Chemical dispersants can suppress the activity of natural oil-degrading microorganisms

"Oil spills are a significant source of hydrocarbon inputs into the ocean. In response to oil spills, chemical dispersants are applied to the oil-contaminated seawater to disperse surface slicks into smaller droplets that are presumed to be more bioavailable to microorganisms. We provide evidence that chemical dispersants applied to either deep water or surface water from the Gulf of Mexico did not stimulate oil biodegradation" – New study report.

Comment from your editor – “In case you missed out on the report on Page 9 of last week’s ISCO Newsletter, here is a link to another report in the latest issue of SAC News (received by ISCO courtesy of Dr Merv Fingas Hon.FISCO, member of ISCO Council for Canada). It appears that the referenced study was based on tests carried out with one specific product and it’s expected that similar trials will need to be verified using other crude oils and dispersant products.


The holding of dispersant stockpiles and ability to apply them is an important component of the oil spill response preparedness plans of many countries. It will therefore be a matter of concern that the effectiveness of dispersants might not be quite as good as commonly believed. Dispersants have been successfully used for more than 40 years and this will continue but hopefully the reported study results will spur efforts to develop improved formulations that can overcome the apparent problem. Readers are invited to comment”.

Russian warplanes disrupt ISIS oil sales; destroy 500 terrorist oil trucks in Syria - VIDEO

November 18 - Around 500 fuel tanker vehicles transporting illegal oil from Syria to Iraq for processing have been destroyed by Russia’s Air Forces, the General Staff said.

“In recent years, Islamic State (IS, formerly ISIS/ISIL) and other extremist groups have organized the operations of the so-called ‘pipeline on wheels’ on the territories they control,” Russian General Staff spokesman Colonel General Andrey Kartapolov said.

Hundreds of thousands of tons of fuel have been delivered to Iraq for processing by trucks and the revenue generated from these illegal exports is the one of the terrorists’ main sources of funding, he said. OilandGasPeople.com Read more [Thanks to ADR Training UK]
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Go to 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”

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**International news (continued)**

**STATOIL EXITS ALASKA**

November 17 - Statoil has announced its exit from Alaska following recent exploration results.

The company stated that it is committed to optimizing its portfolio, strengthening financial performance and positioning for long-term value. The leases in the Chukchi Sea are no longer considered competitive within Statoil’s global portfolio, so the decision has been made to exit the leases and close the office in Anchorage, Alaska, said the company in a statement.

*The Maritime Executive* Read more

**US, CUBA TO COOPERATE ON MARINE PROTECTED AREAS**

November 19 - The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the National Park Service (NPS) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with Cuba’s Ministry of Science, Technology, and Environment (CITMA). The MOU aims to facilitate joint efforts concerning science, stewardship, and management related to Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). The MOU also includes a sister MPA program to foster conservation and understanding of natural marine resources in both countries, sharing technical and scientific data, and promoting education and outreach initiatives. *Green4Sea* Read more

**STUDY UNLOCKS FASTER WAY TO ASSESS OCEAN ECOSYSTEM HEALTH**

November 18 - A new study published identifies a set of features common to all ocean ecosystems that provide a visual diagnosis of the health of the underwater environment coastal communities rely on. Together, the features detail cumulative effects of threats — such as overfishing, pollution, and invasive species — so responders can act quickly to increase ocean resilience and sustainability.

Scientists incorporate satellite imagery, fishery surveys, and landings data — among other things — to produce a visual image of the patterns in the food chain of the ecosystem. These patterns show when there is a problem. Scientists can also use the data in reverse to see how an ecosystem is recovering after a threat is reduced. *Green4Sea* Read more

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**Incident reports from around the world**

**CANADA: ONTARIO - IHA SAYS HEALTH RISK “LOW” IN COLDWATER RIVER CHEMICAL SPILL**

November 17 - The Interior Health Authority (IHA) has confirmed the sodium hydroxide that spilled yesterday when a tractor trailer crashed on the Coquihalla Highway around Larson Hill has leaked into the Coldwater River. IHA spokesperson Michelle Swan told the Herald the IHA and Ministry of Environment have been monitoring the situation, and the initial findings are that the risk to human health from this spill is low. A spokesperson for the Ministry of Environment told the Herald the tanker truck spilled a large quantity of the corrosive glue, some of the material entered the Coldwater River and it is visible along the bottom of the river. *Merritt Herald* Read more
USA: ILLINOIS - OIL SPILL IN CLINTON

November 18 - An oil spill was reported in Clinton on Wednesday, November 18. Firefighters and the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency were called to a spill on Clinton's north side.

