

## N° 238 E – News from September 2015

### Emergency response

September proved to be a busy month for the Emergency Response team, notably following a call from an individual to report sea urchin mortality in Lannion bay at the beginning of the month, leading to a written response from Cedre's expert biologists. On the 4th, a diesel spill was reported in a former diversion channel of the Elorn river, requiring an agent to be sent on site for a field visit. On the 10th, following a meeting with the local authorities in Landerneau, a second on-site visit was conducted. The same day, two ICE exercises were organised respectively by the Spanish Directorate General of Civil Protection and Emergencies (SACOP) involving a corrosive liquid pollutant which reacts with water (UN 3129) and by the UK National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) involving phosphoric acid (UN 1830). On the 11th, a request for an in-depth investigation was made by the French maritime authority for the Atlantic focusing on the possible risk management actions to be implemented (evacuation of personnel, removal of ship), following the detection of a rise in arsine and phosphine concentrations released from the cargo (ferrosilicon) of a bulk carrier under repair at DAMEN shipyard in Brest.

### ITAC meeting in Brest

The 4th meeting of the Industry Technical Advisory Committee, held at Ifremer and Cedre and organised by OSRL with support from Cedre, was attended by around 60 participants from 22nd to 24th September. It was the opportunity for oil company representatives and their Oil Spill Response Organisations (OSROs) to find out more about Ifremer and Cedre's activities and resources. This meeting was also the opportunity for several scientific and technical organisations, working together with Ifremer or Cedre on current or recent research projects, to present their

work in the field of spill response and to promote their capacity to meet certain oil industry expectations. In return, they were able to learn about the projects launched and supervised by the oil industry following the Macondo blow-out. These projects have already led to tangible results relating to appropriate techniques and tools and in particular in terms of current knowledge and operational recommendations. Some of these results can be accessed via the websites [oilspillresponseproject.org](http://oilspillresponseproject.org) and [www.arcticresponsetechnology.org](http://www.arcticresponsetechnology.org). As the focus of around a quarter of all the projects, dispersants and in particular their subsea injection and consequences, without forgetting the issue of use authorisation, hold an important place. Among the other research topics mentioned during the three-day meeting we note: detection and modelling of spills on and in the water, in situ burning of slicks in open water or in ice, the use of herders to concentrate these slicks, the behaviour and impact of a spill in the presence of ice, mangroves and coral reefs. Presentations of the activities of specialised centres (OSRL and [Maritime New Zealand](#)) pointed to a drop in call-outs for spill response operations yet with a high level of activity in the field of response preparedness, while the inventory of incidents attended by [ITOPF](#) during the past year highlighted the importance of not overlooking risks related to shipping. The very positive feedback from this 4th meeting of the newly defined ITAC encourages the initiative to be continued, with a proposed 2016 session in North America, if possible with wider attendance both from the oil industry and academia.

### European Researchers' Night

This year once again, the team at Océanopolis, supported by 150 researchers and PhD students, organised a very successful evening for European Researchers' Night on Friday 25th September, attended by some 4900 visitors. This year's edition marked the [event's 10th anniversary](#). Cedre enjoyed an exceptional setting for its stand in the screening room of the polar pavilion, complete with onlooking penguins. We chose to focus on the European projects [HNS-MS](#), [POSOW](#) and work on bioremediation.

### ARCOPOL Platform project final conference

On 14th and 15th September, an engineer attended the final conference of the ARCOPOL Platform project, held at the European Committee of the Regions in Brussels. Around 40 participants attended this meeting, which aimed to look back on and present the deliverables (among the 160 produced) of the projects EROCIPS, ARCOPOL, ARCOPOL +

### In short

#### TRAINING

- ▶ From 7th to 11th: session 3 of the practical training course on response at sea and on the shoreline (14 participants)
- ▶ From 28th to 2nd Oct.: session 4 of the practical training course on response at sea and on the shoreline (17 participants)
- ▶ From 29th to 30th: practical training course for VNF Strasbourg, in Gamsheim (7 participants)

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ▶ EU seminar on National Contingency Plans for Oil Pollution Incidents, Brasilia, Brazil from 29th September to 1st October
- ▶ [92nd PERF meeting](#) on Environmental Issues Associated with Unconventional Oil & Gas Activities, Grand Forks, USA, 6th and 7th October
- ▶ From 26th to 30th October, [joint mission by Oil & Gas and Environnement offshore](#), Brazil
- ▶ Marine Pollution Response and Practices International Workshop, Taipei, Taiwan on 27th October
- ▶ From 26th to 30th October, [Safer Seas](#), Brest, France

and ARCOPOL Platform, the fourth and final leg of this Interreg cooperation. These resources are available at: [www.arcopol.eu](http://www.arcopol.eu). Following this event, a session entitled "How to better protect Atlantic Coast Regions from Maritime Pollution" was held at the European Commission in the presence of deputies and project partners.

