SOUTH AFRICA ACCEDES TO COMPENSATION REGIME FOR HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS CARGOES

July 15 - South Africa has become the latest country to accede to a key compensation treaty covering the transport of hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) by ship.

When in force, the treaty will provide a regime of liability and compensation for damage caused by HNS cargoes transported by sea, including oil and chemicals, and covers not only pollution damage, but also the risks of fire and explosion, including loss of life or personal injury as well as loss of or damage to property. An HNS Fund will be established, to pay compensation once shipowner’s liability is exhausted. This Fund will be financed through contributions paid post incident by receivers of HNS cargoes.

As required by the treaty, South Africa provided data on the total quantities of liable contributing cargo. Entry into force of the treaty requires accession by at least 12 States, meeting certain criteria in relation to tonnage and reporting annually the quantity of HNS cargo received in a State. The treaty requires a total quantity of at least 40 million tonnes of cargo contributing to the general account to have been received in the preceding calendar year.


The treaty has now been ratified by five States (Canada, Denmark, Norway, South Africa and Turkey).  IMO / Read more
UK PARLIAMENT HOLDS SESSION ON BAYELSA OIL SPILLS

July 15 - The effort to internationalise the campaign against environmental injustice in Bayelsa State has caught the attention of the United Kingdom Parliament with the Africa All Parliamentary Group (AAPPG) holding a session to discuss the impact of oil spills in the state.

The event was chaired by Chi Onwurah, a Member of Parliament and chair of the AAPPG, which has a membership of over 200 parliamentarians from across parties and houses. It is also one of the largest and most active APPGs in the UK parliament.

This is coming on the heels of a similar recognition for the environmental campaign, Rise for Bayelsa, which won seven awards at the recent Prix de la Photographie Paris (Paris Photography Prize) held in Paris, France. Niger Delta Reports / Read more

AUSTRALIA: SHIPPING PLAN AIMS TO DELIVER IMPROVED MARINE PROTECTION

July 15 - AMSA has released the 2019 Review of the North-East Shipping Management Plan (NESMP) to enhance the protection of the Great Barrier Reef, Torres Strait and Coral Sea region.

In 2014, Queensland and Australian government agencies developed the NESMP in conjunction with industry and key interest groups. Its aim was to reduce the effects of large commercial ships transiting the environmentally sensitive waters of northeast Australia.

AMSA recently concluded a review of NESMP to assess progress of the work items and strengthen management measures. The revised plan aims to ensure that ships that visit these areas are of the highest standards and that they operate safely.

AMSA CEO, Mick Kinley said that the waters off the north east coast of Australia are some of the most environmentally sensitive sea areas in the world and shipping in this area plays an important role in Australia’s economy.

“To date, the NESMP has formed the basis of a national strategy to minimise the effects that shipping has on our unique marine environment, Mr Kinley said.”

“So far, we have focussed on implementing measures to enhance ship and navigation safety, reduce the impacts of shipping on marine mammals, address biosecurity risks, expand special protection measures for our most sensitive sea areas and establishing a pollution response fund.” Read the 2019 Review of the North-East Shipping Management Plan. AMSA / Read more

CANADA: $2.7 MILLION B.C. TUG FUEL SPILL FINE CANADA’S LARGEST EVER


July 17 - The October 2016 sinking of a tug boat near Bella Bella that released approximately 107,552 litres of diesel fuel and 2,240 litres of lubricants has resulted in Canada’s largest ever penalty under the Fisheries Act – $2.7 million.

The Nathan E. Stewart was operating in Seaforth Channel near Bella Bella when it ran aground at Edge Reef on Oct. 13, 2016. It had been en route from Ketchikan, Alaska to Vancouver.

