

## 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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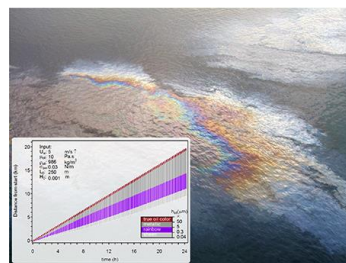


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## ITOPF R&D AWARD 2018 GOES TO EXPERIMENTAL OIL SPILL DATA-SHARING



March 21 – ITOPF has announced that the beneficiary of the 7th annual ITOPF R&D Award is ExpOS'D (Experimental Oil Spill Data-sharing), a research project led by the NHL Stenden University of Applied Sciences (Netherlands), in partnership with the Royal Netherlands Institute for Sea Research, the University of Essex (UK) and the Wageningen University & Research (Netherlands).

The Award will fund a one-year study to investigate the fate and behaviour of an oil slick subject to different dispersion mechanisms. The results will be used to validate and calibrate a dispersion model to allow decision makers to compare the benefits of chemical versus natural dispersion. In addition, the effects on the water column of the different dispersion techniques will be studied to determine whether there is evidence of enhanced aggregation as a precursor to marine oil-snow sedimentation and flocculation accumulation (MOSSFA).

ITOPF's Managing Director, Dr. Karen Purnell, said "This is a very relevant project given the controversy surrounding the use of dispersants during the DEEPWATER HORIZON incident and how this may or may not have contributed to the production of 'marine snow'" (a shower of organic material falling from upper waters to the deep ocean).

Since the ITOPF R&D Award was set up in 2011, £300,000 has already been distributed to six separate R&D projects worldwide on behalf of ITOPF's shipowner Members, Associates and their P&I insurers.

Information on the Award, including updates on previous award winners, can be found on the ITOPF website: <http://www.itopf.com/in-action/r-d-award/> Potential candidates for future awards should not hesitate to contact us if they have any questions regarding the Award by emailing [rdaward@itopf.com](mailto:rdaward@itopf.com)

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Requirements for more emergency response and salvage resources in the Arctic was one of the key discussions at last week's International Salvage Union conference in London. During this event, oil spill response and ship salvage experts called on IMO to drive regulations to ensure there are enough of the right resources in the Arctic.

Briggs Marine operations director Craig English said new legislation and designated response plans were required to provide frameworks for emergency response in the Arctic. There are currently severe limitations to availability of icebreaking towage tugs, lack of port infrastructure and experience in dealing with shipping emergencies.

*Tug Technology & Business* The above is only an excerpt from this article [Read the complete article](#)

## GREAT PACIFIC GARBAGE PATCH MIGHT BE 16 TIMES BIGGER THAN WE THOUGHT

March 23 - As depressing as it may be, science is revealing more and more about the huge amount of plastic we're pouring into the ocean. New research has shown that it's most tangible manifestation, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch (GPGP), is a whole lot larger than we thought, with the bigger pieces forming a substantial piece of the pie.

The study was carried out by the Ocean Cleanup Foundation together with six universities from around the world.

Led by the young Dutch inventor Boyan Slat, the Ocean Cleanup gang has made it its mission to tackle the Great Pacific Garbage Patch, with plans to deploy huge trash-collecting booms in the area later this year.

But the Foundation says earlier attempts to size up the patch have involved a bit of guesswork, with researchers using mesh nets to collect samples only able to cover a relatively small surface area.

Over the past year three years it has taken a more comprehensive approach to surveying the patch, and has now created what it says is a much more complete picture of the problem.

The team deployed 30 vessels in the patch at the same time, all fitted with surface sampling nets, including a mothership that dragged a pair of six-meter wide devices to collect medium to large-sized plastic pieces. The work of the ships was calibrated with data collected by aircraft equipped with advanced sensors, which flew over the patch gathering multispectral imagery and 3D scans of all the trash.

The vessels collected 1.2 million plastic samples and the aircraft scanned more than 300 sq km (115 sq mi) of ocean.

The researchers say that its results indicate the Great Pacific Garbage Patch measures 1.6 million sq km, an area three times the size of continental France. *New Atlas* [Read more and view photo gallery](#)

## International news (continued)

### IMO NEEDS TO ORGANISE ARCTIC SALVAGE CONTINGENCIES

*In an article published in Tug Technology & Business, Editor Martyn Wingrove highlights the need for regulators to ensure there are emergency response tugs in the Arctic.*

March 21 - The grounding of a bulk carrier in the Arctic this month has thrown the spotlight on how poorly prepared shipping is for emergency response in northern seas at a time when traffic in the region is climbing.

Harriet, a 2002-built bulker, grounded off Mudyug Island, White Sea, Russia, on 14 March. This was soon after the 17,665 gt ship left Arkhangelsk port with 20,000 tonnes of coal on board. It was en route to Terneuzen in the Netherlands in ice conditions with an icebreaker in the lead.

