



COMPANY PROFILE

The International Tanker Owners Pollution Federation Limited (ITOPF) was established as a nonprofit making organisation in 1968. About 90% of the organisation's income comes from subscriptions paid by third party liability (P&I) insurers on behalf of their shipowner members, who they enrol in ITOPF as either Members or Associates.

As at January 2010, ITOPF's Members comprised 5,980 tanker owners and bareboat charterers, who between them own or operate about 9,800 tankers, barges and combination carriers with a total gross tonnage of 301 million GT. This represents virtually all the world's oil and chemical tank vessel tonnage. Associates of ITOPF comprise the owners and bareboat charterers of all other types of ship, currently totalling some 495 million GT.

ITOPF provides a broad range of technical services to its Members, Associates and their P&I insurers. International organisations, government agencies and the community at large can also benefit from these services, which fall under the headings of:

- Response to Marine Oil Spills - This is ITOPF's priority technical service and is normally performed, without charge, at the request of its Members, Associates and their P&I insurers. The International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds also usually call on ITOPF's technical services for incidents with which they are involved. Since 1977 ITOPF technical staff have attended more than 550 pollution incidents in over 95 countries. Historically, most incidents have involved oil pollution, but ITOPF response to spills of Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) is increasingly important.
- Damage Assessment and Claims Analysis - Assessment of the technical merits of claims for compensation - both in relation to cleanup and damage to economic resources such as fisheries and mariculture - is a natural extension of ITOPF's on-site attendance at the time of a spill. ITOPF's role is one of providing advice on the technical merit of claims. It is for those who will pay the compensation to decide whether or not a particular claim should be settled.
- Contingency Planning and Advisory Work - Because of the experience gained through active involvement in spills around the world, ITOPF is often asked to advise on the preparation of contingency plans and to undertake other advisory assignments.
- Training and Education - ITOPF runs and participates in numerous training courses and seminars for government and industry personnel around the world, as well as oil spill drills and exercises conducted by tanker owner Members and other groups.
- Information - The widespread dissemination of ITOPF publications is designed to keep Members and others around the world in touch with developments in relation to oil spill preparedness, response and compensation. Various databases are also maintained, including on the world-wide incidence of tanker spills and on the availability of stocks of cleanup resources. ITOPF also maintains an extensive web site, which can be found at: <http://www.itopf.com>.

THE INTERNATIONAL TANKER OWNERS POLLUTION FEDERATION LIMITED (ITOPF)

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TECHNICAL ADVISER

Primary role

To provide expert technical services across the whole spectrum of ITOPF's work in the field of oil and chemical pollution.

Primary responsibilities are to attend on-site at ship-generated spills world-wide in order to encourage cost-effective clean-up and mitigation of damage to the environment and economic resources, and to assess the resulting claims for compensation on behalf of ITOPF Members, their P&I insurers and the International Oil Pollution Compensation Funds (IOPC Funds). Each Technical Adviser has a high level of individual responsibility for ITOPF involvement in specific incidents, which can entail substantial potential liabilities for shipowners, cargo owners, P&I Clubs and IOPC Funds.

The ITOPF staff member is often the only non-local, on-site representative of the shipowner, P&I Club, IOPC Funds and, to lesser extent, cargo owner. This front line position results in considerable pressures since it places them in a unique position of trust and responsibility. Whilst considerable influence can be brought to bear because of the financial issues involved, staff have to bring about desired results through advice and general encouragement since they do not have any actual authority over the parties involved. This can be a considerable challenge which requires a combination of expert knowledge, experience and special interpersonal skills. Against this background a Technical Adviser at the site of a spill can be a team leader, team member, adviser or observer, with a need for versatility to change roles and fill gaps, according to the circumstances.

