

ISCO & THE ISCO NEWSLETTER

The International Spill Control Organization, a not-for profit organization 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 Intergovernmental, Governmental, NGO's and interested groups and individuals

ISCO holds consultative status at the International Maritime Organisation and observer Status at International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS

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RECOMMENDATIONS FOR REGIONAL ACTION TO COMBAT MARINE PLASTIC POLLUTION

Millions of tons of plastic waste find their way into the ocean every year. A team of researchers from the Institute for Advanced Sustainability Studies (IASS) in Potsdam has investigated the role of regional ocean governance in the fight against marine plastic pollution, highlighting why regional marine governance should be further strengthened as negotiations for a new global agreement continue.

In recent years, images of whales and sea turtles starving to death after ingesting plastic waste or becoming entangled in so-called ghost nets have led to a growing awareness of the crisis of marine plastic pollution. The total number of plastic bags, fishing equipment, disposable bottles and other plastic items currently in the ocean is unknown. However, studies show that plastic waste has become ubiquitous, from the Arctic to the Antarctic, from the surface to the bottom of the deep sea. It comes in all shapes and sizes—from vast fishing nets to tiny particles of microplastic.

Various agreements have been reached at the national, regional and global levels to tackle the issue. However, these measures have failed to effectively address the challenges around marine plastic pollution, write the authors of the new report published by the IASS—"Stronger together: The role of regional instruments in strengthening global governance of marine plastic pollution." More comprehensive measures and systemic changes are urgently needed to reduce and prevent marine plastic pollution. The issue is all the more urgent as the amount of plastic manufactured globally is expected to double in the next ten to fifteen years.

As negotiations for a global agreement continue, the team of authors recommends that regional cooperation to prevent marine plastic pollution be strengthened further—not least because these negotiations could well continue for several years. "We can't wait that long and simply accept the status quo—this problem is too big and too urgent," says Sebastian Unger, Research Group Leader at the IASS. Phys Org / [Read more](#) "Strengthening global governance of marine plastic pollution" [Read the report](#)

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INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

MAKING PEACE WITH NATURE AND DELIVERING ON THE SDGS IN THE MEDITERRANEAN

This event, which is organized within the framework of the Geneva Environment Network, will take place online on 8 April at 09:30 CEST.

Two recent reports sponsored by the UNEP Mediterranean Action Plan – Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP) system — the [State of the Environment and Development in the Mediterranean \(SoED\)](#), produced by Plan Bleu, and the [First Mediterranean Assessment Report \(MAR 1\)](#) released by the network of [Mediterranean Experts on Climate and environmental Change \(MedECC\)](#) — shed new light on the hefty toll that the global triple crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution is taking on Mediterranean ecosystems.

According to the 'twin reports', the Mediterranean region is not on track to achieve the SDGs, confirming the urgency of a [green renaissance in the post-COVID era](#). But a recent analysis of spending by the world's leading economies, led by the University of Oxford and UNEP, concluded that only 18% of announced recovery spending can be considered green.

The panel discussion, which includes a Q&A session, will offer insights into the levers of transformative change that decision-makers can use to make peace with nature in the Mediterranean. As it prepares for the 22nd Meeting of the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention (COP 22) (December 2021, Antalya, Turkey), UNEP/MAP will present examples of its work on setting the green renaissance in motion.

UNEP / [Read more](#)

ASEANO PLASTIC POLLUTION PROJECT HOLDS 1ST PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP MEETING

The ASEAN-Norway Cooperation Project on Local Capacity Building for Reducing Plastic Pollution in the ASEAN Region (ASEANO Project) virtually held its first Project Advisory Group (PAG) meeting on 19 March 2021 to discuss the composition, roles, and responsibilities of PAG members in the implementation of the project. The meeting was jointly organized by the Cavite Provincial Government- Environment and Natural Resources Office (PG-ENRO) and the PEMSEA Resource Facility (PRF), with both serving as Secretariat to the meeting. Representatives from the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), as well as officers from selected provincial government offices, were also in attendance. PEMSEA / [Read more](#)

NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

CANADA: GOVERNMENT TAKES FURTHER ACTION TO ADDRESS MARINE POLLUTION FROM THE MV SCHIEDYK SHIPWRECK IN BRITISH COLUMBIA

March 29 - When the Government of Canada launched the Oceans Protection Plan, a primary objective was to address wrecked, abandoned and hazardous vessels across Canada. Three years later, the Government remains committed to protecting Canada's oceans and waterways by removing these vessels in a safe and environmentally-responsible way.

Today, the Honourable Bernadette Jordan, Minister of Fisheries, Oceans and the Canadian Coast Guard, announced the awarding of a \$7-million contract to Resolve Marine Group of Fort Lauderdale, Florida to do a technical assessment of the MV Schiedyk. The more than 50-year old shipwreck near Bligh Island off the west coast of Vancouver Island was confirmed to be the source of several reports of sheen observed in the Zuciarie Channel and Nootka Sound in the fall of 2020. Canadian Coast Guard / [Read more](#)

CANADA: B.C. RELYING ON THE FEDERAL SHORELINE PROTECTIONS FOR TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE IT PREVIOUSLY CALLED INADEQUATE

March 30 - The B.C. government is not taking advantage of a crucial opportunity to protect the coast from a potential oil spill, according to critics of the province's [recent report](#) regarding a pending environmental certificate for the \$12.6 billion [Trans Mountain pipeline expansion project](#). As B.C.'s environment and energy ministers consider issuing a certificate for Trans Mountain [related to marine shipping](#), the province has an opportunity to require more detailed information on oil spill response capacities along the coast from the company. The Narwhal / [Read more](#)

GUYANA: CDC EQUIPS COAST GUARD TO BATTLE OIL SPILLS; RECOMMENDS NEEDS ASSESSMENT



In the picture: Lieutenant Colonel Michael Shahoud, Commanding Officer of the Coast Guard and the Director-General of the Civil Defence Commission, Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig displaying signed copies of a handover certificate for the oil-spill response equipment.

