

## N° 295 E – News from November 2020

### Emergency response

November was unusually calm for the duty team. After discovering a large number of plastic bottles (around 250) washed up on Bray-Dunes beach (see [Newsletter 293](#)), Dunkirk's maritime police sent us a sample. Our laboratory determined that the bottles contained hydraulic oil. We also received samples of what may be paraffin on the shores of Porspoder (Finistère). Testing is currently in progress. We were also called upon by [NCEC](#) (UK) for an ICE (Intervention in Chemical transport Emergencies) ring test focusing on acetone.

### 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Cedre's Strategy Committee

The 52<sup>nd</sup> meeting of Cedre's Strategy Committee was held remotely on 27th November. Traditionally held at our premises as a day-long meeting, the autumn session was condensed into two 2-hour sessions, one in the morning and the other in the afternoon, during which the projects proposed for our 2021 Technical Programme were presented to the attendees. Some fifty or so proposals relating to response and cooperation, knowledge development, response preparedness, documentation and support for public policies in the field of aquatic litter were presented by our department managers. Around half focused on ongoing actions conducted within the remit of our public service mission while the other half related to the continuation of multiannual projects, in particular many supported by the European Union or the French National Research Agency [ANR](#), as well as new actions due to begin next year. Discussions revolved around the identification of projects considered as priorities for our members as well as the scope of the different actions to be implemented in 2021. This dialogue is set to continue for a few days in order to finalise Cedre's 2021 work programme by the end of the year.

### Cedre Technical Day

Every year, the day before our Strategy Committee meeting held in Brest, we organise a Technical Day, which gives us the chance to meet our partners to discuss one or two technical subjects in a bid to pinpoint opportunities for future work and collaboration. This year, given the public health measures in place, it was not possible to organise this day in the usual way. We did however invite our members to attend 2 webinars presenting the results of two study programmes carried out over the past years at Cedre as part of our Technical Programme. The first presentation focused on the comparative study of oil drift and behaviour prediction models conducted thanks to funding from the [French Navy](#) and [Total](#) and with support from the drift committee members ([Ifremer](#), [SHOM](#), [Météo-France](#)) and several French and foreign partners willing to compare their models. The second webinar consisted in an overview of the annual response equipment tests organised since 2013 in the Loire estuary with financial support from the [Maritime Affairs Directorate](#) and [Total](#), and technical support from the [Grand Port Maritime de Nantes-Saint-Nazaire](#), [Phares et Balises](#), [FOST](#), [CEPPOL](#) as well as the manufacturers of the equipment tested.

### Qualiopi certification

Alongside the certification process with the UK's [Nautical Institute \(NI\)](#), which culminated in Cedre becoming an NI-accredited training provider in compliance with IMO standards (IMO OPRC 0, 1, 2 and 3 and IMO OPRC-HNS 1 and 2), see [Newsletter 294](#), our teams have also been working towards obtaining the French Qualiopi certification. Following an audit conducted in early November by [SGS](#), Cedre was awarded Qualiopi certification, on 13th November, under the French national reference system on the quality of actions contributing to skill development, for its training actions. This certification is valid for 4 years.

### In short

#### Dates for the diary

- ▶ 4th December, visit from the 2020/2021 class studying for a Master's degree in [Law of Maritime Activities](#) at [UBO](#), 20 students
- ▶ 4th December, member of the panel of judges for the grand finale of [Ocean Hackathon®](#)
- ▶ 7th to 10th December: Shoreline pollution crisis management training course, held online
- ▶ 8th December, meeting of Cedre's Board of Governors
- ▶ 23rd March 2021, Cedre Information Day in Paris (La Défense), on the theme of "Containers". See the [detailed programme here](#).

#### Training

- ▶ 12th to 16th October: Oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline, at Cedre, 18 participants

#### Visits and presentations

- ▶ 6th November, [Iroise Marine Nature Park \(PNMI\)](#) management committee meeting

#### Hot off the press

- ▶ Read the latest [Information Bulletin n°40](#) in English, with a focus on aquatic litter

## E-learning module: surveying sites polluted by oil

In every major spill, the oil site survey phase is of primary importance. This enables decision-makers to determine response priorities, obtain information on the condition of the shoreline at any given moment, allocate adequate personnel and equipment to be deployed as well as define the most appropriate techniques. During 2020, Cedre added a new 2-hour module on this theme to its [e-learning platform](#). The aim is to train any person liable to assist the spill response authorities in relation to oiled site surveys and more specifically to teach trainees to identify the relevant, important information to be collected and passed on for clean-up operations; to conduct a field survey; to accurately complete a standardised survey form; to divide a shoreline site into segments and describe the pollution. The English language version of this module is currently being finalised and will be available on our online training platform by the end of the year.

