

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

For more information on the events featured below, click on the banners



UNEP: DISASTERS AND CONFLICTS POLICY AND FIELD UPDATES JULY – DECEMBER 2015

Minimizing threats to human well-being from the environmental causes and consequences of disasters and conflicts is a priority area for the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Its Disasters and Conflicts subprogramme has deployed environmental expertise to support crisis prevention and crisis recovery in more than 40 countries, including Afghanistan, Argentina, the Balkans, Nigeria, Ukraine, Madagascar, Georgia and Sudan. This report was compiled by the Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch. [Read more](#)

EU GUIDELINES ON PLACES OF REFUGE

European Union Member States supported by industry stakeholders have recently agreed EU-wide Operational Guidelines on places of refuge for ships in need of assistance. The Guidelines supplement IMO Resolution A.949 [link below] and should assist Government officials, port authorities, shipowners, their insurers and salvors by expediting the safe and environmentally sensitive handling of ships seeking a place of refuge.

The International Group and its sister industry bodies, including the International Chamber of Shipping, International Union of Marine Insurers and International Salvage Union have played a significant role in the development of the Guidelines, which have benefited from extensive industry input and a collaborative approach to policy making by the European Commission and Member States. *IGP&I* [Read more](#)

[Download PoR Operational Guidelines and IMO Resolution A949](#)

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International news (continued)

KICK-OFF MEETING FOR EUROPEAN PROJECT MARINER

On 23rd February, two representatives of Cedre attended the kick-off meeting for the MARINER project (Enhancing HNS preparedness through training and exercising) in Vigo, at CETMAR (Centro Tecnológico del Mar, Spain).

Funded by the European Union Civil Protection Mechanism (DG ECHO) and coordinated by CETMAR, this 2-year project also involves the Spanish partners INTECMAR (Instituto tecnológico para el control del medio mariño de Galicia) and the University of Vigo, the Portuguese partners Action Modulers – Consultoria de Segurança and CIIMAR (Centro Interdisciplinar de Investigação Marinha e Ambiental) and an English partner, PHE (Public Health England).

Cedre will also be particularly involved in preparing training and exercise materials as well as in running test training courses on response to HNS spills. As stated in the report, "Responding to an oil spill requires access to and understanding of many types of information." *Cedre Newsletter* [Read more](#)

DATE ANNOUNCED FOR INTERNATIONAL OIL SPILL CONFERENCE 2017

You are invited to join us at our pre-eminent event for the oil spill remediation industry in Long Beach, California, May 15-18, 2017!

Call for Papers is now open! [Submit your abstract](#) [More info](#)

NEW ITOPF HANDBOOK AVAILABLE

ITOPF has just produced its new Handbook for 2016/7. This contains a wealth of valuable information and guidance for those likely to be involved in spills of oil and chemicals from ships.

Updated annually, it features information on ITOPF's technical and information services, oil spill statistics, the fate and effects of marine oil spills, clean-up techniques, and compensation.

Hard copies of the Handbook are currently being mailed to our Members and contacts. Individual copies are also available to others on request; multiple copies are charged at £1 per copy, plus P&P - please contact [Terry Goodchild](#). Copies are also available as a [PDF](#) to download from our website.

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

FRANCE: GREEK OWNER PAYS €500,000 TO RELEASE VESSEL AFTER SUSPECTED BUNKER SPILL

March 7 - Greece-based Laskaridis Shipping has paid a €500,000 (\$550,000) compensation to have its bulk carrier Thisseas released, following a suspected bunker spill in the Bay of Biscay, 350 kilometres from Brittany in French waters.

According to local media reports, on February 24, 2016 at around noon a Navy Falcon 50 surveillance jet detected what is believed to be a bunker spill in the wake of the vessel, which was travelling from St Petersburg en route to China.

According to the reports the slick stretched for 40 kilometres with a width of 50 meters. *Ship & Bunker* [Read more](#)
[Thanks to Water Putman, Marine Pollution Control]

USA: OHIO - EPA WORKING TO CONTAIN, INVESTIGATE OIL SPILL IN WARREN

March 8 - The Warren Fire Department and HazMat crews continue working Tuesday to contain and investigate an oil spill in the Mahoning River in Warren. Workers have placed a boom across the width of the river, behind the National Packard Museum in Packard Park, to contain the oil slick. There's a sheen on the river that's nearly a quarter-mile long. *WKBN.com*
[Read more and watch Video](#)

Incident reports from around the world (continued)

AUSTRALIA: DARWIN CRUISE BOAT ALFRED NOBEL SINKS IN DOCK, CAUSING 'DRAMATIC' OIL SLICK



Photo: The Alfred Nobel was named in playful homage to the man who invented TNT. (ABC Radio: Conor Byrne)

March 8 - Emergency oil containment crews have been called to Darwin's Francis Bay Mooring Basin, also known as the "duck pond", after a well-known cruise boat sank overnight in its dock.

