

## ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The ISCO Newsletter is published weekly by the International Spill Control Organisation, a not-for-profit organisation supported by members in 45 countries. ISCO has Consultative Status at IMO, Observer Status at IOPC Funds and is dedicated to raising worldwide preparedness and co-operation in response to oil and chemical spills, promoting technical development and professional competency, and to providing a focus for making the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, UNEP, EC and other organisations.

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## International news

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## GREAT ANTICIPATION OF THE TESTING OF COASTAL CONTINGENCY INFO DURING SCOPE 2017 INTERNATIONAL EXERCISE



The Norwegian Coastal Administration (NCA) has developed new, digital map solutions to ensure more efficient oil protection actions, "Kystinfo Beredskap" (Coastal Contingency Info). During the SCOPE 2017 exercise, the developers and users were able to explore whether the tool meets the requirements when it really matters.

The time from the discovery of an oil spill until the actual oil protection action at sea and on land has commenced determines the degree of damage to the environment. Previously, a message concerning an oil spillage led to experts having to travel into the field with pen and paper and then process the data using an advanced mapping solution when they returned. At best the action team leaders would receive the information they needed on the same evening, allowing them to prioritise the action areas.

Coastal Contingency Info allows field registration via a mobile unit with an advanced map solution that the action team leaders are able to access immediately. An equivalent solution has also been developed for the public, providing easily accessible information from the NCA's emergency web in an incident.

The [Geodata Service](#) and the [Preparedness Centre](#) at the NCA have collaborated with [NOFO](#) (The Norwegian Clean Seas Association for Operating Companies) and Avinet to create a new digital tool providing valuable time savings during an oil protection action.

[Read the complete text of this news briefing contributed by Marianne Henriksen of the Norwegian Coastal Administration](#)

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## International news (continued)

### REGIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR THE CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT OF THE RED SEA AND GULF OF ADEN (PERSGA) WORKSHOP HELD IN EGYPT

November 23 – Report received from IOPC Funds - At the invitation of the Regional Organization for the Conservation of the Environment of the Red Sea and Gulf of Aden (PERSGA), the IOPC Funds participated in a national workshop on liability and compensation for ship-source oil pollution incidents from 21–23 November 2017 in Cairo, Egypt.

The workshop, hosted by PERSGA in collaboration with the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EAAA), was attended by around 30 participants, representing the EAAA, other government and port authorities as well as representatives from the Suez Canal Authority and the SUMED pipelines company.

Head of External Relations and Conference, Mr Thomas Liebert, jointly with representatives from the International Group of P&I Associations and ITOPF, delivered a range of presentations on the oil and HNS pollution compensation regimes and discussed the possibility of Egypt joining the 1992 Fund. The workshop also introduced the other maritime liability conventions and how all these conventions would be applied to various shipping incidents. <http://www.iopcfunds.org/>

### ITOPF-SPONSORED ENVIRONMENTAL AWARD WON BY REMOTELY OPERATED HULL CLEANER

November 22 - The winner of this year's Tanker Shipping & Trade Environmental Award sponsored by ITOPF was GAC EnvironHull for its environmentally-friendly 'HullWiper'. [ITOPF Read more](#)

## Incident reports

### USA: VIRGINIA – HOPEWELL SCENE OF TWO-TRAIN COLLISION INVOLVING CHEMICALS

November 13 - Two trains collided in Hopewell around 2:30 p.m. Monday. A Norfolk Southern train engine struck a CSX chemical car carrying molten sulfur, sources told CBS 6. The HAZMAT team was called in to help with the diesel fuel spill that sources said is between 200 and 300 gallons. The DEQ and EPA agencies have been contacted and officials will also respond to the scene. [Wtvr.com Read more and watch video](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### CHINA: CHINESE FREIGHTER LOST 31 CONTAINERS OFF SHANGHAI

November 20 - Container ship PENG AN SHENG lost 31 40-foot containers in the evening Nov 19 in Yangtze estuary, in adverse weather conditions, while en route from Yantai to Shanghai. The ship was carrying more than 400 containers. Traffic in deepwater channel said to be safe, recovery operation under way. Lost containers don't have hazardous goods, according to official statement. [Maritime Bulletin Read more](#)

### INDIA: OIL SPILL WORRY IN PARADIP

Photo: Villagers collect oil from a leaked pipeline of IOCL. Telegraph picture



November 20 - Water bodies and creeks in the port towns have come under the adverse effect of oil spills from Indian Oil Corporation Limited's underground pipelines. The latest leakage reported on Saturday raised serious questions on the safety and security mechanism put in place by the oil company.

"Engineers of the Odisha State Pollution Control Board have collected samples of contaminated water and sent it for laboratory test. The oil company has been served a notice and directed to furnish a compliance report to stop the oil spill at the earliest," said the regional officer of the pollution board Mukesh Mahaling. [Telegraph India Read more](#)

## Incident reports (continued)

### USA: TRANSCANADA STARTS EXCAVATION WORK AFTER SOUTH DAKOTA PIPELINE LEAK

November 20 - Canada Corp has started initial excavation work at the site of an oil spill on its Keystone pipeline in South Dakota but has not yet pinpointed where the leak came from, a state official said on Monday.

The 590,000 barrel per day Keystone pipeline, which links Alberta's oil sands to U.S. refineries, was shut down on Thursday after a 5,000 barrel spill.

