

N° 301 E – News from May 2021

Emergency response

Following the grounding of a fishing vessel in the port of Loguivy-de-la-Mer, mentioned in our [April newsletter](#), discussions with the authorities ([DDTM 22](#)) continued and two engineers from Cedre were sent on site. A ban on shellfish harvesting, the transfer and sale of shellfish and seawater pumping was immediately issued, pending the results of analyses (PAH quantification in oysters) conducted by [DDPP](#) (Departmental Directorate for the Protection of the Population) and [Ifremer](#). Sheen and residual odours were still present in the port 10 days after the incident but were no longer observed during a visit one month on. Cedre was contacted by the authorities of Saint-Pierre-et-Miquelon ([DTAM](#)) in relation to a small spill of an unidentified substance in inland waters. Requests were also received from Reunion Island ([Sub-Prefecture of Saint-Benoit](#)) as part of an [ORSEC/POLMAR](#) shoreline response exercise and from [AEM Toulon](#) as part of the [Ramogepol](#) exercise, for which an expert from Cedre was on site. Other enquiries were received this month, from [AEM Toulon](#) on the risks related to a cargo of [FAME](#) and from the Seine-Maritime fire department ([SDIS 76](#)) in relation to a spill of 900 L of pesticide (thiametoxam), a neonicotinoid, in a harbour basin in Rouen, and the [MAR-ICE](#) network was activated by [MRCC Madrid](#).

In short

Cedre Information Day on containers held on 27th March:

The 11 presentations are now online on our [YouTube channel!](#)

Dates for the diary

► On 15th June from 10 am to 4:30 pm: [CleanAtlantic project](#) final conference. Simultaneous translation provided. [Register online](#).

Training

► 29th and 30th June: training followed by a [POLMAR](#) shoreline response exercise in Boulogne-sur-Mer (Pas-de-Calais)

Visit from Brest's Chief Prosecutor

On 18th May, the Chief Prosecutor of Brest visited Cedre, where he was given an overview of our activities and a tour of our analytical capacities and our laboratory.

IOSC 2021

The triennial [International Oil Spill Conference](#) was held from 10th to 14th May. Initially scheduled in 2020 and postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, IOSC 2021 was run as a virtual event for the first time ever. The conference nevertheless attracted more than 1,500 participants, who had access to around 180 papers presented across over 50 breakout sessions. They were broadcast via 4 concurrent streams and were divided into themes including: preparedness, response, spill prevention, case studies, scientific/technological developments and health risks. Cedre gave 2 presentations: one on a study into the characteristics of oil residues from in situ burning, the other on the evolution of chemical fingerprints of residual oil samples from the [Amoco Cadiz](#) and [Erika](#) incidents. Many of the sessions in the "Spill Response" category focused on in situ burning and chemical dispersion, with an emphasis on the fate of the oil after implementing one or other of these methods. Around 30 exhibitors took part in the virtual exhibition, including relatively few equipment manufacturers; the majority of the organisations and companies present were representatives of the oil industry, OSROs (Oil Spill Response Organisations), equipment suppliers and/or service providers, and specialised spill response consultants.

Bonn Agreement OTSOPA working group meeting

The annual meeting of the [Bonn Agreement](#) Working Group on Operational, Technical and Scientific Questions Concerning Counter Pollution Activities [OTSOPA](#) was held virtually from 25th to 27th May chaired by Torben Iversen of the Royal Danish Naval Command. Since last year, the group has made significant progress in the practical implementation of MARPOL Annex VI (exhaust gases from ships) and has split into sub-groups to cover the strategic and operational issues and the technical matters relating to this activity, which is new to several of the contracting parties. The Secretariat announced the end of the [West MOPoCo project](#), led by [SGMer](#) and in which Cedre was heavily involved. Cedre presented the new [MANIFESTS project](#), as well as two studies on persistent high viscosity floating products: one on small-scale strandings completed this year and the other on palm oil and paraffins (characterisation, behaviour, impact and response techniques), which is still ongoing.

Testing beach cleaners for recovering paraffin and palm oil

As part of a project devoted to improving knowledge of pollution by paraffin and palm oil, Cedre conducted trials with a tractor-towed beach cleaner and a walk-behind beach cleaner on its man-made beach. For each equipment test, fragments of different sizes of paraffins (2 refined and 1 semi-refined) and one palm oil were deposited on the beach. The criteria for determining the effectiveness of clean-up were the recovery rate and the fragmentation of the balls due to vibration. At the end of these trials, recovery by both types of beach cleaner proved to be successful with very

satisfactory recovery rates. In terms of fragmentation, although it appeared to be very limited, it was shown to be dependent on the physical properties of the substance (such as the solidification point) which will therefore be an element to take into account when defining recovery strategies.

