape because of Spills of Group V Oils**

Presenter: Marc K. Shaye, Attorney at Law

Title: **Salvage Marine Firefighting (SMFF) Regulations Perspective and Recent Advances in Detection, Containment and Recovery Techniques for Submerged Oil**

Presenter: Jim Elliot, Vice President T&T Marine Salvage

Partial List of Additional Speakers/Presenters:

Senator Carl Levin, US Senate - Opening Remarks

Ralph Dollhoph, US EPA

Dr Jaqui Michel, Research Planning

More information on Keynote Speakers, additional Papers and Presenters will soon be announced.

PLASTIC TIDE 'CAUSING \$13 BN IN DAMAGE', UN SAYS

June 23 - The dumping of plastic waste into the world's oceans is causing at least \$13 billion a year of damage, threatening marine life, tourism and fisheries, the United Nations warned Monday at the launch of a global environment conference.

"Plastics have come to play a crucial role in modern life, but the environmental impacts of the way we use them cannot be ignored," said UN Environment Programme (UNEP) chief Achim Steiner said.

"The research unveils the need for companies to consider their plastic footprint, just as they do for carbon, water and forestry," said Andrew Russell, chief of the Plastic Disclosure Project, a UNEP backed organisation.

The UNEP report was released at its headquarters in Kenya as it opened its first week-long conference bringing together over 1,200 delegates and experts to discuss a raft of environment challenges. *Terra Daily* [Read more](#)

BSEE PARTICIPATES IN INTERNATIONAL ARCTIC OIL SPILL RESPONSE AND RESEARCH FORUM

June 24 - The Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement's (BSEE) Paul Meyer traveled to Alberta, Canada earlier this month to participate in Environment Canada's 37th Arctic Marine Oilspill Program (AMOP) Technical Conference on Environmental Contamination and Response. Meyer, who oversees the bureau's National Oil Spill Response Research and Renewable Energy Test Facility, Ohmsett, participated in a session on oil spill response research in icy waters and met with representatives from Environment Canada, the Canadian government's environmental department, to discuss the possibility of future collaborative research opportunities. The conference, held annually since 1978, provides a forum for researchers, scientists, students and regulators from around the world to exchange ideas on preventing, assessing, containing and cleaning up spills of hazardous materials in every type of environment.

During Meyer's session he spoke to attendees about research conducted as part of Ice Month at Ohmsett. Ice Month, held last year at BSEE's Leonardo, N.J. based facility, tested mechanical response equipment currently used or being considered for use by the U.S. Navy, U.S. Coast Guard, and other oil spill response organizations in an ice environment. The tests provided information for potential improvements to mechanical response technologies. [BSEE](#) [Read more](#)

MEDITERRANEAN: THIRD OFFSHORE PROTOCOL WORKING GROUP MEETING



The 3rd Offshore Protocol Working Group Meeting was held in Attard, Malta, 17-18 June 2014, in the presence of thirty-six participants. It gathered representatives from sixteen Mediterranean coastal States (Albania, Algeria, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Italy, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Tunisia and Turkey), and experts from other Regional Seas Programmes, MAP Partners, Non-Governmental Organizations, Regional Organizations, and Industry Organizations.

The Meeting was organized by the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC) within the framework of the Ecosystem Approach in the Mediterranean Project (EcAp MED), in coordination with the United Nations Environment Programme/Mediterranean Action Plan (UNEP/MAP).

The Meeting aimed to - a) Review the draft Action Plan for the implementation of the Protocol for the Protection of the Mediterranean Sea against Pollution Resulting from Exploration and Exploitation of the Continental Shelf and the Seabed and its Subsoil (Offshore Protocol);

b) Discuss the working arrangements of the Barcelona Convention Offshore Oil and Gas Group (BARCO –OFOG Group) as requested in the Decision IG.21/8 of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Istanbul, December 2013); and

c) Address necessary partnerships with other organizations, the industry and other actors to be established, including the MAP Partners to support in the framework of the BARCO –OFOG Group the successful implementation of the Offshore Protocol. [REMPEC](#) [Read more](#)

HOW SATELLITES COULD HELP TO CONTAIN OIL SPILLS IN THE ARABIAN GULF

July 5 - There's a lot of oil in the Arabian Gulf. Not only is about a quarter of the world's oil produced by countries surrounding our backyard body of water, it also has about 800 offshore oil and gas platforms and 25 major oil terminals that drill and gather oil. All that oil is not without risk. Over the past few years, there have been up to eight major oil spills a year in the region.

