



N° 259 E – News from July & August 2017

Emergency response

In early July, the association "SOS Mal de Seine" reported sightings of black plastic granules on the shores of the Baie de Seine in northern France. Advice on collection was given to the relevant pollution response correspondents. Again on the north coast, the Pas-de-Calais authorities reported yellowish tarballs along the shoreline from Camiers to Cap Gris-Nez. Cedre was called upon to analyse samples: the substance turned out to be paraffin. We were also contacted by the maritime authorities after the container ship *Kea Trader* ran aground on Durand Reef in New Caledonia on 12th July. Our role was to provide an initial analysis of the risks generated by the hazardous substances listed in the ship's manifest.

In August, the Mediterranean MRCC contacted us following CleanSeaNet alerts in order to obtain support from Météo France for slick drift forecasting using the MOTHY model. The maritime authorities requested advice from Cedre following various reported sightings of unidentified floating particles at sea, off Saint-Jean-Cap-Ferrat (Alpes-Maritimes) and Carnac (Morbihan). In the latter case, an analysis commissioned by the Morbihan authorities showed that these particles were in fact vegetable oil. Finally, the ICE Centre activated Cedre during a test involving a spill of chloromethyl ethyl ether.

Only a few days left to register for the 22nd Cedre Information Day!

Spills in ports

This year's edition will be the chance to gain insightful feedback from past incidents.

The [programme](#) and [registration form](#) are available at cedre.fr. French-English simultaneous translation will be provided.

In short

Publication

► [Cedre Information Bulletin N°36](#) - Feature: Grounding of the *TS Taipei* in Taiwan

Visits

► 21st and 22nd August: Hugo Nijkamp and Saskia Sessions-Puplett, [Sea Alarm](#)

► 30th August: 20 secondary school teachers, [Sea & Education Summer School](#)

► 30th August: Alaa Mohammed Alassady, Managing Director of [EFCODB](#)

► 31st August: delegation of officials from the Port of Abidjan

Dates for the diary

► 12th to 14th September 2017: [MARINER](#) workshop at Cedre, Brest

► 28th September 2017: [Cedre Information Day](#) in Paris

► 13th to 15th March 2018: [Interspill](#) in London - closing deadline to [submit an abstract](#): 30th September 2017

Amoco Cadiz, 40 years of change(s) - Call for contributions

Ever since the *Amoco Cadiz* sank in March 1978, French public and private sectors have been striving for innovation. To mark these 40 years of change(s), Cedre is planning to publish a book combining texts and artistic creations. If you would like to take part in this project, it couldn't be simpler! Your contribution must be related to one of these themes: maritime shipping, pollutants, spill response or environmental impacts. For texts, editorials and written accounts, the maximum limit is 450 words. For artistic creations (photos, drawings, poems, etc.): the more variety the better! Please send your proposals to contact@cedre.fr.

OSRL response team training

From 3rd to 13th July, Cedre ran two training sessions respectively for 10 and 12 members of the OSRL response team. These 3.5-day practical courses were held at Cedre's technical facilities. This was the opportunity for these two response teams to test their response and assessment procedures, as well as to perfect their knowledge of shoreline response techniques in real conditions. The trainees discovered the merits of Cedre's facilities and of the different workshops involving the release of real oil: containment and recovery on the water and on a section of road, and clean-up of pebbles, riprap and sandy beaches. Various technical discussions were held between the trainers and trainees and new cooperation opportunities between our two organisations were identified which we hope will come to fruition.

