



## N° 264 E – News from January 2018

### Emergency response

In January, Cedre activated the TRANSAID network at the request of the Finistère fire brigade in connection with an ignited bottle of acetylene in a particularly high risk context.

In terms of water pollution, our duty team was contacted in relation to a fuel oil spill in the river Aire (Meuse) from a damaged tanker truck, a spill of additive oil in the Daudou stream (Tarn-et-Garonne) from a fuel station as well as a spill of home heating oil from a tank at private home in Aber Benoît (Finistère). In the latter case, an engineer from Cedre was sent onsite to assess the situation and provide guidance on pollutant recovery and waste treatment. The Finistère fire brigade and in particular its mobile chemical response unit had deployed containment and recovery equipment to protect the sea inlet against contamination.

Informed by the Finistère authorities (*Préfecture*) of the presence of yellow-coloured balls on the shores in Penmarc'h, Cedre requested samples in order to identify the substance. The analyses performed in our laboratory concluded that the balls were vegetable oil.

### In short

#### Visits

- ▶ 10th: students on the Oceanography master's course at the MIO
- ▶ 23rd: students at the ITLOS
- ▶ 26th: 2 representatives of the International Office for Water (OIEau)

#### Video

- ▶ 2017: The Year in Pictures, [see here](#).

#### Dates for the diary

- ▶ 13th to 15th March 2018: [Interspill](#), London
- ▶ 16th March 2018: [day of discussions](#) on the 40 years of changes since the Amoco Cadiz spill, Brest
- ▶ 17th March 2018: open day at Cedre's facilities, Brest

### Assignment in French Guiana

Cedre was represented in Cayenne from 8th to 12th January, as part of a spill contingency plan development project for the French Guianan subsidiary of Total Exploration & Production. The purpose of this assignment was to meet the subsidiary representatives on site as well as the key stakeholders, notably the maritime and land authorities (AEM, naval base, EMIZ), administrations and institutes (DEAL, DM, Ifremer, CNRS, DSAC, Météo-France, SMPE) involved in the study of the authorisation request currently in progress for the launch of offshore drilling operations by the Total group. These few days provided the opportunity to hold discussions with our contacts on spill response issues and to collect the necessary information to be included in the authorisation request and the spill contingency plan, currently under development.

### POLLUPROOF comes to an end

This project, funded by the French national research agency and launched in 2014, came to completion in December 2017 with a final wrap-up workshop at the headquarters of French customs, attended by national and international stakeholders in maritime surveillance. The POLLUPROOF project aimed to improve evidence gathering for marine spills of hazardous liquid substances (Marpol Convention Annex II) using airborne remote-sensing optical and radar equipment. The stakeholders involved (Agenium, AVdef, Cedre, CEPPOL, French customs, ONERA, RDDC and Transport Canada) assessed the capacity of several radar and optical sensors to detect and characterise six hazardous liquid substances selected through an in-depth experimental study. This was a two-stage process, beginning with the calibration of optical sensors in a water tank, followed by the assessment of airborne optical and radar sensors in real conditions at sea. The results obtained pave the way to innovative investigation equipment for marine spills of hazardous liquid substances which are difficult to appraise using the equipment that is currently available.

### MARINER project reaches completion

This DG ECHO-funded project geared towards improving preparedness to respond to chemical spills came to a close at the end of January 2018. For two years, Cedre worked together, under the coordination of CETMAR (Spain), with Spanish partners at INTECMAR and the University of Vigo, Portuguese partners at Action Modulers/Bentley Systems and CIIMAR and English partners at Public Health England (PHE). Cedre's contribution mainly involved conducting a literature review, receiving many visits from operational experts in the response to chemical risks, producing a panorama of existing protocols and equipment, creating training materials and organising a workshop in September 2017 to tests the materials produced. The different outputs, in particular the training materials, are now available in English on the project website: [mariner-project.eu](http://mariner-project.eu).

### Launch of the Ocean Wise project, Portugal

The Ocean Wise project kick-off meeting was held in Lisbon from 23rd to 25th January. This 3-year project, co-funded by the European Interreg Atlantic programme, aims to provide concrete solutions to the issue of expanded polystyrene (EPS) in the marine environment. As project leader, the Portuguese government, represented by the DRGM, played host to all the partners from various countries along the Atlantic coast: Ireland (UCC-MaREI, BIM, DHPLG and

REPACK), the United Kingdom (Cefas), Spain (CETMAR and Sustainn), Portugal (FCT-NOVA and Pontoverde) and France (UBS, SeaPack and Cedre). The OSPAR Secretariat, associated with the project, was also present. Based on the concepts of a more efficient use of resources, a circular economy and participatory methods, the project aims to generate new and better practices in the sectors which use, produce, process and recycle EPS. Ocean Wise falls within a transnational framework to support public policies relating to the protection of the marine environment. It comes under action n°49 of the OSPAR Convention's Regional Action Plan for Marine Litter. This action focuses on the prevalence and impact of EPS in the marine environment and on engaging with industry to make proposals for alternative materials and/or how to reduce its impacts. Ocean Wise is also in line with the [European Circular Economy Package](#) and contributes to the targets of achieving Good Environmental Status of the marine environment as set out in the [MSFD](#).

