



# ISCO NEWSLETTER

The Newsletter of the International Spill Response Community  
Issue 498 31 August 2015

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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 organisation.

## ISCO COMMITTEE & COUNCIL

ISCO is managed by an elected executive committee members of which are **Mr David Usher** (President, USA), **Mr John McMurtrie** (Secretary, UK), **Mr Marc Shaye** (USA), **Mr Dan Sheehan** (USA), **M. Jean Claude Sainlos** (France), **Mr Kerem Kemerli** (Turkey), **Mr Simon Rickaby** (UK), **Mr Li Guobin** (China), **Captain Bill Boyle** (UK) and **Mr Dennis van der Veen** (The Netherlands).

The Register of ISCO Members is maintained by **Ms Mary Ann Dagleish** (Membership Director). She is also responsible for collecting membership dues.

The Executive Committee is assisted by the non-executive ISCO Council composed of the following national representatives – **Mr John Wardrop** (Australia), **Mr Namig Gandilov** (Azerbaijan), **Mr John Cantlie** (Brazil), **Dr Merv Fingas** (Canada), **Captain Davy T. S. Lau** (China, Hong Kong), **Mr Li Guobin** (China, Mainland), **Mr Darko Domovic** (Croatia), **Eng. Ashraf Sabet** (Egypt), **Mr Torbjorn Hedrenius** (Estonia), **Mr Pauli Einarsson** (Faroe Islands), **Prof. Harilaous Psaraftis** (Greece), **Captain D. C. Sekhar** (India), **Mr Dan Arbel** (Israel), **Mr Sanjay Gandhi** (Kenya), **Mr Joe Braun** (Luxembourg), **Chief Kola Agboke** (Nigeria), **Mr Jan Allers** (Norway), **Capt. Chris Richards** (Singapore), **Mr Anton Moldan** (South Africa), **Dr Ali Saeed Al Ameri** (UAE), **Mr Kevin Miller** (UK) and **Dr Manik Sardessai** (USA).

For more info on Executive Committee and Council Members go to [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org)

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## International news

### PETROTRANS SUMMIT HAS BEEN POSTPONED

The following statement has been received from the organisers of this event which was to have been held in Chicago on September 30 to October 2, 2015 –

“Due to the continuing rapid decline in the oil market conditions and its effect on the travel and education plans/budgets for so many companies and agencies in our industry, we are postponing the PetroTrans Summit & Training Workshops that were scheduled for September 30-October 2 in Chicago, Illinois, USA.

The PetroTrans Summit will be rescheduled for a new time and location as market conditions improve and the operator, regulator and responder community can fully participate in this important industry gathering.

We sincerely apologize for any inconvenience that this postponement may have caused for you and your members. Without the ability to bring together the majority of the community at this time, we firmly believe it is the correct decision to postpone the in-person event.

PetroTrans will continue to serve your members and the inland oil transportation and emergency response community with our twice-monthly newsletter, and we are adding a series of educational webinars for our 8,000+ subscribers”.

### NORTH PACIFIC COAST GUARD FORUM COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE ON SCHEDULE TO COMMENCE TOMORROW

The Korean Coast Guard will take the lead in conducting the 1-3 September 2015 North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) Communications Exercise. The exercise will test portions of the soon-to-be-published International Maritime Organization's (IMO) International Offers of Assistance (IOA) Guidelines.

ISCO has received a good response from its Corporate Members that have registered their interest in participating in the exercise.

A letter just received from the Korean Coast Guard welcomes the support being given by ISCO and its Members – “The participation of ISCO and its members is ideal for the purpose of the communication exercise and it will also be of great support when an actual incident occurs involving oil and HNS. The availability of foreign private resources is important for supporting domestic capability”.

### SOUTHEAST ASIA INITIATES RAPID RESPONSE FORCE TO COMBAT PIRACY

August 25 - Malaysia and Indonesia formed a joint rapid deployment team to respond to the increasing piracy incidents in the region. The joint force was established August 21 as Southeast Asia has become a hotbed for maritime piracy during the past year.