April 1 - The Civil Defence Commission (CDC) has geared up the Guyana Defence Force (GDF) Coast Guard with GYD\$50 million worth of equipment to respond to oil spills, and has urged that military corps to ascertain other needs in the areas of emergency response.

The CDC said some of the essential requirements handed over on Wednesday include 24,000 feet of containment booms, biological and chemical dispersants, hot pressure washer and personal protective equipment. Demerara Waves / [Read more](#)

ISRAEL: 21 YEARS LATE, ENVIRONMENT MINISTRY ISSUES DRAFT BILL ON OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS

Photo: Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Environmental Protection Minister Gila Gamliel walk on Ashdod beach on February 21, 2021, after an offshore tar spill caused damage along Israel's Mediterranean coast (Kobi Gideon/GPO)

March 29 - Detailed memorandum, which spells out responsibilities of all bodies involved as well as fines for non-compliance, open for public comment until April 28 - The document comes 21 years after the government agreed to pass such legislation, and as scattered cleanup efforts continued following one of the worst-ever leaks to hit Israel's shores.

The ministry proposal provides for a national plan that will guide all relevant bodies — coastal authorities, the Israel Nature and Parks Authority, ports, factories, defense facilities, and oil and gas exploration companies — in the task of drawing up their own local emergency plans for dealing with spills on land and sea. The Times of Israel / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Canada]



KENYA: NEW PROGRAMME TO SUPPORT COAST AND BLUE ECONOMY

March 30 - Team Europe, together with the Governors of six coastal counties in Kenya, the Ministry of Devolution and the Blue Economy Secretariat, launched the Go Blue initiative in Kenya on March 25, 2021. The four-year programme aims to protect Kenya's coastal ecosystems while creating environmentally friendly jobs in a host of industries, including recycling, tourism and small-scale fishing. It is designed to foster a "sustainable blue economy" in six coastal counties and generate more than 3,000 jobs for youth and women alone.

Go Blue has received 25 million euros in funding from the European Union. Four EU Member States – France, Germany, Italy, and Portugal – will provide technical expertise on economic growth, while two UN agencies – the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and UN-Habitat - will ensure that interventions are aligned with environmental conservation and urban planning goals and that the initiative helps coastal cities and communities adapt to adverse effects of climate change. UNEP / [Read more](#)

KOREA: PROMOTION OF MARINE ENVIRONMENT INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX, PRIVATE DEFENSE BUSINESS AND WIN-WIN CO-OPERATION PLAN

March 22 - On 22 February, KOEM(Director-General Park Seung-gi) held a report on the launch of the service, "Research on The Construction of a Private Defense Co-operation System to Strengthen National Defense Capabilities."

The research service is part of the follow-up measures to support and nurture the industrial company's maritime pollution-defense industry under last year's revision of the Marine Environment Management Act, in response to the strengthening of the policy of total force response (integrated defense) through national, public and private co-operation in pollution control and disaster management.

In particular, the study plans to create a collective agreement and operation plan between the industrial complex and the Korea Maritime Defense Co-operative to promote efficient control response by mobilizing more than 40 private control companies scattered throughout the country in the event of a marine pollution disaster. KOEM / [Read more](#)

LIBYA: EVALUATION OF OIL POLLUTION IN LIBYA



March 30 – Report received from Mahmud Mak of Ultratech Libya – Awareness of oil pollution problems is very weak in the oil ports in Libya. The oil officials in Libya do not care about the problems of this pollution and the damage it inflicts on the marine environment.

For example, consider the Zawiya oil refinery. The refinery is located west of the Libyan capital, Tripoli. It is a plant for the oil industry with tanks for storing oil, processing plant for the gasoline industry and an asphalt plant. This industry produces great environmental pollution, caused by petroleum industry pollutants. These pollutants are discharged to the sea. The refinery suffers from the inability to find environmental solutions to solve these problems.

The height of the oil in the separation basin reaches a height of more than 50 cm. The city of Al-Zawiya suffers from this pollution which has reached the groundwater, causing environmental problems for residents.

There is also very, very large oil pollution in the Libyan desert, as well as groundwater and soil pollution.

We aspire to become a member of the international spill control organization. We cover the country of Libya. We are working hard in this field. We hope that we will meet the expectations of the international oil spill control organization. <https://ultratechlibya.ly/>

LEBANON: AN ECOLOGICAL DISASTER ON ITS SHORE



Photos: Above left - Marine biology student Ranim Tahhan, 21, pictured left, and another volunteer work to clean Tyre beach from the pollution caused by an oil spill in the eastern Mediterranean Sea; Above right - Tyre beach is carpeted in globs of poisonous tar. As weeks pass, the soft black pieces fragment into smaller particles that sink deeper into the sand. RUTH SHERLOCK / NPR

March 28 - An oil spill in the eastern Mediterranean Sea last month has polluted Lebanon's coastline, damaging beaches that are nesting grounds for endangered green turtles and vulnerable loggerhead sea turtles.

In southern Lebanon, some of the country's last beaches spared from factories and tourist development are now carpeted in globs of poisonous tar. As weeks pass, the soft black pieces fragment into smaller particles that sink deeper into the sand.

"It's too terrible. When the turtles come here to breed, they choose their nesting area very carefully," says Fatima Jaafar, a science teacher and volunteer with the environmental group Green Southerners, who every year helps to clean and ready these protected beaches for the nesting season. "If they sense any danger, they may change their minds and leave the beach."

The suspected leak from an oil tanker in the eastern Mediterranean Sea caused an estimated 1,000 tons of sticky black tar to wash up on Israel's shores in early February. The oil slick quickly spread and eventually reached the coasts of neighboring Lebanon. Marine experts say the spill has damaged nature reserves in the south of the country, the beaches near the capital of Beirut and even further up the coast. Many of the affected beaches in southern Lebanon are protected habitats for the turtles.