According to reports, the icebreaker suffered a blackout and Harriet moved with an ice floe from the shipping fairway to shallow water and grounded on a hard coastline. It was still there as of 21 March while salvors, vessel owner and insurers considered salvage options.

These options include removing the coal cargo to lighten the bulk carrier and expect tides to help refloat the vessel, or to physically remove it from the shore with the help of icebreakers.

That Harriet remained grounded for at least a week highlights the lack of emergency response infrastructure in the Arctic. This is a worry as more ships sail in the region for cargo imports and exports and use the Northern Sea Route across northern Siberia.

## International news (continued)

### 2018 IOPC FUNDS' SHORT COURSE: NOMINATION DEADLINE REMINDER (16 APRIL 2018)

March 22 - The Director would like to remind Member States of the approaching deadline of 16 April 2018 for submitting nominations for the 2018 IOPC Funds' Short Course.

The course programme will cover all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and the international liability and compensation regime in general, and will also include practical exercises which allow participants to study a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process. The course is supported by IMO, INTERTANKO, ICS, the International Group of P&I Associations and ITOFF.

The Short Course is open to a maximum of ten self-funded participants from 1992 Fund Member States. It is therefore vital that all interested parties submit official nominations as soon as possible in order to allow sufficient time for the selected candidates to make their travel and accommodation arrangements.

Further details can be found in Circular: IOPC/2018/Circ.2 <http://www.iopcfunds.org/news-events/detail/item/924>

### CALL FOR SEAFOOD COMPANIES TO ACT ON GHOST GEAR



March 10 - A new report from World Animal Protection calls for the world's 15 biggest seafood companies to do more to stop their lost fishing nets killing millions of fish every year.

An estimated five to 30 percent of the decline in some fish stocks can be attributed to ghost gear- abandoned, lost or discarded fishing gear, which can take up to 600 years to decompose.

Every year more than one hundred thousand whales, dolphins, seals and turtles become entangled in ghost gear, and 45 percent of marine mammals on the Red List of Threatened Species have been impacted. At least

640,000 tons of ghost gear are added to our oceans every year, killing and mutilating millions of other marine animals.

*The Maritime Executive* [Continue reading](#)

## Incident reports (in chronological order)

### USA: CRUDE OIL SPILL AFFECTS FARMLAND IN WESTERN NORTH DAKOTA

March 12 - The North Dakota Department of Health is inspecting the site of a crude oil spill in McKenzie County. Officials say the spill resulted from equipment failure in the treater unit on a well pad. Initial estimates indicate about 6,720 gallons of crude oil were released from the treater unit. *US News* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### UK: NORTHERN IRELAND - BAR OF SOAP SAVES THOUSANDS OF LITRES OF DIESEL SPILLING OUT OF TANKER

March 14 - Writing on the NIFRS West Facebook page, a spokesperson said: "Using an old trick of the trade, a bar of household soap was placed on the rupture, the soap reacted with the diesel to provide a temporary bung to stop leakage until another tanker could be brought in to decant the fuel to. *Belfast Telegraph* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### USA: ALASKA - HUMAN ERROR BLAMED FOR FUEL OIL SPILL AT SAVOONGA TANK FARM

March 15 - An estimated 22,000 gallons of diesel spilled. The spill occurred during transfer of fuel from a storage tank to a 3,000-gallon day tank at the Savoonga Native Store tank farm. *KTUU* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### UK: SCOTLAND - DIESEL SPILLAGE TRIGGERS ALERT IN SPEYSIDE

March 17 - Red diesel escaped from a fuel tank at the Aberlour factory of world-famous Walkers Shortbread and seeped into a burn which runs into the River Spey. Diesel was reportedly visible in the burn, which runs from Loch Spey to the Moray Firth on the coast, five miles west of Buckie. Fast-moving workers put down booms. *Aberdeen Press & Journal* [Read more](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]



## Incident reports (continued)

### USA: ANOTHER TOWING VESSEL CAPSIZES ON LOWER MISSISSIPPI RIVER

March 17 - The U.S. Coast Guard is responding today to a capsized towing vessel on the Lower Mississippi River near Donaldsonville, Louisiana as the waterway continues to experience high water. The incident is the second capsizing involving a towing vessel in less than a week on the Lower Mississippi River. The capsized vessel has approximately 3,000 gallons of diesel fuel onboard. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

### JAPAN: TANKER COLLIDED WITH CARGO SHIP, OIL LEAK

March 20 - Product tanker SHOEI MARU NO.8 was disabled after collision with general cargo ship DONG KUN 7 at night Mar 17, south of Nishimura, southeast Honshu, Pacific. Both ships sustained damages, understood serious. Tanker loaded with some 500 tons of oil product probably breached, leak mentioned. *Maritime Bulletin* [Read more](#)

### PAKISTAN: CREWS CLEANING UP CONTAINERS AT PORT OF KARACHI AFTER SHIP SCRAPES ANOTHER



March 20 - Authorities in Pakistan's southern port of Karachi have launched an effort to retrieve 21 containers knocked overboard after a ship moving into its berth brushed against a stationary vessel, officials said on Tuesday.