It is important then to detect spills when they happen and act promptly to limit their impact.

Satellites help greatly, allowing continuous monitoring of sea surface conditions. The Masdar Institute's Coastal and Environmental Remote Sensing research group has already developed a satellite surveillance programme that focuses on the Arabian Gulf and the Sea of Oman, and issues early warnings when oil spills happen.

We are now working to develop a decision support system that will not only detect oil spills quickly, but also generate valuable information to help plan the response effectively. We are working on a system to track oil slicks and predict their trajectories. It will integrate advanced satellite-based monitoring with cutting-edge observation and modelling techniques to thoroughly assess ocean currents and weather conditions in the Arabian Gulf, which are the two main drivers of oil slicks in the sea. *The National UAE* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world

USA: 7,500 GALLONS OF OIL SPILLS IN COLORADO'S POUDBRE RIVER

June 21 - A storage tank damaged by floodwaters dumped 7,500 gallons of crude oil into the Poudre River near Windsor in northern Colorado, slickening vegetation a quarter-mile downstream but apparently not affecting any drinking water, state officials said Friday.

The bank where the storage tank sat next to the river was undercut by the high spring river flows, causing it to drop and break a valve, Todd Hartman of the Colorado Department of Natural Resources said in a statement. *Huffington Post* [Read more](#)
June 23 updated report in *Climate Progress* [Read more](#)

USA: TOWBOAT SINKS ON MISSISSIPPI RIVER

June 23 - The Coast Guard, Illinois Department of Natural Resources and Alton Fire Department responded to the sinking of a towing vessel on the Mississippi River near Wood River, Illinois, Friday.

Watchstanders with Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River received a report that the towing vessel JR 3 sank at mile marker 197.5 on the Mississippi River near the Phillips 66 Facility. The vessel had a maximum potential of 2,200 gallons of diesel fuel aboard when it sank. The Alton Fire Department arrived on scene and deployed more than 200 feet of boom around the vessel with assistance from Phillips 66 and Heritage Environmental Services. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

USA: CREWS CONTAIN LAND-BASED OIL SPILL AT ALBANY PORT

June 29 - Environmental clean-up crews have responded to an oil spill at the Port of Albany after 100 gallons of oil spilled out of a rail car.

Richard Hendrick, general manager at the port, said the spill was contained by Sunday afternoon and that no oil went into the Hudson River. *The Wall Street Journal* [Read more](#)

SWEDEN: OIL SPILL OFF SWEDISH COAST

July 1 - The oil spill off the Swedish coast is significant but not huge, according to the Finnish Environment Institute (SYKE).

According to the Swedish tabloid Aftonbladet, the ship M/S Immen which sank almost 40 years ago is leaking oil in the Baltic Sea. The ship wreck lying off the Swedish island of Gotska Sandön had been carrying 62 tonnes of oil at the time of its sinking. *Finland Times* [Read more](#)

RUSSIA: SATELLITE IMAGES TO HELP FIND THOSE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAJOR OIL SPILL IN RUSSIAN FAR EAST

July 2 - About eight million tons of petroleum products were spilled into water on June 27 - Governor of Russia's Primorsky Krai Vladimir Miklushevsky on Wednesday demanded the use of space monitoring data for the search of those responsible for a major oil spill on the shore of the Khasan district.

Eyewitnesses reported sea pollution on June 27. According to experts, about eight million tons of petroleum products got into the water. Some seven kilometres of beaches in the area of the Malaya Kubanskaya Bay and a sea area near Molotov Cape were polluted.

Satellite images will help to find out which vessels had been in this area during the incident and in what sea area the oil spill initially appeared. The region's head also gave orders to accelerate the laboratory analysis of the matter taken from the contaminated coast. *ITAR-TASS News Agency* [Read more](#) [Editor: The amount of oil said to have been spilt can't be right – Comment from any reader who knows more about this spill would be appreciated]

Other news reports from around the world

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA

June 20 - Oil spill research vessel invites young guests on board

An exploration vessel will set sail Sunday morning to continue its study of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill's impact on corals in the Gulf of Mexico. On Friday, hundreds of people were invited to the Port of Gulfport to meet the research team and see the technology.

