

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 organisation.

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International news

INTERNATIONAL SALVAGE UNION MEMBERS PROVIDED MORE THAN 200 SERVICES AND MADE MAJOR CONTRIBUTION TO ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION IN 2014

Members of the International Salvage Union (ISU) provided 216 services to vessels carrying 1,655,399 tonnes of potentially polluting cargoes during operations in 2014 in a major demonstration of the value of their work towards protecting the marine environment.

President of the ISU, Leendert Muller, said: "Yet again our members are to be congratulated for the great benefit they have delivered in helping to protect the marine environment from potential damage. We represent a vital service to both the shipping industry and wider society. Shipping has generally become safer but everyone in the industry should be aware that just one major casualty could cause an environmental disaster."

In the period 1994 to end-2013, ISU members salvaged 18,575,702 tonnes of potential pollutants, an average of just under one million tonnes per year. This consists of 13,142,007 tonnes of oil cargoes; 1,307,706 tonnes of chemicals; 1,616,101 tonnes of bunker fuel and 2,818,565 tonnes of "other pollutants".

International Salvage Union [Read more](#)

NAIROBI WRECK REMOVAL CONVENTION ENTERS INTO FORCE



The Nairobi International Convention on the Removal of Wrecks entered into force on Tuesday (April 14, 2015). The Convention places strict liability on owners for locating, marking and removing wrecks deemed to be a hazard and makes State certification of insurance, or other form of financial security for such

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International news (continued)

Furthermore, consolidation and dissemination of the project results could be supported by an application for a future project within the framework of the first call for projects under the 2014-2020 MED Programme, in June 2015.

CEDRE Newsletter [Read more](#)

EUROWA PROJECT: BUILDING TIER 3 OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE CAPACITY IN EUROPE



The European Module for Oiled Wildlife Emergency Response Assistance ([EUROWA](#)) project, introduced late last year, got off to a strong start with a weeklong meeting hosted by the [RSPCA](#), a project partner, at their Mallydams Wood Wildlife Centre.

This first meeting brought all project partners and subcontractors together to begin developing the training modules needed to standardise skills among responders at six levels of competency: Convergent Volunteer, Advanced Volunteer, Specialist, Section Head, Manager and Veterinarian.

The workshop aimed to define competencies and relative responsibilities within and among the range of activities in an oiled wildlife response, including both field and facility operations. Small group brainstorming sessions tackled questions regarding functional environment, equipment/logistics, functional team setup, routines and processes, key decision-making, health and safety, and documentation and reporting. These sessions provided the initial outline of content for the training and exercises needed to deliver future responders at Convergent Volunteer through Manager levels. *Sea Alarm* [Read more](#)

TRANSBOUNDARY OIL POLLUTION DEBATED IN IMO

On 13 April, a working group led by Denmark and Indonesia met in the IMO to consider the need to regulate the issue of transboundary oil pollution. 33 countries and a number of international organisations have just met at the IMO headquarters in London under the chairmanship of Denmark and Indonesia.

International news (continued)

liability, compulsory for ships of 300 gt and above. It also provides States Parties with a right of direct action against insurers.

The Convention fills a gap in the existing international legal framework by providing a set of uniform international rules for the prompt and effective removal of wrecks located in a country's exclusive economic zone or equivalent 200 nautical miles zone. The Convention also contains a clause that enables States Parties to "opt in" to apply certain provisions to their territory, including the territorial sea.

The Convention provides a legal basis for States Parties to remove, or have removed, wrecks that pose a danger or impediment to navigation or that may be expected to result in major harmful consequences to the marine environment, or damage to the coastline or related interests of one or more States. The Convention also applies to a ship that is about, or may reasonably be expected, to sink or to strand, where effective measures to assist the ship or any property in danger are not already being taken. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

MEDESS-4MS PROJECT COMPLETED ON 31ST MARCH 2015

The **MEDESS-4MS** project (Mediterranean DEcision Support System for Marine Safety) came to a close on 31st March 2015, after three years and two months of collaboration between 21 partners from seven Mediterranean countries.

Two agents from Cedre attended the closing meeting in Rome, at the headquarters of the Italian Coast Guard, on 19th and 20th March. This project, initiated under the MED Programme and co-funded by **ERDF**, resulted in the development of modelling tools based on the integration of oil slick drift simulation models available for the Mediterranean and metocean databases covering this area.

The results of simulations can be displayed in a **GIS** offering a range of functionalities relating to the sensitivity of the shoreline, the position of protected areas and response equipment. A specific user interface was developed to provide access to all the services offered by the system. The tools are to undergo ongoing maintenance in order to assure their availability for end-users.

