



INTERNATIONAL
OIL POLLUTION
COMPENSATION
FUNDS

Agenda item: 1	IOPC/OCT13/1/3	
Original: ENGLISH	16 August 2013	
1992 Fund Assembly	92A18	•
1992 Fund Executive Committee	92EC59	
Supplementary Fund Assembly	SA9	•
1971 Fund Administrative Council	71AC31	

GRANT OF OBSERVER STATUS

Note by the Director

Summary:	The International Spill Control Organization (ISCO) has applied to the 1992 Fund for observer status.
Action to be taken:	<u>1992 Fund Assembly</u> Decide whether to grant observer status to ISCO. <u>Supplementary Fund Assembly</u> Decide whether to grant observer status to ISCO.

1 Introduction

- 1.1 The International Spill Control Organization (ISCO) has applied to the 1992 Fund for observer status.
- 1.2 Pursuant to Article 18.10 of the 1992 Fund Convention, the 1992 Fund Assembly shall determine which intergovernmental and international non-governmental organisations shall be admitted to take part, without voting rights, in meetings of the Assembly and subsidiary bodies. At its 1st session the 1992 Fund Assembly adopted Guidelines on relations between the International Oil Pollution Compensation Fund 1992 (1992 Fund) and intergovernmental organisations and international non-governmental organisations (document [92FUND/A.1/34/1](#)). These guidelines contain the following criteria for the granting of observer status to international non-governmental organisations:

Observer status may be granted by the Assembly to an international non-governmental organisation, at its request, if:

- (a) the organisation concerned is of truly international character and its objectives are in harmony with those of the 1992 Fund;
- (b) it has aims, responsibilities or activities in the fields related to those of the 1992 Fund or which are of concern or interest to the 1992 Fund, particularly in connection with pollution and environmental matters, maritime and shipping affairs, marine insurance, production or transport of oil or relevant questions of international law; and
- (c) it is able to make a contribution to the work of the 1992 Fund, for example by providing specialised information, advice or expertise, or by identifying or helping to procure the services of experts or consultants, or by otherwise furnishing technical assistance or by making research facilities available.

- 1.3 Fourteen non-governmental organisations have observer status with the 1992 Fund (BIMCO, CEFIC, CMI, CPMR, IACS, INTERTANKO, ICS, GIIGNL, the International Group of P&I Associations, ISU, ITOPE, IUMI, OCIMF and WLPGA).
- 1.4 At its first session, held in March 2005, the Supplementary Fund Assembly decided that intergovernmental organisations and international non-governmental organisations that had been granted observer status in respect of the 1992 Fund should have observer status with the Supplementary Fund, unless the Assembly of the Supplementary Fund decided otherwise in respect of a particular organisation (document [SUPPFUND/A.1/39](#), paragraph 4.2).

2 The International Spill Control Organization (ISCO)

- 2.1 ISCO has provided the following information on its activities and has indicated those areas in which it has interests in common with the 1992 Fund.

2.2 General information

- 2.2.1 ISCO was established in 1984 and is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to improving world-wide preparedness for response to oil and chemical spills. In 2007, ISCO was granted consultative status with the International Maritime Organization (IMO) on the basis of the organisation's international character and relevance to the work of Marine Environment Protection Committee (MEPC).

- 2.2.2 The membership of ISCO includes corporate response contractors, equipment suppliers and individuals assessed by ISCO as fellows, members or students on their professional competence and career aspirations. ISCO has members in 44 countries and has held its annual general meetings in both Europe and North America.

2.3 Work of the organisation

ISCO aims to make the knowledge and experience of spill control professionals available to IMO, United Nations Environment Programme, European Commission and other organisations and this is achieved through the following ways:

- Consultative Status at IMO – ISCO has attended all MEPC meetings since it was granted consultative status in 2007. It actively participates in the work of the OPRC/HNS Technical Group of the MEPC, having contributed papers to all subsequent Technical Group meetings;
- Promoting active cooperation and information exchange – ISCO encourages cooperation between spill responders and assists governments and other organisations in sourcing emergency support and resources in major pollution incidents;
- Administering the ISAA – ISCO is responsible for the administration of the International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) – an accreditation body working with governments, the response community and other stakeholders to raise standards of spill response. A joint ISAA-ISCO Working Group is currently developing criteria for the accreditation of companies and other organisations involved in response to chemical/hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) pollution incidents;
- Providing information resources – through their website and weekly newsletter, ISCO disseminates information on new developments, technical advances, legislation, events and other matters that affect the international spill response community.

2.4 Objectives of the organisation

The aims and objectives of the organisation are attached at the Annex.

2.5 Common interests

- 2.5.1 As reported to successive meetings of the OPRC/HNS Technical Group, ISCO has nearly completed its knowledge-only contingency and incident-specific plans for all aspects of any oil or HNS incident. The ISCO contingency plan is now based on knowledge of the physiochemical properties which control release fate, effects and response-selection for all aspects of oil or HNS incidents from preventative salvage to shoreline cleaning. ISCO intends to present this knowledge-only planning approach to IMO Member States, response contractors and the public to create a general acceptance of knowledge-only/cost-effective restoration of environments to their pre-incident states by encouraging a general rejection of arbitrary beliefs in ecosystem-damage.
- 2.5.2 In light of the above, ISCO seeks observer status with the 1992 Fund in order to represent its interests on issues relating to spill response and in particular environmental damage.

3 Director's considerations

Having considered the information provided by ISCO set out in section 2, the Director is of the view that ISCO meets the criteria for the granting of observer status to international non-governmental organisations set out in paragraph 1.2 and therefore recommends that the organisation be granted observer status to the 1992 Fund and to the Supplementary Fund.

4 Action to be taken

4.1 1992 Fund Assembly

The 1992 Fund Assembly is invited to decide whether to grant observer status to ISCO.

4.2 Supplementary Fund Assembly

The Supplementary Fund Assembly is invited to take note of the decision of the 1992 Fund Assembly and, if that decision was to grant observer status to ISCO, decide whether or not to follow that decision, as set out in paragraph 1.4.

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ISCO OBJECTIVES

THE AIMS AND OBJECTIVES OF THE ORGANISATION ARE:

- 1) **To act as a world forum for professionals involved in spill control and related disciplines.**
- 2) **To represent ISCO members, providing a single contact point between members and the IMO, other agencies of the United Nations, other international and regional organisations, national governments and other groups.**
- 3) **To support the activities of the International Maritime Organisation, to promote the dissemination of its work, and to represent ISCO members in the IMO Marine Environment Protection Committee and its technical working groups on OPRC and HNS Protocol implementation.**
- 4) **To disseminate information on the prevention, mitigation and remediation of oil and hazardous material spills into the environment.**
- 5) **To provide assistance to members seeking to develop their knowledge base and build expertise in spill control and related disciplines.**
- 6) **To promote the maintenance of high professional and ethical standards.**
- 7) **To assemble and maintain up-to-date information on the resources available within the membership of ISCO, including the special expertise that ISCO members can contribute to the IMO and other organisations.**
- 8) **To undertake other activities that can enhance effective international co-operation and efficiency in major spill events calling for co-ordinated international response.**
- 9) **To encourage in various countries and regions the formation of national or regional associations.**
- 10) **To influence the establishment of testing facilities, and to encourage common standards for equipment and materials used in spill control.**
- 11) **To support the work of the International Spill Accreditation Association (ISAA) in raising professional standards in the spill response industry.**
- 12) **To sponsor or organise conferences, workshops and exhibitions for the benefit of members.**