Ali Badreddine, a marine biologist who works in turtle conservation projects in the country, says the pollution is dangerous for the nesting turtles — particularly for female turtles who use their flippers to dig their nests. He fears the oil pollution can impede this process, and may also be toxic for the hatching offspring. The potential damage to the nesting season — which starts in earnest in May — will depend on how quickly the beaches can be cleaned, he says. KPCW / [Read more](#)

LEBANON: REMPEC RESPONDS TO AN OIL SPILL INCIDENT IN THE EASTERN MEDITERRANEAN

April 2 – Having just returned from the pollution response mission in Lebanon, Anja Pilepić of ISCO Member ATRAC in Croatia has sent your editor the following report released by REMPEC.

On 9 March 2021, REMPEC received a request for assistance from the Lebanese authorities regarding patches of black petroleum and tar balls that were found in coastal areas, mostly in the South, in particular in Naqoura, El Bayada, El Mansouri and in the Tyr protected areas (Chawatina, Sour Rest house), as well as the protected areas of El Abbasiyeh.

On 23 March 2021 REMPEC deployed two experts from the Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU) to the affected coastal areas in Lebanon. The experts, who are affiliated to the Adriatic Training and Research Centre for Accidental Marine Pollution Preparedness and response (ATRAC), have been tasked with assessing the extent of the pollution, assisting national and local authorities in the ongoing clean-up and remediation operations, and providing guidance on oiled waste management.

During the mission, the MAU experts deployed by REMPEC met on 23 March with the Ministry of Environment as well as representatives from the United Nations organisations which had provided immediate support to the authorities in the early phase of the pollution. From 24 to 29 March, the mission carried out a ground shoreline survey, starting from the most southern point of Lebanon i.e. close to the Lebanon - Israel border, in the City of Naqoura to the north of Beirut to the final point Byblos. The total polluted shoreline is estimated from 28 up to 30 kilometres. On 30 and 31 March, brainstorming and conclusions meetings were organised with the UNRC, the National Council of Scientific Research and a workshop with some local municipalities. The mission was completed on 1st April with the Minister of Environment with a debrief by the UNRC .

The UNEP/MAP-Barcelona Convention Secretariat and REMPEC are committed to supporting emergency response in the Eastern Mediterranean, in line with the Barcelona Convention and its Prevention and Emergency Protocol. anja.pilepic@atrac.hr
<http://www.atrac.hr>

NIGERIA: WHY NIGER DELTA REGION IS TROUBLED

April 1 - It is now common knowledge that weeks after an oil spill from a ruptured pipeline facility managed by one of the international oil companies operating in the Nigeria Delta reportedly ravaged Benikrukru and adjoining communities in Warri south-west local government area of Delta state, a similar one occurred in the early hours of Sunday, March 14, 2021, has occurred in Polobubo/Opuama communities, Warri North local government area, of the state.

Through these days, the world has watched the torrent of dissatisfaction expressed by the Polobubo/Opuama communities over the government's lackadaisical and nonchalant approach to their plight and inability of regulators in the state to go the extra miles to ensure they hold operators accountable. The Cable / [Read more](#)

NIGERIA: OIL SPILLAGE: TENSION AS BENIKRUKRU COMMUNITIES GIVE TWO DAYS ULTIMATUM TO SHUT DOWN CHEVRON FACILITY

April 2 - The Benikrukru communities in Gbaramatu kingdom in Warri South-West Local Government Area of Delta State has issued Chevron Nigeria Ltd (CNL), two days ultimatum or be ready for protests that will completely paralyze its operations in Abiteye field if the case of an alleged oil spill is not addressed.

The threat is coming eight days after the occupation of three of the oil giant's oil platforms by the people in protest of recent oil spillage in the kingdom, resulting from a fractured facility of the oil company and its delay in fixing it.

But Chevron, in a recent statement by the General Manager, Policy, Government and Public Affairs (PGPA), Esimaje Brikinn, has insisted that the company has investigated and continues to survey its Assets in the Abiteye and Utonana Fields including the 16" Makaraba-Utonana-Abiteye Right of Way (ROW) with no confirmation that the oil sheen on the water is from its Assets in Abiteye, Makaraba and Utonana fields or from any other CNL facilities as alleged. Nigerian Tribune / [Read more](#)

UK: NCEC LAUNCHES HAZMAT ACADEMY PROVIDING VITAL HAZMAT TRAINING SOLUTIONS

March 4 - The National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) has launched a hazardous materials (hazmat) training solution providing off-the-shelf and bespoke training, delivered either in person, via distance learning or a combination of both.

Members of the UK Fire and Rescue Service were among the first candidates to attend the Hazardous Materials Adviser Initial course, the inaugural offering from the Hazmat Academy.

NCEC has become aware through its close relationship with incident responders and hazmat leads that not all organisations are able to deliver the same level of training as they once did. Training has been heavily impacted because of financial constraints placed upon response teams over the past decade and the consequent reduction in staff levels. This has the potential to cause issues where a team may not be fully prepared for the incidents it is faced with.

The aim of the Hazmat Academy is to enable anyone who may have to respond to an incident involving hazardous materials to do so safely and effectively.

The academy will help responders to meet their training goals with flexible learning opportunities that allow candidates to select the most suitable modules. Being able to offer bespoke courses also means that organisations can select modules that are relevant to their response teams. NCEC / [Read more](#)

UK: PFAS POISONING: WHY IS SO LITTLE KNOWN ABOUT THE PRESENCE OF ‘FOREVER CHEMICALS’ IN UK DRINKING WATER?

March 18 - Toxic PFAS is in the blood of almost everyone in the world. It is a problem whose significance is understood in America, Australia and across Europe, but less so in the UK, where awareness of the chemicals and their devastating health impacts is unusually low.

In the States, manufacturers using a chemical from a family of substances called PFAS have paid out close to £1bn for poisoning the drinking water of Americans along the Ohio river, and two firms have put aside another £4bn in preparation for future cases expected to be brought against them by sick people across the country.

In Australia’s Northern Territory, towns Oakey and Katherine were ordered not to drink tap water after finding levels of PFAS many times higher than the ‘safe’ limit in their water supplies. Their groundwater was poisoned by a nearby air base which used PFAS-rich fire fighting foams in large volumes. Last week, people in the area were awarded \$212m Australian dollars by the federal government, but the residents - some of whom are suffering with cancer and thyroid disease - still fear for their health and for their children’s future.

