

# **CIRCULATION and DISPATCHING OF INFORMATION : LESSONS LEARNT FROM THE PRESTIGE**

**Michel Girin  
Christophe Rousseau  
Cedre**

**“Information days of Cedre”**

**Paris , 9 March 2006**



## **EXPERIENCE**

**Prestige:  
situations  
seen before**





## The press : a dramatic report

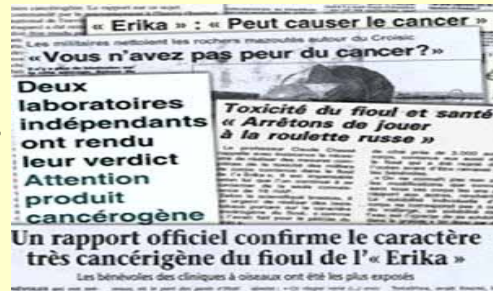


Nobody can avoid such sensational pictures creating the feeling that authorities are not able to cope with the situation



## Dramatic voices make themselves heard

- J.M. Cousteau: “The Prestige oil spill is more devastating for the humanity than virtually any other similar desaster”



Won't there ever be more devastating environmental disasters than :

- The Aral Sea?
- Bhopal ?
- Tchernobyl ?



The population  
each time asks  
for the  
impossible

And politicians  
promise this  
impossible for  
tomorrow

## **But worth exists**

- **World Wildlife Fund :**  
**“20 Prestige pollute the Mediterranean Sea in 2003”**
- **Operational releases assumed to be more devastating than black tides**



**Positive images slowly replace negative ones**



**Fishermen and volunteers become heroes**  
**To the detriment of experts and authorities**

## **Technologic challenges are commented on**

**Nobody did that before**



**Beaches and rocks are cleaner than ever**

**Fears are entertained on collateral damages**



## **Conclusion : experts are wrong**

**Thanks to volunteers, to  
the marine environment  
and to environmental  
restoration works  
realised**

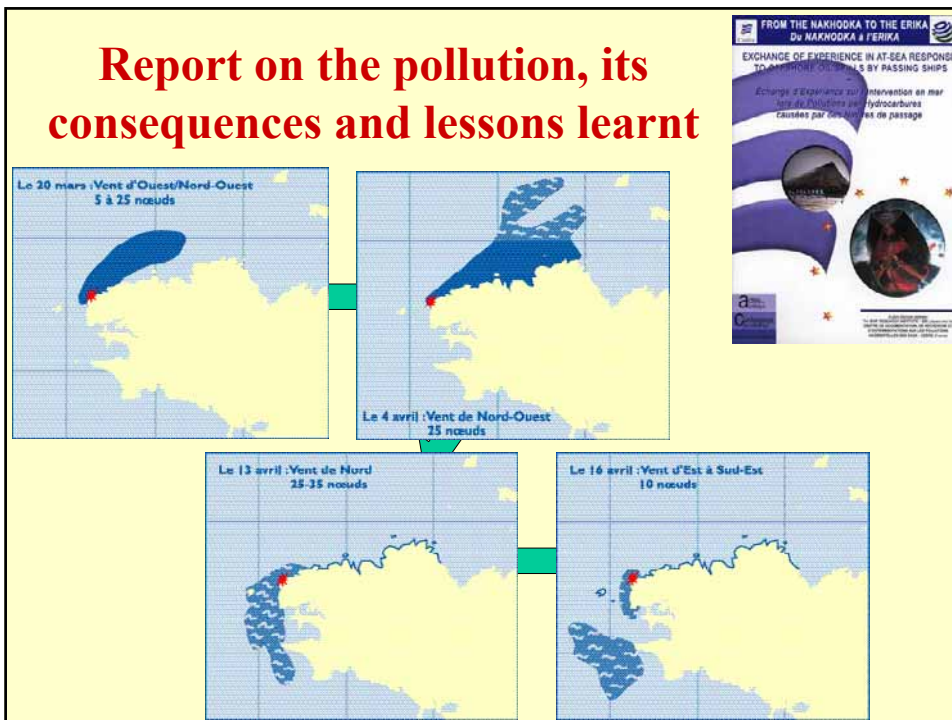
*“Environmental dammages  
are not as serious as  
initially envisaged “*



## **LESSON 1**

**Establish a very visual, objective,  
historic, permanent information  
basis also easily accessible to all  
from the first day**