Acting business manager for Francis Bay, Peter Shuttleworth, told 105.7 ABC Darwin it was still unclear why the 25-metre Alfred Nobel sank.

"Well she's definitely sunk. Now we're just going through some investigations to work out how and why," Mr Shuttleworth said. He said a quantity of diesel had leaked from the vessel, and crews had worked to contain the spill early. [ABC News](#) [Read more](#) Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

INDIA: TRUCK CARRYING HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL TOPPLES, SPILLAGE CREATES SCARE

March 9 - BENGALURU: A tanker transporting a poisonous chemical, Thionyl Chloride, toppled on the vital NICE Peripheral Ring Road close to Kengeri on Tuesday night, leading to a 22-hour-long scare.

The liquid chemical flowed by the roadside for more than 200 metres, necessitating the deployment of the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF). The leak was plugged and the chemical spill neutralized after a 20-hour-long operation, but not before hours-long traffic jam resulted in a stretch of the vital tolled road linking many highways radiating out of the city being closed till Wednesday evening. The departure of a Chennai-Mysuru train was delayed at Sangolli Rayanna Railway Station to avoid passing through the area. *The Times of India* [Read more](#)

CANADA: 20,000 LITRES OF DIESEL SPILLED INTO FRASER RIVER

March 9 - A tractor-trailer carrying diesel fuel crashed on Highway 16 spilling at least 20,000 litres of diesel into the Fraser River near the western entrance of Mount Robson Provincial Park, March 2.

According to the Valemount RCMP, a transport truck with two trailers lost control and overturned near Moose Lake shortly before 6 a.m. There were no reports of injuries, but the highway was closed for several hours to contain the spill.

According to B.C.'s Ministry of Environment, the truck was carrying 50,000 litres of fuel when it ended up on its side in the westbound lane of Highway 16, approximately two kilometres east of the provincial park's visitor information centre. Pictures from the scene showed the highway was slushy at the time of the accident. An environmental emergency response crew was immediately dispatched to the site and used drones to survey the area. Clean up crews also used vacuum trucks and excavators to clean up the areas adjacent to the highway.

The Ministry of Environment said it was unsure how much fuel ended up in the river, but said initial sample results indicate the spill had dissipated to below detectable levels about 24 kms downstream from the accident. *Fitzhugh.ca* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

NO NEWS FROM YOUR PART OF THE WORLD ?

Members and other readers are invited to help rectify the balance of world news reporting. News stories from North America, UK, Australia, etc. are much more accessible on the internet than reports from other parts of the world and especially from non-English-speaking countries. If you come across a report or an article that you think worth sharing with other members of the spill response community, why not send it to the editor at info@spillcontrol.org

AUSTRALIA: SPECIAL REPORT: SHIPPING AND THE ENVIRONMENT – PROTECT YOUR WORKERS FROM INJURY OR DEATH URGES SWA



March 10 - Safe Work Australia recently released three new Guidelines designed to protect workers unpacking imported containers. These guidelines deal with a variety of risks from the common workplace hazards to the lesser recognised risk of exposure to hazardous chemicals.

There have been many incidents around Australia of workers being affected by toxic gas when unpacking containers – most recently in February 2016 in Adelaide, where three workers were hospitalised after unpacking a shipping container.

The myth that there is only a problem if you can smell gas is, unfortunately, just that – a myth. Many of the typical residual gases found in containers, which may be dangerous, have little or no odour. Examples include methyl bromide, which is a commonly used fumigant used for quarantine purposes; formaldehyde, a carcinogen, is probably the most commonly detected gas in containers as it is used in furniture and textiles; footwear can be a problem as toluene is used to

stabilise the product during transit to prevent mould growth. *Lloyds List Australia* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group] Safe Work Australia Container Guidelines can be found at www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au

DENMARK: POST-SPILL MONITORING WORKSHOP

March 1 - ITOPF in partnership with the Danish Institute of Biosciences delivered a workshop on environmental monitoring in Copenhagen on 25th February. Franck Laruelle and Miguel Patel were the trainers for ITOPF. They gave presentations on the role of ITOPF in pollution incidents and provided an international perspective on post-spill monitoring, drawing upon individual case studies.

The workshop was attended by 20 representatives from various departments of the Institute, the Danish Navy, the Greenland Ministry of Nature, Environment and Justice and the Greenland Ministry of Mineral Resources and provided a useful overview of the environmental studies to undertake should a spill occur in the region. *Source: ITOPF News*

