

N° 305 E – News from October 2021

Emergency response

On 20th September, the bulk carrier *Vera Su* (under the Panama flag), carrying 3,300 m³ of solid urea, ran aground on the coast of Bulgaria. As the vessel could not be refloated, the Bulgarian authorities activated the **MAR-ICE** network on 1st October. Cedre received an enquiry on the hazardous nature of the cargo and its potential impacts on the environment. Urea (used as fertiliser) is a substance that is completely soluble and has low toxicity, and would disperse quickly in the event of a spill. The authorities also requested support from **EMSA**, through the provision of inflatable barges to store the substance, given that the unloading of the cargo appeared to be the best possible option. Cedre held discussions with EMSA on the resistance of the coating of these barges to the substance, whether it remained solid or formed a solution in seawater. Support for this incident is still ongoing. The duty team was also contacted following a 1,000-litre spill of diesel in Bloscon port, Roscoff (Finistère). Response and short-term monitoring recommendations were made. We were contacted by **DDTM 22** on the measures to be taken following the grounding of a trawler in waters 5 m deep, some 2 nautical miles off Binic. The vessel had 600 litres of diesel onboard at the time of the incident and is not reported to have any breaches, however slight leaks from the vents were rapidly plugged by divers before the wreck was removed. Finally, several MRCCs contacted Cedre for advice following aerial and satellite observations of phenomena (oil or other) at sea.

The CleanAtlantic project wins an award

The **CleanAtlantic** project has won the **Atlantic Project Award 2021** for the Healthy Ocean and Resilient Coasts category. This success rewards 4 years of work for this European project which tackles marine litter and involves 19 partners, including Cedre.

Equipment testing on the Loire

From 18th to 22nd, Cedre organised spill response equipment tests in partnership with the **Grand Port Maritime de Nantes Saint-Nazaire** and the Saint-Nazaire subdivision of **Phares et Balises**, at the request of **FOST** and the **Pôle National d'Expertise POLMAR-Terre**. During this week of tests, a floating drone developed by **IADYS** and a **LAMOR** Minibagger oil recovery system were tested to study their response capability in the shallow waters of the channels of the Loire. A floating Ro-Tank manufactured by **DESMI** was also tested in the port area. During these test, conducted in the presence of the manufacturers and their representatives, the oil recovery capacity of the systems was tested in shallow waters, channels and a port area. They resulted in the identification of the systems' assets and improvement opportunities. Additional performance trials are to be conducted at Cedre. The information gathered during these tests will provide insight for PNE POLMAR-Terre and FOST in relation to the renewal of spill response equipment stockpiles.

MANIFESTS project, continued

On 18th, Cedre organised the second online steering committee meeting for the European project **MANIFESTS** (MANaging risks and Impacts From Evaporating and gaseous Substances To population Safety). The project partners presented the initial results obtained to the advisory committee, which comprises 6 national maritime authorities, including, for France, the **French Navy**, **CEPPOL** (French Navy Centre of Practical Expertise in Pollution Response) and French Customs. Part of the meeting was then devoted to the preparation of the next MANIFESTS offshore tests, scheduled for May 2022 under the responsibility of the French Navy, in particular to discuss the data requirements (e.g. surface area and thickness of the chemical slick, drift of the slick and of the gas cloud, water samples in the vicinity of the slick, etc.), taking into account the needs of the advisory committee. A working group is soon to be set up by the various countries involved (Spain, France, Portugal, United Kingdom) to validate the parameters that will be measured and the resources to be deployed at sea.

In short

Dates for the diary

► 14th November: an engineer from Cedre will be at **Océanopolis** (Brest) to present a workshop on litter organised as part of an operation baptised **1 chercheur.e 1 expérience** (1 researcher 1 experience)

► 25th November: Cedre Technical Day, Brest

► 26th November: Cedre Strategy Committee meeting in Brest

Training

► 8th and 9th November: training course for **PNMI**, spill response for gill-nets then port officers, at Cedre

► 15th-18th November: training course on aerial observation of pollution at sea, at Cedre

► 15th-18th November: training course on merchant ships and the role of shipping industry stakeholders, at Cedre

Hot off the press

► Release of an oil spill-themed novel entitled "**POLMAR. Pire qu'un crime. Une marée noire.**" by Patchenko, written from interviews, including with some of Cedre's staff

Havariekommando back at Cedre

Our partner **Havariekommando**, the German Central Command for Maritime Emergencies, once again called upon Cedre to train its personnel in oil spill response. The course was held from 4th to 7th October at Cedre. It began with a morning of lectures on the different spill response strategies, feedback from past spills and a presentation of the spill response organisation in France. The remainder of the session mainly consisted in practical exercises during which the 16 trainees were able to practise spill survey, containment, clean-up and recovery techniques in real conditions at Cedre's technical facilities. The session ended with a tutorial presenting the context and environment of spills to which Cedre has been called out.