## Training: merchant ships and the role of shipping industry stakeholders in maritime incidents

Our training course on "Merchant ships and the role of shipping industry stakeholders in maritime incidents" was run from 3rd to 5th November. This course, attended by 14 participants from the [French Navy](#) and [French Customs'](#) coast guard department, was entirely run remotely due to the public health measures in effect. Eighteen virtual classes were delivered by some fifteen recognised maritime industry professionals, all specialists in their field, via [our e-learning platform](#). Lecturers and trainees alike willingly played their part, some for the first time, and did so admirably well, resulting in all-round satisfaction. The tools acquired by Cedre once again proved their worth, thus validating the strategy for the development for new learning modules to meet the needs of the current context and of our partners.

## Response equipment chemical compatibility trials reach completion

The trials conducted in Cedre's laboratory as part of a project on the compatibility of response equipment with chemicals, supported by the [Maritime Affairs Directorate](#) and [CEPPOL](#), came to a close in November. The aim of this project is to conduct an inventory of equipment available in stockpiles that can be used on chemical spills, then to assess the compatibility of the materials of which they are made with a selection of chemicals. This assessment is based on the data available in the literature as well as on the results of trials involving the immersion of equipment samples and their mechanical resistance to towing, the latter being conducted by [Brest university's mechanical engineering department](#). The samples tested were from booms, tanks and protective suits.

## OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter

Cedre took part in the meeting of the [OSPAR Intersessional Correspondence Group on Marine Litter \(ICG-Marine Litter\)](#) held by videoconference on 23rd, 24th and 25th. This meeting, attended by over 40 people, was divided into two parts. The first session was devoted to the presentation of the actions implemented by the expert groups associated with the different litter indicators; Cedre presented the work of the Beach Litter Expert Group of which it is the lead. We also ran a discussion workshop on the expected beach litter trends over the coming years in the OSPAR area following the implementation of several mitigation measures. The second session focused on the Regional Action Plan (RAP) for Marine Litter, for which a progress review of the different actions was conducted by the Member States. Cedre outlined the contributions of the [CleanAtlantic](#) project on behalf of the project consortium.

## Pyrolysis analysis workshop and MICRO2020 conference

On 18th November, Cedre took part in a workshop on the analysis of microplastics by pyrolysis-GC-MS, an analytical technique used at Cedre which is proving promising for the analysis of very small plastic particles. This workshop, run as a videoconference within the framework of the [research group on Polymers and Oceans](#), brought together the national scientific community that implements this technique with a view to sharing experience and good practices as well as contributing to its development. From 23rd to 27th, Cedre also attended the international conference [MICRO2020](#) on the fate and impacts of microplastics. This year the event was held entirely online and attracted over 2,500 scientists, with over 500 communications. It was the opportunity for us to hold discussions with the scientific community on pollution by microplastics, as France's leader for national monitoring of microplastics in beach sediment.

## Support for aquatic litter response initiatives

On 3rd November, Cedre took part in an online debate on litter characterisation methods, organised by the consultancy firm [Tehop](#) and [CITEO](#). As part of this consultation, we presented the characterisation methods used in France for national monitoring of beach litter and litter from drainage basins. On the 19th, Cedre also took part in a videoconference for the kick-off of the QPS Grau-Du-Roi project, led by [Seaquarium](#). This project is funded by Europe (EMFF) under the fisheries local action group GALPA Vidourle and co-funded by the [Région Occitanie](#) and the [Communauté de Communes Terre de Camargue](#). It aims to come up with alternative solutions for expanded polystyrene (EPS) fish boxes and/or to ensure better material management and reuse options in order to reduce this form of pollution and better preserve marine resources. Cedre has since joined the project's steering committee to share the knowledge acquired through the European project [OceanWise](#) of which it is a partner and which aims to reduce the presence of expanded and extruded polystyrene in the marine environment.

## European Researchers' Night 2020 meets with resounding success

We once again took part in the [European Researcher's Night](#), this year organised entirely online. In this original format, we had to choose a single theme and present it in the form of a scientific experiment. Our chosen theme for the live streamed video was aquatic litter and in particular polystyrene. The experiment investigated conventional plastic and bioplastic, as a good or bad alternative. We also addressed the issues of biodegradable, compostable and biosourced plastics. Presented in a fun way against the setting chosen by the organisers of "Little Nocturnal Secrets", the theme attracted numerous viewers who watched live or the replay and entered the grand quiz organised by [Océanopolis](#). Cedre also participated in the panel session on the theme of plastics, hosted by [Radio U](#). The need to innovate for this new format was in fact the opportunity to develop a new form of communication with the general public about our activities and expertise. Although this year's edition was far removed from its original format which allows direct contact with the public, it could nonetheless figure alongside our usual stand in future editions.

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