



N° 174 E – News from November 2009

Emergency response

The month of November was relatively calm with an ICE exercise led on the 26th by our Swedish colleagues on ethyl acrylate, an exercise organised by Les Abeilles (see article below) and a final exercise on a naphtha spill in the Seine. Also worthy of note was the arrival at Cedre of a sample of phosphorite from SNPT (Société Nouvelle des Phosphates du Togo) following the accident involving the *M/V Gülser Ana* off the south of Madagascar (Newsletters 172 and 173). The water samples taken on site by our agents were analysed by our laboratory. No traces of oil or phosphate pollution from the vessel were detected in the samples of sea water or water from coastal wells. Analysis of fish flesh is currently underway. Unfortunately, no measurements of heavy metals in water were able to be taken due to our package being held up at customs for over a month. The last weekend in November proved to be busier with significant arrivals of oil on the coastline of the Loire-Atlantique and Vendée areas. An agent from Cedre was sent on site to take samples, which are currently being analysed in our laboratory.

In short

DATES FOR THE DIARY

► The **Cedre Information Day 2010** will be held on **Thursday 11 March** at **INHES**. The chosen theme is "**Pollution response equipment stockpiles**" The programme is available [here](#)

MEETINGS AT CEDRE

► On 19th, *Cedre* Technical Day on ecological impact and dispersants
► On 20th, *Cedre* Strategic Committee

MEETINGS OUTSIDE OF CEDRE

► On 17th, in Naples for the "Brainstorming meeting for MED strategic project" with presentation of European projects EROCIPS and ARCOPOL

November training courses

- From 3 to 5 November, Les Abeilles organised a course for their salvage masters at Cedre, at which Cedre presented its activities in terms of response and operational assistance (7 participants, 3 trainers).
- From 10th to 12th, two members of the Training Department led an inter-ministerial course, in Rabat, Morocco, on spill management in inland waters which marked the launch of the contingency planning effort in this field led by the Environment Department (21 participants).
- Meanwhile, on 12th and 13th, Cedre played host to 10 students of the Offshore Masters in industrial naval equipment at ENSAM in Angers for an at-sea spill response module.
- On 17th and 18th, the training course on merchant ships and the role of shipping industry stakeholders in the event of a spill was attended at Cedre by 18 participants.
- The following week, the training course on principles of response to marine chemical pollution was attended by 23 people including a representative of Transport Canada and 3 South Korean Coastguards. All 4 prolonged their stay at Cedre until the end of the week to discuss other issues.
- Finally, the last training session of the month concerned "natural heritage correspondents" working on protected sites along the coastline of the Manche and Calvados areas. A day of training in each of these areas was led by Cedre on 26 and 27 November on the themes of surveying polluted sites and shoreline clean-up organisation.

Bar3D experimentation

The Bar3D project partners (EIGSI, Cetmef, LNHE (EDF), Total, Cedre, Brest Polmar stockpile and *Phares et Balises*) met at the River Élorn (which feeds into the Bay of Brest), from 2 to 9 November 2009, for a week of experiments and measurements on the behaviour of a boom in current. A 210 m spill response boom was deployed by the Brest *Phares et Balises* service. Despite adverse weather conditions (strong winds, squall and heavy rainfall), all the originally planned measurements were able to be taken in particular thanks to the motivation and availability of all the participants. This experiment was also the opportunity to train the agents in charge of deploying spill response booms and thus to demonstrate the importance of logistical planning in such an exercise.

Consultative Technical Group meeting

On 28 and 29 October the 4th meeting of the EMSA Consultative Technical Group (CTG) for Maritime Pollution Preparedness and Response (MPPR) was held in Lisbon. EMSA reviewed its spill preparedness and response activities and its 2009-2010 action programme. Feedback from accidents and exercises was presented by the Member States. This meeting in the agency's new offices was the opportunity to visit the Maritime Support Services room, which became operational 24/7 on 1st September 2009. The data provided by the States through the systems SafeSeaNet, Long Range Identification and Tracking and CleanSeaNet is summarised on a multi-screen wall.