International news (continued)

On this occasion, liability for damages and the obligation to take out insurance in connection with transboundary oil pollution damage resulting from offshore activities were considered, and this has resulted in the drafting of guidance that is expected to be presented to the IMO Legal Committee in the spring of 2016.

Resistance has prevented a Convention

On several occasions, Denmark and Indonesia have tried to make the IMO undertake to develop an international convention in this area, but resistance from a number of major oil producing countries have made this impossible until now.

The IMO Legal Committee has instead held the view that the issue was more suitable for regulation by means of regional and bilateral agreements. Therefore, the Committee has supported the development of guidance on the conclusion of such agreements. *Danish Maritime Authority* [Read more](#)

EUROPE: BONN SEMINAR ON REMOTE SENSING



BONN seminar Remote Sensing, Middelburg 2015

Representatives of the BONN AGREEMENT, HELCOM, other EU Member States, Industry, P&I Club and lawyers met in Middelburg 14-16 April to discuss the possibilities to improve the application of Remote Sensing for a cleaner sea. Enforcement of MARPOL Annexes have some challenges where it concerns Annex 2 discharges.

Developments in both satellite capabilities and airborne and shipborne sensors would support the work of the authorities. It was also concluded that consultations between stakeholders and other communities would advantageous as there is a mutual interest.

Thanks to Sjon Huisman, Senior Nautisch Adviseur, Rijkswaterstaat Zee & Delta for this short report and photograph.

RECORD NUMBERS AT ISU ASSOCIATE MEMBERS' DAY CONFERENCE

Some 220 delegates registered for the International Salvage Union (ISU) Associate Members' Day Conference in London. Subjects discussed included Places of Refuge; criminalisation of seafarers and the Lloyd's Open Form (LOF) salvage contract.

Keynote speaker, Tom Bolt, Performance Management Director, Lloyds, said he recognised that many people do not properly understand LOF and added that Lloyd's is addressing this with communication initiatives such as a new "video scribe" explaining LOF which he showed to delegates. [Click here to view the Lloyd's LOF video.](#)

The UK Secretary of State's Representative for Salvage and Maritime Intervention, (SOSREP) updated the meeting on EU initiatives on Places of Refuge. He said that part of the problem was about to whom approaches for a Place of Refuge should be made. He said that a list of designated contact points and a standard formal request template would help and that, unless it was unsafe to do so, there should be no rejection of a casualty without inspection. Mr Shaw added that new guidelines should be available by the end of 2015 *International Salvage Union* [Read more](#)

International news (continued)

ITOPF LAUNCHES NEW KIDS WEBSITE & GAME

ITOPF has launched its first children's website and game. Aimed at 5 to 8 year olds, the website sets out to educate children on the marine environment, in particular the effects of oil spills and ways to help minimise any damage, all in a colourful, entertaining and interactive way.

The website contains nearly 50 interesting questions and factsheets which in turn look at the different habitats affected by spills, the equipment used for clean-up, vessel and oil types, historical spills, flora and marine animals. With thanks to AMSA and NAMEPA, there are also words search games, jigsaws and activity packs to enjoy.

The "Oil Boom" game for iOS takes players around the world on a mission to contain oil spills before they reach the shore or spread out to sea in 30 fun filled levels, with interesting facts along the way.

To visit the website click here: <https://kids.itopf.com/>

Incident reports from around the world

VIETNAM: 8 TONS OF OIL SLUDGE DIRTIES VIETNAM CENTRAL COAST

April 8 - Volunteers in Quang Tri Province in central Vietnam have collected six tons of oil sludge that washed up on the coast the past week and are clearing two more tons from a beach.

The source of the oil slick is not known though it has polluted around eight kilometers of coast, the media quoted some locals as saying.

A source from the province environment department said the department had mobilized hundreds of volunteers to collect the sludge and separate the oil and sand using shovels and nets. The source estimated two other tons to have mixed with the sand.
Thanhnieu News [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

BRAZIL: FIREFIGHTERS EXTINGUISH BLAZE AFTER 8 DAYS, SIX FUEL TANKS IN BRAZILIAN PORT OF SANTOS BURNED

April 11 - Firefighters declared extinguished the blaze that broke out eight days ago and burned six fuel tanks in the Brazilian Port of Santos, Latin America's largest.

The crew finished putting out the flames this Friday after close to 200 hours of intense extinction efforts aided by aircraft of the Brazilian air force, the Firefighters Corps said.

Authorities have kept access to the port blocked since last week, which caused millions in losses because port operations were virtually shut down. When the port will be back in business is now being studied.