Calgary-based TransCanada is working through the clean-up process, said Brian Walsh, environmental scientist manager for the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources. "They are digging some smaller excavations to get a sense of where the oil is and have started recovering oil from this area," Walsh said.

TransCanada spokesman Terry Cunha said it had around 150 people on site working around the clock and the cause of the leak was under investigation. *Reuters* [Read more](#)

### USA: LOUISIANA - COAST GUARD RESPONDS TO OIL SPILL IN PLAQUEMINES MARSH

November 23 - The Coast Guard is responding to a report of an approximately 504-gallon oil "discharge" from a hole in a pipeline in a marsh area near Pointe à la Hache in Plaquemines, Wednesday.

Officials say the source of the discharge has been secured. Watchstanders at Coast Guard Sector New Orleans received the report of the discharge at 2:40 p.m. OMI Environmental Solutions, an oil spill response organization, is on the scene in response to the incident. *Katc.com* [Read more](#)

### CANADA: INVESTIGATION UNDERWAY AFTER PIPELINE SPILL IN NORTHERN ALBERTA

November 23 - Spill affected 5,000 square metres of swampy muskeg. Cleanup is underway at a northern Alberta well site after a pipeline ruptured, spilling 560 barrels of an oil and water mixture into swampy area. The leak was detected Monday at a pipeline owned by Calgary-based Mount Bastion Oil & Gas Corp, said the Alberta Energy Regulator.

Alberta Energy Regulator spokesperson Jordan Fitzgerald said the oil emulsion spill affected about 5,000 square metres of swampy muskeg about 65 kilometres northwest of Red Earth Creek, which is about 420 kilometres north of Edmonton. There have been no reports of injury to wildlife or damage to nearby creeks, Fitzgerald said. About 66,000 litres of liquid was spilled before the release was contained. *CBC News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Canada]

### SOUTH AFRICA: COUNTING COST OF DURBAN PORT OIL SPILL

November 23 - Regattas and other marina-related events planned for this weekend could be cancelled depending on the severity of an oil spill – and progress in its clean-up – on Thursday. Transnet National Ports Authority (TNPA) said in response to The Mercury's queries that it had dispatched its emergency response team to contain the spill into the Port of Durban, which had been reported at 10.15pm on Wednesday.

"A thick black oil substance was found to be seeping out of the municipal stormwater outlet in the vicinity of Maydon Wharf Berth 15. The Port of Durban's Port Pollution Control Manager was informed and alerted the Port Manager and Harbour Master, before appointing Drizit Environmental to provide assistance." The port authority said Drizit had confirmed that the substance was Heavy Furnace Oil (HFO). *IOL News* [Read more](#)

## News reports from around the world (countries listed in alphabetical order)

### AUSTRALIA: PER- AND POLY-FLUOROALKYL SUBSTANCES (PFAS)

November 21 – Government of Australia – Information available for download:

- Expanded Services in Williamstown, NSW
- PFAS Expert Health Panel
- Health initiatives to address PFAS contamination
- Per- and poly-fluoroalkyl substances (PFAS)
- Environmental Health Standing Committee (enHealth) and Australian Health Protection Principal Committee (AHPPC) Guidance
- Food Regulation Standing Committee (FRSC) Statement
- Community Walk-In Sessions
- Further Information

*Department of Health* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## News reports from around the world (continued)

### AUSTRALIA: JOINT OIL SPILL RESPONSE EXERCISE DEMONSTRATES ESSO'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE CAPABILITIES

November 24 - On 14 and 15 November, Esso together with the Australian Marine Oil Spill Centre (AMOSC) participated in a joint oil spill response exercise in Lakes Entrance, Victoria.

The purpose of the exercise was to test the implementation of our tactical response plans that are in place in the unlikely event of an incident from our offshore facilities.

Around 30 people participated in the exercise including a range of industry representatives from the petroleum industry, AMOSC, Gippsland Ports and government observers. The exercise was prepared in conjunction with Gippsland Ports, Parks Victoria and East Gippsland Shire council to ensure we minimised any disruption to the public and port operations, and that activities were carried out safely.

During the course of the exercise, teams deployed a variety of oil spill response equipment, such as booms and skimmers at Lake Bunga and Lakes Entrance, as well as using vehicles on the beach to move equipment and supervise the exercise. An Incident Management Team, based in Melbourne, simulated coordination of field activities and also prepared incident action plans for the following day. *ExxonMobil* [Read more](#)

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### CANADA: NEW SPILL REPORTING, RESPONSE AND RECOVERY REQUIREMENTS IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

November 15 - British Columbia recently brought into force a new land-based spills regime and three new regulations requiring transporters of liquid petroleum products to have provincial spill response plans, to test such plans and to report and clean up spills. The new regulations apply to two categories of people: "regulated persons," which are rail and highway transporters in possession, charge or control of 10,000 litres (62.898 barrels) or more of liquid petroleum products and pipeline operators with any quantity of liquid petroleum products in their pipeline; and "responsible persons," which are persons in possession, charge or control of a substance when a spill occurs or is imminent.

The three new regulations are the Spill Contingency Planning Regulation, the Spill Preparedness Recovery Regulation and the Spill Reporting Regulation.

**Spill contingency planning** - Regulated persons are required to develop and maintain spill contingency plans based on a worst-case scenario spill. Investigations, tests and surveys must be undertaken to determine the magnitude of the risks to human health, the environment and infrastructure from a worst-case spill. Pipeline and rail transporters must have their spill contingency plans in place by April 30, 2018, while trucking firms have until October 30, 2018.

