



N° 303 E – News from July/August 2021

Emergency response

In July, Cedre took part in the OPALEX exercise involving three departments in northern France (Nord, Pas de Calais and Somme), with an agent from Cedre on site as well as remote support, in particular in relation to drift modelling and oil weathering. We were also contacted by [MRCC Lagarde](#) to interpret aerial photos of a slick which proved to be oil. We were notified by the [Maison du Sillon](#) (Pleubian) of strandings of paraffin. Two samples analysed in the laboratory confirmed the product's identity. [DDTM 29](#) questioned us on how best to process waste recovered following a pollution incident off Ushant Island on 30th June. At the request of the [Côtes d'Armor Departmental Council](#), 2 experts were dispatched to Loguivy-de-la-mer to advise on lifting the shellfish harvesting ban following the spill that occurred on 26th April. Cedre was involved in the response to a spill of synthetic oil in the offshore wind farm in the Bay of Saint-Brieuc (Côtes d'Armor). Information on the product's behaviour and the response options was requested and samples were received for analysis. Finally, Cedre was called upon as part of an [ICE](#) exercise initiated by the German centre and information on argon was provided.

In August, Cedre's on-call team was contacted in relation to an information request, participation in the [Balex Delta](#) exercise and support in the response to two incidents. The request for information was made by [MRCC Corsen](#) and involved analysing photos to determine the identity of a substance observed at the water surface. The Balex Delta exercise involved potential spills of 5 Hazardous and Potentially Noxious Substances (HNS) and the activation of [MAR-ICE, level 2](#). Following a fire at the premises of an agricultural equipment supplier (Le Gall in Plouenan, Finistère), we were asked about the possible contamination by smoke of a market gardening area located 800 m from the fire. Cedre contacted [CASU](#) (INERIS Emergency Situation Response Unit) and provided the methodological guide and references drafted by INERIS' [RIPA network](#). Finally, after an LPG truck (code UN1965) overturned on a road in Milizac (Finistère), we were contacted, in our role as a [Transaid](#) contact point, by the fire brigade ([SDIS](#)) in order to provide advice relating to the lifting of the truck.

In short

► Cedre Information Day on containers held on 27th March:

The videos of the 11 presentations are now online on our [YouTube channel](#)

► Crisis management training: pollution of water resources: [Presentation video](#) now online

Dates for the diary

► 13th to 17th September: training course on oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline, at Cedre

► 20th to 23rd September: marine pollution crisis management course, at Cedre

Hot off the press

► The [English language version of Cedre Information Bulletin n°41](#)

► [Cedre's 2020 Annual Report](#)

► [Pollustats 2020](#). Worldwide spill statistics for 2020

Balex Delta 2021 exercise in Finland

At the invitation of the Finnish Border Guard, two engineers from Cedre took part in the Balex Delta 2021 exercise organised near Kotka. This large-scale exercise, organised annually by the [HELCOM](#) contracting parties, was based on an ambitious scenario: a collision between a chemical tanker and an oil tanker resulting in a xylene leak and a spill of 20,000 tonnes of oil. The marine response was carried out by vessels belonging to HELCOM contracting parties as well as an [EMSA](#) vessel simulating the casualty chemical tanker. The inshore response and shoreline clean-up were implemented by the emergency services and volunteers. Cedre was an observer and assessor for the activation of [MAR-ICE](#) by the Finnish authorities, the HNS response at sea, the preparation phase for shoreline clean-up and the setting up of a bird rehabilitation centre. Cedre's engineers mobilised on site were also able to observe some of the oil spill response operations at sea.

Training for MAU supervisors and experts - REMPEC/Cedre

Following the expert mission by the **Mediterranean Assistance Unit (MAU)** in Lebanon in March 2021, mobilised to assess the situation following shoreline pollution by heavy fuel oil, **REMPEC** organised, within the framework of the MAU and in cooperation with the **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)**, the United Nations Resident Coordinator (UNRC) and the **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)**, an online training course funded by IMO's **Integrated Technical Cooperation Programme (ITCP)**. This course, consisting of two half-days, was attended by supervisors and experts from private clean-up contractors, municipalities, relevant local UN agencies and the Lebanese Ministry of the Environment. The training provided the knowledge required to supervise clean-up, collection, transport and waste storage along a 25 km stretch of Lebanon's southern coastline. These operations were scheduled to be launched at the end of June and completed by the end of August 2021. This training course was run on 24th and 25th June by Cedre, a member of the MAU, via its e-learning platform elearning.cedre.fr. Further exchanges, discussions and experience sharing are due to take place within the framework of this action and will be planned at the end of the summer.