IMO/IPIECA workshop

In parallel to the regional conference of national legal and technical experts on the Abidjan Convention and its emergency protocol, IMO and IPIECA organised a regional workshop from 2 to 5 November, in Yaoundé (Cameroon) as part of the Global Initiative for Western and Central Africa (GI-WACAF 2009). This workshop which gathered together public and industrial representatives of 21 countries from the region was the opportunity to address many technical and compensation-related questions. Cedre was chairmann of a session, led by a work group on the GI WACAF project action plan, and also presented two lectures: "The development of a national dispersant use policy" and "An introduction to makeshift booms".

Meetings in Turkey

Cedre led a national workshop for the "Implementation of a dispersant use policy for spill response in Turkey", organised in Ankara from 25 to 29 October by the Turkish authorities in collaboration with REMPEC and MOIG. Again in Turkey, from 10 to 13 November, MOIG organised a technical session in Istanbul offering, in particular, two specialised workshops. The first was on preparedness and response, and the second on dispersant use. Cedre presented an overview of the establishment of a national dispersant use policy and the situation in the Mediterranean area.

Fort Lauderdale: pollution in the arctic

The theme of "Arctic oil spill response" scored a high attendance rate at the Industry Days (both oil and spill industries) held in Florida on 20, 21 and 22 October. The first day was exclusively dedicated to this theme, which was later used as a backdrop for the successive IPIECA Oil Spill Working Group (OSWG) and ITAC meetings. The Arctic-themed meeting focused in particular on rating the priorities in terms of research and development, based on around twenty pre-defined issues. Several meetings and workshops to be held in the coming months should add to this reflection on a priority theme for the major oil industry stakeholders. During the ITAC meeting, the Canadian Department of Fisheries and Oceans (DFO) made mention of its ability to conduct at sea trials and a research proposal was established jointly with Cedre. Among the other subjects presented at Fort Lauderdale, we note the ambitious programme launched by NOFO and NCA to improve response technologies, over 30 million Norwegian kroner of funding shared between around twenty projects, with the door open to new proposals. Dispersants remained an important topic for these meetings, particularly with the revision of the IPIECA guide, a note on their impact on corals with reference made to experiments conducted by Cedre on the subject, the mention of their use on the spill in Australia and the measurement of their efficiency within the Australian context.

Workshop in Columbia

The Caribbean delegation was called upon at the beginning of November by RAC/REMPEITC for the organisation of an OPRC workshop in Columbia intended for Central American countries for the finalisation of their national contingency plans and the joint establishment of a regional plan. This workshop, which followed a MARPOL seminar, was conducted with support from the Central American Commission for Maritime Transport (COCATRAM), ITOPF, Clean Caribbean and Americas (CCA) and Ocean Pollution Control (OPC), Panama.

China and the US: acid problems

The Kingsport Eastman chemical plant (Tennessee) admitted to having accidentally spilt around 10 m3 of acetic acid into a discharge channel on 27 October. The spill caused temporary fish mortality at the network outlet in the Holston River, but the acid was rapidly diluted and no response operations were carried out. On the other side of the globe, on 2 November, the shipwrecking of the Yang Tzé, a vessel transporting 100 m3 of hydrochloric acid, mobilised the Environmental Protection Bureau for the city of Ezhou (Zhoushan province) to determine whether or not the vessel was leaking. We were unable to find in the releases the details of any actions taken and their results.

Australia: West Atlas rig (cont. - see Newsletters 172 and 173)

Despite a fire on 1st November, the response team mobilised by the rig operator managed to plug the leak from the well the following day, by injecting 800 m3 of mud. In total, the leak lasted for 10 weeks, with new flow rate estimations (60 to 70 m3/day) lower than those indicated to us last month (200 to 500 m3/day), giving a total of 4,000 to 5,000 tonnes spilt. These figures bring this spill down from first to third place of the largest oil spills in Australia, after the Kirki spill (17,300 tonnes on 21 July 1991) and that of the Princess Anne Marie (14,800 tonnes on 14 July 1975).

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