



N° 248 E – News from July/August 2016

Emergency response

Over the summer, we continued to provide assistance for the response to the pollution generated by flooding in the Paris region (Newsletter 247). Two operation supervision assignments in Sainte-Anne-sur-Brivet (Loire-Atlantique) (Newsletter 245, 246 and 247) were also carried out. We were called upon by Ceppol and the AEM division of the Atlantic Maritime Authority (PREMAR) to help to identify an unknown product at sea, following aerial surveillance. An initial indication was given based on photographs, before analysing samples. The results matched those obtained by LASEM: the product in question was found to be vegetable oil. The fire brigade (SDIS) of Territoire de Belfort, which had been called out to an industrial site, requested information on the risks related to a leaking drum containing a halogenated solvent. Following the discovery of tarballs on Ile de Ré, recommendations were made to MRCC Corsen and local stakeholders for recovery operations and the analysis of any samples. Following reports of paraffin washing up on the shores of Boulogne-sur-Mer, the POLMAR correspondent made enquiries about the recommended PPE for the operators tasked with recovering the substance. An enquiry was made by MRCC Jobourg following the detection of a small spill in the entrance channel to the port of Calais. Finally, ICE exercises were launched by Italy and Germany.

In short

Training courses

► From 26th to 30th June: practical training course on response at sea and on the shoreline (17 participants)

Dates for the diary

- **Researchers' Night**, 30th September at Océanopolis from 7 pm to midnight. Cedre will be represented.
- **Sea Tech Week**, 10th to 14th October, Quartz Congress Centre, Brest.
- **Cedre Information Day**, 13th October 2016, at the Chamber of Commerce and Industry in Brest.

Only a few days left to register for the 21st Cedre Information Day!

The 2016 Cedre Information Day, on the theme of "Remote Detection and Maritime Pollution", will be held on 13th October in Brest as part of the Sea Tech Week. A panel of internationally recognised experts will be there to share their experience and engage in discussions with the audience. To register, please visit www.cedre.fr.

Participation in TROPICS experiment

In July, Cedre took part in a field assignment as part of the Tropical Oil Pollution Investigations in Coastal Systems (TROPICS) experiment in Panama. The aim of this experimentation programme, which first began in 1984, is to assess the effect of a spill of crude oil, treated or untreated using chemical dispersant, on mangrove ecosystems. Since it first began, many scientific assignments have been carried out at two islets in the Bocas del Toro archipelago, the most recent dating back to 2009. For the 2016 assignment, dubbed "32 years on", Clean Caribbean and Americas (CCA) invited Cedre to join a team of five scientists from Nova Southeastern University (Florida), Texas A&M University and NOAA. From 11th to 13th July, three field visits were organised to the three experimentation sites ("oil" site, "dispersed oil" site and "reference" site). For each site, the sediment, vegetation and seabed were monitored. No traces of residual pollution were detected either visually or by smell. In terms of the effect of the oil on the mangrove, no significant difference in the density or growth of mangrove trees was detected between the various sites. The sediment samples are currently being analysed and the surveys are undergoing statistical treatment. The results are to be published in a scientific paper and a presentation is due to be given at the next IOSC.

Response product validation

At the request of Henkel Technologies France, the marine dispersant, Oceania 1000, was reinstated on the list of approved dispersants in 2016, after having been absent from the list for 4 years as its inscription had not been renewed. In addition, at the request of Möbius Group LLC, the hydrophobic floating sorbent Möbius Carbon Adsorbent, in bulk form, was tested by our laboratory. Given its performance, it has been added to the list of sorbents published by Cedre.

ITOPF training course

For the fourth time since 2008, Cedre organised a training course for ITOPF. This year, seven technical advisers and one manager attended the course from 5th to 8th July. This course included technical discussions relating to the latest equipment tests conducted by Cedre, feedback from incidents, a presentation of our sampling and analysis tools as

well as a day and a half of hands-on exercises at our facilities with the release of real oil. A half-day was devoted to the theme of inland waters, on the banks of the Penfeld River.