The Indonesian Navy is based on Batam Island and intends to deploy two armed BO helicopters in an effort to secure the Malacca Strait. There have already been 56 cases of piracy in the Malacca Strait this year. The Malaysian side is

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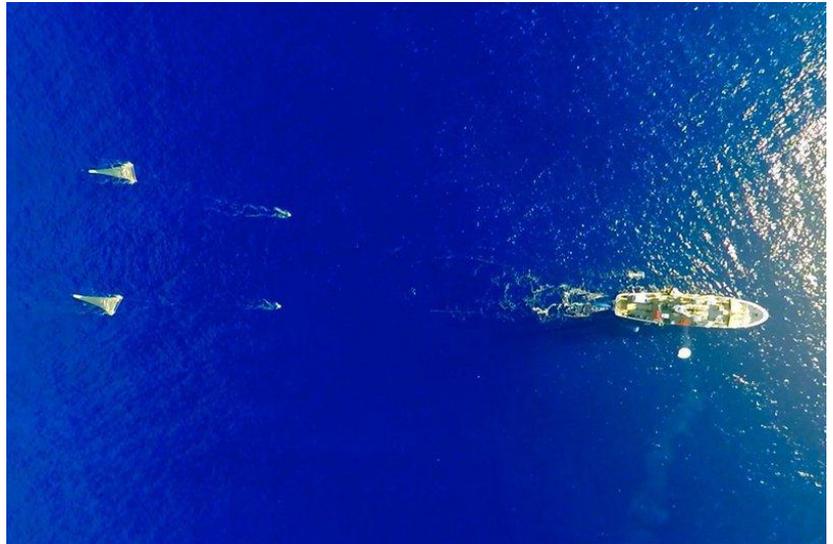
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## International news (continued)

based in Johor and will support the piracy efforts with one helicopter. The rise in Southeast Asian piracy has prompted ASEAN nations to establish a permanent security presence. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

## RESEARCHERS COMPLETE PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH RECON AHEAD OF PROPOSED CLEANUP



*Photo: The Ocean Cleanup successfully concluded the so-called Mega Expedition with the arrival of a first group of vessels including the fleet's 171-foot mothership in the port of San Francisco on Monday. Photo: The Ocean Cleanup*

August 23 - Researchers returned on Sunday from mapping and sampling a massive swirling cluster of trash floating in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, as the Dutch-borne crew works to refine a clean-up strategy it will roll out globally.

The crew of the Ocean Cleanup, backed by volunteers in sailboats, ventured to areas of the "Great Pacific Garbage Patch", a swirling mass of human-linked debris spanning hundreds of miles of open sea where plastic outnumbers organisms by factors in the hundreds.

The debris, concentrated by circular, clockwise ocean currents within an oblong-shaped "convergence zone", lies near the Hawaiian Islands, about midway between Japan and the U.S. West Coast. The trash ranges from microscopic pieces of plastic to large chunks. *gCaptain* [Read more](#) Related article in [The Maritime Executive](#)

## WEST AFRICA COMBATS PIRACY



August 28 - More than 20 nations are partnering with the Nigerian Navy to combat piracy. The Nigerians, naval officials from neighboring countries as well as U.N. representatives convened at the 2015 Offshore Patrol Vessels (OPV) conference, which is hosted annually by Nigeria's Navy in Lagos.

A key agenda of the conference is to build cooperation in Africa and increase coastal surveillance to enhance maritime security. Pirates along Africa's west coast constantly disrupt commerce by stealing crude oil, poaching fish in territorial waters and robbing cargoes from ships and have murdered crew members.

Since 2008, piracy has spiked and Nigeria claims losses of about \$2 billion per year. The Nigerian government said it loses \$800 million due to illegal

fishing and \$9 million from piracy attacks and another \$16 million to oil thefts and hundreds of millions that are paid in ransoms for ships and crews. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

## Incident reports from around the world (in chronological order)

### USA: 2,500 GALLONS OF DIESEL SPILLED INTO SITKA, ALASKA STORM DRAIN SYSTEM

August 17 – A 30,000 gallon diesel spill near Sitka's port sent 2,500 gallons through Sitka's storm drain system when a valve on a secondary containment failed, state and Coast Guard officials said. *Alaska Dispatch News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO, and SAC News]

### SINGAPORE: SIX PIRATE ATTACKS OFF SINGAPORE

August 23 - On August 21 and 22, six vessels while underway in the eastbound lane of the Traffic Separation Scheme in the Straits of Malacca and Singapore were subject to pirate attack.

The vessels reported the incidents, five boardings and one attempt, to the Singapore Vessel Traffic Information System. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

### USA: MYSTERIOUS OIL SPILL CLOSES SANTA BARBARA BEACH

August 23 - Health officials of Santa Barbara County have ordered the closure of a Summerland Beach, a resort south of Santa Barbara, hours after large amounts of oil washed up in the beach's shore.

The Health Department had initially just issued a warning, advising the public to stay away from the oil-covered sand and tar balls that were spotted at the said beach. However, authorities escalated their action from a mere warning to a forced closure of the said beach resort on Friday afternoon after detecting an increasingly large volume of oil over a 300-yard stretch. *Weekly Observer* [Read more](#)

### USA: TARGA REPORTS OIL SPILL DUE TO PIPELINE FAILURE IN NORTH DAKOTA ON AUGUST 20

August 25 - Targa resources reports 100 barrels of crude oil spill due to pipeline failure in Watford City, North Dakota on August 20. The line was valved off and allowed to de-pressurize immediately upon discovery. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

### PARAGUAY: OIL SPILL AT THE PARAGUAY RIVER IN ASUNCION



August 27 – Report received from ISCO Member, Carlos Sagrera, MSc, MISCO.

