

## 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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## OSRL AND CEDRE SIGN 'LETTER OF CO-OPERATION'



February 14 - Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) and France's Centre for Documentation, Research and Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution (CEDRE) have signed a 'Letter of Co-operation' to strengthen operational-level collaboration, as well as increasing personnel and knowledge sharing across a broad range of areas related to spill preparedness and response.

The announcement represents a formalisation and reaffirmation of both organisation's commitment to maintaining high levels of operational co-operation – a relationship that has existed for many years. The agreement has been described as primarily operational in nature and will focus on advancing technology, training and good practice approaches when dealing with oil spills.

OSRL CEO, Robert Limb, and CEDRE Director, Stéphane Doll, signed the agreement earlier this week at OSRL's base in Southampton, UK, following a tour of OSRL's facilities and extensive equipment stockpile.

"The signing of this agreement is an important step towards an increased level of cooperation between our organisations," said Limb. "It is a significant development for OSRL's members and will facilitate advances in our understanding and approach to dealing with a spill by combining our collective experience, research and technical capabilities in this area", Limb continued.

"The signing of this letter of cooperation is an important landmark for CEDRE as it is the first building block in the bridge both organisations will strive to develop and consolidate," Doll added

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outside the glare of international attention that big spills have previously attracted. That is because of its remote location on the high seas and also the type of petroleum involved: condensate, a toxic, liquid by-product of natural gas production

Experts say there has never been so large a spill of condensate; up to 111,000 metric tonnes have poured into the ocean. It has almost certainly already invaded an ecosystem that includes some of the world's most bountiful fisheries off Zhoushan, China, the archipelago that rises where the Yangtze River flows into the East China Sea. The area produced five million tonnes of seafood of up to four dozen species for China alone last year, according to Greenpeace, including crab, squid, yellow croaker, mackerel and a local favourite, hairtail. If projections are correct, the toxins could soon make their way into equally abundant Japanese fisheries. *New Straits Times* [Read more](#)

## PARTNERSHIPS IN ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT FOR THE SEAS OF EAST ASIA (PEMSEA) PUBLISHES E-NEWSLETTER AND CELEBRATES ITS 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

PEMSEA has just issued the first edition of the e-Update for 2018! PEMSEA kicks off its 25th anniversary year by welcoming a new Executive Director, [Aimee Gonzales](#). 2018 promises to be a full year as PEMSEA reflects on the successes and lessons of two-and-a-half decades of partnerships for healthy oceans, people and economies in the the East Asian Seas, and sets its sights on the next 25 years.

Partnerships in Environmental Management for the Seas of East Asia or PEMSEA is a regional partnership programme implemented by the United Nations Development Programme and executed by the United Nations Office for Project Services. The project, started in 1994, was originally known as Prevention and Management of Marine Pollution in the East Asian Seas. <http://ftnews.firetrench.com/2018/01/pemsea-e-update-for-january-2018/>

[Download and read PEMSEA's E-update](#)

## APRIL 2018 IOPC FUNDS MEETINGS

Invitations and Agendas have now been issued for the next meetings of the IOPC Funds' governing bodies, which will take place from 30 April to 2 May 2018 at the headquarters of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) in London. Information regarding the HNS Workshop, which will take place during the week preceding the April 2018 IOPC Funds meetings on 26 and 27 April, will be issued shortly. *IOPC Funds* [Read more](#)

## International news (continued)

"The signing of this letter of cooperation is an important landmark for CEDRE as it is the first building block in the bridge both

The Letter of Co-operation outlines the ways in which the two organisations will work together and details the specific areas contained in the agreement, including:

- Documentation and sharing of technical expertise
- Collaborative development of best-practice principles, including technical studies and contingency planning
- Training of in-house and OSRL member personnel
- Analysis of equipment and research and development
- Research to identify new technologies and improved operational methods



<https://www.oilspillresponse.com/> <https://www.cedre.fr/en/>

## INVISIBLE OIL SPILL THREATENS ASIA'S RICHEST FISHERIES

February 14 - A FIERY collision that sank an Iranian tanker in the East China Sea a month ago has resulted in an environmental threat that experts say is unlike any before: an almost invisible type of petroleum has begun to contaminate some of the most important fishing grounds in Asia, from China to Japan and beyond.