GADELOUPE: POLMAR-LAND TRAINING COURSE AND EXERCISE

March 11 - The Directorate of the Sea and the POLMAR interdepartmental storage and response centre for Guadeloupe and the northern islands (CISIPG) organised an Orsec POLMAR-Land exercise, held in Pointe-à-Pitre marina from 23rd to 25th February. The first two days were devoted to providing technical training for responders (fire brigade, gendarmerie, representatives of the Grand Port Maritime de la Guadeloupe - GPMG, of the marina, of the military service regiment (Régiment du Service Militaire Adapté - RSMA) and of the communes of Gosier, Baie-Mahault, Port-Louis and BasseTerre), run by CEREMA, Cedre and CISIPG. The exercise spill scenario was based on an incident at an on-land storage facility, resulting in a slick of heavy oil threatening the Pointe-à-Pitre marina. This exercise was the opportunity to deploy response equipment and in particular to validate the boom laying plan for protecting the marina. A crisis management unit was set up at the Préfecture de Basse-Terre (SIDPC) and the DEAL was involved in waste evacuation logistics. *Source: Cedre Newsletter*

JAPAN: FUKUSHIMA: TOKYO WAS ON THE BRINK OF NUCLEAR CATASTROPHE, ADMITS FORMER PRIME MINISTER



Photo: Bags of radioactive contaminated soil piled up along the coast near the Fukushima nuclear plant Photo: Julian Simmonds for The Telegraph

March 4 - Japan's prime minister at the time of the 2011 earthquake and tsunami has revealed that the country came within a "paper-thin margin" of a nuclear disaster requiring the evacuation of 50 million people.

In an interview with The Telegraph to mark the fifth anniversary of the tragedy, Naoto Kan described the panic and disarray at the highest levels of the Japanese government as it fought to control multiple meltdowns at the crippled Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power station.

He said he considered evacuating the capital, Tokyo, along with all other areas within 160 miles of the plant, and declaring martial law. "The future existence of Japan as a whole was at stake," he said. "Something on that scale, an evacuation of 50 million, it would have been like a losing a huge war." *The Telegraph* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

JAPAN: FUKUSHIMA KEEPS FIGHTING RADIOACTIVE TIDE 5 YEARS AFTER DISASTER

March 10 - Of the thousands of workers who have answered the help-wanted ads at Fukushima Daiichi, the ruined and radioactive nuclear power plant in northeastern Japan, the part-time lettuce farmer and occasional comic-book artist Kazuto Tatsuta must be among the least likely. "I needed a job," Mr. Tatsuta, 51, recalled of his decision in 2012 to accept work at the site of one of the world's worst nuclear accidents.

"It's secure. You're not going to get laid off there," Mr. Tatsuta said. "But you're also working for a goal."

Five years after a powerful earthquake and tsunami struck, causing three reactors at Fukushima to melt down, that goal is the focus of a colossal effort at once precarious and routine. A veneer of stability at the plant masks a grueling, day-to-day battle to contain hazardous radiation, which involves a small army of workers, complex technical challenges and vexing safety trade-offs. *The New York Times* [Read more](#)

MOROCCO: OSRL & CEDRE CO-OPERATE TO DELIVER TRAINING

March 11 - Following a request by Vivo Energy Morocco for an IMO 2 spill response training session, an engineer from Cedre was present in Mohammédia alongside an OSRL trainer from 14th to 19th February. For this course, the OSRL presentations were translated into French to fully adapt to the client's requirements. A guided tour of the oil port of Mohammédia and of the spill response equipment stockpile managed by ANP (Agence Nationale des Ports) was also scheduled during the week. Source: [Cedre Newsletter](#)

NETHERLANDS: RAIL COMPANIES TAKE RISKS TRANSPORTING DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES: SAFETY COUNCIL

March 10 - Rail companies are creating unnecessary risks when transporting dangerous substances, according to a Dutch safety council report on a train crash in Tilburg last year. In that incident, a goods train transporting a flammable liquid collided with a passenger train. The investigators said the accident happened because the rail firms had considered logistics and money to be more important than taking proper safety precautions. *DutchNews.NL* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

PERU: OIL SPILLS STAIN PERUVIAN AMAZON



Photo: Workers use buckets to try to extract the oil from a spill in a Peruvian Amazon river. Photo by Barbara Fraser

March 4 - The recent leak of 3,000 barrels of oil in Peru's Amazon jungle will cause incalculable damage, according to scientists.

The executives at Petr6leos del Per6 (PETROPER6) have had better days. The Interethnic Association for the Development of the Peruvian Rainforest, representing the local indigenous peoples, has organized protests and set up a picket outside the Lima headquarters of the state enterprise they say is responsible for leaks that released 3,000 barrels of oil (about 477,000 liters) in several rivers in the Peruvian Amazon.

Representatives of indigenous communities attributed the two accidents that occurred on January 25 and February 4 to a

lack of maintenance of the company's NorPeruano Pipeline. Scientific American consulted PETROPER6 about it, but received no response. The crude, spilled in the Loreto Department in the northeastern part of the country, has contaminated at least 30 kilometers of the Chiriaco River and has spread into Mara6on River, one of the main tributaries that feed the Amazon drainage area. *Scientific American* [Read more](#)

PERU: PERUVIAN TRIBE TAKES GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS HOSTAGE OVER OIL SPILL

March 7 - An indigenous community in the Peruvian Amazon has taken at least eight public officials hostage to demand help from the central government after an oil spill polluted its lands, according to authorities.