This was a fluvial oil spill at the Paraguay river in Asuncion yesterday... It was an overflow of a tank with gas oil during an operation with barges... very common in the coast of the river in the city.

Local news reports:

<http://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/se-derrama-gasoil-en-el-rio-1401703.html>

<http://www.abc.com.py/nacionales/evaluaran-impacto-de-derrame-1401978.html>

### SPAIN: DRIFTING MSC BOXSHIP TOWED TO SAFETY OFF SPAIN – PHOTOS

August 28 - A 300-meter containership that lost power off Spain on Thursday drifted to within just miles of land before a tug was able to gain control of the vessel and tow it to safety.

Spain's maritime emergency agency Salvamento Marítimo reports that the container MSC Ajaccio requested assistance Thursday after losing power about 18 miles west of Cape Finisterre, Spain in the Atlantic Ocean.

Bad weather hampered the initial response as strong winds pushed the ship in a northeast direction to within three miles of Cape Touriñán. Luckily, the salvage tug Don Inda arrived on scene was able to connect to the vessel and tow it to safety. *gCaptain* [Read more and see photos](#)

## CANADA: ENBRIDGE LINE 9 CHANGING HANDS



August 20 - A controversial plan to ship oil sands bitumen across southern Ontario through a leak-prone pipeline took a new twist when the project changed ownership.

Ownership of the Enbridge Line 9 route was transferred from its parent company to the Enbridge Income Fund, at the same time when 60 kilometres of this route is undergoing hydrostatic testing to ensure its structural integrity. *National Observer* [Read more](#)

## CHINA: 24-HOUR CHECKS FOR POLLUTANTS IN TIANJIN



*Photo: An officer checking for combustible materials at the Tianjin blast site on Thursday. The disaster on Aug 12 has left 89 firefighters, nine policemen and 48 others dead, and the death toll is expected to rise. PHOTO: XINHUA*

August 29 - China's Environment Ministry has put in place a 24-hour monitoring system for pollutants at a port that was hit by explosions, and says it plans to report accurate and timely data to the public.

The blasts at a warehouse storing chemicals in the port city of Tianjin, not far from Beijing, killed at least 146 people and stirred public anger over persistently poor work safety standards and possible health risks arising from the disaster.

Speaking at a meeting yesterday, Environment Minister Chen Jining said his ministry will not let up on environmental monitoring, with 24-hour checks for air, soil and water pollution. The ministry will "release monitoring data to the public in a timely manner and accurately", the official China Environment News quoted him as saying. *The Straits Times* [Read more](#)

## NIGERIA: NNDC OIL SPILL MANAGEMENT PROGRAMME 2015

July 30 - In Line with its mandate to build human capacity resource and enhance skills development in the nine (9) States of the Niger Delta Region, the Niger Delta Development Commission (NDDC) has concluded arrangement to train interested and qualified youths of the Niger Delta Origin on Oil Spill Response Management that will lead to award of globally recognized certification and create the needed skilled manpower in fundamentals of Oil Spill Management locally and internationally. *NNDC* [Read more](#)

## Other news reports from around the world (continued)

### NIGERIA: NOSDRA ORDERS SHELL TO PAY AFFECTED COMMUNITIES \$3.6BN OVER BONGA OIL SPILL

August 26 - The National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency, NOSDRA, has directed Shell Nigeria Exploration and Production Company, SNEPCO, to pay \$3.6 billion to affected communities of the Bonga oil spill.

NOSDRA's Director-General, Sir Peter Idabor, in a letter to the oil firm, said that the agency imposed a sanction on the company in 2014 for the damage done to the natural resources and means of livelihood by the spill since 2011.

"NOSDRA DG, Sir Peter Idabor, has directed SNEPCO to pay the sum of \$3,600,191,206.00 or its Naira equivalent as compensation and administrative costs for failure to effect clean up on the impacted site within the stipulated period, as provided in the agency's Act and Regulations. *Today* [Read more](#)

### NIGERIA: TOTAL BLAMES RIVERS OIL SPILL ON SABOTAGE



August 29 - Total Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited has blamed the oil spill discovered on its Obagi-Rumuekpe export line on sabotage.

The General Manager, Onshore Production, Dr. Abdulah Inuwa, said a joint assessment team, which included the Rivers State Ministry of Environment, National Oil Spill Detection and Response Agency and the Department of Petroleum Resources, agreed that the spill was caused by third party interference.

