



N° 268 E – News from May 2018

Emergency response

Cedre was involved in managing a diesel spill from a tank into the rainwater drainage network in the Plouénan area (Finistère). Two engineers were sent on site to assess the situation and help to define the recovery techniques.

As in April, we also held various discussions with the Mediterranean MRCC concerning suspicious observations which turned out to be Velella. The La Garde MRCC on the south coast of France and the Departmental Directorate for Territories and the Sea for Aude also contacted us in relation to observations of charred wood in the port of Leucate. We were also alerted by Brest's naval firefighters as to the suspected presence of a chemical slick at the entrance to the Goulet de Brest, a strait linking the roadstead of Brest to the ocean. It turned out however to be foam.

We were called upon during two ICE exercises: by the Swedish ICE centre during a sophisticated test and by the UK centre for a ring test. We were also mobilised in our role as a **Mar-ICE** focal point by the Portuguese Navy as part of an exercise involving a simulated spill of 10,000 tonnes of butyl acrylate in the Sado estuary. Finally, we were contacted by the authorities in the French West Indies within the context of a marine pollution exercise based on a diesel spill scenario.

In short

Training

► "Spill response in inland waters" training course from 14th to 18th May, 5 participants from the Paris Fire Brigade (**BSPP**) and the Loire-Atlantique Fire Brigade (SDIS 44).

Strategic Committee meeting

On 10th May, the 47th meeting of Cedre's Strategy Committee was held at **INERIS'** premises in Verneuil-en-Halatte. We were welcomed by Raymond Cointe, CEO, who presented INERIS and its activities. The participants also attended a presentation of the atmospheric modelling and fire study activities before visiting the mesocosms (artificial rivers) as well as the fire platform. The meeting was the opportunity to review the *Amoco Cadiz* 40th anniversary event, to discuss the investment master plan for the coming 5 years and to initiate deliberations on our study programme for next year. It was decided that the next Strategy Committee meeting would be held at Cedre on 16th November 2018, the day after the Technical Day which will focus on spills in tropical environments. Finally, the theme of shoreline pollution by litter and micro-plastics was chosen for the next Information Day scheduled to be held in Paris on Tuesday 5th March 2019.

GESAMP meeting in London

From Monday 30th April to Friday 4th May, the members of **GESAMP** met in London at the headquarters of the **International Maritime Organization**, to assess the hazardousness of around ten substances for the marine environment. The expert from Cedre described their probable fate in the event of a spill at sea in order to classify them in accordance with the **MARPOL** Convention (category X, Y or Z).

CleanAtlantic European project meeting in Madeira

From 22nd to 25th May, the second coordination meeting for the **CleanAtlantic** project on tackling marine litter in the Atlantic area was held in Madeira, Portugal. This 3-year project, co-funded by the European Interreg Atlantic Area programme and led by **CETMAR** (Centro Tecnológico del Mar, Spain), aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Atlantic area by improving capabilities to monitor, prevent and remove marine litter. The meeting was organised by the Portuguese project partner **DROTA** (Direção Regional do Ordenamento do Território e Ambiente, Madeira). The partners reviewed the progress of their actions, in particular in terms of capitalisation, assessing the situation, modelling, data banking and, aspects in which Cedre was particularly involved, the identification of innovative initiatives as well as research into the behaviour and impacts of cotton buds and cigarette butts in the marine environment. The meeting was followed by a one-day workshop, organised by CETMAR, which focused on a key aspect of the project: awareness-raising among stakeholders.

Interspill 2018: follow-up meeting in Lisbon

On 22nd May, two representatives of Cedre attended the **Interspill 2018** follow-up meeting organised by **EMSA** in Lisbon (Portugal). The number of attendees was slightly up from 2015 with 1,248 participants, mainly from the UK, the Netherlands, the US and France. The meeting was the opportunity for the Interspill Committee members to review the positive points and improvement opportunities. Preliminary discussions on the 2021 edition were also initiated.

OTSOPA meeting in Malmö (Sweden)

The annual meeting of the Bonn Agreement **OTSOPA** working group was held in Malmö, Sweden from 22nd to 24th May and was chaired by Stan Woznicki from the **MCA**. It was attended by 23 participants: 18 representatives of the States party to the agreement, 2 members of the secretariat, one Spanish representative (observer country), one representative of **EMSA** and one of **DG ECHO**. The attendees shared their experiences in terms of marine spill response. Cedre presented its work to update Chapter 26 of the **Bonn Agreement Counter Pollution Manual** on hazardous and noxious substances and, in collaboration with the representative of Belgium, a document on research needs on these products. Cedre's two new operational guides: on accidental water pollution by HNS (**Pollutions accidentelles des eaux par des substances nocives et potentiellement dangereuses**) and wildlife rehabilitation (**Soins à la faune sauvage**) – currently available in French – were also presented by Cedre. The next meeting is scheduled from 21st to 23rd May 2019 in the UK.

International training on aerial surveillance of pollution in Lisbon

From 15th to 17th May, Cedre was involved in the training course on "The use of surveillance systems for marine pollution detection and assessment", organised at **EMSA** in Lisbon. This sixth session gathered 26 participants from 17 different countries. One of the highlights for the group was visiting Air Base No. 6 for a presentation of a maritime reconnaissance plane.

Pollution reconnaissance training in Guadeloupe

Under the impetus of MRCC AG (French West Indies and French Guiana) in Fort-de-France, a training course on oil spill surveys at sea and on the shoreline was organised by Cedre in Pointe-à-Pitre on 15th and 16th May. The Customs marine pollution expert and a legal expert also contributed to this course, which was attended by 17 participants from 7 different administrations of Martinique and Guadeloupe. The inclusion of practical exercises and discussions on local specificities was appreciated by the trainees.

ICE meeting in Antwerp

On 23rd and 24th May, a representative of Cedre took part in the annual ICE (Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies) meeting at the **BASF** site on the port of Antwerp, Belgium. This European network coordinated by **Cefic** is a chance for Cedre, the French support centre for chemical spills, to hold discussions with its European and industrial counterparts on the response to incidents and to prepare for response through regular exercises.

Plastic ain't fantastic!!!

A plastic bag was found in the Mariana Trench in the north-west of the Pacific Ocean, over 1,000 km from land and 10,900 m deep. This was revealed by a study entitled "**Human footprint in the abyss: 30 year records of deep-sea plastic debris**" conducted by the World Conservation Monitoring Centre. It concluded that in areas over 6,000 m deep, over half of the litter present was plastic and almost all of this was single-use plastic. Meanwhile, the European Commission has recently put forward new rules to be applied across the EU, aiming to eliminate the ten plastic products most commonly found on Europe's beaches and seas. This year, the theme chosen for World Environment Day, on 5th June, was "Beat Plastic Pollution".

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