Responsibilities on-site

- providing expert technical advice on clean-up to those in charge of response operations
- advising on mitigation of damage and helping to determine appropriate response strategies
- undertaking aerial reconnaissance and shore surveys, recording results and reporting on movement of oil, areas affected, effectiveness of clean-up, resources affected or threatened
- monitoring the response operation and investigating any damage to the environment and economic resources, recording and reporting findings to those in charge, as well as to shipowners, P&I Clubs, IOPC Fund and others
- organising clean-up and import of equipment, materials and personnel
- meeting with politicians, senior government officials, senior industry personnel and others to discuss incident, and to explain response strategies, damage assessment, liability and compensation, claims presentation etc.
- liaising with, and coordinating work of all parties involved in an incident, including government officials, P&I correspondents, consultants and other experts, clean-up contractors, equipment manufacturers, salvors, lawyers, scientists, environmental groups, and those responsible for fisheries and other potentially impacted resources.
- responding to requests from the media for facts and interviews, as appropriate.

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Damage Assessment and Claims Handling

- investigate the scientific, technical and financial aspects of alleged damage to economic resources (especially fisheries and mariculture) and the environment through on-site inspections
- discuss with claimants, in conjunction with or on behalf of shipowners, P&I Clubs and IOPC Funds, to establish facts or to give advice on the workings of the compensation regimes
- analyse complex claims for compensation (often poorly presented) to determine technical justification and admissibility
- define, coordinate and monitor the programme of work of other experts employed by P&I Clubs and IOPC Funds to assist claims investigation or analysis
- preparing detailed reports on the technical assessment of claims, including advice on the appropriate amount of compensation
- provide technical advice to P&I Clubs and IOPC Funds in claims settlement negotiations
- on occasion, appearing in national Courts as expert witnesses to explain technical basis of claims assessment
- provide technical explanations at meetings of IOPC Funds' Executive Committee during discussion of specific cases

Contingency Planning and Advisory Work

- give advice to governments, shipowners, cargo owners, oil companies, P&I Clubs, other insurers, IOPC Funds, lawyers and numerous other groups and individuals on all aspects of oil and chemical pollution, and in order to help develop policies
- undertake contingency planning assignments, often requiring on-site visits, and the gathering and analysis of detailed information
- undertake studies on specific topics for international organisations (e.g. IMO, European Commission), government agencies and others
- represent ITOPF, its Members and their insurers at international and national fora concerned with oil and chemical pollution.
- contribute advice and expert comment to international R&D programmes, emphasising the practical aspects of spill response.

Training

- lecture on training courses and at seminars, workshops, Conferences and the like to senior managers, on-scene commanders and others involved in oil spill response and contingency planning
- prepare written papers, standard support material and visual aids • organise, participate in and critique oil spill drills and exercises

Information

- help to produce ITOPF's publications, videos, web site and other material
- liaise with oil spill equipment manufacturers, clean-up contractors, oil spill cooperatives and 'inventors'
- cooperate with other industry bodies, such as OCIMF, IPIECA, ICS, INTERTANKO, OGP, and International Group of P&I Clubs

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- answer general enquiries received by ITOPF

Requirements of the job

- willingness to be available 24 hours a day, 365 days a year to travel at a few hours notice to oil spills and similar incidents anywhere in the world, irrespective of personal inconvenience, disruption of holidays, weekends, family celebrations etc.
- deal with on-going matters from home, at any time of day or night
- travel extensively and to expose themselves to potential hazards
- establish credibility with those involved in controlling the response
- command respect and gain trust of senior government personnel and others
- influence the decisions and actions of senior government personnel and all others involved in oil spills
- handle stress and work under considerable pressure, and for long hours for extended periods, often in bad weather, inhospitable conditions, in hostile atmosphere and with minimal local support (or with opposition)
- handle conflicting pressures on time
- remain level-headed and calm in a crisis
- remain independent of commercial interests or pressures.
- communicate orally with people at all levels, from politicians, senior government officials and private industry managers, through middle management, to clean-up workers and inarticulate fishermen
- explain complex issues in readily understandable manner
- deliver difficult messages firmly but politely, irrespective of pressures or attacks on personal integrity and motivation.
- ‘negotiate’ with potentially intransigent parties
- recognise limitations in areas outside the organisation’s or an individual’s competence
- lecture to large audiences and handle visual aids
- communicate in writing to a high standard

Qualifications

Good scientific degree in marine science, or equivalent technical qualification from recognised university or similar establishment.

Five or more years’ relevant previous work or research experience.

Language skills are desirable.

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