It will be recalled that the oil firm had announced the stoppage of expedition of crude on its Obagi-Rumuekpe 12" Oil Export Pipeline as a result of oil spill and fresh excavation on the pipeline's right of way. *Punch* [Read more](#)

### NORWAY: NCA IN AGREEMENT WITH ENI NORWAY

*Photo: Johan Marius Ly, Emergency Preparedness Director at the Norwegian Coastal Administration, and Andreas Wulff, External Communication Manager at Eni Norge.*

August 25 - The Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) has entered into an agreement with the oil company Eni Norway involving mutual assistance of vessel resources in the Goliat field. This is the first agreement of its kind in Norway.

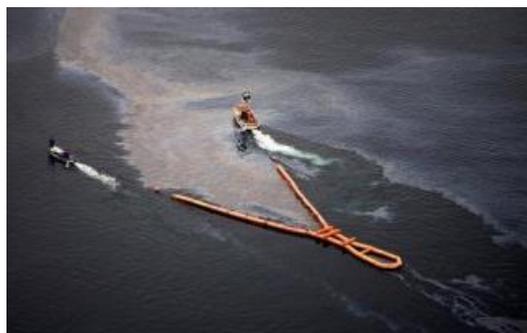
"This is a good way to exploit common emergency preparedness resources," said Johan Marius Ly, Emergency Preparedness Director of NCA.

The agreement involves mutual assistance by vessels in connection with NCA towing preparedness and Eni Norway activities on the Goliat field. Eni Norway is known as a leader in oil spill response.

"Preparedness for the Goliat field, as a specially adapted area in which we operate, represents a strengthening of capacity in oil spill response, towing preparedness and search and rescue in the region," said Andreas Wulff, Communications Director of Eni Norway. *Kysverket* [Read more](#)



### UK: MPC TO EXAMINE OIL SPILL MONITORING CAPACITY ON UKCS



*Photo: Mechanical recovery near shore; Image source: Oil & Gas UK*

August 28 - Marine Planning Consultants (MPC) has been awarded a contract by Oil and Gas UK and the Oil Spill Response Forum to examine the specific requirements for monitoring during a major oil spill event on the United Kingdom Continental Shelf (UKCS).

The project will, according to MPC, also assess capability within the industry and the wider scientific community to carry out environmental monitoring in response to such an event. MPC said the work will assist the Oil Spill Response Forum in the development and maintenance of an oil spill response capability for upstream operations on the UKCS. *Offshore Energy Today* [Read more](#)

## Other news reports from around the world (continued)

### USA: GOM OFFSHORE INDUSTRIES PREPARED?

August 24 - Hurricane Katrina destroyed more than 113 platforms and 457 pipelines when the storm devastated the U.S. Gulf of Mexico almost a decade ago. With Katrina's ten year anniversary approaching, many wonder if the region is better equipped to handle Category 5 hurricanes or mega storms.

Katrina's destructive forces annihilated the coastal regions and the New Orleans levee system as well as the industrial base including the oil industry, which estimates that more than nine million gallons of hydrocarbon product were lost in the environment.

In May 2006, Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement (BSEE) published a pipeline damage assessment report that stated that 101 of the damaged lines sustained gashes at least 10 inches in diameter and about 18,000 barrels were lost. The US Coast Guard considers any spill larger than 2,500 barrels a major spill. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

### USA: STATEMENT FROM PRESIDENTIALLY APPOINTED AND SENATE CONFIRMED CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD CHAIRPERSON VANESSA ALLEN SUTHERLAND

August 24 – "I am honored to begin my five year term as Chemical Safety Board Chairperson and Member. I look forward to a highly productive and collaborative experience with my fellow board members and the CSB's staff.

I have spent the last four years as Chief Counsel for the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) at the U.S. Department of Transportation, allowing me a strong background and understanding of the functioning of government, and perhaps more importantly the value of safety. I also have worked at the U.S. Department of Energy in the Inspector General's office and for regulated companies, which I hope will allow me to communicate with our varied stakeholders to articulate our mission, work and expertise.

As I said at my confirmation hearing, I believe that safety is a shared responsibility. That responsibility extends far beyond the corridors of K street as well as a facility's fence lines. Safety extends into the homes and communities that are most impacted by the devastating accidents that the CSB is responsible for investigating – accidents that forever affect families and communities". *US Chemical Safety Board* [Read more](#)

### USA: TEXAS A&M-CORPUS CHRISTI'S OIL RESPONSE FIELD COURSE TEACHES RESPONDERS HOW TO PROTECT NATURAL RESOURCES



August 24 - Thirty-six students in the "Oil Spill Prevention and Response" class from the National Spill Control School at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi demonstrated techniques on August 14 which are used in response to an oil spill.