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (continued)



Photo: Research Vessel *Nautilus* - Oceanographer Dr. Robert Ballard founded the "Ocean Exploration Trust," which owns the Nautilus. He is most known for discovering the wreck of the Titanic in 1985. (Photo source: WLOX)

As the Nautilus prepared to launch the next leg of its expedition, nearly 200-members of the Boys and Girls Clubs walked on deck to see how the remotely operated vehicles are used for deep sea research. They even got to build and test their own miniature ROVs.

The Nautilus will spend two weeks in the Gulf. The research is called ECOGIG, and it is part of the \$500 million Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative funded by BP. WLOX13 [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

June 21 - Oil Spills Corrupt Minds

Photo: *The Maritime Executive* – Op-Ed by John Guy

Never mind the impact on marine life. There is now damaging evidence that oil spills affect people's brains. We already knew that the possibility of compensation makes them greedy. We now also know it sends them mad.

Two news items from the fringe of rationality show how oil spills affect the minds of apparently normal people. The US Supreme Court, which is made up of the most apparently rational people you can find, has refused BP a stay of payment while its controversial scheme for compensation for the Deepwater Horizon is reviewed.

That means in practice the ambulance-chasing lawyers will be able to encourage more claimants who are totally unconnected with the spill in any way to claim and receive money that no rational person would think they had a right to. BP and Transocean and the other companies who were behind the spill should pay for damage done and the clean-up. But they should not be mandated to pay to a firm that closed before the incident happened, or a firm that had a fire unconnected to the spill. But that is what is happening. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)



June 22 - A 1,000-pound BP tar mat found on Fort Pickens beach

A tar mat on a beach in the National Seashore's Fort Pickens area is larger than first thought. A Coast Guard-led cleanup crew thought the mat was getting lighter on Saturday, but they found another large area on Sunday.

As of the conclusion of work on Sunday, approximately 1,250 pounds of material has been collected, said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Natalie Murphy, in charge of the Deepwater Horizon oil. *Pensacola News Journal* [Read more](#)

June 24 - Draft National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) Guidelines

Leaders in the maritime industry convened in Washington, D.C. on June 19, 2014 to have a dialogue addressing concerns with, and ways to improve, the recently published draft National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program (NPREP) Guidelines and [Maritime TV](#) was there. Preparing for the contingency of a maritime casualty has long been a priority of the industry, which has often been at the leading edge of improved standards and training. Therefore, industry leaders felt it was important that a public meeting be held to address any concerns, as these are issues that are of vital interest to many communities across the country. [Click here to view the presentations from the meeting.](#)

Participating organizations included:

- American Salvage Association
- Association of Petroleum Industry Cooperative Managers
- Chamber of Shipping of America
- Cruise Lines International Association
- Lake Carriers Association
- North America Marine Environment Protection Association
- Passenger Vessel Association
- Spill Control Association of America
- Women's International Shipping and Trading Association

Maritime TV [Watch the programme](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM USA (continued)

June 24 - Oil transportation firms pay little into NY state spill fund

Two Fortune 500 companies that transport most of the crude oil through New York are contributing to the state's oil spill fund at a much lower rate than other energy companies, state records show.

The fund is the first line of defense against the tremendous costs associated with an oil train derailment. However, it's so underfunded that it would do little to mitigate the actual cost of a major accident like those that have occurred in Canada, North Dakota and Virginia in the last year, some legislators say. *Capital* [Read more](#)

June 24 - Gannett exclusive: BP shuts down internal oil spill claims program

In a shocking move, BP has decided to shut down its internal oil spill claims program, taking away an avenue for more than 10,000 claimants who have opted out of the oil giant's controversial settlement agreement or others who are not covered by it.

BP won't say how many claimants it served with the BP Claims Program over the last two years, but the amount paid through the end of April was a paltry \$12 million. By contrast, over the exact same time frame, the court-supervised settlement program paid \$3.8 billion. *Shreveporttimes.com* [Read more](#)

June 26 - Final plan for \$627 million Phase III BP oil spill early restoration projects released

The final plan and accompanying environmental impact statement for the \$627 million, 44-project Phase III BP oil spill early restoration plan were made available to the public on federal and state websites Wednesday (June 25).

The documents are available at the [NOAA Gulf Spill Restoration web site](#) and at the [Louisiana Oil Spill Control Office's Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill](#) damage assessment site. A description of the Louisiana projects is included in Chapter 9 of the main report. *The Times Picayune* [Read more](#)

June 30 - BP Seeks Restitution for Erroneous Gulf Oil Spill Payments

BP Plc has asked a U.S. judge to direct what it called a "vast number" of businesses to repay hundreds of millions of dollars it says were wrongly awarded as compensation on claims stemming from the 2010 Gulf of Mexico oil spill.