Officials say it’s possible the spill came from an old oil field that is no longer in use and that there wasn't any risk to the public. Now they're working on cleaning up the spill and trying to determine exactly what caused it.

INDIA: PUNCTURED PIPE REVEALED AFTER TIP-OFF ON OIL SPILL IN SEWRI

November 19 - A leaked pipeline led authorities to unearth an oil smuggling racket which had put the safety of the Mumbai Port Trust (MbPT) area at risk.

After receiving a tip-off about an oil spill, the Port Zone police on Tuesday evening informed officials from oil companies, asking them to look into the problem. During inspection, it was found that the spill had been caused due to a leakage in a pipeline, carrying furnace oil, belonging to the Bharat Petroleum Corporation Limited (BPCL).

Deputy Commissioner of Police (Port Zone) Kiran Chavan said, “During preliminary assessment, it appeared that the pipeline was illegally tapped by oil smugglers for pilferage.”

AUSTRALIA: EMERGENCY TOWAGE VESSEL CAPABILITIES PRACTICED ON WATER

October 29 - The waters off Townsville in North Queensland will be a hive of activity this week as the Australian Maritime Safety Authority (AMSA) runs a series of training exercises.

Over the next three days, personnel from AMSA’s dedicated emergency towage vessel Coral Knight and local emergency services will test their skills in the areas of pollution response, firefighting on board a ship, emergency ship towage and search and rescue from a ship. The Coral Knight operates in the northern Great Barrier Reef and Torres Strait and can be tasked by AMSA for emergency towage of ships, search and rescue or pollution response operations.

AUSTRALIA: REGULATOR REJECTS BP’S AUSTRALIAN DRILLING PLAN

November 17 - Australia’s oil and gas regulator NOPSEMA has rejected BP’s environment plan for exploration drilling in the Great Australian Bight.

BP has submitted plans to drill four deepwater exploration wells in the waters of the nation’s south from next year. It was required to demonstrate how it would manage the risk of an oil spill and address community concerns about the environmental impact.

The Wilderness Society of South Australia’s director Peter Owen said that BP had submitted what he considers to be an inadequate application. "It doesn't appear that BP even completed an oil pollution emergency plan or a comprehensive risk assessment," he said. "BP should take this opportunity to drop its plan to drill in the Great Australian Bight especially after it released a statement last month saying it supported action on climate change."

NOPSEMA has given BP the opportunity to resubmit a new plan for consideration, and BP has issued a statement saying it will submit an alternative proposal.

CANADA TO BAN TANKERS FROM NORTHERN B.C. COAST

November 14 - Canada will implement a moratorium on oil tanker traffic along the northern coast of British Columbia, effectively slamming the door on a controversial pipeline project that was already facing massive development hurdles.

In a letter released on Friday, Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau instructed Transport Minister Marc Garneau to work with numerous other ministries to “formalize” the ban on oil tanker traffic, a Liberal campaign promise ahead of the federal elections last month. Listed as one of seven "top priorities" for the Transport Ministry, more details on timing are expected after Parliament opens on December 3.

MEXICO: FIRST OIL PUMPED FROM STRANDED BULK CARRIER

November 16 - The first oil has been pumped from a Mexican bulk carrier that has been stranded along Mexico’s rocky Pacific coastline since late October when it ran aground during Hurricane Patricia.

Mexico’s environmental agency PROFEP reports that over the weekend approximately 150 cubic meters of oil was pumped from the wreck of the Mexican-flagged Los Llanitos to a tank barge brought in from Panama.