This exercise in the Corpus Christi Marina was part of a five-day seminar in "Hazardous Waste Operations and Emergency Response for Oil Spill Response" (HAZWOPER), enacted by both students and individuals currently working in the industry.

"About half of the class is made up of A&M-Corpus Christi graduate and undergraduate students, while the other half work with companies including Citgo, Refinery Terminal Fire Company, Flint Hills, Valero, and the Port of Corpus Christi," said Tony Wood, Director of the National Oil Spill Control

School at Texas A&M-Corpus Christi. "It's a great opportunity for students to network with those already in the industry, and it also allows for those in the industry to identify some of the students who might be graduating and looking for a job." *Texas A&M University* [Read more](#)

## People in the news

### WAYNE O'BRIEN JOINS SWIRE PACIFIC OFFSHORE



August 25 - Wayne O'Brien, formally of NRC has joined Swire Pacific Offshore as the General Manager of the Emergency Response Division, which comprises of SERS and Swire Salvage.

Wayne, who will be based in Singapore, has been involved in the oil spill response industry since 2001, having trained with OSRL as a response team leader. He joined Swire Pacific Offshore on 3 August 2015.

### CAPTAIN TONY WYNNE TO BE ADVISOR TO OIL COMPANIES INTERNATIONAL MARINE FORUM

August 28 - Captain Tony Wynne from Shell Shipping will be joining OCIMF as Technical Advisor (Nautical) on a three year secondment, replacing Captain Ian Shields, in the autumn (date tbc). Tony joined Shell as a cadet in 1980 and has served in their fleet on products, crude and gas tankers and shuttle tankers through to Master. Tony is currently Vice Chairman of the OCIMF Floating Systems Group under the Offshore Marine Committee and has supported OCMIF on various other work groups in the past. *OCIMF News* [Read more](#)

## People in the news (continued)

### **BILL & LIZ FERNIE RETIRE FROM AYLES FERNIE INTERNATIONAL**



August 25 - Bill Fernie, Managing Director of Ayles Fernie International, the dispersant spray system specialist, has announced his retirement from the business. Bill and his wife Elisabeth, former owners of the business, have agreed this move with Richard Proctor, MD of the parent company Darcy Products and are looking forward to more time to enjoy their passion for sailing and Bill is also looking to getting airborne again albeit in the more genteel pursuit of gliding.

Bill entered the world of oil spill response with the acquisition of Frank Ayles & Associates in 1994 following diverse careers as an Engineer Officer in the Merchant Marine and the Royal Air Force. During his period in the RAF Bill also qualified as a civilian flying instructor but decided against a career in civil flying when he left the RAF as he was drawn to a more creative form of pursuit.

Bill, ably assisted by his wife Elisabeth, developed the Ayles Fernie business we know today and major achievements in the past 20 years include the invention and development of the AFEDO Nozzle and the NIMBUS aerial dispersant spray system currently in

operation with OSRL and the Royal Air Force of Oman. Elisabeth even managed to achieve a first class honours degree in Environmental Science with the OU during this busy period.

Bill will be retained by Ayles Fernie in a consultancy role to provide his unusual combination of marine and aeronautical experience particularly for up-coming NIMBUS projects for new aircraft types.

In a personal statement Bill and Elisabeth have said "We would like to take this opportunity of thanking all the many colleagues and friends they have worked with over the years who have made their work both fulfilling, enjoyable and a lot of fun".

## ISCO news

### **ISCO SENDS ITS BEST WISHES TO BILL & LIZ FERNIE**

On behalf of its members the organization congratulates Bill and Liz on their achievements over many years and wishes them every happiness in retirement. Their company has been a longstanding and valued member of ISCO and we thank them for their loyal support. We will hope to see Bill and Liz at future gatherings of the spill response community.

### **MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL FOR NIGERIA, CHIEF KOLA AGBOKE, GIVES PRESENTATION AT LAGOS OIL SPILL CONFERENCE.**

August 28 – Chief Kola Agboke represented ISCO at the Oil Spill Conference held in Nigeria last week, giving a presentation on the work of the organization. This was well received and created considerable interest, with several attendees indicating their interest in joining ISCO.

The two-day conference was well attended mostly by Nigerian Professionals, government Agencies, namely, Department of Petroleum Resources, National Oils Spill Detection and Response Agency (NOSDRA) and Independent Oil producing and service companies.