It is the largest oil spill in decades, but the disaster has unfolded

## International news (continued)

### THE ISLAMIC STATE'S TOXIC FAREWELL: ENVIRONMENTAL SABOTAGE AND CHRONIC DISEASE

February 4 - The militants detonated 25 oil wells in a desperate and ultimately unsuccessful effort to defend their terrain against Iraqi security forces in 2016 and wreck a prized national asset. For nine months, a thick, blinding cloud of smoke engulfed Qayyarah and the villages that surround it, turning people's skin and sheep's coats black from soot.

The Islamic State footprint on Iraq's environment may be unprecedented and permanent, with a toxic legacy that includes wide-scale cattle deaths, fields that no longer yield edible crops and chronic breathing complications in children and the elderly, doctors and experts said.

Up to 2 million barrels of oil were lost — either burned or spilled — between June 2016 and March 2017, when firefighters put out the final blaze, according to a U.N. report citing Iraq's Oil Ministry. Environmental experts worry that much of the oil has seeped into the groundwater and the nearby - Tigris River — a lifeline for millions of Iraqis stretching more than 1,000 miles to Baghdad and beyond. *Washington Post* [Read the complete article](#)

### NORWAY PLEDGES SUPPORT FOR OGONI CLEAN-UP IN NIGERIA



February 6 - Norway has pledged its support for the implementation of the United Nations Environmental Programme, UNEP, report on Ogoni.

Norwegian Ambassador to Nigeria, Jens Petter Kjemprud said this in an interview with newsmen on his visit to oil impacted sites in Ogoni. The Norwegian Envoy, Ambassador Kjemprud said the world was interested in the ongoing clean up of Ogoni, adding that Norway, as one of the biggest donors of the United Nations, was also committed to the safety of Ogoni People.

*Daily Post Nigeria* [Read more](#)

### DILUTED BITUMEN CONCERNS REACTIVATED BY CONTROVERSY ABOUT THE TRANS-MOUNTAIN PIPELINE

Further to the articles in the last two issues of the ISCO Newsletter – Interested readers are recommended to look at information provided in the 2015 Report of The Royal Society of Canada Expert Panel: The Behaviour and Environmental Impacts of Crude Oil Released into Aqueous Environments November. [http://www.rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/OIW%20Report\\_1.pdf](http://www.rsc-src.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/OIW%20Report_1.pdf) which contains many references to spills of diluted bitumens together with recommendations for further studies.

Also the [2016 Report of the National Academy of Sciences - Committee on the Effects of Diluted Bitumen on the Environment: A Comparative Study](#) – Which recommends that “PHMSA modify its Part 194 regulations so that spill response plans can effectively anticipate and ensure an adequate response to spills of diluted bitumen. For example, PHMSA should:

§ require response plans to describe activities and resources to mitigate impacts of spills of diluted bitumen, including capabilities to detect, contain, and recover submerged **and** sunken oil;

§ consult with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and/or the U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) to obtain their input on whether response plans are adequate for spills of diluted bitumen; and

§ require response plans to describe procedures by which, if a spill occurs, pipeline operators will inform a designated federal or state official of the source and industry-standard name of any spilled diluted bitumen within six hours. If requested, they will provide a sample of the oil and information on the specific composition of the diluent within 24 hours”.

Read more at <http://www8.nationalacademies.org/onpinews/newsitem.aspx?RecordID=21834> and <https://www.nap.edu/read/21834/chapter/1#xviii>

Member of ISCO Council, Dr Merv Fingas, who was also a member of the NAS Committee on Diluted Bitumen, wrote an excellent article which was serialised in the ISCO Newsletter and can now be accessed in its entirety on the ISCO website at [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) within the Technical and Reference Section. *Inter alia*, Dr Fingas explains exactly how spills of diluted bitumen can behave under differing circumstances and gives examples of techniques that can be utilised in response to spills of these materials.

