

N° 287 E – News from February 2020

Emergency response

The leaks detected from the wrecks of the *Grande America* and the *Tanio* have led to heightened vigilance along the shoreline, generating a high number of alerts. Currently, only the tarballs which washed up on the shores of the Loire-Atlantique area have been linked to the *Grande America* by Cedre's laboratory (samples from Vendée have not yet been received). The pollutant discovered in Belle-Île-en-Mer was shown to be a mixture of oils, suggesting that it is the result of illegal discharge. Several "false alarms", due to natural plant matter, raised doubts in the Finistère, Morbihan and Landes areas. Finally, the analyses conducted on the feathers of a guillemot taken to the Ile Grande rehabilitation centre (LPO) showed that they were covered in a substance resembling lubricant, with evidence of the presence of alkylphenols. Cedre took part, through video conferencing, in a follow-up meeting in relation to the Bassin aux Bois pollution following the fire at the Lubrizol plant (Rouen). We were also contacted by the *Compagnie Fluviale de Transport* following an incident involving the self-propelled barge *Pampero* on the Rhone in the Isère area. We supplied information on the risks relating to the cargo (vinyl chloride) and provided remote advice on the prevention plan established in case of a spill of diesel. Finally, we took part in an ICE (Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies) network ring test launched by the Polish focal point.

Cedre Information Day: 17th March

"Containers"

17th March 2020, in Paris La Défense,

On the premises of MTES
See the detailed programme,
and register now - there are a few places left!

In short

Visits and presentations

► On 13th, meeting of Cedre's Board of Governors and Annual General Meeting in Paris on the premises of *Armateurs de France*

Training

► 10th to 14th: first session of the course on "Aerial observation of pollution at sea" at Cedre, 16 participants

Hot off the press

► The English language version of the operational guide "**Wildlife Rehabilitation**", available [here](#)

Cedre takes part in Aqua Sûreté forum

Cedre was invited to share its experience in river pollution management at the 2nd edition of the AQUA SÛRETÉ forum on 6th February in Nîmes, within the framework of the *Entretiens Nîmes-Alès 2020* geared towards promoting higher education and research. This day of discussions between water sector professionals, under the auspices of André Viau, Honorary Prefect, and Franck Galland, CEO of *Environmental Emergency & Security Services*, comprised 3 panel sessions (management of accidental and intentional surface water pollution; protection of sensitive wastewater treatment facilities and crisis management in the event of environmental contamination; crisis communication and credibility of public and scientific speaking) and a presentation session on technological innovations in the field of the safety and security of hydraulic facilities and resource pollution response.

West MOPoCo at HELCOM meeting

The 27th meeting of the HELCOM (Baltic Marine Environment Protection Commission) Response Working Group was held from 26 to 28 February in Vejle, Denmark. The West MOPoCo project team (Newsletters 275, 277, 281) took this opportunity to present the project as well as the progress made on the Joint inter-regional HNS Response Manual. This manual, drafted by Cedre, ISPRA and ITOPF, stems from the desire expressed by contracting parties to the regional agreements for the Baltic (HELCOM), the North Sea (Bonn Agreement) and the Mediterranean (Barcelona Convention) to have a joint response guide. The drafting team presented the first draft to HELCOM members and Secretariat, as well as to the Bonn Agreement Secretariat, *Rempec* and DG-ECHO, also in attendance at the meeting. Taking advantage of the presence of several project partners in Vejle, a steering committee meeting was held on the 28th through video conferencing with the Mediterranean beneficiary countries.

IMO Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response

From 17 to 21 February, Cedre attended the meeting of the Sub-Committee on Pollution Prevention and Response held at the *International Maritime Organization* in London. This session addressed several issues: prohibiting heavy fuel oil in the Arctic, discharge from scrubbers, marine plastic litter, in particular the accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear, and ballast water management. Cedre was particularly involved in the working group on prohibiting the use of heavy fuel oil in the Arctic: the Sub-Committee agreed draft amendments to introduce a prohibition on the use and carriage for use as fuel of heavy fuel oil (HFO) by ships in Arctic waters from 1st July 2024, with the exception of vessels whose bunker tanks are protected by a double hull (2029). The Sub-Committee also established a correspondence group to

further develop draft guidelines on measures to reduce risks of use and carriage of HFO as fuel by ships in Arctic waters. As concerns discharge at sea from “scrubbers” (exhaust gas cleaning systems), it was decided that the scope of work should include risk assessment, impact assessment, identification of local restrictions, a review of regulatory requirements and the creation of a database of substances discharged. Discussions on the issue of marine litter gave rise to a proposal to amend the MARPOL convention (International Convention for the Prevention of Pollution from Ships) to enforce, facilitate and enhance reporting of the accidental loss or discharge of fishing gear. The work will be led by France within a working group. Finally, discussions on ballast water management resulted in the acceptance of proposals put forward by France in relation to ballast water sample analysis techniques.

