

## 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

CLICK ON THE BANNERS BELOW FOR MORE INFORMATION



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Spill Prevention, Response & Remediation  
in the Western United States & Canada

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## HUGE SPIKE IN SHIPPING CONTAINERS LOST AT SEA



Above: The ONE Apus arrives in Kobe, Japan on December 8, 2020, after losing an estimated 1,816 containers overboard approximately 1,600 nautical miles northwest of Hawaii, USA. Photo courtesy W K Webster and Co.

April 27 - The shipping industry is seeing the biggest spike in lost containers in seven years. More than 3,000 boxes dropped into the sea last year, and more than 1,000 have fallen overboard so far in 2021.

There are a host of reasons for the sudden rise in accidents. Weather is getting more unpredictable, while ships are growing bigger, allowing for containers to be stacked higher than ever before. gCaptain / [Continue reading article by Ann Koh \(Bloomberg\)](#)

## MEMBERSHIP OF ISCO

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All who have the relevant qualifications and the required level of experience can apply for Professional Membership of ISCO.

The organization offers independent validation and integrity. Each grade of membership reflects an individual's professional training, experience and qualifications.

You can apply for Student Membership, Associate Membership (AMISCO), MEMBERSHIP (MISCO) or FELLOWSHIP (FISCO)

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 Click on the link below -  
<https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4016064/>

### TO RECEIVE THE FREE ISCO NEWSLETTER

Go to [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) and enter your name and email address in the Registration Form (located on the right-hand side of the home page) then click on "subscribe"

## INTERNATIONAL NEWS (CONTINUED)

### MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS RELATING TO MARPOL (MENELAS) ORGANISED BY REMPEC

April 26 - News received from IOPC Funds - The Director, José Maura, and Claims Manager, Ana Cuesta, participated in the fourth meeting of the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS), which was held remotely from 21 to 22 April 2021. The Director drew attention to the existing IOPC Funds policy for the admissibility of claims for restoration of the marine environment damaged after an oil spill. Around 35 participants representing States parties to the Barcelona Convention as well as other interested observer States and international organisations attended the meeting. IOPC Funds / [Read more](#)

### THE CLOSURE EVENT FOR THE WEST MOPOCO PROJECT

April 28 - The West MOPoCo project is drawing to an end. The Secretariat general for the Sea (SGMer) organised on April 14th 2021 an online closure event of the Western Mediterranean Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation project, funded by the European Civil Protection for over 2 years.

The event was animated by the project Beneficiaries, Algeria, France, Italy, Malta, Morocco, Spain and Tunisia, the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC), the Bonn Agreement for the Greater North Sea and its approaches and the Helsinki Commission (HELCOM) for the Baltic Sea, Cedre, ITOF Ltd. and ISPRA and partners involved in its implementation. It gathered over 100 participants from 19 countries, the European Union, international organisations and industry representatives. REMPEC / [Read more](#)

### IPIECA - SUSTAINABILITY ARTICLE ROUND-UP: APRIL 2021

April 29 - The IPIECA monthly article round-up showcases recent sustainability-related achievements, projects and news from IPIECA members and organization--s that IPIECA partners with, demonstrating their commitment to advancing environmental and social performance across oil and gas and achieving the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

The April edition highlights the importance of collaboration in achieving the aims of the Paris Agreement and the UN Sustainable Development Goals. It features our recently launched 'SDG Roadmap for the oil and gas sector', developed in collaboration with the World Business Council for Sustainable Development. We also share articles from IPIECA members working with national governments, forming cross-sectoral partnerships, and engaging with stakeholders. IPIECA / [Read more](#)

## 22 MAY 2021: INTERNATIONAL DAY FOR BIOLOGICAL DIVERSITY



# 22 MAY 2021

# BIODIVERSITY DAY

## We're part of the solution #ForNature

The Secretariat of the Convention on Biological Diversity is pleased to announce the Biodiversity Day 2021 slogan: "We're part of the solution". The slogan was chosen to be a continuation of the momentum generated last year under the over-arching theme, "Our solutions are in nature", which served as a reminder that biodiversity remains the answer to several sustainable development challenges. From nature-based solutions to climate, health issues, food and water security, and sustainable livelihoods, biodiversity is the foundation upon which we can build back better.

Given the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, Biodiversity Day 2021 will be commemorated through an online-only campaign. You are in the best position to know what awareness-raising campaigns and calls to action are feasible at your national level.

[Click here for more information](#)

### FOURTH MEETING OF THE MEDITERRANEAN NETWORK OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS RELATING TO MARPOL WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF THE BARCELONA CONVENTION (MENELAS)

April 29 – News release from REMPEC - Since the adoption of the “[Prevention and Emergency Protocol](#)” in 2002, REMPEC has been working towards setting-up a sound basis for the development of marine pollution surveillance and monitoring systems in the region. In 2013, the Mediterranean Network of Law Enforcement Officials relating to MARPOL within the framework of the Barcelona Convention (MENELAS) was established by the Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention to facilitate cooperation between its members in order to improve the enforcement of the international regulations regarding discharges at sea from ships as laid down in the MARPOL Convention.

The Fourth Meeting of MENELAS financed by the Mediterranean Trust Fund (MTF) was organised remotely by REMPEC from 21 to 22 April 2021. The meeting gathered over 50 participants from 17 Contracting Parties to the Barcelona Convention, namely Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Cyprus, Egypt, France, Greece, Israel, Libya, Malta, Montenegro, Morocco, Spain, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Turkey, and the European Union, as well as representatives from relevant regional and international organisations, namely the Secretariats of the United Nations Environment Programme / Coordinating Unit for the Mediterranean Action Plan - Barcelona Convention (UNEP/MAP), the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds), INTERPOL, the OSPAR Commission, the Bonn Agreement, the Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission (HELCOM) and the RAMOGE Agreement as well as the Chair of the North Sea Network of Investigators and Prosecutors (NSN) and President of the Network of Prosecutors on Environmental Crime in the Baltic Sea Region (ENPRO), and representatives from the European Maritime Safety Agency (EMSA) and the MedFund.

