



# Technical Services

[itopf.org](https://itopf.org)



PROMOTING EFFECTIVE  
SPILL RESPONSE

COLLABORATION • INTEGRITY • OBJECTIVITY • RESPECT • DILIGENCE



## Who we are

ITOPF is an international organisation that provides technical advice and on-site expertise for ship-source spills of oil, chemicals and other cargoes in the marine environment. We were established in 1968 and are maintained on a not-for-profit basis by the world's shipowners.

**SPILL ADVISERS  
FOR INDUSTRY  
& GOVERNMENT**

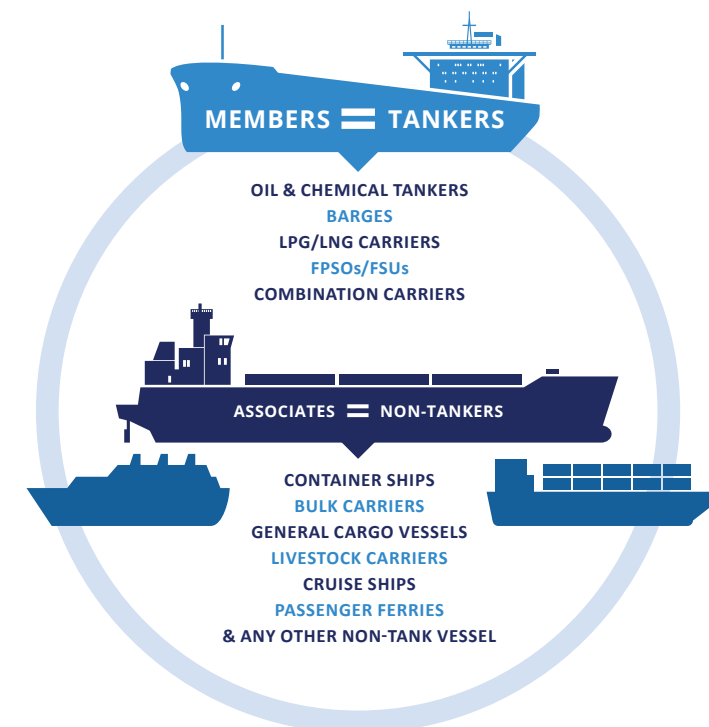


**ANY FUEL  
ANY CARGO**

## Funding

The majority of our income comes from dues from shipowners, paid on their behalf by Protection and Indemnity (P&I) insurers. Shipowners are enrolled in ITOPF either as Members (for tankers, barges, LPG/LNG carriers, FPSOs/FSUs<sup>1</sup> or combination carriers) or Associates (for other types of ship).

Our activities are overseen by an international Board of Directors representing shipowners, the energy sector and P&I insurers.



## What we do

Our main function is to provide objective technical advice on ship-source spills of oil, chemicals and other bulk or packaged cargoes in the marine environment. While oil pollution is at the core of our work, in recent years we have advised on many other pollutants, including coal and plastic pellets. We operate internationally from our offices in London and Singapore and are available around the clock to respond to spill emergencies.

Our advice covers clean-up measures, the effects of pollutants on the environment and economic activities, and claims and compensation. We are also available to advise on oil spills from pipelines and offshore installations; physical damage to coral reefs resulting from ship groundings; and environmental impacts associated with shipwrecks.

Our first-hand experience of pollution incidents supports contingency planning and other advisory assignments for government and industry. We are an authoritative source of information on marine spills and a leading provider of training services in this field.

<sup>1</sup>Floating Production Storage and Offloading Units/Floating Storage Units

## Vision

To be a trusted source of objective technical advice worldwide on preparedness and response to accidental marine spills.

## Mission

To promote effective response to marine spills of oil, chemicals and other substances as a means of reducing impacts on the environment and affected communities.

**INCIDENTS ATTENDED**

**850**  
**IN 100**  
**COUNTRIES**



## Our people

We have an international staff of almost 50, including over 20 spill responders, based in London and Singapore. Our technical team members are highly qualified in a variety of disciplines and collectively have over a century of experience at the forefront of spill preparedness and response worldwide. Our office-based team supports the delivery of our key services and ensures the organisation runs smoothly and effectively. We encourage a collaborative, inclusive and diverse culture that fosters personal growth and development, openness and respect.



### Multi-discipline

Marine biologists, chemists, environmental scientists, engineers, geologists, geographers



### Multi-lingual

English, French, Portuguese, Spanish, Czech, Mandarin, Japanese

## Our approach

ITOPF has always promoted sustainable spill response operations, ie techniques and activities which are not only technically appropriate, but which also minimise any potential negative environmental and social impacts, while remaining economically reasonable. We are working to improve the measurement and reporting of sustainability issues for spill response and are committed to incorporating environmental, social and governance (ESG) criteria within our own organisational framework and practices.