Niger Delta Reports / Read more
Transportation Safety Board (TSB) documents show salvage divers attempted to stop the diesel oil in the tug from leaking and that 119,000 litres of diesel oil and lubricants were removed from the tug. Shoreline clean-up and assessment surveys covered approximately 350 kilometres of shoreline, the TSB said. BIV / Read more

COSTA RICA: NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON LIABILITY AND COMPENSATION

July 19 - In cooperation with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the Central American Commission on Maritime Transport (COCATRAM), the IOPC Funds delivered a national workshop on the international liability and compensation regime in Costa Rica from 16 to 18 July 2019. In addition to the 1992 Civil Liability and Fund Conventions, presentations on the other IMO Liability Conventions were also delivered. IOPC Funds / Read more

FRANCE: CEDRE ACTIVITY REPORT FOR 2018

July 8 – 2018 was a busy year for Cedre with a high level of activity and numerous staff changes.

In March, the Cedre Information Day, 40 years on from the Amoco Cadiz oil spill, was an opportunity for our partners and governors to present the changes which have come about over the past four decades. It was followed the next day by an open day, which was a resounding success.

Our Emergency Response service saw a 36% rise in the number of enquiries, notably with 10 incidents leading to on-site call-outs. Half of these spills occurred at sea or on the shoreline, including that due to the incident involving the Ulysse and the CSL Virginia, in which Cedre continues to be involved in early 2019, while the other half related to incidents in inland waters, the number of which is constantly on the rise.

Cedre’s team continued to be renewed, with several retirements, including that of Christophe Rousseau, Deputy Director, who joined Cedre in 1979. CEDRE / Continue reading

TRINIDAD & TOBAGO: IN HISTORY - TOBAGO, SITE OF ONE OF THE WORLD'S LARGEST OIL TANKER SPILLS

July 19 - Not many are aware that one of the world’s largest oil spills took place just a few miles away from Tobago in 1979.

The spill, which took place on July 19, 1979, is listed as the world’s fifth largest oil spill and the largest ship-based oil spill in the world.

According to French anti-marine pollution agency CEDRE, two oil tankers, the SS Atlantic Empress and the Aegean Captain, crossed paths on that fateful night of July 19 when the inconceivable happened.

Records show that conditions had been rainy and foggy when the ships collided around 7:00 pm – The Atlantic Empress was sailing from Saudi Arabia to Beaumont, Texas, with 276,000 tonnes of light crude oil owned by Mobil, while the Aegean was en route to Singapore from Aruba with 200,000 tonnes of crude oil.

The two loaded Very Large Crude Carriers (VLCCs) collided just 18 miles east of Tobago in the Caribbean sea, causing fires in both tankers - 26 sailors were killed. Loop TT / Read more

UK: GUIDANCE - TRAINING MATERIALS: OIL POLLUTION, CONTINGENCY PLANNING, RESPONSE

July 19 - This OCPR course is for emergency planning officers in LAs and national government officers and covers all aspects of spill response from the LA perspective. It provides management staff with an overview of oil pollution response and how their roles and responsibilities fit into the NCP. UK MCA / Read more

UK: GUIDANCE: TRAINING COURSES: OIL POLLUTION, CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND RESPONSE

July 19 - List of current MCA oil pollution, contingency planning and response training courses with booking form UK MCA / Read more

USA: EPA REQUIRES U.S. LUBRICANTS INC. TO PROTECT LOS ANGELES WATERWAYS FROM OIL SPILLS

July 18 - The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reached a settlement for civil penalties with U.S. Lubricants Inc. for Clean Water Act violations. Under the agreement, U.S. Lubricants will pay a $196,314 penalty. EPA recently entered into a separate agreement with the company to take steps to reduce the risk of oil spills from their petroleum storage facility in Commerce, California, to the Los Angeles River.

“It is essential that companies operating near our waterways develop and follow spill prevention plan,” said EPA Pacific Southwest Regional Administrator Mike Stoker. “Our action will help prevent oil spills to the Los Angeles River.” OC Breeze / Read more
USA: CALIFORNIA SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN ISSUES STATEMENT ON CHEVRON OIL SPILL

July 18 - This morning California Senator Dianne Feinstein expressed her concern over a massive oil spill here in Kern County. That spill by Chevron leaked hundreds of thousands of gallons of oil since May in the McKittrick area.

