



N° 266 E – News from March 2018

Emergency response

Cedre was involved in managing a spill of wood protection product (Finistère) into a rainwater drainage network. We were also contacted following several sightings of tarballs on the shores of the same area, as well as in relation to a suspected slick of FAME (Fatty Acid Methyl Ester) off the Bouches-du-Rhône area. Our duty team was alerted following observations of fine particles in suspension in a watercourse and red sediment on the coastline, these two phenomena being taken for pollution of the aquatic environment.

In short

Meetings

► On 28th: Brest-Iroise Science & Technology Park AGM

Hot off the press

- Cedre's [Emergency Response](#) catalogue
- The latest [Mariner](#) project newsletter

Success of the event "Amoco Cadiz, 40 years of developments"

The two-day event marking the 40 years of progress since the sinking of the *Amoco Cadiz* was greatly appreciated by those who attended. Cedre would like to thank its partners and in particular: Brest métropole, [Océanopolis](#), the Préfecture maritime de l'Atlantique and the [University of Western Brittany](#) ([watch the video of the event](#)).

The day of discussions held on 16th March began with a speech by Patricia Charlebois, Deputy Director of the Marine Environment Division of [IMO](#), focusing on current and future global challenges. Vincent Bouvier, Secretary-General for the Sea, then emphasised the importance for France to fit into a European and international perspective. To illustrate these keynote addresses, Christophe Rousseau, Cedre's Deputy Director, gave a detailed presentation of the *MT Sanchi* incident in the East China Sea. The rest of the day was organised into a series of panel sessions on four themes: prevention, preparedness, ecological impacts and restoration. The statements and discussions between panelists were rich and of high quality. A printed publication and video are set to be released soon.

The following day, on 17th March, Cedre's partners and the general public were invited on the trail of the *Amoco Cadiz*. The event was attended by 307 visitors, who were given a crash course in spill response. How can we determine and predict the behaviour of a pollutant when spilled at sea? What response equipment or product should be used? How is clean-up organised if the shoreline is hit? What actions can be carried out post-spill? Cedre's staff provided answers to these questions and many more, adapting their answers for younger visitors, and brimmed with creativity in the workshops and activities on offer. Mini-conferences were also given by Pierre-Yves Dupuy from the French Naval Hydrographic and Oceanographic Service ([SHOM](#)), Eric Thiébaud from the [Station biologique de Roscoff](#) and Christophe Rousseau from [Cedre](#).

Other Amoco Cadiz 40th anniversary events

The Director accepted the invitation by Didier Le Gac, MP for the constituency Brest Rural, to attend the preview screening on 11th March of the film "*Amoco Cadiz, la marée noire du siècle*", produced and broadcast by National Geographic. The screening was held at the cinema Le Bretagne in Saint Renan and was followed by a debate.

On 13th March, a special day on the theme of "Sciences and *Amoco Cadiz*" was held at the University of Western Brittany (UBO). Cedre was represented at this event and took part in the "Environment and ecology" panel session, focusing on the evolution of environmental considerations during spills in the 40 years since the *Amoco Cadiz*.

Interspill conference and exhibition in London

The international conference [Interspill 2018](#) and the associated spill response equipment exhibition were held from 13th to 15th March at ExCeL London (UK). Between the opening and closing plenaries, over sixty presentations were given, organised into 16 thematic sessions addressing various aspects of response preparedness (organisation, joint initiatives between public authorities and the private sector, benefits of new remote sensing technologies, etc.). We note an interesting debate over certain current issues relating to chemical dispersion, notably questioning the implications of the conclusions of scientific studies conducted following the *Deepwater Horizon* blow-out and in particular their potential effect on the perception of this technique during future spills. In addition to giving a presentation during the "Effective Preparedness" session and chairing the "Making Training Work" session, Cedre, as a member of the Interspill Committee, organised 4 science workshops jointly with [ITOPF](#), in the Exhibition Floor Theatre. The themes chosen for these workshops were: Shoreline Survey, Response in Cold Environments, HNS Pollution and Marine Pollution Impacts. Cedre chaired the two latter workshops. Finally, over 100 specialised service providers and equipment suppliers and distributors were represented in the exhibition hall, where a French pavilion featured several companies which are members of [SYCOPOL](#) as well as Cedre's own stand.

