



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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

N° 205 E – News from September 2012

Cedre Information Day 2013

The next Information Day will focus on **Spill Modelling** and will be held at the *Direction de l'Eau et de la Biodiversité*, Grande Arche, Paroi Sud - Paris-La-Défense

on **Wednesday 27 March 2013**.

[The programme is available here](#)

In short

Training courses

► Practical course on shoreline response. Session 3 from 10th to 14th, 17 participants.

Cedre publications

► Information Bulletin n°29 has just been published. It focuses on the grounding of container ship **Rena** in New Zealand. It is available to download [here](#) and in printed format upon request from the Resource Centre.



Dates for the diary

► From 11 to 14 October, Science Festival at Brest University's Faculty of Science and Techniques. The programme is available [here](#).

Emergency Response

The duty team were mobilised at the beginning of September to assess the risks generated by the dysfunction of the temperature control system onboard a chemical tanker, caused by an electrical problem. Several exercises were also conducted in September. Cedre's response centre was called upon by **REMPEC** during an at-sea response exercise involving the simulation of a heavy fuel oil spill off Qawra (Malta). REMPEC aimed to test the expert deployment procedures for Cedre in France and **ISPRA** in Italy within the context of the Mediterranean Assistance Unit. This exercise, known as Maltex 2012, took place on 11 and 12 September and was organised by the Maltese authorities in cooperation with **EMSA**. Finally, Cedre was called upon following the observation of what appear to have been patches of peat on a beach in the Manche area, discovered during the spring tide.

Exercise in Gabon

Within the context of its oil exploration and production operations in Gabon, **Perenco** organised a corporate exercise from 16 to 21 September, designed to test the entire oil spill alert, mobilisation and response chain. Five agents from Cedre helped Perenco to prepare and run this exercise and to organise debriefings at each incident management level, i.e. onboard the Floating Storage Unit (FSU) *Fernan Vaz*, at the headquarters of the Gabon subsidiary based in Port-Gentil and in the group's London and Paris offices. This exercise supplements the national workshop run a few months ago by the State of Gabon with support from **GIWACAF** in order to test Gabon's National Oil Spill Contingency Plan (NOSCP). Perenco contributed to the success of this event by providing the organisers with at-sea response equipment.

SPRES meeting

The second meeting of European project **SPRES** on Oil Spill Prevention and Response at Local Scales was held at Cedre on 18 and 19 September. The project is partially funded by the transnational Atlantic Area Programme and aims to generate operational forecast models at local scales (estuaries and ports) through the development of high resolution oceanographic systems. These models will be combined with local contingency plans based on a risk assessment and the characteristics and sensitivities of the relevant shorelines. Coordinated by the Environmental Hydraulics Institute of Cantabria (Spain), SPRES covers 4 sites in the Atlantic area: Aveiro Lagoon, Santander Bay, the Port of Falmouth and Belfast Lough. It involves 7 partners: 2 for Portugal (LNEC and CESAM), 2 for Spain (IHC and AZTI), 2 for the UK (PoF and AFBI) and Cedre for France. Cedre is the leader of the work package on contingency planning (WP 6), focusing in particular on the definition of strategies and techniques for sensitive site protection and shoreline clean-up. Cedre is also heavily involved in model calibration by performing tests in Cedre's flume tank. A model developer from LNEC recently spent 8 days at Cedre to observe oil weathering processes in the flume tank.

IMO OPRC-HNS Technical Group

The 14th session of the OPRC-HNS Technical Group was held in London from 24 to 28 September 2012. This meeting gathered together 32 delegates from 22 countries as well as around 15 observers from international organisations and NGOs. The session was chaired by Alexander von Buxhoeveden (Sweden) who was re-elected as

Chairman for 2013. The group's work mainly focused on the drafting or updating of guidance manuals. The manual on the legal and administrative aspects of HNS incidents, in situ burning guidelines, operational guidelines on sunken and submerged oil assessment and removal techniques and parts I and II of the IMO dispersant guidelines, whose revision is led by *Cedre* and Environment Canada, were finalised and will be presented for approval at the 65th **MEPC** session in late April 2013.

