



N° 273 E – News from November 2018

Emergency response

Here at Cedre, November continued to be overshadowed by the collision between the ship *Ulysse* and the container ship *CSL Virginia* off Corsica on 7th October and the resulting consequences. Agents from Cedre have been permanently on site since 17th October to provide support to the authorities (Var Prefecture) after oil began to wash up on the shores. The actions implemented have included conducting surveys to monitor the shoreline situation and coordinating the launch of clean-up operations, working together with representatives of the contractor responsible for their implementation (Le Floch Dépollution), experts from the ship's P&I club (ITOPF), and the relevant local authorities and State services. Cedre's emergency response team was also called upon for advice at the request of the Loire Atlantique fire brigade (SDIS 44) in relation to a leak of sulphuric acid from a tanker truck at a refinery. We also provided advice to civil protection (DGSCGC) following the explosion of a tanker truck in Châteaubourg (Ille-et-Vilaine), to AFB in relation to a spill of cutting oil in a stream, to MRCC La Garde for MOTHY drift forecasts and to MRCC Réunion in relation to slicks of an unidentified substance. We took part in exercises run by the National Chemical Emergency Centre (NCEC) and REMPEC.

Cedre's Strategy Committee

On 16th November, the 48th Strategy Committee meeting was held at Cedre. The main purpose of this meeting was to discuss next year's technical programme. 48 proposals were put forward, half of which were in connection with our ongoing actions for our partners while the other half concerned new projects liable to be of interest in terms of cooperation, knowledge development, response preparedness and information. The discussions led to the selection of some twenty projects to be implemented in 2019 and specified their scope.

Cedre Technical Day 2018

The day before Cedre's Strategy Committee meeting, a day of technical discussions was organised, devoted to the actions implemented by Cedre with its partners in relation to "oil spills in tropical environments (mangroves, coral reefs)", which was attended by around 40 participants. Speakers from Cedre and from partner organisations presented the challenges in these rich and fragile environments (MTES-DEB and AFB), their research work aimed at achieving a better understanding of the fate and impacts of oil in mangrove environments (MIO, Cedre) and to restore damaged mangroves and coral reefs (TOTAL) affected by environmental stress (chronic or accidental), as well as their experience in terms of response in coral reefs (CEPPOL) and mangroves (Cedre). The final issue addressed was that of Sargassum seaweed (Cedre) which is currently invading the Caribbean.

Marine litter focus day

Cedre was invited as an expert on "marine litter" to take part in a day of discussions on the theme of marine pollution and awareness-raising/communication. This event was organised by CPIE Flandre Maritime (France) and the association *Horizon Educatief* (Belgium) within the framework of the French-Belgian Interreg microproject CLEAN SEA and was held on 24th November in Ostend, Belgium. The aim of the CLEAN SEA project is to support French and Belgian volunteers by strengthening their awareness-raising actions on waste reduction. This day of conferences and discussions was intended to improve the project participants' skills. Cedre gave a presentation of OSPAR/MSFD national beach litter monitoring as well as the projects and actions in progress on the theme of marine litter. [See here for more information](#)

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ **Cedre Information Day 2019**, on 5th March, at the French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition in Paris, on the theme of "**Aquatic Litter**"
- ▶ **Exhibition** at Cedre of the creations inspired by the **40th anniversary of the Amoco Cadiz spill**: exhibition open from 17/12/18 to 18/01/19

Visits and presentations

- ▶ 22nd Nov.: Iroise Marine Nature Park management committee meeting
- ▶ 23rd Nov.: visit from a delegation from the ICC for West Africa.
- ▶ 26th Nov.: visit from 12 participants involved in the "Programme Off" of the "Assises de l'Économie de la Mer"
- ▶ 27th-28th Nov.: participation in the **Assises de l'Économie de la Mer** in Brest
- ▶ 29th-30th Nov.: participation in the Seminar on Prevention of and sanctions on illegal waste disposal from ships at sea, Berlin (OSPAR/HELCOM)

Training courses

- ▶ On 7th and 8th Nov. "Merchant ships and the role of shipping industry stakeholders", 17 participants
- ▶ 26th to 28th: "Chemical spill response principles", 15 participants
- ▶ 28th, "Chemical spill response, risk level 2", 16 participants

OSPAR ICG Marine Litter meeting

Cedre attended the meeting of the **OSPAR** Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (**ICG/ML**) held in Edinburgh on 12th, 13th and 14th November. This meeting addressed the monitoring programmes and assessments for the different common or candidate marine litter indicators (on beaches, on the seabed, ingested by fulmars and turtles and microplastics in sediment), in part with a view to preparing the 2023 **Quality Status Report** (QSR). One day was devoted to the OSPAR Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Marine Litter, with a review of the actions carried out by the different Member States. Cedre presented the national microplastics monitoring protocol set to be applied from 2019/2020 on beaches along the French coastline, as well as the European projects **CleanAtlantic** and **OceanWise**, as a partner in these projects and on behalf of the two consortia.