The Meeting agreed upon a set of conclusions and recommendations paving the way towards the finalisation of: a decision to apply, across the Mediterranean region, criteria for a common minimum level of fines for each offense provided for under the Annexes to MARPOL; and a common marine oil pollution detection/investigation report, to facilitate exchanges between Mediterranean coastal states and support judicial procedures. REMPEC / [Read more](#)

### OCEAN CONSERVATION: EU LEADS THE INTERNATIONAL EFFORT TO ESTABLISH NEW MARINE PROTECTED AREAS IN ANTARCTICA

April 30 - Environment, Oceans and Fisheries Commissioner Virginijus Sinkevičius has hosted a ministerial meeting to build support among the members of the Commission for the Conservation of Antarctic Marine Living Resources (CCAMLR) for the designation of new Marine Protected Areas (MPAs) in the Southern Ocean, in particular the EU proposals to establish MPAs in East Antarctica and in the Weddell Sea. The meeting was key in shaping a joint strategy to work together towards the adoption of new MPAs in CCAMLR and to present the Commission's actions under the European Green Deal that contribute to protecting the Antarctica.

The ministerial meeting was a success in bringing further support for the Marine Protected Areas in East Antarctica and in the Weddell Sea with co-sponsorship announced by the United States and New Zealand. EU Reporter / [Read more](#)

## NEWS REPORTS FROM AROUND THE WORLD

### CANADA: TRANS MOUNTAIN PIPELINE CONSTRUCTION ORDERED PAUSED IN B.C. BIRD NESTING AREA

*Photo: A baby hummingbird waits for its mother to return. A segment of the Trans Mountain Pipeline expansion project through a Burnaby, B.C., forest has been delayed until the end of nesting season. (John Antczak/AP)*

April 27 - Environment and Climate Change Canada has ordered a halt to construction of the Trans Mountain pipeline through a forest in Burnaby, B.C., until the end of bird nesting season. The department said the order was issued following an enforcement officer's visit to the site prompted by complaints that nests of the Anna's hummingbird and other migratory birds were being damaged. "Given that it is nesting season, migratory birds are particularly vulnerable at this time," it said in an emailed statement. CBC News / [Read more](#) [Thanks to Merv Fingas, M.Sc., Ph.D., Hon FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Canada]



### COLOMBIA IMPLEMENTS GHS IN LABOUR SECTOR

April 15 - Colombia's Ministry of Labour has adopted the sixth revision of the UN's Globally Harmonized System (GHS) of classification and labelling of chemicals in the workplace. The ministry published Resolution 0773/2021, the regulation that formally implements the system in the labour sector, on 13 April. In 2018, Colombia's government issued a decree adopting GHS 6, but it deferred implementation to four relevant ministries. Chemical Watch / [Read more](#)

## INDONESIA: WITH STORIES AND PUPPETS, ENVIRONMENTALIST BATTLES TO SAVE INDONESIA'S MANGROVES



*Photo: Wayang Golek craftsman Entang Sutisna (73), produces wayang golek made of lame wood (*Alstonia scholaris*) at Media Art, in Bogor City, West Java, Indonesia, on October 15, 2020. Photo: VCG*

April 5 - Caked in mud up to their knees, a small group of Indonesian youngsters plant mangrove saplings along a stretch of exposed coastline next to the Java Sea under the watchful eye of local environmentalist Samsudin. A former school teacher, Samsudin has now dedicated his life to conservation and uses puppetry and storytelling to spread his message to the young about the importance of protecting mangroves in an area suffering massive coastal erosion. Global Times / [Read more](#)

## ISRAEL: AFTER SUEZ BLOCKADE, ISRAEL COULD BECOME MAJOR OIL TRANSPORTER

April 28 - Israeli and UAE concerns in advanced stages of reinstating use of old Israel-Iran oil pipeline - After the giant container ship Ever Given blocked the Suez Canal for days last month, causing a long queue of waiting ships, an existing heavy oil pipeline linking Eilat in the Red Sea to Ashkelon on the Mediterranean coast is coming back into focus.

The oil port of Eilat can receive tankers up to 350,000 DWT, and the port of Ashkelon tankers up to 250,000 tonnes. The reason for reopening the existing Trans-Israel Pipeline (Tipline), which is 42" (over one meter) in diameter and 254 km long, is to avoid the prohibitively expensive passage through the Suez Canal. Israel Today / [Read more](#)

## MALTA: MARINE ENVIRONMENT: POLLUTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE AND CO-OPERATION

April 25 - The 'International Convention on Oil Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-Operation 1990 (OPRC 1990)' and the 'Protocol on Preparedness, Response and Co-Operation to Pollution Incidents by Hazardous and Noxious Substances (OPRC-HNS 2000)', are two international legal instruments drawn by the International Maritime Organisation (IMO). Malta acceded to both in 2003.

The 'Oil and Hazardous and Noxious Substances Pollution Preparedness, Response and Co-Operation Regulations' were recently enacted in Malta through Legal Notice 450 of 2020 (the "Regulations"). The Regulations came into force on 1st January 2021. Transport Malta ("TM") issued Port Notice No.16 of 2020, which previously notified relevant persons of the eventual application of the Regulations and invited all marine terminals and facilities to evaluate their level of preparedness and carry out a risk assessment to update or draw up new plans as needed. The Times of Malta / [Read more](#)

## SURINAME: CDC TAKES PART IN SURINAME-GUYANA OIL SPILL PREVENTION CONFERENCE

April 28 - The Civil Defence Commission (CDC) participated yesterday in a Suriname-Guyana Conference aimed at cross-border coordination in oil spill prevention and response. A release yesterday from the CDC said that the virtual event, hosted by international corporation Hunt Petty LP, was based in Suriname and is a two-day event. Lieutenant Colonel Kester Craig, Director General of the CDC, presented for the Guyana contingent and elaborated on the country's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan and preparedness for a myriad of related scenarios. Stabroek News / [Read more](#)

## NORTH SEA: ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCHERS RECOMMEND RETIRING NORTH SEA DRILLING PLATFORMS ON SITE

*Photo: Large steel structures in the North Sea can be used for other purposes than extracting oil, asking Senior Researcher Jonas Teilmann from Aarhus University's Bioscience department. | Photo: Magnus Holm/Politiken/Ritzau Scanpix*

April 28 - Since the signing of the Oskar convention in 1998, all countries in Europe have been in agreement that each and every fossil fuel platform must be removed from location after no longer being in use. This is supposed to take consideration of nature and the marine environment, and oil companies are obliged to pay commissioning costs.



Now, however, a group of bioscience researchers are questioning the prudence of this practice.

Today's seabed has become so disturbed by the trawling of fisheries that bottom rocks and other types of firm substrates have largely disappeared, leaving little structure for fish habitat and space for thriving biodiversity, explains Senior Researcher Jonas Teilmann from Aarhus University's Bioscience department, specializing in marine mammals.