It is important to note that, while the spill planning obligations may resemble transportation of dangerous goods-type plans, they impose new requirements.

**Spill reporting** - New spill reporting requirements require a responsible person to immediately report any intentional or unintentional spill of a substance into the environment that may cause, is causing or has caused an adverse effect to water, the environment, human health or property if the volume of the substance exceeds the amounts set out in a schedule to the Spill Reporting Regulation or if the substance has or is likely to enter a body of water, regardless of the volume. Natural gas spills greater than 10 kg and releases from breakages of pipelines or fittings operated above 100 psi must also be reported.

The new regulation expands the scope of spills that must be reported, as it removes the previous volume/quantity threshold for spills to water.

It also expands the information that must be reported - If a spill occurs or is imminent, a verbal report must immediately be made to the BC Provincial Emergency Program's spill reporting hotline (1-800-663-3456) by the responsible person. New requirements stipulate the initial report must include the name of the owner of the spilled substance and a description of the source of the spill.

Starting on October 30, 2018, a written report must also be made within 30 days of the spill, or as soon as practicable on the minister's request. An end-of-spill report must also be made within 30 days of the end of a spill's emergency response activities.

**Spill response** - A responsible person must ensure persons with the skill, experience, resources and equipment arrive at the spill site within a prescribed period and activate an incident command system. They must also ensure actions are taken to address the threat or hazard caused by the spill, including assessing, monitoring and preventing the threat or hazard; stabilizing, containing and cleaning up the spill; identifying the immediate and long-term risks and impacts of the spill; and taking steps to resolve or mitigate such risks and impacts.

*Norton Rose Fulbright Canada LLP* [Source document](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group] See also related article *JD Supra* - [New spill response regulations in force for British Columbia](#)

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## News reports from around the world (continued)

### CANADA: NANAIMO CHOSEN AS MAIN RESPONSE BASE FOR OIL SPILLS IN THE SALISH SEA



Above: A rendering of a new dock at the Nanaimo Port Authority if an oil spill response base is built in 2018. WCMRC

November 20 - NANAIMO — The Harbour City has been chosen as the focus point of operations in case an oil spill taints B.C.'s coast.

Western Canada Marine Response Corporation, an industry-funded organization who clean up oil spills, want to build a hub in Nanaimo to coordinate all oil spill responses on Vancouver Island.

“In some places on the coast, we have up to 72 hours to respond. So we're bring that down drastically to a flat six-hour response for the entire southern shipping lane,” spokesperson Michael Lowry told NanaimoNewsNOW. “So you're looking at a significant reduction in response time and a doubling of capacity we have on hand to respond to a spill.”

The push for a better response time was a safety requirement for the proposed TransMountain pipeline expansion from Edmonton to Burnaby. Federally approved but mired in court challenges, if the pipeline is built the oil spill response has to be in place six months before. Lowry said they're working on a tight timeline but hope to start construction in early 2018 and be finished by 2019. Several other bases would also be established across the Island.

If built, it's expected to have 15 vessels in Nanaimo and 35 full-time staff to monitor the waters, maintain their ships and train others. *Nanaimo News* [Read more](#)

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### CANADA: AMOP SEMINAR REPORT

November 21 - Environment and Climate Change Canada hosted approximately 186 attendees at the 40th Arctic and Marine Oilspill Program (AMOP) Technical Seminar, October 3-5, 2017 in Calgary, Alberta.

Authors and delegates also included internationally renowned scientists from 12 countries including: Canada, the United States, England, France, Norway, New Zealand, Finland, Denmark, Greece, Greenland, China, and Indonesia representing government, industry, Citizen's groups, non-for-profits, and academia.

At the seminar 56 plenary presentations, 37 speaker's corner presentations, and 21 posters were presented and 63 peer-reviewed papers were published in the Proceedings.

Two special sessions on Nonconventional Oils and Nonconventional Oils: Crude-by-rail were well received and participants expressed interest in continuing these sessions at future AMOP seminars.

AMOP is a peer-reviewed international forum for researchers in the field of oil and chemical spills R&D and emergency response to meet and discuss current scientific findings. AMOP is viewed by the majority of attendees as the foremost international scientific forum for the presentation of and discussion on chemical and oil spill research and

## News reports from around the world (continued)

operational response methodologies. The 63 peer-reviewed papers that were published in the AMOP Proceedings will be included in Elsevier's abstract and reference databases SCOPUS and Compendex. SCOPUS is the world's largest abstract and citation database of peer-reviewed literature, while Compendex is one of the most comprehensive engineering literature databases available to engineers. [Thanks to Natalie Jones at Environment Canada]

### TAIWAN, CHINA: NOAA OR&R EMERGENCY RESPONSE DIVISION CONSULTS WITH SPILL RESPONDERS

November 17 - During a recent symposium in Taipei, Taiwan, China responders from OR&R's Emergency Response Division (ERD) consulted with government officials, scientists and university researchers about coastal oil spills. Taiwan, China has established an oil spill response program centered on some of the best ideas and training from governments and industry around the world.