The 223-meter bulk carrier has been pinned against rocks in Barra de Navidad in Jalisco since October 23rd when it ran aground after attempting to ride out powerful Hurricane Patricia.
NEW ZEALAND: WELLINGTON HARBOUR OIL SPILL LEAVES A SHEEN ON LARGE AREA OF WATER

November 16 - A large amount of fuel that leaked into Wellington Harbour will be noticeable until Tuesday. Greater Wellington Regional Council spokesman Rick Marshall said environmental officers were alerted to the spill near Frank Kitts Park on Sunday.

Marshall said they had decided to let the fuel naturally evaporate rather than add more chemicals to the harbour to clean it up. The evaporation process would take about 48 hours, depending on conditions. The Dominion Post Read more

TURKMENISTAN: ITOPF SUPPORTS WORKSHOP ON UPDATE TURKMENISTAN NATIONAL OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN

November 16 – News received from ITOPF - ITOPF participated in a national workshop in Turkmenistan organised by the IMO and hosted by the State Administration on Supervision of Navigation under the State Service of Maritime and River Transportation from 9-11 November. 40 participants attended from both the public and private sectors in Turkmenistan.

The primary aim of the workshop was to provide assistance to the relevant authorities of Turkmenistan in order to increase familiarity with the roles and responsibilities of those tasked with the implementation of the National Oil Spill Contingency Plan as approved by the President of Turkmenistan in 2001.

The workshop was conducted by Mr John Ostergaard (IMO consultant) and Romain Chancerel (ITOPF) who shared ITOPF’s experiences of international good practice, making presentations on the cause, fate and effects of spilled oil; liability and compensation; and shoreline clean-up. ITOPF Read more

UK: THE TOP TEN STRANGEST SPILLS WHICH HAVE DELAYED MOTORWAY JOURNEYS

November 12 - Just days after 24 tonnes of lard were spilled on the M11, closing it for 24 hours, Highways England has revealed some of the strangest items ever spilled on its roads.

From animal blood to argon, toilet roll to toxic waste, wine to washing up liquid - highways teams have faced many mammoth challenges to clear up after motorway incidents.

The unexpected nature of motorway incidents means it can be hard to plan for what may happen on any given day. Over the past few years, there have been numerous spills, ranging from the strange to the dangerous. Facebook/RHA Read more

UK: OPT-IN POSITION ON THE EUROPEAN COMMISSION’S HAZARDOUS AND NOXIOUS SUBSTANCES DECISION

November 17 - The government has decided to opt in to the proposed Council Decision on the ratification and accession by Member States, in the interest of the Union, to the Protocol of 2010 to the International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) by Sea, with regard to aspects related to judicial cooperation in civil matters.

The 1996 International Convention on Liability and Compensation for Damage in Connection with the Carriage of Hazardous and Noxious Substances by sea (‘the 1996 HNS Convention’) was agreed by the International Maritime Organization (IMO) to fill a gap in international law on the treatment of HNS at sea. A 2002 Council Decision agreed that EU Member States would take the necessary steps to ratify the 1996 HNS Convention within a reasonable time and, if possible, before 30 June 2006. Despite this, due to the concerns that many EU Member States, including the UK, had over the 1996 HNS Convention, none of them ratified it and it has never been brought into force. UK Dept. for Transport Read more

USA: WITHOUT KEYSTONE, INDUSTRY MUST FIND NEW PATHS FOR OIL

November 10 - Following the Obama administration’s rejection of the Keystone XL pipeline, the oil industry faces the tricky task of making sure the crude oil targeted for the pipeline still gets where it needs to go.

The pipeline, first proposed by TransCanada Corp. in 2008, was projected to carry 800,000 barrels a day of crude from Canada and North Dakota down to Nebraska, where existing pipelines would bring it to refineries on the Gulf Coast.