He concedes that an oil platform's steel structure is not the same thing as natural rock formations of reefs, yet he nonetheless thinks the comparison is suitable:

"To some degree or another, they have similar properties being that algae and various animals are able to attach themselves, and there are hiding places for small fish and crabs, for instance, which is also why the large fish come there. In that sense, you create an ecosystem that has otherwise disappeared in [Danish waters].

It's said that 99 percent of the larger rocks that create holes where fish can hide are gone. This is dramatic. Our sea is not what it has been, and this could also be one of the main factors behind major fish depopulation in our waters," the bioscience researcher says. Energy Watch / [Read more](#)

## UK: ISLE OF MAN - FIRST FLAG STATE TO PARTNER EYEESEA OCEAN CLEAN UP INITIATIVE

April 28 - The Isle of Man Ship Registry (IOMSR) has become the first flag state to formally back the Eyesea initiative, the not for profit organisation formed last year to map marine pollution.

The move will see the IOMSR director Cameron Mitchell become an ambassador of Eyesea while the registry, which is home to 10,000 seafarers aboard more than 380 vessels, has become a member.

Eyesea aims to tackle pollution of the seas by collecting data in a newly developed app and reporting incidents of oil spills, rubbish and debris to NGOs like Beach Buddies and Government organisations to action clean ups.

Eyesea founder Graeme Somerville-Ryan welcomed the IOMSR to the Eyesea community. He said the sheer number of IOMSR seafarers and ships would support Eyesea's long term aim to model the effects of currents, wind and tide on the movement and location of pollution. From here Eyesea will develop pollution heat maps to target clean up efforts.

The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

## USA: LATEST NEWS FROM NOAA OR&R

April 26 – Please click on the links below to read the latest News from NOAA OR&R

[OR&R Visits NOAA Ship 'Pisces' in the Gulf of Mexico](#)

In March and April, the Emergency Response Division supported the Office of Marine and Aviation Operations Fleet by approving the augmentation request and sending LTJG Hayley Betker and LT Rachel Pryor to the NOAA Ship "Pisces" in the Gulf of Mexico.

LTJG Betker reported for the first leg of the Southeast Area Monitoring and Assessment Program survey out of Pascagoula, Mississippi and LT Pryor followed on the second leg.

[Fire and Ice, NOAA and U.S. Coast Guard Partner to Study Oil in Ice Environments](#)

This week, OR&R's Senior Scientist Lisa DiPinto led a project funded by the U.S Coast Guard's Research and Development Center entitled "Advancing Detection Capabilities for Monitoring Oil Spills in Ice Environments."

[Marine Debris Program Presents at Virtual Virginia Plastic Pollution Prevention Network Meeting](#)

On April 20, the Marine Debris Program Mid-Atlantic Regional Coordinator Christy Kehoe presented at a virtual Virginia Plastic Pollution Prevention Network meeting during Earth Week.

The mission of the Virginia Plastic Pollution Prevention Network is to promote and facilitate coordination, collaboration, and communication among groups working to reduce plastic pollution throughout the Commonwealth of Virginia.

[Training for Bay Area Responders During a Pandemic](#)

In March and early April, OR&R's Emergency Response Division provided [Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Technique \(SCAT\)](#) training in a hybrid (virtual and field) learning environment to spill responders in the San Francisco Bay area.

[OR&R Director Provides Series of One-On-One Briefings to Offices of Senators Susan Collins, Lisa Murkowski, and Chuck Schumer](#)

In three separate one-on-one briefings, OR&R Director Scott Lundgren met with staff from the offices of Senators Susan Collins (ME), Lisa Murkowski (AK), and Chuck Schumer (NY) on April 15-16.

[OR&R Presents at Virtual Joint Safety and Environmental Professional Development Symposium](#)

On April 20, 2021, Lieutenant Commander Faith Knighton, scientific support coordinator for the Pacific Northwest, presented an Office of Response and Restoration and Emergency Response Division overview at the virtual 29th Annual Joint Safety and Environmental Professional Development Symposium hosted by the Naval Safety and Environmental Training Center.

## USA: CALIFORNIA - OILED BROWN PELICAN: SB WILDLIFE CARE NETWORK'S PATIENT OF THE WEEK



April 25 - Santa Barbara Wildlife Care Network (SBWCN) was founded in 1988 – about 20 years after the Santa Barbara Channel Oil Spill and the inaugural Earth Day was founded. Since then, SBWCN has served an important role in helping rehabilitate oiled wildlife in Santa Barbara and Ventura Counties.

Santa Barbara is one of highest natural marine oil seep areas in the world, leading to a number of animals becoming oil-impaired for reasons unrelated to spills. While SBWCN staff are trained to respond to oil spill emergencies, the majority of oiled patients arrive at the Center due to this natural local seepage. So far in 2021, SBWCN has received almost 130 patients that were oil-impaired.

Patient #460 was a juvenile brown pelican found oiled and unable to fly on the beach along Rincon Parkway in Ventura. After stabilizing the patient, the SBWCN team washed it, provided fluids and food, and reconditioned it until the pelican was strong enough to fly again on its own. After just 16 days in care, this patient was successfully released back to the beach where it was originally rescued. Edhat / [Read more](#)

## USA: GULF OF MEXICO - \$302M IN BP OIL SPILL MONEY BUDGETED TO RESTORE ECOSYSTEMS

April 29 - Texas can get up to \$79 million in BP oil spill restoration money, Mississippi nearly \$69 million, and Florida almost \$74 million for ecosystem recovery projects and programs approved or extended this week.

Nearly \$80 million more in work crossing state lines is listed among the RESTORE Council's \$302 million worth of projects and programs made public Wednesday as part 2 in a group of proposals that brought \$130 million last year to Louisiana, and \$26.9 million to Alabama. However, less than half of Wednesday's total will be provided immediately. Nine of the 20 projects and programs are getting only planning money. The council said it is budgeting \$161.5 million in longterm spending to put those plans into action, but they will need more evaluation and later votes. Kansas City News / [Read more](#)

## USA: DUPONT SHAREHOLDERS VOTE TO SUPPORT PLASTIC PELLET POLLUTION REPORTING

April 29 - In the highest vote on plastic pellet pollution to-date, a majority of investors at DuPont voted in support of an As You Sow shareholder resolution asking the company to produce an annual report on the amount of pre-production plastic the company releases into the environment annually.

