Interspill 2015 – Science workshops

HNS Pollutions (SW 3)

Biographies

Thomas Höfer (Chairman)

Thomas Höfer has a background in biochemistry and since 1981 he specialized on human toxicology. He works at the German Federal Institute for Risk Assessment BfR. For about 25 years, he has been working on the risks involved in the maritime transport and chaired a number of IMO working groups. Under his chairmanship, the Emergency Response Procedures for Ships Carrying Dangerous Goods, the EmS Guide, had been developed. He had been one of the leading German representatives in harmonizing hazard classification for the United Nations´ Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labeling in respect to human and environmental health at the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

His research interests are health hazards created by spills and strategies for marine environment protection. In Germany, he is for instance a member of the Independent Environmental Group of Experts "Consequences of Pollution Incidents" advising the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies. In this role, in 2012, he was involved in the salvage of the MSC Flaminia and coordinated professional communication with environmental non-governmental organizations. His group at the BfR became responsible for the cargo risk evaluation.

Thomas Höfer is currently the Chairperson of GESAMP Working Group 1 on the Evaluation of the Hazards of Harmful Substances Carried by Ship.

Stéphane Le Floch

A chemist by training, Stéphane Le Floch has been working at Cedre since 1995, where he was initially in charge of bioremediation techniques for shoreline clean-up following an oil spill. He thus implemented various field experiments that enabled him to become familiar with oil chemistry and the analytical techniques used to assess biodegradation activity and oil impact. From 1998 to 2000, Stéphane Le Floch acted as a supervisor on behalf of the oil company Elf Petroleum Norge in Norway, where he oversaw Aquamiljo team works contracted by Elf on environmental monitoring following oil and HNS pollution (use of biomarkers to monitor pollutant impact). From 2000 to 2005, back at Cedre, he shared his time between the Emergency Response Department and the Research and Development

Department where he was in charge of HNS activities. From 2005 to 2013, in addition to his coordination activity on the HNS topic, he was in charge of implementing biological procedures at Cedre to assess the environmental impact of pollutants and to define the ecotoxicity of substances in accordance with OSPAR regulations.

In 2014 he was appointed Manager of the Research Department in the Scientific and Technical Division.

Since January 2008, Stéphane Le Floch has been the French representative at the GESAMP working group on the Evaluation of the Hazards of Harmful Substances Carried by Ships (GESAMP/EHS).

André Laflamme

Mr Laflamme has over 18 years of experience in the field of spill preparedness and response. He started his career in Halifax (Nova Scotia) with the federal department of Environment as an environmental emergencies officer. For 13 years he was responsible for developing a regional and national sensitivity mapping system, enforcing environmental laws and regulations as well as responding to environmental incidents such as train derailments and ship-source spills. He was also involved in several international projects such as the development of a national oil spill contingency plan for the country of Chad (Africa) as well as providing on-site environmental advice to South Korean officials during the MT Hebei Spirit oil spill in 2007.

In 2009 he moved to Ottawa, the capital of Canada, to work for the federal ministry of Transport where his primary responsibility was to develop and implement a national ship-source hazardous and noxious substances (HNS) incident preparedness and response program. He also participated in the response efforts during the Deepwater Horizon platform incident in 2010 by providing situational awareness as part of Canada’s National Aerial Surveillance Program.