

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

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International news

ARCTIC COAST GUARD FORUM READY FOR ACTION



October 30 - A joint statement, officially establishing the Arctic Coast Guard Forum (ACGF), was signed on Friday by leaders representing all eight coast guard agencies of the Arctic nations.

The Arctic Coast Guard Forum (ACGF) is an operationally-focused, consensus-based organization with the purpose of leveraging collective resources to foster safe, secure, and environmentally responsible maritime activity in the Arctic. Membership includes Canada, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Norway, Sweden, the Russian Federation and the United States.

“Today’s historic Arctic Coast Guard Forum represents a critical step forward in our collective efforts to promote safety, security and environmentally-responsible maritime activity in the Arctic,” said U.S. Coast Guard Commandant Adm. Paul Zukunft. “As the ocean becomes more accessible to human activity, all Arctic nations have committed to enhancing maritime cooperation in this remote and challenging environment.” *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

OCTOBER 2015 MEETINGS OF THE IOPC FUNDS' GOVERNING BODIES

October 27 - The governing bodies of the IOPC Funds held meetings from Monday 19 to Friday 23 October 2015 at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London. Sixty-six States, representing 60 Member States of the 1992 Fund, 22 Member States of the Supplementary Fund and six observer States, as well as 13 observer organisations, attended sessions

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The workshop was a first in a series of Outreach and Communications initiatives for the JIP in co-operation with the Global Initiative for Southeast Asia (GISEA)

The workshop provided a great opportunity to learn from the research and work done by the JIP in the many areas that have fundamentally changed the way we think about oil spill preparedness and response.

Thanks go to Dave Davidson and Capt. Warawit Prasobwittaya (Chevron Thailand) and Joselito Guevarra (GI SEA) for setting up the meeting, and to the trainers - Dong Xin, Nai Ming and Geeva Varghese (Oil Spill Response), and Tom Coolbaugh (ExxonMobil).

For more information on the OSR JIP please contact [Rob Cox](#), IPIECA Technical Director - OSR JIP Programme Manager. <http://www.ipieca.org>

Incident reports from around the world

CANADA: INFAMOUS OIL TANKER ARROW STILL LEAKING 40 YEARS ON



Photo: After Transport Canada personnel spotted an oil sheen near Arichat in late August, diving crews used rubber earlier this week to seal the wreck of the tanker Arrow. The Arrow ran aground on Cerberus Rock in Chedabucto Bay, off Arichat, in 1970. (CHRONICLE HERALD ARCHIVES)

October 6 - One of the country's most notorious shipwrecks is leaking oil more than four decades after it first ran aground near the Cape Breton coast.

Earlier this week, a dive team used a rubber patch to seal the Arrow, an infamous oil tanker that rests in two pieces near Arichat, Richmond County.

Officials say a Transport Canada pollution surveillance aircraft first spotted the leak on Aug. 28. They later determined the oil sheen —

International news (continued)

of the 1992 Fund Administrative Council, the 1992 Fund Executive Committee and the Supplementary Fund Assembly. A brief summary of the key decisions is available [here](#) and a full Record of Decisions of the meetings will be made available soon via the Document Services section.

IOPC Funds <http://www.iopcfunds.org/>

ISCO was represented at the IOPC Funds meetings by Dr Douglas Cormack, Hon.FISCO.

IPIECA – IOGP OIL SPILL RESPONSE JIP HOLDS SUCCESSFUL OUTREACH AND COMMUNICATION WORKSHOP IN THAILAND



October 27 - Over 40 people gathered in at the Radisson Suites Sukhumvit in Bangkok, Thailand on 8 October 2015 to participate in an industry-government workshop on best practices in oil spill response, and to learn about the outputs from the IPIECA-IOGP Oil Spill Response Joint Industry Project (JIP)

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

estimated at around 20 litres — was not the result of a regular shift in the wreckage.

“We had to go have a look ourselves with divers and that’s when we discovered a crack in one of the (Arrow’s) decks and that’s what we’ve been patching this week,” said Ryan Green, an acting superintendent of environmental response for the Canadian Coast Guard. “It’s like a diver’s rubber suit — neoprene-style patch — probably 12 feet long and about eight feet wide and held down by a steel frame, like a picture frame.” The Band-Aid solution is expected to hold long enough to allow the Department of Fisheries and Oceans to formulate a pumping plan to remove any remaining oil. *Herald News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

RUSSIA: 170-TON OIL LEAK AT ROSNEFT REFINERY

October 15 - About 170 tons of oil leaked Thursday from a Siberian refinery belonging to state-owned oil giant Rosneft, according to emergency response officials cited by news agency Interfax.