Keystone XL was expected to come online toward the end of this decade. Until then a combination of existing pipelines and railroads was expected to be enough to handle anticipated production. Now the question becomes whether there will be enough pipeline capacity to move the oil and keep costs from getting too expensive. Marcellus.com Read more

USA: FEDS ORDER OIL PIPELINES PURGED - LINES TO BE KEPT CLOSED INDEFINITELY FOLLOWING MAJOR SPRING OIL SPILL

November 13 - Federal regulators have ordered additional work to drain parts of an oil pipeline spanning more than 100 miles between the Gaviota Coast and the Central Valley. Much of the line was already shut down following May’s oil spill near Refugio State Beach, but the pipeline remains full of crude oil. The rupture in May sent oil into the ocean, fouling water and beaches further south. Cleanup work cost the pipeline owner, Plains All-American, more than $100 million. Keyt.com Read more
USA: 38 MILLION TO STUDY OIL SPILL EFFECTS IN GULF OF MEXICO
November 16 - The Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI) Research Board has announced that it will award nearly $38 million to individuals and teams studying the effects of oil on the Gulf of Mexico ecosystem and public health. A total of 22 research proposals are being funded under this most recent GoMRI program.

The researchers funded submitted research proposals in response to GoMRI's fifth request for proposals (RFP-V). This program was designed to support research by individual investigators or by collaborative teams during 2016-2018. GoMRI also supports research by large, multi-institutional consortia that are funded under another GoMRI program.

The GoMRI is an independent, 10-year research program established with a $500 million commitment from BP following the Deepwater Horizon incident. Twenty experts comprise a Research Board responsible for designing research programs, making funding decisions, and providing research and budget oversight. The Maritime Executive

USA: NEW RULE WILL REQUIRE WASHINGTON STATE RAILROADS TO PROVIDE OIL SPILL CONTINGENCY PLAN
November 19 - As early as next year, companies transporting oil into or through Washington could be required to improve planning for accidents under new regulations being developed by the Washington Department of Ecology. They are beginning the rulemaking process to propose a new rule, “Chapter 173-186 WAC, Oil Spill Contingency Plan – Railroad.”

Increased crude by rail transport has changed the risk picture for oil spills in Washington State. During the 2015 legislative session, RCW 88.46.010 and RCW 90.56.010 were amended to include railroads (not owned by the state) that transport bulk oil as cargo in the definition of “facility”, and RCW 90.56.210 was amended to expand Ecology’s authority to require state contingency plans for rail. Ecology was directed to develop rules establishing contingency planning requirements for railroads transporting oil in bulk. Contingency plans for railroads will ensure that first responders are aware of the locations of oil transport, oil response equipment, and are trained to respond in a rapid, aggressive, and well-coordinated manner. Kbkw.com

ISCO news
ISCO CONSULTATION REGARDING 2016 CONFERENCE & EXHIBITION EVENTS
Members of the ISCO Executive Committee and ISCO Council are currently deliberating on which 2016 Conferences and Exhibitions will be supported by the organization. The number of events at which it’s an option for ISCO to have a booth/stand or give presentations is quite restricted by budget restrictions and availability of Committee Members to attend.

This year we are hoping, with the support of Committee Members and Members of Council, to extend the number of events attended. It is possible to economically courier exhibition materials to events at which media sponsorship has been agreed with organisers and where regionally-based members are willing to help the organization, providing someone to man a booth and/or give a presentation on current projects being carried out by ISCO.

CREATING A CAREER PATH FOR STUDENTS, TRAINEES, AND APPRENTICES
Calling on training organizations and companies who carry out internal training of staff – The ISCO newsletter regularly publicises the availability of training courses. On the ISCO website and in the newsletter you can find lots of useful material to help in training. Don’t forget that ISCO offers free one year student membership to encourage trainees interested in making a career in our industry.

Student members receive the weekly newsletter which contains educational content and can access lots of technical articles, guidelines and manuals on the ISCO website – really useful for all who are keen to learn. All you need to do is to send to the Secretariat the names and email addresses of the interested trainees you wish to recommend for this free benefit.
WHAT HAPPENS WHEN OIL SPILLS MEET MASSIVE ISLANDS OF SEAWEED?