“I’m extremely concerned by Chevron’s huge oil spill outside Bakersfield and that it remained unknown to the public for two months,” the statement read.

“The company states that most of the spill has been recovered, but that still leaves oil and contaminated water in the soil and surrounding environment. The full toll to the area is not yet known, although we’re lucky the spill didn’t take place during a rainy period or the effects on our environment and wildlife would have been even more tragic.”  ABC News / Read more

USA: LATEST ACTIVITY REPORTS FROM NOAA OR&R

July 19 – Please click on the links below to read more in the latest News Reports from NOAA OR&R

NOAA Marine Debris Program Participates in Bonus Tampa Bay Ghost Trap Rodeo

This event marked the end of the Rodeo event series, funded by a NOAA Marine Debris Program FY19 community-based removal grant to Ocean Aid 360. For this bonus event, Ocean Aid 360 also partnered with Tampa Bay Watch, Clearwater Marine Aquarium, and the Coastal Impact Fund. The bonus round corresponded with the Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission’s regional crab trap closure, established to identify and retrieve lost and abandoned blue and stone crab traps from Florida waters.

NOAA Marine Debris Program Participates in Bi-national Presentation at Gulf of Maine Council Meeting

On July 10 and 11, the NOAA Marine Debris Program’s Northeast Regional Coordinator, Demi Fox, attended a Gulf of Maine Council on the Marine Environment meeting in Halifax, Nova Scotia to update the Council on U.S.-Canada collaborations to prevent and remove marine debris throughout the bi-national region.

Ethical Questions about Travel and Tourism Discussed at OR&R Diversity Event

Last week, over 50 OR&R participants gathered to discuss some of the ethical questions about travel and tourism.

More than 450,000 Gallons of Oil Recovered from WWII Shipwreck

Oil recovery operations on a World War II-era shipwreck near Long Island, New York are now nearing completion after resulting in the removal of more than 450,000 gallons of oil over a period of nearly three months. DC2 Joshua Marks of the Atlantic Strike Team tests oil recovered from the Coimbra shipwreck. Coast Guard crews discovered a significant amount of oil in cargo and fuel tanks during onsite assessments of the Coimbra in May 2019. The Coimbra sank off the coast of Long Island after a German U-boat torpedoed the ship in January 1942.

OR&R Presents Lessons Learned from 2018 Hurricane Season

On July 16 the OR&R Disaster Preparedness Program chief, Kate Wheelock, attended the Professional Services Council (PSC) membership meeting where she presented lessons learned from the 2018 hurricanes that devastated the mid-Atlantic coast.

Hawaii Natural Resource Damage Assessment Workshop

OR&R sponsored a NRDA (Natural Resource Damage Assessment) workshop through Coastal Response Research Center (CRRC) in Hawaii from July 16-18. The purpose of the workshop was to re-engage with the NOAA and others in the trustee community for preparing for potential NRDA under the Oil Pollution Act.

PEOPLE IN THE NEWS

JOE ANGELO WINS IMO’S INTERNATIONAL MARITIME PRIZE

July 19 - The very prestigious International Maritime Organization (IMO) annual International Maritime Prize has been won this year by Joe Angelo. Joe was nominated jointly by the United States and INTERTANKO, with IMO’s Council recognising his outstanding involvement and contribution towards the work of IMO.

In support of Joe’s nomination, Admiral Karl Schulz, Commandant of the US Coast Guard, noted his “outstanding contributions to the maritime community and upholding of the highest principle of the IMO”.