### Final Interspill preparatory meeting, London

On 30th January, two representatives of Cedre attended the final preparatory meeting for the international conference Interspill 2018 to be held in London from 13th to 15th March. Hosted by [IPIECA](#) at its office in the heart of the capital, the members of the Interspill Committee reviewed every aspect of the event: programme, logistics and communication. Details of the short courses, conferences, science workshops and industry seminars can be found here:

[interspillevent.com](http://interspillevent.com).

Cedre's team would be delighted to meet you at stand S500.

### Spill response equipment stockpile audit, Monaco

Cedre was present in Monaco on 16th and 17th January at the request of the Principality's Directorate of Maritime Affairs. The purpose of this visit was to audit its spill response equipment stockpile in order to identify any optimisation or adaptation opportunities. This took place against a backdrop of upcoming changes, with the coast of Monaco being set to evolve, leading to new risks, such as those generated by the coastal extension work which is set to expand the city's public space.

### Polymers & Oceans 2018, Montpellier

Two engineers from Cedre took part in this [seminar](#) held in Montpellier on 15th and 17th January. Attended by 150 people, this workshop aimed to bring together French research teams working on the degradation of polymers in the marine environment. It was organised by the [University of Montpellier](#), the [Banyuls-sur-Mer Oceanological Observatory](#) and the [University of Le Mans](#). The 30 presentations and 30 posters demonstrated the cross-disciplinary nature of the question of the fate of plastics in the marine environment. We note the work conducted as part of the "7th continent" Tara expedition, the characterisation of the different bacterial communities which develop on plastic microparticles, the impact of plastic additives on marine organisms and the review of new polymers. Various profiles of researchers took this opportunity to hold discussions and address the need to establish a research group. Such a group would help to pool the work conducted and promote discussions between teams. For Cedre, in addition to meeting specialised teams in this field, this was the opportunity to present the work in progress on beach litter surveillance, our research activities on plastics and the experimental devices we have to investigate this issue.

### A practical guide on wildlife response

Cedre has just released an operational guide in French on responding to wildlife contaminated by oil or chemical compounds. Produced with funding from [Total SA](#) and the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition (MTES), this document is born of a major collective effort. It involved the participation of [Alca Torda](#), the [Aquarium of La Rochelle](#), the rehabilitation and conservation centre of [Océanopolis](#), [CVFSE](#), [DEB](#), [DTAM 975](#), [DREAL Bretagne](#), [Hegalaldia](#) and [LPO](#). Its originality: in addition to bird rehabilitation, it also addresses the procedures applicable to pinnipeds, otters and turtles. It can be downloaded free of charge from the website [cedre.fr](http://cedre.fr).

### Two dispersants tested and approved

At the request of [CHIMEC/Corodex Traiding](#) and [EfloChem](#), Cedre's laboratory tested two dispersants for use at sea: Chimec Chimspense 6000 and Eflochem OSD ECO HD. These two products met the efficiency, toxicity and biodegradability criteria. They have therefore been approved and added to the lists of dispersants for use in oil spill response at sea for a five-year period. These lists are available on our website: [cedre.fr](http://cedre.fr).

### Marine and atmospheric pollution in the China Seas

On the night of 6th January, the double-hulled Iranian oil tanker *MT Sanchi* was travelling to South Korea carrying 136,000 tonnes of condensate, 1,970 tonnes of bunker fuel and 120 tonnes of diesel, when it collided with the bulk carrier *CF Crystal* in the East China Sea, around 160 nautical miles east of Shanghai. The *Sanchi's* cargo of condensate oil – a very light and flammable crude oil – burst into flames, heavily polluting the atmosphere. Tragically, the entire crew of 30 Iranians and 2 Bangladeshis went missing. After burning for just over a week, the oil tanker sank in waters 115 m deep, releasing a large proportion of its cargo and bunker fuel. Given its volatility, the condensate spread widely across the sea surface to form a thin film of sheen with a surface area estimated by the Chinese authorities at up to 300 km<sup>2</sup>. The strong agitation at the water surface in the area should ensure the slicks are naturally dispersed. The bunker fuel, a persistent substance similar to the oils spilt in the *Erika* and *Prestige* disasters, should gradually break up into smaller patches than tarballs which may, depending on the winds and currents, be liable to reach the closest shores.