



## Cedre NEWSLETTER

A monthly publication  
by the Centre of Documentation, Research and  
Experimentation on Accidental Water Pollution

### N° 209 E – News from January 2013

#### Emergency Response

January was a relatively calm month. *Cedre's* Emergency Response Centre was called upon by a fire department on the extent and evolution of the chemical reaction generated by the accidental mixing of alkaline substances (soda) and acidic substances (nitric acid + phosphoric acid). *Cedre* was in contact with the manufacturer and the INERIS emergency response unit [CASU](#) to validate a response protocol. In addition, the French (Préfecture maritime) and British (Maritime and Coastguard Agency, MCA) authorities requested *Cedre's* opinion respectively on questions relating to the transshipment of a substance at sea (fly ash) and following deposits of an unidentified "blue substance" on the banks of the mouth of the River Thames, which, after analysis, proved to be grease. *Cedre* also received enquiries from individuals relating to regulatory aspects of wreck immersion, and the technique to be deployed to clean walls contaminated by heating oil following flooding. On Saturday 26th January, upon the initiative of the MCA, a large-scale [MAR-ICE](#) exercise, involving several hazardous substances, was the opportunity to test the protocol.

#### In short

##### Visits

► 28th and 29th January : Mr Chrétien, new [DEB](#) correspondent for *Cedre*

##### Publication

► The French version of the "[Local Authorities' Guide: What to do in the event of a spill](#)" is now available in printed format.

##### Dates for the diary

► *Cedre* Information Day on "Spill Modelling", Wednesday 27th March, *Direction de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité, Grande Arche, Paroi Sud - Paris-La-Défense*. [Provisional programme](#) and [Registration form](#).

#### Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference

From 21st to 23rd January, the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference, dedicated to the impacts of the [Deepwater Horizon](#) rig on the Gulf of Mexico environment, was held in New Orleans (US). With over 800 participants, mainly scientists, around 400 presentations divided into 19 scientific sessions and around 200 posters, this was the first event on the subject on this scale, organised jointly by the federal agencies and private sector. In addition to estimating the socio-economic and ecological impacts of the spill, the presentations and discussions covered a wide range of areas, including recent technological developments in subsea dispersion and improved knowledge of hydrography in the region concerned. Due to the large number of studies underway, the diversity of approaches taken and their respective progress, it is still rather early to draw an overall picture of the impacts caused by the pollution. We can nevertheless note, as concerns the marine environment, the high presumptions of impact on certain coral reefs close to the leaking well, while on the shoreline the effects demonstrated so far appear to be relatively low. Whatever the case, the studies conducted following the spill are clearly improving knowledge of systems that were thus far poorly understood. We also note the widely shared perception of the importance of integrating the results of post-Deepwater Horizon scientific programmes with those obtained through the regular work of federal agencies and fundamental or applied research bodies, as well as other programmes such as the water quality restoration program in the Gulf.

#### Arctic Frontiers

An engineer from the Research and Development team took part in the scientific conference organised by Akvaplan Niva in Tromsø (Norway) on 21st and 22nd January 2013. The aim of this event was to identify collaboration opportunities, in particular through studies geared towards characterising the potential impact of dispersed oil on the Arctic ecosystem. Dr Vladimir Pavlenko, President of the Russian Academy of Sciences, participated in these exchanges. He invited *Cedre* and Akvaplan Niva to present the results of this joint reflection at the next Norwegian-Russian Arctic Offshore Workshop which will be held from 17th to 20th June in Arkhangelsk (Russia).

#### MOTHY 2012 statistics

Météo France's national forecast centre operates a marine drift prediction system called [MOTHY](#) to assist the authorities responsible for spill response and rescue and salvage operations. In 2012, [MOTHY](#) was activated 508 times, an almost 20% rise from 2011. This rise was due to an increase in requests for object and man overboard searches (over 4/5 of all requests), while requests relating to oil have been continuing to fall over past years, due to the drop in the number of spills observed. 2012 was not marked by any major spills. However, the grounding of the [Costa Concordia](#) resulted in 26 drift prediction requests, representing over a quarter of oil drift prediction requests for

2012. Over 40% of requests came from French overseas territories, showing a significant rise, in particular from the MRCC in La Réunion (+118% compared to 2011) for searches off Mayotte. [Further information.](#)

### Visit from Mrs Souliman, Delegate Prefect for Defence and Security - ZDO

On 9th January, Mrs Françoise Souliman, who was appointed Delegate Prefect for Defence and Security to the Prefect for the region of Brittany for the Western Defence and Security Zone Prefect and of Ille-et-Vilaine, by decision of the Council of Ministers of 7th November 2012, visited *Cedre* accompanied by a party of members of her staff. This visit was the opportunity to present *Cedre* and its support duties for the State authorities, and to show the visitors some of the experimental and trial facilities *Cedre* has at its disposal that can be deployed both for research and development activities and for decision support in an emergency.

### Re-election of Pierre Maille as President of the Iroise Marine Natural Park

The Iroise Marine Natural Park recently celebrated its 5th anniversary. During the meeting of its Board of Management, of which *Cedre* is a member, the outgoing President Mr Pierre Maille was re-elected for a 5-year term. André Talarmin and Emmanuel Kelberine were elected as Vice Presidents. The marine park presented its 2013 roadmap, an annual and long term vision of the health status of the Iroise Sea and the efficiency of the park management. This opportunity was also taken to address the 2013 action programme, the Natura 2000 charter for nautical events and the question of tidal turbines in the Fromveur strait.

### Cedre operational guides on manufactured booms and custom-made barriers

Two new operational guides respectively on [Manufactured Spill Response Booms](#) and [Custom-Made Spill Response Barriers](#) are now available in English. The first of these guides focuses on commercially available spill response booms and provides an overview of the main equipment available on the market. The second presents devices that can be made using locally available resources and provides practical advice on designing and building such devices. Both guides can now be downloaded in both English and French from our website [www.cedre.fr](http://www.cedre.fr) and are available in French in printed format from Cedre's Resource Centre.

### Deepwater Horizon: a hefty bill

On 29th January, the agreement signed last November between BP and the US authorities was approved. The bill totals \$12 billion and puts an end to criminal proceedings, while the civil case is due to open on 25th February. BP risks up to an additional \$18 billion fine. Transocean has agreed to pay \$1.4 billion through an agreement that has not yet been approved by the judge.

### Costa Concordia: one year on

Wreck removal operations launched in May 2012, by Titan Salvage and Micoperi, initially due to be completed in February 2013, are now expected to carry on until September due to adverse weather conditions and technical difficulties ([Newsletter 202](#)). The report of the Italian Marine Casualty Investigation Central Board has still not been released, while the court completed its enquiry in late December and the criminal trial is due to open in the spring. The state of natural disaster on the island has however been extended by a year.

### Matterhorn: fine upheld

The Rennes court of appeal upheld the ruling of Brest criminal court, fining the captain of the *Matterhorn* €1 million. With one difference however, 90% of the fine will not be paid by the shipowner. The vessel was caught in May 2009 off the French coast with an oil slick in its wake.

### Erika: France condemned to recover aid

Following the *Erika* spill, France granted aid to fishermen in the form of reduced social contributions. The European Commission has recently ordered France to recover the exempted employee contributions as well as the interest in arrears. Since 2011, France believed itself to be in compliance with European regulations, having recovered the employer contributions requested by the European Commission in 2009.

[Unsubscribe from the Cedre Newsletter](#)

Think green - don't print out your emails!

[Legal information](#)

[Contact us](#)