There is also interesting comment in a recent post (February 9, 2018) – “On Dilbit, Oil Spill Response and Political Gamesmanship” <https://achemistinlangley.net/2018/02/09/on-dilbit-oil-spill-response-and-political-gamesmanship/>

Readers are invited to submit further comments to the editor at [info@spillcontrol.org](mailto:info@spillcontrol.org)

## Incident reports (in chronological order)

### MALTA: TANKER WITH FUEL BEACHED BY STORM



February 10 - Bunker tanker HEPHAESTUS with cargo of fuel on board drifted ashore at Qawra coast, northern Malta, after her anchor dragged in stormy weather, during the night Feb 10. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

February 17 - 'No real risk of pollution' as photos show oil slick leaking out of doomed Qawra vessel - Remaining oils should be pumped out from Sunday.

Transport Malta said on Saturday evening that the salvage contractor is deploying oil spill equipment to contain a "minor diesel sheen" that seeped out from the vessel earlier in the day.

The adverse weather conditions are unfortunately making it impossible to salvage

the ship at this point in time, however if the weather forecast remains as is, the contractor will start pumping out the oils remaining on the ship from Sunday. *Times of Malta* [Read more](#)

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### USA: COAST GUARD RESPONDING TO OIL SPILL IN MISSISSIPPI RIVER

February 11 - The Coast Guard is responding to a report of an oil spill in the Mississippi River.

According to the Coast Guard, the spill was reported near mile marker 145 of the lower Mississippi River on Sunday around 12:30 a.m. Coast Guard officials at the New Orleans Sector received a report from the National Response Center that a potential maximum of 4,200 gallons of fuel oil was released into the lower Mississippi River at the Pin Oaks Terminal. *WBRZ2* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group

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### UK: WILTSHIRE - CONCERN FOR WILDLIFE AS OIL SPILL SPOTTED

February 14 - A spokesman for Thames Water said: "We've been working closely with the Environment Agency since Tuesday, following reports of oil entering the River Kennet, near Marlborough. "We quickly set up booms and have used specialist equipment to thoroughly clean the outfall pipe to protect the river. *Gazette & Herald* [Read more](#)

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### RUSSIA: TROUBLE ON ICE: OIL SPILL DETECTED ON FROZEN SIBERIAN RIVER, CLEAN-UP OPERATION UNDERWAY

February 15 - Russia's environmental watchdog together with prosecutors initiated a probe into an oil spill identified on the ice of the Angara River in the Siberian city of Irkutsk, a watchdog source told TASS on Thursday.

"Around 250 square meters of ice have been polluted, an expert group is working at the site together with prosecutors and emergency workers," the source said, adding that "samples have been collected and the results are due to come out on Monday." *Tass* [Read more](#)

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### USA: SOUTH DAKOTA - TRANSCANADA'S KEYSTONE PIPELINE SPILL CLEANUP ON SCHEDULE

February 16 - TransCanada Corp. says cleanup of a massive on-shore oil spill from Keystone Pipeline in South Dakota is halfway finished. Last November, the pipeline leaked 210,000 gallons of crude oil onto agricultural land in Marshall County, one of the largest on-shore oil spills in the U.S. since 2010. *Kansas City Star* [Read more](#)

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### INDIA: OIL SPILL FROM ABANDONED ONGC PIPELINE DAMAGING FARMLANDS IN TAMIL NADU

February 16 - Over 20 acres of farmland in Thiruvavur and Kattur districts of Tamil Nadu have been severely damaged due to oil leaks from an abandoned Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. (ONGC) pipeline. The oil mixed with water from the Pandavai river, flowing through the district, is polluting it and further affecting 110 hectares of neighbouring Samba farmlands that use the river water for irrigation, according to a report by Puthiyathalamurai.

*The News Minute* [Read more](#)

## Incident reports (continued)

### UK: BEDFORDSHIRE - ENVIRONMENT CHIEFS BATTLE TO CONTAIN OIL SPILL IN RIVER LEA AS BOATERS FEAR FOR THEIR HEALTH



Photo: Oil on the River Lea at Homerton Bridge. Picture: Rose Keyes

February 16 - Environment chiefs are struggling to contain a crude oil spillage that has been spreading down the River Lea through Hackney since Sunday.

The thick, black oil is thought to have entered the water at Tottenham and has now drifted as far south as Homerton and as far north as Stonebridge Lock.