In Italy, more than 350,000 residents of Veneto are thought to have been exposed to PFAS through their tap water, after industrial activity contaminated surface water and groundwater. A class action is being brought against the companies involved.

So what is the UK doing about PFAS in drinking water? The Environment Agency has said it is “ubiquitous in the environment” so it could be expected that it too was scrambling to test and clean up its drinking waters, working hard to keep people safe.

Not so. A recent WRc study commissioned by DEFRA, found that “limited data were identified in the UK regarding the presence of PFAS in surface water, groundwater, drinking water, wastewater and landfill leachate”. The researchers had to supplement data from European countries to model what might be happening in the UK.

In the UK there are no routine tests for PFAS in drinking water, so there is uncertainty regarding exposure above the new levels deemed to be safe by Drinking Water Inspectorate (DWI), which stand at 100ng/l for PFOA and PFOS and ignore the wider family of substances. The ENDS Report / [Read more](#)

USA: LATEST NEWS REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

March 28 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R.

[Settlement Proposed for Restoration at Metal Bank Superfund Site in Pennsylvania](#)

From 1962 to 1985, Metal Bank of America Inc. owned and operated a salvage yard adjacent to the Delaware River. The facility recycled scrap metal and electrical transformers from various utility companies. The Environmental Protection Agency designated Metal Bank a Superfund site in 1983.

[NOAA and EPA Collaboration in the Great Lakes](#)

On March 22, Lieutenant Rachel Pryor facilitated a meeting between OR&R’s Spatial Data Branch and the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Region 5 Superfund Program to discuss establishing an inter-agency digital highway to share data between the two agencies’ mapping programs.

[From Ghost Ships to Adventures in Wind Engineering, You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know](#)

Last week, during the You Don’t Know What You Don’t Know Lecture we took a deep dive into the history of Mallows Bay and the ghost ship fleet with Maryland’s State Underwater Archeologist, Dr. Susan Langley.

For our next lecture, we are moving “back to the future” to learn how state of the art technology is being used to help answer questions about resilience in the face of hurricane force winds. We are excited to hear about adventures in wind engineering with Dr. Forrest Masters from the University of Florida on April 15 at 3:00 pm ET. We hope you can join us.

Join the lectures via Adobe Connect: [https://noaaorr.adobeconnect.com/orrlectureseries/\(link is external\)](https://noaaorr.adobeconnect.com/orrlectureseries/(link is external)).

USA: NTSB: COLLISION CAUSED BY TRANSITING HOUSTON SHIP CHANNEL AT SEA SPEED

March 30 - The NTSB has released its final report into the collision between the LPG carrier Genesis River and a tank barge on the Lower Houston Ship Channel. The collision resulted in a spill of 11,000 barrels of reformate, a refined product used for gasoline blending stock.

On May 10, 2019, Genesis River prepared to depart Houston and took aboard two pilots. Upon coming aboard the vessel, the first pilot instructed the bridge crew to put both radars on standby and turn both ECDIS terminals off because the distracting proximity alarms on the devices could not be disabled. The pilots proceeded to navigate down the channel visually, with assistance from a portable pilot unit (PPU). During the transit, the pilots discussed the vessel's "little bitty rudder" and said that "she's takin' lotsa wheel" to maneuver, according to VDR data. Shortly after, the second pilot (who had the conn) called for full sea speed - a common practice among pilots once within the Lower Houston Ship Channel, according to NTSB - and the vessel slowly sped up to 12 knots.

Just after passing the inbound LPG tanker BW Oak in a widened area of the channel known as the Bayport Flare, Genesis River swung unexpectedly to port, putting her on a course for the east side of the channel. She was now facing directly at the oncoming towboat Voyager and its tow - two tank barges filled with reformate. The second pilot called Voyager and instructed her bridge team to turn to port - against general COLREGS guidance - and cross to the west side of the channel in order to get out of Genesis River's way. The Voyager complied, turning hard to port and heading for the west side of the channel at full speed ahead.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

USA: MICHIGAN - WHITMER INVOKES DEFENSE BILL CLAUSE TO FORCE STRICTER PFAS CLEAN-UP

March 31 - Gov. Gretchen Whitmer is attempting to use national defense policy legislation passed two years ago to force the U.S. Department of Defense into compliance with tough state pollution cleanup laws in Michigan.

In a March 31 letter to U.S. Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin, Whitmer invoked a section of the 2020 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) that could force the Pentagon to meet the state's new low PFAS standards while conducting cleanup at the former Wurtsmith Air Force Base in Oscoda and other military contamination sites. MLive / [Read more](#)

ISCO NEWS

ISCO AMBASSADORS



Following the announcement of the introduction of ISCO Ambassador's, I am delighted to confirm the appointment of Carlos Sagrera (photo on left), currently ISCO's National Council member for Panama. Carlos will assume his role covering all the Spanish speaking Countries of South America.

Carlos as always being a strong supporter of the work of ISCO within his home region, the appointment of Ambassador to the wider region will enable him to develop and strengthen ISCO's presence throughout, utilising the strong network which he has developed over the years.

The role of the Ambassador is an appointment made by the ISCO Secretariat, with the prime aim of raising the presence and work of ISCO through attendance at events, and liaison with Governmental and NGOs within the Ambassador's area of operation. These appointments can be either be short-term, to support an event, or longer-term appointments where the Ambassadors are cementing relations with other organisations and individuals, with a view to establishing and increasing the locally based membership.

ISCO is committed to developing the Ambassador role, and currently have received further expressions of interest from members in other Region's who wish to undertake Ambassadorial duties, announcements concerning these will be made in up-and-coming newsletters.

The strengthening of the ISCO membership is instrumental in its future development, if you are not already a member, or your membership as lapsed, ISCO would welcome your support, look at the ISCO website and see the work which is being carried out, and the benefits of holding membership. With your support ISCO can create a stronger voice for the benefit of everyone.