"Karachi Port Trust, the regulatory authority has deployed all available resources for surveying the channel and retrieving containers," SAPT said in a statement, adding that it was assisting in the operation. *gCaptain* [Read more](#)

### USA: OFFICIALS SAY VANDALISM CAUSED NORTH CAROLINA OIL SPILL

March 19 - Officials in North Carolina say vandalism is to blame for an oil spill at a closed meat packing plant which has impacted a creek and a swamp. Local media cite a report from the state Division of Environmental Quality which says a valve on the 5,000-gallon storage tank at the former Robersonville Meat Packing Co. in Robersonville. The division said the spill was discovered on Sunday and involves #6 fuel oil used in furnaces. *Kansas City Star* [Read more](#)

### NAMIBIA: SECOND OIL SPILL AT WALVIS LAGOON

March 20 The detection of a second oil spill at Walvis Bay Lagoon has raised fears among coastal residents that the oil spills might be part of a bigger problem that could recur at any given time.

Residents yesterday told New Era the second oil spill at the lagoon should not be treated as an isolated incident and stakeholders such as Namport and the Directorate of Maritime Affairs should intensify their probe to determine the cause of the pollution. They said there is a bigger underlying problem, hence the origin must be investigated as soon as possible before more damage is caused to the environment. The lagoon is one of the major tourist sites at the coast. It has beautiful scenery and a relaxing atmosphere and is home to hundreds of seabirds. *New Era* [Read more](#)

### USA: MORE THAN 40,000 GALLONS OF DIESEL SPILL IN SOUTHWEST INDIANA, CLEANUP UNDERWAY

March 22 - Roughly 1,000 barrels or 42,000 gallons of diesel have spilled from a Marathon Petroleum pipeline in southwest Indiana, and is currently affecting Big Creek near Solitude, Indiana.

Marathon was pushing low-sulfur road diesel from its refinery in Robinson, Ill. south to the company's Ohio River terminal in Mount Vernon, Ind., Turner told IndyStar. The 10-inch pipeline was immediately shut off after the signal per protocol. Company first responders have deployed two booms.

*Indy Star* [Read more](#)



## Incident reports (continued)

### USA: GEORGIA - CHEMICAL SPILL AT GOLD CREEK FOODS CONTAMINATES DAWSONVILLE STREAM

March 23 - The Georgia Department of Natural Resources is currently investigating a hazardous contamination of Flat Creek in Dawsonville that killed a significant amount of animal life. The source of the contamination was a 55-gallon tank of ferric chloride that burst at the processing plant, which is located on Hwy. 9 N.

Ferric chloride is a chemical used in sewage treatment and water purification. Environmental Management Services had tested the creek water earlier in the week and that it registered at a pH of six and a half. *Dawson County News*  
[Read more](#)

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

### CHINA PROBES SANCHI OIL TANKER COLLISION AND MAY TRY TO SALVAGE SUNKEN SHIP

March 22 - China has begun an investigation into the Sanchi oil tanker collision and authorities are looking into the feasibility of salvaging the wrecked ship in a bid to minimise contamination from the spill.

But a maritime official on Friday warned that retrieving the wreckage from a depth of 115 metres at the bottom of the East China Sea – where the Iranian tanker exploded and sank – could cause another explosion.

“The best solution is to organise salvaging of the sunken ship,” Zhi Guanglu, deputy director of the China Maritime Search and Rescue Centre, told reporters. “But the vessel is huge and it could turn out to be an extremely daunting task.” *South China Morning Post* [Continue reading](#)

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### COLOMBIA: ENVIRONMENTAL MINISTRY OPENS OIL SPILL INVESTIGATION

March 22 - Colombia's National Agency of Environmental Licenses (ANLA) is launching an investigation into the devastating March 2 oil spill which sent toxic waste 15 kilometers downstream in Barrancabermeja, it has been reported.

Toxic waste flowed dangerously close to the Sogamoso River after about 22 barrels of oil spilled into the Lizama stream outside the village of La Fortuna. prompting the involvement of federal authorities.

The probe will be launched in the department of Santander, Environmental Minister Luis Gilberto Murillo said Wednesday: "The investigations will obviously tell us what happened and if we find an Ecopetrol error there will be a sanction."

Ecopetrol has joined the clean-up initiative, constructing 13 control points and 56 barriers along two separate ravines, as well as containment dikes. Ecopetrol President Felipe Bayon said the firm believes the nation's March 1 earthquakes could be responsible for the spill. *Telesur TV* [Read more](#)

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### FRANCE: CAPSIZED FREIGHTER TOWED INTO PORT OF LE HAVRE



*Image courtesy Premar Manche*

March 22 - On Thursday afternoon, the rescue tug Abeille Liberte towed the upturned hull of the freighter Britannica Hav into the port of Le Havre and brought the wreck alongside at the Quai d'Osaka, a disused container terminal.