“The total size of the spill was about 170 tons and the size of the affected area is 1,200 square meters,” according to a spokesperson for emergency services in the city of Nizhnevartovsk in the Khanty-Mansiisk autonomous district quoted by Interfax.

The spill took place in the early morning from one of the refinery’s reservoirs as excess water was being drained off, according to a Rosneft spokesperson cited by Russia’s RIA Novosti news agency.

Rosneft said that there was no risk to the surrounding territory and the spilled oil was being cleaned up, according to RIA Novosti. *The Moscow Times* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: MISSISSIPPI - CHEMICAL SPILL AT THE CHEVRON REFINERY

October 23 - There has been another chemical spill at the Chevron refinery in Pascagoula. MDEQ’s enforcement chief, Ernie Shirley, tells News 25 that just before midnight last night nearly 10,000 gallons of a hydrocarbon oil mix was spilled. WXXV25 [Read more](#)

October 23 - Chevron spill: 10,000 gallon overflow being cleaned up - An MDEQ inspector on site Friday reported Chevron has the hydrocarbon product contained in a ditch on its property, and there’s little risk to air or water exposure. “Chevron is in the process of picking it up with vacuum trucks and putting it back into the process system,” said Ernie Shirley, MDEQ’s enforcement chief. *TWDAM* [Read more](#)

USA: OHIO - RECENTLY DISCOVERED LAKE ERIE SHIPWRECK SPARKS AN EMERGENCY RESPONSE FROM COAST GUARD

October 24 - The Coast Guard is initiating an emergency response to a leak from a tank barge that’s at the bottom of Lake Erie.

The Cleveland Underwater Explorers (CLUE) discovered the wreck on August 28th. It’s believed to be a vessel called the Argo that sank in 1937. It’s about 44 feet below the surface of the water. The wreck site is 12 miles northeast of Sandusky in western Lake Erie.

Records show the barge was carrying more than 100,000 gallons of crude oil when it sank. *Michigan Radio* [Read more](#)

October 25 - Crews to Begin Hunt for Leak Near Sunken Barge in Lake Erie - Underwater contractors are being sent to Lake Erie to search for the source of what appears to be a petroleum leak coming from a century-old sunken barge recently found in the water near the U.S.-Canadian border, the U.S. Coast Guard said Sunday.

Divers plan to explore the wreckage on Monday to see if they can find and seal the leak, which appears to involve a colorless, petroleum-based solvent that evaporates quickly once it reaches the surface, said Coast Guard Lt. Cmdr. Anthony Migliorini. *ABC News* [Read more](#)

MEXICO: BULK CARRIER BREAKING UP ALONG MEXICO COAST AFTER RUNNING AGROUND IN HURRICANE PATRICIA – PHOTOS AND VIDEO



October 26 - A 71,000 DWT bulk carrier is aground and in danger of breaking up off the coast of Manzanillo, Mexico after the ship dragged anchor during Hurricane Patricia.

Local media reports that the Mexican-flagged Los Llanitos was waiting out the storm at anchor off the Jalisco coast, but that proved no match for the estimated 165 mph winds that slammed the coast beginning late Friday.

Photos and video released by the Mexico’s Federal Attorney for Environmental Protection (PROFEPA) show the ship pinned against the rocky coastline and hogging.

A statement from PROFEPA issued Sunday said that the vessel

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

was at serious risk of further damage, but only a small amount of oil was spilled from the ship at time of update. *gCaptain*
[Read more](#)

October 29 - Wrecked Bulk Carrier to be Scuttled Off Mexico - A 223-meter bulk carrier will need to be scuttled after suffering catastrophic damage from its grounding along a remote stretch of coast in Mexico during Hurricane Patricia last week.

The ship is not carrying any cargo, but it still holds an estimated 11,484 liters of oil and 489 cubic meters of diesel, according to the Mexican environmental agency PROFEPA.

An update on Thursday from the agency said that the shipping company responsible for the vessel, who at this point has gone unnamed, has now started placing boom around the vessel. PROFEPA is also calling for the full removal of oil and other containments "in due course." *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: TANKER INVOLVED IN FATAL COLLISION OFF NIGERIA

October 26 - Up to nine personnel from a self-propelled barge may have been killed after their vessel collided with a Marshall Islands-flagged tanker in Nigerian waters earlier this month.