A day aboard the *Niagara* trawler

On 8th October, representatives of Cedre set sail for a day aboard the trawler the *Niagara*, departing from the port of Saint-Guénolé. This was the opportunity to raise awareness of the Fishing for Litter initiative among the fishers. The objective of this scheme is to ensure that good practices are implemented so that litter accidentally caught at sea is brought to shore and collected in ports. On the basis of an **OSPAR** recommendation, these FfL actions are expanding in France and are helping to quantify and characterise the origin of litter found at sea. A few items of litter were hauled in when the trawl net was hoisted onto the deck off Saint-Guénolé, in particular a plastic glove and fruit juice boxes.

ECOPAP project kick-off meeting

On 22nd October, the kick-off meeting was held for the ECOPAP project, whose full title is "ECotoxicology analysis of CATHodic Protections to assess the chemical risk of elements released from Galvanic Anode (GACP) and Impressed Current (ICCP) on the marine environment and its food webs", led by **France Energies Marines**. Cedre is involved in the experimental characterisation of the impact of sacrificial anodes on the shrimp *Crangon Crangon* in particular through ecotoxicology tests (LC50 determination).

Final participatory workshop under the OceanWise project

On 20th October, Cedre, together with **Seabird** and **Université Bretagne Sud**, led the 4th and final participatory workshop of the **OceanWise project**, which aims to find solutions to put an end to expanded and extruded polystyrene litter at sea. The first part of the workshop was held simultaneously for the 5 partner countries (Spain, France, Ireland, Portugal and the United Kingdom) and was attended by almost 90 people. The participants attended a series of presentations on some of the activities conducted and results obtained during the OceanWise project, including the results of studies conducted by Cedre on the ecotoxicity of foamed polystyrene. During the second part, some 15 people discussed a series of recommendations aimed at reducing EPS/XPS in the marine environment and including them in a circular economy.

Mission in Corsica to develop shoreline litter monitoring networks

From 25th to 29th October, Cedre was in northern Corsica to open and monitor sites as part of the French beach litter monitoring network (RNS-MD-L). Two sites were opened in cooperation with the **Cap Corse and Agriate Marine Nature Park (PNM CCA)**: Sisco, on the eastern edge of the park, and Ostriconi, in the west. This first beach litter survey resulted in the collection of items such as bottle lids and caps, cigarette butts and unidentified plastic fragments (> 2.5 cm). Cedre also met **CPIE Bastia** at their monitoring site "Le Golo", where the new protocol (currently being validated) for meso-litter and large microplastics deposited on the sediment was able to be tested. While present in Corsica, Cedre also seized the opportunity to meet the team at **Stareso** (submarine and oceanographic research station in Calvi) to discuss the issue of marine litter.

European workshop on marine litter monitoring

On 26th and 27th October, representatives of Cedre were in Rancho, Italy, to take part in a workshop on the monitoring of marine microlitter in the context of the Marine Strategy Framework Directive (MSFD). The objective of this workshop, organised within the framework of the MSFD Technical Group on Marine Litter (MSFD/TG-ML), was to discuss the compartments to be monitored and the methods to be applied under MSFD, in order to develop methodological recommendations for Member States to implement monitoring and to assess the pressure exerted by microlitter in European marine waters. Cedre presented the methodologies applied in France for monitoring microlitter on the shoreline and shared its feedback.

Meetings of the Pollution Response Service-User Group and the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response

On 13th October, Cedre, together with **CoFGC** and **CEPPOL**, attended the 11th meeting of the Pollution Response Service-User Group and, the following day, the 15th meeting of the Consultative Technical Group for Marine Pollution Preparedness and Response, both held online. This meeting provided the opportunity to review the **X-Press Pearl** incident in Sri Lanka, as well as to share the latest news of the **MANIFESTS** project and the Cedre-led working group aimed at defining the content of a European training course on HNS spill response. The first session of this workshop, dedicated to products transported in containers, was scheduled to be held at Cedre in 2021. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, it has been postponed until 2022. A review of MAR-ICE activities was also presented.