



## N° 283 E – News from October 2019

### Emergency response

In the wake of the Lubrizol fire in Rouen, several advisers from Cedre have been on site to directly provide technical support at the Bassin aux Bois spill response site and at the command centre at the [Seine-Maritime Prefecture](#). We were also called upon by the [Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean](#) to assess the potentially hazardous nature of the cargo (galvanised steel) of the *Rhodanus*, which ran aground in Corsica. We advised the [Finistère fire brigade](#) following an incident involving a lorry which caused a diesel leak. Following the pollution of Guindreff lake, Cedre responded to enquiries from the [Syndicat du bassin versant du Brivet \(Loire-Atlantique\)](#), and Cedre's laboratory was tasked, by the *Communauté d'agglomération de la Région Nazairienne et de l'Estuaire*, with characterising the pollutant released in the environment. Finally, Cedre took part in the LION POL 2019 exercise, organised by the Maritime Prefecture for the Mediterranean as a technical adviser within the command centre (CTC), as well as in the coordination centre set up by the [Aude Prefecture](#).

### G7 international scientific workshop on the biomonitoring of microplastics in the environment

Cedre took part – as one of the French delegation's experts – in the international scientific workshop organised in Paris under the French presidency of the G7 on the theme of the biomonitoring of microplastics in the environment. The goal of this workshop was to issue recommendations to politicians on implementing global biomonitoring of plastic pollution, including microplastics, in the environment. Discussions between the 7 delegations focused on standardising protocols, the relevance of the use of biomonitoring to assess microplastics exposure and impacts on aquatic ecosystems as well as research priorities. These discussions culminated in a joint statement which has been presented to the political leaders.

### Bonn Agreement contracting parties meeting

On 9th and 10th October, Cedre attended the 31st [Bonn Agreement](#) contracting parties meeting in Bonn, alongside [SGMer](#) and [DAM](#), to celebrate the agreement's 50th anniversary. The meeting was followed by a ministerial meeting to formalise the accession of Spain to the Bonn Agreement, which now has 11 contracting parties. The inclusion of Annex VI of the Marpol Convention within its scope was also validated.

### ICOPCE 2019 in Singapore

Under our assistance agreement with the [Maritime and Port Authority of Singapore](#) (MPA), Cedre took part in the [International Chemical and Oil Pollution Conference and Exhibition, ICOPCE 2019](#). We presented a conference on technologies for chemical spill response (drones and specialised vessels), before attending the ChemSpill exercise organised by MPA. A representative of [Transport Canada](#) presented the guide on accidental water pollution by hazardous and noxious substances jointly drafted by Cedre and Transport Canada.

### EMSA PRS-UG and CTG meetings

Cedre, alongside [CoFGC](#) and [Ceppol](#), attended the 9<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Pollution Response Services User Group (on 16<sup>th</sup>) and the 13<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response (on 17<sup>th</sup>), at [EMSA](#) headquarters. This meeting provided the opportunity to review the *Ulysse/CSL Virginia* collision and the sinking of the *Grande America*, as well as to share the latest from the [West MOPoCO](#) project and the Cedre-led working group aimed at defining the content of a European training course on HNS spill response.

### In short

#### Dates for the diary

- ▶ 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

- ▶ On 4th, Masters students studying maritime law at [UBO](#)
- ▶ On 15th, visit from an Indian delegation led by the [Naval Academy](#) in Brest
- ▶ On 22nd, visit from a group of around 20 students on scientific preparatory courses. Focus topic: dispersants.

#### Training courses

- ▶ 30th Sept. to 3rd Oct.: second session of the maritime pollution crisis management course at Cedre, 12 participants
- ▶ From 7th to 11th: 4<sup>th</sup> and final 2019 session of the "Sea and shoreline - IMO 2" course at Cedre, 23 participants
- ▶ 22nd to 24th: "Chemical spill response principles" course, at Cedre, 14 participants

## Annual ITAC meeting in Southampton

The 2019 annual meeting of the Industry Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) was held from 2nd to 4th October at the [National Oceanography Centre \(NOC\)](#) in Southampton. This forum was the opportunity to review the activities and projects in progress with committee members and partners. Cedre gave an overview of its current projects. Some of the highlights among the many issues addressed included the need for response preparedness in case of low sulphur fuel oil spills, with the forthcoming entry into force of the sulphur limit under [Annex VI of the Marpol Convention](#). The meeting was also the chance for presentations and discussions on recent and ongoing developments relating to potential response techniques: mechanical subsea dispersion, onshore buried oil detection, oil biodegradation, use of herders to support in situ burning, etc. A presentation was also given on the recent, extensive update of the consensus study report on dispersant use by the U.S. [National Academies of Sciences](#), which now includes lessons learnt from the [Deepwater Horizon](#) blowout. Finally, a tour of the NOC facilities offered attendees the opportunity to observe and discuss technological developments relating to oceanographic instrumentation, in particular autonomous vehicles.

