



N° 211 E – News from March 2013

Emergency Response

At the beginning of the month, a floating tank container from the *MSC Flaminia* was recovered at sea by the French Navy. Cedre provided information relating to the hazardous nature of the substance contained in the tank and contacted its owner.

In the open sea, outside of the waters under French jurisdiction, a commercial ship collided with another vessel. This accident caused an oil spill for which Cedre provided information on the possible fate of the pollution at sea.

A few calls were also received from fire brigades relating to fish mortality and an observation in the coastal waters of the Landes area. This turned out to be a "mistaken pollution" incident, whereby organic matter was mistaken for oil.

Dates for the diary

► **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.

Cedre Information Day

For its 18th Information Day, this year Cedre addressed the question of the use of forecast models for oil or chemical spills. Seven French and foreign specialists presented the tools they design, develop or use to an audience of around 50 people from various backgrounds (administrations, companies...). The quality of debates during the round table discussions held at the end of both the morning and afternoon sessions, as well as the evaluation sheets, confirmed that this technical subject was greatly appreciated. This event was held at the *Grande Arche de la Défense* upon invitation by the Water and Biodiversity Directorate. As usual, the presentations are available on our [website](#).

Training courses: the 2013 programme begins

After the two ad hoc training days run last month, the 2013 programme of training courses officially kicked off this month with courses without any outdoor practical sessions, given the adverse weather conditions.

In order, we thus hosted: a theory afternoon on the 12th, for 14 Navy officers and petty officers, as part of a wider training programme organised by **CEPPOL**; the first session of the course on "aerial observation of pollution at sea" from the 18th to 20th, for 17 participants and the course on "marine pollution crisis management" from the 25th to 28th for 13 participants. Finally, Cedre gave a 1.5-hour presentation by video conference on 25th March as part of a RCH3 course organised at the fire training academy in Valdivienne for 13 fire brigade trainees from Poitou-Charentes. The 2013 practical sessions are due to start in early April.

Visit from a German delegation from the "Umweltexpertengruppe"

As part of an international collaboration effort between advisory bodies for the authorities in charge of spill response, Cedre hosted a German delegation from the "Umweltexpertengruppe" (UEG) from 12th to 14th March 2013 for a feedback seminar. This fully independent entity brings together, in the event of an incident, a multidisciplinary team (chemists, ecotoxicologists, ornithologists, geographers...) from various ministries and research organisations. It provides scientific and technical expertise to the authorities in charge of managing maritime incidents. During this seminar, the UEG presented its involvement in the *MSC Flaminia* container ship accident, in which, following a fire before the entry to the Channel, the vessel was sent to a port in Wilhelmshaven. The discussions which followed this presentation highlighted the benefit of such expertise in the management of this type of incident.

3rd SPRES project meeting in Lisbon

One year after the launch of the European project **SPRES**, all the project partners met for the 3rd transnational meeting on 4th and 5th March 2013 in Lisbon at the National Laboratory for Civil Engineering (LNEC). Cedre, leader of activity 6 on the definition of strategies and techniques for sensitive site protection and shoreline clean-up, was represented by 2 engineers from the Spill Follow-Up Department and 1 engineer from the Research & Development Department. The partners presented the progress of modelling on the scale of the sites studied, one of the key points of the project. Cedre presented the results of tests carried out in the flume tank (polludrome) to contribute to the adjustment of oil drift and weathering forecast models.

Following the meeting, *Cedre* took part in a reconnaissance survey of Aveiro lagoon, organised by the Portuguese partner from the Estuarine and Coastal Modeling Division of the Physics Department of Aveiro University (NMEC/CESAM), and attended a presentation of GIS tools and vulnerability maps developed for the project by the Environment and Planning Department of Aveiro University (DAO/CESAM).

NETMAR project comes to an end

Launched in 2010, the NETMAR project (Open service network for marine environmental data) partially funded by the European Commission ([Information & Communication Technologies FP7 Programme](#)) came to completion in March 2013. Through this project, a European Marine Information System (EUMIS) was developed to search, download and integrate ocean and coastal data (satellite and aerial data, in situ observations at sea and on the coast, results of models).

With help from Ifremer and its mapping tool [SEXTANT](#), *Cedre* set up two demonstrators:

- on pollution observations at sea and the associated slick drift forecasts,
- on the monitoring of arrivals of pollutants on the shore, waste collected and human resources deployed.

See here for details: <http://netmar.nersc.no/>

MeDON project comes to an end

After 3 years of development, the [MeDON](#) project (Marine e-Data Observatory Network) selected for the European transboundary cooperation programme INTERREG IV A France (Channel) – England, co-funded by ERDF (European Regional Development Fund), came to completion in March 2013.

The MeDON project aimed to develop, test and disseminate a new concept of coastal monitoring based on a network of innovative real-time cabled marine observatories. A study zone in the Western Channel was intended to complete existing surveillance, including for spill response. *Cedre* was called upon as an end user, in particular in terms of the monitoring strategy in case of maritime incidents.

New website: www.chemical-pollution.com

As an extension of the learning guide "Understanding Chemical Pollution at Sea" published in 2012 and produced by *Cedre* in collaboration with Transport Canada, a new website has just been released. In addition to the texts and diagrams found in the printed guide, many animations and videos present the response organisation in case of a spill of hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) at sea. The website www.chemical-pollution.com is divided into 6 sections: chemicals and their uses; the various aspects of shipping, such as ship types and regulations; the main sources of chemical pollution at sea; prevention and preparedness; the different possible response techniques, systematically illustrated with examples of past incidents; and finally impact on human health, the environment and the economy. Intended for 12- to 18-year-olds and their teachers, it is also a useful tool for informing the general public on the current state of knowledge in this field.

Amoco Cadiz: 16th March 1978

For the 35 year anniversary of the *Amoco Cadiz* disaster, still fresh in many memories, an event was organised in March, bringing together many participants. As a quick reminder of the incident: on the night of 16th March 1978, the Liberian oil tanker *Amoco Cadiz* grounded on the rocks at Portsall, North Finistère, loaded with 227,000 tonnes of crude oil. The entire cargo was released, polluting 360 km of shoreline between Brest and Saint Brieuc. It was this incident which triggered the decision to create *Cedre* on 25 January 1979, in a bid to improve spill response preparedness and reinforce the French response organisation.

Torrey Canyon: 18th March 1967

This month also marked the anniversary of the *Torrey Canyon* disaster. This oil tanker, carrying 121,000 tonnes of crude oil, grounded between the Isles of Scilly and the British coast. Several oil slicks drifting in the Channel hit the British and French shores. This incident resulted in the first elements of French, British and European prevention and response policies for major oil spills.

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