Meeting of Environment Ministry safety and defence managers

Cedre was invited to attend the annual meeting of the safety and defence managers for the French Ministry of the Environment, Energy and the Sea (**MEEM**) for western France, held on 4th July in Rennes. The context and feedback from Cedre's involvement in the response to the pollution caused by the oil pipeline incident in Saint-Anne-sur-Brivet were presented jointly with the manager of the Regional Environment Directorate (**DREAL**) for the Pays de la Loire region.

Brest maritime festival: science village proves a hit with visitors

In July, the "Quai des Sciences" event was a huge success with over 20,000 visitors in seven days. The marine science and technology village, inaugurated on the 13th by the event's patron Gilles Boeuf, in the presence of Cedre's Director, was an opportunity to strengthen the links between the organisations involved in the event. This initiative gave Cedre the chance to showcase its unparalleled tools designed to study the behaviour of pollutants spilt at sea. It also provided the opportunity to present a research project currently in progress on the influence of hypoxia together with oil exposure on fish. Visitors young and old alike showed great enthusiasm for the subjects addressed and the discussions held with Cedre's specialists.

ITOPF-Cedre meeting

On 26th July, a meeting was organised between **ITOPF** and Cedre, on Cedre's premises in Brest. Managing Director Karen Purnell and Technical Director Richard Johnson presented the scope of ITOPF's services. Cedre presented their various activities as well as feedback from the latest operations carried out following spills at sea and in inland waters. The aim of the meeting was also to strengthen the links between the two organisations and to identify collaboration opportunities.

MARPOCS meeting

On 11th and 12th July, a progress meeting for the European project **MARPOCS** was attended by the following partners: IST (*Instituto Superior Técnico*, Portugal), Action Modulers (Portugal), ARDITI (*Agência Regional para o Desenvolvimento da Investigação Tecnologia e Inovação - Observatório Oceânico da Madeira*, Portugal), PLOCAN (*Plataforma Oceánica de Canarias*, Spain) and ULPGC (*Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria*, Spain). The Moroccan National Institute of Fisheries Research (INRH), the sixth project partner, was excused. The work carried out by each partner over the first six months of the project was presented. As a reminder, MARPOCS aims to develop and implement an integrated operational framework for preparedness and response to oil and HNS spills in marine waters in the Atlantic sub-region of Morocco, Madeira and the Canary Islands. The first project newsletter is available [here](#).

South Asia regional plan update in the Maldives

Cedre attended a meeting held to update South Asia's regional plan for oil and chemical pollution preparedness and response held in Male, Maldives, from 22nd to 25th August. Senior officials from Bangladesh, India, Maldives, Pakistan and Sri Lanka shared their national experiences to consolidate updates to the plan with a view to finalising it. The participants were then asked to identify future training needs for the three coming years so as to enhance the region's spill preparedness and response capacity. A training workshop on **HNS** spills was also organised. The meeting was part of a project financed by the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation (NORAD), implemented by **IMO** through its regional partner, the South Asia Cooperative Environment Programme (SACEP). The project's overall objective is to implement two IMO treaties covering pollution prevention – the **OPRC** Convention and the **OPRC-HNS** Protocol – in the South Asia region.

POLMAR-Land crisis management exercise in Vendée

Following the validation of the **ORSEC POLMAR**-Land Plan for the Vendée area on 18th December 2015, a crisis management exercise was organised to test the plan as well as the organisation of the command centre (**COD**) in the event of shoreline pollution. Prepared and run by the Civil Protection and Defence Service (**SIDPC**), the Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea (**DDTM**) and Cedre, this exercise was held in La Roche-sur-Yon on 30th June. All the participants took an active part in organising the initial emergency measures for responding to a potential oil spill in the area. This exercise was followed by an immediate debriefing, the same day, then a delayed debriefing on 7th July.

Trials in the Cedre Experimentation Column

As part of the European project **HNS-MS** (funded by the **DG ECO**) and a French project on the behaviour of chemicals (funded by the French Navy and the French Environment Ministry, **MEEM**), trials were carried out in the Cedre Experimentation Column (CEC) during the summer. The aim of these trials was to characterise the behaviour of various chemicals by measuring the speed at which they rose to the surface and by quantifying their dissolution process.