An anonymous source tells *gCaptain* that the incident occurred early in the morning on October 19th and involved the MT Elixir and the Nigerian vessel MT Tank. One body and three survivors were recovered from the waters immediately following the incident, the source says. According to one of the survivors, the vessel would have had 9 personnel onboard, *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

BELGIUM: OIL REMOVED FROM WRECKED 'FLINTERSTAR' OFF BELGIUM

October 29 – [Follow-up to report in issue 505 of ISCO Newsletter] - Dutch shipowner Flinter announced Wednesday that all remaining heavy fuel oil has been successfully removed from the wreck of the MV Flinterstar more than three weeks after it collided with an LNG carrier off the Belgian coast.

The operation to remove the fuel has been ongoing since the freighter partially sank following the collision on October 6th. The Belgian Coast Guard estimated previously that 100 tons of oil was released from the vessel following the initial accident, threatening nearby nature preserves. SMIT and Multraship were contracted to pump the remaining oil from the vessel, but the operation has been hampered by challenging weather conditions wreck site. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

USA: VIRGINIA - REAGAN NATIONAL AIRPORT JET FUEL SPILLS INTO POTOMAC RIVER

October 30 - Officials say "worst case" is that 7,500 to 9,000 gallons spilled into the Potomac River south of the airport and Four Mile Run - Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority personnel -- including Airport Operations and MWAA Fire and Rescue -- U.S. Coast Guard, D.C. Department of Energy and Environment, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and D.C. Harbor Patrol are responding to the spill, which took place Thursday night, officials said. *Del Ray Patch* [Read more](#)

October 30 - Unified Command established for oil spill response at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport



A Unified Command has been formed as a response to an oil spill Friday at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport.

The Coast Guard along with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority personnel, including Airport Operations, and Fire and Rescue; D.C. Department of Energy and Environment, Virginia Department of Environmental Quality and D.C. Harbor Patrol are responding to spill of an estimated of 7,500 to 9,000 gallons of Jet A aviation fuel within the facility and into the Potomac River south of Reagan National Airport.

The Coast Guard is the Federal On-Scene Coordinator overseeing the Unified Command's response.

Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector Baltimore received a report from the National Response Center of

approximately 8,000 gallons of unaccounted Jet Fuel with some reaching the Potomac River.

A Coast Guard helicopter crew conducted a flight at first light and observed the fuel was largely contained around the source of the discharge, extending to Four Mile Run and the southern boundary of Reagan National Airport. As of 10 a.m. Friday, the source of

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

the spill is secure. The spill has not reached the main channel of the river. The Coast Guard has adjusted an initial Safety Zone on the Potomac River to cover an area within a 1,500 yard radius of the emanation point from the airport.

An environmental cleanup team, Miller Environmental, was contracted by Allied Aviation Fueling, the fuel contractor for the airlines at Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport, to undertake the cleanup efforts. Cleanup efforts are ongoing.

Following consultation with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, it is believed the environmental impact from the spill is limited. The spill has not impacted airport operations. *US Coast Guard Press Release* [Source document](#)

RUSSIA: VOLUNTEERS CLEAN UP ALCOHOL SPILL



October 31 - Ecstatic Russian villagers received an early Christmas present when a truck crashed and scattered 20,000 bottles of vodka across the road. Villagers loaded cars, wheelbarrows and sacks with the bottles as they gleefully made off with the free booze.

The incident happened when the lorry overturned and caught fire near Maloperekopnoe in south-western Russia's Saratov Oblast region.

Perhaps understandably, villagers were not hugely concerned with assisting police in their investigation.

When officers reached the scene, only empty bottles were left and they struggled to find anyone who admitted to seeing the bottles of booze.

© Credit: CEN
A police spokesman said: 'We made enquiries at a few homes but they all told us that the entire village was an exceptionally pious community and did not consume heavy spirits.' *Daily Mail*
[Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group and ADR Training UK]

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

AUSTRALIA: NSW - GUIDELINES ON THE DUTY TO REPORT CONTAMINATION UNDER THE CONTAMINATED LAND MANAGEMENT ACT 1997

October 8 - The duty to report the contamination of land to the Environment Protection Authority arises when land is contaminated at levels above those specified by these guidelines and when certain other factors are met.