According to AIS data, the Liberte departed Le Havre after delivering her tow. Local outlet Paris-Normandie reports that naval divers are now cutting off the Britannica's masts so that they do not strike the bottom at low tide - a delicate operation due to the unknown stability of the upturned hull.

At the time of the capsizing, the Britannica Hav had a cargo of 2,000 tonnes of steel and 48 tonnes of fuel on board. The Maritime Prefecture Manche - Mer du Nord reported that the towing operation resulted in no pollution.

The crew of the Liberté proposed to salvage the Britannica by passing a tow line through her bow thruster tunnel, and they successfully carried out this evolution within several hours.

*The Maritime Executive* [Read more, see more photos and watch video](#)

## News reports from around the world (continued)

### INDIA: BENGALUREAN DEVELOPS DEVICE TO CONVERT WAVE ENERGY TO ELECTRICITY



March 24 - A Bengaluru-based former Captain with the Merchant Navy and an innovator has designed a device to harness energy from oceanic waves at a reasonable price. Captain D C Sekhar's device converts energy from waves into electricity. He started to build a prototype in December 2016, and a grant for his project was approved in February 2017 by the Department of Science and Industrial Research (DSIR) through its PRISM (Promoting Innovations in Individuals, Start ups and MSMEs) scheme. Drawing from his 26 years of experience with the Merchant Navy, he fabricated the prototype at Sadahalli (near Devanahalli), Bengaluru, and tested it at IIT-Madras, where artificial waves were created in a pool. The results were positive. *The New Indian Express*

[Continue reading](#)

Editor – The above has nothing to do with spill response but Capt. Sekhar is the Member of ISCO Council for India and managing director of ISCO Corporate Member, AlphaMERS. Capt. Sekhar is renowned for several innovative product development projects including Floating trash barriers, Oil spill response in strong currents, Silt control in water streams, Floating security barriers, and Protection of water intakes. His company has won several innovation awards. <http://www.alphamers.com/>

### SOUTH KOREA: DELEGATION MAKES A VISIT TO IOPC FUNDS

March 16 - The Director was delighted to welcome representatives from the Republic of Korea to the Funds' offices on 16 March 2018, including the Director of the Coast Guard, Mr Lee Changeung, the Executive Director of the Korea Marine Environment Management Corporation (KOEM), Mr Shin Jongmyung and a representative of NOWPAP-MERRAC, Mr Lee Siyeon.

During the visit, matters related to the Hebei Spirit, as well as to future cooperation between the IOPC Funds and the Coast Guard and the IOPC Funds and KOEM were discussed. <http://www.iopcfunds.org/news-events/detail/item/916/>



### NEW ZEALAND: SAFETY CASES ARE DUE BY 4 APRIL

March 13 - Operators of designated upper tier major hazard facilities must prepare, revise and submit safety cases by 4 April.

A safety case is a written demonstration that you have the ability and means to control major incident hazards effectively. It will provide assurance to workers, emergency services, the community, and others that the potential for major incidents has been assessed and that effective and suitable controls are, or will be, in place.

WorkSafe [Get more information](#) [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

### TURKEY: IMO SECRETARY-GENERAL KITACK LIM SPOKE AT INTERNATIONAL SHIPPING SUMMIT IN ISTANBUL

March 20 - Sustainable use of the oceans, maritime trade, and the digital revolution were some of the issues addressed by IMO Secretary-General Kitack Lim at the International Shipping Summit in Istanbul, Turkey (17 March).

In his opening address to maritime industry and government representatives from around the world, Secretary-General Lim spoke about how IMO, in its leadership role as the global regulator of shipping, is and will be addressing a number of challenges facing the shipping industry.

On the marine environment, he said that to be sustainable, human activities have to be balanced with the oceans' capacity to remain healthy and diverse in the long term – and that a major part of IMO's role is to ensure that shipping continues to make its contribution to the global economy without upsetting that delicate balance.

Port News [Read more](#)

### UAE: DUBAI - MAERSK HONAM SEEKS REFUGE AT PORT OF JEBEL ALI

March 22 - On Wednesday, 2M alliance partner MSC confirmed that the fire-damaged boxship Maersk Honam will be towed to the port of Jebel Ali, UAE, where her cargo will be offloaded. The transit and related operations are likely to take two weeks, and the exact ETA is not yet confirmed.

Maersk has confirmed that the vessel was carrying dangerous goods, but it says that it is too soon to know whether these contributed to the outbreak of the fire. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

## News reports from around the world (continued)

### UK: MICROPLASTIC POLLUTION IN OCEANS IS FAR WORSE THAN FEARED, SAY SCIENTISTS

March 12 - The number of tiny plastic pieces polluting the world's oceans is vastly greater than thought, new research indicates.

The work reveals the highest microplastic pollution yet discovered anywhere in the world in a river near Manchester in the UK. It also shows that the major floods in the area in 2015-16 flushed more than 40bn pieces of microplastic into the sea.

