

N° 309 E – News from February 2022

Emergency response

February was a particularly busy month for our duty team. We received enquiries on the measures to be taken following the contamination of a wastewater treatment plant with paint, in Sarthe. Various discussions were also held with the Réunion authorities about the *Tresta Star*, a Mauritian-flagged oil tanker that ran aground on the coast of Réunion Island following Cyclone Batsirai. Again in the Indian Ocean: we advised [Mayotte Marine Nature Park](#) in relation to tanks filled with waste engine oil at risk of spilling into a port. Far further north, in the Atlantic this time, the Saint Pierre and Miquelon authorities enquired about the procedure for sampling oiled bird feathers. At the request of the [French maritime authority for the Atlantic](#), we looked into the containers lost overboard from the *Wec Van Eyck*. We were also contacted after sheen was discovered in Moselle. Finally, small-scale strandings were reported at several locations on the French coastline: tarballs in Morbihan and Pas-de-Calais, and grease and blocks resembling paraffin in Finistère. For most of these cases, our laboratory was involved. We were also called on after supposed pollutants were observed on the water and the shoreline, in French Guiana and Loire-Atlantique. We of course continued to monitor the pollution following the crude oil spill in the north of Lima (Peru) and sent two experts from Cedre on site as part of the [United Nations](#) mission. In terms of exercises, our Slovakian contacts within the ICE Network tested our emergency response capabilities.

Cedre Information Day: 29th March 2022

“Consideration of Environmental Impacts” Virtual event

See the [detailed programme](#) and complete the [registration form](#)

In short

Dates for the diary

► 21st to 23rd June 2022, [Interspill](#) in Amsterdam, Netherlands

Training

► 4th to 7th April: Training course on maritime pollution crisis management, at Cedre

► 11th to 15th April: Training course on oil spill response at sea and on the shoreline, at Cedre

IMO Secretary-General visits Cedre

As part of the [One Ocean Summit](#), Cedre received a visit from Mr Kitack Lim, Secretary-General of the [International Maritime Organization \(IMO\)](#), on Thursday 10th February. He was accompanied by Mr Arsenio Dominguez, Director of IMO's Marine Environment Division and Ms Geneviève Jean-van Rossum, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of France to IMO. After taking a look back at the circumstances surrounding Cedre's creation and how the organisation has since evolved, Cedre's Director Christophe Logette presented the organisation's scope of action at both national and international levels. The visit was rounded off with a presentation of the premises, with a particular focus on the analytical tools and outdoor technical facilities.

Cedre attends One Ocean Summit

On 9th and 10th February, Cedre took part in the [One Ocean Summit](#), held in Brest. Cedre was notably involved in the Blue Hotspot, during which it presented the future challenges of spill response in relation to shipping incidents, drawing on the recent example of the fire onboard and subsequent sinking of the container ship *X-Press Pearl* in Sri Lanka. Cedre was present on site at the event alongside the [Campus mondial de la mer](#) and Brest's maritime stakeholders to present its spill response and plastic pollution mitigation activities. We also took part in a panel session on marine pollution solutions, alongside [IRD](#) (Christophe Maes) and [Quiet-Oceans](#) (Carl Bois). This session was filmed and is available on [YouTube](#).

Iroise Marine Nature Park management committee meeting

On 25th February, Cedre attended the [Iroise Marine Nature Park \(PNMI\)](#) management committee meeting. The agenda included a presentation of the 2021 activity report and of the 2022 action programme, which is organised into 5 strategic focuses: support and promotion of good practices by maritime stakeholders, sustainable management of areas of special interest, knowledge dissemination and access to natural and cultural heritage sites, mitigation of environmental impacts, and finally knowledge and protection of habitats and species. Focal areas 1 and 4 comprise various actions in which Cedre will be involved for training and expertise.

Oil behaviour study in French Guiana

As part of the work to improve knowledge of oil behaviour at sea, Cedre began an experimentation programme in French Guiana in February. The aim of this programme is to assess the fate of crude oil in contact with water with different degrees of turbidity. An initial offshore excursion was organised to take samples of natural seawater with a range of turbidities as found off French Guiana. These water samples were then poured into 12 aquariums placed on an oscillating table to recreate constant agitation throughout the 5-week trial. After adding crude oil, the first water and oil samples were taken. During March, water and oil samples will be taken regularly to monitor the degradation of the oil and the adaptation of bacterial communities. This project is conducted in collaboration with the [Mediterranean Institute of Oceanography \(MIO\)](#) and is supported by [TotalEnergies](#) and the [French Navy](#) through the provision of logistical support at the Degrad des Cannes naval base.

New hydrophobic floating sorbent tested

The new open-cell polyurethane sorbent Foam Flex 200 manufactured by the Italian company [Test1](#) was tested at Cedre and met the performance criteria for this product category. It has been added to the [list published by Cedre](#) of floating hydrophobic sorbents for use at sea and in inland waters, in the sheets, rolls and mats section.

Training season kicks off at Cedre!

The first two training courses of the year focused on aerial observation of pollution. The first was a 2-day course for 10 representatives of the company [CLS](#). The second was the first session of our standard aerial observation course which was attended by 15 trainees from naval aviation, 1 from French customs and 1 from [MRCC Med](#).

Training for *Séché Urgence Intervention*

From 28th February to 3rd March, Cedre ran a 4-day training course for *Séché Urgence Intervention (SUI)* at Cedre's premises. The theory and practical sessions on oil spill response on the shoreline and in marine and inland waters were attended by 10 operators liable to be called out as part of the company's services.

Decontaminating the Bouge Pep dump, Ushant Island

On 1st February, Cedre took part in the 2nd steering committee meeting for the decontamination of the Bouge Pep uncontrolled landfill site. This project, funded by the France Relance plan, is led by the [Iroise Marine Nature Park \(OFB\)](#) and carried out by [Le Floch Dépollution](#). Cedre contributes to the steering committee by providing its expertise on preventing pollution of the marine environment during the different phases of operations. This trip to Ushant Island provided the chance to visit the worksite and observe the equipment deployed as well as the waste excavated, mainly composed of rubble, metal and plastics.

Training course on monitoring shoreline microlitter

On 3rd February, Cedre was in Rochefort to meet and train our partner [LPO \(Ligue pour la Protection des Oiseaux\)](#), on a new protocol for monitoring shoreline meso- and microplastics. Following this session, for which the field training was conducted in Oléron Island, a one-year monitoring programme is to be launched on Gatseau beach in the south of Oléron Island. This action comes under the LIFE SeaBiL (Saving SeaBirds from marine Litter) project led by LPO.

New trials in the Polludrome®

Three behaviour trials were conducted in Cedre's flume tank, or Polludrome®. Two lubricants used in the construction of offshore wind farms were studied, as was their biodegradability. In addition, B30, a specific biodiesel containing 30% fatty acid methyl esters, was tested. This fuel is used by captive fleet vehicles.

Spills in the Gulf of Thailand

On 10th February, Thailand strived to contain a new leak from the subsea pipeline that previously caused an oil spill on 26th January that hit the country's east coast. This time, an estimated 5,000 litres of oil were released. An investigation into the cause of the spill and an inspection of the pipeline are currently in progress, while Royal Thai Navy vessels are deployed for offshore response operations. The number of compensation claims filed could reach 10,000.

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