

## N° 239 E – News from October 2015

### Emergency response

This October was marked by the accident involving the *Flinterstar* off Zeebrugge. Cedre was called upon for advice, oil drift and weathering modelling and its analysis resources (see paragraph below). In response to another case, an agent from Cedre visited the site of a spill of 40 to 60 tonnes of marine diesel from a barge involved in marine works in Cherbourg roadstead. A minor oil spill was also reported in Rosmeur harbour in Douarnenez and several minor spills in inland waters (Loire estuary and Rhone-Rhine Canal). A trawler sank near Port Maria in Quiberon with around 3 m<sup>3</sup> of diesel onboard, part of which was released due to currents and the vessel's instability. The duty team also took part in several exercises: a Mar-ICE exercise initiated by the [Finnish Environment Institute \(SYKE\)](#) involving a spill of acrylonitrile and phosphoric acid, which we modelled using CHEMMAP and ALOHA software; an exercise organised by the [Martinique authorities](#) and another organised by [PERENCO Cameroon](#) for which we ran several drift forecast and pollutant behaviour models. Finally, we took part in an exercise coordinated by [TOTAL Donges](#), involving a spill of home heating oil into the canal between Donges and Vern. The duty team also provided answers to several administrative questions on the TRANSAID network.

### In short

#### TRAINING

- ▶ 6th October, afternoon: training of CEPPOP Navy crews and officers (14 participants)
- ▶ 12th to 15th Oct.: maritime pollution crisis management course (17 participants)
- ▶ 19th to 23rd Oct.: session 5 of the practical training course on response at sea and on the shoreline (15 participants)

#### DATES FOR THE DIARY

- ▶ 4th to 6th Nov., OSPAR meeting, [Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter](#), Lerwick, Scotland
- ▶ 10th to 12th Nov., [Clean Gulf Conference and Exhibition](#), New Orleans, US
- ▶ 16th to 19th Nov., [6th GI WACAF Regional Conference](#), Accra, Ghana, Africa
- ▶ 17th Nov., deep-sea seminar organised by the cluster *Pôle Mer Bretagne Atlantique*, Brest, France
- ▶ 18th Nov., Cedre Technical Day, Brest

### Flinterstar sinking off Zeebrugge

The Dutch-registered cargo vessel *Flinterstar* sank on 6th October off Zeebrugge (Belgium) after colliding with the Marshall Islands-flagged LNG carrier *Al Oraiq*. An oil spill was immediately observed by the Belgian authorities, which sent resources on site to pump the oil from the water into the vessel's tanks (fuel oil and diesel). The [French maritime authority for the Channel and North Sea](#) offered assistance to the Belgian authorities and mobilised vessels and aircraft at the French-Belgian border. A small continuous leak from the wreck created a trail of sheen and some fuel oil, visible up to 20 nautical miles from the wreck. As predicted by drift forecast modelling, implemented by the Belgian authorities and Météo-France, small amounts of oil washed up on the shores of the Netherlands, then in France in the Dunkirk area (a few hundred metres of beaches affected by scattered tarballs). Pumping operations to remove the remaining oil from the wreck have now been completed and the land and maritime authorities, as well as the local authorities, heavily involved in monitoring and forecasting during this three-week period, have been demobilised. Since the episode on 15th October, no more oil has been reported to have washed up on the shoreline according to daily surveys of the French beaches in the Nord-Pas-de-Calais area.

### IGWAN 2015 training and exercise in Martinique

A POLMAR-Land training course was run by Cedre and Cerema in cooperation with the POLMAR correspondent, on the 5th and 6th, in Fort-de-France, upon request by the Martinique Directorate of the Sea. This course was attended by around 30 trainees from local authorities, the fire brigade and RSMA, who were able to put the acquired knowledge into practice during the POLMAR-Land exercise run on the 7th and 8th on the Atlantic coast in the town of Robert. Foreign observers from 6 neighbouring states, invited by the Navy's department for State action at sea (AEM) and led by the French representative of the [REMPEITC](#) Regional Activity Center based in Curacao, were given the opportunity to observe the deployment of spill response resources from the POLMAR-Land equipment stockpile in Fort-de-France. They also attended an on-site presentation of Cedre and of the POLMAR-Land component of the ORSEC system by Cedre's Caribbean representative.

### Exercise and presentation of the Total ACS Givors plan

Agents from Cedre were present in Givors on 13th and 14th October to present the spill response contingency plan for the Total Additives and Special Fuels plant, as well as to train the emergency response team in responding to a spill in a river through equipment deployment and custom-made barrier building exercises. They also took part in an emergency response plan exercise involving a spill incident. This assignment marked the completion of the contract launched in summer 2014.