International conference MICRO2018, Lanzarote, Spain

Cedre attended the international conference **MICRO2018** which took place from 19th to 24th November in Lanzarote, Spain. This conference brought together some 500 scientists, mainly from Europe, to discuss subjects related to microplastics such as their distribution, degradation and impact in the marine environment, as well as the impact of nanoplastics on marine organisms and the question of inputs from rivers and the atmosphere. Particular attention was paid to methodological issues and analysis techniques. Cedre presented the approach selected by France for monitoring microplastics on beaches under the **MSFD**, with a focus on the sediment sampling protocol in the field. [See here for more information](#)

Introduction to spill response techniques for seagoing fishermen

In collaboration with Iroise Marine Nature Park (**PNMI**) and the Finistère Fisheries Committee, Cedre gave an introduction to spill response techniques to a group of 9 seagoing fishermen working within the PNMI on 7th and 8th November. During this training session, a representative of the French Navy's Centre of Practical Expertise in Pollution Response **Ceppol** presented the surface trawls used by seagoing fishermen for so-called "second row" operations under the French marine pollution response organisation.

Training in Lorient's marina

In response to a request from **SELLOR**, the organisation managing several marinas and nautical facilities in the Lorient area, a training course on oil spill response in marinas was run from 13th to 15th November at the La Base marina in Lorient. The course offered the chance to deploy SELLOR's own spill response equipment and to provide introductory training on the appropriate response techniques to the 24 personnel.

MOIG regional workshop in Istanbul

From 6th to 8th November, the MOIG regional workshop on "Building an Effective National and Regional Preparedness and Response Capacity" was held in Istanbul. This workshop was organised under the patronage of the Turkish Ministry of Transport and Infrastructure and Ministry of the Environment and Urbanization and in cooperation with **Turkish Petroleum** (TPAO) and **MEKE Marine**. During the first two days, 5 conference sessions were run, while the third day was dedicated to an equipment deployment demonstration by MEKE Marine on the Golden Horn. Cedre gave three oral presentations and chaired a session. [See here for details](#)

IOWater Information Day

Cedre was involved in the organisation of the **IOWater Information Day** held in Paris on 13th November on the theme of spill management. Several presentations illustrated the potential sources of pollution, their consequences for wastewater treatment facilities or drinking water supply networks, prevention and preparedness systems set up by industry, the regulatory framework as well as case studies of past spills in particular in relation to the severe flooding in the Paris area in 2016. This event sparked productive discussions and illustrated how significantly spills in inland waters can affect users and how complex the management of such events can be.

AXA XL conference

As part of a recent partnership with AXA XL through which this insurance firm's policyholders can call upon Cedre in the event of a spill in the aquatic environment, Cedre presented its activities and services to various insurance brokers and industrial firms in Orvault on 9th November and in Paris on 13th November respectively.

Oil spill off Newfoundland (Canada)

On 16th November, an estimated 250,000 litres of oil leaked into the sea from an offshore drilling platform, some 350 km south-east of St. John's. The spill occurred following a loss of pressure in an underwater flowline, connecting the South White Rose Drill Center, operated by Husky Energy, to the Sea Rose tanker. An aircraft and 6 vessels were deployed and the incident was rapidly brought under control according to the Canadian authorities. Airborne and shipborne surveys showed that the oil was dispersing. On 20th, overflights did not detect any new traces of oil at the water surface. A remote-operated vehicle was deployed the same day to inspect the flowline and the tanker, and to take photos which will be examined by inspectors from the Canadian authorities. Husky Energy has not resumed production and has opened an internal investigation. The operator reported that only five oiled birds have been found. According to a sea bird specialist, the number of affected birds is likely to be higher as millions of birds migrate to the region from the Arctic at this time of year and the weather conditions made an exact count impossible.