## Looking ahead

Our team closely follows new developments related to fuels, cargoes, response techniques and environmental monitoring. We work with partners across the globe to share knowledge and exchange experiences, ensuring that we are ready and able to respond to emerging issues and changing practices.

## Technical Services

Our technical services are provided to Members, Associates and their P&I insurers, usually at no cost, apart from expenses. We are also available to assist at the request of governments and intergovernmental organisations such as the International Maritime Organization (IMO) and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds).

- SPILL RESPONSE
- CLAIMS ANALYSIS & DAMAGE ASSESSMENT
- CONTINGENCY PLANNING & ADVISORY WORK
- TRAINING & EDUCATION
- INFORMATION SERVICES

## Spill Response

We are available 24 hours a day, 365 days of the year to attend spills of oil and other pollutants in the marine environment worldwide. This is our priority service.

Our role on-site varies, but normally includes one or more of the following activities:-

- Advising on the potential fate and effects of the pollutant
- Undertaking surveys, monitoring the clean-up and advising on the technical merits of actions taken
- Advising on the most appropriate clean-up techniques, with the aim of mitigating any damage
- Helping to source equipment and assisting with other organisational aspects of the response
- Investigating damage to the marine environment and coastal resources, fisheries and other economic activities
- Advising on methods to mitigate environmental and economic losses, including restoration options

**Our advice is available to all parties involved in an incident.** We aim to cooperate and work closely with government agencies and other stakeholders, and to reach agreement on measures that are technically justified in the particular circumstances. This not only helps to ensure that the clean-up is as effective as possible and damage is minimised, but that subsequent claims for compensation can be dealt with promptly and amicably.

We are also available to provide advice remotely from the office, including modelling the fate, behaviour and trajectory of pollutants for cases that may not require full mobilisation or as a supplementary service.

We attend  
**15** incidents  
per year  
on average



Providing advice on-site in Peru

## Claims Analysis & Damage Assessment

We provide advice on pollution damage caused by spills and assess the technical merit of claims for compensation.

Claims analysis usually involves assessing the reasonableness of clean-up costs and the merit of claims for damage to economic resources, such as property, businesses or fisheries, according to internationally established criteria.

Our advice is also regularly sought on environmental damage caused by spills, and on the feasibility and technical justification of proposed restoration measures aimed at accelerating natural recovery.

Our role is to encourage a cooperative approach to the assessment of pollution damage with a view to facilitating the prompt and amicable settlement of claims. In this regard, we provide support both to claimants and to those who pay the compensation, usually the P&I insurers and/or the IOPC Funds. These bodies- and not ITOPIF- ultimately decide whether or not a particular claim should be paid as many other factors, other than purely technical considerations, may influence the final decision.



## Contingency Planning & Advisory Work

We regularly advise governments, industry, international agencies and other organisations on the preparation of contingency plans and other matters related to accidental pollution from ships.

These activities give us the opportunity to pass on good practice outside the pressurised environment of a spill, and enable us to build and maintain contacts with key personnel.

We contribute to policy discussions and the drafting of manuals through our Observer status at IMO and the IOPC Funds.



We also regularly assist with spill drills and exercises conducted by shipowners, oil companies, governments and other groups.

## Training & Education

We organise and participate in training courses and seminars for government and industry around the world.

Training courses provide an excellent opportunity for us to share our technical knowledge and first-hand experience with those likely to be involved with an incident. Our training is often undertaken with key inter-governmental partners, such as IMO and the IOPC Funds, or industry bodies like IPIECA. We incorporate a number of interactive training methods and tools to suit a wide variety of audiences and learning styles. This includes interactive table-top exercises, gamified learning and virtual reality.



Using ITOPIF's VR app on aerial surveillance



Training with the Korea Coast Guard



Resources available  
in multiple languages

## Information Services

We are a primary and trusted source of information on ship-source pollution.