In a Friday court filing, BP asked U.S. District Judge Carl Barbier in New Orleans to require businesses to make restitution plus interest of excess payments, which it called "windfalls." *Claims Journal* [Read more](#)

July 2 - Officials learn about BNSF plans for oil spills

BNSF Railway has drafted a plan for dealing with oil spills from railroad tanker cars in Northwest Montana, it was reported during a meeting of the Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area group in Whitefish last week.

The company's Geographical Response Plan includes details on the placement of oil-containment booms, cleanup protocols and notification of federal, state and local emergency-response agencies. *Flathead News Group* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM CANADA

June 19 – BC Government Seeks Public Feedback on Oil Spill Preparedness

BNSF Railway has drafted a plan for dealing with oil spills from railroad tanker cars in Northwest Montana, it was reported during a meeting of the Great Northern Environmental Stewardship Area group in Whitefish last week.

The company's Geographical Response Plan includes details on the placement of oil-containment booms, cleanup protocols and notification of federal, state and local emergency-response agencies. *Andrew Weaver MLA* [Read more](#)

June 20 - New labelling rules for dangerous liquid in transit

Transport Minister Lisa Raitt said Canada is creating new rules for labelling dangerous goods transported by truck and rail in Canada.

The new rules will be in harmony with U.S. and United Nations regulations.

NEWS REPORTS FROM CANADA (continued)

As of July 14, 2014, all trucks and trains carrying certain classes of dangerous goods, such as propane, acetone, and peroxides, will need to be clearly labelled. *Canoe.ca News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

June 24 - BC's Rising Oil Spill Risk Threatens Otters: Washington State Report

New risks from Canadian oil tanker spills confront the 1,100 sea otters living around the Olympic Peninsula, said an internal report of March 2014 by the Washington State Ecology Department.

The otters live from Point Grenville to Neah Bay on the rocky and perilous west coast of the state, about half of them around Destruction Island. Their cousins who share the Salish Sea north of the B.C. border are considered an endangered species in Canada. *The Tyee* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM UK

June 22 - Jihadi threat to blow up oil tanker at major UK port

A terrorist sleeper cell is planning to seize an oil -tanker and mount a -spectacular suicide attack at a major UK port - Special forces soldiers have been deployed in mainland Britain to support the police after intelligence experts picked up info on the plot.

Home Office chiefs called in the -Ministry of Defence after uncovering the plan just days ago through a network of informants working for the -intelligence services. They warned an extremist unit in -Britain is planning a "significant event". *Daily Star* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NEWS REPORTS FROM SEYCHELLES

June 5 - Seychelles agencies test oil spill response preparedness with EU partners

Seychelles' emergency response capacity in case of a possible oil spill was put to the test on Wednesday in an exercise supported by the European Naval Forces (EUNAVFOR).

According to an online maritime news agency, MarineLink.com the scenario involved a mock distress call to the Indian Ocean island's Coast Guard from a Seychelles flagged vessel that had collided with a ferry just off Glacis, northern district of the main Seychelles island of Mahé. *Seychelles News Agency* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM NIGERIA

June 20 - Shell faces payouts in Nigerian oil spill case



Photo: A man walks near the spilled Shell crude oil on the shores of the Niger Delta swamps of Bodo, Nigeria. Photograph: Pius Utomi Ekpei/AFP/Getty Images

The first judgment in what lawyers have said could be one of the world's largest ever environmental trials has ruled that Shell may have to compensate some communities for oil spills from their pipelines caused by criminals in the heavily polluted Niger delta.

The ruling at London's high court, following interpretations of Nigerian law by two retired Nigerian judges, may limit damages that Shell is expected to have to pay Niger delta villages devastated by two massive oil spills in 2008 and 2009, according to the company. *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM NIGERIA (continued)

June 21 - Shell offers 30 million pounds to settle 2011 Nigeria oil spills: sources

Around 15,000 residents of the Bodo community in the Niger Delta represented by law firm Leigh Day appealed in 2011 to a London court for more than 300 million pounds in compensation.

Claimants say that the two spills resulted in the leakage of 500,000 barrels of oil but Shell estimated the volume at around 4,000 barrels. Shell has already offered some compensation for the spills.