The Wampis community of Mayuriaga seized a grounded military helicopter late on Sunday, holding crew members and several officials to press for inclusion in the emergency response plan, said Germ6n Vel6squez, the president of state-owned energy company Petroperu. *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

March 8 - Amazon tribe in Peru frees hostages after negotiations – *Reuters* [Read more](#)

Other news reports from around the world (continued)

USA: REPORT: U.S., MICHIGAN FACE DIRE CONSEQUENCES IF SOO LOCKS FAIL

March 3 - A U.S. Department of Homeland Security report indicates a 6-month shutdown of the Poe Lock in Sault Ste. Marie, if one occurred, would plunge the nation into recession, closing factories and mines, halting auto and appliance production in the U.S. for most of a year and result in the loss of some 11 million jobs across the nation.

The report, obtained by the Free Press through the Freedom of Information Act, paints a grim picture of the outcome of any long-term shutdown of the Poe, the only one of the so-called Soo Locks able to handle the 1,000-foot-long vessels that each year move millions of tons of iron ore from mines in Minnesota and northern Michigan to steel mills dotting the lower Great Lakes and beyond. *Detroit Free Press* [Read more and watch video](#) [Video well worth looking at – Thanks to Mike Rancilio, Marine Pollution Control]

USA: OIL WELL CONTROL RULES DIVIDE INDUSTRY, REGULATORS

March 3 - An industry-funded study warns of dire consequences if pending rules to prevent another oil catastrophe in the Gulf of Mexico go into effect, but critics questioned that assertion. Released Monday (Feb. 29), the dire economic analysis was done by Wood Mackenzie, a business research firm, and commissioned by the Gulf Economic Survival Team, a Louisiana-based industry group.

Drilling companies and their supporters in Congress have blasted the safe-drilling regulations, known as the "well control rules." They're an outgrowth of [BP's catastrophic oil spill in 2010](#), which spewed millions of gallons of oil into the gulf. Supporters say the rules are vital in making the industry safe.

According to Wood Mackenzie, the regulations could raise drilling costs by 20 percent or more. In worst-case scenarios, the analysis said exploration could drop by as much as 55 percent; less drilling could translate to \$70 billion in lost state and federal tax revenues by 2030 and as many as 190,000 lost jobs. *Read [Wood Mackenzie's report](#). The Times-Picayune [Read more and watch video](#)*

USA: FLORIDA - COAST GUARD, OTHER AGENCIES TO CONDUCT OIL SPILL EXERCISE

March 11 - A fuel oil spill response exercise will be held by members of the Coast Guard, Navy, federal, state, and local response agencies next week in Jacksonville.

The exercise, which is part of the National Preparedness for Response Exercise Program required under the Oil Pollution Act of 1990, is designed to test the Area Contingency Plan, as well as, federal, state, and industry spill response plans.

The scenario, which will take place Tuesday and Wednesday, will simulate a multi-agency response to a release of approximately 250,000 gallons of JP-5 fuel into the St. Johns River. *News4JAX* [Read more](#)

People in the news

FRANCE: NEW DIRECTOR FOR CEDRE



Photo: Stéphane Doll and Gilbert Le Lann

On 1st March 2016, Stéphane Doll officially became the new Director of Cedre, taking over from Gilbert Le Lann.

Gilbert Le Lann occupied this role for 8 years. He is soon to retire after a handover period. Stéphane Doll began his career within the French Navy, before joining the Piriou Group which is specialised in shipbuilding, ship repair and naval engineering. His first experience in oil spill response was in 1999 during the Erika spill. At the helm of the standby vessel *Rari*, he managed the oil removal operations from the wreck resting on the seabed in the Bay of Biscay, which lasted several weeks. He later took part in other response operations, in particular in 2001 during the grounding of the container ship *Melbridge Bilbao* near Molène Island in Brittany. *Source; Cedre*

ISCO news

UPDATED FORM OF APPLICATION FOR PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO

The form has just been revised and updated but the new form is not yet available for download from the ISCO website. You will be able to find it there very soon but in the meantime please send an email to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org and the new form will be sent to you.

A major revision makes it simpler and easier for students, trainees and apprentices to apply for Student Membership.

Note that Student Members (like all other Professional Members) get full access to the Members Area of the ISCO Website where they can download over 200 spill response manuals, guidelines, response tools, case histories and other technical articles. These are all to be found in the Technical and Reference Section.

For trainees who want to advance in their chosen careers, it's a great way to learn and broaden your professional knowledge.

SHORELINE CLEAN-UP – PART 9

A short series of articles contributed by Mark Francis of Oil Spill Solutions



Mark Francis has been involved with the oil industry since 1975. He attended his first oil spill in 1976, the Tanker Elaine V incident. He became head of response for inland spills within the UK for British Petroleum E & P in 1980 for 10 years responding to well, storage tank and pipeline spills throughout the UK. Over the next 25 years he continued to build his international operations experience and has also specialised in spill response training, delivering IMO and other courses in more than 20 countries.

