



## N° 228 E – News from October 2014

### Emergency response

On the 1st October, a European workshop on the dangers of HNS shipping centred around a two-fold **MAR-ICE** exercise based on 2 distinct chemical spill scenarios, one involving a chemical tanker, the other a container ship, for which our response centre was called upon. An agent from Cedre was present in Lisbon to attend the workshop and help to run one of the scenarios. Two other exercises, an **ICE** ring test involving acrylonitrile and an infra-**POLMAR** exercise for the ria d'Étel, also mobilised the response centre on the 16th and 17th. Several real spills occurred during the month of October. A dredge barge capsized in the port of Diélette (Manche) causing a large spill of marine diesel. An agent from Cedre was sent on-site to assist the local authorities. In another incident, paraffin balls washed up on the shores of the Bouches-du-Rhône area, in particular the *Calanque de Morgiou*, Morgiou harbour and the *Calanque de Sugiton (Parc national des Calanques)*, resulting in assistance being provided to the departmental authorities, including analysis of the pollutants sampled on-site as well as recommendations on collection and recovery techniques. Finally, Cedre was called upon in response to some more minor incidents: consequences of the grounding of the trawler *Célacante* off Le Conquet (Brittany), the environmental hazards of liquid fertiliser to be loaded onto a barge, assistance to the Seine-et-Marne fire brigade following a fire on an industrial site damaging several 1000-litre tanks of chemicals potentially noxious for the environment, the exact composition of VGO (Vacuum Gas Oil) following the loss of 2 m3 of cargo by a vessel, and the techniques to be used to recover hydraulic oil floating in a tank.

### In short

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ▶ 20th **Cedre Information Day**, "In situ burning and other alternative techniques", on 10th March 2015, Paris La Défense
- ▶ **INTERSPILL 2015**, 23 - 26 March 2015, Amsterdam, Netherlands

#### TRAINING

- ▶ **CEPPOL** training course on the 7th, 11 participants
- ▶ Crisis management training course, session 2, from 13th to 16th, 13 participants
- ▶ **CNFPT** Bretagne training course, on the 17th, for port officers and auxiliaries, 15 participants
- ▶ Offshore and inshore oil spill response training course, session 5, from 20th to 24th, 22 participants

#### HOT OFF THE PRESS

- ▶ Special issue of the **Cedre Information Bulletin** n°32 in English "Cedre turns 35. A look back".

### POLLUPROOF project trials at Cedre

From 24th to 31st October 2014, trials were conducted in Cedre's outdoor basin as part of the **ANR-funded POLLUPROOF** project (ANR-13-ECOT-007). **POLLUPROOF** aims to consolidate proof of marine chemical pollution by airborne radar and optical means. To do so, 6 chemicals, chosen based on the quantities shipped (rapeseed oil, fatty acid methyl ester, toluene, heptane, xylene, methanol) were released in turn into the water basin. The aim was to assess the capacity of 5 optical sensors to detect them at the water surface. Some of these sensors were installed on a 12-metre high elevating platform while others were placed around the basin. Project partners **ONERA**, DRDC (Defence Research and Development Canada) and Transport Canada were present to operate the sensors. These trials also provided the opportunity to assess the response of these sensors to different oil fractions (benzene, unleaded petrol, kerosene, marine diesel and light crude) and to highly reactive chemicals (diethyl ether and propanol).

### EGEMP workshop and meeting

On 13th and 14th October, the European Group of Experts on remote sensing Monitoring of marine Pollution (**EGEMP**) held a workshop and its plenary meeting on the premises of the German Federal Institute of Hydrology (Bundesanstalt für Gewässerkunde) in Koblenz, Germany. The workshop gave rise to productive discussions between European experts in remote sensing on the research and development work in progress which should ultimately improve the capacities of current systems and extend their scope of application to new pollutants and to wider ranging conditions, notably weather conditions. The members-only meeting of the group of experts held following the open workshop provided the opportunity to review the results obtained by the group during its ten years of existence. A publication is currently under preparation to review the progress made. The group is then to retreat into a dormant state pending the emergence of new, clearly expressed needs in terms of remote sensing.