Plastic pellets are the building blocks for nearly all plastic products and are estimated to be the second largest direct source of microplastic pollution to the ocean by weight. Once produced by petrochemical companies like DuPont pellets are transported by rail, ship, or road to a second or third destination before being melted into a final product. It is estimated that throughout the pellet supply chain an estimated ten trillion plastic pellets are spilled and unrecovered every year. Floor Daily / [Read more](#)

## VIET NAM TO TAKE CO-HOST ROLE IN HIGH-LEVEL DIALOGUES ON PLASTIC POLLUTION: TURNING COMMITMENT INTO ACTION

April 1 - WWF congratulates Viet Nam as the country officially joins Ecuador, Germany and Ghana as co-convenors of a Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution, expectedly in this year's third quarter. The announcement marks the country's emergence as a champion of global cooperation in addressing the plastic pollution crisis.

Viet Nam is now one of the four countries – together with Ecuador, Germany and Ghana – to co-organise a Ministerial Conference on Marine Litter and Plastic Pollution in 2021 third quarter. The Conference is expected to advance high-level dialogues on a new international agreement that will unite and elevate national and regional actions under a coherent global strategy and framework in the lead up to the UN United Nations Environment Assembly (UNEA) meeting in February 2022. WWF / [Read more](#)

## PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

### USA: DEANNE CRISWELL CONFIRMED AS FIRST FEMALE LEADER OF FEMA



April 22 - Today, Deanne B. Criswell, a University of Colorado Denver alum, was confirmed as the next administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). After graduating from CU Denver with a master in public administration in 2006, Criswell went on to manage the Office of Emergency Management for the City of Aurora, the third largest city in Colorado, from 2005 to 2011. CUDenver / [Read more](#)

### ISCO AMBASSADOR APPOINTMENT – JOHN NOBLE



Following the roll-out of the ISCO Ambassador's programme, I am pleased to confirm the second appointment, John has worked in commercial shipping since 1962 when he joined HMS Conway (1962/1964). Serving as a deck officer in the British Merchant Navy sailing with some traditional shipping lines including Blue Funnel and Palm Line.

After obtaining his Master Mariners certificate, John graduated with a Nautical Studies BSc (Honours) from Southampton University in 1977. After a spell as a claim's executive with Thomas Miller (The UK P & I Club), he set up the London office of Murray Fenton & Associates Limited in 1980.

During his consultancy career, John has been involved in several major incidents where pollution by oil was an influencing factor. Clients included IOPC Funds (For Example: Patmos, Braer, Sea Empress and Rio Orinoco) SOPF Canada: Irving Whale, Irish Government (Department of the Marine) EEC Strike team (MV Cason), International Group P & I Clubs including: SKULD, UK Club, Shipowners, Steamship Mutual and The London Club.

Following the acquisition of Murray Fenton by BMT, in 1999, he served as Chief Executive Officer of the Salvage Association until 2005. His practical expertise lies in dealing with Salvage, Wreck Removal and Oil Pollution, having attended some 60 major casualties. John is also an experienced expert witness.

In Dubai he currently acts as advisor/mentor to the marine surveying consultancy Constellation Marine Services, and is also the Technical Editor of the Nautical Institute publications: "Casualty Management Guidelines" (2012) and the "Guidelines for Collecting Maritime Evidence" Volumes 1 and 2 (2016 and 2019)

John who is based in the South of England will be the first point of liaison with the Maritime and Coastguard Agency (MCA) and other Governmental/NGOs in addition to ISCO's corporate and individual members within the south of England. The appointment of Ambassador will enable him to develop and strengthen ISCO's presence throughout, utilising his wealth of experience and 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 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.

The strengthening of the ISCO membership is instrumental in its future development. If you are not already a member, or your membership has lapsed, ISCO would welcome your support, look at the ISCO website [www.spillcontrol.org](http://www.spillcontrol.org) and you can find our joining form at <https://spillcontrol.org/membership-application-form>, ISCO's Linked-in page <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/4016064/> or <https://www.linkedin.com/company/international-spill-control-organization> 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 JP. MRIN. MNI. F.Inst PA, FISCO, Secretary General, International Spill Control Organisation

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

*ISCO Members – Why not take advantage of the free benefit of posting your news in this section?*

### OSRL: COVID-19 UPDATE (30TH APRIL 2021)

Last week the Response Team in Southampton, UK, ran a Shoreline Exercise. The exercise aimed to maintain our ability to respond by –

- maintaining and growing technical competence
- embedding good practice
- fostering teamwork.

During the exercise, OSRL responders were able to get hands-on with the equipment. This practical exposure was invaluable after a period of reduced activity due to COVID-19.

Many of the attendees had not seen each other face to face in over a year. So, it was a significant opportunity to reforge the team's interpersonal bonds. These relationships are crucial when working under pressure during an oil spill.

During the exercise, small teams rotated over several sites. The rotation allowed participants to respond to different environments and use various tactics and equipment. In addition, using this method promoted social distancing and allowed a greater focus on leadership. The week was a success with key objectives met and no safety incidents. It enabled responders to exercise and drill in a shoreline environment. But, above all, it helped us maintain and improve our ability to respond for our members.

#### Vaccinations

Government-led vaccination programmes have commenced in all OSRL locations, and we are monitoring progress with our personnel. We now have 133 people globally who have received their first dose, which is 47% of the global population, of these, 58 people (20%) have completed their course.

## NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS (CONTINUED)

### Country plan updates

This month we have updated the following country plans;

- Spain
- Israel
- Norway
- Mauritius
- Mexico
- Argentino

If you would like to view all our COVID-19 country plans, [please use this link](#).

### Seeking member feedback on the new Global Oiled Wildlife Response Service (GOWRS)

We are proposing a new Global Oiled Wildlife Response Service (GOWRS). This service offers a guaranteed 4-person Tier 3 Assessment team of wildlife specialists. GOWRS will be a Supplementary Service, and we are seeking your feedback. However, OSRL will only be able to offer the service if there is enough interest from Members. [Click here to find out more information or register your interest](#).

### Latest insights article

In our latest insights article, Lee Barber reflects on the Balongan refinery incident. Lee discusses how the company might structure itself for this incident. He questions whether this is an incident or a crisis. In conclusion, Lee discusses the possible approach to potential medium/ long term issues. [Read more here](#).