The sources said a Shell offer from September 2013 to settle the case for 30 million pounds remained on the table. The lawyer representing the claimants on Friday rejected the sum. *Yahoo News* [Read more](#)

June 23 - Nigerian fisherman reject \$50 million offer from Shell over oil spills

Thousands of Nigerian fishermen have rejected an offer of \$50 million from Royal Dutch Shell for "some of the largest oil spills in history," their British lawyers said Friday after winning a landmark court ruling.

Shell already accepts responsibility for paying compensation and cleaning up spills caused by its own failures. But the London High Court decided that Shell can be held legally liable for spills caused by oil thefts, if it fails to provide reasonable protection for its pipeline infrastructure. *News.com.au* [Read more](#)

June 26 - Governor of Nigeria's Bayelsa State Seeks International Pressure to Combat Environmental Terrorism

The Governor of Bayelsa State, the Honorable Henry Seriake Dickson, is seeking the support of the international community to hold multi-national oil and gas companies operating in the Niger Delta, including Royal-Dutch Shell and Agip, responsible for the environmental devastation they have caused. Reflecting on World Environment Day 2014, Governor Dickson detailed a litany of environmental offenses that have threatened local economies, harmed public health, impeded development, and strained the social fabric of communities.

Governor Dickson equated the damage to Bayelsa State's environment to "environmental terrorism." BP's Deepwater Horizon spill caused an international uproar, but that catastrophe is dwarfed by the amount of oil spilled in the Niger Delta annually. And the devastation is constant and ongoing – data from Nigeria's National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA), which indicates more than 804 oil spills were recorded in a two-year period, making an average of over one spill every day. *Globe Newswire* [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM ITALY

July 3 - VIDEO: Ghostly Look Into Sunken Costa Concordia

New footage from the inside of the Costa Concordia has been released by Italian divers. The video seems to portray the chaotic last moments of the luxury cruise ship. As the video ends, the diver from Italy's Carabinieri police emerges from the water to find himself inside the huge central atrium of the ship, which sits above the waterline.

Salvage crews plan to float the ship in about ten days, initially just slightly to ensure that the punctured hull does not shatter and pollute the surrounding waters. If all goes well, the ship will be floated off the platform into deeper water to allow chains to be fastened under the ship to make it sturdier. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more and watch the video](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM NEW ZEALAND

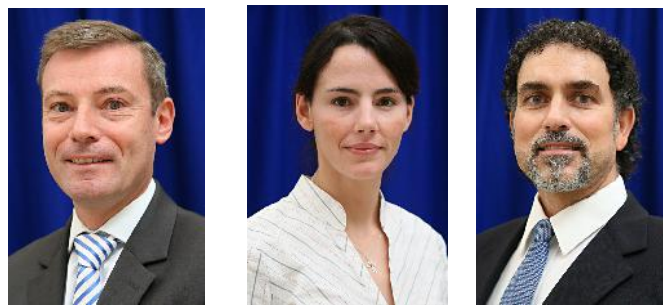
July 7 - Maritime NZ lays out oil spill plan

Specific goals have been set by Maritime New Zealand to deal with future oil spills.

The strategy is outlined in its just released statement of intent, a document that specifically identifies an expanding oil programme as increasing the risk of spills. According to the document Maritime New Zealand is to review response strategies, obligations for oil spill responses, and review the capital programme for oil spill responses. It's also planning to develop a National Response Team. *Newstalk ZB* [Read more](#)

People in the news

REMPEC: FAREWELL TO FRÉDÉRIC HÉBERT, FRANCESCA BORG AND MARIO BONELLO



Photos: From left to right - FRÉDÉRIC HÉBERT, FRANCESCA BORG AND MARIO BONELLO

June 30 - Mr. Frédéric Hébert, Director of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), Ms. Francesca Borg, Clerk/Secretary and Mr. Mario Bonello, Technical Assistant – Logistics who respectively joined REMPEC in 2006, 2001 and 2005, left the Centre after years of exceptional service.

Following the Decision of the 18th Ordinary Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (Istanbul, Turkey, 3-6 December 2013), REMPEC has been restructured as a consequence of the economic challenges of the Barcelona Convention and its Mediterranean Action Plan (MAP). Consequently, Mr. Hébert, Mrs. Borg, and Mr. Bonello terminated their contracts at the end of June 2014.

