

automatically make the scrap a dangerous cargo, they were significantly above background levels and, under the rules of marine liability and hull insurers, radioactive risks are excluded.

Bangladesh

The Bangladesh shrimp farming industry was dealt a heavy blow recently when a storm coinciding with a tidal surge caused over \$100 million worth of damage to shrimp ponds and surrounding facilities. There are reports that over 18 000 shrimp beds were washed away in two of the main farming regions at Khulna and Cox's Bazar, with additional damage to embankments which were destroyed in many localities. The shrimp industry plays an important role in Bangladesh's economy making up 90% of its frozen food exports, which are the country's second highest foreign currency earner.

New Zealand

Dredged material from the Waitemata Harbour and approach channels is to be disposed of in water 100 m deep beyond Great Barrier Island. The decision by the Ports of Auckland follows the release of a report from the Disposal Options Advisory Group (DOAG) which was established to review the available options. The Group accepted the need for maintenance dredging and the long-term likelihood of capital dredging, for example, to deepen the Rangitoto Channel and approaches to wharves.

UK

The UK Health and Safety Executive is investigating a spillage of 20 t of hydrochloric acid from the Chemaide factory at Hailsham, East Sussex, in the south of England. Half of the spilled acid was contained on-site, but the rest leaked into the nearby Knockhatch stream and the River Cuckmere. The pH of the river water was lowered from 6 to between 0 and 1. Many fish were killed and actually dissolved by the high concentration of the acid. Fortunately, the river is not used as a source for public water supply so there was little risk to public health, although three local residents were treated for breathing difficulties after a cloud of acid formed above Hailsham. A lime dam has been built in the river to neutralize the acid.

China

China is seeking help from the international arena to ensure that its development of energy resources does not come at the expense of the environment according to a report in *Lloyds List*. To cope with the rising demand for energy, the country plans to build at least 10 nuclear power stations in coastal areas, with a total power output of 10 million kW. This would be in addition to fossil fuel plants burning coal, gas and oil, and renewable energy sources such as hydro-power, wind and solar power. Apparently, seventeen Chinese counties, with a combined population of 110 million, are still without electricity, giving an overall per capita energy consumption for China that is one-thirtieth that in developed countries.
