



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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

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Emergency Response

Two field missions were carried out this month. In May, *Cedre* provided assistance, from its response centre, to the State services in Les Landes following a spill of a few cubic metres of gear oil into the aquatic environment. It was in connection with this spill that an agent from *Cedre* was sent on site in June to continue to provide advice and to assess the environmental impact of the spill. Meanwhile, *Cedre* was also contracted by a company to provide assistance following a leak from a line connected to a crude oil production well. The operations conducted in response to this incident consisted in limiting the spread of the pollution by laying booms and barriers, in particular filter barriers, in a watercourse. The other highlight of this month was the organisation by the Emergency Response Department of a *Transaid* exercise, which aimed to test the mutual assistance protocol between chemical industry stakeholders, and in particular to contact the sites in north-west France identified in the *Transaid* database as able to provide assistance in the event of a road accident. The exercise proved to be satisfactory for the sites considered to be the most operational (level 3), while improvements are required on level 1 sites, some of which indicated they were keen to develop exchanges.

Visit from Finistère Prefect and Brest Sub-Prefect

On 3rd June, *Cedre* received a visit from Mr Jean-Luc Videlaïne, the Prefect for Finistère and Mrs Béatrice Lagarde, the Sub-Prefect for Brest, for a presentation of the association and visit of its facilities. This visit was the opportunity to reaffirm *Cedre's* support missions to the authorities, in particular in the event of accidental marine pollution affecting the shoreline, and to present the resources available to carry out these missions.

In short

Dates for the diary

► **INTERSPILL 2015**, 24-26 March 2015
Amsterdam, Netherlands

Meetings

► *Cedre's* Board of Governors met on 26th June on the premises of Brest Métropole Océane

Training courses

- "Inshore oil spill response" (session 2), from 3rd to 7th, 19 participants
- "Oil spill response in inland waters", from 10th to 14th, 15 participants
- "ORSEC/POLMAR-Land crisis management", from 24th to 28th, 15 participants
- Training course for the Seine-et-Marne fire brigade on spill response in inland waters (at *Cedre*), 24th to 28th, 17 participants

Publications



► **Cedre Information Bulletin n° 30**



► **2012 Annual Report**

Preparatory meeting for the September 2013 Environmental Conference

The Environmental Conference in September 2013 is to include a round table on "Marine Biodiversity". The Director in charge of Water and Biodiversity under the Ministry of Ecology organised an initial preparatory meeting for this round table gathering together the main stakeholders on 21st June in Paris. *Cedre* was invited to this meeting and was represented by its director. The Environmental Conference will be held on 21st and 22nd September 2013 at the Economic, Social and Environmental Council in Paris. One of the five issues to be addressed is "Marine biodiversity, the sea and oceans with a view to the reinforcement of knowledge and the protection of the marine environment in mainland and overseas France".

ORSEC/POLMAR-Land training and exercises

In addition to our regular training courses (see "In short" sections), this month several decentralised "ORSEC/POLMAR-Land" training actions were carried out in collaboration with **CETMEF**, the interdepartmental stockpiles and the relevant administrations and local authorities. In the Aude area (Mediterranean coast), around fifty people took part in a day of theory training on the 4th, followed by a more technical and equipment handling session on the 5th, prior to a **POLMAR** exercise in Leucate on the 6th. In Guadeloupe, a half-day awareness-raising session for local councillors was held on the 17th, followed by 4 days of technical and practical training with equipment deployment. Around forty people took part in these training days. Furthermore, on the 18th, an awareness-raising day was run for local councillors, in which **Vigipol** also took part, gathering around sixty people in Saint-Brieuc (Côtes

d'Armor). An exercise will also be run in Lannion (Côtes d'Armor) in late September. Finally, a POLMAR exercise, led by the port authority, mobilised around fifty people in Calais (Nord Pas-de-Calais) on the 24th.