Shoreline Types (continued)

Boulders



These areas are treated very similarly to rocky shores, techniques include flushing with high volume low pressure water to release oil trapped between or under the boulders.

Rags, absorbent pads and de-greasing agents are used to clean the area, absorbent booms and pom-poms help contain the oil and stop it returning to the sea or re-oiling clean areas.

Note: Oil from Exxon Valdez can still be found over 20 years later, under and behind boulders more than 500 kms from the spill site.



What to do:

- Hand cleaning is possible although difficult and inefficient
- High pressure water jets on exposed surfaces

What not to do:

- Do not use fresh water

 Response Boulders	Light 	Medium 	Heavy 
Natural	●	●	●
Water Flooding	●	●	●
Cold water high pressure	●	●	●
Warm/hot water high pressure	●	●	●
Manual clean up	●	●	●
Absorbents	●	●	●

Cobbles

These areas produce problems from a penetration point of view. The type of oil and the inclination of the shoreline affects how far the oil will penetrate.

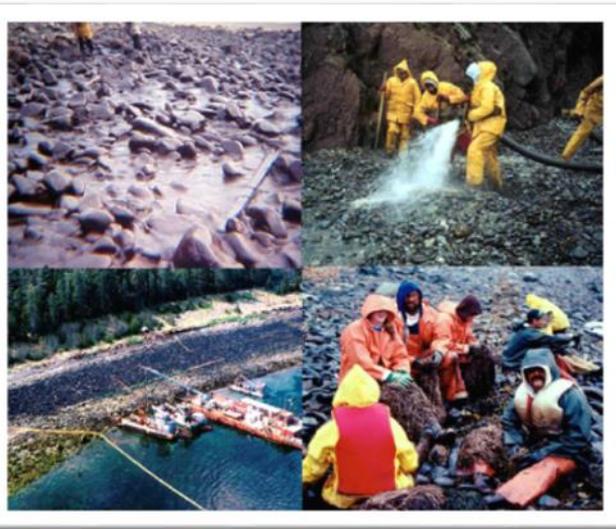
During large oil spills, with a mix of environmental and response personnel present, new techniques can be developed for cleaning areas such as this. It is a great opportunity to test new ideas which cannot easily be done anywhere else.

During the Sea Empress incident we dug pits and sank skips into the shore, lined them with thick plastic sheets and washed the cobbles with de-oiling agents and water before replacing them where they came from on the shoreline.

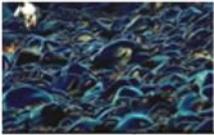


In other areas the contaminated cobbles were moved to the surf zone over a period of 4 days for the sea and the fine sands to clean.

5 days later there was no significant contamination. This is known as clay-oil flocculation and allows the oil to be dispersed naturally.



Concrete mixer lorries were used to wash the cobbles with water and in some cases de-oiling agents, the released oil is skimmed off and the cobbles replaced. A good thing about this approach is the availability of these vehicles.

 Response Cobbles & Stones	Light	Medium	Heavy
			
Natural Recovery	●	●	●
Water flooding	●	●	●
Cold water – Low Pressure	●	●	●
Mechanical Clean up	●	●	●
Sediment Transfer	●	●	●
Manual Clean up	●	●	●
Vacuum	●	●	●
Absorbents	●	●	●

What to do:

- Obtain ecological advice on the extent of optimal clean-up
- Take into consideration amenity use
- Use earth moving equipment to gather oiled gravel, clean on site in skips etc.
- Lightly oiled material may be moved to the surf zone where wave action will accelerate biodegradation
- Clean tidal pools with sorbents
- On site incineration would reduce material for transport. If permissible
- Attempt to restore the shore to its original formation and level
- Protect cleaned areas with booms
- Protect vegetation especially at access points

What not to do:

- Do not use fresh water
- Do not use de-oiling agents that will create oil/water emulsions
- Do not pile material higher than 1 metre
- Avoid excavating unaffected material
- Avoid disturbing subtidal flora
- Avoid burying oily material

To be continued in next week's newsletter

Note from Editor: This article was originally created for training course purposes. Having contributed the article for publication in the ISCO Newsletter, Mark Francis wishes to acknowledge sources that provided information that he used in compiling this and future episodes in this series. In the sections dealing with shoreline types, the do's and don'ts were taken from Concawe report no. 9/81 Field Guide to Coastal Oil Spill Control and Clean-up Techniques and the tables are based on some found in the Field Guide for Oil Spill Response in Arctic Waters prepared for the Emergency Prevention, Preparedness and Response Group.

NATURE'S "OIL SPILLS" MAY BENEFIT THE OCEAN

A new study, recently published in the journal *Nature*, has found that phytoplankton living on the ocean surface actually thrive when they are located directly above these natural oil vents. Phytoplankton are essential food for many marine species.

