



N° 178 E – News from March 2010

Emergency response

On 6 March, following partial transferral of the cargo of xylene and soya bean oil to another vessel, the *Sichem Osprey* (Newsletter n° 177) was refloated at Clipperton Island. The operations did not cause any pollution. The ship then left for Mexico, with the French assessment team, including the Commander of CEPOL, onboard ([More info](#)).

During March, the response centre received several inquiries, in relation to a cleaning agent, equipment to clean oiled infrastructures on Ré island polluted by used car oil from a garage damaged during storm Xynthia and on **ETBE** and **MTBE** detection techniques following on land pollution due to a leak of 7,000 litres of petrol (gasoline) from an underground tank.

Two drift predictions were requested from Météo-France via *Cedre* following satellite detection of pollution off Corsica and Gironde. Finally, on 25 March, small-scale, sparse arrivals of tar balls were reported along 4 km of shoreline in the Sète area, then on 26 March, at Saintes-Maries-de-la-mer. Ten kilogrammes of pollutant was recovered from the shoreline by the Bouches-du-Rhône fire brigade. Samples were sent to the **Lasem** laboratory in Toulon. The analyses conducted will establish whether there is a connection between these arrivals and the pollution caused on 19 February by the collision between a tug and a container ship near the port of Genoa (Italy). This pollution was carried by the Ligurian current along the French coastline of the Alpes-Maritimes and Var areas until the beginning of March (Newsletter n°177).

In short

TRAINING

► From 15 to 18, marine spill response crisis management training course for the French Navy and Maritime Affairs (14 participants)

► 23 March: half day of training for the participants of the "Basic spill response training course" run by CEPOL (18 participants)

► 29 March - 2 April: first "Response to oil pollution on the shoreline" training session (18 participants)

HOT OFF THE PRESS

► Published by Editions Quae " **Les secrets des algues** "

Cedre Information Day

The 15th *Cedre* Information Day was held on 11 March in the premises of INHESJ (Paris, Saint-Denis-La-Plaine). This day, dedicated to spill response equipment stockpiles and their management, attracted 65 participants. Feedback has shown that stockpile management is a major current concern and gives rise to many questions. An additional perspective was provided through an international approach which was particularly appreciated. The conference presentations are available at www.cedre.fr

Training courses

On 9 and 10 March, *Cedre* led a training course in Cannes on the theme of "Response on islands and on sensitive shorelines", upon request by Lyonnaise des Eaux. This course gathered 20 participants from neighbouring ports and **GIPM** member companies. In addition, on 11 and 12 March, a theory and practical course on response to small-scale spills was organised in Ramatuelle (Var) for the *Observatoire marin du Sivom du littoral des Maures*. Seventeen participants (councillors, local authority executives and technicians) were asked to review the management of a recent spill to identify lessons to be learnt and enhance the spill response section of their local contingency plan.

10th OPRC-HNS technical group meeting in London

A member of the management attended this meeting from 15 to 19 March. Nine guides and manuals were on the agenda, and technical exchanges on spills were also held. An international version of the French guide on the "Use of Sorbents for Spill Response" is to be produced by a working group of 9 partners led by *Cedre*. Four reviews of incidents involving oil or hazardous substances were presented. The guide "Aerial Observation of Oil Pollution at Sea" put forward by *Cedre* and adapted to an international context by the technical group was submitted to the 60th **MEPC** for approval, with a view to its publication.

A brand new laboratory

The restoration work on the laboratory was completed on 25 March, almost a year after the fire on 26 April 2009 which totally destroyed it (Newsletter n° 167). A new laboratory was designed, resulting in a reorganisation of the premises and an improvement in working conditions and safety, in particular through the installation of a general fire detection and alarm system as well as new fume chambers, extractor fans and an air handling unit which both compensates for volumes of extracted air and heats the premises. The first pieces of analysis equipment are currently being installed. Network trials and a few finishing touches must be completed, as well as the reinstallation of all the equipment, before

the R&D team can recover the use of a fully operational tool.

Annual Cedre - ITOPF meeting

On 3 March, *Cedre* received a delegation from **ITOPF** led by its technical director for the annual meeting between the two organisations. This day was the opportunity to discuss incidents in which each of the parties had taken part during the past year. A review of the research and development projects in progress was also presented, as well as an outline of the information processing and communication means of each organisation. The meeting was also the opportunity to make mention of Hugh Parker's retirement this month, after 30 years of loyal service to ITOPF, punctuated by many projects in collaboration with *Cedre*. We wish him all the best.

Consultation of stakeholders by EMSA

On 5 March, the Director of *Cedre* responded to **ESMA**'s invitation by taking part in the stakeholders' consultation meeting organised by the agency, in its offices, on its marine pollution preparedness and response activities. Over and above a simple midterm review of the multiannual funding plan implemented by the European Parliament, this day was the opportunity to discuss possibilities for future activities.

Honfleur oil terminal

An agent from the Contingency Planning team took part in the audit visit to Honfleur oil terminal, on the Seine estuary, operated by BTT, affiliate of Total's Refining and Marketing branch. The aim of this joint visit with the group HSE managers and a naval fire officer from **FOST** was to develop response strategies in case of a spill during oil transfer operations to or from a ship in dock. Thereafter, the response means will be defined and the contingency plan updated, followed by an incident simulation exercise, designed to test the strategies identified and to validate the plan.

Experimentation in Vigo Bay (Spain)

Within the context of the Drifter project (HNS, oil and inert pollution: trajectory modelling and monitoring), one of the 4 projects of the AMPERA-France research programme funded by the **ANR** Precodd programme, two agents from *Cedre* took part in an experimental programme at sea in the Ria de Vigo from 8 to 12 March. This experimentation, led by **Cetmar**, was designed to assess different solutions (dyes, buoys) to mark a drifting chemical slick. The results have not yet been fully processed but, at a first glance, it appears that a soluble dye, such as fluorescein, could be an effective way of marking a slick of soluble chemical, all the more so as LIDAR technology would enable the detection of very small concentrations of chemical. Further experimentation is to be conducted before the summer to validate these results. In terms of the different models of buoys, trajectory analysis has not yet been completed.

BAR 3 D project closure

The project closure meeting was held on 17 March at La Rochelle school of engineering (EIGSI) in the presence of the Project Leader and representatives of **ANR**, **LNHE**, **Cetmef** and *Cedre*. After reviewing the different scientific research and literature reviews conducted since 2006, the project start date, the encouraging results of the calculation software **Bar 3 D** were presented as well as the efforts made in terms of human, material and financial resources to run two major boom deployment exercises held in La Rochelle and on the river Elorn in the Brest bay. Two sequels are under consideration through the programmes ECOTECH and ECO-INDUSTRIE.

New website for MEEDDM

It has taken year of work to develop the new website of the French ministry in charge of the environment, **MEEDDM** (www.developpement-durable.gouv.fr). Seven existing sites were merged to gather together all the ministry's competences. All its fields of responsibility are now structured around 7 thematic hubs: energy and climate, accommodation, sustainable planning and natural resources, risk prevention, sustainable development, transport and road safety, sea and shoreline.

HNS spill in Canada

On 4 March, an unknown substance was spilt into the rainwater drainage system contaminating Byrne Creek located near Vancouver. This creek, which is a sensitive habitat and a salmon reproduction area, was already undergoing ecological rehabilitation following other recent spills. One of the initial consequences of this incident was a considerable increase in pH (value near to 9). A strong smell of ammonia was also released. Over a thousand fish were killed, representing almost the entire population of the creek's Salmonids population.

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