



Cedre NEWSLETTER

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Emergency response

Most of the calls we received this month were from MRCCs in France. We also received six requests for advice or recommendations following incidences of pollution observed from aircraft or onshore witnesses. Advice was provided after examining photos and holding discussions with the MRCCs. Cedre was also called upon by the [Office Français de la Biodiversité](#) after supposed “pollution” was observed close to a lock in Dieppe. Based on the photos provided, it was not possible to determine the substance in question (which turned out to be microalgae). Cedre was contacted by [DDT Corrèze](#) to provide advice following a diesel spill from a lorry which involved in an accident on a highway, then in a rainwater retention basin. In terms of exercises, Cedre was mobilised by [NCEC](#) to model a chemical spill. We called upon chemical industry players in Germany and the UK as part of a MAR-ICE exercise organised by Cedre based on a scenario inspired by the [Lykes Liberator](#) incident.

In short

Training

- ▶ 7th to 11th September: oil spill response in inland waters
- ▶ 14th to 18th September: oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline
- ▶ 28th September to 1st October: pollution crisis management

Hot off the press

- ▶ Cedre's [Annual Report 2019](#)
- ▶ New publication: [Pollustats 2019](#). Worldwide spill statistics. See also [Pollustats 2017](#) and [2018](#).

Cedre's Strategy Committee

Initially scheduled on 28th May at [CNPP](#), Cedre's 51st Strategy Committee meeting was held on 19th June by webconference. This meeting, in shortened format, was nevertheless the opportunity to discuss the consequences of the COVID-19 epidemic on Cedre's activities and in particular on the progress of the projects supported by the Committee members. The investment master plan for the next 5-year period was then presented. One highlight of the meeting was the chance to share initial thoughts on potential new projects to be initiated next year under the technical programme. These discussions will be pursued during the summer. Finally, upcoming events to be organised by Cedre were also scheduled. The next Technical Day will be held at Cedre on 26th November 2020 on the theme of Overseas France and the 52nd Strategy Committee meeting will be held the following day, also at Cedre. The postponed [Information Day on containers](#), which was unable to take place in March, has been rescheduled for 23rd March 2021 at MTES in Paris, and the 53rd Strategy Committee meeting will be held in May 2021 at CNPP.

Meeting of Cedre's Board of Governors

Cedre's Board of Governors met on 19th June chaired by François Cuillandre, by videoconference for the first time due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Director presented the 2019 financial statement and annual report, which has been given a revamp to mark Cedre's 40th anniversary. Its structure has been revised and a new section added: a chapter on aquatic litter. Patricia Mani, President of the Strategy Committee, then presented an overview of the Strategy Committee meeting, held that morning, and reminded attendees that the survey on topics of interest for 2021 would be sent out to the members in July, to be returned by the end of August. The multi-annual investment master plan was then presented. The Director reminded participants that the unprecedented situation had caused the investments and works programme for 2020 to be revised and that this would no doubt also affect the 2021 investments programme. The meeting ended by addressing a few current topics and with a reminder of Cedre's response capacity and duty team, which remained fully operational throughout lockdown.

Success for first remote training session

The first session of our pollution crisis management training course, postponed due to measures in place in March due to the COVID-19 pandemic, was held remotely through webinars from 2nd to 4th June. The participants enrolled were able to attend the course by logging in to the various virtual classrooms, via [our new online training centre](#). All the speakers, both in-house and external, took up the challenge and the participant feedback is very positive, despite the absence of the traditional table-top exercise which usually concludes the course. This is the first time that Cedre has run training in this format, but certainly not the last, thanks to the tools Cedre is developing which open up new possibilities in terms of remote learning.

Back in the field for national shoreline litter monitoring

After being suspended in the spring due to the COVID-19 pandemic, national shoreline litter monitoring, coordinated by Cedre, resumed in June for the various operators in the national shoreline litter monitoring network with the implementation of the summer surveys. On 19th June, Cedre visited the Stang monitoring site (Saint-Jean-Trolimon, Finistère) that it is responsible for, in order to collect litter and take sediment samples and samples from the high tide mark with a view to studying the presence of microplastics. During sampling, special attention was paid to the presence of Kentish plover nests near to the monitoring site. A particular focus was placed on litter generated by the COVID-19 pandemic (disposable face masks, gloves, etc.). The different samples collected were taken to Cedre for analysis. The data collected will be used as input for monitoring programmes under the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#) and the [OSPAR Convention](#).

Training: on-site sessions to resume in late August

Here at Cedre, true to our quality and environmental commitments, we are preparing to resume our **on-site training courses in late August**, while ensuring we fulfil our duty to protect our employees, trainers, trainees and suppliers. New measures have therefore been introduced due to the COVID-19 pandemic:

- Reinforcement of prevention plans and HSEQ awareness-raising actions by integrating distancing measures, one-way systems and good hygiene practices;
- Installation of hand hygiene stations for mandatory hand sanitising upon entering the buildings;
- Mandatory wearing of face coverings in communal areas and during activities requiring their use;
- Differentiated management of building entry/exit and creation of separate pedestrian traffic lanes for visitors and employees;
- Display of multiple posters on good hygiene practices;
- Reorganisation of training room layouts to ensure strict compliance with distancing measures;
- Definition of an appropriate catering solution (breaks and lunches);
- New arrangements for the cleaning and disinfection of the premises.

With this new organisation in place, we look forward to welcoming you at one of our inter or intracompany, standard or bespoke training courses. For further information please see the [training section of our website](#), our [training catalogue](#) and our [training calendar](#).