Our resources include:-

**Publications** – relating to marine spill preparedness and response, including 18 Technical Information Papers providing practical and detailed guidance for support in the field

**Films** – an award-winning series tackling key issues related to oil spills and how to deliver a well-planned and executed response

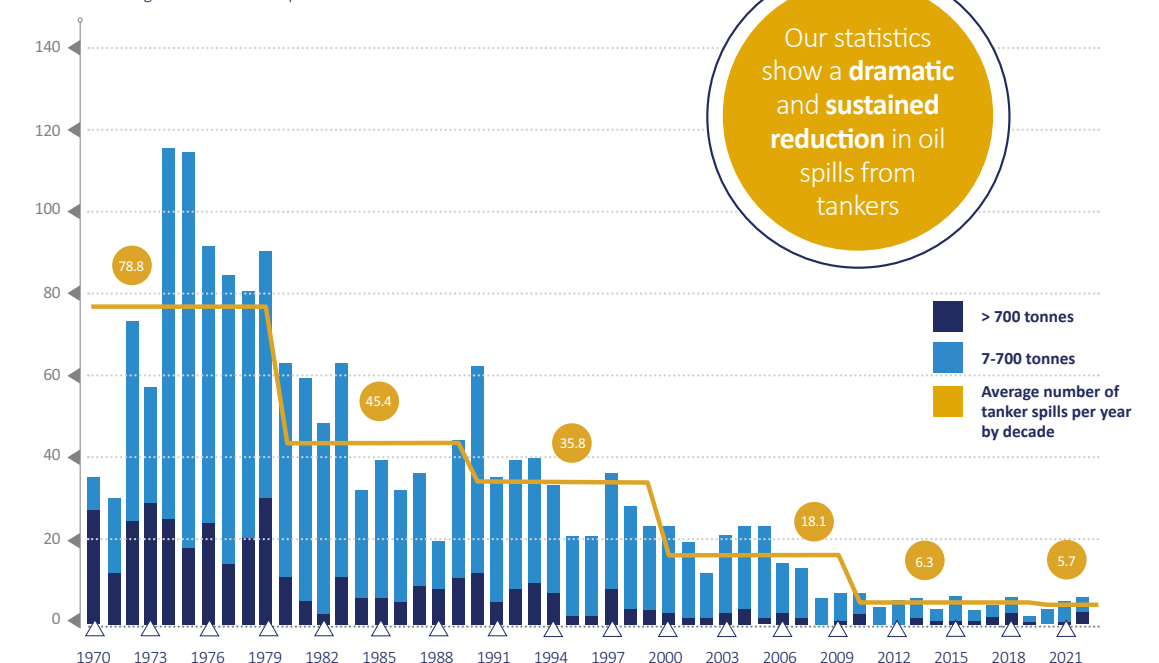
**Country Reports** – summarising spill response arrangements and clean-up resources within individual maritime states

**GIS** – applications to facilitate shoreline surveying, reporting and decision-making and to improve communication of key messages through visualisation

**Library** – containing over 17,000 items on marine pollution and related topics available for reference at our office in London

**Statistics** – data on over 10,000 oil spills from tankers since 1970

Numbers of large and medium oil spills from tankers



Our statistics show a **dramatic and sustained reduction** in oil spills from tankers

## ITOPF R&D Award

We fund an annual R&D Award. Each year, up to £75,000 is made available to support PhD or short-term projects that have the potential to lead to improvements in our knowledge and understanding of issues related to accidental marine pollution from ships.



**Funding**  
available to support  
PhD or short-term  
projects



# Emergency Contact

In case of a spill of oil, chemicals or other cargo, please call us on the numbers below for advice and/or to mobilise us to site:-

9 AM – 5 PM  
(UK BUSINESS HOURS)

**+44 (0) 20 7566 6999**

This is our office number.  
Please ask to speak to a member of the technical team.

OUTSIDE UK BUSINESS HOURS  
(spill emergencies only):

**+44 (0) 20 7566 6998**

Your call will be forwarded to the member of the technical team on duty.

**Please do not rely on notifications of emergencies to ITOPF by email**



We will require as much of the following information as possible:-

## Essential Information

- Contact details of the person reporting the incident
- Name of vessel and owner
- Date and time of the incident (specifying local time or GMT/UTC)
- Position (eg latitude and longitude or distance and direction from the nearest port or landmark)
- Cause of the incident (eg collision, grounding, explosion, fire, etc) and nature of damage
- Description and quantity of cargo and bunker fuel on board
- Estimate of the quantity spilt or likelihood of spillage
- Name of the cargo owner
- Action, both taken and intended (and by whom), to combat pollution
- Status of the vessel and any planned salvage activities

## Additional Useful Information

- Weather and sea conditions, wind speed and direction
- Length, breadth and appearance of any slicks or plumes, including direction of movement
- Type of resources that may be at risk (eg fisheries or residential areas)
- Distribution of cargo and bunkers and proximity to damage

## HNS Chemicals

- State – solid, liquid, gas, bulk, packaged
- UN or CAS number, SDS, cargo manifest

## Oil

- Density, viscosity, pour point, distillation characteristics, wax & asphaltene content (or bunkering certificate)

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