The fire also caused environmental damage and at least 7 tons of dead fish, killed by the water's depleted oxygen levels and high temperatures, were removed from the Casqueiro River at the nearby town of Cubatao in Sao Paulo state.
Customs Today [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: POWER OUTAGES IN OHIO'S CORTLAND AREA RELATED TO OIL SPILL

April 11 - Ohio Edison is cleaning up an oil spill that made it's way from one of its sub-stations in Cortland into Mosquito Lake. Friday afternoon an oil leak was discovered at the substation off Warren Meadville Road.

Officials with the energy company explain that a piece of equipment was leaking what they say is "mineral oil." Although, the company does have catch basins in place to contain leaks, they say heavy rains caused the oil to move beyond the barrier.
WFMJ.com [Read more](#)

CANADA: FOCUS SHIFTS TO SEA FLOOR AS ENGLISH BAY OIL SPILL CLEANUP CONTINUES

April 12 - Investigations will be carried out to determine if oil is below the surface of English Bay or at the oceans' bottom from a spill from the cargo ship Marathassa, but not until the surface cleanup effort is complete, the Canadian Coast Guard said Sunday.

While remnants of the bunker fuel spill on the surface of English Bay are now estimated at about half a litre, oil must still be cleaned from the water line of the cargo ship, and from other ships in the bay, Canadian Coast Guard assistant commissioner Roger Girouard said at a news conference in Vancouver.

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

Girouard said it is unlikely oil is below the surface or on the ocean floor because the fuel oil is meant to float, although scientists warn that bunker fuel can sink and the estimate of the remaining amount of fuel may be optimistic. *The Province* [Read more](#)

MEXICO: OIL SPILL AFFECTS DRINKING WATER FOR TABASCO CITY

April 14 - Mexico's Gulf coast state of Tabasco has set up an emergency plan to supply drinking water to the capital of Villahermosa after oil thieves punctured a pipeline, contaminating rivers that normally supply the city.

The spill late last week sent workers with the state-owned oil company scrambling to limit damage, and four of Villahermosa's water treatment plants were shut down as a precaution. The Tabasco state government said Tuesday that it will temporarily supply water using 13 tanker trucks. Workers for the Pemex oil company set out containment booms and were trying to scoop oil off the waterways. *ABC News* [Read more](#)

April 16 - Oil spill leaves 100,000 Mexicans without water

Some 100,000 people remained without drinking water in southern Mexico on Wednesday after rivers were contaminated by an oil spill triggered when thieves tapped a pipeline.

Authorities reopened two out of four water filtration plants that had closed after the weekend spill, which initially left half a million people without clean water in the city of Villahermosa, Tabasco state. *124News* [Read more](#)

CANADA: OIL SPILL IN LAC ST-LOUIS PROMPTS WATER QUALITY CONCERNS

April 14 - Environmental clean-up crews were hard at work on the shores of Lac St-Louis, to tackle what appears to be a large-scale oil spill.

"I've never seen oil in Lac St-Louis to that extent," said Pointe-Claire's Mayor Morris Trudeau. "We're doing everything possible to clean up the water to make sure our environment is okay. The City of Pointe-Claire has launched a full investigation and a pumping truck has been on site since Monday.

Big white booms and long sponges have also been installed to try to contain the contamination. *Global News* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: MASSIVE OIL SPILL IN BAYELSA

April 15 - A massive oil spill has occurred from a pipeline belonging to the Shell Petroleum Development Company (Shell) in the Kolo Creek oil field operation in Bayelsa, a company official has confirmed.

Sources gathered that immediately the spill was noticed in the early hours of yesterday, the company moved to contain it. However, the oil was said to have moved down the creek before it was boomed from spreading further.

A community source told our source that the situation was saved because the creek is not flowing fast as the rains have not arrived in the area. He however lamented that the spill has already impacted farmlands and vegetation in the area.

"We do not know exactly when the oil leak started but this morning we saw crude leaking from the pipeline into the road and when we got there soldiers had already cordoned off the whole area. They do not allow us to get near to find out the possible cause of the leak on the pipeline, we woke up this early morning to see this in our community. I believe that the soldiers must have reported the incident so that they can shut down the pipeline crude feed to forestall further damage to the environment, but oil is still gushing out of the line", Okpu said. *PME Naija* [Read more](#)

SPAIN: DOLPHINS AND TURTLES AT RISK FROM OIL SPILL OFF CANARY ISLANDS HOLIDAY BEACHES



April 17 - Coastguards are battling to contain a four-mile oil slick off beaches on the Canary Islands. The oil is spewing from a Russian fishing vessel carrying 1,409 tons of fuel.