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

## SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

### SCIENTISTS DEVELOP ECO-FRIENDLY POLLEN SPONGE TO TACKLE WATER CONTAMINANTS

April 7 - Scientists have created a reusable, biodegradable sponge that can readily soak up oil and other organic solvents from contaminated water sources, making it a promising alternative for tackling marine oil spills. Made of sunflower pollen, the sponge is hydrophobic thanks to its coat of natural fatty acid. In lab experiments, the scientists showed the sponge's ability to absorb oil contaminants of various densities, such as gasoline and motor oil, at a rate comparable to that of commercial oil absorbents. Science Daily / [Read more](#)

### THIS COCONUT-BASED SUBSTANCE CLEANS UP OIL SPILLS, CHEMICAL-FREE

April 28 – Last year, an oil spill in a tidal lagoon in Puerto Asís, in the department of Putumayo, Colombia, consisting of a few liters of diesel, caused an ecological debacle. To fix this debilitating situation, expert petroleum engineer Duvanis Herazo Navajas, a graduate in Sciences and Biotechnology from the National University of Colombia (UNAL), developed a 100% natural substance made of plants to clean the water. The surfactant he created could reduce the contamination caused by spills of hydrocarbons by up to 90% in about two weeks.

The product, created from plant extracts, breaks down the hydrocarbons so that they are degraded or consumed by bacteria present in nature. The decomposition time of oil depends on the quantities. In the Bloque Pantanillo lagoon, in the municipality of Puerto Asís, almost complete degradation was achieved in two weeks – a fairly quick time compared to using other non-natural chemicals. Intelligent Living / [Read more](#)

### SCIENTISTS FIND WAY TO REMOVE POLLUTING MICROPLASTICS WITH BACTERIA



*Photo: Microplastics and organic matter float in water inside a container at Manly Cove Beach in Sydney, Australia. Photograph: James Redmayne/Reuters*

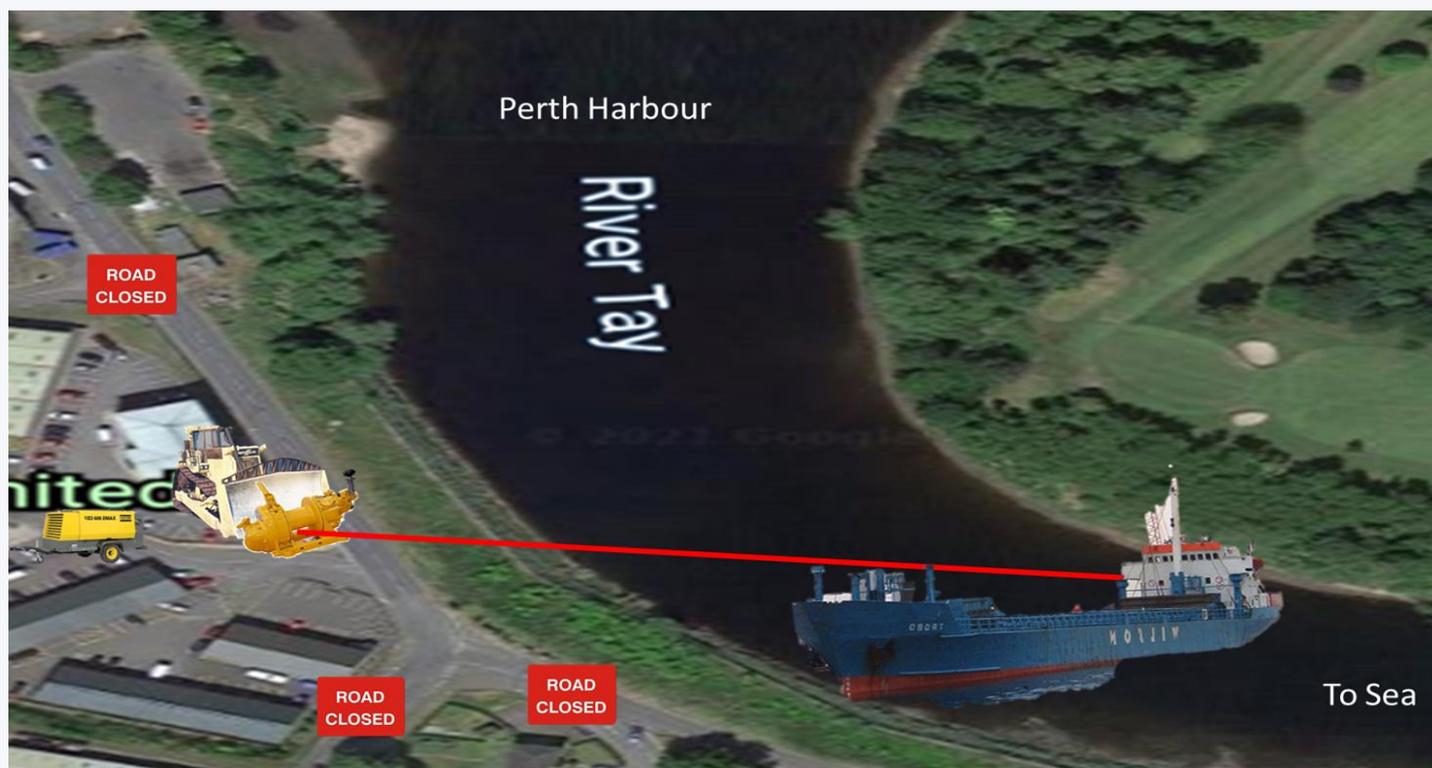
April 28 - Sticky property of bacteria used to create microbe nets that can capture microplastics in water to form a recyclable blob. Microbiologists have devised a sustainable way to remove polluting microplastics from the environment – and they want to use bacteria to do the job.

Bacteria naturally tend to group together and stick to surfaces, and this creates an adhesive substance called “biofilm” – we see it every morning when brushing our teeth and getting rid of dental plaque, for example. Researchers

at the Hong Kong Polytechnic University (PolyU) want to use this sticky bacteria property and create tape-like microbe nets that can capture microplastics in polluted water to form an easily disposable and recyclable blob.

Although these findings, [presented on Wednesday at the Microbiology Society’s annual conference](#), are still preliminary, this invention could pave the way for sustainably lowering plastic pollution levels in the long run by simply using something found in nature. The Guardian / [Read more](#)

## AUGUST 1995 - CARGO VESSEL BLOCKS SCOTTISH RIVER (A MICRO VERSION OF WHAT HAPPENED IN THE SUEZ CANAL)



With recent events in the Suez Canal a few ISCO members recall a similar but very much smaller incident and rattled their ageing brains to summarise the incident for our ISCO Members.