An article reprinted here with the kind permission of NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration

Photo: Floating rafts of sargassum, a large brown seaweed, can stretch for miles across the ocean. (Credit: Sean Nash/Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-ShareAlike 2.0 Generic license)

The young loggerhead sea turtle, its ridged shell only a few inches across, is perched calmly among the floating islands of large brown seaweed, known as sargassum.

Open ocean stretches for miles around these large free-floating seaweed mats where myriad creatures make their home.

Suddenly, a shadow passes overhead. A hungry seabird?

Taking no chances, the small sea turtle dips beneath the ocean surface.

It dives through the yellow-brown sargassum with its tangle of branches and bladders filled with air, keeping everything afloat.

Home Sweet Sargassum

This little turtle isn’t alone in seeking safety and food in these buoyant mazes of seaweed. Perhaps nowhere is this more obvious than a dynamic stretch of the Atlantic Ocean off the East Coast of North America named for this seaweed: the Sargasso Sea. Sargassum is also an important part of the Gulf of Mexico, which contains the second most productive sargassum ecosystem in the world.

Some shrimp, crabs, and fish are specially suited to life in sargassum. Certain species of eel, fish, and shark spawn there. Each year, humpback whales, tuna, and seabirds migrate across these fruitful waters, taking advantage of the gathering of life that occurs where ocean currents converge.

Illustration of sargassum and associated marine life, including fish, sea turtles, birds, and marine mammals. Sargassum is a brown algae that forms a unique and highly productive floating ecosystem on the surface of the open ocean. (NOAA)

The Wide and Oily Sargasso Sea

However, an abundance of marine life isn’t the only other thing that can accumulate with these large patches of sargassum. Spilled oil, carried by currents, can also end up swirling among the seaweed.
If an oil spill made its way somewhere like the Sargasso Sea, a young sea turtle would encounter a much different scene. As the ocean currents brought the spill into contact with sargassum, oil would coat those same snarled branches and bladders of the seaweed. The turtles and other marine life living within and near the oiled sargassum would come into contact with the oil too, as they dove, swam, and rested among the floating mats.

That oil can be inhaled as vapors, be swallowed or consumed with food, and foul feathers, skin, scales, shell, and fur, which in turn smotheres, suffocates, or strips the animal of its ability to stay insulated. The effects can be toxic and deadly.

Above: Illustration of the potential impacts of an oil spill on sargassum and associated marine life in the water column. (NOAA)

While sea turtles, for example, as cold-blooded reptiles, may enjoy the relatively warmer waters of sargassum islands, a hot sun beating down on an oiled ocean surface can raise water temperatures to extreme levels. What starts as soothing can soon become stressful.

Depending on how much oil arrived, the sargassum would grow less, or not at all, or even die. These floating seaweed oases begin shrinking. Where will young sea turtles take cover as they cross the unforgiving open ocean?

As life in the sargassum starts to perish, it may drop to the ocean bottom, potentially bringing oil and the toxic effects with it. Microbes in the water may munch on the oil and decompose the dead marine life, but this can lead to ocean oxygen dropping to critical levels and causing further harm in the area.

From Pollution to Protection

NOAA and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service have designated sargassum as a critical habitat for threatened loggerhead sea turtles. Sargassum has also been designated as Essential Fish Habitat by Gulf of Mexico Fishery Management Council and National Marine Fisheries Service since it also provides nursery habitat for many important fishery species (e.g., dolphinfish, triggerfishes, tripletail, billfishes, tunas, and amberjacks) and for ecologically important forage fish species (e.g., butterfishes and flyingfishes).

Sargassum and its inhabitants are particularly vulnerable to threats such as oil spills and marine debris due to the fact that ocean currents naturally tend to concentrate all of these things together in the same places. In turn, this concentrating effect can lead to arine life being exposed to oil and other pollutants for extended periods of time and perhaps greater impacts.

However, protecting sargassum habitat isn’t impossible and it isn’t out of reach for most people. Some of the same things you might do to lower your impact on the planet—using less plastic, reducing your demand for oil, properly disposing of trash, discussing these issues with elected officials—can lead to fewer oil spills and less trash turning these magnificent islands of sargassum into floating islands of pollution.