IOGP Arctic Mesocosm project completed

This project, which aimed to characterise the biodegradation potential of oil trapped in the ice in Arctic environments, recently came to a close with the validation of the final report by its sponsors. In terms of its results, the project clearly showed that dispersant application promotes the development of bacterial flora trapped in ice, consequently accelerating oil degradation kinetics. While these results meet the initial goals, questions nevertheless emerged which are worthy of further investigation. On a personal level, this project was a rewarding adventure which provided Cedre's teams with the opportunity to discover some magnificent landscapes as well as to experience extreme working conditions. It was also the chance to consolidate the links between Cedre and two Norwegian organisations:

MARPOCS progress meeting in Madeira

From 10th to 13th July, Cedre took part in a **MARPOCS** project meeting held on the island of Madeira to review the activities carried out during the first half of 2017. This meeting was also the opportunity to present the decision support system developed through this project to the island's authorities as well as to the Portuguese Navy. The possibility of assessing the performances of this tool during an exercise to be held before the turn of the year was discussed. Finally, the Portuguese authorities are particularly interested in oil or chemical slick drift modelling in their region where there are many islands and islets representing potential sources of interference in drift forecasts.

Dispersant workshop in Senegal

The **GI WACAF** coordinators, **IMO** and **IPIECA**, organised a subregional workshop on implementing a national dispersant use policy. Jointly organised by Senegal's High Authority in charge of maritime safety and security and protection of the marine environment (**HASSMAR**), this workshop was held in Dakar from 17th to 20th July. It brought together the focal points of the subregion's 12 French-speaking countries and over forty Senegalese organisations. Two engineers from Cedre contributed to this session by giving technical talks, running a workshop on the document template validated by IMO and organising a tabletop exercise. This smoothly run workshop gave rise to serious yet lively discussions.

Training for the *Société Africaine de Raffinage* in Dakar

From 3rd to 7th July, two engineers from Cedre were based in Senegal where they ran a training course for **SAR** personnel in Dakar. Oil spill first responders, shift supervisors and site fire-fighters attended the spill response course and took part in a boom deployment exercise in the port of Dakar. The second part of this training assignment was intended for the managers at the refinery, and involved reviewing the contingency plan as well as a crisis management exercise.

Testing an autonomous underwater glider at Cedre

In July, Cedre received two researchers from the **Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography (MIO)** of **Aix Marseille University (AMU)** to test an autonomous underwater glider in the **flume tank**. Since 2007, under a number of projects supported by French and EU funding, the MIO has been developing a miniaturised sensor to characterise dissolved fluorescent compounds such as Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs), characteristic of the soluble fraction of oil released at sea. This sensor is a low energy fluorometer (MiniFluo-UV) designed for the French **SeaExplorer** glider distributed by **ALSEAMAR**. The pilot-scale experiment conducted in the flume tank offered an interesting demonstration of the use of this sensor to detect oil at sea.

Oil sensor cable trials at Cedre

Cedre was contracted by Total (Group Technology Committee) to perform assessment tests on different technologies for the detection of oil leaks from underground pipelines. After an initial laboratory test phase (direct contact with different types of oil), followed by a second phase involving a model system, the next step will consist in placing the cables in field conditions in a sand-filled box containing a leaking section of pipeline.

Hong Kong: major palm oil spill

On 3rd August, a container ship and a chemical tanker collided south of Hong Kong. This collision caused a major spill of palm oil. Thirteen beaches were closed while local inhabitants and many volunteers cleaned them up. Six beaches were reopened on 14th August. The 205 tonnes of solidified oil collected was recycled into biodiesel and the profits from its sale are to go to environmental protection associations. Nine boats were also used offshore to recover the substance.

Two oil spills off Kuwait

On 13th August, the Kuwait authorities were confronted with an oil spill near the Al-Khafji offshore oil field, south of Kuwait. No official statement was given as to the source and size of the spill, however a power station and a desalination plant were closed to prevent contamination. The city of Riyadh activated a crisis management plan and carried out overflights. Emergency response teams were on site and managed to contain and clean-up the majority of the oil, according to **KNPC**. In the following days, the teams were joined by Chevron and OSRL personnel to clean up the oiled shoreline. According to local experts, the leak was from an old pipeline some 50 km from Al-Khafji. Estimations indicate that nearly 35,000 barrels of crude oil could have been released. On 15th August, the Kuwait authorities announced that a new 1.6 km-long slick had been observed 60 km north of the first spill, and stated that containment measures were being implemented.