



## N° 277 E – News from March 2019

### Emergency response

The month of March was heavily marked by a number of incidents and in particular the [sinking of the Grande America](#) in the Bay of Biscay. Cedre's Emergency Response team supported the operations implemented by the French maritime emergency system ORSEC for the classification of the hazardous substances transported by the vessel and was also very involved in the coordination of the slick drift committee in partnership with [Ifremer](#), [SHOM](#) and [Météo France](#). Meanwhile, the Analysis and Resources Department was mobilised to analyse pollutant samples. The slick drift committee, set up at the request of the Maritime Prefect for the Atlantic, was tasked with the daily monitoring of the oil slicks and informing the authorities of their trajectories and the risks of oil reaching the shoreline. We also responded to enquiries from the different administrative departments in the South-Western Defence Zone, concerned by the consequences of this incident.

Meanwhile, the team also pursued its ongoing support for the Var authorities following the [CSL Virginia spill](#), as well as for Total, following the rupture of the Ile-de-France pipeline (PLIF), which contaminated the ground and certain watercourses. Finally, we provided assistance following a fire in a soybean silo, next to Brest's commercial port.

### Cedre Information Day 2019: a success!

The [Cedre Information Day](#) was held on 5th March in Paris, on the theme of "Marine Litter". It was attended by 62 participants: representatives of public sector organisations, industry, professional bodies and associations. It gave rise to interesting discussions and debates, and was also the opportunity to illustrate Cedre's investment and work in the field of marine litter. All the [speakers' presentations are available](#) on our website and you can watch the conference videos on our [YouTube channel Cedre Brest](#).

### Training course for Senegal's Total subsidiary in Dakar

Two engineers from Cedre visited Dakar from 4th to 8th March to deliver the contingency plan drafted by Cedre for the exploration activities of the [Senegalese Total subsidiary](#) in Dakar. The aim of this mission was to present the document and train the subsidiary's personnel in its use. An incident management exercise was organised to test the plan and integrate the final remarks following feedback from the simulation.

### AtlantOS meeting at UNESCO

On 28th March, Cedre attended the first international symposium of the [AtlantOS project](#) on Optimising and Enhancing the Integrated Atlantic Ocean Observing System, organised under the auspices of the United Nations and the European Union. This meeting aimed to bring the scientific community together to improve ocean observation capacities in order to take better account of maritime and ocean uses in a sustainable development approach for the coming decade. Cedre asserted the need to continue to develop sensors and databases which are vital for forecasting oil slick drift at sea.

### In short

#### Dates for the diary

- ▶ 10th May 2019: [Seminar on chemical spills in continental waters](#), in Châtenay-Malabry, organised by the French alliance of pharmacists belonging to the fire and rescue service
- ▶ 14th May 2019: Cedre's Strategy Committee meeting
- ▶ 9th to 14th Sept. 2019: Training course on "[Oil and HNS spill response in surface waters](#)", in English, at Cedre
- ▶ 16th to 21st Sept. 2019: Training course on "[Oil spill response on the shoreline and in rivers](#)", at FOST, Rognac
- ▶ 24th and 25th Sept. 2019: [9th congress on the Port of the future](#), in Lille
- ▶ 22nd November 2019: Cedre Technical Day

#### Visits and presentations

- ▶ 8th March: Visit from the Secretary-General for the Sea, Denis Robin

#### Online video

- ▶ [2018 in pictures](#): a video of last year's highlights is online on our YouTube channel "Cedre Brest"

#### Training courses

- ▶ From 11th to 13th March: "Aerial observation of pollution at sea", at Cedre, 17 participants
- ▶ 11th March: Conference for Brittany's [CNFPT](#) delegation, as part of a course for port supervisors. This lecture aimed to introduce the 12 port agents and officers to response techniques for different types of spills in ports
- ▶ From 25th to 28th March: "Maritime pollution crisis management training course", at Cedre, 14 participants

## Kick-off meeting for WestMOPoCo project

Funded by the EU Civil Protection Mechanism (DG ECHO), the two-year project WestMOPoCo (Western Mediterranean region Marine Oil & HNS Pollution Cooperation) began on 2nd January 2019 under the coordination of the *Secrétariat Général de la Mer* (see Cedre Newsletter N°275, January 2019). On 13th March, the project's launch meeting was held at SGMer headquarters in Paris and was attended by all the project partners: IMO (REMPEC), ITOPF, OSPAR Commission, HELCOM Commission, Cedre, ISPRA (*Istituto Superiore per la Protezione e la Ricerca Ambientale*, Italy), the *Commissariat National du Littoral d'Algérie*, Transport Malta, the Secretariat of State in charge of Sustainable Development under the Ministry of Energy, Mines and Sustainable Development (Morocco), the Spanish *Ministerio de Fomento*, and the Tunisian National Agency of Environment Protection. The meeting was a particular opportunity for Cedre to coordinate with ITOPF and ISPRA on the launch of preparations to draft the HNS response manual.

## Training for Morocco's national ports agency

From 18th to 21st March, Cedre took part in a training course in Mohammedia for 25 participants from the central management of the *Agence Nationale des Ports* (ANP) and from 15 ports in Morocco. This four-day course, organised by MATLEV, comprised six modules: four on national and international regulations relating to pollution prevention in ports and waste management, which were run by MATLEV and two modules on spill response which were run by Cedre on behalf of MATLEV. The two modules on response techniques for oil spills in ports were illustrated by a visit to the spill response stockpile for the port of Mohammedia and an exercise involving the deployment of containment and recovery equipment on the water.

## Conference at Euro-Mediterranean meeting on ports, boating and the shoreline

A speaker from Cedre took part in a panel session at the "Rencontres euro-méditerranéennes ports, nautisme, littoral" held on 27th and 28th March in Ajaccio, an event attended by 300 participants. This two-day programme comprised conferences, visits and experience sharing on the current challenges facing ports, pleasure boating, tourism and shoreline conservation. Speaking during the "Port litter prevention and management" session, Cedre presented its latest publication: an operational guide on pollution response in ports, produced with funding from the Loire-Brittany Water Agency and the Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition, with the participation of the *Association des Ports de Plaisance de l'Atlantique* (APPA), the *Grand Port Maritime de Nantes Saint-Nazaire* (GPMNSN) and HAROPA Ports de Paris. This operational guide is a complete overhaul of the first version published in 2007. It has a two-fold objective: to review regulatory and organisational aspects, and to provide keys to prevent spills in port areas and to appropriately respond to such spills.

## Paraffin on the Pas-de-Calais and Somme shorelines

From 14th March, large quantities of paraffin balls oiled the beaches from Crotoy (Baie de Somme) to Zuydcoote (Dunkirk region). An overflight by a Gendarmerie helicopter confirmed this pollution. According to the Manche authorities, this is a recurring and relatively common phenomenon. The Somme authorities advised the public not to touch the balls and to leave the municipality teams to recover these whitish or yellowish crumbly solidified clumps. Samples were taken and sent to Cedre from the 18th for analysis to determine the substance's exact composition. It is a non-toxic, harmless paraffin wax.

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