## Navy winter preparation day

The French Navy traditionally organises a pre-winter day of discussions between officers in charge of State action at sea (AEM) for the different coastlines. This year's session was held on 21st October at the Navy Headquarters in Paris. Organised by CEPPOL, this day was the opportunity for the officers concerned to exchange experiences in terms of emergency operations conducted under the maritime ORSEC system, with a particular focus on rescue operations, assistance to ships in distress and pollution response. Cedre provided elements on the issues of containers lost overboard and HNS spills.

## Conference in Taiwan

As part of a collaboration effort over the past 3 years with the Taiwan EPA, Cedre spoke at a conference organised in Taipei on 14th October. Discussions were held with the authorities in charge of managing the response to the sinking of a Taiwanese research ship which occurred on 10th October. The possibility of organising a training course in France in 2015, for the 4th year running, for a Taiwanese delegation was also raised.

## Train the trainer course in Algiers

A national train the trainer course on "Preparedness for oil-polluted shoreline clean-up and oiled wildlife interventions" was held in Algiers from 27th to 29th. It was organised by REMPEC in collaboration with the Algerian Ministry of Land-Use Planning and the Environment (MATE) as part of IMO's Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP). It was run by Cedre and WRCO (Wildlife Rescue Centre Ostend) based on the POSOW training course model (2 days of theory and a practical exercise) and drawing on the course materials developed through this project. This course involved around 30 trainees (MATE, Civil Protection, *Commissariat National du Littoral*, police etc.).

## EMSA Consultative Technical Group meeting

The 9th meeting of the EMSA Consultative Technical Group (CTG) for Maritime Pollution Preparedness and Response (MPPR) was held on 22nd October in Lisbon. EMSA reviewed its activities in terms of preparedness and response as well as its 2009-2015 action programme and its newly scheduled activities, in particular the chartering in the near future of dispersant spraying systems. Cedre presented the results of the Hoverspill project as part of this review.

## Visit from a representative of SYKE (Finland)

From 28th to 30th October, Cedre received a visit from a representative of SYKE, the Finnish Environment Institute, within the framework of the EMSA-led Empollex programme. At his request, the main focus was on HNS, both in terms of research and response. Particular attention was paid to modelling in order to identify any possible complementarities. Indeed, SYKE and Cedre have both, independently, applied for EU funding to develop software for predicting the fate of HNS at sea.

## OGP Arctic project

From 6th to 10th October, Cedre attended a working meeting in Amsterdam on the OGP Arctic project. This project aims to assess the natural degradation and potential impact of oil spill in an Arctic environment, in different trial conditions (oil only, oil plus dispersant and burn residues). The oil selected for this research programme is Kobbe North Sea oil and the burn residues were obtained during trials conducted in France with support from INERIS. The in situ trials in Norway are scheduled to begin in January 2015.

## Fines called for in Gironde estuary pollution case (France, 2007)

On 13th October, the attorney general of Bordeaux criminal court called for a €30,000 fine for SPBA (*Société Pétrolière du Bec d'Ambès*) and a €5,000 fine for the company's former Managing Director. As a brief reminder, on 12th January 2007, a crude oil tank belonging to SPBA collapsed, releasing its entire contents i.e. 13,500 m<sup>3</sup>. 50 m<sup>3</sup> polluted the Garonne and Gironde rivers. The main question addressed during the hearing focused on the decision made by the former Managing Director when he discovered an initial leak from this tank on 11th January 2007. The parties claiming civil damages – environmental, flora and fauna protection associations, as well as the district of Macau – criticised him for not having drained the tank as soon as the leak was noticed. SPBA's and the former Managing Director's lawyers requested an acquittal, maintaining that there had been no offence. The court is under deliberation and the decision has been deferred until 17th November 2014.

## Death of Admiral Gagliardi, Honorary President of Cedre

It is with great sadness that we inform you of the death of Vice-Admiral Claude Gagliardi, President of Cedre from 1987 to 1994. He was a member of our Board of Governors as President of the "*Mission Interministérielle de la Mer*". Having entered the Navy in 1946, he culminated his career as Commander in Chief for the Mediterranean and Maritime Prefect of the 3rd Region (1983-1987). Cedre's "veterans" remember him as a warm-hearted man who worked proactively for the development of our organisation.