



## Cedre NEWSLETTER

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

### N° 210 E – News from February 2013

#### Emergency Response

In February, *Cedre* was involved in the response to several chemical spills in inland waters, including a 4,000-litre spill of monopropylene glycol due to an act of vandalism affecting a shop's fire-fighting system in the Audierne area. A watercourse was affected, but the substance's low toxicity limited the consequences of this incident. Also in February, the contents of a 35-litre drum of cypermethrin were spilt into a rainwater drainage network, giving rise to a search for detailed information given this insecticide's very high toxicity.

In marine waters, the Emergency Response Department contributed to the management of an incident involving the loss of four containers off the coast of Brittany. Three of these containers were loaded with propane and were liable to present an explosion risk, making operations hazardous for the teams tasked with recovering them. The container ship having lost these containers was given formal notice by the Maritime Prefect. *Cedre*, assisted by the INERIS emergency response unit CASU, was able to provide technical support to the French Navy fire-fighters. The four containers were recovered by a French Navy support boat.

Finally, a few inquiries were received relating to wreck decontamination techniques before scuttling, the classification of biodiesels and oil analysis laboratories in French overseas territories as well as sampling procedures.

#### In short

##### Dates for the diary

► Information Day - Places still available!!!  
"Spill modelling", Wednesday 27th March, *Direction de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité, Grande Arche, Paroi Sud - Paris-La-Défense*.  
[Programme](#) and [Registration form](#).

► SPILLCON 2013, 8-12 April, Cairns, Queensland, Australia  
International triennial event (in rotation with the IOSC in the United States and Interspill in Europe) which comprises a trade exhibition and a series of oil spill response conferences.

► AMOP 2013, 4-6 June, Halifax, Nova Scotia, Canada  
International technical seminar on environmental contamination and response.

#### Visit from TOSCA project correspondents

On 11th February, the scientific coordinator of the TOSCA project, Mrs Anne Molcard, and a representative of the French maritime authority for the Mediterranean, Commissioner-General Alain Verdeaux, came to *Cedre* to present the TOSCA (Tracking Oil Spills & Coastal Awareness network) project and its expected results. This project, cofinanced by the European Regional Development Fund in the framework of the MED Programme, intends to improve the quality and effectiveness of the decision-making process in case of marine accidents concerning oil spill pollution and search and rescue (SAR) operations in the Mediterranean. Although not a project partner, *Cedre* supported the initiative as a potential user of its results. This meeting was the opportunity for discussions on the project results, its contributions in terms of spill response and the possible interfaces with current crisis management systems. For further information, see the [project website](#).

#### ECCAS seminar on State action at sea

From 19th to 22nd February, one of *Cedre's* Deputy Directors attended the third sub-regional training seminar on State action at sea in Douala (Cameroon). Organised by Kargus Sea Interconnection (KSI) for the ECCAS member States, this action came under the EU's second Peace and Security Programme (PAPS II) for the countries of the ECCAS. This seminar gathered together around forty representatives of 9 countries in this sub-region and followed on from the Pointe-Noire and Malabo seminars in 2012. Fishing, piracy, port security, illegal immigration and spill response were the main themes addressed.

#### Training courses

Two agents from *Cedre*, the Director of Vigipol and a representative of the PNMI ran a training day on 1st February. Organised by the PNMI, this course was intended for the local authorities (local councillors, technical services) and PNMI agents. Geared towards planning, this training day, in addition to covering PNMI actions in terms of spill response preparedness, addressed mayors' roles and responsibilities, department-level (ORSEC) and commune-level

(PCS) planning, as well as questions of compensation. It was attended by 16 participants.

On 13th February in Bruz, *Cedre* gave a lecture as part of the accidental water pollution module of the Bachelor degree course on "Operational management of environmental projects", shoreline and port activities, at the *École des Métiers de l'Environnement* (18 students).

### Third joint DG ECHO-EMSA workshop

One of *Cedre*'s Deputy Directors took part in the third joint DG ECHO-EMSA workshop on coordinated at-sea and shoreline response, held in Lisbon on 12th and 13th February on *EMSA* premises. The first day was devoted to "Health and Safety" aspects during response operations. The second day focused on "Responder and volunteer training standards and exchange of experts during a major spill". Fishermen training was presented by *Ceppol*. *Cedre* gave an overview of spill response training in France, then presented the coordination of land-sea relations in the French response organisation. A review of the involvement of the *EC* in pollution incidents having occurred over the past thirty years was also presented. Norway and France led one of the three discussion groups. The main conclusions of this workshop will be presented at the next *EMSA* Consultative Technical Group (CTG) meeting in October 2013.

### News of the POSOW project

The production of training materials within the framework of the European project POSOW (Preparedness for Oil-polluted Shoreline cleanup and Oiled Wildlife interventions) continues to progress. The first two manuals (Oiled Shoreline Assessment Manual and Oiled Shoreline Cleanup Manual) have been published, the third (Oil Spill Volunteer Management Manual) has been submitted for printing and the fourth (Oiled Wildlife Response Manual) will be printed shortly. The first three are available from the project website. Posters and presentations are currently being developed. Train-the-trainer courses will take place at *Cedre* from 21st to 23rd and 28th to 30th May. For further information, see the [project newsletter](#).

### World maritime economy

The weekly publication *Le Marin*, in collaboration with Nantes University's Economics and Management Laboratory (Lemna) and the Applied Research Centre in Maritime Economics (ISEMAR), released a special edition at the end of 2012 entitled "*L'Atlas 2012 des enjeux marins*". This issue presents a complete panorama of the major economic maritime activities. It provides the latest available figures on the world's largest ports, raw materials, fleets by flag State, companies and their specialisations, shipbuilding, offshore oil, offshore wind power, fisheries, aquaculture and sea produce, marine protected areas, world naval forces... [Further information](#).

### EMSA: new responsibilities

A new European regulation published on 15th January 2013 expands and clarifies *EMSA*'s responsibilities. An important point to note is that *EMSA* is now authorised to respond to pollution incidents originating from offshore oil and gas installations. [Further information](#).

### Statistical study on the risk of large oil spills

An article published in the November 2012 issue of *Environmental Science & Technology* entitled "[Risk of Large Oil Spills: A Statistical Analysis in the Aftermath of Deepwater Horizon](#)" provides facts and figures on oil spills. The article highlights a decline in the quantities of oil spilt by ships and a rise in those from exploitation and exploration facilities. It also suggests that a severe oil spill on a similar scale to the Deepwater Horizon incident could occur every 23 years.

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