New addition: an operational guide on HNS spills

Cooperation between Cedre and [Transport Canada](#) has once again fostered creativity and innovation. After jointly producing a learning guide and website on chemical pollution, the brainchild of this new collaboration is a guide of international scope for professionals and responders involved in spills of HNS (Hazardous and Noxious Substances). This document provides decision-making support for personnel in incident command centres but also for field responders. The recommendations made in this guide are based on the expertise of Cedre, Transport Canada and numerous Canadian and French partners in terms of the method, thought process and response in the event of a spill. It can be [downloaded free of charge](#) in French.

March training courses

- Aerial observation of pollution at sea, 12th to 14th, 19 participants (French Navy, Customs and MRCCs)
- Marine pollution crisis management, 26th to 29th, 15 representatives of the French Navy and two representatives of the Port, Maritime and River Agency (APMF) of Madagascar.

Training course for CCME at Cedre

From 19th to 22nd March, 18 German trainees from [the Central Command for Maritime Emergencies \(HavarieKommando\)](#), a joint institution of the German Federal Government and the Federal Coastal States, attended a training course at our premises. With a strong emphasis on practical training, they were able to try their hand at conducting pollution surveys as well as at different containment and recovery techniques.

MOSPA conference and EKOMON seminar in Finland

The international conference MOSPA 2018 (Oil Spills in Arctic Areas Conference) organised by the Finnish Environment Institute [SYKE](#) was held on 7th and 8th March 2018 in Oulu, Finland. In total, some 50 conferences tackled various aspects of response in the Arctic, ranging from human rescue to the assessment of oil spill impacts in this particularly sensitive ecosystem, while addressing the issues of chemical dispersion and mechanical recovery in ice-infested waters. Particular mention can be made of the work presented on low sulphur fuel oils which have a particularly high viscosity at low temperatures and are therefore difficult to recover at the sea surface by conventional pumping operations. Alongside the conference, around 10 specialised equipment suppliers and distributors were there to present the latest developments in response equipment for cold environments. In parallel, SYKE also organised an at-sea exercise involving several vessels including the spill response vessel *Louhi*, designed to respond both to oil slicks and chemical spills, thanks to its citadel function. SYKE also organised, in collaboration with Cedre, the seminar EKOMON, entirely devoted to the issue of HNS spills. As a session chair, Cedre took the chance to remind attendees of the main issues at stake in the event of a spill.

French Atlantic Maritime Conference

On 15th March, at the invitation of Vice-Admiral Emmanuel de Oliveira, Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic, Cedre's Director attended the French Atlantic Maritime Conference. The meeting began with a presentation of the major shifts in shipping trends with a particular focus on the Atlantic area. This was followed by 4 panel sessions on maritime issues and a presentation on the control of the marine environment.

Campus mondial de la mer

On 22nd March, Cedre's Director attended the first annual general meeting of the "Campus mondial de la mer" at [IMT Atlantique](#). This opportunity was taken to present the entity's governing board. Cedre is a substitute member of this board in the college of "knowledge players".

Colombia: leaking oil and contaminated rivers

On 3rd March, in the north of Colombia, in the department of Santander, near the city of Barrancabermeja, crude oil escaped from the inactive oil well Lizama 158 owned by the national oil company Ecopetrol. In the following days, heavy rainfall aggravated the pollution and the oil (around 550 barrels) contaminated 24 km of watercourses, including the Sogamoso River. Fishermen were evacuated. The spill affected the vegetation, including over a thousand trees, and killed over 2,400 animals (birds, reptiles, fish...). From the 12th, the situation became increasingly complicated given that "there was no crude oil retention", according to the Director of the National Environmental Licensing Authority ([ANLA](#)). The well was sealed in late March. It was no longer leaking and the situation was under control, but the environmental state of emergency was maintained. At the request of the Minister of the Environment, ANLA has launched an investigation to establish responsibility for the incident.

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