Hence, the Symposium of Marine Meteorology Service for Ocean Oil Spills, Nov. 1-2, 2017. The objective was to enhance Taiwan's oil spill emergency response technologies and protocols. It focused on ocean oil spill management and modelling techniques for response and planning that are currently in use and or development that can decrease oil spill damage to coastal communities and habitats. ERD participants included Dr. Amy MacFadyen, who presented on oil trajectory modeling, spill support tools, oil fate and effects issues; and John Tarpley who presented on the US spill response structure and NOAA's role in oil spill response.

Taiwanese participants included scientists and managers from the Central Weather Bureau of Taiwan (CWB), Taiwan Environmental Protection Administration, Coast Guard, Port Districts, National Cheng Kung University and National Kaohsiung Marine University. Several beneficial discussions focused on trajectory modelling, oceanographic data requirements and interagency/university coordination. Future engagements may involve more analytical discussions on spill modelling tools, oil spill detection, environmental sensitivity mapping, and protocols for scientific support. NOAA OR&R [Read more](#)

### EGYPT: IMO COURSE LEVEL 1 AND LEVEL 2 HELD LAST WEEK AT THE LIQUEFIED GAS PORT IN THE COASTAL CITY OF IDCO – ALEXANDRIA



November 23 - In the framework of raising environmental awareness and the preparedness of teams at highest level for combating and lead operations of oil spill pollution in the Arab Republic of Egypt IMO level 1 & level 2 sessions were held for the employees of IDKU Gas Port (ELNG) in the presence of representatives from the Egyptian Environmental Affairs Agency (EEAA).

IEMS provided an intensive course for the management of oil spill initial actions and operations planning - shoreline

clean-up and waste management for all sectors of the company (40 trainees) of ELNG-IDKU. At the end of the training, a desk top simulation training was carried out in the operations room at the port and clarified the role of the port oil spill contingency plan

The course presenters were Capt. Ahmed Mostafa MISCO; Eng. Khaled Al-Haw and Eng. Kadry Abdullah. [Thanks to Captain Ahmed Mostafa MISCO of IEMS]

### JAPAN: SIX YEARS AFTER FUKUSHIMA, ROBOTS FINALLY FIND REACTORS' MELTED URANIUM FUEL

*The Mini-Manbo, at a demonstration in Yokosuka, Japan, is an underwater robot fitted with radiation-hardened materials and sensors. It succeeded where previous robots had failed, maneuvering around debris and avoiding excess radiation to locate the Fukushima plant's spent, and highly dangerous, uranium fuel. Credit - Ko Sasaki for The New York Times*

November 19 - Four engineers hunched before a bank of monitors, one holding what looked like a game controller. They had spent a month training for what they were about to do: pilot a small robot into the contaminated heart of the ruined Fukushima nuclear plant.

Earlier robots had failed, getting caught on debris or suffering circuit malfunctions from excess radiation. But the newer version, called the Mini-Manbo, or "little sunfish," was made



## News reports from around the world (continued)

of radiation-hardened materials with a sensor to help it avoid dangerous hot spots in the plant's flooded reactor buildings.

The size of a shoe box, the Manbo used tiny propellers to hover and glide through water in a manner similar to an aerial drone.

After three days of carefully navigating through a shattered reactor building, the Manbo finally reached the heavily damaged Unit 3 reactor. There, the robot beamed back video of a gaping hole at the bottom of the reactor and, on the floor beneath it, clumps of what looked like solidified lava: the first images ever taken of the plant's melted uranium fuel. *New York Times* [Read more, see photos and watch video](#)

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### PERU: NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH: DETECTING OIL SPILLS IN THE AMAZON

November 21 - With the oil companies and authorities denying responsibility for the 2016 spill, indigenous communities, including the Wampis, took the matter into their own hands. With support from human rights organizations, they established a series of community-based monitoring programmes aimed at documenting the impact of oil pollution on their territory and health by applying a mix of traditional knowledge and innovative technologies.

Community-based monitoring is a new term, but it has been carried out by generations of indigenous peoples and local communities as part of the custodianship of their land. "The historic and cultural origin of the Wampis nation is tightly linked to nature, to the trees and the territory," explains Shapiom Noningo, a delegate of the Autonomous Territorial Government of the Wampis. "The Wampis learn from nature and from nature get their nourishment; this is how, over time, we have developed our way of living, our culture and knowledge."

For pollution monitoring, communities are using soil and water test kits, often in conjunction with laboratory facilities, to obtain independently verified results. Hand-held Global Positioning System devices, smartphones and Geographic Information System platforms have made it possible for communities to generate their own digital, spatial representations of their territories and of the threats to their resources, and to embed these maps in websites and field reports. These can be backed up with georeferenced photo, video and audio evidence captured on smartphones or even from community-operated drones. The information gathered is particularly effective in cases of environmental pollution and land degradation to hold authorities and companies to account and seek remediation. "The aim of the monitoring programmes," explains Shapiom, "is to report destructive agents and notify their presence to local and national authorities, so that the relevant actions can be taken." *UN Environment* [Read the complete article](#)

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### RUSSIA: NEW FINDING: NUKE BLAST CRIPPLED CHERNOBYL

November 18 - The Chernobyl 4 reactor was destroyed by a nuclear explosion, not a steam one, according to research published in the journal Nuclear Technology.

The reactor, 130 kilometres of Kiev, Ukraine, exploded in on April 25, 1986, killing 30 people, and inducing acute radiation poisoning in 134. Today, encased in thick concrete, it stands at the centre of a 2600 square-kilometre exclusion zone.