These guidelines detail the circumstances that can trigger the requirement to notify the EPA about contamination. The guidelines set out the duty of landowners and those who have responsibility for contamination to report it to the EPA and outline how the EPA assesses and determines whether the contamination reported is significant enough to warrant regulation.

Download: [Guidelines on the Duty to Report Contamination under the Contaminated Land Management Act 1997](#) (PDF 501KB)
NSW EPA [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

CANADA: CANADA-NOVA SCOTIA OFFSHORE PETROLEUM BOARD STATEMENT ON SPILL RESPONSE CONCERNS

October 26 - e Canada-Nova Scotia Offshore Petroleum Board wishes to correct a misconception that the Board's authorization of the Shelburne Basin Venture Exploration Drilling Program would somehow permit Shell Canada Limited to spill oil into the ocean for up to 13 days, and without consequences, in the unlikely event of a sustained loss of well control. There appears to be, based on certain media reports and news releases, a misunderstanding by some of what efforts must be taken during that time period to get a well under control and to remove oil from the ocean. *CNSOPB* [Read the complete text of the CNOSB statement](#)

CANADA: CRUDE OIL SPILL DRILL SET FOR BURREARD INLET

October 27 - Kinder Morgan will be holding its largest full-scale emergency response exercise ever this Thursday in Burnaby at the Westridge Marine Terminal — where crews will work to combat a fake oil spill from a tanker being loaded with crude.

The company said on Tuesday the training exercise will begin at 10 a.m. and involve partner agencies such as municipal and provincial authorities as well as the Western Canada Marine Response Corporation tasked to clean up spilled fuel.

A company spokesperson said the drill would simulate 160,000 litres of oil leaking into the water to mimic the failure of a loading arm used to pour crude into a tanker.

There won't actually be a tanker at the dock at that time, nor would be there be any simulated oil spill material, but crews would place booms and absorbent sponges large enough to surround an actual tanker to test response times.

Other news reports from around the world (continued)



October 29 – Kinder Morgan Canada conducts the company's largest Emergency Response Exercise

Today, Kinder Morgan Canada (KMC) conducted the company's largest Emergency Response Exercise at its [Westridge Marine Facility](#) in Burnaby, BC as part of the National Energy Board's (NEB) Emergency Management Program evaluation. The emergency scenario simulated a release from a vessel loading arm at the Westridge dock, where approximately 160m3 of crude oil entered the water.

The full-scale exercise provided an opportunity for KMC response personnel to practice the activation of our Westridge Marine Terminal Emergency Response Plan. The drill also included

implementing a coordinated response with more than 300 participants between 20 emergency management agencies and responders, including [Western Canada Marine Response Corporation's](#) (WCMRC) on-water response team in Burrard Inlet. [Transmountain.com](#) [Read more](#)

CUBA: OFFSHORE DRILLING BRINGS U.S., CUBA TOGETHER

October 26 - After 53 years of embargo, U.S. energy companies looking for new offshore drilling ventures could make Cuba into another Caribbean petrostate.

Last week saw 120 people from the U.S. and Cuba gather in Havana for the Safe Seas Clean Seas Symposium, organized by Hunt Petty LLC, a Houston-based consulting firm. Highlighting ways in which the U.S. and Cuba can [cooperate on spill prevention and response](#), the meeting also represented a first for U.S. companies since diplomatic talks resumed, reports USA Today. "It's the first time it's been possible for a U.S. entity to hold a conference in Cuba," said Lee Hunt, partner of Hunt Petty LLC and former president of the International Association of Drilling Contractors. [The Daily Caller](#) [Read more](#)

NEW ZEALAND: 'DEATH BY A THOUSAND CUTS': NZ'S OIL SPILL RECORD REVEALED

October 11 - Since the Rena ran aground on Astrolabe Reef off Mt Maunganui in October, 2011, spilling 350 tonnes of heavy fuel oil, a further 363 spill-related incidents have been recorded, a figure a leading marine biologist describes as "very sobering".

While most of the spills have been relatively small - ranging from a few millilitres to several thousand litres - Professor Chris Battershill of Waikato University likened it to "death by a thousand cuts" and said there was need for heightened vigilance. [Stuff.co.nz](#) [Read more and see video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: MICHIGAN - AGENCIES PLAN OIL SPILL EXERCISE FOR ST. CLAIR RIVER

October 26 - A 2016 emergency response exercise will simulate a 200,000-gallon oil spill from an Enbridge pipeline into the St. Clair River. The May 25 exercise headed by the U.S. Coast Guard will test the readiness of federal and state agencies should an oil pipeline leak beneath the St. Clair River.