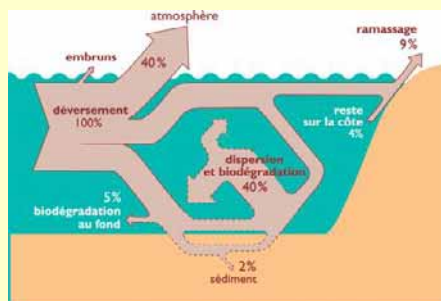
## Report on the pollution, its consequences and lessons learnt



## Scientific synthesis on the pollutant comprehensive information, well documented

**Oil does not persist in the sea like a poison**

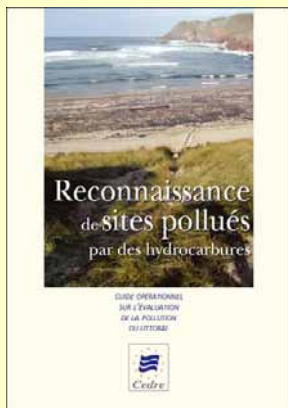
- Description of its dispersion and biodegradation





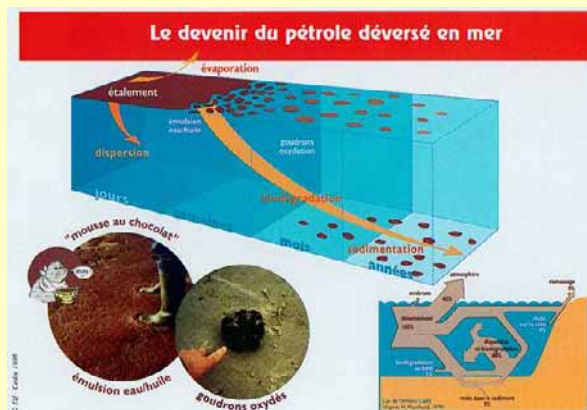
## Impact realities

- **On land: consequences from shoreline cleanup operations more than direct impact of the pollutant**
- **Strong impact on public sensitivity concerning mammals and birds whereas actual consequences take longer to assess**



## Technical guides and pedagogic documents

- **Unbiased report of on site observations**



### Le problème de l'impact écologique

**fincoo Cedre**  
Evolution des peuplements des sables fins de la baie de Morlaix

**fincoo Cedre**  
Sécheresse de la pêche pour les années 1977 à 1979

L'impact sur la pêche pourra rester pour visible quand l'impact écologique peut se chiffrer en dizaines de milliers de tonnes de biomasse perdue

### Le rétablissement des peuplements

**... Explanation on populations recovery, naturally or with human help**

## A possible way: WEB sites

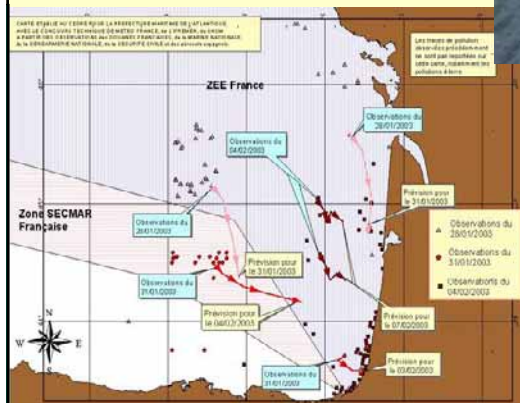
**Encyclopedia on oils pills and their consequences**

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## LESSON 2

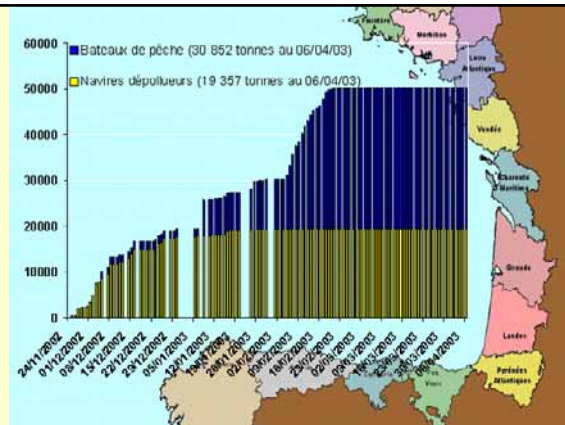
To organise an efficient system  
of transfer of information  
between response partners and  
clear communication to the  
public

Informations on  
the situation at  
sea, operations  
and forecast



Better than press  
releases : photos and  
maps on the Web

## Answers to basic demands of all



- Why such response option ?
- Daily results of collect at sea?
- Shoreline cleanup operations dimensions
- Pollutant toxicity? ...