Investigations into the causes of the reactor failure concluded that the cause was a steam explosion. This remains the accepted explanation, and is sometimes deployed to bolster the case put by the power industry that no reactor has ever experienced a nuclear explosion.

Now, analysis by researchers from the Swedish Defence Research Agency, Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute, and Stockholm University contradicts the standard explanation. *Cosmos Magazine* [Read more](#)  
[Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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### TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO FISHERS HOPE WATER MONITORING BUOY WILL EASE OIL SPILL FEARS

November 21 - Trinidad and Tobago's Institute of Marine Affairs (IMA) recently deployed a water quality monitoring buoy with the aid of local fishermen, in response to ongoing tensions between the artisanal fishers and big industry over the source of pollution in the Gulf of Paria and subsequent fish kills.

The buoy, which was deployed approximately a mile and a half from the Claxton Bay Fishing Depot at a location chosen by the fishermen in the Gulf of Paria, is a proof of concept whose success will likely lead to other such buoys being deployed in the country's waters. The buoy, which comes with a digital cellular connection provided by Digicel; a cloud platform provided by Microsoft Azure; and an Internet of Things (IoT) platform to filter and process all the information, provided by Fujitsu Caribbean, is equipped with sensors to measure hydrocarbons, salinity, temperature, turbidity and other changes in water quality. *SeaFood Source* [Read more](#)

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## News reports from around the world (continued)

### TUNISIA: MOIG REGIONAL WORKSHOP IN TUNISIA

November 15 – Report received from Cedre - The MOIG annual regional workshop was held on 10th and 11th October in Tunisia. As a MOIG Technical Partner, Cedre ran a training session on shoreline response on the 10th for 130 participants from the Mediterranean oil sector and Tunisian administrations drawing on the training materials developed as part of the POSOW project. The following day, the participants travelled to the TRAPSA terminal in Skhira for a response exercise on the water followed by a shoreline response exercise, run by Cedre.

<http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/>

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### TURKEY: 2017 MEDITERRANEAN COAST GUARD FUNCTIONS FORUM

November 15 – Report received from Cedre - On 12th and 13th October, Cedre's Director attended the annual meeting of the Coast Guard Functions Forum for the countries bordering the Mediterranean in Antalya, Turkey, alongside the French General Secretariat for the Sea (SGMer). At this meeting, a presentation of Cedre and its response preparedness activity was given, with a particular focus on training. Several representatives of the member countries of this forum manifested their interest in Cedre's training capacities which allow the use of real oil. During the forum, the Director held a series of discussions with Gabino Gonzalez, Head of Office of REMPEC, to address cooperation on future projects as well as the current assignment in Greece. <http://wwz.cedre.fr/en/>

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### USA: MICHIGAN CREATES MULTI-AGENCY PFAS POLLUTION RESPONSE TEAM

November 13 - Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder has created a multi-agency response effort to address the growing problem of toxic fluorocarbon pollution that has contaminated drinking water supplies in communities around the state.

The new Michigan PFAS Action Response Team (MPART) will be led by former Michigan deputy attorney general Carol Isaacs and Brown University School of Public Health epidemiology professor David Savitz, who will be the team's academic advisor. *MLive.com* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

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### USA: UNMANNED AIRCRAFT EXERCISE DELIVERS NEAR REAL-TIME RESULTS FOR IMPROVED OIL SPILL ANALYSIS

November 17 – NOAA OR&R participated in an unmanned aircraft system (UAS) exercise with a host of federal, state and private partners in Goleta, California, from October 30 to November 3.

The exercise tested new sensors transmitting imagery in near real time to NOAA's GIS-based mapping application called the Environmental Response Management Application (ERMA) to evaluate our rapid assessment capabilities for oil spills. Partners included: Channel Islands National Marine Sanctuaries, California Office of Spill Prevention and Response (Cal OSPR), US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), Chevron, American Aerospace Technologies Incorporated (AATI), and Aerovironment representatives

Building off of a previous exercise done in 2014, the goal was to test new sensors in hopes of providing increased resolution and the ability to transmit imagery in near real time to ERMA for visualization and rapid assessment of oil without having to wait for landing and data download from onboard hard drives. These improvements can lead to faster operational decisions for deploying assessment and cleanup activities during an oil spill.

Approximately nine miles offshore of Santa Barbara, the team simulated oil using fluorescein dye and rice hulls deployed from the NOAA R/V Shearwater using a hose and water pump along a predetermined path. The unmanned aircraft (known as JUMP-20) flew at varying altitudes to collect reconnaissance imagery and test the ability to spot oil at higher altitudes and over a wider area of ocean.

For more information, contact [Mathew.Dorsey@noaa.gov](mailto:Mathew.Dorsey@noaa.gov) NOAA OR&R [Source document](#)

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### USA: MICHIGAN - LINE 5 CONTRACTOR DOUBLES DOWN ON RISK ANALYSIS IN FINAL REPORT

November 20 - Those who took issue with the risk assessment portion of a draft report on Enbridge Line 5 released this summer by a state contractor aren't likely to be thrilled by the conclusions in a [final version](#) of the controversial project.