"We're required by federal law not only to have these plans, but we're also required by federal law to test those plans," said Rick Loster, port security specialist for U.S. Coast Guard Sector Detroit. Loster said Enbridge volunteered to act as the responsible party for the exercise.

While the hypothetical spill would be from Enbridge's Line 5, where it crosses under the St. Clair River at Marysville, the cleanup efforts during the exercise could stretch farther downriver. [The Times Herald](#) [Read more](#)

People in the news

NEW CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER FOR THE NAUTICAL INSTITUTE



A leading maritime professional with extensive experience in training and education will take up the new post of Chief Operating Officer with The Nautical Institute in November.

The Nautical Institute is pleased to announce the appointment of Captain John Lloyd MBA AFNI to the newly created post with effect from 2nd November 2015. [The Maritime Executive](#) [Read more](#)

MATTHEW SOMMERVILLE HAS LAUNCHED SPECTRUM SPILL SERVICES

After over 30 years in the oil spill response industry and with a wealth of experience gained in spill research, development, response companies, IOC's and IOPC Funds, Matthew Sommerville has launched an independent advisory service for incident stakeholders. Spectrum has been established to support organisations whether in prevention, preparedness or response or through to claims handling and expert witness services. Further, in a field where real experience is less frequent, Spectrum will seek to ensure that, in addition to trained incident management personnel, organisations can also access practical advice and training on equipment selection and training for the practical response specialist who has to turn the words of a contingency or action plan into reality in the field.



Matthew has also advised that he is looking to document the history of the oil spill response industry in time for the 50th anniversary of the Torrey Canyon in 2017. The idea is not to focus on the incidents, as has been done in many places, but to record and highlight the key companies, individuals and equipment that have over the years allowed us to improve our ability to respond. So if you're someone who can remember the development and use of breaker boards, the SS100 skimmer or figure of eight boom then Matthew would love to talk to you. matthewsommerville@hotmail.co.uk

ISCO news

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF OUR INDUSTRY

Continuing on one of the important issues raised by Rick Lewis last week, further comment from your editor ...

Marc Shaye, Hon.FISCO, has shared with me his response to Rick's letter. Marc served for more than 30 years as SCAA's general counsel and executive director and, as a member of ISCO's Executive Committee has also advised our organisation. In his letter to Rick he recalls the tough times he experienced – "Getting the day started early and working more than 14 hours was the rule of thumb. I worked in the business even during school, and that included law school".

Early in his career he met up with David Usher - "You want to clean up what? "You care about the environment? What a fabulous opportunity. Most lawyers I knew couldn't even spell pH. When the then OSCAA was formed and I was selected as general counsel, I went to Mr. Usher and told him that I knew nothing of what it was to respond to an environmental emergency. He threw a set of coveralls at me and had me in a boat on the Rouge River working to clean up an oil spill. He was my mentor and cared enough to respond to an enthusiasm, which was devoid of any ability in this new business.

In the ensuing years, I saw, up close and personal, the emergence and growing recognition for the environmental emergency response industry. It was exciting and remains so for those who can appreciate the dynamics of what you term as "our industry". I have successfully grown my environmental and occupational safety and health practice to gain a stature of which I am very proud. I am as excited about what I do in "our industry" as I was the first day I smelled crude oil on the surface of water. We certainly face challenges with young people who are beginning careers in the workplace. Their perceptions of work ethic and value to what they bring to the job run the spectrum from satisfying to being exasperating".

Like many of us in the industry Marc caught the oil spill response bug at quite an early age and reacted in a positive way. It is to be hoped that the initiatives being recommended by Rick Lewis and other like-minded people will help enthuse today's youngsters.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP AND ITS ROLE IN HELPING TO CREATE A CAREER PATH

When Professional Membership was first introduced, ISCO President David Usher said "This fills a long felt need and will help meet the aspirations of many in the industry who have long felt that their qualifications and experience should be recognised. The creation of professional memberships will encourage all who are making a career in the field of oil and chemical pollution control to take pride in their chosen profession".

Students, apprentices and trainees can join ISCO as Student Members and embark on a career development path that, as qualifications and experience are gained, can lead to eligibility for Associate Membership (AMISCO), Membership (MISCO) and, eventually, Fellowship (FISCO).