The Canal and River Trust has handed over responsibility for the spill to the Environment Agency. "We were alerted to the oil spill on the River Lea on Sunday," said a spokesman, "and had teams out straight away to put in booms [long barriers] to contain the spread and absorbent pads to collect the oil.

*Hackney Gazette* [Read more](#)

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

### CANADA: SOME THOUGHTS ON BC'S PLAN TO RESTRICT INCREASED TRANSPORTATION OF BITUMEN

February 14 - On January 30, 2018, the government of British Columbia announced that it intends to further regulate oil spill response in the province. As part of the announcement, BC said that it may restrict the increase of diluted bitumen transportation through the province "until the behaviour of spilled bitumen can be better understood and there is certainty regarding the ability to adequately mitigate spills".

The government of Alberta reacted swiftly. First, Premier Rachel Notley announced that Alberta was immediately cancelling further talks with BC on the import of electricity from that province, including from the Site C project currently under construction on the Peace River. Following that, the Premier announced a ban on the import of wine from BC. As well, the Premier has publicly called on the Prime Minister to intervene in the dispute, on the basis that BC's actions are unconstitutional because they trench on federal jurisdiction.

What, exactly, is going on and what does it mean for major pipeline projects, in particular the Kinder Morgan TransMountain project approved by the federal government in 2016? *Assessing the Impact* [Read more](#)

Opinions expressed in articles published in the ISCO Newsletter should not be regarded as expressing the views of the organization

### NIGERIA: OIL SPILL: LONDON APPEAL COURT DISMISSES NIGERIANS' SUIT AGAINST SHELL

February 15 - Court of Appeal in London has ruled that two Nigerian communities cannot pursue Royal Dutch Shell in English courts over oil spills in Nigeria's Delta region.

The split decision upheld a High Court ruling in 2017 that was a setback to attempts to hold British multinationals liable at home for their subsidiaries' actions abroad.

The court rejected the appeal from law firm, Leigh Day on behalf of Nigeria's Bille and Ogale communities, and upheld a ruling that English courts do not have jurisdiction over claims against Shell's Nigerian subsidiary, Shell Petroleum Development Company (SPDC).

SPDC is jointly operated with the Nigerian government.

Shell said the court "rightly upheld" the earlier ruling, and said Nigeria's "well-developed justice system" was the correct place for the claims.

Leigh Day said the two Nigerian communities intended to bring the case to Britain's Supreme Court.

"We are hopeful that the Supreme Court will grant permission to appeal and will come to a different view," Leigh Day partner Daniel Leader said. *New Telegraph* [Read more](#)

### UAE: FUJAIRAH OIL SPILL CAUSED BY TANKERS 'ILLEGALLY CLEANING THEIR HOLDS'

February 14 - The oil spill that hit the Fujairah coast on January 26 was the result of tankers illegally cleaning out their holds. That is according to the general manager of Fujairah port, Capt Mousa Murad, who has called for 24-hour monitoring of ships to tackle the issue.

## News reports from around the world (continued)

"The recent spills have been caused by tank cleaning by passing ships," Capt Murad told The National on Tuesday.

"Especially when tankers change from [carrying] one product to another," he said, implying that the spills are made up of residue cleaned from within the tanks.

He said the oil "comes from international waters and could hit Dibba, Fujairah or Khor Fakkan."

Capt Murad said the port is working with the Ministry of Climate Change and Environment and the UAE Armed Forces to address the problem.

Apart from individual states, the Arabian Gulf is monitored by the Marine Emergency Mutual Aid Centre and the Regional Organisation for the Protection of the Marine Environment.

But Capt Murad said it requires even more surveillance. "It requires 24-hour monitoring. This is what happens in Europe and Scandinavia and Japan so you can take an action immediately when someone is polluting the water."

*The National* [Read more](#)

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### UK: INNOVATIVE NEW STUDY TO MONITOR SCOTLAND'S WATER FROM SPACE

February 13 - The Faculty of Natural Sciences is working with the Scottish Environment Protection Agency (SEPA) to investigate the feasibility of introducing earth observation technology to its day-to-day operations in a bid to improve the quality and efficiency of water sampling.