Written by Bob McWhinnie and Allan Howarth who worked together with Alba International and then Briggs Marine Environmental services for over 20 Years.

The team from Aberdeen and Dundee mobilised on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of August 1995 to a stricken vessel that had blocked the River Tay in Perth, Scotland.

As we recall, the Team Consisted of Captain Fraser Forbes, Bob McWhinnie, Allan Howarth, Steve Guy, Willie Hendry, and I&H Brown - Rab Brown (Local Contractor) there were more, but we do apologise..... It's an age thing and we can't remember them all!

The equipment that was mobilised from Aberdeen and Dundee bases were as follows:

- Air Compressor
- Air Winch & Cable, Pulley's, Hoses
- D9 Caterpillar Dozer (I&H Brown)
- Small GRP Boat
- Oil Containment, Recovery and Storage Equipment

With the vessel bow stuck fast to the Tay River bottom and no vessel availability to assist in such a remote location, in addition to the low depth restrictions and time was running out due to the tidal conditions, therefore a pragmatic solution had to be sought.

The team agreed to mobilise in very short notice and position a large D9 Caterpillar dozer as an onshore anchor in a nearby carpark and further make fast an air operated winch to the dozer as a pulling device.

For ease, please see above our layout of the incident. The Vessel was pulled free some 24 hours after our initial response and the main engines were used to move her astern into Perth Harbour.

## UPCOMING WEBINARS

### FREE WEBINARS FROM UK AND IRELAND SPILL ASSOCIATION

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.](#)

## ONLINE AND OTHER TRAINING COURSES

### **CEDRE: E-LEARNING MODULE: SURVEYING SITES POLLUTED BY OIL**

In every major spill, the oiled site survey phase is of primary importance. It enables decision-makers to assess the scale of the pollution, estimate its impact on the shoreline, determine response priorities, select the most appropriate response techniques and allocate adequate personnel and equipment. During 2020, Cedre added a new two-hour module on this theme to its online learning centre. The aim is to train any person liable to conduct a shoreline survey. This module aims more specifically to teach trainees the necessary skills to: conduct a field survey; segment a shoreline and describe the pollution; identify the relevant key information to be collected and passed on for clean-up operations and fill in a standard survey form. The English language version of this module is now available on our e-learning platform. <https://wwz.cedre.fr/en>

### **CEDRE: 2021 TRAINING PROGRAMME**

Click on these links [training catalogue](#) and [2021 calendar](#). We also invite you to visit our new online training space and the training courses offered: <https://elearning.cedre.fr/>

### **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](#)

### **IOPC FUNDS' ONLINE SHORT COURSE: 2021 DATES**

The Director is pleased to announce that the 2021 IOPC Funds Short Course will be held online for the first time and take place over two weeks between 14 and 25 June 2021, running three hours per day.

The online course programme will cover all aspects of the work of the IOPC Funds and the international liability and compensation regime in general and will include interactive exercises which allow participants to study a theoretical incident and the subsequent claims submission process. The course is supported by IMO, ICS, the International Group of P&I Associations and ITOPF. [More info](#)

### **ON-DEMAND CONFERENCE - PFAS UPDATES 2021**

**23<sup>rd</sup> June 2021** - Following a successful inaugural edition in 2020, this virtual conference will bring together experts and stakeholders for a comprehensive discussion on the latest regulatory developments around the use of PFASs. Chemical Watch / [More info](#)

### **USA: TEXAS A&M UNIVERSITY – NATIONAL SPILL CONTROL SCHOOL**

Calendar of upcoming training courses and webinars <http://nscs.tamucc.edu/schedule-2020-2021.html>

## CONTRACTS, TENDERS AND 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.

## 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
VIRTUAL EVENT	April 19-May 17	<a href="#">Humanitarian Networks and Partnerships Weeks</a>	Online
USA	May 9	<a href="#">APICOM GM Meeting</a>	New Orleans LA
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 10-13	<a href="#">International Oil Spill Conference (IOSC 2021)</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 11-12	<a href="#">ALGA New Zealand Land &amp; Groundwater Conference</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 20-21	<a href="#">European Maritime Day</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	May 25-27	<a href="#">Fourteenth Meeting of the Focal Points of the Regional Marine Pollution Emergency Response Centre for the Mediterranean Sea (REMPEC)</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	June 8-9	<a href="#">Environment Analyst Global Business Summit 2021</a>	Online
VIRTUAL EVENT	June 8-10	<a href="#">43rd AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response</a>	Online
USA	June 8-10	<a href="#">Elastec Spill Workshop 2021</a>	Carmi, IL
TUNISIA	June 15	<a href="#">Training on Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills</a>	Hammamet
TUNISIA	June 16-17	<a href="#">Regional Workshop on Oil Spill Waste Management</a>	Hammamet
USA	August 17-18	<a href="#">Clean Pacific Exhibition &amp; Conference</a>	Renton, WA
USA	September 7-10	<a href="#">Hazmat Emergency Response Workshop</a>	Sacramento, CA
NETHERLANDS	September 9-10	<a href="#">Envirotech for Shipping Forum</a>	Rotterdam
USA	Sept. 13-15	<a href="#">Clean Waterways Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	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	<a href="#">Clean Gulf Conference &amp; Exhibition</a>	San Antonio, TX
BAHREIN	Nov. 28-30	<a href="#">International Conference &amp; Exhibition on Spills, Clean Seas &amp; Environment</a>	Bahrein
CAMBODIA	December 1-4	<a href="#">East Asian Seas Congress</a>	Sihanoukville

Please advise the Editor if any of the above entries require correction or updating. [John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org](mailto:John.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org)

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

### NEW ZEALAND LAND & GROUNDWATER CONFERENCE

ALGA's virtual New Zealand Land & Groundwater Conference is being hosted virtually 11 - 12 May 2021. We are very proud to announce the event will be opened live by Dean Kimpton, a panel member on the independent Resource Management Review Panel, responsible for the most significant and broad ranging review of the Resource Management Act, since it came into force in 1991. [Download the programme](#) [Registration](#)

### USA: REGISTRATION NOW OPEN: 2021 CLEAN GULF CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION

[Registration](#) has officially opened for the [2021 CLEAN GULF Conference & Exhibition](#), taking place November 16-18 at the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center in San Antonio, TX. If you are unable to travel or attend in-person, you can register for the virtual on-demand experience.