The idea of Professional Membership of ISCO was first proposed by Committee Member Simon Rickaby. With his background as Past President of the Institute of Marine Engineering, Science and Technology (IMarEST) Simon was able to make a valuable contribution to the working group set up to develop the concept. Other distinguished members of the working group included David Usher, the late Rear-Admiral Michael Stacey, John McMurtrie, Marc Shaye, and Dan Sheehan (see profiles at <http://www.spillcontrol.org/members/management-committee>) It took a full year to develop all the necessary procedures and safeguards to ensure that awards of Professional Membership would command a high level of recognition and respect.

However, for students, apprentices and trainees the requirement to gain Student Membership as a first step in their career development is not difficult. All that is needed is a personal recommendation from his/her employer or from a tutor at a recognised training provider together with a confirmation that the candidate is undergoing a relevant programme of training.

Earlier this year at ISCO Annual General Meeting held in Amsterdam, a motion was approved to allow apprentices and trainees a free one year Student Membership. Benefits include access to over 200 response guidelines, manuals and other documents held in the Members' Area of the ISCO website and receipt of the weekly ISCO Newsletter which regularly contains educational content of value to those aspiring to make a career in our industry. For more information please contact john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

USA: NEW APP WARNS EMERGENCY RESPONDERS OF TOXIC CHEMICALS

October 16 - Still in its pilot phase, the free app is now available to fire departments and other emergency responders.

When the Sleepy Hollow Fire hit an industrial area in Wenatchee in June, the state Department of Ecology's spill response team came armed with a new tool: their cellphones. Equipped with a new smartphone app, their cellphones give immediate access to the latest data showing exactly what chemicals and how much of each are being stored at facilities across the state.

The Sleepy Hollow Fire threatened tanks with thousands of pounds of ammonia and other toxic chemicals. But instead of making phone calls or turning to laptops to search for the information, the spill response team could find out exactly what to expect while they were on their way.

The information helped them choose the right safety gear, and come armed with the knowledge of how to protect themselves and nearby residents. In addition to information about the chemicals, it also provides responders with directions to the facility, contact information for facility operators and other pertinent information. *Emergency Management* [Read more](#)

Note from Editor: Application currently limited to Washington State, USA

USA: EPA - MARPLOT 5.0.3 IS NOW AVAILABLE FOR DOWNLOAD

October 27 - MARPLOT 5.0.3 is now available for download at <http://www2.epa.gov/cameo/marplot-software>

Note: If you're upgrading to MARPLOT 5.0.3 from a previous version, follow the instructions on the download page to ensure that your data is transferred successfully to the new version.

What's changed in MARPLOT 5.0.3?

- Fixed a bug where you couldn't start MARPLOT 5.0.2 from CAMEO or ALOHA. If you started MARPLOT manually, then you could share information between the programs.
 - Fixed a bug in the "objects within a distance" search when the distance value was entered as a decimal number.
 - Added a new setting to the Circular Grid function when the grid is divided into pie wedges. You can now choose whether the first pie wedge is center-aligned or left-aligned with North on the map.
 - Modified the default program behavior so that after you finish drawing a point, circle, or rectangle object on the map, the pan tool or area selection tool is automatically selected. MARPLOT will select the tool based on the one you had been using most recently. This was already the default program behavior after drawing a polyline or a polygon object on the map.
 - Made some small improvements to the program interface and additional bug fixes. [Thanks to Hazmat 101 Group]
-

FROM OSRL - HOW ARE UAVS BEING USED FOR OIL SPILL RESPONSE?

Industry recognises the value of UAVs in oil spill response and some companies are looking at ways to use UAV technology to have "eyes in the air" to support responses on the shoreline, offshore and inland.

Oil Spill Response Organisations (OSRO's) around the world, including OSRL, are also looking at ways to use UAVs. OSRL is in the research phase considering if, and how to apply the technology. We are working through the challenges of our global remit considering issues such as how to gain permissions to fly in each country we could respond to, what the import and export requirements are and how to transport spare lithium batteries etc. Many of these issues can be overcome but the main challenge remains with gaining permission to fly within a suitable time scale i.e. days not months.