The cutting-edge approach uses the European Space Agency's Sentinel-2 satellite to identify potential contaminants in bodies of water, such as algal concentrations, harmful algal blooms, and mineral and organic matter.

Stirling currently leads the £2.9m GloboLakes project, funded by the Natural Environment Research Council (NERC), which has established the world's first satellite-based global lake surveillance system. However, this new feasibility study will allow scientists to understand how the technology may benefit end users, in this case SEPA, in developing the approach as an operational capability and, in turn, improving their approach to assessing lake water quality.

Dr Claire Neil, a Research Fellow in Biological and Environmental Sciences, is leading the project with SEPA, funded through a NERC Knowledge Exchange Fellowship.

She said: "This is the first step in implementing satellite remote sensing as a regulatory data resource and will produce a step change in the way we monitor quality in the UK." *SEPA* [Read more](#)

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### USA: EMERGENCY RESPONDERS TRAIN TO RESCUE SEA LIONS, OTHER WILDLIFE CAUGHT IN OIL SPILLS



Photo: SeaWorld San Diego workers clean a Northern elephant seal covered with oil at the park's Oiled Wildlife Care in 2015 after the Refugio Beach oil spill. (Courtesy of SeaWorld San Diego)

February 7 - A rescue team from the Pacific Marine Mammal Center reacted instantly when they found a sea lion covered in oil on a San Clemente beach in 2015.

They photographed him, took samples of the oil, assessed his health for a wash and then went to work to remove as much oil as possible.

The sea lion, which they named Slick, was treated for dehydration and began eating, showing signs of improvement. But two weeks later, he developed severe lung congestion and died.

While Slick's case — a sea lion covered in oil — is not typical of most rescues by Laguna's Pacific Marine Mammal Center, officials there say it's critical for them to be trained

what to do in the event of an oil spill.

"This animal was rescued before the big Santa Barbara oil spill," said Krysta Higuchi, referring to the Refugio spill in May 2015, when nearly 143,000 gallons of crude oil dumped into the ocean after a corroded pipeline burst harming hundreds of sea lions, seals and birds. "It goes to show you, even when an event or crisis hasn't occurred, it's important to be properly trained in such instances."

PMMC is one of 41 organizations statewide — including rehabilitation groups, universities and aquariums — that comprise the Oiled Wildlife Care Network. The network was established in 1994 by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's Office of Spill Prevention and Response after spills by the Exxon Valdez in Alaska (about 11 million

## News reports from around the world (continued)

gallons spilled) and the American Trader in Huntington Beach (more than 400,000 gallons). It is administered by the UC Davis Wildlife Health Center in the School of Veterinary Medicine.

Last week, 19 groups in the network participated in an annual drill, a response to a mock spill involving the collision of an oil tanker and barge off the San Diego coast.

The exercise placed participants at the beach doing rescues, into animal transportation and at triage at SeaWorld's Oiled Wildlife Care Center — a 2,600-square-foot building with outdoor pools — where the affected birds and marine mammals were taken for their initial workups. In 2015, SeaWorld treated 62 live sea lions and seals affected by oil spills — the most at the park in a single year, said Jody Westberg, who has worked with stranded animals at SeaWorld for 20 years. Ultimately, 24 were rehabilitated. Sea birds were taken to International Bird Rescue in San Pedro, a network member, for care. *Daily Breeze* [Read more](#)

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### USA: 'FIRE WHIRLS' TO REMEDIATE OIL ON WATER

*Photo: Dave Westerholm at the demonstration of a "fire whirl." Image credit: NOAA.*

February 9 - OR&R Director Dave Westerholm, along with the Emergency Response Division Chief Scott Lundgren and OR&R Senior Scientist Lisa DiPinto, visited the lab at University of Maryland's Clark School of Engineering where Elaine Oran, professor in the Department of Aerospace Engineering presented her lab's research on the use of fire whirls, also commonly known as fire devils, to remediate oil on water.

These fires have higher combustion efficiency and reduced emissions, particularly soot, so are a relatively clean burning technique. Work is underway in her lab to study the potential to create them in the field, characterize the burning rate, quantify the emissions and burn residues, understand the limitations of their use, and evaluate their use as another oil spill remediation tool.