Several papers were presented, including two from Sylvester Egwu with emphasis on Oil Spill Bioremediation Technology in Nigeria. Other papers covered Hydroremediation Oil Spill Clean-up and remediation in the Niger Delta presented by John Onwuteaka Ph.D, of the Department of Applied and Environmental Biology, Rivers State University of Science and Technology in Port Harcourt.

### **ISCO STANDING-BY TO RELAY REQUEST FOR ASSISTANCE IN INTERNATIONAL COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE**

See also news on Page 1 of this and last week's newsletter. ISCO Corporate Members who registered their interest in participating in the North Pacific Coast Guard Forum (NPCGF) communications exercise will have the opportunity to advise on the resources they can mobilise in response to the request for assistance. The NPCGF was established in 2000 by the Coast Guards of Japan, Korea, Russia, and the United States as a venue to foster multi-lateral cooperation by sharing information and establishing best practices in the North Pacific Ocean. Since its inception, Canada and China have joined the organization.

This will be the first test of the IMO International Offers of Assistance (IOA) Guidance Procedures and ISCO is pleased to be able to give its members the opportunity to contribute to the exercise. It is anticipated that a further exercise will take place next year, led by the Canadian Coast Guard. Members who decided not to get involved this time will have another chance – keep an eye open for announcements in the ISCO newsletter.

### **THE EDUCATIONAL ROLE OF THE ISCO NEWSLETTER**

Disseminating news about new technical developments is of value to our community. Your editor would also be grateful for other articles, case histories, news stories and other contributions for publication. It is your newsletter and it gives you the opportunity to share with other members things that will be of interest to fellow members and other readers.

## STUDY IMPROVES TRACKING AND FORECASTING OF UNDERWATER OIL PLUMES

August 11 - Scientists from the University of Miami Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Science and the Technical University of Hamburg-Harburg used models, lab experiments, and observations from the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill to evaluate the importance of variables in oil transport and fate models, particularly those influencing underwater plume development.

Factors that affected the time oil stayed in the water column were key and included oil droplet size, variable oil flow rates from the wellhead, vertical current velocity, and high-pressure biodegradation. The researchers incorporated these parameters into a three-dimensional deep plume model; they published their findings in the January 2014 online issue of *Deep Sea Research Part II: Topical Studies in Oceanography*: [Simulating the effects of droplet size, high-pressure biodegradation, and variable flow rate on the subsea evolution of deep plumes from the Macondo blowout](#).

Over the course of the *Deepwater Horizon* event, about 22% of the oil would reach the surface leaving the rest in the water and sediments. Scientists encountered large underwater plumes at 800 – 1200 meters depth but had difficulty tracking or predicting their movement. At the time, little was known about the impacts of pressure, temperature, ocean dynamics, and geochemical processes on subsea dispersed oil. While the spill was tragic, researchers used this opportunity to learn about the effects these conditions have on deep water oil plume formation and improve plume tracking and prediction.

Researchers developed a three-dimensional model using the Connectivity Modeling System (CMS), which included biodegradation data from high-pressure experiments, and the Gulf of Mexico Hybrid Coordinate Ocean Model (GoM-HYCOM), which included inputs for stratification, currents, temperature, and salinity data. They added an oil module to track oil droplets with multiple hydrocarbon fractions based on Macondo oil chemistry. Daily oil flow rate input were based on direct measurements from the reservoir and blowout preventer pressures, which included effects from wellhead alterations during capping attempts. *Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO and the SAC Newsletter]

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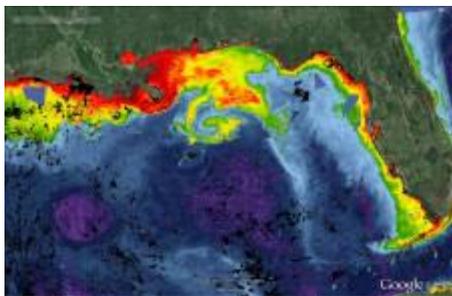
## UNDERSTANDING OIL TRANSPORT IN COASTAL WATERS

August 18 - After the *Deepwater Horizon* incident, the coastline oiling that occurred raised questions about oil movement and impact. For example, before a surface slick reached land, was there oil below the surface waters and how might that affect coastal environments and organisms?

The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative recently awarded CONCORDE a grant to study nearshore currents and circulation flows and their potential role in creating sub-surface oil exposure pathways.

CONCORDE is the acronym for the *CONsortium for oil spill exposure pathways in COastal River-Dominated Ecosystems*. Director [Monty Graham](#) with the University of Southern Mississippi shared some thoughts about their consortium's project that will examine the circulation of particle-rich waters in river-dominated areas:

*The complex circulation that exists on surface nearshore waters may also exist underneath the surface, providing oil exposure pathways to organisms such as plankton and fish and crustacean larvae that live close to shore. We will analyze the transition area where freshwater from inlets meet salt water from further off shore.*



Their study area includes the bird-foot delta, the part of Louisiana where the Mississippi River empties into the Gulf of Mexico, eastward to the Alabama/Florida border, and southward close to the continental shelf break.