Neil Marson, Secretary General

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

RESOLVE MARINE GROUP TO ASSESS SHIPWRECK LEAKING OIL OFF VANCOUVER ISLAND

The federal government is calling on the services of a U.S. ship-salvaging firm as officials continue to grapple with a historic shipwreck

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

that's been leaking oil for months off Vancouver Island. Fisheries and Oceans Minister Bernadette Jordan announced Wednesday that Ottawa had awarded a \$7-million contract to the Florida-based Resolve Marine Group.

The Fort Lauderdale company previously made headlines for its work on the BP Deep Water Horizon oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 and the refloating of the Costa Concordia cruise ship off Italy in 2012.

The company is expected to begin an undersea assessment of the Vancouver Island wreck in mid-April.



The 150-metre cargo ship MV Schiedyk ran aground and sank in Nootka Sound, on the west coast of Vancouver Island, in January 1968.

The wreck lay dormant for decades until last fall when a two-kilometre oil slick was suddenly visible on the ocean's surface near Bligh Island, part of an ecologically sensitive marine park.

The undersea assessment is expected to reveal how much bunker oil remains on board the sunken ship, which is resting upside down in approximately 120 metres of water. It will also determine where in the ship's hull the oil is leaking from and, if possible, temporarily seal the leaks to prevent further environmental damage. CTV News / [Read more](#)

OSRL: COVID-19 UPDATE (1ST APRIL 2021)

The pandemic and the rise of remote working has created several wellbeing challenges for people and businesses worldwide. At OSRL, the Crisis Management Team recognised this fact and prioritised wellbeing from the very beginning.

From recognising this, we created a specific Wellbeing Lead who works closely with the team and instituted a simple two weekly Mental Health and Wellbeing (MHWB) survey. The survey asks staff to score their current mental health and wellbeing from 1 to 10, with a score of 5 or less indicating a wellbeing challenge. These staff receive 1-1 contact from the Wellbeing Lead, HR or their Line Manager as appropriate.

The MHWB survey highlights the professional support services offered to staff in their region and, more importantly, shows a human touch from OSRL to that staff member. We are now clearly seeing more people who are happy to share their MHWB score with their Line Manager, a probable sign that the MHWB conversation is becoming normalised.

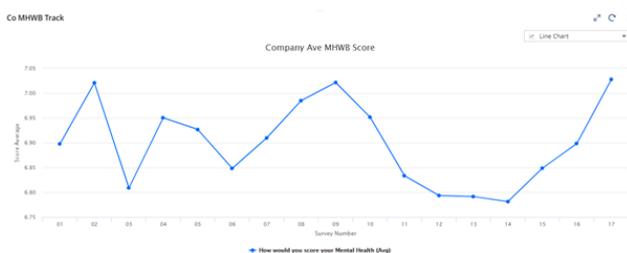
Line Managers have also undergone mental health awareness training to support this and share ideas, tips, and questions with each other.

Finally, through the MHWB survey, we can monitor regional and base-specific trends to target wellbeing provision accurately.

The CMT initiated the creation of a formal wellbeing team composed of global personnel. After a rapid response and flurry of activity in March 2020, this group now operates at a steady-state and meets monthly to coordinate regional and global wellbeing initiatives across the business. An online platform that contains 'go to' wellbeing resources supports this activity.

Also, we held webinars on mental skills and positive mental health, talks on wellbeing and a myriad of activities ranging from mindfulness to cooking together online!

The next wellbeing initiative launching in April 2021 is called #timeforme. The initiative puts a time code against a wellbeing activity of the individual's choice; thus, giving formal support from the business to staff and their wellbeing activities. Here you can see the MHWB scores over the last eight months:



It is highly likely that a combination of environmental factors, for example the UK gradually lifting restrictions/vaccination programmes and OSRL's broad and unrelenting support for wellbeing is resulting in the recent positive changes in staff MHWB scores.

Country plan updates

This week we have updated our Saudi Arabia, Qatar, Kuwait, Oman, Israel, Argentina and Bahrain country plans. If you would like to view all our country plans, [please use this link](#).

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

Latest news and events on our website

Oil Spill Response Limited (OSRL) is pleased to announce that the Prax Group has signed a new membership agreement, joining as an Associate Member from 1st March 2021. [Read more here.](#)

OSRL has also announced the signing of a long-term agreement with REGENESIS, a global leader in the research and delivery of groundwater and soil remediation services. The formal arrangement represents the first time OSRL's members can access remediation services directly through their membership package, with the reassurance of working with a fully vetted and trusted partner to OSRL. [Read more here.](#)

The full ramifications of cost-cutting. A question to be considered, the potential cost to be calculated. Emma Smillie, Global Marketing and Communications Manager discusses how the ongoing trend for cost-cutting raises questions around unintended consequences and the potential to impact how businesses maintain agility, operational performance, and preparedness standards with a reduced workforce and lower investment levels. [Read more here.](#)

As always, we remain just a phone call away, ready to virtually support you and your operations. Should you have any questions, please email CMT@oilspillresponse.com or contact our Duty Managers.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

A SECOND ARTICLE CONTRIBUTED BY TUCKER MENDOZA

Tucker Mendoza has been working in the Spill Response Industry since 1989.

In 2021, Mendoza and his partner, Ms. Kimberli Bruce, pledged with their Elite Next Generation Spill Response team to lead the Spill Response Industry towards updating response planning, training, technological awareness, and green solution mandates. Mendoza and his team plan to accomplish their mission by teaching Next Generation responders through discussion seminars, training courses, practical hands-on demonstrations, and drills that provide the fastest and safest responses and clean-up in any and all areas.



Mendoza says we only have one earth; we should reduce waste and be safe doing it - Director: Spill Response Association

After 32 years of working in the oil response and field clean-up industry, Mendoza still has an incredible passion and drive to constantly make improvements to the industry as a whole. He spent the last eight years trying to voice the need of updated plans, manuals, and response training programs in the industry. Newer technologies and greener products have become available, yet no change has been made to improve on the in-classroom or in-field training, and there has yet to be a switch to greener products.