For further information, contact [Lisa.DiPinto@noaa.gov](mailto:Lisa.DiPinto@noaa.gov)

.See also: [Harnessing the Power of 'Fire Whirls' - A Review](#)

Video: [Fire Whirl](#) NOAA OR&R [Read more](#)



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### USA: ALASKA - HOUSE COMMITTEE APPROVES INCREASE IN SPILL PENALTIES

February 14 - Legislation to increase penalties for fuel and oil spills is on the move in the House.

The House Resources Committee sent House Bill 322 to the Finance Committee Feb. 12 for consideration.

The bill, drafted primarily by Resources co-chair Rep. Andy Josephson, D-Anchorage, would double most penalties the Department of Environmental Conservation can levy against spillers of oil, fuels and other hazardous substances including vessel waste water.

Josephson stressed throughout the Resource Committee's series of lengthy meetings on it that the primary impetus behind HB 322 is bringing spill penalty amounts into the 21st century. In some cases the fines haven't been changed since they were implemented in the late 1970s.

"If we don't update the law we're stuck in 1977 forever and the cost of cleanup exceeds the amount the (Spill Prevention and Response Division) takes in," Josephson said before voting to advance the bill Feb. 12.

*Alaska Journal* [Read more](#)

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### USA: DEFUNDING THE CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD IS A BAD IDEA AND LIKELY TO INCREASE CHEMICAL DISASTERS

February 14 - The [U. S. Chemical Safety Board](#) (USCSB) has a critical role to play in surmounting these challenges.

Inspired by its vision of "a nation safe from chemical disasters," the USCSB investigates industrial accidents involving chemicals that are focused on identifying the root cause. Its board members, who have significant experience and expertise in one or more of chemistry, engineering and hazard management, use the information collected from the investigations to make safety recommendations designed to reduce the risk or consequences of accidents. Importantly, the nonpartisan USCSB does not regulate or fund chemical safety. Instead, the Chemical Safety Board acts as an independent, objective party in assessing chemical accidents and recommending better practices.

## News reports from around the world (continued)

Thus it functions analogously to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), which investigates accidents in transportation. The NTSB does not regulate or fund transportation. Nonetheless, its recommendations have greatly improved transportation safety over its 51 years – including from anti-collision technologies in aviation and rail to airbag and brake light improvements on automobiles. These advances have saved lives by identifying ways to make industry better.

The history of the USCSB is shorter – it was started in 1998 – but it has still played an important role in improving safety in the chemical industry. As one example, its [19 recommendations](#) after the West Fertilizer explosion and fire have already led to improvements in hazardous materials training for firefighters across multiple delivery platforms. Likewise, its [26 recommendations](#) after the [explosion at BP America's Texas City refinery](#) in 2005 led to changes in practices sanctioned by key professional organizations and spurred the development of two new performance indicator standards for process safety by the American National Standards Institute. The Chemical Safety Board's [investigation](#) into the Arkema incident is ongoing. *Forbes* [Read the complete article](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

## ISCO news

### MEMBER OF ISCO COUNCIL FOR INDIA, CAPT. D. C. SEKHAR, SPEAKS ABOUT ISCO AT MANGALURU SEMINAR



Following on Disaster Management Seminar at National Institute of Technology Karnataka, Mangaluru on 20th Jan 2018 -

The seminar covered all aspects of disaster management, natural and man-made. Capt. Sekhar spoke in the technical session on day 1. He spoke about oil spill disasters, focusing on the drivers of response capacity building. He spoke about the vulnerability of the coastal city of Mangaluru to oil spills, in view proximity to the high shipping traffic lane between Persian Gulf and Far East.

He spoke about ISCO and how this not-for-profit organisation can connect the incident manager to worldwide resources of equipment and expertise during an emergency. He invited the delegates to subscribe to ISCO membership and described the relevance of the weekly newsletter to the disaster management professionals, helping them to keep themselves updated on various man-made disasters happening in hydrocarbon and logistics industry around the world.