## Training course for CCME at Cedre

From 14th to 18th October, Cedre hosted the second training session for 12 German trainees from Havariekommando, the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies (CCME), a joint institution of the German Federal Government and the Federal Coastal States. The training schedule was very similar to that run in April (see [Newsletter 278](#)) with practical modules at Cedre's technical facilities and in the natural environment. The dates of the 2020 training sessions have now been confirmed, attesting to the long term cooperation between our two organisations.

## 8th GI WACAF Regional Conference

The 2019 Regional Conference of the [Global Initiative for West, Central and Southern Africa](#) on oil spill prevention and response was held in Cape Town, South Africa, from 28th to 31st October. Supported and organised by [IMO](#) and [IPIECA](#), this conference received support from the Department of Transport of the Republic of South Africa. This biennial meeting was the opportunity for the State and oil industry representatives of 21 of the 22 countries in the region covered by the GI WAGAF initiative to review the activities carried out over the past two years and to update their "country profiles". The national and international experts invited ([Exxon Mobil](#), [IPIECA](#), [ITOPF](#), [OSPRI](#), Cedre, [ODC](#), [SANCCOB](#)) gave technical presentations and ran working groups on the transposition of international agreements, shoreline clean-up, transboundary agreements, the [GI WACAF website](#) and the Readiness Evaluation Tool for Oil Spills ([RETOS](#)). At the request of participants, two visits were also organised: one to the SANCCOB seabird rehabilitation centre and the other to the shoreline for a response equipment demonstration. An engineer from Cedre took part in this session, ran the shoreline clean-up and waste management workshop, contributed to the RETOS workshop and drafted the report for this 8th Regional Conference, encompassing general recommendations established by the working groups.

## NOSCA seminar in Norway

Cedre was in Trondheim from 14th to 17th October to attend the [NOSCA \(Norwegian Oil Spill Control Association\)](#) Seminar which gathered over 20 Norwegian spill response equipment and product manufacturers and suppliers. In addition to presentations on the Norwegian response set-up and recent equipment, this annual seminar also comprised an equipment deployment demonstration in the coastal waters of the Hitra region (southern Norwegian Sea). This demonstration simulated containment and mechanical recovery operations, based on a scenario involving the loss of pressure control at an offshore well to the west of the Fram oilfield (North Sea), resulting in floating slicks, which had not been recovered offshore, drifting across almost 70 km, driven by coastal currents. The focus was thus on coastal operations to protect the sensitive shoreline of the Froya and Froan region, in particular through trawling with recovery booms suited to strong currents by [Norwegian Coastal Administration \(NCA\)](#) vessels.

## Oil pollution on Brazilian beaches

The origin of the oil pollution on the beaches of north-east Brazil, first reported on 2nd September, currently remains unknown according to our sources. According to the Brazilian authorities, it is Venezuelan crude oil which does not float and tends to sink, rendering the use of floating booms relatively inefficient. The pollution has affected around 2,200 km of shoreline and caused the death of seabirds and many sea turtles. Clean-up is set to be a long and costly process, given the extent and type of shoreline affected (mangroves, rocky creeks and coral reefs) and the large number of oiled sites (around the 300 mark). On 11th October, the national oil spill contingency plan ([PNC](#)) was activated. The Brazilian Government announced on 21st October that an extra 4,000 military personnel had been dispatched to help with clean-up. Many people were collecting the oil, generally without any basic protective equipment. Almost 5,500 military personnel were involved in shoreline clean-up with support from personnel from [Petrobras](#), the Brazilian National Agency of Petroleum, Natural Gas and Biofuels ([ANP](#)), [Ibama](#), municipalities, various environment agencies and thousands of volunteers. The [Brazilian Navy](#) is coordinating operations through the Monitoring and Evaluation Group ([GAA](#)). In late October, the local authorities alerted tourists as to the risks of bathing and the consumption of fish caught in the affected areas of this poor region which is heavily dependent on tourism.