The three staff members highly contributed, through REMPEC, to the protection of the Mediterranean Sea and, in their respective roles, played an important part in ensuring that the Centre fulfills its mission to assist the Contracting Parties in meeting their obligations under the Barcelona Convention, the 1976 Emergency Protocol, the 2002 Prevention and Emergency Protocol and the Regional Strategy for Prevention of and Response to Marine Pollution from Ships. The remaining Staff of REMPEC wish to acknowledge and thank Mr. Hébert, Ms. Borg and Mr. Bonello for their devotion to the Centre and their permanent commitment whilst in post in Malta. Special thanks go to Mr. Hébert for his exceptional service as Director of the Centre during the period 1 January 2006 – 30 June 2014. *REMPEC* [Read more](#)

Science and technology

INDIA: A WAY TO CLEAN THE GANGA ?



Photo: T. Sampath Kumar, the Bangalore-based inventor of Nualgi.

A Bangalore-based chartered accountant says the seeming impossibility of cleaning the Ganga is a matter of mastering the underlying chemistry, and he has a solution to the problem. When dissolved in polluted water, his invention promotes the growth of a beneficial kind of algae, which releases oxygen into the water as it grows. More oxygen means more aerobic bacteria, which breaks down pollutants in the water.

With new prime minister Narendra Modi pledging to clean the Ganga—he represents Varanasi in the Lok Sabha—the enormity of the task has come into focus. The tourism ministry has already allocated Rs18 crore (about \$3 million) to renovate the ghats of the pilgrim city.

Like the Ganga, Bangalore's lakes have been host to untreated wastewater and sewage for many years now. And like the Ganga, the consequences include algal blooms, stench, mosquito infestations and drinking water contamination. These foul waters have been the laboratories of T. Sampath Kumar, a chartered accountant by training, who is also the inventor, producer and sole supplier of a proprietary nutrient he calls Nualgi—Nu for new and algi for, well, algae.

Fishermen in Bangalore are using his concoction of nutrients to clean their hunting grounds so that fish livestock is replenished. Kumar believes the mechanism that works in the lakes of Bangalore can work in the mighty Ganga.

Kumar's technique works by kick-starting the foundation of the aquatic food chain. He feeds a mixture of nutrients to diatoms—the most basic, single-cell life form found in ponds, lakes, rivers and oceans. As the algae formed by diatoms grow, they release oxygen into water. Oxygen sustains all other life in water, including aerobic bacteria, which can efficiently break down organic matter and clean the water. *Quartz India* [Read more](#)



In this issue of the ISCO Newsletter we are printing No. 180 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 180: CONCLUDING REMARKS

With the document to MEPC 67 having shown how belief-counter-belief dissension would be eliminated by subjecting all beliefs to the reality-evaluation which would transform them to positive knowledge for universal acceptance or to negative knowledge for universal rejection, a parallel document will be submitted to IOPCF/Oct/15 to show how belief/counter-belief dissension over the drafting of claim-submission guidelines would be dispelled by adoption of the new knowledge-only approach to contingency and incident-specific response planning now being developed by ISCO.

Readers of this Column will recall that the ISCO intervention following the discussion on the guidelines at IOPCF/May/14 was as follows: 'Staff changes have been mentioned in relation to the difficulty in presenting claims.

There is also question of reasonableness/proportionality (as used in the Convention). In this connection, ISCO is now offering a new approach to incident response. This new approach comprises a repository of knowledge supportive of a knowledge-only contingency plan based on the physicochemical parameters which control the fates and effects of releases, which determine prevention and response, and which by their incident-specific values predict incident-specific fates and effects, thus enabling incident-specific prevention and response to be cost-effective.

Thus, on completion of this approach, coastal states will have access to a repository of knowledge secure against staff changes and a contingency plan from which even fresh staff will be able to prepare and execute incident-specific plans which will enable predictions made, decisions taken, accredited contractors employed, results obtained and costs incurred to be reported to the IOPC Funds in fully documented form and to IMO for enhancement of the thus shared repository of knowledge.

This intervention was intended to suggest that dissension as to what is 'reasonable and proportionate' will not be resolved by speaking of administrative belief rather than of incident-response knowledge, by speaking of settlement for whatever was done in the heat of the moment regardless of outcome, or by seeking to define 'reasonable and proportionate' by reference to differing laws and administrative procedures rather than by reference to incident-response knowledge while failing to recognise that the drafters of the Convention selected these valueless terms because they themselves lacked the necessary incident-response knowledge. This intervention was also intended to suggest that this continuing absence of knowledge results in incidents being approached as though they were the first ever; that this absence of knowledge is reflected in the inadequacy of claim-submissions; and that staff-turnover and incident-infrequency will perpetuate this absence and inadequacy until a knowledge-repository is made available to all.