According to the study's authors, the results of the study, "... reveal elevated chlorophyll concentrations in waters influenced by natural hydrocarbon seeps. Temperature and nutrient profiles above seep sites suggest that nutrient-rich water upwells from depth, which may facilitate phytoplankton growth and thus support the higher chlorophyll concentrations observed."

In fact, the phytoplankton growths above natural oil vents were found to be up to twice the size of nearby growths that were not above the oil vents.

According to the researchers, it is not the oil itself that is making the phytoplankton grow. Rather, they hypothesize that the bubbles created by the rising oil and gas help to bring nutrients from the ocean's depths to the surface. These nutrients feed the phytoplankton.

Ajit Subramaniam, co-author of the study and oceanographer at Columbia University, stated: "This is the beginning of evidence that some microbes in the Gulf may be preconditioned to survive with oil, at least at lower concentrations. In this case, we clearly see these phytoplankton are not negatively affected at low concentrations of oil, and there is an accompanying process that helps them thrive. This does not mean that exposure to oil at all concentrations for prolonged lengths of time is good for phytoplankton."

The Alternative Daily [Read more](#)

NATURE-INSPIRED MATERIAL CLEANS UP OIL SPILLS

Scientists are looking for solutions to modern-day problems by taking a cue from sharks, geckos, butterflies and plants. Now, researchers are looking at a certain leaf with some unique properties for their latest inspiration.

"One of the things we've studied for a number of years is a lotus leaf...which is known to repel water to keep surfaces clean," Bharat Bhushan, a materials scientist at The Ohio State University, said.

You may have seen lotus leaves outside, but did you know they're naturally water repellent? The leaf's bumpy surface causes water to bead up and roll off. Taking inspiration from the leaf, materials scientist Philip Brown developed a coating that repels oil instead of water. "The technique that we use is a spray-coating technique which means that we can deposit this coating onto a range of different surfaces," Brown said.

The spray-on coating is made from nanoparticles -- tiny particles that are smaller than the finest speck of dust -- but when combined in the right way, they can do big things. Scientists spray-coated this mesh material and watched as a solution of oil and water -- dyed blue -- was poured over it. Almost like magic, the oil beaded up and collected on top while the water was filtered through the material. "We've also done a few tests on a wide variety of oils because oils can be complex," Brown said.

Inside Science [Read more and watch video](#)

Publications

LITTLE BLACK BOOK OUT TODAY! FREE COPIES

Stewart Ellis, the producer of the Little Black Book, writes – "An exciting day, finally the Little Black Book (of oil spill contractors) will be coming off the press today. My thanks again to the community and especially oil spill associations that have supported my efforts. To this end I would like to offer any member of the Spill Control Association of America, UK Spill Association, Spill Response Group Holland, NOSCA, ISCO and SYCOPOL a free copy of the book (shipping not included. Simply sign up to the mailing list on Cleanupoil.com and contact me. I would appreciate any feedback, are there other groups that are involved in spills that could benefit from copies?"

The Little Black Book spans over 155 pages and lists the contact details of over 1,000 oil spill cleanup contractors in more than 50 countries.

IPIECA ANNUAL REVIEW 2015 - ENGAGING AS PART OF THE SOLUTION

March 2016 - The theme of this year's review, 'Engaging as part of the solution', reflects IPIECA's emphasis in 2015 on engaging our members and stakeholders on climate and energy, environment and social issues to enable delivery of the IPIECA vision. The three pillars of IPIECA's strategy—to anticipate, inform and enable—are described on pages 4 to 5. Examples of how we have worked to achieve this ambition in 2015 are provided on pages 8 to 17. Information on IPIECA's governance structure, officers and secretariat staff can be found at the back of the review. [Download PDF \(English, 5.11 MB\)](#)

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

AMSA Aboard	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	February 2016
ASME EED EHS Newsletter	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Most recent issue
Bow Wave	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	February 2016
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	March 2016 issue
Environmental Technology Online	Environmental Monitoring, Testing & Analysis	March 2016 issue
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	No 4, 2015
IMO Publishing News	New and forthcoming IMO publications	February 2016
Intertanko Weekly News	International news for the oil tanker community	No 11, 2016
IPIECA eNews	Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc'n	February 12 issue
JOIFF "The Catalyst"	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	January 2016 issue
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2016 issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	February 2016 issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for prevention & control professionals	March 9, 2016 issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Autumn 2015 issue
SAC News	Oil spill related and other news from Alaska	Dec.11 issue 2015
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated site decontamination	January 16-31, 2016
The Essential Hazmat News	Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals	Feb 29, 2016 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	March 1, 2016
USA EPA Tech News & Trends	Contaminated site clean-up information	Fall 2015 issue
WMU Newsletter	News from the World Maritime University	December 2015 issue

Your editor depends on regular receipt of updated links for listed publications. If these are not received, relevant entries may be discontinued.