Environmental group Greenpeace criticised authorities for towing the burning fishing vessel out to sea after it caught fire in Las Palmas port early on Sunday.

Spain has launched an investigation into why the ship was taken out of the port and sunk, as oil spills can be harder to contain in the open sea.

The Oleg Naydenov sank 15 nautical miles south of Gran Canaria. Television images showed oil floating on the water. *The Mirror* [Read more](#)

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

USA: EPA REVEALS UNPRECEDENTED SCOPE OF COOKING OIL SPILL NEAR CABOOL, MO

April 17 - The Environmental Protection Agency says a cooking oil and restaurant grease spill near Cabool is the largest of its kind that its staff has ever seen in the Ozarks.

Charges were filed last winter against Brian Fleming, owner of Fleming Recycling, for theft of millions of dollars of cooking oil from restaurants in several states. Now he may also face charges related to the spill on his property here.

In late March, the Cabool Fire Chief was alerted to rain water pushing cooking oil out of two storage ponds at Fleming Recycling. The EPA now says the two storage ponds were clearly unsafe. The rain water overflowed the ponds, causing grease to run down a ditch, into a tributary of the Big Piney River. *KY3* [Read more and watch video](#)

USA: COVINGTON MS OIL SPILL CLEAN UP MAKING PROGRESS

April 19 - Officials overseeing an oil spill clean-up in Covington County said major work could be finished by the end of the weekend. Collins Fire Chief John Pope said nearly 60 barrels of oil have already been removed from Oakey Woods Creek. On Thursday, about 100 barrels of light crude from a well operated by Mississippi Resources, Ltd. spilled into that creek. *7WDAM* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (countries in alphabetical order)

AUSTRALIA: HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCE INCIDENT RESPONSE CAPABILITY

April 15 - In a maritime environmental emergency having access to accurate, real time information is vital to mounting an effective response. AMSA has identified the need for a dedicated incident response reconnaissance capability to be deployed to a vessel which is experiencing a Hazardous and Noxious Substance (HNS) incident at sea.

The National Plan for Maritime Environmental Emergencies (National Plan) is a framework enabling effective response to marine pollution incidents and maritime casualties.

The Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) manages the National Plan, working with State/Northern Territory governments, the shipping, ports, oil, salvage, exploration and chemical industries, and emergency services to maximise Australia's marine pollution response capability.

AMSA Marine Environment General Manager Toby Stone says that while oil spills are the most well-known marine pollution events there are many other potentially dangerous situations covered by the National Plan. *Safety4Sea* [Read more](#)

April 16 - New team the first response for HNS incidents at sea

AMSA, in partnership with Fire and Rescue New South Wales (FRNSW), is developing an on-board, at sea HNS incident response reconnaissance capability.

This new capability will see FRNSW (HAZMAT) personnel and an AMSA Maritime Casualty Officer transferred to a ship at sea that is experiencing difficulty with an on-board HNS emergency.

The teams will be ready to deploy rapidly to an incident occurring outside of state or territory waters but within Australia's Exclusive Economic Zone and will provide advice back to AMSA and key decision makers so that an appropriate response can be launched. The team will be capable of 24 hours sustained operation independent of any support provided by the vessel. *Australian Maritime College* [Read more](#) Another related report in [The Maritime Executive](#)

CANADA: GOVERNMENT OF CANADA MARKS MILESTONE IN STRENGTHENING WORLD-CLASS TANKER SAFETY SYSTEM

April 8 - Today the Government of Canada released the second report of the independent Tanker Safety Expert Panel. The report, "A Review of Canada's Ship-source Spill Preparedness and Response: Setting the Course for the Future, Phase II – Requirements for the Arctic and for Hazardous and Noxious Substances Nationally" marks a milestone in the Government's commitment to continue strengthening Canada's world-class tanker safety system.

The Panel's report concludes there are opportunities to enhance Canada's prevention, preparedness and response requirements to better protect the public and the environment. There are recommendations for the Arctic, for hazardous and noxious substances, and a recommendation on the management of marine casualty incidents.