Technical response equipment assessments in Morocco

Two engineers from Cedre were in Morocco during the first two weeks of August to carry out technical assessments of spill response equipment stored in Morocco's ports. For this project, **ANP (National Ports Agency)** contracted **Matlev Consulting**, specialised in port and maritime projects, which called upon Cedre to assist with the project. The main ports of Nador, Casablanca, Mohammedia and Agadir were visited for the study. Visits were also organised to other port areas such as Ras Kabdana and Al Hoceima (Mediterranean coast), Kenitra (river port), Medhia and the new port of Safi (Atlantic coast), during which Cedre met with ANP officials, port officers and managers in charge of environmental and pollution response aspects, as well as with contractors in charge of maintaining and deploying ANP pollution response equipment. The main objective of the project was to carry out an inventory for each region and each port, in order to assess the ports' needs in terms of pollution response equipment, in particular with a view to equipping certain port areas currently lacking first-line response resources. This mission was also the opportunity to review the ports' needs and expectations in the field of contingency planning (port spill response plan), the training of spill response personnel and the organisation of response equipment deployment exercises.

Litter monitoring in the Basque country

From 5th to 9th July, agents from Cedre were in the Basque country to deploy the national monitoring network for litter from drainage basins (**RNS-MD-BH**). During this mission, surveys were carried out on river banks, resulting in the integration of two new monitoring sites in the RNS-MD-BH. The first, on the banks of the Adour, upstream of the estuary, was opened in collaboration with Surfrider Foundation, which will be the operator for this site. The second, on the banks of the Bidasoa, was opened in collaboration with the manager of the Domaine d'Abbadia, a protected natural site owned by the Conservatoire du Littoral (France's coastal protection agency). Initial data for these sites are expected in the next semester. These data will be used to characterise the litter input from waterways into the sea.

Beach litter monitoring in the Bay of Audierne (Finistère)

On 13th July, agents from Cedre once again visited Saint-Jean-Trolimon, on Stang beach, to carry out the third season of beach litter monitoring. Macro-litter on the surface and microplastics in the sediment were sampled in compliance with the usual protocols. In addition, mesoplastics and large microplastics were collected from the sediment surface following the protocol tested in April. All the litter sampled will be brought back to Cedre where it will be sorted, identified and quantified to provide input to the **national marine litter monitoring programme**.

Additional microplastic analyses for the MICMAC project

From 5th to 9th July, the **IMRCP laboratory** (Molecular Interactions and Chemical and Photochemical Reactivities, Toulouse) hosted engineers from Cedre at its premises in order to carry out additional analyses as part of the **MICMAC** research project (MICroplastic, MACroplastic: an assessment of pollution levels in the Scattered Islands; a project funded as part of the "Scattered Islands" inter-agency research programme led by the **French Southern and Antarctic Territories**). Microplastics between 0.5 and 1 mm in size extracted from the sediments of the 4 Scattered Islands studied were analysed by pyrolysis-GC/MS to determine their chemical nature. Our presence in Toulouse was also the chance for us to reinforce the links between our organisations and to discuss future collaboration opportunities.

Completion of the Marina du Château polystyrene experiment (Brest, Finistère)

The study on expanded and extruded polystyrenes and their alternatives (see **Cedre Newsletter n°300**) ended on 3rd August, when the last samples were taken. The experimental facility set up at the Marina du Château (Brest, Finistère) was removed a few days later. In agreement with the managers of the Marina, the display panel for the experiment remained in place throughout the summer and will be removed in September. The next step will now focus on analysing the many samples.

Oil filtration tests in an open pipe

As part of the 2021 assessment programme of response techniques at sea and on the shoreline, filtration tests were carried out in an open pipe. The tests followed on from the 2019 programme during which the pilot-scale test system was designed. Experiments were conducted using various materials [fabric including geotextile, bulk sorbent (straw and spaghetti strips)], and different combinations using one or two filters were tested for the three oils released (diesel, medium crude and heavy fuel oil). Based on the conclusions of the study, the most relevant materials and combinations can be defined for each pollutant.

Evaluation of oil flows in the Arctic

As part of the study programme on oil behaviour in the Arctic Sea, funded by UFIP and TOTAL Energies, Cedre collaborated with the Norwegian institute Akvaplan Niva in order to assess oil flows in the Arctic region, evaluate the potential risk of a major spill and pre-identify the behaviour of products likely to be spilled. Through this collaboration, local policies, particularly in relation to dispersant use, were studied and a non-exhaustive inventory of possible response equipment and techniques was drawn up.

Optimisation of the deep-sea oil behaviour experimentation column

During the summer, Cedre's C3 experimentation column was optimised to enhance the study of the dissolution of gas bubbles as they rise through an infinite water column, as a function of different environmental parameters (temperature and salinity). This work was carried out within the framework of the deep-sea oil behaviour study which receives financial support from Total Energies and UFIP.

Meeting with Brest municipality

At the beginning of the summer, the Director and the Deputy Director and Operations Manager met with Mr Xavier Hamon, Deputy Mayor of Brest (Finistère) in charge of safety in establishments open to the public (ERP), whose responsibilities include public health management, risk management and municipal signage, to present Cedre and its missions. The pollution risks in the Brest area and future cooperation in this field were also addressed.

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