## Answers to specific complex requests

### Arrivals on shore?

- Previsions
- Consequences

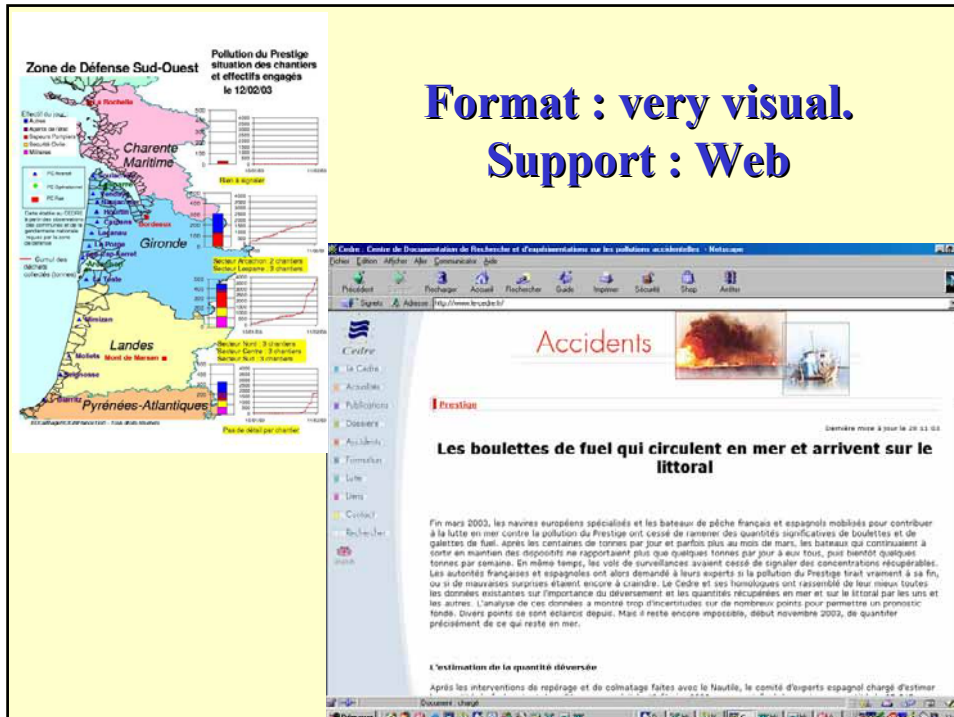
### Previous cases?

- Where and When?
- How?
- Are consequences transposable?



## LESSON 3

To describe the facts : as soon as possible, on response operations, natural recovery, restoration operations, environmental impact reality



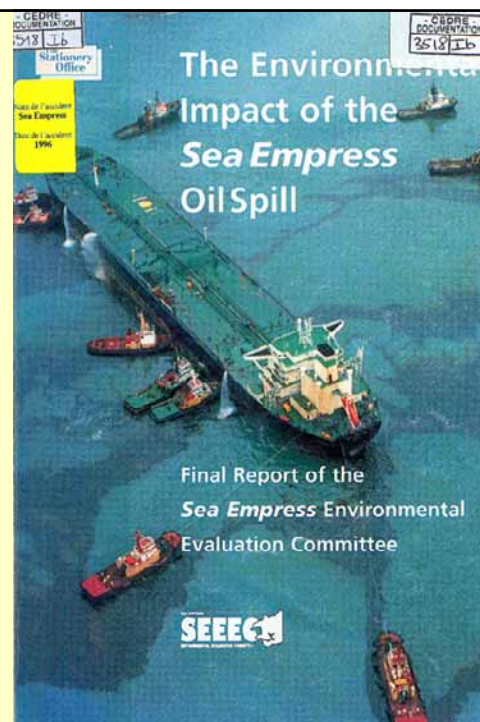
## To describe the final cleanup operations planned

Taking into account economic and ecological interests



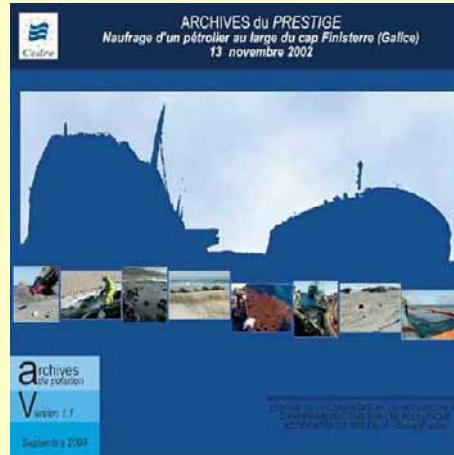
**Publish the final report of the environmental evaluation committee**