### Bouches-du-Rhône POLMAR-Land exercise

Representatives of [Cerema](#) and Cedre were sent to Port-de-Bouc for an ORSEC-POLMAR training course and exercise organised by the Bouches-du-Rhône DDTM, run from 29th September to the morning of 1st October. 63 participants, from local authorities, the port, State services, the fire brigade ([SDIS 13](#)), civil protection ([UIISC7](#)), Marseille's Navy Firefighters Battalion ([BMPM](#)) and [FOST](#) attended the training course, a presentation of the equipment in the POLMAR stockpile followed by a series of exercises, which involved the deployment of a boom in the marina and workshops on conducting surveys and implementing various clean-up techniques on a local beach.

### National Pollumar workshop in Côte d'Ivoire

Upon the initiative of the *Centre Ivoirien Antipollution* (CIAPOL), a training workshop was held in Abidjan from 28th September to 2nd October and finished with a practical spill response exercise in the Ebrié Lagoon, within the port of Abidjan. This workshop involving CIAPOL and Cedre was attended by almost 70 representatives of key public and private bodies in the fields of the environment, the oil industry as well as non-governmental organisations. The 4-day training course was run by two engineers from Cedre, with contributions from various Ivorian speakers while the exercise was organised and led by Cipomar, the operational spill response department of CIAPOL. This event completed the preparation of the national contingency plan, Pollumar, which should be adopted by the Interministerial Response Committee in a few weeks' time.

### SaferSeas 2015

The 4th international conference [SaferSeas](#) was held in Brest from 26th to 30th October. It attracted over 1,000 participants from 35 countries, attending the main conference as well as several international events organised in its wake. Cedre took part in a roundtable debate on the theme of "Maritime safety: current state of play and existing obstacles".

### Navy winter preparation day

On 14th October, the French Navy's department for State Action at Sea and [CEPPOL](#) organised the marine winter preparation day in Paris, in the new premises of the Ministry of Defence. This day, held each year, gathers players involved in State action at sea from each of France's coastlines to address the recent changes in the context and to exchange experiences in order to improve their preparedness for maritime events which are generally more frequent in the winter season. Cedre spoke about chemical spills, presenting the tools currently available and research projects in progress aimed at improving them.

### 2015 Marine Pollution Response and Practices International Workshop

On 27th October, the Taiwanese Environmental Protection Administration and National Central University organised the 2015 Marine Pollution Response and Practices International Workshop in Taipei (see [here](#) for the programme). This event is held on an annual basis in order to reinforce the marine spill response capacities of the Taiwanese authorities. Several foreign speakers presented the practices in effect in their respective countries and held discussions with the different Taiwanese players in the field. This year, representatives of the [European Maritime Safety Agency](#) (EMSA), the [Australian Maritime Safety Authority](#) (AMSA), [Hudson Marine Management Services](#) (US) and Cedre were invited and contributed to the event, alongside speakers from the Environmental Protection Administration.

### Cedre's participation in the PRISME project

Cedre is taking part in the PRISME project on the fate of oil contamination in the sediments of Guiana's mangroves. This project, coordinated by the Mediterranean Institute of Oceanology, also involves [LEMAR](#) (CNRS - Brest), [ECOLAB](#) (CNRS - Toulouse) and [IPREM](#) (University of Pau). An agent from Cedre was sent to French Guiana in late October to take part in the launch of an experiment on mangroves consisting of setting up in situ and ex situ core samplers in sediment contaminated by light oil. It is scheduled to come to a close after a month of incubation with the removal of the core samples, which are to be sent to mainland France for analysis (oil, micro-meio-macrofauna, bacterial populations). The results and experience acquired during the project will be drawn upon to develop a more ambitious project to be submitted for funding in Autumn 2016.

### OGP Arctic project

From 12th to 15th October, Cedre attended a working meeting in Copenhagen on the [OGP Arctic](#) project. This project aims to assess the natural degradation and potential impact of oil spilt in an Arctic environment, in different trial conditions (oil only, oil plus dispersant and burn residues). The main aim of the meeting was to conclude the in situ testing phase, in which 8 mesocosms were placed on the ice during the winter of 2014-2015. A significant number of samples (ice and water column) were taken and are currently being analysed. Initial observations have shown that oil was trapped in the ice, i.e. that all the core samples of ice showed a layer of oil trapped at mid-height between ice which visually appeared to be clean (above and below). This field phase ended with the dismantling of the test equipment during the summer and cleaning of the whole area. No incidents leading to any accidental release of oil were encountered and the site has been returned to its original state.

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