Dynamic Risk Assessments of Calgary estimates a "credible worst-case" oil spill from Line 5 in the Straits of Mackinac would release about 4,500 barrels of oil that would stay within 60 miles of the pipeline and cost about \$200 million in total to cleanup -- about the same estimate the company delivered in June with a [draft report](#). The report is meant to analyze possible alternatives to Line 5 crossing underneath the straits. The draft version was widely panned as having sugarcoated the risk to the Great Lakes posed by an oil spill from the controversial underwater pipeline. *MLive.com* [Read more](#)

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## News reports from around the world (continued)

### USA: ROUTE FOR KEYSTONE XL APPROVED, CLEARING WAY FOR ALBERTA OIL

November 20 - Nebraska has approved an alternative route for TransCanada Corp.'s \$8-billion (U.S.) Keystone XL pipeline, a ruling that removes a key hurdle in the decade long-quest to link Alberta's oil sands to U.S. refineries on the Gulf Coast – but will create more uncertainty for the controversial project.

The Monday ruling is far from an unqualified victory and would add costs and further delays to the project. Still, the decision was immediately welcomed by the Alberta-based oil industry and governments in Edmonton and Ottawa.

The 3-2 decision is likely to face appeals by landowners and environmentalists, who contend the ruling approves a route with little actual study and invalidates the presidential permit issued by U.S. President Donald Trump last March that was based on the company's preferred route. *The Globe & Mail* [Read more](#)

### November 21 - Keystone XL oil pipeline will go ahead despite last week's spill

Nebraska has given the okay for the controversial Keystone XL pipeline to run through the state – even though the existing Keystone pipeline spilled thousands of barrels of oil just last week.

On Thursday morning, the Keystone pipeline sprang a leak near Amherst, South Dakota. It spilled 5,000 barrels of oil – nearly 800,000 litres – that leached through the ground to the surface.

Despite local concerns, the spill doesn't seem to have affected the region's aquifers or surface water. "There may be some shallow ground water present at the site, but it is not part of a mapped aquifer system," says Brian Walsh at the South Dakota Department of Environment and Natural Resources. Clean-up efforts are focused on disposing of contaminated soil.

The Keystone pipeline is owned by TransCanada, an energy company based in Calgary. It transports oil from western Canada's tar sands region to refineries on the Texas Gulf Coast, where the oil is refined and processed into usable gasoline and diesel. Tar sands produce some of the lowest grade oil in the world: it is so thick and goopy, it has to be diluted to move through pipelines. *New Scientist* [Read more](#)

### November 22 - South Dakota Warns It Could Revoke Keystone Pipeline Permit Over Oil Spill

South Dakota regulators said they could revoke TransCanada's permit for the 7-year-old Keystone Pipeline if an investigation into a large oil spill discovered last week concludes the company violated its terms. If that happens, the company would have to correct any issues—in the worst case, even replace part of the pipeline—before oil shipments could resume. The scrutiny comes as more challenges emerge to the company's recently approved expansion of its pipeline system: the Keystone XL. *Inside Climate News* [Read more](#)

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### USA: WASHINGTON STATE PANEL OUTLINES RISKS OF OIL-BY-RAIL TERMINAL

November 22 - A major oil-by-rail terminal proposed on the Columbia River in Washington state poses a potential risk of oil spills, train accidents and longer emergency-response times because of road traffic, an environmental study has found.

Many of the risks could be decreased with certain mitigation measures, but the study released Tuesday outlined four areas where it said the impacts are significant and cannot be avoided. The study said what while "the likelihood of occurrence of the potential for oil spills may be low, the consequences of the events could be severe." *Seattle Times* [Read more](#)

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### YEMEN: HOUTHİ REBELS THREATEN TO ATTACK SAUDI TANKERS

November 13 - Yemen's Houthi rebel forces have threatened to attack Saudi Arabian merchant shipping in retaliation for the ongoing Saudi blockade of Yemeni seaports. The Houthi forces control segments of Yemen's Red Sea coastline, and they have previously demonstrated that they have the technical means to launch missile attacks on ships.

"The battleships and oil tankers of [Saudi Arabia] and their movements will not be safe from the fire of Yemeni naval forces if they are directed by the senior leadership [to attack]," said official news outlet Al Masirah on its web site. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

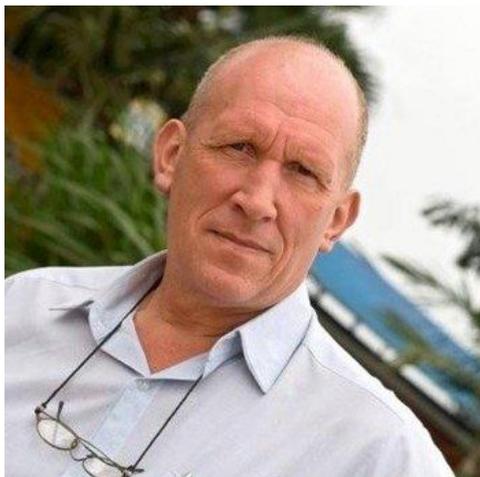
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## ISCO news

### ISCO SECRETARY WILL SPEAK AT CASPIAN CONFERENCE NEXT WEEK

ISCO Secretary, Matthew Sommerville, will be speaking at 10.40 am on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> November. The title of his address will be "Sharing International Experience as a main instrument in Spill Management". [http://www.ccapital.co.uk/en/info/conference/oil\\_spills\\_2017/programma/](http://www.ccapital.co.uk/en/info/conference/oil_spills_2017/programma/)

### UNTIMELY DEATH OF MARK FRANCIS, FISCO, IN BRAZIL ON 23 NOVEMBER 2017



**Your editor has just received this sad news from Captain Bill Boyle, MNI, Hon.FISCO. Bill has written –**

“It is with regret that I must inform you of the sudden passing of Mark Francis at the age of 64.