As part of INTERTANKO’s nomination, Kathi Stanzel stated: “Joe not only assisted our global Membership in developing constructive, solution-focussed policies but brought these to bear on all the major issues surrounding the safety of shipping and the protection of the marine environment; contributing directly and personally to IMO’s fundamental goals.”  INTERTANKO / Read more
OBITUARIES

ROPME: INNA LILLAHI WA INNA ILAYHI RAJI’U

Received from The Regional Organization for the Protection of the Marine Environment (ROPME) – “We are deeply saddened to announce the sudden loss of H.E. Dr Abdul Rahman Al-Awadi, the Executive Secretary and Father of ROPME. He passed away peacefully on Saturday 6 July after a lifelong devotion and sincere services to the development of Health and Environment in our Region.

Dr Al-Awadi served his country in a number of ministerial and political positions while holding high ranking posts at the Regional and International Organizations with major duties and responsibilities. He founded and was the founding member of many professional and charity organizations providing invaluable support to the society. He was a great man with great accomplishments”. ROPME / Read more

NEWS FROM ISCO MEMBERS

News from ISCO Members – Your editor welcomes news from members. Please ensure that ISCO is on your mailing list for your press releases and company newsletters. Send your news to john.mcmurtrie@spillcontrol.org

ARCTIC FOXTAIL PASSES SVALBARD TESTS

Henriksen’s new oil spill response device capable of cleaning up spills in arctic conditions and contributing to Norway’s spill preparedness. Dubbed Arctic FoxTail, the new device is a new winterised version of H Henriksen’s standard Foxtail mop skimmer. More info

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE

THREATS TO SEA TURTLES FROM OIL SPILLS: LESSONS LEARNED DURING A DISASTER

An article by Megan Ewald, Office of Response and Restoration, NOAA. Originally published 11th June, 2019.

Above: A large loggerhead turtle, 6 to 7 years old and over 100 pounds, evades being netted by a team of sea turtle experts while swimming in the polluted waters of the Gulf of Mexico, near the site of the Deepwater Horizon oil spill on June 14. He appeared to be in good condition, so the team decided not to capture him. Image credit: Carolyn Cole/LA Times.

Above left: One of 10 heavily oiled Kemp’s Ridley turtles recovered not far from the site of the Deep Horizon accident site on June 14, 2010. He will be cleaned and treated by a team of sea turtle experts. Image credit: Carolyn Cole/LA Times.

Photo on right: Blair Witherington, of Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, recovers an oiled, endangered Kemp’s Ridley turtle within 20 miles of the site of the Deepwater Horizon accident. Witherington and a team of sea turtle experts from NOAA and the University of Florida were working to recover oiled and endangered turtles in the Gulf of Mexico. Image credit: Carolyn Cole/LA Times.

Few animals capture the human imagination like sea turtles. Sea turtles are living fossils, they have glided through the Earth’s oceans for over 110 million years.
But today, sea turtles face new, human-caused threats that put all seven species at risk of extinction. One of these threats is oil spills.

Typically the only way to learn about how oil impacts sea turtles is during emergencies. Sea turtles are protected species, so you can’t just dunk one in oil to see what happens. It’s only in the organized chaos of oil spill response that scientists get to study the impacts. By responding to spills, scientists have learned the best ways to protect, rescue, assess, and restore sea turtles impacted by oil.

Imagine the life of a sea turtle expert. You’ve dedicated your education and career to understanding and conserving sea turtles. You see images of the Deepwater Horizon explosion on the news, and then you get the call.

Your assignment is to go out on the water and search for oiled turtles stranded anywhere from the beach to 50 miles offshore. You’re hunting for turtles the size of a dinner plate trapped in mats of oil-soaked Sargassum. You rescue the ones you can, and count the ones you can’t — meticulously documenting the impacts so you can determine what needs to be restored later.

Above: Mark Dodd, wildlife biologist from Georgia’s Department of Natural Resources, surveying oiled sargassum in the Gulf of Mexico. Image credit: Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Above: An endangered Kemp’s Ridley turtle swims out from under an oil pattie as rescue workers attempt to capture the oiled animal for rehabilitation on June 14, 2010. He was one of the unlucky turtles that got away. Image credit: Carolyn Cole/LA Times.