The Panel's full report can be viewed at: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tankersafetyexpertpanel/menu.htm>.
Transport Canada [Read more](#)

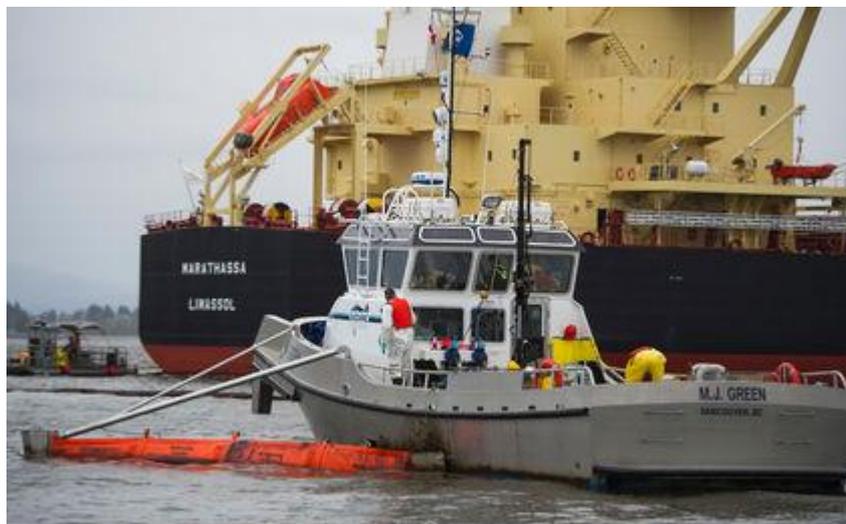
Other news reports from around the world (continued)

CANADA: CANADIAN COAST GUARD COMMISSIONER JODY THOMAS' STATEMENT ON VANCOUVER BUNKER SPILL

April 12 - Canadian Coast Guard Commissioner Jody Thomas issued statement Sunday defending the Coast Guard's response to the bunker fuel spill from the MV Marathassa bulk carrier in English Bay, near downtown Vancouver.

80 per cent of the spill was not only contained, but was recovered within 36 hours. A National Aerial Surveillance Program flight during the afternoon on April 11 confirmed that the oil on the water had been contained, and that approximately 0.3 litres of non-recoverable oil was remaining on the water. *gCaptain* [Read the complete text of the statement](#)

CANADA: TWO SEPARATE PROBLEMS CAUSED VANCOUVER OIL SPILL: TRANSPORT CANADA



April 13 - A Transport Canada official says investigators have found the source of last Wednesday's fuel spill from a cargo ship in Vancouver's English Bay.

At a news conference Monday morning, Yvette Myers, regional director of marine safety and security, said mechanical problems in the valve and piping systems appears to have caused oil to leak into the "duct keel" -- or structural base -- of the Marathassa ship.

Myers said if that had been the only problem, the spill would have been contained inside the ship's hull.

Investigators found an "unrelated" issue caused oil to leak into the water, she said. *Calgary Sun* [Read more](#)

CANADA: COAST GUARD UNION WARNS THAT MORE CUTS INCREASE RISK FROM SPILLS

April 12 - Amid criticism about the Canadian Coast Guard's response to last week's fuel spill in Vancouver's English Bay, the union representing coast guard workers says imminent cuts to communication centres on Vancouver Island and the Lower Mainland could have disastrous consequences for managing future oil spills.

The coast guard, the lead agency for managing a fuel spill, plans to close three of five marine communications centres, including the centre in Ucluelet on April 21, the Vancouver centre on May 6 and the Comox station by next year. "That will put delays into the alerting and notification system for pollution incidents," said Allan Hughes, Comox-based western director of Unifor 2182. "[The federal government] has cut the coast guard so much that services that have traditionally been provided for generations are no longer going to be there for the public to protect their waters," he said. *Times Colonist* [Read more](#)

CANADA: NATIONAL ENERGY BOARD LAUNCHES MAP OF OIL SPILLS, PIPELINE INCIDENTS

April 13 - The National Energy Board has launched an interactive map on its website that tracks spills and other pipeline incidents. The launch comes two years after Global News requested comprehensive incident data related to oil spills from both the provincial and federal governments, and received incomplete and unusable data from the NEB. It also comes a year and a half after [CBC mapped the NEB data](#), after an access-to-information request that it noted contained "a number of blanks and inaccuracies." *Global News* [Read more](#)

CHINA: PRESENTING IMO'S MARINE ENVIRONMENT WORK



April 10 - IMO's Heike Deggim has delivered a presentation featuring the key issues on the agenda of IMO's Marine Environment Protection Committee at the [Greentech Shiptech China Congress](#), Shanghai, China (9-10 April).

Topics presented to national decision makers and industry experts included the [Polar Code](#), [energy efficiency](#) and ballast water management ([BWM](#)).