Mendoza believes the lack of proper training brings about one of the main issues present when people are called upon each time a spill occurs. Those who have been in the business understand the importance of immediate and proper clean-up techniques and how they can make a big impact on the people and the environment; when the clean-ups are not done properly, it takes a toll on the environment.

To those who have seen and experienced this before, it becomes heartbreaking to watch all the issues that arise without the proper training being given. People become complacent with safety and the job itself ends up not being done efficiently nor effectively with the environment taking the blunt of the hit. The people who are called upon for cleanups are not only lacking the proper training but tend to be just another body looking for another pay-day; a paycheck is their priority, more so than the environment and by involving locals civilians this concern can be lessened.

The amount of money oil companies pay to cover fines could be minimized, if not completely avoided, if they just spent a small portion of that money to apply towards thorough, quality clean-up crews, ready to go. This would not just save them money but help save the environment, too. That little amount of money would save more than just money - it could save lives and environments. In the end, everyone wins. Mendoza's voice has brought him to visit some of the world's biggest spill sites within the Nigerian Delta, where he was welcomed by many kinds and village people.

Then it led him to Columbia to speak with and to many great minds within the emergency response industry. After Mendoza's speech in Columbia, he recalls his translator saying, "Tucker, it only takes one person to be the right person to hear you, and the world will hear you. - It only takes 1 krill to make a difference."

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE (CONTINUED)

On March 4, 2020, just before the CoViD-19 lockdowns in the United States, Mendoza led his team in the largest private civilian spill response demonstration on the bayou. The team did not participate alone, but had the large help of local citizens, spillers, and equipment suppliers - even OSRO's participated. The demonstrations proved very informative and the attendees and participants wanted Mendoza's team to continue their work and spreading their words around.



Mendoza and his team believe that cleaning the environment and keeping it pure involves Everyone, not just the responders.

These kinds of demonstrations, drills, and seminars will continue to bring more awareness to the new and old leaders of the industry. The fact of the matter is we need more training, both in and out of classrooms. Management and supervisors all need the extra training to lead their teams, but training the bottom tiers will make the top much more successful.

This is our home, our land, and our planet, so we should be good stewards to Mother Earth and as we say on spills: "leave it better than what it was before we arrive".



Spill Response Association: Together, we can make a difference and, with your help, we can be heard. Keeping together is progress. Working together is success." - Henry Ford

Mendoza's goal is to expedite the mission by adding spokes to what is already in place.

He and his team want to share their lifetimes of knowledge and experience with others, to teach the Next Generation responders how to adjust and reprogram responses throughout the industry and to help lead the future in emergency response training by giving responders proper and professional training with true response knowledge, both new and old.

The year 2021 is no better time to pledge and mandate greener solutions to the Spill Response Industry. Mendoza says to help solve the issue of waste building, we need very deep training on the many types of adsorbents and absorbents, how to use them correctly, and how to not create waste.

If this message is of any interest to you or your company, please follow Mendoza and his team on Linked-in.

UPCOMING WEBINARS

GI WACAF WEBINAR SERIES ON OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND RESPONSE RESUMES

GI WACAF webinar series on oil spill preparedness and response returns with a first episode dedicated to the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP), its annexes and the importance of its effective implementation. It will take place on **Wednesday, April 14th** (see the attached event banner).

There are **2 sessions: one in the morning at 10:00 am (GMT+1) in French and one in the afternoon at 2:00 pm (GMT+1) in English.**

Registration links:

- English session (2:00 pm GMT+1 on 14/04/2021): <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/42/plr41tx2>
- French session (10:00 am GMT+1 on 14/04/2021): <https://event.webinarjam.com/register/43/m21vvy79>

Please visit our [website](#) to find more information about upcoming webinars and watch the replay of previous sessions.

FREE WEBINARS FROM UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION

Wed, 14 Apr 2021 15:00 BST [Spill Knowledge Base: Marine Dispersants](#)

Wed, 19 May 2021 15:00 BST [Spill Knowledge Base: Storage Tanks](#)

Wed, 16 Jun 2021 15:00 BST [Spill Knowledge Base: Marine Special Equipment](#)

Click on the blue titles for more info on specified webinars. [view our upcoming virtual events here.](#)

ALGA – AUSTRALIAN LAND & GROUNDWATER ASSOCIATION

Over 100 Webinars can be accessed - <https://landandgroundwater.com/webinars>

ONLINE AND OTHER TRAINING COURSES

CEDRE: "FIGHTING ACCIDENTAL OIL POLLUTION AT SEA AND ON THE COAST - LEVEL IMO 2" Sessions in French: May 31 to June 4, 2021

LLOYDS MARITIME ACADEMY – CERTIFICATE IN OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Our [Certificate in Oil Spill Response](#) starts on 14th April, and we wanted to remind you why this course is essential for you. This 12-week distance learning course has been designed in line with the IMO's International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-operation (OPRC), therefore it's your chance to get the best knowledge you can in oil spill safety and effective emergency response.

USA: HAZARDOUS MATERIALS CODE ENFORCEMENT P0615

June 13-18, 2021. Emmitsburg, Maryland. 6-day on-campus - This six-day course is designed to guide students in gaining and sharing the knowledge, skills and abilities to effectively recognize and analyze hazardous materials risk, classify the materials, and apply the codes, standards, and regulations to prevent incidents and mitigate threats to life and property. [More info](#)

INTERTANKO : NEW ENCLOSED SPACE SAFETY VIDEO LAUNCHED

The issue is hugely important and the IG is very keen to play a part in the mitigation of preventable deaths on board ships. The animation is available on the International Group website [Enclosed Space Entry - The International Group of P&I Clubs \(igpandi.org\)](#) and has been added to the Group's [LinkedIn](#) channel.