Likening the nearshore environment to a layered cake, Graham said that waters come into the Gulf from multiple sources, creating below-surface water masses of varying temperatures and salinities that move like rivers traveling horizontally at different depths. CONCORDE investigators will conduct experiments at “unprecedented scales” that will contribute to high-resolution modeling of these fine-scale variabilities in their coastal study area. Graham described the centimeter-scale resolution as a defining niche or distinct aspect of their research that will account for coastal circulation affected by river input:

*Data collected from shallow water columns are often very “noisy”. But, high biomass and plankton concentrations can be very important at these scales. If concentrations of plankton are layered with oil-associated particles, they could be exposure hot spots. To know where those hot spots are, you have to get into the physics at this extraordinary detail.*

The team will investigate the physical, geochemical, and biological processes from the river to the open Gulf. Analyses of these processes will improve knowledge about the vertical distribution of sub-surface water flow that could transport oil and other pollutants into highly productive coastal waters and estuaries.

*Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative* [Read more](#)

[Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO and the SAC Newsletter]



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

<a href="#">AMSA Aboard</a>	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	August 2015 issue
<a href="#">ASME EED EHS Newsletter</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
<a href="#">Bow Wave</a>	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	June 2015
<a href="#">Celtic Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter</a>	Latest Remediation and related technology news	Spring 2015 issue
<a href="#">CROIERG Enews</a>	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	August 2015 issue
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<a href="#">IPIECA eNews</a>	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 issue
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	July 2015 issue
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	Most recent Issue
<a href="#">NOAA update</a>	Oil spill response news from NOAA OR&R	April 2015
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	August 2015 issue
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for prevention & control professionals	August 26 issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Spring 2015 issue
<a href="#">SAC News</a>	Oil spill related and other news from Alaska	August 17 issue 2015
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	July 1 - 15 2015
<a href="#">The Essential Hazmat News</a>	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	July 27 issue
<a href="#">Transport Canada Newsletter</a>	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	Winter 2014 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	August 1 2015 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech News &amp; Trends</a>	Contaminated site clean-up information	Spring 2015 issue
<a href="#">WMU Newsletter</a>	News from the World Maritime University	June 2015 issue

## New products and services

### SEA-BIRD SCIENTIFIC LAUNCHES OIL-IN-WATER SENSOR

August - Sea-Bird Scientific has announced the launch of the new SeaOWL UV-ATM in-situ oil-in-water sensor. Based upon the highly successful WET Labs ECO sensor, the SeaOwl UV-ATM introduces industry leading oil detection technology that creates a 5X optical resolution improvement over its predecessor. By combining three optical sensing techniques, this unique instrument greatly minimizes false positives, reducing operational cost and risk related to subsea oil leak detection.

SeaOWL UV-ATM measures proxies of phytoplankton abundance (chlorophyll fluorescence), total particle concentration (backscattering), and fluorescent dissolved organic matter (FDOM fluorescence) such as crude oil in a single data stream. A secondary calibration enables the determination of oil concentration within the FDOM fluorescence measurement. The SeaOWL UV-ATM incorporates a dynamic gain stage modulation and optimized electronics to provide a wide detection range and industry leading sensitivity across all optical measurement channels.

For further information please visit: [www.sea-birdscientific.com](http://www.sea-birdscientific.com) Source – Oceanbuzz [www.oceanbuzz.org](http://www.oceanbuzz.org)

## Company news

### ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, ALPHAMERS LTD.

August 18 - We are happy to share that our company has converted to a public limited company and is now 'AlphaMERS Ltd'.

AlphaMERS is now a Bangalore registered public limited company, and an SME, founded by a merchant ship oil tanker captain – Capt.Sekhar. The company successfully carried out marine EIA of Kudankulam Nuclear power plant 4 x 1000 MW expansion phase leading to CRZ clearance. The company has since, completed contracts with oil companies for providing spill response services to onshore cross country pipeline and offshore oilfield activities. AlphaMERS has designed and deployed a quick assembly boom made of conveyer belts. It has developed new design for skimmer to skim very viscous oil. It has developed a boom to control debris with oil which is now also being applied in non-oil general pollution applications like for containing floating trash in rivers. The company has also developed a device to contain and skim oil in very high currents where conventional boom fails.

[www.alphamers.com](http://www.alphamers.com)

### NRC AND AOST ANNOUNCE THE LAUNCH OF A MEDITERRANEAN ALLIANCE FOR THE PROVISION OF COMPREHENSIVE OIL SPILL SERVICES IN THE REGION.

