



N° 276 E – News from February 2019

Emergency response

Following the *CSL Virginia* spill, Cedre continued to provide support to the Var authorities, in the form of weekly operation summaries and sample analysis.

In another incident, we were called out by a commune in the Côtes-d'Armor, following the discovery of old pollution by a heavy product (estimated volume of 1 m³).

Cedre has also been present in the Yvelines area since the 27th, at the request of Total, following the rupture of the Ile-de-France pipeline (PLIF), contaminating the ground and certain watercourses. We were called upon by the Loire-Atlantique authorities (DML, Delegation for the sea and shoreline) after tarballs washed up on a beach in Batz-sur-Mer (Cedre was able to confirm that the balls were paraffin).

The DDPP and the POLMAR correspondent for Hérault contacted us following reports of pollution in Thau lake caused by a deliberate release from a vehicle operating at a nearby worksite.

Finally, Cedre was called upon in relation to a spill of foaming agent in a mangrove area within the premises of a refinery in the Caribbean.

World Ocean Circulation User Consultation Meeting 2019, ESRIN, Frascati, Italy

The aim of this **meeting** was to inventory user needs in relation to the acquisition and knowledge of surface currents on a global scale from embedded sensors on satellites. Cedre gave a presentation on the use of ocean data for tracking and modelling oil slick drift at sea. This presentation provided the audience with a better understanding of the data and models available on a global scale and the opportunity to talk to other users and modellers.

Sixth session of the IMO PPR subcommittee in London

From 18th to 22nd February, a representative of Cedre attended the 6th session of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response, held at **IMO** headquarters in London. This meeting focused mainly on the work in progress to harmonise the directives relating to the maximum sulphur limits for ships' fuel oil, technical discussions on the possibility of a ban on the carriage of heavy fuel oil (HFO) in Arctic waters, directives relating to onboard sampling and the examination of proposals relating to Anti-Fouling Substances (AFS). The correspondance group for the **OPRC-HNS directives** brought together representatives of some twenty States, specialised bodies and observers from intergovernmental and non-governmental organisations. The group focused on finalising the Guide on practical implementation of the pollution prevention and response treaties (OPRC Convention and the OPRC-HNS Protocol), and the report and conclusions of the Regional Workshop on Response to Spill Incidents involving Hazardous and Noxious Substances (HNS) (**MEDEXPOL 2018**). Finally, the group was tasked with developing guidelines on the establishment of possible measures to reduce the risks of use and carriage of heavy fuel oil as fuel by ships in Arctic waters. The presentation of examples provided the opportunity for certain participants of the informal group to share information and past experience.

Cedre/AXA XL partnership agreement

Since January, **AXA XL Insurance** policyholders who have an "environmental risks" policy have access to personalised advice in the event of an incident, via a hotline available 24/7 run by Cedre's experts. Ludovic Ruiller, Underwriting Manager, Environmental, France & Benelux at **XL Catlin**, a division of the AXA Group, explains: "French companies are increasingly aware of the need to reduce their exposure to environmental risks. They are not however immune to accidental pollution and when a spill occurs it is crucial to rapidly implement appropriate measures. This crisis

In short

Dates for the diary

- ▶ 14 May 2019: Cedre's Strategy Committee meeting
- ▶ 22 November 2019: Cedre Technical Day

Visits and presentations

- ▶ 5 Feb.: **Iroise Marine Nature Park** management committee meeting
- ▶ 5 Feb.: visit from a class of secondary school pupils from Froncles (Haute-Marne), in partnership with the French Navy
- ▶ 20 Feb.: visit from 12 students studying for a specialised diploma in Fisheries and Marine Environment Management at the vocational maritime school Paul Bousquet de Sète (Hérault)
- ▶ 21 & 22 Feb.: World Ocean Circulation User Consultation Meeting 2019, ESRIN, Frascati, Italy
- ▶ 25 Feb.: visit from AXAXL teams

Online video

- ▶ **2018 in pictures**: a video of last year's highlights is online on our YouTube channel "Cedre Brest"

management service will help our policyholders to identify these measures". XL Catlin's Sales Manager Francois-Xavier d'Huart adds: "Cedre is a partner of choice, respected for their expertise, and whose values we share. This collaboration adds to the differences which set us apart on the environmental insurance market". Cedre's Director Stéphane Doll sees in this partnership new evidence of his team's expertise and a bid of confidence in the advice provided for the past 40 years in the field of spill response.

Cedre's Polludrome® temporarily relocated

The first version of this experimentation flume tank was built in 1997. In 2011, the Polludrome® was replaced with the current model and has been in place ever since, housed in a custom-built air-conditioned room. In early 2019, the flume tank was ousted from its usual spot to make way for an experiment set to last several months and which calls for controlled temperature conditions. See the [big move in pictures](#). The Polludrome® or flume tank is designed to simulate offshore and river conditions on a pilot scale. It is able to recreate natural phenomena that influence the behaviour of pollutants liable to enter the natural environment, in order to study the behaviour of pollutants in conditions close to those found in the natural environment. The proportions of the substance (oil or chemical) which have dispersed, spread at the surface and emulsified can thus be determined. These parameters are determining factors in choosing the appropriate response equipment to be deployed in the event of a spill.

Find out more about the [Polludrome®](#) and our [experimental devices](#).

Ore carrier runs aground in the Solomon Islands

On 5th February, the ore carrier *Solomon Trader* was transporting a cargo of bauxite when it ran aground on the coral reefs of Rennell Island, a listed UNESCO World Heritage site, due to adverse weather conditions. A month later, attempts to salvage the vessel failed, again due to bad weather. 75 tonnes of heavy fuel oil escaped from the ship's tanks. Experts from Australia, New Zealand, the United States, Vanuatu, Singapore and Europe were sent onsite to respond to the spill, clean up the reef, pump out the estimated 600 tonnes of fuel oil remaining in the tanks and plug any leaks.

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