

Interspill 2015 Science Workshops

Pollution Impact Assessment (SW4)

The workshop was chaired by Stéphane Le Floch from Cedre who took over from Guy Claireaux from University of Brest, unable to attend, and two additional presentations were provided by Mark Kirby from CEFAS and Thierry Baussant from International Research Institute of Stavanger.

The biographies of the speakers and their presentations are provided in PDF version.

The workshop was held on Thursday 26th March at 09:30. The participation was good with 25 to 30 people attending.

During the debate with the attendance, several interesting issues were raised and in particular the following ones:

- The question of the responsibility for post pollution monitoring was raised. Who shall put it in place and who shall pay? In the UK, 7 years ago, the situation was unclear. Several agencies have responsibilities related to impact assessment before crisis and also post spill. The UK has established a monitoring coordination cell which is responsible for coordinating the action of concerned agencies and put in place initial funding. Its role is also to make sure that monitoring effort is reasonable and adapted to the situation. The principle “polluter pays” shall of course be applied each time it is possible, but even if it works, it takes time to get the funds available. A temporary solution is necessary and will be under responsibility of the authorities;
- A question was related to the Fishhealth project and the difference in oil concentration in water between the chemically dispersed oil and the mechanically dispersed oil. In fact, the quantity of oil put in test tanks is the same in both cases and it can be completely dispersed mechanically. In addition, analysis of water samples during the experiment have confirmed that concentrations were similar in both cases;
- The Fishhealth project involved tests on 1200 individuals, which is clearly not acceptable for operational tests during pollution incidents. There is a need to define tests requiring much less individuals. This is an objective, but the large number of individuals for Fishhealth was necessary to demonstrate the validity of the concept;

- A question was finally related to the interest of conducting Fishhealth type tests on other species. This is clearly relevant, but tests would need to be adapted to each species.