The River Tame, near Manchester, has the highest microplastic pollution yet discovered anywhere in the world.

“Given their [pervasive](#) and persistent nature, microplastics have become a global environmental concern and a potential risk to human populations,” said Rachel Hurley from the University of Manchester and colleagues in their report, [published in Nature Geoscience](#). *The Guardian* [Read more](#)

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### USA: NOAA OR&R - JUNE TRAINING REGISTRATION OPEN FOR OIL AND CHEMICAL SPILL RESPONDERS

March 21 - NOAA's Office of Response and Restoration is now accepting applications for two upcoming summer training classes for spill responders.

For those who respond or prepare for spills of oil products, our next available Science of Oil Spills (SOS) class will be held June 11-15, 2018 in Seattle, Washington.

For those responding or preparing for chemical releases, we are offering a Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) class June 25-28, 2018 in Mobile, Alabama. *NOAA OR&R* [More information](#)

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### USA: N.H. - MAINE OIL SPILL DRILL TESTS CRISIS RESPONSE IN PORTSMOUTH

March 22 - More than 100 responders from dozens of state, federal and local agencies were busy in Portsmouth Thursday, practicing their response to a hypothetical oil spill. *NHPR* [Read more](#)

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### USA: AT DETROIT RIVER SITE, DEQ CONTINUES TO DIG UP OLD CHRYSLER PLANT'S BURIED, POLLUTED PAST

March 22 - Crumbling barrels of paint waste and solvents containing potentially toxic chemicals have been uncovered in the dirt and mud along the Detroit River during excavation for the new Detroit River International Wildlife Refuge visitor center in Trenton.

The pollution is a vestige of Chrysler Corp.'s Trenton Chemical plant that operated at the site on West Jefferson Avenue from 1946 to 1990 — and the barrels were found in areas Chrysler agreed to clean up before the property was sold to Wayne County for a park and nature preserve in 2002, Michigan Department of Environmental Quality officials said. *Detroit Free Press* [Read more and watch video](#)

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### USA: USACE LOCATES SUNKEN TOWBOAT NEAR PORT OF NEW ORLEANS

March 22 - The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers reported Wednesday that it has located the wreck of the 65-foot pushboat Natalie Jean, the towboat that sank on the Mississippi near Chalmette last week. The Corps is not yet releasing the exact location of the vessel.

Two crewmembers, Malon Dawsey and Karl Prince, remain missing. The Coast Guard called off the SAR effort last week after searching 100 square nautical miles over the course of two days. The Natalie Jean had about 600 gallons of diesel fuel on board, but no signs of a spill have been reported. *The Maritime Executive* [Read more](#)

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### USA: WASHINGTON - GOV. JAY INSLEE SIGNS BILL TO BOOST OIL SAFETY MEASURES

March 23 - Washington Gov. Jay Inslee has signed a measure that aims to boost safety around the transportation of oil in the state.

The new law, signed Friday, extends the state's oil barrel tax to pipelines. That tax pays for spill response and prevention measures and currently applies to oil received by train or vessels.

The measure also directs state regulators to address the risks of certain types of oil that sink or submerge as well as to study ways to reduce oil risks in Puget Sound. The new law also sets up an annual forum for the state to work with Canadian agencies on issues related to reducing oil spill risk and navigational safety. *Kansas City Star* [Read more](#)

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## People in the news

### UK: MCA CEO SIR ALAN MASSEY RETIRING AFTER FOUR-DECADE MARITIME CAREER



March 16 - After eight years at the helm, the Chief Executive of the Maritime & Coastguard Agency (MCA) Sir Alan Massey has announced his intention of retiring from the role towards the end of 2018 and is looking forward to taking on new challenges.

Sir Alan joined the MCA in July 2010 after a 33-year career with the Royal Navy, where he left as Second Sea Lord.

During his eight-year tenure, Sir Alan has successfully steered the MCA through changes to modernise Her Majesty's Coastguard, new arrangements for the UK's search and rescue helicopter capability, a transformed survey and inspection capability and a more commercially-responsive approach to how the UK Ship Register operates. Sir Alan will continue his role until late 2018, to allow the appointment process for a successor to take place. *MCA* [Read more](#)

## Contributed article

### ISCO SECRETARY, MATTHEW SOMMERVILLE, AT THE INTERSPILL EXHIBITION

Interspill like all such conferences seeks to draw a wide audience from hands on practitioners, equipment manufacturers, service providers and on through to the lobbying and support organisations and the theoretical researchers. While some like myself found ourselves spill between conference papers, science workshop industry seminar and the exhibit hall it must be admitted that most attendees fall into the conference or exhibition camps.

Yes, those from the conference camp might visit the exhibition for lunch, coffee or exclusive social event invites but they don't necessarily spend quality or try to find out what's new.

Likewise those with the exhibition camp might attend a specific paper or two on a subject of interest but they don't always stay and listen to the full range of what's presented and with time limited presentations don't always get the opportunity to ask the really practical questions they might have.