OSPAR Convention Beach Litter Expert Group meeting

On 6th June, Cedre organised and led the first 2020 meeting, via video conferencing, of the [OSPAR Convention's Beach Litter Expert Group](#). This group, led by Cedre for France and with support from the Netherlands, gathers shoreline litter experts from different countries in the OSPAR area. It was set up in 2019 to provide support to the Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter (ICG-ML), in particular to facilitate the beach litter monitoring programme, by improving protocols, securing and consolidating data and contributing to recurrent assessments of the quality of the marine environment conducted by OSPAR. This meeting, attended by 13 participants from 8 countries, was the opportunity to discuss the protocols and data management. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on monitoring was also discussed.

A successful pilot year for the participatory science programme "Plastique à la loupe !"

The pilot phase of the participatory science programme entitled "Plastique à la loupe !" (Plastic under the magnifying glass) for school pupils came to a close with a webcast on 23rd June to present the pupils with the results obtained by the 60 classes involved this year. This programme led by the [Fondation Tara Océan](#) and conducted in partnership with Cedre, the [Observatoire Océanologique de Banyuls-sur-Mer \(OOB\)](#), the [Fondation la Main à la Pâte](#) and [ADEME](#) aims to assess shoreline and river bank pollution in France while raising awareness of plastic pollution among school pupils. Sampling was carried out on around 60 sites on the shoreline and river banks in January and February by high school classes from all over France, using protocols defined by Cedre and OOB to quantify and characterise pollution by litter and microplastics. The data collected, which is unique given the number of sites sampled and the fact that it covers both river banks and the shoreline, was analysed by Cedre, where we are currently working on the feasibility of using this data as part of the national litter monitoring conducted under the [Marine Strategy Framework Directive](#). The programme is set to continue next year, on a broader scale, involving 130 schools across France.

6th CleanAtlantic project coordination meeting

On 30th June and 1st July, Cedre took part in the 6th [CleanAtlantic project](#) coordination meeting. This project led by [CETMAR \(Centro Tecnológico del Mar, Spain\)](#) is devoted to tackling marine litter in the Atlantic Area. It aims to protect biodiversity and ecosystem services in the Atlantic area by strengthening preventative capability, monitoring and marine litter disposal. Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, the project was able to stay on track thanks to the strong involvement of its 13 partners. The meeting was organised by video conference and was the opportunity to present the progress of the various actions. Cedre presented its work on shoreline litter, mitigation initiatives, good shoreline clean-up practices and the impact of cigarette butts and cotton buds on the marine environment.

Cedre training courses go digital

Following a feasibility and development study conducted as part of our technical programme, Cedre embarked on the digital transition of its training activities in 2017. Seeking partnerships to develop these new tools and in particular to create a dedicated hosting platform, Cedre and the [International Office for Water](#) decided to work together. It was through this collaboration that our online training centre came to fruition and was opened to the public in early April. This platform has become an integral part of Cedre's learning ecosystem and allows the participants enrolled in our on-site courses to access the learning materials and additional resources before, during and after the course. By creating an account, trainees can chat with the other participants in their group and with the trainers. In this way, Cedre can keep in touch with trainees and provide long-term personalised support. In June, Cedre also released two 2-hour e-learning modules: one on surveying sites polluted by oil and the other, developed with support from the [Region of Brittany](#), on the behaviour of chemicals spilt in water. The English version of these modules will be released during the summer, and the platform is also due to be translated into English in full in the coming months. Want more information, fancy giving it a go? [Pop along to our online training centre!](#)

Series of spills in Siberia (Russia)

On 29th May, a 30-year-old diesel storage tank at Norilsk Nickel thermal power plant collapsed and caused a leak of some 15,000 tonnes into the neighbouring Ambarnaya River and nearly 6,000 tonnes onto the surrounding land. The power plant is based in Norilsk, some 300 km from the Arctic Circle. One of the possible causes of the disaster may have been the thaw of permafrost, due to climate change, combined with the ageing structure. A state of emergency was quickly declared and on 5th June the Russian ministry in charge of emergencies announced that the spill was contained thanks to booms and fuel pumping. On the same day, the Russian President ordered a review of all hazardous infrastructures built on permafrost. On the evening of the 8th, the authorities announced that the spill continued to spread, reaching Lake Pyasino and, in late June, the Pyasino river. The response to this spill is particularly complicated given that the Ambarnaya River is difficult to access and that violent winds were constantly moving the spill, causing teams and equipment to have to shift location. In early June, Norilsk Nickel's majority shareholder declared that the company would fully cover clean-up costs, estimated at 10 billion Rubles (€128 million). Furthermore, on the 28th, Norilsk Nickel admitted that one of its ore processing plants, in Talnakh some 25 km north of Norilsk, had discharged contaminated wastewater into the environment. The wastewater had overflowed from a tank, but, according to the company, the leak had been stopped. An investigation is underway.

APL England: loss of containers in Australia

On 24th May, while travelling from China to Melbourne (Australia) in adverse weather conditions, the container ship *APL England* suffered temporary propulsion loss 73 km south-east of Sydney (Australia), leading to the loss of 50 containers (containing plastic items such as baby seats, surgical face masks and pet accessories). 74 additional containers were also damaged. After inspection on 26th May of the *APL England*, detained in the Port of Brisbane, the container loss was found to be due to inadequate lashing arrangements for cargo and heavily corroded securing points. Meanwhile, overflights of the coastline were conducted to locate the containers lost overboard. Some were found still attached together. By 15th June, only 15 containers had been recovered and 35 were still missing.

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