Post-Arcopol action by the Region of Aquitaine

The Region of Aquitaine, a partner of the Arcopol project (2009-2011) alongside the Region of Brittany and Vigipol, was keen to promote the operational tools produced by *Cedre* (technical assistant to the regions) as part of this European project (Newsletters 206 and 212). To do so, a day devoted to "Accidental maritime pollution" was jointly organised by the region and the public interest group "GIP Littoral Aquitain" on 17th June in La Teste de Buch. During this day, over fifty participants (local authorities, State services, associations...) attended awareness-raising sessions on the use of these tools run by an engineer from the Contingency Planning Department and were informed of the specific POLMAR-Land planning aspects under the ORSEC system by the State services. Similar actions are to be carried out in September for sea professionals and associations.

IMPOLEST project closure

The IMPOLEST project, which aimed to predefine an assessment and monitoring programme for the ecological impact of oil spills in estuaries, came to a close on 4th June with a workshop gathering the various partners – scientists and managers – involved in this project, funded by the Pays-de-la-Loire Region, Total and the French Ministry of Ecology, Sustainable Development and Energy. Held in Nantes (Loire-Atlantique) on the premises of the public interest group "GIP Loire Estuaire", the workshop provided the opportunity to present, discuss and validate the main outputs and, from an operational point of view, assess the use of the tool put forward through a simulation involving scientific experts based on two spill scenarios in the Loire.

AMOP, Halifax, 4th-6th June

The 36th AMOP Technical Seminar on Environmental Contamination and Response was held from 4th to 6th June 2013 in Halifax (Nova Scotia, Canada). Around 140 people from some twenty different countries discussed recent work carried out worldwide in the field of accidental water pollution, in particular relating to the behaviour of oil and chemicals when spilled at sea, detection, modelling, contingency planning and feedback from recent incidents. The theme of DilBit (Diluted Bitumen) was one of the major focuses at this event. *Cedre* presented the work performed by its Research and Development and Information and Documentation teams. Several topics were addressed including the issue of the fate of a plume of dispersed or undispersed oil in the water column, as well as the fate of a gas plume, in addition to the studies that follow on from the Discobiol project (see Bulletin 29), on the impact assessment of a chemically dispersed oil on juvenile sea bass. Furthermore, the collection of Chemical Response Guides was presented at a specific session devoted to HNS spills. At this same session, the collaboration between *Cedre* and Transport Canada was highlighted with the presentation of the new educational website www.chemical-pollution.com.

Revision of the French-British Manche Plan

In late May 2013, a new plan was signed, aiming to facilitate the exchange of information between authorities and simplify their decision-making in the case of major operations. The plan also ensures greater consistency in the cooperation with the principles of the ORSEC maritime organisation for the Channel-North Sea coast. The "Manche Plan" bilateral agreement, which came into force on 15th May 1978, focuses on the organisation of cooperation between the two countries in the event of a maritime incident in the Channel for search and rescue and spill response operations.

Many legal proceedings and court rulings

Opening of the appeal hearing for the *Donges spill* (Loire-Atlantique) in 2008: the Rennes (Ille-et-Vilaine) court of the appeal is to deliver its verdict on 27th September. The first instance judgment called for a €300,000 fine without any mention of ecological damage, for which LPO now claims €400,000.

The public prosecutor's office in Bordeaux (Gironde) called for a €40,000 fine for the managers of the Biganos factory (Smurfit). The pollution occurred on 5th July 2012 when a retention tank containing black liquor exploded. The decision is under deliberation and is to be rendered on 2nd September.

Caught illegally releasing oil off Penmarch (Brittany) on 28th August 2012, the captain and shipowner of the *Mikhail Kutuzov* were sentenced to an €800,000 fine by the criminal court of Brest (Finistère) while the appeal by the captain and manager of the *Valentia* (discharge on 11th November 2008) was rejected on 18th June by the supreme court. They therefore remain sentenced to a €800,000 fine.

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