



N° 267 E – News from April 2018

Emergency response

In April, Cedre was mobilised following three confirmed spills. One of our engineers joined the international **UNDAC/OCHA** team tasked by the Colombian Ministry of environment and sustainable development with assessing the impacts caused by an oil spill which affected the rivers Lizama and Sagamoso, their banks and the surrounding areas.

We provided remote assistance to the Saint Pierre and Miquelon authorities (DTAM) following the detection by a Canadian satellite of pollution liable to affect the archipelago. Finally, we provided information to the Maine-et-Loire fire brigade in relation to a spill of solvent in the Moine river. We also held various discussions with the Mediterranean MRCC concerning suspicious observations which turned out to be Velella.

We were alerted by the town council of Menton (Alpes-Maritimes) of sheen and an oil-like smell on the water near to the beach. An aerial survey was carried out during which a natural phenomenon was identified (most likely pollen) although it was uncertain whether these two occurrences were linked. Various exercises were also organised this month. We were called upon as part of an exercise involving naphtha by an oil company which has an assistance agreement with Cedre. The Norwegian ICE centre questioned us as part of a ring test. Finally, as a **Mar-ICE** focal point, we were mobilised by MRCC Madrid in relation to a scenario involving a chemical tanker on fire and by the Polish ICE centre to prepare the Balex Delta exercise to be held in August.

In short

Meetings

- ▶ On 5th: **Annual General Meeting of Brittany's Maritime Cluster**
- ▶ On 13th: **Biopade** project working meeting at Brest University (**UBO**)
- ▶ On 19th: visit to **ISEN** digital engineering school

OSInet annual meeting in the Netherlands

From 24th to 26th April, Cedre attended the **OSInet** annual meeting held on the premises of **RWS in Lelystad** (Netherlands). It brought together experts from various European and international laboratories. The aims? To share experiences in terms of oil spill identification, to hold scientific discussions on this theme and to review the annual intercalibration exercise. The main focus of this exercise, organised by the Norwegian institute **SINTEF**, was the impact of in situ burning on the oil fingerprint. Thirty five laboratories submitted their conclusions on this case which involved comparing a sample taken at sea, affected by burning, with a sample taken at sea but not affected by burning, and with three potential sources of contamination.

Vigipol seminar in Ploudalmézeau

On 7th April, at the invitation of Sophie Bahé, Director of **Vigipol**, Cedre's Director took part in a seminar entitled "Maritime pollution: a political challenge, from risk to action". At this event, discussions were held and experiences shared on shipping, the actions implemented during previous incidents and the vigilance required for the future. Many local councillors, mainly representing municipalities along the Atlantic and Channel coasts, were present.

Shipping Day in Paris

At the invitation of the President of the French Shipowners' Association **Armateurs de France**, Cedre's Director attended the first **Shipping Day** on 10th April. For this first edition, two themes were addressed: LNG and cybersecurity. The panel session on LNG was of particular interest to Cedre, as it drew together port stakeholders, shipowners and propulsion system suppliers. LNG is not currently a widely used propulsion fuel (only around 200 ships out of more than 100,000) but it is on the rise, with large ships ordered and set to be commissioned in the coming years. It is important for Cedre to keep abreast of this progress.

Technical exchanges with CASU

On 10th April, the global safety coordinator and manager of the **CASU** (emergency response unit) programme at **INERIS** (the French national institute for industrial environment and risks) came to Cedre for a day of discussions on Cedre and INERIS' emergency facilities, team organisation and practices. This was the opportunity to strengthen the links between the two organisations which regularly work together during incidents and exercises.

Visit from overseas officers

On 26th April, during a study trip to Brest to learn about France's maritime rescue organisation, Commander Ghislain Ramorasata (Madagascar) and Lieutenant Commander Etienne Sugewe (Cameroon), currently training at the "Ecole de guerre" (French war college), visited Cedre. They were accompanied by Lieutenant Commander Emmanuel Pons, Africa deputy for the OPS division of the *Préfecture maritime de l'Atlantique*. In charge of spill response in their respective navies, they were particularly interested in the presentation of our activities and the tour of our facilities.

Seminar at ISMI in Abidjan

From 9th to 13th April, two engineers from Cedre visited ISMI (the interregional maritime safety institute) in Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire) for a seminar on the protection of the marine environment and offshore oil production. This seminar, funded by French cooperation, was organised by Cedre for representatives of 11 African countries.

Borneo island, Indonesia: subsea pipeline breach

On 31st March, in Balikpapan Bay, a subsea pipeline belonging to the Pertamina refinery burst after apparently being caught by the anchor of a merchant ship sheltering from adverse weather conditions in the bay. An investigation is underway. This leak affected 60 km of shoreline (around 70% of the bay, including 17,000 ha of mangrove). The ignited slicks which resulted in the death of 5 fishermen were finally extinguished by fire fighters. A state of emergency was declared on 4th April. Many breathing difficulties were reported among the local population as well as mortality among numerous species, including some protected species. Response measures including dispersant use, recovery (by ships or by hand) and boom deployment were implemented thanks to the involvement of volunteers.

Marine Pollution – Brittany: from Risk to Action

Forty years on from the *Amoco Cadiz* spill off the Breton coast, Vigipol has recently published a 31-page document, fully illustrated with photos, diagrams, maps and numerical data, addressing the marine pollution risks in Brittany. These risks, generated by a constantly evolving shipping industry, remain an ongoing concern despite the absence of major spills on our coasts since the *Erika* and the *Prestige*. This awareness-raising document provides an overview of the answers provided by experts in spill response, both at sea and on the shoreline. These professional opinions are compiled to answer the question "Are we ready to jointly handle these risks today?", making this a compelling and relevant read. This document can be [downloaded here](#).

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