



## N° 225 E – News from June 2014

### Emergency response

Cedre was called out this month in response to the rupture of a pipeline transporting crude oil, in order to monitor clean-up operations and provide expertise to the authorities in Rouen.

A MRCC requested advice on floating pollution of unknown origin and type.

We also provided advice on the treatment of 300 tonnes of gravel contaminated by engine oil.

In terms of meetings, we took part in a feedback session at the Loire-Atlantique Prefecture on the oiling of the shoreline in February. Another feedback meeting at this same prefecture focused on an exercise involving a spill of turpentine. Finally, the month ended with a few enquiries on a variety of issues.

We responded to an activation (exercise) of the ICE network by the Swedish ICE focal centre. On the international scene, the Emergency Response Coordinator took part in a workshop in Quebec on crisis management, of particular interest to us in terms of chemical risks at sea. Discussions with the Canadian Coast Guard, Transport Canada and Canutec focused on emergency response and mid-term actions in the event of a major spill.

### In short

#### TRAINING

- ▶ 2nd - 6th June: ORSEC POLMAR-Land training course, 15 participants
- ▶ 16th - 20th June: practical training course on response in inland waters, 17 participants

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ▶ 1st session of our English-language **Oil Spill Response** training course, the latest addition to our annual programme, 6th - 10th October 2014, Brest
- ▶ 9th **Sea Tech Week**, 13th - 17th October 2014, Brest
- ▶ **INTERSPILL 2015**, 24th - 26th March 2015, Amsterdam, Netherlands

### Meeting of the Board of Governors and 35th anniversary celebrations

Cedre's Board of Governors met on 17th June, and we grasped this opportunity to celebrate the centre's **35th anniversary**. The association was founded on 25th January 1979 and has been fulfilling its missions ever since. Major developments in terms of the centre's scope, technical resources and personnel have naturally be necessary in order to efficiently meet the expectations of the authorities and private operators who call upon Cedre's services. 2014 is clearly a year of change, with an internal reorganisation at the beginning of the year and the recent modernisation of the association's visual identity. At Cedre's 35th anniversary celebrations, the President, Mr François Cuillandre, unveiled the new logo to the board members and the association's partners. Our field of activity is symbolised by coloured waves representing our main missions (expertise, consultancy and intervention).



### Regional maritime conference

On 25th June, the French regional maritime conference for the Atlantic was held on the premises of the Maritime Prefecture in Brest. As a consultative body chaired by the Maritime Prefect, this conference seeks to facilitate coordination and the exchange of information to support the work of the Prefect as part of State action at sea. It gathers together the relevant State services and certain associated stakeholders, including Cedre. This event covered subjects relating to maritime safety and management of the public maritime domain.

## GI WACAF workshop

Within the framework of the **GI WACAF**, a sub-regional workshop was organised for the region's French-speaking countries by **IMO** and **IPIECA**, with support from **CIAPOL**. Around 50 participants attended this workshop in Abidjan from 16th to 19th June. Crisis management systems and cooperation mechanisms, priority issues for the coming biennium, were the focus of discussions. Through presentations on national organisations, training courses, plenary discussions and a tabletop exercise, the focal points and State and industry representatives were able to discuss the workshop's themes. A member of Cedre's management team helped to run the workshop.

## Training courses

June was a busy month in terms of tailor-made training courses. First, for the third year running, we received a Taiwanese delegation of 25 people, led by the Environmental Protection Administration, for training in oil spill response techniques and equipment from 10th to 13th June then in the management of chemical spills from 16th to 18th June. Meanwhile, from the 16th to 19th, an **ORSEC POLMAR-Land** training course, comprising an awareness-raising day for local councillors followed by 3 days of practical training in shoreline response techniques for around 20 agents, was run in Fort-de-France, in collaboration with **Cerema** and Martinique's Maritime Directorate. The trainers then travelled to Saint-Barthélemy to run a day of training on 24th June prior to the POLMAR-Land exercise on 25th June. The month ended with a session on the theme of shoreline clean-up following the *Erika* spill for a delegation of 13 experts from **ITOPF**. Following an overview of the issue and a presentation of the main techniques used at Cedre at the time, the delegation visited sites in Morbihan (Belle-Ile), Loire-Atlantique and Vendée with explanations by Cedre on clean-up site organisation and the techniques used on each site, illustrated with photos.

## Arcachon: POLMAR-Land exercise

To support and further develop the "ORSEC Biscaye 33" exercise organised by the French maritime authorities for the Atlantic, a **POLMAR-Land** exercise was organised on 19th June, with support from Cedre, involving the activation of an incident command post at the Arcachon Sub-Prefecture. Based on the situation developed in the POLMAR-Sea exercise (trawling of slicks of heavy fuel oil at the mouth of Arcachon Bay) and on fictional weather conditions liable to push the slicks towards the inner shores of the bay, the incident command post, once it was up and running, focused on some of the problems it would be liable to handle in such a situation: management of the waste arising from trawling operations led by the Navy and cleaning of boats and barges involved, foreseeing the evolution of the pollution and of significant risks, organisation of shoreline, and possibly aerial and nautical, surveys in the bay, mobilisation of equipment and personnel for rapid response to pollution on the shoreline etc. This exercise highlighted the importance of rapidly setting up an efficient organisation, the complexity of foreseeing and responding in this vast shallow bay which harbours many economic activities, the need to examine in detail suitable solutions for these specificities, without forgetting the need for frequent updates to the specific POLMAR-Land provisions of the departmental ORSEC plan, in particular to adapt to evolutions (including that of the ORSEC system) and to clarify the Land-Sea interfaces of this system.

## Illegal discharge off Le Havre, hefty fine for the captain and shipowner

On 26th May, Le Havre criminal court sentenced the shipowner and captain of the Danish-flagged *Maria Theresa* to a €171,000 fine, including €100,000 for the shipowner and €50,000 for the captain (half of which is to be paid by the shipowner), for deliberate pollution by noxious liquid substances in French territorial waters. In September 2013, a 50 m-wide slick stretching over approximately 20 km was detected in the wake of the chemical tanker, around 15 km from the coast, by a French customs helicopter. The 6 environment and nature protection associations which made claims are to receive €3,500 each for non-material damages.

## Protection of the marine environment: « "Biodiversity" bill and protection of the coasts and waters of the north-east Atlantic »

During the examination of the French "Biodiversity" bill in late June, several amendments were presented and accepted. Points to note: the prohibition of discharging ballast waters at sea without prior treatment as well as the introduction of more dissuasive sanctions for illegal discharge. The captain (or operator/owner in certain conditions) of an offending ship will thus risk a €300,000 fine and a one-year prison sentence. As for the "Cooperation Agreement for the protection of the coasts and waters of the north-east Atlantic against pollution", France has just published the treaty 21 years after its ratification (**French decree n°2014-581**, 3 June 2014 - Official Journal of 6 June).

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