

N° 282 E – News from September 2019

Emergency response

We were contacted by [MRCC Ajaccio](#), [MRCC Med](#) and the [Parc Naturel Marin du Cap Corse](#) following the discovery of tarballs, analysed by Cedre and identified as being composed of oil and paraffin. We also provided advice on recovering this substance. The duty team was also contacted by [MRCC Reunion](#) for information on the behaviour of heavy fuel oil following a spill which occurred in June. In another incident, we were called upon by the [Préfecture du Finistère](#) following the release of 100 tonnes of slurry from an agricultural facility into the Mignonne river. As concerns exercises, we contributed to the preparation of an exercise to be held in Singapore by providing information on a fictitious 17,000-tonne styrene spill from a coastal facility. We also took part, both on site and remotely from Brest, in the POLMAR ANED (*Aide aux Navires En Difficulté*) exercise, organised by the [Maritime Prefecture for the Channel and North Sea](#), involving a container ship incident, by providing information and behaviour predictions for hazardous substances as well as bunker fuel. Our duty team received an enquiry into our response capacity in relation to the pollution of the Equinor oil terminal in the Bahamas after it was hit by Hurricane Dorian. [IMO](#) also contacted Cedre to enquire about its expertise in relation to pollution from a wreck off the coast of Mauritania. Finally, we provided advice to the Seine-Maritime DDTM (Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea) in relation to a major fire at the Lubrizol industrial site in Rouen, in which contaminated firewater flowed into the Seine river. Cedre sent two specialists on site.

National Firefighters Congress 2019

Cedre attended France's [National Firefighters Congress](#) in Vannes from 18th to 21st September. This event was the opportunity to keep up-to-date on the latest equipment available for survey and response operations in relation to technological risks and pollution. Demonstrations of digital solutions were also organised; they could lead to the improvement of training materials and help to make contingency plans more user-friendly.

Instagram: off and running!

Launched on 24th April this year, Cedre's Instagram page now has 115 followers. The page is regularly updated with photos illustrating Cedre's events and offering educational content. With this promising start, we plan to continue to expand our presence on this social platform. Why not join our [community](#) today?!

(www.instagram.com/cedre_antipollution))

Cedre receives G7 Parliamentary Speakers

Under the auspices of the [Maritime Prefecture for the Atlantic](#) and in collaboration with the French Navy and [CEPPOL](#), Cedre received a visit from the G7 Parliamentary Speakers at its headquarters in Brest. Invited by Mr Richard Ferrand to explore the question of ocean preservation, the attendees gathered for a presentation of French State action at sea and of the work of Cedre and CEPPOL. The delegation was then taken on a tour of Cedre's premises with a particular focus on the laboratory, the Polludrome® – Cedre's flume tank which was operating at the time – and the spill response equipment showroom. CEPPOL gave a presentation of offshore oil spill containment and recovery. The attendees then watched a demonstration of offshore boom deployment and skimming and pumping with French Navy equipment and personnel at Cedre's technical facilities. In addition to its contribution to the local scientific and maritime landscape, this visit once again reinforces Cedre's image as a national and international expert organisation and key partner to the authorities.

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ 11th to 13th October: [Ocean Hackathon®](#) in Brest and 8 other French cities. Cedre is an ambassador of the event.
- ▶ 21st to 24th October: 11th [ICOPCE](#) conference organised by the [Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore \(MPAS\)](#), Singapore
- ▶ 21st November: Cedre Technical Day, Brest
- ▶ 22nd November: Cedre's 50th Strategy Committee meeting, Brest
- ▶ 15th to 22nd November: [RESSAC](#) science culture festival, with one of the festival's exhibitions held at Cedre

Visits and presentations

- ▶ 24th Sept.: visit from 20 employees of [DIRM NAMO](#) for a tour of our facilities and a boom deployment demonstration

Training

- ▶ 10th to 12th: Training course on oil spill modelling, at Cedre, 4 representatives of Cyprus' Ministry of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment
- ▶ 16th to 19th: Oil spill training: offshore, harbours and shoreline, at Cedre, 13 members of the [OSRL](#) (Oil Spill Response Limited) response team
- ▶ 23rd to 24th September: 3rd session of the 'Oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline' course - IMO level 2, at Cedre, 19 participants