At Interspill a serious attempt was made to provide a middle ground with CEDRE Science Workshops and the UK Spill, Spill Industry Seminar where we saw a serious effort to bring science to operations people and operational knowledge to the theorist. However, while content of these presentations is very good, they are still run as a sideshow rather than a main event which they deserve to be.

While it's difficult to comment on the presentations made at Interspill (always happy to include such items if the authors want to submit them) we can perhaps usefully talk about some of the new innovations and evolutions which were on display.

But where to start without offending our manufacturing colleagues. Well for me one of the photos that caught my eye on the interspill post-conference photo page (<https://www.flickr.com/photos>) was that of a visitor to the Selwood stand. To me it appears the delegate appears to be eyeing up and getting the full story on one of the most common pieces of spill response equipment - the Selwood PD 75 (Spate Pump). It's a piece of equipment the manufacturer sells directly but is such a flexible piece of equipment that it is also sold by many oil spill equipment manufacturers and/or they utilise the positive displacement pump head and power packs for their own range of skimmers. In addition to widespread use in our industry the pump also reflects the evolutionary change which continues. The still reliable Lister engine which has powered the pump has gave way to the lighter, easier starting Yanmar (Who has not fallen fowl of a kicking starting handle on a cold morning and has ingrained the need to keep thumbs in the right place).



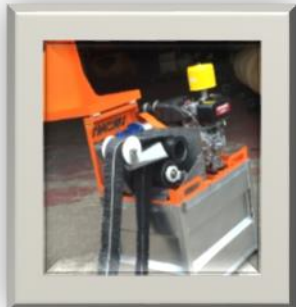
But that's not the limit of the evolution that's contained in this example. It displays in its oil spill specification Spark Arrestors, Chalwyn Valve, and Camlock Connectors (yes some of us remember life before the aluminium casting revolution and Selclamps) and is packaged to ensure the suction strainer stays with the pump. None of which was standard in the original but it is now what we would all expect to see.

Not much to look at but the 2.5 Kw 1450 RPM engine and a 30 M<sup>3</sup>/hr pump that can be stripped and repaired in the field with one spanner and screwdriver are responsible for a lot of recovered oil. So how many of you took time to pick up the new brochure?





Simplicity leads me onto another evolutionary item on display that caught my eye. The Vikoma and OPEC collaboration **VikoMop** which has repackaged the long-standing OPEC mop design to meet the needs of a new market. The OPEC mop was always an interesting piece of engineering requiring few tools to strip and incorporating back in the 1970's, before safety hats, gloves or a ban on smoking, a safe method of installing the mop. Most were built from stainless steel and have and do still stand the test of time in fixed 24/7 applications in some inhospitable industrial locations around the globe. The new version is both more compact and lighter but offers the same reliability with increased versatility.



One final product for this week. The **Moskito** from **Miko** like those above shows us an evolution which has seen equipment become lighter, smaller and more flexible. While there are a lot of products using the Moskito name and it may not conjure up a picture of something you want around this sub-sea hot tapping machine is likely to be something you won't want to swat away during an incident. In the past **Framo** starting in the 1990 provided us with some technologically advanced solutions for removal of cargo from sunken wrecks in areas where divers could not operate in the form of the Remote Off-Loading System. Like the current generation of drones it was best operated by the designers. Coupled to the Trans-Rec skimmer system it had the ability to position itself, drill, tap, bolt and fix valve to control the removal of oil from a sunken wrecks. It was successfully employed in over 20 operations. In recent years Framo has developed modernised versions, the **ROLS X0** incorporating new technology in a more compact form and able to operate in more demanding locations.

The **Miro Moskito** does not have the same capabilities but does provide a hot tapping capability to assist in those operations where divers have persisted for years with adapted hand tools to remove oil from smaller vessels or shallower depths. While in the past leaving oil on board for slow natural distribution in the future was acceptable increasingly we now see demands to remove the risk and potential source immediately.



So there was some new things to look at in the Interspill exhibition and I hope you did take the time to have a proper look at what was on offer. If not your next chance will be in Perth, Australia and Spillcon 2019

## Company news from ISCO members

### ARDENT, VERNICOS AND EPE COMBINE FORCES TO PROVIDE EMERGENCY RESPONSE SERVICES IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN.



March 23 - The three companies signed a cooperation agreement on 20th March 2018 to closely work together on future opportunities and at the same time retain their own corporate identities.

Ardent, announces the formation of a partnership with Vernicos Tugs and Environmental Protection Engineering S.A. (EPE). This cooperation strategically combines one of the world's leading salvage, emergency response and wreck removal company with the largest provider of tugs and the largest pollution control expert in the region. The combined experience and abilities allow the Ardent-Vernicos-EPE team to handle casualties of all types and sizes, with the shortest response time frames – 24/7, 365 days a year – leading to prompt actions towards successful results.

“Ardent brings to the partnership experience in the world's most technically challenging salvage and wreck removal jobs in history, along with a cache of specialized, proprietary equipment – which will now be strategically stored at Vernicos' various depots, including Perama,” said Dimitris Theodorou Ardent's Director EMEA.