Right: Dr. Yonat Swimmer and Dr. T. Todd Jones of NOAA’s Pacific Islands Fisheries Science Center measure a dead Kemp’s ridley sea turtle on the Gulf Coast of Mississippi.

In the aftermath of Deepwater Horizon, people said they could smell the spill from 50 miles away. The stench was like tarring 500 driveways at once, with a hint of rotten egg. During the day the oil drew the heat of the summer sun, becoming so hot that heat haze glistened off it. Many juvenile turtles became caked in oil — covering their eyes and coating their throats — and were left trapped in oily Sargassum and vulnerable to the sun.

The images were shocking to look at — even more so for the responders who worked tirelessly to rescue as many sea turtles as they could. But more upsetting still was the emotional response of not being able to save them all. In total, trustees estimated that between 4,900 and 7,600 large juvenile and adult sea turtles, and between 55,000 and 160,000 small juvenile sea turtles, were killed by the Deepwater Horizon oil spill. Nearly 35,000 hatchling sea turtles were also injured by response activities.

With every disaster there is an opportunity to learn. From this disaster came a wealth of data. Scientists learned more about the impacts of sea turtles in oil spills than from all the data before Deepwater Horizon.
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We learned that juvenile sea turtles in offshore Sargassum are more likely to die from physical oiling and the vast majority of them ingested oil. We learned that rescued turtles are tough — most of them survived after cleanup and rehabilitation. We also learned that just because a sea turtle washes up during a spill doesn’t necessarily mean oil killed it. Many turtles collected on the shoreline had drowned, possibly as commercial fishing bycatch.

Like the size of the spill, the amount of information collected and understanding gained during Deepwater Horizon was unprecedented.

NOAA’s work on Deepwater Horizon didn’t end after the well was capped, nor after the settlement. It’s still ongoing. Restoration of sea turtles impacted by the spill is being planned and implemented by the DWH trustee agencies. We’ve taken what we’ve learned about responding to sea turtles during spills and are putting it to good use.

This month NOAA published “Guidelines for Oil Spill Response and Natural Resource Damage Assessment: Sea Turtles.” Included are tools and information about sea turtles to help prepare for future oil spills. While there is always the potential for another disaster like Deepwater Horizon, the science of oil spill response and assessment is constantly evolving. Science by its very nature is never finished.

We’ve also created a story map on the guidelines’ aim to educate the public about turtles and oil spills.

Sea Turtle Week is dedicated to the understanding and conservation of these amazing creatures worldwide. Sea turtles have swum the oceans for millennia, and it’s up to all humans to protect them from the threats we’ve created.
CONTRIBUTED ARTICLE  (CONTINUED)

Experts at NOAA continue to work diligently with our partners, so when an oil spill disaster strikes again we will be even better prepared to respond on behalf of sea turtles.

Above: A recovered sea turtle being released back to the sea.

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OPEN TENDER NOTIFICATION SERVICE

This is a subscription service. Have a look to see examples of open tenders.

MESSENGES FROM EVENT ORGANISERS

Clean Gulf Conference & Exhibition - New content has been added to the 2019 CLEAN GULF conference program, including impacts of spills on human health, community outreach, the human element of spill preparedness and response, and a maturing workforce.

Elastec Spring Workshop on river booming and oil recovery. The Spring Workshop was postponed to July 30 and as a result we still have a few seats available. More info & Registration

10th Maritime Salvage & Casualty Response on 11th & 12th September 2019 in London, UK Jan de Boer, Senior Legal Manager of IMO will give a presentation: “Nairobi Wreck Removal Convention: Latest Updates”  More info

RESPONSE EVENTS DURING JULY AND AUGUST 2019 (UPDATED)

CONGO: WORKSHOP ON CONTINGENCY PLANNING AND ON THE UPDATE OF THE NOSCP

Kinshasa, July 22-26. Objectives - Provide training to relevant national authorities on contingency planning; Test the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP) of DRC through a table top exercise; Initiate amendments to the NOSCP on the basis of lessons learnt from the exercise; Develop recommendations to improve the NOSCP. More info