Mark was well known in the Oil Spill Response Business as a Response Specialist / Technical Adviser but more so as a Trainer.

He left the British Army in 1976 and trained as a Commercial Diver, in 1979 he joined BP-E&P then OSRL.

In 1997 he joined Briggs Environmental Services as Head of Training however in 2000 he was seconded to Alpina Briggs Brazil based in Rio de Janeiro where he was part of a team involved in opening a number of Oil Spill Response Bases throughout Brazil.

In 2012 Mark formed his own company Oil Spill Solutions Ltda Brazil and was part of a team producing Tactical Response Plans for the Northern Coastline of Rio de Janeiro

In 2013 Mark was elected as a Fellow of ISCO the International Spill Control Organization.

Mark had over 40years experience in oil spill response responding to a number of large incidents around the world gaining him a wealth of knowledge which he readily passed on to others.

In recent years he contributed a number of articles in the ISCO News Letter which I’m sure a lot of readers appreciated.

Our thoughts are with Mark’s family and friends at this sad time”.

**A letter has also been received from Allan Howarth –**

“Dear members and colleagues, it is with great sadness to inform you all that Mark Francis passed away on Thursday to 23rd of November.

Mark started his career with the oil industry in 1975, starting as a commercial diver in the North Sea.

He then joined BP E&P onshore in the UK in 1979 as well as being the civil engineering foreman he ran the oil spill response team for both the production and drilling sites of the operation.

During the intervening years he has responded to some of the world’s largest oil spills from oil tankers, offshore platforms, pipelines onshore and offshore. He also carried out training and consultancy work for the oil industry, government agencies and various military organisations in over 30 countries.

Mark had a wealth of knowledge and was never shy in expressing his opinion to others. Continuously developing new Oil Spill Strategies and passing his knowledge openly to the industry.

Mark will be greatly missed. ISCO wishes to send condolences to Mark’s family during this sad time”.

#### **Messages from ISCO Members / Colleagues and Friends**

- Truly a sad loss, great guy and great memories. I’m proud to have worked and had the occasional beer or two with Mark. - Allan Howarth
- That’s a sad loss. Mark always had a great passion for life, oil spills and cutting through the bull. He also happened to be one of the best tank crewmen in the British army and represented us in the annual Canadian cup competitions on a Chieftain. I will pass the news on to his former colleagues and friends at OSRL. - Matthew Sommerville, ISCO Secretary.
- This is indeed sad news. Mark will be greatly missed by all who knew him and his going will leave a significant gap in the knowledge and experience available within our profession. – John McMurtrie

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#### **ARTICLES BY MARK FRANCIS AVAILABLE IN THE MEMBERS’ AREA OF THE ISCO WEBSITE**

Members may be interested to know that the following articles by Mark Francis are available in “Technical Articles”

- Response to Inland Oil Spills by Mark Francis, FISCO
  - Integrated booming plans, emergency booming strategies or just the thin red line? An article by Mark Francis, FISCO
  - Shoreline Clean-up - An article giving helpful guidance and lots of useful information contributed by Mark Francis, FISCO.
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## Links for recent issues of other publications (in alphabetical order)

<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request via email
<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	October 2017
<a href="#">CROIERG Enews</a>	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	October 2017
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	November 2017 issue
<a href="#">EUROWA Newsletter</a>	European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module	October 2017
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn 2017 issue
<a href="#">IMO Publishing News</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	October 2017
<a href="#">Intertanko Weekly News</a>	International news for the oil tanker community	November 24, 2017
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q4 2017 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Sept.-Oct. 2017
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	October 2017 issue
<a href="#">NOWPAP Quarterly</a>	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 1, 2017 issue
<a href="#">Ocean Orbit</a>	Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	August 2017
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	October 2017 issue
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for prevention & control professionals	November 22, 2017
<a href="#">Safe Seas, Clean Seas</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	August 2017 issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Spring 2017 issue
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Oct. 1-15, 2017
<a href="#">Transport Canada Newsletter</a>	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	June 2017 issue
<a href="#">UK NCEC</a>	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	July 2017 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	November 1, 2017

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

## Events

### OIL SPILL INDIA 2018 – AN INTRODUCTION FROM SUNNY MEHTA OF OIL SPILL INDIA

Oil & Shipping Industries are today the mainstay for modern post-industrial revolution society. Whilst Oil fuels the global economic growth, the Shipping industry is the lifeblood of the world economy carrying 90% of the global trade. However Climate Change & Environmental Disaster mitigation are attendant issues that have now become emergent with each passing day in today's world. Though Zero Incident Policies & Sustainable work practices are standard norm for these industries globally, yet disasters (both past & recent ones) in the marine ecosystem & the increasing amount of uncertainty for similar incidents remind us of the fragility of our environment following any incident. Consequences of Oil Spill incidents are both disastrous & humongous. Researches document that Petroleum Toxicity, Oxygen Depletion & Use of Dispersants cause death, deformities & mutation in a wide variety of Marine Species. The Marine ecology including deep-sea environment, corals, the chemistry of the sea & ocean floor also devastated. On Land though an Oil Spill is comparatively containable than those on Sea, yet they cause catastrophic damage to human life & surrounding environment.