And maybe protect a baby sea turtle or two along the way.
Photo: The floating habitat that sargassum creates provides food, refuge, and breeding grounds for an array of marine species, including sea turtles. (NOAA)

Technical support

VIDEOS FROM THE US CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD (CSB)

November 18 - The U.S. Chemical Safety Board (CSB) received awards for two safety videos at the annual Television, Internet, and Video Association of DC (TIVA DC) dinner on Saturday, November 14. Award recipients included Shock to the System, a safety video detailing key lessons for preventing hydraulic shock in ammonia refrigeration systems based on the CSB’s Millard Refrigerated Services investigation, and the computer-generated animation of a massive explosion and fire at the Caribbean Petroleum terminal facility.

The TIVA awards were presented before an audience of hundreds of regional video and media professionals. The CSB’s videos received 2 silver awards in the Government (under $25K) category. CSB Chairperson Vanessa Allen Sutherland said, “One consistent message that I have heard from stakeholders since arriving to the CSB is the tremendous value that CSB safety videos provide across industries and academic institutions to promote key safety lessons. We are honored to receive this recognition from the local media production community, and I applaud our team for creating such valuable work.”

The CSB safety videos are available for download free of charge from the agency’s website at www.csb.gov and can be viewed on the agency’s YouTube channel, USCSB.

New products

AN INNOVATIVE LIGHTWEIGHT SOLUTION FOR CONTAINING OIL SPILLS

November 17 – HARBO Technologies is an Israeli company with an innovative cleanup product that could save companies billions of dollars and save our environment, too. HARBO’s T-fence Immediate Booming System is 15 to 20 times lighter than regular containment booms and can be preinstalled onboard large ships and rigs. It includes a compact vessel the size of a lifeboat.

In October 2014, HARBO tested its product at the Ohmsett facility, the only one of its kind where full-scale oil-spill response equipment testing, research, and training can be conducted in a marine environment. Other booms that arrive for testing usually come in shipping containers. HARBO’s 100-foot boom arrived in two suitcases and contained approximately two tons of oil with no losses.

HARBO has a working model of its patented product but it’s not on the market just yet. HARBO will be launching a beta site in Holland in the next nine to 12 months and will start taking orders in the last quarter of 2016, says Greenberg. For more information, click here. [Source: Israel 21c]
NEWS FROM THE PUBLISHER OF “THE LITTLE BLACK BOOK”

November 21 - We have just completed a long overdue overhaul of www.cleanupoil.com Please take a moment to check the site, hopefully all is working and to your liking. It is now much easier to view on a variety of platforms such as phones, tablets and PC's.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions. Regards, Stewart  www.cleanupoil.com

USA: CHEMICAL SAFETY BOARD TO PUBLISH SAFETY NEWS IN SPANISH

November 20 - The U.S. Chemical Safety Board is launching a new initiative aimed at expanding the agency’s reach to better include Spanish speaking stakeholders. The CSB will soon begin to offer news releases outlining key safety information and lessons learned in Spanish.

Chairperson Vanessa Allen Sutherland said, "The CSB has amassed a tremendous wealth of knowledge on chemical accident hazards through its high quality accident investigations. One of my primary goals as Chairperson of the CSB is to ensure that the agency's knowledge reaches and impacts as many stakeholders as possible. By offering Spanish language safety products, we are helping to advance that goal."

CSB Read more

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

AMSA Aboard
ASME EED EHS Newsletter
Bow Wave
Cedre Newsletter
Celtic Biogenie enGlobe Newsletter
CROIERG News
EMSA Newsletter
Energy Institute eBulletin
Environmental Technology Online
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NOAA update
OCIMF Newsletter
Pollution Online Newsletter
Sea Alarm Foundation Newsletter
SAC News
Technology Innovation News Survey
The Essential Hazmat News
Transport Canada Newsletter
USA EPA Tech Direct
USA EPA Tech News & Trends
WMU Newsletter