### USA: CLEAN PACIFIC CONFERENCE AGENDA NOW AVAILABLE

The 2021 CLEAN PACIFIC [conference agenda](#) is now available! These sessions will take place at the Hyatt Regency Lake Washington, August 17-18, and all will be live-streamed in our virtual platform for those who can't attend in-person. Early bird registration discounts expire on May 27th! [Register early](#) to save \$250 on the in-person event and \$100 off the virtual experience.

### USA: CLEAN WATERWAYS PRELIMINARY CONFERENCE AGENDA

The [2021 CLEAN WATERWAYS preliminary conference agenda](#) is here! These sessions will take place at the Galt House Hotel in Louisville, KY, September 14-15, with a selection of sessions being live-streamed in our virtual platform for those who can't attend

## MESSAGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS (CONTINUED)

in-person. Session details and descriptions will be announced next month. If you register for CLEAN WATERWAYS by June 25th, you will receive our early bird registration discounts, which offer savings for both in-person and virtual registrations.

## NETHERLANDS: EUROPEAN MARITIME DAY

Den Helder, May 20-21. EMD 2021 in Den Helder will be a virtual conference. <https://european-maritime-day-2021.b2match.io/>

## LINKS FOR DOWNLOADING AND READING OTHER PUBLICATIONS

<a href="#">AMSA Update</a>	Latest News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority	Current issue
<a href="#">ATRAC Newsletter</a>	News from the Adriatic Training and Research Centre	October 2020
<a href="#">AUSMEPA Bulletin</a>	News from the Australian Marine Environment Protection Assoc'n	Summer 2020
<a href="#">BIMCO Bulletin</a>	Marine and shipping-related news from BIMCO	March 2021
<a href="#">Newsletter from George Holliday</a>	News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holliday	Free on request
<a href="#">Cedre Newsletter</a>	News from Cedre in Brittany, France	March 2021
<a href="#">EMSA Newsletters</a>	News from the European Maritime Safety Agency	Current issue
<a href="#">Environmental Expert</a>	Environmental News from Environmental Expert	Current issue
<a href="#">GDACS Newsletter</a>	Daily alerts for natural disasters – earthquakes, floods, typhoons, etc.	Free on request
<a href="#">GEF Newsletter</a>	Monthly Newsletter from the Global Environment Facility	Subscription
<a href="#">GESAMP</a>	Group of Experts on the Scientific Aspects of Marine Environmental Protection	Latest news
<a href="#">GISEA Quarterly Newsletter</a>	News from Global Initiative for South-East Asia	Q3 2020
<a href="#">IMO News Magazine</a>	News from the International Maritime Organization	Autumn/Winter 2020
<a href="#">IMO Publishing Newsletter</a>	New and forthcoming IMO publications	September 2020
<a href="#">ITOPF Ocean Orbit</a>	News magazine from ITOPF with interesting spill response articles	February 2021
<a href="#">JOIFF Catalyst Newsletter</a>	Int'l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management	Q1 2021 issue
<a href="#">Maritime Executive Magazine</a>	Often contains articles of interest to the spill response community	Current issue
<a href="#">MOIG Newsletter</a>	News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group	February 2021
<a href="#">NCEC Newsletter</a>	News from the National Chemical Emergency Centre	December 2020
<a href="#">Navigate Response</a>	Global crisis communications network for shipping & marine	Current issue
<a href="#">NOAA OR&amp;R</a>	Weekly round-up of news from NOAA's Office of Response & Restoration	Latest issue
<a href="#">Oceanbuzz</a>	Newsletter giving news on the Ocean Technology Industry	Current issue
<a href="#">OCIMF Newsletter</a>	News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum	Current issue
<a href="#">OHMSETT Gazette</a>	Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly	Autumn 2020
<a href="#">Oiled Wildlife Log</a>	Bi-annual Newsletter from Tri-State Bird Rescue & Research	January 2021
<a href="#">OSPAR Newsletter</a>	Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources	End of year 2019
<a href="#">PEMSEA Newsletter</a>	Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas	Current issue
<a href="#">Pollution Online Newsletter</a>	News for pollution prevention & control professionals	Current issue
<a href="#">Salvage World</a>	Quarterly Newsletter of the International Salvage Union	Current issue
<a href="#">Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter</a>	Oiled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm	Current issue
<a href="#">Society of Maritime Industries</a>	News from the UK's maritime engineering and business services sector.	April 1, 2021
<a href="#">Spill Alert</a>	Quarterly Newsletter from UK & Ireland Spill Association	December 2020
<a href="#">Technology Innovation News Survey</a>	News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination	March 1-15, 2021
<a href="#">The Maritime Advocate</a>	Maritime News from Sandra Speares	Current issue
<a href="#">UNEP News</a>	Latest News from United Nations Environmental Programme	Latest News
<a href="#">USA EPA Tech Direct</a>	Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater	May 1, 2021
<a href="#">USA Federal Contract Opportunities</a>	The authoritative source for federal contract opportunities	April 18-25, 2021
<a href="#">Water Pollution &amp; Flood News</a>	Monthly round-ups of UK & Worldwide Spill and Flood News	Free on request

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](mailto:john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org) if any of the links are not up-to-date.

## NEW PUBLICATIONS

### CANADA: LAUNCH OF NEW NEWSLETTER FROM MULTI-PARTNER RESEARCH INITIATIVE (MPRI) – IMPROVING OIL SPILL RESPONSE TECHNOLOGY IN CANADA

Please refer to the announcement on Page 13 of last week's ISCO Newsletter.

Note from your Editor – This looks like a very worthwhile and useful publication but readers are probably wondering why I didn't include a link for downloading this new publication. Lisa Isaacman at MPRI has sent an explanation – “Unfortunately we are unable to post the newsletter online at this time since DFO is currently revamping its website and we are not allowed to post anything new. However, you could direct people to email us for a copy. [DFO.OPP.MPRI-PPO.IRMP.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca](mailto:DFO.OPP.MPRI-PPO.IRMP.MPO@dfo-mpo.gc.ca)

ISCO Member, Ed Levine, who kindly alerted me to this new publication, has sent me links for downloading these related reports –

## NEW PUBLICATIONS (CONTINUED)

This is the link to the overall project:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/environmental-environnement/mpri/index-eng.html>

Here is a link to the individual project summaries:

<https://www.dfo-mpo.gc.ca/science/rp-pr/mpri-irmp/index-eng.html>

## INCIDENT REPORTS

### UK: TOXIC GLASGOW BURN CONTAMINATED BY CANCER-CAUSING CHEMICAL 'GLOWING LUMINOUS GREEN'



April 24 - A burn contaminated by a cancer-causing chemical that resembles a 'toxic soup' is now causing increased concern among local residents by appearing to glow 'luminous green' as it flows through Richmond Park into the River Clyde.

