



N° 232 E – News from February 2015

VACANCY AT CEDRE

CHEMICAL ENGINEER - PERMANENT CONTRACT

Information and job description at www.cedre.fr

Emergency response

Our laboratory was called upon by the Emergency Response team in relation to several requests requiring GC-FID and GC-MS analysis. In the first case, the aim was to determine the origin of river sediment contamination by pyrolytic PAHs and, in the second, the nature of a solid white substance recovered in the Channel by the French Navy training ship *Tigre*. The substance analysed turned out to be vegetable oil.

In addition, a vessel travelling through the southbound lane of the traffic separation scheme reported a spill of a few cubic metres of relatively light bunker fuel. Overflights by French Customs planes followed by French Navy planes were not able to locate the oil at the surface.

Finally, a Mar-ICE exercise was launched by the Norwegian Coastal Administration. The scenario involved a vessel in difficulty with a cargo of fuming sulphuric acid.

91st PERF meeting

As indicated in the January Newsletter, on 31st March and 1st April 2015, Cedre and Total will be hosting the 91st PERF meeting in Brest (Finistere area). The general theme of this two-day conference will be "Marine Environmental Issues". Three sessions will be held: Accidental spills, Chronic discharges and Global issues. Each session includes three to four 20-minute presentations followed by a 10-minute question and answer period. The [detailed programme](#) is available on the PERF website. The 2015 spring meeting will be held at Océanopolis in Brest, with a maximum of 90 places. Alongside this meeting, a visit of the facilities at Ifremer and Cedre will be organised to give attendees insight into the activities of each of these organisations and the maritime dynamics of the Brest region. This event is open to all interested individuals. The [registration form](#) is available on the PERF website. The event is sponsored by Brest Métropole.

Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference

The 3rd edition of the Gulf of Mexico Oil Spill & Ecosystem Science Conference was held in Houston (US) from 16th to 19th February. This event, built on a partnership including federal agencies, universities and industry, focused on the impact of the *Deepwater Horizon* spill in 2010. Around 1000 participants attended the event with nearly 300 presentations, organised into 19 thematic sessions, together with almost 200 posters. This dense series of presentations, resulting from studies conducted as part of extensive research projects supported by the federal government (through the National Science Foundation) or industry (in particular the Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative, GoMRI), covered a wide-ranging spectrum of issues. It stretched beyond estimating the environmental impacts of the pollution, by including for instance estimations of societal/health impacts on coastal communities, the improvement of hydrographic knowledge and modelling in the region, etc. While it is difficult to concisely summarise such an abundance and wide range of studies, a few original points appear to be emerging 5 years on from the spill. In particular, various results point to more significant impacts on the deep-sea benthic environment (> 1000 m) than originally expected, potentially connected to increased settling of "marine snow" contaminated by the crude oil from the MC252 well. While the reality of these phenomena tends to be corroborated by several studies, the underlying mechanisms remain to be clarified, as well as the potential lessons to be learnt in terms of response strategies, in particular relating to chemical

In short

DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ▶ 20th Cedre Information Day
"In situ burning and other alternative techniques"
10th March 2015 in Paris La Défense.
Programme



- ▶ Interspill
2015, 24 - 26th
March 2015,
Amsterdam,
Netherlands.

TRAINING

- ▶ The Cedre 2015 training calendar is now online.

dispersion, once again very present in discussions and debates.

Polar environment trials (Spitzberg)

As part of our work towards enhancing knowledge of oil behaviour, Cedre has been involved for almost a year in the Arctic Oil Spill Response Technology – Joint Industry Programme. This project, led by the Norwegian Institute **AKVAPLAN NIVA**, involves several teams from Canada, Norway, and the United States. This project, launched in May 2014, aims to study the fate and impact of oil spills in the polar environment. Cedre is tasked with designing enclosures (mesocosms) and installing them on site in Van Mijenfjorden, Svea, Norway (Svalbard) to allow the controlled release of oil without a risk of contaminating the surrounding environment. The experimental phase began in late January with the installation by Cedre (at -20°C!) of the mesocosms built by Cedre in the ice, followed by the release of oil. The next stage of the project consists in taking core samples of ice and water up until June, to examine the impact of the untreated and treated oil on the bacterial communities, and then removing the enclosures before the ice melts.



The mesocosms on site © AKVAPLAN

Tests in polar conditions at Cedre

Again on the "polar" theme, in response to requests by oil companies relating to oil behaviour in such environments, in February Cedre acquired a cooling system for its seawater tank. With this equipment, we are now able to conduct experimental studies in polar conditions in our trial hall. This system was specially developed to supply the flume tank but also intended for all trials requiring very low seawater temperatures (product behaviour, ecotoxicity tests, response product tests, skimmer trials, etc.).

HNS-MS project kick-off

The HNS-MS project (Improving Member States Preparedness to face an HNS pollution of the Marine System) kick-off meeting was held at Cedre on 24th and 25th February. Funded by the EU civil protection mechanism (DG ECHO), the HNS-MS project aims to develop a decision support system able to be activated by the maritime authorities and **MRCCs** in the Bonn Agreement area and the Bay of Biscay in the event of an **HNS** spill at sea. With this decision support system, the substance's drift, behaviour and evolution in the environment will be able to be modelled simultaneously. This two-year project is coordinated by the Royal Belgian Institute of Natural Sciences (RBINS) and involves French and Belgian partners: **Alyotech**, **Armines**, Cedre as well as the Belgian Directorate-general Environment of the Federal Public Service "Health, Food Chain Safety and Environment".

Another cargo ship grounded in the Galapagos Islands

On 9th May 2014, the cargo ship *Galapaface I* grounded not far from the port of Baqueiro Moreno in San Cristobal (**Newsletter 224**) and on 28th January 2015, it was cargo ship *Floreana* that hit the shores of the island. It grounded in the bay of Puerto Baquerizo Moreno, capital of San Cristobal Island. The vessel was carrying 50,000 litres of fuel and 1,400 tonnes of goods including perishable products and hazardous substances. Operations to stabilise and unload the cargo were promptly implemented upon request by the owner. These operations were carried out by the American firm T&T Marine Salvage. On 29th January, booms were deployed around the *Floreana* to contain any releases of oil. Fuel leaks were observed soon after by a surveillance vessel. On 31st January the Ecuador Ministry of Environment declared a state of emergency. Once the ship had been emptied, it was towed out to sea and scuttled, outside of the marine reserve.

[Unsubscribe from the Cedre Newsletter](#)

Think green - don't print out your emails!

[Legal information](#)

[Contact us](#)