European Researchers' Night 2019

European Researchers' Night was held on the evening of 27th September 2019 at **Océanopolis**, Brest. This year's theme, "Join the investigation!", attracted over 5,400 visitors. Cedre designed and ran 3 educational games through which visitors could learn about its activities and expertise. Oil pollution: "Find the polluter based on the characteristics of the oil samples collected" (3 different pollution incidents). Chemical pollution: "Follow the decision tree to identify the impacts on living organisms". Pollution by cigarette butts: "Cigarette butt cluedo: from the materials available and 3 cigarette butt samples, conduct an investigation to identify the polluter". This was also the opportunity for Mélanie Chotard, a PhD student at Cedre, to present her work on the "Exploration of the biosurfactant production potential of fungi and use in marine pollution response".

[The event in pictures.](#)

Elastec/Marco oil skimmer trials in the test basin

In September, a first series of trials was performed at Cedre's technical facilities on the oleophilic **Elastec/Marco** Portable Filter Belt Skimmer. The aim of these trials was to measure the skimmer's real-life performance with heavy fuel oil then a highly viscous, emulsified oil containing 40% water. The device's capacity to cope with floating debris was also assessed. A second series of trials with diesel is scheduled for late November. This skimmer is an integral component of the Elastec Rapid River Response System (R3S) whose deployment from a boat was previously assessed during trials in the Loire estuary in October 2008 (see Cedre Newsletter n°272).

Two new hydrophobic floating sorbents tested

At the request of **Mare Sea Cleaning Services Inc.**, the polypropylene hydrophobic floating sorbents Maresorb Pad and Maresorb Boom were tested by Cedre's laboratory. Given their performance, they have been added to the list of hydrophobic floating sorbents published by Cedre, available at www.cedre.fr

EMSA workshop

As the leader of the Technical Correspondence Group on Hazardous and Noxious Substances (**TCG-HNS**), Cedre jointly ran the first working meeting at **EMSA** headquarters on 23rd and 24th September. The aim was to develop a training programme on HNS by and for Member States. The group's active members are technical experts from Belgium, Spain, Finland, France, Sweden and Portugal, brought together through EMSA. A draft programme is set to be presented at the forthcoming Consultative Technical Group (CTG) meeting at EMSA in October.

Thisseas: case remanded to Aix-en-Provence Court of Appeal

On 24th February 2016, the bulk carrier *Thisseas* was caught with an oil slick in its wake off Penmarc'h, Brittany (see Cedre Newsletter 243). The ship was diverted to Brest, before being allowed to leave on 29th February after having paid bail pending trial, scheduled for 3rd November. While the decision of the Court of Brest delivered on 17th January 2017 (see Cedre Newsletters 253 and 271) convicted the shipowner and captain, the judgement of the Court of Appeal of Rennes rendered on 13th September 2018 overturned the initial verdict and marked the end of the French public prosecution at the request of the Flag State which had itself taken legal action under **UNCLOS (United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea)**. However, on 24th September 2019, the order issued by the Supreme Court overturned and quashed the judgement of 13th September 2018, again under UNCLOS, as "the Coastal State is entitled to object to this suspension when the proceedings it has instituted relate to a case of severe damage inflicted on said State or when the Flag State has repeatedly failed to effectively apply the international rules and standards in force following offences committed by its vessels". The case is set to be retried by the Aix-en-Provence Court of Appeal.

Oil pollution in the Bahamas

In early September, Hurricane Dorian hit Grand Bahama, an island lying 88 km off the coast of Florida, causing damage to Burmah oil terminal at South Riding Point, a few kilometres east of the fishing village of High Rock. At this oil terminal, owned by the Norwegian firm **Equinor**, aluminium lids were blown off five of the ten tanks and two of the tanks were punctured, causing the oil to leak out onto the ground and contaminate the ground water. In a press release, the oil group pledged to clean-up the spill and, on 12th September, two vessels bringing spill response equipment left Louisiana. More than two weeks later, the Equinor website reported that almost 100 people were involved in clean-up and that over the coming days this figure was expected to rise to 150 responders. It also states that no oil spill had been confirmed at sea, that equipment had arrived – sorbents, skimmers, pumps, containers for recovered waste, personal protective equipment and containment booms – and that in total nine vessels are involved in recovery operations.

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