News from the Australian Maritime Safety Authority
News and commentary on HSE issues from George Holiday
Sam Ignanski’s Ezine on Marine & Transport Matters
News from Cedre in Brittany, France
Latest Remediation and related technology news
Canberra & Regions Oil Industry Emergency Response Group
News from the European Maritime Safety Agency
News from the Energy Institute
Environment Monitoring, Testing & Analysis
News from the International Maritime Organization
New and forthcoming IMO publications
International news for the oil tanker community
Int'l Petroleum Industry Environmental Conservation Assoc’n
Int’l Organisation for Industrial Hazard Management
News from the Mediterranean Oil Industry Group
Oil spill response news from NOAA OR&R
News from the Oil Companies International Marine Forum
News for prevention & control professionals
Oil spilled wildlife Preparedness and Response news from Sea Alarm
Oil spill related and other news from Alaska
From US EPA - Contaminated site decontamination
Alliance of Hazardous Materials Professionals
News and articles re transport of dangerous goods in Canada
Remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater
Contaminated site clean-up information
News from the World Maritime University

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

Events

USA: FINAL CHANCE TO SUBMIT YOUR ABSTRACT FOR CLEAN PACIFIC 2016

November 20 - The CLEAN PACIFIC 2016 Conference Management and the Advisory Committee have issued an industry-wide call for participation. The conference covers all aspects of spill prevention, preparedness and response for drilling & production, pipelines, refining & petrochemical, and shipping & transportation. The CLEAN PACIFIC 2016 program will be developed by an industry/government-based committee of more than 30 industry professionals. All abstracts are reviewed for content and relevance by the committee and are selected by consensus. All offers considered sales pitches will be rejected. More info

CANADA: AMOP TECHNICAL SEMINAR 2016 – CALL FOR PAPERS DEADLINE

November 16 - The deadline for abstract submissions - Dec 31, 2015. More info
### UPCOMING EVENTS SUMMARY

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For more information click on Title of Event

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

### Training

**AUSTRALIA: CROIERG UPDATES THE TRAINING COURSE PUBLICATION LIBRARY & DVD’s**

CROIERG has just replenished the library for training course student publications and DVD’s. These are provided to course participants and besides being training aids are also very good reference material for future use. The publications are:-

a. Anatomy of an Oil Spill (Booklet)
b. Land Oil Spills (Booklet)
c. Oil Spill Solutions (Booklet)
d. Recommended Procedures for Road Tanker Incidents (Booklet)
e. DVD. Rollover Tanker Training
f. DVD. Road Tankers. Various Incidents

The booklets are available to CROIERG Member’s in the Member’s Area of this website. Go to the Left Hand Menu and CROIERG Books. For further information contact the CROIERG Secretary on 0428 627 777 Email ejoconn@bigpond.net.au or by mail at CROIERG PO Box 362 Yass NSW 2582

**OSRL 2016 TRAINING CALENDAR NOW AVAILABLE TO DOWNLOAD**

Download the 2016 OSRL Training Calendar

**CYPRUS: INTERNATIONAL TECHNICAL CERTIFICATE IN OIL AND GAS (NEBOSH)**

This course is provided by the LTC and Shipcon, an accredited NEBOSH Training Center (accreditation number 1229).

Download the schedule of courses for 2016 http://www.levantinetrainingcentre.com/

**USA: NOAA - SPRING 2016 SCIENCE OF OIL SPILLS TRAINING**

NOAA’s Office of Response and Restoration, a leader in providing scientific information in response to marine pollution, has scheduled Science of Oil Spills (SOS) classes in two locations (Alabama and Michigan) in spring 2016: More info

**USA: OHMSETT, NEW JERSEY - 2016 OIL SPILL RESPONSE STRATEGIES AND TACTICS TRAINING**

Ohmsett, in partnership with Texas A&M National Spill Control School (NSCS), announces open registration for the May 24-26, 2016 Oil Spill Response Strategies and Tactics Training. More info
TAIWAN, CHINA: FULLY EQUIPPED HIGH PERFORMANCE OIL SPILL RECOVERY VESSEL