Source: [IMO Press Release](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

INDIA: TURTLE NESTING SITES, MANGROVES AT HIGH RISK DUE TO OIL SPILL OFF GOA COAST

April 11 - Turtle nesting sites on the shorelines, mangroves in the inland waters and coral reefs in the sea are identified as highly vulnerable groups in the event of oil spill off the Goa coast, according to experts.

"Many of Goa's diverse and ecologically important coastlines, including the inland riverine systems, are home to diverse and unique flora and fauna. Oil spills cause disruption and devastation of migratory pathways, degradation of important animals and plant habitat," stated the Goa State Oil Spill Disaster Contingency Plan prepared by the State Pollution Control Board (GPCB).

The two-volume report, released yesterday by Defence Minister Manohar Parrikar here, has identified and mapped such high-risk areas in the coastal state that could bear the brunt in case of disaster. *India TV* [Read more](#)

INDIA: INDIA'S 1ST OIL SPILL FINGERPRINT LAB IN GOA

April 17 - Dona Paula-based National Institute of Oceanography (NIO) is in the process of setting up an oil spill fingerprint laboratory, the first of its kind in the country. The lab will also be able to fingerprint the source of tar balls which are washed ashore between mid-April and May-end every year. *The Times of India* [Read more](#)

KENYA: KENYA RATIFIES NAIROBI WRECK REMOVAL TREATY



April 14 - Ms Nancy Karigithu, Director General, Kenya Maritime Authority, handed over the instrument of ratification to IMO Secretary-General Koji Sekimizu at the opening of the Legal Committee's 102nd session, on the day the Convention entered into force internationally (14 April).

The Convention places strict liability on owners for locating, marking and removing wrecks deemed to be a hazard and makes State certification of insurance, or other form of financial security for such liability, compulsory for ships of 300 gt and above. It also provides States Parties with a right of direct action against insurers.

Green4Sea [Read more](#)

MEXICO: SECRECY SHROUDS DECADE-OLD OIL SPILL IN GULF OF MEXICO

April 16 - Down to just one full-time employee, Taylor Energy Company exists for only one reason: to fight an oil leak in the Gulf of Mexico that has gone largely unnoticed, despite creating miles-long slicks for more than a decade.

The New Orleans-based company has downplayed the leak's environmental impact, likening it to scores of minor spills and natural seeps that the Gulf routinely absorbs.

But an Associated Press investigation has revealed evidence that the spill is far worse than what Taylor — or the government — has publicly reported. Presented with AP's findings, the Coast Guard provided a new leak estimate that is about 20 times greater than one recently touted by the company. Outside experts say the spill could be even worse — possibly one of the largest ever in the Gulf, albeit still dwarfed by BP's massive 2010 gusher. *ABC News* [Read more](#)

MOZAMBIQUE: MOZAMBIQUE HOSTS OIL SPILL RESPONSE SYMPOSIUM

April 17 - The Mozambique Oil Spill Response Symposium, co-hosted by the United States Africa Command Environmental Security Program, the Joaquim Chissano Foundation (FJC), and the Wildlife Conservation Society (WCS) was conducted on 14-16 April 2015, at the Joaquim Chissano International Conference Centre in Maputo, Mozambique. *Africom.mil* [Read more](#)

NETHERLANDS: OILED WILDLIFE RESPONSE COOPERATION IN THE NETHERLANDS PROGRESSING WELL

April 15 - In March, the annual meeting between key wildlife response organisations and [Rijkswaterstaat](#) took place, bringing together responders and authorities who cooperate on implementing and updating the national plan for response to oiled birds ([Samenwerkingsregeling Besmeurde Vogels](#) or SBV). Held this year in Rotterdam at the wildlife rehabilitation centre *Karel Schot*, the meeting focused on reviewing activities completed in 2014 and preparation for the actions planned in 2015. *Sea Alarm* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

TUNISIA: TUNISIA IS MOVING TOWARDS T2 COORDINATION

April 16 - Following a visit to IEMS response center in Egypt by ETAP management in July 2014, IEMS was invited by ETAP for a reciprocal visit to Tunisia in order to meet with the respective stakeholders in Tunisia, to discuss oil spill prevention, preparedness and response. IEMS and regional partner SWIRE-ERS visited Tunisia in March 2015.

It has been concluded by ETAP that a similar system of Tier 2 response center management as observed in Egypt would further enhance the response capacity of the sector in Tunisia.

MOIG was taking part in a high level meeting attended by relevant stakeholders at Skhira terminal on 9th March 2015. TRAPSA management demonstrated the high quality of terminal management pursued and how the terminal maintains constant focus on environmental protection. *MOIG Newsletter* [Read more](#)

USA: NEW SEA DRILLING RULE PLANNED, 5 YEARS AFTER BP OIL SPILL

April 10 - The Obama administration is planning to impose a major new regulation on offshore [oil](#) and gas drilling to try to prevent the kind of explosions that caused the catastrophic BP [oil spill](#) in the Gulf of Mexico, administration officials said Friday.