August 26 - Global oil spill provider NRC International Services Ltd and the Malta-based oil and gas service company AOST Group Ltd have signed an agreement to provide a comprehensive oil spill response capability in Malta and the surrounding Mediterranean region. AOST is an operator in the OSRA spill response network. The joint initiative creates a far-reaching regional oil spill capability, which encompasses existing response resources in Malta, Greece, Tunisia, Egypt, Turkey, Gibraltar and Italy and combines the local presence and resources of NRC and AOST with the global capability and reach of NRC. NRC will place additional oil spill equipment in Malta to complement AOST resources in the region and the two companies will undergo cross training and joint exercises as part of the regional response alliance.

The alliance will allow the provision of a broad range of oil spill and related services to clients within the Mediterranean covering oil & gas exploration and production, marine transportation, oil distribution and marine and salvage operations.

## Company news (continued)

For more information please contact:

For NRC International Services Ltd. - Ishbel Lavery, Sales and Marketing Officer [ilavery@nrcc.com](mailto:ilavery@nrcc.com)

For AOST Group Ltd. - Adrien Bonnici, Commercial Director [commercial@aost.com](mailto:commercial@aost.com)

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### METOCEAN CONTRACT TO MIROS FOR STATOIL'S JOHAN SVERDRUP

August 26 - MIROS has recently signed a contract with Statoil Petroleum AS for delivery of a MetOcean system to the Johan Sverdrup field development. The contract includes metrological and oceanographic sensors, SM-050

WaveRadar wave monitoring and support for helicopter landing and aviation weather. The contract underlines Miros' position as a reliable and trusted supplier of complete MetOcean systems to large offshore projects. The first delivery starts late 2016.

For further information, please contact: Managing Director Mr. Andreas Brekke Mobile phone: +47 911 28 283, Email: [ab@miros.no](mailto:ab@miros.no)

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### ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, ELASTEC MANUFACTURES TRASH BOATS TO HELP KEEP WATERWAYS CLEAN

August 26 - Elastec is manufacturing trash and debris collection boats to skim floating litter from harbors and waterways. Designed to be maneuverable in hard to reach areas, the boat has an inverted bow to usher floating refuse into its 98 cubic feet trash basket. The aluminum vessel can also be used for a wide variety of marine maintenance duties from its spacious 8 x 11 ft work platform.

Marine litter and debris control is an emerging environmental issue as a result of the regulation of water pollution under the Clean Water Act. Of primary concern are municipalities with Combined Sewer Systems (CSS).

The Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago (MWRD) recently purchased two ELASTEC Trash Boats to skim debris from the Chicago River. *Elastec* [Read more and see photos](#)

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### ISCO CORPORATE MEMBER, VIKOMA INTERNATIONAL ANNOUNCES STOCK REDUCTION SALE

August 24 – Vikoma is currently offering discounted prices on a range of new and refurbished products available ex-stock including containerised ocean boom systems, fence, harbour, inshore and shoreline containment/diversion booms, floating storage tanks, Komara disc and other skimmers, and tracked load carriers for beach cleaning and other duties.

Interested purchasers should contact Victoria Massey, Marketing & Executive Assistant, Tel - +44 (0) 1983 200560 Email [vmassey@vikoma.com](mailto:vmassey@vikoma.com) and quote reference ST0815. More information is also available at <http://www.vikoma.com/stock-equipment>

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## Stop Press – Breaking News

### SRI LANKA: COCA COLA FACTORY POLLUTES ONE OF COUNTRY'S BIGGEST RIVERS WITH AN OIL SPILL

August 29 - Coca Cola pollutes one of the biggest Rivers in Sri Lanka with an Oil Spill that seems to have started nearly 10 days ago and kept secret, leading to a Water Shortage In the Capital City as the Water Supply was stopped due to the Contamination from the Oil Leak.

An underground fuel pipeline of the factory leaked into the Kelani River a week ago, causing a major contamination. The factory was also fined nearly Rs.01 billion. *ReadShareCare* [Read more](#)

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### EGYPT: OIL SPILL COVERS NEARLY A MILE OF NILE RIVER

August 29 - Egypt's official news agency MENA says a pipeline at a southern power plant has burst, covering a kilometer and half (almost a mile) of the Nile River with fuel oil.

The governor of the southern city of Assiut, Yasser el-Dasouqi, says Saturday that after the rupture Friday, 11 nearby water stations were immediately shut down to prevent the oil from reaching local tap water. Seven of these were reopened after water samples met health standards, while trucks loaded with clean drinking water were sent to the affected areas, al-Dasouqi added. *Yahoo News* [Read more](#)

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