UAVs have many potential uses in oil spill response, such as;

Assisting surveys on the shoreline and inland (short range):

- Access to sensitive sites i.e. salt marshes, mud flats, mangroves (safety/efficiency)
- Access to restricted sites i.e. rocky shores (safety/efficiency)
- Quick surveying - working ahead of the shoreline assessment teams and verifying if oil is present or segmenting the shoreline (efficiency)
- Access to confined sites with possible gas build-up (safety/efficiency)

Providing tactical support offshore (short range):

- Improving the encounter rate of containment and in-situ burning (efficiency)
- Effectively targeting dispersant spraying (efficiency)
- Monitoring dispersant effectiveness (efficiency)

Other:

- Verification of shoreline oiling (long range) - gas issues, access restrictions, conflict areas (safety/efficiency)
 - Equipment/people tracking (long range) (efficiency)
 - Preparedness services (long range) – sensitivity/habitat mapping, shoreline plans (efficiency) OSRL [Read more](#)
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Links for recent issues of other publications (in alphabetical order)

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	October 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	September 2015
Celtic Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter	Latest Remediation and related technology news	Autumn 2015 issue
CROIERG Enews	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	Current issue
EMSA Newsletter	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	October 2015 issue
Energy Institute eBulletin	News from the Energy Institute	April 2015 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	October 2015 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 3, 2015
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	October 2015
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 42 2015
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	October 2015 issue
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	Most recent Issue
NOAA update	Oil spill response news from NOAA OR&R	April 2015
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	Sept. 2015 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	October 28 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Spring 2015 issue
SAC News	Oil spill related and other news from Alaska	October 21 issue 2015
Technology Innovation News Survey	From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination	September 1-15, 2015
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	October 19 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	Nov 1, 2015 issue
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Summer 2015 issue
WMU Newsletter	News from the World Maritime University	October 2015 issue

Events

UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

COUNTRY	2015	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
UK	Nov. 5	IPIECA JIP Seminar	London
USA	Nov. 10-12	Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition	New Orleans
TURKEY	Nov. 17-19	Regional Oil Spill Response Workshop	Adana City
GERMANY	Nov 18	BIMCO's Annual Conference & Awards Dinner	Hamburg
BELGIUM	Nov. 18-19	PEFTEC Exhibition & Seminars	Antwerp
BELGIUM	Dec. 7	MSP & Marine Env. Conference	Brussels
UK	Dec. 7-11	Salvage & Wreck Removal Conference	London
UK, N. IRELAND	Dec. 15	ISAA Meeting and Christmas Luncheon	Hillsborough
2016			
USA	Jan. 4-6	No Spills Annual Conference	Acme, Michigan
UK	Feb 15-19	IMO Pollution Prevention & Response S/C'ttee.	London
SAUDI ARABIA	Feb 22-24	PetroEnvironment 2016	Dammam
UK	April 18-22	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
AUSTRALIA	May 2-6	Spillcon 2016	Perth, WA
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

USA: CLEAN GULF – PLEASE VISIT ISCO AT BOOTH 118

ISCO President David Usher and Membership Director Mary Ann Dagleish are looking forward to meeting many old friends and to making new ones during the Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition in New Orleans next week. It's a great opportunity for you to ask about ISCO's current activities and hear about new initiatives "in the pipeline".

