

Recent Marine Ship Source Spills

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Since its establishment in 1968, ITOPF has evolved into the maritime industry's primary source of objective technical advice, expertise and information on effective response to ship-sourced pollution. Over the past 50 years, ITOPF's technical staff have responded to over 750 ship-source spills in 100 countries in order to give objective advice on clean-up measures, environmental and economic effects, and compensation. While many of these spills involved crude oil spilled from tankers, ITOPF is also regularly called upon to respond to spills of bunker fuel, chemicals and bulk cargoes from all types of ship. Advice is also occasionally given in relation to oil spills from pipelines and offshore installations, and physical damage to coral reefs resulting from ship groundings.

Since Interspill was last held in March 2015, ITOPF has attended on site at 53 incidents, of which 19 involved tankers, and 32 involved non-tankers (Figure 1). Two spills were not attributed to a specific vessel. Substances spilled include crude oils, heavy fuel oils (carried both as cargo and bunkers), vegetable oils, styrene, and coal (Figure 2); one grounding resulted in coral reef damage. In addition to these cases, ITOPF has provided remote advice in relation to a further 64 cases, of which several also involved reef damage.

This presentation will explore some trends from these recent incidents and focus on a few key case studies (including the AGIA ZONI II incident in Greece and SANCHI in China) to consider the main technical challenges and lessons learned.

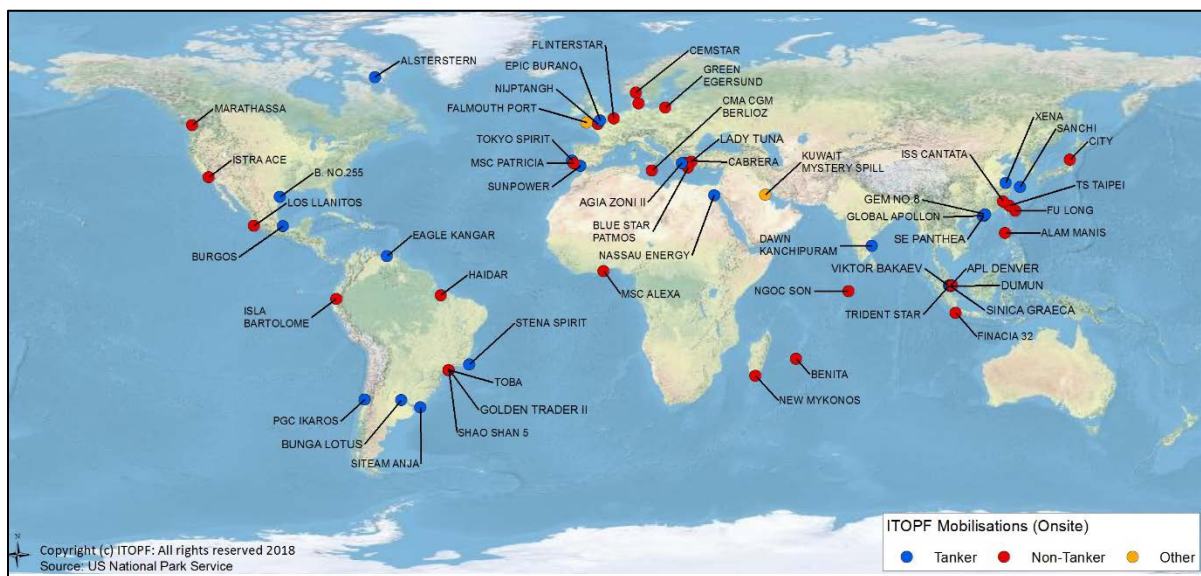


Figure 1: Incidents attended on site by ITOPF, March 2015–January 2018, by vessel type.

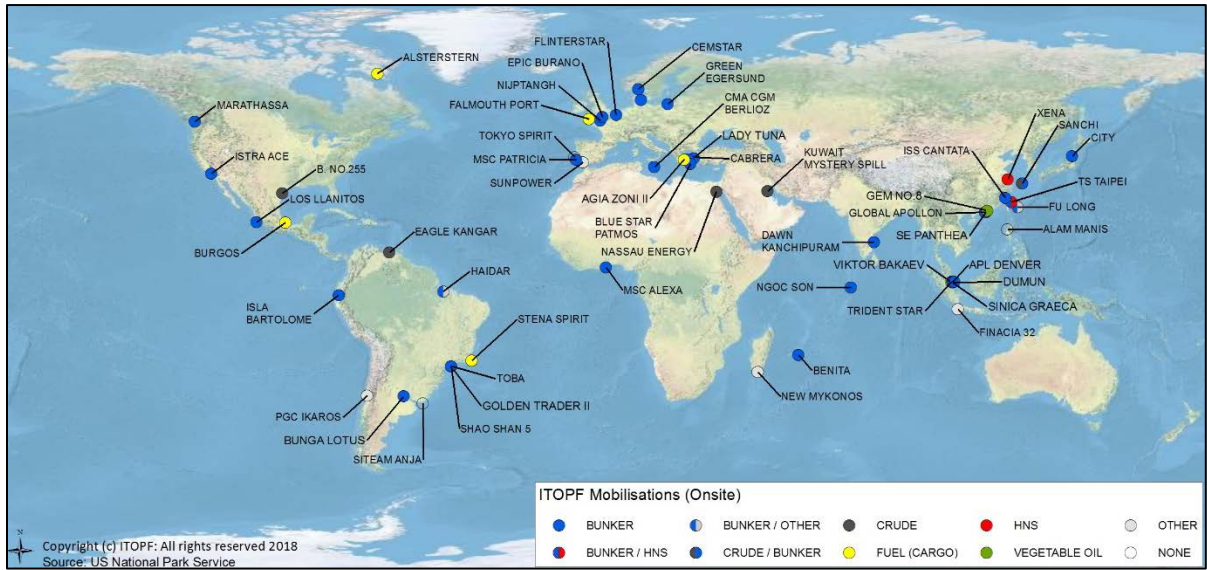


Figure 2: Incidents attended on site by ITOPF, March 2015–January 2018, by substance spilled.