As an unexceptional example of the need such a repository, it is a matter of public record that while the UK Marine Pollution Control Unit (MPCU) had been established in March 1979 on the incident-response knowledge acquired by the Warren Spring Laboratory between October 1974 and March 1979, no incidents of any significance arose until the *Sea Empress* grounded in the entrance to Milford Haven in February 1996; that the consequent inability of the MPCU to institutionalise this knowledge through frequent use, resulted in the initial grounding release of 3,000-5,000 tonnes being increased to 72,000 tonnes by successive ebb-tide groundings over some three weeks before the residual 58,000 tonnes was discharged by moving the casualty to an oil terminal within the Haven.

As to claim-submission, it may be asked whether it was reasonable and proportionate to settle *Sea Empress* claims for the whole 72,000 tonnes released or only for five sixths or even three sixths of it, the rest having been caused/permitted by the absence of previously available preventive-knowledge, while the release-response itself further demonstrated the need for a repository of incident-response knowledge covering all aspects thereof to be available to all coastal states to avoid its otherwise irrecoverable loss.

This series of articles in its entirety, was intended to recover incident-response knowledge acquired prior to and since 1979 for the creation of such a repository while documents submitted to OPRC-HNS Technical Group meetings and subsequently to MEPC 67 were intended to preserve it by showing how it would be used in the new knowledge-only approach to contingency incident-response planning. Thus, in a parallel document to IOPCF/Oct/15, the new ISCO approach to knowledge-only response planning will be offered to the IOPCF and P&I Clubs as an antidote to the belief/counter-belief dissension which is now thwarting completion of new guidelines for claim submission and assessment.

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.

Events

UK: UKSPILL 2014 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF UKSPILL.

UKSPILL2014 is a new Conference and Exhibition to be held over the 14-15 October 2014 at Donington Park, near the East Midlands Airport.

It is being launched in 2014 on the 10th anniversary for the UKSpill Association, and is aimed to create both a spills forum and to showcase the capabilities of the UK Spill industry.

The theme of the event is "Oil Spills will always be with us as long as we live with oil; you need to know what we do and how we can help".

UKSPILL2014 offers a full 2 day conference programme, addressing the ongoing issues of oil spills, and other spills in our society, with keynote and other speakers. Science and industry workshops will be held alongside an exhibition of spill industry companies. In addition, demonstrations will be held illustrating techniques and equipment to deal with spills. The event recognises that networking is a vital area for both government, agencies and industry. A networking buffet supper will be held at the event, which includes a free tour of the famous Grand Prix Collection of racing cars and other historical transport exhibits on display at Donington Park.

The event is organised and operated by the UK Spill Association, a not for profit organisation, which is supported by the Environmental and Maritime Agencies of the United Kingdom.

A more detailed Conference and Workshop programme will be announced in the Spring, and bookings are already being taken for the Exhibition.

You are invited to Register your interest as a delegate, or Book exhibition space by contacting UKSpill at info@ukspill.org
[View the outline conference programme, registration and booking form](#)

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	May 2014
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	June 23 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	July 1 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	May 2014 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	May 1-15 2014
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 27 2014
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	June 2014 issue
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	June 2014
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 1, 2014
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	July 2 issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	July 2014 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	July 2014 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	June 2014 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	June 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	May 2014 issue
AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	May 2014 issue

Company news

NOFI CURRENT BUSTER 6 WITH INTEGRATED NORMAR PUMP SYSTEM LED TO SUCCESS FOR ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER ALLMARITIM DURING THE OIL ON WATER EXERCISE 2014

The annual Oil on Water (OOW) exercise, led by NOFO in cooperation with the Norwegian Coastal Administration, took place on the Frigg Field on the 17th – 20th of June 2014. Various players in the oil spill response industry participated in the testing and verification of new oil spill clean-up technologies. Oil was released in the sea, the wind speed was up to 6 m/s and the significant wave height at approx. 1.5 m, NOFI Current Buster 6 once again proved to be a remarkably efficient oil recovery tool. [Read more](#)

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