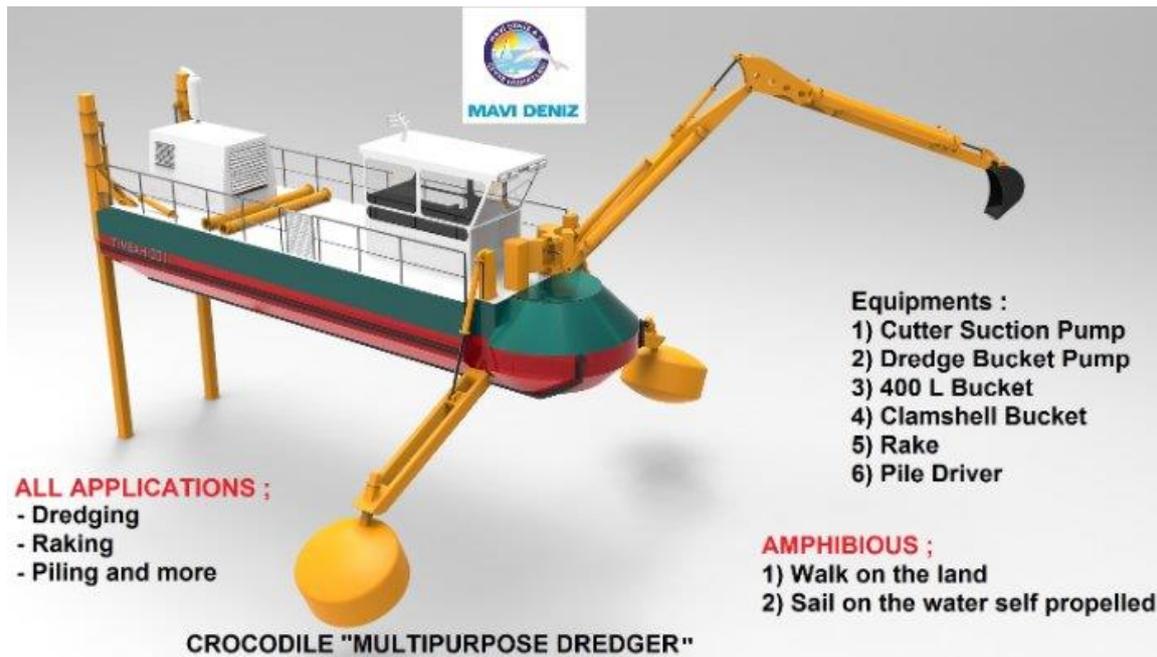
USA: CLEAN GULF – BSEE OPSD YOUTH OUTREACH SEMINAR

During this year's Clean Gulf Conference BSEE OSPD will reprise an outreach seminar to local high school STEM students on Nov. 12th. We are also coordinating a similar outreach for career and technical track students on Nov. 11th. Thus far I have heard back from your colleagues at OMI, NRC and MSRC with affirmative interest in participating. During the 2014 conference's industry panel we heard that one of the concerns has been having a pool of qualified applicants. Reaching out to these students could be one way to address this issue.

Capt. Gary Petrae write "I am in the final stages of planning the seminar at this point and want to gauge your level of interest in the Nov. 11th seminar. For more info please contact gary.petrae@bsee.gov

New products and services

CROCODILE - MULTIPURPOSE AMPHIBIOUS DREDGER (WALK ON THE LAND + SAIL ON THE WATER)



Note from editor: "Interesting machine – Should have some spill clean-up applications" [More info](#)

Company news

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBER ELASTEC - BEACH BOUNCER BOOM KEEPS SARGASSUM AT BAY

Sargassum, a brown, stinky seaweed, is invading resorts and private beaches in the Caribbean, Mexico and Florida. This floating aquatic plant, also known as gulfweed or sea holly, is drifting up from the Sargasso Sea in ocean currents, and while it provides shelter for many forms of marine life, it has become a nightmare for the tourism industry.

The brown sargassum washes up on the shore and piles up, sometimes as high as 3 to 4 feet. This is normally a seasonal problem, but the longer length of the season and warmer gulf waters are increasing the amount of seaweed collecting on beaches. Once this invasive aquatic plant reaches the beach, it begins to decompose, emitting a dreadful odor.

Cleaning the sargassum from the beach is costly and disruptive to the tourism industry and to nesting sea turtles. From 6 p.m. to 6 a.m., noisy dump trucks haul the smelly sargassum from the resorts in an effort to clean the beaches for the next day's beachgoers. Removing the sargassum from the beaches is a constant battle. The situation is resulting in unhappy tourists and devastated resort owners due to cancellations.

Duane Bennish, Elastec Floating Barrier Division Sales Manager in Cocoa, Florida, visited properties in the Dominican Republic and Antigua to determine how Elastec could help solve the sargassum problem.

His solution – the ELASTEC Beach Bouncer - a new barrier designed specifically to deflect the sargassum and other floating debris from the beaches and direct it in the water where currents can carry it away.

The royal blue, heavy-duty polyvinyl chloride (PVC) floating barrier has a 3 ft. (0.9 m) mesh skirt hanging from a 12 in (0.3 m) float. The ELASTEC Beach Bouncer is available in 100 ft. (30 m) sections with an anchoring system included.

According to Bennish, "Elastec's Cocoa group engineered and produced the Beach Bouncer in a little over a week to quickly respond to this mounting invasion - just in time for this year's tourism season. Nothing gets past the Beach Bouncer!"

To learn more about the new ELASTEC Beach Bouncer barrier, contact Duane Bennish at dbennish@elastec.com 618.382.2525 or visit www.beachbouncer.com

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