USA: ELASTEC - SPRING WORKSHOP ON RIVER BOOMING AND OIL RECOVERY

Carmi II, July 30 – August 1. The Spring Workshop was postponed to July 30 and as a result we still have a few seats available. This intensive, hands-on SPRING OIL SPILL WORKSHOP is designed for spill responders who desire in-depth river booming and oil skimmer training. The three day workshop begins with a full day of classroom orientation at Elastec in Carmi, Illinois followed by two rigorous booming and skimmer deployment days on the Wabash River in New Harmony, Indiana. This workshop also qualifies as an 8-hour Hazwoper refresher course. More info & Registration

ANGOLA & NAMIBIA: TRANSBOUNDARY OIL SPILL RESPONSE

Jamestown, August 5-8. The objectives of this exercise, as defined by the countries, would be to: Test the communication links between Angola and Namibia; Test mechanisms for requesting assistance and mobilization of international resources; Test the National Plans of the two countries in the case of a trans-boundary oil spill incident; and Expose participants to the key issues related to trans-boundary spill incidents. More info
UPCOMING EVENTS - SEPTEMBER 2019 ONWARDS (UPDATED)

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

Note: Where a dedicated event URL is not available an email address for requesting more info is given

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OCIMF Newsletter
News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum  June 2019

NOHSETT Gazette
Oil Spill Response Research & Renewable Energy Test Facility Quarterly Fall 2018

OSPAR Newsletter
Protecting & Conserving the N.E. Atlantic and its resources Spring 2019

PEMSEA Newsletter
Healthy oceans, people and economies in the East Asian Seas June 2019

Pollution Online Newsletter
News for pollution prevention & control professionals April 3, 2019

Safe Seas, Clean Seas
Quarterly Newsletter from Maritime New Zealand July 2018 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

Technology Innovation News Survey
News from US EPA – Contaminated Site Decontamination May 16-31, 2019

USA EPA Tech Direct
Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater July 1, 2019

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

INCIDENT REPORTS (IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER)

CANADA: CLEANUP UNDERWAY AFTER 320,000 LITRES OF OIL, PRODUCED WATER LEAKS AT NORTHERN ALBERTA ENERGY SITE

July 17 - Cardinal Energy Ltd. says a cleanup is underway after a large spill involving oil and produced water occurred at its House Mountain operation in northern Alberta over the weekend.

The Alberta Energy Regulator posted some details about the spill on its website. The AER said it has been told that a total of 320,000 litres of substances leaked, half of which was crude oil and the other half of which was produced water. Global News / Read more [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Canada]

CANADA: OIL SHEEN SPOTTED OFFSHORE CAME FROM HIBERNIA OIL PLATFORM, COMPANY CONFIRMS

July 17 - Hibernia's operator says it is monitoring the discharge of oil and water into the ocean that happened Wednesday morning on its platform southeast of St. John's. The sheen, initially estimated to be 20 metres by 900 metres, is being monitored and is dissipating, said a news release from Hibernia Management and Development Company. The platform is about 315 kilometres southeast of St. John's. The company pointed to a leak of oil and water, discharged from a storage cell, as the culprit. CBC News / Read more [Thanks to Dr Merv Fingas, Hon.FISCO, Member of ISCO Council for Canada]

July 19 - Newfoundland Oil Spill: Canada's Hibernia Platform Halts Production

The 220,000-barrel-per-day Hibernia oil platform off the coast of Atlantic Canada has shut down after an estimated 75 barrels, or 12,000 liters, of oil spilled from a storage cell into the water. Reuters reported that production remained halted for the second day Thursday as the crew worked to clean up the oil spill. IB Times / Read more

SOUTH AFRICA: PORT ELIZABETH OIL SPILL CONTAINED BUT PENGUINS NEGATIVELY AFFECTED

July 18 - By Thursday 90 African penguins, nine penguin chicks, three penguin eggs, 12 Cape gannets and five Cape cormorants had been rescued and were being cleaned.