ALGA: PFAS 101 TRAINING MODULES

These training modules, prepared by members of ALGA's Emerging Contaminants of Concern Interest Group (EmCoC IG), consists of 9 online modules covering aspects of PFAS from health risk and community consultation to investigation and remediation. The content for the modules has been developed with a principally Australian and New Zealand focus, but also draws examples of best practice from around the world, making it up to date, expansive yet locally relevant. [More info](#)

CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

REQUEST FOR TENDER FROM NORWEGIAN CENTRE FOR OIL SPILL PREPAREDNESS AND MARINE ENVIRONMENT

If you missed this announcement in last week's newsletter, you can find it at <https://spillcontrol.org/business-opportunities/>

INTERNATIONAL OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

This is a subscription service. [Have a look to see examples of open tenders.](#)

OTHER OPPORTUNITIES: USA & EUROPE

US Government solicitations are frequently posted in Technology Innovation News Survey, US EPA Tech Direct and USA Federal Contracts Update.

European Maritime Safety Agency invitations to tender are often posted in The EMSA Newsletter.

See “Links for other publications” for links to download current issues of these publications.

Readers are welcome to post tender invitations in this section.

UPCOMING EVENTS

Event organisers are requested to notify ISCO immediately if a listed event is cancelled or postponed

Your Editor is doing his best to keep this listing up-to-date but it should not be assumed that listed events have not been cancelled or postponed. It is recommended that you check with event organisers before finalising your attendance plans.

If an event title is not printed in blue ink it is not hyperlinked to the event website. This may be because the website is not yet available or because the link for the website has not yet been given.

If you want to request the addition of an event please contact the Editor.

For more information click on Title of Event			
COUNTRY	2021	TITLE OF EVENT	LOCATION
UAE	April 6-7	HSE Forum UAE 2021	Dubai
VIRTUAL EVENT	April 8	IMO Council Meeting	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	April 8	Making Peace With Nature and Delivering on the SDGs in the Mediterranean	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	April 14	West MOPoCo Closure Event	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	April 28	SCAA 2021 Virtual Annual Meeting	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 1-2	Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research Open House	Online
USA	May 9	APICOM GM Meeting	New Orleans LA
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 10-13	International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021)	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 11-12	ALGA New Zealand Land & Groundwater Conference	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 20-21	European Maritime Day	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 25-27	Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	June 8-9	Environment Analyst Global Business Summit 2021	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	June 8-10	43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response	Online
USA	June 8-10	Elastec Spill Workshop 2021	Carmi, IL
TUNISIA	June 15	Training on Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills	Hammamet
TUNISIA	June 16-17	Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Waste Management	Hammamet
USA	August 17-18	Clean Pacific Exhibition & Conference	Renton, WA
USA	September 7-10	Hazmat Emergency Response Workshop	Sacramento, CA
NETHERLANDS	September 9-10	Envirotech for Shipping Forum	Rotterdam
USA	Sept. 13-15	Clean Waterways Conference & Exhibition	Louisville, KY
CROATIA	October 26-28	Regional Workshop – Enhancing Preparedness and Response in the Adriatic & Mediterranean Regions	Opatija
CROATIA	October 29	MOIG General Assembly Meeting	Opatija
USA	Nov. 16-18	Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition	San Antonio, TX
BAHREIN	Nov. 28-30	International Conference & Exhibition on Spills, Clean Seas & Environment	Bahrein
CAMBODIA	December 1-4	East Asian Seas Congress	Sihanoukville

Please advise the Editor if any of the above entries require correction or updating. John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol

MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

ALGA: PFAS MANAGEMENT INTO THE FUTURE

Regulatory updates, insights and research developments - Join us on April 28.

Live in three cities (Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney) and held virtually for Australia, New Zealand and Internationally.

[Agenda, more information and agenda](#)

MEET THE 2021 CLEAN PACIFIC PLANNING COMMITTEE

We have lined up a prestigious group of 26 leaders made up of operators, state, federal and provincial regulators, consultants, service companies and OSROs to plan the conference sessions for [CLEAN PACIFIC 2021](#). This morning, the planning committee gathered virtually to plan the sessions for the 2021 conference. Six sessions were planned, covering region-specific issues that offer real strategies and solutions for what our attendees face in the Western United States and Canada. Session details will be announced early next month!

Meet the planning committee:

- Rex Anderson, Senior Emergency Management Specialist, TC Energy
- Sara Bacic, Emergency Planning Analyst, British Columbia Ministry of Environment and Climate Change Strategy
- Joe Bowles, Region Vice President, Marine Spill Response Corporation
- Sarah Brace, Executive Coordinator, Pacific States & British Columbia Oil Spill Task Force
- Jeff Brady, Deputy Superintendent, Canadian Coast Guard, Western Region
- Greg Buie, Regional Manager, Western States and Pacific Region, U.S. Coast Guard National Pollution Funds Center
- DC Carter, Senior Response Manager, PENCO
- Curt Clumpner, Sr. Consultant, Oiled Wildlife Care Network
- Jim Elliott, Vice President, T&T Salvage, LLC
- Tj Engstrom, Director Emergency Services, Clean Harbors
- Richard Franklin, On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10
- Devon Grennan, President, Global Diving & Salvage, Inc.
- Damian Guy, Manager Hazardous Materials, Union Pacific Railroad
- Maria Hartley, Technical Lead, Enterprise Emergency Management, Chevron
- Nhi Irwin, Section Manager, Statewide Resources, Washington Dept. of Ecology-Spill Program
- Conor Keeney, Lead Contingency Planner, Marathon Petroleum (formerly Andeavor)
- Michael Lowry, Manager, Communications, Western Canada Marine Response Corp (WCMRC)
- Kelly Malinoski, Director, Emergency Management, Trans Mountain Pipeline LP
- Robert McFarland, Incident Management & Preparedness Advisor, U.S. Coast Guard 13th District
- Adrian Michielsen, Regional EP&R Advisor, Imperial
- Michael Moore, VP, Pacific Merchants Shipping Association and VP, Alaska-Chadux Network
- Dave Owings, General Manager, SEAPRO
- Heather Parker, Navy On-Scene Coordinator, U.S. Navy NW Region
- Stephen Pepper, Director, Crisis Management, Phillips 66
- Linda Pilkey-Jarvis, Preparedness Program Manager, Washington Dept. of Ecology-Spill Program
- Holly Robinson, General Manager, Maritime Fire & Safety Association

Registration is open and early bird discounts run through May 27th! Register early to save \$250 off the in-person experience and \$100 off the virtual experience.