Events

UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

COUNTRY	2016	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
UK	Mar 15-17	Oceanology International	London
CANADA	Mar 17-18	Workshop on HNS Convention	Montreal
SAO TOME	Mar 21-24	National Workshop on Contingency Planning	Sao Tome
AUSTRALIA	Mar 22-23	2nd Dangerous Goods Conference	Perth
CANADA	Mar 23-24	8th Arctic Shipping Summit	Montreal
NIGERIA	Postponed	Clean Niger Delta Conference	Abuja
USA	April 5-7	2016 SCAA Annual Meeting & Conference	Washington
JAPAN	April 7-8	NOWPAP 14th CEARAC Focal Points Meeting	Toyama
NORWAY	April 11-13	SPE HSSE&SR Conference and Exhibition	Stavanger
GUINEA	April 12-15	National Workshop on Contingency Planning	Conakry
UK	April 18-22	IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee	London
UK N. Ireland	April 19-21	ISAA Training Days 2016	Enniskillen
FRANCE	April 20	CEDRE Information Day – Volunteers in OSR	Paris
UK	April 25-27	IOPC Funds Meetings	London
UK	April 26	UK Spill Meeting, Dinner and Annual Awards	London
USA	April 27	Oil Train Safety Symposium	Washington
USA	April 27-29	APICOM Spring Meeting	Galveston, TX
AUSTRALIA	May 2-6	Spillcon 2016	Perth, WA
CABO VERDE	May 9-12	National Workshop on Contingency Planning	Praia
CROATIA	May 10-15	ADRIASPILLCON 2016	Opatija
UAE	May 17-18	Offshore Arabia Conference & Exhibition	Dubai
RUSSIA	May 18-20	13th POMRAC Focal Points Meeting	Vladivostok
NIGERIA	May 23-25	National W'shop on Spill Compensation & Modelling	Abuja
NETHERLANDS	May 24-26	Bon Agreement WG on Counter Pollution Activities	Scheveningen
CANADA	June 7 - 9	AMOP Technical Seminar	Halifax
LITHUANIA	June 20-22	Exercise Balex Delta 2016	Klaipeda
USA	June 21-23	Clean Pacific Conference & Exhibition	Seattle, WA

INDIA	August 11-12	Oil Spill India	Mumbai
UAE	October TBA	EI Middle East HSE Technical Forum	Abu Dhabi
UK	October 18	UK Spill – Spill Science Seminar	Southampton
MALTA	November 2-3	JOIFF Fire & Explosion Hazard Mgmt. Conference	St. Julians
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

Events (continued)

ADRIASPILLCON 2016



ADRIASPILLCON 2016 adriatic spill conference

Following the success of the two ADRIASPILLCONs organized in 2010 and 2013 respectively and a very encouraging response received in their aftermath from the participants, speakers and exhibitors, including those from the Adriatic coastal States, the Mediterranean region, the European countries and other parts of the world too, the organizers, OSEC (Oil Spill Education Centre), embarked upon the organization of the third successive Adriatic Spill Conference and Exhibition ADRIASPILLCON 2016 which will be held between 10 and 12 May 2016, once again in Opatija, a touristic resort on the northern Adriatic coast of Croatia.

The Conference is being organized under the auspices of the Ministry of Maritime Affairs, Transport and Infrastructure of the Republic of Croatia and, like on previous occasions, the most important international, regional and national organizations active in the field of protection of marine environment against accidental pollution have confirmed their support for ADRIASPILLCON 2016. We are proud to announce that these include the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the IMO/UNEP Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA), the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPCF), the International Spill Control Organization (ISCO), the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF) and the Centre of Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (Cedre).

ADRIASPILLCON 2016 will address relevant oil spill preparedness and response related issues, but also topics related to preparedness for and response to spills of other hazardous and noxious substances (HNS). Taking into consideration plans by several Adriatic countries to launch offshore oil and gas exploration and production activities, in particular in the eastern part of the Adriatic, the 2016 Conference will specifically address risks related to such activities, methods of their reduction and response to spills from offshore installations.

Since its first edition the Conference aspires to increase in the Adriatic region the understanding of issues related to prevention of, preparedness for and response to accidental marine pollution, bearing in mind the objectives of the International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Cooperation (OPRC 90) and its OPRC-HNS Protocol 2000, the Barcelona Convention and its Prevention and Emergency Protocol, as well as the existing national, multi-national and regional Contingency Plans.

The goals of ADRIASPILLCON 2016 are therefore to present the latest developments in the technical, scientific, legal and organizational fields of dealing with accidental marine pollution, and to provide a forum where national, regional and international institutions, oil, chemical and shipping industries, academic community, individual experts, specialized companies and equipment manufacturers could share their knowledge and experience. The Conference aims at participants from the Adriatic countries, but also at promoting a dialogue among the experts from the Adriatic region and their counterparts from the Mediterranean, the rest of Europe and the world. Consequently it is intended for all those active or having an interest in the field of prevention of accidental marine pollution, increasing the preparedness for and, in particular, the efficiency of response to accidental spills of oil and other hazardous and noxious substances.