The announcement of the [Interior Department](#) regulation, which could be made as soon as Monday, is timed to coincide with the five-year anniversary of the disaster, which killed 11 men and sent millions of barrels of oil spewing into the gulf. The regulation is being introduced as the Obama administration is taking steps to open up vast new areas of federal waters off the southeast Atlantic Coast to drilling, a decision that has infuriated environmentalists. *The New York Times* [Read more](#)

USA: FORMAL REVIEW OF ARCTIC DRILLING PLAN BEGINS

April 10 - The U.S. Interior Department began the review process of Royal Dutch Shell's revised drilling exploration plan on Friday.

The Bureau of Ocean Energy Management (BOEM) has until May 10 to approve or reject Shell's plan, and the public has until April 20 to comment on environmental factors and until May 1 to comment on the plan as a whole. Late last month, the Obama administration upheld a 2008 Arctic lease sale, clearing an important hurdle for Shell. On March 31, the Department of the Interior issued a Record of Decision lifting the suspensions on Chukchi Sea leases after a thorough environmental analysis and substantial opportunity for public input. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

USA: INPUT SOUGHT ON CHEHALIS RIVER BASIN OIL SPILL PLANS

April 11 - The state Department of Ecology has completed a draft contingency plan outlining how responders would tackle an oil spill near the Chehalis River. The plan is available for public review and comment now through May 8. The plan is posted at www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/preparedness/GRP/ChehalisRiver/ChehalisRiver.htm *The Olympian* [Read more](#)

USA: BP OIL SPILL FUND SPENDS \$5BN IN PAYING CLAIMANTS

April 16 - The administrator responsible for managing the BP oil spill compensation fund has said that more than \$5bn has been paid to the claimants, so far. Administrator Patrick Juneau said that a total of \$5.037bn has been paid to 62,162 claimants. These details come five days ahead of the fifth anniversary of the Deepwater Horizon disaster. *Offshore Technology* [Read more](#)

USA: UPDATING OIL SPILL PLANS FOR MIDDLE COLUMBIA RIVER

April 16 - As a statewide discussion continues over how to ensure safe oil transport in Washington, the Washington Department of Ecology is updating a contingency plan that outlines how responders would tackle an oil spill near the Middle Columbia River. The plan, which focuses on protecting public health, public safety and the environment, is available for public review and comment now through May 15, 2015. *State of Washington dept. of Ecology* [Read more](#)

People in the news

MOIG APPOINTS NEW MEMBER OF MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE



The MOIG MCM is very delighted to welcome Mr Yassine Mestiri the new MCM member appointed by ETAP. Mr Yassine MESTIRI was born in December 1956.

Mr Mestiri is a Mechanical Engineer with a Master in Energy. He had been in ETAP, the Tunisian National Oil & Gas Company since 1985. *MOIG Newsletter* [Read more](#)

MINUTES OF 2015 AGM HELD IN AMSTERDAM

The Minutes of the ISCO AGM have been circulated to all members on the mailing list. If you have not received the minutes please notify the Secretary immediately at john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

A failure to receive the minutes could be indicative of an out-of-date address in our mailing list. We do our best to keep our mailing lists up-to-date but ultimately we depend on members to notify changes – your co-operation is appreciated.

TIMELY PAYMENT OF MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FEES

ISCO is grateful that most members pay their annual dues on time but unfortunately there are exceptions.

All members are reminded that membership fees should be paid annually in advance on the date of the anniversary of the date on which you first joined the organization.

Currently, our Membership Director Mary Ann Dalglish is spending a considerable amount of time in chasing up overdue subscriptions. This task is made even more difficult in cases where invoices and reminders get bounced because contact details are no longer valid. If you have not received an invoice or payment reminder please contact Mary Ann at mrydetroit@aol.com without delay.

If you do not keep your subscription up-to-date and ignore reminders it will be assumed that you are no longer interested or involved in the spill control community. In such cases you will be removed from the roll of members and -

- Your subscription to the ISCO newsletter will be cancelled
- You will not be advised of emergency requirements for spill response support services, equipment and materials.
- Your access to the members' area of the ISCO website will be disabled
- Your directory listing with hyperlink to your company website will be deleted.
- You will not be accorded any priority in newsletter editorial content concerning new products, services, and company news.
- You will lose your right to display the ISCO logo on your stationary and promotional materials
- You will no longer be eligible for discounts negotiated by ISCO on behalf of its members
- Professional members will be de-listed and will lose the right to use initials denoting professional membership of ISCO

You will be right if you conclude that ISCO is getting tough on members who persistently fail to pay their dues. We take the view that non-paying members are being subsidised by those that those that pay their dues on time – and this is not fair.