## Contingency plan development for EPG

As part of the development of the spill response section of the emergency response plan for the EPG (Entrepôt Pétrolier de la Gironde) storage facility in Ambès, an engineer was present on site from 21st to 24th September. This visit was the opportunity to define the incident scenarios, response strategies, possible response techniques on site, on the Garonne river and in the marshland channels, as well as the crisis management organisation. Work is now set to continue with the drafting of the document.

## ORSEC/POLMAR Land actions

This month Cedre was involved in several POLMAR Land training courses and exercises. The Pas-de-Calais DDTM organised a training course at the POLAR stockpile in Dunkirk on 8th and 9th September, an awareness-raising day for local councillors and state services on the 16th in Boulogne-sur-Mer, then a POLMAR Land exercise on shoreline clean-up on 17th in Portel. The South-Atlantic DIRM then organised a training course at the Verdon POLMAR stockpile on 22nd and 23rd and the Bouches-du-Rhône DDTM a training course in Port-de-Bouc on 29th and 30th followed by an exercise on 1st October.

## Proposed new training course for 2016

Two engineers were sent to SOBEGI in Lacq from 21st to 24th September to run a pilot training course for its emergency response department. This test proved to be conclusive, with Cedre and SOBEGI set to work together to put forward a training course on response to spills in industrial environments, with practical exercises, at SOBEGI's technical facilities. More information will be available in next month's newsletter and on our website.

## POSOW II project

Launched in January 2015, the 24-month POSOW II project ([Newsletter n° 233](#)) is now one third in. Many training resources have already been translated into Arabic and Turkish. The first technical and financial report was submitted to DG-ECHO in late September. The first project newsletter is available at: [www.posow.org/news](http://www.posow.org/news)

## Current Buster 2 trials on the Loire

From 20th to 24th September, Cedre organised trials for the NOFI Current Buster 2 containment and separation system in the Loire estuary. These trials were carried out in partnership with DAM, CEREMA, FOST, OSRL, Total, AllMaritim/NOFI, the Nantes-Saint-Nazaire maritime port and the Loire-Atlantic subdivision of Phares et balises. This was a continuation of previous trials on a larger model of the device (Current Buster 4) performed in 2013 in order to identify suitable spill response equipment for areas of strong current. The current tests focused on the use of the Current Buster 2 in dynamic mode, first towed by two vessels, then by a single vessel equipped with a boom vane, then finally in static mode, deployed from a quay and facing into the current. Different pumping options once the Current Buster 2 is loaded with oil were also tested. For environmental reasons, popcorn was used instead of oil in these trials.

## Meeting with an OSRL delegation

On 25th September, Cedre received a delegation of 8 representatives from OSRL, led by their Technical Director Mr Declan O'Driscoll. OSRL and Cedre have been regularly working together for many years. The aim of this meeting was to discuss themes of common interest to reinforce the links and cooperation between the two organisations.

## Oil pollution in Plaine de la Crau: mitigated sentence

On 31st August, the Aix-en-Provence court of appeal mitigated the civil convictions against SPSE (Société du Pipeline Sud Européen). This company had been found guilty of an oil pollution incident ([Newsletter n° 226](#)), which occurred on 7th August 2009, following a pipeline rupture. Five of the ten parties claiming civil damages appealed this sentence, considered inadequate, claiming that the damages incurred had been insufficiently recognised by the court. The claims of the communes of Arles and Port-Saint-Louis-du-Rhône were dismissed despite having previously obtained €15,000 each in the first instance judgment for non-material damages and the three other parties were granted a smaller sum in compensation.

## Response product approval

Upon request by SICSA SAS, the universal sorbent "Pyro Abs+" in bulk form, for use on land, was tested by Cedre's laboratory. Given its performance, it has been added to the list of universal sorbents published by Cedre.

Upon request by Total Fluides, the dispersant Finasol OSR 52 underwent an approval procedure in compliance with the renewed standards (toxicity: determination of the LC50). The product met all the approval criteria. Finasol OSR 52 therefore continues to be a dispersant recommended by Cedre. Available at: [www.cedre.fr](http://www.cedre.fr)