Experimentation preparation in French Guiana

At the beginning of the month, an engineer from Cedre travelled to French Guiana as part of a project on the behaviour and fate of oil in a tropical environment. This project, launched in 2019, is funded by the [French Ministry for the Ecological and Inclusive Transition \(MTES\)](#), Cedre, and oil and gas company [Total](#). It is run by a team of scientists from Cedre and the [Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography \(MIO\)](#). It also benefits from support from the [French Navy](#) and [DGTM](#), [CNRS Guyane](#) as well as [CNES \(Centre National d'Etudes Spatiales\)](#). The project comprises an initial in situ experimentation phase on the Île Royale site intended to assess the behaviour of an oil slick at sea. This trial, scheduled to take place in early March, will apply the “mesocosm” approach used by Cedre for over 20 years in Brest’s roadstead and, more recently, in Arctic conditions, in the Svalbard archipelago. After one week of weathering at sea, the oil will be recovered and used for a second experimentation phase conducted ex situ at Dégrad des Cannes naval base. The objective of this trial is to study the fate of weathered oil in water with sediment in suspension, as can be found along the coasts of French Guiana. To do so, Cedre’s Shoreline Test Bench (12 tanks placed on a shaker table) will be used on site for an 18-day period. This assignment aims to finalise the experimental protocol and finetune the logistical details which are always very constrictive for this type of experimental study. Further information will be provided on this project in our April Newsletter following the completion of the experimentation.

Cedre attends Science and Environment Forum in Quebec

At the invitation of [CEGRIM \(Centre of expertise in marine incident risk management\)](#), Cedre took part in the 72nd Science and Environment Forum organised in Quebec by [MELCC](#) (Ministry of the Environment and the Fight against Climate Change) on the theme of “Integrated management of risks related to maritime incidents to better preserve the environment”. Cedre presented its organisation and missions, as well as the lessons learnt from two recent maritime incidents (the collision between the *Ulysse* and *CSL Virginia* and the fire onboard the *Grande America*). These few days with CEGRIM were the opportunity for the two organisations to address different themes. Cedre’s engineer present on site also ran a training course on planning and response for the CEGRIM team and representatives of [CEAEQ](#) (Quebec’ centre of expertise in environmental analysis) and [BCU](#) (Quebec’s emergency coordination bureau). Here’s hoping that these relations between Cedre and CEGRIM will lead to long-lasting and productive collaboration!

"Wildlife Rehabilitation" operational guide out now in English!

The English language version of the operational guide on wildlife rehabilitation has just been released in digital format. This practical guide focuses on wildlife response in the event of oil pollution. In addition to bird rehabilitation, it also addresses the procedures applicable to pinnipeds, otters and turtles. The document can be downloaded free of charge from our website in both [English](#) and [French](#).

Cedre partners Brest 2020 International Maritime Festival (8th edition)

Aware of the potential ecological impact of one of the world’s largest maritime gatherings, the association [Brest Événements Nautiques](#), organisers of [Brest's International Maritime Festival](#), continues, year after year, to strive to reduce to a minimum the event’s environmental footprint. Cedre is a partner in the European [CleanAtlantic](#) project which aims to monitor, prevent and remove marine litter in the Atlantic. The maritime festival is the perfect opportunity for Cedre and the event organisers to work together to raise public awareness of marine pollution by litter. This partnership, formalised by an agreement signed on 3rd February, aims to:

- obtain data input for Cedre’s current research (recordings before and after Brest 2020),
- provide the festival organisers with Cedre’s expertise,
- gather all stakeholders who contribute to making Brest 2020 an eco-responsible festival,
- organise awareness-raising actions among a broad public (over 700,000 people expected),
- share good practices through the European project [CleanAtlantic](#) with Brest 2020’s partners and stakeholders.

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