**Change at the helm for ITOPF**

ITOPF announces the retirement of its Managing Director, Dr Karen Purnell, on 31st December 2021 after serving some 27 years with the company. Having overseen a recent Modernisation Project, Karen said “I am privileged to have found a career with a company that has enabled me to realise my dream of combining a love of science and the marine environment with the dynamic world of shipping. I have loved every moment of my near three decades with ITOPF and I’m proud to leave it stronger and poised to respond to the evolving needs of the future.”

Karen hands the reins to Oli Beavon, a seasoned leader with diverse experience gained over nearly three decades with BP. He is aChartered Engineer with an MBA and has held a variety of leadership roles in global management of engineering, shipping & marine activity, and real estate, plus experience in finance, health & safety and HR. Oli worked for the last three years in workplace, human performance, and culture. He has a particular interest in developing talent and understanding the role of purpose and the work environment on delivering extraordinary outcomes. Oli responded to say that “I am very excited to become part of a team that I have admired for many years, and that is deeply respected for the expertise and professionalism it provides.”

Oli Beavon, ITOPF’s incoming Managing Director

1. Established in 1968, ITOPF is maintained by the world’s shipowners and their insurers on a not-for-profit basis to promote effective response to spills of oil, chemicals and other substances in the marine environment.

2. ITOPF was originally known as the International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation, but in 2018 officially changed its name to ITOPF Ltd.

3. ITOPF's Membership currently comprises around 8,250 owners and bareboat charterers of approximately 13,600 tank vessels with a total gross tonnage of over 455 million GT. The organisation also benefits from the participation of over 875 million GT of non-tanker tonnage owned and operated by its Associates.

4. ITOPF's priority service is responding to accidental marine spills from ships. ITOPF staff have attended on-site at over 800 incidents in 100 countries, giving the organisation unparalleled practical experience of the realities of combating marine spills.

ITOPF also:

* assesses the damage caused by spills to the environment and economic resources;
* provides advice on the technical merits of claims for compensation;
* conducts contingency planning, advisory and training assignments;
* is a primary source of information on ship-source spills through its technical publications, films and website ([www.itopf.org](http://www.itopf.org)).

5. For further information contact:

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