



## Cedre NEWSLETTER

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### N° 156 E - News from May 2008

#### Emergency Response

During the month of May, the Emergency Response Department, still involved in monitoring the pollution in the Loire estuary, participated in dealing with the following events:

- arrivals of tar balls on several beaches on the French Riviera. Exchanges with the services in charge of response to the incident mainly focused on techniques for collecting polluted waste and cleaning stones and pebbles.
- three spills in inland waters: fertilisers in the Marne area, domestic fuel in the Lapinière stream (Loire-Atlantique area) and hydrofluoric acid in a stream in Marennes (Charente-Maritime). These spills required information on the product's ecotoxicity or on the response options. Cedre's Emergency Response team was also called upon concerning the behaviour of diesel spilt by a trawler which sank off the coast of Narbonne beach.

Finally, an engineer from Cedre was sent to Batz Island to assess the situation and recommend measures to be taken following the uncovering, due to a storm on 10 March, of stones and plant debris oiled by a previous spill.

#### Pollution at Donges Refinery (continued)

Throughout the month, an agent from Cedre was present in the Loire-Atlantique area to continue to monitor response operations following the bunker fuel spill at Donges terminal on 16 March. Cedre thus maintained its role as a technical advisor for the various clean-up sites and took part in several worksite closures, in particular in the communes of Saint-Nazaire, Corsept and Cordemais.

#### Loire Estuary Commission

On 15th May, the Pays-de-la-Loire regional authorities invested the Local Estuary Information Commission. This initiative comes in response to the recent spill in the Loire (cf. previous article). The commission brings together government authorities, local MPs, industrial stakeholders in the area, the consulate general, environmental protection NGOs, social partners and other relevant people and organisations (including Cedre). The purpose of the commission is to ensure effective communication on the environmental impact of economic activities in the estuary and to define measures to reduce the impact of possible incidents.

#### Ritmer & Brittany's maritime cluster

The first meeting of Ritmer and Brittany's maritime cluster, organised by Ifremer, was held in Brest on 27th and was the opportunity to determine the objectives and running of this committee, which is in keeping with the purpose of the Ritmer network, set up after the Erika spill to promote research and technological innovation on accidental marine pollution. The new Ritmer, based on the decision made at the review workshop in October 2007, supported by Brittany's maritime cluster and extended to include operation discharge, aims to promote the emergence of research projects, to strengthen partnerships and to facilitate their funding. This first meeting gathered representatives of research, SME, industries, operational bodies and Brittany's maritime cluster. It reviewed in particular the needs expressed in terms of research, national and European programmes and projects in progress being carried out by or known of by participants (for more information see [www.ritmer.org](http://www.ritmer.org)).

#### In short

##### VISITS TO CEDRE

- On 15th, Mr Bodin, Senator of the Seine-et-Marne area

##### TRAINING

- From 13th to 15th, Polmar training course for government services and municipalities of Calvados in Hérouville-St-Clair and at the Polmar stockpile in Le Havre, organised by the CIFP Rouen and CNFPT Normandy, 20 participants
- From 19th to 23rd, practical course on shoreline response, session n°2, 16 participants
- From 27th to 29th, practical course for port officers on response in ports and harbours on behalf of CFP Plouzané

#### HOT OFF THE PRESS

- Editions Quae has just published "Marées noires – Enjeux économiques" (Oil Spills – Economic Issues). 2008, 136 pages - 16 x 24 cm – Price: 24 €. Order on line at [www.quae.com](http://www.quae.com)



## Savannah, USA: 20th IOSC

The 20th International Oil Spill Conference was held in Savannah (Georgia, USA) from 4th to 8th May. This conference brought together oil spill response industry professionals from around the world to share their experience and discuss innovations in terms of prevention, response preparedness, response and site restoration. Over 2,000 people attended the various technical sessions offered and 250 exhibitors presented their products and services. Throughout the week-long event, a film festival provided the opportunity to view films produced by different organisations involved in training, education, pollution response and restoration. Cedre gave 2 platform presentations and 2 poster presentations: CLARA model (to Analyse and Determine the Consequences of a Chemical Spill), Understanding Black Tides and Operational Meteocean Products. Cedre was also present in the exhibit hall on a joint Cedre/Total/Sycopol booth, where it promoted the internationalisation and translation of its publications. In parallel to the conference, many meetings took place. Cedre participated in the meetings of the oil Industry Technical Advisory Committee (ITAC) and IPIECA's Oil Spill Working Group (OSWG).

## Yemen: training course and exercise

Two engineers from the Contingency Planning Department carried out a week-long mission in Yemen to complete the update of Total EP Yemen's Oil Spill Contingency Plan (OSCP). The purpose of this third and final trip was to train the production site's response and supervision team and lead an awareness-raising session for the management team at the company's head office in Sana'a. This was the opportunity to present the OSCP to all those involved in the crisis management unit. After a few final adjustments, the response plan was approved and circulated within the group.

## The warship Jeanne d'Arc in Casablanca

On the occasion of the round-the-world trip taken by the training ship Jeanne d'Arc, Brest Métropole Océane (BMO) and Brest's Chamber of Commerce and Industry have been organising since 1997 an annual economic and scientific mission in one of the stopover countries of the vessel, with the support of the Conseil général du Finistère and in cooperation with the French navy. This year Brest's delegation, led by BMO's President F. Cuillandre and made up of 70 people, visited Casablanca to create or reinforce relations with their Moroccan counterparts or clients. Cedre led a workshop dedicated to maritime and port safety, and interesting contacts were made with the Tanger Med port authorities.

## Norway: offshore spill

StatoilHydro very rapidly communicated, via its website ([statoilhydro.com](http://statoilhydro.com)), information on a new spill which occurred on 24th in its Statfjord oil field. Less than 6 months after a 4,000 m3 crude oil spill in this same field (newsletter n° 151), this new spill involved 1,200 m3 of polluted water, released deliberately for safety reasons following a leak in a pipe located inside one of the shafts of the platform. The fair weather conditions however were less favourable to natural dispersion this time and containment and recovery operations were conducted by NOFO, the Norwegian Clean Seas Association For Operating Companies. Monitoring operations did not detect significant impact on birds and fish, and the platform was able to start its production activities again on 28th after the leak had been repaired.

## Bulgaria: pollution or false alarm?

On 22nd May, the Russian experts of the Black Sea Online project on satellite detection in the Black Sea ([www.blacksea-online.com](http://www.blacksea-online.com)) reported a major pollution incident off the coast of Varna, Bulgaria, which they believe to be caused by several tankers. This site displays on GIS the pollutions detected over the last few months in the Black Sea. This pollution was however not able to be confirmed by the Bulgarian vessel sent to the area after new satellite images on 28th confirmed the pollution (for more information see [www.novinite.com](http://www.novinite.com)).

## USA: Selendang Ayu (follow-up)

After the spill by the Malaysian cargo ship Selendang Ayu in December 2004 (see newsletters n° 115, 118, 119, 132, 147 – French only), the US authorities announced the launch of a Natural Resources Trustee Fund to finance local environmental actions, to compensate for damages incurred by the flora and fauna of Unalaska Island. This fund is now up and running. After a visit to the area on 25th and 26th March by the steering group, the Oil Spill Intelligence Report from 1st May announced a call for proposals for environmental restoration projects.

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