The Winner of the 3rd ITOPF R&D Award is Announced

We are pleased to announce that the beneficiary of the **3rd annual ITOPF R&D Award** is the Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (Cefas) in the UK. The project is called ‘Factors Affecting Marine Emergency and Response Research’ (FAMERR).

The aim of the project is to determine realistic spill profiles for two chemicals, aniline and butyl acrylate, so as to improve decision-making for spills in different geographic areas and seasons. These chemicals have been chosen because they are transported in significant volume and have hazardous properties that could vary in different environmental conditions. The chemicals are also included as they build on prior work carried out as part of a larger, EU financed project called ARCOPOLplus and will strongly link to a complementary project called MERR (Marine Emergency Response Research) being funded by the UK government (Defra). The project is being undertaken by a UK scientific organisation working in partnership with the Department of Earth and Environmental Sciences, Kuwait University in order to gain a better understanding of the way in which salinity and temperature in UK waters and Persian Gulf waters affect the fate, behaviour and toxicity of spilled chemicals.

Dave Sheahan, Senior Chemical Risk Assessor (Cefas) commented, “This is a great opportunity for Cefas to work more closely with ITOPF. When marine spills occur they affect many stakeholders so the opportunity to link industry research funds with those of national and overseas governments towards a common goal is very welcome.”

More information on ITOPF’s 2015 R&D Award can be found on our website: [www.itopf.com/RD-Award](http://www.itopf.com/RD-Award). Potential candidates should not hesitate to contact us if they have any questions regarding the award or if they are unsure that their project will qualify by emailing us at: **rdaward@itopf.com****.**

2nd April 2014

**Notes for Editors:**

**ITOPF**

1. The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF) was established as a non-profit making service organisation in 1968. In the early days its principal function was the administration of the TOVALOP voluntary oil spill compensation agreement. However, for the past forty years ITOPF has also provided a broad range of technical services in the field of marine pollution to and on behalf of shipowners, their P&I insurers and other groups such as the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds, as well as to the community at large.

2. ITOPF's Membership currently comprises some 6,350 owners and bareboat charterers of approximately 10,950 tank vessels with a total gross tonnage of about 340 million GT. The organisation also benefits from the participation of 721 million GT of non-tanker tonnage owned and operated by its Associates.

3. ITOPF's priority service is responding to accidental marine spills and the organisation's team of highly experienced technical staff are at constant readiness to travel anywhere in the world at a few hours’ notice. Since 1978 ITOPF staff have attended on-site at over 700 incidents around the world, giving the organisation unparalleled practical experience of the realities of combating major 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;
* produces a wide range of technical publications; and
* maintains various databases as well as a website at <http://www.itopf.com>

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