## Science and technology

### STUDY QUANTIFIES DEEP OCEAN DEGRADATION RATES FOR INDIVIDUAL CRUDE OIL COMPOUNDS

January 31 - Scientists analyzed in situ deep-depth water column measurements before and after the Deepwater Horizon well was capped and calculated degradation rate estimates for 49 hydrocarbons (23% of released spill material) and inferred the rates of an additional 5 hydrocarbons. The half-lives of the hydrocarbons ranged from 0.4 to 36.5 days, and the results suggest that microbial biodegradation was the primary degradation process in the deep ocean. These biodegradation rates can help improve oil fate and transport prediction models in the event of future deep-ocean spills. The researchers published their findings in *Marine Pollution Bulletin*: [Calculating in situ degradation rates of hydrocarbon compounds in deep waters of the Gulf of Mexico.](#)

Understanding how different hydrocarbons degrade in the ocean is important for predicting where the oil will go and how long it will last in the environment. However, deep ocean conditions (such as cold temperatures and high pressure) make it difficult to characterize hydrocarbon weathering there. The approach that researchers in this study used circumvents the difficulty of conducting laboratory experiments under extreme conditions to find or select microbial assemblages that perform hydrocarbon biodegradation and are representative of natural deep-sea biota. Study author [Anne Thessen](#) said, "We were able to combine many different data sets to get a 'big picture' look at how long individual chemicals lasted in the Gulf of Mexico." *Gulf of Mexico Research Institute* [Read more](#)

### TOP OIL SPILL EXPERT AVAILABLE TO DISCUSS NEW OIL SPILL DISPERSANT RESEARCH

February 15 - Nancy Kinner, professor of civil and environmental engineering at the University of New Hampshire and an internationally recognized oil spill expert, is available to discuss new post-Deepwater Horizon (DWH) dispersant research and its use in future oil spill responses. She can be reached directly at 603-479-3777 or [nancy.kinner@unh.edu](mailto:nancy.kinner@unh.edu) *EurekAlert* [Read more](#)

## Science and technology (continued)

### PREDICTING THE FATE OF OIL SPILLS IN ICE

February 16 - Global warming and political decisions are opening the Arctic and its frosty seas to increased development. But what will happen if that expansion results in oil spills in the frozen ocean?

Sea ice is more complicated than you might think. It's not solid. It's much more like a sponge, shot through with tiny channels and pores that can contain salt, briny sea water, or air bubbles.

That structure matters in the event of an oil spill. Oil is lighter than seawater so if it is spilled, it can migrate upward, into the tiny channels in the ice, which can trap it and complicate clean up. But the truth is that Arctic sea ice is so complex that it is difficult to know exactly how oil and ice will interact.

Studying it is also difficult because traditional sampling and tests may crush or distort the very structure you're trying to understand, says Sönke Maus, a postdoc at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and a member of an international research group called MOSIDEO (Microscale interaction of oil with sea ice for detection and environmental risk management in sustainable operations).

"We are looking at channels that are one-tenth of a millimeter in diameter," Maus said. "And if we want to know what is happening in the ice, we need a three dimensional image."

Difficult to evaluate an under-ice oil spill

Here's how Maus describes the problem: if crude oil is spilled in the ocean, it normally floats. But if the oil is released or spilled under a lid of sea ice, it will be trapped under the ice.

"Depending on the microstructure of the sea ice, the oil may be trapped or it may keep moving up towards the surface," he said. "So if we want to evaluate the environmental consequences of an under-ice oil spill, we really want to know when and if the oil will come to the surface, how far the ice will drift before the oil surfaces, and how much of the oil will be trapped in the ice when the ice finally melts."

If that doesn't sound difficult enough, there are even more challenging questions that have to be answered to figure out how to deal with an oil spill, Maus says. *The Maritime Executive* [Continue reading this article](#)

*This article appears courtesy of Gemini News / SINTEF, and it may be found in its original form [here](#).*