Ship Name: Mailiao Marine + Docked at Mailiao Port, Taiwan, China + Manoeuvres date: End of Nov, 2015 + Performance - Mailiao Marine work at 4 to 5 knots in winds of up to Force 5 or 6, cleaning a surface area of 35,000 to 60,000 m²/hour. They can sweep up to 150m³ of hydrocarbons per hour, without creating an emulsion, transferring the collected pollutants into tankers astern of them as they work. Rotating these tankers, the vessels have an unlimited recovery capacity. Oil recovery test report with different oil from Cedre: Water < 5%; SG 250 also can pick up oil even 1-2 mm thickness + In order to combat chemical spills, absorbents can be carried on board and spread on the pollution using the fire-fighting water cannon. +The interior living quarters are fully protected, making it possible to work 24/24 in polluted areas + All boats are fitted with a “keel cooling” system, which is used both to cool the motor and to heat the hydrocarbon separator + Cruising endurance 1700 nautical miles (10 knots).

If having any interest to visit this vessel, please do not hesitate to contact us - Eco Equipments Inc 15F-34, No. 50, Chung Hsiao W. Rd., Sec. 1, Taipei 10041, Taiwan, China; Tel: +886-2-2370-9788 Fax: +886-2-2370-0266 Web: http://www.ecoequipments.com Email: sales@ecoequipments.com

Company news

INDIA: ISCO MEMBERS CO-OPERATE IN SHIP TO SHIP OIL TRANSFER OPERATION

November 10 - Swire ERS of the Swire PCO group and AlphaMERS Ltd of India joined hands and provided preventive booming around an STS operation in Tuticorin port in southern India.

The booming was required by port authorities, since the vessel to be discharged had lost its rudder and the port is located close to sensitive ecological coastline.

The STS operations was carried out smoothly at the port anchorage, about ten miles from the shoreline. The booming and unbooming around the vessels was done using local country boats and fishing boats.

More info and photos: www.alphamers.com

NORWAY: OMV SIGNS 3-YEAR FRAME AGREEMENT WITH APTOMAR

November 19 - OMV Norway has signed a three-year frame agreement with Aptomar to deliver its integrated field monitoring services for the operator’s future drilling activities. As part of the frame agreement OMV will have access to the Aptomar’s 24/7 environmental monitoring services. Aptomarin, the Aptomar maritime control center, will on behalf of OMV manage the task of 24/7 monitoring, reporting and detection of unintended oil spills. This includes all required sensors, procedures and training of both onshore and offshore crew, delivered as part of the service. For more information, please contact: Lars Solberg, Aptomar AS: +47 41 43 45 42, or email lars.solberg@apтомar.com Website www.apтомar.com.

UK & IRELAND: LATEST AWARDS OF ISAA ACCREDITATION

Thorntons Recycling Ltd. based in Dublin, Ireland has successfully completed oil spill response accreditation reassessment. The company’s existing certification for Freshwater Level 2, Groundwater Level 2 and On-land Level 3 have been revalidated. Thorntons has retained its status as an accredited response contractor since first accredited in September, 2006.

MacWaste Ltd. based at Warrenpoint, Newry, Northern Ireland has successfully completed an oil spill response accreditation assessment and has been awarded certification for On-land Level 3.

All ISAA Accredited Contractors in the UK and Republic of Ireland are requested to check their entries on the ISAA website at http://www.isaa.org.uk/accred.htm and advise the ISAA administrator if any of their contact details need to be updated.

Legal disclaimer: Whilst ISCO takes every care to ensure that information published in this newsletter is accurate unintentional mistakes can occur. No liability for consequences of errors is accepted but, if an error is brought to our attention, a correction will be printed in a following issue of this newsletter. Products and services featured in the ISCO Newsletter and/or the ISCO website, including the International Directory of Spill Response Supplies and Services, have not been tested, approved or endorsed by ISCO. Any claims made by suppliers of products or services are solely those of the suppliers and ISCO does not accept any liability for their accuracy. It should not be assumed that views and opinions expressed in linked reports, articles and other content reflect the views of the organization. Subscription is subject to acceptance of ISCO’s Terms and Conditions as published on the website www.spillcontrol.org.