The Massive Public Outcry, Intense Media Attention, Political Uproar & Legal Implications that follow the disaster cause colossal monetary & reputation losses for organizations and the industry at large. Response, Mitigation, Clean-up & Restoration from an Oil Spill Disaster are extremely challenging and costly. It takes decades & billions of dollars despite which some species and their generations may sadly never recover.

One of the central goals of the Oil Spill India (OSI) Conference, conceptualized and founded in 2011 as an industry led global forum jointly in association with the Indian Coast Guard – The Central Coordinating Authority for combating oil spills in Indian waters & India's flagship Oil Producer The Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd (ONGC), was to partake with global stakeholders & reaffirm the Industry's commitment for the protection of the Environment; promoting responsible cultures to be incorporated at all levels, from the small communities where the industry operates and throughout their global businesses. Over the past 6 years & 4 editions, OSI- the only conference of its type held in India & one of the top forums in the world, has continually evolved, meeting the changing needs and interests of the global community that it serves.

The 2018 edition of OSI will be no exception & will continue to build upon its past success, providing a forum on stakeholders commitment for Environmental Sustainability, Oil Spill Preparedness & Prevention, the need for Synergy in Oil Spill Response & Excellence in Restoration efforts.

*The 2018 Oil Spill India Conference and Exhibition takes place in New Delhi on July 5-6. 2018*

*This will be the 5<sup>th</sup> International OSI Conference & Exhibition and it will have the theme "Commitment, Synergy, Excellence"*

More information on the event can be found on the event website at <http://www.oilspillindia.org/>

## Upcoming events summary 2017

COUNTRY	2017	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
AZERBAIJAN	Nov. 27-28	<a href="#">Oil Spill Control Caspian – Onshore &amp; Offshore</a>	Baku
UK	Nov. 29-30	<a href="#">11th Arctic Shipping Summit</a>	London
KENYA	Dec. 4-6	<a href="#">3rd Session United Nations Environment Assembly</a>	Nairobi
USA	Dec. 5	<a href="#">SCAA Reception at CLEAN GULF</a>	Houston, TX
USA	Dec. 5-7	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition</a>	Houston, TX
UAE	Dec. 6-7	<a href="#">MENA Oil Spill Response &amp; Management Workshop</a>	Dubai
KOREA	Dec. 6-7	<a href="#">2017 NOWPAP MERRAC Expert Meeting</a>	Busan
UK	Dec. 6-8	<a href="#">Salvage &amp; Wreck Removal Conference</a>	London
GABON	Dec. 11-14	<a href="#">GI WACAF Nat'l W'shop on Marine Oil Spill Waste</a>	Libreville
UK (N. Ireland)	Dec 12	<a href="#">ISAA Christmas Meeting and Lunch</a>	Lisburn
MALAYSIA	Dec. 13-15	<a href="#">Oil Spill Management and Response Workshop</a>	Kuala Lumpur

## Upcoming events summary 2018

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
USA	Jan. 3-5	<a href="#">28<sup>th</sup> Annual No Spills Conference</a>	Grand Traverse MI
UK	Feb. 5-9	<a href="#">IMO Pollution Prevention &amp; Response Committee</a>	London
CANADA	Feb. 21-22	<a href="#">12<sup>th</sup> Arctic Shipping Summit</a>	Montreal
UAE	Feb 28 – Mar 1	<a href="#">Offshore Arabia Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Dubai
UK	March 13-15	<a href="#">2018 INTERSPILL Conference and Exhibition</a>	London
UK	March 13-15	<a href="#">Oceanology International 2018</a>	London
USA	March 20-21	<a href="#">SCAA Annual Meeting &amp; Conference</a>	Arlington VA
RUSSIA	March 22-23	<a href="#">Baltic Sea Day International Environmental Forum</a>	St. Petersburg
BELGIUM	March 22-23	<a href="#">CONCAWE Oil Pipeline Experience Seminar</a>	Antwerp
USA	April 4-5	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference</a>	St. Louis, MO
UK	April 9-13	<a href="#">IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee</a>	London
FINLAND	April 17-20	<a href="#">Arctic Shipping Forum</a>	Helsinki
NEW ZEALAND	May 1-3	<a href="#">NZ 5th Contaminated Land Conference</a>	Christchurch
USA	May 7-11	<a href="#">13th Int'l Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference</a>	Baltimore, MD
UK	May 23-24	<a href="#">HAZMAT 2018</a>	Stratford on Avon
CANADA	June 5-7	<a href="#">AMOP Tech. Seminar – Contamination &amp; Response</a>	Vancouver BC
ITALY	June 20-22	<a href="#">INTERTANKO Annual Event 2018</a>	Rome
USA	June 19-21	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition</a>	Portland, OR
INDIA	July 5-6	<a href="#">Oil Spill India 2018 Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	New Delhi
UAE	October 9-10	<a href="#">RECSO EnviroSpill Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Abu Dhabi
UK	October 22-26	<a href="#">IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee</a>	London

To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor

## Training

### DISTANCE LEARNING COURSES FROM LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY

Certificate in Maritime Environmental Management – Starts 30 January 2018

<http://www.lloydsmaritimeacademy.com/event/maritime-environmental-management-distance-learning-course>

Certificate in Marine Pollution Prevention and Management – Starts 14 March 2018

<http://www.lloydsmaritimeacademy.com/event/marine-pollution-prevention-management-distance-learning-course>

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