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

<a href="#">AMSA Aboard Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	December 2017
<a href="#">Bow Wave</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	On request via email
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters	Current issue
<a href="#">CROIERG Enews</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	December 2017
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletter</a>	Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group	October 2017
<a href="#">EUROWA Newsletter</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	February 2018 issue
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module	October 2017
<a href="#">IMO Publishing News</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Winter 2017 issue
<a href="#">Intertanko Weekly News</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	January 2018
<a href="#">JOIFF "The Catalyst"</a>	International news for the oil tanker community	February 16, 2018
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q1 2018 issue
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Sept.-Oct. 2017
<a href="#">NOWPAP Quarterly</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	January 2018 issue
<a href="#">Ocean Orbit</a>	News from the North West Pacific Action Plan	Quarter 2, 2017 issue
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation	August 2017
<a href="#">PEMSEA E-Updates</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	January 2018 issue
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	January 2018
<a href="#">Safe Seas, Clean Seas</a>	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	February 14, 2018
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand	August 2017 issue
<a href="#">Spill Alert</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	December 2017 issue
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	Newsletter from the UK Spill Association	December 2017 issue
<a href="#">Transport Canada Newsletter</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Dec. 16-31, 2017
<a href="#">UK NCEC</a>	News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada	June 2017 issue
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	July 2017 issue
	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	February 1, 2018

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

## Training

### UK: UPCOMING TRAINING COURSES FROM OSRL

[https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/all-courses/?utm\\_source=gconnect&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_content=Training&utm\\_campaign=January Bi-Monthly%20Training%20newsletter](https://www.oilspillresponse.com/training/all-courses/?utm_source=gconnect&utm_medium=email&utm_content=Training&utm_campaign=January_Bi-Monthly%20Training%20newsletter)

## Upcoming events summary 2018

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
For more information click on Title of Event			
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
AUSTRALIA	March 6	<a href="#">2018 National Major Hazard Facilities Forum</a>	Sydney
FINLAND	March 6-8	<a href="#">Oil Spills in Arctic Areas -seminar</a>	Oulu
UK	March 8	<a href="#">Land Condition Symposium 2018</a>	London
UK	March 13-15	<a href="#">2018 INTERSPILL Conference and Exhibition</a>	London
UK	March 13-15	<a href="#">Oceanology International 2018</a>	London
UK	March 14	UK Spill Members' Meeting at Interspill	London
FRANCE	March 16	<a href="#">CEDRE Information Day</a>	Brest
UK	March 20-22	<a href="#">Flood &amp; Coast Exhibition and Conference</a>	Telford
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
KUWAIT	April 3-5	<a href="#">Kuwait Oil Spill Conference</a>	Kuwait
USA	April 4-5	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference</a>	St. Louis, MO
UK	April 11-12	<a href="#">Castle Archdale 2018 Inland Response Training</a>	Enniskillen, N.I.
UK	April 9-13	<a href="#">IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee</a>	London
FINLAND	April 17-20	<a href="#">Arctic Shipping Forum</a>	Helsinki
UK	Apr 30-May 2	<a href="#">April 2018 IOPC Funds meetings</a>	London
NEW ZEALAND	May 1-3	<a href="#">NZ 5th Contaminated Land Conference</a>	Christchurch
CHINA	May 3-5	<a href="#">IO Expo China</a>	Shanghai
USA	May 7-11	<a href="#">13th Int'l Effects of Oil on Wildlife Conference</a>	Baltimore, MD
UK	May 15	<a href="#">IMO 70 High Level Forum</a>	London
BELGIUM	May 16-17	<a href="#">European Environmental Ports Conference 2018</a>	Antwerp
USA	May 22-24	<a href="#">Inland Boom Shop 2018 (Hands-on Training)</a>	Carmi, IL
UK	May 23-24	<a href="#">HAZMAT 2018</a>	Stratford on Avon
CANADA	Postponed	<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
SWEDEN	August 27-30	<a href="#">HELCOM BALEX DELTA 2018 spill recovery ex'cise</a>	Karlskrona Area
UK	Sept. 12-13	<a href="#">Contamination Expo</a>	Birmingham
SINGAPORE	Sept. 25-26	Salvage & Wreck Asia	Singapore
UAE	October 2-4	<a href="#">EI Middle East HSE Forum</a>	Dubai
AUSTRALIA	October 2-4	<a href="#">Ecoforum Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Sydney
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
USA	Nov. 13-15	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition</a>	New Orleans, LA
To request posting of an event of interest to the Spill Response Community please send details to the Editor			

If an active link is not displayed in the table above it may be that the relevant website has not yet been activated.

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