**A scientific, objective report available for all**



**Publish archives  
as exhaustive as  
possible**

**A report available  
for all**



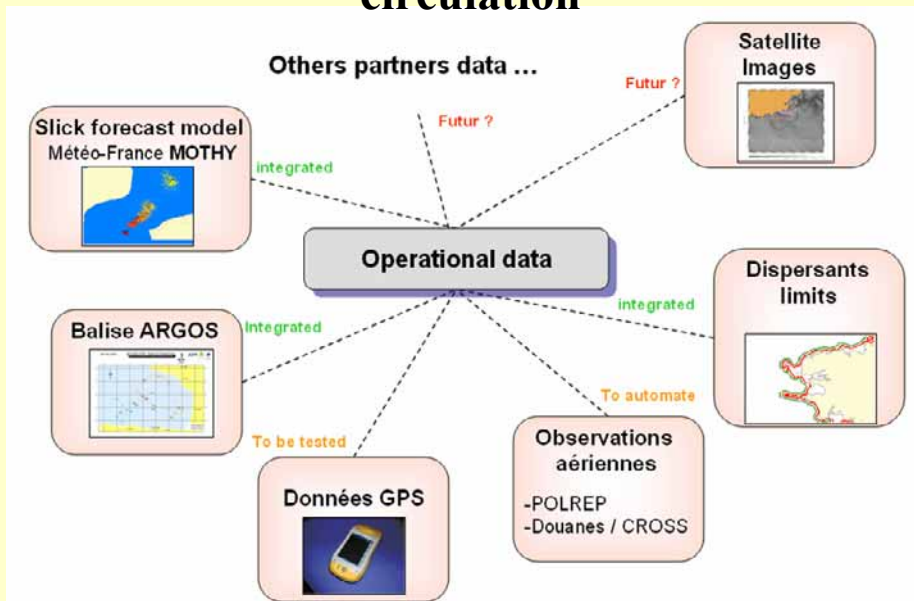
## **LESSON 4**

**Prepare response, information  
and communication means for  
the next time**

## To improve technics

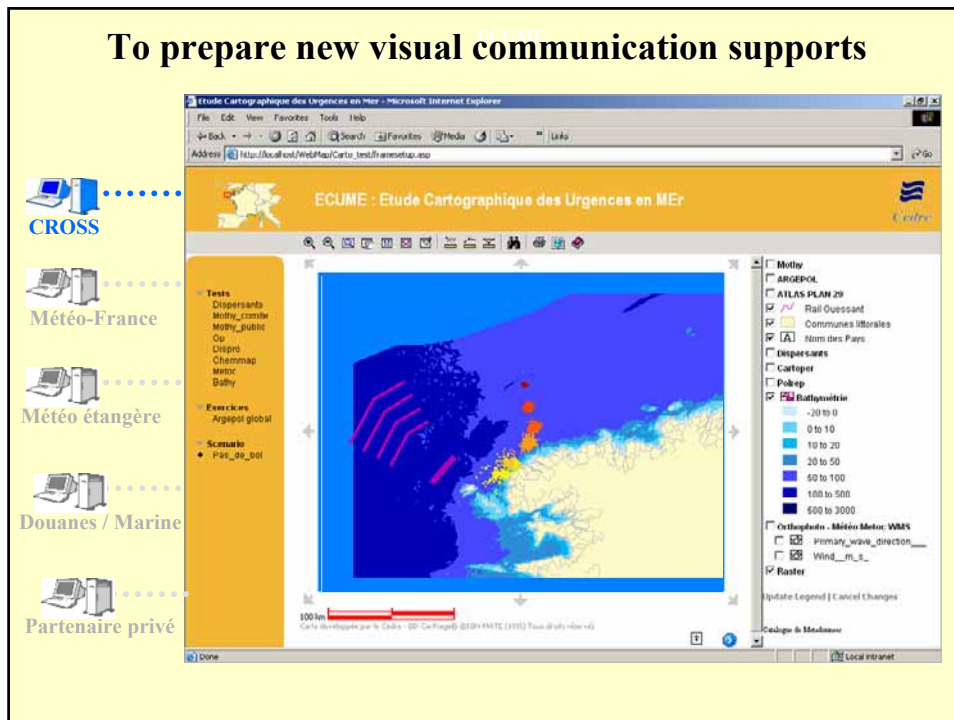


## To organise new systems of information circulation





## To prepare new visual communication supports



## TO CONCLUDE

- **No improvisation : an essential chapter of the response plan**
- **No exclusivity : anyone has his place in the response organisation**