Polmadie Burn is located on the site of the former J&J Whites Chemical plant - also known as Shawfield Chemical Works - which operated from 1820 to 1967 and produced up to 70% of the UK's chromate products. Glasgow Live / [Read more](#)

### VIETNAM: MONGOLIAN CONTAINER SHIP CAPSIZES IN HCMC

*Photo: A Mongolian ship is capsized at the Hiep Phuoc Port in HCMC's Nha Be District, April 26, 2021. Photo courtesy of the HCMC Maritime Administration.*

April 26 - The ship, spanning 72 meters and weighing 2,500 tons, was anchored at Hiep Phuoc Port of Nha Be District before embarking for Indonesia. However, it capsized at 9 a.m., with its port-side underwater. Berthing ropes managed to keep the rest of the vessel afloat. Among the 54 containers onboard, 18 fell into the Soai Rap River, with some floating around and others washed ashore about a kilometer away. There were no casualties. Container cargo has yet to be confirmed.

VNExpress / [Read more and watch video](#)



### PHILIPPINES: DENR, MANILA PROBE POSSIBLE OIL SPILL IN MANILA BAY

April 26 - The Manila City government and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources-Manila Bay Coordinating Office (DENR-MBCO) are investigating a possible oil spill in Manila Bay. "Yellow stains can be seen in the water surrounding a yacht moored beside the sea wall of the Manila Yacht Club," the DPS report stated. The oil spill has spread to about 500 meters in the area, according to the DENR. Canadian Enquirer / [Read more](#)

### CHINA: OIL SPILL NEAR CHINA'S QINGDAO PORT AFTER SHIP COLLISION IN FOG

April 27 - A tanker carrying around one million barrels of bitumen mix was involved in a collision near the Chinese port city of Qingdao during heavy fog, spilling oil into the Yellow Sea, Chinese maritime officials and tanker representatives said on Tuesday.

The collision involving the anchored Liberia-flagged tanker A Symphony and the bulk vessel Sea Justice took place at 0850 local time (0050 GMT), A Symphony's manager Goodwood Ship Management said in an e-mail.

"The force of the impact on the forward port side caused a breach in cargo tanks and ballast tanks, with a quantity of oil lost into the ocean," Goodwood said, adding all of the crew had been accounted for and there were no injuries. Reuters / [Read more](#)

**April 28 - Cleanup Off China After Tanker Spills 500 Tons of Oil** - Clean-up efforts are getting underway to contain and recover the oil leaking from a Suezmax tanker that was struck by a cargo ship off the port of Qingdao, China. Chinese officials and the tanker's management company confirmed that pollution response teams are on-site while both vessels remain seaworthy approximately 11 nautical miles off the coast of China. Reuters is reporting that Chinese officials told them that approximately 500 tons, which equates to 3,420 barrels out of the total one million barrels of oil on board the tanker, have leaked into the ocean. Initial reports from the Singapore-based Goodwood Ship Management that handles the Liberian-flagged tanker A Symphony said that the captain of the vessel had activated the oil spill response and was attempting to shift oil from the damaged tanks. Unconfirmed reports suggest that they are now considering a ship-to-ship transfer to remove oil from the damaged tanks. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

**April 29 - Work to remove oil from stricken tanker in China set to start on Friday** - Work to siphon off the remaining cargo from a stricken tanker was expected to commence on Friday, the vessel's manager said on Thursday, two days after hundreds of tonnes of oil spilled into the Yellow Sea following a collision in dense fog. The size of the spill from the Liberia-flagged tanker A Symphony was revised down to about 400 tonnes (2,920 barrels) on Thursday, from the original estimate of 500 tonnes, and one Chinese maritime official said it seemed to have been contained. Zawya / [Read more](#)

**April 29 - An official at the Shandong Maritime Safety Administration told Reuters the amount of oil on the tanker, which had been carrying a 150,000-tonne cargo of bitumen blend, was unchanged.** That would indicate no more was leaking, although the official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the information was not definitive. Nippon / [Read more](#)

## USA: SALVAGE OF SEACOR POWER WILL BE MANAGED BY USCG UNIFIED COMMAND

April 27 - A week after the U.S. Coast Guard suspended the search for the missing crewmembers of the liftboat Seacor Power that capsized off the Louisiana Coast, the Coast Guard announced the initial plans to oversee the salvage of the vessel. The Seacor Power remains partially submerged approximately seven miles off Port Fourchon. The Maritime Executive / [Read more](#)

**April 28 - The vessel was carrying a maximum potential of 35,000 gallons of fuel, lube oil, hydraulic and waste oil.** [Thanks to Insurance Marine News]

## USA: PHOTOS: SALVORS HOIST AND REMOVE GOLDEN RAY'S ENGINE ROOM SECTION



April 28 - On Tuesday, salvors hoisted and removed the engine room section of the grounded ro/ro Golden Ray, loading it onto a deck barge for transport to a recycling facility in Louisiana.

The lift marks the culmination of a long, three-month process to saw through the heavily-reinforced hull section using a length of anchor chain. After multiple setbacks and pauses for repairs, the section was finally severed on April 24.

Over the weekend, the team moved ahead with operations to remove the section's cargo (vehicles), its moveable decks and accumulated sediment, lightening it for hoisting. The section was lifted and placed carefully on a barge on Tuesday, then towed to

the nearby Mayors Point Terminal for sea-fastening in preparation for a final voyage to the Gulf Coast.

As expected, a limited amount of fuel oil escaped from the vessel during the lifting and removal evolution, and skimmers and shore teams responded. The Maritime Executive / [Read more and see more photos](#)

## LEBANON: TONNES OF DEAD FISH WASH UP ON SHORE OF POLLUTED LAKE

May 1 - Tonnes of dead fish have washed up on the banks of a lake on Lebanon's Litani river, engulfing a nearby village in a pungent smell, in a disaster blamed on polluted waters.

Volunteers collected rotting fish carcasses near the Qaraoun lake on Lebanon's longest river, the Litani, where activists have warned for years of water pollution caused by sewage and waste. Piles of garbage drifted in the lake near the dead fish. Swarms of flies spread near the reservoir and thousands of fish were decomposing in already dirty waters. GDN Online / [Read more](#)

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