Technical support + Science & Technology

Due to the need to keep this issue at a reasonable size, an intended article on Chemical Spill Response and two articles on New Technologies will be held over until the next issue.

Publications

UK: UPDATED STATISTICS FOR HYDROCARBON LEAKS NOW AVAILABLE

The Energy Institute, in partnership with Oil & Gas UK, has published the sixth edition of its Pipeline and Riser Loss of Containment (PARLOC) report, containing statistics from a 12-year period of hydrocarbon leaks. The report is concerned with loss of containment statistics i.e. average failure (leak) frequencies and probabilities, and is produced to support the oil and gas industry in risk assessment procedures, and in the design and operation of offshore oil and gas facilities. The data gathered for loss of containment incidents occurs at pipelines and risers on the UK Continental Shelf (UKCS) between 2001-2012. Order your copy online at www.energypublishing.org Source: Energy Institute News

Links for recent issues of other publications (in alphabetical order)

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	April 2015 issue
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	March 2015
Celtic Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter	Latest Remediation and related technology news	Spring 2015 issue
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	April 2015 issue
Energy Institute eBulletin	News from the Energy Institute	April 2015 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	April 2015 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 1, 2015
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2015
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 16 2015
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	April 2015 issue

Links for recent issues of other publications (in alphabetical order)

MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	16 April 2015 Issue
NOAA update	Oil spill response news from NOAA OR&R	April 2015
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	March 2015 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	April 15 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	News from the Sea Alarm Wildlife Protection Organisation	Spring 2015 issue
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	February 16 - 28 2015
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	March 23 issue
Transport Canada Newsletter	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	Winter 2014 issue
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	April 1 2015 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Winter 2015 issue

Events

IRELAND: ISAA 2015 OIL SPILL RESPONSE SEMINAR – DUBLIN, 23 APRIL 2015

[Download the detailed programme](#)

[Download the booking form](#)

SPRING 2015 APICOM MEETING Oahu, Hawaii April 28-30, 2015 <http://www.apicom.org/>

IMO: MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE (MEPC) MEETING

IMO HQ, London - 11/05/2015 - 15/05/2015

TUNISIA: TIER 2 OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE, ZARZIS TERMINAL-TUNISIA

Put the date in your diary - A Tier 2 Oil Spill Response Exercise will be conducted jointly between MOIG, MARETAP, ECUMED PETROLEUM, IEMS, OMMMP, ONPC, PA RESOURCES and SSTC in Zarzis Terminal in Tunisia over 26-28 May 2015. The MOIG MCM would like to thank MARETAP and its partners ETAP and ECUMED PETROLEUM for agreeing to the MOIG request to hold this exercise and IEMS for their hospitality by providing technical and operational support to MARETAP through the MOIG. The exercise has numerous objectives, the most important of which is to integrate and test local Oil and Gas companies' ability to communicate together under such circumstances. More info will be later published in the ISCO Newsletter.

UK: WRECK REMOVAL CONTRACTS & OPERATIONS COURSE

The [Wreck Removal Contracts & Operations](#) course for a comprehensive guide to legal and operational aspects of wreck removal incidents. Taking place 16 - 17 June at Dexter House, London. View the [event agenda](#)

NIGERIA: OIL SPILL PREVENTION, CLEAN-UP AND REMEDIATION IN THE NIGER DELTA

Lagos, July 8-10, 2015 Oil spills in Nigeria have caused unimaginable and unacceptable level of environmental pollution and concomitant severe degradation and effects in the oil producing areas of the Niger Delta Nigeria. This is why we are consistently using the conference forum to create awareness of the effects of oil spills, how best to prevent, respond and restore the oil - impacted areas and mitigate the effects on the people, aquatic community and the environment. Everyone that attends our Conference is expected to be a participant in the conference proceedings. [More info](#)

CHINA: OCEANOLOGY INTERNATIONAL CHINA 2015

The next Oceanology International China will take place on 3-5 November 2015, in our new Shanghai venue, The Shanghai Convention & Exhibition Center of International Sourcing [More info](#)

Last words

I decided to make my password "incorrect"
because if I type it in wrong, my computer will remind me,
"Your password is incorrect."

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this Newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. If an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in the next issue of this Newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO's Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org