



News Release for Immediate Use

20 March 2013

International Salvage Union Annual Pollution Survey - 2012 Results

The International Salvage Union (ISU) today announced the results of its annual Pollution Prevention Survey for 2012. The quantity of pollutants salvaged overall was significantly up on the 2011 numbers. The increase is explained by the inclusion of a small number of substantial coal cargoes this year. There was a decrease in the number of services performed by ISU members compared with the previous year.

The total of all pollutants salvaged in 2011 was 810,068 tonnes compared with 496,331 tonnes in 2010. It is a rise of 63%. The average annual figure for the 18 years for which data is available has dipped to just below one million tonnes of potential pollutants salvaged per year. It mirrors the trend of a decreasing number of casualties which chiefly reflects improvements to ship and operational safety over the past two decades.

In 2012 the major change was a significant increase in the quantity of “other pollutants” salvaged – up 691% from 63,338 tonnes in 2011 to 501,348 tonnes this time. However, the 2011 figure was historically low and the 2012 includes some large, bulk cargoes, notably of coal.

The quantity of oil cargoes salvaged went down by 59% from 258,647 tonnes in 2011 to 104,665 tonnes in 2012. This category is subject to dramatic change due to the potentially large volumes of oil cargo carried by a single vessel. The 2012 number represents, for example, only one major cargo.

There were 188 services carried out by ISU members. The Lloyd’s Open Form salvage contract continued to be the most widely used contract with 52 services (55 in 2011). 32 services were carried out under towage contracts; 31 services were carried out under the Japanese form. Wreck contracts accounted for 42 of the services and other types of contract were used in 36 services.

2012 ISU Pollution Prevention Results

	2012	2011	% variation
Number of services	188	221	-15%
Oil cargo salvaged	104,665	258,647	-59%
Bunker fuel salvaged	105,058	123,521	-14%
Chemicals salvaged	99,015	50,825	+94%
Other pollutants	501,348	63,338	+691%
Totals	810,068	496,331	+63%

All figures in tonnes

Commenting on the results, ISU President, Andreas Tsavlis, said: "This annual survey shows that our members have salvaged a huge quantity of potentially polluting products – more than 800,000 tonnes. This year we have made sure that all potentially polluting cargo is recorded – including bulk coal and ore. Not all of the potential pollutants which were salvaged were at imminent risk of spilling into the sea but there can be no doubt that our services have been of great benefit in helping to protect the marine environment from potential damage. Some context is given by the fact that in the United States' worst environmental disaster, 700,000 tonnes of oil was released into the Gulf of Mexico in 2010 from the Macondo Well.

"The survey results also show how variable our industry is. A small number of large cargoes can cause significant differences year on year. But it only takes one major casualty to cause an environmental catastrophe and ISU members can be very proud of their work."

The ISU's Pollution Prevention Survey began in 1994. In the 18 years to end-2012, ISU salvors have salvaged 17,857,100 tonnes of potential pollutants, an average of just under one million tonnes per year. This consists of 12,976,612 tonnes of oil cargoes; 1,159,719 tonnes of chemicals; 1,509,955 tonnes of bunker fuel and 2,519,491 tonnes of "other pollutants".

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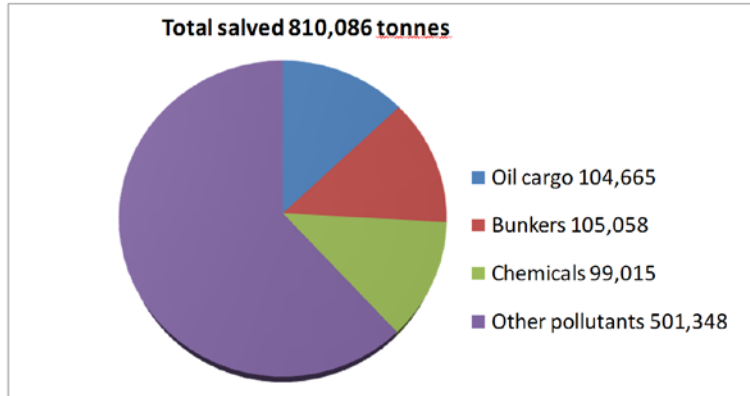
Notes to editors

See attached graphics

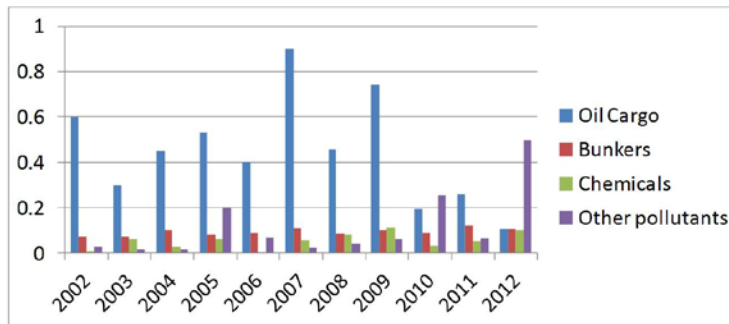
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Breakdown of pollutants salvaged 2012



Trends (millions of tonnes)



Comparisons (indicative only)



Exxon Valdez Spill: 37,000 tonnes (1989)

ISU members 2012



Salvage operations: 188

Pollutants salvaged: 810,086 tonnes (496,331 in 2011)