Authorities successfully managed to contain an oil spill which occurred when a cargo vessel was being refuelled in the Port of Ngqura at Port Elizabeth, the South African Maritime Safety Authority (SAMSA) said in a statement on Thursday. The Citizen / Read more

Related Report in The South African

SAMSA said around 360 litres of oil were extracted from the ocean off Port Elizabeth.

The maritime safety authority said it was conducting an investigation to establish why up to 400 litres of oil had spilled into the ocean earlier in July. SAMSA said that bunkering services company, SA Marine Fuels, which was refuelling the MV Chrysanthis S had also indicated that the vessel's owner had been found liable for the tragedy. The Citizen / Read more
INCIIDENT REPORTS (CONTINUED)

USA: COAST GUARD Responds TO OIL SLICK near Port Aransas, Texas

July 18 - Coast Guard crews responded to a report of oil that washed ashore at the Port Aransas Municipal Boat Ramp in Port Aransas, Texas, Wednesday. The IMD duty team accessed the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund and partnered with the Texas General Land Office, the Port Aransas Harbor Master and contractors to remove the oil from the water and decontaminate structures around the boat ramp using a pressure washer, VAC truck, active skimming and absorbents. KRIS6 News / Read more  [Thanks to Don Johnston of ISCO Industry Partner, DG & Hazmat Group]

USA: Chevron Says Attempt to Seal Off Well May Have Triggered Big Kern County Oil Spill

July 20 - Chevron says that its crews’ efforts to seal off a damaged and abandoned well in a Kern County oil field are believed to have started a chain of events that led to the unintentional release of an estimated 855,000 gallons of oil and water over the last two months. The company also said in a background briefing Friday that it believes its attempts to confirm the source of the original leak and shut it down unleashed even higher flows in the weeks after the initial problem was discovered.

The incident, which began May 10, led to an order from state oil and gas regulators for Chevron to "take all measures" to stop the spill. The flow reactivated this week, pouring about 62,000 additional gallons of liquid into a dry creek bed. KQED / Read more

Related Report in the LA Times

STRAIT OF HORMUZ: Iran Seizes British Oil Tanker

July 21 - Iran said its Revolutionary Guards captured a British-flagged oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz on Friday for violating international water rules, escalating tensions in the global oil trade’s most critical waterway.

The seizure, of Stena Impero, comes two weeks after the British navy seized an Iranian tanker in Gibraltar off the coast of the British Mediterranean territory on suspicion of violating European Union sanctions against Syria. Tehran last week threatened to retaliate for the capture of its vessel.

Britain said Iran seized two oil tankers on Friday, but Iran’s semi-official Tasmin news agency said the second vessel, the British-operated Mespard, had not been seized. It said the ship had been allowed to continue its course after being given a warning over safety and environmental issues.

Tasnim said “the Stena Impero had been causing pollution by dumping oil residue and not following international maritime regulations,” while an Iranian military source said the Stena Impero “had turned off its tracker and ignored several warnings by the Guards before being captured,” the official IRNA state news agency reported. Pipeline Oil & Gas News / Read more

Related Report in BBC News

INFORMATION FOR ISCO MEMBERS AND OTHER READERS

Your Membership Renewal is Needed to Fund the Work We Do for You

ISCO depends on receipt of membership dues to fund its work. Things like the weekly ISCO Newsletter, representation of ISCO members at IMO and IOPC Funds, participation in IMO and other Working Groups that will benefit our industry (for example, the joint ISCO-BIMCO project on developing a standard contract for emergency response), and the online availability of technical support – oil and chemical response guidelines, manuals, tools, case histories and technical articles.

You can help by paying your membership dues on time and by encouraging new members to join. If you have allowed your membership to lapse, please consider renewing it now. You can join or re-join online at http://spillcontrol.org/2013-02-05-10-50-47/membership-application

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