Researchers' Night

On 28 September, over 3,200 people took part in the 7th edition of Researchers' Night at Océanopolis in Brest: an all-time record! The visitors embarked upon an imaginary journey into the future, on which they wandered through the various pavilions and were able to talk to the 120 researchers present. The visitors were delighted with this experience, as was *Cedre*, who took part in this event for the fifth year running on the theme of "Responding to oil spills in cold waters".

Ampera-France project closure meeting

On 20 September, as project coordinator, *Cedre* hosted the closure meeting of the Ampera-France project, in which it was involved alongside Ifremer and the University of Montpellier's Gladys laboratory. Recognised by Brittany's Maritime Competitiveness Cluster and funded by the **ANR** programme Precodd 2008, this project covered France's participation in 4 European research projects selected by the ERANet AMPERA network on accidental marine pollution. Two of these projects, ECORAID and TOXPROF, were geared towards making progress on protocols and standards on impact detection and monitoring using biomarkers. The DRIFTER project focused on pollution detection and monitoring protocols and techniques, in particular using dyes and marker buoys. Finally, the OILDEBEACH project aimed to model oil burial and breakdown on wave-beaten sandy beaches. The meeting was also the opportunity for the project team to discuss the results obtained and possible further action, in particular with representatives of Brittany's Maritime Competitiveness Cluster, Total and Ceppol, which funded the project.

September training courses

This month, the **ORSEC/POLMAR** training courses and exercises run by the **DDTMs**, **POLMAR** stockpiles, **CETMEF** and *Cedre* got back into full swing. First at Verdon-sur-Mer (Gironde), from 11th to 13th, where around 20 participants attended a 2-day course before taking part in equipment deployment sessions on a beach. Then in Châteauneuf-les-Martigues (Bouches-du-Rhône), with over 50 participants for a 1-day theory course followed by an exercise geared towards beach clean-up techniques. And finally in Palavas-les-Flots (Hérault), where again over 50 participants attended a training day followed by an exercises on containment and recovery in port areas.

Upon request by UBIFRANCE, *Cedre* hosted a delegation of 24 Taiwanese representatives of the country's Environmental Protection Administration, Coast Guard Administration, local authorities and industry from 11 to 19 September. On the 11th, UBIFRANCE ran a seminar consisting of discussions between the delegation and French industry representatives potentially interested in the Taiwanese market. From 12th to 14th, an oil spill response training course was run with theory sessions in the morning and demonstrations by French industry representatives each afternoon at *Cedre*'s facilities. After a weekend visiting the tip of Brittany, the delegation then attended an HNS training course from 17th to 19th, again on *Cedre*'s premises.

Upon request from the Moroccan Environment Department, *Cedre* ran a training course from 19 to 20 September in Rabat (Morocco) on spill management in inland waters and contingency planning for the country's central and regional administrations in charge of developing regional contingency plans.

Finally, a training course on spill response on the shoreline and in inland waters was run from 24 to 28 September in Rognac, on the premises of **FOST**. This course, organised by *Cedre* in collaboration with **FOST**, which provided the premises and equipment for practical exercises organised in the natural environment and managed participant logistics, was attended by 14 private sector participants.

What has become of the *MSC Flaminia*?

Following an inspection which confirmed that the hull remained intact, *MSC Flaminia* was taken in tow on 2nd September by tugs chartered by the Dutch firm Smit Salvage. It took a week to tow the vessel to the port of Wilhelmshaven, in northern Germany. Work began on the vessel a fortnight after its arrival. Once the extinguishing water has been removed, the cargo will need to be unloaded and the ship repaired.

Erika trial comes to a close

After a 13-year lawsuit, on 25 September, France's Supreme Court not only confirmed the criminal convictions issued in 2010 by the Paris Court of Appeal for the shipwrecking of the *Erika*, but also confirmed the civil liability (and therefore the damages paid in compensation for the harm caused by the oil spill), defining and recognising the notion of "environmental damage".