[Register for the in-person event](#) [Register to attend virtually](#)

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

INVENTHELP INVENTOR DEVELOPS ACCESSORY FOR ASSISTING IN OIL AND GAS FIELD SPILL CLEANUP (PIT-1142)

"I work in the oil and gas industry and wanted to improve the efficiency of fluid removal on the job," said an inventor, from Morgantown, W. Va., "so I invented the MARK V VAC." The patent-pending invention provides an effective way for multiple workers to simultaneously clean up a gas or oil spill. In doing so, it saves time and effort while boosting productivity.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES (CONTINUED)

The invention features an adaptable and efficient design that is convenient and easy to use. Additionally, a patent application is in process. The original design was submitted to the Pittsburgh sales office of InventHelp. It is currently available for licensing or sale to manufacturers or marketers. For more information, write Dept. 19-PIT-1142, InventHelp, 217 Ninth Street, Pittsburgh, PA 15222, or call (412) 288-1300 ext. 1368. Learn more about InventHelp's Invention Submission Services at <http://www.InventHelp.com>

JOB SEEKERS

EXPERIENCED HSE MANAGER & HEAD OF OIL SPILL EMERGENCY RESPONSE

Available - For details please visit <https://spillcontrol.org/job-seekers/>

LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

AMSA Update	Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
ATRAC Newsletter	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	October 2020
AUSMEPA Bulletin	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Summer 2020
BIMCO Bulletin	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	March 2021
Newsletter from George Holliday	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Free on request
Cedre Newsletter	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	January 2021
EMSA Newsletters	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	Current issue
Environmental Expert	Environmental News from Environmental Expert	Current issue
GDACS Newsletter	Daily alerts for natural disasters – earthquakes, floods, typhoons, etc.	Free on request
GEF Newsletter	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	Subscription
GESAMP	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection	Latest news
GISEA Quarterly Newsletter	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	Q3 2020
IMO News Magazine	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn/Winter 2020
IMO Publishing Newsletter	New and forthcoming IMO publications	September 2020
ITOPF Ocean Orbit	News magazine from ITOPF with interesting spill response articles	February 2021
JOIFF Catalyst Newsletter	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q1 2021 issue
Maritime Executive Magazine	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Current issue
MOIG Newsletter	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	February 2021
NCEC Newsletter	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	December 2020
Navigate Response	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	Current issue
NOAA OR&R	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
Oceanbuzz	Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry	Current issue
OCIMF Newsletter	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	Current issue
OHMSETT Gazette	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Autumn 2020
Oiled Wildlife Log	Bi-annual Newsletter from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research	January 2021
OSPAR Newsletter	Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources	End of year 2019
PEMSEA Newsletter	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	Current issue
Pollution Online Newsletter	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	Current issue
Salvage World	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current issue
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Current issue
Society of Maritime Industries	News from the UK's maritime engineering and business services sector.	April 1, 2021
Spill Alert	Quarterly Newsletter from UK & Ireland Spill Association	December 2020
Technology Innovation News Survey	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	Feb. 1-15, 2021
The Maritime Advocate	Maritime News from Sandra Speares	Current issue
UNEP News	Latest News from United Nations Environmental Programme	Latest News
USA EPA Tech Direct	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	April 1, 2021
USA Federal Contract Opportunities	The authoritative source for federal contract opportunities	March 22-28, 2021
Water Pollution & Flood News	Monthly round-ups of UK & Worldwide Spill and Flood News	Free on request
WestMOPoCo	Western Mediterranean Region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Co-operation	November 2020

Your editor depends on regular receipt of updated URL links for listed publications. If these are not received, relevant entries will be discontinued. Publishers are kindly requested to advise the editor john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org if any of the links are not up-to-date.

PUBLICATIONS

IOPC FUNDS: ANNUAL REPORT 2020 NOW AVAILABLE

The Annual Report 2020 is now available to download from the Publications section of the website. Hard copies of the Report are also available on request via the Publications section. This year's report provides details of the main activities and achievements of the IOPC Funds during what was a very unusual year for all. Details of incidents, and in many cases a full case study, can be found under the Incidents section of this website. <https://www.iopcfunds.org/>

CANADA: 100,000 LITRES OF 'SOUR EMULSION' SPILLED FROM NORTHERN ALBERTA PIPELINE LEAK

March 29 - The Alberta Energy Regulator says an oil and gas company under court protection from creditors is reporting the leak of an estimated 100,000 litres of oilfield liquids from a pipeline in northern Alberta.

The provincial regulator says it is responding to the release of an oil-water mixture known as 'sour emulsion' from an Accel Energy Canada line about 24 kilometres southwest of Swan Hills, reported by the company last Thursday evening. Global News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Canada]

INDONESIA FIRE: MASSIVE BLAZE ERUPTS AT OIL REFINERY



March 29 - Firefighters in Indonesia are working to put out a massive fire that has broken out at one of the largest oil refineries in the country. The fire broke out at the Balongan refinery, run by state oil firm Pertamina, at 00:45 local time on Monday (17:45 GMT Sunday). At least five people are injured and around 950 residents have been evacuated to safety. A handful of people have been reported missing. The cause of the fire remains unclear. BBC News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Captain Bill Boyle, MNI, Hon.FISCO, Member of Executive Committee]

USA: CALIFORNIA - CREWS CLEAN UP CHEMICAL SPILL THAT SPARKED STRUCTURE FIRE IN GOLETA

April 1 - County Fire dispatched a full structure fire response which was quickly upgraded to include Santa Barbara city and county hazmat teams. They said the fire was started when some chemicals became mixed, but was quickly knocked down by the building's firefighting systems and on-scene firefighters. After the fire was out, hazmat teams discovered the hazardous chemicals may have contaminated water that was coming out of the building. Crews worked to dam up surrounding storm drains to prevent further spread of the water while they worked to clean up the chemicals. Key T Com News / [Read more](#)

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