“The Alliance allows us to be the most effective provider of marine emergency response services in the region, providing an integrated network of floating assets as well as specialized equipment. It is a joint effort to pro-actively protect our seas by providing emergency response in the Eastern Mediterranean and surrounding regions,” said Jean Benzonana, Vernicos Tugs Chief Executive Officer.

“The synergies between the three companies will guarantee providing timely solutions in responding to marine incidents in the area of Eastern Mediterranean, and safeguarding the environment at the same time”, said Mr. Vasilis Mamaloukas, EPE Director.

Vernicos Tugs and Salvage, is one of the oldest tug and salvage companies in Greece with 150 years of experience, not only has a wealth of salvage experience, but also owns through its consortiums the largest fleet of tugboats in the Eastern Mediterranean. More information on Vernicos Salvage and Towage can be found on [www.vernicostugs.gr](http://www.vernicostugs.gr)

Environmental Protection Engineering S.A. (EPE) was established in Piraeus in 1977, and has successfully responded to more than two thousand pollution incidents on the last four decades with state-of-the-art equipment, specialized vessels, and highly trained and experienced personnel. More information on Environmental Protection Engineering S.A. (EPE) can be found on [www.epe.gr](http://www.epe.gr) *Press Release from Ardent* [Read more](#)

**Environmental Protection Engineering S.A. (EPE) is a Corporate Member of ISCO**

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

[AMSA Aboard Newsletter from George Holliday](#)  
[Bow Wave](#)  
[Cedre Newsletter](#)  
[CROIERG Enews](#)  
[EMSA Newsletter](#)  
[EUROWA Newsletter](#)  
[IMO News Magazine](#)  
[IMO Publishing News](#)  
[Intertanko Weekly News](#)  
[JOIFF “The Catalyst”](#)  
[Maritime Executive Magazine](#)  
[MOIG Newsletter](#)  
[NOWPAP Quarterly](#)  
[Ocean Orbit](#)  
[OCIMF Newsletter](#)  
[PEMSEA E-Updates](#)  
[Pollution Online Newsletter](#)  
[Safe Seas, Clean Seas](#)  
[Salvage World](#)  
[Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter](#)  
[Spill Alert](#)  
[Technology Innovation News Survey](#)  
[Transport Canada Newsletter](#)  
[USA EPA Tech Direct](#)

News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority  
News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday  
Sam Ignarski's Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters  
News from Cedre in Brittany, France  
Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group  
News from the European Maritime Safety Agency  
European Oiled Wildlife Response Assistance Module  
News from the International Maritime Organization  
New and forthcoming IMO publications  
International news for the oil tanker community  
Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management  
Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community  
News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group  
News from the North West Pacific Action Plan  
Newsletter from the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation  
News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum  
Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas  
News for pollution prevention & control professionals  
Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand  
Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union  
Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm  
Newsletter from the UK Spill Association  
News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination  
News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada  
Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater

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On request via email  
Current issue  
February 2018  
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January 2018  
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August 2017 issue  
Current & past issues  
December 2017 issue  
December 2017 issue  
Feb 1-15, 2018  
June 2017 issue  
March 1, 2018

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

## AT A GLANCE – SELECTED RESPONSE RELATED EVENTS DURING APRIL AND MAY

*To get more detailed info on events mentioned below, use the links provided in the Upcoming Events Summary on the next page. If we omitted to include an event of interest to our community, please let us know.*

### **KUWAIT: 3RD OIL SPILL CONFERENCE**

April 3-5. Professionals will highlight and discuss sound sciences, practical innovations and best practices across the spectrum of prevention, preparedness, response and restoration. The conference will showcase case studies on some of the world's worst oil spills, and their associated risks faced by Governments, Industry, Users and the Public, it is an ideal environment to exchange ideas and learn lessons from actual spill responses and research around the world.

### **USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS CONFERENCE**

April 4-5. The CLEAN WATERWAYS Advisory Committee has programmed fourteen conference sessions that cover some of the most pressing topics while remaining unique to rivers. With that in mind the program will touch on the patchwork of State and Federal regulations, hazardous materials and unconventional oil transportation, and working in a challenging operating environment.

### **UK: NORTHERN IRELAND – CASTLE ARCHDALE INLAND RESPONSE TRAINING**

April 11-12. The programme includes dealing with domestic heating oil spills and in particular oil which has migrated below house foundations.

### **UK: IMO MARINE ENVIRONMENT PROTECTION COMMITTEE MEETING**

April 9-13. The agenda includes Implementation of the OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol and relevant Conference resolutions; Technical co-operation activities for the protection of the marine environment.

