



N° 296 E – News from December 2020

Best wishes for 2021!



Cedre's team was by your side throughout the unprecedented year 2020 proving its capacity to innovate and adapt.

We wish you all the best for 2021!

Cedre Information Day: Thursday 23 March 2021

"Containers" virtual event

[See detailed programme here](#)

In short

Dates for the diary

► 21st January 2021: MANIFESTS project kick-off meeting (see [Newsletter 292](#))

Training

► 25th to 28th January 2021, "Aerial observation of pollution at sea" training course, at Cedre

Hot off the press

► See the latest [Cedre Information Bulletin n°41](#) with a focus on containers (English version coming soon)

► New Chemical Response Guide: Condensates, [available for download here](#) in French

Emergency response

Following the discovery of oiled guillemots in the Roscoff area, the wildlife rehabilitation centre [Volée de Piafs](#) sent samples of oiled feathers to Cedre. Analysis tests showed that the birds were contaminated with fuel oil similar to that of the *Tanio*. We were contacted by [EDF](#) in relation to the response to a 200-litre spill of soot from a vessel at Bellefontaine oil terminal (Martinique). The cabinet of Mrs Annick Girardin ([Minister of the Sea](#)) contacted us to obtain technical information following the sinking of the buoy tender *Îles Sanguinaires II* in the port of Ajaccio. We were contacted by Plouarzel townhall (Finistère) to survey a coastal site where observations of what was thought to be oil run-off had been reported. After inspection, this proved to be a peat bed. Cedre also received enquiries as part of several exercises. The [AEM office for French Polynesia](#) built a scenario involving a large spill of engine oil. The [AEM division for the French Antilles](#) focused on a leak of propulsion fuel following a collision between two vessels. Finally, as part of an information session on the [MAR-ICE Network](#) organised by [EMSA](#) (to which Cedre greatly contributed for the Finnish emergency services), the Finnish Border Guard activated the service by replaying a near-miss that occurred in their waters two years ago.

Cedre launches new Aquatic Litter Monitoring and Studies Department

With the issue of aquatic litter rapidly expanding at Cedre, a new department for Aquatic Litter Monitoring and Studies has been created. The main missions of this department, with its five-strong team, are to provide scientific and technical support to the authorities for the implementation of public policies on aquatic litter, to contribute to the development of methodologies to quantify litter in the environment and to improve knowledge of its fate and impacts in aquatic environments and of response actions. The department is strongly focused on the coordination of national monitoring of beach litter and litter from drainage basins under the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD) and the Regional Sea Conventions [OSPAR](#) and the [Barcelona Convention](#).

EMSA information session for Finnish experts

On 8th and 9th December, Cedre contributed, as a trainer, to an information session for Finnish experts, organised by [EMSA](#), to present the agency, its roles and missions, tools and more specifically the [MAR-ICE Network](#). Some fifteen participants in Finland as well as EMSA trainers and observers attended this awareness-raising session run as a virtual event.

Taiwan EPA: inland waters training

On 17th and 18th, an online training course on pollution in inland waters organised by [EGIT](#) was run by Cedre via its [online training platform](#). Drawing on its experience in this field and its knowledge of the Taiwanese context, Cedre ran two half-days of classes for just over 70 participants, 60 of whom were from Taiwan's [Environmental Protection Agency \(EPA\)](#), with which Cedre has now been working in close collaboration since 2012. This collaboration was in fact strengthened in November 2016 with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding. The aim of this course was to provide participants with an overview of the issues involved in managing such events and response actions in inland waters (lakes, watercourses, rivers, etc.). Four trainers ran virtual classes on response strategies and decision-making, spill behaviour in complex environments, and response techniques on land, on the water and on the banks. The course ended with a presentation based on past experience of spill management in a mangrove.

“Plastique à la loupe” programme presented at national marine litter workshop

On 1st December, Cedre took part in the 10th session of the marine litter workshop organised by the [French Ministry for the Ecological Transition](#). This virtual event was attended by over 80 participants. Following a run-down of the latest national and international news, different knowledge-gathering and marine litter response initiatives were outlined. Cedre, alongside the [Fondation Tara Océan](#), presented the community-based science programme [Plastique à la loupe](#) of which it is a scientific partner.

Cedre joins EU Technical Group on Marine Litter

In early December, Cedre joined the French delegation of the European Union's [Technical Group on Marine Litter \(TG-ML\)](#) at the request of the French Ministry for the Ecological Transition. The purpose of this group, created within the framework of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD), is to assist Member States with the implementation of monitoring and assessment of the Good Environmental Status (GES) of their waters for Descriptor 10 “Marine Litter”. Cedre will be involved in this group as a national expert in the monitoring of macro- and micro-litter on the shoreline and will strive to develop synergies with the work conducted by the [OSPAR Beach Litter Expert Group](#) that it leads. Cedre's involvement began on 14th December with an online meeting attended by 44 experts from the different Member States. This meeting focused on the revision of the methodological guide describing the monitoring protocols recommended at a European scale as well as on the development of baseline levels and thresholds for the different indicators for MSFD Descriptor 10.

Release of paraffin waxes and vegetable oils at sea: amendment to MARPOL Annex II

The amendment to Annex II of the [MARPOL Convention](#) on high viscosity and solidifying, persistent floating products, including paraffin waxes and certain vegetable oils, entered into force on 1st January 2021. Under this amendment, the release of residues of such substances is prohibited. Residue/water mixtures generated during tank prewash must now be discharged to a shore reception facility. This legislation concerns North West European waters, the Baltic Sea area, Western European waters and the Norwegian Sea.

Conclusions of parliamentary mission on plastic pollution published

The conclusions of the French parliamentary mission on plastic pollution were released on 14th December in a [report entitled “Pollutions plastiques : une bombe à retardement ?”](#) (“Plastic pollution: a time bomb?”). This mission was initiated in April 2019 by [OPECST](#) (Parliamentary Office for Scientific and Technological Assessment, a joint organisation between the National Assembly and the Senate) to review the risks associated with plastic pollution. It comprised numerous hearings, including of Cedre in April 2020, during which our aquatic litter actions were presented as well as the main knowledge acquired through our work.

7th CleanAtlantic project coordination meeting

On 15th and 16th December, Cedre attended the 7th [CleanAtlantic project](#) coordination meeting. This project, led by [CETMAR](#) (*Centro Tecnológico del Mar*, Spain), is devoted to tackling marine litter in the Atlantic area. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the project, which aims to strengthen preventative capability, monitoring and marine litter disposal in the Atlantic area, continues to make headway thanks to the commitment of its 13 partners. The meeting was the opportunity to present the progress of ongoing actions. Cedre outlined the progress of its work, in particular its review of marine litter response initiatives and beach clean-up good practices.

New Chemical Response Guide: Condensates

Cedre has just published a new Chemical Response Guide on condensates in French. The guide is intended for professionals who may be liable to face a condensate spill in an aquatic environment. Targeted towards both operational personnel and decision-makers, this practical guide provides useful information on spill response and contingency planning for such spills. It is designed to enable rapid access to the necessary initial information, in addition to providing relevant bibliographical sources to obtain further information. It contains experimental data as well as the results of scenarios based on real incidents. The guide can be [downloaded in digital format free of charge on Cedre's website](#). Hard copies cost €25.