IPoMaC project

As part of the IPoMaC project relating to response to marine chemical pollution, Cedre provided technical support to **CEPPOL** for trials at sea aimed at assessing the potential of different sensors to detect chemical slicks drifting at sea. During these trials, the French Navy tested the sensors onboard their aircraft, Cedre evaluated the use of a portable infrared camera and **Onera** and **Télops** tested emerging hyperspectral and multispectral sensors. The possibilities for using drones in slick detection were also assessed via services proposed by Drone Response.

7th OceanWise project coordination meeting

On 19th May, we took part in the 7th coordination meeting of the **European project OceanWise**, held online. The purpose of this meeting was to review the progress of the project, led by the Portuguese Directorate-General for Natural Resources, Safety and Maritime Services (DGRM), which aims to reduce the presence of foamed polystyrene in the marine environment. This meeting was the opportunity to discuss the organisation of the 4th and final participatory workshop to develop proposals for measures to reduce this type of marine litter and promote a more circular economy for foamed polystyrene, through the involvement of different parties. This workshop, scheduled for 15th September, will be run concurrently in the five project countries (Spain, Ireland, France, Portugal and the UK). More information coming soon.

Training: first practical course at Cedre in 2021!

The 2021 session of the "Oil spill response in inland waters" training course was held from 17th to 21st May. The aim of this course, attended by 13 participants from **BSPP**, fire departments, a private company and the **port of Dunkirk**, was to gain concrete, practical knowledge of response strategies, techniques and equipment. By the end of the course, participants will be able to select appropriate equipment for the specific risks inherent to their activity, to define the operational tactics and procedures required for its deployment, and participate in the drafting of a contingency plan. This course, which was as interactive as ever, offered participants the opportunity to deploy equipment to respond to various pollution scenarios at Cedre's facilities as well as at various sites on the Penfeld river, to which we are granted access by **Brest Métropole's parks and greenspaces department**. This course marked the return of trainees for our practical courses, much to our delight and theirs!

Training on spill response in ports

Following on from the training conducted in 2018 and 2019, Cedre led 2 theory and practical training sessions in Corsica on 26th and 27th May on oil spill response in port areas. During this two-day course, the participants – marina staff, **NSM** (French sea rescue service) personnel, representatives of fuel suppliers – attended lectures and benefited from Cedre's past experience, as well as having the chance to deploy containment and recovery equipment during practical exercises organised in Bonifacio Marina. This training helped to enhance the preparedness of Corsican ports.

"Plastique à la Loupe": 2020/2021 summary conference

On 24th May, Cedre took part in the 2020/2021 summary conference for the **Plastique à la Loupe** programme, led by **Fondation Tara Océan**, in which we are a scientific partner alongside the **Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls-sur-Mer**. This conference was attended by around one thousand students and focused on presenting the results obtained through sampling and analyses carried out this year by secondary school classes. In spite of difficult circumstances, 94 classes took part in the operation this year. Well done and a huge thank you to all the participating classes for their work and the data collected which will allow us to further our actions against plastic pollution.

Information sessions for high school pupils in Brest

As part of the **MANIFESTS project** (*MANaging risks and Impacts From Evaporating and gaseous Substances To population Safety*), Cedre, in collaboration with the EU (**DG-ECHO**) and 3 high schools in Brest (**Amiral Ronarc'h**, **Iroise** and **La Pérouse-Kerichen**), is involved in giving presentations to final year students specialising in European studies on the following topics: Europe and its institutions, DG-ECHO and its international activities, as well as the MANIFESTS project on the theme of evaporating HNS. On 26th May, an initial brainstorming workshop was organised at Cedre, attended by one representative of each secondary school, in order to define the content and consider the logistical aspects of this information session. Before the end of 2021, an information session will be organised in each secondary school with the participation of Cedre and DG-ECHO.

Event for technical advisers on drones

On 21st May, two experts from Cedre attended an event for technical advisers on drones organised in Concarneau by the Finistère fire department (**SDIS 29**). With the presence of technical advisers belonging to Brittany's fire departments and drone officers from **Lanvéoc-Poulmic naval air station**, this event gave rise to interesting discussions on the different entities' strategies and equipment. The drone manufacturer **DIODON** presented its all-terrain, waterproof model, then conducted a demonstration flight, which was followed by other remote controlled flights by **ISDE**, during which fire department operators illustrated the use of heat cameras and buoy launching.