ADRIASPILLCON 2016 will discuss issues considered to be of particular interest for the Adriatic coastal States, which fall into one of the three thematic groups of Conference:

- Legal, organizational, administrative and financial aspects of preparedness and response, including contingency planning and training;
- Risks of accidental marine pollution caused by offshore activities in the Adriatic region and globally, and prevention of, preparedness for and response to such accidents;
- Relevant practical, technical and scientific aspects of response to marine spills of oil and other hazardous and noxious substances.

The 2016 edition of ADRIASPILLCON will once again be complemented by an Exhibition of spill response equipment and products, and presentation of service offered by organizations and companies engaged in the field of oil and HNS spill preparedness and response. Several leading manufacturers of spill response equipment and products from both Europe and other parts of the world already confirmed their participation in the Exhibition section of ADRIASPILLCON 2016, thus acknowledging that it offers an excellent opportunity for business contacts between the exhibitors and the visitors, in particular those Conference participants who are responsible for procurement of equipment and products in public and private sectors.

Always bearing in mind the importance of the health of marine environment, including the coast, for the welfare of the population in the Adriatic region and for a sustainable development of the Adriatic coastal States, ADRIASPILLCON Conferences became an established regular triennial event on a professional global stage. OSEC therefore strongly believes that ADRIASPILLCON 2016 will further contribute to a better protection of the Adriatic Sea against major marine pollution incidents and to increasing the capability of the coastal States to competently respond to such incidents. [More info](#)

Training

UK AND IRELAND: UPDATE ON ISAA TRAINING DAYS EVENT

The numbers so far booked on the one day Road Tanker Rollover (TRO) response training have already exceeded the recommended limit of ten and, because of this the TRO Course will be run for a second day. The reason for the low limit on numbers is because one-to-one tuition and practice is needed for trainees to gain competency in certain aspects of the fuel transfer operations.

Currently, everyone is booked for the TRO course scheduled to take place on Wednesday 20th April. To cope with the additional demand for places, the TRO course will now also be run on Tuesday 19th April.

Several of the trainees on the TRO course are also booked to attend the First Responder Course which takes place on Thursday 21st April. For those trainees who are attending both of these courses, have to travel from a distant location and stay in hotel accommodation, it will be more convenient to be able to attend the courses on consecutive days (i.e. Wednesday and Thursday).

For people who stay locally in the area and not using hotel accommodation, being able to attend the TRO course on Tuesday and the First Responder Course on Thursday is not so likely to be a problem. With a little bit of juggling it is expected that all those who want to attend both the TRO and First Responder courses can do so without any problems.

At time of writing, and assuming TRO courses are run on both dates (Tuesday and Wednesday), there are only five available places left on the TRO course. If you have not made a booking for the TRO course, please advise on which day you can attend. As an afterthought, some attendees coming from a distant location, may opt to attend the TRO course on Tuesday and have a "free" day on Wednesday to sample the delights of the Enniskillen area.

The First Responder course on Thursday is getting to be nearly fully booked. There are still a few places on the 3 day MCA3P/IMO1 course. Details of all three courses for 2016 can be found at <http://www.isaa.org.uk/ireland/training.html>

Company news

ISCO MEMBER, H. HENRIKSEN AS DELIVERS FIRST WIRELESS REMOTE CONTROL FOR THE FOXTAIL MINI



The Norwegian Coastal Administration have just received their first wireless remote control for the FoxTail mini and deliveries of the remote control upgrade for the rest of their 32 machines will start soon. See new post from The Norwegian Coastal Administration [here](#).

FoxTail MINI was developed through NOFO's "oil spill response 2010". The objective was to make a mop skimmer that is lightweight and can be moved by 1 or 2 persons on shorelines. It is powered by a compact petrol engine, and can be operated with a crane or with floaters in shallow waters and shore lines.

[View the FoxTail MINI operating in broken ice](#) [More info](#)

UK AND IRELAND: RECENT AWARDS OF ISAA ACCREDITATION

SUPERDRAIN, based in Dublin, Ireland, has successfully completed oil spill response re-accreditation assessment and has been awarded certification for On-land 2 Level 2 and Groundwater Level 2 (OL2 and GW2). The auditor reported that the company continues to expand and now has 30 full-time staff. Safety systems excellent and overall on site safety standards are good.

COMPLETE ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES, based in Dublin, Ireland, has successfully completed oil spill response re-accreditation assessment and has been awarded certification for Freshwater Level 1, On-land Level 2 and Groundwater Level 2 (FW1, OL2 and GW2). The auditor reported that the company has just invested €350k in new equipment and is looking to upgrade older plant. Safety management system and documentation are good.

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