### **UK: IMO & IOPC FUNDS WORKSHOP ON THE HNS CONVENTION**

April 26-27. The IMO and IOPC Funds are jointly organising a two-day workshop on the 2010 HNS Convention which will take place at the IMO Headquarters. The workshop will focus on practical issues raised by States implementing the 2010 HNS Convention

### **CHINA: IE EXPO ENVIRONMENTAL CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION**

May 3-5. IE expo China 2018 offers an effective business and networking platform for Chinese and international professionals in the environmental sector and is accompanied by first-class technical-scientific conference program.

### **EQUATORIAL GUINEA: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING**

May 7-10. The main objective is to develop a national system to prevent, prepare for and respond to marine oil spills.

### **USA: 13<sup>th</sup> INTERNATIONAL EFFECTS OF OIL ON WILDLIFE CONFERENCE**

May 7-11. Focus is on the planning, response, rehabilitation, and research aspects of oil spills and their impacts to wildlife species. Organised by [Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research](#) and the [Oiled Wildlife Care Network](#).

### **BELGIUM: EUROPEAN ENVIRONMENTAL PORTS CONFERENCE 2018**

May 16-17. The two-day event features informative presentations on the very latest challenges, solutions and developments in reducing emissions, pollution and energy consumption, as well as engaging discussion around the exciting potential of co-operation and symbiosis.

### **USA: INLAND BOOM SHOP 2018 (CLASSROOM AND HANDS-ON TRAINING)**

May 22-24. The three-day will begin with a full day of classroom orientation followed by two days of rigorous booming on the Wabash River in New Harmony, Indiana. Qualifies as an 8 hour Hazwoper Refresher Course.

### **UK: HAZMAT CONFERENCE 2018**

May 23-24. Hazmat is an essential opportunity for Hazmat specialists to share experiences and knowledge with like-minded professionals working in the hazmat and chemical incident industry. The event draws upon the knowledge and experience of a range of hazmat professionals and industry leaders, as well as that of NCEC's own emergency responders & experts.

### **NAMIBIA: SUB-REGIONAL WORKSHOP ON SHORELINE RESPONSE TO OIL SPILLS**

May 29-June 1. The workshop will provide delegates with: essential knowledge and skills to develop strategy and policy to implement an effective shoreline response (clean-up and assessment) within their respective countries; thorough understanding of the common challenges and complexities in implementing an effective shoreline response through undertaking a table-top exercise and field trip; and networking opportunities between delegates from the region to enhance regional cooperation and to stimulate a cooperative approach to oil spill preparedness and response.



## Upcoming events summary

COUNTRY	2018	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
<b>For more information click on Title of Event</b>			
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.
LITHUANIA	April 10-12	<a href="#">HELCOM Response Working Group Meeting</a>	Klaipeda
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	April 26-27	<a href="#">IMO &amp; IOPC Funds w'shop on the HNS Convention</a>	London
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="#">Environmental Technology Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	Shanghai
EQUATORIAL GUINEA	May 7-10	<a href="#">National workshop on contingency planning</a>	Malabo
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
NAMIBIA	May 29 – June 1	<a href="#">Sub-regional w'shop shoreline response to oil spills</a>	Namibia
USA	June 11-15	<a href="#">NOAA Science of Oil Spills (SOS) Classes</a>	Seattle WA
ITALY	June 20-22	<a href="#">INTERTANKO Annual Event 2018</a>	Rome
USA	June 19	<a href="#">Pacific States/British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force Annual Meeting</a>	Portland OR
USA	June 19-21	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Conference and Exhibition</a>	Portland, OR
USA	June 25-28	<a href="#">NOAA Science of Chemical Releases (SOCR) class</a>	Mobile AL
UK	June 25-28	<a href="#">Int'l Harbourmasters Assoc. Congress &amp; Exhibition</a>	London
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="#">9th Maritime Salvage &amp; Casualty Response</a>	London
UK	Sept. 12-13	<a href="#">Flood Expo</a>	Birmingham
UK	Sept. 12-13	<a href="#">Spill Response Expo</a>	Birmingham
SINGAPORE	Sept. 25-26	<a href="#">Salvage &amp; Wreck Asia</a>	Singapore
CANADA	October 2-4	<a href="#">AMOP Tech. Seminar on Env. Contam'n and Response</a>	Victoria, BC
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			

### JUST RECEIVED - CLEAN WATERWAYS – ANNOUNCEMENT FROM ORGANISER

Final registration discounts for CLEAN WATERWAYS expire on March 30th and the conference is filling up fast! With limited seats remaining, now is the time to secure your spot at CLEAN WATERWAYS! If you register with VIP code ISCO you will receive an additional \$50 off! <http://2018.cleanwaterwaysevent.org/media-partner-isco/> Just announced: CLEAN WATERWAYS is pleased to have a local St. Louis welcome from Colonel Bryan K. Sizemore, District Engineer & Commander, U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, and Captain Scott Stoermer, Captain of the Port, U.S. Coast Guard Sector Upper Mississippi River as well as a Keynote Address from Rear Admiral Paul F. Thomas, Commander, U.S. Coast Guard District. For more information visit [www.cleanwaterways.org](http://www.cleanwaterways.org)

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